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Volume 3 Issue 4

Serving the City of Citrus Heights and Sacramento County

Second Edition for February 2013

Ever Wonder What Your Dolls are Worth?



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Dusty Baker Helps Encourage "Fit Kids"



Page 2

Tax Help from a Pro: Why Did My Tax **Preparer Not Use** My Deductions?



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

Trafficking Now A Serious Problem



Human sex and forced labor trafficking thrives in Placer and Sacramento counties. Victims of sexual exploitation include street protistution and escort services.

By Elise Spliess

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA – (MPG) Human Trafficking is modern-day slavery, and it does exist in Sacramento County. According to the FBI, Sacramento County is among the top five counties for prosecuted Domestic (U.S. born) Minor (under 18 years) Sex Trafficking (DMST) cases in the nation. In our area, the majority of these cases are found in impoverished and at-risk communities such as North Highlands, Del Paso Heights, Oak Park and Meadowview. Ninety-nine percent of cases involve children with no father in the home.

No child, youth or teen ever wakes up one day and says,

forced labor or sex slave", and yet at least 100,000 children are being exploited every year in the United States.

Human trafficking is now tied with the arms trade as the #2 criminal industry in the world,

second only to drug trafficking. How has this happened, seemingly right under our noses? What is Human Trafficking? How long has it been going on and what is being done to save those already caught in the bonds of human slavery in our area, and prevent it from happening to others? While this topic is much too extensive for one article, there is basic information that can be used by readers

"today I'm going to become a to become aware of the problem involuntary servitude, peonage, and learn the signs to look for in their own interaction with the

youth in their own community.

The legal definition of Human Trafficking: According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, "Severe Forms" of human trafficking (H.T.), are defined as: a) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; OR, b) as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to

debt bondage or slavery.

The existence of modern human trafficking in the United States came to light dramatically in 1995 in Los Angeles in a case dubbed the "El Monte sweatshop case". Seventy-two female garment workers from Thailand were discovered living and working in an apartment complex in the El Monte neighborhood in Los Angeles. Hidden from public view, the complex was surrounded by barbed wire, and the women were forced to work there, some for 7 years, under fear of physical harm and deportation.

Continued on Page 11

Looking to Volunteer in Citrus Heights?

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA -(MPG) The City of Citrus Heights is currently seeking volunteers for the Citrus Heights Community Center, the newly constructed Sylvan Community Center and volunteers for the ever popular City and Community Events. All volunteers must be at least 18 years old and must successfully pass a background investigation, including a criminal history check and DMV background.

The Community Center is currently seeking volunteers for the following positions:

Facility Worker: Volunteer duties include exterior building and grounds site clean-up and landscape maintenance.

Community Center Administrative Office: Volunteer duties include answering telephones/ voicemail, contact with the public and customer service, tours of the facilities, photocopying and scanning, filing, data entry, assisting with contracts and following up with clients regarding bookings. Knowledge of basic computer programs is preferred.

City Events Volunteer: Volunteer duties include answering telephones/voicemail, contact with the public and customer service, tours of the facilities, photocopying and scanning, filing, data entry, supplies, following up with registrants, sending correspondence and making return phone calls, mailers and working city events. Knowledge of basic computer programs is preferred.

Facility Aide Events **Volunteer:** Volunteer duties include set-up, breakdown and cleaning with events, inventory, equipment cleaning, and tours of the facilities.

Please join us for a Volunteer Open House at the Citrus Heights Community Center located at 6300 Fountain Square Drive on February 28th from 4:30pm-6:00pm. RSVP is required. For more information and to RSVP, please call 916-727-5400 or e-mail msaario@citrusheights.net.

Firefighters to Fill the Boot for Burns

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA -(MPG) The driving public can join the Sacramento Metro Fire Department and other local firefighters as they raise funds for the Firefighters Burn Institute. The fundraising Fill the Boot Drive is an annual event held locally at the intersection of Greenback Lane and Sunrise Blvd. in Citrus Heights.

The Firefighters Burn Institute is a non-profit organization founded by the Sacramento Area Firefighters Local 522 in 1973, for the purpose of establishing a local burn treatment facility; providing recovery programs for burn survivors; providing fire and burn prevention through public education; funding education for burn team professionals, firefighters, and burn survivors; and supporting burn treatment and rehabilitation research.

The Firefighters Burn Institute participates in local burn care, and also plays an active leadership role on a national level with the Federation of Burn Foundations and

the American Burn Association.

Filling the Boot Drive is scheduled for Friday, February 15, 9am-5pm, Saturday, February 16, 9am-5pm, Sunday, February 17, 9am-5pm and Monday, February 18, 9am-4pm.

Neighbors can come by and check out the firefighters and fire apparatus in the Sunrise Mall parking lot during the fundraising drive. Agencies involved in the fundraising efforts are Sacramento Metro Fire Dept., Sacramento Fire, Folsom Fire, and other firefighters from all over Northern California.

Publisher's note: Drivers should be careful not to exit their cars when travelling through the intersection at these times. You can proceed to the parking lot and make your donations to firefighters there. DO NOT stop your car in moving traffic, as it may cause traffic problems, delays, or accidents.

Photo provided by Firefighters Burn Institute



Got an Old Doll or Teddy Bear in Your Closet?



Experts will be available to appraise up to 2 of your treasures.

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA – (MPG) Experts will be on hand to identify and appraise up to 2 of your treasures. The March show and sale in Roseville will feature several of the leading doll and teddy bear experts in the US as well as experts of reviving your well-loved treasures. They will be available to identify those mysterious dolls or teddy bears that are living in your 'wonder what they are worth' closet.

The 2013 kick-off event in



The 2013 kick-off ecvent will feature stunning sales displays.

Roseville will be packed with stunning sales displays that will thrill collectors. You will find exceptional artistry, nostalgia and fine antiques assembled by more than 70 exhibitors from around the region. As teddy bears make us sigh and dolls take our breath away, there's a lot happening in the Doll and Teddy Bear world for you in March. What is a doll and teddy bear show/sale all about? The Crossroads event brings contests, demonstrations and an international group of high profile

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Community Center and

City Events Volunteers

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Citrus Heights Community Center

Volunteer Open House

Thursday, February 28, 2013

4:30p.m.-6:00p.m.

6300 Fountain Square Drive

The Citrus Heights Community Center is seeking dedicated volunteers to assist with the facility's ongoing operations. As well as volunteers to assist

with the ever popular City and Community Events.

You are invited to join us at the Citrus Heights Community Center

volunteer open house on February 28th. All volunteers must be at least 18 years old and must successfully pass a background investigation, including a criminal history check and DMV background.

> **RSVP Required** For more information and to RSVP, please call 916-727-5400 or contact Michele Saario at msaario@citrusheights.net

artists to share their creations. This lighthearted show and sale is for enthusiasts of all ages and includes a sales floor packed with dolls, teddy bears, antiques, miniatures, clothes, supplies, & more: from antique to modern, and the carefully hand-crafted.

Event: The Crossroads Doll and Teddy Bear Show and Sales Event Date/Time: March 2, 2013 Saturday 9AM to 3PM Event Location: Placer County Fairgrounds 800 All-America City Blvd Roseville CA 95678

Event Features:

- Doll & teddy bear identification and appraisal by industry
- Consignment booth.
- Doll Stringing & evaluations of repairs.

Event Information and Email: info@dolls4all.com

Web site: www.dolls4all.com 775 348 7713

Ticket Info: Adults \$7.00 Children under 12 \$4.00

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Thank you, Dorothy Drake.

Dusty Baker Encourages "Fit Kids"



SACRAMENTO REGION,

California Capital Region's project that seeks to reduce obesity rates in the region by fostering healthy eating habits and active lifestyles. YMCA of Superior California is one of six regional nonprofits funded by United Way to work on Fit Kids. There are more than 1,000 kids in the program region-wide.

Baker, a 19-year major leaguer,

has had an active lifestyle his entire life. He was a four-sport varsity athlete at Del Campo High School in Carmichael and in addition to riding a bicycle two hours a day is an avid hunter and fisherman during the off-

Source: Kristin Thebaud **Communications**

CA – (MPG) Cincinnati Reds manager, Granite Bay resident and Sacramento Sports Hall of Fame member Dusty Baker (back row center), recently took time out from preparations for spring training to encourage Fit Kids participants to keep up the good work.

Fit Kids is United Way

Congressman Bera Urges Congress to be **Responsible and Make Good Decisions**

Asks them to stop automatic across-the-board spending cuts

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) Earlier today Congressman Ami Bera urged members of Congress to be responsible, make good decisions, and not allow automatic across-the-board spending cuts to go into effect at the end of the

During a speech on the floor of the House of Representatives, Bera used a poster sent to him by a 3rd grade class at Foulks Ranch Elementary School in Elk Grove, California with some tips for Congress to make his point. The poster read:

- Be Responsible
- Be Respectful
- Be Kind
- Be Accountable
- Make Good Choices



Congressman Ami Bera

"If sequestration takes place, 70,000 children will be kicked out of Head Start, 10,000 teachers will lose their jobs, and hundreds of thousands of our children will face a more difficult future," said Congressman Bera.

it out, I hope we in Congress can. Let's do what they advise. Be responsible and make good choices."

Watch Congressman Bera's speech: http://youtu.be/ JRff90NYc

So, if Congress doesn't act before March 1, automatic across-the-board spending cuts will go into effect, impacting programs that are vital to local communities and national

Congressman Ami Bera represents Sacramento County in the 113th Congress. A lifelong Californian and first generation American, Bera is a medical doctor and the only Indian American currently serving in Congress.

If the 3rd graders can figure Source: Office of Ami Bera

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Celebrating Beer Week



Sacramento is now a boomtown for craft beer and fans are happily drinking it down. The success of Sacramento Beer Week comes from the hard work of the local craft beer community.

SACRAMENTO REGION. CA – (MPG) The 4th Annual Sacramento Beer Week will be held from February 22nd until March 3rd, 2013. Throughout the Sacramento Valley, breweries, pubs, restaurants and other beer-loving businesses will celebrate Sacramento craft beer culture and Northern California's legacy as the birthplace of the modern craft beer movement.

Last year, more than 100 businesses hosted beer tastings, tap takeovers from visiting breweries, beer dinners, food pairings and more. SBW is anchored by the Capital Beerfest on March 2nd at Cal Expo, where thousands of beer fans will sample from almost 100 breweries to benefit the Runnin' for Rhett Foundation. New features this year will include a cocktail competition from the Sacramento Bartenders Guild and several exclusive collaborative beers from local breweries. A new beer magazine, Hops to Table, has been introduced to chronicle

Sacramento's craft beer scene. Sacramento Beer Week organizers have also introduced reputation that continues to a local campaign to promote responsible drinking.

"Drink Safely Sacramento will use social marketing strategies to reduce the harm from drinking alcohol," says Dan Scott, founder and executive director of Sacramento Beer Week. "We aim to make Sacramento safer, improve people's lives and maybe even save a few."

Sacramento has ten beer producers within city limits, another fifteen less than an hour away and eight new regional breweries scheduled to open in 2013. "Sacramento Beer Week and the caliber of locally-produced craft beers are yet another example that help to illustrate the reality of Sacramento's designation as the Farm-to-Fork Capital of America," said Steve Hammond, president and CEO of the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau. "The region's heritage of quality craft beer production is second to none and, as showcased during Sacramento Beer Week, provides an additional element to the culinary

grow both inside and outside of the Sacramento region."

Glynn Phillips, owner of Rubicon Brewing and President of the Northern California Brewers Guild, was an early supporter of the event. "Sacramento Beer Week has helped to elevate the presence and importance of craft beer in our region. Rubicon has been here for 25 years and I am still surprised at how many people learn of our beer through Sacramento Beer Week." Scott credits the collaborative nature of the craft beer industry. "The success of Sacramento Beer Week comes from the hard work of our craft beer community.

We should all be proud that Sacramento is now a major destination for craft beer lovers from around the world. Sacramento is a boomtown for craft beer and fans are happily drinking it down."

Complete information is available at SacramentoBeerWeek. com and CapitalBeerfest.com.

Annual Rotary Speech Contest for Citrus Heights High School Students

The Citrus Heights Rotary is inviting high school students from Mesa Verde High School and San Juan High School to participate in the Annual Rotary Speech Contest. Students are to write and present a speech expressing the theme of "Peace Through Service". The Citrus Heights Rotary Club level contest will be held at noon on February 27th, 2013 at the Citrus Heights Community Center.

The Annual Rotary Speech Contest consists of three rounds: First round is at a local Rotary Club meeting to pick a first place winner. All Club first place winners will advance to the Semi-Final round. Four finalists will be selected at the Semi-Final Round to attend the Final Round.

Below are some general rules:

1. Contestants must be high school students in grades 9, 10, 11, or 12. 2. All contestants MUST ARRIVE at their designated contest locations NO LATER THAN 10 MINUTES

PRIOR to the start of the contest. Late arrivals will be DISQUALIFIED. There are no exceptions to the rule.

3. Microphones will be required at the District Semi-Final and Final Speech Contests. Encourage use of microphone (hand held or wireless) at your Club Contest.

4. No displays, props or prompting are allowed. Any clothing containing logos might be considered props.

5. The speech must be at least 5 minutes in length but not more than 8 minutes.

6. Same speech is to be used for all levels.

7. All contestants must agree to speak at the Semi-Final and Final Contest should they advance that far.

8. The topic for every contest is: "Peace through Service" 9. Students may compete at only

ONE District 5180 Rotary Club. 10. Any prior year's winner may compete again at the Club level, if they so desire, and advance to Semi-

Final and Final Contests if declared

the winner at each level.

CLUB CONTEST AWARDS: First place: \$200 Second place:

\$100 Third place: \$50 Each Club Contest Winner will

advance to one of four regional semifinal contests. REGIONAL SEMIFINAL

CONTEST AWARDS:

First place: \$250 Second place: \$100 Third place: \$50

The four first place winners at the regional semifinal contests will advance to District Contest

Finals on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at the District Conference at the Hyatt Regency Lake Tahoe, Incline Village, Nevada.

DISTRICT LEVEL AWARDS:

First place: \$1,000 Second place: \$700 Third place: \$400 Fourth place: \$200

For more information and applications, please contact Jamie McDaniels at 916-536-9267.







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- Jack T., Citrus Heights, CA



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Sacramento County DA Reports

Recent Cases of Interest

CASE: Richard Carter (02/1513)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Eric Kindall, Homicide Unit

District Attorney Jan Scully announced today that Richard Carter was convicted by jury of second degree murder in the shooting death of Kevin Burks on October 11, 2011. He was also convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm. A court trial on his "strike" prior allegation is pending.

Sentencing is set for March 7, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. before the Honorable Timothy Frawley. Carter is facing a sentence of 80 years to life in prison if the "strike" prior allegation is found to be true or 40 years to life in prison if the allegation is found not to be true.

Carter was 17 years old at the time of the crime and was charged and convicted as an adult.

CASE: Anthony Arinaga (02/15/13)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Alan Hengel, Insurance Fraud Unit

District Attorney Jan Scully announced that 34-year-old Anthony Arinaga admitted to a felony charge of vehicular arson with the intent to defraud his auto insurance company, a strike under California's Three Strikes Law.

Galt resident Anthony Arinaga had a vehicle which needed frequent and costly repairs. Arinaga and a friend, Laura Perry, decided they would destroy his car. Arinaga would then file a false stolen vehicle police report and false insurance claim. Arinaga believed his scheme would eliminate having to pay for additional costly car repairs and that he would instead receive payment from his auto insurance company for the value of his car.

The morning of September 11, 2011, Arinaga and Perry drove separate cars to a remote area near Stockton. Once there, Arinaga set his car on fire and immediately left with Perry who drove him home. Later that morning, Arinaga called the Galt Police Department and said he had just discovered that his car had been stolen. A Galt police officer went to Arinaga's home to take a stolen vehicle report. Both Arinaga and his wife, Christina Arinaga, initially told the officer that their car had been stolen. After further questioning by the officer, they both admitted lying about their car being stolen. Anthony Arinaga faces a sentence of 180 days in jail and formal probation. Sentencing is set for March 15, 2013 in Department 8 of the Sacramento Superior Court.

CASE: Havwood Luster (02/15/13)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney Matt Chisholm, Elder Abuse Unit

District Attorney Jan Scully announced today the Honorable Kevin McCormick sentenced 50- yearold Haywood Luster to 17 years and 4 months in prison. Last month, Luster pled to three counts of robbery with an elder victim enhancement.

In the summer of 2012, Luster robbed seven women ranging in age from 76 to 93. Luster followed the women home from two grocery stores in the Arden area. When the victims arrived home and began taking groceries into their houses, he struck them from behind and stole their purses. None of the seven victims were able to identify Luster because the attacks were a surprise and executed quickly. During the last robbery, an alert neighbor witnessed the robbery and chased Luster back to his car. After the neighbor provided a detailed description of the car, the Sacramento sheriff's robbery detail searched the area for hours and apprehended Luster in the car.

All of the victims escaped serious injuries, but many of the victims have lost their sense of security, independence and will no longer leave their homes alone. In Luster's statement to probation, he admitted targeting elderly women because he thought they were easy targets.

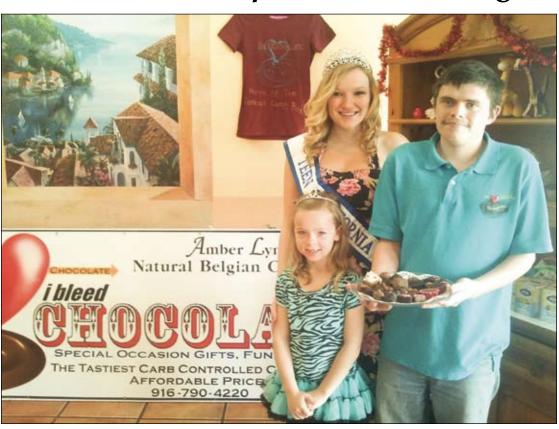
Deputy District Attorney Matt Chisholm states, "Thanks to the tireless work of Sacramento Sheriff's Detective Jason Lonteen and the watchful eyes of caring neighbors, this defendant is no longer wandering our streets targeting some of the most vulnerable people in our community."

CASE: Ignacio Bulahan (02/13/13)

PROSECUTOR: Deputy District Attorney William Satchell, Gangs & Hate Crimes Unit District Attorney Jan Scully announced that the Honorable Maryanne Gilliard sentenced 37-yearold Ignacio Bulahan for the May 19, 2004 murder of Thyotis Jackson. Last month, Bulahan was convicted by jury of first degree murder. Bulahan received a sentence of 25 years to life in prison plus 1 year for the use of a deadly weapon.

The homicide was unsolved until 2010 when an individual came forward with information that assisted the Sacramento Police Department in linking the murder to Bulahan.

iBleedchocolate Opens in Citrus Heights



CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) iBleedchocolate, a family Max Center near Woodmore Miss Teen California, Karolynn owned, full service candy shop Oaks. Pictured showing off Parker; and family member and has arrived in Citrus Heights At the sweets are Little Miss employee, Keyote Carlson.

6970 Sunrise Blvd. In the food Ambassador, Kalie Bagwill;

Homeowners Alerted to a Growing Fire by their 3 year Old Pug Dog

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Report

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - On February 17, 2013 at 11:12 pm Metro Fire units were dispatched to a report of a structure fire on the 7600 block of Woodchuck Way in Citrus Heights. The first arriving Metro Fire units reported heavy smoke from a single story home. Metro Fire Companies immediately began fire suppression activities and while searching for occupants located a homeowner gathering belongings in a back bedroom. The homeowner was escorted to safety.



Rapid deployment of resources prevented further damage to the home sparing most of the personal property.

Firefighting efforts confined the spread of the fire limiting damage to the structure and personal property to approximately \$75,000. The two adult occupants of the home told of being alerted to the fire by their 3 year

old pug dog and moments later their smoke alarm activated.

No citizens or firefighters were injured as a result of the incident. Preliminary cause of the fire is being attributed to improperly discarded cigarette butts in a rear patio planter which caused a growing exterior fire to extend into the attic of the home.

Metro Fire reminds you that smoke alarms save lives! Almost 2/3 of home fire deaths are in homes with no working smoke alarms. Protect your family: test your smoke alarms every month, and change the batteries when you change your clocks.

CITRUS HEIGHTS City Ride

A new distinctive shuttle service for travel in Citrus Heights for everyone!



New Shuttle Service for Citrus Heights

The Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT), in partnership with the City of Citrus Heights, now offers a new shuttle service for travel in Citrus Heights called "City Ride."

City Ride offers curb-to-curb service to and from any destination within the boundaries of the city of Citrus Heights and Mercy San Juan Medical Center on Coyle Avenue in Carmichael. In the near future, RT plans to offer service to Kaiser Medical Offices on Riverside Avenue in Roseville.

- Weekday service from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Advance reservations required
- Open to the general public
- Regular RT fares apply



To learn more about Citrus Heights City Ride, visit www.sacrt.com/citrusheightscityride or call 916-321-BUSS (2877). To make a reservation, call 916-556-0258.



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Newcomer's Buffet & Social Any and all widows or

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In the private dining room at the Plaza Hoff Brau, corner of El Camino and Watt Avenues; cost varies as the choice is from a no-host buffet menu

This is a public service to all widows and widowers and there is no charge to attend the social other than the meal they chose.

Sunday Support

Any and all widows or widowers are invited

Every Sunday from 3 pm-5 pm

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



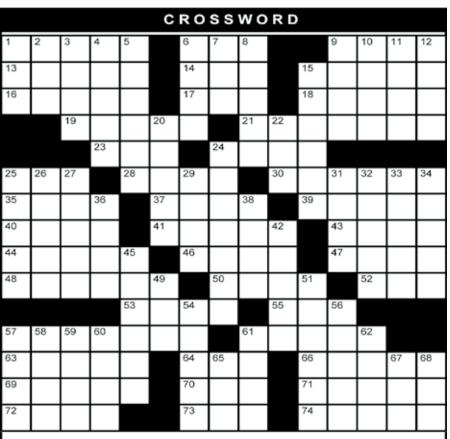
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- 16. Relating to Quechuan
- people 17. Energy unit
- 18. To set someone free
- 19. Bruce Wayne's Batman,
- e.g. 21. *Historical drama and
- Oscar nominee
- 23. Feline cry 24. Secretary, e.g.
- 25. a.k.a. American Gas Association
- 28. Cleanse
- 30. Gather, as in courage,
- e.g.
- 35. Make fun of 37. Lord's worker
- making director (2003)
- 39. *Controversial speech-

- 40. Aware of 41. They itch
- 43. *Singing nominee 44. Apartments, e.g.
- 46. Bank claim 47. " in full'
- 48. Petered out 50. Put in the hold
- 52. Grazing land
- 53. *Vanity Fair holds a big one on Oscar night
- 55. sheet 57. *Western director
- nominee _," snubbed 61. *"Cloud
- by the Academy 63. Justin Timberlake's
- the End of Time'
- 64. Under the weather 66. 1.75 pints
- 69. "Time is money," e.g. 70. Adam and Eve used its
- leaves for covering 71. Silly and insignificant
- 72. Comedy Central's
- 73. Drug approver

- **DOWN**
- 2. *Got an Oscar
- 7. Get it wrong
- 8. Bald symbol
- 9. Dietary mineral
- 10. Division word

- 20. Flooded
- 22. Any doctrine
- 25. *Love
- 26. Going to
- 29. Wedding cover
- 31. Daytime TV offering 32. Relating to tone

74. Throat infection

- 1. Often used with "bum"
- Shamu, e.g.
- 5. *President portrayer

- 11. Nervous biter's victim
- 15. Hogwash
- 24. Ascetic Muslim monk
- Playbook"

- 4. King's domain
- 6. *Ang and Spike, e.g.

- Hidden vallev

- 27. *Cooper and Lawrence
- "Silver Linings

- 34. High-pitched 36. Japanese string instrument
 - 38. Three of these in a yard

33. Bert's roommate

- 42. Horse or pig sound 45. Difficult to detect by the
- mind 49. chi
- 51. *Youngest ever nominee 54. Sense an odor
- 56. Colorful spread
- 57. African tea
- 58. Backward arrow command
- 59. Greek H's 60. Not far distant in time,
- space or degree 61. Aquatic plant
- 62. *Like most in attendance at the Oscars
- 65. Manhole cover 67. WSW opposite 68. One in a set

For Solution See Page 7

Dave Ramsey is America's most trusted voice on money and business. He's authored four New York Times best-selling books: Financial Peace, More Than Enough, The Total Money Makeover and EntreLeadership. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 5,000,000 listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.

More Than Just A Problem

Dear Dave,

My mother-in-law has a serious credit card problem. She can't afford stuff, but she shops anyway, acquires more and more credit and thinks she'll pay for it all later somehow. Her husband has bailed her out a few times, but he's unwilling to do it anymore. My wife and I, and her sister, want to address this issue, but where do we start?

- Jonathan

Dear Jonathan,

First of all, you need to stay out of the discussion. This is something for her daughters to handle, and her husband needs to be part of it, too. He's closer to this and feels the effects more than anyone else in the family.

They need to sit down with her in a closed setting, where there are no interruptions, no television and no one else. Start with the fact that they love her and care about her deeply. This part is really important. But they also have to walk through what's going on, and let her know they're tired of watching her destroy herself and her marriage with this immature and irresponsible behavior.

Dave Says

Everyone involved should understand going in that they're likely to receive a volatile, angry reaction from this lady. Sometimes people get ticked off when they hear the truth, especially when it's connected to their own misbehavior. It may even be a good idea for your wife, her sister and your fatherin-law to get some advice from a family counselor beforehand. What we're really talking about

If she were a drunk, you'd want to try and make her see how alcohol was hurting her and the relationships she has with her family. Basically, she has a credit card addiction, and it's wreaking havoc on her marriage and their financial well-being. Show as much love and understanding as possible, but someone has to say something and draw a line in the sand. Otherwise, this behavior will eat everyone alive! - Dave

here is an intervention.

Closing Whole Life

Dear Dave,

I want to get out of my whole life policy. Should I formally close out the old policy, or just

stop paying the premiums? - Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Close out the old policy once you have a good, term life insurance policy in place. I recommend 15- to 20-year level term insurance equal to 10 to 12 times your annual income. For instance, if you make \$40,000 a year, you should have \$400,000 to \$500,000 in coverage.

Term life insurance is much less expensive than whole life. Plus, did you know that you lose the part of your whole life policy known as the "savings plan" or "cash value" when you die? They only pay the face amount of the policy. So, close it out and stop pumping money into that

But don't leave yourself uninsured. Make sure you have the proper coverage in a term policy first. There is never a good time to save money inside a rip-off, whole life, cash value insurance plan!

- Dave

*For more financial help, please visit daveramsey.com.



row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Come back every week for Sudoku!

> For Solution See Page 7.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 6



By Ronnie McBrayer

It was extremely important for the church of my youth to prove that every single miracle in the Bible be proven as an historical and scientific fact. A literal seven day creation, the plagues on Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, Joshua making the sun stand still, the Hebrew children surviving the fiery furnace, and of course, there was the story of "Jonah and the Whale."

As the story goes, Jonah was a rebellious prophet who would not follow God's instructions. In an attempt to escape his vocation, he boarded a ship and took to the sea. He quickly found himself thrown overboard and then swallowed whole by a whale of the deep. Dear Jonah spent the next three days in the cramped quarters of the behemoth's belly.

Being one of those biblical stories that defied logical explanation, my pastor would return to the tale time and time again to make sure, I assume, that the congregation had not been bluffed into disbelief by the humanists and Darwinians who assaulted our faith. To bolster that faith, he would tell this backhanded story.

It seems a young girl was talking to her science teacher about whales when the teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human being.

Hard Grace

The little girl protested, stating that the prophet Jonah had indeed been swallowed by a whale. The teacher reiterated that such a thing was impossible.

So the little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah." The teacher, a bit brusque, asked the girl, "Well, what if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you will have to ask him." This punch line was always met by hysterical laughter, derision aimed at those who dared not believe the validity and veracity of Jonah's story.

Pardon the pun, but the whale in Jonah's story is too often a red herring. We get all tangled up in the scientific plausibility of such an act taking place, and miss the point of the whole story. Jonah's tale is not a scientific treatise. It is a story about God's relentless, patient, persistent, and sometimes hard grace. Hard grace: What is it that, exactly?

Hard grace is Jonah in the belly of the whale. How is that grace? If that big fish had not arrived to gobble down Jonah, he would have drowned in the depths of the sea. The whale was not Jonah's undoing. It was his salvation. The belly of that whale became the incubator – indeed a painful, disgusting, cramped incubator - in which mercy took root, rescued and transformed him. That is hard grace, and Jonah is not the only one to experience such

God's mercy often comes to us by painful means. Heaven's love can wear a disguise. The circumstances that lead to our transformation are

sometimes delivered in strange packaging. Hard grace arrives at our doorsteps as sickness, financial collapse, divorce, betrayal, bankruptcy, addiction, injustice, self-inflicted wounds, foolish decisions and personal rebellion.

Hard grace is all those things that God allows into our lives that deconstruct us. Yet, our deconstruction is not our destruction. It is for the merciful purpose of our transformations and remaking. We are not left to drown in the trouble of our own making. God's ferocious mercy does not abandon us, but comes to us in the strange and disguised goodness of a hungry whale and gobbles us down; providing a place to learn, grow, change, and get on with the life God has for us. It hurts us, yes, but hard grace never harms us.

I wish this kind of hard, transformative grace could be taught, for it would save us all much agony, but it can't be. Hard grace can only be experienced. But once it is experienced, and we never wish for a repeat performance, mind you, we become changed people. As Julian of Norwich said, "There is the fall and then there is the recovery. Both are the mercy of God." Such mercy is the greatest mira-

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, speaker, and author of multiple books. You can read more and receive regular e-columns in your inbox at www.ronniemcbrayer.net.

True Love Trumps A Romantic Fling Every Time

By Rev. James L. Snyder, D.

February is the month we celebrate romance. Actually, the only romantic things about me are my "love handles," which is why I have spent so much energy developing them over the years. You think somebody would appreciate

For some people, romance is an easy, if not natural thing. Others, like me, find it complicated and elusive. It is not that men are less romantic than women are; they just have different ideas of romance.

For most women, romance is flowers and candy in heart shaped

For men it is a Big Mac with fries and a soda ... and SUPER SIZE it, please.

Why are women so complicated and men so simple? I do not think that came out the way I meant it.

If it were not for women, romance would have died a long time ago. There is nothing quite like springtime with a hint of romance in the air with a delicate dash of chivalry.

People from Hollywood try to define romance for us, but their idea of romance is raw sex and lurid lust. Hollywooders would not know romance if it nibbled on their ears. Romance is not a fling in the spring, but a lifelong relationship, experiencing all the ups and downs of life -- together -- and no grow-

There is no picture quite as refreshing as a couple still together after all those years of turmoil and temerity. The easiest thing in all the world is to fall in love for a few years and then, when it gets difficult, bale out. What kind of thing

Ah, but to see a couple married for 50 years or more; now that is the epitome of real romance.

I'll have you know that romance has not been a stranger at the parsonage. I met my wife (actually, she wasn't my wife then) when I went away to Bible college in 1970.

At the time, I was functionally romance challenged. Before I left home for college, I prayed for a wife. I had the good sense to know that a minister needs a good wife to support him in the ministry.

I prayed something like this, "Father, I need a good wife and I don't know how to go about it. Let the first single girl I meet at Bible college be the wife of Your choosing.'

Now, I know this is a crazy and dangerous prayer to make. Some would take the high road of romance, but I took the low road of prayer. I may have been a bit desperate, but nobody could doubt my earnestness. I also figured that prayer was a lot cheaper than dating. After all, I am a Pennsylvania Dutchman.

Nevertheless, I prayed for a

The day of my arrival on campus came and found me a bit anxious. I remembered my prayer and wondered just how God would answer

My parents took me to the college, which was some 500 miles from home; good planning on my part the men's dorm, I figured I was safe. I planned to avoid all contact with the opposite sex as long as possible.

But just as we pulled into the men's dorm parking lot, a young woman exited from the men's dorm. Remembering my prayer, I immediately amended it. "God, this doesn't count. I've not stepped out of the car yet."

Have you ever noticed that God has a marvelous sense of humor?

The young woman emerging from the men's dorm defied description. Do you remember when women rolled their hair up in big rollers? Well, this young woman had rolled her hair up in tomato cans! Nothing prepared me for such a sight. She actually looked like some space alien.

I do not know what she was wearing or even what she looked like. All I could see were those tomato cans on her head. At the time, I did not know much about romance, but I knew this was not

The next few days I did everything to avoid the women's dorm for fear I would run into her. Whenever I did see her, I crossed to the other side of the street. But the more I tried to avoid her, the

strange partners. Thinking I was making progress in my plan of avoidance, the inevitable happened.

more I ran into her. Prayer makes

One week after arrival, my roommate invited me to come along with him and his girlfriend to a restaurant. Being the neurotic naive that I am, I said, "Sure, I'd love to come along." After all, I had nothing else to do and it seemed like some fun.

When my roommate went to the women's dorm to pick up his girlfriend, who do you suppose was standing with his girlfriend waiting?

That's right. The young woman with the tin cans on her head.

Would you believe it? The young woman with the tin cans turned out to be the sister of my roommate.

It was a whirlwind romance. I met her in September and in February she asked me to marry her. In August of that year, I found myself at a church altar mumbling,

The Bible makes this promise: 'Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD" (Proverbs 18:22 KJV).

A good wife is the find of a lifetime, as long as God is in charge of the search.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at (352) 687-4240 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.



By Karen Anderson

There is a saying: "Judge not lest you be judged." What does this mean? Does it ruffle your feathers, or make the hairs on your neck stand straight up? Are you quick to make a judgment, even though it's just a little criticism? What's the harm in that, right? You may think you are helping the person, but in reality you are attacking their self-esteem. Putting someone down (even though it may be justified in your mind) is just WRONG. Shame on you for doing that! This maybe the way you treat others because you in turn have been treated this way, but there is no excuse for it. Judgment is judgment, and we don't have the right to do it to anyone. It angers me when I have been the recipient of unfair judgment. It makes me feel like, did I really deserve this mistreatment? The other form of judgment is when someone reads into what you say with something that isn't or was never said. Does that person think they can read your mind? They can't, and once again I believe this is a form of judgment, because it starts all the

Unreasonable Expectations

negative statements going once again. I have heard the statement, "Well, you just have to learn this." My reaction is, "No I don't, I'm an adult; not your child." You could also call these words verbal abuse or bashing. Whatever you call it, the statements are unfair and usually unkind.

I have done a lot of soul searching about judging. Some may think, which I used to do, "Well, they really needed to hear this." My answer now is, NO THEY DON'T! Not when it comes at you as an attack. First, the defiyou may think it is not that bad or nition for judgment is a formal opinion. This may be the dictionaries definition, but let's look at God's Word about judgment: "You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things." God also says, "Judgment will again be founded on righteousness, and all the upright in heart will follow it."

Something I have learned when I am being verbally attacked is to say nothing and walk away. Remember, you don't have to take this. It could create anger in the other party, but most of the time that person is so involved with what they want you to hear, they are almost in a state of shock when you walk away. Another way to easily diffuse someone before you

walk away from them is to simply smile and say, "Opinions vary!" And then walk away. If you are afraid of the repercussions, ask God for His shield to protect you. Stay safely in His strong and loving arms. While there, focus your mind on His Word and not the words of your attacker.

Another thought: are you the one judging others? You should always weigh your words against God's principles. Day in and day out you are bombarded with chances to be judgmental. It is time to do your own soul-searching and STOP...THINK...SAY. Before you SAY anything, ask God if it is your place or His to judge the situation. The tongue is a powerful tool that can either encourage or destroy someone. What would you rather be known as: the "destroyer" or the "ENCOURAGER"? I personally want to be God's encourager. As you help others, don't let yourself become a judge; it is not your place. If you are willing, ask for God's guidance...He is there in everything you say and do.

PASSAGE: Romans 2:1-2 (NIV) Psalm 94:15 (NIV)

Karen Anderson is an accomplished speaker, author, and chaplain. Leave a message or questions for Karen through her website www.doablesteps.com/contact.



Have you ever tried to explain what your faith in God means to you? If asked a question about what faith actually is, might you struggle to find the right words? We know faith is not just a religion and involves so much more. Faith is something that grows within as one begins to pray, worship and honor God with ones life.. Faith is given by God to those who believe and involves having an intimate personal growing relationship with

Him. Faith is something deep within that holds one together when everything on the outside is all mixed up. Recently I ran across this meaningful quote from Martin Luther on the internet, which explains clearly the meaning of what faith is. "Faith is living with an unshakeable confidence, a belief in God, so assured that a man would die a thousand deaths for its sake."

A Measure of Faith

Through the years several people have questioned me about my confident assurance and "knowing" that I am right with God. Possibly they might have been struggling with their own status and standing with God as they recognized something missing within them. They may have wondered why words I spoke or wrote about were ones filled with faithful assurance. They expressed, "we couldn't actually "know" we were "destined for heaven" can we?" My answer to them is, "Yes, you can KNOW."!

I must admit years ago I also struggled with this and my answer came after I searched the Scriptures that increased my faith and gave me the assurance I needed.. When I found the one important Scripture, something happened inside of me that was unexplainable. I just knew it was the truth I needed deep within my spirit. God will give everyone the inner-assurance they need through His Holy Word. I know I will definitely will be in heaven with Him one day. If you have read page 144 in my book "Messages in the Dust for the Searching Soul" you will be excited to learn about our heavenly home.

The Bible clearly tells us about the holiness and righteous character of God and directs us clearly to His plan of redemption.

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His Words were written that we may KNOW we have eternal life through Jesus Christ's death and shed blood on Calvary! "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life, and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36) A choice everyone makes for their self.

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.(Hebrews 11:1) But these (words) are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through his name". (John 20:31) And this is the verse that spoke to my heart "These things have I (God) written unto vou who believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may "know" that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God." (I John 5:13) Yes, Amen, one can Actually KNOW. "For God so loved the world, He sent His Son and whoso-ever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) God keeps His promises!

Marlys Johnsen Norris Seven Christian Books "God Moves Mountains, It was a Miracle!" Contact me: Marlysjn@gmail. comMarlysjn@gmail.com

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By Pastor Ray Dare

We don't like to admit our fears, but we all have our private phobias, inner insecurities, anxieties and worries. We may try to fake it, pretend they don't exist, cover them up, medicate them, but the fact is we all have them. If you don't deal with them, eventually they lead to other problems. How do you break free from worry? The Bible tells us how in Philippians 4.

Pray about everything. How do you overcome the habit of worrying? You replace it. You don't quit bad habits, you replace them with new, good habits. Instead of worrying, the Bible tells us to pray. "Don't be anxious about anything..... but in everything by prayer..." Philippians 4:6 If it's worth worrying about, it's worth praying about. You say, "But I don't have time to pray!" Sure you do. Take the time you spent worrying and begin praying. If you prayed as much as you worried, you'd have a lot less to worry about. Turn your worries into prayers because God cares for you and wants to help you.

Thank God in all things.

How to Overcome Worry

"with thanksgiving..." Philippians 4:6 The Bible does NOT say be thankful FOR everything. It says "In every circumstance give thanks." Not for every circumstance. What's the difference? Even out of bad God can bring good. In every circumstance, no matter how bad it is, you can give thanks to God because, (a) I know He has a purpose bigger than the problem, and (b) He will give me the power to overcome the problem, and (c) I will grow through the experience if I allow it to help me grow. In every circumstance, even in tough times, I can be thankful because I know God is greater than the problem.

You may think, "But how can I be grateful when I've lost so much? I've lost my job, I've lost my health, I've lost my house. I've lost income. How can I be thankful in that situation?" You don't look at what you've lost, you look at what you have left. And you have a lot left! You're still alive and you still have a lot of blessings if you'll look around count them. Gratitude is a stress reliever because it gets your eyes off the problem and puts it on the positive things in your life.

Think about right things. "Finally whatever is true and noble and right and pure and lovely and admirable, think about such things and the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:8 None of us use

our brain to the potential God has given us. Whatever you put in your brain is what's going to come out. It's like a computer. Garbage in, garbage out. So, if you want to change your life, you need to change what you're thinking about. What's the result? The result is peace, God's peace. How do you get that kind of peace that helps you to trust in the tough times? You don't worry about anything, you pray about everything, you give thanks in all things, you think about right things and the peace of God will be yours as you trust

Pray this right now, "Dear Lord, help me not to worry about anything but to discuss them with You rather than worry. Help me to thank You in every situation, realizing that there's always something to be grateful for. Help me to think about the right things, to spend some time with You, reading the Bible to fill my mind with positive things, not the negative garbage that's out in the world. I ask for Your peace in my heart, in Jesus name, Amen".

Pastor Ray New Community Christian Church YOU'RE INVITED, Sunday service at 10am "We Do Church Differently" www.YourNewChurch.org

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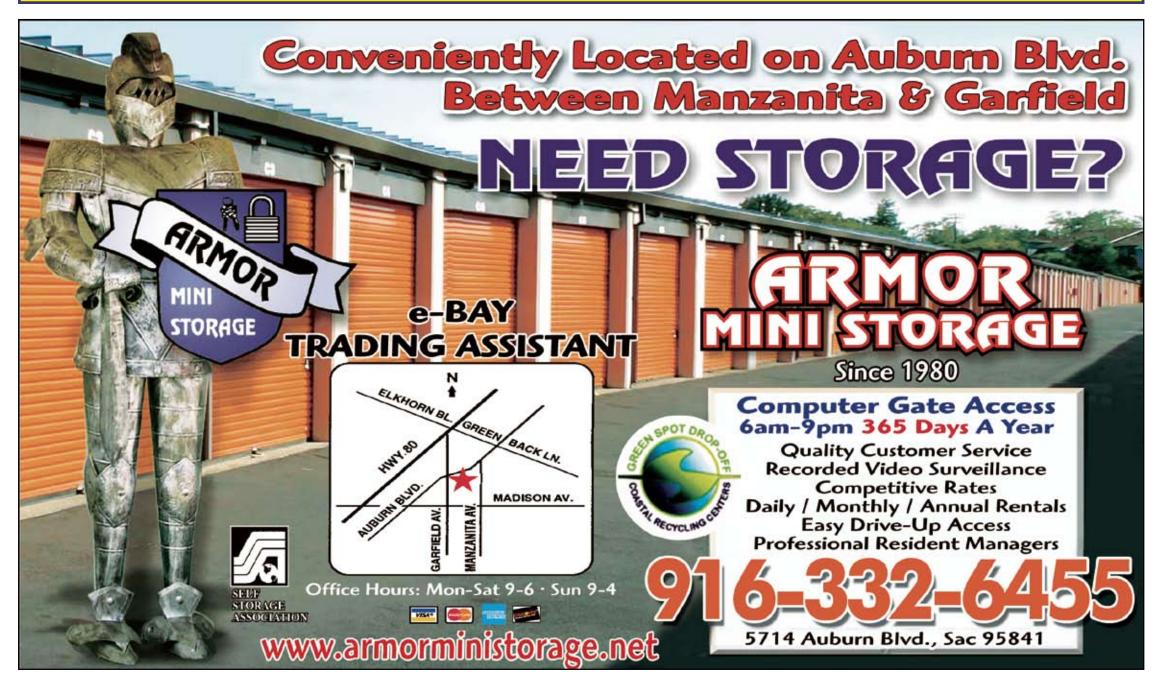
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POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

Mayapple after her mama died.

and over again about this old

Indian living in the neighbor-

hood who made a paste out of

the Mayapple root and put it in a

"Red Heart" can (a tin that once

contained pomade for men and

held about one ounce). The old

man sold the tins of Mayapple

paste for \$100.00...a lot of loot

in the early twentieth century.

Folks would chip in together to

buy a tin, using the paste on all

their skin cancers, tumors, warts,

etc. Her mama said all the skin

diseases just disappeared, and

there was enough in the can for

everyone, because it took so lit-

tle to do the job. While she was

looking for more info on the

plant, she ran across info on it in

the encyclopedia. Guess what?

Willie Gene said that not only

do scientists know about it, it's

what they use in chemother-

apy. The research says that the

active ingredient in Mayapple

stops cell division. Willie said

the FDA thinks that Mayapple is

too toxic for us to use ourselves,

so we need a prescription. But

are we supposed to believe peo-

ple throughout history before the

1940's didn't have sense enough

to tell if something was cur-

ing or killing them? The Native

Americans have used Mayapple

for centuries and still do to treat

cancers of all kinds, rheumatism,

cholera, diarrhea, hepatitis, gon-

orrhea, even syphilis. Willie said

she has used this root to remove

warts and skin cancer on herself.

There's a whole lot more about

But Willie Gene goes to the

heart of every day problems we

the Mayapple in her book too.

can deal with such as"



TAX HELP from a Tax Pro Dean Alexander Sr.

Why Did My Tax Preparer Not Use My Deductions?

who was unhappy when the IRS disallowed the exemption she took for her pet. "But I have been claiming seven of them in the past years," she protested. Similarly many taxpayers seem to think that they are entitled to deductions for their food and living expenses.

I had a call the other day from someone who was unhappy with her tax preparer. "He seems not to know his business. She started telling me that he did not take any of her expenses for her food and commuting to work.

Needless to say that her tax preparer was correct in not deducting those personal expenses on her tax return. Personal Expenses are not deductible. Only expenses used in generating the income (except for commuting) are deductible.

Maybe it will help just to visit the issue briefly. If you are a business such as a corporation or a proprietor, you are entitled

That reminds me of a lady to deduct your expenses that are used to generate your income. That seems commonsensical. The problem becomes a little twisted for wage earners.

> In the good old days wage earners (people with w-2) used to be able to deduct their first dollar of business expenses. Then smart politicians who are bent on complications employed their twisted minds and decided to make life miserable for citizens and possibly for themselves.

> Now employee business expenses have to pass two hurdles. The first hurdle is a percentage of adjusted gross income you have to jump over which they call a floor. You theoretically can deduct any amount above this floor. I say theoretically because we are not out of the woods yet.

After you successfully manage to jump the hurdle of the percentage of adjusted gross income and you have a dollar or two available now for deductions, the IRS

will tell you these deductions can only be used among the itemized deductions. So if you don't have enough itemized deductions, the poor dollars that you have just liberated succumb to the shackles of the congress genius and they die forever.

Can't we just live a simpler life? Taxes made simple or better yet no income tax but a sales tax system. You buy and you pay your taxes. NO more tax

Summary: Only business expenses are deducted. Wage earners cannot deduct personal expenses. Employee business expenses are deductible but

Dean has 30 years experience as a CPA and tax consultant and he is currently on two radio shows. He is the managing director of National Financial Advisors (NFA Tax Help), a national firm headquartered in Houston. He is also a Chartered Financial Consultant and Chartered Life Underwriter. He consults exclusively on tax matters particularly tax audits and tax collections at both the federal and the state levels.



BAYOU HOME REMEDIES

Why doesn't the pharmaceutical companies and the healthcare industry use plants and herbs to treat patients? Actually they do, but it's not advertised that way. According to Willie Gene, it all has to do with the financial motivation behind big phrama. She adds that there is so much deliberate misinformation put out there that people are confused, frightened, and dependent. But not Willie Gene. Bayou remedies have been a part of her family for generations. She had three aunts that each lived to over 100, and home remedies were all they had, and all they needed to stay healthy. As Willie Gene told me on my radio show POPPOFF, "We are told we are living longer, thanks to advances in modern medicine, but are we living better or merely existing?" So Willie Gene put down many of the remedies that have been passed down to her for decades in "How To Live A Long and Healthy Life" Using Natural

Home Remedies. And so began my journey into the back country where Willie Gene grew up with remedies for just about anything that ails ya'! The foremost one was the Mayapple plant. I had never heard of it before. Willie said

she started her search for the 1) Sanitizer for Travel, Seat, Tray Table, anything you touch on a plane. Her mama had told her over

Thyme Linalool-8 drops Tea Tree oil-10 drops Lavender-8 drops Base—Add distilled water to the neck of a 2-ounce spray bottle and shake vigorously.

2) Relieve Stress Commuting. Lavender-3 drops

Peppermint-3 drops Clary Sage-1 drop Finish filling a one ounce drip bottle with sweet almond oil. Roll bottle to mix. Rub a few drops of the blend on palms and cup hands over nose. Inhale.

3) Prevent Hair Loss with

Essential Oils. Clary Sage-4 drops Rosemary-4 drops Cedar Wood-2 drops Ylang Ylang-2 drops Finish filling a one ounce bottle with jojoba oil. Roll bottle to mix. Apply to scalp for 7 months.

4) Aphrodisiac Massage Blend. Coriander-6 drops

Ginger Oil-6 drops Sandalwood-18 drops

Add hazelnut carrier oil up to the neck of a four ounce pump bottle and roll to mix.

There's a whole bunch more remedies in the book from hair loss to swollen ankles. You can check out her website at www. NaturesLegacycures.com for more information. By the way, she is quite a character! Living the good life on POPPOFF! Hope you will too!

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



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Human Trafficking A Serious Problem

Continued from Page 1

This was one of the defining moments in modern anti-slavery movement in the United States. It was virtually unknown until this case that real slavery still existed in this country.

As a result of this case and the Thai worker's experiences, the U.S. government's approach to combating human trafficking changed. Major revisions and improvements in state and federal legislation were made. Law enforcement and service providers were also able to improve their response and treatment of human trafficking cases.

Examples of forced labor are: panhandling, restaurant services, farming or landscaping, fisheries, janitorial services, domestic (nannies or servants) in private homes, or as hotel /motel housekeepers, construction, and factory work, OR illegal enterprises such as selling drugs and forcing victims to serve as decoys in smuggling cases.

Victims of sexual exploitation include work in street prostitution, pornography, stripping, exotic / nude massage, escort services, phone line sex, gang based prostitution, international pimping, and forms of Internet based exploitation.

Victims are not only found working in businesses but also in homes. Some victims are forced to work by their own relatives, often brought here from other countries such as Mexico, where thy are promised a good job in a family business such as a bakery, beauty shop or retail store. Instead of the promised employment, they are transported to

a trafficking hub such as Los Angeles or Sacramento. When they arrive their passports are taken away and they are told they must now work in a forced labor or sex job to work off their travel debt.

Why Sacramento? Sacramento is centrally located between Stockton, the Bay Area and Reno. Four major freeways (Interstate 5, US 99, Interstate 80, and US 50) intersect in Sacramento making it the ideal location for a major hub for human trafficking.

Who are these children? They are our abandoned, our runaways, throwaways and homeless children. They are the vulnerable: foster children, those suffering from mental and emotional trauma, those experiencing bullying and other problems with their peers, the learning disabled and those suffering from substance abuse.

Where do they come from? While there are victims brought here from outside the United States, 7 out of 10 are U.S. nationals and are working near their homes. They are from broken families in our own counties. Dad is in jail, and mom is an addict. "The one common thread", according to Chris Stambaugh, Founder and Director of The GRACE Network, its that ninety-nine percent of these children have no father in the home.

The true number of labor and sex trafficking victims remain unreported as they are often arrested and even deported before their full story is known. In addition, victims may already be in the legal or welfare system

and were never unidentified as

There is more than one face to the human trafficking victim. The youngest reported sex trafficking victim was a 3-year-old girl and the oldest was a 64-yearold Filipino woman. While the average age of entry is 12 to 14 years, those over 18 are often not identified as victims, already having been in their situation for many years. Victims may also enter the juvenile justice or welfare systems before they were identified as involved in a trafficking situation. While victims of sex trafficking are usually female, a small percentage is male. Victims of forced labor and sex trafficking come from varying educational backgrounds, and can be U.S. citizens or voluntary 'migrants', here seeking to improve their situation. They are from all ethnicities, race, religions and economic classes.

Because of the Internet much of the illegal activity is able to be arranged underground, away from the eyes of the law. This is why non-government organizations and community members need to be eyes on the lookout for these victims. In many cases physical bonds or locked rooms are not necessary, victims often create their own 'mind cage'.

After a trafficker identifies a potential victim and asserts she has no family or friends to come to her rescue, he or she can gain her trust by assuming the parental role. The trafficker takes care of her physical needs wile making promises that things will get better. Using gang mentality of "I'll take care of you", the girl becomes dependent on the trafficker and becomes an easy target for emotional slavery. Believing no one else understands or cares about her she will do what her 'protector' tells her. If she does at one point threaten to leave, the pimp or trafficker tells her he will harm her or someone she

The most important way to help victims become survivors is to increase one's understanding of this number one underreported crime. The ability to identify a potential victim is the beginning of their recovery.

If one notices a person who is always in the company of someone who seems unusually controlling, if they are unpaid or paid very little, if they never go out except to work or school, if they seem submissive, fearful, or depressed or if their living quarters or work facility seems to have peculiar security precautions, there could be reason for concern. If something seems suspicious, report it. The organizations listed below will all accept reports of suspicious activities. You can also report to

your local police department. There is hope. Much is being done, and much more needs to be done. To continue the outreach of information and education to local non-governmental the community based organizations, a Human Trafficking Conference was held on February 8, 2013 sponsored by My Sister's House in Sacramento.

Local organizations working against human trafficking, along with other community resources were present to aid professionals and other 'first responders':

those most likely come in contact with victims, ages 8 to 18 years, to identify and work with these individuals.

School and medical personnel, social workers, and faith-based organizations are on the front lines in this battle. They are also reminded that, "If something seems suspicious, report it!" Even cab drivers, hairdressers, staff at airports, bus and train stations, along with security employees can be first responders and should report suspicion of illegal activities.

Following a rescue the victim begins the often slow and painful recovery on his or her way to becoming a survivor. Most survivors relate they feel alone and scared and believe no one understands what they have been through. This is where the full collaboration of non-governmental, community services and other advocates come together to work with survivors.

Victims need counseling, rehabilitation and emotional care. Legal services are often needed as the victim of a sex crime is often arrested and some are even set for deportation before they are identified as a victim. They may need help with substance abuse, literacy, life skills, education and employment to aid in integration back into their community. Tattoo removal may be required for removal of a pimp's 'brand' from the body of a survivor.

Readers who would like to have a part in eradicating this crime and saving our children are urged to contact their legislators to learn about and support ongoing legislation for antitrafficking laws.

Representatives from the organizations below are available to come and speak to your school, workplace or service organization or faith -based organization. You or your group can adopt one of these organizations and raise funds or collect needed supplies for survivors.

It is an ongoing battle.

Resources:

National Human Trafficking Resource Center 1-888-373-

Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking: (CAST) angela@ castla.org

G.R.A.C.E. Network: 916-850-0846; www.thegracenetwork.org My Sister's House: 916-930-0626; www.my-sisters-house.

Opening Doors: 916-492-2591: openingdoorsinc.org

Strive2Free: www.strive2free.

WEAVE: 916-448-2321; www. weaveinc.org

Reading:

'The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in American Today," by Kevin Bales and Ron Soodalte

"Girls Like Us", by Rachel Lloyd

Sources for article:

Kay Buck, Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking Chris Stambaugh, The GRACE Network

"Traffickingprogram.org website

Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, U.S. Dept. of State website

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