



'Beauty and the Beast' New, Unimproved

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Carmichael Times

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MARCH 17, 2017

A REAL PERSON BEHIND THE RELAY



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ANNUAL ROSEVILLE GEM SHOW ROLLS ON FOR 2017



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CHURCH MEMBERS VOLUNTEER IN NICARAGUA



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Diamond in the Rough

Sacramento County is Set to Weigh Ose's Proposal for Renewing Gibson Ranch Contract



Doug Ose, manager of Gibson Ranch County Park is pushing for a long-term renewal of his contract to manage the 325-acre park.

Story and Photo by Jacqueline Fox

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The County board of supervisors is preparing to weigh the options presented by developer Doug Ose to frame a renewed contract for his continued private-level management of Gibson Ranch County Park.

On Monday, Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost toured Gibson Ranch for the first time since Ose assumed management of the 325-acre nature reserve and events center in 2011. Due to steep financial losses, the county was on the brink of closing the park. After her tour, Frost said she supports a fast-track to renewing

a contract with Ose before his current agreement expires April 30th. From her perspective, no one wants to see Gibson Ranch close.

"It's a beautiful space and we want to do everything we can to continue to let the community have access to this wonderful space," Frost said. She stopped short of discussing specifics in either Ose's proposal or those the Sacramento County Dept. of Regional Parks have put on the table. "I am not sure what the board will ultimately approve or not approve, but we are set to discuss all of the items and ideas and make a decision very soon."

For Ose, the clock is ticking. "As of right now, I'll be out of here on April 30th unless we can

agree on something better," said Ose.

Ose said he's asked the county to consider a 20-year contract that would likely include increasing the park's entry fee from \$5 to \$8, adding as many as 50 full hook-up RV camp sites, and the designation of the park as an official graduation space for local high schools.

"The ground rules have changed, and now we are at a point where I think we all want to see Gibson Ranch continue to remain open, but I need to stop the bleeding," said Ose, who asserts that, although he saw a \$22,000 profit in 2015, monthly losses in 2016 mounted to roughly \$20,000 a month, largely due to increases in labor costs.

"As of right now, I'll be out of here on April 30th unless we can agree on something better."

DOUG OSE
GIBSON RANCH COUNTY
PARK MANAGER

Visitation to the park however, is substantial. According to Ose, roughly 100,000 visitors came through the gates of Gibson Ranch in 2016. There

Continued on page 2

Carmichael Sixth-Grader Heading to Scripps National Spelling Bee in D.C.

Story and Photo by Jacqueline Fox

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Winston Churchill Middle School sixth-grader Samhita Kumar has tried twice to get to Washington, D.C. On March 1 her ability to correctly spell a seven-letter Maori word for a spiny New Zealand lizard put the trip on the map: "tuatara."

After a mind-numbing 13 rounds against her finalist opponent, Kumar synched the 2015 California Central Valley Spelling Bee title, greenlighting her dream trip to Washington where she will compete in the 2017 Scripps National Spelling Bee in May.

"I'm so excited," said Kumar. "I've always wanted to go to Washington, D.C., and now I'm getting the chance."

This was Kumar's third try for the regional title and it did not come easy. For more than five hours she competed on stage at

Sacramento's Scottish Rite Masonic Center against a formidable group of 60 finalists from across the region. Kumar said it was when the competition got down to just 10 finalists that she started to feel the pressure.

"I was very nervous and remember I was just hoping and hoping for a word I could spell," Kumar said.

Kumar and Morgana Kato, a Sacramento fifth-grader from Sierra Oaks Elementary School, knocked their eight opponents out of the competition to face off against each other for the title. When it was all over, Kumar defeated Kato with a correction of her opponent's misspelling of a word, then came in hard with two perfect spellings of the words "blastema," a cell mass with memory to reproduce, followed by the winning "tuatara," which she says she didn't know, but felt confident she could figure out. After that, it was pretty much a blur.

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"After I spelled it correctly and realized I had won, I just totally blanked out."

SAMITA KUMAR
2105 WINNER OF THE
CALIFORNIA CENTRAL
VALLEY SPELLING BEE



Samhita Kumar, a sixth grader at Winston Churchill Middle School, stands in front of a mosaic of the school's mascot. She is the 2017 California Central Valley Spelling Bee champion and will head to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in May.

Sanctuary State Puts Californians in Harm's Way

From the Office of Senator Jim Nielsen.

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Along partisan lines, Senate Democrats passed two legislative proposals that would make California a safe haven for convicted felons who are in the country illegally and provide free legal service for them.

Former chairman of California's state parole board, Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Tehama), and sheriffs across the state denounced the Democrat-controlled legislature's actions.

"How many more lives have to be harmed before Sacramento politicians wake up and realize these policies



Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Tehama)

are dangerous for our communities?" said Senator Nielsen. Nielsen represents the families of two sheriff's deputies killed in the line of duty by a convicted criminal who was deported twice for committing several crimes, for membership in a drug cartel, and for entering the country illegally. "This is not about immigration; this is about enabling criminal behavior and activity that endangers our citizens."

The California State Sheriffs' Association stated in their letter to the author, "This bill creates a severe public safety problem."

Specifically, Senate Bill 54 (De León), is a legislative proposal that would prohibit state and local law enforcement agencies, school police and security departments from sharing information about criminals with federal officials.

The second measure Senate Bill 6 (Hueso) would provide free legal services to arrested individuals. SB 6 takes general fund monies from programs like scholarships for college students to give to organizations to defend criminals.

"California leaders must protect the safety of our citizens from convicted felons who are here illegally - not hire lawyers for them," said Senator Nielsen.

To contact Senator Nielsen, please call him at 916.651.4004, or via email at senator.nielsen@senate.ca.gov. ★

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Diamond in the Rough

Sacramento County is Set to Weigh Ose's Proposal for Renewing Gibson Ranch Contract

Continued from page 1

are currently 90 special events on the books for 2017, including 43 weddings. Nonetheless, Ose, who is also a former congressman, said the costs of maintaining the facility are outpacing revenues.

"I have to pay for 14,000 hours a year to run the place," Ose said. "Somebody's got to paint, trim trees, take care of the livestock, answer phones and book events. But with the costs of labor, insurance and electricity going up since we took over, the deal we have with the county is simply no longer working."

That deal involves payment by Ose of \$1 a year for rent and half of his profits to the county. In turn, the county agreed to pay Ose \$500,000 over the current life of the contract for deferred maintenance, a much lower amount, Ose says, than it would have had to pay if the county managed the park on its own,

considering the labor-intensive work involved.

"The primary difference between the government's history of running the park and our tenure is that we can work seven days a week because we are not bound by government labor laws," Ose said, adding that the county was losing roughly \$5 million annually prior to his contract. "We've proven the theory that the county doesn't have to lose \$5 million a year. In fact now they are about \$2.5 million ahead."

Regional Parks Director Jeff Leatherman did not return calls for comment. Ose said he's not sure what Regional Parks wants for Gibson Ranch, but hopes they will see the value in the details of his renewal proposal.

The RV park idea, for example, claims Ose, could be one of the most viable options for ramping up revenue without significant changes to the

park's natural setting, something Regional Parks has had concerns about in the past. Ose said he's had an engineer come out to evaluate the space available for the RV sites and, if approved, he thinks that piece alone could generate as much as \$12,000 a month. Combined with event revenue and a hike in the entry fee, Ose says, things could easily turn around.

At the core of Ose's proposal, however, is the request to lengthen his contract. A 20-year lease, as opposed to another five-year lease, he claims, would give him the time to implement significant revenue-generating programs and amenities.

"I have asked the county to consider a 20-year contract, something long enough to really put this private corporation to work," Ose said. "We'll see what happens, what the other ideas are, and hope for the best." ★

Carmichael Sixth-Grader Heading to Scripps National Spelling Bee in D.C.

Continued from page 1

"I'd never seen the word before but I knew it was a Maori word, so once I got its origins I kind of just figured out how to put the letters in place," said Kumar, explaining that, as hints, judges gave spellers word origins and definitions. "After I spelled it correctly and realized I had won, I just totally blanked. I don't remember a thing."

Kumar's regional bee win marks the school's first since the 1990s, according to Winston Churchill Principal Michael Dolan. He said

staff and teachers couldn't be more proud and excited for her.

"We have an amazing group of students here and to say that her successful win at the regional competition makes us proud is really an understatement," said Dolan. "We can't wait to see how Samhita does in Washington, D.C."

The road to Washington will be paved with more hard work for Kumar, including regular sessions with her spelling coach who happens to be her father, an engineer at Hewlett Packard. "He'll be quizzing me a lot and

I'm just going to try to learn as many new words as possible," Kumar said.

The Scripps National competition is a 90-year old tradition launched in 1925 as a literacy push. Some 11 million spellers will compete this year. There were two winners in 2016: Nihar Saireddy Janga, 12, of Austin, Texas, and Jairam Jagadeesh Hathwar, 11, of Corning, New York, the youngest winner of the competition on record. They each received \$40,000 and other prizes. The two winning words: "Feldenkrais" and "geshellschaft." ★

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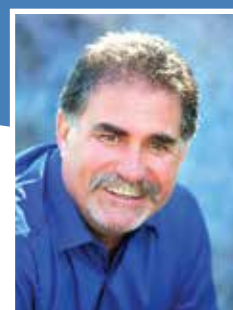
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CRAIG DIEZ TEAM

Church Members Perform Vital Service in Nicaragua

Submitted by Richard Cable
All photos courtesy
Eventide Community

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A delegation of 18 members of the Sacramento Presbytery, ages 14 to over 70, spent spring break volunteering in Nicaragua. The team is a part of an ongoing partnership with CEPAD, an Ecumenical, Not for Profit serving the people of Nicaragua by building schools and supporting sustainability in its villages.

The volunteer team began their service at a CEPAD School in the colonial city of León. The team painted three classrooms but the highlight was presenting the school with 18 laptop computers generously donated by members of Davis Community Church.

"When the computers were first presented, there was a lot of confused chatter," stated Rev. Jeanie Shaw, pastor of Eventide Community - a sister church to Grace Presbyterian in Sacramento - and mission trip leader, "the students had never seen a laptop before. After a student yelled out, 'Computadora,' [computers!] the whole assembly erupted in gleeful pandemonium."

"Nicaragua is the second poorest country in our hemisphere," said Dr. Grace Chou of Tahoe Donner and a mission volunteer, "and to empower these students with technology was the gift of a lifetime." Dr. Chou also took the task of installing the computers for the school.

The team then visited the District of San Fransico Libre, a high desert region that ranks the poorest in the Nicaraguan. They visited the small village of Las Huertas where the entire village gathered at the home of their community leader and welcomed us.

"The village is comprised of



Providing solar ovens in Las Huertas

only 29 families," Pastor Shaw describes. "Their one and two room houses are handmade of adobe or cement blocks. Cooking is done over firewood in outdoor clay ovens. Floors are just packed earth."

The village has no refrigeration or running water. Electricity was only introduced last year. And domestic animals roam freely everywhere; cows, chickens, turkeys, pigs, and dogs. Cattle are driven down the road twice a day led by men on horseback. Oxcarts take loads of firewood to sell into other nearby villages. But everything is clean in Las Huertas, dirt yards swept every day at dawn.

The leaders of the village had chosen water collection as the primary project this year and the Truckee team provided 8 families with large cisterns, tubing for gutters on the houses and plastic sheeting for a large catch pond for

collecting water during the rainy season. The team also provided tools for the village and together with the villagers, dug out the collecting ponds.

As a pilot project, the team also brought five solar ovens and demonstrated how they worked to the villagers.

"There was real excitement when they learned that their rice would never burn again," Shaw said.

"Nicaragua is a culture with beautiful formality," Dr. Chou observed. "We were presented with beautiful, yet formal, welcome speeches and prayers."

Spencer Edmundson and Jack and Tiege Wright of Truckee gave the Nicaraguan youth enough baseball equipment for the whole village and a game immediately got underway. Baseball is their national past time and the boys were quickly led to a sugar cane

field where the villagers, wielding machetes, cut down the cane to make a baseball diamond. Ash from fire pits were spread to mark the lines and they yelled, "¡Jugar a la pelota!" [Play Ball!] Teams were chosen, and our youth pitched and their youth batted the balls skyward (almost lost in the sugarcane). Afterward, the laughter and high fives between teams needed no translation.

"We come from two different countries," Shaw said in a formal thank you, "but we are all Americans - North Americans and South Americans. And most importantly, we are all one in Christ."

The Mission Team shared their reflections of their experience on Sunday, March 12th at Eventide Community within the Fellowship Hall of the Arden Christian Church in Sacramento. ★

State Parks Name Chris Rockwell as Librarian

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California State Parks has named Chris Rockwell as Librarian for the California State Railroad Museum (CSRM) Library & Archives that provides free public access to the Railroad Museum's impressive and extensive documentary

Museum's services and support its conservation and education programs. He also assists visitors in finding rail-related information and/or documentation guests are researching.

With a Master's in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University, Chris joins the CSRM Library & Archives most recently from California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) where he worked as a staff archivist for 10 years. In that role, a few of his responsibilities included overseeing assistants and staff working on various archival related projects; providing research and reference to the campus community and public; arranging and describing collections; cataloging books and manuscripts; and providing valuable outreach to the community.

Chris invites and encourages interested community members to visit the CSRM Library & Archives to discover more about our fascinating railroad heritage. Located adjacent to the Railroad Museum on the second floor of the Big Four Building at 111 "I" Street in Old Sacramento State Historic Park, the CSRM Library & Archives is free and open to the public year-round on Tuesdays through Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. For more information about the CSRM Library & Archives or the Railroad Museum in general, please call 916-323-9280 or visit www.californiarailroadmuseum.com.

Subscribe to California State Parks News via e-mail at info@parks.ca.gov or via RSS feed.

Source: T-Rock Communications ★



Rockwell is only the third person to serve as Librarian for the CSRM Library & Archives since opening in 1981 at the same time as the California State Railroad Museum, North America's most popular rail museum.

collections. The CSRM Library & Archives serves as a valuable community and industry resource that responds to approximately 5,000 requests per year from a wide range of individuals, including historians, genealogists, writers, students, film makers, members of the legal community as well as from the general public.

Chris is only the third person to serve as Librarian for the CSRM Library & Archives since opening in 1981 at the same time as the California State Railroad Museum, North America's most popular rail museum.

In his role as Librarian, Chris is responsible for collecting, cataloging and maintaining the Library's published material including books, pamphlets and maps which enhance the

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A Real Person Behind the Relay

By Shelly Lembke

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Each year members of local communities gather together to participate in the Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Each event has a local coordinator. The American River Relay for Life is coordinated by Tamika Stove. Stove first became involved with Relay for Life as a volunteer, but found it so rewarding that she stayed with it and now works year-round to promote the event.



Pictured (above) is Tamika Stove, American River Relay for Life Community Manager, California Division of the American Cancer Society.

where she has served both as a Chamber ambassador and as a board member. Her passion for community service is simply part of who she is. Being involved is the way she lives her life. "I feel like I'm part of the world around me," she said of her work. "It makes me feel good. That's a powerful thing."

Relay for Life began in 1985 when Tacoma, Washington doctor Gordon Klatt walked and ran over 80 miles around a track in a single 24-hour period. Today's relays last between six and 24 hours. Dr. Klatt's desire was to raise money to aid the American Cancer Society (ACS) in their quest for a cure.

Following Dr. Klatt's example, the ACS continues to utilize monies raised by the event to fund cancer research, services for the public and cancer patients, speakers and more, all as part of their mission to find a cure and increase awareness about this disease that touches so many around the world.

Stove puts a year into planning each Relay for Life event. She does constant community outreach, happily taking

Describing herself as "easy going and caffeinated," Stove puts in long days working for the American Cancer Society, but finds time to be part of Rotary Club and the Citrus Heights Chamber of Commerce,



Hundreds of participants (above) celebrate at Relay for Life events. Relays are open to all: the public, cancer survivors, caregivers and anyone whose life or heart has been touched by this disease.

time to answer questions, provide support and recruit volunteers. There are ample opportunities for involvement, she says, and no matter the size of the contribution, whether in the form of

“If there was one thing I would want people to know about Relay For Life it is that it is not possible without volunteers. Without them there would be no Relay.”

TAMIKA STOVE
COMMUNITY MANAGER, RELAY FOR LIFE, CALIFORNIA DIVISION, AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, INC.

time or money, she is enthusiastic, grateful and gracious to have all the help she can get.

Relay for Life relies on all forms of help from the community. There are corporate sponsors of all sizes, from small

businesses to large firms. Volunteers can form teams to walk during the event to show support or individuals can show up the day of the event and help with something simple, such as handing out bottled water or setting up the event's famous luminarias.

Each Relay for Life is a public event and open to all, per Stove. Her ongoing challenges of recruiting volunteers, plus the planning and execution of each Relay, do not deter her in the least. She began her work with the Relay for Life as an ordinary volunteer, donating about an hour a week to making phone calls and distributing flyers.

Her deep commitment to community involvement was fostered early in life. Growing up as the daughter of a dad serving in the United States Air Force, Stove learned about dedication and working for the public good. As a "military brat," she also became accustomed to moving and finding her place in her new communities. "It helped me value relationships," she said. Stove works hard to foster those relationships each day in dealing with the public and spreading the word about Relay for Life and the mission of the ACS.

This year's American River Relay for

a Caregiver Lap and then by teams on the track. Each time keeps a member on the track always because, as the ACS says, "Cancer never sleeps." When participants are not on the track there are games, entertainment and activities provided to promote awareness and education about the fight against cancer. Nightfall signals the lighting of the luminaria45s to commemorate the lives that have been lost and celebrate those who have survived cancer, as well as to provide a literal light in the darkness and remind people they are not alone when it comes to this disease. The Relay wraps up with recognizing the work of the volunteers themselves.

For more information on this year's American Rive Relay for Life, contact Tamika Stove at tamika.stove@cancer.org or americanriverrelay@gmail.com or visit the American Cancer Society's website at acevents.org. ★



Pictured (above) a single personal note of support for those fighting the good fight to eradicate cancer.



A moving part of every Relay for Life is light, whether in the form of luminarias or candles. The light is used as a reminder that no one is alone in the dark with this disease (above). Pictured (above) a single personal note of support for those fighting the good fight to eradicate cancer.

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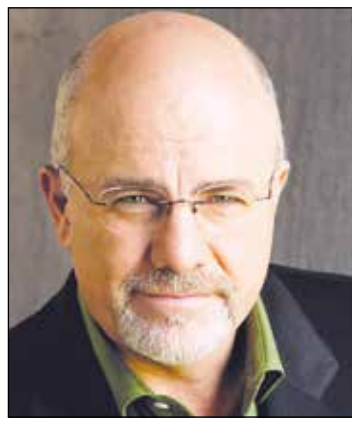
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Collections and creditors question

Dear Dave,
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 - Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,
 In most situations of this type, the collection agency owns the debt outright or they're directly

representing the original creditor. It's pretty much standard operating procedure when someone has defaulted on a loan.

My advice would be to accept the deal they've offered that makes the most sense for you and your current financial situation. It'll ding your credit report, and show a settlement on the defaulted credit card, but that's not the end of the world. There's already a mark against you for it being turned over to collections.

If you want to keep things like this from happening in the future, you need to get control of your finances. Stop playing with credit cards!
 —Dave

Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business. He has authored five New York Times best-selling books: Financial Peace, More Than Enough, The Total Money Makeover, EntreLeadership and Smart Money Smart Kids. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 8 million listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com. ★

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Dare to Live Without Limits

Prepare, Adapt, Adjust by Bryan Golden

In any endeavor, preparation increases the chances for your success. The more an athlete practices, the better their chance of winning. Actors and actresses relentlessly rehearse before the actual performance. Doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants, along with other professionals devote countless years to their education in preparation for their careers.

Success rarely occurs by accident. Anyone who is good at what they do has invested lots of time and effort in preparation. It is hard work, not magic. Although it's great to have natural ability, tenacity is more important than talent.

Preparation is a process that begins with an understanding of what it takes to be successful in your chosen endeavor. You don't have to reinvent the wheel. Study other successful people in your field. Discover the process they went through to order to get to where they are.

Save yourself time by duplicating winning formulas. Follow what has worked for others. The more you prepare, the more luck you will have. Luck is where preparation meets opportunity.

Life is fluid. The road to success is filled with twists, turns, challenges, obstacles, problems, and setbacks. Preparation gives you a real edge in your journey. However, you must adapt and adjust as needed

when encountering the unexpected.

In order to be successful, failure is not an option. Failure only occurs when you give up. It's certainly frustrating when things don't go as planned. Rather than becoming drained, use your energy to figure out the best way to adapt to a change in circumstances. You can't control your environment but you do have control over your response.

Adapting may require additional preparation, a change in expectations, moving a deadline, utilizing additional resources or perhaps even altering a goal. It's no different than driving a car. As you travel down the road, you adapt to changing conditions such as traffic, weather, and obstacles.

You also must make appropriate adjustments as needed. When driving, you adapt to a change in weather by adjusting your speed. If you don't, your risk of running off the road increases dramatically.

Aspects of your journey that may need to be adjusted based on circumstances include speed, patience, determination, attitude, and effort.

Some journeys can't be rushed. Asking someone to marry you on the first date is rarely successful. You may have a desire for financial independence. But unless you win the lottery or receive a sizeable inheritance, it won't happen overnight. Putting an unreasonable time limit on reaching your goal leads to

frustration. Success takes patience.

Attaining your goal is what matters. The exact time needed is irrelevant. When something is taking longer than anticipated, you have to adjust. Patience is essential for success.

It's wonderful when things go exactly as expected. But if things don't go as planned, strengthen your determination. Success is only possible by persisting in the face of adversity. Remember that failure only occurs when you give up. "When the going gets tough, the tough get going," is the way dreams are turned into reality.

Keep adjusting your attitude to keep it positive. A negative attitude only worsens a situation. Don't listen to anyone who tells you that being negative is being realistic. A positive attitude is essential for overcoming adversity.

Life requires effort. Ironically, it takes as much effort, if not more, to suffer as it does to succeed. Putting extra effort into preparation is much more effective than the effort required to fix things later. "If you don't have time to do it right the first time, where will you find the time to do it over?" is a good question to ask yourself before cutting corners. Prepare first. Then adapt and adjust as needed to stay on your course.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2011 Bryan Golden. ★

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Sacramento County DA Reports



Prison Inmate Convicted for 1st-Degree Murder of Cellmate; Defendant Convicted for Bank Robbery, Carjacking

DATE: February 27, 2017
CASE: Joshua James Anderson (Case #14F02844)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Dina Cataldo, Prison Crimes Unit California State Prison (CSP) Sacramento inmate Joshua James Anderson was convicted by a jury for the first-degree murder of his cellmate, Thomas Parks.

On February 8, 2014, Joshua Anderson strangled Thomas Parks to death with a scrap of bedsheet in their shared locked cell. Sacramento County District Attorney investigators assigned to CSP Sacramento responded to the prison that night to interview Anderson. Anderson initially denied killing Mr. Parks, stating he had no reason to kill him because he only had three years left on his prison term. Anderson also claimed Mr. Parks committed suicide by self-inflicted ligature strangulation.

When investigators noticed a bruise and fresh scratch on Anderson's face, Anderson admitted to the murder. DNA taken from Mr. Parks' fingernail scrapings matched Anderson, and the wounds inflicted on Mr. Parks' face were found to be inconsistent with Anderson's suicide claim.

Anderson's criminal history includes assault with a deadly weapon, two burglary convictions and unlawful sex with a minor. At the time of the killing, Anderson was serving a sentence for possession of controlled substance and resisting a peace officer.

Anderson faces a maximum sentence of 31 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for April 21, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 11 before the Honorable Trena Burger-Plavan.

DATE: February 27, 2017
CASE: Carlos Aguirre (Case #10F04114)
PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Dinah Mielke, Felony Prosecution Carlos Aguirre was convicted by a jury

of carjacking and six counts of robbery. The jury also found true the allegation that Aguirre personally used a firearm on all seven counts.

On January 22, 2010, Carlos Aguirre was armed with a gun and wearing a ski mask when he followed the assistant bank manager into her work at the Bank of America on Folsom Boulevard. Aguirre grabbed her from behind with his arm around her neck, and put the gun to her head. He ordered her and other individuals in the bank to the ground. He then ordered two tellers to give him the money. Both women complied, giving him between \$30,000 and \$50,000. Customers in the bank each testified that they were afraid they were going to die that day.

Aguirre grabbed his backpack with the money and ran towards the doors with keys he had grabbed from the assistant bank manager. Realizing he had taken her work keys and not her car keys, he went back and demanded car keys from her while still displaying his gun. She complied and Aguirre ran out of the front and to her car. When Aguirre reached her car, he lost the ski mask off the top of his head.

The mask was submitted to the District Attorney's Crime Lab for DNA analysis. A DNA sample was obtained from the mask, uploaded into the DNA database and matched to Aguirre's DNA. Cell phone records put Aguirre's phone in the area of the bank 11 minutes before the robbery took place, and at approximately the same time the day before.

Aguirre has a prior 1997 strike conviction for assault with a firearm with the allegation that he used the firearm during the commission of a felony or attempted felony.

Aguirre faces a maximum sentence of 60 years in prison. Sentencing is set for March 24, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 40 before the Honorable Raoul Thorbourne. ★

'Beauty and the Beast' New, Unimproved



Luke Evans plays brute Gaston opposite Josh Gak's effeminate LeFou in "Beauty and the Beast." Photo courtesy Walt Disney Pictures

By David Dickstein

Spoiler alert: Beast mauls Belle to death in Walt Disney's live-action remake of its iconic 1991 animated musical, "Beauty and the Beast." Then at her funeral Belle turns into a flesh-eating zombie and terrorizes her once-quiet, provincial town. Tale as old as time no more!

Exciting as that sounds, it's just a fantasy for those not looking for another family version of the well-worn fairy tale. The latest spin has little spin; it's pretty much the same as the old one: An enchantress posing as an ugly, old witch in need is snubbed by a young prince, yada yada yada. She gets her revenge on the boorish, womanizing jerk by casting a spell, blah blah blah. The heartless royal is transformed into a big, hairy beast, and his servants into household items for all eternity unless true love is found. Enter the beautiful outcast Belle, her persistent and unwanted suitor Gaston, and yada yada yada.

The new, still-zombie-less version starring Emma Watson does at least have a slightly different plot from the 26-year-old Disney treasure. The Mouse House pushes the envelope ever so slightly from the original French fairy tale published in 1740 as well as mainstream animated features. The new "Beauty and the Beast" (opening March 17) is the first family film from Disney to feature an openly gay character, complete with



Emma Watson and Dan Stevens play the title roles in the new live-action "Beauty and the Beast." Photo courtesy Walt Disney Pictures

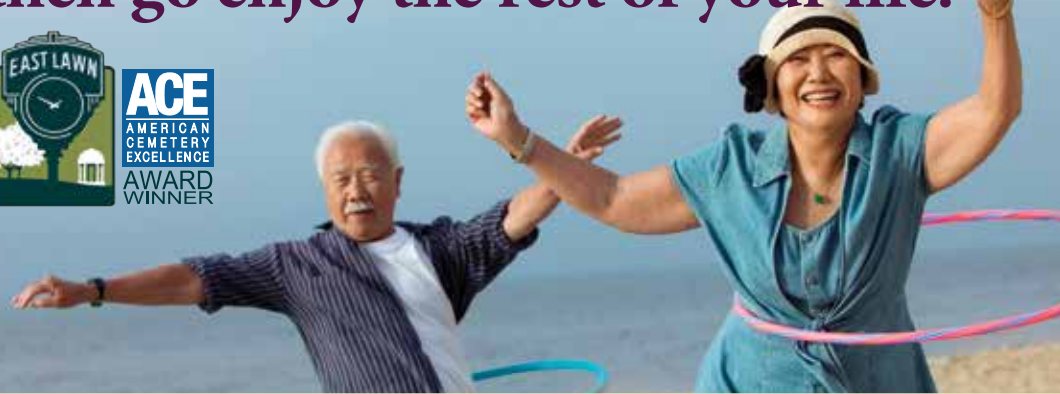
what director Bill Condon calls "an exclusively gay moment," and throws in multiple mixed-race relationships at the end. Another modernization is Belle is much more than a stereotypical bookworm. Like her dad, she's an inventor. A mid-1700s mechanical engineer of sorts, Belle is far too complex for her village of illiterate simpletons. No wonder she yearns for more than this provincial life.

Belle isn't the only one wanting more. Never mind that Disney, a company once synonymous with innovation, admits to running out of ideas with every live-action adaptation of one of its classic animated films. Many have been box office gold. But if you're going to humanize classic cartoons, be purposeful at least. Other than three new songs and a few groundbreaking nuances, there's little that makes the new "B&B" required

viewing. Watkins is so flat as Belle, the animated 1991 personification is more lifelike in comparison. Human co-stars include Luke Evans as the one-dimensional Gaston. Josh Gad does one heckuva impersonation of Jack Black – if Jack Black was playing sidekick LeFou as a gay man. Bringing life to his CG-rendered character, Dan Stevens shines best as the beastly prince. The all-star voice cast led by Ewan McGregor, Ian McKellen and Emma Thompson adds nothing to what was already accomplished by their 1991 predecessors. Been there, heard that.

Let's hope for better with the next live-action adaptations of animated Disney classics. New takes on "Snow White," "Mulan" and "Aladdin" are among those in the works. Can at least one of those have zombies? Please? 2 of 5 Stars ★

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Key Affordable Housing Measure Clears Second Hurdle in Senate

By Mike Roth, California Housing Consortium

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On March 15th, the approval of SB 2 (Atkins) by the Senate Governance and Finance Committee signified an important step to beginning to address California's devastating housing shortage. The Senate Transportation and Housing committee approved the measure last month. The Senate Transportation and Housing committee approved the measure last month.

"SB 2 is an important measure to begin to right the ship in California after years of failing to invest in affordable homes. This measure will provide thousands of new affordable rental homes in California while protecting general funds and

boosting our economy," said California Housing Consortium Executive Director Ray Pearl. "We are experiencing a massive housing shortage in California and it is time for a commitment to policies that can affect real change. California's families, children, seniors, veterans and vulnerable residents deserve nothing less than access to safe and affordable homes."

California has seen a 69 percent overall decline in state and federal investment in production and preservation of affordable housing since the Great Recession in 2008. A new California Department of Housing and Community Development statewide housing assessment finds that California families are facing a harder time finding a place to live than at any point in our history

and homeownership rates in California are at their lowest since the 1940s.

SB 2 (Atkins) would enable thousands of affordable rental homes to be built through a \$75 fee on real estate transaction documents, capped at \$225 per transaction. Sales of homes and commercial properties would be exempted.

CHC is also calling on lawmakers to approve AB 71 (Chiu), which would end a costly vacation home tax subsidy to provide affordable apartments and homes while protecting the mortgage interest deduction crucial for families to afford their first home. These common-sense measures do not dip into the General Fund and would generate additional federal, local and private investment. ★



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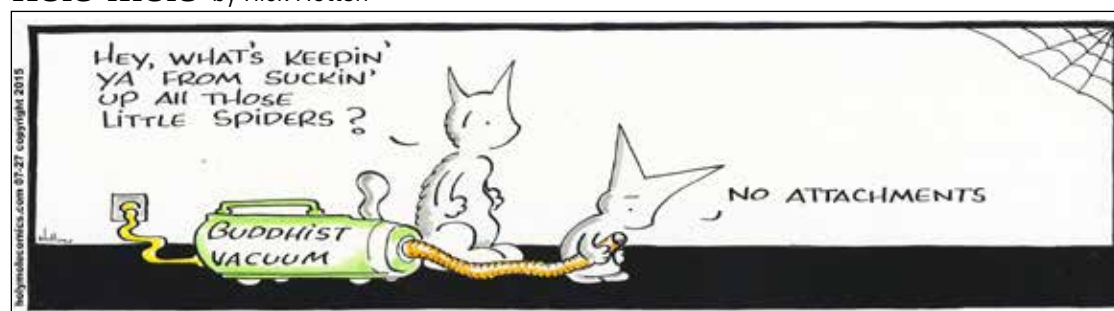


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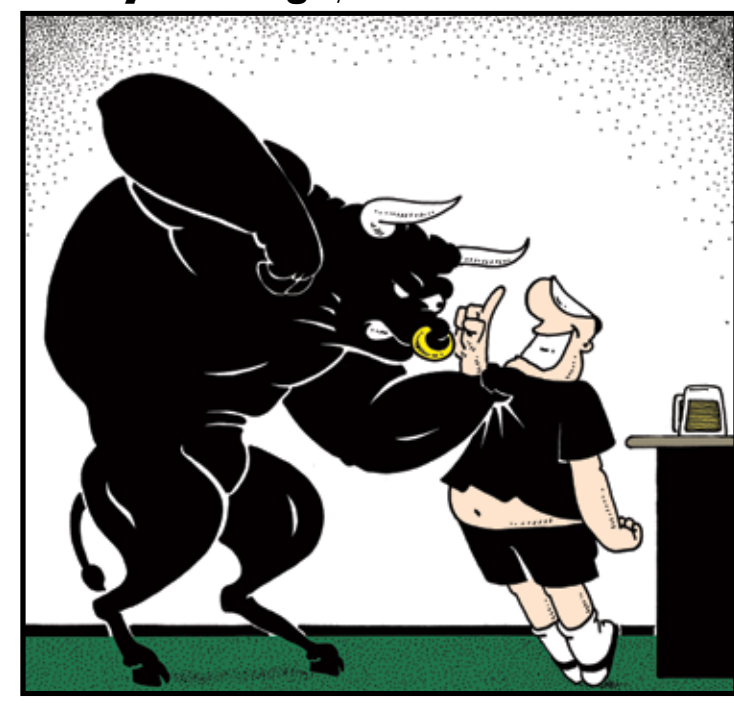
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Annual Roseville Gem Show Rolls On for 2017

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Roseville Rock Rollers 55th Annual Gem, Jewelry, Fossil, and Mineral Show will take place at the Placer County Fairgrounds in Roseville March 25-26. Hosted by the Roseville Rock Rollers, also known as the Roseville Gem and Mineral Society, this year's show features gemstones, jewelry, fossils and minerals and has something for the whole family.

The group was established in 1960 as a group of local "rockhounds," according to show chair James Hutchings. That group, deeply interested in the science and art of the earth's natural beauty in rocks and minerals, first met in homes and then as their numbers grew, expanded to the use of a local school room.

This year's show has dozens of exhibits for attendees, such as jewelry, metal, wire and glass beading arts, fossils, crystals and minerals, but that's not all. So that attendees aren't rushed, the show also provides a cafeteria. "A very fine hot lunch is available at our own kitchen in Johnson Hall," states Hutchings. The group has put together a menu of very reasonably priced food and beverages will also be available at the show's cafeteria, featuring burgers, Philly steak cheesesteaks, chicken salad, baked potatoes pies, cakes and more.

In addition to exhibits, classes



Featured (above) a budding "rockhound" under supervision as she delicately sorts through a tray of semi-precious stones during the Gem Hunt event during the Gem Show. Photo courtesy of Roseville Rock Rollers.

and demonstrations, show goers can pan for gold, purchase equipment, buy raffle tickets, have rocks, gems and mineral identified by experts or make purchases at a silent auction.

Wishing to share the art and science of the mineral world, in the tradition of gem and mineral shows around the world, the Roseville Rock Rollers

established their own gem and mineral show around 1962. The society grew, the show grew, and the show and the Society moved to the Placer County Fairgrounds where it continues today.

"As the Roseville Gem and Mineral Society has expanded to just under 300 members, the show expanded to support the costs associated with its programs, such as the Rookie Rock Rollers, juniors program, the Annual Scholarship program to Geology Students at Sacramento State Geology Department, and our year round Lapidary shop on the fairgrounds," said Hutchings. "The lapidary shop on the Fair Grounds is the heart and soul of our Society, where we teach lapidary arts, jewelry fabrication, conduct mineral identification and mini tail gate rock sales."

Hutchings developed his love for "rockhounding" at an early age. "Personally, I as most young people, was fascinated with rocks minerals and crystals. My

parents encouraged me with my first Golden Book of Rocks and Minerals, a book still in current print, and my first rock pick."

At the age of 38, he became seriously interested in rockhounding and gold mining, attending a mineral identification course at Sierra College, next pursuing an in depth understanding the chemistry and physics that form "these miracles in the earth." He has put that knowledge to good use today providing what he refers to as a "mini lab" during the show to test rocks, minerals, and gems to provide guest an idea of materials they have in their possession.

While the Rock Rollers must generate funds to keep their programs operating, the primary purpose of any Gem and Mineral Show is to promote the Art and Science of the mineral world, according to Hutchings.

Like many of the group members, an early exposure to rockhounding and lapidary arts

often provides a genesis of interest that often blossoms later in life, Hutchings said. "We really work hard, to attract the parents who want to expose their children to the natural world and foster that spark."

There are presentations and activities for youngsters on identifying and handling specimens of all kinds. Students and Scouts can reinforce their California Rock Cycle curriculum and merit badge information. Scouts can have their mineral finds evaluated for rock type or mineral and validated for their required collection.

Other interesting stops are featured at this year's show. The Education Station is the place for the "learners," said Hutchings, "and we are all learners. There [are] demonstrators showing

Hutchings suggests visitors come early and plan on spending the day at the show. "We take over the entire fairgrounds with exhibits, demonstrators, and vendors."

Not to be missed are real treasures the group will have on display. "Folks tend to walk by the display cases," he says. "These simple, well lighted boxes contain the best of the best of personal collections of minerals in variety or by theme. The displays are, 'literally' miniature museums showcasing specimens in the possession of individuals who have spent a lifetime collecting the best of the best of their favorite species of rock or mineral," said Hutchings.

"We are looking for the general public who are looking for gem stones, set and unset, hand-



Beautiful, polished stones have been strung by hand in a variety colors and sizes to create one of a kind necklaces for sale during the Gem Show (above). Photo courtesy of Roseville Rock Rollers.

you the actual arts of lapidary, faceting, wire wrapping, and other jewelry arts." The Fossils for Fun booth encourages fossil hunters to view and purchase or bid on fossils from vendors. NorCal Bats brings a live bat to show how fascinating these mammals (often found in caves along with gems, stones and crystals) are. This year "Rocklin Bach to Rock" students will perform on stage to provide entertainment for the public.

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For more information, tickets and coupons, visit the group's website at www.rockrollers.com

Contributed by James Hutchings, Roseville Rock Rollers Show Chair ★



Bowls of beauty (above) display rocks polished to a high sheen, many of which are available for purchase from vendors attending the Gem Show. Photo courtesy of Roseville Rock Rollers.

Game Plots

Nintendo Needs to Switch Tactics

By Noah Howard

The Nintendo Switch, released on March 3rd, is filled with Nintendo's usual brand of innovation. The removable screen and reconfigurable controllers (with built in motion control) combine to make a flexible console to fit a flexible lifestyle. It can accommodate on-the-go play, local multiplayer, motion gaming, and traditional on-the-couch games right out of the box. And despite its innovations, perfectly tailored to fit the daily routines of modern gamers, it will be a failure.

Nintendo seems to be trying to replicate its success of years past without really understanding why it attained such success in the first place. The Nintendo Wii and Nintendo DS didn't soar to the top of all-time sales charts purely because of their innovation; they succeeded because their innovations appealed to brand new markets that had never been exposed to gaming before. The DS's touch-screen and foldable design made it easy to carry and intuitive to use, while the Wii's focus on motion controls demystified the complex control schemes of other systems and made gaming immersive and approachable. There was a reason why seeing senior citizens own these consoles was not uncommon.

But Nintendo lost their edge this generation. Though the

3DS has been a moderate success (although nothing near the levels of the original DS), the Wii U has been a colossal failure. It failed to recapture that same non-gamer market, and next to the juggernauts of the Playstation 4 and Xbox One, its sales among traditional gamers floundered.

The Nintendo Switch is entering the market under similar circumstances. It has nowhere near the graphical power of its competitors, a meager 32GB hard drive that fails to accommodate our age of digital, rather than physical, game sales, and weak lineup of games (*The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* is the highly-anticipated exception). With Microsoft poised to announce a new console this year, and Sony likely to follow suit, the gap will grow even wider.

Maybe the Switch could attain more success if it released under the Wii's circumstances. In 2006, the libraries of the the Wii's competitors lacked innovation; their graphics were good, but they didn't feel altogether "new." Revolutionary titles like *Wii Sports* felt like a breath of fresh air when we sorely needed one. But nowadays, innovation on traditional consoles, the Playstation 4 and Xbox One, is thriving. We're in the midst of a golden age of new ideas and inventiveness, and in this environment, the Nintendo



The feeling of you cannot win and/or you cannot understand has been pioneered by writers like H.P. Lovecraft and Neil Gaiman in creating some of the most frightening and unsettling stories of the century; games have failed to inspire the same emotions in a similar way.

Switch's features simply don't feel necessary.

Of course, I hope that Nintendo can prove me wrong. A successful Switch could be a welcome off-the-wall competitor to modern consoles, and inject a little more of Nintendo's signature levity in the usually serious and somber artistic tone of the game market. But given the circumstances, Nintendo has set itself up for seemingly inevitable failure. There's no need to worry about the company itself; the 3DS's sales and its recent forays into mobile are enough to keep Nintendo afloat. But if it wants to remain relevant in the home console market, and prevent Sony and Microsoft from running a two-person race, Nintendo needs to switch up its tactics.

To respond to Noah's articles email him at digitalartsnoah@yahoo.com ★

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By Sacramento Suburban Water District Staff

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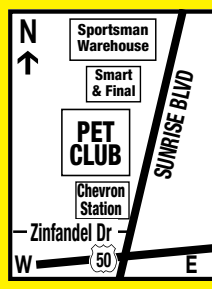
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