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Carmichael Times

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It's a Zoo Out There

Sacramento Fine Arts Center Hosts Animal Show



Mommies' muses: Pets will star in the February/March "Animal House" exhibition at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center. Artists shown (left to right) are Kendra Dantes with Yorkie Spritzer, Malihah Bartolomeo and Chihuahua Rum-Rum, Vicki Behringer with poodle Sparkle, and Sue Owens Wright with bassetts Beau and Peaches.

Story and photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - If a dog is man's best friend, he might also be an artist's best model.

Dogs large and small—together with giraffes, birds, insects, and even a sax-playing cat—are celebrated at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center's (SFAC) most popular annual exhibition. The Animal House show opens at the center on February 17th and runs until March 9th.

Animal art has been around since cavemen first finger painted. Canine deities inspired hieroglyphics in Egypt. Leonardo sketched dogs as eagerly as he dissected them. Britain's King Charles II commissioned Lely masterpieces to glorify his spaniels. Landseer immortalized Queen Victoria's pups. Picasso, Warhol, and Hockney doodled dachshunds with enthusiasm.

So what is it about pooches and painters? "It's instinctive for artists to have friends pose for them," said SFAC spokesman David Peterson. "This creates a record of important people in their life. Pets are part of that. Many artists take their dogs out painting. They're never critical of your technique."

Artists agree that animal portraits are no

"The high point of the exhibition is Second Saturday (March 11th), when visitors meet Audubon Society and SPCA sponsors. Along with the art on display, pets are also on exhibit; SPCA rescue dogs wander salons freely during reception hours."

easier to execute than human likenesses. Because dog models are disinclined to be still (unless snoring), some painters work from photos. Peterson prefers to paint in full pooh. "It doesn't matter if he wanders off," said the watercolorist. "If you love your dog, your emotion allows his likeness to come through."

Artists so revere their pets that the regional Animal House show is among the art center's most popular events. "It attracts around 400 entries, from which we select 125 for exhibition," said Peterson. "Visitor attendance is great, too. Senior homes send busloads; we also have school tours. Animal art seems to

appeal emotionally to all ages. We started this show nine years ago. Since then, galleries as far away as Santa Cruz have copied the idea."

Animal House includes junior entrants. A young artist will receive the same first prize cash award as the adult victor. All exhibits are for sale and prices range from \$25 to \$5,000. "Many of our youth entries sell," said Peterson. "Family members often buy them. Whatever your age, selling a painting is a thrill."

The high point of the exhibition is Second Saturday (March 11th), when visitors meet Audubon Society and SPCA sponsors. Along with the art on display, pets are also on exhibit; SPCA rescue dogs wander salons freely during reception hours. "They're real sweethearts; everybody makes a fuss of them," said Peterson.

"You can also see our artists painting the dogs. It's also an opportunity to adopt. With live music, refreshment, and animals, it's the most exciting night of our year—a three-ring circus."

Admission to the Animal House show and Second Saturday reception is free. The SFAC gallery is located at 5330B Gibbons Drive in Carmichael. To learn more about this event, visit www.SacFineArts.org. ★

Moratorium Lifted on New Grocery Stores for Women, Infants, and Children Program

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Dr. Ron Chapman, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) director and state health officer, announced that the moratorium for stores to apply for authorization in the California Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program was lifted effective February 1st.

"This positive step will improve availability and access for the approximately 1.4 million women, infants, and children who participate in the California WIC program," said Dr. Chapman.

To address rising food costs in the California WIC program, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in 2012 continued a moratorium on the addition of new vendors into the program so that CDPH and USDA could develop and implement strategies to contain costs and ensure program integrity. USDA notified CDPH by letter that the moratorium can now be fully lifted.

In June 2014, USDA partially lifted the moratorium to include additional locations for stores that already had a master contract with the WIC program. Since that time, 217 stores have been added to the program. In September 2014, USDA partially lifted the moratorium to include new full-line grocery stores. Since that time, 24 stores have been added to the program. It is anticipated that 200 stores will be added statewide after the moratorium is fully lifted.

"In September 2014, USDA partially lifted the moratorium to include new full-line grocery stores."

California currently has approximately 4,300 authorized stores that participate in the WIC program.

"USDA and CDPH continue to work together to ensure the strategies now in place are effective in containing food costs and comply with federal regulations and mandates," said Dr. Chapman.

California WIC provides access to healthy supplemental foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and referrals to healthcare and community services for the infants, children, and pregnant or post-partum women it serves. WIC spends approximately \$83 million each month on food.

At the federal level, WIC is administered by the USDA; California's WIC Program is administered at the state level by CDPH.

For more information, visit www.cdph.ca.gov.

Source: California Department of Public Health ★

Raley's Launches Commitment to Sustainable Seafood

By Kat Maudru

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Raley's family of fine stores has begun showcasing its dedication to sustainable seafood—a commitment to choices that are better for their customers and the planet.



Raley's new sustainable symbol indicates that seafood has been sourced from certified fisheries or farm programs. Image courtesy of Raley's

Sustainable seafood is either caught wild or farmed in ways that consider the long-term vitality of harvested species and the wellbeing of the oceans. Raley's new sustainable symbol indicates that seafood has been sourced from certified fisheries or farm programs. Raley's does not purchase species that are threatened and have no credible improvement plan such as sharks, tuna from certain

nations, and spiny lobsters, to name a few.

"As part of Raley's ongoing efforts to infuse life with health and happiness, our sustainable seafood involves working with trusted fisheries and fishermen, ensuring that seafood is sourced responsibly and ethically," said Koen Vermeulen, Raley's seafood expert.

Currently, approximately 80% of all seafood sold at Raley's

is sustainable, with a goal of December 2017 for all fish to be 100% sustainably sourced. The company's seafood staff has undergone extensive training to answer customer questions about sustainability.

For more information about where Raley's sources each species and how they choose their suppliers, visit www.raleys.com/go/seafood.

Source: Raley's ★



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River Cats Valentine's Day Packs On Sale

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - With Valentine's Day quickly approaching, fans can make a memory for that special baseball fan in their life with two unique Sacramento River Cats Valentine's Day packs.

For only \$100, the Dinger Gram package includes two Senate-level ticket vouchers and a merchandise basket that includes a hat, picture frame, Dinger signed baseball, seat cushion, River Cats 2015 calendar, and Jelly Belly candies. This package will be delivered personally by the River Cats' mascot Dinger.

With seven holidays in the month of February (Super Bowl, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Pitchers & Catchers Report Day, Presidents Day, Mardi Gras, and Chinese New Year), fans can also purchase a special Sweetheart holiday ticket package for the River Cats' 2015 season. The packs include vouchers to all seven holidays during the River Cats season including Opening Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Dinger's Birthday, July 3rd, and Labor

"With seven holidays in the month of February (Super Bowl, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Pitchers & Catchers Report Day, Presidents Day, Mardi Gras, and Chinese New Year), fans can also purchase a special Sweetheart holiday ticket package for the River Cats' 2015 season."

Day and are available in Assembly (\$70) or Senate (\$105) seating levels.

Deliveries can be scheduled for Thursday, February 12th; Friday, February 13th; or Saturday, February 14th and should be within a 30-mile radius of Raley Field. Delivery orders should be received by Tuesday, February 10th to ensure time for scheduling.

The Dinger Grams are available for purchase by calling the On Deck Shop team store at (916) 376-4796 or visiting the store, which is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. The Sweetheart holiday packs are available for purchase online at www.rivercats.com and over the phone at

(916) 371-HITS (4487).

The Sacramento River Cats are the Triple-A affiliate of the 2014 World Champion San Francisco Giants. The team plays at Raley Field in West Sacramento, consistently voted one of the top ballparks in America. River Cats season tickets, mini-plans, and flex plans can be purchased for the 2015 season by calling the River Cats ticket hotline at (916) 371-HITS (4487). For more information about the River Cats, visit www.rivercats.com. For information on other events at Raley Field, visit www.raleysfield.com.

Source: Sacramento River Cats

Highway Patrol Decoy Operation Yields Positive Results

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

The California Highway Patrol's (CHP) North Sacramento office conducted a pedestrian decoy enforcement operation on December 27, 2014 to enforce California's right-of-way laws for pedestrians in a crosswalk, pedestrians jaywalking, and bicyclists violating the rules of the road. Officers were looking for violations made by drivers, bike riders, and pedestrians that could lead to injuries. Special attention was directed toward jaywalkers, drivers speeding and making illegal turns, drivers failing to stop for signs and signals, drivers failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks,

and any other dangerous violations. In total, 36 citations were issued.

Bicycle and pedestrian fatalities are rising in California as more people use non-motorized means of transportation. Locally, the North Sacramento CHP office has investigated 732 fatal and injury collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists during the past three years. In 2012, California witnessed 612 pedestrian and 124 bicyclists killed that year, while nationally 4,743 pedestrians and 726 bicyclists were killed.

The California Pedestrian and Bicyclist Enforcement and Education Project will continue to work on reducing the

number of pedestrians and bicyclists killed and injured locally through education campaigns and enforcement campaigns. The CHP will work with local law enforcement agencies and community members to increase traffic safety partnerships related to pedestrian and bicyclist safety and to develop and implement a public awareness campaign.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Source: California Highway Patrol

Serial Scammer Sentenced to Jail Time

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert announced that Ugend Prasad was sentenced to 365 days in the county jail and five years formal probation. On November 21st, 2014, Prasad pled no contest to two felony violations of insurance fraud.

Between August 2009 and April 2012, Prasad submitted

six false reports to his auto insurance carriers claiming his vehicle had been vandalized or stolen. As a result of these false claims, the California State Automobile Association, State Farm, and Highlands Insurance paid Prasad a total of \$32,479.29.

This case was investigated by the Sacramento County Auto

Theft Task Force and detectives from the California Department of Insurance Urban Auto Fraud Unit. This case was prosecuted by the Sacramento County District Attorney's Urban Auto Fraud Unit.

Source: Sacramento County District Attorney

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Ribbon-Cutting Event for the Watt Avenue at U.S. Hwy. 50 Interchange Project



The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SACDOT), Caltrans, and the Sacramento Regional Transit District hosted a ribbon-cutting event to celebrate construction completion of the Watt Avenue at U.S. Highway 50 Interchange Improvement Project. This project made significant modifications to the interchange to reduce congestion, install dedicated transit facilities, and improve access and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SACDOT), Caltrans, and the Sacramento Regional Transit District hosted a ribbon-cutting event to celebrate construction completion of the Watt Avenue at U.S. Highway 50 Interchange Improvement Project. This project made significant modifications to the interchange to reduce congestion, install dedicated transit facilities, and improve access and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians. O. C. Jones & Sons General Engineering Contractors was awarded the construction contract for the project (\$22.5 million) in September 2012.

The ribbon-cutting event was held on Friday, January 16th at the Watt/Manlove Light Rail Station Park & Ride Lot. Speakers at the event were Congressman Ami Bera; Assemblyman Ken Cooley; Assemblyman Kevin McCarty; Board of Supervisors members Serna, Kennedy, Peters, and Nottoli; Caltrans Deputy District

Director of Maintenance Andrew Brandt; Regional Transit General Manager/CEO Mike Wiley; SACOG Chief Executive Officer Mike McKeever; and SACDOT Director Mike Penrose. According to Mike Penrose, SACDOT Director, "Prior to completion of this project, the interchange had an outdated design for movement of vehicles and—as with most interchanges—it was difficult for bicyclists and pedestrians to get from one end of the facility to the other. Today, with completion of the project, we are excited about the benefits it will bring to all modes of travel including improved safety and reduced delay for motorists and unique transit, bicycle, and pedestrian features [that] set it apart from any other interchange in California. We believe this project will prove to be a model for other jurisdictions when faced with the difficult challenge of moving all modes of transportation through an interchange."

Major improvements at the interchange include the following:

- Widening the existing Watt Avenue overcrossing at Hwy. 50 to add two additional through lanes and two auxiliary lanes over the freeway; adding high-occupancy vehicle lanes to the freeway on-ramps; and widening and realigning freeway off-ramps to terminate at Watt Avenue at two signalized intersections.
- Construction of a new dedicated transit lane on Watt Avenue from north of the interchange to the existing Watt/Manlove Light Rail Station.
- Construction of a continuous bicycle and pedestrian pathway separated from vehicular traffic along the east side of Watt Avenue between La Riviera Drive and Manlove Road, with grade-separated undercrossings at the freeway ramps.

For additional information, please contact Dan Regan at (916) 874-7056 or regand@sac-county.net.

Source: Sacramento County ★



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“U R America the Beautiful” Luncheon and Fashion Show

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Chairman Judy Hoelsing has been very busy with the final details of the Carmichael Emblems Annual fundraiser, “U R America the Beautiful,” to be held on February 21st at the Carmichael Elks Lodge, 5621 Cypress Avenue, Carmichael, CA. Tickets are \$20 and include a delicious lunch and a special gift drawing. Fashion will be provided by The Dress Barn and Karol’s Gift Shop (The Red Hat Specialty Shop of Old Sacramento).

will be a variety of vendors present featuring clothing and miscellaneous items for the members of the Red Hat organization, as well as vendors with an assortment of custom jewelry, home décor items, and handmade scarves, just to mention a few.

Proceeds from the fashion show will help to support

the club’s many local charities, including Loaves and Fishes, Mustard Seed, and Ronnie McDonald House, as well as the many organizations that look to the Emblems for financial assistance. Tables may be reserved for you and your guests; Chairman Judy’s contact number is (916) 715-3119.

Source: Norma Pippig ★

Meeting of Embroiderers’ Guild of America

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - You are invited to join the Camellia Chapter of Embroiderers’ Guild of America at their meeting on Tuesday, February 17th at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the

Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento. Guests are welcome, and the meeting is free to attend. For more information, please call (916) 223-2751.

Source: Sharon Hearden ★

Father Found Guilty of Murder in 2013 Infant Death

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert announced that Alias McLaughlin was convicted by jury of second-degree murder and assault on a child with force likely to produce great bodily injury, resulting in the death of his 21-day-old daughter Ada.

On May 10th, 2013, McLaughlin became angry that baby Ada would not stop crying.

Ada weighed five pounds and was 19 inches in length. Over the course of a few hours, McLaughlin held baby Ada upside down and shook her, threw her into the bassinet multiple times, and threw her onto the ground with such force that she sustained a 1.5-inch fracture to her skull and severe brain trauma that caused her death. Ada’s mother was also assaulted

when she tried to intervene and stop the abuse of baby Ada.

McLaughlin had a prior conviction of domestic violence against Ada’s mother. He faces a sentence of 25 years to life in state prison. Sentencing is set for February 27th at 1:30 p.m. in Department 16 before the Honorable Marjorie Koller.

Source: Sacramento District Attorney’s Office ★

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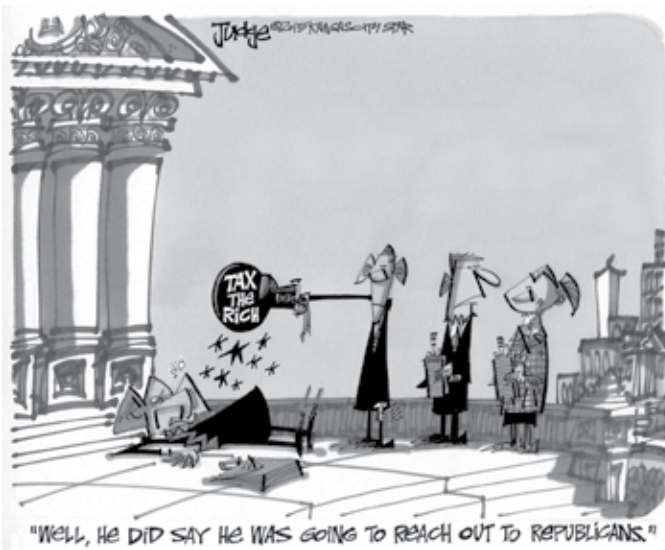
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THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN
By Rich Lowry

The Return of the War Hero

Clint Eastwood's new movie, "American Sniper," marks the return of the American war hero. Heroism on the battlefield had never gone away, of course, far from it (witness the Medal of Honors awarded for acts of extraordinary valor in Iraq and Afghanistan). But the classic war hero is more than just brave or fierce. He is famous and almost universally acclaimed. On top of his battlefield exploits, he is a cultural phenomenon. That is what "American Sniper" unquestionably makes of Chris Kyle. The late Navy SEAL sniper had already written a best-selling memoir and was known as "The Legend" within the military for his record number of confirmed kills during four tours in Iraq. The success of the movie, where he is

played by Bradley Cooper, also means he will be remembered as a larger-than-life figure. Such is the power of the silver screen. "American Sniper" had the largest opening weekend ever in January. It is producing the kind of numbers usually reserved for mindless comic-book superhero movies. It has played especially well in Middle America, with its top-grossing theaters in places like San Antonio, Oklahoma City, Houston and Albuquerque. All of this is profoundly disquieting to the left, which has so much sway in Hollywood. It hates and distrusts the idea of the war hero, believing it smacks of backwardness and jingoism. Its notion of compelling war movies were the tendentiously anti-war flops "Green Zone," "Stop-Loss" and "In the Valley of Elah." Its reaction to "American Sniper" has been to belittle the movie and smear Chris Kyle. Actor Seth Rogen compared "American Sniper" to the Nazi propaganda film featured in the movie "Inglorious Basterds." Director Michael Moore tweeted that he'd been taught to consider snipers cowards. Kyle "was a hate-filled killer," according to The Guardian, which also deems him "a racist who took pleasure in dehumanizing and killing brown people." One member of the

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences -- "American Sniper" is up for best picture -- told the website TheWrap that Kyle "seems like he may be a sociopath." One can only imagine, in this spirit, the criticisms that might have been made of past American war heroes. Why did John Paul Jones have such destructive urges toward British shipping? Did Joshua Chamberlain have to be so bloodthirsty when under assault on Little Round Top? What was wrong with Alvin York and Audie Murphy that they were so obsessed with killing Germans? Despite the reaction against it in some quarters, "American Sniper" is hardly a simplistic glorification of warfare. It shows its terrible cost, in lost and broken lives. The New Yorker, accurately, calls it "a devastating pro-war movie and a devastating anti-war movie." Kyle himself is nearly consumed by the horrors of what he experienced in Iraq, and his tragic death at the hands of a disturbed vet is a heartbreaking coda to his service. Chris Kyle, who had his flaws like anyone else, wasn't a saint. He was an exceptional warrior whose bravery and feats on the battlefield will now be remembered for a very long time. He is, in short, a war hero. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2015 by King Features Synd., Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Panhandling or Charity?

From Margaret Kaffka, constituent, Sacramento County District 4

Dear Supervisor MacGlashan, "County Officials" have recently updated the Aggressive and Intrusive Solicitation Ordinance to include charitable solicitors, as well as panhandlers. Are you aware that many firefighters are about to conduct their annual Fill the Boot for Burns event by soliciting donations Sunrise Boulevard/Greenback Lane by Sunrise Mall. Last year, the Citrus Heights Firefighters Burn Institute received \$107,000 due to this community-supported four-day event.

Why was "charitable solicitors" added? Please explain. ★

Rogue Republican Agenda

From Ron Lowe, Nevada City resident

To the Editor, House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cooked up a plan to bypass the U.S. government and have Netanyahu address Congress.

For John Boehner, Mario Rubio (R-Fla.) and other Republican hardliners, party politics and ideology are now more important than national unity. John Boehner and Mario Rubio represent the Republican Party not the United States of America, least they forget.

Lone wolf Republicans poking their noses into international protocol could easily imperil American security. ★

Free Weekend Activities at Effie Yeaw Nature Center

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - The Effie Yeaw Nature Center (2850 San Lorenzo Way) is hosting a series of free, fun, and informational events this February. There is a \$5 per car county entrance fee into Ancil Hoffman Park (free to members). Donations are gratefully accepted.

Secrets of a Wildlife Watcher: Much of what we know about wildlife was discovered by just watching. On Saturday, February 7th at 10:30 a.m., take a walk in the Nature Area and sharpen your observation skills.

Finding Your Way: Join docent Jennifer Kerr on Sunday,

February 8th at 1:30 p.m. for a guided map and compass walk. You will learn how to use a compass, take bearings, read a compass with a map, and find our way around the trails.

Source: Effie Yeaw Nature Center ★

Root Cellar Genealogical Society Membership Meeting

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - On Thursday, February 12th, the Root Cellar Genealogical Society Membership Meeting will be held from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Avenue in Carmichael.

The program (TBA) will be presented by Glenda Lloyd. There will also be a genealogical "Show & Tell" in which Root Cellar members will share their

family heirlooms and family history displays.

Before the meeting, from 6:15 p.m. to 7 p.m., there will be a pre-meeting open discussion. Visitors are always welcome to attend.

For more information, please visit www.rootcellar.org or send an email to info@rootcellar.org.

Source: Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society ★

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Retired District Attorney Introduces the Family Justice Center

Issues Call to Action: Collaborated Services Allow Hope to Thrive Here

Story and photo by Shaunna Boyd

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Retired Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully was the featured speaker at the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce January Business Luncheon where her presentation focused on a new project, the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center (FJC).

After 20 years of prosecuting family violence cases in the region, Scully is passionate about providing help and hope to survivors of violence. As Scully explained, family violence—which includes child abuse, elder abuse, sex trafficking, and domestic violence—is a serious problem here and everywhere across the nation. Family violence is not isolated to certain cultures or to any particular socioeconomic statuses. Statics show that issues like abuse can affect anyone, anytime. Additionally, family violence is a crime that is often underreported, and yet law enforcement responds to more calls about family violence than any other crime. These crimes are also the most dangerous for the responding officers.

Just within Sacramento County, 911 call centers receive approximately 18,000 calls per year from victims of domestic violence in immediate crisis. More than 22,000 calls are placed to local domestic violence hotlines each year, and in the last 10 years there have been 150 domestic violence-related homicides in the county. Each year, approximately 3,500 court cases are brought against adult offenders in the county. Additionally, a multi-day sweep by the Sacramento County Human Trafficking Task Force discovered that Sacramento has the sixth highest rate of human trafficking in the nation. And keep in mind that all these types of domestic/family violence crimes are vastly underreported.

When a victim of family violence calls 911, law enforcement responds to the immediate crisis,



At the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce January Business Luncheon, Retired District Attorney Jan Scully (right) meets with community members to answer their questions and listen to their suggestions about collaborating services for family violence survivors at the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center.

but too often the victim later drops the charges and chooses not to pursue any further action against the aggressor. Typically, victims of family violence are emotionally and financially dependent on their abusers and don't see a way out. The FJC aims to provide a holistic approach to helping such victims. Group leaders hope to become a one-stop-shop, allowing survivors of violence to report a crime, obtain temporary restraining orders, find emergency safe housing and food services, and meet with counselors and victim advocates. The FJC will collaborate with more than 40 existing service agencies to better serve these survivors and their families.

When a woman leaves an abusive partner, she typically leaves with nothing and doesn't know where to turn for help; approximately one-third of homeless women are survivors of domestic violence. According to Scully, the services available to help survivors are fragmented, complicated, and overwhelming. The FJC is committed to complementing and enhancing the existing services so survivors are less likely to return to an abusive environment.

The FJC is expected to be up and running by late spring of

2015. They are still finalizing the space plans for the location, but Scully said, "operationally, we are ready to go; partnerships are expanding quickly as is support from the community and local government agencies. We are all excited for the Family Justice Center to open."

In establishing the FJC, Scully is partnering with the Sacramento Sheriff's Department, Sacramento Police Department, Folsom Police Department, Sacramento Superior Court, A Community for Peace, My Sister's House, and WEAVE. Other significant partners include the Sacramento County Department of Health and Social Services; California State University, Sacramento; the University of Phoenix in Sacramento; local public officials, health professionals, legal organizations, law schools, faith-based organizations, and multicultural groups; and, of course, primary community-based providers of services to domestic and family violence victims.

To learn more, please visit www.HopeThrivesHere.org. ★

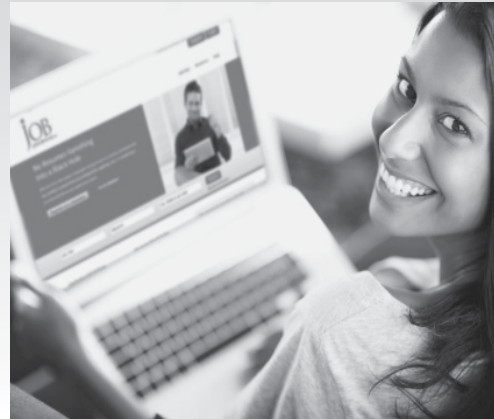
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Projected supertitle translations

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by E. Haig – Sacramento Gazette, March 14, 2014

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I Am a Conservative Western Christian

By Dr. Gary Welton

In my political views, I consider myself to be a conservative American. In my religious beliefs, I consider myself to be a conservative Christian. I am a conservative Western Christian. Sometimes, however, my two conservative bents seem to be in conflict with one another.

I was particularly conflicted when George W. Bush invaded Iraq. Because of my conservative political bend, I was inclined to support the Republican president's decision. However, because of my Christian faith, I was against the war. The evidence indicated that Iraq was perhaps the most religiously open Arab country, allowing Christian churches to meet and worship without threat of attack. Indeed, the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq was Tariq Aziz, a member of the Chaldean Catholic Church. The American attack on Iraq, however, had serious consequences for the churches in that country. America's war on Iraq quickly evolved into Iraq's war on Christianity, in a very predictable manner.

Once again, I am very conflicted, as I consider the Charlie Hebdo murders in Paris, the Western response, and now the Muslim reactions. Some Muslim protestors have chosen to express their frustration by attacking Christians in Muslim countries. CNN has reported that the violence to date has been most

severe in Niger, where churches and Christian homes have been destroyed. Thus far, at least 10 have been killed. Yet, I wonder, is their frustration with the realities of Christianity, or with the realities of Western secularism?

I understand that much of the world sees the West as Christian, yet it can be argued that Christianity is on the decline in the West, while it is expanding in Africa and China. It is a stereotype to think that the West portrays the essence of Christianity. In fact, the West provides for a rather free expression of faith. Granted, Christianity has been the dominant faith in the West but I am not willing, as a Christian, to take the blame for Charlie Hebdo's depiction of Muhammad. Charlie Hebdo is a reflection of the secular West, not particularly a reflection of Christianity. I am not Charlie Hebdo.

Salman Rushdie wrote in his novel "Midnight's Children," "It's a dangerous business to try and impose one's view of things on others." I value the freedom to practice my Christian faith. I also value the freedom of others to practice their various faiths and traditions. I value the freedom of others to practice no faith tradition. I personally disagree with other religious traditions but I do not make fun of them or ridicule them. I do not seek to impose my view of things on others.

Christianity and Islam have not always been civil to one another;

we all know the history of the Crusades. Nevertheless, I contend that the current disagreement is not a disagreement between Christianity and Islam. Charlie Hebdo was not reflecting the dominant Christian view of freedom and respect. Charlie Hebdo, rather, was reflecting the secular view against Islam (and, to some extent, against Christianity).

Because the West is often seen as the bastion of Christianity, the church is now under attack in Muslim countries. This disappoints and saddens me at many levels. Most relevant to this editorial, Charlie Hebdo does not reflect my Christian views; I am disappointed that Muslims are attacking Christians and their churches. We are not Charlie Hebdo.

Western and Muslim countries have not always been civil to one another. I am not always in agreement with the decisions that my politicians have made. Nevertheless, I freely admit that the issues are complex and difficult.

Physical and verbal assaults do not facilitate a path forward. We need a civil exchange of ideas. This civil exchange is a conversation worth having.

Dr. Gary L. Welton is assistant dean for institutional assessment, professor of psychology at Grove City College, and a contributor to *The Center for Vision & Values*. He is a recipient of a major research grant from the Templeton Foundation to investigate positive youth development. ★

What is Constitutional in the State of the Union Address?

By Dr. Harold Pease

In listening to the President's State of the Union Address one might think that he actually has the power to do what he requests. On domestic issues two old requests from last year's State of the Union Address were renewed: a request for raising the minimum wage and, instead of just making the college opportunity available to all middle class Americans, he went further proposing free community college for all. Other requests included advocacy for "a free and open Internet," which, given a recent executive order means control of it, expanded child care tax credits, improved job training, expanded paid leave, and a new tax benefit for two-income families. All this to be funded by increased taxes on the rich. He threatened a veto to any legislation that altered Obamacare or undermined his recently decreed executive amnesty. He was decidedly unclear on his request for criminal justice reform, certainly a reference to the riots in Ferguson, Mo. More federal involvement always means more federal control.

He defended his positions on Cuba and Iran and threatened presidential vetoes if Congress legislated differently. Constitutionalists had to have cheered when he seemed to lecture, the mostly Republican Congress, on what he called, "rash decisions, reacting to the headlines instead of using our heads; when the first response to a challenge is to send in our military—then we risk getting drawn into unnecessary conflicts, and neglect the broader strategy we need for a safer, more prosperous world." He called it, "a smarter kind of American leadership" and seemed aimed at the so-called military industrial complex of which President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned. He saw rewriting the Authorization of Use of Military Force, which authorized the air campaigns in Iraq and Syria, as a priority but left few specifics on what that

meant. He still refuses to use the term Radical Islamist Terrorists in describing the Islamists involved in the mass killing in Nigeria, Iraq, Syria and France even though while he spoke they were threatening to topple Yemen who has stood with us in opposition to al-Qaida.

The list went on and on as it does for every president Republican or Democrat, but what was different from last year is that he threatened the use of the veto rather than the threat of his bypassing Congress with the use of the "pen" through executive orders. The term executive order is not found in the Constitution and initially was nothing more than inter-departmental communications between the President and his executive branch with him requesting some action on their part. Constitutionally they have no law-making function.

Unfortunately most, if not all, of these things are not in Article II of the Constitution nor have they been added by way of amendment as outlined in Article V of that document, thus they are unconstitutional. It is very probable that, even with the approval of Congress, they would be outside the Constitution but that is a topic for another time. Presidents, in their thirst for power and/or proclaimed expediency, have empowered themselves to the point of "kingship" with their worshipful, unchallenging, party followers (whether Democrat or Republican) quite willing to look the other way as government grows beyond its ability to be constitutional or efficient. At any time he could remind the people of his real constitutional powers but he will not as that would drastically reduce his power that is beginning to look limitless.

We must return to the Constitutional powers of the President as identified in Article II. As we list these powers attempt to match the State of the Union requests wherein he suggests that he might have a role. Under the Constitution the

president has but eleven powers. Let us identify them: 1) "Commander in chief of the army and navy of the United States" including the militia when called into actual service of the United States; 2) supervise departments (cabinet), each presumably established by the Congress (George Washington had but four); 3) grant reprieves and pardons; 4) make treaties with the help of the Senate; 5) with Senate help appoint positions established by law such as ambassadors, ministers and judges; 6) fill vacancies "during recess of the Senate;" 7) make recommendations to Congress on the state of the union; 8) convene both houses on special occasions and handle disputes with respect to convening; 9) receive ambassadors and other public ministers; 10) make certain that "laws be faithfully executed;" and, 11) "commission all the officers of the United States."

Simply stated the president has two supervisory powers over existing organizations and two shared powers with the Senate, otherwise he pardons, recommends, appoints and entertains. That is it! Notice the absence of power to make any rules and regulations on us. This is the job of Congress alone.

All measures listed in the 2015 State of the Union Address are but suggestions to Congress, which alone, as per Article I, Section I, has all law-making functions—the president has none. That said, he is within his constitutional bounds with his threat of the veto, which is likely to be used liberally.

Dr. Harold Pease is a syndicated columnist and an expert on the United States Constitution. He has dedicated his career to studying the writings of the Founding Fathers and applying that knowledge to current events. He has taught history and political science from this perspective for over 25 years at Taft College. To read more of his weekly articles, please visit www.LibertyUnderFire.org. ★

Girl Scouts About More Than Just Cookies

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Girl Scout Cookie Season is underway and continues through March 22nd! But there's more to Girl Scout Cookies than what's in the box—Girl Scouts is about the essential skills a girl gains from interacting with customers and the experience of running her own cookie business and working with others. New this year, Girl Scouts will be able to sell their cookies online through Digital Cookie, adding new skills to the program like online marketing and e-commerce.

From its earliest beginnings in 1917 to its current popularity, the Girl Scout Cookie Program has helped girls have fun, develop valuable life skills, and make their communities a better place. Cookie earnings help pay for the leadership activities and field trips Girl Scouts do all year long. Plus, the cookie program benefits more than just the girls selling them. With their earnings, Girl Scouts fund important community projects at the local level. When you buy Girl Scout cookies in your neighborhood, you are keeping your dollars in the community.

The five skills girls learn are goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. There are financial literacy badges girls can earn at each level, from kindergarten through grade 12. In terms of skill building, statistics show the Girl Scout Cookie Program works. According to a survey from the Girl Scout Research Institute, 85% of Girl Scout "cookie entrepreneurs" learn money management through developing budgets, taking cookie orders, and handling customers' money.

Girl Scouts Heart of Central California purchases its cookies from ABC Bakers, one of two licensed Girl Scout cookie bakers. This year, girls will sell Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Shortbread, Lemonades, Thanks-A-Lot, and



Girl Scouts Heart of Central California purchases its cookies from ABC Bakers, one of two licensed Girl Scout cookie bakers.

Cranberry Citrus Crisps. Select troops will also be selling a limited supply of the new gluten-free Trios, made with real peanut butter, chocolate chips, and whole grain oats.

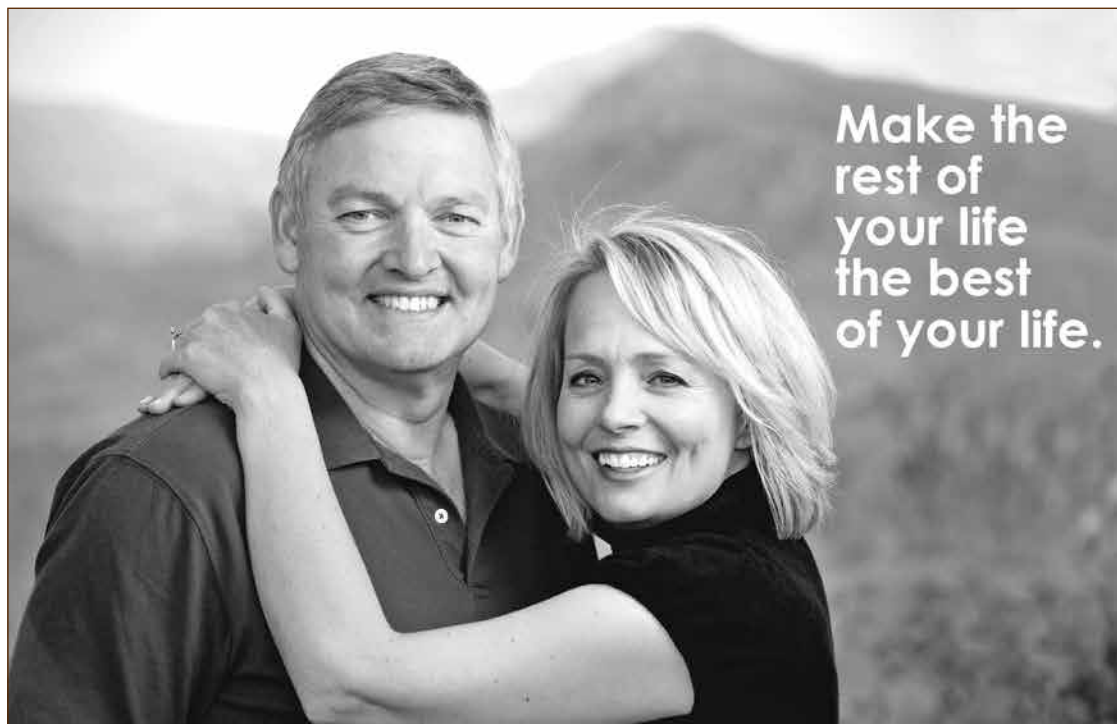
Becoming a national holiday for Girl Scout Cookie fans, National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend will take place February 27th through March 1st. In honor of this nearly 100-year-old American tradition, Girl Scout members, volunteers, alumnae, and supporters across the country will celebrate the world's largest girl-led business.

Girl Scouts Heart of Central California will also continue its partnership with the American Red Cross for Project Thank You. Through Project Thank

You, customers can purchase Girl Scout Cookies, which are distributed by the American Red Cross to local service men and women, VA hospitals, and food banks. At booth sales, customers just need to tell the girls that they'd like to purchase cookies for Project Thank You and they will put the cookies aside.

Local Girl Scouts are currently taking cookie pre-orders. After pre-orders, Girl Scouts will sell cookies at booths outside of local storefronts from February 27th to March 22nd. Cookies are \$5 per package. More information can be found at www.girlscoutcookies.org.

Source: Girl Scouts Heart of Central California ★



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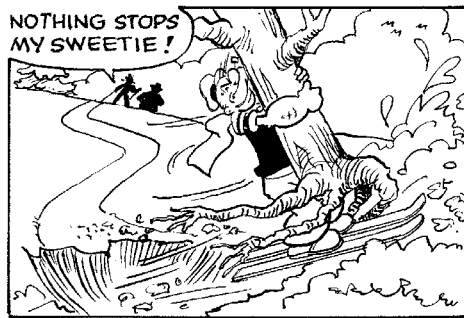
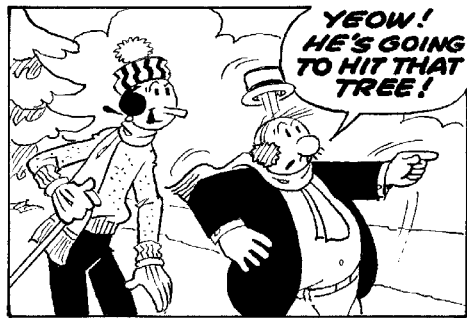
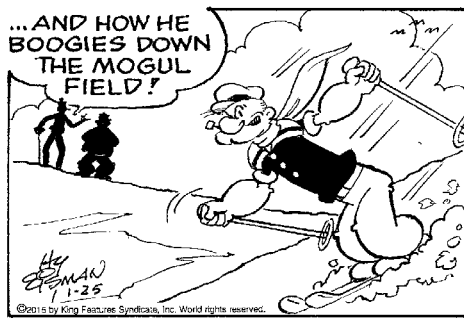
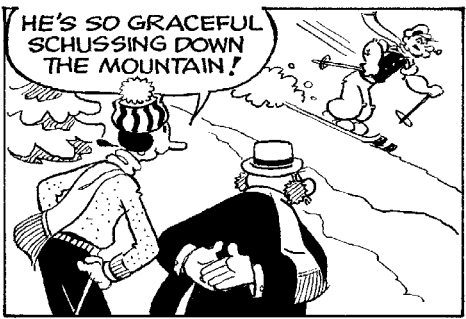
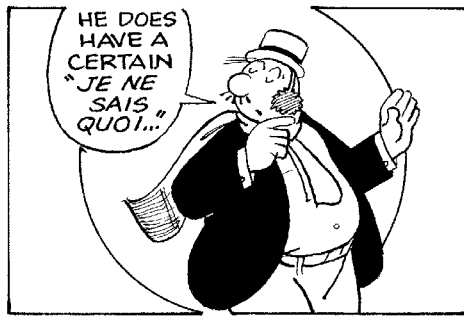
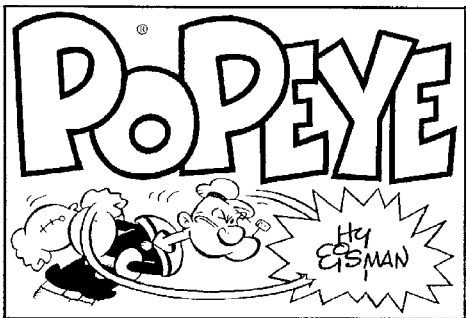
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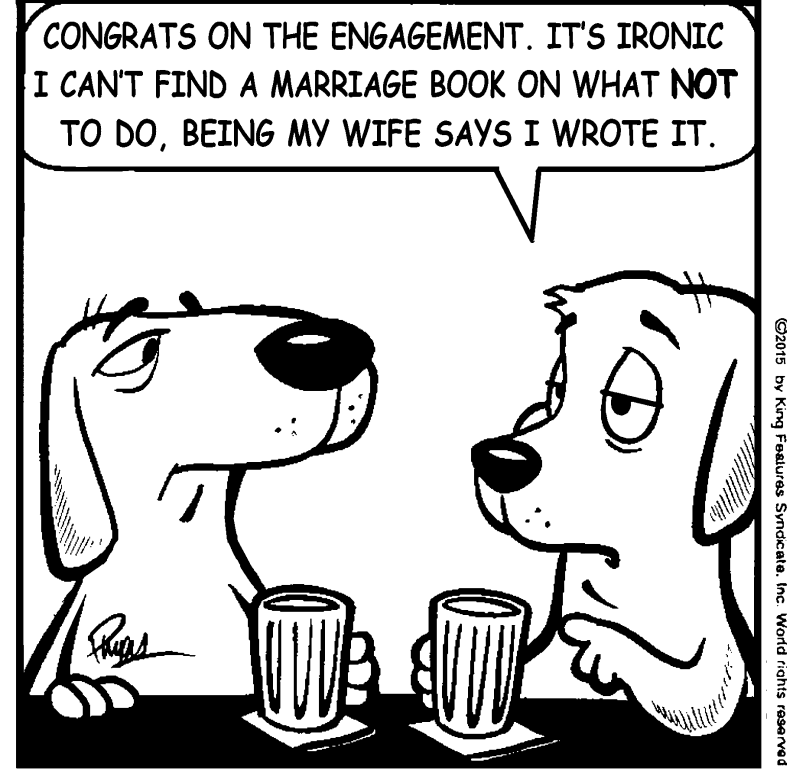
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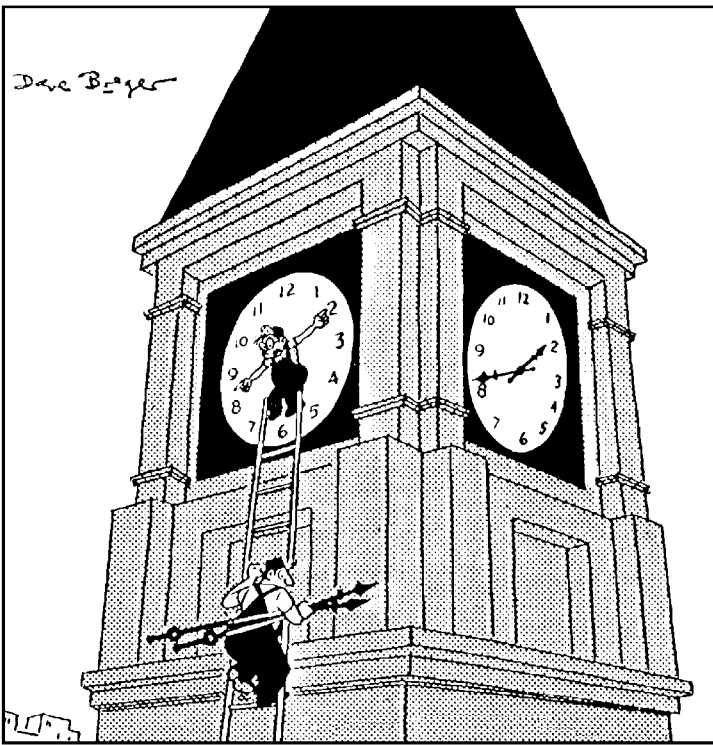


HUBERT - - By Dick Wingert



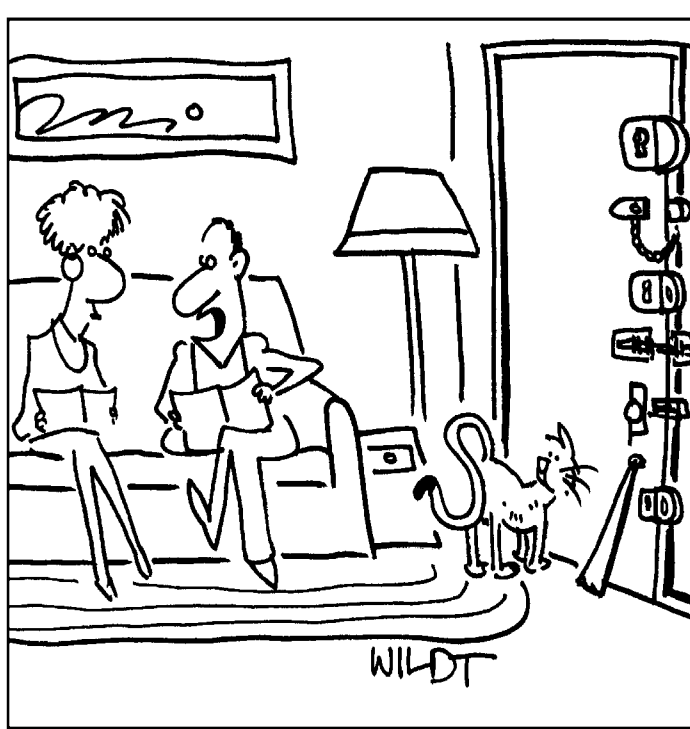
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MISTER BREGER By Dave Breger



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Salome's Stars

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Your natural Arian leadership qualities make you the person others will follow in tackling that important project. But don't get so involved in the work that you neglect your personal life.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Aspects favor sorting through your possessions, both at work and at home, to start giving away what you don't use, don't need or don't like. Relax later with someone special.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
The issues are not quite as clear as they should be. That's why you need to avoid getting involved in disputes between colleagues at work or between relatives or personal friends.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
You'll get lots of support from others if you own up to your mistake quickly and include a full and honest explanation. Learn from this experience so that you don't repeat it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
There might be some early confusion over a major move, whether it's at work or at home. But once you get a full breakdown of what it entails, it should be easier to deal with. Good luck.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
Creating order out of chaos, even in the most untidy spaces, should be no problem for organized Virgos. So go ahead and do it, and then accept praise from impressed colleagues.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Whether it's for business purposes or just for leisure, a trip might be just what you need right now. You would benefit both from a change of scenery and from meeting new people.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
While things generally go well this week, a romantic situation seems to have stalled. But you can restart it if you want to. Then again, maybe this is a chance to reassess the situation.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
A meeting that was promised quite a while back could finally happen. So be sure you're prepared with everything you'll need to make your case sound convincing and doable.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
A workplace blunder could create a problem down the line unless you deal with it right now to see how and why it happened. Don't be surprised at what you might learn.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
This is a good time to re-sort your priorities and see if adjustments are called for. Be honest with yourself as you decide what to keep, what to discard and what to change.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Letting yourself be bathed in the outpouring of love and support from those who care for you will help you get through a difficult period sooner rather than later. Good luck.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have an uncanny gift for reaching out to all people and creating bridges of understanding among them.

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On Feb. 15, 1903, toy-store owner and inventor Morris Michtom places two stuffed bears in his shop window in Brooklyn, advertising them as Teddy bears. Michtom had earlier petitioned President Theodore Roosevelt for permission to use his nickname, Teddy. The president agreed.

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COUCH THEATER DVD PREVIEW

BY SAM STRUCKHOFF

COUCH THEATER -- DVD PREVIEW
By Sam Struckhoff
EDITOR'S NOTE: DVDs reviewed in this column will be available in stores the week of February 9, 2015.

PICKS OF THE WEEK



Ed Oxenbould as "Alexander"

"Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day" (PG) -- Based on the beloved kids book, this family-film adaptation gives us a likable account of unfortunate events in the lives of an 11-year-old and his (briefly) family. Alex (Ed Oxenbould) is the victim of escalating misfortunes, from gum in his hair to sharing a birthday with an infinitely more popular kid. Once Alex has his bad day, he wishes his parents (Steve Carell and Jennifer Garner) and siblings could feel what it's like -- and they soon do.

Disney delivers a satisfactory update of the original story, without pushing any boundaries. Alex, for instance, has to face the new-age humiliation of seeing his face photoshopped into a mocking image. Ultimately, we get a few chuckles while learning an important lesson -- good luck swings both ways.

"Nighthowler" (R) -- Jake Gyllenhaal plays a ruthless amateur clawing his way to the top of the local news game. Lou Bloom (Gyllenhaal) is an ever-smiling,

self-taught, ambitious and amoral kind of "reporter" -- his bread and butter come from filming blood, car wrecks and other types of mayhem. He's energetic, yet dead behind the eyes. On his way to the top, Bloom winds up at the center of one of his own gruesome stories. The force of the film comes from Jake Gyllenhaal's performance as a charming sociopath. On one hand, you can't stop watching him, while on the other hand, you really believe this guy would chop up his grandma if somebody would pay for the pictures.

"Force Majeur" (R) -- This dark comedy gathered good buzz at the Cannes film festival as one of the best foreign-language flicks to hit the screen. It follows a Swedish family taking some quality-time at a high-end ski resort, under the constant threat of "controlled" avalanches that keep the slopes how they're supposed to be. During one such planned avalanche, Tomas -- the dad of the family -- gets frightened and makes a run for safety, leaving his wife and kids, well ... behind. The avalanche turns out to be nothing, but Tomas' act of cowardice becomes a comical crisis of its own.

"Rosewater" (R) -- This directorial debut for Jon Stewart (TV's "The Daily Show") uses the real-life story of an Iranian-born journalist (Gael Garcia-Bernal) and the suffering he faced -- partly as a result of his appearance on Stewart's comedy show. Maziar Bahari was born in Tehran, but had Canadian citizenship when he was detained as an enemy of the state and tortured for 118 days. His "crimes" were related to his coverage of a presidential candidate running against Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in Iran's tumultuous 2009 election. It's a film about hope and human suffering, shot with a comedian's sensitivity for irony and emotion.

TV RELEASES

"Nurse Jackie Season 6"
"Mama's Family: Season 6"
"Hart to Hart: Season 4"
"Peanuts: Race for Your Life, Charlie Brown"
"Captain Scarlet and The Mysterons: The Complete Series"

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top ten

SNOWIEST UNIVERSITIES

1. Syracuse
2. Northern Arizona
3. Montana State
4. Colorado
5. Binghamton
6. Vermont
7. Colgate
8. Cleveland State
9. Notre Dame
10. Maine

Source: The Weather Channel

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• It was German author and statesman Johann Wolfgang von Goethe who made the following sage observation: "When ideas fail, words come in very handy."

• Unless you're a local, you've probably never heard of the town of Rugby, North Dakota, but if you ever set out to find the geographical center of the continent of North America, that's where you'll end up.

• In 1936, in the final match of the men's table tennis world championship, the two competitors volleyed for two hours and 12 minutes on the opening serve alone.

• Before modern English there was Middle English, used during a time when men of the church were supposed to remain humble. This is why these men were called "ministers" -- it means "lowly person" in Middle English.

• Those who study such things say that if you spend an hour listening to the radio, you'll hear approximately 11,000 words.

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The Garden Bug

Yarrow BY BRENDA WEAVER

This herb prefers well-drained soil in full sun, but can be grown in less ideal conditions. It is considered a very good "companion" plant, repelling some insect pests while attracting good, predatory insects such as wasps and ladybugs. Native Americans used it to relieve pain and swelling, treat wounds, reduce fevers and aid in restful sleep.

Source: wikipedia.org

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Sacramento Patient With Possible Ebola Infection Tested Negative

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - State and local public health and hospital officials have confirmed that the patient transported by specialized ambulance and admitted to UC Davis Medical Center on January 29th who exhibited symptoms consistent with a viral illness including Ebola, and with a history of travel to an Ebola-affected country, has tested negative for the Ebola virus.

"We will continue to work together with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with hospitals and local health departments across California to quickly identify individuals who could potentially be at risk of Ebola and take

quick action in order to protect the health and safety of all California residents," said California Department of Public Health (CDPH) State Epidemiologist and Deputy Director, Center for Infectious Diseases, Dr. Gil Chavez.

"The expediency of this investigation also preserves resources and allows staff to resume other investigations," said Sacramento County Health Officer Dr. Olivia Kasirye.

The test for Ebola, conducted by the Sacramento County Public Health Laboratory, came back negative. "The patient remains in good condition and we will continue to provide ongoing medical care," said J. Douglas

Kirk, Chief Medical Officer at UC Davis Medical Center.

At this time, there have been no confirmed cases of Ebola in California and there is no threat to the general public. Ebola symptoms may appear anywhere between two to 21 days after exposure and include a fever, muscle pain, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and lack of appetite. Travelers from Africa may experience flu-like or GI symptoms due to malaria or other non-Ebola associated diseases.

For more information, visit www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/cder/Pages/Ebola.aspx.

Source: California Department of Public Health

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Singing Valentines Make Valentine's Day Special



Sacramento Valley Chorus. From left to right: Lynne Erickson, Carrie Falk, Lynnette Lewis, and Kirby Cass. They enjoy singing a cappella in four-part harmony, barbershop-style.

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - How many ways can you say "I love you" on Valentine's Day? Sacramento Valley Chorus says the best way is with a singing valentine for that special sweetheart, husband, wife, mother, father, or child. Quartets from the award-winning Sacramento Valley Chorus make special memories for loved ones with a singing valentine delivered to homes or businesses in Placer, Sacramento, Yolo, or El Dorado Counties. The \$45 package

includes two songs performed in four-part harmony, a lovely long-stem silk red rose, an elegant box of chocolates, and a valentine card with an original verse. Deliveries will be made only on Friday, February 13th or Saturday, February 14th. Sacramento Valley Chorus has formed five quartets and they get booked early, so don't wait, call the reservation hotline at (916) 420-1662 or visit the website at www.sacramentovalleychorus.com.

Sacramento Valley Chorus, a non-profit organization, has won numerous awards. This October, they will compete on the Sweet Adelines International stage in Las Vegas. Members of the Sacramento Valley Chorus are from Placer, Nevada, Sacramento, El Dorado, Yolo, and San Joaquin Counties. They enjoy singing a cappella in four-part harmony, barbershop-style.

Source: Sacramento Valley Chorus ★

River Cats Announce 2015 Manager and Field Staff

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

The Sacramento River Cats have announced their field staff in conjunction with their inaugural season as the San Francisco Giants' Triple-A affiliate in 2015.

Bob Mariano will take the helm as the River Cats' sixth manager since their inaugural season in Sacramento in 2000. During his previous six seasons as the Giants' Triple-A skipper, Mariano has managed several big league stars such as Madison Bumgarner, Buster Posey, and Pablo Sandoval. During this past season he managed Joe Panik, Travis Ishikawa, and Roseville native Andrew Susac.

Prior to managing in Fresno, Mariano has served as skipper for Single-A Advanced Vero Beach (Dodgers) of the Florida State League in 2001, the Pacific Coast League's Tucson Toros (Brewers) in 1997, and the California League's Stockton Ports (Brewers) in 1995.

Mariano has been with the San Francisco Giants organization since 2005, serving as a coordinator of minor league hitting instruction for the Giants farm system from 2005-2011 before beginning his managerial career in 2012. Mariano previously served as a minor league hitting instructor with the Los Angeles Dodgers (2002-04) and in roles with the Baltimore Orioles (1985-86), New York Yankees (1988-92), Milwaukee Brewers (1993-97), and Arizona Diamondbacks (1998-2000).

The Phoenix, Arizona native also managed in the Italian Baseball Federation (Anzio, 1987) and Australian Baseball Federation (Newport, 1987). The former utility player spent seven seasons in the minors with the Yankees (1980-82) and Orioles (1983-86). He originally signed with the Yankees as a non-drafted free agent in 1980.

Andy Skeels will assume the role of hitting coach for the River Cats in 2015. Skeels was also hitting coach for the Savannah Sand Gnats (2000, 02-04), Brevard County Manatees (2004-05), and



Bob Mariano will take the helm as the River Cats' sixth manager since their inaugural season in Sacramento in 2000. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento River Cats

Augusta GreenJackets (2006-07). In six seasons (2008-13) as a manager in the San Francisco Giants' organization with Augusta, Richmond, and San Jose, Skeels went 497-342 winning more games and with a higher winning percentage (.592) than any manager in the minor leagues and led Augusta to the South Atlantic League title in 2008. Skeels managed from 2002, 08-13, and owns a career managerial record of 525-374 (.584).

The New Zealand native was the first-ever New Zealand born player to be drafted by a Major League organization and had the honor of managing the New Zealand national team in the 2013 World Baseball Classic Qualifiers, leading them to the championship game against Taiwan. He played at the University of Arkansas before being selected by the San Diego Padres in the seventh round of the 1987 amateur draft and playing in the minors from 1987-2001, briefly reaching Triple-A.

Dwight Bernard will serve as pitching coach for the River Cats in 2015. Previously, he has been a pitching coach and instructor for nine different organizations from 1986-2014, including stints with the Minnesota Twins, Pittsburgh Pirates, and Milwaukee Brewers organizations. The Mount Vernon, Illinois native was drafted by the New York Mets in the second

round of the 1974 amateur draft and reached the majors with the club in 1978, spending most of that year in the Mets bullpen. He was traded to Milwaukee and in 1982 pitched an inning in Game 6 of the World Series vs. St. Louis. However, he was released by the Brewers the following spring. He spent 1983 and 1984 in the Houston Astros farm system and ended his career with the Baltimore Orioles in 1985.

James Petra will enter his seventh consecutive season in the Giants' organization and his first as athletic trainer in Sacramento. The 2004 University of Connecticut graduate spent the 2014 season in Fresno after being with Double-A Richmond for two seasons (2012-13), and both Augusta (2009) and San Jose (2010-11) for one season each. Prior to the Giants, he spent 2007-08 as the assistant athletic trainer and head strength and conditioning coach for the Bowie Baysox, a Double-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles.

Brad Lawson will start his fourth season in the Giants organization as the strength and conditioning coach. Entering his seventh season in professional baseball, he previously worked for the Chicago Cubs and Washington Nationals after earning a degree in kinesiology and education from the University of New Brunswick in Canada. He currently resides in Glenside, Pennsylvania.

Pablo Lopez will round out the River Cats staff for 2015 as the clubhouse manager. Lopez has spent 18 full seasons in clubhouse management positions both at the major- and minor-league level since 1996 and has been with the Giants' Triple-A affiliate since 2011. Lopez has worked for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, the Oakland Athletics, and San Jose Giants. He has also assisted in Arizona spring training operations for various clubs. Lopez is a native of Santa Clara and was raised in San Jose.

Source: Sacramento River Cats ★

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END of the BENCH

by Gerry Scholl

What Is and What Should Never Be

Holy Hoomanawanui!!! Did that really happen? Can we believe what we just saw?

It's a rare moment in sports history when the fortunes of so many turn in two blinks of an eye, as they did with just seconds remaining to play in Super Bowl XLIX, Sunday.

The Seattle Seahawks were three feet away from becoming the newest NFL dynasty when the play was called. And by what name will that play forever be called? "Least Mode?"

The ball was snapped with 26 seconds left. By some miracles, Seattle had reached the New England one-yard line, with the Patriots leading 28-24. The Seahawks were on the verge of repeating as NFL champions, something that hasn't been done in over a decade.

In less time than it took the entire all-time, record-setting television viewing audience to think, "What the hell are they doing? Why aren't they giving the ball to (Marshawn) Lynch?," it was all decided.

Instead of going "Beast Mode" and putting the football in the hands Lynch (the former Cal star who has become the most feared, dominating running back in the league, and who also had already rushed for over four yards per carry in the game while accumulating 102 yards on 24 carries, including a four-yarder on first down to the one-yard line) the Seattle brain trust chose to throw the ball.

Coach Pete Carroll's kindergarten teacher should have been in his ear telling him, "Little Petie, that is not a choice."

The ill-conceived choice was to run what might be considered an illegal pick-play. The chances were good that a penalty would not be called, because in this game the officials were "letting them play." On the heels of the persistent flag-fest the marred the tempo of most regular-season games, in this game it was "anything goes" all day, all the way.

Carroll and offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell had been staying up late working on their game plans for days with classic Led Zeppelin playing in the background. In cocky Seahawks' fashion, the line that stuck in their heads was, "What's to stop us, pretty baby?"

But they neglected "what is," is that Lynch is the best, and "what should never be" is that they would consider any other option with the game on the line.

The Seahawks didn't figure on the chance that an obscure, undrafted rookie defensive back was onto them. The Butler did!

Malcolm Butler, 5' 11", 190 lbs., out of Division II University of West Alabama in Livingston (never heard of it) played at Hinds Community College for five games before getting kicked off the team. He served up chicken for Popeye's for a while, but got a second chance to play the next season before winding up at UWA. Eventually he ended up at a Patriots' tryout camp and worked his way onto the roster. Monday he was riding in a parade alongside Mickey Mouse down Main Street after "going to Disneyland."

The Seahawks almost certain victory was snatched away by Butler, who credited, "Preparation." He recognized the formation, predicted the pick route, raced to the spot of the pass before receiver Ricardo Lockette and made the interception that made him an instant living legend and the proud new owner of quarterback Tom Brady's MVP pickup truck.

Butler let all of the air out of the Seahawks' sideline. The taunting, preening, gloating and cheerleading was abruptly turned into "Deflategate II." The changing look on the face of cornerback Richard Sherman, who considers himself a legend in his own mind, was priceless and a welcome sight to 49ers fans everywhere. His sidekick and former Stanford teammate, receiver Doug Baldwin, probably had to make a run to a restroom for real, after having mimicked the act with a mocking, disgusting display in the end zone after scoring a touchdown earlier in the game. (What's the deal with these Stanford guys? Seems they still gots lots a learnin' to do).

For a team that professes to do it all with class, there appears

to be a misunderstanding of the definition of the word. They proved they can't lose with class, instigating a punch-throwing brawl at the end of the game.

What it is for Brady is his third MVP in his fourth Super Bowl victory in which he rallied his team from ten points down in the fourth quarter against a Seattle defense that is truly great, but one that should never be compared to the 1985 Chicago Bears, still the best ever.

For Brady, thanks to Butler's play, he is now 4-2 in Super Bowls, not 3-3. He joins the exclusive club of four-time winners, joining the 49ers' Joe Montana (4-0, no interceptions) and the Pittsburgh Steelers' Terry Bradshaw (4-0, with the help of the famed Steel Curtain defense, also better than the Seahawks).

Through the dreadful lead-up to the big game, there was a lot of talk about Lynch not talking to and not being cooperative with the media, and being fined by the league for his actions. At the same time, league representatives were talking little and saying next to nothing about topical issues surrounding the NFL. Those issues, of course, include "Deflategate I," the investigation into the under-inflated footballs provided by the Patriots and used in the AFC Championship 45-7 (didn't matter) win over Indianapolis.

As Brady said during his awkward televised interview with Bob Costas, "...wait for the facts to come out."

Naturally, they won't come out until well after the Super Bowl, if ever. Whether or not "the facts" will tarnish the reputations of Brady or coach Bill Belichick, also one of the authors of a previous "Spygate" videotaping incident, is yet to be seen. Or not.

Cheaters sometimes do prosper. If you dare, take a look around any NFL locker room and your educated guess would be that there are cheaters everywhere.

The NFL's highly-successful policy appears to be that their best-kept secrets are secrets best kept. ★



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Castello di Armosa

Includes guided castle tour, wine tasting in the Great Hall, lunch at Calistoga Inn, and time in Calistoga to explore museum and shops

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\$142 per person
Reserve by Feb. 16

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MISSION OAKS RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT

Office Hours: 8 am-5 pm
Registration Hours: 8:30am-4pm Monday-Friday
www.morpd.com

DISTRICT OFFICE
(916) 488-2810 • Fax (916) 488-4349
3344 Mission Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608

MISSION OAKS COMMUNITY CENTER
(916) 972-0336 • Fax (916) 972-7371
4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael, CA 95608

SWANSTON COMMUNITY CENTER
(916) 333-6464 • Fax (916) 488-4349
2350 Northrop Ave., Sacramento, CA 95825

Benvenuti a Roma

Crab Feed

Sat., Feb. 28, 2015, 6:00pm

EVENT THEME: ROMAN HOLIDAY

Menu

- Dungeness Crab
- Pasta
- Bread Rolls
- Butter
- Green Salad
- Dessert

Venue

La Sierra Community Center
5325 Engle Rd., Carmichael

Silent & Live Auctions

Info: Deanna King
(916) 483-7848 ext. 113

No Outside Beverages

Tickets
\$50 per person
\$60 per person @ door

VIP Tables

- Personal Waiter
- Comp Beverages
- Special Dessert
- Preferred Seating
- 24 Door Prize Opportunities and More!

VIP Table for 8 \$400

Ticket Sales

- St. Mark's on Sunday Mornings
- Church Finance Office on Tuesdays through Fridays
- Online at www.stmarksumc.com



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Open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner

Come in and enjoy a great All-American breakfast at the Carmichael Café and Deli. Bring your friends, or come in and meet new ones. You can also call us to schedule a time for your group to meet and enjoy the food! *Photo by Anne Stokes*



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From 4 PM - 6PM Daily

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| Country Fried Steak | \$8.99 |
| 8oz. Prime Rib of Beef | \$9.99 |
| Hot Roast Turkey Sandwich | \$7.99 |
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| Fettucini Marinara | \$7.99 |

- OR -

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FREE Soda Drink with Meal

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6AM - 8PM Sunday - Thursday
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