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Placer Sentinel

Volume 26 • Issue 15

Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

August 7, 2015

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DURING DROUGHT**



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MELON MANIA at Maple Rock Gardens



This year, Melon Mania has over 52 different varieties, including watermelons. Enjoy a day at Maple Rock Gardens and discover what a real melon should taste like.

LINCOLN, CA (MPG) - Come and join us on August 15th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for Melon Mania! Taste the many melons that have been growing at Maple Rock Gardens. Maple Rock Gardens is 30-acre estate garden containing multiple themed garden rooms, one of the largest garden railroads in Northern California, and almost four acres of bountiful farm lands.

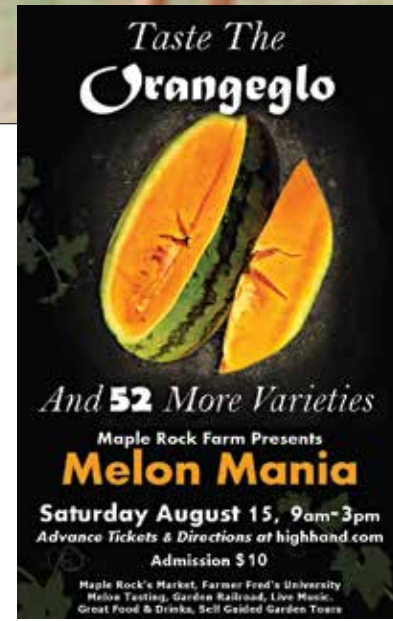
This year, Melon Mania has over 52 different varieties, including watermelons. Enjoy a day at Maple Rock Gardens and discover what a real melon should taste like.

The garden will be open for self-guided tours,

live music, great food and, of course, a lot of melons. Tickets cost \$10 and are available in advance at High Hand Nursery. To purchase, call (916) 652-2065 or at highhand.com.

To find the location, do not plug the address into a GPS. Maple Rock is located 100 Clark Tunnel Road at the corner of Highway 193 and Clark Tunnel Road, Lincoln. If you enter Maple Rock into a GPS, you will go the wrong direction and end up at a dead end. To see a map, visit highhand.com, go to "Explore High Hand," and click "Directions to High Hand."

Source: High Hand Nursery



Placer High School Reunion This Weekend

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Don't miss an all-alumni class reunion for Placer High School on August 7th, 8th, and 9th!

Weekend Events

- On Friday from 7 p.m. until midnight, there will be an Old Town Auburn Street Dance.
- On Saturday, High School tours will take place at 10 a.m. and noon—meet Bob Burge at the corner of High and Agard. Also on Saturday, the Main Reunion Event will take place at Gold Country Fairgrounds. Gates open at 2 p.m. and will run through 12 midnight. There will be music, a memorial wall, food trucks, service clubs, memorabilia, visiting with classmates, and professional photography.
- On Sunday, show up early for a pancake breakfast by the Lions Club. The breakfast is from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Sierra building. Tickets are \$6 in advance with only limited breakfast tickets available at the door. There will also be a presentation from the classes of 1930-1939. Concert performances on the stage in the Sierra Building while enjoying breakfast, including performances conducted by

Glenda Gonzalez, duo, trio, and acoustic small acts.

- On all days, you can view an art presentation by alumni. Running through August 15th, the showing will be at General Gomez Art and Event Center 808 Lincoln Way.

Tickets and Parking

Tickets can be purchased online, via mail, or at the high school cafeteria on August 7th from 10 a.m. through 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 per person for one or all three days. Kids under 12 are free. Tickets and memorabilia will be available for both pickup and purchase at the High School Cafeteria. Memorabilia and pre-ticket purchase at the Fairgrounds is Saturday, August 8th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Store hours during the festivities will be from Saturday, August 8th from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday, August 9th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fairgrounds parking (on the upper lot off of Sacramento Street) is available Friday night and Saturday for \$6. Please note there will not be a shuttle to Old Town Friday night. Parking lots will be available surrounding old town.

Source: Patti Bruun McClure



On Saturday, the Main Reunion Event will take place at Gold Country Fairgrounds. Photo courtesy of Patti Bruun McClure

Auburn Chamber Opposes Property Tax Increase

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - The Board of Directors of the Auburn Chamber of Commerce voted to oppose Senate Constitutional Amendment 5 (SCA 5), which would impose a multi-billion property tax increase on owners of commercial and industrial property and kill an estimated 100,000 Californian jobs per year. The California Chamber of Commerce has designated SCA 5 as a "job killer."

"California has consistently been named as one of the worst places to create jobs due to high taxes, workers' compensation, health insurance, litigation, and regulatory costs imposed by the California Legislature," said Kevin Hanley, CEO of the Auburn Chamber. "Now they want to disregard the constitutional protections of Proposition 13, which was passed by over 64% of voters in 1978, raise costs on small businesses, kill jobs, and lower wages at a time when the state government is rolling in money," said Hanley. Currently, California has a budget surplus of \$2 billion and an additional \$4.2 billion in budget reserves.

Proposition 13 sets a uniform 1% property tax rate and limits increases in assessed value to no more than 2% per year. Instead, SCA 5 proposes to, starting in 2018, charge owners of commercial and industrial property the current fair market value of the land each year rather than upon the sale of the property. Setting different property tax rates for residential as opposed to commercial and industrial property is sometimes referred to as "split roll."

A March 2012 report from Pepperdine University titled "An Analysis of Split Roll Property Tax Issues and Impacts," found that a proposal similar to SCA 5 would increase taxes by \$6 billion over five years, eliminate 390,000 jobs over that time, and eliminate over 100,000 per year after that. Voters defeated split roll ballot measures twice before—Proposition 8 in 1978, and Proposition 167 in 1992.

Hanley pointed out that many small businesses in Auburn are tenants and property owners, who would pass the new costs in higher rents. "If SCA 5 is enacted, small business owners in Auburn would be forced to raise prices, reduce their workforce, reduce employee benefits, or do all three. It's wrong to penalize hard-working people, who give, give, and give to feed a voracious government," said Hanley.

Source: Kevin Hanley

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Skatalites to Perform in the Center for the Arts



The Skatalites' music influenced groups such as The Police, The Clash, The Specials, The English Beat, Sublime, and No Doubt.

GRASS VALLEY, CA (MPG) - Jamaican ska pioneers The Skatalites—known for performing with Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, and Bunny Wailer in the 1960s—will bring their mix of ska, rocksteady, and reggae to the Grass Valley stage during a performance presented by the Center for the Arts on Wednesday, August 12th at 8 p.m.

At their first rehearsal in 1964, their music drew a crowd and a line formed outside the venue; the band ended up deciding to charge admission and let everyone in who waited. The band became legendary in their time, backing all the developing artists of the day like Toots and the Maytals and Prince Buster and the Wailing Wailers.

These groups were all recording the new beat called ska,

which had an infectious rhythm that was catching on like wildfire. Eventually, the beat slowed down into rocksteady, and then reggae. This wildfire spread unstoppably around the world, developing into a huge musical tree with many stylistic branches, including lovers' rock, dub, dancehall/reggae, ska-punk and others.

In the 1980s, the band reformed after an almost 20 year hiatus and began touring regularly in 1989. Since then, they haven't stopped thrilling audiences in every corner of the globe.

After 50 years and various lineup changes, the band continues to perform and record new music in the inimitable Jamaican style. The Skatalites' music influenced groups such as The Police, The Clash, The Specials,

The English Beat, Sublime, and No Doubt. The current lineup features the original alto sax man, Lester "Ska" Sterling, and vocalist Doreen Shaffer. They have reunited after playing in different bands and on various recording sessions.

This will be a dance concert with limited theater seating. The Center for the Arts is located at 314 W Main Street, Grass Valley 95945. Tickets cost \$20 for members and \$24 for non-members. To purchase, call the Center Box Office at (530)274-8384 ext. 14, call the BriarPatch Co-op Community Market at (530) 272-5333, or buy online at www.thecenterforthearts.org.

Source: Peter Wilson ★

Groundbreaking for "Tracey's Place of Hope"

Newest facility for Koinonia Homes for Teens to Treat Teen Substance Abuse

LOOMIS, CA (MPG) - NFL Hall of Famer and Raiders legend Fred Biletnikoff, several Oakland Raiders, and the Raiderettes joined the Biletnikoff Foundation to break ground on Koinonia Homes for Teens' latest residential facility in Loomis for teens battling substance abuse: Tracey's Place of Hope. The event on July 23rd included refreshments and music, a speaking program, the groundbreaking, partners in the fundraising process, and city and county officials.

"At Tracey's Place of Hope, we will restore the hope and dreams of these abused and exploited young ladies," said Bill Ryland, director of Koinonia Homes for Teens. "We are so grateful for the partnership between Koinonia and the Biletnikoff Foundation and look forward to empowering more young women to overcome substance abuse and associated violence."

The home is named in honor of Fred and Angela Biletnikoff's daughter, Tracey, who passed away due to substance abuse violence. Tracey's Place of Hope provides substance abuse and domestic violence treatment through its residential program, preparing teenage girls ages 14-18 to manage their recovery, and supporting their mental and emotional health issues. They also teach them the necessary skills to live independently. The



The home is named in honor of Fred and Angela Biletnikoff's daughter, Tracey, who passed away due to substance abuse violence. Photo courtesy of Kristin Thebaud

new Koinonia Homes for Teens facility will be more functionally supportive, with added sleeping quarters and communal space.

"It is rewarding to break ground on something that we have been working on for so long," said Angela Biletnikoff. "Tracey's Place of Hope is already a place of hope and recovery, but our efforts are to improve the overall functionality and condition of the home for the girls' safety. We're moving the chains, and it is amazing."

Over half a million dollars has been fundraised for this project with the help of the Biletnikoff Foundation donors, partners, and friends, along with a most recent donation of \$50,000 presented by Oakland Raiders owner Mark Davis.

The Biletnikoff Foundation is dedicated to supporting at-risk youth who are primarily from low-to-moderate income neighborhoods or backgrounds, particularly to the realities of drug and

alcohol addiction and domestic and gender violence. The foundation's mission is to commemorate Tracey Biletnikoff's life and her untimely death and to enable young people to realize their full potential through the support of community and education programs that effectively address the related problems of substance abuse and gender violence. For more information, visit www.biletnikoff.net.

Koinonia Homes for Teens, a division of Koinonia Family Services, has six homes located in Placer and Sacramento counties and a Community School and Treatment Center in Loomis. Koinonia is one of the premiere adolescent substance abuse treatment programs in the state. Each home is staffed with caring professionals that bring a home-like atmosphere and quality treatment during this difficult out-of-home placement. For more information or to make a donation, visit <http://teens.kfh.org>.

Source: Kristin Thebaud ★

Deputy Appointed to Handle Chronic Crime in North Auburn

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - The Placer County Sheriff's Office has appointed a deputy to deal with chronic crime problems in the north Auburn area.

Deputy Zach Poiesz was selected as the new problem-oriented policing (POP) deputy, which is a specialized position created last year to deal with a range of community problems and crime prevention. That includes dealing with homeless and transient-related issues that are prevalent in north Auburn.

Poiesz is a lifelong Placer County resident and has spent his entire career at the Placer County

Sheriff's Office. He has a diversified background, having worked in most every division, including seven years on the drug task force. Poiesz has worked closely with the homeless population in north Auburn for the past year. He will be addressing a wide variety of problems such as vandalism, trespassing, theft, and everyday nuisances that interfere with the community's quality of life.

Poiesz will partner with various agencies to problem-solve these issues. Those agencies include Placer County Facility Services, Placer County Code Enforcement, Planning Department and building inspectors, Cal Fire arson investigators and other fire departments, Children's Services, the District Attorney's Office, and Placer County Probation Department and State Parole agents. He will also work with PG&E, PCWA, Nevada Irrigation District, Auburn Recreation District, and business and homeowners' associations.

Deputy Poiesz will be personally providing the new Sheriff's Office business packets to businesses in north Auburn and the Bowman area.

Source: Dena Erwin ★



Deputy Zach Poiesz was selected as the new problem-oriented policing (POP) deputy, which is a specialized position created last year to deal with a range of community problems and crime prevention.



Bill Ryland, director of Koinonia Homes for Teens, claps as funding partners break ground on Tracey's Place of Hope, a new substance abuse treatment home for teens. Photo courtesy of Kristin Thebaud

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Clay Sigg Announces Candidacy for State Assembly in 6th District

Assemblywoman Beth Gaines to Co-Chair Campaign

ROCKLIN, CA (MPG) - Republican Clay Sigg announced his candidacy for the 6th Assembly District, currently represented by Assemblywoman Beth Gaines, who will serve as co-chair of Sigg's campaign.

"I want to take my 40 years of experience in small business to the State Capitol and fight for common-sense policies that will attract jobs back to California; improve our roads, schools, and water storage projects; and protect taxpayers and private property rights," said Sigg. "I am honored that Assemblywoman Beth Gaines will be serving as Co-Chair of my campaign."

Assemblywoman Beth Gaines currently represents the 6th

district, but cannot run for reelection due to term limits. "Clay Sigg has the experience, ability, and conservative credentials the families of our district need. I am proud to be able to Co-Chair his campaign," Gaines said. "The California that I knew growing up was a place where small businesses thrived, jobs were plentiful, and dreams came true. We had a robust economy and a thriving middle class. Sadly, things are changing and not for the better."

Sigg pointed to recent studies that found California's businesses face the third-highest state and local business tax burdens in America.

"Our housing and fuel costs

are the highest in the nation. Our schools and roads are among the lowest ranked. It's not a surprise that some families are pulling up stakes and leaving California. That's why I'm running for the State Assembly."

Clay Sigg is a past president of the Sacramento Association of REALTORS. He has been a California Association of REALTORS state director since 1986. Clay and his wife Sandra live in Granite Bay. They are proud of their three children—Nicole, Julia and Anthony—and their three grandchildren.

Source: Clay Sigg for Assembly ★

Placer SPCA Unveils New Adoption Center Plans



An architectural rendering of the new Placer SPCA facility. Photo courtesy of Placer SPCA

ROSEVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Placer SPCA has officially unveiled plans for its new state-of-the-art facility in Roseville. In July, the Roseville City Council voted unanimously to partner with the Placer SPCA on the highly anticipated Animal Care and Adoption Center.

The future home of the Placer SPCA will be on 99 Yosemite Street in Roseville and will provide animals with state-of-the-art care in a home-like atmosphere. Placer SPCA has already received \$3.3 million in private donations—along with a \$7.6 million investment from the City—toward the \$12.1 million project. Intake and medical care for the Placer SPCA will remain at the Corporation Yard site until an additional approximately \$8 million is raised for the future phase to move all functions to the new Yosemite site. The two-acre facility will eventually entirely replace the SPCA's existing 50-year-old, 10,000-square-foot site and will serve Placer County animals and residents for years to come.

The milestone celebration included presentations by Placer SPCA and City of Roseville dignitaries, viewings of architectural renderings and facility models, a donor thermometer, and the official unveiling of the Placer SPCA project sign. Featured speakers included Leilani Fratis, Placer SPCA Chief Executive Officer; Mike Shellito, Placer SPCA Board President; and Rob Jensen, City of Roseville Acting City Manager.

David and Dolly Fiddymant are honorary co-chairs of the Capital Campaign and provided a lead gift to the project. In a statement, the Fiddymant family said, "The new Placer SPCA facility will be so much more than an animal shelter. It will be a landmark and a gathering place for the entire community. Through animal adoption and the many programs offered by the Placer SPCA, children will learn the character-building skills of compassion, responsibility, and commitment."

Through the gift of a generous bequest, the current Corporation Yard Placer SPCA Companion Animal Center in Roseville opened in 1995, and was expanded a few years later thanks to another legacy gift. However, the center is becoming too small for the needs of the community, and its design limits the efficiency of the center.

"A well-designed facility allows maximum efficiencies for maintaining animal health and wellbeing, while providing the flexibility needed to expand programming for future needs," said a spokesperson for the SPCA. "In the last decade, Placer County has experienced unprecedented growth in the number of its residents. However, the Placer SPCA's current facilities

cannot grow in similar proportion to meet the increased need for companion animal services."

The Placer SPCA is independently operated and funded and does not receive donations from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) or the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Working closely with the community, the SPCA provides adoption counseling, spay/neuter assistance and education, pet lost and found, pet classes and workshops, humane education, and collaborative rescue efforts.

Placer SPCA still needs to raise \$1 million to be able to break ground on Phase I of the project. To donate online, visit placer-sPCA.org/donate.

Source: Linsey Momet and Placer SPCA ★



Colin Grahl and Karen Hauber-Grahl, campaign co-chairs. Also pictured: Leilani Fratis, Placer SPCA CEO. Photo courtesy of Placer SPCA



Board members, Capital Campaign committee members, City officials, and the Placer SPCA CEO unveil the Future Home of the Placer SPCA sign. Photo courtesy of Placer SPCA

Recycling Program Moves Forward

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Placer County Board of Supervisors approved an agreement July 21st with SCS Engineers to develop a commercial organics recycling program for eastern Placer County.

The goal of the program is to recycle organic waste generated by businesses and multi-family residential dwellings, ultimately helping California progress toward recycling and greenhouse gas emission goals. The program will also help the county comply with Assembly Bill 1826, which requires local jurisdictions throughout the state to implement a commercial organic waste recycling program by January 1st, 2016.

"Placer County continues to be a model for recycling in the state, and this new organics program is the next step toward decreasing the

amount of landfilled waste and improving sustainability," said Kevin Bell, Placer County environmental engineering program manager.

Organic waste consists of two different kinds: green waste, which includes grass clippings, leaves, brush and trees; and food waste.

Currently, eastern Placer County recycles green waste but does not have a program specifically for food waste. The county, in cooperation with Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal, completed a food waste recycling pilot study with Tahoe-area businesses earlier in 2015. SCS Engineers will use the pilot study data to help develop a comprehensive program for all-organics recycling, including improved composting of green waste.

Source: County of Placer ★

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Keep Trees Watered During Drought

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Local Government Commission has partnered with California ReLeaf, Save Our Water, and a coalition of urban forest and other concerned organizations to raise awareness about the importance of proper tree care during this historic drought.

"Cities are taking critical steps to reduce their water use, but these measures need to be implemented with consideration of important community resources. For example, if we're encouraging residents to let their lawns die, we also need to provide information about how to keep trees alive," said Kate Meis, executive director of the Local Government Commission.

With potentially millions of urban trees at risk, this campaign focuses on a simple, yet urgent message: save our water and our trees! The Save Our Water and Our Trees partnership is highlighting tips for both residents and agencies on how to water and care for trees so that they not only survive the drought, but thrive to provide shade, beauty, and habitat; clean the air and water; and make our cities and towns healthier and more livable for decades to come.

Save Our Water is California's official statewide conservation education program. California ReLeaf, a statewide urban forest nonprofit, provides support and services to more than 90 community nonprofits that plant and care for trees.

"While Californians cut back on water use during the drought, it is critical to community health to save our

lawn trees by setting up alternative watering systems once you turn off the regular sprinklers," said Cindy Blain, executive director of California ReLeaf.

"Watering trees to keep them alive during drought doesn't waste water. It is a prudent use of our limited resources to preserve an important community investment. Trees provide multiple benefits for the economy, the environment, public health, and general wellbeing," Meis said. "Urban trees require little water and minimal care, but they provide a significant return on investment."

Lawn trees can and must be saved during the drought. What you can do:

1. Deeply and slowly water mature trees one to two times per month with a simple soaker hose or drip system toward the edge of the tree canopy - NOT at the base of the tree. Use a hose faucet timer (found at hardware stores) to prevent overwatering.
2. Young trees need five gallons of water two to four times per week. Create a small watering basin with a berm of dirt.
3. Shower with a bucket and use that water for your trees (as long as it is free of non-biodegradable soaps or shampoos).
4. Do not over-prune trees during drought. Too much pruning and drought both stress your trees.
5. Mulch, mulch, MULCH! Providing four to six inches of mulch around a tree helps retain moisture, reducing water needs and protecting your trees.

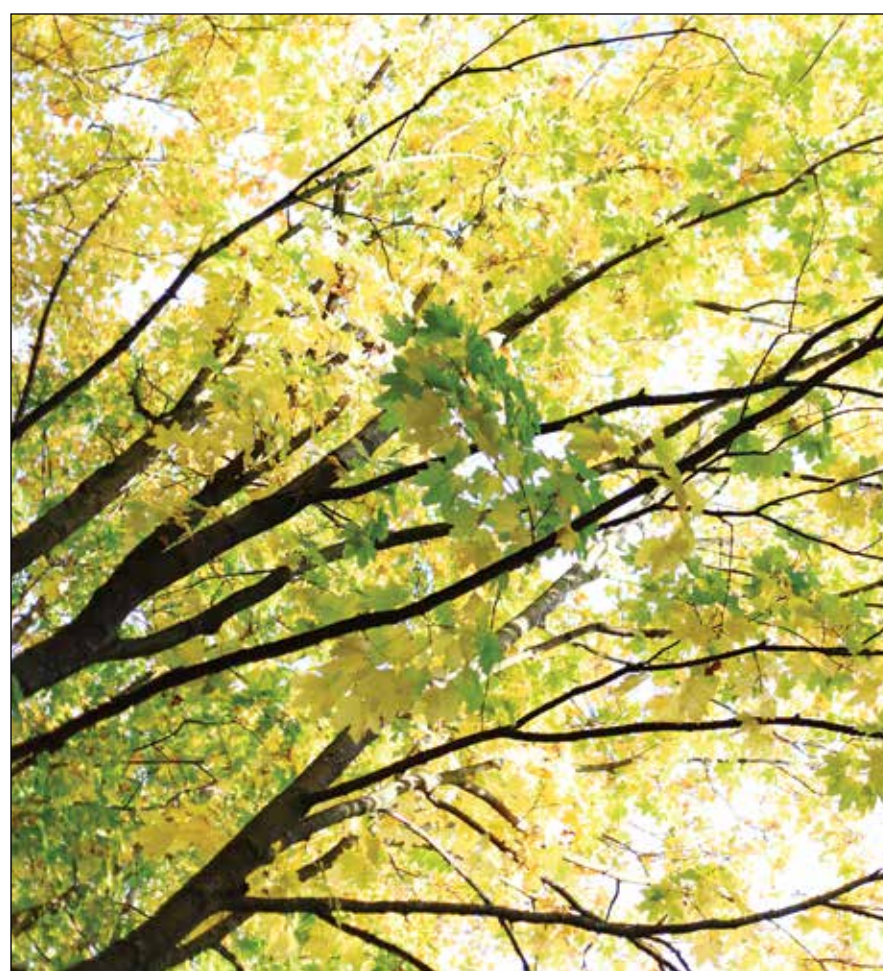
Trees in irrigated landscapes become dependent on regular watering and when watering is reduced—and especially when it's stopped completely—trees will die. Tree loss is a very costly problem, not only because of expensive tree removal, but because of the loss of all the benefits trees provide such as cooling and cleaning the air and water, shading homes, walkways and recreation areas, and human health impacts.

"This summer, it is vital that Californians limit outdoor water use while preserving trees and other important landscaping," said Jennifer Persike, deputy executive director of external affairs and operations for the Association of California Water Agencies. "Save Our Water is urging Californians to 'Let It Go Gold' this summer, but don't forget to keep your trees healthy."

"Squandering our community's investment by letting our urban trees die will have immediate and lasting consequences," Meis said. "As we make important decisions about where to cut water use, we must consider these long-term consequences."

Save Our Water has been urging Californians to "Let It Go" this summer by limiting outdoor water use and letting lawns fade to gold while preserving precious water resources for trees and other important landscapes.

"To save our water and our trees, it will take all of us working together—state agencies, local governments, residents and community groups—to ensure immediate drought relief



The Save Our Water and Our Trees partnership is highlighting tips for both residents and agencies on how to water and care for trees so that they not only survive the drought, but thrive to provide shade, beauty, and habitat; clean the air and water; and make our cities and towns healthier and more livable for decades to come.

and long-term drought resilience," said Danielle Dolan, who manages the LGC's water programs.

Save Our Water's website is available in both English and Spanish and is filled with tips, tools, and inspiration to help every Californian find new and creative ways to conserve. From tips

on how to keep trees healthy during the drought, to an interactive section allowing users to visually explore how they can save water both inside and outside the home, Save Our Water has a wealth of resources available for Californians.

Source: Kate Meis, Local Government Commission ★

Drones Continue to Menace Firefighting Efforts Around the State

Senator Gaines Adds New Protections for Emergency Responders from Drone Threat

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Responding to continued drone interference in fighting wildfires, Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado) has announced plans to introduce legislation to help protect emergency responders engaged in their life-saving work. Senate Bill 168, co-authored by Assemblyman Mike Gatto (D-Glendale), grants immunity to any emergency responder who damages an unmanned aircraft in the course of firefighting, air ambulance, or

search-and-rescue operations. "This is maddening and I can't believe that hobby drones are risking people's lives to get videos on YouTube. Just this weekend in the North Fire, cars were torched on the freeways because drones made aerial firefighting efforts impossible. This bill will help make sure the skies are clear of drones and that the brave men and women fighting these fires can do their job of protecting the public without worrying about frivolous lawsuits," said Gaines.

"Drone operators are risking lives when they fly over an emergency situation. Just because you have access to an expensive toy that can fly in a dangerous area doesn't mean you should do it," said Assemblyman Gatto, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Privacy and Consumer Protection. "The legislature needs to act swiftly to make sure we send a signal that our society won't put up with this nonsense after seeing drone operators once again interrupt firefighting

efforts in the Cajon Pass." Gaines and Gatto are also teaming up on Senate Bill 167, which increases fines and introduces the possibility of jail time for drone use that interferes with firefighting efforts. That legislation stems from additional, alarming reports of private, unauthorized drones causing mission-critical tanker aircraft to be grounded during firefighting operations, putting pilots, firefighters, civilians, and property at unnecessary risk. Senate Bill 168 is a companion to that effort.

Senate Bill 168 is intended to indemnify emergency personnel in the event that their efforts damage an unmanned aircraft. It is the authors' hope

and intent that the advent of effective "jamming" technology could keep drones away from emergency response areas and flight paths, and that warnings and public education efforts could ensure that the safest, least-damaging methods for avoiding or disabling unauthorized drones will be the primary methods used in these crises.

Gaines believes drones hold great promise for wildfire suppression and other emergency services when used properly by the responding agencies, but does not want rogue drones to interfere with the most effective response to time-sensitive crises.

"Private drones don't belong around these emergencies. That is the first message I want to

get out," said Senator Gaines. "But if one gets damaged or destroyed because it's in the way, then that can't lead to financial penalty for the people trying to save lives and property. It's unfortunate, but that's all it is. People can replace drones, but we can't replace a life. When our rescuers are risking their own lives to protect us, I want them thinking about safety, not liability."

Senator Ted Gaines represents the 1st Senate District, which includes all or parts of Alpine, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Shasta, Sierra, and Siskiyou counties. ★

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POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

Russia, Almost

Almost, but not quite. Have you ever felt like the world melted away and you were transported into a land far, far away? That's exactly how I felt as we left port in Seattle and set sail for Alaska aboard Oceania's Regatta. It is a land like no other with fabulous scenic views of glorious forests as far as the eye can see. What an amazing state to explore. It was a fun stop at the Lumberjack Show in Ketchikan and the stately totem poles at Wrangell. These were tiny fishing ports and you got the flavor of what life is really like for the hearty people who choose to live there. By the way, they love it and would never leave.

But I have to admit it was fun getting back to the ship with all the pampering as we sailed the high seas. With 77 chefs to feed just 686 passengers, we were fed morning, noon, and night by a crew that hailed from 40 countries. High Tea was served in the afternoon with goodies and pastries as we were entertained by a String Quartet from the Ukraine. Way too extravagant, but truly lovely... The food was absolutely incredible with lobster and crab and...well, you name it, we ate it—including hot dogs and hamburgers and malts in the



Could not resist the hunks at the Lumberjack Show in Ketchikan. Photo by Erick Sprunger

soda shop. Oi...what a spread. And there was entertainment each night with singing, dancing, and magic too.

The piece de resistance was seeing the Tracy Fjord and Sawyer Glacier with the most dazzling blue ice that shimmered in the sunlight. The captain got us up close and personal with the glacier and kudos to Captain Meinhardt Hansen—it's no easy feat with the icebergs floating so close you think you can touch them. He even sent out a rescue boat to gather ice from the glacier so we could actually touch it. Then add the wonders of animal life from sea otters by the hundreds, perhaps thousands, on the ice to orcas that went by in pods to the majestic bald eagles.

And what a thrill to get to visit the bridge of the Regatta; I had a super conversation with

the captain that I used on my POPPOFF Radio Show. And what a sight as we pulled out of port at Prince Rupert—would you believe the captain actually let me blast the ship's horn as we left the dock, signaling all other ships we were setting sail? I was like a kid in a candy shop. This was the same horn that was sounded every few minutes, just days before, as we traversed a heavy fog. I could almost hear Celine Dion singing "My Heart Will Go On." I lived the dream of looking over the bow as we set sail for our home port of Seattle, safe and sound, with sights I will never forget.

I had to share my voyage with you. If you ever have the opportunity to visit Alaska, do it. You can't imagine the vast open spaces yet to be explored! Our 50th State is a sight to behold. ★



Shimmering blue ice at Sawyer Glacier. Photo by Erick Sprunger

Is Obama to Blame for Weak Economic Growth?

Commentary by Dr. Mark Hendrickson

A political science colleague sent me an article documenting President Obama's dismal economic record, and he asked me for added details and perspective. Here goes:

True, economic growth under Obama has been sluggish, fitful, faltering, historically weak, etc. However, if you look at the charts in the article—especially the second and third—you can see that U.S. economic growth has been trending downward for several decades. Conclusion: Our economic woes did not begin with Barack Obama. However, he has done nothing to reverse the trend; on the contrary, he has doubled down on the very policies that have hampered economic growth.

The headwinds opposing economic growth are generated by what Ronald Reagan referred to as "the government disease." No president has advocated, championed, and imposed more harmful government intervention than Barack Obama.

Here's a short list of those interventions:

1.) Government spending. Economists as far back as Adam Smith have noted that the true burden of government is what it spends, not what it taxes. When political decisions about where to allocate scarce economic resources supplant market decisions, production inevitably is diverted from the most highly valued needs to less valued things. Thus, less wealth is produced, economic growth is suboptimal, and the people are poorer than they otherwise would be.

While not having increased federal spending by as large a percentage as his predecessor, Obama undeniably has presided over more market-distorting government spending than any of his predecessors. To be fair, some of this spending was already baked into the cake—particularly the rising spending on Social Security and Medicare. Because federal entitlements operate on a

"pay as you go" basis, these increasing expenditures to seniors do not consist of real economic returns on capital invested. Instead they transfer hundreds of billions of dollars from current workers to mostly retirees. Entitlement expenditures artificially inflate GDP and overstate the real wealth of the country, because those dollars represent purchasing power that does not arise from the production of actual goods or services.

2.) Rising debt. The greater the debt load, the more present income is diverted from present consumption to pay for past consumption. After a brief downturn following the 2008-9 financial crisis, total debt has risen by over 15 percent to a shade over \$59 trillion, according to the Federal Reserve. Over half of the \$7.35 trillion increased (some \$4.84 trillion) is government debt stemming from Obama's budgets.

Obama's policy of encouraging and facilitating loans to college students has seen student debt soar to over \$1 trillion with devastating economic consequences for the recipients. Young graduates struggling under the burden of debt have delayed marriage, child bearing, home buying, etc. In too many cases, college debt has stunted young American lives.

3.) Suffocating regulation. The Obama administration has burdened Americans with a record amount of federal regulation as measured by the number of new rules promulgated and pages in the Federal Register. The annual cost of the federal regulatory burden is now approximately \$1.9 trillion (only nine countries' GDPs are larger). As reported in Investor's Business Daily, "the cost of enforcing federal economic regulations is ... up 31 percent since Obama took office, and the 'Code of Federal Regulations' is 17,294 pages longer."

Furthermore, as noted by Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, the

Sarbanes-Oxley law (which Obama inherited, but has not revised) and Dodd-Frank (which a Democratic Congress passed in 2010 with Obama's approval) have "placed significant burdens on the large number of small companies." Consequently, we are in the unusual and worrisome situation of businesses closing at a faster rate than they are opening, thereby shrinking employment opportunities and slowing economic growth.

4.) Tax policy. Business tax rates have remained unchanged under Obama, and that has had negative consequences in a world that has been shifting toward lower corporate profit taxes. By allowing the United States to have the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world, American businesses are migrating abroad via the corporate inversion maneuver.

5.) The war on work. While constantly professing concern for workers, Obama has consistently supported and implemented policies—ranging from a higher minimum wage to federal jobs programs to anti-business policies—that have shrunk the number of jobs (see the Labor Force Participation Rate). Obama's prize legislative achievement, the Affordable Care Act, has shrunk the number of hours worked (and consequently the amount of wealth created) by incentivizing employers to reduce the number of full-time jobs. According to David Stockman, the United States has two million fewer full-time workers now than it did in 2007.

Bottom line: President Obama's policies have crippled the American economy.

--Dr. Mark W. Hendrickson is an adjunct faculty member, economist, and fellow for economic and social policy with The Center for Vision & Values at Grove City College. Editor's note: This article first appeared at Forbes.com. ★

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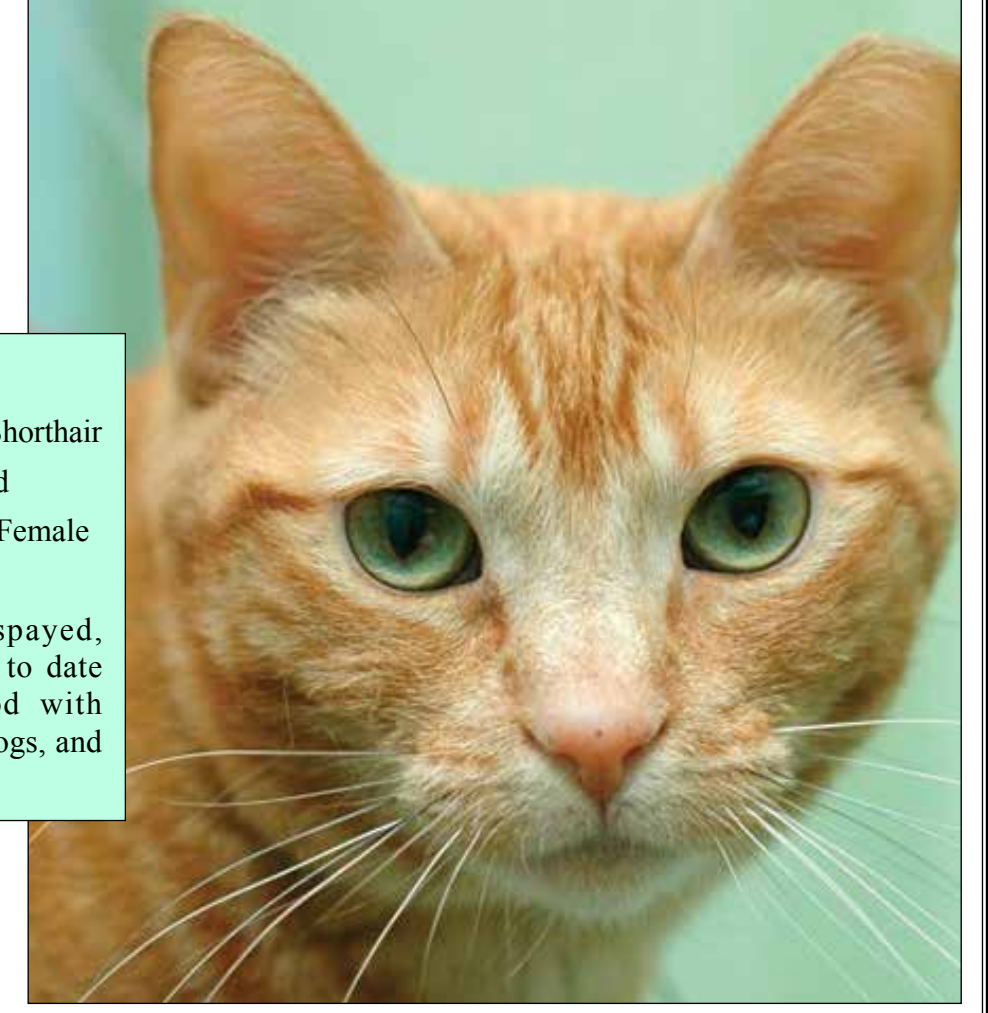
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AUBURN, CA (MPG) - The kitty of the week is Sugar, an adorable, two year old shorthair orange tabby with long white whiskers and mesmerizing green eyes. She was abandoned as a kitten and was found feeding in a feral colony. Her rescuer had her spayed and fostered her for over a year before bringing her to Friends Forever. Sugar enjoys people and rolls over onto her back for her belly to be rubbed. She gets along with other cats and cat-friendly dogs.



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Source: FFACS

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AUGUST 22 - SEPTEMBER 28, 2015

Horse Image Courtesy of J Randall Smith

Photo courtesy of David Burns

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Equus runs from August 21st through September 28th at the General Gomez Arts and Events Center on 808 Lincoln Way in Auburn. An opening reception will be held on Friday, August 21st from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will include live music, food, and beverages.

General Gomez Life Gallery pays homage to Placer County's rich equestrian heritage and the 60th annual Western States Trail Foundation's Tevis Cup. The Tevis Cup is the world's best-known and most difficult equestrian endurance ride—a one-day,

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The show is open to all artists. Artists are invited to submit their original work for inclusion in this juried show. All media—both 2D and 3D—are acceptable for submission. A "Best of Show" cash award of \$300 will be given. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday, August 12th. For more information, visit www.generalgomez.com.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 9 ATSEA SAC BABA PEALS IRE ALLOW TENET TEL TUMOR DEGREE LIBRARY YAK ROVE CRT LICE ESPIAL HARP NOVA TITLE ADAR GLOBE SAGA LIPID AKIN ALAR KISMET ETNA YEN WOOD USA TUITION LISTEN SNORE ICY EBOOK ACTOR CAR RANGE ROAD EWE TYSON

American Consumers Need Better Protection

Understanding fraud prevention technologies



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

FAMILY FEATURES

Data theft has become an issue that affects the lives of nearly everyone in the United States. At least six bills active in Congress this year aim to help mitigate problems with data security standards and practices. Yet, legislation is not necessary to take an immediate and giant leap forward toward better data security. Consumer credit card transactions should be much more secure — and could be today — but it continues to unnecessarily lag behind the rest of the world.

In October 2014, President Obama issued an Executive Order calling for all government-issued payment cards to be equipped with chip and PIN technology — the most secure payment system available today. Chip and PIN is the preferred security all over the world as it is used in most of Europe and Australia, as well as many parts of Africa and South America.

However, the big banks that issue major cards, credit unions and other financial institutions have not taken similar steps to protect their customers. Instead, they are replacing existing magnetic stripe cards with microchip-equipped cards that still rely on unsecure signatures as a form of verification.

“While it’s a small step in the right direction, they are consciously failing to protect their customers by not offering all of the available security measures. The PIN is a necessary element of the equation to protect consumers,” said Debra Berlyn, leader of ProtectMyData, a consumer education campaign advocating for the implementation of chip and PIN technology for credit and debit cards. “The PIN requirement adds a distinct layer of security and complexity to each transaction that dramatically reduces fraud.”

Financial information stored on existing payment cards’ magnetic stripes can be easily cloned and used to make counterfeit cards. What’s more, the signatures can be easily forged and are rarely ever used to verify the identity of someone making a transaction.

Chip and PIN cards are considerably more secure. First, an embedded microchip encrypts each transaction at point of sale and then requires a unique four-digit code to be entered to complete the transaction, similar to withdrawing money from the ATM. The microchip coupled with the PIN make tampering and counterfeiting the cards, along with stealing personal financial data, nearly impossible.

The combination of chip and PIN clearly provides American consumers the security they deserve. Now, it’s time for the banks and credit card companies to issue cards outfitted with this technology.

To learn more about efforts underway to help secure your everyday transactions, visit

CHIP AND PIN BEST PROTECTS CONSUMERS



CHIP AND PIN WORKS

In-store fraud declined in countries that use chip and PIN technology.



HOW IT WORKS

Chip and PIN cards provide **two layers of security**. The cards contain a small microchip that encrypts each transaction at the point-of-sale and then requires a PIN number to validate and complete the transaction.



Get the Facts

MYTH: Current payment security measures are keeping consumers safe.

FACT: Not really. Card fraud is still a major issue that affects millions of Americans each year. The United States accounted for 47 percent of worldwide card fraud losses according to recent reports.

MYTH: The United States is a global leader in credit card security, using the most secure and cutting-edge technology available.

FACT: The United States is lagging behind. In fact, the United States is the last G-20 nation to issue chip-equipped cards. U.S. banks and credit card companies have been slow to provide consumers with chip and PIN protections that are commonplace around the world.

MYTH: Chip-equipped cards without PIN requirements provide sufficient security.

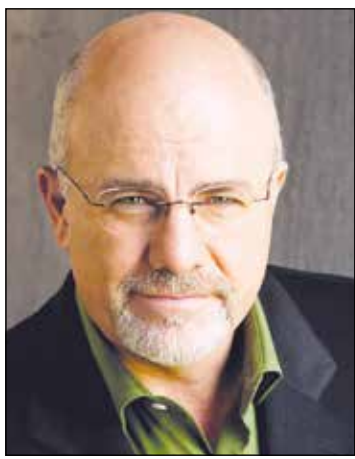
FACT: Chip-equipped cards that rely on signature validation and not PIN technology do not fully protect consumers. Only the chip and PIN combination offers a two-step verification process that is nearly impossible to clone.

MYTH: Consumers are moving away from credit cards.

FACT: While payment alternatives like ApplePay and other mobile options are slowly entering the market, nearly three-quarters of all Americans had at least one credit card in 2014. Moreover, not every American consumer has the means to use more sophisticated mobile payment options and others — particularly consumers with more modest means — rely on paying with credit at times.

MYTH: The implementation of chip and PIN will drive hackers online, rendering in-store protections like PINs or signatures less important.

FACT: Brick and mortar stores remain a bedrock component of the American economy and the retail industry. Most Americans still rely on offline shopping for the majority of their retail purchases.



Dave Says

taxes on \$60,000. If you didn't have that, you'd end up paying \$1,250 in taxes. In other words, you'd be spending \$25,000 over five years to save \$1,250 a year on taxes. That's a trade I don't think you want to make.

Remember, too, that you basically destroy whatever you drive. You have to think of your vehicle as overhead. So, you're going to destroy a \$25,000 van or a \$5,000 van all in the same period of time. As a businessman, which would you rather destroy? The answer is whatever is the least expensive and gets the job done!

—Dave

Don't need those cards

Dear Dave,

I have two credit cards. One charges me an annual fee of \$79 and the other a fee of \$39. Should I cancel these and not worry about my credit score? I'd like to buy a house in the next two or three years.

Ken

Dear Ken,

In my mind, there's no such thing as a good credit card. My advice is to go ahead and cancel them.

When you stop borrowing

money and don't have any open accounts, your credit score will slowly disappear. The big thing is that you don't want to be caught in no-man's land in terms of a credit score. You want either a fabulous one, which means you're in debt all of the time, or you want no score because you don't have any open accounts.

By the way, did you know that you can still qualify for a mortgage, even with no credit score? There are still mortgage companies out there that will do manual underwriting. It takes a little extra effort, but in my mind that's a small price to pay.

Cancel the cards, Ken. I've never met a millionaire who prospered thanks to credit cards and their gimmicks!

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business. He has authored five New York Times best-selling books: Financial Peace, More Than Enough, The Total Money Makeover, 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.

Game Plots

Nintendo Shifts its Strategies

By Noah Howard

Nintendo has been a driving force in video games since the release of the Nintendo Entertainment System in 1983. For three decades, Nintendo has enchanted gamers with light-hearted, creative, genre-defining games that have earned millions of loyal fans. But right now, the multi-billion dollar corporation seems at a turning point, trying to figure out how to adapt to a quickly changing industry without losing its creative identity.

The problems started with the Wii U, a console released in 2012 that centered on the idea of a second screen as a controller. It seemed too gimmicky to hardcore gamers and too inaccessible for casual gamers. Though the concept of a two-screen experience has arguably lived up to Nintendo's promises, the idea wasn't nearly as revolutionary as was hoped. Wii U sales flopped and continue to flop as sparse store shelves sport the occasional excellent Nintendo-made exclusive interspersed by almost nothing in the realm of third-party support.

That's a shame, because Nintendo's first-party titles are some of the best to come out of this console generation. Though the volume of games on the Playstation 4 and Xbox One is higher (although still relatively low), few games released for those systems come close



in quality to Wii U titles like Bayonetta 2 or Super Smash Bros. Nintendo stuck close to its strategy: create fun, original games, and the sales will come. One problem: the sales didn't come.

Nintendo's recent announcement of a shift to mobile is an indication that it's reevaluating its strategy. The handheld Nintendo 3DS console is selling incredibly well in both systems and games, despite the fact that Wii U and 3DS games seem to be cut from the same fun-centric fabric. Nintendo knows that the games it makes do well on the go, so the decision to use Nintendo characters and intellectual properties in titles for phones and tablets seems like a natural evolution. Despite protests that this change could shift focus away from Nintendo's dedicated fans, this was an important business decision that President Satoru Iwata had to make.

Sadly, it would be one of the last big decisions ever to come from Mr. Iwata, who passed away on July 11th at the age of 55. Iwata was a beloved figure in gaming: charismatic, fun, quirky, dedicated, and constantly optimistic. The experienced

creative mind and long-time president led Nintendo through some of its darkest and brightest moments. Unfortunately, he left Nintendo at a crucial time with many unanswered questions, including who his successor will be.

One notable unanswered question concerns the NX, Nintendo's still-in-development console that's being kept a close secret. It has teased that it will be revolutionary, that it will change how we think of gaming hardware, but nothing more. The announcement that a new console is in the works seems to be a white flag for the Wii U, a failed console with enormous unspent potential that tapered off just a few years after release.

Nintendo seems insistent on supporting its motto of fun that it has sported since the eighties. But Nintendo has been slow to adapt to a changing market and now must face its failures, challenges, and tragedies head-on if it plans to increase its relevance in the gaming world.

To respond to Noah's articles email him at digitalartsnoah@yahoo.com

Appreciate depreciation

Dear Dave,

I'm self-employed, and I travel about 30,000 miles a year in my van. I'm three payments away from having the vehicle paid off, but it has 170,000 miles on it. Do you think it would be a good idea for me to buy a new van and have the tax advantages that would go along with it?

Doug

Dear Doug,

There are two things you can do on taxes when it comes to your automobiles. You can straight line depreciate them, which is what you do with expensive vehicles, or you can write off the mileage. That's a good idea if you drive a lot. The thing is, you get the mileage whether you have debt or not.

Let's say you bought a \$25,000 van. If you depreciate that over five years, that's \$5,000 a year. If you made \$65,000, and take \$5,000 from that, you'd pay



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 - Slavic monarch
 - Paparazzo's quest
 - India's smallest state
 - Haul with a tackle
 - Raja's wife, pl.
 - Address abbreviation
 - *Bert's roommate
 - *Gilligan's domain
 - *Andy Griffith, e.g.
 - *Alex P. Keaton accessory
 - Coal miner's layer
 - Part of overalls
 - Give up
 - World-wide
 - *Fonzie's comeback: "Sit _____"
 - On bottom of coffee mug
 - Swelling
 - "No problem!"
 - Brown with a tinge of red
 - Like an ear infection
 - Server's request
 - Like Gulf Stream
 - Driver's road display?
 - Complicated situations
 - Air of allure, slang
 - Popular sauce on Chinese food
 - Louboutin's creation
 - Ford Explorer, e.g.
 - *"Cheers" spin-off
 - Characteristic to consider
 - Cured item popular on bagels, pl.
 - *"Doctor Who" broadcaster
 - ____ Jane
 - Audience's approval
 - Charged particle
 - Two under on one hole
 - Increases or adds to
 - Foot digit
 - Chased up a tree
- DOWN**
- Credit card rate
 - Bangkok native
 - Ages and ages
 - Not upright
 - Tessarae artwork
 - "Goodness gracious!"
 - Chop off
 - Casper the Friendly Ghost's uncle
 - Unit of pressure named after Torricelli
 - Pueblo tribesman
 - "Clueless" catch phrase
 - Coral barrier
 - "The Love Bug"
 - Must-haves
 - Take greedily
 - Oozing
 - *Kind of buddies
 - Accustom
 - They flock together?
 - *He took over for Bob Barker

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For Solutions See Page 7

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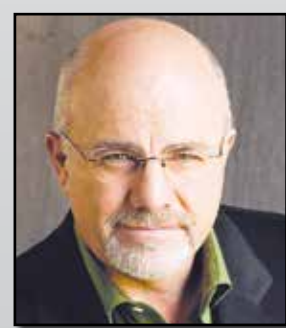
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These must-have accessories, compiled by the experts at Pace Edwards, amplify your truck's versatility to help you make the most of your pickup.

•Light your way. Whether you arrive at your campsite after dark or stay on an outdoor job well past sundown, make your task easier with supplemental lighting. Rooftop fog lights allow you to see in the dark no matter where the road takes you. Some can even be turned on and off, and repositioned by remote control, for added convenience. Keep it covered. Protect all the essential gear for your next home improvement job or a weekend at the lake with a tonneau cover, such as the Switchblade from Pace Edwards. Install Switchblade in

minutes using just a wrench and screwdriver. Then, when you're back to everyday use, the cover retracts in seconds and remains out of site, never obstructing rear visibility. For maximum versatility, the Switchblade can be completely removed when you need total truck bed access and maximum cargo capacity.

•Add an extension. Long loads are no problem for your rig when you install a truck bed extender. This handy accessory increases your overall hauling area, eliminating the need for one more trip to get the job done, or making extra space for a cooler filled with icy beverages to celebrate the end of a long week. Many extenders can be stored flat in the cab when not in use, and some even adjust to accommodate roof-top hauling.

•Employ a hauling helper. When you regularly transport big items such as plywood or ladders, a rack is the perfect solution. When the weekend arrives, ditch the work gear and re-purpose your rack to



carry weekend equipment, such as a kayak or paddle board.

•Hitch a ride. There is a wide range of tow hitches to meet nearly every imaginable use, from hauling a trailer full of tools to pulling a speedboat to a fun-filled

destination. Start by determining your truck's gross trailer weight and tongue weight limits, and then narrow down the features, such as rust-resistant coating and the ability to tuck your hitch out of sight when it's not in use.

Whatever the task at hand, the right accessories help you get the most out of your pickup truck.

Source: Family Features ★

Time to Give Your Car Extra Attention



SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) -Basic car care is the key to a long-lasting vehicle, improving its safety and dependability, says the Car Care Council. Following a routine maintenance program also makes financial sense since neglected vehicle care almost always means much higher costs down the line in the form of more extensive repairs or lost resale value.

1. The Car Care Council recommends 10 basic maintenance procedures to keep your car operating at its best for the long haul:
2. Check all fluids, including engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission as well as windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant.
3. Check the hoses and belts to make sure they are not cracked, brittle, frayed, loose or showing signs of excessive wear.
4. Check the battery and replace, if necessary. Make sure the

connection is clean, tight and corrosion-free.

5. Check the brake system annually and have the brake linings, rotors and drums inspected at each oil change.
6. Inspect the exhaust system for leaks, damage and broken supports or hangers if there is an unusual noise. Exhaust leaks can be dangerous and must be corrected without delay.
7. Check engine performance to deliver the best balance of power and fuel economy and produce the lowest level of emissions.
8. Check the heating, ventilating

and air conditioning (HVAC) system as proper heating and cooling performance is critical for interior comfort and for safety reasons such as defrosting.

9. Inspect the steering and suspension system annually including shock absorbers, struts and chassis parts such as ball joints, tie rod ends and other related components.
10. Check the tires, including tire pressure and tread. Uneven wear indicates a need for wheel alignment. Tires should also be checked for bulges and bald spots.
11. Check the wipers and

lighting so that you can see and be seen. Check that all interior and exterior lighting is working properly and replace worn wiper blades so you can see clearly when driving during precipitation.

For more information on vehicle maintenance, service interval schedules, questions to ask a technician and tips to drive smart and save money, the Car Care Council's 80-page Car Care Guide can be ordered free-of-charge at www.carcare.org.

Source: Family Features ★

GROUPS & MEET UPS

Mother Lode Model T-Club
Meet: Second Thursday of each month at Sizzler, 13570 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Club Meeting
Info: www.motherlodemodelt.com

Roamin Angels
Meet:
Gearhead Breakfast: Weekly, Friday Mornings at IHOP on Taylorville Road, Grass Valley 7:00 a.m.
Gearhead Evening: 1st & 3rd Wednesday at Roundtable Pizza, Sutton Way, Grass Valley 6:00 p.m.
General Meeting: 4th Monday of each month, Salvation Army, Grass Valley 6:00 p.m.
Info: roaminangelsinc.com

The Roadents
Meet: Cars -n- Coffee Every Saturday at

Daily Donuts, 117 W McKnight Way, #B, Grass Valley 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Info: facebook.com/ROADENTS

Auburn Region-Vintage Chevrolet Club of America
Meet: Board Meetings first Monday of the month at Sizzler on Lincoln Way in Auburn 7:00 p.m.
Info: arvcca.com
(Contact for more information)

Northern California Region Classic Car Club of America
Meet: Cars & Coffee first Sunday of the month, Blackhawk Automotive Museum, Danville 7:00 p.m.
Info: norcalccca.org

Capital City Cruisers
Events In and Around Northern California
Info: caopitolcitycruisers.org

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California Department of Fish & Wildlife Hatchery Faces Drought Challenges

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - The Rooster Tails Fishing Club's monthly breakfast meeting will be held on Friday, August 21st at the Auburn Elks Lodge at 195 Pine Street, Auburn 95603. The doors to the lodge open at 7 a.m., with a quality \$13 buffet breakfast served at 8 a.m. The Rooster Tails are delighted to host Andrew Hughan, public information officer for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), for a special presentation beginning at 9 a.m. Officer Hughan will provide an in-depth perspective of Fish and Wildlife's hatchery operations and the many challenges that affect fish-stocking operations. Members and guests should arrive early to secure a good seat. The breakfast meeting is open to the general public; no reservations are necessary to attend.

Various fishing-related media have highlighted some of the fish-saving actions Fish and Wildlife has taken to save future fishing

opportunities, but they haven't captured the whole picture. Anglers are encouraged to attend this special presentation to learn firsthand how many traditional fishing waters will be affected even if we return to normal precipitation.

CDFW has been rearing and stocking fish in California inland waters since the late 1800s, when state government created new legislation requiring the restoration and preservation of fish in state waters. This legislation called for the newly formed California State Fish and Game Commission to establish "fish breederies" to stock and supply streams, lakes, and bays with both foreign and domestic fish. In the early 1900s, CDFW assumed responsibility for the state for stocking hatchery trout in California lakes and rivers. Since 1945, CDFW was required to rear and stock both inland and anadromous fish species at its hatcheries and planting bases located throughout the state. CDFW currently stocks trout in high mountain lakes, low-elevation reservoirs, and various streams and creeks statewide. Salmon have been planted mostly in rivers and direct tributaries to the Pacific Ocean, with the exception of inland kokanee, coho, and Chinook salmon populations that have been planted in various reservoirs for recreational fishing.

The CDFW has 14 trout hatchery facilities and 10 salmon and steelhead hatchery facilities, all of which have struggled to find waters suitable for stocking fish. In addition to finding proper water conditions to ensure the survival of stocked fish, CDFW is required to comply

with legal parameters for Environmental Impact Reports/Environmental Impact Statements (EIR/EIS). These parameters establish considerations of other species and habitats affected by hatchery-raised rainbow trout. One of the conditions of the EIR/EIS is that each water plant throughout California must go through a Pre-Stocking Evaluation Protocol. This evaluation requires CDFW to consider each sensitive or listed species (i.e. frogs, snails) in each water relative to the stocking of trout. CDFW fisheries staff have made the evaluations a top priority, but until each review is completed and approved, fish cannot be stocked.

CDFW hatchery facilities generally fall into one of four categories: brood stock hatcheries, production hatcheries, rearing annexes, and planting bases. A brood stock hatchery provides facilities to rear, maintain, and harvest adult fish for eggs and milt. A production hatchery receives eggs from brood stock hatcheries, incubates the eggs until the fish hatch, and transfers the fry to raceways or ponds for the rearing process. Rearing annexes receive, feed, and rear the fish while monitoring for disease. Planting bases typically receive fish that are of an appropriate size for stocking, and acclimate them before transferring the fish to stocking locations. Salmon and steelhead hatchery facilities are either mitigation or enhancement facilities, with some serving both purposes. Mitigation hatcheries were first constructed to offset the loss of anadromous fish habitat due to dam construction. Enhancement hatcheries produce salmon or steelhead to augment fish populations for harvest.

The 30-year-old, 200+ member Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that meets the third Friday of each month to educate, entertain, and enhance the fishing experience. Unlike many bass and fly fishing clubs that concentrate on very specific types of fishing, the Rooster Tails Fishing Club provides a balanced mix of fishing techniques presented by fishing experts targeting a variety of fish species on multiple types of waters. For more information, contact Jim, Club Chairman, at (530) 887-0479 or visit the club's website at www.roostertailsfishingclub.org.

Source: Rooster Tails Fishing Club ★



The Rooster Tails are delighted to host Andrew Hughan, public information officer for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), for a special presentation beginning at 9 a.m. Photo courtesy of Rooster Tails Fishing Club

DMV Issues Nearly 400,000 Driver's Licenses under AB 60

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - During the first six months of implementing Assembly Bill 60 (AB 60), the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has issued approximately 397,000 driver's licenses to undocumented applicants who have met all requirements necessary to enjoy driving privileges in California. This figure represents more than half of the total 759,000 original driver's licenses that have been distributed during the first half of 2015.

"The latest numbers reflect the continued successful implementation of AB 60," said DMV Director Jean Shiomoto. "The DMV was determined to develop a process that would not only meet the stringent requirements of this new law, but also the unique needs of our newly expanded customer base."

Since the Safe and Responsible Driver Act was implemented on January 2nd, 2015, the DMV has received approximately 687,000 AB 60 driver's license applications. As part of the process, applicants must prove their identity and California residency, as well as meet all other licensing requirements such as passing

the knowledge and behind-the-wheel exams. Here is the approximate number of tests administered between January 1st, 2015 and June 30th, 2015:

- AB 60 Knowledge Test: 1,116,000
- AB 60 Drive Test: 436,000
- Statewide Knowledge Test: 2,324,000, with 47% passing and 53% failing
- Statewide Drive Test: 928,000, with 71% passing and 29% failing.

This data reflects the number of individual transactions. If a customer takes a particular test multiple times, each attempt is included in the statistics. Statewide data reflects all tests administered, including AB 60 applicants.

- AB 60 Customer Visits: 1,462,000
- Statewide Customer Visits: 5,636,000 (includes AB 60 applicants)

Data identifies number of applicants provided a ticket at the "Start Here" window.

Source: DMV Public Affairs ★

First Human West Nile Virus Death of 2015



West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito. The risk of serious illness to most people is low. However, some individuals—less than one percent—can develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis.

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Director and State Health Officer Dr. Karen Smith announced the first confirmed death in California due to West Nile virus. The deceased person was a senior citizen in Nevada County.

"This death is a tragic reminder of how severe West Nile virus disease can be," said Dr. Smith. "West Nile virus activity is more widespread in 2015 than in years past. Californians need to be vigilant in protecting themselves."

West Nile virus is influenced by many factors such as climate, the number and types of birds and mosquitoes in an area, and the level of immunity in birds to West Nile virus. It is possible that the drought has contributed to West Nile virus amplification by reducing sources of water for birds and mosquitoes. As birds and mosquitoes seek water, they are coming into closer contact and amplifying the transmission of the virus.

Thirty-three California counties have reported West Nile Virus activity so far this year, four more than this time last year and above the five-year average of 22. To date, 497 mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus, which exceeds the five-year average of 330.

West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals by the bite of an infected mosquito. The risk of serious illness to most people is low. However, some individuals—less than one percent—can develop a serious neurologic illness such as encephalitis or meningitis.

People 50 years of age and older have a higher chance of getting sick and are more likely to develop complications. Studies

also indicate that those with diabetes and/or hypertension are at greatest risk for serious illness.

CDPH recommends that individuals prevent exposure to mosquito bites and West Nile virus by practicing the "Three Ds":

- DEET - Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaradin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, or IR3535 according to label instructions. Repellents keep the mosquitoes from biting you. DEET can be used safely on infants and children two months of age and older.
- DAWN AND DUSK - Mosquitoes bite in the early morning and evening so it is important to wear proper clothing and repellent if outside during these times. Make sure that your doors and windows have tight-fitting screens to keep out mosquitoes. Repair or replace screens with tears or holes.
- DRAIN - Mosquitoes lay their eggs on standing water. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property by emptying flower pots, old car tires, buckets, and other containers. If you know of a swimming pool that is not being properly maintained, please contact your local mosquito and vector control agency.

California's West Nile virus website includes the latest information on West Nile virus activity in the state. Californians are encouraged to report dead birds on the website or by calling toll-free 1-(877)-WNV-BIRD (968-2473).

Source: California Department of Public Health ★

Fun Summer Activities for the Whole Family

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (BPT) - Summer and fun—while these words aren't technically synonyms, they probably should be. School is out for the children, you have summer vacation time from work stocked up, and the nice weather across the country is beckoning.

Are you in search of some fun ideas for your summer activities? Check out these family-friendly ideas everyone will love!

• Camp: Sleeping under the stars is just the first great benefit of going on a camping adventure. You can plan plenty of fun and kid-friendly activities to keep you busy all summer long. Hiking, cooking over the campfire, fishing, swimming, catching fireflies, telling ghost stories, and toasting marshmallows all add to the fun. Just remember to pack plenty of bug spray and sunblock so your fun doesn't get interrupted by painful or itchy skin.

• Ride the trails: Taking the family for an ATV ride is an adventure all in itself. You get to see the country in a new way, plus you'll have fun trekking across the countryside. If you've never tried off-roading before, the new Polaris ACE gives you the opportunity. The rider sits squarely between all four wheels, providing smooth handling and riding suspension. It also increases confidence, which, when combined with the perfect amount of horsepower, allows novice riders to quickly gain experience. For more experienced riders, there's also a model available with more horsepower so there's options for everyone.

• Develop a family project:

It's always fun to spend time together as a family working on a project. Let your imagination run wild and see where it takes you. If you want to explore your creative talents, consider producing a short play or movie. Everyone can get involved in writing the script, the acting, set creation, and finding the perfect costumes. Or consider participating in a community service project. Maybe you have an organization close to your heart you could raise money to help support. Ask the organization if there is something your family can help with this summer.

• Road trip: A themed road trip can create a lot of excitement for your family members. For example, maybe you want to create a theme of seeing all the odd tourist attractions like the world's largest ball of twine or the country's biggest collection of autographed baseballs. Perhaps you want to visit as many national parks as you can. Have your children help with the planning and you'll have a very interesting road trip adventure.

• Museums: Make it an educational summer by planning visits to all the museums in the nearest city. Include the local zoos

and planted gardens on the list, and you'll be sure to pique the interest of every member of your family. Plan for one family museum visit a month or every other week, and combine it with a family dinner out or a picnic in the park.

You can combine several of these ideas together for even more fun this summer. So whether you go ATV riding and camping, or road tripping and touring museums, you know every member of the family will enjoy the summer activities.

Source: Brandpoint Media ★



Taking the family for an ATV ride is an adventure all in itself. You get to see the country in a new way, plus you'll have fun trekking across the countryside. Photo courtesy of Brandpoint Media



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