



2016 Fireworks Buyers Guide

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The Tale of Two Rallies

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Gold River Messenger

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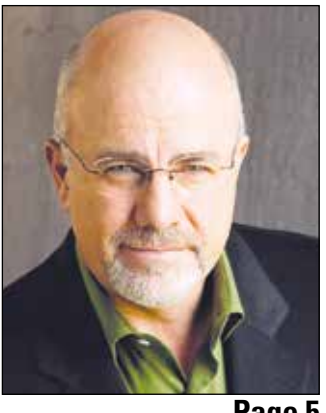
Volume 4 • Issue 07 Serving Gold River and Sacramento County July, 2016

MEET SAMMY A RED MINI-DACHSHUND



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DAVE SAYS: YOU'RE SELF-INSURED



Page 5

HERE IS A GREAT DATE NIGHT IDEA



Page 5

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*****ECRWSS*****

Women's Pro Tennis to Grace Gold River



Anhelina Kalinina (above). Brooke Austion (right). For the third year, the tournament is will be part of the US Open Wild Card Series.

GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG) - Some of the world's most promising women tennis players will descend on the Gold River Racquet Club to battle for \$50,000 in prize money and valuable ranking points at the 5th Annual FSP Gold River Women's Challenger/USTA tournament from July 17 through July 24.

The tournament, part of the USTA Pro Circuit, is the only \$50,000 event scheduled for the Sacramento region in 2016. It's expected to attract players ranked between 100 and 600 in the world from 8 to 9 different countries.

USTA Pro Circuit tournaments are a

series of entry-level professional tournaments offering prize money from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Challenger- level events are stepping stones to WTA Tour events and Grand Slam tournaments like Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. Each year, more than half the players in the U.S. Open Women's draw have either played or are currently playing on the USTA Pro Circuit.

For the third year, the tournament is will be part of the US Open Wild Card Series. The American player with the best performance over the course of three consecutive

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New California Tobacco Laws Go Into Effect

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Effective June 10th, the minimum age of sale for tobacco products in California increases from 18 to 21, and for the first time e-cigarettes are added to the existing definition of tobacco products. California is the second state in the nation, following Hawaii, to raise the minimum age for tobacco sales to 21.

“Today marks a significant moment in California history as new tobacco control laws go into effect statewide. This is the first time the Golden State has raised the age of sale for tobacco since the law first took effect 144 years ago,” said Dr. Karen Smith, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) director and state health officer. “Our focus is on reaching more than 34,000 retailers with tobacco licenses and vape shops to provide them the information and resources needed to comply with the new tobacco 21 law.”

To help retailers comply with these new laws, CDPH developed a series of educational materials, including age-of-sale warning signs, window clings reminding customers of the new law and tips to help clerks check identification.

About 34,000 Californians die each year from tobacco use. In addition, tobacco-related diseases cost Californians \$18.1 billion each year in both direct and indirect healthcare costs due to premature death and low productivity due to illness.

As part of the new law defining e-cigarettes as tobacco products, e-cigarettes, e-liquids including vaping devices and accessories can no longer be sold in self-service displays. E-cigarettes are also not allowed in locations where smoking has long been prohibited, including public transit, worksites, restaurants, schools and playgrounds. Approximately 217,000 California youth between the ages of 12 and 17 currently smoke traditional cigarettes or e-cigarettes.

“California is taking a big step forward in preventing a new generation of young people from becoming addicted to nicotine,” said Dr. Smith. “The surge in e-cigarette use among teens and young adults is no accident. The tobacco industry’s aggressive marketing of e-cigarette gadgets and candy flavors is jeopardizing the health of our young people.”

Many e-cigarettes contain nicotine, a highly addictive neurotoxin. Research shows that the

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Phone Directory Scam Returns to Four Counties

Special Report from Better Business Bureau

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Better Business Bureau (BBB) is warning business owners of a well-known invoice scam that is making its rounds throughout the region once more.

Businesses are receiving solicitations via fax, demanding fees ranging between \$499 and \$1,999. The invoices are being sent from various names and locations. Businesses have reported receiving the solicitations in Butte, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties.

They closely resemble

solicitations that circulated the area in Nov. 2014. However, rather than luring companies with phone directory advertisements, they are hoping to reel victims in with social media.

The solicitation identifies the product name as “Facebook and Twitter Features,” and includes a warning that reads: “LAST CHANCE TO PROTECT YOUR CREDIT SCORE IN GOOD STANDING!”

According to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), a business may not send an unsolicited advertisement via fax unless they have an established relationship with the recipient.

The advertisement must also inform the recipient of their right to opt out of future solicitations, and must contain information about how to do so. No such information was found on the solicitations.

Tips for business owners:

- Do not respond. If you receive a fax or phone call from a company asking for payment, verify that you employed their services.
- Do not be fooled by fake logos and company names. Scammers will often use logos and names of legitimate businesses as an attempt to gain your trust and reel you in.

- Do not rely on caller I.D. Scammers have the ability to spoof a legitimate phone number, and it may look like you are receiving a call from a trusted organization or business.
- Train your staff. Keep your employees updated on potential scams, and encourage them to flag suspect invoices for review.
- Report scams to the BBB Scam Tracker. Contact your local Better Business Bureau and report scams at bbb.org/scamtracker.

Source: Better Business Bureau★

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Award Nominated Veterinarian Announces New Location

By Kay Burton

GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG) - Dr. Karen Johnson has been known by many pet owners in the Gold River Community for her compassion, hard work and dedication to the wellbeing of their beloved pets.

Dr. Johnson graduated from U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine in 1997. She first practiced at Hazel Ridge Veterinary Clinic and later opened her own practice in Roseville. Included in her list of many accomplishments, she is an active member of California Veterinary Medical Association, has served as president of the Sacramento Veterinary Medical Association, has her certification as a Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner and was a recent national award nominee for the title of “Best Vet”.

Dr. Johnson is now beginning her new association with nearby Mercy Pet Hospital of Fair Oaks located at Hazel and Madison Avenue. She chose Mercy Pet Hospital because of their similar practice values which center on providing quality medical care at affordable prices for the care of your pets.

Check the website, www.mercypethospital.com for further information and discount coupons for



Dr. Karen Johnson has been known by many pet owners in the Gold River Community

products and services. Call 916-961-1567 to schedule an appointment with Dr. Karen Johnson. ★

Women’s Pro Tennis to Grace Gold River



Some of the world’s most promising women tennis players will descend on the Gold River Racquet Club to battle for \$50,000 in prize money and valuable ranking points at the 5th Annual FSP Gold River Women’s Challenger/USTA tournament from July 17 through July 24.

Continued from page 1

tournaments will receive a Wild Card entry into the Main Draw of the US Open in New York at the end of August. FSP Gold River Women’s Challenger is the 2nd tournament in this series with Stockton, CA and Lexington, KY being the others.



Sacramento-based FSP (Freight Solutions Provider) has again signed on as the tournament headline sponsor. Founded by Lielanie Steers in 1989, FSP is the nation’s largest female minority-owned freight forwarder in the United States. An award-winning company that embraces the diverse talents,

backgrounds, cultures, and lifestyles of its employees, FSP is consistently recognized as one of the top employers in the Sacramento Metropolitan Area.

All proceeds from the tournament will be donated to the Sacramento Regional Tennis Foundation, which promotes the sport of tennis among youth in the Sacramento region. Programs are held after school and during school hours. The Foundation provides all of the necessary equipment and leadership. The tournament also supports Faces of Tomorrow and St. John’s Program for Real Change with special evenings for each of these charities.

The FSP Gold River USTA \$50,000 Women’s Challenger features a singles main draw of 32 players and a doubles main draw of 16 teams. Main draw

play begins Tuesday, July 19, and concludes with the final matches on Sunday, July 24. The qualifying tournament begins Sunday, July 17.

Matches will be scheduled throughout the day and evening during the tournament. General admission for spectators is free during qualifying rounds and all main draw day sessions. Admission is \$10 per person for evening sessions Thursday – Sunday. Tickets are available at www.goldriverchallenger.com and Gold River Racquet Club during the event.. Gold River Racquet Club is located at 2201 Gold Rush Drive, Gold River.

For more information about the FSP Gold River USTA \$50,000 Women’s Challenger Tennis Tournament, go to the website at www.goldriverchallenger.com. ★

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Lancers of '76 Plan 40th Reunion

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Cordova High School Class of 1976 is hosting its 40th Class Reunion on Saturday, September 24, 2016, at the Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom, California. The event will be from 6pm to 11pm with a buffet dinner and no-host cocktails. Music will be provided by VisionProDJs and the attire is casual to dressy. RSVP to Dawn (Yankovich) Johnson dj19582002@yahoo.com no later than Friday, September 3, 2016.

The cost is \$75 per person payable by check, money order, cash or PayPal or \$85 at the door. Checks or money orders can be mailed to Julie (Ratkovich) Parr at 8339 Piper Glen Way, Antelope, CA 95843. PayPal account: cordovaaclassof76@gmail.com. Hotel room reservations can be made at www.lakenatomainn.com. A block of rooms is being held for this event. Room rates are \$139/night + tax. When making reservations please mention CHS 40th Reunion.

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American River Brewing Wins Small Business Award

ARBC Honored at California Small Business Day™ 2016 By Assemblyman Ken Cooley



Since American River Brewing Company's founding in 2012 it has donated a portion of the proceeds from its popular Firebreak Red Ale to the Firefighters Burn Institute, benefitting the survivors of burn injuries. Photo courtesy of American River Brewing Company

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

- On Wednesday, May 25th, American River Brewing Company (ARBC) was honored by Assemblyman Ken Cooley at California Small Business Day. As small business of the year in District 8, ARBC was celebrated for their hard work and dedication to the community.

"David has continually shown a passion for beer and for our community as evidenced by the continuing support of the Firefighters Burn Institute through the sales from their Firebreak Red Ale," said Assemblyman Cooley. "This made American River Brewing Company an obvious choice for my Small Business of the Year for the 8th Assembly District," continued Cooley.

California Small Business Day honored 85 small businesses for their contribution to the state's economy. Small business contributes to 75% of California's gross

state product and over half of the state's private sector jobs. From hardware stores to manufacturers, small businesses are engrained in California's communities and economy.

"California's small businesses are the economic engine of our state," said Betty Jo Toccoli, President of the California Small Business Association. American River Brewing Company was celebrated for their successful small business and contributions to the community."

ARBC was founded in 2011 and its first beers hit the market in January of 2012. All of their brews are created to accurately represent traditional styles, ranging from American ales and IPAs to unique, one- of-a-kind beers highlighting the art of brewing.

In addition to numerous awards for its beers, including gold at the 2015 California State Fair for its flagship Coloma

Brown Ale, ARBC is known for its charitable work. Since the brewery's founding in 2012 it has donated a portion of the proceeds from its popular Firebreak Red Ale to the Firefighters Burn Institute, benefitting the survivors of burn injuries.

ARBC founder David Mathis is proud of and humbled by the award. "I've been a commercial brewer for over 20 years and have never experienced anything like this," he said. "Starting a craft brewery from scratch was an enormous amount of hard work but it's all worthwhile when we are recognized for our efforts."

American River Brewing Company is located at 11151 Trade Center Drive in Rancho Cordova. For more information and a complete list of awards, please visit their website at www.americanriverbrewco.com.

Source: California Small Business Association ★

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 5

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Rosemary sausages and cookies for dessert. Their sauce source is the excellent products from Earth & Vine*. The first tasting of Sake begins with the award winning Black & Gold, but this can depend on the weather. My class was in March so this was served warm, but in the summer months they follow the Japanese tradition serving cold Sake which is more fruity in nature.

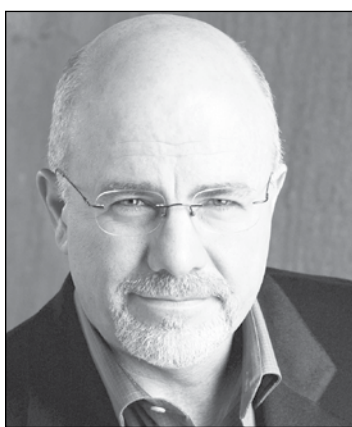


Our teacher is Chef Metha of Kanpai Sushi Restaurant. He begins by telling us exactly how to hold the rice and place it on the Nori seaweed sheets. We are split into small groups and receive instruction on creating the perfect California Roll using the correct technique including the moistening of our fingers for working the rice. We return to our seats and have the all the ingredients to make our first roll, which is a practice run, preparing us for the Sushi competition later. While other class members are receiving their instruction we

sample Haiku a light medium dry wine that is served chilled and then Suzaku, considered premium sake.

At this point I have made my practice California Roll and ate most of it while enjoying the tastings. We now enter the competition phase and have an opportunity to show off our skill. I am feeling pretty confident and make the second roll along with a pour of Zipang, a sparkling sake. This is bright and light which would complement a wide array of appetizers. However, my beautiful rolls plated with a ginger flower and slivers of cucumber did not even figure into the final two. There was lots of laughter with winners declared for both gals and guys. Our second lesson was a hand roll. Right up front, this technique was beyond my capabilities, but others seemed capable. Again we could practice and then have a second chance with winners receiving prizes. We finished our tasting with two plum wines Kobai, light and sweet, with a suggestion to be paired with blue cheese and Plum Gekkeikan, which was very good. Raffle drawings for great prizes completed the lesson.

It really was a very enjoyable and educational evening with wonderful hosts. The class cost was \$35.00. With my new rice cooker, I have made sushi twice at home, but certainly have to practice a bit more. *Earth & Vine story in April Gold River Messenger. Alona's hobbies are food and delicious times. alonthomas@gmail.com ★



Dear Dave,
My husband and I are retired, and both receive nice pensions, and we owe \$46,000 on our home. This is our only debt. I'm 65, he is 82, and we have more than \$800,000 in variable annuities, along with substantial cash in savings. We also have \$200,000 combined in life insurance coverage. If we cancel these two policies we can pay down an extra \$10,000 a year on the house. Should we cancel the life insurance policies?

Dear Anna,
At 82 and 65, you probably won't be able to get any more insurance at a decent price. If you get rid of it, you're going to be without it. The good news is that you have enough money through your pensions, investments, and

savings to be what is known as “self-insured.”

If I'm in your situation, I'd drop the life insurance policies and pay off the house as quickly as possible. Make sure you keep a good health insurance policy in place, because a hospital stay can eat your savings alive. I hope you have long-term care insurance, too.

Good question, Anna. You guys have done a great job with your money!

—Dave

Dear Dave,

In 15 months I'll be able to buy in as a shareholder of my firm, about 1.5 percent of the company. I make \$100,000 annually, and it will cost me three times my income, but it could increase my income by as much as \$40,000 a year. I know that you discourage single-stock investing, but do you think this is a good idea?

Dear Mark,
This sounds more akin to
a partnership than a stock.

Basically, you'd be a minority shareholder in the business. That means zero power. Whatever money you put up could be lost, because the people running this business could decide to close up shop and you'd be powerless to stop it.

To me, this is way too scary. You'd be making a \$300,000 investment that has no liquidity and that you can't sell on the open market. I'd want to see at least 30-percent return on my capital in a situation like this, so I wouldn't risk my money.

Keep your good job, but politely decline this shareholder offer. That's my advice.

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, Entrepreneurship 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.

Continued from page 1

brain continues to develop until age 25, and nicotine exposure before that age may cause permanent brain damage and fuel a lifelong battle with addiction. According to the California Department of Education's California Healthy Kids Survey, middle and high school teens are currently using e-cigarettes at much higher rates than traditional cigarettes. Studies also show that teens who use e-cigarettes are three times more likely to start smoking traditional cigarettes within a year.

For those struggling with nicotine addiction, resources are available at www.nobutts.org. Californians who want help quitting can call the California Smokers' Helpline at 1-800-NO BUTTS.


The California Tobacco Control Program

was established by the Tobacco Tax and Health Protection Act of 1988. California's comprehensive approach has changed social norms around tobacco-use and secondhand smoke. California's tobacco control efforts have reduced both adult and youth smoking rates by 50 percent, saved more than one million lives and have resulted in \$134 billion worth of savings in health care costs. Learn more at TobaccoFreeCA.com.

The California Department of Public Health, Food and Drug Branch is charged with enforcing the Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement Act, and conducts ongoing illegal sales enforcement operations. California retailers caught selling tobacco products to minors during these enforcement operations are subject to fines up to \$6,000.

Source: California Department of Public Health★

WIDOWED PERSONS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA



The Widowed Persons Association of California encourages men and women to come to Sunday Support each Sunday from 3:00pm - 5:00pm. The Widowed Persons Association is designed to be of help to recently widowed men and women, but any and all widows and widowers are welcome as a community service. Participants do not need to be members and there is no charge.


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The seal of The American Legion is circular. It features a central five-pointed star with the letters "US" on it. The star is surrounded by a wreath of olive and oak leaves. The words "AMERICAN" and "LEGION" are written in a circular border around the star and wreath.

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Contact:
Post Commander
Michael Hughes (916)-363- 3630
or e-mail a.l.post0709@sbcglobal.net

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Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

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Subscriptions should be mailed to *Gold River Messenger*, 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608. Subscription rate is \$12 per year within Gold River. The *Gold River Messenger* is published monthly. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. (ISSN # 1948-1918).

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Angry walk
6. Bell and Barker, e.g.
9. Fields and Basinger
13. Donny's singing sister
14. *T.S. Eliot poem, "_____ Wednesday"
15. Loosen laces
16. Glorify
17. *Theodor Geisel, _____ Dr. Seuss
18. Daughter of a sibling
19. *Wordsworth or Shakespeare
21. *He hears America singing
23. Pig's digs
24. Discharge
25. Exchange for money
28. Grey, of tea fame
30. Like oxen put together
35. Second-hand
37. Saintly glow
39. Theater play
40. Ancient Scandinavian symbol
41. Pinch to save
43. F.B.I. operative
44. Nathaniels, to their friends?
46. Fencing weapon
47. Fail to mention
48. Swell
50. Unforeseen obstacle
52. Pub offering
53. *Cyrano de Bergerac had a big one
55. Cathode-ray tube
57. *Famous Russian poet
61. ***The Canterbury Tales" poet
65. Ernest, to mommy
66. Tarzan's mom
68. Famous nurse Barton

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69. Decorate

70. * ____ McKuen, poet and songwriter

71. * "The Waste Land" poet

72. Lubricant

73. ATM extra

74. Slow on the uptake

DOWN

1. Eurasian duck

2. It made Danny DeVitto a star

3. Word of mouth

4. Paper plants

5. The smallest, at the clothing store

6. "Howdy, ____!"

7. Pose a question

8. Medieval oboe

9. Make with needles

10. Individual unit

11. Flexible mineral

12. " ____ but not heard"

15. Like the States

20. Nursemaids in India

22. Battleship game success

24. Oval

25. * "Auld Lang Syne" poet

26. "Round up the ____ suspects!"

27. Yiddish shrew

29. Garden ____

31. Jason's vessel

32. ABBA's " ____ Mia!"

33. Not your grandmother's mail

34. * "Divine Comedy" poet

36. Like Mariana Trench

38. Bad luck predictor

42. * "Do I dare to eat a ____?"

45. Like RMS Titanic

49. Person of interest, acr.

51. Honored with presence

54. Chow down voraciously

56. Ballerina's skirt fabric

57. Ring like a bell

58. Pakistani language

59. Prig or snoot

60. Engage for service

61. Surrender territory

62. Jealous biblical brother

63. * " ____ & Psyche" by Robert Bridges

64. Goes with interest

67. * "The Raven" poet

For Solutions See Page 9

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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.

Tale of Two Rallies

Story and Photos by David Dickstein, Gold River resident

In 1978, I stood in line for six hours to be among the first to ride the Colossus at Magic Mountain amusement park. In 1980, I arrived to an Orange County cinema six hours early to be the first to see “The Empire Strikes Back.” In 1984, on a movie set near Hollywood, waiting six hours beside a talent trailer scored me an autograph from Clint Eastwood.

So when it was announced that Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton were coming to Sacramento to hold political rallies last month, I knew exactly how early I’d need to get in line. If six hours was the sweet spot for a roller-coaster, sci-fi movie and A-list celebrity, then that strategy to optimize a bucket list experience should be sound for the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates. And it was. For Trump’s rally at the Sacramento Jet Center and Clinton’s at Sacramento City College, I was among the first 25 regular people to brave the elements – near-100-degree heat, profane protesters, line-cutters, etcetera – in hopes of getting as close as possible to the next president of the United States.

Considering how polarizing the two candidates are, it could very well be that my youngest son and I were the only people outside some of the local media and police to attend both rallies. Doing so guaranteed seeing a future president, and being able to share the dual experience with my youngest voting in his first major election was beyond special. My wife, a social studies teacher at Gold River Discovery Center, was bummed to miss Trump’s Wednesday rally due to commitments, but she did make Clinton’s Sunday event.

Having attended both, and making observations while wiling away the hours in both lines, I feel qualified to do a compare and contrast of the two political rallies. With no bias, here are my takeaways:

Crowd
Trump: Estimated at 9,600. Standing in the scorching sun caused one person to pass out.
Clinton: Estimated at 1,500. Two people needed medical attention inside the sweltering gym.

Punctuality
Trump: The Republican candidate spoke 15 minutes early.
Clinton: Clinton took to the stage 70 minutes late. No one, including the tardy Democratic candidate, offered an apology.

Protesters
Trump: Dozens of dissenters showed up at Trump’s, screaming accusations of bigotry. One guy wearing a hate-mongering sandwich board walked up and down alongside the lengthy cue with megaphones that amplified recorded messages that called Trump’s supporters “idiots and a**holes.” I heard a little girl, one of many young children in line, ask her mom, “What is that man saying?” I never heard a discouraging word from a Trump backer; the only hate came from those professing love. A young woman held up

a sign that read, without asterisks, “F**k Trump – Vote for Hillary.”
Clinton: One man quietly held signs saying “BILLARY IS A FRAUD” and “STILL LIKE OIL WARS?” No pro-Trump protesters were spotted.

Warm-Up Speakers
Trump: Former Congressman Doug Ose and Scott O’Grady, the U.S. Air Force pilot who was shot down over war-torn Bosnia and survived by hiding alone in the woods for seven days in June of 1995 before being saved by American forces.
Clinton: Congresspeople Doris Matsui and John Garamendi, Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and his successor, Darrell Steinberg. A new graduate of St. Francis High School, a private institution with yearly tuition of \$17,000, declared Clinton as “the voice of the little people” before telling the audience that she’s bound for Santa Clara University, where tuition is \$43,000. Service Employees International Union Local 1000 President Yvonne Walker also spoke, telling the mixed-gender crowd, “If you want to get things done, always go with a woman.”



Dozens of dissenters showed up at Trump’s, screaming accusations of bigotry. One guy wearing a hate-mongering sandwich board walked up and down alongside the lengthy cue with megaphones that amplified recorded messages.

As supporters went wild, I imagined the barbs Trump would get if he ever said, “If you want to get things done, always go with a man.” Last I checked Clinton hadn’t disavowed Walker’s sexist comment and no men’s group has asked for the union leader’s resignation.

Patriotism
Trump: An advance speaker led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance, which the thousands did to a large American flag hung especially for the event on the inside back wall of the hanger. Live and recorded patriotic music played for hours before Trump’s dramatic arrival by personal jet.

Clinton: No Pledge of Allegiance, no patriotic music, but Mayor Johnson led the crowd in a chant: “... One state, no sweat; two states all set; three states she’s our bet; California, better yet!”

Veteran Support
Trump: Two rows of seats at the very front were reserved for veterans. Waiting for them on their chairs were a Trump sign and T-shirt. Once seated, they were offered cold water by volunteers. During the rally they were also recognized for their service.

Clinton: Clinton asked if any veterans were in the crowd and four raised their hand.

Posters
Trump: Besides what was held up by the confrontational and oftentimes vulgar anti-Trump protesters, seen among the crowd were posters that read, “LATINOS 4 TRUMP” and “FBI INDICT CROOKED HILLARY.”

Clinton: Homemade signs were not allowed per Hillary for America rules on the invitation and at the door. However, dozens of campaign-made posters written in red, white and blue paint were handed out by Clinton’s staff to members of the crowd standing on risers behind the stage. Campaign staff seemed to match each poster to a desired demographic; e.g., an “I’M WITH HER!” sign went to a man, another reading “RISE TOGETHER” went to a woman. Two young girls behind the podium, perfectly positioned for the cameras, were handed a poster that said “FIGHTING FOR US.” Moments later a staffer took that sign away from the girls and gave it to a man three rows up. Based on how choreographed the sign distribution and people placing were, I wouldn’t be surprised if someone was concerned about children condoning any type of “fighting.”

Despite the hours of investment and standing like veal calves with virtually no mobilization once inside the baking venues, I’d do it all again. And with Clinton’s double-digit lead narrowing in the California polls, chances are good that both major candidates will return to the Sacramento area before the November general election. When they do, the sparks will surely fly and I’ll be there to see them six hours early. ★



Homemade signs were not allowed per Hillary for America rules on the invitation and at the door. However, dozens of campaign-made posters written in red, white and blue paint were handed out by Clinton’s staff to members of the crowd standing on risers.

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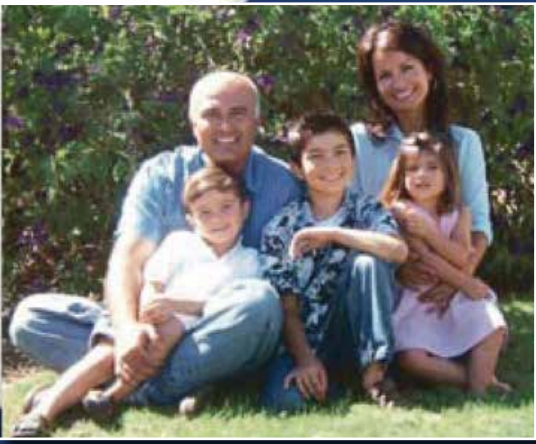



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By Kay Burton

Sammy is an 8 year old female Mini Dachshund. She lives in Gold River with her family, Bill and Holly Collar. This is the first dog the Collards have ever had. And yes, she is dearly loved.

Sammy is a Red Dachshund with a dark streak down her back with short hair. She is a beauty.

The Dachshunds originated in Germany. This breed was developed in the 16 th century. They were bred to catch Badgers. The name Dachshund in German means badger dog. German Hunters desire the Mini Dachshunds to the Standard to hunt Badgers

Meet Sammy, A Red Mini Dachshund



Sammy is a Red Dachshund with a dark streak down her back with short hair. She is a beauty. Photo courtesy Kay Burton

and Foxes.

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Kay Burton is a longtime columnist and supporter of the SSPCA and other rescue groups. To share your pet story with our readers, email: Kayburton1@comcast.net ★

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2016 FIREWORKS BUYERS GUIDE

Season Boasts Strongest Freshman Class in Years

By David Dickstein

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - With the Fourth of July just around the corner, non-profits throughout the region are hoping that red, white and blue turns into lots of green. The great news for fundraising groups and California consumers is the freshman class of fireworks is the strongest in over a dozen years. This would be the season to spend more of your disposable income in the name of charity and country.

Firework stands in Greater Sacramento open for business starting June 28, and when they do patriotic, philanthropic and pyrotechnics-passionate purchasers will want to know the five basic questions of fireworks buying: 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 to the test. Our annual fireworks buyers guide also

includes returning favorites that scored at least 4 of 5 stars on a scale based on performance, value, duration and distinctiveness.

Sacramento Valley is dominated by TNT and Phantom, both of which have regional headquarters based here and a long history of splitting profits with hundreds of churches, athletic clubs, youth groups and other area non-profits. Discount Fireworks Superstore (DFS), which expanded from Oregon to mostly Central California a few years ago, makes its Sacramento County debut this season with three church-run stands in Elk Grove.

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. 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.

Let the sparks fly!

new FOR 2016

• **WICKED STRONG (TNT), \$59.99** - Combines the best of a fan fountain and a bona fide finale. A surge of sparks at the 90-second mark truly gives this newcomer its name. A price drop of \$10 would give it a rare perfect rating. 105 seconds. ★★★★★

• **GRAND ILLUSION (DFS), \$40.99** - Long-lasting 500-gram fountain from Showtime took 7 years to reach California, but you didn't miss much with its mundane crackles, whistles and height. 195 seconds. ★★★

• **SEA SERPENT (PHANTOM), \$34.99** - Crowd-pleasing crackles, whistles, darting silver sparks and height that pushes the 10-foot legal limit. 100 seconds. ★★★★★ 1/2 Stars

• **FLIGHT OF FANCY (DFS), \$29.99** - Brand new flower-shaped fountain from Brothers packs a dazzling display of multicolored showers and pearls, silver glitter, crackling, pine needles and golden flowers. 123 seconds. ★★★★★

• **CORE REACTOR (PHANTOM), \$24.99** - It's Phantom's popular Firecracker Fountain on steroids, featuring raucous silver crackles from start to finish. Incredible height for the price. 73 seconds. ★★★★★

• **SPARKNADO (TNT), \$24.99** - Crackle-happy fountain comes alive with a unique effect that has geysers of sparks breathing in and out before going into a frenzy. 85 seconds. ★★★★★

• **SHUT UP! (DFS), \$24.50** - Volcanic-like surges of multi-colored sparks and flares give this year-old fountain high marks. Includes crackles, so this item isn't as "low noise" as Black Cat describes and the name suggests. 75 seconds. ★★★★★

• **FROM THE HEART (DFS), \$20.40** - Debuting last year outside California, this heart-shaped fountain from Black Cat would delight with red flares, chrysanthemums and pink sparks if not for the fleeting burn time and heart-stopping price. 50 seconds. ★★

• **GOOD VS. EVIL (TNT), \$19.99 (FOR BOTH)** - Silly marketing gimmick has the mediocre Rocketman Fountain bundled with the even less impressive Rage Monster Fountain, and for no reason this combo is called "Good vs. Evil." Despite coming in a few seconds shorter, "Good" gets the nod with a darting sparks, or fish, effect. Rocketman, 81 seconds; Rage Monster, 87 seconds. ★★ 1/2 Stars.

• **RAISE YOUR FLAG (TNT), \$17.76** - Long may this fountain wave with wide-spreading crackling sparks, whistle and a patriotic price. 65 seconds. ★★★★★

• **NUCLEAR PHYSICS (DFS), \$15.99** - Mushroom cloud-shaped packaging is the most unique feature of this 2-year-old fountain from Brothers. That said, pretty gold flowers, silver chrysanthemums, noisy crackles and a fair price should give this item a warm welcome in California. 66 seconds. ★★★★★

• **CAT FIGHT (DFS), \$13.25** - A late arrival to California is this 3-year-old fountain from Black Cat that mesmerizes with multi-colored fish effect. 72 seconds. ★★★★★ 1/2 Stars.

• **HULL-A-BLUE (Phantom), \$12.99** - Low on height, but high on beauty with a non-stop vibrant gold shower. Expected more blue due to its name. Good burn time for the price. 60 seconds. ★★★★★ 1/2 Stars.

• **BEE'S KNEES (DFS), \$12.49** - Vibrant fan fountain from Brothers is fun while it lasts, but doesn't last long. Debuted two years ago outside the

Golden State. 35 seconds. ★★★

• **MAD MONKEY (DFS), \$12.25** - Intense crackling sparks and glowing eyes and mouth make for a lot of fun at a small price. From Showtime. 32 seconds. ★★★★★

• **PHANTOM SPARKLES OF PRIDE (PHANTOM), \$8.99** - Nifty opening of gold sizzling sparks is followed by routine crackles and chrysanthemum. 40 seconds. ★★ 1/2 Stars.

• **PIRATE SWORD (DFS), \$7.69** - Unique handheld fountain from Showtime is a step up from boring morning glories, but the cost of swashbuckling fun requires too much booty, even for the pricey California market. 24 seconds. ★★

• **NEON FORCE (TNT), \$6.99** - Height, crackles and color are all solid, as is the price. 55 seconds. ★★★★★

• **JALAPENO POPPER (TNT), \$3.99** - Strong crackling silver sparks and, to be expected at this price point, no altitude. 49 seconds. ★★ 1/2 Stars.

BEST OF THE REST (4-5 STARS)



• **DELIRIUM (TNT), \$49.99 AND CORAL REEF (PHANTOM), \$49.99** - TNT's is the granddaddy of finales, a long-lasting, 500-gram fan fountain that wows with radiant colors and clamorous whistles and crackles. No wonder Phantom came out with the indentially performing Coral Reef last year. Best finale for the money since TNT's Opening Show (\$69.99, 130 seconds) went up \$10, dropping it to 3 Stars. 105 seconds.

• **APACHE FIREDANCE PREMIER (PHANTOM), \$49.99** - A former "Best New Firework," this fountain scores with seven effects, including some of the best crackles, strobes and height on the safe and sane market. 140 seconds.



• **PEACOCK TAIL FAN (PHANTOM), \$34.99** - The former "Best New Firework" 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.

• **FUNKY MONKEY (PHANTOM), \$24.99** - Pyrotechnic primate features red pearls and a solid overall performance. 90 seconds.



• **ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE (TNT), \$21.99** - Sensational medium-priced fan fountain, one of the most promising rookies last season, has large-sized intensity. 62 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.

• **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. Burn time and chrysanthemum and whistle effects 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. 73 seconds.

• **TWILIGHT MAGIC (PHANTOM), \$12.99 FOR TWO** - A former "Best New Fountain," now a 2-for-1 item, has three exciting rotations of crackle-and-whistle and wide-spreading sparks. 57 seconds.

• **SURFS UP (TNT), \$12.99 FOR TWO** - TNT is making this a buy-one-get-one for just \$2 more - a super new deal. 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.

• **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.

• **CRYSTAL SKIES (TNT), \$9.99** - 2014's "Best New Fountain" has great height, striking gold glitters and white pines, and loud crackles. Better than many fountains sold at double the price. 68 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 FOR ONE** - Identical little dynamos emit loud crackles, purple pearls and glittering gold and white sparks. 45 seconds.

For stand locations and additional product information, visit the retailers' websites: TNT, www.tntfireworks.com; Phantom, www.fireworks.com; and Discount Fireworks Superstore (three Elk Grove locations), dfsfireworks.com. ★



Area non-profits kick off their fireworks fundraisers on June 28. Photo by David Dickstein



Friends and neighbors keep up the tradition of celebrating America's birthday with fireworks. Photo by David Dickstein



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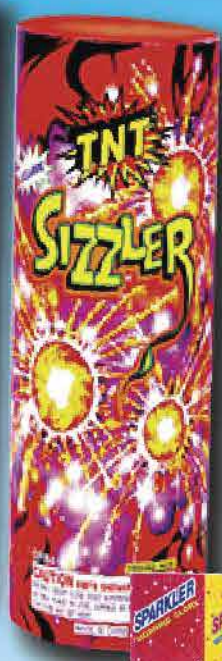
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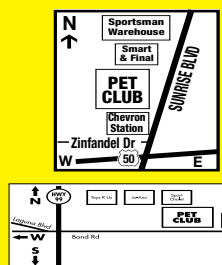
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