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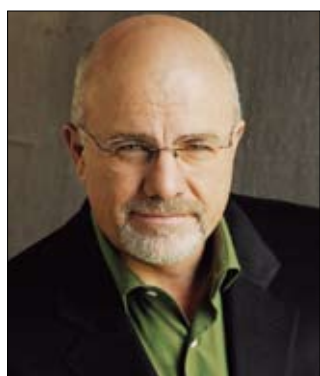
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Fairy Tales Do Come True

By Julie Parker

CARMICHAEL – At the tender age of 16 months, Joshua Muilenburg was diagnosed with a severe, and progressive, form of kidney disease.

At age four, his kidneys failed. After an unsuccessful transplant, he was placed on pediatric dialysis.

In the winter of 2009, his mother, Erin, donated her kidney for his second transplant.

The following summer, Josh's grandmother treated he and his family to a trip to Disneyland – Mom, Dad, and brothers Zachary, and Colin (who has the same genetic kidney disease). Josh became enraptured with the Disney castle, which represented a world of magic. When he learned that it was modeled after an actual castle, Neuschwanstein, in Germany, he dreamed of visiting it.

Make-A-Wish®, with the aid of sponsor UnitedHealthCare, made Josh's dream come true.

A few weeks before their trip, however, Josh was hospitalized for another biopsy.

"To have the trip to focus on, and talk about, and look forward to during that time made such a big difference," says Erin.

Make-A-Wish's arrangement for a limousine to transport the family to the airport was but a glimpse of the magical adventure that awaited them. Josh remembers, "It was cool. There was water in glasses, and the lights



Make-A-Wish presented Joshua with a beautifully crafted scrapbook of his family's trip to Germany. Photo by Julie Parker.

on the ceiling changed color."

Hotels, meals, and other expenses in Germany were all covered. Says Erin, "The fact Make-A-Wish included money for those things brought me tears of gratitude."

The family was treated to bus tours, train, and boat rides to breathtaking landscapes, medieval villages, fortresses, museums and, of course, castles.

"To see Josh's face when he spotted Neuschwanstein high

on the hill for the first time was a moment I will never forget," says Erin. Hanging on his bedroom wall is a silver souvenir plate with the castle's image imprinted on it.

During a boat ride, they heard the unique flugelhorn. "He played it, and the rocks echoed it back," recalls Josh.

The magic didn't end with the return home. Make-A-Wish threw a post-wish party for Josh, and presented him with a

beautifully crafted scrapbook of his family's trip. Josh, who just started first grade, can look through the book, and re-live those enchanted memories over, and over.

Would you like to share the power of a wish for children with life-threatening medical conditions? Visit wish.org or call (916) 437-0206 to learn how you can be a sponsor or volunteer today.

Play Time for New Carmichael School

By Susan Maxwell Skinner



Carmichael Park District representatives last week joined the California Montessori Project to dedicate a new children's playground at the La Sierra Community Center. School Principal Kim Aldridge handled ribbon-cutting duties. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner.

CARMICHAEL – One of Arden/Carmichael's fastest growing schools, the California Montessori Project has 430 students in classrooms leased from the Carmichael Recreation and Park District. Home for the public charter school is the La Sierra Community Center, Engle Rd.

Beginning a second year at the site, the school last week helped open a new playground. Park district and school shared the expense of multiple activity equipment for under 12-year-olds. A grass play area and new oak shade trees completed the design.

The \$100,000-plus cost will be shared by the Montessori Project. Construction was completed over the summer break with many parent volunteers joining park staff to spread protective chip cushioning in play areas. A pre-school that shares the La Sierra Center – and children enrolled in park programs – will also benefit from the new equipment.

Note: the La Sierra Center is closed to the public during school hours – 8 am to 4 pm – weekdays. Appropriately-aged members of the public may use the new playground after hours and at weekends.

California Eliminates 7,112 Nonessential Vehicles

SACRAMENTO – The Department of General Services today announced that Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s Executive Order to eliminate unnecessary state vehicles has led departments to cut 7,112 vehicles from the state fleet.

The reduction included 4,204 passenger cars and light duty trucks, which alone is expected to save the state more than \$12.6 million annually in fuel, insurance and depreciation costs. "We have made tremendous strides examining every mobile asset and cutting the size of our state fleet," said DGS Director Fred Klass.

"Moving forward, we will use the methodology established to drive this reduction to help prevent unnecessary increases to the state fleet in future years." The Governor's order also called

on departments to eliminate all nonessential and cost-ineffective permits that allow thousands of state employees to commute to and from work in a state vehicle.

The cuts resulted in 3,246 vehicle home storage permits being eliminated, a 45 percent reduction from the number of permits departments had issued in January 2011, and eliminating more than 1,000 permits that were called for in the Executive Order.

These cuts are expected to save an estimated \$3 million annually in fuel costs, as employees are no longer commuting in those vehicles. Governor Brown's fleet reduction Executive Order called on the Department of General Services to conduct the first-ever examination of all mobile assets within the state fleet and eliminate nonessential vehicles.

The eliminated vehicles include passenger cars, trucks, vans, buses, heavy equipment, boats, trailers, planes and other mobile assets. The cuts represent a 14 percent reduction of the state's fleet.

When combined with cuts made by the prior administration in 2010, more than 20 percent of the state fleet has been eliminated in four years.

The largest reductions come from the following 10 departments:

Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation	2,263
California Department of Transportation	1,322
California State Parks	586
California Department of Fish & Game	494
California Highway Patrol	457

Department of Developmental Services	312
CAL FIRE	240
California Department of General Services	241
California Department of Water Resources	218
Prison Industry Authority	105

The Department of General Services acts as the business manager for the State of California. DGS helps state government better serve the public by providing services to state agencies including procurement and acquisition solutions, real estate management, leasing and design services, environmentally friendly transportation, and architectural oversight and funding for the construction of safe schools.

Whiskers and Wine Fundraiser to Benefit County Animal Shelter

Supervisor Susan Peters Encourages Public Support

SACRAMENTO REGION – The public can demonstrate their support for Sacramento County's state-of-the-art Animal Shelter and at the same time enjoy a fun filled evening at the "Whiskers and Wine" event on Saturday, September 15. The fundraising event is being sponsored by the animal facility's nonprofit support group TEAM-Teaching Everyone Animals Matter – with corporate support from the law firm of Wilke Fleury, Zoe's Cruises & Tours, and K-HITS 92.1 FM.

"This is an opportunity to have fun and help the animals," says Supervisor Susan Peters. "The Department of Animal Care and Regulation makes a tremendous difference in the lives of animals that are lost, abandoned or subject to abuse. Support from the community can help supplement funding for the shelter's operations."

The fun at the Animal Shelter will start a 6 p.m. and tickets cost \$40 per person at the door but can be purchased in advanced for a mere \$30. Attendees will be able to enjoy a dinner catered by Chops Restaurant, wine tasting, music and a silent auction.

Tickets are available at all Sacramento County VCA Animal Hospitals, Western Feed and Pet Supply, and the Critter Outfitter Store at the Shelter.

More information can be obtained at visiting SacAnimalShelter.org, emailing TEAMwvEvent@yahoo.com, or calling 971-1167.

Asante Children's Choir to Perform at Northminster

SACRAMENTO REGION – The Asante Children's Choir, a 25-voice group from Burundi & Rwanda, is touring the US, and on September 16 they will sing at Northminster Presbyterian Church's service and give a concert after worship. This group is not just a group of children singing. They sing, dance, have incredible costumes, and are inspirational. The group is a nonprofit organization with the mission of supporting and educating disadvantaged youth and women in Africa. They do not charge for their performances but do ask for a love offering to help support their tour.

Northminster is fortunate to be one of the few churches in our area to have the opportunity to experience this group. For more information call (916) 487-5192 or visit northminsteronline.org. Event is scheduled for Sunday, September 16, 9:55 a.m. 3235 Pope Avenue, Sacramento

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Lungren Friends and Foes Make for Rowdy Town Hall



Lisa Marie Ellis (at podium) was one of 50 attendees who lined up for open mike time at Congressman Dan Lungren's town hall meeting last week. One of many Tea Party members present, the Rocklin resident voiced health care concerns. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner.

By Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL – At his 65th town hall meeting, Congressman Dan Lungren declared his 450-strong audience “90 per cent civil.” Others, he said, demonstrated that “civility is a dying art form in the United States.”

Protesters tried to shout down the politician and any speaker whose views they disapproved. A veteran of many Carmichael civic forums declared herself “totally embarrassed by this kind of intimidation.” Said another community member: “We are all Americans. We should agree to disagree, agreeably.”

The tone was set early. About 60 people arrived hours early to demonstrate outside the Engle Rd facility. Members of Seniors Against Lungren and Credo

SuperPAC chanted and waved banners. Recently established in a Carmichael store front, the second group is a national organization that aims to “take down” ten Republican politicians. Lungren tops their list. Their numbers were boosted by protesters imported from outlying counties and the Bay Area.

Lungren was introduced to a mixture of jeering and standing ovation. Shouting punctuated his opening remarks and continued during open-mike presentations. Lungren's staff reported similar organized disruption at recent town halls in Elk Grove and Folsom.

An uneasy balance was struck in Carmichael. More than 100 Tea Party members arrived betimes and positioned themselves strategically. With

demands for silence, the red-shirts overpowered hecklers. “They balanced the event,” said a Lungren staffer. “When protesters realized they couldn't

control this meeting, many left.” The forum nevertheless served its aim to air issues. A gamut of concerns included health-care, social security, joblessness,

education costs, taxation, foreign wars, the environment and energy. The nation's beleaguered economy was front and center: “If you don't think we are

in trouble,” Lungren told jeering opponents, “I can understand why you don't want to do anything about it.”

Though the congressman publicly disavowed those notorious “legitimate rape” statements by Missouri Senate candidate Todd Akin, some town hallers tried to link him to the notorious stance. The congressman reiterated: “As a husband and father I was deeply disturbed by (Akin's) comments. His ideas are incomprehensible... ignorant and degrading to all women.”

Bogged down by constant interruption and a long line for speaking opportunities, the meeting ground to an uncomfortable end. Many voices remained unheard; there was little time for Lungren to address questions. Ten minutes beyond the stated finish time, he bade his audience farewell. With a police escort, the representative exited La Sierra via the kitchen. Anti-Lungren chanting broke out. It was quickly drowned by a chorus of “God Bless America.”

To this reporter, the event was like a three-sided tennis match during which accusations, denials and insults had been lobbed over the heads of gob-smacked Carmichaelites for over 90 minutes. Though no one won, the final score was nowhere close to love-all.



More than 60 anti-Lungren protesters awaited the Congressman at the La Sierra Center door. Arriving via another entrance, the object of their objection missed the noisy welcome. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner.

“Yelling might make you feel good,” the 3rd District representative told hecklers in his standing room only audience. “But yelling doesn't help discussion.” Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner.



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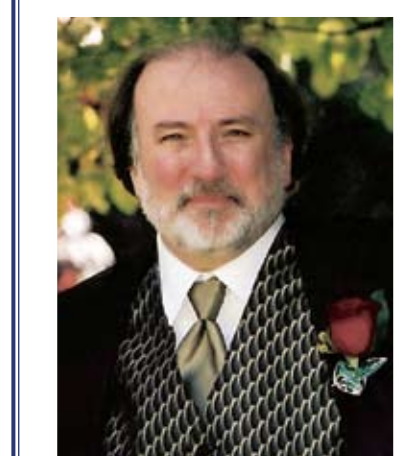
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A Case in Point
The Case of the Ringing Ears

By David Graulich, Esq.

Suppose that Aaron was seriously injured in a car accident due to the negligence of Gehrig. Aaron hires an attorney and the case goes to trial. In the first stage, a jury determines the degree of Gehrig's liability – whether it is 100% or some lesser number. Once liability was decided, the damages that Gehrig (or his insurance company) would have to pay Aaron would be determined in a second stage. In legal terms, Aaron's trial is "bifurcated" – split into two parts, so that liability is determined separately from the calculation of damages.

"Damages" is money paid to an injured person as compensation for loss or injury. The purpose of damages, at least in theory, is to place the victim in the same position he or she would have been in had the injury not occurred. While no amount of money can restore, say, a healthy person who was rendered paraplegic in a car accident, an award of money can "compensate" and help the victim deal with harsh realities. Compensatory damages usually are calculated in three categories: medical and related expenses, lost earnings and earnings capacity, and pain and suffering (to compensate the victim for physical and psychic pain, humiliation, and anguish caused by the injury).

As you might imagine, calculating the amount of damages can be considerably more complex than determining whether the defendant was at fault for causing the injuries in the first place. Damage awards are the proverbial blend of art and science. Professor Joseph Glannon, of Suffolk University Law School in Boston, has created hypothetical cases that teach the intricacies of damage awards.

For example, Professor Glannon presents the imaginary case of Mendel, a 25-year-old construction worker who is injured in a traffic accident and suffers a concussion. He has

minimal medical expenses, but testifies that he developed tinnitus, or ringing in the ears, due to the accident. Although tinnitus is a recognized medical condition, it is nearly impossible to corroborate by independent medical tests. The diagnosis is totally dependent on the testimony of the person suffering with the condition.

Mendel testifies that he is constantly plagued by tinnitus, and that it has made him jumpy and nervous. He says he often feels that he is going insane due to the ringing in his ears. He continues to work in construction, but the condition interferes with his ability to read or concentrate and interrupts his sleep, so he is always tired.

Assume that the other driver is found liable and that medical costs and lost earnings are less than \$1,000. The defendant's insurance company offers \$35,000 to settle Mendel's case. If you represented Mendel, would you advise him to accept the offer?

Remember that if you refuse the settlement offer, you will have to go before a jury to seek an award of damages. The jury could award something less than \$35,000, or something a great deal more. There is simply no way to know in advance.

Professor Glannon asked his law school students what they would award Mendel if they served on the jury. The answers ranged from \$20,000 to over half a million dollars. Some students reached their awards by calculating a sum for each minute, hour or day that Mendel had to live with tinnitus. One student gave Mendel two cents per minute; another awarded \$10,000 per year; a third gave Mendel a dollar per hour. Given Mendel's life expectancy, the time-based awards by these student-jurors were in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range.

As Mendel's lawyer, you have to decide whether the jury will

believe your client. Since the symptoms of tinnitus cannot be proven by objective measures – such as blood tests, X-rays or brain scans – Mendel's testimony will be the crucial factor. If the jurors conclude that he is sincere, they will probably award more than \$35,000. If they think he is making up the injury, they may award him very little, despite the fact that the other driver has already been found negligent.

Veteran personal injury lawyers have a keen sense of what an injury is "worth." It may sound cold-hearted, but a good Plaintiff's attorney must make an educated guess about the economic valuation of a client's injuries. The attorney's estimate will be based on similar recent verdicts, the credibility and circumstances of the Plaintiff, and the juror pool from which the jury will be drawn. That said, even experienced attorneys are surprised from time to time by what a jury awards (or denies) an injured person.

Remember, if the jury's damage award seems excessive, the defense still has the option of appealing the award and seeking a reduction. That's what happened in the notorious "hot coffee" case, where a jury awarded a McDonald's customer \$640,000 for being burned by coffee. McDonald's appealed the award, and ultimately the parties settled out of court for a sum that was kept confidential, but was reported to be less than \$600,000.

David Graulich, Esq. is an attorney with the Law Office of Jeffrey D. Fulton in Sacramento. David can be contacted at (916) 558-6142 or dgraulich@jdfultonlaw.com. He is available to speak to community groups at no charge. This column is not intended as an offer of legal advice. Contact a qualified attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem.

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MONTHLY MILITARY RETIREE/ SPOUSE MEETING

Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for 11 Sep 2012. Meeting location is the North Highlands Park and Recreation District, 6040 Watt Ave, North Highlands 95660. Our meeting starts promptly at 1030 hrs. Our speaker is Suzi Vinci, Veterans Service Officer for the Disabled American Veterans organization. Come on out and enjoy a cup of coffee and some great fellowship. Questions can be referred to our volunteer staff at 916-923-4979, Mon thru Thurs, 9 to 3PM.

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The Genealogical Association of Sacramento

will have its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 19th, at 12:30 PM in the Belle Coolidge Library located at 5600 South Land Park Drive. We will have our annual Sharing and Show and Tell, "What I Did This Summer". It is open to the public. Any questions, please call Melanie Howard 916-383-1221.

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Rabbit targets appear to be moving faster than they actually are since they are seen against the ground, which is rushing by as the target rolls. It is best to start your barrel below the line of the target, insert the barrel on or just in front of the front edge of the target matching the target's speed, focus hard on the front edge and trigger the shot.

John Winters is a Certified NSCA clays instructor and "AA class" NSCA clays competitor.

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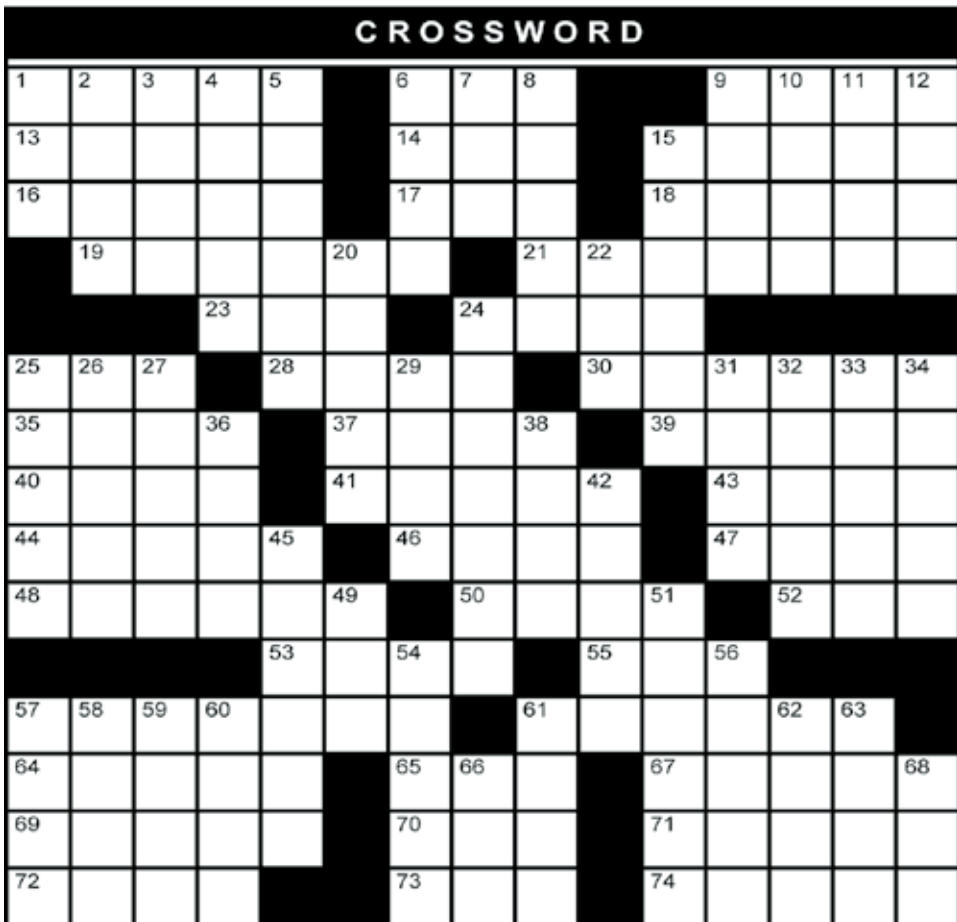
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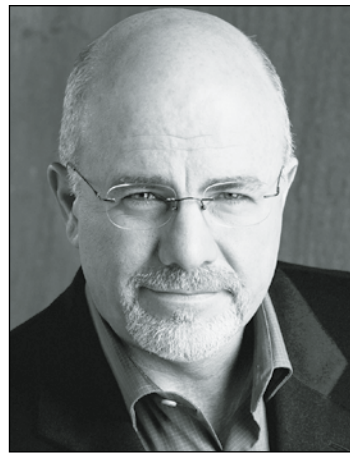
*National average annual savings based on data from customers who reported savings by switching to Esurance between 1/1/10 and 5/19/10.

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CLUES

- ACROSS
- 1. Results of too much credit card use
- 6. French lake
- 9. Short for Theodora
- 13. "Frost over, like an old refrigerator freezer
- 14. "Much ___ About Nothing"
- 15. Early morning sound
- 16. "Sex and the City 2" destination Abu ___
- 17. Eric Stonestreet on "Modern Family"
- 18. "Done before drying
- 19. Larry Ellison's company
- 21. "Make sure the top of this is on
- 23. Romanian money
- 24. Crucifix
- 25. Actors' group
- 28. ___ gin
- 30. The Dark Knight's home
- 35. Mosque prayer leader
- 37. Pakistan's official language
- 39. Hindu religious teacher
- 40. Actress ___ Stone
- 41. "Franklin invented one
- 43. Type of mountain goat
- 44. McKayla Maroney's Olympic event
- 46. "Traditional butter substitute
- 47. A dig or jab
- 48. Involve or imply
- 50. Thailand money
- 52. Applied before feathers?
- 53. It eventually empties for parents
- 55. Early Retirement Option
- 57. "Spoon or fork, e.g.
- 61. "Under a hot dish
- 64. China Grass
- 65. "No thank you. I already ___"
- 67. Like bribe-taking politician
- 69. "Stove alternative
- 70. Charged particle
- 71. Lemur from Madagascar
- 72. They're kept to the ground?
- 73. Motion of approval
- 74. On the left on a balance sheet
- DOWN
- 1. Get done
- 2. Acoustic repetition
- 3. Chicago pro
- 4. Pertaining to tubes
- 5. "Used for providing flair
- 6. Spike, as in punch
- 7. Brushing proponent
- 8. #1 or #2 at McDonald's
- 9. ___ line
- 10. Sir Francis Drake's "Golden ___"
- 11. Gaelic
- 12. Copycat
- 15. System of belief, pl.
- 20. Seductive beauties
- 22. Lincoln ___
- 24. A forbidding stronghold
- 25. "Sifter or strainer
- 26. Capital of Jordan
- 27. Whole range of something
- 29. "Tiny leftovers
- 31. Part of a branch
- 32. Established custom
- 33. Single-cell protozoan
- 34. "Kitchen Aid makes this
- 36. Cheekbone
- 38. Part of eye that contains iris
- 42. Olden days anesthetic
- 45. Hollywood decoration?
- 49. "Big Island" flower necklace
- 51. "Jeopardy" question, e.g.
- 54. Killed, as in dragon
- 56. "Bakers' bakers
- 57. It's often resisted
- 58. Scarlett O'Hara's plantation
- 59. African chieftain
- 60. Naughts
- 61. Be inclined
- 62. ___ of the earth
- 63. Counterweight used to obtain net weight
- 66. Likewise
- 68. English course

For Solution See Page 7



Dave Ramsey is America's most trusted voice on money and business. He's authored four New York Times best-selling books: *Financial Peace*, *More Than Enough*, *The Total Money Makeover* and *EntreLeadership*. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 5,000,000 listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.

Is Accountability the Key?

Dear Dave, I've been working the Baby Steps and doing a budget most months. But how does someone who is single stay motivated and focused with something like this? It feels sometimes like it would be easier if I had someone holding me accountable.

- Rick

Dear Rick,

The first thing is to make sure you do a written budget each month. Not once in a while, not most months—every single month. If you don't draw the out-of-bounds markers, there's no way to know when you've stepped over the line, right? A monthly, written budget becomes your self-accountability tool, especially when you're single.

Still, there's nothing wrong with introducing a little accountability into your life. You don't have to be married to be accountable to someone other than yourself. Ask a good friend or maybe even your pastor to have a look at your plan and see what they think. Just make sure this person is someone who knows a little something about money and finances.

Honestly though, Rick. I think doing the Baby Steps and following my plan can be easier for single people. Think about it this way: You don't have to talk

Dave Says

someone else into coming along for the ride. You also don't have to come to an agreement with someone else on everything financial. All you have to do is get serious, look in the mirror, and say, "Quit being stupid with money!" In other words, you just have to do it.

Admittedly, you don't have the built-in accountability in a singles situation. But on the other hand, you don't have someone calling you a doofus when you mess up!

Don't Pay It!

Dear Dave,

My brother was killed earlier this year, and my mom is finalizing his estate. He had a couple of federally insured student loans through Sallie Mae totaling \$8,000 at the time of his death, and the attorney probating the estate says mom now has to pay off those loans. Is that correct?

- Callie

Dear Callie,

I'm so sorry to hear about your brother. But no, your lawyer is not correct. Payment for federally insured student loans is not due upon the borrower's death. They are waived.

I'm going to give you two pieces of advice. The first is to fire your attorney. We're talking about basic knowledge when it comes

to probating an estate here. If he got that wrong there's no telling what else he's told you that's off the mark.

Second, you can take care of this by sending a copy of the death certificate to Sallie Mae. I'll warn you ahead of time that it may take a while to jump through all their hoops. I mean, you're dealing with the federal government. They're not exactly known for getting things right the first time. But once you're declared permanently disabled or you pass away, federally insured student loans are discharged and not held against the estate. Don't pay it!

- Dave

*For more financial help, please visit daveramsey.com.



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

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Come back every week for Sudoku!



For Solution See Page 7.

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Smart, Sporty - Route 40



Marking completion of the Auburn Boulevard Enhancement Project, Supervisor Susan Peters (center, with scissors) recently joined county staff and business leaders for ribbon-cutting duties. Inset: The new Auburn Boulevard medium barrier features galloping horses, recalling Arcade's place in thoroughbred racing history. The numbered shield shows the street is part of America's famous first transcontinental highway: Route 40. Photo by Susan Maxwell Skinner.



By Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION – Galloping horses that recall Arcade's thoroughbred racing past are part of new street art on the Auburn Boulevard stretch of Route 40. Recent completion of the Auburn Boulevard Enhancement Project hinted at improvements in store for Carmichael's Fair Oaks Blvd.

In the past year, Auburn Boulevard and Arden Way have been revitalized by County projects. The unlovely corner of Fair Oaks and Marconi – half way between Kenneth and Engle – is currently undergoing similar surgery. As in the Auburn Boulevard project, Fair Oaks work will improve vehicle, bike and pedestrian flow. It will also add trees, sidewalks and monuments that reflect local tradition. This stage of the larger Corridor Plan should be finished by November.

Enhancement was equally overdue on Auburn Boulevard. "This was a part of town people were

sometimes not so proud of," conceded Sacramento Supervisor Susan Peters. "Now, when you drive by, you get a totally different perspective. The project enhances Auburn Boulevard to strengthen its market position as a positive business address." The \$2.1 million project was funded by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency through a Community Development Block Grant and local tax increment funds. Private investment from companies like the Maita Automotive Group complimented

the work. Concentrated between Bell and Fulton, the 11 month project includes:
 *A towering arch across the Fulton Avenue entrance.
 *Auburn Boulevard "flags" on street sides.
 *Decorative center street barriers.
 *Improved bike and pedestrian provisions.
 Artistic reference is made to the corridor's history. Retro-style shields remind motorists that Auburn Boulevard is part of Route 40, a 1920s highway that crossed

the continent.
 Auburn's dusty trail earlier extended the pioneer path into California from the Sierras.
 In the late 1900s, the area was part of legendary Rancho Del Paso, the world's largest thoroughbred horse farm. Here, fabled stock like Ben Ali and Salvatore grazed before heading to Kentucky in James Ben Ali Haggin's private railroad cars.
 On Auburn Boulevard's new central divider, a frieze of galloping horses recall such halcyon days of Arcade's past.

Citrus Heights Scholarship Pageant

- Miss entrants must be at least 16 to the age of 27.
- Teen entrants must be at least 13 to the age of 18.
- Entrants must be single; never been married nor a parent.
- Entrants must be of good physical health and good moral character.
- Mrs. / Ms. Entrants must be at least 18 years of age.

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Announcements & Events

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The Kid's Hang Out After School Program is held at the La Sierra Community Center, Monday through Friday throughout the school year. Kids are in a safe environment where your child can read, do homework, have a nutritional snack, socialize with their friends, and be involved in sports and other activities. Transportation is provided from your child's school to the La Sierra Community Center. Program begins when we pick up your child from school and closes at 6:00pm. The program runs throughout the school year and registration is ongoing. FEES: \$80.00 per wk (4 to 5 days) \$60.00 per wk (any 3 days) The fee includes transportation, supplies, snacks and qualified staff.
For more information, please call the La Sierra Recreation Office at (916) 483-7826

ELEMENTARY FLAG FOOTBALL

Dates: Saturdays, September 8th to October 6, 2012. Times: 10am - 12pm
 Fee: \$55.00 per child

ELEMENTARY FLAG FOOTBALL

Program runs from the beginning of September to the end of October. Please check our registration form for more specific dates. Fee: \$90.00 per participant.
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Riley Reviews

MAGICAL,
DELIGHTFULLY
ODD YET AMUSING
"TIMOTHY GREEN"

A Film Review by Tim Riley

THE ODD LIFE OF TIMOTHY GREEN

(Rated PG-13)

Where is it written that every film released in the summer must feature explosions, gun play, car chases and even superheroes trying to outwit each other?

Just when you think that originality is somehow more uncommon than airline carriers arriving on time, along comes the inspiring, magical story of "The Odd Life of Timothy Green."

Writer and director Peter Hedges, who previously adapted his first novel "What's Eating Gilbert Grape" into a feature film, is the right person to bring enchantment to the screen with this new Disney film.

Oh, by the way, unlike so many other summer films, this one truly is an entertainment for the entire family, with the exception of only the very youngest who are mainly drawn to animated stories.

There's something wonderfully old-fashioned about a happily married couple living in the idyllic rural town of Stanleyville where the main industry is a pencil factory.

Cindy and Jim Green (Jennifer Garner and Joel Edgerton) are eager to fill one void in their otherwise pleasant lives. The couple has been unable to produce a child of their own.

One night, they write on paper all the great qualities they would love to have in a child, such as a great heart, a sense of humor, honest disposition and the ability to score a winning goal in a big game.

All the notes about an ideal child are placed in a wooden box and buried in the garden. Even though the area has been subject to a drought, a thunderstorm that same night delivers precious water to the garden.

Low and behold, a 10-year-old boy named Timothy (CJ Adams), covered in mud and leaves, suddenly materializes at the doorstep of the Green household.

The Greens introduce themselves by their first names, but Timothy is quick to call them Mom and Dad, and thus begins an interesting fantasy saga about a little boy who brings familial love where it did not fully exist.

Naturally, Timothy is unique and different, all the more so since leaves sprout near his ankles. Yet eager to fit in, Timothy wears long socks, even while swimming, to cover his flaws.

Though his status would be impossible to explain, the Greens don't even bother to say much of anything to relatives who arrive the next day for a long-planned family picnic.

The family dynamic proves interesting. Cindy's sister Brenda (Rosemarie DeWitt), who has her own "perfect" children, is disdainful of the new arrival. But Uncle Bub (M. Emmet Walsh), with his own quirky sense of humor, feels an immediate rapport with the amusing Timothy.

Meanwhile, Jim's father (David Morse), known as Big Jim, remains aloof and never gave approval to his own son, but Timothy just might crack the old man's façade of cold detachment.

Of course, the small town is filled with oddball characters, such as Dianne Wiest's Bernice Crudstaff, the uptight wealthy boss of the Pencil Museum where Cindy Green works as a docent.

Other characters have no particular charm or endearing quirks, such as Ron Livingston's Franklin Crudstaff, the uncaring boss at the Pencil Factory where Jim Green is a supervisor.

In the age of the Internet, the factory faces hard times and may have to close. But Timothy, with the help of his only friend Joni (Odeya Rush), saves the day with an inspired new product.

Because the film needs a villain, Franklin Crudstaff tries to take credit for Timothy's invention, but there's probably no need to tell you whether he'll be unmasked for his deception.

Cynics will scoff at the family fairy tale of Timothy Green's "Odd Life," and their thoughts may well be derisive, scornful,

sarcastic and even hostile.

Yet, an open mind to the simple pleasures of "The Odd Life of Timothy Green," which is by no means flawless in its execution, may prove more rewarding. A little cuteness and suspension of disbelief never hurt anyone.

Indeed, the simple story of a childless couple and their special "gift" is emotional, heartwarming, funny and deeply touching, and so "The Odd Life of Timothy Green" is undeniably magical.

DVD RELEASE UPDATE

Just recently, this space of the column celebrated the good fortune of vintage TV detective shows being released on DVD.

This week it is time to commemorate another classic 1970s police drama that starred a young Michael Douglas as the college educated inspector Steve Keller.

If you didn't guess, another season of "The Streets of San Francisco" is getting the full screen format treatment in two volumes.

"The Streets of San Francisco: Season Four: Volume One & Volume Two" DVD sets combined provide nearly 20 hours of thrilling crime drama entertainment.

Along with Michael Douglas, the series starred the wonderful Karl Malden as the 20-year veteran detective Lt. Mike Stone.

Douglas' inspector Keller may have a lot to learn about being a police detective, but Malden's Lt. Stone is the perfect mentor.

"The Streets of San Francisco" is a great police drama with excellent storylines and great performances from the winning combination of Douglas and Malden.

Sacramento County DA Report

Recent cases of interest

CASE: Marquise Smith (08/20/12)
PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Andrew Smith, 916.874.6586

District Attorney Jan Scully announced today that Marquise Smith was convicted by jury of second degree murder with the use of a handgun for the shooting death of Danielle Benefield.

Ms. Benefield was a passenger in a car that had gone to the Fastrip gas station after leaving a downtown club on September 4, 2010. Upon arriving at the Fastrip, her friend exited the car and entered into the crowd. Ms. Benefield got into the driver's seat and moved the car to the slow lane on Florin Road where she and her other friend waited for their friend to return.

During this time, Smith was being chased in his car as he drove back to the Fastrip. He made a U-turn off of Florin Road back into the Fastrip parking lot. He exited his car and went into the crowd. When he saw the victim's car now parked on Florin Road with the car running, he mistakenly believed it belonged to those that had chased him. Smith yelled out "Do you have a problem?" then fired four shots into the car. Ms. Benefield was killed by a bullet that traveled through the passenger car door and driver seat, hitting her in the back and heart.

Smith told detectives that he was across the street at the Shell station wearing different clothes and driving a different car than witnesses described as belonging to the shooter. While testifying, he admitted being at the Fastrip when the shots were fired and lying about his clothes and car.

Although there were more than 100 people at the Fastrip, no witnesses could identify the shooter. The jury was able to use inconsistent statements from Smith's friends and Smith's own statements and testimony to reach the conclusion that he was the shooter that night.

Smith faces a possible maximum sentence of 40 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for September 14, 2012 at 9:30 a.m. in Department 30 before the Honorable Judge DeAlba.

CASE: Lan Le (08/13/12)
PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Anthony Ortiz, 916.874.7865

District Attorney Jan Scully announced that Lan Le was convicted by jury of first degree murder and the use of a knife in the stabbing death of Monica Anderson.

In March of 2010, the two women were engaged in an argument which led to Le stabbing the victim to death in her Citrus Heights apartment.

Sentencing is set for October 5, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Department 17 of the Sacramento Superior Court.

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