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# Gold River Messenger

*"Written by the people, for the people"*

Volume 2 • Issue 10

*Serving Gold River and Sacramento County*

October, 2014

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Cools off in Q4



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## Interfaith Winter Shelter Effort Needs Host Sites



Karen Edwards, Sun River Church (left); and Inez Reyes, St. John Vianney Catholic Church, in the kitchen at Sun River Church. The two have been instrumental in initiating the Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter, Rancho Cordova, which is to provide a refuge for some of the local homeless during the cold winter weeks. Most needed at this stage are the church host sites.

**Story and photos by**  
**Margaret Snider**

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - A local winter shelter effort for the homeless called Interfaith Revolving Winter Shelter, Rancho Cordova, is being planned and sponsored by Rancho Cordova churches to

begin this winter. It is similar to one provided the past few years by Sacramento Steps Forward and Volunteers of America, aided by the Interfaith Council of Greater Sacramento.

The idea was conceived after a meeting held by Sacramento Self Help Housing last October led by Ken Bennett of that

organization. Karen Edwards of Sun River Church, and Inez Reyes of St. John Vianney Catholic Church were among those who attended. The idea was to form a local chapter of the group called PATH, People Assisting the Homeless, a family of agencies working together for that purpose.

Edwards and Reyes carried on from there, with the help of others, realizing that something needed to be done, and they would like to be part of it. Sun River Church offered space for meetings, which began in June of this year.

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## Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet Job and Resource Fair

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA** - The State of California Employment Development Department, in partnership with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), Sacramento Employment and Training Agency, Sacramento Area Human Resources Association, DeVry University, and Starbucks, are proud to be hosting the Honor a Hero, Hire a Vet Job and Resource Fair on October 16th at the McClellan Lions Gate Convention Center, 3410 Westover St, Sacramento, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m..

The job fair is free to all jobseekers, veterans and non-veterans. Job seekers will be able to meet with more than 100 employers and 25 supportive services providers.

Workshops will offer skills development in behavior-based interviewing, resume preparation, and applying for state jobs. Attendees will have opportunities for one-on-one resume review and career coaching.

*Source: Sacramento Municipal Utility District*

**WE SUPPORT  
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## Folsom Lake College Celebrates 10th Anniversary

*Looking Back at the Last Decade*

**FOLSOM, CA (MPG)** - Since receiving its initial accreditation in 2004, Folsom Lake College has educated more than 68,000 students in the region. To celebrate its 10th Anniversary, Folsom Lake College will hold an open house festival on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Folsom campus (10 College Parkway, off E. Bidwell St.).

"Folsom Lake College is eager to showcase the tremendous growth and contributions of the college to our service areas of Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and El Dorado County," said Folsom Lake College President Rachel Rosenthal. "We welcome the community to come out and

explore the people, programs, and facilities that are making Folsom Lake College an educational destination, not only in the region, but across the state.

Events planned include: tours of the beautiful 151-acre campus; a children's activity area; stage performances, including two free performances by the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West at the Harris Center for the Arts (go to [www.harriscenter.net](http://www.harriscenter.net) to reserve tickets); instructional program demonstrations; history and art displays; student club booths; exhibition games played on the new athletic fields

*Continued on page 5*



Since January 1, 2004, 68,547 unique students have attended Folsom Lake College; there have been 4,580 graduates, 5,893 degrees awarded, 1,857 certificates awarded, and over 2,500 reported transfers to UC and CSU. Photo courtesy of Folsom Lake College



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# Family Fun at Sun River Church's Harvest Fair Carnival

By Linda Harper

**RANCHO CORDOVA (MPG)** - Sun River Church, located at 11223 Trinity River Drive, Rancho Cordova, will hold its annual Harvest Fair Carnival on Friday, October 31st, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The event is expected to be a fun packed evening for families with kids of all ages. Highlighted at the Harvest

Festival are carnival games, a super slide, and face painting. A separate pre-school fenced in area will be available, so even the youngest festival-goers can have fun while staying safe. A free outdoor movie complete with popcorn will be presented during the evening. Food will be available for purchase, and, of course, candy—lots of candy!

Sun River Church invites the community to enjoy this free,

fun-filled, family friendly and safe celebration. The church and its members are happy to provide a venue where families can feel comfortable bringing their young children on Halloween. They are passionate about the community God has placed them in, and they seek out opportunities to be God's hands and feet.

For more information, go to [www.sunriverchurch.com](http://www.sunriverchurch.com) or call (916) 635-9000. ★

# Interfaith Winter Shelter Effort Needs Host Sites

Continued from Page 1

The first meeting was attended by 22 individuals representing nine churches as well as representatives from the City of Rancho Cordova, from the office of California State Assemblyman Ken Cooley, from Serve Sacramento, as well as Bennett from Sacramento Self Help Housing.

The shelter is patterned after one of the same name in Davis, and similar programs exist or are being planned in such towns as Elk Grove, Citrus Heights, and Roseville. The Rancho Cordova program would provide dinner, nighttime shelter, and light breakfast for eight weeks for around 25 people, with families given priority.

Volunteers from local congregations and the community are to staff the effort.

"I would love to have some volunteers that just are champions of the homeless," Edward said. "If you are a champion of the homeless, are passionate about serving, this is a great volunteer opportunity."

Procuring the actual host sites at local cooperating churches, however, is the first priority.

"Without the host sites we don't have a winter shelter," said Reyes, who is president of St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. John Vianney. "The rest of the paperwork, the intake, logistics, we can handle. But the sites we're really working on."

At this time, three churches have volunteered sites for the winter shelter. Five more are needed to cover the desired eight weeks.

Edwards said that one of the reasons congregations may be slow to volunteer space is that the whole process might feel confusing to them. However, plenty of help will be available.

"We'll train them, we'll give them ideas," Edwards said. "We



Karen Edwards, Sun River Church (right); and Inez Reyes, St. John Vianney Catholic Church, consult on the plans for the Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter, Rancho Cordova. The program is to provide a refuge for some of the local homeless during the cold winter weeks. Most needed at this stage are the church host sites.

can hold their hand through the whole process so it's not overwhelming."

Besides the obvious goal of helping the homeless, another advantage will accrue as congregations of different churches work together for a common cause. It will make it easier to see where the resources are in our community, and who is providing them.

"Together we can have a more holistic approach to serving our community," Reyes said. "And we can support them in connecting with the resources out there."

Although health and human services is a Sacramento County responsibility, said Rancho Cordova City Councilman Donald Terry, there are likely to be ways in which the city can help.

"Ultimately this is an effort that was started by our residents and is going to be run by our faith-based community," Terry said. "These are the kinds of things that get done in Rancho Cordova. They happen because our great citizens and residents want something to happen, and we as a city have learned very well how to

facilitate and be the catalyst for helping things happen."

The leadership centers on Reyes for logistics of intake and paperwork, Edwards for volunteer training at the congregational level and for fundraising, and Larry Stafford of Cordova Community Council and Cordova Church of Christ for transportation, equipment, and storage.

The statement of Pastor Jimmy Hurd of the Cordova Church of Christ struck a chord with Reyes when he said, "We need to remember that these are not 'them,' these are not 'homeless people.' These are people like you and me, without homes."

The next meeting of the Rancho Cordova Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter will be held at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 16th at Sun River Church, 11223 Trinity River Drive, Rancho Cordova. Local churches and members of the community are invited. For more information, contact Karen Edwards, (916) 201-4633, [Karen@sunriverchurch.com](mailto:Karen@sunriverchurch.com), or Inez Reyes (916) 708-8026, [inezreyes888@yahoo.com](mailto:inezreyes888@yahoo.com). ★

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**Publisher,**  
**Paul V. Scholl**

# Gold River Messenger

*"Written by the people and for the people"*

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# Like the Weather, Capitol Growth Cools off in Q4



**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)**

- Customer service, sales, manufacturing, and drivers are in high demand among Sacramento's top employers in October, November, and December. Making, storing, distributing, and selling products is driving hiring in the next Quarter. Truck drivers able to pass background, DMV, and drug tests can find work with bottling plants, regional distribution centers, materials suppliers, local delivery, and manufacturers.

Pacific Staffing has discovered that a robust hiring market in the last Quarter has maintained its pace into the last three months of 2014 among the region's top companies. One difference noted is the change in motivation for hiring as learned from direct phone contacts with regional companies between August 21 and September 12, 2014.

While seventy percent (70%) of top employers surveyed say they will hire in Q4, growth hiring among those firms has fallen from Q3 levels. The Pacific Staffing Survey shows more Sacramento employers will seek

applicants for attrition to replace openings in the existing workforce in October, November, and December than for continuing expansion.

Sacramento regional employers say forty-eight percent (48%) of Q4 hiring is motivated by the need for attrition. Hiring for replacements dropped slightly, from fifty percent (50%) in Q3, while employers motivated to hire for growing the workforce has fallen further as forty-three (43%) will hire for growth in the last three months of 2014. While growth hiring has dropped by seven percent (7%) from last quarter it remains at a higher level than recent years for this Quarter.

*Skills Demand?*

Seasonal hiring was noted by eight percent (8%) of firms, and every retailer surveyed is hiring for the next three months indicating a likely increase in holiday help in stores. Drivers remain in short supply, as companies also sought sales, customer service, manufacturing, warehouse and general office help. Finding qualified applicants and retention

of workers trailed only concerns about increasing benefit costs for employees for open enrollments in this Quarter.

The demand among all companies for degreed professionals in information technology, software development, mobile networking and other proprietary technical skills like construction estimators is ongoing. Another shortage noted was for construction trades backgrounds with a high priority on skilled carpentry. Despite seasonal change, continuing dry, warm weather will allow Construction/Property Development firms to work thru Q4 and most surveyed are hiring.

How does this Quarter compare to last Quarter, or last year? Find out for yourself. For more information, employment blogs & market surveys go to [www.pacificstaffing.com](http://www.pacificstaffing.com).

Sacramento Regional Top Companies Polled By Industry: 42% are Service, 31% are Manufacturers, 19% are Construction and 8% are Retail. ★

Source: Rick Reed PRS

# Help Us Feed the Kids



(Above) Matt (from Walmart), Jenn Paredes, Sheila Hollister Mavy, Janice Davis (JD), Jacqui Smith. They loaded it up and off we went to Unity where they unloaded food for 211 children and never once complained!

(Right) Logan Paredes and Jackson Harpster, showing you're never too young to learn about paying it forward. We encourage our volunteers to bring their children to help pack the bags for just that reason.

(Below) A few of our great volunteers; Volunteers - Sarah Scholes, Maia Lyman, Lily Lyman (with the Churchill IB program), JD & Rickey Davis, Deanna & Malayla Parker, Melissa & Jackson Harpster, Jenn & Logan Paredes, Kelly, Zoe & Wyatt Iverson. Iverson Plumbing has been a staunch supporter and sponsor of Blessings. Photos courtesy of Blessings in a Backpack, Rancho Cordova



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

How Many Times do I Have to Say No?

By Lonn Maier

Ants are peculiar creatures. They have colonized practically every corner of the earth, and have been existence since the dinosaurs roamed the earth. They form colonies, establish hierarchies, and somehow create division of labor for queens, drones, workers, and soldiers—all which work in concert to effectively invade yards, garages, and homes, which can be invaded by thousands of the little hymenopterans in just a matter of hours. They have an admirable spirit. They never give up in pursuit of their goal: to invade. That is, unless acted upon by an outside exterminating force. No one wants ants. Ant Farms will never really sell as long as everyone agrees: ants are despicable pests. Admirable in their tenacity, but pests none-the-less. Enough biology.

The City of Rancho Cordova is planning to construct a structure not unlike an invasion of sorts. The proposed Rancho Cordova Parkway is a proposed multi-lane freeway interchange that will serve as the main traffic drain for at least 100,000 cars in the new urban area being created south of US Highway 50 in Rancho Cordova. It will dominate the landscape between Sunrise and Hazel on highway 50 in ways unheard of. A portion of the project is located in Gold River on an eight-acre parcel known as the Tenderfoot Meadow, just south of Tenderfoot Drive in Eureka Village.

A multitude of irreversible adverse environmental impacts affecting Gold River will result from the project.

For starters, air quality emissions from cars include carbon

monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxides and sulfur oxide, not to mention particulate matter from diesel trucks and cars. Thousands of pounds of the toxic stuff will cloud homes nearest the interchange. Even those further away, as far as 1000 feet will be affected by the air emissions, according to state-sponsored research studies. And there are dozens of studies that warn of the effects of auto emissions on communities.

“Just in case anyone at the City is listening, everyone in Gold River opposes your plan to invade our community.”

The City’s own preliminary analysis shows that under buildout conditions, uses in the Planning Area may produce 25,000 tons of reactive organic gases, nitrous oxides, and inhalable dust per year. That adds up to over 25,000 tons of emissions annually that the City of Rancho Cordova is willing to smother the Gold River community with. That’s in addition to who knows how many dozens of tons of emissions are already generated by traffic from highway 50.

Why a concern? Hundreds of children and parents alike frequent the nearby Prospect Park, which is located a mere 100 yards from the proposed interchange. Soccer kids running their hearts out will be inhaling the emissions from the thousands

of vehicles that pass through Tenderfoot Meadow every day.

Not surprising, the State’s own Air Resources Board thinks that interchanges near homes are a bad idea. They recommend that homes not be sited more than 500 feet from freeways, let alone interchanges. Homes’ backyards will be as close as 50 feet from the structure.

You would think that recommendation by itself might lead City leaders towards consideration of alternative locations for the behemoth emission-laden structure. Not so. In fact, no such alternatives have been identified publicly to date.

Beginning in 2005 the City has held several public meetings to address Gold River residents’ concerns regarding the project. Hundreds of residents have attended each meeting. In addition, several meetings have been held with Gold River villages and the Gold River Community Association Board. The response of the community is not surprising: not one person, out of the hundreds informed, think the project is a good idea.

So, just in case anyone at the City is listening, everyone in Gold River opposes your plan to invade our community. No matter how many different ways you ask if the community will accept this behemoth structure, the answer is the same. I can’t recount how many times my parents told me no when I persisted in having my way. My mother would in exasperation say “How many times do I have to say ‘No?’” No is the answer.

We applaud your vision for growth, and applaud your ambitious efforts to grow Rancho Cordova into a livable community. The economy will be

revived to a point (and water supplies eventually made available) so your dream can be realized.

But as the ant is also to be applauded for its industrious nature, when it determines to build where it’s not wanted, the end of its efforts will come; the exterminator will come and convince the ant colony to relocate somewhere else.

The City needs to re-evaluate where the interchange will best serve its needs while not creating a health hazard to hundreds of people’s lives. The City needs to consider the Hazel Avenue land south of Highway 50 as their primary target for an interchange. Just think of the benefits of such a location: few if any impacts to an established residential community, and a project that will be the pride of Rancho Cordova. Anything else is subterfuge for a contentious approval process.

It’s best for the ant to build where its efforts will be rewarded. To build in our backyard, we are saying “no.” And as my mom would say, “that’s final.”

Let Caltrans and the Mayor of Rancho Cordova know of your opposition to the project.

Georgette Neale, Caltrans  
2379 Gateway Oaks Drive,  
Suite 150  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
georgette.neale@dot.ca.gov

Dan Skoglund, Mayor  
City of Rancho Cordova  
2729 Prospect Park Drive  
Rancho Cordova CA 95670  
dskoglund@cityofranhocordova.org

Lonn Maier is a resident of Gold River. He can be contacted at gric@sbcbglobal.net

Popular 311 Number for County Nears One Year Anniversary

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - With nearly 100,000 calls taken since last October’s launch, the County’s 311 Connect system is ideal for the public to get answers and submit service requests.

“Residents and businesses are finding it very easy to use and are contacting us about issues in their communities,” said Bradley J. Hudson, County Executive.

Calls are answered 24/7 and cover a wide range of County services. When the system went live, a few hundred calls and requests a day came in. Since then, the numbers have increased to more than 4,000 calls in service requests a week!

The 311 Connect system allows residents and businesses to report an issue three ways: by phone, online on the web, or with the free 311 Connect phone app. Calls are the most frequent, but online and the app are used as well. The app is great when you’re out on park trails; you can snap a photo of an issue such as illegal dumping, and report it on the spot. Find 311 information on the County’s home page, at www.saccounty.net.

311 Connect helps you get answers and submit service requests for non-emergency issues, including:

- Abandoned vehicles
- Animal issues - stray, deceased
- Emergency housing conditions - no water, utilities, unstable building, surfacing sewage
- Occupied out building
- Abandoned shopping carts
- Curb, gutter or sidewalk repair
- Culvert/pipe repair or cleaning
- Drainage problem
- Missed garbage collection service
- Graffiti
- Illegal dumping - garbage, trash
- Potholes
- Tobacco - selling to minors
- Ditch cleaning
- Street light issues
- Street sign down
- Tree trimming in public right-of-way

The next time you see a broken street light in the County or any of the other services listed, don’t hesitate to use 311 Connect. ★

Source: Sacramento County

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★★★★ THE SACRAMENTO BEE FOOD REVIEW FEB 2013

# Cancer Caregiver Visits Nation’s Capital to Urge Congress to Make Cancer a Top National Priority

**GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG)** - Rebecca Johnson of Gold River traveled to Washington, D.C. last week to call on Congress to support lifesaving policies that help people prevent and fight cancer. She joined with 600 other American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) volunteers and staff from all 50 states to urge lawmakers to increase federal funding for cancer research and prevention programs, co-sponsor legislation that would improve patients’ quality of life and support legislation to remove cost barriers to colorectal cancer screenings for seniors.

“As a caregiver and advocate, I know how important these issues are in the fight against cancer,” Johnson said. “I let Ami Bera’s staff know that he has a real opportunity to improve the health of not only Californian’s but our entire nation. By funding the fight against cancer and supporting these critical proposals, we could save thousands of lives.”

During her meetings with lawmakers, Rebecca Johnson emphasized the importance of ensuring that lifesaving colorectal cancer screenings are affordable for seniors. Unfortunately, many Americans avoid this lifesaving screening because they can’t

afford the out-of-pocket costs. The new health care law waives co-pays for colonoscopies in the private insurance market, but Medicare patients can still be charged when a polyp is found and removed during the procedure. Johnson and other advocates urged lawmakers to support legislation that corrects this problem and eliminates the potential of surprise bills for many seniors.

“Colorectal cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death in the United States, but the good news is we could prevent nearly half of all colorectal deaths if everyone received recommended screenings,” said JR Fujita, ACS CAN Staff Partner. “By ensuring everyone over age 50 can afford to be screened, we will save countless lives from this disease.”

Advocates also told lawmakers about the importance of palliative care, which addresses the pain, stress and other side effects that can accompany a cancer diagnosis and treatment. Palliative care is appropriate for patients of any age and at any stage of illness to improve their quality of life and that of their loved ones. Volunteers asked lawmakers to co-sponsor bipartisan legislation that would

make palliative care readily available to those who need it.

Johnson also voiced concern over the derailment of federal funding for cancer research and prevention programs. She reminded lawmakers of the critical importance of the federal investment in the National Cancer Institute and the Centers for Disease Control.

As part of this year’s ACS CAN Leadership Summit and Lobby Day, Johnson and other advocates attended training sessions on communicating with elected officials, engaging the media and conducting grassroots activities in their communities.

“Cancer patients know all too well the devastating impact of cancer,” said Johnson. “When I visited Washington, D.C., I asked law makers to put aside partisan politics and instead fight to bring an end to cancer. We can’t afford to let promising research go to waste, and when we have opportunities as a nation to prevent cancer through screenings and reduce suffering through palliative care, we must act.”

**Rebecca Johnson**  
*My Social Media Pro and Rebecca Johnson Consulting*



By Sal Arrigo, Jr.

Gerontology is the study of the aging process. Gerontologists like me come in many forms: they can be an educator, an activity director in a skilled nursing facility, or director of your local senior center. Gerontology is a broad category that encompasses biology, psychology, leisure, transportation, housing, finance, and relationships.

A gerontologist studies the segment of society that many do not understand. They base their opinions of senior citizens on what they recall of their own grandparents, yet older people are just as complex and as sophisticated as any generation. History shows us that this generation grew up with the advent of television, experienced

# I am a Gerontologist

two world wars, as well as the Korean and Vietnam conflicts; when these folks first heard of a computer, the computer filled a room! A baseball fan of this generation “watched” a game by listening to a radio. Every generation of seniors brings its own unique social and cultural experience to the aging process, and this is one small example of why the field of gerontology is a growing career field.

There are many individuals who start out by earning a degree or certificate in one particular area of gerontology that qualify them for work in skilled nursing or assisted living facilities. Often these individuals will advance their careers by becoming nursing home administrators, marketing specialists designed to attract the older consumer, or they become educators in gerontology. In fact, the field for trained gerontologists is wide open as society in general continues to live longer. Contrary to what some like to believe, you will get older and you cannot turn back your biological clock no matter how many anti-aging pills you take!

In our area, American River College has a nationally recognized gerontology program, one that has been awarded a Certificate of Merit by the U.S. Department of Education, and the only school — junior college or four-year school — west of the Mississippi River that can claim such an honor. Graduates of this program do go on to careers in the above-mentioned disciplines. There is so much more out there for those individuals who have the desire to make a difference in the lives of senior citizens. With 14.1% of the U.S. population now 65 or older, the influence of seniors will continue to be felt across many facets of life in our country — in elections, in housing and in the types of products that companies will be advertising and selling.

Understanding these trends and what makes a particular senior generation “tick”— that is what is at the heart of being a gerontologist. ★

# Folsom Lake College Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Continued from Page 1

featuring the baseball and men's and women's soccer teams; a live falcon exhibit in honor of the college's mascot; and delicious cuisine from local food trucks.

Since January 1, 2004, 68,547 unique students have attended Folsom Lake College; there have been 4,580 graduates, 5,893 degrees awarded, 1,857 certificates awarded, and over 2,500 reported transfers to UC and CSU. The school employs 101

full-time faculty, 169 part-time faculty, 109 classified staff, and 13 administrators.

Since 2004, Folsom Lake College has provided exceptional educational opportunities to the communities of eastern Sacramento and western El Dorado counties. The college serves approximately 8,200 students at the main Folsom campus, El Dorado Center, and Rancho Cordova Center. FLC is committed to enriching and empowering

students by providing rigorous academic programs and comprehensive support services, opportunities for leadership and growth, and a collaborative and innovative learning environment. For more information on Folsom Lake College, go to [www.flc.los-rios.edu](http://www.flc.los-rios.edu).

The 10th Anniversary celebration will be held rain or shine. Event admission and parking are free.

*Source: Folsom Lake College*

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# Just a Pinch




## Sharing Hometown Recipes, Cooking Tips and Coupons

By Janet Tharpe

### Family Pleasing Dinner Idea, Pork Chops with Apples

**“Family and friends love these!”**



With just the perfect balance of flavors, Norma DeRemer’s Pork Chops with Apples recipe is a wonderful pick for pleasing the family. Add some mashed potatoes, along with your favorite vegetable, and you have an easy dinner everyone will be talking about for days.

See step-by-step photos of Norma’s recipe plus thousands more from home cooks nationwide at: [www.justapinch.com/chops](http://www.justapinch.com/chops)

You’ll also find a meal planner, coupons and chances to win! Enjoy and remember, use “just a pinch”...

*-Janet*

### Pork Chops with Apples

**What You Need**

6 pork chops  
2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil  
Garlic salt and black pepper, to taste  
1 tbsp ground cardamon  
6 tart apples, sliced  
1 tbsp butter  
2 tsp cinnamon  
1/4 c brown sugar  
1/2 c port wine

**Directions**

- Peel, core and slice apples. Add to a saucepan with butter over medium heat.
- Add brown sugar, cinnamon and cook until tender.
- Remove from heat and set aside.
- Heat olive oil in frying pan.
- Spread both sides of the pork chop with garlic salt, pepper and cardamon and add pork chops to hot pan.
- Cook until brown on one side. Turn to cook and brown the other side.
- Remove pan from stove and add apples on top of each pork chop.
- Pour wine into bottom of pan and light with a match watching not to burn yourself.
- Return pan to cooktop when fire is out. Lower heat and cover with a lid.
- Heat for 30 minutes or until wine looks like thick syrup.
- Remove pork chops from pan and place onto a serving platter. Top with the apples and wine syrup.

Submitted by: Norma DeRemer, York, PA (Pop. 43,718)  
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# Connection - For Better or Worse!

## Confessions of a cell phone junkie



By Katherine Lyons

I was one of the first people I knew to get a cell phone. At that time it was called a car phone and had to be plugged into the cigarette lighter for power. The car phone, along with its bulky carrying case, was about the size of five iPads in cases stacked on top of each other. I justified its necessity because at the time I was frequently driving a long distance into a sparsely populated area, and I was in fear of getting stranded should my car break down (it never did).!!

Fast forward to today, when my current phone could probably run a small country and is rarely away from my side. Just about everyone has a smartphone within reach during most of the waking hours of the day. These wonderful devices are no longer just phones of course; they have taken the place of our clocks, cameras, video recorders, audio recorders, audio players, calculators, weathermen, mail service, maps, and encyclopedias. They provide instant access to dizzying amounts of information on just about anything you want to know. These are just the basics and don't include the thousands of extras anyone can download.

It's amazing that such a little device can take the place of what used to be dozens of bulky, individual devices to serve our various needs and desires. This amazing feat of technology is supposed to provide for easier and better connection to others. It should free up our time and energy to focus on the things we value most in life. But is that what's really happening? I have some serious doubts.

I believe the tables have turned, and we have unknowingly become addicts and slaves to the machines that were supposed to set us free. The expectation is that we are accessible to everyone in our lives almost all of the time, and that others are likewise accessible to us. We often feel "naked" or "stressed out" without a phone, as if it has become an appendage. We are driven by habit to check it automatically whenever we have been separated, even for a few minutes. Studies have shown that there is a release of dopamine, (an important chemical related to pleasure and reward) whenever we hear the text alert or see a message pop up. Like it or not, we have become trained on a deep neurological level to respond to the devices we employ to simplify our lives. Remember Pavlov's dog? We are that dog.

By giving phones to our children, we have taught a whole generation that this is the best way to be safe and to stay connected. Our children are addicted to the game features, playing games while we are driving, shopping, or during a multitude of other activities. When doing so, they are not interacting with us or with the environment around them; they are in their own secluded worlds. When I see a group of teens or twenty-somethings at a party or restaurant together, connection to each other is not what I see. I see them with their phones in hand, texting others who aren't there, taking pictures, and posting to social media sites for still other people who are not there. They don't know, because they never knew another way, that something really important has been lost in these interactions. That something

is 100% attention to each other and to an experience. I am old enough to know the difference, and I feel the loss.

I submit that even the camera and video functions may be taking more away than they are giving us. Whenever we whip out our camera-phone to take a picture, we are changing our experience, and minimizing our interaction with it. Can you see the full landscape around you while looking through a tiny screen? When you're at a concert holding your phone on video mode, are you truly reveling in the show and sharing the experience fully with those you're with?

How many hundreds or thousands of pictures do we all have stored on our devices now? More importantly, how often do we go back and look at them? Are our memories so bad that we can't expect ourselves to recall an experience without a picture? Maybe if we didn't reach for our phones every time something interesting happened, and instead relished in fully experiencing the world around us, it might make more of a lasting impression.

Of course it's not just the younger generation...it's everyone from toddlers to grandmas. I have friends and family who said they would never get a cell phone and are now texting like pros.

What about the claim that it provides for greater connection, because your friends are always at your fingertips through text, e-mail or social media? When I am alone, I do feel some comfort to know that I can probably find someone to "connect" with in these manners. However, what is now being lost is the ability to actually talk to someone on the phone - people prefer texting. While that's better than nothing, it's not a better connection. We are becoming a people more and more withdrawn from each other in real time. When you're in line at a store, notice how many people will make eye contact with you, let alone strike up a conversation. I submit that people are now lonelier than ever. Rates of depression are suicide have risen sharply, and while there are many contributing factors and I certainly don't blame phones entirely, I do believe if we were more connected to each other people would not feel so isolated and alone.

***It's not really the devices that are the problem -- it's the importance we place on them.***

I have noticed that it has become increasingly rare to have an uninterrupted, in-person interaction with any of my friends or family. I am often saddened when I am having a great, connecting conversation with a friend, and they choose to respond to a text message. I feel like a little girl again who doesn't rate high enough on the list of importance. We teach our children that it's not polite to interrupt a conversation, yet we habitually and dutifully respond immediately to our phones, even when having a face-to-face conversation with another.

Make no mistake; I am just as guilty as anyone else. I am addicted to my phone, and of all these offenses...but I am making an effort to break that addiction, little by little. I turn it off at night. I frequently leave it at home when I go for walks. I turn it to silent mode when I'm with friends more often, though I still catch myself reaching for it frequently. I'm working up to the idea of having an "off the grid" day, or half-day.

The inspiration for this article was an interview I heard recently by a celebrity who just got married and said that there were no cell phones allowed at his wedding. "People actually had to interact with each other" was his direct quote. I thought that was a brilliant idea, which could easily be utilized in many other situations.

I submit that we don't need to be attached to our devices at the

hip...and neither do our children! We have been so habituated to fear for our kids, and having to be seconds away from their voices at all times, lest some emergency takes place. Keep in mind, it rarely does. When I grew up most kids walked to school, and the office had your parent's home and work phones. If there was a problem, they called. If they didn't reach you, they took care of you until they reached you. It was just fine. I did get sick, and I was always cared for. I'm not saying we have to go back to those days, but we can leave our phones behind for an hour or two here and there and the world will not end. There is further evidence that children are missing important personal and social growth opportunities by being tethered to their phones and parents all the time. They are losing the ability to make decisions and problem-solve on their own, for they always have someone to check in with. Children have also lost the benefit of our undivided attention...they know full well when we are checking e-mails during breakfast or their soccer match, and it effects them. I submit this is not a small effect, but a deeply important one.

In closing, I am promoting a call to action. If you resonate with any of these thoughts, please join me in my pursuit of reconnection on a deeper level. Let's not let technology drive us farther apart as a species, but use it only when it serves our greater good. Here are my top 15 simple suggestions to break the addiction and regain charge of our devices. Let's start to create some new habits that bring us closer together again. Pick a few to try or make up your own.

1. Turn phones off when talking with friends or family (airplane mode - not vibrate)!
2. Turn phones off for all family meals!
3. Leave phones in the car when you go into a store, and say hello to people, striking up conversation when you can !
4. Turn off phones at least an hour before you go to sleep !
5. Turn off the notification sound on e-mail alerts!
6. Call a friend instead of texting !
7. Give your children the gift of your full attention more often!
8. Turn your phone off before you board a plane and see how many people you can talk to before take off!
9. Consider a day, or 1/2 day (or hour) off the grid (no internet/ phone/radio/television) at a regular interval (monthly, weekly)!
10. Throw a phone-free party (or wedding)!
11. Go for a walk and say hi to everyone you see (at first they will look surprised, but they will almost always reply - this is especially fun to try on teens!)
12. Hold out as long as you can before giving your kids a phone, and when you do, make it a dumb phone - no internet, games or texting!
13. Leave your phone at your house when you go to a movie or to dinner (make it a family retreat, so nobody has a phone - in an emergency there is always a bystander with one)!
14. Make a "quarter/dollar jar" that violators of your agreed upon rules must pay into, and use proceeds for phone-free family retreats!
15. BE WITH WHO YOU'RE WITH and practice savoring the present moment.

You get the idea...Now it's up to you to take the challenge! Be creative and do what works for you. Notice the world and the people around you, for they are truly a wonder. ★

*Katherine Lyons, D.C. is a local chiropractor based in Folsom, California, focussing on nutrition and a holistic approach to wellness.*



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By Mark J. Cimino, CEO CiminoCare

*“Until there’s a cure...hope and healing every day.”*

For those of you who are family caregivers, I would like you to know that there are many wonderful resources out there. For caregivers with loved ones specifically coping with Parkinson’s, a great organization is The Parkinson Association of Northern California (PANC), an all-volunteer organization dedicated to contributing to the lives of people with Parkinson’s, their families, and caregivers.

As we have shared many times now, one important way of coping with various health challenges is to get active in fighting back through wonderful community organizations. By doing so, you will not be just be a caregiver, but you can fight for others in the future, to make a better life for them.

Annual Conference

To that end, PANC is hosting its Annual Educational Conference in Sacramento on October 25, 2014 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5321 Date Ave., Sacramento, CA 95841. Join us for this important presentation featuring a number of medical

Parkinson’s Caregivers:  
I Have 3 Sets Of 2 Tickets  
To Give Away For An Event!

The tickets I have will be given away to the first 3 people that email me at mark@ciminocare.com.

and professional experts who will provide updates on many areas of interest for Parkinson’s disease patients, their families, and caregivers. There will also be a host of local resource providers and vendors to speak with. And for the fee of \$15, not only is this worth the information, but LUNCH IS INCLUDED as well. Therefore, to celebrate this great organization and their great event, we are giving away two free tickets each to the first 3 people who contact me.

Ongoing Support & Services

In addition, PANC provides the following activities and services to our community through their many dedicated and hardworking volunteers and financial supporters:

- Supports the search for prevention and cure
- Actively promotes community awareness
- Hosts over 30 support groups for people with Parkinson’s and their caregivers
- Presents a workshop for support group facilitators
- Presents an annual educational seminar—2013 had over 400 people attending!
- Publishes a quarterly newsletter, The Parkinson Path (formerly The Park Bench)
- Hosts Journal Club meetings
- Provides respite opportunities through Del Oro Caregiver Resource Center and Mountain Caregiver Resource Center
- Provide housing modification opportunities through Rebuilding Together Sacramento.

All of these activities are funded through the financial support of the community and through membership in PANC. Membership is available to anyone with an interest in Parkinson’s Disease and related conditions. Individual memberships of \$50 and corporate/business memberships of \$150 are based on a calendar year (Jan.-Dec.) and entitles members to one free admission to the annual seminar.

If you or someone you know is struggling with Parkinson’s, please join us and the effort for a better future.

Please contact me at mark@ciminocare.com for 2 free tickets!! You can also buy them from The Parkinson’s Association website at www.parkinsonsacramento.org, by calling them at (916) 534-7279, or emailing panc@parkinsonsacramento.org. PANC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization and thus donations may be tax deductible.

*Mark J. Cimino, is the Chief Executive Caregiver of CiminoCare, a Sacramento-based assisted living provider. Mark started in his caregiving profession at age six when he and his siblings would tag along as their mother visited her in home care clients. In addition to his job, Mark is actively involved in Rotary International. His interests include hiking and doing fun things with his three boys. Mark can be reached at mark@ciminocare.com*



By Kay Burton

Named Yoda when he was very young because his ears stood up like the character in the Stars Wars movies, Yoda is a black toy poodle. He is 7 years old and weighs about 10 lbs. Owner Zachary Bertsch tells us Yoda, even though he is so small, is a very good watch dog. He thinks he is way bigger than he is because he barks really loud when people come to the door or someone is in their back yard. He enjoys walking on the bike trail and is very friendly. He also loves chasing a tennis ball, but can’t hold on to it very long. He is great at stealing the family socks and playing with them. Yoda enjoys watching TV at night with his family and has to cuddle next to them.

The poodle is an active, intelligent, and elegant dog, squarely

Yoda, a Sweet Little Poodle

built, and well proportioned. The coat should be of naturally curly texture, dense throughout, although most AKC-registered show dogs have a lion-cut or other, summarily shaven look.

The poodle is believed to have originated in Germany. The breed was standardized in France where it was commonly used as a water retriever. Due to the breed’s popularity in France, it became established to its national breed.

The European mainland had known the poodle long before it had been brought to England. It was the principal pet dog of the late 18th century in Spain.

Some Toy Poodles can live up to 20 years if they have a healthy life and are not overweight. The oldest poodle that ever lived was Lady, who lived to be 28 years and 218 days old. She was born in 1908 and died on August 6, 1937. ★

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



Named Yoda when he was very young because his ears stood up like the character in the Stars Wars movies, Yoda is a black toy poodle. He is 7 years old and weighs about 10 lbs. The poodle is an active, intelligent, and elegant dog, squarely built, and well proportioned. The coat should be of naturally curly texture, dense throughout, although most AKC-registered show dogs have a lion-cut or other, summarily shaven look.

DMV Needs to Stop Robbing Taxpayers



By George Runner

If you recently purchased a car from a private party, you may have paid too much tax to the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

I’ve been hearing complaints from constituents that DMV charged them a higher city tax rate when they don’t actually live within city boundaries.

These constituents were forced to jump through hoops to prove they didn’t owe the higher tax. As their elected representative, I was happy to assist them in obtaining refunds, but DMV should have never overcharged them in the first place.

What’s worse is that these overcharges are not isolated incidents, but rather a systemic problem resulting from DMV’s bizarre reliance on zip codes to determine tax rates.

Sales and use tax rates vary widely across California and change over time. In addition to the statewide sales and use tax rate of 7.5 percent, many cities and counties add voter-approved local taxes. The result is some cities have sales tax rates as high as 10 percent. Unlike typical retail

transactions, the tax rate for a vehicle sale is based on the address provided to the DMV by the registered owner, not where the sale took place. If you buy your car at a dealership, the burden is on the car dealer to collect the tax. But in the case of a private party sale, DMV collects the tax when the buyer registers the vehicle.

We’re not talking pocket change here. Getting the tax rate wrong on a vehicle purchase could easily force a buyer to pay hundreds in unfair taxes. One might think DMV would take great care to calculate the correct rate. Not so.

DMV relies entirely on zip codes to determine tax. If even a small portion of a zip code’s territory has a higher tax rate, DMV typically charges everyone in that zip code the higher tax.

DMV admits zip codes are not a reliable way to determine tax. Even so, savvy buyers must fill out a “city use tax waiver” to avoid paying the higher tax. According to DMV procedures, to avoid being overcharged a resident or business in an unincorporated area must submit a statement of facts, a letter on city letterhead or a certificate of use tax clearance. This is outrageous!

To make matters worse, DMV routinely broadcasts tax rates by zip code in its “Vehicle Industry News” publication, potentially leading others to charge too much tax as well.

There’s really no excuse for this sort of incompetence in the 21st century, especially in a land of technology like California.

There is already a system in place that DMV could be using. To help combat sales tax rate confusion, at my urging last

year the Board of Equalization developed an extremely accurate tool for determining tax rates at specific locations. The Board’s online tax rate lookup tool, enables anyone, even DMV, to find the correct sales tax rate for a specific address.

If that’s too complicated for the dinosaurs at DMV, they could always use good old-fashioned street maps to determine where city boundaries start and end.

Confusion over sales tax rates is not unique to the DMV. My office has worked with restaurants, clothing retailers and other businesses located in split tax rate zip codes to ensure they are charging the correct amount of tax. What is unique to the DMV is their reluctance to fix the problem, despite an obvious solution.

It’s outrageous that the State of California expects private citizens to do things right that government is doing wrong.

In a recent letter to DMV Director Jean Shiimoto, I urged her to stop overcharging taxpayers and start using our sales tax look-up tool. My letter follows repeated attempts by my staff and other Board staff over the past year urging DMV to adopt the new tool.

DMV staff indicate a desire to fix the problem, but warns a solution could be years away. That’s entirely unacceptable.

Taxpayers should be able to trust their government and know they won’t be robbed when they step foot in a DMV office.

*George Runner represents more than nine million Californians as a taxpayer advocate and elected member of the State Board of Equalization. For more information, visit boe.ca.gov/Runner.* ★

Gem Faire Coming to Scottish Rite Center

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA** - Gem Faire, West Coast’s Premier Jewelry & Bead Show, will be in Sacramento from October 10th - 12th, 2014 at Scottish Rite Center (6151 H St., Sacramento). Hours are Friday, 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Admission is \$7, valid for the entire weekend.

Over 60 importers, exporters and wholesalers from around the world will be on site with

the largest selection of fine jewelry, costume jewelry, precious & semi-precious gemstones, beads, crystals, gold & silver, minerals, and much more at manufacturer’s prices. Other jewelry and beading essentials, including jewelry tools, displays and boxes will be available all under one roof. Jewelry repair, cleaning and ring sizing service is on hand while you shop. Enjoy displays & demonstrations by Sacramento Mineral Society. Be sure to enter a door

prize ballot for a chance to win cool items, with hourly drawings throughout the weekend.

Mark your calendar! Gem Faire will be in Sacramento for three days only! Buy quality gems, jewelry and beading supplies directly from the source right in your town only at Gem Faire. For more information, visit www.gemfaire.com or contact Gem Faire, Inc. at (503) 252-8300 or info@gemfaire.com. ★

*Source: Gem Faire, Inc.*

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By Gold River Resident, David Dickstein

**GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG)** - I get maudlin thinking about how different Halloween was for my boys growing up in Gold River compared to my childhood memories of All Hallows' Eve in another bedroom community in Orange County.

For one thing, I was actually able to trick-or-treat in my own neighborhood. Nearly every house in Rossmoor had its porch light on to welcome sugar-seeking ghosts, cowboys, princesses and superheroes. The rule, not the exception was one parent walked with the kids while the other stayed home to give out candy. Bear in mind, we're talking the late Baby Boomer generation here. How times have changed, at least in our village of Gold River. For our first GR Halloween 15 years ago, when the boys were 5 and 3, we scurried from Powell house to Powell house in a fruitless, make that candyless, effort. If not for two wonderful neighbors who asked my boys to swing by their house early, our little trick-or-treaters would have had a sugar-free night. I know, not a bad thing, but what kind of Halloween is that? The fact is only one small group of kids came by our house that first year. We shouldn't have been surprised; our boys were

# “Fool’s Gold” Halloween Memories from OC to GR

the only children living on our street at the time.

So we got wise the following year, and the years after that by steering clear of all Powell villages on Halloween, including our own, in favor of the promise of greener and sweeter pastures in Mother Lode and Carson Creek. Yeah, I see the raised eyebrows through this thin newspaper; going to neighborhoods other than your own is a violation of the trick-or-treating rulebook. Not sure if this helps my family's case, but we were invited by friends who live in those villages and we probably knew a third of the residents there anyway. We could never do what we know goes on in the more child-friendly villages of Gold River, with outsiders dropping off their kids and all their friends in droves.

I've heard complaints about this practice from people who live in Mother Lode, Carson Creek, Bret Harte, Gold Spike and other non-Powell villages that tend to attract more family homebuyers. I understand where they're coming from, but in some ways I feel envious that they live where the Halloween spirit is still alive. There's also another way to look at it. These outsiders want to trick-or-treat in a safe neighborhood and trust that the candy being mined out of Gold River is free of razor blades, pins and other dangerous materials. So, if anything, owners in said villages should feel good that they've been chosen to be the strangers giving candy to children.

But I digress. One more sad difference between the Halloween I had and what my boys experienced during their Wonder Years is since hardly any kids trick-or-treat in our Powell village, there was never any point to build a haunted garage as a family project. That's too bad because some of the best memories of my youth were scaring the neighborhood kids in a homemade labyrinth. One night every year I was the most popular kid in town thanks to cool parents, macabre pals and the fact that my house was always a polling place on election day. You see, the ballot booths provided by the county were 7-foot tall cardboard trifolds – perfect for creating mazes. Being a permanent absentee voter in a recycling world, I don't even know what Sacramento County uses for booths on election day, but I'll bet a fun-size Snickers that the polling place doesn't get to keep them.

Countless as my boys' fond memories of their Gold River childhood will be as they get older, it's a bummer that Halloween won't be among them because their parents bought in a village that becomes a ghost town every Oct. 31. Impervious to history, my wife and I will be ready for trick-or-treaters later this month. It will be our first Halloween as empty-nesters, so the sight of excited little ones will be more welcomed than usual. Even if they're not from Gold River.

## Film Review by David Dickstein

# IMAX’s *Jerusalem*: Safe, Yet Stunning



“Jerusalem” takes audiences inside the Old City like no other documentary before. Now playing at Esquire IMAX Theatre in Sacramento. Photo Credit: National Geographic Entertainment.

By David Dickstein

For a documentary about one of the world's most fought over pieces of land, *Jerusalem*, the latest 3-D eye candy being unspooled at Sacramento's Esquire IMAX Theatre, plays it perhaps too safe.

True, in order to get a solid return on investment, films made for giant screens must appeal to the masses in order to run for years, and let's face it – if Jerusalem were to adequately address the strife suffered by citizens due to the ancient city bordering Israel and Palestine, things could get ugly marketing-wise. A hummus-stuffed hot potato would kiss off school field trips, for one thing.

Obligated to at least make passing mention of the continual conflict that's gone on for centuries, the film, produced by National Geographic, doesn't completely shirk on that duty as it crams 5,000 years into 42 minutes. However, the narration by British actor Benedict Cumberbatch tackles war in only ancient historical context. There's no reference to any struggles beyond the biblical, and perhaps out of cost or desire to keep the 13-month-old film as evergreen, the latest uprising in Gaza that directly affects the day-to-day lives of three women followed in the film doesn't even merit a footnote.

Through this trio of young Jerusalemmites, each representing

the major religions that make up the fabric of the Old City, audiences get up-close and personal with local Jews, Christians and Muslims. We are invited to their homes and ceremonies, and each woman -- Farah Ammouri, a Muslim; Nadia Tadros, Greek Orthodox and Catholic; and Revital Zacharie, whose Judaism has roots in Tunisia and Poland – gives us a personalized tour of the quarter where their people dwell within the walls of a city less than 1 square kilometer in size.

As the young ladies share “their Jerusalem,” each admits to not knowing much about the others' cultures. Foreign is the thought of venturing outside their own district, and yet each expresses a longing for wider cultural awareness. That's a nice message, but once again, the film takes the safe route. The only time we see the three in a single shot, they're passing each other on a street, never laying eyes on each other. What a missed opportunity. How awesome it would have been for a tear-jerking final scene of Farah, Nadia and Revital sitting down over Turkish coffee in the heart of Jerusalem for a historical girls chat. Cue the crane shot, fade out.

Contrived as that happy ending might have been, it would be in keeping with the rest of the film. Like a TV reality show that isn't very real, the documentary looks less than genuine at times. Three years spent getting permission from various authorities

don't come without strings, so it would not be surprising if each source demanded it be presented in the best possible light. I'll bet my last shekel that while filming observances of Ramadan, Easter or Yom Kippur director Daniel Ferguson yelled “cut!” because someone didn't appear joyous or solemn enough. And while hearing from two archaeologists gives us a better understanding of Jerusalem's role as a crossroads of civilization, the dig serving as a backdrop looks curiously busy and eventful for the cameras. This isn't the first made-for-IMAX film to employ a bit of staging, by far.

Manufactured shots and political sanitation notwithstanding, Jerusalem is a visual and educational treat, taking us where other travelogues haven't – inside the iconic blue and gold Dome of the Rock, for instance. Whether we're exploring Jerusalem's landmarks, strolling through a crowded marketplace, observing religious festivities in the streets or soaring above the ancient city for a rare aerial view, this cinematic love letter is tremendously ambitious, doing justice to one of the most important and remarkable places on Earth.

*If you go: Jerusalem is expected to run through mid-2015 at Esquire IMAX Theatre, 1211 K Street, Sacramento. Times and ticket prices vary; call (916) 443-4629 or visit imax.com/oo/esquire-imax.*

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# California State Board of Equalization Announces New Appointments

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - California State Board of Equalization (BOE) Chairman Jerome E. Horton announced the Board made two appointments at its September 23, 2014 meeting in Sacramento. Mark Durham was named Manager of Research and Statistics and Jill O’Connell was appointed Chief of the Financial Management Division. The appointments are effective immediately.

“I’m happy to announce the appointment of these two highly qualified individuals,” Chairman Horton said. “Mark Durham and Jill O’Connell have distinguished themselves throughout their careers, and both bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the BOE. My fellow board members and I offer our congratulations to Mr. Durham and Ms. O’Connell and wish them the best in their new positions – we know they’ll do great.”

Mark Durham has served the State of California for 23 years. He worked as Deputy Chief of Operations at the Employment Development Department overseeing a \$65 million annual budget, personnel, policy, special programs, and data research for the Disability Insurance Branch. He has also held positions at the State Treasurer’s Office and the California Public Employees’ Retirement System. Mr. Durham helped implement the landmark Paid Family Leave legislation (SB 1661) in 2004. Mr. Durham

earned a Bachelor’s in Finance and a Masters in Business Administration from California State University, Sacramento. As the Research and Statistics Manager at the BOE, Mr. Durham reports directly to Legislative and Research Division Chief Michele Pielsticker. The Research and Statistics section provides economic and revenue forecasting and researches complex tax questions for legislative proposals and analyses, in addition to ensuring accurate projections and public accountability.

Jill O’Connell has served the State of California for more than 26 years and currently serves as the Fi\$CAL Customer Impact Committee Chair. She worked as Chief of Accounting at the Employment Development Department (EDD) for five years. Previously, she held positions at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) where she streamlined the administrative processes for the business information system.

As Chief of the Financial Management Division, Ms. O’Connell will serve as the BOE’s chief fiscal officer, overseeing budget development and preparation, and all of the BOE’s accounting functions. Ms. O’Connell reports directly to the Deputy Director of Administration Edna Murphy. ★

*Source: State Board of Equalization*



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