

Carmichael Times



Soil Born Farm,
a Real Country
Experience
in the City

Page 2



A Journey
Through
American
History

Page 9

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Volume 31 Issue 25

Serving Carmichael and Sacramento County since 1981

June 22, 2011

Sales Must "Boom"



Many local charities are hoping for a huge boom in sales to help save their local non-profit organizations.

By David Dickstein

Carmichael – Christmas, Halloween and the Fourth of July share a commonality unique to California in that each holiday is represented by a symbol enjoyed aglow by people patronizing a parking lot.

Since it's too early in the year for Christmas tree lots and pumpkin patches, 'tis must be the season for fireworks stands. And for cash-strapped churches, athletic groups, youth organizations and service clubs, it couldn't come too soon. Unlike buying pumpkins that often become illuminated jack-o-lanterns and evergreens destined to be strewn with festive lights in certain homes, fireworks in the Golden State can only be sold by non-profit

organizations. It's an ordinance extending statewide and one that adds an industry-estimated \$40 million to the treasuries of more than 3,000 501(c)s in California.

Locally, the opportunity to make green out of red, white and blue is being seized by groups hopeful for bang-up business from patriotic and/or pyro-loving customers who snap, crackle and pop in honor of America's 235th birthday. They can do so because Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, Gold River, Lincoln, Orangevale, Rocklin and Roseville are communities where state-approved fireworks are permissible from June 28 through July 4.

Among the hundreds of area non-profits glad they are is Carmichael Soccer Club, which is looking for a

sizable net profit to buy, well, nets, along with cones, balls, jerseys – pretty much everything fees don't pay for (and even those are said to be partially subsidized by fireworks sales) is footed by pyrotechnic profits.

"All funds generated through fireworks sales are infused back into the club to help keep costs down, purchase new equipment, train coaches, referees, etcetera," said fundraiser coordinator and coach Estaban Nava Jr. Operating without the money, he said, "would negatively impact Carmichael and the surrounding community [as] recreational soccer opportunity for children would be priced out of the affordable range." The club's TNT stand will be located in the Crestview Shopping Center at Manzanita Avenue

and Winding Way.

The Phantom stand run by Glen Oaks Swim Club in Carmichael will help keep kids afloat be they a member of the competitive Sea Lions swim team, the facility's tennis program or simply taking lessons in either sport. The club will be selling Funky Monkey fountains and Phantom Raider Finale assortments from a new location this year, and happy about the move is its president and committee chairman.

"This year we're at Quicker Stop Market (6725 Winding Way). Last year we were at California Fitness on Fair Oaks, and people were going with the purpose to work out, not to buy fireworks," Jim Scherschligt said. "You need the draw like a mini mart gives."

Tumor Survivor Shows Off Brain Power

Sutter patient awarded Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Scholarship

By Miranda Marsalla

Carmichael – At only 18 months old, Melody O'Brien's parents noticed a sudden limp in their daughter's step. Shortly after, doctors found a lemon-sized tumor on the toddler's brain stem. Physicians told Melody's parents to prepare for the worst. Fast forward 16 years – Melody, 17, is alive and well and a recent recipient of a college scholarship from the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation.

Her mother, Jennifer O'Brien, describes Melody's story as nothing short of a miracle.

Throughout the years, Melody has been faced with a series of demanding procedures as she copes with her astrocytoma. Melody underwent chemotherapy in 1995 and then again in 1997 – both for 18 months. In 2004, when her cancer returned once more, she underwent a gamma knife procedure – a non-invasive surgery that sends tiny beams of radiation directly to the targeted tumor – at Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento.

The gamma knife surgery reduced the size of her tumor and was followed by radiation treatment every day for six weeks in 2006 until she reached the maximum dose to her brain. While Melody has been in remission ever since, her last dose of radiation left her with life-altering side effects.

"Melody was left with severe cognitive slowing, although her IQ wasn't affected at all," Jennifer said. "She fatigues really easily and gets headaches; her body knows when it is tired and has to slow down."

Melody lives at home with her family in Fair Oaks and recently participated in high school graduation at Victory Christian School in Carmichael, where she attended from fourth through eighth grade. Due to the cognitive side effects of her radiation treatment, Melody transitioned into an educational setting of one-on-one tutoring after her eighth-grade year and has been excelling ever since.

Throughout the ever-present challenges with her condition, Melody has maintained academic excellence, been an active participant in her school choir and created her own jewelry-making business.

Samuel F. Ciricillo, M.D., Medical Director of the Sutter Neuroscience Institute, said that despite Melody's cognitive and mobility issues, she has always remained hopeful about her future.

"Melody has been able to get past all of her challenges with the best attitude and is one of the happiest kids that I have had in my clinic," Dr. Ciricillo said. "She gets through her hurdles with a smile on her face and is always looking to the future, which is clearly what it takes."

As Melody approached the last semester of her high school year, she applied for the Pediatric Brain



Melody O'Brien, Award Winner

Tumor Foundation Scholarship Award. Although competition was stiffer than ever this year, Melody's accomplishments were awarded with a \$1,000 scholarship.

"This scholarship is really a blessing," Melody said. "I want to be educated and be able to get the job of my choice, which takes hard work."

Melody's parents are also ecstatic about their daughter's achievement. "To be chosen for this scholarship is a big deal," Jennifer said. "We are so very proud of her and feel very special that the foundation was impressed with her credentials."

Melody will attend Folsom Lake Community College in the fall. She plans to enroll in a metal sculpture class, where she can learn to make jewelry, as well as sign language courses.

"When I was little, they thought that I might lose my hearing," Melody said. "I have slight hearing loss, so I can't hear high-pitched sounds, but thankfully I can still hear. I have a real passion for learning sign language."

Sutter Health physicians have been by Melody's side every step of the way. "Sutter doctors have been amazing. They know you on a deeper personal level. They know your hobbies," Jennifer said. "When they know the whole person, they can remember and tell differences in your appearance and behavior and that's really important."

Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento is affiliated with Sutter Health, a not-for-profit, community based health system located throughout Northern California. For more information on Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento, visit www.suttermedicalcenter.org.

Source: Sutter Health

Thrift, Hope and Love

Staff Report

Carmichael/Arden – There's a new venture with a grand mission opening soon. And with a little thrift, a lot of hope and much love they will be able to serve many people who need help in our community.

Malachi's Homes Center International Ministry assists in serving the needs of our community by providing housing, food, clothing, backpacks and kids uniforms. They will give free vouchers to local churches, social services, and schools to redeem for emergency assistance at their Thrift Store.

Malachi's Thrift Store wants to make a real difference in our community in many ways. They plan to offer every Thursday to feed families for free.

The community can also network at the Thrift Store when meeting clients or family in the extended patio area, and enjoy desserts, coffee,

smoothies, lattes and other quick and easy food items.

You can receive coupons to redeem for free coffee, latte's, cappuccino's, muffins, assorted sliced cake, salads, and sandwiches when you refer donations or drop off donations. Just tell the person you are referring to mention your name or give them your business card when making the drop-off and they will give you a coupon to redeem at our coffee bar. That's a great savings for coffee lovers!

The Grand Opening is scheduled for Friday August 5 and Saturday August 6. They will have BBQ, music, fun for kids and many retail vendors.

The store is also welcoming volunteers who believe in their vision. Malachi's also appreciates any monetary donations to help them serve the community.

Malachi's Thrift Store & Coffee Café is located 2427 Marconi Ave.



Minister Valerie Thornton, Sister Monica, Minister Alaina are the lifeblood of the new thrift store to be opened by Malachi's Homes Center International Ministry. They are being helped here by fellow servants of the ministry Janae and Issac to get the word out to the community. Photo Paul Scholl

Ste 101, Sacramento, 95821, next to the Arden Arcade Branch Library.

To find out more information see www.malachishomescenter.org



Scan our QR Code for a direct link to our online edition!

Local Organic Food for All



Farm tours, cooking classes, and workshops are all available at Soil Born Farm. Photo Courtesy Soil Born Farm.

By Julie Parker

Sacramento Region – If you haven't visited Soil Born Farm's American River Ranch, you're in for a treat. It's home to Soil Born Farms Urban Agriculture & Education Project and is the site of a visionary plan to restore and develop a historic piece of land located in the American River Parkway. The plan works to improve the quality of life in our community by inspiring people to make the connection between food, health and the environment. This movement brings us closer to a food system that is local, sane and sustainable.

The ranch features 40 acres of urban farmland and is the location of hands-on education programs that engage thousands of youth and adults every year—many produced in conjunction with partners, including the Sacramento

Natural Foods Co-op. Additionally, fresh, organic produce is grown for families and the Sacramento Food Bank's mobile markets. Soil Born Farms also coordinates other innovative food access programs, such as Harvest Sacramento, that are helping to feed Sacramento's underserved neighborhoods.

The urban farm in Rancho Cordova offers the community freshly harvested fruits and vegetables, weekly cooking demonstrations, self-guided farm tours and a visit with cows, chickens, sheep and pigs. For those riding the nearby American River bike trail, the Sacramento Bike Kitchen's mobile educational bike shop at the farm can answer any of your bike questions.

Soil Born recently hosted A Day on the Farm, where an extravaganza of special farm tours, cooking classes, and workshops, such as Composting, Organic Gardening and

Bees, Pollination and Honey were offered. Kids enjoyed gardening activities and face painting, along with other entertaining and educational interactive events.

An organic plant sale, featuring a wide selection of organic vegetables, native plants, herbs and flower starts, provided the perfect kick-start for a backyard summer garden. Rounding out the day's festivities were a film festival, music and dancing.

You can still enjoy a country experience in the city at Soil Born Farm's American River Ranch farm stand on Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at 2140 Chase Drive in Rancho Cordova, next to Hagan Park, and between miles 15 and 16 on the bike trail. Cash and EBT accepted. Every dollar spent supports the work of Soil Born Farms Urban Agriculture & Education Project. For more information about Soil Born, visit their website: www.soilborn.org.

Flea Market Fundraiser to Benefit County Animal Shelter

Supervisor Susan Peters encourages public support

Sacramento – The public can demonstrate their support for Sacramento County's state-of-the-art Animal Shelter and at the same time shop for bargains during the weekend of June 25-26 at the Save Our Shelter "Flea" Market.

Like most government agencies, the Department of Animal Care and Regulation has had to endure budget cuts but community supporters and animal lovers continue to help raise funds to sustain operations. The "Save Our Shelter" effort raises funds to care for the 15,000 animals that come through the shelter every year. Through donations and various fundraisers, including last year's very successful "Whiskers and Wine" event, supporters have been able to raise almost \$100,000.

"The Department of Animal Care and Regulation makes a tremendous difference in the lives of animals that are lost, abandoned or subject to abuse," says Supervisor Susan Peters. "With the departmental budget being



stretched thin by current constraints, community support is needed now more than ever to help supplement funding for the shelter's operations.

The Flea Market is an opportunity to have fun and help the animals at the same time."

The Flea Market will be held over the weekend of June 25-26 from 8 am to 4 pm both days at the Animal Shelter, 3839 Bradshaw Road, with all proceeds benefiting the animals. Merchandise available for sale will include household items, furniture, clothing, pet products and crafts created by shelter volunteers.

New or gently used items may be donated. To schedule a drop off or pick up of usable items please call 361-7604 or email saccountyshelterfleamarket@yahoo.com. Due to limited storage space, items cannot be dropped off at the shelter. More information is available online at saccountyshelter.net.

Attention all shoppers – please be sure to visit your ATM in advance because flea market purchases are cash-only.

Source: Sacramento County

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CHAUTAUQUA playhouse

TO PRESENT THE COMEDY
Social Security
starting on June 24



Appearing in "Social Security":
(L) Kellie Raines, Margaret Morneau

Chautauqua Playhouse announces the opening of SOCIAL SECURITY, by Andrew Bergman, starting on June 24 at the Playhouse. The show will play on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm through July 17. Performances will be held at the Chautauqua Playhouse, 5325 Engle Road in the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. Admission is \$18 general and \$16 students, seniors, children and SARTA members.

A married couple, who are art dealers, have their domestic tranquility shattered upon the arrival of the wife's goody goody nerd of a sister, her uptight CPA husband and her Archetypal Jewish Mother. The comic sparks really begin to fly when the mother hits it off with the elderly minimalist artist who is the art dealer's best client!

The show is directed by Shawn B. O'Neal, featuring a cast that includes Wade Lucas, Kellie Raines, Margaret Morneau, Patty Thiel, Jon Jackson and Michael Beckett. Set design is by Rodger Hoopman, with lighting design by Don Myers.

For tickets and additional information call the theatre at (916) 489-7529 (PLAY). Information and tickets are also available through the Chautauqua Playhouse website: www.cplayhouse.org.

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Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl

Carmichael Times

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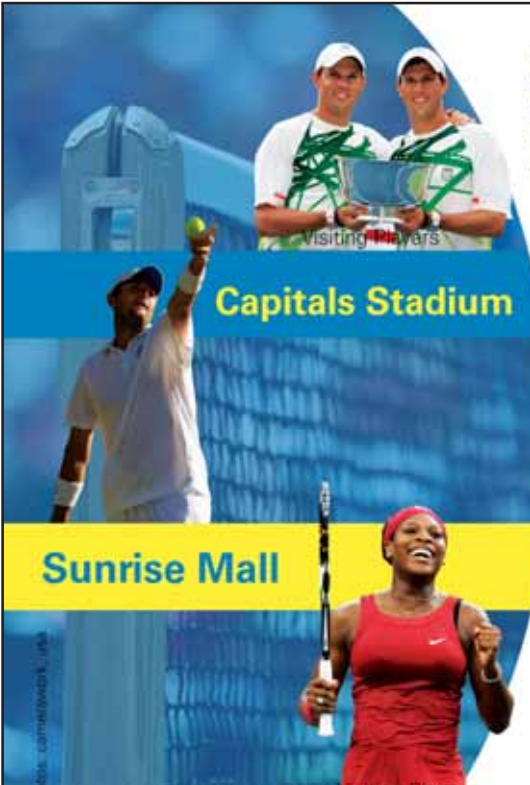


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Capitals 2011 Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	THEME
July 8 th	New York Sportimes	Caps Come Home <i>featuring Martina Hingis</i>
July 9 th	Washington Kastles	Drop Shot Diva Day <i>featuring Serena Williams</i>
July 10 th	Newport Beach Breakers	Play Tennis Sacramento
July 12 th	Kansas City Explorers	Family Night <i>featuring the Bryan Brothers</i>
July 15 th	Newport Beach Breakers	Catch the Wave <i>featuring Mardy Fish</i>
July 20 th	Boston Lobsters	Caps Go Green
July 21 st	Springfield Lasers	Fan Appreciation Night

Sacramento Capitals Ticket Office, 6023 Sunrise Mall, Citrus Heights. (916) 488-5000

2011 Berry Quality of Life Youth Leadership Scholarship



Carmichael Water District is proud to announce that applications are being accepted now through July 15, 2011 for the 2011 Berry Quality of Life Youth Leadership Scholarship. One \$500 scholarship is available to a student who resides within the Carmichael Water District Service Area who is currently enrolled in the 12th grade at a public or independent school located in Carmichael, CA or is currently enrolled in a post-secondary institution.

For more information on the application process, deadlines, and selection please visit the District's website at www.carmichaelwd.org or call our office at (916) 483-2452.



SMUD's Home Performance Program MAKEOVER SWEEPSTAKES

Leaky ducts, faulty insulation, air leakage, and an old A/C system can rob you of money and comfort at home. For that reason, SMUD is offering the Home Performance Makeover Sweepstakes to educate homeowners about how they can make their home more energy-efficient.

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The deadline to enter is July 8, 2011.

Enter the sweepstakes at: smud.org/homeperformance

Rules and restrictions apply



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Sac Metro Fire Partners With Reading Tree for Book Donation Drive

Sacramento Region – The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (SMFD) is promoting literacy this summer through its partnership with Reading Tree. The objective is to put books in the hands of local children to promote literacy, and to support recycling and reuse of unwanted books.



SMFD Fire Chief Henke encourages the community to drop off their gently used books at the Reading Tree book donation containers located at SMFD stations. The stations opened on June 17, 2011. SMFD will be hosting the Reading Tree bins through November 18, 2011.

Reading Tree and SMFD have partnered on this book collection effort to develop in-classroom lending libraries in Reading Partner Sacramento schools in the

Sacramento region. All types of books are welcome, including new, used, hardback and paperback. Quality children's books are donated to local, early learning programs and elementary school-age children.

The Reading Tree was established in 2000 as a public charity. The organization has two missions. The first is to collect books from families who no longer want them, and deliver them to children, families, schools, and libraries that need

them. The second is to keep books from contributing to the saturation of the nation's landfills. Reading Tree places and maintains book collection bins in communities across the country to collect and redistribute used books. Reading Tree supports children's literacy by getting books into the hands of children. Over 4 million books have been gifted to families, schools, and libraries since 2007. Reading Tree invites members of the community to become involved by donating books they no longer need to aid the literacy crisis.

Donated books will go to change lives in our community. For more information, please visit www.readingtree.org, or call (888) 402-BOOK.

Source: Sac Metro Fire



Carmichael Recreation and Park District is announcing these upcoming events

Carmichael's Gala Parade & Annual Fireworks Show!

Monday, July 4

52nd Annual Carmichael Elk's Club Parade – Start Time 10:30am!

The evening will culminate with the Annual Fireworks Show at La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road. Join us starting at 7pm for food, music and fun. \$5 gets your child unlimited access to the Kids Zone inflatables, crafts, puppet show and more. Carmichael Little League Snack Bar will be open for food, drinks, ice cream and more! Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and shade umbrellas. Fireworks Show at dark (approximately 9:30pm).

The 4th of July Celebration is sponsored by: Carmichael Recreation and Park District & Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District For more information call the District at (916) 485-5322 or visit our web page at www.carmichaelpark.com.

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!

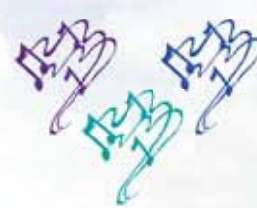
Concerts start at 6:30pm unless noted.

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.

Schedule

Sunday, June 26	Xstadio-Classic Rock/Country/Blues Cover Songs
Sunday, July 3	Break
Sunday, July 10	Todd Morgan & the Emblems-50's Rock n' Roll/30's Jazz
Saturday, July 16	Departure-A Journey Tribute Band*-Journey Songs
Sunday, July 17	Carmichael Kiwanis Band-Swing Dance Band
Sunday, July 24	Gold Rush Brigade-Dixieland Jazz Band
Saturday, July 30	Because-A Beatles Tribute Band* - Beatles Songs
Sunday, July 31	The Newz Makers-Classic Rock/R&B
Sunday, August 7	John Skinner Band-Dance Band
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



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

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Fab 40's "Un-Run for Understanding" An Alzheimer's Awareness Day



Saturday, July 9, 2011
Location: East Lawn Memorial Park,
43rd St. and Folsom Boulevard
Time: 9:00 AM - Noon

Calendar of Events:

- 9 AM - Welcome, and a light breakfast.
- 9:30 AM - Panel discussion featuring Hospice Care, a Neurologist, family members who have cared for a person with Alzheimer's disease and family members who are dealing currently with Alzheimer's disease, and an Elder Law Attorney.
- 10:30 AM - Unveiling of the "Wall of Honor." A place where people can create an inscription in honor of or in memory of a family member who has suffered from Alzheimer's disease.
- 10:45 AM - Untimed one-mile walk within East Lawn.
- 11:30 AM - Free luncheon.

There will be a variety of children's activities and a photo booth for your family's memories.

We will be having a kid's race as well!

There will be many vendors at the event to answer any questions you may have.

Visit our website at: www.fab40s5k.org for details

7,000 Fewer Students Get Into Los Rios Summer Classes

By Susie Williams

Sacramento—Students are having a hard time getting summer classes at American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City colleges. State budget cuts have forced the colleges to reduce summer offerings by nearly 25% or 330 sections.

Summer classes started this week with 7,000 fewer students than at the same time last year

when more than 33,000 students were enrolled.

“There is a huge demand for classes,” said Los Rios chancellor Brice Harris. “If we were fully funded we would have served about 5,000 more students than last year, so in essence, we are turning away about 12,000 students this summer.”

According to district data, 90% of summer classes were full before the end of priority registration and those

classes all had full wait lists as well.

With no state budget finalized and the uncertainty about funding for the 2011-12 year, the district’s colleges have also reduced offerings by about 7% or 860 sections for the coming fall semester.

“There is no doubt that our students and community are being hurt,” Harris said. “At a time when more students than ever before need and want a college education, they are finding the door closing.”

Governor Brown Vetoes State Budget

Sacramento – In a YouTube video and veto message released today, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. announced that he will not sign Senate Bill 69 and Assembly Bill 98, which together comprise the state budget passed by the Legislature on June 15, 2011.

I am returning Senate Bill 69 and Assembly Bill 98 without my signature.

In January, I presented a balanced budget solution with a mix of deep spending cuts and temporary tax extensions subject to voter approval. My plan would put these extended revenues in a lockbox, ensuring that they are only used to protect education and public safety. It would also address

California’s long term fiscal crisis by substantially paying down the \$35 billion wall of debt built up over the last decade.

Yet Republicans in the Legislature blocked the right of the people to vote on this honest, balanced budget.

Meanwhile, Democrats in the Legislature made valiant efforts to address California’s budget crisis by enacting \$11 billion in painful cuts and other solutions. I commend them for their tremendous efforts to balance the budget in the absence of Republican cooperation.

Unfortunately, the budget I have received is not a balanced solution. It continues big deficits for years to come and adds billions of dollars of new debt. It also contains legally

questionable maneuvers, costly borrowing and unrealistic savings. Finally, it is not financeable and therefore will not allow us to meet our obligations as they occur.

We can – and must – do better. A balanced budget is critical to our economic recovery. I am, once again, calling on Republicans to allow the people of California to vote on tax extensions for a balanced budget and significant reforms. They should also join Democrats in supporting job creation and ending tax breaks for out-of-state companies. If they continue to obstruct a vote, we will be forced to pursue deeper and more destructive cuts to schools and public safety— a tragedy for which Republicans will bear full responsibility.

CAL FIRE Staffs Up as Fire Danger Increases

Homeowners asked to prepare for wildfires

Sacramento—Following the recent warmer temperatures and drying conditions, CAL FIRE will increase its staffing in northern California for fire season. Starting Monday, June 13 CAL FIRE will be transitioning into fire season in most parts of northern California, including the counties of Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Yuba, Placer, Tuolumne, Calaveras, Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Butte, Tehama, Glenn, Shasta, Trinity, & Siskiyou.

Over the past month, CAL FIRE has been hiring and training seasonal firefighters to augment its full-time firefighters and will now staff most of the department’s seasonal fire stations around the clock.

While the above average rainfall has led to a lower fire risk the past month, it has also led to an abundance of grass and brush. Despite the unusually wet and extended spring, temperatures have already begun to increase and all the grass and brush has begun to

dry out enough to raise the risk for wildfires.

With fire season now officially underway, CAL FIRE is asking homeowners to ensure that they are prepared for wildfires and that every home have 100 feet of Defensible Space.

For more information on preparing for wildfires and defensible space: www.ReadyForWildfire.org.

Source: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

A Father’s Work Is Never Done, Either

By Rev. James L. Snyder

There is an old saying that to my knowledge nobody has ever taken credit. “A man works from sun up to sun down. A mother’s work is never done.” If I had said that, I would not want any credit for it either.

Why this anonymous person compares a man with the mother is certainly information that is above my pay scale. It is almost like comparing apples with horses. I like apples and I enjoy riding a horse occasionally, but they sure do not have anything else in common.

Right up front I will say that I honor and revere motherhood. As good old Abe Lincoln said, “All I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my mother.” I think that is a rather nice way of saying how much he appreciated his mother. But, if you will permit me, I think good old “honest Abe” exaggerated just a wee bit on this point.

While I believe mothers have a very important role in the bringing up of children, it does not preclude the influence of the father. After all, most mothers will say to their children, “Wait until your father gets home!” Even mothers know that they cannot handle it all by themselves.

And while I will also give way to the point that mothers have a lot of work to do and it never seems to get done, such is the case with fathers as well. There never seems to be enough time to get everything done.

Take for example, the father’s job of mowing the grass. That job never gets done. If the father has a wee streak of ambition about him, gets up Saturday morning and goes to the garage and prepares the lawnmower to mow he knows very well that he will never get done mowing the grass.

If perchance he gets the lawn mowed on any given Saturday, he knows, come next Saturday, if not before, the grass will need mowing again... And again... And again. An

endless chore that never seems to get finished.

Of course, there is a positive side to this routine. When the mother of the household gets up on a Saturday morning and says to the father, “Honey...” [Every father knows that when he is being addressed as “Honey,” there will follow a “to-do-list.”] When the mother of the house tells the father of the house what needs done that day he can simply smile and say, “Honey...” [Every mother knows that when she is being addressed as “Honey,” there will follow a very good reason why he will not be able to do her “to-do-list.”]

“Honey, I would love to do all of that for you today, really, but the backyard needs to be mowed.” And with a smile that stretches from Saturday to Saturday, he slowly sashays out to the garage and prepares the lawnmower for a day of mowing the grass.

Oh yes, a father’s work is never done.

Then there is the matter of the father’s paycheck. On payday when the father of the household receives his paycheck, his heart is filled with jubilation, that is, until he gets home. When he gets home the mother of the household and all of the children standing behind her have their hands out for their share of his paycheck.

He looks at his family with a great deal of pride as he counts out, dollar-by-dollar, his hard earned paycheck. He had been harboring some hope that he would go bowling with his buddies this week, but by the time he doles out the weekly allowances he finds himself completely doled out. His only consolation is that next payday he will get another paycheck.

Oh yes, a father’s work is never done.

Let us not forget vacation time. All year long, the father of the household works very hard at his job

anticipating that weeklong vacation. He dreams about setting on the beach with his only agenda being nothing, an entire week of relaxation and exploiting the vigor of nothingness. It is the dream that energizes him all year long.

Finally, the week comes that nobody is more excited than the father of the household.

“All right, family,” the father says, “let’s all head for the beach.”

“Aw, dad” the tribe of his household says, “we want to go to Disney World.”

“Whose world?” the father sighs.

After the family votes on where they will go for their week’s vacation the father of the household, although he will be funding the entire week, is outvoted 99 to 1. “Oh well,” he groans as he packs the car for Disney World, “there’s always next year.”

Oh yes, a father’s work is never done.

Only one exception exists for this rule. That is our heavenly father. His work is finished in Jesus Christ. “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world” (Hebrews 4:1-3 KJV).

Hallelujah, His work is done.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at (352) 687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 6

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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.
Come back every week for Sudoku! For Solution See Page 9.

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Don't be Deceived by Dropping Gas Prices

Sacramento Region (Reported for June 20th) - Average retail gasoline prices in Sacramento have fallen 3.2 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.81/g yesterday. This compares with the national average that has fallen 4.8 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.66/g, according to gasoline price website

SactoGasPrices.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Sacramento during the past week, **prices yesterday were 80.2 cents per gallon higher than the same day one year ago** and are 26.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 19.0 cents per gallon during the last month

and stands 92.7 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

Reported by SactoGasPrices.com. GasBuddy operates GasBuddy.com, SactoGasPrices.com, and over 225 other local gasoline price-tracking websites that follow prices at over 125,000 gasoline stations in the United States and Canada.

Del Campo High School 25-Year Class Reunion

Del Campo High School's Class of 1986 will hold its 25-year class reunion this summer. The event, which will take place on Friday, August 12, 2011, will take place at the Radisson Hotel Sacramento. The doors will open at 7:00pm.

The theme for the reunion, "Ready to Have Fun Again", sets the tone for the much-anticipated event that is expected to reunite the class of more than 500 students. The 1986 graduates of this high school, which is located in the Fair Oaks suburb of North Sacramento, are encouraged to attend the reunion and catch up with classmates from 25 years ago, to revisit old friendships and create new ones. All alumni and their guests are invited to attend the reunion. The Reunion Planning Committee has established affordable registration fees for the convenience of classmates. During the reunion, guests will

enjoy a delicious assortment of hors d'oeuvres, while mingling throughout the venue, which will include a scenic outdoor terrace. For out-of-town alumni, guest rooms will be available on site at a discounted rate. A disc jockey will also be on hand to play an assortment of music, including the music of the 1980's.

Registration for the 25-year reunion is available via PayPal. Payments may be made by using MasterCard, Visa, American Express, Discover Card and bank debit cards. To register online, please go to www.dccougars1986.com. This website has been created exclusively for the Del Campo 1986 alumni. Registration may also be made via check. To register using this option, please contact staff@dccougars1986.com for details.

A Facebook page for the Del Campo reunion has been set up to aid classmates in getting in touch

with one another. On this Facebook page, Del Campo High School Class of '86: 25-Year Class Reunion, important information is often posted. Classmates are encouraged to join this Facebook page to receive updates on the reunion and to converse with fellow classmates. The Committee seeks help in locating classmates. For information, please contact staff@dccougars1986.com.

Del Campo High School Class of 1986: 25-Year Reunion:
Date: Friday, August 12, 2011
Time: 7:00pm - 1:00am
Locale: Radisson Hotel
500 Leisure Lane
Sacramento
(916) 922-2020

For additional information about the Del Campo reunion, please contact the Reunion Planning Committee at staff@dccougars1986.com.

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CLUES

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1. WWII villain</p> <p>6. "Betty Friedan's org. (1968-present)</p> <p>9. "___ 'til you drop"</p> <p>13. "Twiggy, e.g."</p> <p>14. "Without further ___"</p> <p>15. Round loaf, in Paris</p> <p>16. Prefix for earliest</p> <p>17. Diamond or ruby</p> <p>18. Sicker</p> <p>19. Moves, as in a prowler</p> <p>21. "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" autobiographer</p> <p>23. Maiden name indicator</p> <p>24. Annoying biter</p> <p>25. IRS employee</p> <p>28. Level or dismantle</p> <p>30. Make it known</p> <p>35. ___ hoop</p> <p>37. Unit of life</p> <p>39. Pulpits</p> <p>40. It will</p> <p>41. "Roots" author</p> <p>43. Bath powder</p>	<p>44. Found at the gallows</p> <p>46. "One Life to ___" (1968-present)</p> <p>47. Iranian monarch</p> <p>48. Whoever</p> <p>50. Standard</p> <p>52. Food morsel</p> <p>53. Like a bug in a rug</p> <p>55. Cranberry habitat</p> <p>57. "___ invasion"</p> <p>61. "In Cold Blood" author</p> <p>64. Artist's tripod</p> <p>65. Color quality</p> <p>67. "The Beatles went on them in '64, '65, '66"</p> <p>69. Trinity</p> <p>70. Large coffee pot</p> <p>71. Ancient Romans' resort</p> <p>72. #1 Across' deputy</p> <p>73. ___ or miss</p> <p>74. Bothersome</p>	<p>DOWN</p> <p>1. "Pete Townsend knocked it over on Smothers Brothers show"</p> <p>2. Village, mostly in South Africa</p> <p>3. Often described as either pleasant or offensive</p> <p>4. Grant or imply</p> <p>5. "___ Power"</p> <p>6. Scolds</p> <p>7. "Gentry's ___ to Billie Joe" (1967)</p> <p>8. "Oh, Pretty ___" by Orbison (1964)</p> <p>9. Under a foot</p> <p>10. Seed covering</p> <p>11. Butter substitute</p> <p>12. Heart of Inca empire</p> <p>15. "Water for Elephants" tent</p> <p>20. TV host Robin</p> <p>22. Form of Anna</p> <p>24. Treating with gel</p> <p>25. "Cultural Revolution locale"</p> <p>26. Fool or hoax</p>	<p>27. Bronze, e.g.</p> <p>29. Eagemess</p> <p>31. Marines' toys recipients</p> <p>32. Gem State</p> <p>33. With filaments</p> <p>34. Fancy water ride</p> <p>36. In addition</p> <p>38. Russian left</p> <p>42. Grass in Mexico</p> <p>45. Store in a silo</p> <p>49. Half the width of an em, pl.</p> <p>51. "The Beatles' haircut"</p> <p>54. Yeah or aye</p> <p>56. Mother ___</p> <p>57. Long for Liz</p> <p>58. Steak preference</p> <p>59. Egyptian goddess of fertility</p> <p>60. Decades</p> <p>61. Abe's coin</p> <p>62. Goes "tut-tut"</p> <p>63. Psychoanalyst Erikson</p> <p>66. University of Rhode Island</p> <p>68. "___ it isn't so"</p>
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For Solution See Page 5

Pet Loss Center to Hold Open House

Will highlight newly remodeled facility

Sacramento - The general public is invited to an open house to the newly remodeled East Lawn Pet Loss Center offices as well as St. Francis Community Hall. The pet cemetery has been in operation since 1992 and has more than 1,100 pets interred on the grounds, including 43 police/rescue K-9's from several Northern California departments. The open house is scheduled for Wednesday, June 29, 2011 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Over 300 guests are expected to attend the

Open House and tour the newly remodeled facility.

East Lawn Pet Loss Center and St. Francis Community Hall is located at 6700 Verner Avenue, Sacramento (Greenback at I-80) adjacent to Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery and Sierra Hills Memorial Park. The facility features an arrangement room with wall displays consisting of pet cremation urns, caskets, memorial pet headstones, two visitation rooms and a prep room. St. Francis Community Hall is a 1,400 square foot hall

with a vaulted ceiling, an adjoining banquet kitchen and state-of-the-art AV equipment. It can accommodate up to 200 guests for community events such as chamber and rotary meetings, as well as private functions such as funeral luncheons and receptions. The facility is providing donated space to pet rescue groups for pet adoption events throughout the year.

Contact Lisa West (916) 732-2037, Pet Loss Center Counselor/Developer for more information.

Grand Opening Open House



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St. Francis Community Hall and East Lawn Pet Loss Center are located at Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery 6700 Verner Avenue, Sacramento, CA (I-80 at Greenback)

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Arden Playhouse Presents: A Melodious Journey Through American History



Matt Gavin, Katie Dahl, Chris Cay Stewart, and Rick Wennstrom go to bat for *The Dream*, a new musical tribute to America. Photos courtesy of Mike Messmer at Arden Playhouse.

Sacramento – Come join America as it celebrates its 235th Anniversary! An ensemble of voices will take you down memory lane with the nation’s popular and patriotic songs in a brand new musical revue. Be amused and once again stirred by the amazing story of our country, told like it’s never been told before. These beautiful dreamers will hail Columbia, stop and smell the yellow rose of Texas, leave the old folks at home, and go over hill, over dale, and hit the dusty trail in the pursuit of happiness. They’ll put a feather in the cap of Yankee ingenuity, take you out to the ball game, and give their regards to Broadway. Even if you weren’t born on the 4th of July, come and enjoy America the beautiful. You will surely exclaim, “Ain’t we got fun!” and your heart will beat true for the red, white, and blue!

Matt Gavin (Writer-Director) is a voice graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Matt has had a passion for musical theater and popular songs all his life. In *THE GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME*, his debut at the Arden Playhouse in 2010, he made use of his nearly five decades of experience in directing, playwriting, songwriting, lyric writing, and performing. Now, with *THE DREAM*, Matt continues his creative musical theater penchant and adds in his love for the great history of our country. Matt and his screenwriting partner, Lynn Koomer, have recently been selected as finalists in the 2011 Pacific Northwest Writers Association Contest for their screenplay, *THE GAMBLE*. After years in New York City and Los Angeles, Matt now

makes his home in Sacramento with his wife, Marguerite. The Dream has its Arden Playhouse opening on June 24 and continues on Friday and Saturday nights at 8pm until July 16. Sunday matinees are July 3 & 10, at 2pm. Tickets are a special summer \$15 admission price. Tickets can be arranged by calling (916) 332-2582. For more information about *The Dream*, or to find out about our group discounts, call the theater office at 332-2582, email admin@ardenplayhouse.com, or check the website ardenplayhouse.com. Arden Playhouse is located at 5640 Roseville Road, Suite D, Sacramento, and seats 150. It is a community theater dedicated to continuing its tradition of presenting entertainment in a casual setting.



By David Dickstein

Family Films



Cars 2
Opens June 24, rated G
disney.go.com/cars

Now-humbled Lightning McQueen and the friends he made in once-dusty Radiator Springs are back in this sequel to the 2006 Disney-Pixar animated feature. Moving the action from the desert to both Asia and Europe they go for the thrills and excitement of the first-ever World Grand Prix. Owen Wilson, Bonnie Hunt and Larry the Cable Guy again head up the all-star voice cast.



Green Lantern
Opens June 17, rated PG-13
greenlanternmovie.com

Like most superheroes at the start of their crime-fighting careers, Hal Jordan (Ryan Reynolds) was just a common

Films and DVDs for the Whole Family

Joe until something extraordinary happened to him. A ring bestowed to him from a dying alien gets him inducted as the first human to join the Green Lantern Corps. Reluctantly, Hal must play cop to the universe, a job that, for him, comes with some alien bigotry.

Nathan Fillion of basic cable TV’s “Firefly” gets top bill. Hopefully the big-screen version is amazing because this home entertainment title is shoddy stuff. Grade: D

Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer
Opens June 10, rated PG
judymoodymovie.com

Judy is a third grader whose plans for an awesome summer vacation go south when her best friends announce they’re heading off and Mom and Dad need to leave town as well. Stuck at home with her aptly named brother Stink and in the care of Aunt Opal, the dejected Judy will find that she might not have a miserable summer after all.

Roary the Racing Car (ages 2-5, released June 7, not rated): The premiere DVD of this show on PBS Kids Sprout includes never-before-seen episodes, all fronted by a revved up, infectious theme song. Narrated by Indy and NASCAR racer Sam Hornish Jr., each segment serves as a positive pit stop for youngsters. Grade: A-

VeggieTales: Live! Sing Yourself Silly (ages 10-17, available May 3, rated PG-13): (ages 3-8, released June 7, not rated): Last year’s “Sing Yourself Silly” live stage tour never ventured west of the Bible Belt, but a November performance at a megachurch in Tennessee was taped so the rest of the world could watch Archibald Asparagus, Bob the Tomato, Larry the Cucumber and their fellow produce pals sing and dance through 18 song favorites. In person the show might have been a hoot, but on the small screen it’s flatter than a road-killed Henry the Potato. Grade: C

Family DVDs

Green Lantern: Emerald Knights (ages 12-17, released June 17, not rated): From the producers of the live-action “Green Lantern” feature movie out this month is a companion made-for-DVD animated movie featuring a much cheaper cast. Want proof?



By Sal Arrigo, Jr.

As we look around and see many people living longer, do you ever wonder if it will ever fall to you to become a caregiver? If your parents, or perhaps your spouse, were to be diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, what would you do if you had to become a caregiver, even part-time? Where do you start? How much time are you able to devote to caregiving duties? In reality, caregiving is a 24/7 responsibility; you don’t even need to be in the presence of the person you are assisting. When you are responsible for the health and well being of another, you think about caregiving when you’re shopping, driving your car, and planting your garden. Caregiving is likely to take a toll on your physical and mental health.

So, how do you cope? It’s not always easy to do, but you must ask for help. Enlist siblings, friends or neighbors to assist whenever possible. Caregivers often overlook the very real need to take a break from their responsibilities, and burn out is all too common. As a caregiver, if you are overly tired or stressed, you are of no help to anyone. Seek out caregiving resources from the Alzheimer’s Association of Sacramento, your medical doctor, or use the internet to research respected sites such as the Mayo Clinic or the National Institute on Aging. One way that caregivers can eliminate some of the stress they

Is Caregiving in Your Future?

may encounter is by making a simple “business plan.” Since Alzheimer’s is progressive, a caregiver must anticipate future needs by understanding the stages of the disease and making plans as to how to best assist their loved one as they move toward that next phase. “Knowledge is power” as the saying goes, but using that knowledge to prepare yourself for what the future holds can also bring peace of mind. None of this is easy-- for you or the person for whom you are caring—but it is prudent.

A couple of additional points to consider, as a caregiver:

- If you’re not the executor of the estate, engage in conversation with the person who is. You may need to know what provisions have been made for financing long-term care.
- If you need an attorney, get an Elder Law attorney who specializes in these sensitive matters. This is especially important if there is no will or trust already in place.
- Gather the paperwork on final arrangement issues (if any exist).
- Remember; you are not an island! There are support groups and organizations that are ready and willing to

assist you and your loved one. Don’t hesitate to reach out for help.

Even if you don’t anticipate being a caregiver someday, I encourage you to come to the Alzheimer’s Awareness Day at East Lawn Memorial Park on Saturday, July 9. The event is free, and there will be information, resources, and a panel of speakers on hand with in-depth knowledge of Alzheimer’s disease. The dedication of the one-of-a-kind “Alzheimer’s Wall of Remembrance” will also take place that day. If you are a caregiver, this event may prove to be especially informative for you, so please consider joining us. The event time is 9 a.m. until noon. No need to register, just show up and we’ll also provide you with a light breakfast and lunch. If you’d like more information about the Alzheimer’s Awareness day, please call (916) 316-6347.

Sal Arrigo, Jr. is the chair of the “Fab 40’s 5K run/walk and an adjunct instructor in the Gerontology Department at American River College. For more information about the 5K event, and to find information regarding caregiving and Alzheimer’s disease, go to www.Fab40s5k.org.

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

Sudoku Puzzle on Page 6

Enjoy Sudoku Every Week!

END of the BENCH
by Gerry Scholl
The Devil Made Me Do It!

A big picture of new U.S. Open golf champion Rory McIlroy putting a huge happy hug on his dad on Father’s Day appeared in the newspapers Monday after the 22-year-olds’ historic victory. That and all the stories surrounding this guy seemed somewhat odd to me, and I’ve been trying to figure out why. It’s a very happy photograph and the stories are fun and uplifting. That’s somewhat odd, particularly in golf, as we’ve all been so conditioned to following the stroke-by-stroke antics of the sullen and twisted Tiger Woods. I admit I’m one of those shallow guys who picks up the newspaper (go ahead, pick one up; it won’t bite!) and looks to the comics and sports sections first to escape the real world for a bit. I look to be entertained and amused and hope to pick up my spirits before returning to the ugly realities of the daily news. We seem to be living in a world bent on self-destruction. History, oftentimes, repeats itself. Our history (our nature?) is that we are always messing with a good thing. Now this sort of stuff has infiltrated and is threatening to overrun my old sanctuary, my precious sports section. I’m sure you must have noticed by now. Besides all the Tiger nonsense, the papers really sensationalize all the negative happenings. But, who can blame them; there’s so much of it. Recently, there was the front-page stories about Jim Tressel, football

coach at Ohio State, resigning in shame over his cover-up of NCAA violations by a number of his players. We heard a lot about ongoing recruiting violations and corruption around coach Jim Calhoun and his U Conn basketball program as the Huskies claimed the NCAA championship (for now). And now Calhoun is suspended for three games next season. Meanwhile, we read about Louisville coach Rick Pitino and his sex-scandal woes. And we wondered where Kentucky is headed with John Calipari in charge, considering he left his last two collegiate stops, Univ. of Massachusetts and Univ. of Memphis, in a shambles. We read all about how USC finally got caught, twice. Both the Trojans’ football and basketball programs are subject to sanctions because, basically, the whole place was totally out of control. Special thanks go to Reggie Bush and O.J. Mayo, both making nice livings as pros. Of course both coaches deserted the place to seek riches elsewhere and the athletic director was booted, leaving the poor (I’m not so sure) players behind to cope with the aftermath. Oh! And we had four players from Auburn (way to go, champs!) arrested for armed robbery. We had a little flurry of gay slur incidents: Atlanta Braves pitching coach Roger McDowell at AT&T Park; Kobe Bryant directed at an

official; Joakim Noah of the Chicago Bulls at a fan during the playoffs. Add on the dismissal of 49ers announcer Gary Plummer over some other crazy sex related nonsense. Very unfortunately, there was the horrific story of the savage beating of a Giants fan on opening day in Los Angeles. Then came the whole Buster Posey injury thing. There’s the NFL lockout business with a bunch of millionaires wanting to grab more millions, and the impending duplicate situation with the NBA. And don’t forget to throw in your usual assortment of DUI’s. Unbelievably, it all gets topped off with the post-hockey loss riots in Vancouver. Damn Sharks! If they had reached the finals I don’t think, and would hope, the same thing would not have happened in San Jose, win or lose. There are some good stories to be found in the papers, but it seems you really have to look for them. All this other stuff — not amusing; not entertaining; nothing to feel good about. Now look what I’ve done! Look what they’ve made me do! It’s all been eating away at my once pure sports fan heart! Now I’ve spent hours — hours of my life I’ll never get back — writing this column all about the bad stuff in sports... I guess I had to get it out of my system. The Devil made me do it.

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A Case in Point

The Case of the Tragic Traveler

By David Graulich, Esq.

Harry was driving home after shopping at Safeway. While waiting at a stop sign, his car was hit from behind by a negligent driver. Harry suffered severe back and neck injuries and his car was totaled.

The vehicle that struck Harry was a delivery truck owned by Loaf Inc., a regional distributor of bakery goods. The truck driver, Biff, told police that he was texting with his girlfriend when he smashed into Harry's car. Biff was a full-time employee of Loaf Inc.

If Harry sues for damages, can Loaf Inc. be named as a defendant?

This question involves an area of employer liability known as "respondeat superior." It is well established in American courts that employers have liability for wrongful acts of their employees that are committed within the scope of employment.

Note that critical phrase, "scope of employment." Was Biff on his assigned route to deliver bread at Safeway when the accident happened? If yes, he was within the scope. However, if Biff was making a detour through a residential neighborhood to drop off a box of donuts at his girlfriend's house when he negligently hit Harry, Biff was outside the scope – and Loaf Inc. avoids liability.

What about an employee's normal commute? Wrongful acts committed by an employee while commuting to and from work are generally outside the scope. This is called the "going and coming" rule.

Another important rule is the "special errand." This applies when an employee is on a journey or special duty for the employer

away from the workplace. An employee performing a special errand is within the scope.

Now let's leave Harry's hypothetical case and examine an actual 2009 California decision, which concerned an employer's liability in a fatal accident. Here are the facts:

A vice-president of Warner Bros. Entertainment, Mr. Brandon, attended a three-day business conference in Sunnyvale that concerned his area of expertise, anti-piracy Internet operations. Warner, based in Burbank, approved Mr. Brandon's trip and paid all expenses. Mr. Brandon left the conference and flew back to Burbank Airport, where he retrieved his personal car and drove home around 4:30 p.m.

The executive drove past his Warner office without stopping. He took his normal route home for two or three miles when he was involved in a collision with another car. One or both cars then struck three pedestrians, killing one of them. The injured pedestrians and the decedent's estate named Warner as co-defendant in a lawsuit, along with Mr. Brandon and the driver of the second car.

Warner filed a motion to be released from the litigation. Under the going and coming rule, Warner argued, the executive was commuting home in his personal vehicle and was outside the scope of employment. Even if the special errand rule applied to the executive's trip to the Sunnyvale conference, the special errand terminated when he returned to Burbank, passed his office without stopping and drove his regular route home at approximately his usual time.

The plaintiffs countered that Mr. Brandon was still on the special errand for his employer at the time of the collision, because he had not made any stops and had not completed the journey home from the conference.

The trial court agreed with Warner and dismissed the company from the suit. The plaintiffs appealed, asking that the higher court keep Warner as a co-defendant.

What happened on appeal? Reversed!

In holding for the plaintiffs, the appellate court said the special errand rule was the key issue: "When an employee intends to drive home from the errand, the errand is not concluded simply because the employee drives his regular route home, but rather, the errand is concluded when the employee returns home or deviates from the errand for personal reasons."

In other words, a special errand continues until the employee either arrives at his destination or deviates from the route for his own purposes -- say, to buy a take-home pizza at Papa Murphy's. Since Mr. Brandon intended to return home after the conference and did not make any personal stops, he was still within the scope of employment when the fatal accident occurred. As a result, Warner Bros. Entertainment still had liability for his wrongful actions.

David Graulich, Esq. is a resident of Fair Oaks and an attorney with The Law Firm of Tim O'Connor. David welcomes comments on "A Case in Point" columns and can be contacted at (916) 932-2312 or by email: David@timocconnorattorney.com.

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Get the Most Bang for Your Buck: 2011 Fireworks Buyers Guide

By David Dickstein

Sacramento Region – The diversity of consumer fireworks sold in honor of America’s Independence Day is wide, not unlike the Melting Pot whose birthday they symbolize. What’s new? What’s loud? What’s colorful? Is that \$30 fountain really worth the money and how long is it?

As sure as Betsy Ross could sew, a trip to a fireworks stand can be a puzzling pyrotechnic experience.

To help you get the most bang for your buck this Fourth of July, we present our 2011 fireworks buyers guide. Every new state-approved fountain was put to the test along with selected returning items. TNT and Phantom, which enjoy a duopoly in Northern California, have more than a dozen new items between the two.

Fireworks were rated on a 5-star scale for performance, duration, distinctiveness and overall comparative value. Judges included firefighters of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Station 65, who graciously provided the test site. Products are listed in order of price, high to low.

A tip: Shop early or risk having to choose from items not good enough to make this list, meaning, except with the new stuff, they didn’t score at least 3 1/2 stars.

Let the sparks fly!

New for 2011

Festival of Lights (Phantom), \$49.99 – A synonym for “festival” is



“fair,” and a homonym of that is an adequate assessment of this so-so 500-gram newcomer. Has all the standard effects except whistle, but when you can buy six Apache Firedances of similar performance for just a few dollars more, well, you do the math. 148 seconds. 2 1/2 Stars

Star Voyager (TNT), \$29.99 – Earns “best new finale” honors with a long-lasting, 500-gram performance of bright and crackling titanium bursts that reach the 10-foot-high legal limit (maybe even surpassing...shhh!). 146 seconds. 4 1/2 Stars



Phantom Crown Jewel (Phantom), \$29.99 – Dazzling 500-gram display of white flowers, colored pearls and crackles, gold chrysanthemums and silver crackle. Packs a wallop, but that also reduces burn time. 84 seconds. 4 1/2 Stars

Bonsai Pipeline/Magma Glow Fountain (Phantom), \$29.99 – Terrific burn time and the tallest of the freshman class, if size matters to you, but a far better pick from Phantom at this price is Brew Haha. The cylindrical newbie goes by both names and different labeling. 119 seconds. 3 Stars

Jumbo Purple Rain (TNT), \$24.99 – TNT’s best-selling Purple Rain gets super-sized, offering up juiced-up gold, purple and crackles. 89 seconds. 3 1/2 Stars

Pyropalooza (TNT), \$19.99 – Excellent height, crackle and vivid hues – a vivacious visual. 115 seconds. 4 1/2 Stars



Main Squeeze (TNT), \$19.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Pleasing red, white, orange and pink sparks spew from cute, unique packaging that gives this fountain its name. 90 seconds. 3 1/2 Stars

Phantom Night Owl (Phantom), \$12.99 – An instant classic is hatched among the growing category of fountains with an internal glowing feature. Three loud screeches and an exciting overall performance make this nocturnal newbie a hoot. 65 seconds. 4 1/2 Stars

Radiant (TNT), \$10 – Top of the class of 2011, this low-priced beauty pushes the legal limit for spreading



sparks. One of the few fountains living up to its name. 82 seconds. 5 Stars

Home Run (TNT), \$9.99 – Middling crackle finish, low altitude, OK burn time for the price. Despite its name, score this one a double. 105 seconds. 2 1/2 Stars

Snakes in the Grass (Phantom), \$5.99 six-pack – Clever name and having those black pellets in a canister keeps fingers clean, but these snakes that grow while aglow are better when free range. 2 Stars

Viva El Futbol (TNT), \$4 – Terrific altitude and crackle for the price. 43 seconds. 3 1/2 Stars

Aquarium (TNT), \$3 – So-so stars and red globs. Nothing memorable. 24 seconds. 2 Stars

Orchid (TNT), \$2 – Don’t blink or you’ll miss an impressive burst of crackling sparks. 17 seconds. 2 Stars

Best of the Rest (4-5 Stars)

New York Harbor (Phantom), \$39.99 – Stellar burn time and multiple effects, including some of the finest chrysanthemums for a consumer firework. 195 seconds.

Brew Haha (Phantom), \$29.99 – Beer stein-designed 500-gram fountain brims over with effects, including a loud opening whistle and a cavalcade of color. 145 seconds.

Rock Around the Clock (Phantom), \$24.99 – Unique spinning hands are hard to see at night, but this

clock-designed novelty-fountain is a stunner with a powerful fan-like spray. 84 seconds.

TNT Fountain (TNT), \$23.99 – Long-burning, powder keg-shaped fountain has a colorful, crackling performance. 154 seconds.

American Spirit (TNT), \$19.99 plus bonus – Offers up a patriotic blend of red, white and bluish stars, gold showers and super-loud whistles and crackles. Comes with the boisterous, multi-colored Sizzler Fountain (90 seconds). Super deal. 125 seconds.

Molten Pot (TNT), \$19.99 – Entertaining combo of colorful globs, titanium crackles, fish, glitter and chrysanthemums. 73 seconds.

Alpha Wolf (Phantom), \$19.99 – Green and purple droplets, gold shower and crackling stars finale are awesome. No whistles, doesn’t need them. 83 seconds.

Triple Gemini (TNT), \$17.99 – Impressive pink and gold fish, and crackles that sound like a string of titanium-laced firecrackers. 85 seconds.

Apache Firedance (Phantom), \$17.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Low altitude is more than compensated by a super-long burn time and marvelous sequence of crackles, whistles, white flashes and multi-colored sprays. Up \$2 from last season, but still a solid combo deal. 210 seconds.

Hasta La Vista Baby (Phantom), \$16.99 – Like color and hate whistles? Then this is a solid pick with a screech-free spectrum of fast-changing colors. 125 seconds.



Funky Monkey (Phantom), \$15.99 – This pyrotechnic primate features red pearls and a solid overall performance. 80 seconds.

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

Firecracker Fountain (Phantom), \$14.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Lives up to its name with a remarkable crackling barrage among multi-colored pearls. 106 seconds.



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

L.O.L. (TNT), \$12.99 – The happy 3-D face on the package features a red mouth and blue eyes that glow from within, making for loads of fun. 80 seconds.

King of Bling (Phantom), \$10.99 – The crackles heard during the final third sound just like popping popcorn. Majestic chrysanthemums and whistle. 90 seconds.

Night Treasure (TNT), \$12.99 – Looks like a fan fountain, and it is, albeit only for the final half-minute. Still, a reliable, fair-priced item. 113 seconds.

Volcanic Vortex (Phantom), \$10.99 for three – Cones usually produce more yawns than sparks, but not this awesomely intense trio. 45 seconds each.

Luck of the Irish (TNT), \$9.99 – This classic fountain features gold and silver spray, red and green balls and some super-loud whistles. 80 seconds.

Painted Desert (Discount Fireworks Superstore), \$8.99 – Pretty thing with gold, copper and green flashing stars, and orange and pink globs. 76 seconds.

Lil Red Devil (TNT), \$8.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Packs plenty of

heat for the size and price. Titanium crackling sparks spread out an impressive 9 feet. 30 seconds.

Electrical Shock (Phantom), \$7.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Red and green showers give way to a raucous whistling and crackling finale. 40 seconds.

Pink Diamonds (TNT), \$6.99 – Not much pink in the fireworks marketplace, so props to this unique, modestly priced item. 61 seconds.

Phantom Mystical Magic (Phantom), \$8.99 (buy-one-get-one) – Fleeting duration, but love those multi-colored, marble-sized blooming globs. 24 seconds.

Phantom Dragon Slayer (Phantom), \$5.99 – Got some white, blue and lemon chrysanthemums, rowdy crackles and red stars going on. 66 seconds.

Moondance Fountain (Phantom), \$3.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – 4-inch dynamo spews loud crackles, purple pearls and glittering gold and white sparks. [Note: Identical to TNT’s Purple Rain, \$5.99 for two.] 45 seconds.



Honorable Mentions (3 1/2 Stars)
Komodo 3000 (Phantom), \$49.99, 240 seconds; **Delirium** (TNT), \$45.99, 94 seconds; **Blooming Flower** (Phantom), \$29.99, 70 seconds; **Hexagon Magic** (Phantom), \$19.99, 104 seconds; **Jade & Butterfly Duo** (Phantom), \$4.99, 28 seconds each; **En Fuego** (TNT), \$4, 31 seconds; **Black Widow** (TNT), \$3, 42 seconds.

For more information, visit: TNT Fireworks (www.tntfireworks.com) and Phantom Fireworks (www.fireworks.com).



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Fireworks Safety for 2011

Don't be a statistic this Fourth of July.

By David Dickstein

Sacramento Region – Fire due to carelessness can happen any season, but the dryness of summer makes this time of year especially volatile. Because our Founding Fathers chose the toasty month of July to formally break from Great Britain, extra precautions should be taken if you stage your own fireworks display.

Here are some safety tips to help ensure that the red, white and blue on the Fourth of July aren't from the fire, ash and mood, respectively, caused by a lack of common sense:



- Observe local laws.
- Always store fireworks in a cool, dry place.
- Always read and follow directions on each firework.
- Use only state-approved "safe and sane" fireworks.
- Only use fireworks outdoors, away from homes, dry grass or trees.
- Have a responsible adult present.
- Have a hose ready.
- Light at a safe distance.
- Never attempt to re-light or fix a "dud."
- Never carry fireworks in your pocket.
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person.
- Soak used fireworks overnight before disposing.

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