



**Foster Youth
Receive Holiday
Gifts and Stockings**

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**PLUS:
Oakmont of
Carmichael Sock
and Scarf Drive**

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Carmichael Times

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Serving Carmichael and Sacramento County since 1981

December 18, 2014

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**Couch Theater
1,000 Times
Good Night**



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PERMIT 350
Carmichael, CA
Change Service Requested

Don't Let Storm Repairs Turn Into An Uglier Mess

CSLB Tips Help Prevent Storm Repairs From Becoming Costly Headaches



The cheapest price may not be the best solution when it comes to repairing flood damage, removing a fallen tree, fixing a downed fence, or patching a leaky roof. Consumers can use CSLB's online resources, available at www.cslb.ca.gov or CheckTheLicenseFirst.com, to review the license status of contractors they plan to hire and to get tips about the best approach for making home repairs.

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The storms that pummeled the region earlier this month are behind us, but homeowners could continue to suffer if they use unlicensed contractors for storm damage repairs. The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) reminds state residents that the cheapest price may not be the best solution when it comes to repairing flood damage, removing a fallen tree, fixing a downed fence, or patching a leaky roof.

"Anyone who needs to make repairs from storm damage should be looking for a legitimate, qualified tradesperson, especially in an urgent situation," said CSLB Registrar Steve Sands. "Licensed contractors are skilled in their specific trade, insured and bonded, and not likely to leave you in the lurch when it

comes to properly completing the job at a fair price."

Consumers can use CSLB's online resources, available at www.cslb.ca.gov or CheckTheLicenseFirst.com, to review the license status of contractors they plan to hire and to get tips about the best approach for making home repairs. Any construction job valued at \$500 or more in combined labor and material costs must be performed by a state-licensed contractor. California Business and Professions (B&P) Code requires licensees to carry workers' compensation insurance coverage for their employees and to be bonded.

For tree trimming and removal jobs where the tree is 15 feet or higher and the job is more than \$500, the contractor must be

state-licensed. B&P Code allows a gardener who does not have a state license to work on incidental tree pruning if the tree is less than 15 feet tall and the job costs less than \$500.

State law requires all C-39 Roofing contractors to carry workers' compensation insurance, even if they do not have employees, to ensure that consumers are protected in the event of an accident or injury on the homeowner's property.

Consumers should follow these tips when soliciting bids from home improvement contractors: Only hire licensed contractors, and ask to see their license and photo identification; Don't rush into repairs, no matter how badly they're needed; Be careful when using online bulletin boards such as craigslist.

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**Getting to Know
the Honorary
Mayor of
Carmichael**



Virginia Stone is thrilled to serve in the role of Carmichael's Honorary Mayor for a second term and is looking forward to another year of serving as a liaison between the business owners of Carmichael and its residents. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Virginia Stone was recently re-elected as honorary mayor of Carmichael in the annual race conducted by the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce. The race, which begins in July and concludes in November, is held every year to elect a non-governing mayor who raises funds for the Chamber and devotes substantial effort toward community improvement and beautification.

Unlike a traditional mayoral election, the Carmichael mayor's race is a fundraising campaign wherein every dollar raised by a candidate is equal to one vote. Stone raised more money than her opponents, thereby winning the election for a second year in a row.

Stone is thrilled to serve in the role for a second term and is looking forward to another year of serving as a liaison between the business owners of Carmichael and its residents. "I've been a resident of Carmichael over 30 years and worked here for the last 10 years," she said. "We've raised our family here, and our kids went to school here. Carmichael is a very important part of my life, and being the mayor helps me help families, communities, and businesses to grow and make the city a better place."

Stone is employed by Oakmont of Carmichael, the luxury assisted

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Bikes Recycled for Kids in Need

Sheriff's Toy Project Refurbishes Wheels

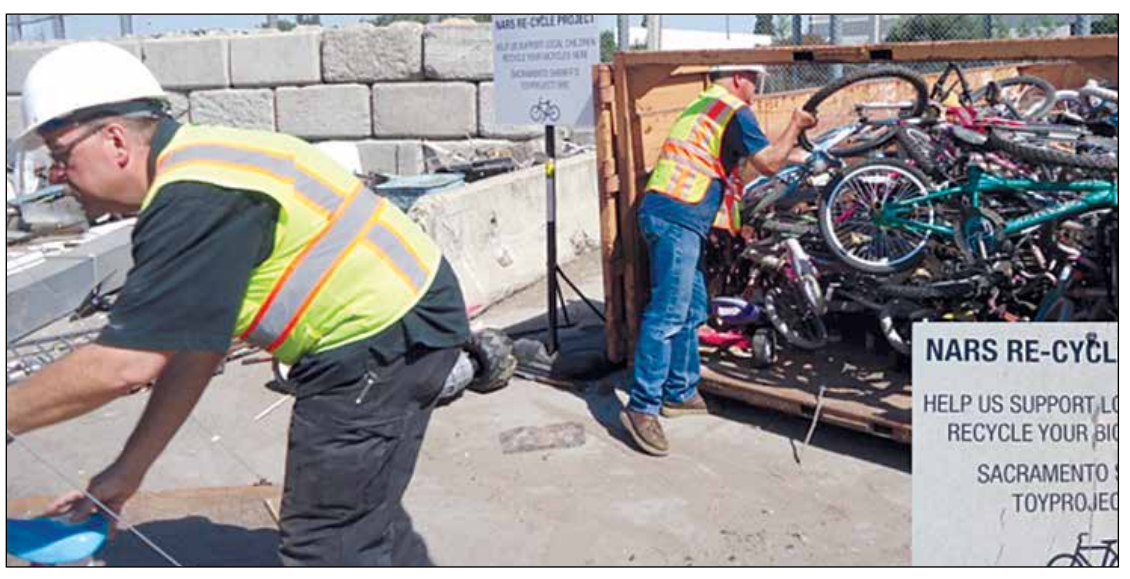
SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - There is more going on than transferring trash at the County North Area Recovery Station (NARS) on Roseville Road. For Sacramento County Sheriff's Toy Project, unused bikes are being separated out of trash piles and collected weekly to be refurbished and distributed to families and children in need.

Upon seeing the nearly 40 bikes a week that used to end up crushed for scrap metal recycling at the North Area Recovery Station, Operations Manager Alan MacIsaac decided something had to change. He created the NARS Re-cycle Project to refurbish the bikes instead of trashing them. The bikes are collected and restored by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Toy Project, which serves Sacramento families and children while creating a positive connection with law enforcement.

"Reusing is the best form of recycling, and keeping the bikes out of the landfills is the best form of reuse. Helping families who cannot afford bikes for their kids is a win-win opportunity for all of us," said MacIsaac.

Children's bikes are most common, but the NARS Re-cycle Project accepts all non-motorized bicycles, tricycles and wheelchairs, in all conditions. Toy Project volunteers refurbish and bring them back to useable condition. If a bicycle can't be brought back into useable condition the parts are used to make a bike—no part goes to waste.

If you are interested in



donating bikes, bring them to Roseville Road, North Highlands, CA 95660. Source: Sacramento County★

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Foster Youth Receive Holiday Gifts and Stockings



Lorrie Wilson, co-chair of United Way's Women in Philanthropy, works with volunteers to organize and wrap holiday gifts for local foster youth.

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - More than 100 local residents donated 130 stockings and 192 gifts through United Way's Women in Philanthropy so that 194 local foster youth would have their holiday wishes fulfilled. Sixty-four foster youth in Sacramento County's Child Protective Services received the holiday gifts they requested, and the community filled stockings for 130 foster youth with United Way's financial stability initiative's SenSe-Ability project partners: Amador-Tuolumne Community Resources, Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, Koinonia Family Services, and New Morning Youth and Family Services.

Dozens of volunteers with United Way's Women in Philanthropy came together on December 3rd to wrap gifts

and stuff stockings with Target gift cards, hats, blankets, first aid kits, yearly planners, socks, snacks, and personal notes.

"This community really stepped up to ensure that kids in the foster care system don't feel forgotten during what is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year," said Ruth Miller, co-chair of United Way's Women in Philanthropy. "Thank you to everyone who made them feel special as they spend their holidays away from home."

United Way's Women in Philanthropy brings local women together to help local foster youth across Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo counties. A dynamic group of businesswomen, homemakers, and community leaders, Women in Philanthropy members are

first responders in repairing the financial stability of local foster youth by raising funds for United Way to provide financial literacy courses and matched savings accounts designed specifically for foster youth. Members also hold drives and provide trainings.

Women in Philanthropy is part of United Way's team of nonprofits, businesses, donors, volunteers, and community leaders working to meet the community's greatest needs, give immediate aid, and find lasting solutions for future generations in the areas of education, financial stability, and health. To become a member, visit www.yourlocalunitedway.org/wip.

Source: Kristin Thèbaud Communications ★

Disabled Sports USA Far West Opens for 2014-15 Season

SACRAMENTO REGION (MPG) - Disabled Sports USA-Far West will open for the season on Friday, December 19th. The organization, which provides ski and snowboard lessons to people with physical, sensory, and intellectual disabilities, will also be holding a special event recognizing disabled veterans.

"We are excited about the upcoming season, especially with the early snowfall we are receiving," said Haakon Lang-Ree, Executive Director of Disabled Sports USA Far West. "Our experienced staff and volunteers are ready to serve both children and adults with customized snow sports instruction specifically designed for each individual."

Lessons with Disabled Sports will be available daily from December 19th through mid-April at Alpine Meadows, Squaw Valley, and Northstar Resorts.

Disabled Sports will hold its ninth annual "Ability Celebration" for wounded military service men and women the last week of February. Twenty disabled veterans and family members will participate in an adaptive snow sports camp designed to address their unique needs, free of charge, thanks to generous support from the H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation, Wells Fargo, Evolution Trainers, and many loyal North Lake Tahoe businesses and individual donors. The public is invited to attend the "Ability Bash," an inspiring fundraising banquet, on Saturday, February 28th, the culmination of the camp.

Disabled Sports will also hold an "Ability Challenge," an on-hill peer-to-peer fundraising campaign, on Saturday March 28th. The event entails a fun day of skiing, snowboarding, and raising money for Disabled Sports. The public is welcome



Disabled Sports USA-Far West, which opens for the season December 19th, provides ski and snowboard lessons to people with physical, sensory, and intellectual disabilities.

to participate. Additional information is available at www.AbilityChallenge.net.

Disabled Sports USA Far West is the founding chapter of Disabled Sports USA and has led the way in adaptive sports and recreation for people with disabilities for more than 40 years. With more than 90 chapters serving 60,000 people nationwide, it is the nation's largest nonprofit, multi-sport, and multi-disability organization. For more information, call (530) 581-4161 or visit www.disabledsports.net.

Source: Disabled Sport USA-Far West ★






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Bodies Found in Home on Kenneth Drive

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County Sheriff detectives have determined that two bodies found deceased inside of a Carmichael residence within the 5200 block of Kenneth Avenue on the morning of Friday, December 12th died as a result of homicide.

At 7:15 a.m. on December 12th, deputies responded to the residence after the Metro Fire Department received a report of a male inside of the residence who wasn't breathing. Upon their arrival, deputies discovered

two deceased bodies inside the home: a male in his late 40s and a female in her late 30s. Both decedents had gunshot wounds.

Although this case is being investigated as a double homicide, the Sacramento County Coroner's Office will determine official cause of death and identity of the victims pending their medical exam and victim next of kin notification.

Sheriff homicide detectives are currently investigating a motive and suspect identity to this incident and are seeking

any key witnesses or those in the area who may have information or video surveillance to assist them in their investigation. Anyone with any information is asked to please contact the Sheriff's Department at (916) 874-5115 or Crime Alert at (916) 443-HELP. Tip information may also be left anonymously at www.sacsheriff.com, by texting 274637 (CRIMES) and entering the keyword 'SSD,' or by calling (916) 874-TIPS (8477)

Source: Sacramento County Sheriff's Department ★

Getting to Know the Honorary Mayor of Carmichael

Continued from Page 1

living and memory care community at 4717 Engle Road. Her position as marketing and sales counselor affords her the opportunity to be the first contact new residents and their families have with the staff, a role which she embraces wholeheartedly. "I

came into this industry because my mother had Alzheimer's," she said. "I wanted to educate myself and my father, and when I started volunteering, I found my greatest joy was talking to residents. The stories they can tell, the history they have, and spending time with them is why I came to this

business." Stone is also grateful that all Oakmont Senior Living communities, including Oakmont of Carmichael, are owned and operated by the Gallaher family.

Source: Desmond & Louis Public Relations ★

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Oakmont of Carmichael Sock and Scarf Drive



Carmichael, CA (MPG) - Oakmont of Carmichael held a sock and scarf drive on December 11th for women and children in need. All donations were given to WEAVE and Children's Receiving Home. The charitable drive was supported by the people in the neighborhood, professionals in Carmichael, and the Carmichael Kiwanis Club. Assemblyman Ken Cooley recognized the charitable achievements of Oakmont of Carmichael. All those volunteering for the drive wore crazy socks to get into the holiday spirit. Pictured here (left to right) are Melissa Russell, Meagan Fetterhoff, Dale Masters, Virginia Stone, Terry Ervin, and Assemblyman Ken Cooley. Photo courtesy Oakmont of Carmichael

CDFW Opens Registration for Nature Bowl

Science and Conservation Competition Reaches 30-year Milestone

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Registration is now open for the 30th annual Nature Bowl, an elementary school activity-based competition held in the spring.

Coordinated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in partnership with local organizations and agencies, the Nature Bowl increases the science and conservation literacy of third through sixth grade students in the Sacramento Valley and Sierra foothills.

The Nature Bowl is open to students from any school, group, or organized youth club. Participants employ teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking while participating in group learning activities centered on local and regional natural

environments. The first round will be held at 10 locations from mid-March through early May. Teams will consist of three to eight students each, and several teams will advance to the finals to be held at California State University, Sacramento on May 16th, 2015.

Teachers, youth group leaders, or parents can coach a team. CDFW will hold coaches' workshops in the Sacramento area on following dates:

On January 8th, a coaches' workshop will be held at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael; the semifinal at that site will be held on March 28th. For more information, please call (916) 489-4918.

On January 15th, a coaches'

workshop will be held at the Nimbus Hatchery in Rancho Cordova; the semifinal at that site will be held on April 14th. For more information, please call (916) 358-2884.

On January 27th, a coaches' workshop will be held at the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge; the semifinal at that site will be held on April 23rd. For more information, please call (916) 685-4057.

For all other information, including dates for other coaches' workshops, please call (916) 358-2353 or visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/2/Nature-Bowl.

Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Atria El Camino Gardens Hosts Hawaiian Holiday Luau

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - On Wednesday, December 24th, the residents of Atria El Camino Gardens will enjoy a fantastic Holiday Luau, including a fun and colorful journey to the islands of the Pacific.

Join the community for this special entertainment with Aloha Polynesian Dancers in full Hawaiian attire. The show includes audience participation, hula lessons, and pictures with the entertainers.

The show starts at 11 a.m. For more information, please contact Atria El Camino Gardens at (916)488-5722.

Source: Atria EL Camino Gardens

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THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN
By Rich Lowry

The Ferguson Charade

The White House response to Ferguson wouldn't be complete without a meeting with Al Sharpton, the infamous agitator who has become President Barack Obama's "go-to man on race," in the words of a Politico headline from last August. So Sharpton was inevitably one of the civil-rights leaders at the White House. The president no doubt passed up the opportunity to direct Sharpton to the Treasury Department up the street, which would surely love to have him visit and make good on all the taxes he has avoided paying through the years. A New York Times report found that there are \$4.5 million in state and federal tax liens against him and his businesses. If the rest of the country had Sharpton's accountant, there would be no reason for

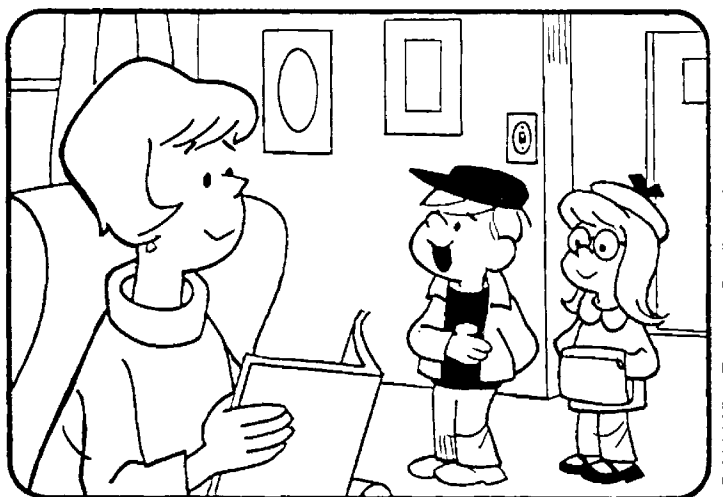
anyone to call for tax cuts. Our complex and onerous tax code would be rendered irrelevant by simple nonpayment. Sharpton has leveraged himself into respectability with the Democratic establishment by making himself central to any national racial controversy. By rights, he should have given up any pretense to criminal forensics after his defamatory role in the Tawana Brawley hoax in the 1980s, but there he was at Ferguson, Mo., suggesting the worst despite what turned out to be strong evidence that Officer Darren Wilson acted lawfully. When the grand jury found there was insufficient evidence to indict Wilson, Sharpton pronounced that the Ferguson protesters had lost the battle, but not the war. What are they going to do to win, go out and find another cop to falsely accuse of a racial assassination and attempt to railroad into an indictment and conviction? The Ferguson story has progressed from the tragedy of the initial incident to the outrage of the violence of the protests to a new phase of charade. The federal government must pretend to do something because it must ... do something. But what national initiative is going to stop police officers from defending themselves when they feel as if they are under mortal threat, as Officer Wilson says he did?

The president wants funding for more body-worn cameras for local police, a worthy-enough experiment. But such a camera, assuming that what it captured was consistent with the most credible evidence, would have served to vindicate Wilson's version of events rather than the protestors' narrative of an extralegal killing. The most needful reform in Ferguson and surrounding communities, per the excellent reporting of Radley Balko of The Washington Post, is the end of the obnoxious and parasitic practice of squeezing revenue out of residents with fines from traffic and other petty offenses. This creates an incentive for police to hassle motorists and is especially burdensome to poor residents. Since this issue is exceedingly local and dull, almost no one talks about it. The facts have stopped mattering in Ferguson, if they ever did. It is probably destined to live on in the roll call of locales, like Selma and Birmingham, that are bywords for civil-rights abuses. Never mind that this distorts what happened in Ferguson and belittles the memory of past civil-rights battles. There are too many people too vested in the myth, with Al Sharpton leading the way. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2014 by King Features Synd., Inc.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



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ROCK DOC

By Dr. E. Kirsten Peters

Plants are not as dumb as they look.

At least to me, plants have never seemed like the brightest bulb in the box. They stand around, looking green, hoping for a sunny day but not able to walk, talk or turn on the TV. However, due to a recent university press release, I've got to rethink my attitudes about vegetation.

Two scientists at the University of Missouri, Heidi Appel and Rex Cocroft, studied a plant called Arabidopsis. That's a common experimental plant, used by researchers because it's fast growing and a great deal is known about it. Arabidopsis is a flowering plant that you can think of as a cousin to mustard and cabbage.

The researchers let caterpillars feed on a group of Arabidopsis plants. Using special devices,

Plants are not as Dumb as they Look

they recorded the sounds or vibrations made by the insects chewing on the leaves.

Next Appel and Cocroft and their team took two new sets of plants and separated them. To one set, they played back recordings of the sounds and vibrations the insects had made as they fed on the Arabidopsis leaves. To the second set of plants, they played back a silent tape—in other words, this second set of plants was the “control” in their experiment.

Then the team let caterpillars feed on both sets of plants. Results showed that the Arabidopsis that had been exposed to the sounds of the insects feeding on leaves had more mustard oils in their leaves than did the control group. Mustard oils are chemicals many insects don't like and will avoid.

“What is remarkable is that the plants exposed to different vibrations, including those made by a gentle wind or different insect sounds...did not increase their chemical defenses,” Cocroft said in a press release. “This indicates that the plants are able to distinguish feeding vibrations from other common sources of environmental vibration.”

Plants really are not dim bulbs.

“Plants have many ways to detect insect attack,” Cocroft said in the press release. “But [insect] feeding vibrations are likely the fastest way for distant

parts of the plant to perceive the attack and begin to increase their defenses.”

Next steps for the researchers include learning more about exactly how vibrations are sensed by the plants and what parts of the complex sounds may be the most important. The results of this type of work are not just academic. A long way down the road, such research may be able to improve crop plants, giving them a natural way to boost their own defenses against insect pests.

“Caterpillars react to this chemical defense by crawling away, so using vibrations to enhance plant defenses could be useful to agriculture,” Appel said. “This research opens the window of plant behavior a little wider, showing that plants have many of the same responses to outside influences that animals do, even though the responses look different.”

I've got a new respect for plants — and the researchers who are learning surprising things about them.

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

Sacramento County DA Reports

Recent cases of interest



CASE: Gregory Aaron Gadlin (12/8/14)

PROSECUTOR: Supervising Deputy District Attorney Michael Blazina

Deputy District Attorney Aaron Miller, Career Criminal Prosecution Unit District Attorney Jan Scully announced that Gregory Aaron Gadlin was convicted by jury of 16 counts of second-degree robbery, being a felon in possession of a firearm and being a felon in possession of ammunition. The jury also found true three personal gun use allegations.

From May 2013 through July 2013, Gadlin entered primarily convenience stores and gas stations, displayed a handgun and robbed employees for money and personal belongings. During one robbery, Gadlin fired one round at a clerk, but missed. Three days later during another robbery, he again fired a round at a store clerk. This time, the clerk was struck in his torso and left hand. A bulletin went out to law enforcement with a description of Gadlin's vehicle. He was arrested after an alert on-duty security officer with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department located Gadlin's car in the parking lot of the Department of Human Assistance.

Gadlin had been previously convicted of three prior strike offenses. At the time of these robberies, he was on parole for another robbery in which he personally used a firearm.

Gadlin faces a maximum potential sentence of more than 600 years to life in prison under California's Three Strikes law. Sentencing is set for February 18, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in Department 40 before the Honorable Raoul Thorbourne.

CASE: Luis Enrique Monroy Bracamontes (12/8/14)

Both the Placer County and Sacramento County District Attorney Offices have reviewed the penalty determination for defendant Luis Enrique Monroy Bracamontes, consistent with the internal policies of each office. Input from the victims' families was solicited, received, and considered during the decision making process.

Both offices independently concluded that the death penalty is the appropriate penalty in this instance. Prior to making that determination, both offices sought input from the defense team.

Mr. Barbour and Mr. Dawson on behalf of defendant Bracamontes responded in writing to that request. They have asked for a future opportunity to submit a package of materials to us for reconsideration of that decision. Collectively, we agree to that procedure.

Covanta Energy, LLC

Biomass Facilities Settlement

District Attorney Jan Scully, along with the district attorneys of Butte County, Fresno County, Glenn County, Kern County, Stanislaus County, Tulare County and Tuolumne County, announced today the settlement of a civil environmental enforcement action against three California subsidiaries of New Jersey-based Covanta Energy LLC.

Biomass energy plants burn forest, agricultural and urban wood fuels in order to generate electricity and produce ash waste streams that are either sent to landfills or used for other purposes such as building roads or use in agriculture.

The civil enforcement action filed in Sacramento County concerned metal content in the biomass ash, asserting that the sampling and analysis practices of biomass ash at the three Covanta biomass facilities were not rigorous enough.

Under the final judgment, the three Covanta facilities must pay a total of \$536,211, which is comprised of \$258,306 in civil penalties, \$40,000 in contributions to special environmental projects and \$ 237,905 in reimbursement of investigation costs. The Covanta facilities have adopted and implemented enhanced policies and procedures designed to more appropriately sample and test their biomass ash. The facilities will be bound under the terms of a permanent injunction prohibiting any future violations of law and requiring adherence to the new sampling and testing program.

“Today's settlement is a significant step toward ensuring biomass energy plants operate in full compliance with California's environmental laws,” said District Attorney Jan Scully. “I commend the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and all of the district attorney offices involved in this investigation as well as Covanta for its cooperation to protect the health and safety of our citizens.”

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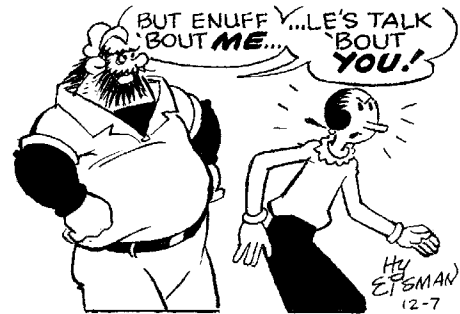
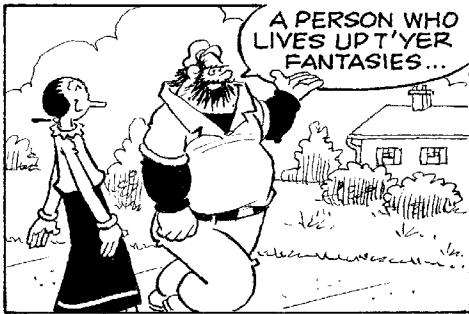
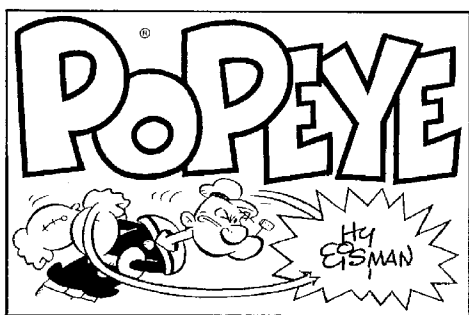
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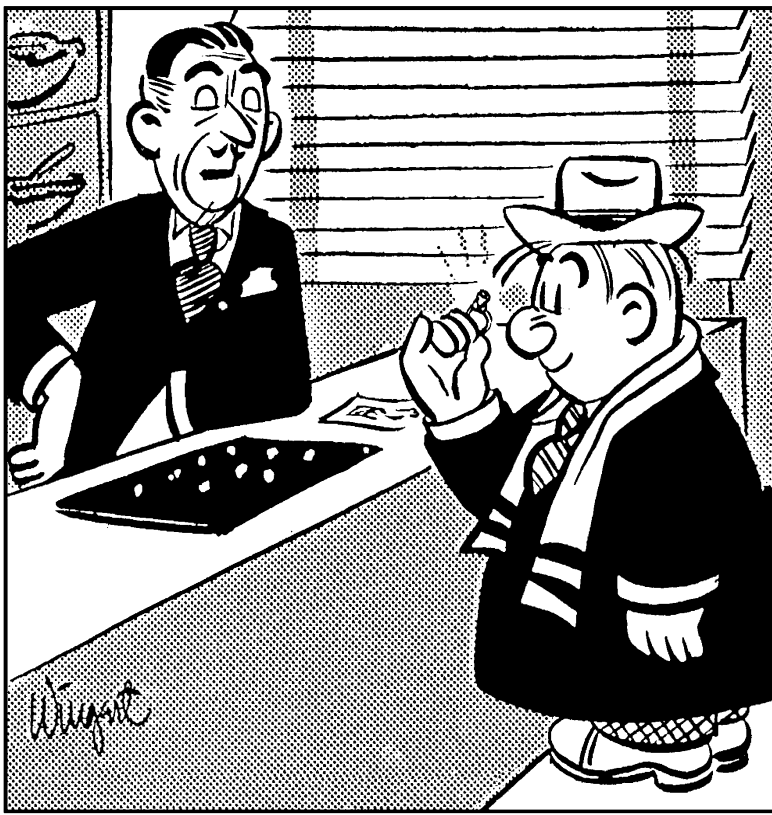
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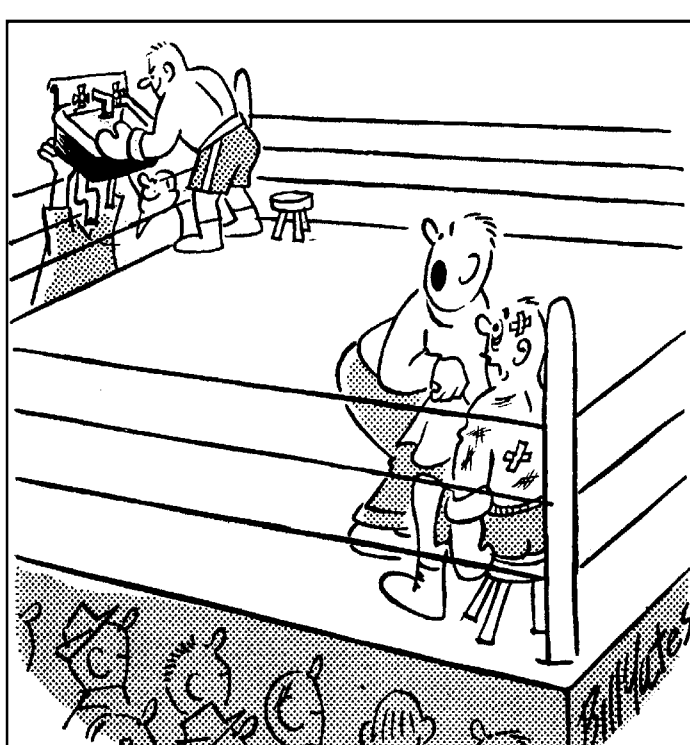
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CHP's 911 Call Centers Receive National Accreditation

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)
 - On Tuesday, November 25th, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) announced that its communications centers, which answer approximately seven million 911 calls per year, were formally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) under the Public Safety Communications Agencies Accreditation Program.
 "The CHP received this prestigious award after ensuring our policies and procedures meet or exceed standards set by law



enforcement professionals from across the nation," said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "This accreditation demonstrates our commitment to public safety and means that CHP's 911 call centers meet national standards of excellence."
 To meet accreditation standards, the CHP implemented a statewide quality assurance program for its 25 communication

centers. Supervisors review audio tapes of 911 calls and analyze performance according to several performance measurements, including the dispatcher's speech, prioritizing of information, and accuracy in documenting calls. Dispatchers receive constructive feedback and are given an opportunity for self-assessment.

By receiving accreditation for its communications centers, the CHP became one of the first two agencies in California to

receive the CALEA TRI-ARC Award, which recognizes concurrent accreditation for law enforcement, public safety communications, and public safety training activities. The CHP was awarded initial accreditation in 2010 and was reaccredited in 2013, the same year the CHP Academy in West Sacramento was also accredited.

CALEA was established in 1979 as a law enforcement credentialing authority through the joint efforts of the International

Association of Chiefs of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Sheriffs' Association, and the Police Executive Research Forum. To maintain accreditation, CHP must undergo a comprehensive assessment every three years.

For more information on the accreditation process and the CALEA TRI-ARC Award, visit www.calea.org.

Source: California Highway Patrol

Union Gospel Mission Sacramento



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For the Love of Books



Book Review by Amy Shane
amy-shane@att.net



LET IT SNOW

by John Green, Maureen Johnson and Lauren Myracle

- ◆ Publisher: Speak
- ◆ Release date: October 2, 2008 ◆ Paperback, 352 pages
- ◆ Intended audience: Young adult

On the Book Jacket: Sparkling white snowdrifts, beautiful presents wrapped in ribbons, and multicolored lights glittering in the night through the falling snow. A Christmas Eve snowstorm transforms one small town into a romantic haven, the kind you see only in movies. Well, kinda. After all, a cold and wet hike from a stranded train through the middle of nowhere would not normally end with a delicious kiss from a charming stranger. And no one would think that a trip to the Waffle House through four feet of snow would lead to love with an old friend. Or that the way back to true love begins with a painfully early morning shift at Starbucks. Thanks to three of today's bestselling teen authors—John Green, Maureen Johnson, and Lauren Myracle—the magic of the holidays shines on these hilarious and charming interconnected tales of love, romance, and breathtaking kisses.

Amy's Review: A perfect circle of symbolism and Christmas magic, from the author that brought us *The Fault in our Stars*, John Green, along with young adult authors, Maureen Johnson and Lauren Myracle.

All three authors, take one Christmas Eve night and spin three separate tales, which intertwine, not only into each other's stories, but into your heart as well.

Jubilee, has the perfect life, perfect boyfriend, and parents who love Christmas more than anything else, mainly because of their avid collection of Flobie Santa Village ceramics. So when Jubilee's parents are arrested at a Flobie Santa Village Warehouse, Jubilee quickly finds herself caught up in a cyclone of mishaps. Stuck on a train alone, bound for Florida, during the worst blizzard in 50 years. Jubilee's luck can't get any worse, until the train hits a snowbank, stranding her, as well as its passengers, turning her perfect Christmas into a mess of unpredictability.

Jubilee puts the wheels of these three holiday tales in motion, by leaving the train filled with overzealous cheerleaders and love sick passenger Jeb, for the comfort and warmth

of a Waffle House along the town's tracks, sparking a series of events.

Maureen Johnson, continues the tale of that snowy Christmas Eve, following the events when Jeb and the fourteen cheerleaders, follow Jubilee to the Waffle House, setting the course for a hilarious chain of events. With one phone call from the Waffle House employees and the lure of cheerleaders, a hot pursuit ensues as three groups of teens race off into the snow buried city, looking for an epic Christmas adventure, at the Waffle House.

Continuing the tale, Lauren Myracle, introduces you to heartsick Addie, the slightly, self-absorbed ex-girlfriend of Jeb, sharing another side of that same Christmas Eve, when unpredictability causes love to fall off course. Tying up three separate stories of new love, old love and discovering love that you never knew was possible; *Let it Snow* beautifully tackles the difficult challenge of merging all of these stories into one, making them seamless, as well as a beautiful circle. Rekindle a little Christmas magic this winter with, *Let it Snow* and let it take you on a course of miracles and magic, along with laughter and first kisses.

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The holiday hostess has a lot on her plate. But preparing for the big event doesn't have to be a challenge — this holiday, focus on special dishes and refreshing cocktails guests will remember for years to come. Use these tips to make your holiday events shine:

- 1. Shake It Up.** From cool drinks, like the Pineapple Upside Down Mocktail, to delicious tropical twists on classic martinis, punches and warm ciders, canned Dole Pineapple Juice has recipes to shake things up this season. Made from 100 percent juice, free of GMO's (genetically modified or engineered ingredients) and containing no added sugar, it's also a good source of vitamins A, C and E.
- 2. Captivating Courses.** To celebrate the season, serve up recipes for delicious entrees, small plates and desserts that bring a taste of the tropics to any occasion. Start guests off with a Holiday Kale Salad and then serve them juicy Jamaican Chicken & Couscous, followed by divine Pineapple Pumpkin Pie.
- 3. Party Planner Extraordinaire.** Looking for bright ideas on how to turn your next party into paradise? Visit dole.com/sunshine/holidayrecipes to find refreshing new ways to make your party the event of the season, from eye-catching invitations to delightful decor tips.

Jamaican Chicken & Couscous

Servings: 4

- 2 tablespoons dry Jamaican seasoning
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 cup canned Dole Pineapple Juice
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 package (5.6 ounces) toasted pine nut couscous mix
- 1 1/2 cups Dole Frozen Mango Chunks, thawed
- 1/3 cup green onion, sliced
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 2 teaspoons black sesame seeds

Combine Jamaican seasoning and curry powder in small bowl.

Place each chicken breast between 2 sheets of plastic wrap and pound (with meat mallet) to 1/4-inch thickness. Remove wrap. Brush both sides of chicken pieces with 1 tablespoon oil and sprinkle both sides with curry mixture.

Cook chicken in oil over medium-high heat, 3 to 4 minutes per side or until brown and no longer pink in center. Meanwhile, stir together juice, water and pine nut seasoning mixture from package in medium saucepan; bring to boil. Stir in couscous; remove from heat. Let stand, covered, 5 minutes or until liquid is absorbed. Fluff with fork. Stir in mango chunks, green onions and lime juice.

Cut chicken in 1/2-inch slices and serve over couscous mixture. Sprinkle with sesame seeds.



Pineapple Pumpkin Pie

Servings: 6

- 1 can (8 ounces) Dole Crushed Pineapple
- 1 1/2 cups canned Dole Pineapple Juice
- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1 1/2 teaspoons granulated Sucralose sweetener or sugar
- 1 cup canned pumpkin pie mix
- 1 cup thawed whipped topping
- 1 (9-inch) low-fat graham cracker pie crust
- Ground cinnamon, optional

Drain pineapple well; reserve juice.

Combine reserved juice with pineapple juice in measuring cup. Add water to make 2 cups.

Combine juice mixture and gelatin in saucepan. Let stand 1 minute. Stir over low heat until completely dissolved. Stir in sweetener.

Pour into bowl. Chill just until starts to set, about 1 hour.

Fold in pineapple, pumpkin and whipped topping. Pour into graham cracker crust. Chill 5 hours or overnight.

Serve with whipped topping and ground cinnamon, if desired.

Pineapple Upside Down Mocktail

Servings: 2 (3/4-cup)

- 1 cup canned Dole Pineapple Juice, chilled
- 1 tablespoon caramel sauce
- Ginger ale, chilled
- 2 teaspoons grenadine syrup
- Brown or turbinado sugar and maraschino cherries, optional garnish

Wet just the rim of a martini glass with a little water; dip rim in brown sugar or turbinado sugar for added garnish.

Combine pineapple juice and caramel sauce in shaker over ice. Shake vigorously; strain into martini glasses or other favorite glasses. Top off with ginger ale. Slowly pour in grenadine. Garnish with cherry, if desired.

Note: For alcoholic variation, combine 3 ounces cake-flavored vodka or vanilla vodka, 1 ounce Frangelico or amaretto liqueur, and 6 ounces canned Dole Pineapple Juice in shaker over ice. Shake vigorously; strain into martini glasses. Slowly pour in grenadine; garnish with cherry, if desired.



Holiday Kale Salad

Servings: 4

- 1 package (4.5 ounces) Dole Baby Kale and Greens
- 2 ripe firm pears, halved, cored and sliced
- 1/2 cup red onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup pistachios, chopped
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup canned Dole Pineapple Juice

- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- Salt and ground black pepper, to taste

Combine salad blend, pears, red onion, cranberries and pistachios in large bowl.

Whisk together olive oil, pineapple juice, garlic and ginger in small bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. Pour over salad mixture; toss to evenly coat.

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Sacramento Midtown Farmers Market
20th St. between J and K, Sacramento.
Every Saturday 8 am – 1 pm. Open year round.

SATURDAY
Historic Folsom Farmers Market
915 Sutter St, Folsom (Historic Folsom Public Plaza).
Every Saturday 8 am – 1 pm. Open year round.

SUNDAY
Carmichael Park Farmers Market
5750 Grant Ave, Carmichael (corner of Grant and Fair Oaks Blvd).
Every Sunday 9 am – 2 pm. Open year round.

SUNDAY
Unity of Sacramento Farmers Market
9249 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento (in front of the Unity of Sacramento Church).
Every Sunday 9 am – 2 pm. Open year round.

WEDNESDAY
VA Mather Farmers Market
10535 Hospital Wy, Mather (VA Hospital).
Open year round (Closed for holidays: Closes December 17. Opens January 7)

WEDNESDAY
Fair Oaks Sunset Farmers Market
8101 Sunset Ave, Fair Oaks (New Life Church parking lot).
Every Wednesday 3 pm – 7 pm. Seasonal, closes 11/26.

THURSDAY
UC Davis Health System Farmers Market
45th and Y St, Sacramento (UC Davis Medical Center Campus).
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