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# Citrus Heights Messenger

"Written by the people, for the people"

Volume 5 Issue 12 Serving the City of Citrus Heights and Sacramento County June 19, 2015

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## WHAT MEMORIES MAY COME



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## Bridge Game for a Cause

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Members of Anna's Fun Bridge Club will join hundreds of bridge clubs across the country to raise money by playing in a day-long bridge game. Players will honor friends and loved ones affected by Alzheimer's while also keeping their own mental skills sharp.

For the third consecutive year, the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL), the sanctioning body for the game of bridge, is teaming up with the Alzheimer's Association to raise money for Alzheimer's research in one of the group's signature fundraising events—the Longest Day.

Held on the summer solstice (June 21st), the Longest Day symbolizes the challenging journey of those living with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. The local club's team for the event will support the cause by playing bridge from sunrise to sunset and offering free lessons to the public. Team captain Anna Hill has set a goal to raise \$1,600 for the cause.

The Longest Day is an opportunity for bridge players to join the fight against the disease while receiving the mental and social healthy aging benefits the game of bridge offers.

"Studies have shown strong links between cognitive training and social activity—two of bridge's chief benefits—and improved brain health," said Robert Hartman, CEO of the ACBL. "The game alone challenges and stimulates mental acuity, but there's also a strong social aspect that can aid with successful aging."

A 2014 study by the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center found that, by playing card and board games such as bridge, older people can better retain their mental sharpness.

"In our study, we found that individuals who participated



Silvana Zangri, captain of Sagamore Bridge Club's fundraising team, celebrates her club's contributions with Lucy Shostak, who donated \$20,000 to the team (above). Bob Ingebritson, member of the Bridge Academy of North Dallas, plays a hand of bridge on the Longest Day to raise money for Alzheimer's research. Photos courtesy of Jenny Pickard

more frequently in activities such as card games, checkers, and crossword puzzles have increased brain volume in areas that support memory and affect the development of Alzheimer's disease," said Dr. Ozioma Okonkwo, assistant professor of medicine in the University of Wisconsin-Madison and co-leader of the Neuropsychology Service at the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

In the past two years, more than 160 bridge clubs have raised more than \$1 million for the Alzheimer's Association, providing much-needed funds for the care, support, and research



efforts it leads. This year, the ACBL is setting its sights on raising more than \$600,000, and it plans to increase that amount incrementally each year as more bridge clubs participate in the effort.

"Support from our partners like ACBL helps the Alzheimer's Association spread awareness of the disease while providing the

much-needed resources to further our mission," said Donna McCullough, vice president of mass market development for the Alzheimer's Association. "Bridge players are great ambassadors for our cause as many have a personal connection to the disease."

Source: American Contract Bridge League ★

## Domestic Incident Arrest

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - At 3 a.m. on June 11th, the Citrus Heights Police Department responded to an address in the 7000 block of La Cima Ct. about a report of a woman screaming. Upon arrival, officers located a female with stab wounds to her upper torso and what appeared to be defensive wounds on her hands and arms. She was transported to a local hospital for treatment of her injuries. Those injuries were non-life threatening and she is expected to survive.

David Wolff is the husband of the female victim and a resident of the house where the incident took place. He refused to come out to talk to officers. A perimeter around the house was established and officers made announcements to the suspect inside the house, but no contact was made with him.



David Wolff

Shortly after 6 a.m., officers entered the house using a key and searched for the suspect. The suspect was not located in the house, but officers found evidence he likely fled through a back door. A search from the greenbelt/open space to the rear of the house resulted in locating the suspect sitting naked in the woods. He was taken into custody without incident. A secondary search of the area resulted in locating the weapon used in the assault.

The 87-year old suspect was arrested and transported to a local hospital.

Citrus Heights Police are conducting interviews of the involved parties. The motive for the assault is unknown and the investigation is ongoing. David Wolff was booked at the Sacramento County Main Jail on suspicion of domestic battery and attempted murder.

The Citrus Heights Police Department wants to assure the public this is not a random act of violence and all suspects are in custody.

Citizens are encouraged to always contact the police for help rather than get directly involved in matters of criminal activity.

Source: City of Citrus Heights Police Department ★

## SMUD Unveils Electric Vehicle Station in Citrus Heights

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - Electric vehicle drivers have a new resource in the Sacramento region—a fast-charge station located immediately adjacent to the Interstate 80 freeway at 7825 Lichen Drive in Citrus Heights. The fast-charge station is just the second in the region to accommodate most types of electric vehicles manufactured by foreign and domestic automakers, and it's one of the first installed in the U.S. by a utility. SMUD installed the first electric vehicle fast charger in the region last year near its headquarters at the 6200 block of S Street in Sacramento and plans to open more fast-charge stations in the coming years.

Electric vehicle drivers will pay approximately \$2 per "gallon" to charge up using the station—about 40% less than the current price of gasoline. By using technology that charges vehicles at 480 volts—four times that of a standard household outlet—fast-charge-capable vehicles such as the Nissan Leaf, Chevy Spark EV, BMW i3 and others can fill up about 80 percent of their batteries in 30 minutes or less.

"By installing another fast charger near a major freeway, we're making it easier for electric vehicle drivers to travel farther from home and worry less about finding their next charge," said Ralph Troute, electric vehicle project manager at SMUD. "In the time it takes to have a cup of coffee, drivers using our new station can hit the road with their vehicles' batteries nearly topped off."

SMUD has also offered special electric vehicle

rates for home charging since 1993. Today, when drivers charge with one of SMUD's electric vehicle rates, they'll pay around 60 cents equivalent per gallon when charging after midnight. Overall, drivers can save upwards of \$1,800 per year by choosing an electric vehicle.

Environmental leadership is one of the SMUD Board of Directors' core values, and this project is the most recent result of a 25-year effort by SMUD to improve local air quality by advancing clean alternative-fuel transportation and cleaner power sources. Funding for this station comes from the sale of carbon credits.

Source: SMUD ★

SMUD Director Renée Taylor attaches a Nissan Leaf to the new SMUD electric vehicle fast charger at 7825 Lichen Drive in Citrus Heights, just off of Interstate 80. This new station can charge most electric vehicles in less than 30 minutes. Photo courtesy of SMUD



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# Carol Spiker, Volunteer of the Year

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - The Citrus Heights Chamber's Education Committee honored the Education Committee's volunteer of the year at the Chamber's June luncheon at Northridge Country Club.

Each year, the committee selects a member who has gone the extra mile in assisting in providing support to the schools in Citrus Heights. This year's Education Committee volunteer of the year is Carol Spiker.

After working as a resource specialist teacher for over 30 years, Carol retired and decided that she wanted to get involved in her community. Carol has been a Citrus Heights Chamber member for over 10 years and on the Education Committee for more than half that time. During her time on the committee, Carol has coordinated the Student of the Month program, participated as a mock interviewer on the Job Readiness 101 program at Mesa Verde High School, coordinated a school supply drive within the Citrus Heights Women's Club, provided demonstrations and hands-on music instruction to elementary school students, donated time and resources to the Sayonara After School program, and more.



**Pictured from left to right: Citrus Heights Chamber Executive Director Jay Hornbuckle, City of Citrus Heights Council Member Steve Miller, Steven Stensler of Assemblyman Ken Cooley's office, Ted Wolter of Sacramento County Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan's office, Citrus Heights Chamber Education Committee's Volunteer of the Year Carol Spiker, Landon Wolf of Senator Jim Nielsen's office, Kelly Rivas of Congressman Ami Bera's office, Citrus Heights Chamber Vice Chair of Education Rosa Umbach.** Photo courtesy of Rosa Umbach

In addition to the Education Committee, Carol has been a Chamber Ambassador for six years, welcoming new members and participating in Chamber events. Carol has been very active in the Citrus Heights Woman's Club for over 15 years, holding positions as the Club's president, district president, and the state chairman for International Outreach. Carol plays in her band,

Assorted Nuts. She teaches string instruments at the Fun Grass Kids Program. She also teaches at "Music and More" at the Walker Creek Music Camp. She was president of the California State Old Time Fiddlers for two years.

The Student of the Month lunch was sponsored by Rosa Umbach.

Source: Rosa Umbach ★

# Cooley Legislation to Combat Homelessness Approved by Assembly, Moves to State Senate

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Assemblyman Ken Cooley's rapid rehousing bill, AB 870, received bipartisan support on June 5th as it passed out of the State Assembly. AB 870 supports "rapid rehousing" principles by creating a pilot program and allocating \$2 million over two years to this end to four counties, to be selected by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

"Rapid rehousing focuses on quickly moving people and families—who oftentimes have experienced some sort of crisis—into stable housing," said Assemblyman Cooley. "The evidence demonstrates that when someone has a safe and secure place to live as they address other issues they may be facing, their long-term outcomes are measurably better."

Homelessness is a large problem in California. The United States Department of Housing

and Urban Development estimates that California has approximately 136,000 homeless persons, or about 22% of the entire country's homeless population. The same study indicated that there are more than 15,000 homeless veterans in California.

AB 870 creates a pilot program to be administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development with \$2 million in funding over two years. When selecting participants, the Department shall prioritize counties that have demonstrated success in utilizing rapid rehousing principles. Several counties in California already have experience offering rapid rehousing services and are well equipped to utilize any additional funding provided.

"These pro-active measures actually reduce costs to municipal governments because it eases dependence on emergency services, and homeless shelters

are able to accommodate more families," said Assemblyman Cooley. "I'm particularly grateful for the outspoken support of Assemblymember William Brough (R-Dana Point) and the many members of his caucus who joined in supporting the bill as it advances to the Senate."

AB 870 is supported by the League of California Cities, the California Police Chiefs Association, and several counties across California. It now moves to the State Senate for consideration.

Assemblyman Ken Cooley represents the 8th Assembly District, which includes the communities of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova, Rancho Murieta, Rosemont, Wilton, and other portions of unincorporated Sacramento County. For more information, please visit <http://asmdc.org/members/a08/>. ★

# Structure Fire Arrives Early on the First Triple-Digit Day

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - Around 11:30 a.m. on June 8th, Metro Fire crews responded to a single-story apartment complex at 7526 Sunrise Boulevard in Citrus Heights to find smoke showing from one unit. They quickly initiated fire attack, search, and ventilation, containing the fire to the kitchen. The resident stated she had seen smoke coming from the dishwasher and left to get assistance from maintenance. By the time she returned, the kitchen was engulfed in flames. At that point, the resident called 9-1-1. Crews were able to save the rest of her apartment, as well as the other seven units in the building, from damage. Total damage is estimated at \$25,000. The two adults living in the apartment were displaced. Fortunately, nobody was injured, but this is a good reminder to call 9-1-1 immediately when you notice smoke in your home.

Source: Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District ★



**The resident stated she had seen smoke coming from the dishwasher, and left to get assistance from maintenance. By the time she returned, the kitchen was engulfed in flames.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

# There's a New Queen in Town!

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - Recently, the new Miss Citrus Heights and her court were crowned. The new Citrus Heights Queens are Miss Citrus Heights 2015 Hailey Sharpe, Teen Miss Citrus Heights Simone Havilland, Mrs. Citrus Heights Erin Fackler, Young Miss Citrus Heights Kaylee McAllister, and Little Miss Citrus Heights Gracie Thorn. The Miss Citrus Heights Pageant is now owned and operated by queen and pageant director Tamara Barbu-Brown under the new name of class of Queens. The local area pageants were directed by the late great Mary Purvis who ran them from 1973 to 2014.

Thank you to the 2015 Miss Citrus Heights sponsors Kniesel's Collision Centers Citrus Heights, Eskaton Fountainwood Lodge, and Scott Barbu. Your new Queens will be in the upcoming Citrus Heights Red, White, and Blue Parade on Saturday, June 27th.

Source: Tamara Barbu ★



**From left to right (above): Young Miss Citrus Heights Kaylee McAllister, pageant director Tamara Barbu-Brown, Mrs. Citrus Heights Erin Fackler, Teen Miss Citrus Heights Simone Havilland, and Miss Citrus Heights Hailey Sharpe.** Photo courtesy of Tamara Barbu



**Miss Citrus Heights Kaylee McAllister poses for the camera.** Photo by Tamara Barbu

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# Lady Antebellum: A Traveling Family



Lady Antebellum views their upcoming show as an opportunity to have fun and make a memory with everyone in the audience. Don't miss your chance to be part of that memory.

By Shaunna Boyd

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Lady Antebellum will be playing at the Toyota Amphitheatre (2677 Forty Mile Road, Wheatland, CA 95692) on Thursday, June 25th as part of their Wheels Up 2015 Tour. Lady Antebellum will be headlining the show, with Hunter Hayes and Sam Hunt in the lineup.

Lady Antebellum has been playing together for almost nine years; this August will mark the ninth anniversary of their very first show together. In an interview with Messenger Publishing Group, Hillary Scott described the friendship that anchors the band as “a real summer camp vibe.” Scott explained that she and bandmates Charles Kelley and Dave Haywood grew up watching VH1’s *Behind the Music*, so they were very familiar with the all-too-typical story of successful bands breaking up over petty arguments and egotistical posturing. “So we just learned how to talk to each other, to compromise,” said Scott.

When Scott, Kelley, and Haywood began writing songs together, Scott said, “It was like I had met my musical best friends,

**“We get to call this our work, our job, which is weird because it doesn’t feel that way—it’s our dream.”**  
**Hillary Scott, Lady Antebellum**

my brothers.”

After nine years of performing together, Scott said, “We’ve grown up together. ... When we started, none of us were married, we didn’t have any kids. ... There have been a lot of life changes. My husband, Chris, is the drummer now, and our little girl is with us every weekend for the shows that we do. We have a much bigger traveling crew. With every milestone, everything becomes clear, and it’s all sweeter because we built our family together. It makes the really hard, long days not as hard because our families are together. We get to call this our work, our job, which is weird because it doesn’t feel that way—it’s our dream.”

Scott attributes their success to their passion for the work,

explaining, “It’s all about work ethic. You must be willing to work hard, harder than everyone else. And you have to put yourself in the right places. ... The center of whatever you’re passionate about is where you need to be. And you need to know that there’s always more to learn, you can always learn something new from anyone you meet, whether it’s what to do or what not to do; you have to push yourself to grow.”

Over all these years together, after many albums and a variety of accolades, Scott still likes to look back at the path they have all traveled together: “It’s fun to look back; it’s like going back and reading an old diary or journal. We pour our own lives into these albums, into these songs, so it’s like traveling down memory lane and seeing where we were in our lives. It’s good to look back at where you’ve come from; it gives you the clarity to see where you can go.”

Lady Antebellum views their upcoming show as an opportunity to have fun and make a memory with everyone in the audience. Don’t miss your chance to be part of that memory. For tickets and more information, please visit [www.ladyantebellum.com](http://www.ladyantebellum.com). ★



By Sal Arrigo, Jr.

What do the Sacramento Animal Control (June 24th), Sylvan Cemetery (July 22nd), and the Sacramento District Attorney’s Office (August 5th) have in common with the Citrus Heights Kiwanis Club? These three organizations are part of our extensive guest speaker lineup, and there are many more that are gracious enough to take their time to provide Kiwanis members

## Kiwanis Corner

with updates and information that could be of help to our group.

One of the benefits that Kiwanis Clubs enjoy is the knowledge that a guest speaker visits our club on a weekly basis and provides both an educational and entertaining presentation. Speakers provide members ample opportunity to ask pertinent questions regarding their organization, all in a relaxed atmosphere. In addition to giving presentations, the speakers are asked to sign a children’s book that is then donated to a local elementary school. Each speaker takes personal pride in being asked to be a part of our ongoing efforts to support children in the area.

If you are currently in the process of deciding which Citrus Heights service club to join, here

is a sample of our future guest speakers. As you can see, the Citrus Heights Kiwanis Club provides a varied panel of speakers and topics.

**July 1st:** Sacramento County Airports Fire Department  
**July 29th:** Maidu Museum  
**August 19th:** Sunrise Park District  
**September 2nd:** Service Dog Training  
**September 23rd:** Fair Oaks Historical Society  
**October 7th:** UC Davis Burn Center

The Citrus Heights Kiwanis Club meets at Denny’s at the corner of Greenback Lane and Sunrise Boulevard every Wednesday morning at 7 a.m. ★

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Response to “Beyond the Police Uniform”

Dear Paul,

I wanted to make a comment about the article you published in the messenger: Beyond the police uniform..... I would like you to know that my wife and I have lived in Citrus Heights for 15 years and before that I lived here when I was a child. My wife and I love living here. The Citrus Hights police department is very important to us. I

thank you for opening our eyes to just some of the situations that our police deal with. I see the citrus Hights Police, at least 4 to 5 times a week, when I see a police officer, I say a prayer for them and their familys, that our Lord and savior Jesus Christ will protect them and their familys and help them to do their jobs to the best of their ability. I hope they can see the impact that

this making, because I have been doing this for about 3 years. The Lord has laid it on my heart to do so. Thank you for letting our officers know that their is alot of people that care about them enough to send out covering prayers. Thank You Citrus Heights police for all you do and your service to our community . Sincerely, Larry Jones ★

All Letters to the Editor are published as received.

## Voice Your Opinion about the Citrus Heights Pedestrian Master Plan

**CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG)** - City staff will be out in the community in June and July at various community events to receive feedback about the Pedestrian Master Plan. The Pedestrian Master Plan will guide the City’s pedestrian improvements over the next 20 years, so your input is important!

The City will have an informational booth at several locations on different dates in late June and early July. On June 20th, there will be a booth at Sunrise Mall Farmers Market between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. On June 27th, attend the Citrus Heights Red, White, and Blue Parade (Sunrise Mall), beginning

at 9 a.m., and visit the City staff’s booth. Finally, come to Citrus Heights Food Truck Mania (Rusch Park) on July 8th between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. for some tasty food and to voice your opinion about the Pedestrian Master Plan. For more information, see [www.WalkCH.net](http://www.WalkCH.net). Source: City of Citrus Heights ★



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By Ronnie McBrayer

There are some people who, quite frankly, are impossible to love. You can't dig deep enough, can't try hard enough, can't believe enough, and can't go far enough to make it happen. And I'm not talking about the likes of Adolf Hitler and Charles Manson, either. If only a few such sinister creatures existed, then the world could sing together one great chorus of "Kum Ba Ya," and move on to the Promised Land.

No, the unlovable are everywhere, and they are fairly normal people, not sinister monsters who challenge our capacity to love. Bosses, coworkers, in-laws; your rival on the field, in the boardroom, or in the marketplace; your ex-spouse. The guy who cut you off in traffic. The obnoxious mother at your kid's Little League game. There are some real jerks in the world, and they aren't too interested in becoming kinder, gentler, more loving people.

The irony in all of this lack of love is that your personal ability to love others has nothing to do with them. And it has nothing to do with you. See, you can't make yourself love other people, and you can't make them more loveable.

Real love, if it is love, comes from God. So, if the unlovable people we encounter are going to be objects of any level of affection – and I'm not talking about hot, fiery emotion but genuine,



## Practice Love

gracious concern – then love is something that God must do through us, to us, and for us – and for others. It's not something we can produce on our own.

Instead, we must get to know God better; be more receptive to the Divine; become more trusting of who God is and what God can do, and less confident in our own limited abilities. The more this relationship deepens, the more of God's love we experience; and the more of God's love we experience, then the more loving we become.

So if we start with the source of love, rather than starting at a hoped for outcome and work backwards, we get what we really need, and we are empowered to become people who are patient, kind, and unselfish. We become the kind of people who, as the ancient Church Father Clement of Alexandria put it, "practice being God," for "God is love" (as the Apostle John put it), and those who know God best love the deepest.

But doesn't that seem counterintuitive to much of what we witness in the world of faith? Those who know God best love the deepest? This would appear not to be the case. To hear the tale told, those who know God best are those who are the most doctrinally entrenched, the most committed to their particular dogma, denominationalism, or neo-puritanism.

Those who claim to know God the best are often the most inflexible, stubborn, and most difficult

with which to work. Those who are the most "spiritual" can simultaneously be the most ungracious and unloving. Yet, this is a horrible oxymoron, inconsistent with a genuine relationship with God.

I interact with people all the time who think the solution to Christianity's contemporary troubles is "more." We need "more doctrinal statements; more declarations of what we believe, more clarification of right and wrong, more lines to determine who is in and who is out." I would agree that the answer is "more," for sure. But it is more God, resulting in more love, and that will make the difference.

The objections to such conclusions I hear all the time as well: "If we only focus on love, we'll wander into all manner of error and heresy," some will say. Maybe. But we cannot ignore the fact that the greatest act of sacrilege has nothing to do with doctrine. The greatest act of sacrilege is the failure to love one another. We might have all of our doctrinal "T's" crossed and our authoritative "I's" dotted, but if we aren't allowing the love of God to flow through us to others, then we have a lot of practice still to do.

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, pastor, and author. His newest book is "The Gospel According to Waffle House." You can read more at [www.ronniemcbrayer.me](http://www.ronniemcbrayer.me). ★



By Marlys Johnsen Norris, Christian Author

America is a country of immigrants from everywhere on our planet. Beginning with the Indians and pilgrims coming in search of freedom until the present day, they have been welcomed. Founded on freedom to have dreams come true, it was called the land of opportunity for all people. And for many immigrants, it certainly has come true. Today, millions of people have stories to share about the blessing they have had living in America, calling our country the land of the free and brave.

One story comes from Irving Berlin, the writer of "God Bless

## God Bless America

America." He wrote it in memory of his beloved mother who often said "God bless America" out of her personal thankfulness for bringing her to America. The inspiration for the words of the song came to him after the beginning of World War II when Irving remembered his mother's words.

Our country is not only magnificent and diverse, accepting people from every country and religion, but we have also been blessed with an abundance of resources, such as religious liberty and a constitution based on biblical principles for us to live by. And as we continue to live by these words, God will continue to bless our country!

Sadly, today we see many people trying to change and destroy them. If they succeed, you can be assured the mighty hand of God will cause our whole country to reap what we have sown as it happened over and over again to the Jewish people in the Old Testament when they turned their backs on God and went their own way.

Let us commit to intercede on behalf of our beloved country and pray every day. We do not need to loosen our laws, but deepen them and trust a magnificent Holy God who loves every one of us.

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord (Ephesians 5: 6-10 NKJV).

The Words of God are sharper than a two-edged sword, cutting away the chaff man makes for himself. Therefore, stand and obey the words of scripture for the future of yourself and America.

Marlys Johnsen Norris is the Christian author of seven books. You may contact her at [Marlysjn@gmail.com](mailto:Marlysjn@gmail.com). ★



By Pastor Ray Dare

It's always easier to stand on the sidelines and take shots at those who are serving than it is to focus on the good qualities in others. God is very blunt about criticism: "What right do you have to criticize someone else's servants? Only their Lord can decide if they are doing right..." Romans 14:4.

Whenever I criticize or judge another believer, four things instantly happen: I lose fellowship with God, I expose my own pride and insecurity, I set myself up to be judged by God, and I harm the fellowship of the church. A critical spirit is a costly vice.

The Bible calls Satan "the accuser of our brothers" (Revelation 12:10). It's the Devil's job to blame, complain and criticize members of God's family. Anytime we do

## Pastor Ray's Encouraging Words

### Help Others with Encouraging Words

the same, we're being duped into doing Satan's work for him. Remember, other Christians, no matter how much you disagree with them, are not the real enemy.

"Let's agree to use all our energy in getting along with each other. Help others with encouraging words; don't drag them down by finding fault." Romans 14:19-20

You know spreading gossip is wrong, but you should not listen to it either, if you want to protect your church. Listening to gossip is like accepting stolen property and makes you just as guilty of the crime. When someone begins to gossip to you, have the courage to say, "Please stop. I don't need to know this. Have you talked directly to that person?" People who gossip to you will also gossip about you. They cannot be trusted. If you listen to gossip, God says you are a troublemaker: "Troublemakers listen to troublemakers." Proverbs 17:4. "These are the ones who split churches, thinking only of themselves." Jude 1:19.

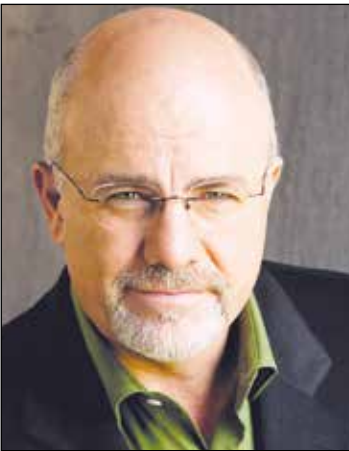
In God's flock, the greatest

wounds sometimes come from other sheep, not from wolves. Paul warned about cannibal Christians who devour each other and destroy the fellowship. They should be avoided. Proverbs 20:19 (NRSV) says "A gossip reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a babbler."

There's no neutral ground. We are either sowing seeds of love and encouragement with our words or we are sowing seeds of criticism and destruction with our words. Today is a good day to take inventory of your words and make the decision to sow only good seeds with your words you use.

Speak only in a loving way about those around you. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you to consider every word before you say it. Make the decision today that your words will bring glory to Lord.

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## Dave Says

there are probably some things he just shouldn't do from a common sense standpoint, right? But lots of folks have long, wonderful lives with that particular condition. It might be that as research on the disease progresses and as he gets older, there's a possibility that he could qualify. Think about this. If you even whispered a word like "cancer" anywhere near your name 25 years ago in the insurance business, you were done — no life insurance of any kind.

Nowadays, they look at all the factors involved. You can actually have had cancer and get life insurance.

In short, I think there's hope for the future. In the meantime, I would cover it with a slightly larger emergency fund. Just add a few thousand to what you would normally set aside for emergencies, because you might face some medical issues, as well.

—Dave

### Bankruptcy Aftershocks

Dear Dave,

What are the long-term effects of declaring bankruptcy?

Brittany

Dear Brittany,

One of the biggest aftershocks of filing bankruptcy is that it stays on your credit report for years afterward. A Chapter 7 filing, which wipes out everything and gives you a clean slate, stays on your report for 10 years. Chapter 13, which is a repayments plan,

and Chapter 11, another type of large bankruptcy or business bankruptcy, both stay on your credit bureau report for seven years. Another big problem is that it can follow you around when it comes to applications or when you apply for different types of licenses. Many of these ask if you've ever filed bankruptcy. It doesn't ask if it's still on your credit report; it will ask if you've ever filed bankruptcy. If you have, you'll have instances for the rest of your life when you have to admit it and explain it all over again. So, it's an emotional scar that follows you around for a long, long time.

Too many bankruptcy filers never really recover from their financial distress because they never learn new and better ways to manage their money. That's why I recommend people do everything they can to avoid bankruptcy. It's not an easy do-over; it's a last-resort kind of thing. And in the vast majority of situations it's just not necessary.

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business. He has authored five New York Times best-selling books: *Financial Peace*, *More Than Enough*, *The Total Money Makeover*, *EntreLeadership* and *Smart Money Smart Kids*. The *Dave Ramsey Show* is heard by more than 8 million listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com). ★

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# Surprise Dad with an Unexpected Day Together

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (BPT)

- This Father’s Day, rather than sitting dear ol’ Dad down and watching him unwrap a new neck-tie, try showing your appreciation in an unexpected way. Surprise him by spending a fun-filled day together enjoying his favorite activities. After all, doesn’t the man who spent hours patiently teaching you to ride a bike deserve something special this year?

When planning out the perfect Father’s Day, think carefully about his interests and hobbies. Find a carefree activity that will help you both unwind and catch up. Few bonding moments create lasting memories like a beautiful day of fishing. Consider spending a few hours catching fish and swapping stories to delight Dad with the perfect combination of action and relaxation. Mix in thoughtful gifts throughout the day and wow Dad with a mouth-watering meal as your grand finale and it will be one he won’t soon forget.

Set the mood in the morning and get the excitement going by presenting Dad with a new Genuine Thermos Brand 1.2L Vacuum Insulated Beverage Bottle filled with piping hot gourmet coffee. The perfect accessory to bring along on a fishing adventure, the bottle features a durable stainless steel interior and exterior, which stays cool to the touch, even when holding hot liquids. The insulation will also keep beverages hot or cold for up to 24 hours, ensuring his drink stays fresh wherever he goes. Plus, a quick burst of caffeine will help him stay alert as he makes his first casts of the day.

As you’re loading up the boat to head to Dad’s favorite honey hole, be sure to include a cooler packed with energizing munchies made with wholesome and delicious Arla Dofino cheeses. Cut off lengthwise pieces of creamy, buttery Havarti in fun flavors like dill and jalapeño to create a



This year, surprise Dad by spending a fun-filled day together enjoying his favorite activities. Photo courtesy of Brandpoint Media

“Once on the water, watch Dad’s face light up when he opens up his tackle box and finds it stocked with two of the hottest lures to hit the water in years.”

heartly, easy-to-eat cheese snack (so he can keep his other hand on the fishing pole). Bring along buttery, rich, and slightly sweet Gouda cheese to cut into bite-sized wedges or cubes that can take trail mix to the next level or pair perfectly with crisp fruit and whole grain crackers. You can also include a couple of wraps to have on hand for lunchtime: turkey with Havarti slices or roast beef with Gouda slices are two naturally good combinations.

Once on the water, watch Dad’s face light up when he opens up his tackle box and finds it stocked with two of the hottest lures to hit the water in years. The new Rapala Shadow Rap Series will have Dad haulin’ in hawks like never before with an action the pros have dubbed “the death quiver.” As a minnow is dying, it struggles, lunges in erratic jerking motions, then falls with a slow, quivering fade—just like

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When you get back on the shore after several hours of fishing and soaking up the sun, Dad’s stomach is sure to be rumbling again. Feed his wild side by firing up the grill with Jack Link’s Wild Side Sausages. Choose from flavors like Original Hardwood Smoked, a traditional sausage with a peppery kick, or Hardwood Smoked with Cheddar, both made with premium cuts of beef and pork. Or you could give Dad the ultimate wild version of the classic bratwurst by grilling up Brats with Bacon Jerky. Yes, bacon jerky. It’ll create the perfect ending to a fun-filled Father’s Day that you’ve spent in the very best way—

together. Source: Brandpoint Media ★

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**CLUES**

ACROSS

- Cursor control
- Director's cry
- Yellow rides
- "A Doll's House" playwright
- Put into service
- Alluring maiden
- Thorny stems
- Ewe's mate
- "Bravo! Bravo!", e.g.
- \*First state added after 13 colonies
- \*July 4th Main Street tradition
- Famous T-Rex
- \_\_\_\_ list
- U.K. broadcaster
- Suggestive look
- Nada
- Building extensions at right angle to main building
- Two of a kind
- "No way, \_\_\_\_\_"
- "\_\_\_\_ but don't touch"
- For cruising in style
- Silly talk or writing, British
- \*Britain in the Revolutionary War
- \*State representative
- Web \_\_\_\_
- Type of flask
- Hodgepodge
- Akira Kurosawa's 1985 drama
- Fly like an eagle
- Club alternative
- \*"The Star-Spangled Banner"
- \*Type of holiday
- Architectural projection
- School group
- Intoxicating
- Disreputable woman
- "\_\_\_\_ My People Go"
- Perfume obtained from flowers
- Fail to mention
- Compass reading
- Unifying idea

DOWN

- Ballistic missile, acr.
- Symphony member
- CCCP
- Looks like
- Imbue with soul
- Curtis, to friends
- \*July birthday celebrant
- Pace of music
- Kind of cola
- "\_\_\_\_ Lang Syne"
- Highlands hillside
- Dog command
- Highly addictive narcotic
- Clingy one
- Wood-shaping tool
- John Deere product
- \*Liberty \_\_\_\_
- Type A, e.g.
- Intimate
- Unfledged hawk
- Auctioneer's quantities
- Vienna Boys' group
- Popular foliage plant
- Place at an angle
- Indian lentil staple
39. "\*" \_\_\_\_ in the course of human events..."
- Cherokee or Hopi, e.g.
- In a foolhardy manner
- Wade's opponent
- One tritely familiar
- Copious
- \*Washington had wooden ones?
- Famous boxing promoter
- Inconclusive
- Reason to cram
- Fatalist's future
- \_\_\_\_ of interest
- Sandler or Arkin
- Greek muse's strings
- Exclamation of surprise
- \*Number of amendments in The Bill of Rights



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

**For Solutions See Page 7**

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 6

M	O	U	S	E		C	U	T		C	A	B	S
I	B	S	E	N		U	S	E		H	O	U	R
R	O	S	E	S		R	A	M		E	C	L	A
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						D	E	W	A	R		O	L
						S	O	A	R		B	L	T
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H	U	S	S	Y			L	E	T		A	T	T
O	M	I	T				E	N	E		T	H	E

Sudoku Puzzle on Page 6

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





# POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

## Hidden Travel Bargains

It's that time again. You've got vacation time coming and you want to make plans for the family. But then there's that pesky little thing called budget. So how do you make those plans so that the whole family is happy and you don't have to get a second job to make it happen? I got some tips from Lauren Volcheff, vice president of sales and marketing for the Last Minute Travel Club on POPPOFF. The Last Minute Travel Club has over 500,000 members. What they do is buy in bulk and pass on savings to their members for hotels, flights, car rentals, activities, and cruises. Lauren has been an influential leader in the travel industry for nearly a decade. According to Lauren, "Shopping for and booking travel has definitely become more DIY (do it yourself) because of smartphone and

travel apps." But what I liked most is when she told me that today's online shoppers have more ways than ever to find hidden travel bargains. She tapped into my wallet with at least five ways to save.

- 1) **Book an opaque online travel agency site.** Many of the best hotel prices in the travel industry are secured by private agreements, with the stipulation that these discounts can't be advertised to the public. That's why travelers who make reservations without knowing which hotel they're booking often get better prices than those who shop with full information.
- 2) **Choose a vacation home.** If you're adventurous and don't mind staying in a private home, you can find bargains by renting or sharing homes.
- 3) **Wait for last-minute sales.** Hotels, airlines, and cruise lines often turn to wholesalers to liquidate unsold rooms, seats, and cabins at the last minute. If you're patient, you can get excellent prices.
- 4) **Find a cheap flight first.** Often, the most expensive purchase of all travel products is the flight. "Shoulder"

season or off-season rates for popular destinations will save hundreds of dollars so you have more money to spend on the attractions that make vacations fun.

- 5) **Join a discount travel club.** Discount travel clubs are like membership warehouses for travel. By keeping travel discounts on a members-only site, you can get prices far below those that cruise lines and hotels advertise on their sites.

There so many travel clubs with specific needs for all. So if you are disabled, a senior, single, looking for kid-friendly stops, maybe even certain ambience, and more, you just need to take the time to do a little research on your own. If you can define it, you can find it. If you'd like more information about the Last Minute Travel Club, you can go to [www.JoinLMTClub.com](http://www.JoinLMTClub.com). Hope you find that perfect vacation spot for the whole family, and don't forget that it isn't always about the big bucks you put out for that vacation, it's about the coming together of family for the experiences you will have that will make the memories last forever. Have a GREAT time! ★

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Fun Run**

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**Kids** - come and run for our K9 Officers. The Kids K9 Fun Run for kids 15 and under is \$18. The fee includes a run tee shirt, kids breakfast and medal for each participant. Fee increases to \$25 after 6/20/15

**K9** Officers from the Sacramento PD K9 Unit and other agencies will be on site to pass out trading cards and there will be a demonstration by the K9 Officers after the run. Also, you can have your photo taken with a K9 Officer.

**All** proceeds from this event will benefit three area Police K9 Associations which provide retirement benefits for the K9 Officers. More info on our Website.

**Start** The run begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Garden of Valor at Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery where 48 retired K9 Officers are memorialized.



**Date:** Saturday, June 27, 2015

**Where:** Sierra Hills Memorial Park & Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery, 5757 Greenback Way, Sacramento, CA (off I-80 @ Greenback)

**Time:** Gates open at 6:30 a.m. (arrive early for best parking)

**How:** Register online at [www.KidsK9FunRun.org](http://www.KidsK9FunRun.org)

**What:** 7:30 a.m. Kids K9 Fun Run Starts (Rain or Shine!)  
8:15 a.m. Participants breakfast served  
9:00 a.m. Police K9 demonstration  
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Vendor and Community booths



**Special Note:** If you would like to have a booth at this event or have any questions, please call Lisa West at (916) 732-2000 or email [lisaw@eastlawn.com](mailto:lisaw@eastlawn.com)

[www.KidsK9FunRun.org](http://www.KidsK9FunRun.org)

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# What Memories May Come

Story and photos  
by Paul V. Scholl Publisher  
Messenger Publishing Group

In a matter of minutes, everything changes. In a matter of hours, we lose, then regain our focus. In a matter of days, we recover. In a matter of years, we forget. In solitude, we best remember those precious minutes.

So much happens for us in the time between Memorial Day weekend and the waves of a long hot summer. Graduations that culminate years of learning and parenting children through schools, May and June weddings, Father’s Day, and of course, our nation’s birthday. Blink and you will miss it all. Luckily, this year I didn’t blink.

**Graduation Day**

This trip followed an overnight stay and day in San Francisco to attend my son Gabriel’s college graduation from the University of San Francisco. He accomplished the feat in just three years of hard study. “Proud” cannot contain the feelings as I watched the ceremony. Wasn’t it just yesterday that he was playing outside in the rain, chasing the ice cream truck down the street in his bare feet, making the Little League All-Star team and playing in the high school jazz band? Moments in time that will last a lifetime...

**Why the Trip?**

The airport shuttle arrived right on time. The driver, courteous and talkative, provided enough entertainment to replace an in-flight movie. Subject matters aside, I could only imagine what the two last female travelers picked up for their airport trip thought about the driver’s comments at the end of our conversation about his wife and the wonders of married life. It was ample proof of why one should not determine someone’s intent by hearing only the end of a long conversation.

My wife had planned the long weekend away to celebrate her mother’s 75th birthday with family and friends. As mother-in-laws go, she’s the best, so I wasn’t going to miss it. My wife had flown out a day earlier to help with the celebration. We all had a special time together this visit sharing stories, teasing and joking, and playing games that made you laugh so hard you were really hoping it was iced tea someone had spilled on the floor.

**Frankly Charlotte**

On the first flight from Sacramento to Charlotte, three guys were sick, hacking most of the flight. Not that I was going to sleep much anyway, but the kick-kick-kick from the little kid behind me was a reminder of how long the flight was going to be. A notepad, a calculator, and a complimentary 5.8 oz. soft drink in a 6 oz. plastic cup kept me focused and appreciating so much more.

We landed in Charlotte. Landing at Gate A, leaving by Gate E—If I had known it was close to four miles I would have just walked to Harrisburg. It reminded me of that famous Rhett Butler quote.

Did you know that there are actually five different Starbucks between Gate A and Gate E in the Charlotte airport? I’m just sayin’.

The plane out of Charlotte was so small I was looking for a remote control antennae. Bob the luggage guy looked like he was just going to strap down the extra bags on top of the plane.

The entertainment on this flight was the stewardess. She was great, funny,



Generations have passed since blood soaked the battlefields of Gettysburg. You can still feel the grief of each of the Unknown Soldiers.

and determined. She was the best “one-man crew” you are ever going to find. All I can say is “Pay her more. Whatever she is making, pay her more.”

**Traveling Companions**

Having flown much more in years past, I was amused at the people with headsets this trip. Zero conversation. No getting to know anyone that you will be sitting next to for the next six hours. How boring. I thought of all the great people I had met over the years by getting to know them through air



One of the many monuments to the casualties of war.

travel. The minister, the lawyer (yes, he was very interesting), the young entrepreneur, the business guy buried in acquisitions, the young woman traveling to take care of her father’s estate after he had passed away just after her last visit two weeks earlier. They have all been traded for an iPod.

When you fly over the USA, you get

a perspective lost in a daily world of iTunes and reality TV, traffic jams and taxes, PTA meetings and mowing the yard. You see all the space. You see the cities, the communities, the homes, all filled with people with their own individual lives full of loves, attitudes and latitudes, daily problems and worries, desires and dreams, and wants for a better tomorrow. Every one of them different, and just like you.

**Gettysburg on Memorial Day**

Most years I attend local ceremonies for Memorial Day, but this year it would be different. My one request this trip back to Pennsylvania was to have time to visit Gettysburg again.

It was 1991 the last time I had been on the hallowed grounds of Gettysburg. It was an off day for tourists then, thankfully. Overcast weather, mid-week, humid and un-inviting. Perfect for a singular roamer on an unfamiliar quest. There was opportunity to walk through battlegrounds where you weren’t supposed to go. It was a day that changed my life.

Grief was in the mist. It was in the trees. It lined the rocks. You could feel it finding its way through the stilled grass. Six generations and it was as real as the days all those men fell in battle.

Alone, aware, quiet, and still. The lingering cries of casualties, cries for their mothers and wives and children, were imminent and obvious as the ripples of water on a disturbed pond. It was all so overwhelming I was grateful to be alone. The awe of the desperate sacrifices of so many was deafening. It was coupled with the knowledge of the ignorance of most who have never even studied what happened in this small island of glory, and such waste, in the history of our nation.

Compelled to move, but slowly and with reverence, I walked the cemeteries. Reading every monument tribute to the fallen, taking it in as the numbers began to have faces and families, taking in the moments that the lives changed

***“When you fly over the USA, you get a perspective lost in a daily world of iTunes and reality TV, traffic jams and taxes, PTA meetings and mowing the yard. You see all the space.”***

forever. I couldn’t help but think every high school class should take this trip as a requirement to graduate into adulthood. It would change a society.

And then I found Spangler’s Spring. It was as if I were behind the eyes of another, yet so familiar, man. It is impossible to describe the sensations of déjà vu, the waves of memory files opening up from a time when you know you died here in a surprise skirmish, one minute joking with other gray uniformed men, the next your face and body hitting the ground with a permanent thud so certain as the pain of torn flesh screamed to the heavens. It was then, and it was now. My body reacted with such trembling and fear that I looked around again as if another attack were looming.

It lasted for about three minutes. And then a peace came over me like the heavens had opened up to assure me all was well. All was well.

This year, 24 years later, a return was necessary. My wife and I toured the new tourist center, watched the new films, enjoyed the exhibits, had a quick lunch, and began our own driving tour.

As we found our way to the cemetery, the Memorial Day parade was just ending. Hundreds had come to visit and pay respects. We walked the grounds and took in the monuments, the history, and the importance.

Unknown, unknown, unknown after unknown. Number after number. Finding “1” on a small headstone at the end of a long-circled row near the road had me stop, and pray for “1.” It has been a long-practiced personal ritual upon visiting cemeteries to speak aloud the names of the souls displayed on headstones. It gives them a brief and temporary vibratory resonant life again. Somehow, in spirit, it acknowledges their life among us just one more time.

My wife and I found our way around a number of the monuments, then took to the car to drive the battlefields. At one point, we came upon a small group that had taken a small guided tour. The tour guide explained to them exactly how the battle had been planned, and then executed. He explained how this one battle on this one day in history General Lee was driven back and defeated, changing the history of the Civil War and our nation. Aware, you could still hear the canons firing.

We then looked up Spangler’s Spring. She did not know about my previous visit and experience. I just had to know by returning. When we arrived, I was

absolutely certain it was not a one-time phenomenon. The reaction this time was not violent, overwhelming, fearful, or regretful. It was a completion, a completion of a cycle that now drives me every day to do more and be more to preserve our nation.

As a nation, we have to get this right. We have to get this right. Are we at another crossroads due to years of poor leadership? We are a nation built upon all those who have come before us. We are built upon a belief in God, family, and country. We used to stand for something. And now we sit in dull ignorance in front of televisions and watch ourselves be misled by those who do not care about the will of the people.

**We Forget**

We forget too often the sacrifices of all those who have come before us to build our country. We forget all those who have fought in battles to preserve our way of life. We have not heard the buzzing of bullets around our heads. We have not heard the canons fire upon us. We have not lost limbs or loved ones.



Every monument gave the numbers. Every number had a name.

We do not know all that our fathers, grandfathers, or forefathers have done to try to give us a better life. We certainly do not know all that our neighbor’s father, grandfathers, or forefathers have sacrificed. We just know that our neighbor’s stereo is too loud and they park too close to our driveway for our liking.

Memorial Day is on our calendars for a reason. Father’s Day is on our calendars for a reason. Our nation’s Independence Day is coming up, and it is on our calendars for a reason.

Take the time on Father’s Day to appreciate all that your father and the fathers of your family and your neighbor’s family have done to give us this great community and nation.

Take the time this Independence Day to show your appreciation to the people who hold this nation together, those around you. Take the time to appreciate all those military and military families who have sacrificed more than we know to provide us the safety in which we live.

This Independence Day show up, remember the many sacrifices for freedom, give thanks with great gratitude, and love this nation more. ★



Wasn’t it just yesterday? Sons grow so fast. We owe them a better world. Scholl family photo.





# 2015 FIREWORKS BUYERS GUIDE

## Get the Most Bang for Your Buck



By David Dickstein

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - To those flexing independence on Independence Day by not leaving fireworks to the professionals, have fun and, above all, be safe; we don't want anyone or anything to go up in smoke.

That includes your hard-earned money. When firework stands, run by fundraising non-profits, open for business starting June 28th, consumers will be faced with the usual pricey and patriotic puzzlement. What's new? What's loud? What's colorful? How long does it last? What gives me the most bang for my buck?

Messenger Publishing Group has the answers,

having put every new state-approved firework from TNT and Phantom to the test. Our annual fireworks buyers guide also includes returning favorites that scored at least 4 of 5 stars on a scale that factors performance, value, duration, and distinctiveness. Every firework sold individually in California has been rated for the guide since 2003, so whatever isn't listed wasn't forgotten—it just didn't make the grade. Judges this year included firefighters of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Station 65 in Rancho Cordova, where the test was conducted. Fireworks are listed by price, highest to lowest.

*Let the sparks fly!*

### New for 2015



**Coral Reef (Phantom), \$49.99** – Phantom's longest-lasting fan fountain. Debuting last season outside California, this 500-gram humdinger wows with radiant colors and clamorous whistles and crackles. Tested nearly identically to TNT's Delirium (see review). *105 seconds.* ★ ★ ★ ★

**Fiery Scorpion (TNT), \$24.99** – Pleasing red, white, and bluish sparks mixed with snow pine, lemon, and titanium crackles. Duration should be longer at this price point. *64 seconds.* ★ ★ ★

**Neon Galaxy (TNT), \$21.99** – A crackle bassline plays as four tubes, one after the other, emit sparks of green, gold, white, red, yellow, etc. Pretty, but pretty ordinary, even with the decent burn time. *90 seconds.* ★ ★ ★

**Zombie Apocalypse (TNT), \$21.99** – Sensational medium-priced fan fountain has large-sized intensity. Promises to have a strong rookie season. *62 seconds.* ★ ★ ★ ★

**Phantom Pixie Dust (Phantom), \$19.99** – Possibly the largest and heaviest fountain that burns for just over a minute. Stars and chrysanthemums of purple, lemon, red, silver, gold, and green, and titanium crackles make this good, not great. *66 seconds.* ★ ★ ★

**Phantom Uproar (Phantom), \$12.99 (for two)** – Unless buying the newest fireworks is important to you, a better two-for-one deal at the same price is Phantom's performance-comparable Twilight Magic fountains, which are prettier, louder, and longer lasting. *33 seconds.* ★ ★ ★

**Crystal Skies (TNT), \$9.99** – This year's "Best New Fountain" winner has great height, striking gold glitters and white pines, and loud crackles. Better than many fountains sold at double the price. *68 seconds.* ★ ★ ★ ★



**Phantom Treasure (Phantom), \$6.99** – Chrysanthemums of green and gold. Meh. *35 seconds.* ★ ★



**Sir Dumps a Lot (TNT), \$6.99 (bag of two)** – TNT's all-business response to Phantom's Poopy Pooch (\$5.99 for two), which is being discontinued next year. Both naughty novelties feature an ash "log" that comes out the rear end of a cardboard dog. Scatological joke only works once, so not sure why we need two. One at half the price would merit another star. *20 seconds.* ★ ★

**Mano a Mano (TNT), \$5 for four** – Sold under different names in 2003 and 2004 (Bandito and Pyro Pete, respectively), this set of four crackle-happy, three-inch fountains isn't really new to the California market. They also clock in 5 seconds less than before. For the same price, consider two Fire Krackle boxes. *13 seconds.* ★ ★

**Fireblast Assortment (Phantom), \$199.99** – Phantom has the only new fireworks assortment for the Northern California market this year, and it's all fountains. Among the 24, only three, including the always-impressive Firecracker Fountain, last longer than a minute. It's one of three in the box also sold individually, the others being the new Uproar and the classic Moondance. For the same price, TNT's **The Big Deluxe Assortment** has 23 regular-sized fountains, 42 of the throwaway Flashing Fountains, and 36 Lightning Flashes. A generous 11 fountains burn for over a minute, the best being Fire Destroyers, Devil's Delight, Combustion Chamber, and the one also sold individually — Mad Dog. **Fireblast Assortment:** ★ ★ **Big Deluxe Assortment:** ★ ★ ★ ★

### Best of the Rest (4-5 Stars)

**Opening Show (TNT), \$59.99** – Budget permitting, the "Best New Finale" winner of 2012 is a 500-gram must-have. You'll forget the steep price at the 1:40 mark when all fiery heck breaks loose, sure to startle anyone closer than 15 feet away. *130 seconds.*



**Apache Firedance Premier (Phantom), \$49.99** – Last season's "Best New Firework" scores with seven effects, including some of the best crackles, strobes, and height on the safe and sane market. *140 seconds.*

**Delirium (TNT), \$49.99** – Fan-shaped 500-gram fountain boasts crowd-pleasing intensity and stunning beauty. Granddaddy of all state-approved fan fountains, and the best-selling finale for 10 years running. No wonder Phantom has come out with Coral Reef. *105 seconds.*

**Peacock Tail Fan (Phantom), \$34.99** – "Best New Firework" of 2012 builds excitement with each dazzling stage. Works out to 65 cents per second, but the audience's "oohs" and "ahhs" are priceless. *54 seconds.*

**Moondance Premier (Phantom), \$29.99** – It's Phantom's value-priced Moondance Fountain on steroids. Terrific height, lots of purple—a real crowd pleaser. *100 seconds.*

**Alpha Wolf (Phantom), \$26.99** – Newly discontinued, so get it while you can. Green and purple droplets, gold shower, and crackling stars finale are awesome. No howling whistles despite its name. *83 seconds.*

**Funky Monkey (Phantom), \$24.99** – Pyrotechnic primate features red pearls and a solid overall performance. *90 seconds.*

**American Spirit (TNT), \$22.99 plus bonus** – Fountain of red, white, and bluish stars; gold showers; and decent whistles and crackles makes the cut because it comes with the pleasing 90-second Sizzler Fountain. *80 seconds.*

**O-Blivion (TNT), \$19.99** – Lord of the ring-shaped fountains emits multi-colored chrysanthemums with pine and impressive titanium crackles. Sweet burn time. *125 seconds.*

**Phantom Phlash Phinish (Phantom), \$18.99** – Phantastic phountain with strong duration, altitude, spread, titanium crackle, and whistle. *108 seconds.*

**Mad Dog (TNT), \$17.99 for two** – Emits amazing crackles, whistles, and multi-color sparks, but it's the combo deal that keeps this old dog on our list. *80 seconds.*

**Serenity (Phantom), \$15.99** – Noiseless fountain opens with lovely lava lamp-like lumps and peacefully pleases with seven colors and white chrysanthemums. *59 seconds.*

**King of Bling (Phantom), \$14.99** – Crackles heard during the final third sound just like popping popcorn. Chrysanthemums, whistle, and burn time are majestic for the price. *90 seconds.*

**Luminescence (Phantom), \$14.99** – Starts out as a run-of-the-mill multi-effect fountain, but then surprises with an eruption of wide-spreading sparks. One of the best performers of last year's freshman class. *73 seconds.*

**Phantom Night Owl (Phantom), \$14.99** – Sadly, Phantom's best internally glowing fountain (eyes and mouth light up) is newly discontinued. Say goodbye (soon) to four loud screeches and an exciting overall performance. *65 seconds.*

**Twilight Magic (Phantom), \$12.99 for two** – "Best New Fountain" of 2013, now a 2-for-1 item, has three exciting rotations of crackle-and-whistle and wide-spreading sparks. *57 seconds.*

**Surfs Up (TNT), \$10.99** – Gorgeous globs lead to a wave of multiple effects and some of the best and widest-spreading titanium rain and crackles for the price. *58 seconds.*

**Luck of the Irish (TNT), \$9.99** – Fourteen-year-old classic features gold and silver spray, red and green balls, crackles, and four super-loud whistles. *75 seconds.*

**Firecracker Fountain (Phantom), \$9.99** – Lives up to its name with an awesome crackling barrage alongside multi-colored pearls. *76 seconds.*



**Phantom Dragon Slayer (Phantom), \$9.99 for two** – Solid buy with pretty white, blue, and lemon chrysanthemums; rowdy crackles; and red stars. *66 seconds.*

**Lil Red Devil (TNT), \$9.99 for two** – Packs plenty of heat for the size and price. Ends strong with wide-spreading titanium crackling sparks. *35 seconds.*

**Rainbow Rays (TNT), \$5.99** – Terrific value-priced item, delivering on burn time, height, and crackle. *56 seconds.*

**Purple Rain (TNT), \$5.99 for two; and Moondance (Phantom), \$2.99** – Identical little dynamos emit loud crackles, purple pearls, and glittering gold and white sparks. *45 seconds.*



Area non-profits will be making green out of red, white, and blue starting June 28th, the day fireworks sales begin in most of California. Photo by David Dickstein



Fireworks represent the largest fundraiser of the year for hundreds of non-profit groups throughout the Sacramento Valley. Sales begin June 28th. Photo by David Dickstein





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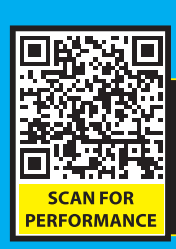
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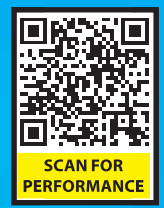


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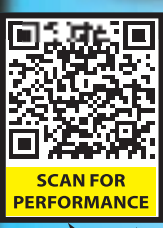
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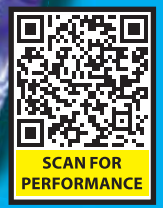
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