



Carmichael Times

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Serving Carmichael and Sacramento County since 1981

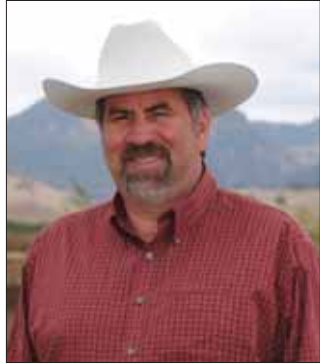
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Fireworks Fund Non-Profits



Annual sales of fireworks represents a critical fundraising effort for many non-profits in Placer County. Photo courtesy TNT

By David Dickstein

CARMICHAEL – What they're selling can't explode according to state law, but that's not stopping local non-profits from hoping for booming business starting June 28, the day fireworks can be sold in Carmichael.

If fingers are crossed a bit tighter this season, it's because America's 236th birthday falls on a Wednesday, the first Fourth of July on "hump day" since 2007. Consumer fireworks leaders suggest a 10 percent drop in sales when Independence Day is smack in the middle of the week, but at least one industry leader believes that every smoke cloud has a silver lining.

"Because many people won't be able to make a 3-day or 4-day weekend out of holiday, they'll probably stay home, and that's a good thing for our non-profit groups," said TNT Fireworks Vice President Cathy Castilone. "We've seen that when families don't go out of town they

often light fireworks the week-end before the fourth and on the fourth itself."

The competition agrees. "Sales are strong on the fourth no matter what day of the week it is, and we're actually expecting better sales than usual on the 29th and 30th with people wanting to celebrate early on a week-end," said Phantom Fireworks Regional Manager Linda Hass. "Sales should be brisk as well because the weather is cooperating, the economy seems to be moving in the right direction and Californians are eager to celebrate our great Independence Day with fireworks."

That should be patriotic music to the ears of cash-strapped area charities, athletic groups, youth organizations and service clubs.

For the Sacramento Water Polo Foundation, the week-long fundraiser means that every Big Timer assortment, Delirium fountain and ground bloom flower sold gets more teens playing the sport.

"Our goal is to make

competitive water polo affordable to everyone," said Sabrina Murphy, who is chairing the group's ninth fireworks sale. Murphy said sign-ups would go down without the foundation's largest fundraiser.

"Not all players would be able to afford to play in the competitions," she said. "Only the few who could afford it would play. Travel and entry fees can be as much as \$400 a tournament per player."

Besides lowering tournament costs, last year's fundraiser scored T-shirts for the six boys and girls 14U-18U teams that went to the USA Water Polo Junior Olympics in Southern California.

While water polo is the name of the game at the foundation's TNT stand next to Bel Air Supermarket at 4005 Manzanita Ave., soccer will be action a mile and a half up the road.

Carmichael Soccer Club will be looking for a sizable net profit to buy, well, nets, along with cones, balls and

jerseys from its TNT stand in the Crestview Shopping Center, 4722 Manzanita Ave.

"All funds generated through fireworks sales are infused back into the club to help keep costs down, purchase new equipment, train coaches, referees, etcetera," said fundraiser chairman and coach Estaban Nava Jr. Operating without the money, he said, "would negatively impact Carmichael and the surrounding community [as] recreational soccer opportunity for children would be priced out of the affordable range."

Meanwhile, the Carmichael Beavers Swim Team hopes to be awash in profits from selling TNT fireworks to offset rental charges of Del Campo High's pool. Six-year president Ron Miller has said "it's no question" that the club's registration fees would be significantly higher without the money from fireworks. The Beavers' lodge for seven selling days will be in the Safeway parking lot at 4040 Manzanita Ave.



Time to Show Your Spirit Carmichael!

CARMICHAEL – The Carmichael Chamber of Commerce has joined with the Sacramento River Cats to offer a special price at "Carmichael Community Night" at Raley Field, Friday July 13th, when they play the Las Vegas 51s. The game begins at 7:05 pm.

The Sacramento River Cats, an Oakland A's affiliate, is currently at the top of the standings. They have shown tremendous firepower in their lineup and have shown off some great pitching this season.

You can get your tickets, priced at a discount of only \$13, by calling Linda Melody at the Chamber office at (916) 481-1002 or (916) 203-1681.

On Friday the 13th the River Cats are offering \$1 hot dogs and deserts. This makes it an affordable night out for the entire family, or a really cheap date with thousands of your closest friends.

Carmichael Community Night is sponsored by Carmichael Recreation and Park District, Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District, the Carmichael Kiwanis and the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce.

As an added bonus to drive ticket sales to this community event, the Carmichael Times is offering \$413 in free display advertising to the local non-profit organization or business that sells the most tickets for their group, with the minimum of 20 tickets sold. What could be more fun than a warm Friday night at the ballpark with your entire group?

Last year Carmichael won the award for selling the most tickets during the year, over 250, out of all the other local chambers that participated. Get your tickets. Catch the feeling. Have some fun. Show your Carmichael Spirit!

County Names New Community Development Director

SACRAMENTO – The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors has approved the appointment of Lori Moss for the position of Director of the Community Development Department.

"We are very lucky to have a candidate of Ms. Moss' caliber," said Brad Hudson. "She will be instrumental in forging a successful new department that will streamline community planning and development in our region." Ms. Moss has 27 years of experience in county development and planning with the County of Riverside and city management with the Cities of Murrieta and Canyon Lake. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Urban Regional Planning from Indiana State University.

The Sacramento County Community Development Department houses the Divisions of Planning, County Engineering (which includes Surveyor), Code Enforcement, Environmental Review and Building, Permits and Inspections.

Riding the Rails with Mark Twain

SACRAMENTO REGION – All aboard for a summertime special train ride when the California State Railroad Museum presents "Riding the Rails with Mark Twain" on Saturday evening, July 7. Guests are invited to enjoy a warm summer evening in Old Sacramento State Historic Park along with Mark Twain (portrayed by local period actor Pat Kaunert), cool refreshments, entertaining live music and a delightful train

ride along the Sacramento River.

The leisurely evening begins at 6:30 p.m. inside the historic Eagle Theatre with Mark Twain sharing fascinating stories about his train travels in the West. Mr. Twain will be accompanied by popular Mother Lode fiddler, Dave Rainwater. Then at 7:30 p.m., guests will board the Sacramento Southern Railroad for a relaxing train ride with Twain and Rainwater on board to entertain

and amuse passengers. Guests can sit back and enjoy a comfortable coach seat or watch the passing scenery from an open-air gondola with benches while sipping refreshing lemonade or iced tea as the sun sets over the Sacramento River.

Tickets for this special performance and train ride event are \$24 for adults, \$12 for youths ages 6-17 and children five and under are free. Discounted event

ticket prices apply for California State Railroad Museum members at \$21 for adults and \$9 for youths. Tickets include the live performance inside the Eagle Theatre prior to boarding the train. Advance tickets are recommended for this one-night-only "Riding the Rails with Mark Twain" evening event and are available online at www.californiastaterailroadmuseum.org or by calling (916) 445-5995.

SMUD Goes Mobile

SACRAMENTO REGION – Electric utility's user-friendly website is now available on smart phones. SMUD has a new way for customers to view their account, see their energy usage, pay their bill and check on power outages via their mobile phone.

SMUD's new mobile website, SMUD Mobile, is optimized for use with iPhone and Android smart phones and is compatible with many other browser-enabled phones as well. The application

was also designed to minimize impact to mobile phones that have data plan caps.

SMUD Mobile is very easy to navigate. It features a single menu button in the upper right section of the screen that is available from any page. It flips or fades the screen to display a full-screen option that presents the user with all available navigation options in one place. When a user logs in, the logout button is available in the menu as well as from any page.

Since smart phones make up about 50 percent of the mobile market nationwide, they are an important way for SMUD to connect with customers.

The My Account section of the site offers those with a login the ability to view the outage status at their specific location, see their energy usage, view their bill and pay their bill—all online from their phone. The mobile site accepts Visa or Mastercard or users can pay with a bank account.

To make it easier for customers to pay their bill, SMUD Mobile also provides alternative ways to

pay such as showing users where local pay stations are and allowing them to display a map of their location or call the pay stations. It also allows a user who does not have a My Account login to make a one-time payment.

The outage map lets users see the entire SMUD service territory and gives them the same data available on the current website.

Already, about 10 percent of SMUD customers are using SMUD Mobile, which can be accessed by typing smud.org in your mobile phone's web browser.

What Is America's Economic Breaking Point?

**Commentary by Mac Slavo
Whiskey & Gunpowder
Reprinted by permission**

If there exists a single factor that can put enough pressure on the whole of the American economy and force it to crumble under its own weight, it's the price the average American pays for gas. Extreme up side gas price swings have preceded seven of the last eight American recessions, most recently in the summer of 2008 when drivers were forced to pay an all time high in excess of \$4.50 per gallon at the pumps. What followed this spike – caused in part by tightening supplies, rising demand, easy money and a healthy dose of financial propaganda – was nothing short of the most severe financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Nearly four years on the country finds itself in the midst of difficult times that have taken their toll on millions of Americans through job losses, home foreclosures, unserviceable debt, and ever dwindling retirement savings. By all accounts, Americans are worse off today than they were ten years ago, and the state of our nation, despite what Washington's media masters report, is fiscally, economically, and socially dire.

With an estimated national debt that will approach \$20 trillion in just a couple of years, some \$200 trillion in unfunded liabilities over the next twenty five years, scores of millions of Americans dependent on overburdened government safety nets to survive, and a rapidly shrinking domestic economy, the key question becomes, "what is America's economic breaking point?"

The answer to this question becomes apparent in a recent documentary from Future Money Trends, which suggests that the breaking point for the U.S.

economy comes when the cheap energy we have enjoyed for the better part of a century finally dries up.

Future Money Trends is expecting the U.S. to face the perfect storm of events that, when combined, will send gas prices past the breaking point for the average American.

There are three major catalysts that will cause gas prices to reach this breaking point.

Number one, the dollar is in a state of collapse caused by a continuous increase of the money supply by America's central bank.

Two, instability in the middle east and a potential war with Iran would great[ly] disrupt the supply of oil.

Three, the supply of cheap, recoverable oil is dwindling along with a major increase in demand.

America is built for \$50 oil and \$2 a gallon gasoline. The seriousness of our situation should not be overlooked. We have multiple forces that will drive gas prices past America's \$5 per gallon breaking point... Rising gas prices caused by these three catalysts will break the backs of the American consumer, spiking prices to the point where present day normalcy is no longer the reality.

Via Future Money Trends

Though there is evidence that the peak oil theory of physical shortages is accurate, it's not even so much that the world will run out of oil per se, as it is that we simply don't have the technology to extract that oil at a cheap enough cost to maintain our current way of life.

If you consider the significant pressures currently facing the United States financial and economically, it's not too much of a stretch to suggest that even a minimal rise in the price of

gas could seriously hamper the consumption habits of the majority of our population, which in turn will further reduce economic growth. As Future Money Trends' Daniel Ameduri notes, even a \$1 gas price move has a significant impact with the potential to extract \$100 billion from the broader economy.

With gas prices at or above \$4 in most parts of the country, we're quickly approaching 2008's breaking point. And for those who don't think prices could exceed those historic highs of 2008, consider that most Europeans are already paying nearly \$10 per gallon.

With rising demand from BRIC nations like China and India, tensions in the middle east and unprecedented monetary expansion, ten dollars may very well become a reality. Such a swing in prices would immediately shave some \$600 billion in direct consumer consumption and shrink our economy by 5% almost instantly. And that doesn't even include the consequences that will inevitably hit small businesses and their employees in the months following.

Going into 2008 Americans felt fairly confident about their savings, their ability to find work, and their overall outlook. After four years of malaise, the majority of Americans have lost that confidence, as their ability to maintain the standard of living to which they became accustomed over decades of rampant government spending and easy money has been seriously undermined.

At this point, as suggested by Ameduri, even a one or two dollar increase in the price of gas could be the breaking point that sends our economy and global financial markets into an unrecoverable tailspin. The psychological impact of \$5 or \$6 gas may cause more of a panic than

the price itself, because the only thing keeping the system afloat at this point is confidence in our leadership and that the best-and-brightest will be able to mitigate the crisis.

We were able to suspend the worst when governments around the world stepped in previously and let loose everything in the quiver to abate a collapse. This time, however, with our debts piling up at unsustainable levels and our lenders rapidly diversifying out of U.S. based assets, we will not be so lucky.

Whether the breaking point has been breached is up for debate, but there's a strong possibility the die has already been cast. With trillions of dollars in capital flows, government intervention and financial machinations behind the scenes, it's impossible to predict the exact timeline or occurrence of events, but we may well have already crossed the Rubicon.

Assuming that a breaking point is inevitable simply because of our failure to fundamentally change anything since the original crisis took hold in 2008, we should look to history as a guide as a way to anticipate the consequences that follow unsustainable governance and monetary policy.

If history surrounding such events has taught us anything, it's that we must presume whatever is coming will be brutal, violent and it will transpire so quickly that most people won't realize what happened until they're walking the streets with worthless paper money in their pockets looking for morsels of food to stock their pantries – we're talking end of the world type stuff.

The collapse of nations and conventional paradigms is never an orderly thing.

Regards, Mac Slavo
SHTFplan

FBI State and Local Law Enforcement Recover Six Juveniles During Child Sex Trafficking Operation

SACRAMENTO – The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Crimes Against Children Unit and its state and local law enforcement partners are pleased to announce the recovery of six children who were being victimized as prostitutes in the Chico, Redding, Sacramento and Vallejo areas.

The number of minors recovered locally is one of the highest in the nation, making this local achievement one of Operation Cross Country VI's top success stories. The Sacramento Division of the FBI and multiple local and state law enforcement participated in the operation from June 19 through June 23, 2012. In addition to six juveniles recovered in Sacramento, multi-agency teams also arrested six pimps during the three-day operation. The local efforts account for nearly 8 percent of the children rescued during Operation Cross Country VI.

In addition to the FBI Sacramento Division, the following agencies participated in last week's local operation: Butte County District Attorney · California Highway Patrol · California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control · Chico Police Department · Redding Police Department · Sacramento County Sheriff's Department · Sacramento Police Department · Vallejo Police Department

Operation Cross Country is a



multi-day national enforcement action targeting the domestic sex trafficking of children. The operation is coordinated by the Innocence Lost initiative and is a partnership between the FBI, state and local law enforcement partners and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Since the first Operation Cross Country in June 2008, multi-agency teams in the Sacramento Division's area of responsibility have recovered 23 children and arrested 18 pimps.

Nationwide, 226 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies in 57 cities participated in Operation Cross Country VI, resulting in the rescue of 79 children and arrest of 104 pimps.

There are 47 task forces and working groups throughout the country addressing the issue of child sex trafficking. Additional information about Operation Coast to Coast and video that depicts local activities can be found on www.fbi.gov at the conclusion of the national press conference.

Weekly Support Meeting for Widowed Men and Women

Realizing how difficult it is to go into new social situations when one is first widowed, the Widowed Persons Association of California encourages widowed men and women to come to Sunday Support each Sunday from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm with some going to dinner as a group following the session. Doors open at 2:30 pm.

The Widowed Persons Association is a non-profit organization whose mission is to be of help to recently widowed men and women, but any and all widows and widowers are welcome.

Participants do not need to be members and there is no charge.

Where: In the meeting room of the WPAC office. Enter from the back parking lot at 2628 El Camino Avenue, Suite D-18, Enter Suite-18 via the back parking lot.

**Widowed Persons Association of California
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POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp



something that does. Playing to your strengths brings real happiness.

You should find a way to share your fortune (not necessarily the monetary kind) with others.

4) **Build richer relationships** with loved ones. Is your marriage running on autopilot? What about your relationship with your kids? Do you come home from work and just sit in front of a computer or TV and never engage with your family in a meaningful way?

9) **Take a "baby step" toward finding some faith.** Think a little more about your faith. Check out a few spots and read a couple of spiritual books. Happy people have a connection to a higher power.

5) **Celebrate your spouse.** If you're mired in negativity with bickering and tension, you'll never be happy. But ending the relationship is a last resort. The good news is that it may not take a lot of effort to dramatically change the tenor of your marriage.

10) **Make this year one of gratitude.** If you only make one change this year, make it this one. Work to be more appreciative in general. Did you know that, for the most part, becoming more grateful just means opening your eyes to the blessings you already have.

6) **Let the people you appreciate know it.** Of course you need to let your close friends and family know how you feel about them. That's a given. But what about your coworkers...your barber... your child's teacher? Even the neighbor who keeps an eye on your house when you are away?

There you have it. It's not rocket science, but according to Patkin, it is ironic. He says, "The tragedy is we're sleepwalking through life without really noticing the truth. If we could learn to live with an attitude of gratitude, for our kids, our homes, our friends, our health, the food on our tables...we wouldn't need worry about finding happiness. We'd be living it every day. Check it out "Finding Happiness" One man's quest to beat anxiety and depression and finally let the sunshine in. You can also check out his website at www.FindingHappinessbook.com. Let life shine for you today!!!

7) **Forgive someone who has wronged you.** This is the other side of the "forgive yourself" coin. Just as you deserve a break, so do other people. Forgiveness is an act of love. If you can't let go of pain and anger, you can't be happy.

8) **Become a giver. Happiness is not about how much you make; it's about how much you share.** Your income and/or net worth has nothing to do with happiness.

Join Mary Jane for the **KAHI Noon News Monday-Friday and then again for POPOFF 10 PM - Midnight.**

HAPPINESS IS AS HAPPINESS DOES

Are you happy? I bet it's a question that has crossed your mind a time or two. But do we really know what happiness is? **Todd Patkin** took a stab at it. A businessman and philanthropist, he kicked anxiety and depression but does admit that everyone's path is different, but he believes the real key for all of us is self-love. When we can stop beating ourselves up over mistakes and start celebrating all the things we do right, we can finally be happy. He's come up with some simple steps for us to be happy in "Finding Happiness." Here's the top ten.

1) **If you don't exercise, start.** You already know exercise keeps you healthy. But did you know it's also a natural antidepressant?

2) **Be easier on yourself.** You know like I'm too fat etc? There's nothing wrong with self-improvement, but it needs to come from a place of love.

3) **Find some way to put your gifts and talents to work.** Talent wants to express itself. If your job doesn't allow it to do so, find

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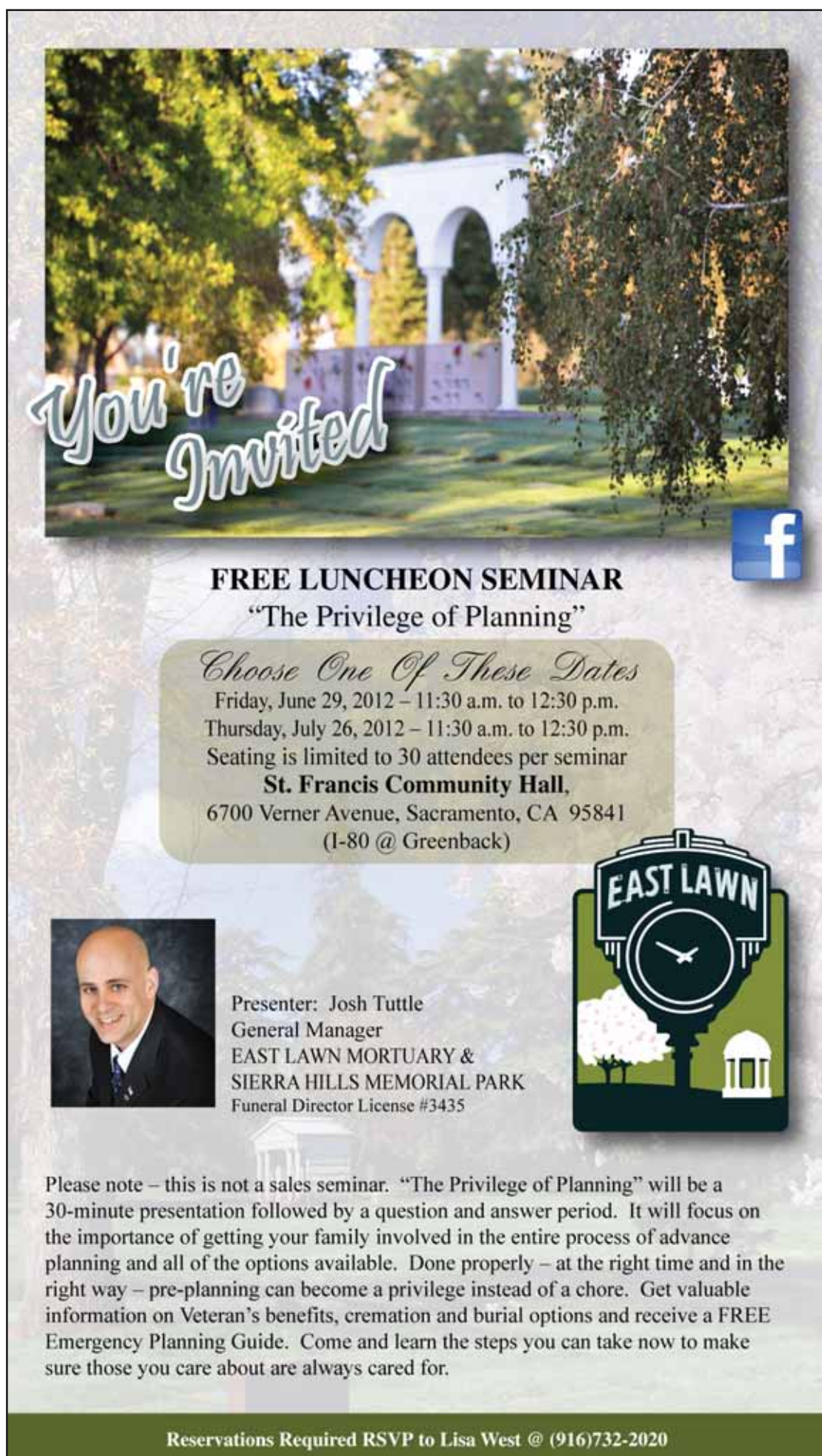
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Reservations Required RSVP to Lisa West @ (916)732-2020



Dr. Bob Graykowski



If summertime bugs make you buggy, you aren't alone. But irritation is just part of the nasty equation. Mosquitoes - because of their vampire-like behavior - can spread a host of diseases including West Nile Virus, Viral Encephalitis and, in extremely rare cases, Yellow Fever.

Other pests, such as ticks, also carry diseases. Difficult to detect without careful examination, ticks can spread Lyme disease.

So, how do you fight back against the bites and stings of summertime bugs? We urge you to choose all-natural methods to make yourself "invisible" to bugs.

Ditch the DEET

DEET (N, N-diethyl-metoluamide) is the most common active ingredient in commercial insect repellents. The U.S. Department of Agriculture developed DEET for the Army in 1946.

While the EPA has determined that normal use of DEET does not present health concern to the general population, the use of products containing DEET has been associated with rashes, eye irritation, swelling and itching. Less-frequent reactions include slurred speech, confusion and seizures. Products with high concentrations of DEET are considered hazardous to children, in particular. Consequently, the EPA no longer allows claims of "safe for children" on labels of products containing DEET.

Go Natural

The bottom line on DEET? It's scary stuff. True, it works. But why subject your family to its side effects - and those of other chemically-based solutions - when all-natural alternatives are available?

All Natural Ways to Zap the Bugs of Summer!

Silly About Citronella

Citronella is perhaps the most well-known - and effective - all-natural insect repellent. It's found in oils, incense and candles. However, many citronella products are far from natural. (Some don't contain any natural citronella!) Be sure to read ingredients to ensure that your product is free of DEET and contains authentic citronella.

Crazy for Catnip

It's no secret that catnip drives felines into a frenzy, but it may also drive bugs buggy. The essential oil in catnip that gives the plant its characteristic odor - is approximately 10 times more effective at repelling mosquitoes than DEET. Catnip is a member of the mint family of herbs.

Burning Bush: A Safe Alternative to Spraying?

On ornamental bush prized by gardeners in Europe and the United States contains a surprise weapon against the mosquitoes-spreading West Nile Virus, which could eliminate the need for spraying.

Instead of a safe breeding ground, however, the burning-bush scent lures mosquitoes to drums of water laced with pesticide. Ultimately, it's a much safer alternative to the indiscriminate spraying of pesticides on neighborhoods and crops.

Cook Up Some Curry

Turmeric, the spice that gives Indian cuisine its distinctive flavor, appears to repel mosquitoes. So, toss a few curry chicken or tofu satay kabobs on the grill!

Oil Break!

Specific essential oils, used as cologne, may encourage mosquitoes to keep their distance. Try oils of lemongrass, neem, eucalyptus, turmeric, citronella, and pennyroyal. (Make sure to purchase diluted oils, as highly concentrated formulas may irritate skin.)

Oil Break!

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eucalyptus, turmeric, citronella, and pennyroyal. (Make sure to purchase diluted oils, as highly concentrated formulas may irritate skin.)

Beautiful Basil

To keep bugs at bay this summer, take a tip from our friends in Tuscany, Italy: Surround your outdoor dining area with tubs of basil for a fragrant, natural mosquito barrier.

Cover Up

Lightweight, long sleeved and long-legged clothing acts as a powerful force against bites. However, make sure to choose colorful fabrics. Surprisingly, black and white garments actually attract insects.

Scare Off 'Squitoes With Supplements

Although there's no scientific research supporting this claim, many doctors and patients believe that certain diets and vitamins make blood less appetizing to mosquitoes. For example: high-carbohydrate diets, B-complex vitamins, garlic and ginger are all suspected to minimize mosquito bites. Because these approaches offer other scientifically proven benefits - such as reducing the risk of cancer and heart disease - they are definitely worth trying.

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We Don't Need Another Tax Proposal— We Need Jobs and Reforms!

By John Kabateck
NFIB/CA Executive Director

Last week, the National Federation of Independent Business/California, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, and Small Business Action Committee joined together to officially launch "Californians for Reforms and Jobs, Not Taxes", the campaign opposed to the Governor's \$50 billion tax increase initiative.

According to the independent California Legislative Analyst, the tax hike will:

Raise sales and income taxes by as much as \$50 billion for up to seven years, mostly on the backs of small businesses, regardless of whether the economy improves;

Increase income taxes by up to 32%, applying retroactively to January 1, 2012; and

Increase sales taxes over the current rate by more than 3% to a statewide average tax rate of 8.4%, the highest in the nation.

It's important to point out that most small business owners file their income taxes as individuals, not corporations. Moreover, a higher sales tax rate will only worsen small employers' efforts to invest in their business supplies and needs thereby forcing them to pass on that cost, and will give consumers one less reason to patronize their corner bakery, auto shop or bookstore.

So, while the Governor would like for you to believe that this is a "Millionaire's Tax", it would be more appropriate for him to deem it a "Mom and Pop Tax" — because that's precisely who it would clobber the most!

What is even more appalling is that the Governor wants to raise \$50 billion in new taxes from already-struggling Californians without including one single reform or assurance as to how politicians and bureaucrats would spend these dollars. The Governor claims that this measure will help our schools, but that promise falls flat when you look at where the money is going — or, should I say, isn't going. According to a recent independent study by Pepperdine University, up to 50% of the money we spend on education never gets to schools, let alone the classroom.

Given the fact that California is facing a \$16 billion deficit and spending in our state has increased by \$30 billion since 2008, how can anyone trust tax proponents that their hard-earned dollars will be spend responsibly or honestly?

For years, small business owners have been pleading with our state leaders for meaningful, sustainable reforms — tax reform, regulatory reform, pension reform (we're now facing a \$500 billion unfunded pension liability), and legal reform to stop frivolous "ADA shakedown" lawsuits. But have politicians in Sacramento heard and responded to their constituents' pleas? No -- in fact, there have been no serious inroads for change that would help close the deficit and get California moving again. The Governor and legislators remain beholden to special interests that continue to kill any meaningful reforms.

And, finally, we've all been down this dreary road before:

the Governor contends that these taxes would extend for merely seven years, but when was the last time we witnessed truth in advertising when it came to new money our legislature and state bureaucrats could get their hands on?

Consider the facts:

There are more than 2 million unemployed in our state right now;

Small business confidence was stagnant in May with no signs of improving any time soon.

Businesses like Waste Connections, formerly in Folsom as the largest publicly traded company in Northern California, are leaving for Texas and other friendly states because of the high cost of doing business here and the massive amount of regulations that are heaped upon them. The biggest casualties here: California jobs and the scores of small businesses co-existing in these communities.

In a nutshell, small business owners, their employees and customers are uncertain, scared and frankly fed up with a state government that repeatedly fails them, is out of touch and continues to look to Main Street as the trusted ATM.

Instead of allowing small businesses the ability to create jobs and invest in their communities, these taxes will force them to raise prices, cut employees, or close their doors and move out of state, something which is already happening.

It is time to stop the madness — we must stop rewarding our government leaders — who continue to spend our money recklessly and without accountability — with more money.

This November, small business owners, taxpayers and all Californians will have an opportunity to send a powerful message to Sacramento — that the Governor's tax proposal is neither a reform nor a solution to help recover California jobs and the economy. It would only make a tragic situation on Main Street horribly, irreversibly worse.

We urge all small business owners, taxpayers and concerned Californians to join our efforts to tell Sacramento "Enough is Enough!" by joining our growing coalition - Californians For Reforms and Jobs, Not Taxes. For more information visit: <http://www.reformsandjobsnot-taxes.com/>.

NFIB is the nation's leading small business association, with offices in Washington, D.C. and all 50 states. Founded in 1943 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, NFIB gives small and independent business owners a voice in shaping the public policy issues that affect their business. NFIB's powerful network of grassroots activists sends their views directly to state and federal lawmakers through our unique member-only ballot, thus playing a critical role in supporting America's free enterprise system. NFIB's mission is to promote and protect the right of our members to own, operate and grow their businesses.

Democrats Deny Public Access to Budget

Government spending plan released just hours before vote



Senator Doug LaMalfa

SACRAMENTO — Senator Doug LaMalfa's (R — Richvale) today, June 25th, expressed his disappointment in the decision of the majority Democrats failure to allow the public time to review their state budget plan, which was released barely three hours before it was voted on by

the Senate Budget Committee.

"When 1,794 pages of budget language are released just hours before being voted upon, there's simply no way for the public to know what their government is doing," said LaMalfa. "Today's hearing flies in the face of every ideal of open and transparent government. This money comes from the paychecks of the people of California, yet they were never offered a say in how it is spent."

The majority Democrats in Sacramento have consistently denied public access to budget documents this year, despite claiming that the process would be more transparent. The secrecy surrounding the state budget has resulted in the passage of cuts to public safety and health programs while state worker unions were protected. One portion of

the Democrat budget eliminates existing prison construction funds that would have prevented the shift of many state prisoners to county jails and the early release of thousands more.

"To claim that prison overcrowding is a problem and in the same breath vote to eliminate prison construction funds contradicts basic common sense," LaMalfa added. "If these funds were used as intended, the state wouldn't be releasing thousands of criminals and forcing counties to house thousands more at the expense of our safety."

Senator Doug LaMalfa is a lifelong farmer representing the fourth Senate District including Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Siskiyou, Sutter, Del Norte, Placer, Trinity, Yuba and Nevada counties.

Art in the Park at Sutter-Jensen Community Park

From Riki Merrick

CARMICHAEL - Preserve Sutter Jensen is a community outreach arm of the Carmichael Recreation and Park Foundation, committed to raising at least \$50,000 in cash and services to allow phase 1 improvements at Sutter Jensen Community Park, consisting of a 1/4 mile trail connecting the park on the Sutter side with the Jensen Botanical Garden side, as well as improving the entrance and parking lot on that side.

We will hold our second "Art in the Park" event at Sutter-Jensen Community Park on July 7, 2012 from 9AM to 1PM.

We are making it better — we'll of course have wonderful artists — established or budding join us in the beautiful Sutter side of Sutter-Jensen Community Park — Sutter Avenue at Orangerie — where

they will create new masterpieces that are for sale at the end of the event. You can see photos from the March event at: <http://preservesutterjensen.org/photos.html>

Towards the end of the event, David Petersen from the Sacramento Fine Arts Center will start us off, with the artists sharing their work. We are hoping to find places in the neighborhood willing to showcase the artwork that has not been sold during the event for a little bit longer.

We will also have refreshments and live music throughout the day, provide information about the planned phase 1 improvements to the park, for which we will be using the funds raised at this event. Bring your kids, because all event-long we'll have miniature horses giving cart rides.

From 10AM to 12PM we'll have some old-fashioned games for the younger crowd and an

art table especially set up for the developing artists

A raffle with a twist rounds out the offerings for that day:

You can buy your raffle tickets and place them in buckets for the end of day drawing of prizes generously donated by neighborhood businesses, like the gift certificate from Breeder's Corner or you can save it for the drawing on August 11th (see Future Plans).

Plans for the future: On August 11, 2012 at the Beatles Tribute Concert in Carmichael Park we will be raffling off 4 airline tickets donated by Southwest Airlines and other prizes.

Donations are always welcome and those over \$125 will be honored with a memorial brick set on-site. For more information visit www.preservesutterjensen.org or email chair@preservesutterjensen.org.

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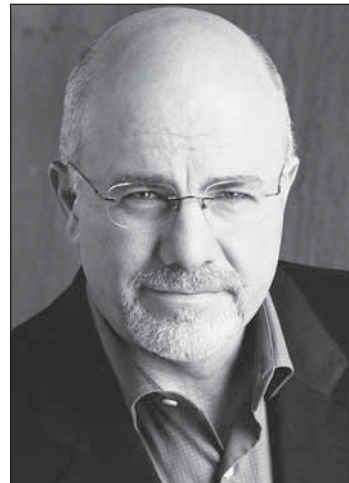
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CLUES

- ACROSS
 - 1. *#34 Down did this
 - 6. Pre-1947 British rule over India
 - 9. *George Washington chopped one down as a lad
 - 13. *Popular feeling
 - 14. Australian bird
 - 15. ____ two shoes
 - 16. Without illumination
 - 17. Greed or sloth, e.g.
 - 18. *April showers bring May flowers," e.g.
 - 19. *British soldier
 - 21. *Pre-Independence Day "state"
 - 23. Used for soaking
 - 24. *Dirty Jobs' host
 - 25. NHL's rival, 1972-1979
 - 28. Deceptive maneuver
 - 30. Lay to rest
 - 35. Abrupt stop
 - 37. 18-wheeler
 - 39. Eagle's nest
 - 40. Not active
 - 41. Deteriorate
 - 43. Colloquial "aren't"
- 44. Ivan and Nicholas, e.g.
- 46. Pi times square of radius
- 47. Short spaces of time
- 48. Type of food
- 50. John Galsworthy's Forsyte story
- 52. Grazing land
- 53. Effected by the moon
- 55. Member of the Benevolent Order
- 57. *Born on the Fourth of July" star
- 60. Three-tiered Roman galley
- 64. Gain knowledge
- 65. Follows soh
- 67. Death ____ in "Harry Potter"
- 68. Tapestry
- 69. H1N1, e.g.
- 70. Two in eighteen
- 71. Orange part
- 72. "____ the season"
- 73. Tent anchor

- DOWN
 - 1. Rider's prod
 - 2. European sea eagle
 - 3. Like old West
 - 4. *Declaration of Independence, e.g.
 - 5. Roundabout road
 - 6. None of this for the weary
 - 7. Friend from Provence
 - 8. Snowbird
 - 9. Type of list
 - 10. Multicolored horse
 - 11. Jumpy
 - 12. Cyclops had one
 - 15. Major source of lead
 - 20. Bullying, e.g.
 - 22. Be obliged to pay
 - 24. Deep regret
 - 25. *Between red and blue
 - 26. Shakespeare: "Thou call'st me dog before thou ____ a cause..."
 - 27. Islam's Supreme Being
 - 29. *Will be," according to Day
 - 31. *East India Company ware, pl.
 - 32. Bay window
 - 33. Kind of pie
 - 34. * ____ Floss
 - 36. Type of seabird
 - 38. Often symbolized by light bulb
 - 42. Like a beaver
 - 45. Form of civil disobedience, pl.
 - 49. Post-Soviet Union union
 - 51. *"Independence Day" invaders
 - 54. Blue and white pottery style
 - 56. Brightly colored snake of southeastern Asia
 - 57. Wrap up in cerecloth
 - 58. One in a million
 - 59. Russian mountain range
 - 60. Therefore
 - 61. Highest volcano in Europe
 - 62. Like those who will inherit earth
 - 63. Gaelic
 - 64. Once around
 - 66. He stung like a bee?

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.

What Goes up Must come Down

Dear Dave, I'm about to graduate from college, and I'm following your plan and trying to focus on my future financial situation. Is the current down economy a cyclical thing and just part of life? - DJ

Dear DJ, It is. There are always cycles in the economy. I know you hear all this talk about this is the worst recession since the Great Depression, but that's a bunch of bull. It was worse in 1982, when the Jimmy Carter era came to a close. We had double-digit inflation, double-digit unemployment and home interest rates were at 17 percent.

The current situation has been kind of long and boring. Things haven't really rebounded quickly. Instead, they've just kind of wallowed around and crawled along. There are a lot of theories as to why it's happened this way, but the truth is it's a part of life. Just like you have good and bad times in your personal life, there will always be good and bad times in your financial life. That's why you need a solid, common-sense financial philosophy that works when things are up and when things are down. The principles I

Dave Says

teach about not having debt and investing conservatively over the long haul work every time.

Right now, I'm tempted to invest like a wild man and put every dollar I can find into investments, because everything is on sale. It's a great time to buy real estate and put money into mutual funds. The best time was about a year and a half ago, but the deals are still there.

Just keep investing and working your plan. The idea that you're graduating at bad time and never going to have a good life is just plain wrong. There's always some good and some bad out there, and the cycles will always come and go.

- Dave

Guidelines for Giving

Dear Dave, My husband and I are debt-free, and we have \$100,000 saved. We like to give, rather than loan, money to family members if they're having financial problems. Can you give us some advice on how to establish giving guidelines? - Susan

Dear Susan, First, you can't give to a level that it starts to make you worry about your future. Your first obligation is to your own household. Once that's done, you can help

family members and your immediate community as best you can without weakening yourself.

The big thing in this scenario, I think, is to make sure you're helping someone get back on their feet. You're not helping when you give a drunk a drink, so you have to ask yourself if your generosity is really helping them or if you're simply enabling irresponsible behavior.

I'm not saying this because I'm a control freak. I'm saying it because I don't believe in investing God's money unless I see a positive return on investment. In human terms, that means helping someone get out of a mess they're in, while at the time seeing that they are working to make sure they never end up back there again. If they're buying cigarettes or lottery tickets with the money, then you're not helping them.

Taking this stance isn't mean, and it doesn't indicate that you don't love your family. It means you're loving them well and want what's best for them.

- Dave

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



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

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.

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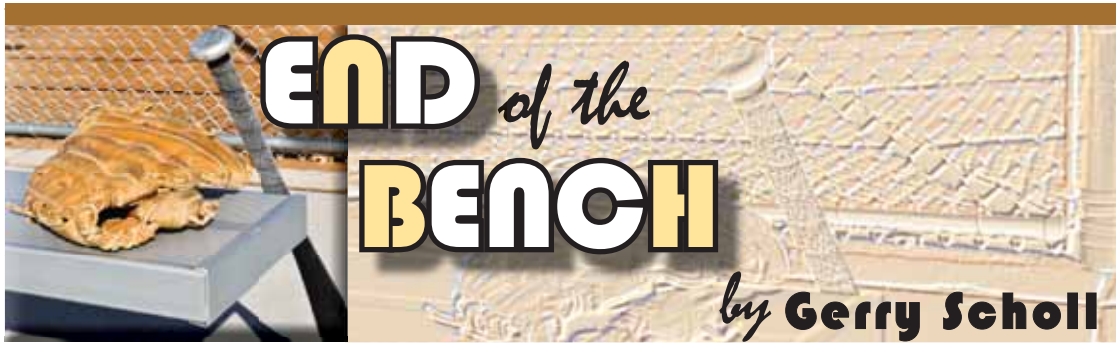
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It All Comes Down to This

It has been a very busy sports world of late and I just can't seem to keep up.

There have been so many good story lines recently, I'm having trouble narrowing things down to focus on just one.

I've been deleting recordings from the DVR that I never had time to watch. Even over Father's Day weekend when there is sort of a right-of-way to do whatever you want, there were ones that got away.

Making a point to see most of the great NBA Finals series between Miami and Oklahoma City, at least I got to see King (LeBron) James turn in an all-time performance (a triple-double in the clinching game, while averaging 30.3 pts. 9.7 rebs., 5.6 asts. per game for the series) in winning his first championship. Despite his shortcomings, James is so exciting to watch. Long live the King.

I almost completely missed the Stanley Cup Finals. It was pretty weird that the heart of the hockey world beat in Los Angeles. The 8th-seed Kings made history, steamrolling all comers through the playoffs, going 16-4 to win the first Cup in the franchise's 45-year history.

I caught a good portion of the final game, when the Kings scored three quick power-play goals to lead 4-0 on the way to a 6-1 rout. A single moment told the story — as players were budgeoning one another on the ice with an Advil advertisement prominent on the boards in the background, the broadcaster said, "What a night of pain!"

Trying to settle into some tennis a couple weeks ago when Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal faced off in the French Open, just because the top men's singles players have been putting on such great shows, my interest was shattered by an 18-hour rain delay. Nadal rallied for his record seventh French Open title the next day, and I missed it. And now here's Wimbledon.

Also this week is the NBA Draft. I don't get too caught up in forecasts, predictions, what-if's and what-should's. I'm an after-the-fact guy when it comes to player drafts — look it over when it's over.

When the Toyota/Save Mart 350 auto-racing banter hit the airwaves last week I just couldn't go there. Certainly the Nascar Sprint Cup race at Sonoma Raceway, won this year by Clint Bowyer, has been a fantastic annual Northern California event for 24 years. After all, 91,000 people can't be that wrong. But it's not likely I'll be getting out there (my hearing is already failing), unless I get an offer I can't refuse. I get a little nervous and claustrophobic in big crowds — anything over 35-40 thousand.

That's the range that showed up at the sold-out Coliseum in Oakland for all three games of the latest version of the Bay Bridge Series. Each game went down to the final batter and each was decided by one run, with the Giants taking two of three — showing good cause to keep inter-league play alive in some form.

Incredibly bad form was on display in a number of other sports stories. Soon after Roger Clemens was getting off in his obstruction-of-justice trial, former Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky was getting his from the jury in his child sex-abuse case, found guilty on 45 counts. Goodbye.

In the aftermath of the Manny Pacquiao-Timothy Bradley fight, it has been determined that boxing is rigged. (Of course, that's not news). Won by Bradley in a controversial decision, the fight was reviewed by the World Boxing Organization, which determined Pacquiao should have been scored the winner. So, what fans want to know is, who really won? Welcome to the rematch. Save your money.

I was even going to check out my recording of the European Championship soccer match between Italy and England. I have trouble hanging in there for the duration when it comes to soccer. When I heard they played for two hours to a scoreless tie and Italy won its way into the semifinals via penalty kicks — I checked out. This may be my link to the age of instant-gratification, and I'm sure this would be considered soccer-heresy, but my suggestion for soccer is to institute a shot-clock. That would force the games' amazingly-talented players to put those talents on display constantly throughout a match in a more aggressive style. A foolish idea, maybe, but an interesting thought. The hooligans are after me!

Also in bad form was Giants struggling former-ace Tim Lincecum (2-8) in his start in the A's series. He allowed three runs and loaded the bases with nobody out in the first inning. But then, hopefully, he turned a corner and returned to his old Cy Young form, striking out the side and not allowing another hit through six innings.

Which leads me to the real story. That's the Giants-Dodgers for three games at AT&T Park. From here, that story rises above all else. By the time you read this, the pennant race between the two will have taken a few dramatic turns. Hope you didn't miss it.



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Proceeds from the concert go to the Fair Oaks Theatre Festival, a non-profit summer theatre company, and the New Christy Minstrels Foundation providing music education, concerts and music to schools throughout the country. Both organizations are Charitable/Education entities under Federal law.

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Get the Most Bang for Your Buck: 2012 Fireworks Buyers Guide

By David Dickstein

Whatever your fireworks budget, getting the most bang for the buck is critical. After all, no one with money to burn, literally, wants to get burned, figuratively, even if it's for a good cause. Because fireworks range widely in performance and price, we put all the new state-approved fireworks for 2012 to the test, along with other individually sold items.

Fireworks are rated on a 5-star scale for performance, duration, distinctiveness and overall comparative value. Judges included firefighters of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Station 65 in Rancho Cordova, where the test was conducted. Products are listed in order of price, high to low.

A tip: Shop early or risk having to choose from items not good enough to make this list, meaning, except with the new stuff, they didn't score at least 4 stars.

Let the sparks fly!

New for 2012



• **Opening Show** (TNT), \$59.99 – Winner of "Best New Finale" honors, this 500-gram marvel is a must-have despite the record-setting price for a California fountain. The spread of sparks at the 2-minute mark is the ultimate crowd-pleaser. Similar, if not identical to Shogun's Tailgate Party found in other states. 130 seconds. 4 1/2 Stars



• **Stacks Up** (TNT), \$39.99 – Out of the fountain's dozen "smokestacks" spews a lack-luster combination of glitter, crackles, chrysanthemums, snow and multi-colored rain. Don't be fooled by labeling that gives the impression this is a 500-gram firework. It's got to be closer to 350. 144 seconds. 3 Stars



• **Peacock Tail Fan Fountain** (Phantom), \$29.99 – Taking top honors as "Best in Show," this isn't the longest fan fountain on the California market, but it is the most impressive. Each stage is different and builds excitement. Dazzles with silver flowers, stars of red, green and blue, and a titanium crackle finish. A must-have. 54 seconds. 5 Stars



• **Independence Day** (TNT), \$19.99 – With a name like that, of course this fountain has sparks of red, white and ... orange, green and purple? Well, it is a free country. Blue isn't the only thing lacking in this long-lasting, but run-of-the-mill rookie. 130 seconds. 2 1/2 Stars



Fireworks are rated on a 5-star scale for performance, duration, distinctiveness and overall comparative value.



• **O-Blivion** (TNT), \$19.99 – This lord of the ring-shaped fountains emits multi-colored chrysanthemums with pine and some of the best titanium crackles of any new firework. 125 seconds. 4 Stars



• **Phantom Joker's Wild** (Phantom), \$9.99 for three – Separately they're a joke. Together they're wild. Distancing the dissimilar trio in the driveway and lighting them simultaneously offers a better performance than many single fountains at the same price. 35



seconds. 4 Stars
• **Parfait Fountain** (TNT), \$6.99 – Its namesake means "perfect" in French, but this freshman falls short of that with middling colorful chrysanthemums and silvery crackles. 59



seconds. 3 1/2 Stars
• **Little Miss** (TNT), \$4.99 – One of the few fireworks named

and labeled to appeal to young girls, this well-priced opening act packs plenty of color plus silver rain and crackles. 47 seconds. 4 Stars

• **14" Morning Glory** (Phantom), \$3.99 for 20 – This newbie handheld measures 3 inches longer than regular morning glories, but 2 of those inches are stick. The extra powder makes for a more intense burn, but peters out 30 seconds quicker. 17 seconds. 2 Stars

• **Phantom Magic Torch** (Phantom), \$2.99 for two – A miniature California candle is all this is. Nothing magical here. 21



seconds. 2 Stars
• **Short & Stout** (TNT), \$1.50 – It's a little teapot, short and stout, it has a handle, it has a spout. More short than stout, but a cute, cheap novelty for kids. 17 seconds. 2 Stars

Best of the Rest (4-5 Stars)

• **Delirium** (TNT), \$49.99 – Fan-shape fountain conserves none of its 500 grams from the get go, making for brief, yet dazzling intensity and beauty. Get ready for a lot of "Are you nuts?" comments from whoever knows the price, which, by the way, went up a Lincoln bill. 133 seconds.

• **New York Harbor** (Phantom), \$39.99 – Stellar burn time and multiple effects, including some of the highest-quality chrysanthemums you can buy. This 500-gram classic proves that not all standard-effect fountains are the same. 195 seconds.

• **Star Voyager** (TNT), \$34.99 – Earned "best new finale" honors last year with a fantastically priced, long-lasting 500-gram performance of bright and crackling titanium bursts that push the 10-foot-high legal limit. A worthy buy even at \$5 more this



year. 173 seconds.
• **Phantom Crown Jewel** (Phantom), \$29.99 – Dazzling 500-gram display of white flowers, colored pearls and crackles, gold chrysanthemums and silver crackle. Packs a wallop, though that also reduces burn time. 90 seconds.

• **Brew Haha** (Phantom), \$29.99 – Beer stein-designed fountain brims over with above-average effects, including a loud opening whistle and a cavalcade of color. Fun packaging. 145 seconds.
• **Alpha Wolf** (Phantom), \$21.99

– Green and purple droplets, gold shower and crackling stars finale are awesome. No whistles, doesn't need them. Up \$2 from last season. 83 seconds.

• **American Spirit** (TNT), \$21.99 plus bonus – Offers up a patriotic blend of red, white and bluish stars, gold showers and decent whistles and crackles. Comes with the boisterous, multi-colored Sizzler Fountain (90 seconds). Pretty good deal even with the \$2 increase. 80 seconds.

• **Molten Pot** (TNT), \$19.99 – Entertaining combo of colorful blooming globs (always a crowd favorite), titanium crackles, fish, glitter and chrysanthemums. 86 seconds.

• **Pyropalooza** (TNT), \$19.99 – Excellent height, crackle and vivid hues – a vivacious visual. 115 seconds.

• **Hasta La Vista Baby** (Phantom), \$19.99 – Like color and hate whistles? Then this is a solid pick with a screech-free spectrum of fast-changing colors. \$3 more this year, but still a winner. 125 seconds.

• **Funky Monkey** (Phantom), \$18.99 – This pyrotechnic primate features red pearls and a solid overall performance. Worth the \$3 increase because of its distinctiveness. 90 seconds.

• **Apache Firedance** (Phantom), \$17.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Makes the list only because of the two-fer deal. Long burn time is overshadowed by low-altitude and humdrum crackles, whistles, white flashes and multi-colored sprays. 210 seconds.

• **Mad Dog** (TNT), \$14.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Amazing crackles, whistles and multi-color sparks are improved by TNT again making this a two-for-one item. 80 seconds.

• **Firecracker Fountain** (Phantom), \$14.99 for two

(buy-one-get-one) – Lives up to its name with a remarkable crackling barrage among multi-



colored pearls. 76 seconds.
• **Phantom Night Owl** (Phantom), \$14.99 – Phantom's only internally glowing fountain has four loud screeches and an exciting overall performance. Eyes and mouth that light up make this item a real hoot and a wise buy, even at \$2 more this year. 65 seconds.

• **Night Treasure** (TNT), \$14.99 – Looks like a fan fountain, and it is, albeit only for the final 22 seconds. Went up \$2, but still a value-priced fan. 98 seconds.

• **Flying Stars** (Phantom), \$12.99 – Fantastic fish-featuring fountain that, because it's noiseless, is also friendly to pets and fuddy-duddy neighbors. 97 seconds.

• **King of Bling** (Phantom), \$12.99 – The crackles heard during the final third sound just like popping popcorn. Majestic chrysanthemums and whistle, even at \$2 more this season. 90 seconds.

• **Volcanic Vortex** (Phantom), \$12.99 for three – Cones usually produce more yawns than

sparks, but not this awesomely intense trio. Definitely worth the \$2 increase. 45 seconds each.

• **L.O.L.** (TNT), \$11.99 – The eyes and mouth of the clown face glow from within, making for loads of fun right after an opening shriek. Hope you're sitting down -- the price actually went down a buck from last year. 61 seconds.

• **Radiant** (TNT), \$10 – This instant classic debuted last season and got a rare 5 of 5 stars for stunning performance and price, which TNT hasn't changed. This solid buy pushes the legal limit for spreading sparks. 93 seconds.

• **Luck of the Irish** (TNT), \$9.99 – This classic fountain features gold and silver spray, red and green balls, crackles and four super-loud whistles. 75 seconds.

• **Lil Red Devil** (TNT), \$8.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Packs plenty of heat for the size and price. Ends strong with titanium crackling sparks spreading out an impressive 9 feet. 35 seconds.

• **Pink Diamonds** (TNT), \$7.99 – Not much pink in the fireworks marketplace, so props to this unique item still modestly



priced with a dollar increase. 46 seconds.

• **Phantom Mystical Magic** (Phantom), \$6.99 – Fleeting duration, but love those multi-colored, marble-sized blooming globs and a new price that proves last year's \$8.99 for two offer was mystically crazy. 32 seconds.

• **Phantom Dragon Slayer** (Phantom), \$6.99 – Got some white, blue and lemon chrysanthemums, rowdy crackles and red stars going on. 66 seconds.

• **Electrical Shock** (Phantom), \$5.99 – Red and green showers give way to a raucous whistling and crackling finale. Fantastic buy. 121 seconds.

• **Moondance** (Phantom), \$3.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) -- 4-inch dynamo spews loud crackles, purple pearls and glittering gold and white sparks. [Note:

Happy Fourth of July to All Our Readers!



Buy Fireworks from Your Local Charities to Support Them!



DWR Director Approves Climate Action Plan to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Water Resources released a plan this week (June 11th) to dramatically curtail its greenhouse gas emissions in coming decades. The plan approved recently by DWR Director Mark Cowin shows how the department can cut release of gases linked to global warming by 50 percent below 1990 levels within the next seven years. The plan also sets the stage for an 80 percent emissions reduction by 2050.

DWR operates the 700-mile-long State Water Project, which pumps water from Northern California rivers to the San Francisco Bay Area, Silicon Valley, Southern California cities, and Central Valley farms. The department both uses and generates large amounts of electricity in the course of moving water. DWR estimates that its total greenhouse gas emissions in 1990 were nearly 3.5 million metric tons, roughly equivalent to the emissions of 680,000 cars operating for a year.

Measures in the department's climate action plan include:

- termination of a contract with a coal-fired power plant

in Nevada that accounts for roughly 30 percent to 50 percent of the department's operational emissions;

- increasing the efficiency of pumps and turbines throughout the State Water Project system with state-of-the-art design, construction, and refurbishing;

- boosting the proportion of electricity consumed by the State Water Project that comes from renewable and high-efficiency natural gas-fired sources;

- exploring ways to develop renewable energy on land owned by DWR, such as installing solar panels on land adjacent to pumping plants;

- changing construction practices to minimize fuel consumption and landfill waste;

- participating in the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's Greenery program, which will ensure that much of DWR's office space in Sacramento is powered by renewable sources;

- and buying 2,580 metric tons of carbon offsets each year of the next decade to fund projects that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"In total, these measures are expected to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 by more than 1 million metric tons and by more than 2.5 million metric tons in 2050," said DWR Director Mark Cowin, who approved the plan on May 24. "These are significant impacts in terms of climate change adaptation for California's benefit."

Global warming has huge implications for California water resources, in particular the Sierra snowpack that supplies most of the state's urban and agricultural water users. Global warming is shifting the precipitation mix in California in favor of more rain-fall and less snow, and the Sierra snowpack is melting earlier in the spring, leading to reduced water availability later in the year when demand is high.

Sea level rise associated with global warming threatens coastal lands and infrastructure, and puts additional stress on levees in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the heart of California's water supply system. DWR's greenhouse gas reduction plan outlines steps DWR has taken and will take to reduce its emissions consistent with the Global

Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) and Executive Order S-3-05, which establish emissions reduction targets for the State of California, and with DWR's Sustainability Policy and Targets.

The plan was provided to other state agencies, the State Water (Project) Contractors and the public for review and comment through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. More information on this plan --- known officially as the DWR Climate Action Plan Phase I: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan--- is available online at <http://www.water.ca.gov/climatechange/CAP.cfm>

In addition to operating the State Water Project, DWR maintains levees throughout the Central Valley; reviews and manages grant and local assistance programs; plans, builds and manages a range of water supply, flood control and environmental restoration projects; and regulates the safety of the majority of dams in California. Performing these activities can result in the release of greenhouse gas emissions.

Sacramento County Moves Towards Paperless Personnel System

SACRAMENTO – With the Board of Supervisors' June 12 approval of the purchase of updates for the "SAP" system, Sacramento County is on the way to a paperless personnel system.

"Reducing time and paper consumption in personnel operation for more than 10,000 employees will result in significant savings," said Brad Hudson, County Executive. "With continued downward pressure on local budgets, it's imperative that we use technology to streamline and improve operations wherever possible." The Department of Technology will implement the system upgrade and hopes to have the new improvements online within months.

The software package is an

extension of the current County Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERP) known as COMPASS, installed in 1999. The improvement package will allow employees across the organization to access, update and print their personnel forms rather than contacting someone in Personnel Services to input the information, email confirmations or print and interoffice forms to employees. It is an intuitive system, easy and flexible to use, and allows for improved process transparency and audit readiness.

Funding for the \$224,770 software purchase will come from the Department of Personnel Services and is expected to save more than \$500,000 over the next five years.

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