

Carmichael Times



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Serving Carmichael and Sacramento County since 1981

March 2, 2011

New Farmers Market Opens



Local teens are learning more about business and eating well by participating in the Farmers Market. Photo courtesy of Farmers Market.

Citrus Heights - BeMoneySmartUSA, a local non-profit training company based in Carmichael, is opening their first and newest Farmers Market of the season at the Sunrise Mall on Saturday, March 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Farmers Market will be situated in the Sears parking lot behind the main entrance at 6196 Sunrise Mall and will be open every Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. all year long.

"We will have a good selection of vendors at the first market of the season with the number growing as the season progresses," said Don Hall, the Farmer's Market Manager. "Customers can expect to find farm fresh produce, artisan cheeses, grass-fed beef, eggs, baked goods, and an assortment of fresh fruits, vegetables and many other specialty items."

Every Saturday morning the community can enjoy outdoor shopping from a selection of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables from certified and organic farmers and vendors.

By shopping at the BeMoneySmartUSA Farmers Market(s), the community is not only

benefiting by purchasing healthy food for their family, they are also helping BeMoneySmartUSA—a nonprofit organization – to continue to provide financial literacy and entrepreneurship courses, workshops and camps for free to youth and adults in our communities.

"Our focus is on educating and empowering our youth to develop the fiscal and business skills they need to really succeed in the world," says Marie Hall, Executive Director of BeMoneySmartUSA. "Our students not only learn about money and business in the classroom, they are also offered the opportunity to work at the Farmers Markets in job positions incorporating communications, hospitality, journalism, marketing, sales and customer service to learn while they earn and gain real-world experience."

Each month the market will feature special community events and demonstrations for healthy eating and cooking, kid's cooking programs, gardening tips and tricks, free teen CPR mini-programs, music and entertainment for the whole family.

"We are so pleased to once again provide our community with a Farmers Market that not only provides farm direct fruits, vegetables and more, but also supports the youth in our community and prepares them for financial success into adulthood", said Christi Woodards, General Manager of Sunrise Mall.

On Sunday, April 3, BeMoneySmartUSA will open their second Farmers Market at the Yuba Sutter Mall by Hwy 99 and 20 at 1215 Colusa Avenue in Yuba City, and their third market on May 1, Sunday, at the San Juan Center on the corner of San Juan and Fair Oaks Boulevard in Carmichael at 9045 Fair Oaks Boulevard.

When you visit any one of the three farmers markets you can expect to see the BeMoneySmartUSA "teens in red" ready to greet you with a smile and assist you with taking your groceries back to your car, finding a specific product or vendor or anything else you need to make your shopping experience a pleasant one.

The Farmers Market Grand

Opening at the Sunrise Mall on March 5 will feature musical entertainment by the "Ridin' Shotgun" bluegrass band from Auburn, balloon animals and free reusable shopping bags, courtesy of the Sunrise Mall.

BeMoneySmartUSA specializes in youth financial, business, and career education programs. Their innovative training programs and curricula introduce students to the world of business, entrepreneurship, and money management. Their goal is to inspire, train, and educate young people about managing money. Their mission is to equip and empower youth by giving them the opportunity to participate in educational programs that teach financial, business, and entrepreneurship skills. They support the needs of schools, youth organizations, parents, religious organizations, institutions, and businesses that recognize the importance of financial education for the next generation. For more information please visit them on the web at www.bemoneysmartusa.org.

Volunteers Sought During Red Cross Month

Helping those in Need for More than 130 Years

Sacramento Region – March is Red Cross Month, and the American Red Cross is asking people to join them in helping those in need by volunteering their time, making a donation or taking a class.

"When someone provides a hot meal to a disaster victim, takes a first aid class, or helps someone in the military, they join the Red Cross," said Dawn Lindblom, Capital Region Chapter CEO. "We want to say 'thank you' to all who support us. That support enables us to provide help and hope to those who need our assistance."

For nearly 100 years, U.S. Presidents have called on people to support the American Red Cross and its humanitarian mission. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first to proclaim March as Red Cross Month in 1943. Since that time, President Obama and every president since have issued proclamations designating March as Red Cross Month.

The Red Cross has been helping people for 130 years, responding to disasters, assisting members of the military, teaching lifesaving skills, and serving as one of the largest blood suppliers in the United States.

Nationally, the Red Cross responds to an average of nearly 200 disasters every day. The organization provides a round-the-clock link between those in the military and their families, and supplies blood and blood products to approximately 3,000 hospitals and transfusion centers across the country.

The Capital Region Chapter responded and provided assistance in 410 local disasters last year. The chapter processed 860 emergency military calls and trained 46,000 people in CPR and first aid classes.

"We work very diligently to help those in need," Lindblom said. "Whether out on a disaster, alongside our troops or in a first aid class, Red Cross workers touch the lives of millions of people every year."

The Red Cross is not a government agency and relies on donations



Dawn Lindblom, Capital Region Chapter CEO

of time, money and blood to do its work.

"When people join the Red Cross by volunteering, donating blood, taking a course or making a contribution, they enable us to continue our work, both here at home, and around the world," Lindblom said.

The Capital Region Chapter has a number of activities planned for Red Cross Month in March, including CPR Saturday training events on March 5, 12 and 19, Save a Life Saturday on March 19, and Red Cross Day at the Capitol on March 8.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. The Capital Region Chapter serves an eleven-county region including Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, eastern Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Yolo counties. For more information, visit www.redcross.org.



The Tea Party side at the rally in Sacramento. Photograph by Amanda Morello.

By Amanda Morello

Sacramento Capitol – In a showing of Union Brotherhood, California SEIU held two rallies at the Capitol this week to support Union workers in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin budget has been thrust into the national

spotlight because their budget vote could set precedence on the removal of Collective Bargaining, a vital part of the Union contract negotiations. Both Sacramento events were counter-protested by the Tea Party. Groups from across the state, on both

Protests Raise More "Questions"

sides, drove up to attend Saturday's protest.

Tuesday's event, which was held after work hours on the west steps of the State Capitol, turned out thousands of Union Workers and a Teamster's big rig that circled the Capitol. The Tea Party turned out approximately 50 counter-protestors. This event resulted in no incidents. One Tea Partier brought an airhorn and was quickly told by the police that he must have a permit for the horn or face a \$100 fine for violating noise ordinance.

Saturday's event was a different story. This Union Rally was hosted by MoveOn.Org and Van Jones according to the website. This event was part of a fifty state "Call to Action" where Union supporters

were to protest at their State Capitols. Saturday's event was confrontational from the beginning. While Tea Partiers organized across 10th street from the Union Rally, groups such as CodePink.org and various Teamster union workers began lining the street, eventually causing more rally participant to crowd on the sidewalk interacting with Tea Partiers instead of listening to rally organizers. Unlike Tuesday's event, bullhorns on both sides were loud and prevalent, adding to the energy and tension of the day's event. Paul Smith, Tea Partier from Sacramento who attended both events, questioned police about why they were not enforcing the "Noise Ordinance Rule" since the bullhorns were adding to tensions? According to Paul's blog, the police responded

with threats to arrest him for pressing the subject.

At one point, a large group from the Union side crossed the street through the Tea Partiers that were lining the sidewalk. As the crowd passed, I had one Union supporter grab the lens of my camera, even though I was clearly wearing my Press Badge. Another placed two fingers to his temple like a gun as he looked at the Tea Partier next to me.

During this crossing, 29 year old Richard Andazola, while yelling "Fascists" at Tea Partiers through a bullhorn, attacked Tea Partier Rodney Stanhope from El Dorado Hills. Richard Andazola hit the Tea Partier with his bullhorn and managed to choke Mr. Stanhope before police separated the two. This

altercation was caught on numerous videos with numerous witnesses.

Richard Andazola was later given a ticket by the police and Rodney Stanhope made a Citizen's Arrest. No word yet on court date or time. On his blog, Paul Smith reports that once again he questioned police as to "why Richard Andazola was not arrested for his physical attack on Mr. Stanhope?" to which he reports that the police officer stated, "when the jail is too full, they let some crimes go because they have no room to book them."

Sacramento was not alone in the violence against Tea Partiers. Videos of attacks from Union Supporters have been posted from both Atlanta and Chicago.

This Charade is Over *The Political Economy of Government Employee Unions*

How government-employee unions gain the power to tax while driving state and local governments to bankruptcy



The recent rally claimed "Fat Cats!" from both sides of the political debate. Photograph by Amanda Morello.

Commentary by Thomas DiLorenzo, Professor of economics

Whiskey & Gunpowder, Reprinted by permission

The main reason so many state and local governments are bankrupt, or on the verge of bankruptcy, is the combination of government-run monopolies and government-employee unions. Government-employee unions have vastly more power than do private-sector unions because the entities they work for are typically monopolies.

When the employees of a grocery store, for example, go on strike and shut down the store, consumers can simply shop elsewhere, and the grocery-store management is perfectly free to hire replacement workers. In contrast, when a city teachers' or garbage-truck drivers' union goes on strike, there is no school and no

garbage collection as long as the strike goes on. In addition, teachers' tenure (typically after two or three years in government schools) and civil service regulations make it extremely costly if not virtually impossible to hire replacement workers.

Thus, when government bureaucrats go on strike they have the ability to completely shut down the entire "industry" they "work" in indefinitely. The taxpayers will complain bitterly about the absence of schools and garbage collection, forcing the mayor, governor, or city councilors to quickly cave in to the union's demands to avoid risking the loss of their own jobs due to voter dissatisfaction. This process is the primary reason why, in general, the expenses of state and local governments have skyrocketed year in and year out, while the "production" of

government employees declines.

For decades, researchers have noted that the more money that is spent per pupil in the government schools, the worse is the performance of the students. Similar outcomes are prevalent in all other areas of government "service." As Milton Friedman once wrote, government bureaucracies — especially unionized ones — are like economic black holes where increased "inputs" lead to declining "outputs." The more that is spent on government schools, the less educated are the students. The more that is spent on welfare, the more poverty there is, and so on. This of course is the exact opposite of normal economic life in the private sector, where increased inputs lead to more products and services, not fewer.

Thirty years ago, the economist Sharon Smith was publishing research showing that government employees were paid as much as 40 percent more than comparable private-sector employees. If anything, that wage premium has likely increased.

The enormous power of government-employee unions effectively transfers the power to tax from voters to the unions. Because government-employee unions can so easily force elected officials to raise taxes to meet their "demands," it is they, not the voters, who control the rate of taxation within a political jurisdiction. They are the beneficiaries of a particular form of taxation without representation (not that taxation with representation is much better). This is why some states have laws prohibiting strikes by government-employee unions. (The unions often strike anyway.)

Politicians are caught in a political bind by government-employee unions: if they cave in to their wage demands and raise taxes to finance them, then they increase the chances of being kicked out of office themselves in the next election. The "solution" to this dilemma has been to offer government-employee unions moderate wage increases but spectacular pension promises. This allows politicians to pander to the unions but defer the costs to the future, long after the panderers are retired from politics.

As taxpayers in California, Wisconsin, Indiana, and many other states are realizing, the future has arrived. The Wall Street Journal reports that state and local governments in the United States currently have \$3.5 trillion in unfunded pension liabilities. They must either raise taxes dramatically to fund these liabilities, as some have already done, or drastically cut back or eliminate government-employee pensions.

Government-employee unions are primarily interested in maximizing the profits of the union. Consequently, they use civil-service regulations as a tool to protect

Politicians discovered long ago that the most convenient response to this dilemma is to actually reward the incompetent bureaucrat with an administrative job that he or she will gladly accept, along with its higher pay and perks. That solves the problem of parents who complain that their children's math teacher cannot do math, while eliminating the possibility of a lawsuit by the union. This is why government-school administrative offices are bloated bureaucratic monstrosities filled with teachers who can't teach and are given the responsibilities of "administering" the entire school system instead. No private-sector school could survive with such a perverse policy.

Government-employee unions are also champions of "featherbedding" — the union practice of forcing employers to hire more than the number of people necessary to do the job. If this occurs in the private sector, the higher wage costs will make the firm less competitive and less profitable. It may even go bankrupt, as the heavily unionized American steel, automobile, and textile industries learned decades ago.

No such thing happens in government, where there are no profit-and-loss statements, in an accounting sense, and most agencies are monopolies anyway. Featherbedding in the government sector is viewed as a benefit to both politicians and unions — but certainly not to taxpayers. The unions collect more union dues with more government employees, while the politicians get to hand out more patronage jobs. Each patronage job is usually worth two or more votes, since the government employee can always be counted on to get at

least one family member or close friend to vote for the politician who gave him the job. This is why, in the vast literature showing the superior efficiency of private versus government enterprises, government almost always has higher labor costs for the same functions.

Every government-employee union is a political machine that lobbies relentlessly for higher taxes, increased government spending, more featherbedding, and more pension promises — while demonizing hesitant taxpayers as uncaring enemies of children, the elderly, and the poor (who are purportedly "served" by the government bureaucrats the unions represent).

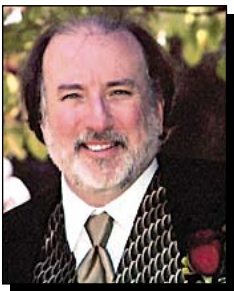
It is the old socialist trick that Frédéric Bastiat wrote about in his famous essay, *The Law: The unions view advocates of school privatization, not as legitimate critics of a failed system, but as haters of children. And the unions treat critics of the welfare state, not as persons concerned with the destruction of the work ethic and of the family that has been caused by the welfare state, but as enemies of the poor.*

This charade is over. American taxpayers finally seem to be aware that they are the servants, not the masters, of government at all levels. Government-employee unions have played a key role in causing bankruptcy in most American states, and their pleas for more bailouts financed by endless tax increases are finally ringing hollow.

Thomas DiLorenzo is professor of economics at Loyola University Maryland and a member of the senior faculty of the Mises Institute. He is the author of many books, including How Capitalism Saved America.

Carmichael Times

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A Case in Point

The Case of the Drowning Child: Is there a Duty to Act?

By David Graulich, Esq.

Sometimes the law seems at odds with what we intuitively feel is correct or proper. The legal result doesn't match what we think should be the "right" outcome.

An example of this is whether the ordinary person has a "duty to act" when there is an emergency.

Say that Jack is driving his car and is late for an appointment. As he drives to the meeting, he sees Carol lying on the road, bleeding. She is the apparent victim of a hit-and-run driver. Jack doesn't want to miss his appointment, so he continues driving and does nothing to help Carol.

Is Jack liable for his failure to act? Or consider this hypothetical: At a crowded beach without a lifeguard, a child is caught in the undertow. The child is pulled out to sea and is drowning. Sunning himself on the beach is Michael, an Olympic medal swimmer, renowned for his strength and aquatic skills. He hears the screams and glances at the water to see the drowning child. Then he yawns, rolls over and resumes working on his tan.

Is Michael legally at fault for refusing to save the drowning child?

In both cases, the answer is no. The law doesn't impose a "duty to act" when the ordinary person

encounters someone in danger but does nothing. As much as it may violate our innate sense of morality, there is no legal duty to come to aid of another who is in peril (with some exceptions, as we'll see).

You might feel uncomfortable with this principle of "no duty to act." In a civilized society, aren't we supposed to assist persons who are in danger?

Yes, in the sense that we admire Good Samaritans. But the law doesn't require us to render aid to somebody else. As one legal scholar puts it, "Courts hesitate to create duties that impose excessive burdens on actors." American society places a high value on individual freedom and autonomy, and that includes a person's freedom not to act.

Furthermore, a duty to act would be almost impossible to enforce. In the case of the drowning child, who among all the people on the beach had a duty to attempt a rescue? Everyone? Only Michael? Only people who could swim? Only good swimmers with Red Cross training?

We're talking here about whether a legal duty exists for the ordinary person. Note that persons such as lifeguards, firefighters or police officers, while on the job, have a legal duty to

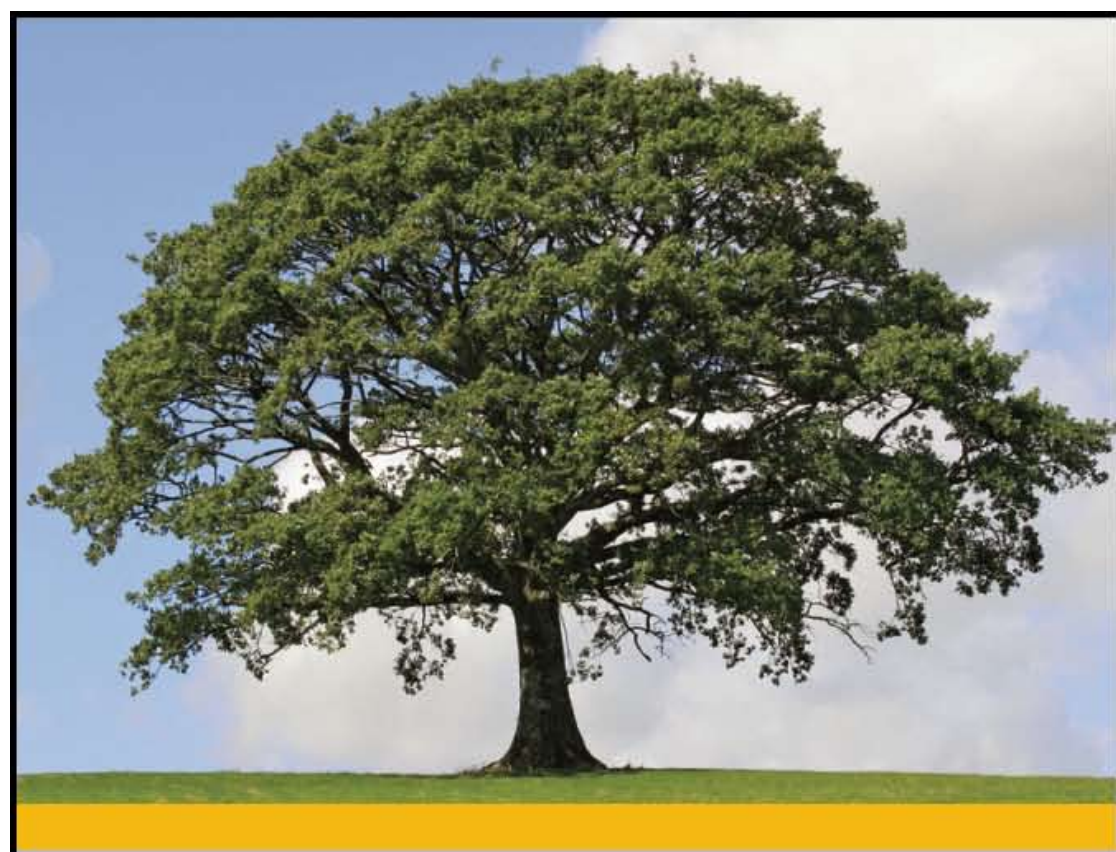
perform their responsibilities.

In addition, some jobs have "affirmative duties" to act for the protection of persons under their care. Bus drivers have a heightened duty to their passengers; this is known as the "common carrier-passenger relationship." Other illustrations are the special relationships of hotel managers with their guests, teachers with their students or parents with their children.

Another variation is the person who starts to help, then stops without good cause. Imagine that Michael swam halfway out to save the child, then decided to turn back to shore and have lunch. Now he would be liable, for he has made the victim's situation worse. By initiating a rescue, he deterred others from attempting to save the child. Valuable time was lost and the child's dilemma became more severe due to Michael's actions.

In the absence of one of these exceptions, however, there is no general duty to act for the benefit of another – even if a human life is at risk.

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@timoconnorattorney.com.



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BBB Warns Consumers of Local Investment Group

By Andrew DeFazio

Sacramento Region – In a current economic crisis that was fueled by the risky lending practices of banks both big and small, mortgage loan modification fraud has been taking place locally in the greater Sacramento area. National Church Consultant of America, formerly Andrew's Investment Group, "garners some \$750 to \$7000 in advance fees for guaranteed loan modifications, which most say fail to materialize," according to a press release dated Dec. 16 by the Better Business Bureau (BBB).

The press release states that the BBB received nine complaints in regards to customers being told by the investment group to stop making their loan payments and pay Mr. Rodney Andrews, the company's CEO, directly instead.

"This company not only scammed

us out of thousands of dollars, but left voicemails stating our loan had been modified when it wasn't. They promised us verbally and on our receipt that they'd refund us our money if they didn't modify our loan. We've been waiting two years for a refund," exclaimed a customer who lost \$5,500.

Calls to Mr. Andrews at his office were not returned.

Other complaints include: post-dated checks required by the company have been cashed immediately before the date verbally specified. Checks have also been cashed before the loan modification process is complete; contrary to a promise by Andrews not cash checks before the completion of a loan modification.

An additional complaint was received in January regarding Mr. Rodney Andrews, the company's CEO, directly instead. She further stated, "the investment group

still has an 'F' rating for failing to respond to complaints and for the seriousness of the complaints."

The press release cites a bill signed by Gov. Schwarzenegger in October 2009 (Senate Bill 94), "that prohibits any person, including real estate licensees and lawyers, from demanding, charging, or collecting an advance fee from a consumer for loan modification or mortgage loan forbearance services." The BBB argues, Andrews Investment Group "is in violation of these terms."

The BBB serving northeast California warns "consumers facing foreclosure to NEVER pay an upfront fee to modify your loan. Deal with your lender directly and see if you can modify the loan yourself." The BBB gives free reports on companies-including history of complaints, a BBB rating and licensing information.

Carmichael Geranium Society Monthly Meeting

The meeting will be on March 11th at the Carmichael Park Community Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave. Carmichael, CA. Come and get Hands On Geranium Plant Workshop by Mr. Geranium, Donn Reiners. (horticulturist).

The entire meeting is devoted to Geranium horticultural education. You will learn what you need to do to get the best from your geraniums. Refreshments will be served. The meeting starts at 10.00 A.M.



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To PRESENT
*Sherlock Holmes and
 The Case of
 the Jersey Lily*
AND
*The Phantom Cat
 of the Chautauqua*

(L) Michael Walker, Walter Thompson, Julie Bock

Chautauqua Playhouse, in association with LeGacy Productions, announces the opening of *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily*, by Katie Forgette, starting on March 11 at the Playhouse. The show will play on Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00pm and Sundays at 2:00 pm through April 17. Carmichael area 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.

After the six week run on the Chautauqua stage, the show will move to the Historic Nevada Theatre in Nevada City, with the same cast for an additional four weeks.

Beautiful actress Lillie Langtry is seeking help from the brilliant detective Sherlock Holmes in a small matter involving blackmail, some missing jewels and the royal family. Our hero gets some help from his sidekick, Watson, and the famous Oscar Wilde as the evil Professor Moriarty tries yet again to foil the day.

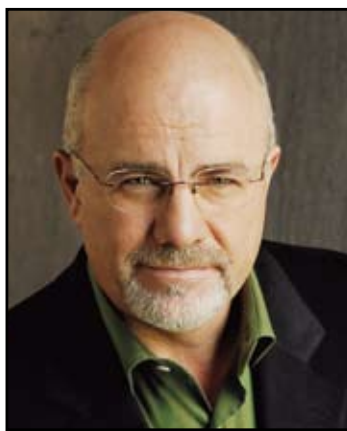
The show is directed by Warren Harrison, featuring a talented cast including Walter Thompson, Julie Bock, Michael Walker, Rodger Hoopman, Shawn O'Neal, Chris Whitlock, Alvis LeGate and Jimmy McCammon. Set design is by Rodger Hoopman and costumes are by Meghan Bice. Light design is by Don Myers.

Also opening in March is the Chautauqua Children's Theatre production of *The Phantom Cat of the Chautauqua*. The show opens on March 19 and plays on Saturday afternoons at noon and 2 pm through April 9. The show, written and directed by Marie Raymond, is a fantasy about a Cat who thinks he owns the theatre. Ticket price for the children's shows is \$7.00 for all seats.

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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Dave Says

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Dear Dave,

We have \$21,000 in credit card debt, and ongoing medical expenses for our special-needs child. My husband works very hard, but only makes about \$25,000 a year, and we're living in a 30-year old trailer. My dad is willing to help us pay off some of the debt, and get us moved into a house, if we'll get financial counseling. Is there a better way out of this situation?

- Sheryl

Dear Sheryl

If you're going to have to make payments to your dad, in other words, if the money is going to be a loan, don't do it. The borrower is always slave to the lender. If you really want to ruin family events, have debt to

your parents. It twists you up inside, and it'll be especially hard on your husband.

Now, if this is going to be a gift, and there are no expectations of repayment being made, that's a little different. But if you were my child and I wrote you a \$21,000 check, I'd expect you to go into financial counseling and start saving money for your child's future and for yours. That's only reasonable. You guys obviously aren't wasteful yuppies spending money right and left, but having a family and raising kids in the Dallas – Fort Worth area on \$25,000 a year is tough – even without the credit card bills you're talking about.

Another thing I'd advise is that your husband get on a five-year game plan to improve his earning potential. Sit down with him, hold hands, and let him know he can be anything he wants to be. Then, help him decide what he wants to be in five years, what he wants to be making five years down the road, and the steps he's going to take educationally or in terms of training to achieve that goal.

He's a hard-working man, but today's culture doesn't reward hard work alone. You've got to engage the gray matter a little, and boost your brain power, too. You make more money when you *plan* to make more money!

- Dave

Relationship Fix

Dear Dave,

I have three stepchildren, the oldest of which is married and has a

little baby. The only time we hear from him is when they want money. We don't mind helping out once in a while, but his wife just seems lazy. She stays at home all the time, and doesn't help bring in anything. What can we do to fix this?

- Cindy

Dear Cindy,

When your relationship with someone is based on you giving them money, then you don't have a relationship. But there may be other reasons they aren't calling very much.

If you say things about his wife being lazy when you do talk, it probably makes them both angry. If this is the case, they may only call when they're desperate enough to put up with your comments about her. Plus, taking care of a baby is one of the hardest full-time jobs around. The value or importance of what someone does isn't always reflected in a paycheck.

But I don't think you should be giving them money all the time, either. You could try gently giving advice, instead. Maybe they need to be on a budget, or perhaps they should be spending less.

Regardless, I'm always against perpetuating relationships that are based on handing out money!

- Dave

*** Dave may be coming to your town this spring. For more information, please go to <http://www.daveramsey.com/category/events/>.**



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Carmichael Recreation and Park District is announcing these upcoming events

Tiny Tots

Taught by Kelly Stapp • Ages 3-5 years

Location: Carmichael Park Tiny Tots Room

Tiny Tots is all about discovery and encourages children to pursue new talents and interests while building confidence. Participants enhance their skills through socialization, beginning academics, numbers, language, arts and crafts and much more. A parent information packet is available at the time of registration. Returning students have priority.

Kindergarten Readiness

Day/Time: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays,

9am – Noon

Dates: 2/28 – 4/8 • Fee: \$265

Social Experiences

Day/Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays,

9am – Noon. Dates: 2/29 – 4/7 • Fee: \$180

Come Dance With Me...



**Location: La Sierra Community Center,
 Sierra Rooms 1-2**

Dates: 2/1-3/1, 3/8-3/29 • Fee: \$46/4 weeks

Baby Ballet & Gymnastics, walking - 3 years

Tuesday, 9-9:45am

This is an introduction to dance and gymnastics. Basic beginner dance and gymnastics skill are combined for those students ready for instruction. Children should wear comfortable tight-fitting clothing. One parent may assist if a child needs reassurance.

Pre-Ballet, 3-5 years • Tuesday, 9:50-10:35am

This class is designed for beginning ballet and movement. It is more concentrated on rhythm and slightly more structured with a focus on listening skills. Girls should wear pink tights, a black leotard without a skirt and ballet shoes while boys need to wear a plain white T-shirt and black shorts. You can find all of these items at your local dance supply store. If you are not sure where to get quality ballet shoes, please come to the first class with bare feet and your instructor will assist you.

Carmichael's Biggest Loser Program for Teens Taught by Mimi Rogers-Phillips, Wellness Coach Ages 11-14

Location: La Sierra Community Center, Room 810
Day/Time: Thursday, 7-8:30pm • Dates: 1/13-3/31
Fee: \$80/12 week

Feeling self-conscious because of your weight or that you can't participate in activities other kids do? We want to offer you a chance to get your confidence back by lending you a support system to help you through your desired weight loss journey. Join Commit Under 200 (CU200). The program offers resources, coaching, 1 on 1's, exercise, proper food preparation, healthy restaurant eating and more. No fads, diets or surgeries...just 12 weeks of learning how to build the spiritual, emotional, mental and social structure that ultimately leads to a more positive and confident persona.

Kid's Hangout

Before & After School Care

The Kid's Hang Out Before and After School Program is held at the La Sierra Community Center, Monday through Friday throughout the 2010/11 school year. Kids are in a safe environment where your child can read, do homework, have a nutritional snack, socialize with their friends, and be involved in sports and other activities. Transportation is provided to and from your child's school, to the La Sierra Community Center.

Before school care program opens at 6:45am. **After** school program begins when we pick up your child from school and closes at 6pm. The program runs throughout the school year and registration is ongoing.

FEES:

After School Care:
 \$80 per wk • \$60 per wk (any 3 days)

Before School Care:
 \$30 per wk if enrolled in after school program
 \$35 per wk not enrolled in after school program.
 The fee includes transportation, supplies, snacks and qualified staff.

To register or for more information please visit us at the La Sierra Community Center Sports Office, 5325 Engle Road, Suite 100, Carmichael or contact us at (916) 483-7826.

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

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Spring Open House and Home tours

Sunday, March 13, 2011 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
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 with Terry Knight (10 a.m. – 12 noon)



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IRS Has \$1.1 Billion for People Who Have Not Filed a 2007 Return

Californians Potentially Due \$129 Million in Refunds

IRS Release – Refunds totaling more than \$1.1 billion may be waiting for nearly 1.1 million people who did not file a federal income tax return for 2007, the Internal Revenue Service announced today. More than \$129 million in refunds may be due for 124,000 Californians. However, taxpayers must file a 2007 tax return with the IRS no later than Monday, April 18, 2011, to collect the money.

The IRS estimates that nationally half of these potential 2007 refunds are \$640 or more. The median potential refund in California amounts to \$597.

Some people may not have filed because they had too little income to require filing a tax return even though they had taxes withheld from their wages or made quarterly estimated payments. The law provides most taxpayers with a three-year window of opportunity for claiming a refund in cases where a return was not filed.

The money becomes property of the U.S. Treasury if no return is filed to claim a refund within three years.

The three-year window closes on April 18, 2011, for 2007 returns. The law requires that the return be properly addressed, mailed and post-marked by that date. There is no penalty for filing a late return qualifying for a refund.

The IRS reminds taxpayers seeking a 2007 refund that their checks will be held if they have not filed tax returns for 2008 and 2009. In addition, the refund will be applied to any amounts still owed to the IRS, and may be used to offset unpaid child support or past due federal debts such as student loans.

People stand to lose more than a refund of taxes withheld or paid during 2007 by failing to file a return. Many low-and-moderate income workers may not have claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The EITC helps individuals and families whose incomes are below certain thresholds, which in 2007 were \$39,783 for those with two or more children, \$35,241 for people with one child, and \$14,590 for those with no children. For more information, visit the EITC Home Page.

Current and prior year tax forms and instructions are available on the Forms and Publications page of IRS.gov or by calling toll-free 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676). Taxpayers who are missing Forms W-2, 1098, 1099 or 5498 for 2007, 2008 or 2009 should request copies from their employer, bank or other payer. If these efforts are unsuccessful, taxpayers can get a free transcript showing information from these year-end documents by calling 1-800-908-9946, or by filing Form 4506-T, Request for Transcript of Tax Return, with the IRS.

California Gasoline Consumption Rose 2.6%, Diesel Increased 4.9%

Senator George Runner, Second District Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released California gasoline and diesel consumption figures for November 2010. California gasoline consumption increased 2.6 percent in November 2010, and diesel fuel consumption increased 4.9 percent, compared with November 2009.

In November 2010, gasoline demand rose 2.6 percent when Californians used 1.20 billion gallons of gasoline compared to 1.17 billion gallons in November 2009. The average California gasoline price at the pump in November 2010 was \$3.20 per gallon compared

to \$3.01 in November 2009, a 6.3 percent increase. The national average price for gasoline in November 2010 was \$2.91 per gallon compared to \$2.71 a year earlier.

"I'm concerned about rising fuel prices," said Senator Runner. "Our economic recovery is fragile and any higher costs could hurt private sector job creation."

Diesel fuel sold in California during November 2010 totaled 207 million gallons compared to November 2009's total of 198 million gallons, which is an increase of 4.9 percent. California diesel prices were \$3.30 per gallon in November 2010 an increase of 11.5 percent compared to November 2009 when

the average diesel price was \$2.96 per gallon. The national average price for diesel fuel in November 2010 was \$3.14 per gallon compared to \$2.80 a year earlier.

The BOE is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors. The figures reported monthly are net consumption that includes BOE audit assessments, refunds, amended and late tax returns, and State Controller's Office refunds. Figures for December 2010 are scheduled to be available at the end of March 2011.

All monthly, quarterly, and annual figures can be viewed at: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/sptfrpts.htm.

Local Students Attending Whitworth University Qualify for Laureate Society

Spokane, Wa – (readMedia) - Whitworth University Students Aimee Eshoff of Carmichael, Shannon Eshoff of Carmichael and Bryan Reich of Carmichael, each have been named to the Laureate

Society for fall semester 2010. The students qualified for the academic honors society by maintaining a grade point average of at least 3.75 during the semester.

Whitworth is a private liberal

arts university affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). The university, which has an enrollment of nearly 3,000 students, offers 60 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

17th Annual Healthy Horizons Senior Wellness Fair at Eskaton Village Carmichael

Name of Organization:
Eskaton Village Carmichael

What: 17th Annual Healthy Horizons Senior Wellness Fair

When: Wednesday, March 2, 2011 from 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Location:
Eskaton Village Carmichael
3939 Walnut Avenue
Carmichael, CA 95608

Contact Information:
Stefanie Strickley, Fitness and Wellness Program Coordinator

Contact Phone Number:
(916) 974-2000

Description of Event:
Senior Wellness Fair. A variety of health and wellness professionals. Free samples, prize drawings & health screenings.

Cost: Free to the Public

Giant Community Garage Sale!!!!

Choices Charter School is having a giant Community Garage Sale on Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 8:00-12:00 – rain or shine! The profits from the sale will go directly to the Choices Student Scholarship Fund.

Anyone interested in renting and manning their own booth (7' tables)

for the garage sale can do so for a fee of \$25. All profit from the sale of these items will go directly to the person who rented the table.

We are located at 4425 Laurelwood Way, Sacramento, CA 95864. If you are interested in renting a booth for this event, please email mrakela@sanjuan.edu

(PUT: "Garage Sale" in the subject line of your email or you may not receive a response). You can also call (916) 979-8392 and leave a message.

We have space for 25 booths. The tables will be rented on a first-come, first-served basis once we have received payment.

Monthly Military Retiree/Spouse Meeting

Our next monthly meeting will be held on 8 Mar 2011 at the North Highlands Community Center, 6040 Watt Ave, North Highlands 95660. Our meetings start promptly at 1030 hrs. Our Speaker will be Celia Esquivel, AARP Director for Northern CA, and she will talk on

Frauds and Scams affecting our Senior population. It will be a very interesting meeting so come on out and get smarter on this subject. If you have any questions, contact our staff at 561-7476, Mon thru Thurs, from 9 to 3.

Defensive Driving Class/55 Alive

Our next class is scheduled for 29 and 30 Mar 2011 for military retirees/spouses. It will be held at the AEROSPACE MUSEUM of CA, 3200 Freedom Park Drive, on McClellan Park. Cost is \$12 for AARP Members; \$14 for non-

AARP Members. Do not call us to sign up for this class. You must come to our office in the VA Clinic, McClellan Park to put your name on the list. If you are a AARP, please have your Account Number available.

Widowed Persons Association of California, Inc.

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

Sunday Support

Any and all widows or widowers are invited
Every Sunday from
3:00 pm-5:00 pm

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

Realizing how difficult it is to go into new social situations when one is first widowed, the Widowed Persons Association of California encourages widowed men and women to come to Sunday Support each Sunday from 3:00 pm-5:00pm with some going to dinner as a group following the session. The Widowed Persons Association is designed to be of help to recently widowed men and women, but any and all widows and widowers are welcome as a community service by WPAC. Participants do not need to be members and there is no charge.

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Runner Says Amazon Threat Credible

Revised Board Analysis Warns Nexus Law Could Cost Jobs



Senator George Runner

becomes law," said Runner. Runner cited a letter he received from Paul Misener, Amazon's Vice President for Global Public Policy, in which Misener cites four specific bills—AB 153 (Skinner), AB 155 (Calderon), SB 234 (Hancock), SB 655 (Steinberg). These measures all aim at requiring out-of-state online retailers like Amazon to collect sales tax on purchases made by Californians.

In his letter Misener writes: "If any of these new tax collection schemes were adopted, Amazon would be compelled to end its advertising relationships with well over 10,000 California-based participants in the Amazon 'Associates Program.'"

Runner warned, "This is an imminent threat to California jobs. Lawmakers would do well to pay attention."

Misener notes that similar state-wide terminations have already occurred in North Carolina, Rhode Island and Colorado after those states enacted similar laws.

Misener explains that these participants - also known as

affiliates—"place Amazon advertisements on their websites, and then are compensated by Amazon for purchases made by visitors whom they refer to Amazon's website."

A revised Board of Equalization analysis of the pending Assembly measures cautions that 50% of projected revenues would vanish as a result of Amazon's action. Revenues would be "further diminished" if other firms also terminated their affiliate programs.

The BOE analysis also warns of an "adverse impact on state employment," resulting in lower corporate and personal income tax

revenues for the state.

In conclusion Runner said, "The Legislature needs to stop considering bills that would hurt jobs and instead start improving California's dismal business climate so we can attract much-needed jobs to our state."

Elected in November 2010, Senator George Runner represents more than 9 million Californians as a member of the Board of Equalization. For more information, visit www.boe.ca.gov/Runner

will be formally recognized in late April at an annual awards banquet.

Board of Equalization Member Senator George Runner today (Feb. 28th) warned that Amazon will terminate its relationships with more than 10,000 California-based affiliate businesses if pending legislation becomes law.

"In no uncertain terms, Amazon has made it clear to me that the checks they send Californians will be cut off overnight if pending legislation aimed at regulating their operations

real estate auctions

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Reportedly, **Johnson & Johnson** has been seeking medical releases from recipients so that their claims adjusters can speak with you directly and possibly take down statements without your having counsel present — an unwise action for any recipient to do.

Having a defective hip implant in your body clearly demands having your own lawyer. You

must be very cautious with dealing with the manufacturer or its representative without proper legal representation.

If you have a DePuy ASR™ product, please call us immediately, as there are time limits for filing a claim. You might already have problems with the implant about which you are unaware, so please contact us — and certainly do not forfeit your legal rights without talking to us.

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CLUES

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|---|---|--|--|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1. A street of small shops</p> <p>6. *Part of Rocky's arsenal</p> <p>9. *Object of Frodo's obsession</p> <p>13. Apart</p> <p>14. "Ice ____"</p> <p>15. It's plucked to foretell love</p> <p>16. Move very quickly</p> <p>17. "Apocalypse Now" takes place during the Vietnam one</p> <p>18. City in Belgium</p> <p>19. "The ____," starring Peter Falk and Alan Arkin</p> <p>21. "It starred Hoffman and Cruise</p> <p>23. "To and ____"</p> <p>24. Ancient Greeks' harp</p> <p>25. Munchausen's story</p> <p>28. "The first Bond movie</p> <p>30. "He went against Kramer</p> <p>35. At the top</p> <p>37. Male children</p> <p>39. Richard Nixon's VP</p> <p>40. Level or dismantle</p> <p>41. One of 10 on humans</p> <p>43. "Layla" performer</p> | <p>44. *It starred Denzel Washington and is set during Civil War</p> <p>46. Generic name for dog</p> <p>47. "____ the Halls," starring DeVito and Broderick</p> <p>48. "The world is your ____"</p> <p>50. Salamander</p> <p>52. Timid or unsure</p> <p>53. Slang for heroin</p> <p>55. Long time</p> <p>57. "Cult film involving repossessing cars</p> <p>61. Type of wool</p> <p>64. AKA drosy</p> <p>65. "____ and feather"</p> <p>67. Used for breathing, but not by humans</p> <p>69. "17 ____," starring Efron and Perry</p> <p>70. Egyptian god of air</p> <p>71. Relating to uvea of the eye</p> <p>72. Go from solid to liquid</p> <p>73. Type of sweet potato</p> <p>74. Chatty or full of news</p> | <p>DOWN</p> <p>1. As opposed to Bachelor of Science degrees</p> <p>2. Reproductive structures</p> <p>3. Land of Israel</p> <p>4. WWII villain</p> <p>5. Slow the growth of</p> <p>6. "It featured the line, "You're gonna need a bigger boat."</p> <p>7. Turkish military leader</p> <p>8. Rocker Chuck</p> <p>9. Seabiscuit control</p> <p>10. One on a list</p> <p>11. Indian ethnic group</p> <p>12. Mountain valley</p> <p>15. Tool used for gripping</p> <p>20. "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad ____"</p> <p>22. "Indiana Jones saved it from raiders</p> <p>24. "Gas Food ____"</p> <p>25. "It featured the line, "And I guess that was your accomplice in the wood chipper."</p> <p>26. "Eat Pray Love" locale</p> <p>27. Gooftballs</p> <p>29. Another spelling for #56</p> <p>Down</p> <p>31. Imitated</p> <p>32. Bogs down or gets stuck</p> | <p>33. Another spelling for Eric</p> <p>34. *He famously called out to Adrian</p> <p>36. ____ Plus shampoo</p> <p>38. "Boys on the ____" with Goldberg, Barrymore and Parker</p> <p>42. Thrown to give up</p> <p>45. Stooge</p> <p>49. Consumer electronics maker</p> <p>51. "It featured the line, "I feel the need...the need for speed!"</p> <p>54. Antonym of calm</p> <p>56. Showing lack of guile or experience</p> <p>57. Paper unit</p> <p>58. "The Razor's ____"</p> <p>59. Loud ringing of bells or laughter</p> <p>60. Leave out</p> <p>61. Starch from cuckooipint root</p> <p>62. Ball of yarn</p> <p>63. Exclamation for unfortunately</p> <p>66. American Heart Association</p> <p>68. *Stallone's nickname</p> |
|---|---|--|--|

For Solution See Page 8



Carmichael Chamber of Commerce

Carmichael Chamber Events

The Chamber sponsors several events throughout the year as well as monthly luncheons and mixers. Chamber members have the opportunity to network and promote their businesses to other Chamber members and guests.



It's a Zoo Out There!

Animal House Annual Juried Fine Art Exhibition will be held **February 22 - March 12** at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center, 5330B Gibbons Dr in Carmichael. Gallery hours are Tuesday - 11 am to 7 pm, and Wednesday through Saturday, 11 am to 3 pm. The exhibition is co-sponsored by Sacramento Fine Arts Center, Carmichael Recreation and Park District, Sacramento SPCA, and Sacramento Audubon Society. Sac Fine Arts and the SPCA will host an Animal Rescue and Artists Award Reception on March 5 from 6 to 8 pm. There will be painting demonstrations by artists and live music. For information, call 916-971-3713.

St. Patrick's March Mixer

Come out for a bit o' blarney at the Chamber's next mixer on **Wednesday, March 9**. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Carmichael, this **FREE** event will be held at the Palm Street Pub & Grill, 6416 Fair Oaks Blvd in Carmichael (near Marconi Ave) from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy great food and drink and network with other business people. Be sure to bring plenty of business cards and a raffle prize.

Crime & Homelessness in Carmichael

As a service to the community, the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce is hosting a **FREE** Community Forum, open to the public, to discuss the issues of crime and homelessness in Carmichael. The event is **Thursday, April 28** from 7 - 9 pm at La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road. A panel of guests will be discussing these issues and the public will be able to ask questions. Panel members include Sacramento County Supervisor Susan Peters, Sheriff Scott Jones, Karen Maxwell of the District Attorney's Office, Jack Harrison of Carmichael Recreation and Park District, and more. For further information, contact the Chamber at 916-481-1002.

Sponsors Needed for Summer Concert Series

Carmichael Recreation and Park District is seeking local sponsorships for its **Summer Concert in the Park Series**. Now is the time for you to secure your business's name on the flyer, an event banner, or even have a booth at the venue! More than 5000 people attended last year so this is a great opportunity to get your name out there and connect with potential customers. While you're promoting your business, you can enjoy the sounds of Mick Martin, Todd Morgan and the Emblems, songs by the Journey cover band, Departure, Beatles tunes by Because or the classic rock of the Q-Balls, and more. For more information, call the Community Center at 916-972-0336.

Contact us for more information on the Carmichael Chamber of Commerce
 Phone (916) 481-1002 • Fax (916) 481-1003 • www.carmichaelchamber.com

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by David Dickstein

Family Viewing at the Cinema

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules
 Opens March 25, rated PG
diaryofawimpykidmovie.com

With this sequel that sends our year-older wimpy protagonist to 7th grade, Jeff Kinney's best-selling children's book has now spawned two motion picture comedies. The follow-up to last year's surprise smash has Greg and his demonic older brother, Rodrick, dealing with their parents' misguided attempts to have them bond.

Mars Needs Moms!
 Opens March 11, rated PG
disney.go.com/disneypictures/marsneedsmoms

Here's another reason Martians should be made at Hollywood if they really do exist. They've been portrayed as global invaders, destroyers and Lord knows what else, but in this latest, from Disney, they're stealing moms. When 9-year-old Milo sees his own mother abducted by aliens - they want her "momness" for their own offspring - the kid stows away on their spaceship for a rescue mission, and quite possibly will learn to appreciate Mom much more after the ordeal.

Films and DVDs for the Whole Family

of Dirt paint Rango as a hero. When the lizard becomes the dusty town's new sheriff, the baddies, who suspect that the chameleon isn't what he seems to be (naturally), try to rid the new dude with the silver badge. Johnny Depp is a chameleon of his own right, changing from a lizard of the desert back to a pirate of the Caribbean in another two months.



Family DVDs

Angelina Ballerina: Ballet Dreams (ages 2-7, March 1, not rated): Camembert Academy's tutu-donning mouse adjusts to a new school, stages her own show and tries to land a leading role in the Mouskinov Ballet in this five-episode DVD. Bonus feature is a "Create Your Own Dream Routine" game. Grade: B

Hannah Montana Forever: Final Season (ages 5-14, March 8, G): Young girls who haven't already abandoned this show due to lack of interest or Miley Cyrus'

a lot of exclams of "pretty cool" and "sweet niblets." Bonuses include a cast goodbye. Grade: B

Happiness is a Warm Blanket, Charlie Brown (ages 3-12, March 29, not rated): The thought of his grandmother taking way his beloved security blanket is giving Linus separation anxiety. The Peanuts gang helps Linus come to grips over possibly losing his dependence on his textile crutch. Grade: A

Scooby-Doo! Curse of the Lake Monster (ages 5-10, March 1, not rated): Nice it is to see '70s and '80s character actors Marion Ross, Ted McGinley and Richard Moll get work again, this live action/CGI made-for-TV movie is OK at best. The mystery this time centers on strange happenings at a local lake. Grade: C+.

Shalom Sesame Purim and Passover (ages 3-7, March 8, not rated): The two newest titles in the Shalom Sesame series celebrate two springtime Jewish holidays. "Be Happy, It's Purim!" has Eva Longoria making a guest appearance and festive noise with groggers, while Jake Gyllenhaal stops by for matzo and charoses in "It's Passover, Grover!" What's not to like? Grade: A

Thomas & Friends: Pop Goes Thomas (ages 2-5, March 1, not rated): Discovery, friendship and cooperation are lessons learned in every Thomas episode, and the four in this DVD are no different. Thomas delivers goodies to a picnic, Percy joins in a game of hide and seek, and Emily cheers on the Sodor soccer team. Just under an hour of entertainment. Grade: B+



recent unsavory exploits are sure to enjoy having the fourth and final season of the merry and musical Disney Channel series on DVD. Nearly 350 minutes are packed on two discs. That's



Rango
 Opens March 4, rated PG
rangomovie.com

When a dorky and very lucky chameleon becomes a hawk killer instead of pray, the inhabitants

"A Music Gallery" Plays March 20

Carmichael - Bring the entire family to this extraordinary concert entitled "Designs, Images and Textures," the last concert in our "A Music Gallery" season, Sunday, March 20, 3 p.m. at the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. The Sacramento Symphonic Winds is a 60-piece wind orchestra conducted by Dr. Les Lehr. This concert will include Mosaico de Mexico by

George Gates, Enigma Variations by Edward Elgar, Dali by Aldo Rafael Forte, and will feature saxophone soloist Chad Deacon, oboe soloist Martin Monson, flute soloist Brandon Rotondo, a photo presentation by Noel Neuburger, and more!

For more information and a map, visit our web site at www.sacwinds.org.

Tickets at the door
 Under 8 - free
 Students/Seniors (65+) \$5
 General Admission \$10
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SACRAMENTO SYMPHONIC WINDS

Save the date! { "A Music Gallery"
 La Sierra Series Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 3pm

All performances are at
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 916-489-2576 • www.sacwinds.org



History books discussed at Carmichael Library monthly meetings

Carmichael Library History Book Club mixes fact and fiction for a clearer picture of what has happened in world history. The adult book club meets at 6:30 p.m., on the first Tuesday of each month, at Carmichael Library, 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael.

Attendees are encouraged to bring snacks to share with other book club members. For more information on the following book discussions, please telephone the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit saclibrary.org.

April 5: The Great Mortality, by John Kelly
 May 3: The Big Burn, by Timothy Egan

Carmichael Preschool Storytime
 March 3, Thursday, 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 Preschool Storytime (3-5yrs)
 Join Miss Angela for stories, songs, and a craft.

Carmichael Toddler Time
 March 3, Thursday, 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
 Toddler Storytime (1.5 - 3yrs)
 Join Miss Angela for stories, songs, and just plain fun!

Carmichael Library Book Sale
 March 5, Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Book Sale
 Find books and movies at basement bargain prices the first weekend of the month at Carmichael Library. Stuff for both kids and adults. Sponsored by the Friends of the Carmichael Library.

Read to Rover

March 8, Tuesday, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 School-Age Program
 Specially trained therapy dogs are waiting for children to come read to them. For kids ages 5 to 10 years old that are reading. Earn stickers for the time spent reading and earn a book too!

Yu-Gi-Oh Tournament

March 9, Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Teen Program
 Join other Yu-Gi-Oh enthusiasts for a card tournament. Bring your own deck or a willingness to learn. Beginners welcome. Prizes.

Carmichael Preschool Storytime

March 10, Thursday, 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m.
 Preschool Storytime (3-5yrs)
 Join Miss Angela for stories, songs, and a craft.

Carmichael Toddler Time

March 10, Thursday, 11:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
 Toddler Storytime (1.5 - 3yrs)
 Join Miss Angela for stories, songs, and just plain fun!

es 5 to 10 years old that are reading. Earn stickers for the time spent reading and earn a book too!



SACRAMENTO FINE ARTS CENTER, INC.

Contributing to the cultural life of the Sacramento community

Animal House Annual Juried Fine Art Exhibition
 February 22 - March 12, 2011
 Exhibition of Animal Themed Artworks. It's a ZOO out there! Co-Sponsored by Sacramento Fine Arts Center, Carmichael Recreation and Park District, Sacramento SPCA and Sacramento Audubon Society.

Animal House Awards Reception
 Sacramento Fine Arts Center and Sacramento SPCA will host an Animal Rescue and Artists Award Reception on **March 5, 2011**, 5:30-8:30 pm. Painting demonstrations by artists and live music. Refreshments.

Dance and Draw
 Dance Program Starring Sunny's Dancers from American River College Dance Department. Special Second Saturday event, **March 12, 2011**, 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Dance, Draw, Paint, Photograph and Sculpt. Artist's are invited to use the dancers as models to visually interpret the dance programs. The dancers will be willing to break out and do longer poses. Enhanced by the "Animal House Exhibit", and a display by the SFAC Photography Club in the Foyer, this will be another great cultural evening at Sacramento Fine Arts Center.

5330-B Gibbons Dr., Carmichael, CA • Ph. 916-971-3713
 Hours: Tuesday 11 am-7 pm, Wednesday through Saturday 11 am-3 pm.

Meet Gayle Rappaport-Weiland and enjoy her demonstration on **March 14, 2011** at our 1:30 meeting.

Gayle brings originality, passion and heart to her art career. She creates signature impressionistic works, using watercolor acrylic, and mixed media. Her qualifications and expertise, as an artist, talented teacher, curator and consultant are widely recognized and respected. For more information on Gayle go to www.grappaport.com. Image ©Gail Rappaport-Weiland. Our meetings are free to the public.

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December 1-5, 2011 • \$1,749 pp double
- Monthly newsletter available online and at the community center for additional classes and events. For more information call (916) 972-0336 or go to www.morpd.com.

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- *SF Flowers and Garden Show*
March 26, 2011 • \$78/person
- *The Sound of Music - Cascade Theatre*
April 9-10, 2011 • \$305 pp/double
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St. Patrick's Dance Party

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\$6/person

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END of the BENCH

by **Gerry Scholl**

There it is. Standing proudly, top row, front and center, the prime location. Perfectly placed for impulse buying. Stacks and stacks on all the racks. You just can't miss it.

You guessed it fellas. Just when February hits us with that yearly bit of a "down time for sports," here comes that annual bestseller, the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Edition, and it needs to be recognized. I suppose I should pick one up to take home and write it off as a business expense.

Just a couple of weeks ago SI had MEN OF STEEL on its' cover. Now it has Irina Shayk in Hawaii in all her glory. There's such a wonderful diversity in sports.

"What's that honey? Oh, nothing, just working on my column."

So there's Irina. Inside there's some more Brooklyn Decker. Wasn't she on the cover last year? Yeah! And isn't she the one in that new Adam Sandler movie?

Well, nothing spells sports like young beautiful women dressed in very little. Oh, sorry, one too many letters in that last sentence - nothing SELLS sports like... I suppose it's sad but true; some might say pathetic.

"What's that I'm reading? Sports Illustrated. There are some

good articles in here."

Maybe the selling has gone a bit overboard, I don't know. You've got your Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, your Laker Girls, your Kings Dance Team, your Gold Rush Girls, halftime shows with wardrobe malfunctions, and on and on. I'm sure you've noticed the way televised sports goes to commercial with the gratuitous shots of the cute little dancing girls and when the cameras come back it's more of the same. One of my favorites is the freeway billboard with the holy trinity of sports. You've got your football, your hot cheerleader and your beer - the killer B's - ball, babes and beer. That's all you could ask for.

Men are pathetic, and everybody knows it. I've been there. My best man and I used to go to some Cal basketball games. At the first game each season we'd do our personal scouting reports on the new crop of cheerleaders and pick our favorites for the year. An innocent exercise. Pathetic. In my memorabilia collection I have a lot of magazines. I know I have a Christie Brinkley, a Carol Alt, a Kathy Ireland in here somewhere.

"This doesn't mean anything!

I'm just using it for a story. I've told you a million times, You are every woman in the world to me, and I'm forever in your debt."

But look people, it's not just men. I've heard some of you ladies out there with your little comments about the young hunks on the fields and courts. And it's not just sports doing the selling. Right there with the SI swimsuits you have your Glee girl on Cosmo, Michelle on Maxim, Elle, Vogue, Glamour, etc., etc. This stuff is everywhere. I don't feel particularly offended by it, though many people may be.

"Alright, already! I'm almost done with it." I've always felt the human form was something to be appreciated and admired, except when looking in the mirror. I don't see that it's any big deal to have a little fun with it. And besides, renowned artists throughout history have created amazing masterpieces beautifying our humanity. Now, I don't know if SI qualifies as art or exploitation, you be the judge. All I know is that for me its... "Baby, you're the greatest. Here's looking at you, kid."



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Metro Fire Awarded Over 5 Million In Grant Funds

Sacramento – The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District \$5,470,824 to hire 24 Firefighters. Through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program, Metro Fire will use the new Firefighters to replace Firefighters that have been lost through attrition over the last several years. These firefighters will be used to staff two additional truck companies that will increase public safety and provide additional fire ground safety for our firefighters. While these funds will help out in the immediate future it does not remove the burden of a declining economy, a national recession and decreased revenue for Metro Fire.

As the District has reported, the downturn in the economy has presented Metro Fire with serious challenges in the past two years. Its management team and Board of Directors, in cooperation with its labor units, have reduced the district's operating costs by closing three fire stations in 2009.

Metro Fire has significantly reduced management and administration costs through staff reductions, including 24 recent layoffs of non-firefighting personnel. To close an \$11 million budget gap last year, cost-reduction initiatives were initiated and district firefighters agreed to forego contracted salary increases in both 2008 and 2009.

Moreover, despite the receipt of

these grant monies, the economic reality is that Metro Fire will continue to operate under intense fiscal pressure. With 80 percent of the district's revenues are from property taxes, which – due to the housing crisis – have been reduced by 12% since 2009.

The population within Metro Fire's geographic footprint has grown by approximately 40,000 residents during the past decade. With about 64,600 service calls in 2009, Metro Fire saw calls for service within its service area increase 25 percent since 2000 and expects them to increase every year. The district also responded to an additional 10,305 calls for service in 2009 to support neighboring fire agencies.

Antique Evaluation Day to Benefit Mental Health Housing

Carmichael – Appraisers Brian Witherell of PBS's Antique Road Show, and Gary Cox, Sacramento's "Mr. Antique," will join other appraisers to evaluate books, toys, paintings, stamps, jewelry, collectables, sports memorabilia, inherited treasures, and more, including garage sale finds, Saturday, April 9, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Arden area at Unitarian Universalist Society, 2524

Sierra Blvd., between Howe Ave. and Fulton Ave., just north of Fair Oaks Blvd.

Suggested donation for evaluations is \$8 for one item and \$35 for five items. Proceeds benefit Welcome Home Housing, a non-profit housing program for adults with mental illness. www.welcome-homehousing.org

Last year's finds were paintings

by Wayne Thiebound and Mohamed Ali, an unclothed #1 Barbie doll valued at \$2,000, and jewelry valued at over \$10,000 that was thought to be "costume" but were diamonds and rubies. Learning the history, age and estimated value of items is "priceless."

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