

Carmichael Times



**Betty White
to appear at
Hank Fisher
Event**

Page 2



**Beautiful
Quilts from
Angel
Project**

Page 3



**It's Scary
Season for
Homeowners**

Page 9

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Volume 29 Issue 42

Serving Carmichael and Sacramento County since 1981

October 28, 2009

New County Animal Care Facility Open for Business



Sacramento County's new Animal Care Facility, located at 3839 Bradshaw Road, opened its doors on October 1 to a crowd of applauding visitors ready to bring an animal home or to just check out the new building. During the first day of operation, the staff and volunteers oversaw a total of 31 animal adoptions, about twice the norm.

"We expect to see an increase in adoptions because this facility was designed with both the animals and visitors comfort in mind," said Pat Claerbout, Department of Animal Care and Regulation Director. "Many of its elements facility are considered cutting-edge for animal shelters throughout the country."

When the County's old animal shelter was built over 40 years ago, animal shelters only used to quarantine dangerous dogs and protect the public against rabies. Cats were immediately euthanized and dogs were rarely re-united with their owners. Because community expectations

about animals have changed and evolved, the animal shelter has had to expand their services. Currently, the Sacramento County facility promotes adoptions, conducts spays and neuter outreach, licenses animals, and investigates and prosecutes cases of animal cruelty. Because the old facility was literally falling apart, and not designed to meet the needs of the community, the Board of Supervisors approved construction of a new shelter in 1995.

"This project has been a long time coming," said Claerbout. "We worked with the experts in animal shelter design to make sure that the building could stand the test of time and be a real asset to both the human and animal community. We know that having a beautiful shelter will help volunteer recruitment and increase the number of animals adopted."

In addition to a near-ready public dog park, the new facility has a variety of state-of-the-art features: Special animal housing areas, including dog kennels and

cat condos that showcase pets in a relaxed setting and prevent the spread of disease, Behavior evaluation rooms where pets are evaluated for temperament before being made available for adoption, as recommended by the American Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), A spay and neuter clinic to be operated jointly with the Sacramento Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA), A new barn facility for some of the shelter's larger animals, "Get Acquainted" areas for adopters to spend one-on-one time with their future pet, The Shelter has several LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) elements that prove that the new shelter was designed to the highest standards of "green design".

During the weekend of October 31, two days of open house and tours will be held and the public is invited! To learn more about the new shelter and see photos, please visit <http://www.saccountyshelter.net/>.

Pop Goes the Deal! Local Businesses Get A Leg Up

Sacramento - With a goal to enhance economic growth in the Sacramento area, Sacramento Board of Supervisors approved changes to the Procurement Opportunities Program (POP), a Small Business Preference Program that will increase the use of local and small business enterprises in the County's procurement and contracting activities.

The purpose of the Procurement Opportunities Program (POP), initially adopted in 2002, is to promote a healthy local business environment, higher local employment and an increased quality of life for County residents and neighbors.

Noteworthy program enhancements include:

- New and aggressive business outreach to ensure more local

businesses can participate in the plan.

- More robust online vendor registration process for automatic notification of bid opportunities.
- Eliminate multiple quote requirement when small purchases under \$5,000 are awarded to a certified micro-business located in the six-county Regional Market Area (Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties)
- When multiple quotes are solicited, small businesses in Sacramento County will be awarded a 2% bid preference; local business within the County will be awarded a 3% preference.
- Small business preference of 2% and the 3% local business preference may be combined for a total preference of 5%

for local micro-business and to any business in the Regional Market Area that reciprocate the same preference to Sacramento County.

- Contract limit increase from \$100,000 to \$250,000, and will be eligible for the maximum preference of 5% mentioned above.
- Expansion of the program will now include non-professional services and small construction contracts in addition to the existing goods and materials.

This enhanced program was effective October 14, 2009. For more information on specific requirements, please visit the General Services website at www.dgs.saccounty.net/capsd, or call (916) 876-6360.

Secured Property Tax Bills Mailed This Month

Sacramento - The new tax year has started and Sacramento County has mailed about 450,000 secured property tax bills which are payable beginning November 1, 2009. These tax bills are mailed only once a year; however, property owners may pay their bills in two installment payments. The first installment payment **must** be received or postmarked **no later than 5 p.m. on December 10, 2009**. Because April 10, 2010, is a Saturday this

year, the second installment **must** be received or postmarked **no later than 5 p.m. on April 12, 2010**. Both installments may be paid when the first installment is due.

The assessed values of over 170,000 properties were reduced by the county Assessor's Office, reflecting an overall decline in residential real estate prices in recent years.

By law, the assessed values on the 2009-10 annual tax bills are

based on property values as of January 1, 2009. Any declines in value after January 1, 2009 will not be reflected until the 2010-11 tax bill. If a taxpayer has evidence that their property value as of January 1, 2009, is less than that shown on this year's bill, they should visit the Assessor's website (www.assessor.saccounty.net), call the Assessor's Office at (916) 875-0455, or go in person to 3701 Power Inn Road, Suite 3000.

Still No Good Reason for Garfield School Closure From SJUSD



Photo & Story by Amanda Morello

Carmichael - San Juan Unified School District held another meeting for parents and the community on October 22nd at the District Offices. While the plan has been updated

to include Special Education Students in the population count, they are still leaving parents with many unanswered questions about this plan. Trent Allen, SJUSD Informa-

mation/Communication Director MC'd the meeting. The questions seemed non-stop from the audience, with a majority of the answers from the Panel of San Juan Directors being, "Well, because

this is the plan the 3280 committee recommended." Parents asked what the criteria for closure was, and were told "Age, Curb Appeal, Capacity and Acreage." Garfield school does not fit in this "criteria."

When asked "Where are future students to be housed?" Don Myers, Sr. Facilities Director replied, "at your neighborhood school." An audience member yelled out, "You mean like Garfield?" There was no reply from the District Directors. The frustrated audience finally asked "What savings will the District have if you move our children and turn this into District Offices?" To which Don Myer answered, "Probably none, if not cost more, depending what District Offices are housed at the campus."

Judee Shoemaker, retired secretary at Garfield School, commented "Because of the budget cuts in our district, I do not see why a new department was created, a new Director and staff hired, for a new

program to "fix" something that wasn't broken! I was the secretary at Garfield School for 25 years, and we had our own "Welcome Center" and registration process that was in place and worked perfectly... AND NOW the District wants to take their new program and give it a site at our school displacing over 400 students and families."

The current plan that the 3280 Committee has devised is once again bringing turmoil and chaos to families and neighborhoods. An Environmental Impact Report has not been done for any of the receiving schools, nor for the added traffic a business such as the District Offices would have at the Garfield location. An environmental Impact Report must be performed before this vote is approved.

According to the San Juan Website, under the Strategic Planning page, it states "By a unanimous vote, the San Juan Unified School District Board

of Education adopted a five-year results-based strategic plan at a special meeting June 23 that also celebrated the six months, 12,000 combined hours, and dedication of more than 300 volunteers that went into developing the plan..... The strategic planning process began in January of 2009 when the 30-person Planning Team, composed of members representing the diverse stakeholder groups in the District, met for the first time.

If this group meet in January of 09, why were at least three quarters of a million dollars of Measure J funds spent on Garfield Elementary, according to the Measure J Funds Facilities Improvement Program Quarterly Progress Report March 31, 2009, and yet the receiving schools barely received half of the fund the Garfield Campus received?

We invite the public's comment on this issue.

Got Something To Say... A Different Take

By CM Ricks

I have read the article on the front page of our paper so many times, I practically have it memorized. For those of you who missed it, the date was October 14th and the article was submitted by the Sacramento Christian Newswire. The newswire stated that the California Family Council (CFC) is disappointed with our Governor's decision to sign senate bill 572 authored by Senator Leno (D). The bill, 95608ers requires Governor Schwarzenegger to proclaim May 22 as Harvey Milk Day.

The Governor also signed a bill, SB 54 that requires the state to acknowledge and validate all marriages performed outside of California before November 5th, 2008. The CFC feels that by allowing this that the Governor is disregarding the people's vote regarding proposition 8 back in 2008. Two heated subjects that have clearly put our Governor into a corner are taking up the entire bottom half of the front page of a newspaper.

I, as you all know, write about my feelings, not the CFC's, not the paper's and certainly not the politician's! So, what I did is I looked up some facts about Harvey Milk and found that Harvey Milk was quite a fascinating human being. I did not write my article on a movie made by Hollywood and yes, starring one of my favorite actors, Sean Penn. I am writing my article because it is my truth about this subject.

I was taught about The Nina, The Pinta and The Santa Maria all of my life. I was told that Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue in '42 and discovered America. I have gone to the bank on Columbus Day and it is closed, I have gone to get my mail and the mail carrier had the day off. As I grew older and found that chances are pretty slim that Columbus was actually the first person to step foot on America, I often wonder why we still close all of our state offices,

let our children out of school and why we still learn all the chants about the long voyage to get here in our classrooms.

The reason for that is because it is history. It is history of the country in which we live. We acknowledge people in our country who have made a difference, who have stood at the front lines and fought for freedom, our rights, our land and we give them a day of recognition.

Harvey Milk fought for rights with his life, literally. He served in the United States Navy during the Korea War on Submarine Rescue Ship USS KITTIWAKE (ASR13). When discharged in 1955, he was a Lieutenant Junior grade. He went on to teach diving for the US Navy, as he was a Diving Officer. He worked on Wall Street for Bache and Co. and was very successful. In 1964 Milk worked on conservative Barry Goldwaters Presidential Campaign and later he taught at Hewlitt H.S. in Long Island. He entered into politics only because he was so unhappy with the way our representatives were handling our affairs!

Harvey Milk was unhappy with politicians and people being targeted due to sexuality, religion, and gender. He knew, he had to get involved or "shut up". So into politics went Milk. Harvey targeted large corporations and real estate developers and opposed the Government's interference in private sexual matters. He earned 16,900 votes, he came in 10th out of 32 candidates. He promoted larger and less expensive childcare facilities, free public transportation, a board of civilians to oversee our police forces and advanced important neighborhood issues at every opportunity. In 1974 Milk organized the Castro Street Fair where Eureka Valley Merchants Association (EVMA) did more business than any other day of the year. EVMA had previously tried to prevent two gay men from

opening an antique store in the area. According to the New York Times, Mr. Milk was instrumental in passing a civil rights bill that outlawed discrimination based on sexual orientation. The Times said it was the most stringent and encompassing in the nation! In 1975, he was supported by the Teamster's, Firefighter's and Construction Unions. The San Francisco Chronicle endorsed him for Supervisor and he won by 30% against 16 other candidates. He was the first openly gay non-incumbent man in the U.S. to win.

Journalist Frances Fitzgerald called Harvey Milk a "Born Politician". Anne Kronenberg said of Milk, "What set Harvey apart from you or me was that he was a visionary. He imagined a righteous world inside his head and then set about to make it real for ALL of us". Harvey Milk was gunned down along with Mayor Moscones on November 27, 1978, both died.

Do I think he should have a day to be remembered? Absolutely, and yes I think our children should know that no matter what you believe in, no matter what color you are, no matter what church you go to, you have a right to be safe, be heard and that we all can be anything we want to be if we fight hard enough.

So, as far as our Governor not keeping his word? Listening to Hollywood friends? Or that he has chosen a special interest over students and parents? Come on Mr Rice, get real, he did what any Governor should do when acknowledging an American who changed history!

To thine own self be true,
CM RICKS

"So he was gay, big deal! Harvey Milk did a lot for San Francisco and the community. He is just as much a part of history as Caesar Chavez or anyone else who took a stand."

BUDDI LIGUORI, Carmichael Resident since 1965

"I don't care what somebody's sexuality is. If you have done enough for the community and changed history, you deserve your day. A man should be judged on what he has done, not what his sexual orientation is."

KENNY WHARRY, Carmichael Resident since 1970

"I don't know if Milk did enough to deserve a day of his own or not. However, it should not be turned into a battle involving religion nor sexuality. It should simply be based on, "Did he do enough changing of history to deserve a day to be named after him?" I can't answer that."

JULIANA PRITH, Carmichael Resident since 1954

"My favorite quote of Harvey Milk's was "You gotta give them hope!" That is what it is about!"

JOEY POULTON, Carmichael Resident since 2004

This article does not reflect the views of the Publisher.

Actress Betty White's Appearance Hosted by Hank Fisher Properties

Television and film actress Betty White will "meet and greet" residents of Hank Fisher Properties' four, full-service senior living communities at an afternoon tea to be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, November 5th at River's Edge Retirement Community. The personal appearance kicks off a fundraising reception to benefit the Sacramento Zoo's Tall Wonders Giraffe Habitat and Renovation Project. Hank Fisher Properties is the event's presenting sponsor.



Actress Betty White

Highly regarded actress and long-time animal welfare advocate, Ms. White will share personal stories highlighting her career and life's experience. She will discuss the importance of staying active and engaged regardless of age, as well as the value of animals in the lives of elders. Sacramento Zoo educators will also bring a number of the Zoo's "visiting animal ambassadors" to greet Ms. White and the retirement communities' residents.

"We at Hank Fisher Properties are happy to support the Sacramento Zoo, which is an enduring community resource,"

said Mrs. Nancy Fisher, company president of this top property developer and manager. "Visits to the Zoo, especially with our grandparents, should be among our most cherished childhood experiences. We are pleased to play a part in helping ensure that this intergenerational opportunity exists well into the future."

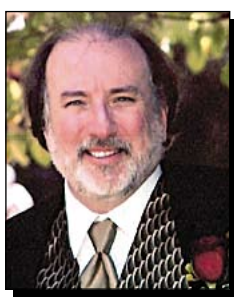
River's Edge is located at 601 Feature Drive near the intersection of Howe Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard in the Campus Commons neighborhood. It is Hank Fisher Properties' elegant independent senior living apartment community.

The company's other full-service senior living communities are the Chateau at River's Edge, also at this location and offering assisted living and memory care; the Chateau at Carmichael Park, providing memory care - including memory day care - in a quiet suburban setting; and the Chateau on Capitol Avenue, offering luxury independent and assisted living in the heart of Midtown.

The Sacramento Zoo, open since 1927, is home to over 140 native, rare and endangered species and inspires conservation awareness through education and recreation. The Sacramento Zoological Society has raised funds for the \$2 million Tall Wonders Giraffe Habitat and Renovation Project since 2006 and continues its efforts to raise the remaining \$200,000 to complete the project. Construction began in February 2009 and is expected to be complete this winter. For further information about the Zoo, call (916) 808-5888 or visit sazzoo.com.

Carmichael Times

Serving Carmichael and Sacramento County since 1981



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Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher".
If you do not have email access, please call us at 773-1111.

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Effie Yeaw Nature Center Visit for October Events



www.effieyeaw.org

The Nature Center is located in Ancil Hoffman County Park, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA (916) 489-4918/711

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Angel Project for October 2009



Angel Project Volunteers show off two of this year's quilts

Bev's Angel Project is a local organization spearheaded by Jan Strickland that provides items for needy families during the Christmas season. Angel Project volunteers are showing off some of the many beautiful quilts that are hand made during the entire year by Margaret Martin and the other

generous volunteers who donate hours of their time and all of the blankets and quilts to the project. Angel Project's recent car show was a huge success bringing in hundreds of unwrapped toys for children. Volunteers during November and December will label and wrap these

gifts to prepare for their busy season. Last year Starbucks and Denny's came on board with their customers donating gifts throughout December.

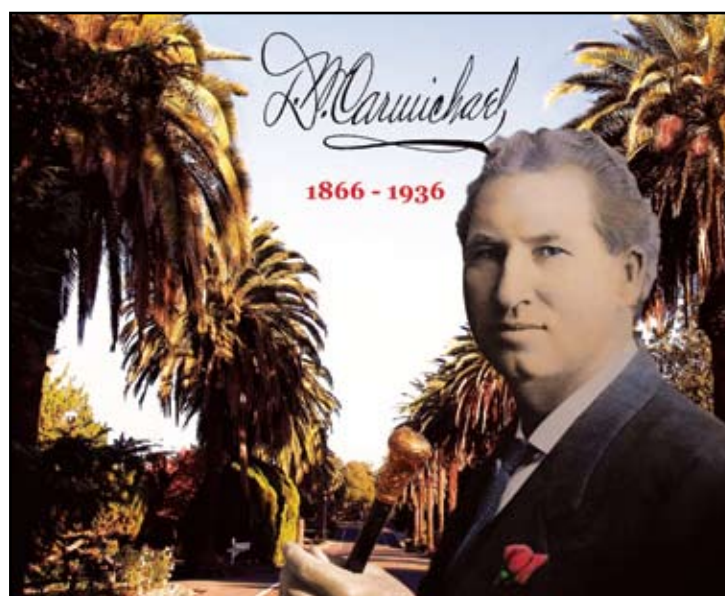
Angel Project's incredible group of volunteers also collect stuffed animals, gloves, warm hats, tons of baby items and so much more to meet all of the needs in the community. Organizations that benefit each year are: ALTA Regional, Alternative Pregnancy, Crisis Nursery, CPS, Mustard Seed School, WEAVE, YMCA, local hospitals, many elementary schools in the Sacramento area, and Starr King/Ralph Richardson preschools.

Many children receive a stuffed animal, blanket, age appropriate toy and a stuffed stocking, all lovingly prepared by this group of "angels" and delivered by Mrs. Claus and her helpers.

If you would like to donate new unwrapped toys, baby products, or anything listed above, please take the items to Beverly's Crafts & Fabrics, Carmichael Oaks Shopping Center, 6456 Fair Oaks Blvd. at Marconi Avenue, in Carmichael.

Carmichael Centennial Event

History Revisited in Library Talk



A composite of Carmichael's founding father -- Daniel Carmichael -- on historic Palm Drive. The community's Edwardian founder has been the subject of research by local historian Susan Maxwell Skinner.

Danny Carmichael's story is a tale shared by many contemporary entrepreneurs: the Edwardian millionaire was bankrupt even before the Depression. Nevertheless, the Georgian-born founder of Carmichael was a pillar of Sacramento society and even served as mayor and ironically, city treasurer. His story -- and the yester years of his town -- will be discussed and illustrated with photographs in the Carmichael library on November 1. Unlike Fair Oaks and the

Arden Arcade area, Carmichael has no formal historical society. Photojournalist Susan Maxwell Skinner has made a study of Carmichael's past. In human



The area's oldest building is the original farm house on Rancho del Paso

terms, this began 5000 years ago with the native hunting culture on the American River. Maidu villages were almost wiped out by the onset of trapping diseases carried by frontiersmen.

The Mexican land grants of the mid 1800s were sparsely populated but, decades before Daniel Carmichael carved his "colony" on the tip of the San Juan grant, settlers had established farms in the Carmichael area. These included the Deterding, Dewey and O'Donnell holdings.

Following massive festivities marking Carmichael's centenary, author Susan Maxwell Skinner feels historical knowledge part of local wealth. "Some of our pioneers were national figures," she says. "Daniel Carmichael was a Johnny-come-lately in historical notes. But his roller-coaster career resembled an Edwardian Donald Trump.

Those interested in local history are invited to attend Susan Maxwell Skinner's lecture at Carmichael Library, Sunday, November 1, at 2 p.m. The author will also display historic and contemporary photographs and offer her book, Carmichael -- Americana on the Move at the event. There is no charge to attend.

For information call (916) 264-2920.

SACRAMENTO SYMPHONIC WINDS

Dr. Les Lehr, Music Director

presents its 2009-2010 Concert Series "Command Performance"

Sunday, December 13, 2009
Sunday, March 21, 2010

Save the Dates

All Concerts at 3:00 p.m.
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More info: www.sacwinds.org - (916) 489-2576 - mLehr@sbcglobal.net



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POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

THE WORRY CURE

What if no one likes me? What if my lover leaves me? What if I am really sick or dying? What if I make a mistake at work? What if...what if...what if!!! Are any of these you? Are you a constant worrier? Well, hang on to your grayhairs. We've got "The Worry Cure" for you. Dr. Robert Leahy has seven steps to stop worry from stopping you! President of the Association of Cognitive Psychotherapy, Dr. Leahy offers us an empowering new way to understand and combat worry.

The good news is that the good doctor has been helping people battle depression and anxiety for the past twenty-five years through cognitive therapy. Cognitive therapy focuses on the biases in your thinking that are causing your depression and anxiety (worry is the central component of all the anxiety disorders and depression). Through cognitive therapy, he helps patients understand and modify their biases to diminish anxiety. Many worriers attempt to handle their worry, and just make it worse. Dr. Leahy addresses special ways to handle worry:

1) **Identify productive and unproductive worry.** Some worry is productive like... having a map and a full tank of

gas before leaving for a long trip. Unproductive worry generates a lot of 'what if' thinking that does not lead to a practical action.

2) **Accept reality and commit to change.** How can you learn and accept and deal with reality, rather than simply worry about it? Find out how to use constructive discomfort to get those things done that you don't want to do. Learn how you can use successful imperfection to make progress.

3) **Challenge your worried thinking.** Identify the most common distortions in your thinking and learn to think more realistically.

4) **Focus on the deeper threat.** Learn how to get to the very core issue of your worry, so it no longer fuels it.

5) **Turn "failure" into opportunity.** Look at the risk of failure as an opportunity to be challenged, to learn and to grow more powerful in your life.

6) **Use your emotions rather than worry about them.** You worry to avoid unpleasant feelings. Learn how to turn your emotions into a source of support and meaning for yourself, so that you can use them to make your life more complete.

7) **Take control of time.** Find out how to turn the urgency off. Get more out of each present moment



in your life so you can live for now, rather than worry about the future.

So now help is on the way. Dr Leahy has combined stories from his practice with unique approaches and advice for reducing worry. Worry is a reflection of the many parts of who we are. As Dr. Leahy shows in "The Worry Cure" *Seven Steps To Stop Worry From Stopping You*, once we are able to understand our own worry and why it makes sense to us, we will be able to examine some things we can do...or not do... to help ourselves. You can also check out the docs website at www.cognitivetherapynyc.com. **And as POPPOFF says...Don't worry, Be Happy!!!**

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

Rescuing Animals and Fostering Growth in Children

A Business Mixer & Fundraiser for The Grace Foundation Ranch.

An energetic, upscale, business-casual mixer and fundraiser will be held on November 12, 2009 where you will meet business owners, professionals, and community leaders while raising funds for a great organization in our local area.

The beneficiary of the fundraiser is The Grace Foundation - an equine rescue and rehabilitation facility that uses rescued horses for therapeutic programs for youth and children. This special Ranch is located in the rolling hills off Latrobe Road, from Highway 50 exit. Miracles happen there, and our goal is to keep it thriving for animals and local children alike, who will benefit from the dedication of those involved in its effort. Come and enjoy irresistible hors d'oeuvres prepared by Bistro 33;



Tango is a 2 yr old chestnut Appendix who was born at the ranch.

a no-host bar in a contemporary indoor/outdoor setting; listen to live music, and participation in our charity raffle. Business's can also get involved by donating a raffle prize(s) in advance and be acknowledged during the charity raffle at the mixer.

Event Date: Thursday, November 12, 2009

Time: 5:30 pm -7:30 pm

Location: Tre Nights at: 1212 Howe Avenue (Howe at Hurley), Sacramento, CA 95825 (plenty of free parking)

Purchase advance tickets by visiting: www.Sac-Connect.com. Tickets are \$20 or choose to donate \$60, which includes your entrance ticket and a \$300 grocery or gas voucher good for one full year.

To learn more about The Grace Foundation, visit: <http://www.thegracefoundationofnorcal.org/>

To learn more about The Sacramento Community Connections organization, visit: <http://www.Sac-Connect.com>

Atrium Hosts Chamber Mixer



Pictured (L to R) David Blum, New York Life; Mauricio Medina, The Atrium; Linda Melody, Pre-Paid Legal; Jeff Cartwright, Nationwide Insurance; Tona Hasik, The Atrium; Steve Carruth, Beutler Heating and Air; Chris Meyer, Lind Brothers Mortuary,

The Atrium of Carmichael recently hosted the Chamber of Commerce monthly mixer, providing delicious food and drinks for the many attendees

and local businesspeople. The Atrium, celebrating its twenty-fifth year in Carmichael, is a regular supporter of the business community and the chamber.

To find out more about your local chamber or how to become a member go to www.CarmichaelChamber.com, or call 481-1002.

Happiness Women's Support Group

Happiness Women's Support Group: to dismantle anxiety & depression, avoidance of negative relationships, and increase well being.

Facilitator: Nancy Kilgore, MS is a national trainer and author on women's issues. www.brightday4all.com, Orientation & Sign Up, November 2, 7:00-8:30pm, Sierra 2 Center

for the Arts & Community, Room 11, 2791-24th, 95818. Orientation & Sign Up Meeting Fee per month: \$65, Space is limited. Call (916) 256-9963.

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Pastor Cary Duckett

No one can make it alone. Moses was an extraordinary leader and those who followed him knew he was special. Each time they encountered trouble, he would perform a miracle. When they were slaves in Egypt, he brought about the plagues. When they were cornered at the Red Sea, he parted the waters. When they were hungry he told them how to collect manna. When they were thirsty he brought water

Even the Lone Ranger had Tonto

from a rock. It was easy for them to believe that Moses could do it all. However, one day the Israelites had to fight the Amalekite war machine that outnumbered their slave-turned-soldier militia. Everything was fine as long as Moses could hold his arms up in the air but the miracle man was human, his arms would grow tired. When his arms fatigued and fell, the Israelites started losing the battle. The leader needed some help. He could not do it alone. If it had not been for Aaron and Hur—one on the left and one on the right holding Moses' arms in the air—the battle would have been lost.

The Hebrews won a war that day and they were reminded of a most important principle—even God's anointed leaders need partners to accomplish the mighty works of God. The principle has not changed—spiritual leaders need people to come along beside them and lift them up through prayer, encouragement, and participation. Whose arms are you holding up? You are invited to come and be our guest at Cypress Avenue Baptist Church. Our worship times are 9 AM & 10:30 AM each Sunday. To learn more about Cypress go to www.cypressavenue.org.

It's Scary Season for Homeowners



By Jon Coupal

When you start to see Jack-o-lanterns around the neighborhood, you know that something scary is about to arrive at your house. That's right, it's property tax season. Fortunately, as a direct result of Proposition 13, which limits increases in a property's assessed value to two percent annually, most property owners have a good idea what their bill will be even before opening the envelope. Still, every year at this time, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association recommends that taxpayers carefully examine their latest property tax bill. Although not common, assessors do make mistakes. Taxpayers should understand the various charges and make certain that they are not being dunned for more than they are legally obligated to pay. The best way to check a tax bill is to have your previous year's bill handy for reference.

Checking the bill is especially important for those who bought their homes within the last five years at the height of the market. If the current home value is actually lower than the assessed value shown on the tax bill, the owner is entitled to file for a reduction in the taxes. Typically, the property tax bill will show three categories of charges. They are the General Tax Levy, Voted Indebtedness, and Direct Assessments.

General Tax Levy

The General Tax Levy is what most people think of when talking about property taxes. It is based on the assessed value of land, improvements and fixtures. This charge usually makes up the largest part of the tax bill and it

is the amount that is limited by Proposition 13. Proposition 13, passed over-whelmingly by voters in 1978, established a statewide uniform tax rate of one percent of assessed value at the time of purchase and limited annual increases in assessed value to no more than two percent. From a practical standpoint, this means that once the base year value of your property is established, the General Tax Levy cannot be increased more than two percent each year. This allows all pro-property owners to predict their property tax bills into the future and budget accordingly. The best way to check to make sure that your current General Levy of Assessment is correct is to compare it with the previous year's bill. The increase should be no more than two percent unless there have been improvements to the property like adding a room to the house.

This bears repeating: Because of the current decline in property values in California, many recent homebuyers are entitled to a reduction in their property tax bill to an amount even lower than their home's Proposition 13 adjusted base value. Although the reduction is temporary -- taxes will go up again when the pro-property regains value -- the savings are permanent. If in doubt about the current value of your property, check sales of comparable homes in your neighborhood. If homes like yours are selling for less than the valuation on your latest bill, contact your county assessor and ask that the value and resulting tax be adjusted to reflect true current value.

Voted Indebtedness

Voted Indebtedness is made up of those bonds and per parcel taxes approved by the voters. Local general obligation bonds for libraries, parks, police and fire facilities and other capital improvements are repaid exclusively by property owners. Because a minority of the population is required to pay the entire amount, the California Constitution of 1879 established the two-thirds vote for approval of these bonds. This assures a

strong community consensus before obligating property owners to repay debt for 20 or 30 years. Until the year 2000, local school bonds also required a two-thirds vote, but the passage of Proposition 39 -- backed by a small group of wealthy Silicon Valley businessmen -- lowered the vote to 55 percent. Because the 55 percent requirement guarantees that most school bonds will pass, regardless of merit, many homeowners are seeing a significant increase in the Voted Indebtedness column on their tax bills. Less common than bonds are per parcel taxes. These are taxes on property ownership, not on property value. Under Proposition 13, they require a two-thirds vote and are also listed either under Voted Indebtedness if they are being imposed to repay bonds or under "Other Levies" if they are for operational expenses of a local government entity.

Direct Assessments

Ironically, under the system in place for over a century, property taxes go into the general fund and are used for local services unrelated to property. For services to property, such as sidewalks and sewers, we pay extra. These charges are known as direct assessments. Because of Proposition 218 -- the Right to Vote on Taxes Act, placed on the ballot by the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association in 1996 -- property owners must be given a meaningful say in approving new assessments. Before an assessment can be imposed, or increased, property owners must be informed in writing and be given the opportunity to cast a protest vote on the new assessment or assessment increase. If you have a question about your property tax bill you should contact the office of your county assessor. It's your money and you have a right to be certain that your bill is correct.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association -- California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

Singles Costume Dance Sat October 31

Christian Singles Network, will hold a Costume Dance for single adults Saturday, October 31, from 7 PM to 11:30 PM. at Roseville Veteran's Building, 110 Park Dr., next to Royer Park (off Douglas Blvd) in Roseville. The evening features DJ dance music of all types from 8-11:30 by John Maricich and dance lessons in the Night Club Two Step by Declan Cordova from 7-8 PM. The music is a mix of rock and roll, ballroom, Latin, country and Christian music at all dances. Dress in costume or casual - there will be a costume contest for prizes. The ticket price of \$15 presale or \$20 at the door includes hors d'oeuvres,

non alcohol beverages and the dance lessons. Volunteers attend free. Christian Singles Network, Northern California's largest inter-church singles group founded in 1992, holds weekly events and dances every 3 weeks through the rest of the year. Call the number below for directions or more information. Membership is not necessary to attend, although members get a \$5 discount at the door. All ages and all denominations are welcome. CSN has been holding dances 17 years, drawing singles from the Sacramento, the foothills, and beyond to Reno and the Bay Area. Pre-saledance tickets are available

on line at www.christiansinglesnet.com, or at Berean Bookstore in Sacramento, and Jireh's Bookstore in Placerville; or by mail through CSN, P.O. Box 909, Meadow Vista, CA 95722. Call the office to volunteer or find out more information, 530-878-0606. To receive more information about activities, or directions call the 24 hour event line at (916) 658-0606. The website, www.christiansinglesnet.com, includes directions to the dance as well as information about upcoming events including seminars, getaways, and parties.

Lighting for the Aging Eye - Free Workshop

Date: Saturday, October 31, 2009
Time: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Location: SMUD Customer Service Center
6301 S Street, Rubicon Meeting Room, Sacramento, CA
Questions: Contact Connie

Samla - csamla@smud.org
Eunice Noell-Waggoner, president of the Center of Design for an Aging Society, will discuss lighting issues and what role our eyes play. Learn about the need for more light to see accurately, quality of light considerations, and how to

reduce glare in our environment. The workshop is free. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required. Customers can register online at smud.org, e-mail etcmil@smud.org, or call 916-732-6738.

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Alzheimers Aid Society, 27th Annual Caregiver Conference

What: Alzheimers Aid Society and American River College Gerontology Department present: Alzheimers Aid Society, 27th Annual Caregiver Conference, with featured speaker, William J. Au. M.D. from Sutter Neurological Medical Group, including innovative workshops for family caregivers to assist with their individual Caregiving Journeys; Engaging Activities, Patient Care

& Grief and Guilt, Legal Updates and Resources, Relaxation Therapy and valuable tips for Early Stage Alzheimers. Includes morning refreshments, lunch, raffle prizes, and exhibitor booths.
When: 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM, Saturday, November 7, 2009
Where: American River College, 4700 College Oak Ave., Sacramento, CA 95841
Cost: \$20.00 Call 916-448-

7001 to sign up for our Newsletter, and for the Registration Form
Information: (916) 448-7001 www.alzheimersaidsocietyinc.org
Continuing Education Units available for interested Healthcare Professionals.
We are a Non-Profit Tax Deductible Corporation, TIN: 94-2721961

- Grow the perfect orchid
- Organize a charity drive
- Own a small dress shop
- Meditate in the mountains
- Never cook again
- Volunteer to read for the blind

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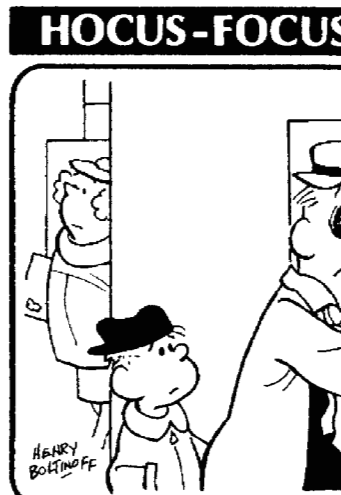
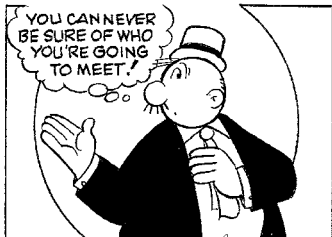
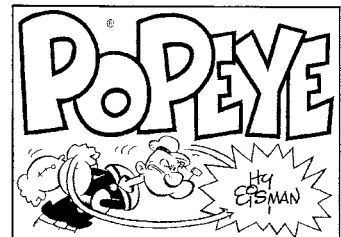
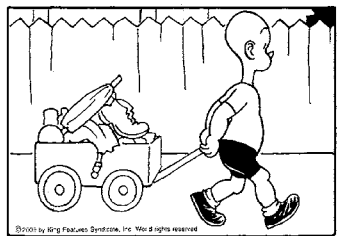
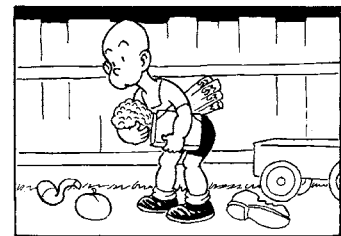
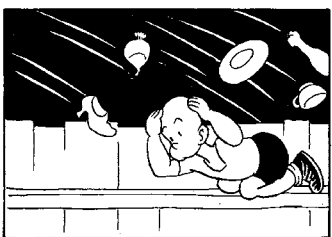
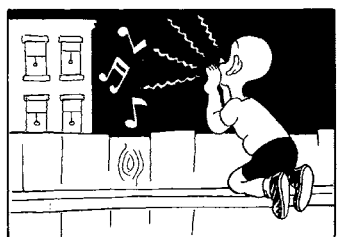
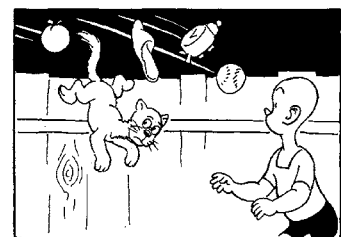
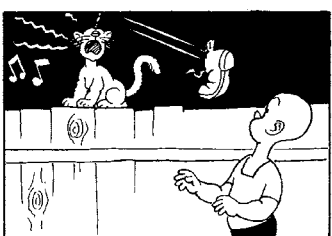
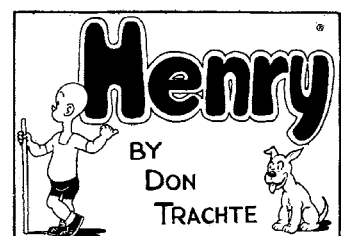
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RCFE # 347001685



Differences: 1. "Returns" sign is different. 2. Boy's hat is bigger. 3. Woman's collar is different. 4. Bowtie is turned forward. 5. Gloves are black. 6. Man's tie is missing.

Trivia test

- GEOGRAPHY: Lake Tahoe straddles the borders of which two U.S. states?
- FOOD AND DRINK: What kind of dish is sometimes referred to as a "grunt" or a "slump"?
- MEDICINE: What condition does a deficiency of iron cause?
- MOVIES: What 1990 film won an Oscar and a Golden Globe for Best Picture?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the traditional birthstone for May?
- MUSIC: How old was Felix Mendelssohn when he wrote the overture to "A Midsummer Night's Dream"?
- ASTRONOMY: How many moons does the planet Mars have?
- MYTHOLOGY: What is the Greek god of the sun called?
- LANGUAGE: What is the only word in the English language that ends in the letters "mt"?
- LITERATURE: What was the name of Dick and Jane's cat in the famous early readers?

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate ★ ★ Challenging
★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

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Crocker Holiday Art and Craft Festival

November 27-29 at Scottish Rite Center

Regional artists and craftspeople provide unique gifts for holiday shopping list

More than 95 regional artists and craftspeople will offer their unique gift items during the Crocker Art Museum's Holiday Art & Craft Festival at the Scottish Rite Center, located across from the main entrance of California State University, Sacramento, at 6151 H Street. Visitors will support the Crocker and local artists while they shop for everyone on their holiday list with an array of gift items and price ranges.

The artist's creations for sale include jewelry, ceramics, paintings, gourmet food, a variety of unique holiday items and more. You can also capture the holiday season by having photos taken with a Victorian Santa Claus in the front lobby. Attendees will also enjoy free parking and a café by Ambrosia Catering.

Running from November 27-29, festival admission is free to Crocker members, \$6 for adults and \$3 for seniors, students and children. The Holiday Art & Craft Festival is open Friday 1-7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The event is presented by the Crocker Art Museum and the Creative Arts League of Sacramento.

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S L O V E L Y S T R E E T Y U
D S L V O N K S Q O N L J L K
L N E O E L R E H F D C A L R
Y L A L V V W O E W V T S O A
Q P I L E E I E C R N L K F P
I H F H E V P L N S C E C S S
E C A L E V O L L B E E Z E E
Y Y O J E V O L A E W V V V V
E L A D E V O L V C U S O O O
R Q P R Y E L L A V E V O L L

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Love Creek	Lovedale	Lovely Street	Loves Park
Love Hill	Lovejoy	Lover	Loveville
Love Place	Lovelace	Loves Corner	Newlove
Love Valley	Loveland	Loves Folly	

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Toast to Tuscany Benefits Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento

Sacramento: With all proceeds benefiting the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento, a Toast to Tuscany is at Buonarroti Ristorante in The Collection at Town & Country Village. Inside Buonarroti Ristorante, you are surrounded by rich artistic murals providing a tapestry of facades and palazzos - transcending you to Italy. All for a good cause - a festive evening of friends, great food, wine, beer tasting, live jazz, silent auction, live auction, entertaining and fun! It's the place to be!

The Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento is the safety net for the area's abused and neglected children between the ages of 1 and 17. Contact: Sally Rice (916) 933-4056 / Cell (916)-715-9711 / sricecp@aol.com

Event: Toast to Tuscany, all proceeds benefit Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento

When: Thursday, November 12

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Where: Buonarroti Ristorantem behind William Glen at Town & Country Village, Fulton & Marconi, Sacramento

Cost: \$40 pre-sale, \$45 at door

For Information and to purchase tickets: (916) 482-2370 ext 333 www.crhkids.org/townandcountry

All Answers on Page 8

Contract Bridge

THE AVOIDANCE PRINCIPLE

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH		EAST	
♠ A K 7 5		♠ J 10 8 4 2	
♥ 9 4 2		♥ 7 3	
♦ K 9 3		♦ 10 6	
♣ A 6 4		♣ 10 9 5 2	

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♠	1 ♥	1 ♣
Pass	1 NT	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead - queen of hearts.

Good technique is mostly a matter of making the right play at the right time. This is not always easy to do, as some situations can be quite complicated, but most of the time one should have no trouble spotting the correct play.

Consider this deal where West leads a heart against three notrump. Good technique requires declarer to duck the queen of hearts. The purpose of the holdup is to interfere with East-West communications.

West continues with a heart, South taking the king. There is no hope for nine tricks without establishing diamonds, so South leads a low diamond toward dummy at trick three. West follows low, and declarer must play dummy's nine to make the contract!

He doesn't expect the nine to win, and in fact it loses to the ten. He plays the nine because he can afford to lose a diamond trick to East and another one later to West, but he can't afford to lose two diamond tricks to West.

East wins the nine with the ten, but, thanks to declarer's play at trick one, he does not have a heart to return. Whatever he leads, South wins, concedes a diamond to the ace and so winds up with 10 tricks.

Declarer's problem from the start is to neutralize West's hearts, and every move by South is directed toward that end. The first step is to sever defensive communications in hearts, and the second step is to take measures to try to prevent West from winning two diamond tricks.

The combination of ducking the heart at trick one and playing a low diamond to the nine at trick three makes the contract for South.

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King Crossword

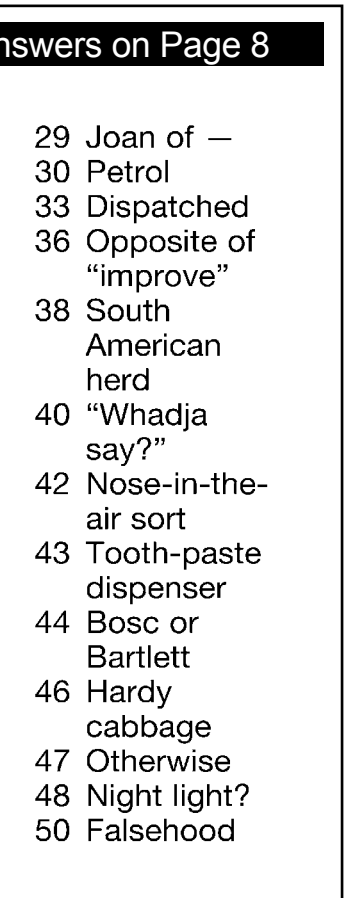
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42	43			44		45		46	47	48
49				50			51			
52				53			54			
55				56			57			

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KING Crossword

Answers on Page 8

ACROSS	24 Sasha and Malia's mom	53 Have a bug instrument	8 La Scala shows	29 Joan of —
1 Poker variety	28 Men only	54 Additionally	9 Family feud	30 Petrol
5 Crooner	31 Tavern	55 Swiss city	10 Seed	33 Dispatched
Damone	32 Diarist	56 In medias —	covering	36 Opposite of "improve"
8 Ellipse	Samuel	57 Witnessed	11 Historic sitcom star	38 South American herd
12 Sci-fi's Skywalker	34 — -la-la	DOWN	17 Sellers co-star	40 "Whadja say?"
13 Leading lady?	35 All over again	1 Cabbage salad	Herbert	42 Nose-in-the-air sort
14 Lima's country	37 Wood finishing substances	2 Big brass instrument	19 Road Runner's sound	43 Tooth-paste dispenser
15 Help in a crime	39 Homer's interjection	3 Guitars' kin	22 Omega's opposite	44 Bosc or Bartlett
16 Greek	41 Cain's victim	4 Remove (from)	24 Biz deg.	46 Hardy cabbage
18 Tangy green condiment	42 Arouse	5 Planes, trains and automobiles	25 Author Fleming	47 Otherwise
20 Noble	45 Arouse	6 "— Got a Secret"	26 The U in "IOU"	48 Night light?
21 Anatomical cavities	49 "Holder" of a brief explanation	7 Honeycomb compartment	27 Looks at intently	50 Falsehood
23 West of Hollywood	51 Guy			
	52 Reed			



Laura on Life

Cowboys & Ninjas & Clowns, Oh My!



By Laura Snyder

It's time for witches and goblins and superheroes and fairy-princesses again. If you had a chance to invite them all to a dinner party, there would be a lot of awkward silences because, of course, these characters would have absolutely nothing in common. But on Halloween, they all appear on the same streets and cavort in maniacal glee as they liberate us from our Snickers bars. The costumes are, for the most part, predictable. If a character comes to my door, I can usually tell what they are. My son, however, makes choosing costume into a game called "Stump the

Homeowner." Then, even if he got a treat, he could still trick them if they couldn't guess what he was.

Because he is a Star Wars fan, his costumes are sometimes thus inspired. For example, last year he wore a Vader helmet topped with a black Stetson and carried a guitar. He called himself "Garth Vader." He considered it a victorious night when nobody could guess what he was. This year he has decided to go as Mannequin Skywalker. I can't wait to see how he pulls this one off.

My daughter uses Halloween as an excuse to dress like the princess she should have been. There is no other event during the year where a tiara and a ball gown are appropriate attire. The candy she receives while wearing this ensemble is just a bonus. While the boys want to knock on as many doors as possible for the loot, my daughter simply wants as many people to see her in her finery as possible.

My youngest thinks that the idea is to be as many different things as you can... all at the same time. We have two big boxes full of costumes that we have collected over the years. Trying to decide what one costume he would like

to wear is apparently too stressful for his adventurous soul. So he endeavors to don them all. I guess he's trying to minimize the loss of potential candy. His logic is the better the costume the more candy he'll get. However, everybody has different tastes, so if he wears a caboodle of costumes at the same time, one of them is likely to please the candy distributor, right?

He's been known to be an alien-clown-dragon, a cowboy-pirate-ninja and a wizard-pizza-bumblebee. All very inventive, I must say.

Some of the people in our neighborhood just can't be bothered with the frivolous holiday, so they leave their lights off and hibernate until it's over. They're the Ebenezer Scrooges of Halloween.

"Trick or Treat? Bah Humberg! The little monsters aren't making me buy them candy!"

Those are the people who are trying to figure out how to get damp toilet paper out of their trees the next morning.

It is unlikely, but even if I grow into a grouchy old lady who hates the sight of costumed children on Halloween, I would like to think I would be smart enough to light my house up like Grand Central Station that night. The real monsters hate lights.

Laura Snyder is a nationally syndicated columnist, author & speaker. You can reach Laura at lsnyder@lauraonlife.com Or visit her website www.lauraonlife.com for more info.

Future Foundation \$20,000 Celebrity Charity Black Jack Tournament

By Valerie Okunami

Placerville - The FUTURE Foundation of Sacramento announces its first ever \$20,000 Celebrity Charity Black Jack Tournament at Red Hawk Casino in Placerville, CA on Thursday, November 5, 2009. Guests will enjoy a night of gaming excitement in support of the FUTURE Foundation of Sacramento, Inc.

Players must pre-register with Red Hawk Casino before the night of the event to ensure a seat in the tournament. Cost of the event is \$250 and check-in begins at 5 pm near the Stage Bar. Guests will have an opportunity to mingle with friends and celebrities during this welcome reception. The first round begins promptly at 7:00, and will progress until the top 7 players remain. A sold out tournament of 240 players guarantees \$20,000.00 to the FUTURE Foundation.

The first prize winner will receive \$7,500.00, and all other money will be divided between the other 6 finalists.

Some tournament celebrities scheduled to play are Kings players Bobby Jackson, Spencer Hawes, Jason Thompson, Dante Greene, and Jon Brockman.

The FUTURE Foundation of Sacramento, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that provides a completely funded California State University education and an eight year mentoring program. Qualified students are selected their freshman year in high school and are appointed a board or staff member to become their mentor. During the final three years of high school the student will be guided by the mentor in order to meet admission requirements for state universities. The Foundation's mentoring program is a key component to achieving

success. The mentor acts as a big brother/sister to help motivate, encourage and guide the student toward college graduation.

"The FUTURE Foundation has given me so much hope for my FUTURE," said Stephen Rubalcaba, student. "College would have been out of reach for me without the program and I'm thrilled to have this opportunity."

"I can not think of a better gift to give, than that of education," said Ron Miller, President and CEO of the FUTURE Foundation and mentor to Rubalcaba. "Giving students the means to a higher education is absolutely priceless... there is nothing these ambitious students can't accomplish." Remember, you must be 21 or over to play. For more information, please contact Michelle Williams at 916.705.2341. For information about Future Foundation visit www.futurefoundationofsacramento.org.

Mercy, UC Davis Collaborate to Enhance Pediatric Services in the Community

Mercy and the UC Davis Department of Pediatrics have partnered to give families in the Sacramento region more convenient access to the best pediatric care available.

Through the agreement, UC Davis pediatric hospitalists will care for children while in the hospital at Mercy San Juan Medical Center and Methodist Hospital and will coordinate their care with pediatric subspecialists at Mercy and UC Davis as needed. The collaboration between Mercy and UC Davis will capitalize on a national best practice of having pediatric hospitalists working with the patient's pediatrician and pediatric nurses in providing

high-quality care. Pediatric hospitalists are doctors who do not see patients in an office, but instead concentrate on the care of hospitalized children.

In addition, the pediatric plan utilizes telemedicine to give patients rapid access to pediatric critical-care specialists, as well as access to a wide range of pediatric sub-specialists; including endocrinology, nephrology, pulmonology, genetics and infectious disease. With the help of telemedicine, added expertise can be brought to the bedside of the hospitalized child to optimize the plan of care. The pediatric specialists can be miles away and yet can evaluate and interact directly

with the patient, the family and the health-care team.

UC Davis is one of only 13 designated children's hospitals in California, and this collaboration combines the expertise of UC Davis pediatricians with Mercy's 70-plus years of experience providing the community with quality pediatric care.

"We are committed to working together to provide greater access to daily excellence in pediatric care that will be available to families in the north, south and downtown areas of Sacramento," says Tim Moran, Mercy's President for the Sacramento Service Area.

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Rain Gardens: Green Alternative to Traditional Landscapes



Sacramento - Create a drought-friendly garden for your home. With California in its third drought year, Rain Gardens are a great alternative for garden enthusiasts who want to create a beautiful landscape while conserving water. Rain Gardens consist of native, drought-tolerant plants making it more resilient to the impacts of drought while flourishing during the rainy season.

What Are Rain Gardens and How Do They Work?

Rain Gardens are shallow, landscaped depressions that capture rain water from roofs and/or pavement. These gardens are meant to be planted under the downspout of your property

at least 10 feet away from any building foundation. By collecting rain water, this garden will help maximize the amount of rain we receive this season.

Typically, rainwater will run off your roof, flow through your yard and make its way onto streets and into gutters, carrying along with it all the loose dirt, fertilizers and pesticides from your roof and lawn. Rain Gardens are designed to help keep the rain water where it is wanted the most – your garden, as well as absorb stormwater runoff from entering the storm drains.

Building a Rain Garden

When selecting plants for your rain garden we advise using native, drought-tolerant plants that can

withstand both cold and extreme hot temperatures making them ideal for the Sacramento area. The following are some added benefits to adding Rain Gardens to your landscape. Water Conservation: An average sized rain garden in Sacramento can potentially retain thousands of gallons of water every year. Aesthetics: They can be landscaped with plants that produce beautiful flowers and shrubs. Habitat for Birds and Butterflies: Select plants that attract beneficial insects and birds.

Start planting your Rain Garden this fall and watch your garden flourish. For more information on Rain Gardens, visit our website: www.riverfriendly.org.

The Sacramento Fine Arts Center



Tower Bridge by Donald Satterlee (best of show artist)

Photography Club Show: October 27th to November 14th, 2009

Second Saturday Reception
November 14th,
5:30 to 8:30 pm
Refreshments and music

Gallery Hours:
Tuesday 11:00 to 7:00,
Wednesday through Saturday
11:00 to 3:00

The Hallway Gallery at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center will feature the work of two area photographers, Lewis Kemper and Michael

Corlew. Lewis Kemper, a professional photographer and a Canon Explorer of Light, will present a show entitled "The Beauty of Nature," and Michael Corlew, a Folsom avian and wildlife photographer, will display "Sandhill Cranes & Egrets."

These shows will be up on both Second Saturday receptions November 14th and December 12th. Both men

are members of the Viewpoint Photographic Art Center in Sacramento. Their show will open November 3rd.

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- If you cannot work shifts, a \$25.00 per hr. fee can be paid.
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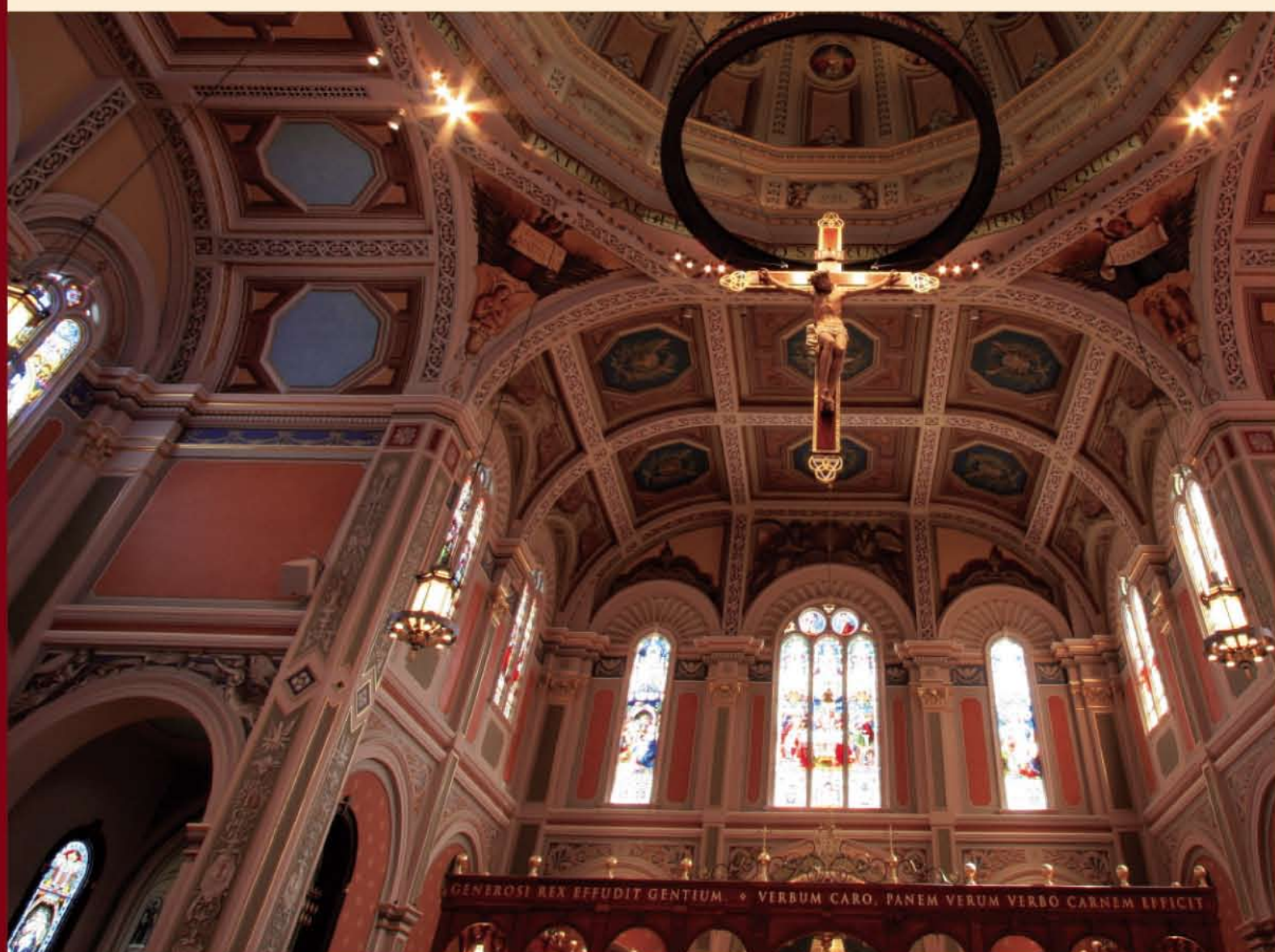
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