



# Merry Christmas!



# Carmichael Times

Volume 31 • Issue 51

Serving Carmichael and Sacramento County since 1981

December 21, 2011

## Slaton Elected SMUD Board Vice President



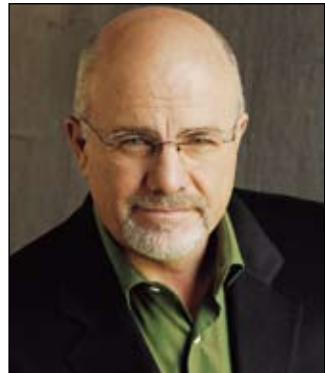
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## Gifts from Home for the Holidays



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## Sound Financial Advice from Dave Ramsey



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Change Service Requested

# Santa Checks Carmichael List



Santa Checks His List Twice Before Visiting Carmichael

# Carmichael Water District Responds to Public Hearing

By Chris Nelson, Pio, CWD

CARMICHAEL – On December 12, 2011 the Carmichael Water District (District) Board of Directors held a public hearing to give rate payers an opportunity to voice their opinion regarding the District's proposed revenue increase. In attendance were 89 members of the public. Of the 89 attendees 24 chose to speak regarding the proposed increase.

Prior to the public hearing ratepayers were afforded the opportunity to submit a written protest to the District. Only 284 written protests were submitted to the District.

During the District's rate study, rates were analyzed and assumptions taken into account anticipated fluctuations along with the new requirement of the State of California's 2009 Water Conservation Act calling for the reduction of water production by 20% by the year 2020. For Fiscal year 2011-2012 the District rate study planned for water production to drop to about 15% of the historic average. The past 12 months actual water production figures are 25% lower than the District's historical average and 5% lower than the State of California's 2009 Water Conservation Act.

Typical of all water utilities, 80% of CWD's costs to provide water service to our customers are fixed costs and 20% variable. Over the past few years, the District experienced increases in these costs due to economic and regulatory conditions. Those increased expenditures were: Power, Chemicals, Fuel & transportation, Materials.

CWD acted to reduce expenses significantly based on projected shortfalls. The results are a 10% reduction for the FY 2011-2012 budget. The cuts are: 1) Layoff of 5 employees, 2) A reduction in pay and frozen wages for management/exempt employees,

3) There will be no cost of living increases and the pay scale has been frozen for all non-represented employees, 4) Significant reductions in the District's Operation and Maintenance budget, 5) Reduction of the meter installation program 6) Reduction in capital improvement projects until further notice.

When water consumption falls so do revenues, even though the fixed costs remain the same. Even with severe budget cuts, an increase in revenue is necessary in order to safely operate and maintain the District's water system.

## Sac Metro Fire Announces Board Vacancy

SACRAMENTO REGION – The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District is accepting applications to fill a vacant position of Director for Division 4 on its nine-member Board of Directors. The selected applicant will serve the remainder of a four-year term expiring the first week of December, 2012. Applicants must be a registered voter, residing within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District.

While all interested applicants within the District will be considered, preference will be given to applicants from Division 4. The approximate boundaries for Division 4 are Elkhorn Boulevard to Auburn Boulevard on the north, Cypress Avenue to Edison Avenue on the South, Manzanita Avenue on the east, and Watt Avenue to Elkhorn Boulevard on the west.

Interested persons may apply for the position by submitting the Board of Directors District Employment Application and a letter of interest to Board Clerk Charlotte Tilson, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, 10545 Armstrong Avenue, Suite 200, Mather CA 95655. Application must be received by noon on Friday, January 6, 2012. A Special Board of Directors meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Rancho Cordova City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA for the purpose of interviewing qualified candidates.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Charlotte Tilson, Clerk of the Board, at 859-4305, or visiting the District website at [www.sacmetrofire.ca.gov](http://www.sacmetrofire.ca.gov) for the Board of Directors District Employment Application form and division map. Posted: 12/12/2011.

## Unclaimed Checks Listed on SMUD.org

SACRAMENTO REGION – The Sacramento Municipal Utility District has posted the names of customers and vendors with checks dated October 1, 2008 or earlier who have not yet cashed them. The list of names will remain online until December 27, 2011.

Each year SMUD posts this information in an effort to locate the money's rightful owner. Claims against these uncashed checks should be filed on or before December 27, 2011 with SMUD Unclaimed Monies, 6201 S Street, Mail Stop B302, Sacramento, CA 95817-1899 or by calling (916) 732-5556. Replacement checks will be issued only to the payee whose name is on the list. Checks not claimed by December 27, 2011 become SMUD property under California Code Section 50050-50056.



[www.CarmichaelTimes.com](http://www.CarmichaelTimes.com)



# Slaton Elected SMUD Board Vice President



**Bill Slaton, elected vice president of the SMUD Board of Directors**  
SACRAMENTO – Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Director Bill Slaton

was elected vice president of the SMUD Board of Directors. His term as vice president will run from January 2012 through December 2012. Slaton was first elected to the SMUD Board of Directors in November 2002 and represents the customers of Ward 7, which includes North Highlands, Carmichael, Antelope and Foothill Farms. He served as Board President in 2005. A Sacramento-area resident since 1974, Slaton is active in community and religious affairs throughout the region. Slaton is a former chairman of the board of KVIE-Channel 6, Sacramento's public television station. He is the current Audit Chair for the station. Slaton is a former member of Point West Rotary and the

WEAVE Business Advisory Council. Slaton served three terms as president of the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region and is a co-founder of the Jewish Community Foundation of the West. Slaton graduated from the University of Texas with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He retired in 2002 after a 33-year career in technology and finance. From 1997 until 2007 he served on the boards of directors of Sacramento Commercial Bank and Placer Sierra Bancshares, a statewide bank holding company. Director Nancy Bui-Thompson was elected president. Bui-Thompson was elected to the SMUD Board of Directors in 2008.

# Gifts From Home for the Holidays



3 1/2-inch foil loaf pans with no-stick cooking spray. Stir together all bread ingredients in large bowl until well blended. Divide batter among prepared pans.  
2. Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pans 5 minutes. Remove and cool completely on wire rack. Wrap and store in refrigerator. Serve with Orange Butter or Chocolate Hazelnut Spread, if desired.

Makes 4 small loaves.

**Orange Butter:** Beat 1/2 cup softened butter in small bowl with electric mixer at medium speed until light and fluffy. Beat in 1 teaspoon grated orange peel and 1 tablespoon orange juice. Store in refrigerator. Bring to room temperature before serving. Makes 3/4 cup.

**Chocolate Hazelnut Spread:** Grind 1 1/2 cups toasted hazelnuts and 1/4 teaspoon salt in food processor until very fine and getting creamy. Add 1/2 cup powdered sugar and 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips, melted. Pulse until blended. Store in refrigerator. Bring to room temperature before serving. Makes 1 cup.

Crisco is a trademark of The J.M. Smucker Company.



(NewsUSA) – If it's truly better to give than to receive, why not give more than gifts from the store this holiday season? Home-baked treats are the perfect way to warm a heart and satisfy a sweet tooth for the people on your "nice" list.

"Take a break from the hustle and bustle of holiday shopping, and spend a pleasant day in your cozy kitchen making home-baked gifts, like little loaves of Chocolate Hazelnut Fruit Bread," said Martha White & Reg, baking expert Linda Carman. "Giving someone a homemade gift is special because it's a priceless gift of your time."

To make your gift even more meaningful, consider pairing the mini loaves with a wooden cutting board, a spreader and a small butter crock filled with a

homemade spread that's delicious and easy to make.

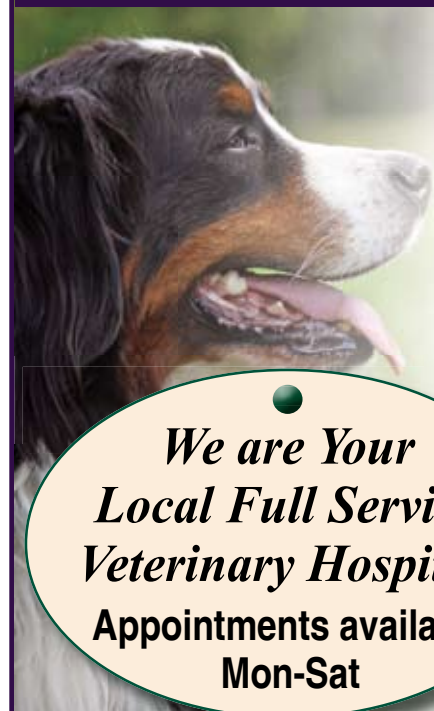
## Chocolate Hazelnut Fruit Bread

**Bread**  
Crisco & reg; Original No-Stick Cooking Spray  
2 (7.4 oz.) pkgs. Martha White Chocolate Chip Muffin Mix  
1/2 cup sour cream  
3/4 cup milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
3/4 cup mashed ripe banana (about 2 large)  
1 cup fresh cranberries, coarsely chopped  
3/4 cup chopped hazelnuts

## Orange Butter and/or Chocolate Hazelnut Spread, optional (below)

1. Heat oven to 350 degreeF. Coat bottoms only of four 6 x

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Graphics & Layout: Banerjee Designs • Stump Removal Graphics

Contributing Writers: Susan Skinner • Mary Jane Popp • Marlys Johnsen Norris • Tim Reilly  
David Dickstein • Dave Ramsey • Dr. E. Kirsten Peters • Kay Burton  
Dr. Bob Graykowski • Julie Parker • Leslie Carrara  
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Accounting: RJ at thesitebarn.com • JWS Promotions • Mikahn Design

Web Master: Whiskey & Gunpowder • StatePoint Media • NewsUSA • PRWEB NewsWire

News Services: North American Precis Syndicate • Blue Ridge Press • ARA Content  
California News Service • Family Features • WorldNetDaily

Photography: Amanda Morello • Susan Skinner

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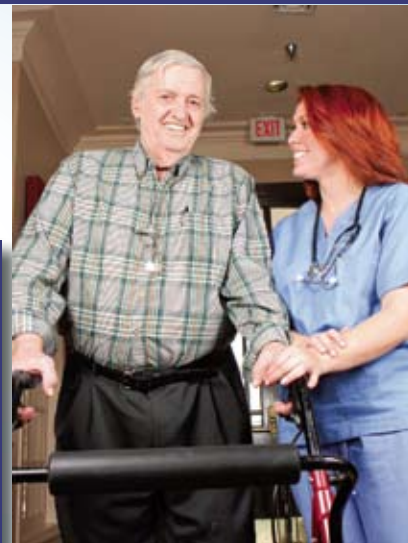
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# A Slice of Carmichael for Christmas

**A** book that received three statewide awards – for portraying a small American town in the process of change – will be offered in Carmichael at a Holiday bargain price.

In tune with the economy, Susan Maxwell Skinner is discounting her limited edition “Carmichael – Americana on the Move” to \$18. The \$8 saving continues through January 1st. As an author gift, each purchase includes a free CD of the popular “Carmichael Song,” written by Susan and recorded with the John Skinner band. Susan’s book on Princess Diana – based on her years as a Buckingham Palace correspondent – is available at the same discounted price.

Singer and photojournalist Maxwell Skinner produced her Carmichael opus in 2006, as “a history book for the future.” Already, many businesses and buildings featured in the book have vanished. With hundreds of color pictures and captions, the book is considered an easy way to learn about our 102 year old community’s history, traditions, beauty spots, wildlife and eccentricities. Each copy can be signed and dedicated to the recipient on request. Learn about “Carmichael Americana on the Move” at [www.susanmaxwellskinner.com](http://www.susanmaxwellskinner.com).



Carmichael photos include many antique buildings. Left: the 150-year-old Rancho del Paso farmhouse remains stately in Carmichael. Right: a water tank tower near Mission Ave. Photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner.

This Holiday discount applies only to books purchased directly from the author. Contact Susan for this offer at (916) 481-0334.

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To find out if your home was randomly selected to participate in this pilot, visit [smud.org/smartpricing](http://smud.org/smartpricing) or call 1-855-736-7655.



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Dr. Bob Graykowski



*When you cut your finger, it bleeds within seconds. When you break your leg, the bone snaps immediately. But when you suffer a whiplash injury, you may not know it for months – even years.*

Many patients fail to connect the trauma with their current condition. Why? Because months – or years – passed before the onset of pain or because the accident was minor and they experienced no initial symptoms. However, delayed onset whiplash associated disorder (DOWAD) is a well-documented, common instigator of neck, head and shoulder pain.

Chiropractors are concerned about the lack of public awareness regarding DOWAD, a condition that causes thousands of individuals to suffer needlessly.

**The Biomechanics of Whiplash Injury**

When a vehicle is rear-ended, the victim's head and neck are hurled back and up. Next, the head and torso are thrown forward against the seat belt and shoulder harness. This abrupt back and forth movement forces the neck beyond its normal physiological limits. Muscles, ligaments and tendons are pulled and torn. Injuries such as strains, sprains and concussion result. In addition, *vertebral subluxation* occurs.

**Whiplash Symptoms Often Delayed and Devastating to Your Long Term Spinal Health**

(Areas in the spine where movement is restricted or spinal vertebral bones move slightly out of alignment.)

Scientific studies confirm that whiplash symptoms may take months or years to appear. Whiplash-induced vertebral subluxations spark biomechanical shifts in the spine – including a reversal of the neck's normal curve.

Specific indicators predict a delayed or complicated recovery. Symptoms associated with a poor long-term outcome are: impaired neck movement, history of headache, history of head trauma, advanced age, neck pain and nervousness.

A comprehensive assessment immediately following injury enables chiropractors to identify patients at risk of delayed recovery and to focus on preventing DOWAD.

**But My Car's OK...**

Whiplash doesn't have to involve high-speed or high-impact collisions to spur vertebral subluxations and related disorders. Most injuries occur at six to 12 miles per hour, according to the Spine Research Institute of San Diego.

In addition to car accidents, amusement park rides can also trigger whiplash injuries. Even extended bouts of coughing – associated with chronic allergies or bronchitis – can cause whiplash injuries.

**Why Choose Chiropractic for Whiplash Relief?**

A study published in the *Journal of Orthopedic Medicine* highlights the superiority of chiropractic care for chronic whiplash patients. The report showed that spinal manipulation, which chiropractors call chiropractic adjustments, is more effective than other options in mitigating long-term whiplash pain.

In addition to adjustments, chiropractors advise patients to engage in specific exercises. Studies show that active treatment (exercise and physiotherapy) is far superior to rest and soft collar use.

**Don't Take Risks with Your Health**

It's imperative to have a chiropractic checkup whenever you are involved in a motor vehicle accident – even one that seems like "no big deal". Although immediate intervention is preferable, it's never too late. If you did not visit a chiropractor after a precious accident, do so now. Even a fender-bender that occurred 30 years ago and produced to symptoms may have spurred the subtle spinal shifts that provoked DOWAD.

Although DOWAD is common, the general public remains largely unaware of the condition. Please help educate others and spare them from chronic pain. Share this article with your friends and family who have been involved in an automobile collision or any other accident. Learn more about our community office; find us on Facebook-Chiropractic-USA.

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**Carmichael Chamber of Commerce**

**Kitty's Glitter • Friday, January 6, 2012**

Start Time: 6:30 pm End Time: 9:30 pm  
Location: La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road Carmichael CA 95608 US

Carmichael Chamber of Commerce will honor broadcaster and humanitarian Kitty O'Neal of KFBK Radio as 2012 Carmichael Person of the Year. Also honored will be Earl "Ranger Jack" Koobs as Veteran of the Year and Lola and Jim Warrick as Patriots of the Year.

Admission is \$50 per person (includes dinner and a no host bar) Corporate and table sponsorships are available. This event is a fundraiser for the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce. A portion of the proceeds will go to assist The Sacramento Children's Home.

Online reservations close on January 2, 2012.  
Contact: Linda Melody  
Email: linda@carmichaelchamber.com  
Phone: 481-1002 or 203-1681

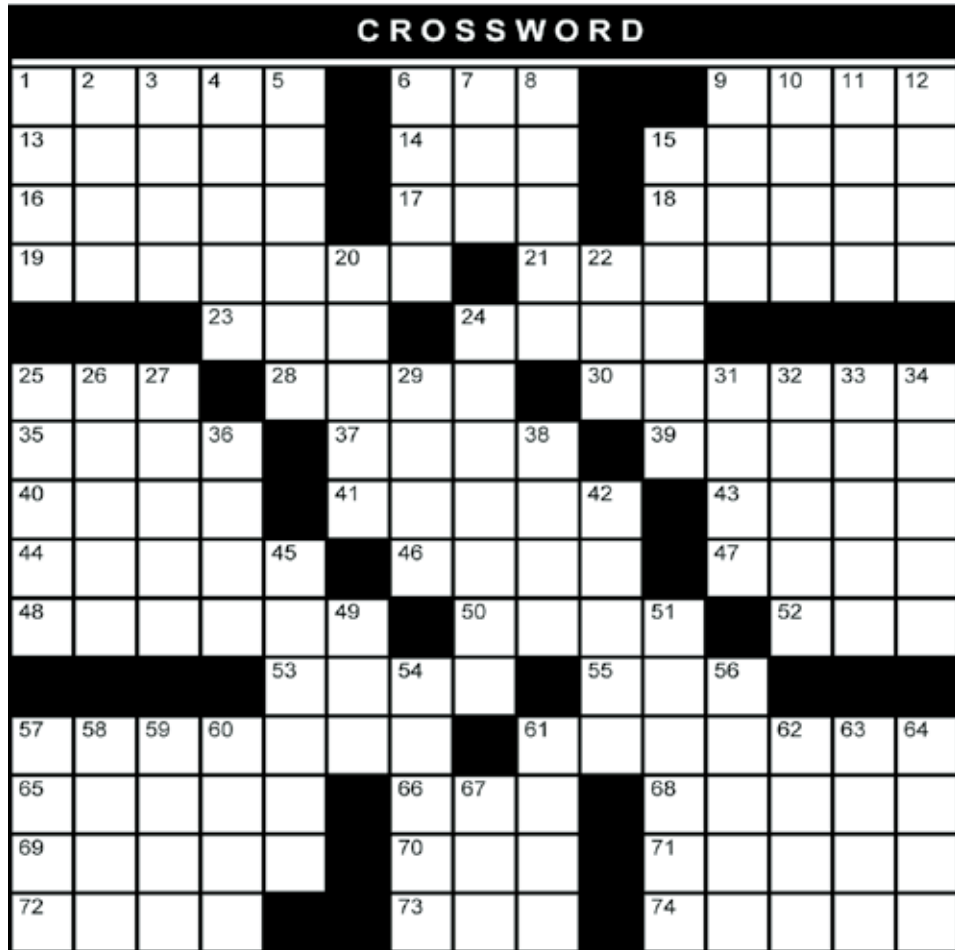
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Contact us for more information on the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce  
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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • 2011 IN REVIEW



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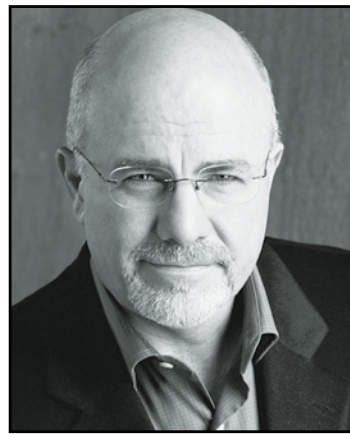


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CLUES

- ACROSS
- 1. Presumptuously daring
  - 6. He has final say at the plate
  - 9. Where to get pampered, pl.
  - 13. Scoundrel
  - 14. Needlefish
  - 15. Diver's lung
  - 16. Independent African ruler
  - 17. Big Island necklace
  - 18. Type of paint
  - 19. "Deposed despot"
  - 21. "Atlantis was the last one"
  - 23. Right-angle building extension
  - 24. Another spelling for #16
  - 25. \_\_\_ Bon Jovi
  - 28. Like Jekyll and Hyde's personality
  - 30. "Arab \_\_\_"
  - 35. Stratfor-upon-\_\_\_, Shakespeare's birthplace
  - 37. "The Man Who \_\_\_ Too Much"
  - 39. Become established
  - 40. Holy Father
  - 41. It cuts edge of yard
  - 43. \_\_\_ Verde National Park
  - 44. A rooster to farmers?
  - 46. Ready and eager
  - 47. Eurasian duck
  - 48. Scandinavian, e.g.
  - 50. It can be wringed?
  - 52. Greed or sloth, e.g.
  - 53. Diamonds or hearts, e.g.
  - 55. Nervous twitching
  - 57. "They were super"
  - 61. "Royal beau"
  - 65. Autumn color
  - 66. Witness
  - 68. Polynesian kingdom
  - 69. Like a new car
  - 70. Employ
  - 71. Homework assignment
  - 72. "Pitched at Occupy Wall Street"
  - 73. 6th sense?
  - 74. Reminiscent of the past
- DOWN
- 1. Big talk
  - 2. "Rome" in Italy
  - 3. Matured, as in wine
  - 4. Like Elvis's famous shoes
  - 5. Official messenger of news
  - 6. Tangerine/grapefruit hybrid
  - 7. Legendary West
  - 8. Rainbow-producing device
  - 9. Jazz singing
  - 10. Stroke on a green
  - 11. Cain's unfortunate brother
  - 12. Original home of the Saxons
  - 15. Eats noisily
  - 20. Stroke of luck
  - 22. Her counterpart
  - 24. Graceful or refined
  - 25. "Site of nuclear disaster"
  - 26. Convex molding
  - 27. With no face value
  - 29. "Retired from '60 Minutes"
  - 31. Roentgen Equivalent Man, pl.
  - 32. Particulars
  - 33. One born to Japanese immigrants
  - 34. Chewed on
  - 36. Smart but awkward
  - 38. "The Way We \_\_\_"
  - 42. Straight muscles
  - 45. It loves company
  - 49. Mixed breed puppy
  - 51. Out of \_\_\_
  - 54. October's "Time," e.g.
  - 56. Bring to an end
  - 57. Well-mannered Emily
  - 58. Heart feeling
  - 59. Body part that can double
  - 60. Superman's last name
  - 61. "Read'em and \_\_\_"
  - 62. In or of the present month
  - 63. Petri dish gel
  - 64. \_\_\_ Clinic
  - 67. Female suffix

For Solution See Page 7



Dave Says

Dave Ramsey is a personal money management expert, popular national radio personality and the author of three New York Times bestsellers - *The Total Money Makeover*, *Financial Peace Revisited* and *More Than Enough*. In them, Ramsey exemplifies his life's work of teaching others how to be financially responsible, so they can acquire enough wealth to take care of loved ones, live prosperously into old age, and give generously to others.

Where Does the Donation Go?

Dear Dave,  
Our financial situation is pretty good now, and my husband and I feel it is time to start giving something back. There are several organizations we're interested in helping, but how can we know if they're legitimate and will use our money wisely?

- Laura

Dear Laura,  
I really appreciate your giving spirit, but the truth is you can never be 100 percent certain about this kind of thing. About the best you can do is put in some serious time researching and digging beneath the surface of various organizations to find

some that are a comfortable fit for you.

My wife and I give the majority of our donations to Christian ministries. It's not unusual for us to take a tour of the place to see what kind of feel we get while we're there. If they're secretive or not forthcoming with what we consider to be basic information about how they operate, or if we see signs of opulence or super-luxury, you can bet we'll be asking lots of questions.

Talk to the leaders and administrators about what they plan to do with the money from your donation. You have a right to know this. I mean, if they're going to give the money to hurricane victims, you want the victims to get the money, right?

People who work for a charitable organization need to make a decent living just like everyone else. But if they're ultra-rich, it could be a sign that they're not being responsible with their donations. Take a look at their administrative costs - what percentage of donations goes directly to the cause - and anything else you feel would help you make the right decision.

Giving is like anything else. It takes time and work to do it responsibly and with excellence!

- Dave

Where Does Debt Go When Filing Bankruptcy?

Dear Dave,  
What happens to the money that is owed when someone files

bankruptcy? Do creditors just have to write it off, or do other people pay the price through taxes or higher interest rates?

- Grace

Dear Grace,

In most cases the creditor just loses the money. That's one of the risks businesses face. Of course, any bankruptcy is also a seriously bad mark against the filer's credit record.

Chapter 13 filings may be considered a little less severe than Chapter 7 because you're showing an interest in retiring the debts. They often allow - if you have a regular income and limited debt - to keep some of the property you might otherwise lose. Also, some debt balances may be partially discharged, with the filer agreeing to make monthly payments to the trustee for distribution among remaining creditors.

A Chapter 7 bankruptcy is lots tougher on the one who files. It involves liquidating all assets that aren't exempt. Some of the filer's property may be sold by a court-appointed official - a trustee - or just turned over to creditors.

It's really a lose-lose situation, Grace. The business loses money, and the filer suffers the emotional pain of participating in a shameful process.

- Dave

\* For more financial help, please visit [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com).



Foster Care

The need is great for loving, safe homes for foster children ages 0-18 & pregnant/parenting teens.

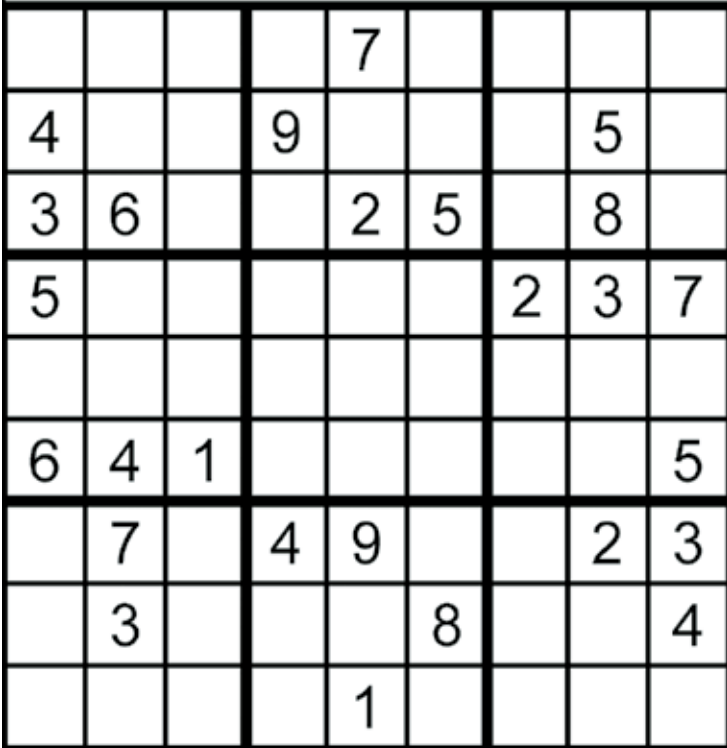
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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For Solution See Page 7.

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Weekly Support Meeting for Widowed Men and Women

Ongoing Program - Weekly throughout the year

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  
Office Hours 10:0 am - 3:00 pm  
Monday through Friday  
916-972-9722



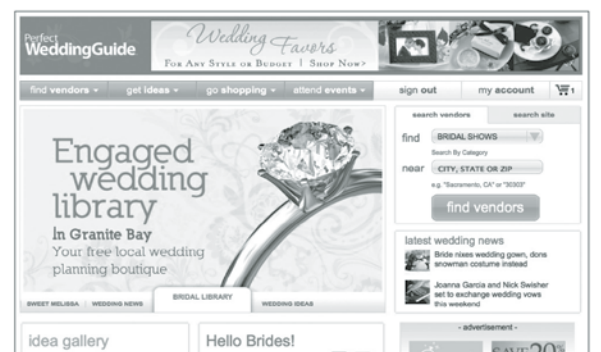
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# California State Board of Equalization Specialists Verify Business Permits

## Businesses in Specific Zip Codes Notified of Upcoming Visits

The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) announced December 16th that letters were sent to more than 20,600 retail businesses in 22 different zip codes statewide, notifying them of upcoming visits by BOE specialists. Businesses receiving letters this month include Carmichael (95608), Citrus Heights (95621) and Elk Grove (95624).

These visits are part of the Statewide Compliance and Outreach Program (SCOP) that was launched in September 2008. The BOE specialists have visited more than 270,000 businesses statewide, with 384 zip codes receiving notifications. The goal of the SCOP program is to provide outreach, educate business owners on their sales and use tax reporting responsibilities, and increase tax compliance to help make our tax system fair.

One of the main functions of the program is to verify that all businesses are properly registered so there are no noncompliant businesses with an unfair advantage over those businesses

that are properly registered and reporting their taxes and/or fees. The SCOP program has found that about 2 percent of businesses operating in California do so without the appropriate permits or licenses that allow for collection of sales and use tax, as well as other taxes and fees. Non-compliance is a part of the more than \$2 billion sales and use tax gap — the difference between the amount of taxes owed and the amount of taxes paid.

The BOE specialists conduct checks for seller's permits of all storefronts and other known business locations. When the specialists visit, business owners are asked business-related questions but are not asked for personal financial information. If an owner has specific questions about the inquiries from the BOE specialists, they should call their local SCOP Team (SCOP contact information). For general information, contact the Taxpayer Information Call Center at 800-400-7115.

There are seven teams of approximately eight people each,

located throughout the state, that conduct door-to-door visits based on zip code. Registered retailers, as well as service industry businesses, will be checked for appropriate permits and licenses. Those businesses found to be out of compliance will be given instructions on how to register with the BOE and given information about other necessary licenses. The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board.

The BOE collects more than \$50 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov). For more information on the Statewide Compliance and Outreach Program (SCOP), visit [www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/SCOP\\_Overview.htm](http://www.boe.ca.gov/sutax/SCOP_Overview.htm).

# Submission of Alumni "Pay it Forward" in Support of Education

Editorial from Vinnie Guidera

When funding for education gets tight, non-profit education foundations can play an important role, but only with the help of the community.

The phrase "budget cuts" is dreaded by both parents and educators. Schools already seriously impacted by fewer resources and larger classrooms struggle to provide the quality of education that will enable future generations to be competitive in a global economy.

One glimmer of hope for public schools in the absence of sufficient government funding is the assistance of nonprofit agencies. One such organization is San Juan Education Foundation (SJEF), which provides direct-to-teacher grants in support of science, technology, arts, and reading—the programs that suffer the most from cuts to education.

Money for these grants comes from various sources. Recently, SJEF held its annual "Evening with the STARS" event, which boasted a night of upscale entertainment.

This year's event included appearances by distinguished alumni from San Juan schools, such as bassist Timothy B. Schmit of The Eagles, journalist Joan Lunden, Olympic medalist swimmer Debbie Meyer, and Hollywood car king George Barris, with MC duties by Emmy award winning comedian Jack Gallagher. These entertainers lent their celebrity to support the education system that enabled them to follow their dreams. SJEF's fall event is followed in the spring by a golf tournament and a 5K run.

In addition to events, the Foundation relies on individual and corporate donations as well as entrepreneurial activities like an online store with over 1,300

participating vendors and a car donation program.

Organizations like the San Juan Education Foundation can only thrive with the support of community members, especially alumni. Even smaller contributions enable education foundations to continue their investment in the community's future. Many students have reaped the rewards of learning programs supported by SJEF over the years. For those who do, many recognize a responsibility to "pay it forward."

The continued success of non-profit organizations like SJEF and their contribution toward improving our education system depends on a community that gives back. I hope more alumni will consider donating financially as well as volunteering to support our schools.

Vinnie Guidera is a student at CSU Sacramento, studying Public Relations.

# PG&E Making \$148 Million in Property Tax Payments to California Counties

SACRAMENTO – More than \$148 million is on its way to 49 California counties, as Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) delivers its property tax payments.

The amount, which PG&E is paying this week to the counties in which it operates, represents full, timely payment of property taxes due for the last six months of 2011, from July 1 to December 31.

"Local governments are tackling public safety, environmental protection, health care, and education needs with limited financial resources these days," said Mark Caron, PG&E's vice president of tax. "Our timely and substantial payments to

local governments for property taxes and other fees will help communities address those vital services."

The company's total tax payments to counties for the last six months of 2011 increased by almost \$7.5 million over the same period in 2010. The overall increase is tied to higher assessments as PG&E invests in key infrastructure projects throughout its Northern and Central California service area. PG&E's investments have included building new power-generating stations and upgrading equipment to boost electric reliability.

Local counties are receiving the following property tax payments: Colusa, \$4,385,070; El

Dorado, \$1,059,344; Nevada, \$883,337; Placer, \$3,382,563; Sacramento, \$2,859,800; Sierra, \$60,220; Solano, \$3,702,681; Yolo, \$1,495,882; and Yuba, 1,024,243.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to 15 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit <http://www.pge.com/about/newsroom/>.

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# Arts, Entertainment and Other Fun Things to do!



## E-Waste Recycling Fundraiser at Dewey Fundamental Elementary School

**It's Free!!!**



Do you have an old computer lying around?  
Telephone/Cell Phone? Stereo? Clock?TV? VCR/ DVD player? Printer? Fax? Copier?

Dewey School PFO (Parent Faculty Organization) and Advanced Computer Recycling are organizing a recycling day at Dewey Fundamental Elementary School located at 7025 Falcon Road in Fair Oaks on Saturday, January 7, 2012, from 9:00a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (rain or shine)

Please bring any office equipment that you no longer use and drop it off for FREE and help Dewey School earn money. We will accept almost all electronic equipment (except for kitchen appliances). Please visit [www.acrinc.biz](http://www.acrinc.biz) to see a list of acceptable items.

Please mark your calendars for this great program!  
Call Dewey School at 916-867-2020, if you have further questions.

**PLEASE DON'T THROW THEM AWAY!**

## COMPUTER CLASSES

Computer Classes for seniors 50+ are run by senior volunteers at the beginning of each month.

Classes include: Computer Fundamentals I & II, Internet, Windows Vista/7, Quicken, Graphics I & II, Genealogy, Spreadsheet, and Database.

The lessons are from six to eight sessions (2 1/2 hours a session) on MWF or T/Th from 9:30 a.m. – noon or 1 – 3:30 p.m.

**Cost: \$30.**

Need volunteers.

**Info: SeniorNet at (916) 485-9572.**



## Carmichael Recreation and Park District is announcing these upcoming events

*Happy Holidays!*

### Get in Shape Programs

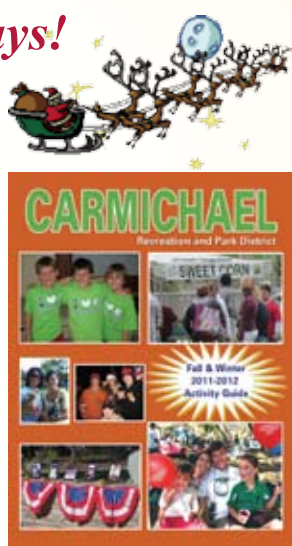
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See website for more programs.



See our website for our Fall & Winter Activity Guide

For more information call the District at (916) 485-5322 or visit our web page at [www.carmichaelpark.com](http://www.carmichaelpark.com).

## New Year's Eve Ball

Friday, December 30 ♦ 1:15-3:45pm  
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  - Washington DC October 1-16, 2012 • \$2,329 pp double
- Monthly newsletter available online and at the community center for additional classes and events.  
For more information call (916) 972-0336 or go to [www.morpd.com](http://www.morpd.com).

## Happy Holidays



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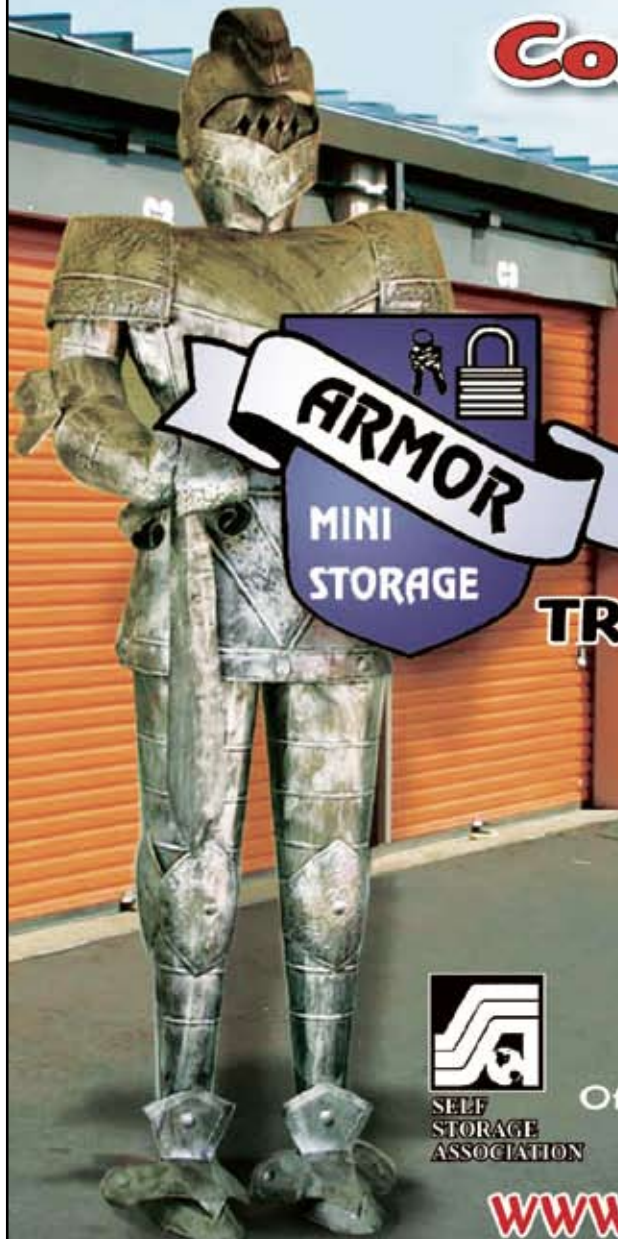
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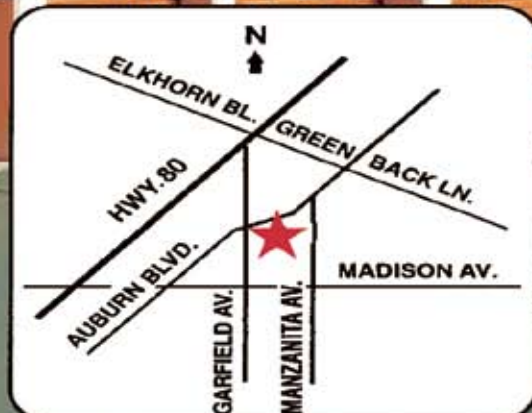
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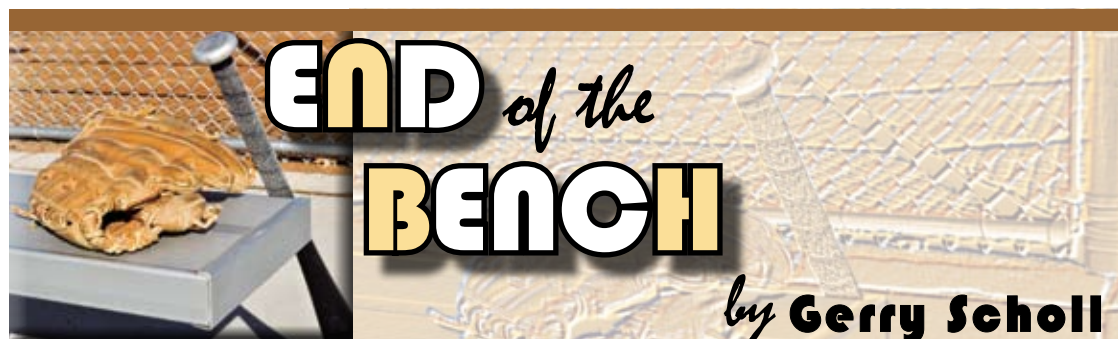
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## Once Upon a Time, But No Time Soon

Once upon a time, long, long.....long, long, long ago, a NBA championship was won in northern California.

Sacramento Kings fans, sorry to remind you of this, but it wasn't your team. Came close about a decade ago a couple times, but some bad calls, some poor free throw shooting, a lucky shot, some guy named Robert Horry...and the Kings were denied.

Golden State Warriors fans, so many of you were not alive or old enough to remember, but it was your team in the 1974-75 season...a long time ago.

Our world has changed an awful lot since then, but one constant has remained — no more National Basketball Association championships for the north state faithful.

Thanks to Comcast, while waiting for this delayed NBA season to get underway, the opportunity has been there to review that one championship year on television. So far I've watched most of a couple of the games in the Warriors' Western Conference Finals win over the Chicago Bulls (Jerry Sloan, Chet Walker, Bob Love, Norm Van Lier), and the first game of the finals against the Washington Bullets.

That Washington team was a powerhouse, with a speedy point guard (Kevin Porter), a great shooter (Cal's own Phil Chenier), and a first-rate front line with the great "Big E," Elvin Hayes and brute Wes Unseld. The Bullets won 60 games and eliminated the Boston Celtics to reach the Finals and face the Warriors.

They all said it was going to be a sweep. The Bullets would

smash the upstarts from the west coast. It was a sweep, all right. In what is still regarded as the biggest upset in NBA Finals history, it was the Warriors who won four straight and the title.

Coach Al Attles (the nicest guy I've ever met in professional sports) primed his team for Game One by pointing out to them that one Washington scribe called them "the worst team to ever play in the finals." That worked. The Warriors, led by one of the top players in league history, Rick Barry, and truly smooth-assilk Keith (later, Jamaal) Wilkes, guard Phil Smith (out of USF) and center Clifford Ray, rallied from a 16-point deficit to win on the road, 101-95.

It was really something to see again, as it was back then.

Just over two years into married life, the wife and I got together with our former college friends to watch that Warriors playoff run. We were ardent followers of the game and that team. We were into every shot, every play. When a bad call went against the Warriors we would throw our dirty socks at the TV screen.

We've come a long way since then, and so has the game.

Watching it now — oh, how things have changed. There's no three-point arc or shot, and bonus free throws are one-and-one or three-chances-to-make-two. There are only two refs, and TV has no crawl at the bottom of the screen and they're using grade-school graphics. The players are lean and not so mean. Look at the hair and the clothes — like Attles' leisure suit and the short shorts on the players (the girls loved those). There are no shaved

heads on the floor, but lots of bushy sideburns everywhere.

Comcast even runs occasional commercials from the original broadcast (with a young Brent Musburger on play-by-play). Two things I took from those were: Candice Bergen was hot when she was young and I don't need Aqua Velva to feel like a man.

The station will show Game Three Friday night, Dec. 23 and the clinching Game Four at a later date.

On the show Attles said, "We never talked about winning a championship, we talked about the next game...until the last game."

Well, we NorCal folks haven't talked much about winning a championship since then either. The following year the Warriors had a great regular season but got knocked out of the playoffs too early. There was the big upset of top-seeded Dallas in 2007, but they had no chance of going all the way. The Kings, of course, had their great seasons during the Chris Webber-Vlade Divac-etc. era, but the fates conspired against them, and only once did it really feel like they had a real shot at the top prize.

But, with each new season there is new hope. The Warriors-Kings preseason matchup Saturday showed off their new top draft picks, Klay Thompson (Warriors) and Jimmer Fredette (Kings), and both teams' revitalized and upgraded rosters and coaching staffs. But in all honesty folks, neither team has much hope for raising that long elusive championship banner any time soon.



### SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (Rated PG-13)

Anyone who thinks director Guy Ritchie would not stamp the legend of Sherlock Holmes with his own contemporary cool factor hasn't paid attention to his career.

The legendary detective, famous for logical reasoning and the use of forensic science to solve crimes, not to mention the artful use of disguises, is an unlikely source for a modern action hero.

Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," as well as his 2009 version, has redefined Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's iconic character for a new generation.

To the purists who believe the British sleuth is best represented by Basil Rathbone, there's a big surprise in store for the rough-and-tumble style that Robert Downey Jr. brings to the role.

The titular character created by Downey defies convention. Gone are the emblematic deerstalker hat, curved pipe and posh British decorum.

Still possessing a brilliant, logical mind, the new Holmes is a streetwise, bare-knuckled brawler, whose physical prowess is equal to his superlative mind and preternatural powers of perception.

Guy Ritchie remakes Sherlock Holmes into the ultimate 19th century action hero, whose physical dexterity and keen interest in all types of weaponry make him a more contemporary figure.

At the very beginning of the story, "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" staggers

## Riley Reviews

THE EXPLOSIVE, COOL FACTOR FOR "SHERLOCK HOLMES" EXCITES

and lurches in a wobbly array of almost incomprehensible action scenes. It may all be a bit confusing at first.

Fortunately, the story settles down into a globe-trotting adventure that has Holmes absconding with his best pal and reluctant partner, Dr. Watson (Jude Law), just as the good doctor has married the lovely Mary (Kelly Reilly).

Set in 1891, the action quickly shifts out of London when Holmes and Watson, investigating terrorist plots that target political figures, get pulled into a rescue mission for Gypsy fortune teller Simza (Noomi Rapace).

Soon enough the trio is racing through France, and then Germany, in search of Simza's missing brother who is apparently caught up in revolutionary schemes.

The ever-smart Holmes, of course, figures that his arch enemy Professor Moriarty (Jared Harris) is cleverly manipulating and orchestrating a dastardly plot to assassinate various European diplomats.

The nefarious Moriarty plan is to spark all-out conflict between France and Germany so that he may profit from having cornered the munitions market.

To this end, Moriarty schemes his evil plan to occur at a summit that is scheduled to take place high in the Swiss alps at a hide-away that looks like something from a James Bond film.

Given his cinematic history, Guy Ritchie puts a real premium on the breakneck pace of explosive action, and "Sherlock Holmes" delivers the action goods in spades.

Most impressive of all is Ritchie's slow-motion technique for many action sequences, where

the unhurried pace is used brilliantly to allow Holmes to visualize in great detail his next moves on the action chessboard.

Of course, there's more to the action scenes than just the deliberate, measured pace of the slow-motion sequences. Once visualized, Holmes' perceptions are rendered expertly into real time speed with forceful impact.

Though it may not seem this way, there's more to this "Sherlock Holmes" than just high octane action. One of the best scenes is a chess game between Holmes and Moriarty realized as a cerebral cat-and-mouse exercise.

In a film filled with delightful characters, one of the best may be Stephen Fry's Mycroft Holmes, the famous sleuth's older brother who provides some comic relief.

"Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," loaded with explosive action, is an exciting adventure. But best of all is the great chemistry between Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law; their collaborative effort really pays off.

### DVD RELEASE UPDATE

I find it hard to pass up a DVD release of old buried treasure from the glory days of television. "I'm Dickens...He's Fenster" falls into this category.

This brilliant but short-lived 1962 ABC TV situation comedy starred John Astin ("The Addams Family") and Marty Ingels ("The Dick Van Dyke Show").

The show was created by Leonard Stern, the writer and/or producer for such great comedies as "Sgt. Bilko," "Get Smart" and "The Honeymooners."

"I'm Dickens...He's Fenster" followed the comic exploits of two construction workers and bosom buddies (Astin and Ingels).

Though the TV show was a favorite of critics, it ran for only one season of 32 episodes. It suffered the fate of a premature cancellation.

Because it never had enough episodes to qualify to run in syndication, "I'm Dickens...He's Fenster" has been a lost treasure up until now.

The Volume One release offers the first 16 episodes, along with bonus material such as commentaries from the original stars.

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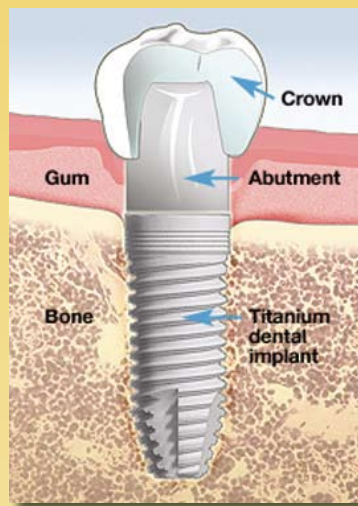
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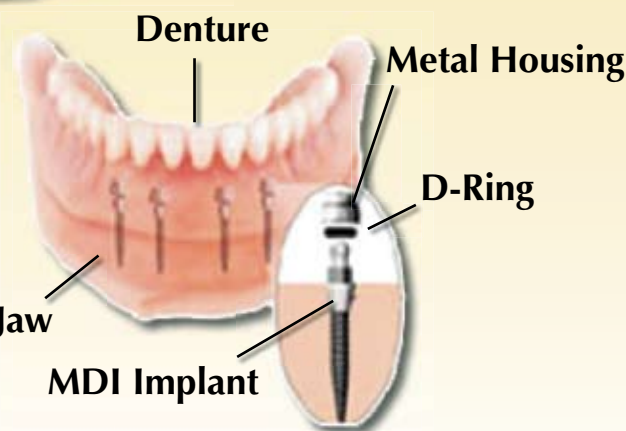
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