

Carmichael Times



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August 10, 2011

New Tax Scams Hitting California

Aquarius Pools Case Closes



A national scam based on Social Security benefits is surfacing in California that also markets a phony federal tax refund or rebate.

Special IRS Report

The Internal Revenue Service recently issued a consumer alert warning taxpayers to be on guard for unscrupulous individuals charging a fee to file false claims for tax credits or refunds. The IRS has received reports of bogus refund schemes targeting Asian communities in Fresno, Sacramento, the San Joaquin Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area. A national scam aimed primarily at seniors and people with low income has also spread to various locations in California.

“What these scams have in common is that the promoters prey upon people in need, building false hopes. When victims’ claims are rejected, their money and the promoters are long gone,” said IRS spokesman Jesse Weller.

Schemes appearing in northern and

central California primarily involve residents in Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian and Hmong communities. Scammers promise to obtain a federal tax rebate of up to \$800, charging hundreds of dollars of fees in some cases. The claims are based on the Making Work Pay Credit, which most wage earners received in 2009 and 2010 through larger paychecks because of reduced federal tax withholding.

“We want everyone to take advantage of the legal deductions and credits which they are entitled to claim,” said Arlette Lee, Special Agent IRS Criminal Investigation. “However, we will vigorously pursue promoters and others who intentionally try to defraud the government.”

A national scam based on Social Security benefits is surfacing in California that also markets a phony federal tax refund or rebate. Flyers

and advertisements appearing in community churches encourage seniors and others to file tax returns, for a fee, to get a refund on tax withholding from Social Security. The withholding is nonexistent, and the claims are false. Many victims are not required to file a federal tax return.

The IRS says taxpayers should be wary of any of the following:

- False claims for the Making Work Pay Credit when no work was performed.
- Fictitious claims for refunds or rebates based on excess or withheld Social Security benefits.
- Claims that Treasury Form 1080 can be used to transfer funds to enable an IRS payout.
- Unfamiliar for-profit tax services selling refund and credit schemes to local church congregations.
- Home-made flyers and brochures

implying credits or refunds are available without proof of eligibility.

- Offers of free money with no documentation required.

- Promises of refunds for “Low Income – No Documents Tax Returns.”

Taxpayers who normally don’t need to file a tax return but who are entitled to a credit or refund can have their tax forms prepared for free by the IRS or a community partner volunteer organization. Be suspicious of someone promising to get you a refund from the government if you just pay them a fee to do the paperwork.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Anyone with questions about a tax credit or program should visit www.irs.gov, call the IRS toll-free number at (800) 829-1040 or visit a local IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center.

Sacramento Region – Even though the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) wrapped up its work three years ago, the Aquarius Pools (#267176) case can now officially be closed. On Friday, July 29, 2011, the company’s General Manager, Gregory Wolfe, was sentenced to two years in state prison for his role in the demise of the company.

Aquarius Pools abruptly halted operations in August 2006, leaving more than 60 families from Marysville to Elk Grove with partially completed swimming pools. CSLB received initial complaints and inquiries from homeowners and subcontractors who filed dozens of mechanic’s liens against the homeowners for unpaid work. Aquarius later filed bankruptcy.

Wolfe managed the company’s day-to-day operations as the Responsible Managing Officer (RMO) on the Aquarius license. After a lengthy CSLB investigation, Wolfe and his wife, Teresa, were arrested on May 16, 2008. In July 2010, Teresa Wolfe was sentenced to one year in jail and five years probation after pleading no contest to felony embezzlement and tax evasion charges.

In July 2008, CSLB finalized its disciplinary action against Gregory Wolfe and the company’s principal owners, Richard Carnation and Kevin Towle. Carnation and Towle agreed to a “Stipulation and Waiver” action involving their other CSLB licenses:

Richard Carnation -

- Disassociated from the license of Waterworks Industries (#678182). The company was allowed to continue operating.
- Was revoked as sole owner licensee of Town and Country Construction (#813098)

Kevin Towle -

- Disassociated from the license of Waterworks Industries (#678182).
- Was revoked as sole owner licensee of Red Hill Construction (#697459)

“While CSLB is pleased that Gregory Wolfe will go to prison for his role in the Aquarius case, we remain troubled because the company took tens of thousands of dollars from dozens of consumers,” said CSLB Enforcement Chief David Fogt. “Even though the owners of Aquarius Pools did not face criminal charges in this case, they were administratively responsible for the actions of their General Manager, Gregory Wolfe. More importantly, their unwillingness to take care of Aquarius customers after the diversion of money, abandoning those jobs and doing nothing to help make their customers whole, resulted in the Aquarius license (#267167) being revoked.”

“I want to commend the response from the state’s swimming pool industry and the many companies that stepped up to help consumers get their jobs finished, many at a reduced cost,” said CSLB Registrar Steve Sands. “While some consumers still lost money, the financial damage was minimized. Also, consumers should remember that the actions of Wolfe and the owners of Aquarius don’t reflect the thousands of legitimate licensed swimming pool builders in this state.”

The Contractors State License Board operates under the umbrella of the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

Source: Contractors State License Board Media

A Real “Guardian Angel” for Dogs



The altruistic Megan generously asked friends and family to donate presents to the dogs at Homeward Bound. Photo by Julie Parker.

By Julie Parker

A toad was her first pet. “It was okay. It didn’t do much,” says a very poised Megan Stedifor,

age eleven. “After seven years of begging my parents, I got them convinced that I was responsible enough to take care of a dog.”

Golden retrievers are known to

be good family pets, and Megan enjoyed her aunt’s goldens, so they decided to adopt one from Homeward Bound Golden Retriever Rescue and Sanctuary in

Elverta. The fact that Homeward Bound has never euthanized an animal was very appealing to Megan.

“They opened this door of a house, and like 50 golden retrievers came running out,” says Megan. “Keely ran right to us!”

Although they know Keely was about two years old when they adopted her a year and a-half ago, they know little else about her history, other than she was rescued from the SPCA in Fresno. “We were told by a person we knew who volunteers there,” says Megan’s mother, “that someone had referred to her as a young dog with an old soul.”

Keely was initially skittish and nervous, but quickly and happily adapted to her new home, becoming protective of Megan and her younger brother, Jack. She even protects the cherry tree from squirrels. “Sometimes, she shakes the fence and the squirrels just fall off,” says Megan.

Keely joins the family on their outdoor adventures as well – camping, hiking and even kayaking. “She has her own life vest,” says Megan, “and she really likes to go swimming. I was snorkeling one time looking for

fish, and I saw this giant orange thing coming by, and it was Keely!”

After adopting Keely and witnessing the wonderful services Homeward Bound performs, Megan aches to be one of their volunteers. The minimum volunteer age is 13-years-old, however, and although she has to wait a couple of years, she still wants to help. “I’m not old enough to volunteer yet, so I wanted to volunteer in a different way.”

For her birthday this year, the altruistic Megan generously asked friends and family to donate presents to the dogs at Homeward Bound, instead of her. “I got a whole bunch of treats, leashes, nylon bones, tennis balls and cash donations.” Justina Codde, D.V.M., a volunteer veterinarian, says the \$181.00 they received from Megan will pay for 40 vaccinations.

Megan’s care giving extends to dogs that run loose. “Sometimes they would be in our neighborhood, and I would ask, ‘Whose dog is that?’ And nobody would know. ‘Dad, open up the gate! We’ve got to get them in the backyard. You can’t just leave them out here!’” Her dad says, “We put up signs and

ads on Craigslist, and so far we’ve been able to find the owners.”

Megan wants to encourage other people to donate to help animals, even if they are strapped for cash, such as mowing lawns, washing cars, washing and walking dogs, watering plants and sweeping porches. “If you donate stuff, you have this good feeling inside.”

Heading back home after presenting the donated items and cash to Homeward Bound, Megan reiterates her desire to volunteer.

“You can play with the dogs, help feed them and you get to hold a puppy. What could be better than that?”

“Getting to keep the puppy,” responds Jack.



Get Your Wallets Ready as Campaigns Begin

By Max Rosenblum, California News Service

Washington - President Obama has raised more than twice as much money in California than Mitt Romney, his closest Republican challenger, highlighting his advantage in the traditionally Democratic state.

Meanwhile, Romney has collected almost twice as much in the state as the rest of the GOP field combined.

An analysis by the California News Service of the latest Federal Election Commission numbers shows that locally, all 13 donations made by Carmichael residents have been to the Obama campaign, a total of \$7,550.

However, in the greater Sacramento area Romney has raised more than \$130,000, roughly \$50,000 more than Obama.

The analysis found:

- No Republican candidate, except for Romney, the former Massachusetts governor, has collected as much nationwide as the \$5.4 million Obama has raised in California.
 - Obama has attracted contributions from numerous Hollywood figures including director Steven Spielberg and actors George Clooney, Will Ferrell and Tom Hanks, who each donated \$5,000.
 - Romney holds a significant fundraising advantage over Obama in only two areas: North San Diego County and South Orange County; Tim Pawlenty holds a significant advantage over Obama only in the Palm Desert region.
 - Michelle Bachmann is doing considerably worse in California than in the rest of the country. Nationally she is collecting roughly one out of every 20 dollars donated; in California she is receiving almost one out of every 100 dollars.
 - Romney and Pawlenty are the only Republican hopefuls faring better in California than nationally.
- Obama's advantage over Republicans in California is slightly higher than his fundraising pace throughout the country. Nationally,

he has collected 55 percent of all donations, while in California he has received about 60 percent.

Romney, who is receiving roughly half the GOP contributions nationwide, is doing even better in California where he has collected nearly two-thirds of the donations.

"My guess is Romney is drawing a lot of money from businesses," said Jack Pitney, professor of government at Claremont McKenna College.

"They see him as a pragmatist who is going to stress economics and business over social issues. He has a background as being a businessman, which gives him a wide array of business and financial contacts," he said.

Dan Schnur, Director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California and communications director for John McCain during the 2000 Republican primary, attributes Romney's success in California more to his previous attempt at the presidency.

"Republicans have historically rewarded candidates the second time they run," he said. "That familiarity usually leads to fundraising. Like Ronald Reagan, George Bush Sr. and Bob Dole before him, (Romney) is benefitting from the connections he made the first time he ran."

Obama has dominated in Los Angeles and San Francisco where he has raised roughly \$1.6 million.

"Obama will always be stronger (in California) than all these Republicans if you look at the money," said Bob Mulholland, California Democratic strategist and Democratic National Committee member.

"California is a very Democratic state and where the majority of technology is located... Democrats are more connected through the Internet," he said.

Californians have contributed a total of \$9 million to the presidential campaigns, roughly a ninth of the \$82.4 million dollars contributed nationally. Obama's campaign has collected \$45.4 million of that amount, as com-

pared to Romney's \$18.3 million.

Most California Republican members of Congress have yet to publicly back a presidential candidate. Reps. Buck McKeon, Santa Clarita, Mary Bono Mack, Palm Springs, and John Campbell, Irvine, have each endorsed Romney. Patricia McKeon, Buck's wife, made a \$2,000 donation to the Romney campaign.

"I supported him in the last election," Buck McKeon said. "I thought he would have made the best president. I support him now. I think he will be the best president."

McKeon noted that Romney received more votes on Election Day in the California primary than McCain in 2008, losing only because of absentee ballots.

"That momentum has carried over to now," he said.

The race is still in its early stages, with the first primary still seven months away.

Nationally, Obama has collected a little more than a twentieth of the \$748 million he raised in 2008.

Romney, who dropped out of the 2008 race two days after the California primary, has received a little more than a sixth of his total contributions.

Whichever Republican emerges at the top of field is expected to receive a fundraising boost.

Mulholland stressed the importance of the upcoming Ames Straw Poll in Iowa, which will occur August 13. He said the Republican who wins this poll would immediately raise a substantial amount of money nationwide.

"What matters is Iowa and New Hampshire," Mulholland said. "Whoever ends up being the Republican nominee will have plenty of money."

The California News Service is a journalism project of the University of California Washington Center and the UC Berkeley School of Journalism. Contact the California News Service at cns@ucdc.edu and follow it on Twitter at @CANewsService.

A Long and Courageous Battle

Carmichael - George Rex Dean, 67 years old, lost his battle to cancer. He fought a long and courageous battle. We initially did a story in December, 2010 about the family, who were trying to raise funds for him to have a stem cell transplant done in an attempt to save his life. In January of 2011 he did have that transplant, but tragically, it was not successful. He passed away July 21st, 2011 with his wife, Rebecca, by his side.



George Rex Dean, 67, passed away July 21st. There is a memorial fund set up to help the family with medical expenses.

Rex is survived by his wife, Rebecca, son John, grandson Sam and half-brother Doug and many nieces and nephews, and has lived in Carmichael most of his life. He and his wife lived in Walnut Heights in the same house that his parents built in 1952. He was always proud of living in Carmichael. He was quoted in the December edition saying "Carmichael was and probably is the best place to live in California." His wife Rebecca said "He enjoyed life and always lived it to the fullest. He always wanted to help his friends and would do anything to help others."

She also said "in talking to his friends even up to four days prior to his death, he would act like nothing was wrong and discuss racing or music." He was a very loving and devoted husband and his wife said they spent 29 wonderful years together, and she said she would always

love him and miss him.

Rebecca stated that "I really appreciate the support of our friends and family since his passing; without their support I could not have made it through to this point." Rex always had a passion for living with many interests including Indy Car racing and all things related to aerospace. In addition, Rex was an avid Rolling Stones fan.

The family managed to get new insurance to cover part of the medical expenses; however, there remains thousands of dollars of medical related expenses, which were not covered unfortunately.

The family held a fundraiser dinner at Garcia's Restaurant on August 4th as a memorial and to help defray the medical costs. They will also be selling general admission tickets to the Infineon Raceway Indy Car race this August. For information on tickets for the fundraiser at Infineon call 916-716-2874, or go to www.ntafund.org.

There is a memorial fund set up to help the family with medical expenses. To make a contribution to this memorial fund you may make checks payable to:

The NTA South West Stem Cell Transplant Fund. Note in memo section write in memory of George Rex Dean. Mail to NTA, 150 N. Radnor Chester Road, Suite F-120, Radnor, PA 19087.

For secure credit card donations please call 1-800-642-8399 or visit www.ntafund.org and enter George Dean in the find a patient box on the home page. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. This campaign is administered by the National Transplant Assistance Fund, a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization providing fundraising assistance to transplant and catastrophic injury patients. For more information 800-642-8399.

George Rex Dean and his family would like to express their sincere gratitude in advance for your generous and thoughtful donations.

Elks Lodge USO Event

Carmichael - On Friday, September 16th, Carmichael Elks Lodge is recreating the spirit of the USO Show. Featuring music from the 40's, 50's and 60's, the show includes the River City Concert Band, West Sacramento Choral Group, the KM Dancers, the Ambassadors, and Magic by Top Class Magic and by Dale Lorzo. Jitterbug and Lindy Hop dancers will also be performing. And to make this the BEST possible USO recreation, straight from Las Vegas, Bob Hope (as impersonated by William Johnson) will be the Emcee for the event. The event is to raise

money for Disabled Children.

For the last 60 years, the Elks have been providing mobile therapists to children in rural areas who have no access to major hospitals or resources. Services, which include physical therapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy and more, are provided at no cost to the families. Therapists travel in their mobile therapy unit to each home several times a week to allow these children the best possible future. And they provide these services from birth to 21 years of age.

This show honors our U.S.

Veterans and cares for our Disabled children.

Carmichael Elks Lodge is located at 5611 Cypress (on the corner of Hackberry) in Carmichael. The show starts at 8:00pm. Doors will be open at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$18.00 per person and \$15.00 for Veterans. Visa and Master card accepted.

Order tickets early. Phone orders accepted through the Elks Lodge. This event is open to the public. This is a show you don't want to miss!!

For information and tickets, call Carmichael Elks at 916-489-2103.

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Assistance League of Sacramento Elects New Officers



Janet Allen, Katie Kunz, and Cindy Magness of Carmichael also elected.

Sacramento Region – Recently, Mrs. Charlotte Stott was installed as President of Assistance League of Sacramento along with eleven new officers and board members during the Annual Meeting held at the Granite Bay Country Club.

Mrs. Stott, a resident of the Fair Oaks community, has been instrumental in strengthening the Sacramento chapter's brand recognition and public image within the Greater Sacramento area, as well as leading the use of electronic marketing and social media to assist in resource development. Mrs. Stott retired from a 30-year career in marketing and sales. She was previously the Senior Vice President/Chief Marketing Officer of a national life insurance company and the president of an annuity brokerage firm.

She said, "As the 43rd president of Assistance League of Sacramento, I will focus on philanthropy and volunteerism in Sacramento, Placer, and Yolo Counties. The last few years have been a time of growth and challenge for our organization. The economic environment has

created more need than ever before and Assistance League and our benefactors have stepped up in a big way to help meet those needs."

President Stott also said, "Assistance League of Sacramento has a very strong and seasoned leadership team and our goals this year are to: Increase and diversify membership; Develop new resources and increase revenue to support philanthropic programs; Expand public visibility; Meet community needs with effective philanthropic program services; and Support maintenance and growth of the chapter and philanthropic programs."

The other elected officers included

- President-Elect - Nancy Baker (Rancho Murieta)
- 1st Vice President - Membership - Candy Duncan (Rancho Murieta)
- 2nd Vice President - Philanthropic Programs - Janet Allen (Carmichael)
- 3rd Vice President - Resource Development - Liz Stenstrom (Rancho Murieta)
- 4th Vice President - Public Relations - Katie Kunz (Carmichael)
- Recording Secretary - Diane Ford (Orangevale)

- Treasurer - Marilyn Gray (Gold River)
- Correspondence Chairman - Cindy Magness (Carmichael)
- Education Chairman - Lynn Duffel (Sacramento)
- Strategic Planning Chairman - Sue Bost (Sacramento)
- Thrift Chairman - Sallie Brown (Sacramento).

Assistance League of Sacramento is an all-volunteer, community service organization chartered in 1968. It is one of 122 chapters of Assistance League. Assistance League of Sacramento has been serving the community for over 43 years, meeting the changing needs of children, seniors, families, and women. From its small beginning the chapter has grown to over 200 volunteers who have offered countless hours, touching hundreds of thousands of lives in the Greater Sacramento area.

For additional information about Assistance League of Sacramento, access the Facebook page, web site: Sacramento.AssistanceLeague.org, or contactalsacmail@gmail.com. The office is located at 2528 Yorktown Avenue, Suite C, Sacramento, CA 95821, (916) 488-0828.

Great Rebates from SMUD

This summer, look to SMUD for simple energy-saving solutions. When it's time to purchase new or replace old appliances, equipment, electronics or lighting products for your home, check with SMUD first. SMUD recommends high efficiency products that use less energy to operate and offers rebates on qualified ENERGY STAR® models.

Available SMUD rebates:

- Clothes Washers - \$35 - \$125
- Dishwashers - \$30 - \$50
- Room Air Conditioners - \$50
- Refrigerator Recycling - \$35
- Home Performance Program - \$1,500 - \$9,000
- Lighting - in-store discounts



For maximum energy efficiency in your home, take advantage of SMUD's Home Performance Program. Through a comprehensive assessment of your home's energy systems, you'll learn precisely where your home is leaking energy and how to save. You can qualify for up to \$9,000 in energy efficiency rebates, plus financing and tax incentive options are available. Get your energy assessment today for only \$99. Offer expires 3/31/12.

For SMUD rebate information, visit savewithsmud.org



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Carmichael Recreation and Park District is announcing these upcoming events

Looking for something exciting for your kids to do this summer? We have the camps for you! Voyager Campers (ages 5-8) and Explorer Campers (ages 9-12)

FEES: FULL DAYS: \$130 for the first child per week (\$120 for each additional child)
HALF DAYS: \$85 for M-F from 7am-12pm OR 1pm-6pm
 Fieldtrips and Swimming Costs are all included
 10 Weekly Sessions
 JUNE 13th - AUGUST 19TH Monday - Friday, 7am - 6pm
 Located at La Sierra Community Center
 5325 Engle Rd, Suite 100 Carmichael, CA 95608
 Call (916) 483-7826 for more information.

Carmichael's Founders Day Celebration

Saturday, September 24 from 11am-3pm

Located at the Danny Bishop Pavilion for the Performing Arts

Join us for the 102nd Carmichael's Founders Day Celebration! There will be plenty of arts/crafts, informational vendors, entertainment, kids' activities and more! This FREE event is co-sponsored by Mission Oaks Recreation & Park District. Want to be a vendor or event sponsor? Call Elizabeth Crisante at 483-7826 for info.

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS AT CARMICHAEL PARK

The Carmichael Recreation and Park District

is offering the Summer Concert in the Park Series for your listening and dancing enjoyment at the Danny Bishop Memorial Pavilion for the Performing Arts in Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Avenue!

Concerts start at 6:30pm unless noted.

Schedule

Saturday, August 13	Q-Balls*—Classic Rock—60s to 80's
Sunday, August 14	Metro Swing—Dance Band
Sunday, August 21	Capitol Pops Concert Band—50 piece Concert Band
Saturday, August 27	Mick Martin & the Blues Rockers*—Rock n' Roll/Blues
Sunday, August 28	River City Concert Band—50 piece Concert Band

* Denotes Saturday concerts

Want to sponsor a concert? You can have your name on the flyer and on a banner; both of which will be seen by thousands of people! Call Elizabeth Crisante at 483-7826 x25.



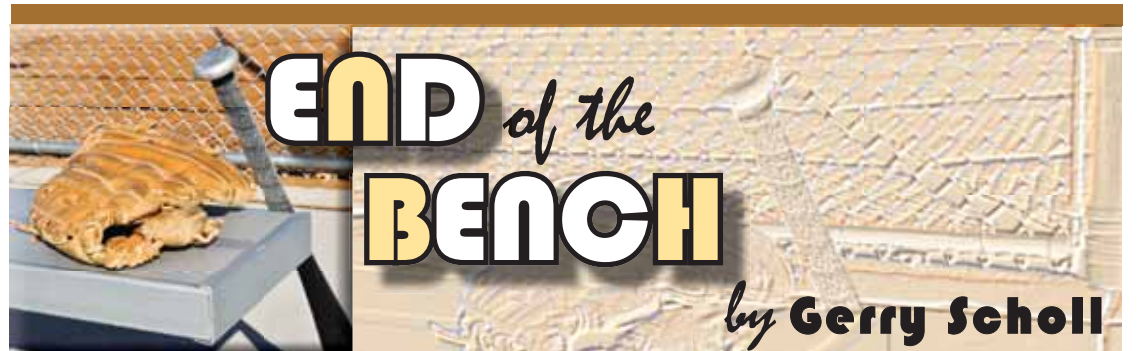
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That Fighting Spirit

Whenever a fight breaks out during some sporting event I'm watching on TV and my better half catches a glimpse of the action she reacts with disdain and disgust.

"Oh, grow up!" is typically the first remark, followed by a few more derisive comments aimed at the ridiculously immature behavior of the combatants.

I have a hard time responding with any reasonable excuses or explanations.

"These games are so highly competitive," I might say. "Emotions run so high, it's easy to lose control."

There was no excuse for the brawl that followed the plunking of Shane Victorino by Ramon Ramirez in the Giants-Phillies game last week. It didn't appear as though the two players were going to fight. The trigger was when the Phillies' Placido Polanco charged into the picture and Giants' catcher Eli Whiteside turned and tackled him; then the benches cleared and things spiraled out of hand.

I'm mildly embarrassed to admit I felt the whole thing was undeniably exciting, and I feel a tad guilty that I hope the fracas will inspire the Giants to rally out of their current funk.

The old "It's part of the game" idea, however, has never done it for me. All the sports I've played or have been involved in for decades have never included fighting as part of the game. One would think that especially at the professional level the competitors should be able to control their emotions and behavior in a professional manner — but, no!

— all too often such is not the case.

Major League Baseball people argue that their livelihoods are on the line. If a player gets thrown at retaliation is in order, and expected. It's said that Cardinals manager Tony LaRussa's philosophy is, "You hit one of mine, I'll hit two of yours." Great.

Perhaps MLB should consider adopting some new rules regarding fighting, along the lines of those in the NBA and NHL. Of course hockey will probably never exclude fighting as part of its game, but it does apply major penalties and suspensions that may affect a team and repeat offenders are dealt with more severely. The NHL requires players not involved in a fight to retreat to their bench or clear the area. The NBA institutes an automatic one-game suspension and fine for anyone leaving the bench to join a fight.

Maybe baseball needs a third-man-in rule. If a pitcher and hitter are going to go at it, let them do it without interference. I suspect Nolan Ryan would be in favor of that rule and Robin Ventura would not (look that video up on your computer).

I remember in high school when a couple of the boys would want a piece of each other the gym teachers would escort them off to put on boxing gloves and head gear. They let them punch it out for a short time and that was that. The method ran a short course and pretty much put an end to those issues, because who really wants any part of getting punched in the face?

It might be a thought to use those tactics at the pro level.

Maybe Victorino and Ramirez should've put on the gloves in the clubhouse after the game. Or maybe Ramirez would like a shot at radio talk show host Tony Bruno, after Bruno's unfortunate "illegal alien" comment last week. It might be a kick to see Tiger Woods and his ex-caddie Steve Williams go a couple of rounds.

This thing could work in so many ways. How about LaRussa vs. Dusty Baker; Joe Montana vs. Steve Young; Al Davis vs. Mike Shanahan, Tom Cable or Marcus Allen; Juan Marichal vs. John Roseboro — I've got a million of 'em.

Hey, I just remembered something. There was one fight I was a part of in a high school basketball game. I played at a small Catholic school and we were on the road against a team of the same ilk. It was in a cracker box gym before a tiny gathering and just one referee showed up. It was quickly clear that this guy was somebody's uncle.

We were getting butchered with no foul calls, while they went to the foul line every time we breathed on them. We lined up for yet another free throw for them and one of their guys was in the wrong spot along the lane. One of our guys nudged their guy out of the way — and it was on — a couple of punches; some pushing and shoving; one guy got tossed into some folding chairs and took a couple of hits; and it was broken up.

"Game Cancelled. Ref Missing," it read in the local paper the next day.

The ironic thing about all that was — it was the Saints versus the Saints! It'll never stop...

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14 1:05 RR	15 7:05 RR	16 7:05 ALB	17 12:05 ALB	18 7:05 ALB	19 7:05 ALB	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 7:05 LV	30 7:05 LV	31 12:05 LV	1 7:05 LV		

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AB 1215 Harms Consumers, Business & Doesn't Make Sense

Commentary By Bob Pacheco, State Assemblyman, Retired

Ronald Reagan once joked that an economist is someone who sees something happen in the real world and wonders if it will work in theory.

His point was that policymakers spend too much time focused on theory and too little focused on what really works. A prime example of this is going on in the State Legislature right now. AB 1215 is supposed to be about giving consumers the information they need to buy a car. Except it doesn't do that. Instead, it mandates that car dealers only obtain a federal government issued report known as the NMVTIS vehicle history report. But the NMVTIS system was never intended for use as a sales tool for sellers of used cars. Its best use may be to just assist government and law enforcement in fighting vehicle fraud.

Dealers know that other more comprehensive and more accurate reports are available from privately-owned commercial databases that provide incentives to mechanics and insurance companies to keep detailed records of cars that have been worked on. These commercial reports will list, in detail, crucial items of information on whether the vehicle has been considered salvaged, been in accidents, considered totaled, and many other issues with the safety of a car.

By excluding the use of commercial databases available, dealers will rely only on the faulty federal database because AB 1215 provides no incentive for dealers to provide any other report on their vehicles – even if it is a better report. Additionally, a provision in the bill states that dealers will not be liable if the information in the mandatory report is inaccurate. So if you read a report that said a car's

airbags had never been deployed, and then you are in an accident, and guess what, the airbags don't work, you can't go back to the dealer to hold them accountable for providing misleading information on the safety of the car.

Furthermore, AB 1215 isn't just ineffective; it's expensive. This bill would cost money to consumers by nearly doubling a government "fee" to the price of a car. We all know the State of California is experiencing budget cuts due to a loss of revenue. With this measure the legislature has discovered a new way to raise taxes by calling it a Government Report. More importantly, the NMVTIS vehicle history report system has stated it needs more revenue to continue operations. In fact it was stated that it is crucial to the success of NMVTIS that new applications be developed to generate more government user fees.

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 6

Enjoy Sudoku Every Week!

The Mission Oaks Computer Club

will meet on Thursday, August 11, 2011 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA. The meeting topic will be "Homeland Security: What You Need to Know" presented by Matt Powers, retired Sac City Deputy Chief of Police.

A problem solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc, will follow the meeting. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information call (916) 366-1687 or visit our website at www.missionoakscomputerclub.org.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 6

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CLUES

- ACROSS**
- Trig. function
 - Tide's backward flow
 - "The ___ of Dracula," Marvel Comics
 - Greek bazaar
 - Romanian money
 - Old photograph color
 - 4 x 4 race
 - Stock regulator
 - Twisted, as in clothes
 - ___ suit
 - *Famous abductee
 - Id's partner
 - "Sonny & Cher, e.g.
 - Rubber substitute
 - Insurance type
 - A winged babe
 - Type of rich soil
 - "Sitcom " ___ Times"
 - Jagged
 - Republic of Ireland
 - White heron
 - Adjoin
 - ___ came the spider..."
 - Wet nurse
 - Assigned spot
 - Modest or shy
 - Grad
 - *Rocky actor
 - Give off
 - Often precedes name of month or year
 - Besmeared
 - *Popular transmitter
 - He traveled with Clark
 - Electric swimmer
 - Lack of muscular tension
 - Martin or Carell, e.g.
 - Park ___ in NYC
 - Hollow rock
 - Instead of truth?
 - Feline sound
 - Mistake
- DOWN**
- Jung or Linnaeus, e.g.
 - S-shaped molding
 - More than one solo
 - Remove from existence
 - Iroquoian language
 - Besides
 - Spelling contest
 - Medicinal herb
 - Territory, abbr.
 - Musical piece
 - Money maker
 - Paper or plastic?
 - Swaddle
 - Red in France
 - European union
 - Submissive one
 - Declare, as in court
 - Bridal veil fabric
 - Ricochet
 - *Popular party garb
 - Geological time periods
 - Spa covers
 - *Business as ___"
 - *A first lady
 - Carte du jour
 - "No big ___"
 - Famously opposable
 - *Musical film hit
 - Flightless bird
 - Desert trick
 - Girder with "I" cross section
 - One who dates
 - 2nd letter of Greek alphabet
 - Pitcher
 - Dumpy establishment
 - Ball of yarn
 - Don't let it hit you on your way out
 - ___-European language
 - ___ and terminator
 - Psychedelic drug
 - The day before

For Solution See Page 5

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Lovely in Danger: Arden Playhouse Winds Up its Second Season with a Sure as Shootin' Melodrama



Our hero Hoot Galoot (Brady Hollis, center) is prepared to do whatever it takes to keep the villain Filcher (Ron Baker) from taking the family homestead from the woman he loves, the lovely Amy Lovely (Amanda Dyba) in the Arden Playhouse production of LOVELY IN DANGER. Photos Courtesy of Arden Playhouse. Photographer: Michael Messmer.

A Melodrama by Dave Chapelle

Shady, evil and dishonest Filmore Filcher uses various disguises and treacherous tactics to get his greedy paws on the Lovely Ranch, owned by beautiful Amy Lovely and her stalwart Aunt Aggie. Filcher and his not so silent partner, Morganna Snit, want to build a luxury resort and health spa catering to the very rich on the Lovely's ranch. Will the ladies see through Filcher and Morganna's sneaky scheming or will they lose everything? Only true-blue Hoot Galoot can save the girl he loves and her ranch...but will he be in time? *Lovely in Danger* is family-friendly fun and a bargain at just \$10.00 a seat!

Lovely in Danger is directed by

Candi Pickering who last directed Arden Playhouse's production of "The Murder Room" moved to Sacramento from San Francisco where she has acted and directed for over 40 years in many theater companies in the Bay Area. She has directed everything from a children's show "Babes in Toyland" to the powerful and moving Vietnam play "A Piece of My Heart". She is excited to try her hand at this Old Time Melodrama. Her hope is that families will turn out to boo and hiss the villain and cheer for the beautiful, feisty heroine and handsome, brave hero.

Lovely in Danger has its Arden Playhouse opened on August 5th and continues on Friday and

Saturday nights at 8pm until August 27th. Sunday matinees are August 14th, & 21st, at 2pm.

All tickets are specially priced at \$10 general admission.

Tickets can be reserved by calling (916) 332-2582.

Arden Playhouse is located at 5640 Roseville Road, Suite D, Sacramento, and seats 150.

Arden Playhouse is a community theater dedicated to continuing its tradition of presenting entertainment in a casual setting.

For more information about Lovely in Danger, call the theater office at 332-2582, email admin@ardenplayhouse.com, arden@ardenplayhouse.com, or check the website ardenplayhouse.com.

Military Graduate

Army Pvt. Tyler S. Cann

Army Pvt. Tyler S. Cann has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission and received instruction and training exercises in drill and ceremonies, Army history, core values and traditions, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, rifle marksmanship, weapons use, map reading and land navigation, foot marches, armed and unarmed combat, and field maneuvers and tactics.

He is the son of Jeffery and Kathy Cann of Northampton Drive, Carmichael, Calif.

Cann graduated in 2009 from Del Campo High School, Fair Oaks, Calif.



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Happy Trails?



"We fear it would result in a degraded and illicit use," Tura said. "One of the ways to protect creek corridors is to have people use them."

SACC does not want to see the creek lose pedestrian traffic. Since the walkway will be closed, people who use it as a shortcut to ARC will be misplaced and need to go around on paved walkways.

"We do think a safer crossing is needed there," Tura said, "but until then, we want to see it open."

SASD considered putting up handrails, which were in place previously. However, based on past experience the handrails collected debris at the pipe which could cause damage to the sewage pipe and also "modern accessibility and pedestrian design/environmental review requirements that would be triggered by any modifications made to the crossing," according to Norman's email.

The pipe is approximately 3 ft. wide and has a cement casing over it. It is not actually on the trail.

The pipe is approximately 3 ft. wide and has a cement casing over it.

By Leslie Carrara

A sewage pipe used as a walkway connecting the Joe Smith Nature Trail with American River College will be closed in mid-August for safety reasons.

According to an email composed by Aimee Norman, customer service liaison for the Sacramento Area Sewage District (SASD), the sewer district is working with representatives both from American River College (ARC) and the Arcade Creek Recreation and Park District (ACRPD) to construct a new walkway in the area. ACRPD has agreed to "lead the efforts...to facilitate that future project" of a new pedestrian crossing. According to Norman, this is out of SASD's "mission."

Meantime, Alta Tura, president of the Sacramento Area Creeks

Council (SACC) would like to see the closure postponed until a new walkway is in place.



August Workshops in Sacramento

Wednesday, August 17, Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society workshop will present an Overview of the American Genealogical Biographical Index by Glenda Lloyd plus a review of homework posted on blog <http://rootcellarrambblings.blogspot.com>. Free, all are welcome. 1pm-3pm at the Clubhouse, Country Squire Estates, 5720 Oak Hill Drive, Sacramento. Contact: John Jay (916) 331-0963.

Wednesday, August 24, Reunion Special Interest Group sponsored by Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society will brainstorm solutions to users' problems and questions. Free, all are welcome. 10:30am-12:30pm at the Family History Center, 2745 Eastern Ave, Sacramento. Contact Ron Setzer, PreservesEditor@macnexus.org.

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Carmichael Chamber of Commerce

Welcome to the Carmichael Chamber's new Business Buzz e-Blast program to provide messages from members to members. Let us know what you think and if you would like to send an e-Blast for your business.

Upcoming Events

Carmichael Chamber Luncheon

Tues, Aug 23, 2011 from 11:30am - 1:00pm
@ Cypress Avenue Baptist Church.

Speaker is Congressman Dan Lungren. Luncheon meeting is held in the Education Building and is the Chamber General Meeting & Luncheon. Raffle prizes!

Register by Thursday, Aug. 18. \$15 Members; \$20 Guests; Members who don't pre-register will be charged the non-member price of \$20 at the door. On-line pre-registration will close on Sunday night.

More Info: tp://www.enutshells.net/profiles/Clusters/Carmichael/Chamber/carmichael_chamber_monthly_luncheon_3766.htm

Contact: Linda Melody Phone: 916-481-1002
Email: linda@carmichaelchamber.com

Save The Date

Friday, September 23rd, 2011
5:00pm-8:00pm

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Rescuing and "Re-homing" Lovable Dogs in Need

By Gary Sawyer

What do the 5 dogs surrounding me on the table...have in common? I rescued them all, literally from Death's door.

For 12 years since retiring from the Air Force, my life's been dedicated to rescuing and "re-homing" needy animals like them. That includes: animals scheduled to be killed at municipal shelters due to overcrowding; dogs abandoned in backyards without food (for a week in one dog's case); endangered strays scooped off busy streets by Good Samaritans; pets that are blind, deaf, or need medical care; one sweet dog tethered to a backyard tree for nearly a year; and ever more frequently, beloved pets whose owners can't care for them anymore due to financial or other hardships.

I start each day eager to do what many of you often daydream about: save as many animals as possible that deserve a second chance. (I do it well, as my references, including television interviews, reflect.)

While extremely rewarding, rescuing gets expensive. So if you love animals, I could use your help.



Help Gary save another one of man's best friends.

The economic downturn that's causing more pets to need "white knights" like you and I to come to their rescue...is also reducing donations that fuel my rescue efforts. So "I'm beggin' ya" on behalf of animals we can save together: If you're able to make a substantial or periodic donation, please consider doing so. But because most people cannot, I'm trying to raise just \$5 from each of 700 animal lovers. So

please consider making at least a \$5 donation—and share this article with animal lovers you know.

You can: mail donations to "Gary Sawyer / PO Box 1751 / N. Highlands, CA 95660-9998"; email me at "DogRescue@Live.com"; or call (916) 334-2841.

Thank you, for whatever donation you feel is appropriate to help me continue rescuing needy animals in the future.

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Festa Italiana!

By Julie Parker

You didn't have to be Italian to enjoy the recent Festa Italiana, which included live music, singers and dancing, and, of course, a variety of tasty Italian dishes.

Presented by The Italian Cultural Society, this event celebrated almost everything Italian. Maseratis and Fiats were on display, there were games of Bocce, and a "marketplace" offered a variety of products (from sauce-less pasta to Spinone Puppies) and services (from travel services to learning to speak Italian). Face painting and games were available for children, including the Salami Toss. Applications were offered to young women of Italian descent for the Festa Queen Scholarship.

If you couldn't make the festival, you can still enjoy Italian and Italian-American music Sunday afternoons at noon on the radio show "Sacramento Italian Style," on www.accesssacramento.org.

Or, maybe a trip to Italy is what you desire. The Italian Cultural Society offers trips to Tuscany, Sicily and Rome. Visit their website at italiancenter.net.

Salute!



Festa was held at Croatian Cultural Center, Sacramento, this past weekend.

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Films and DVDs for the Whole Family

by David Dickstein

Family Films

Glee Live! 3D!
Opens Aug. 12, rated G
gleetour.com

If you're a Glee who missed the big concert during its California swing in May or went and want to relive the experience, the Slushee-soaked singers from Fox's hit series are heard and seen (in 3-D) in their big-screen debut. Based on the North American leg of a tour that ended in Ireland last month, the concert film features performances by the entire New Directions choir from fictional McKinley High School in factual Lima, Ohio.



the movie's prime audience, good luck keeping him away if that's how you're leaning.

Family DVDs

Bob the Builder: Super Scrambler (ages 3-7, released Aug. 16, not rated): Little ones go on big jobs with Bob and his handyhomies as they build Farmer Pickles' milk shed. Learning a life lesson this time is Scrambler, who finds out that following instructions is much better on construction jobs than showing off brute strength. *Grade: A-*

of the biggest bombs in movie history -- \$6.9 opening domestic box office on a \$200-plus million investment -- might recoup some losses in home entertainment, but smart shoppers should stay away. Motion capture animation makes the humans look embalmed and the story is pretty lifeless, too. *Grade: D*

Tom and Jerry & the Wizard of Oz (ages 4-7, released Aug. 23, not rated): If Dorothy's dog could follow the yellow brick road, then why not a cat and mouse? Two MGM institutions merge in this brand new animated film, which



Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World
Opens Aug. 19, rated PG
spykids.com

Eight years after the third film of the family action-adventure series, the Spy Kids division of the CIA-modeled OSS has since been disbanded, giving the maniacal Timekeeper (Jeremy Piven) more opportunity to do his evil. So it's the stepchildren of a retired spy (Jessica Alba) who must save the world, gadgets compliments of a now grown-up Carmen and Juni (reprised by Alexa Vega and Daryl Sabara). Antonio Banderas also is back as their dad.



Hoodwinked Too! Hood vs. Evil (ages 6-13, released Aug. 16, rated PG): What made the original so great was it was a rare film advertised for all ages that actually was fun for all ages. The sequel, another fractured fairy tale featuring Little Red Riding Hood (Hayden Panettiere's voice replaces Anne Hathaway's) is a sloppy snoozefest for anyone too old for toons heavy on slapstick violence. *Grade: C-*

sends Tom and Jerry up a tornado and landing in Oz, where the whiskered frienemies try to save Dorothy, who's locked up in the Wicked Witch's castle. *Grade: B*

The Wiggles: Ukulele Baby! (ages 2-5, released Aug. 9, not rated): A match made in hokey heaven, the Wiggles are joined by jovial "Today" weatherman Al Roker for one of the 21 new songs on this disc, all set to the sweet sound of ukuleles. "Thank You, Mr. Weatherman!" and the other tropical tunes are the makings of a Polynesian preschool party. *Grade: B+*

Mars Needs Moms (ages 5-13, released Aug. 9, rated PG): Mars might need moms, but kids sure didn't need this 3-D, animated sci-fi flick from Disney. One



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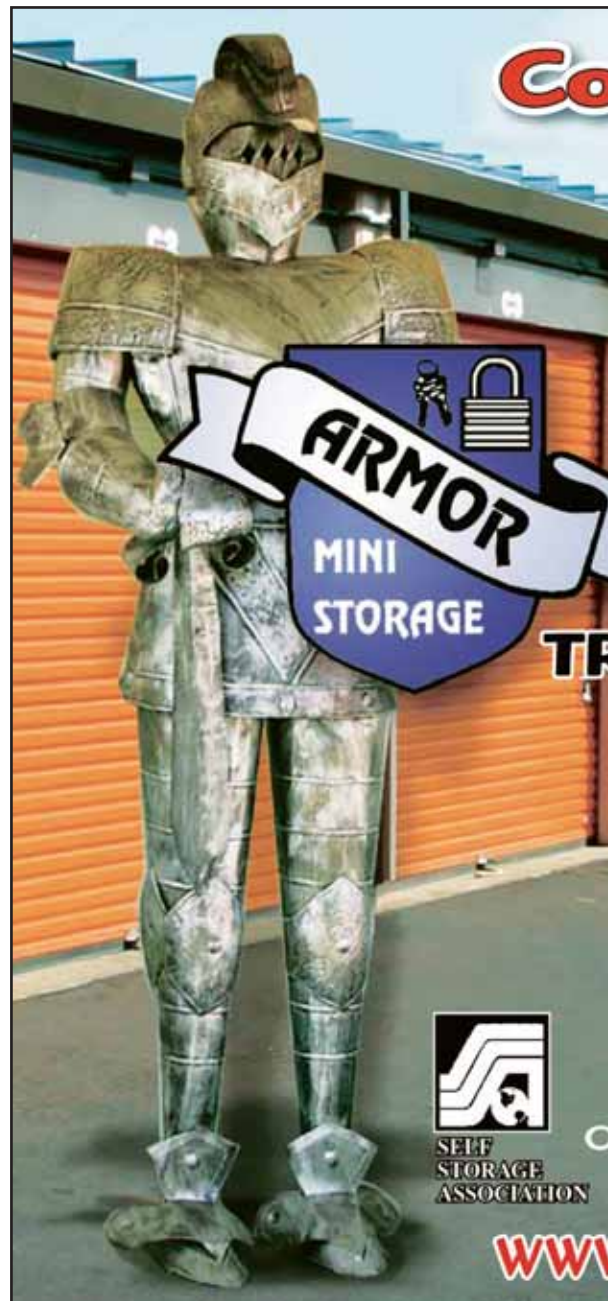
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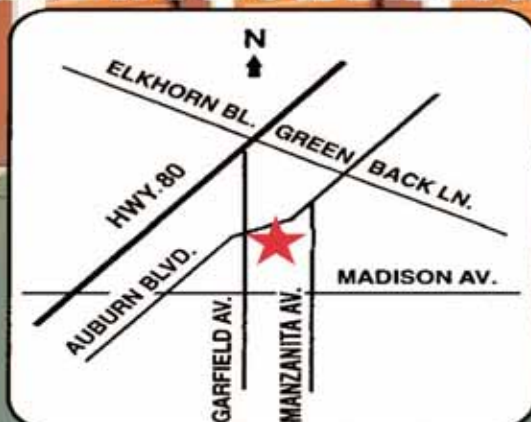
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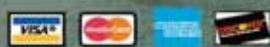


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