

Placer Sentinel



Outstanding High School Seniors Who Won AAUW Scholarships are Honored at Luncheon

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Power System Manager Steve Jones retires following a long 28-year career

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Second Issue of June, 2011

The Spirit of Americans



Celebrating the 4th of July with family and friends is the truest way of honoring our independence. Photo courtesy Susan Maxwell Skinner

Commentary By Bryan Golden

It's the Spirit of Americans that makes us the greatest country with the most freedom and prosperity the world has ever known.

Human history is characterized by domination and subjugation. From virtually the beginning of mankind, tyrants, monarchs, dictators, and oppressors of all types have been the norm. What is different about Americans? What enables Americans to achieve more than any other people in history?

Before our founding, a country built on freedom had never existed. Americans' spirit of liberty, combined with a can do attitude, has allowed us to attain more in several hundred years than other cultures have accomplished in thousands. The unprecedented success of America has inspired people around the world to fight for and establish their own independence.

The yearning to be free from oppression is our core. We recognize freedom as a fundamental, unalienable right. Even before our founding, people from other countries

flocked here to escape the chains of bondage and repression. In America, we are free to succeed or fail. It's an individual choice, not the dictate of any ruling class. We are free to take personal responsibility for our lives rather than expecting others to take care of us. It is this freedom to succeed and be the masters of our destiny that is the spirit of Americans.

Our Declaration of Independence affirms that we are all created equally and endowed by our creator with certain unalienable rights which include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our government is designed to be empowered by us rather than to control us.

Americans define pioneer spirit. Just like the pilgrims, Americans risked everything seeking a better life and opportunity. Those families, who packed all of their belongings into wagons and headed into the American west, personified self-reliance. They carved homesteads, towns, and cities out of the wilderness. They built, created, and invented whatever they needed. They took no handouts and didn't rely on

anyone else to take care of them.

Without persistence, perseverance, and determination, America would never have survived. We have a yearning to succeed. We want a better world for ourselves and for others. The things we accomplish are not easy.

Americans persist in spite of fear. We venture into the unknown where the outcome isn't guaranteed but dependent on courage. Brave Americans fight for and defend freedom around the globe. The entire world counts on the generosity of Americans. Americans are first on the scene helping others in need with their time, money, and supplies. Wherever disaster and misfortune strike, Americans are there to help.

Americans are known for their innovations. We are responsible for more discoveries and inventions than anyone else. Propelled by the freedom to be rewarded for our efforts, we create products and services in all areas of life that generate the highest standard of living in history. Americans are creative. We figure out how to do things that have never been done before. We don't believe

"it can't be done." People everywhere are living better lives because of the spirit of Americans.

Americans are driven. In America, anyone can achieve their dreams. We are free to accomplish anything we want. We don't have to belong to any group or organization. In America, individual talent and effort is rewarded. We put in whatever energy is needed, for as long as it takes, to get where we want to be. American exceptionalism is rooted in an uncompromising work ethic, combined with the highest standards. Because there are no externally imposed limits on how much an individual can attain, Americans can start from anywhere and achieve anything.

Stand up, speak out, and do your part to care for and protect our great country. You are the spirit of America.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a self-development expert, syndicated columnist, and professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columlist.com. Copyright 2011 Bryan Golden.

Old Town Kicks Off the 4th of July

Auburn - Old Town kicks off the 4th of July with a pancake breakfast in the Bootleggers parking lot at 7 a.m. with lots of old fashioned games for kids from 9 to noon. Potato sack races, watermelon eating contest, and egg rolling to name a few. The most exciting activity in the "greased pole". Kids shimmy up a 30' pole slathered in Crisco in an attempt to grab the dollars at the top. Many years the prize is a hundred dollars.

Peter VanBeckum organizes the event dressed as a whimsical Uncle Sam and uses an old blender as a megaphone! It's a sight to see and fun for the whole family. Sponsored in part by the Old Town Business



Association and Peter VanBeckum. The event is free and located behind the Old Town firehouse on Washington Street. For more information: www.oldtownauburn-ca.com or (530) 888-1585.

Wellness Grants Awarded to Placer County Non-Profits

Placer County - Placer Community Foundation presented 23 local nonprofit organizations Community Wellness Mini-Grants totaling nearly \$339,000 today. Through a competitive process, grants were awarded to support community-based projects and programs that are helping to promote overall wellness among county residents.

Placer Community Foundation was contracted by the County of Placer to manage and administer the Community Wellness Mini-Grants Program on its behalf along the western slope. A similar community grant making process was completed for residents in the Tahoe, Kings Beach area. Funding comes from the California Department of Mental Health, Mental Health Services Act.

Earlier in the year, the Community Foundation conducted outreach to identify possible applicants to this program. The search was for organizations that facilitate community-based projects in which people come together to address their collective mental wellness needs. It is believed thousands of county residents are getting these needs met through natural networks formed among families, friends, faith-based organizations and community groups. For the County of Placer, the goal was to learn from, and build upon these networks.

"These natural networks of support can offer much in the way of prevention," stated Richard Knecht, Director of Children's System of Care, Placer County Health and Human Services. "Because people are coming together around a shared, lived experience they provide each other with a sense of hope and belonging—limiting their need to access deeper-end mental health services."

The Community Wellness Mini-Grant program was developed by a Steering Committee comprised of mental health service providers, consumers and advocates. Formed by Placer County's Health and Human Services Department, and with support from Education, Juvenile Probation and nonprofit partners, the committee met over several months. The members determined that a new approach to addressing preventative, mental health needs in a community required a grants program in which people come together on their own around a common issue and, through discussion, activities or exercises, offer each other support, hope and most importantly, the skills necessary to lead competent, self-determined

lives. The task then became locating these groups embedded within the community. That was when Placer Community Foundation was contacted.

"The County's Health and Human Services Department came to us because we have made many different community-based grants over the years," stated Veronica Blake, CEO for the Placer Community Foundation. "We've supported groups of all sizes and types in Placer County and provide support where needed to help make the application process feel less daunting."

The Placer Community Foundation held two public workshops to inform the community about the grant program earlier in the year. Approximately 66 nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations and community groups attended. Examples of the types of projects represented included: health and fitness, nutrition, parenting, youth development, substance and alcohol abuse, meditation, arts and culture, communal gardening, and job training. In the end Placer Community Foundation received 41 applications from which 23 were funded.

Organizations receiving a Community Wellness Mini-Grant were presented with their check at a luncheon hosted by Placer Community Foundation on June 14th. The following is a list of the organizations and their funded project:

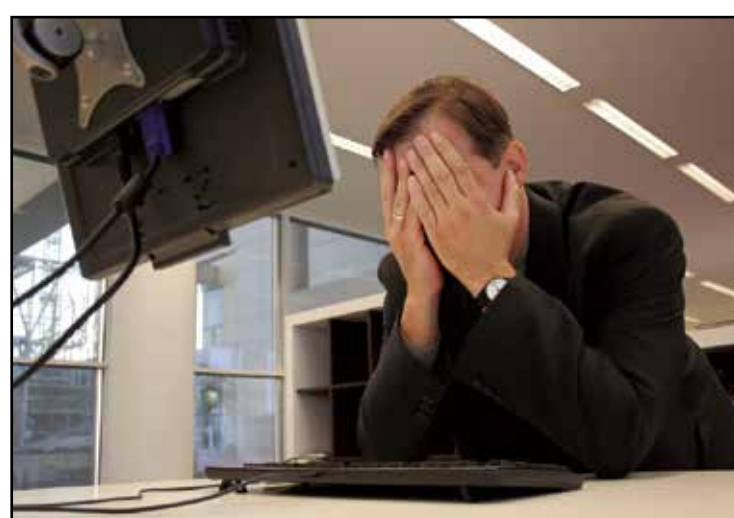
About Placer Community Foundation
The Placer Community Foundation builds community and grows philanthropy. We connect donors who care with causes that matter. Known for sound financial management and knowledge of the nonprofit sector, the Community Foundation and its donors have invested nearly \$3 million in Placer County, supporting a broad range of issues.

To learn more about the variety of grant programs offered by the Placer Community Foundation, including how you can help support them with a gift today or through bequest, visit www.placercf.org or phone (530) 885-4920.

Employment Trends Show Renewed Concerns

Sacramento Region - Hiring in the 3rd Quarter of 2011 will reflect Sacramento regional employer's concerns about unsteady gasoline prices and economic agitation resulting from renewed fears about State government budgets and overseas debt. Despite those worries local companies are actively hiring for attrition while growth of workforces has been slowed. Growth was given as motivation to hire by just twenty-five percent (25%) of the top employers surveyed directly by telephone between May 22 and June 6th. Hiring attributed to growth has dropped seven percent (7%) from the previous Quarter. More companies are hiring but fewer workers are being employed as sixty-eight percent (68%) will hire in Q3, but forty-three percent (43%) of those hires are motivated only by expected workforce attrition.

Twenty-two percent (22%) of hiring was attributed to seasonal needs in construction, agriculture and summer service industry employment. Thirty-two percent (32%) of Sacramento employers surveyed on behalf of Pacific



Looking for a new job, or even writing a resume, brings anguish to job seekers.

Staffing indicate no hiring planned for July, August and September 2011. Just one company indicated any plan to reduce their workforce in the next three months.

Graduate Hiring Demand

2011 will be a difficult year for new graduates entering the work-

force. When Sacramento regional employers were asked, "Will your company make any effort to hire new graduates?" seventy percent (70%) said No. Among the thirty percent (30%) indicating they would seek help from recent college graduation, those students with science and

technology degrees were in highest demand. Service industry firms were looking for IT, Economics/Business, RN's and Laboratory science degrees. Manufacturers and Construction firms indicated interest in hiring IT, Business, Biology/Lab Science expertise and degrees including Mechanical, Chemical, Civil and Structural Engineering.

The top challenge ahead for HR pros in the area remains concerns over healthcare costs and benefit changes. Some employers indicate problems with overtime, morale and increasing difficulty in finding qualified skilled applicants.

Of the top 100 Sacramento Regional Companies By Industry 38% are Service, 34% are Manufacturers, 17% are Construction and 11% are Retail.

How does this Quarter compare to last Quarter, or last year? Find out for yourself, for more information & surveys go to www.pacificstaffing.com.



A Triple Play of Sierra Foothill Delights



The spectacular view of the Foresthill Road Bridge on the way to Lake Clementine.

By Peter Stafford

In a single day's outing, local residents and visitors alike can sample some of the Foresthill Divide and Auburn area foothill attractions by exploring the American River confluence, lunching at a historic Old Town Auburn eatery, and enjoying a leisurely sampling of fine wines at a Lincoln area winery.

A HIKE FROM THE CONFLUENCE TO LAKE CLEMENTINE

Just minutes from Auburn, the confluence of the North and Middle forks of the American River rewards visitors with abundant recreational opportunities. Many trails meet here—all easily accessible from several nearby roadside parking areas.

The Lake Clementine trail begins at the southeastern corner of

the Old Foresthill Road bridge over the North Fork. After traversing a small, tree-shaded spring adjacent to the abutment of an earlier bridge, the trail dwindles to a narrow footpath as it crosses beneath the towering piers of the Foresthill Road Bridge.

A few more turns pass a noted swimming hole and two other bridge abutments dating from the late 1800s. Here and there fragments of asphalt dot the trail, harking to when sixty or more years ago this trail served as the main road between Auburn and the Foresthill Divide. The trail begins a gradual ascent to the Lower Clementine Road. Views of the river become infrequent, though its tumbling cataracts are clearly audible.

A short descent down the paved Lower Clementine Road brings one to the Lake Clementine Dam and spillway—a small side trail leads to the edge of the concrete apron surrounding the dam and a great view of the torrents pouring over the spillway and crashing onto the rocks below. This is a good spot for a rest and a snack before beginning the return hike—about 4.5 to 5.0 miles round-trip.

LUNCH AT TSUDA'S

Tsuda's Old Town Eatery had its genesis almost three years ago when former New Yorker Alexandra

Carnahan noticed a "For Lease" sign going up on the premises of what had been Tsuda's grocery. Carnahan, who spent her childhood in a small town north of New York City, remembered the homespun delights of that town's local deli and saw an opportunity to recreate that in Auburn.

"The minute I saw that 'For Lease' sign go up, I knew this was the place," Carnahan said. "When I told my husband, he said, 'Go do it!'"

Since opening its doors two and a half years ago, under Carnahan's management and the efforts of head chef Jinny Richardson, Tsuda's has blossomed into a keystone business of historic Old Town Auburn. Carnahan explains, "There is so much history in this site; there is a pure, peaceful feeling that makes this location special."

The site of an 1881 Buddhist temple, Tsuda's takes its name from a famous grocery store founded in 1918 by Frank Tsuda. Today, customers can enjoy indoor seating, sipping one of the many varieties of barista-brewed Temple coffees and munching a "Knuckle Sandwich" or "New York Pastrami," or they can relax in outdoor seating adjacent to the restaurant sampling one of the eatery's organic Acme breads and Boar's Head meats. Patrons can select gluten-free and vegan cuisine too. Much of the produce used at Tsuda's comes from a farm partly owned by Carnahan. Tsuda's also features a number of delectable brownies, muffins, and other confections for dessert.

Carnahan also supports local artists, displaying their works, and Tsuda's is a venue for Auburn's Art Walks. As for the future, on July 1st Carnahan will be opening "Tsuda's Too" at the Flower Farm in Loomis. "It's all an adventure!" Carnahan



Sampling the local Sierra foothills wine at Casque Wines.

says with a twinkle in her eye. Given this energetic entrepreneur's efforts to date, there's probably no stopping her now.

CASQUE WINES

Atop a knoll overlooking the greater Lincoln area, the Wise Villa Winery features wines of Wise Villa, Casque, and Cante Ao Vinho. Here, the focus is on Casque Wines, the creation of Mark Breunig and winemaker Kevin Stevenson.

Breunig's interest in wine began when he saw the vineyards of the Rhone Valley, in particular those near the village of Chateaufort du Pape. "The Chateaufort area has very similar growing characteristics and climate to the Loomis area," Breunig explains. "It is famed for its Mourvedre, Syrah, and Grenache grapes."

After moving to Loomis, Breunig met winemaker Kevin Stevenson. "We formed Casque in 2005 and had our first crush in 2006 and first release in the fall of 2008."

Casque presently produces four reds and four whites. Three of the whites are varietals: Roussanne, Vermentino, and Viognier; and one, Calotte Blanc, a blend of Viognier, Roussanne, Vermentino, and Marsanne. Casque's reds consist of two varietals, Cabernet Franc and Malbec, and two blends: Calotte (a mix of Grenache and Syrah) and Adrian—the flagship red of Casque wines—which contains Mourvedre, Syrah, and Grenache.

Breunig emphasizes, "We want the public to taste the best wines, the best varietals the Sierra Foothills can produce." Casque has won a significant number of awards, including Double Gold for its 2009 Vermentino and has been cited "California's Best Micro Winery" at the 2010 California State Fair.

With a smile, Breunig gets ready to serve the last visitors for the day in the tasting room. Believing Casque Wines will head the list of fine Sierra Foothills wines, Breunig has good reason to smile.

Cold Case Funding Leads to Arrest in 2000 Placer County Homicide

Placer County – Detectives from the Placer County Cold Case Unit (consisting of members from the DA's Office and the Sheriff's Office) in conjunction with detectives from the Roseville Police Department have made an arrest in connection with a homicide which took place in Roseville, CA in January 2000.

On January 21, 2000, workers found the body of John Semler Owens, a 46-year-old transient freight-train rider, on a gravel service road next to the Union Pacific Railroad tracks,

near 1701 PFE Road.

Michael Elijah Adams, age 44, was arrested in Lane County, Oregon where he was in custody for unrelated charges. The arrest comes after Adams waived extradition to California, which cleared the way for Placer County and Roseville detectives to take custody of Adams and transport him to Placer County to face charges.

On May 24, 2011 the Placer County District Attorney's Office filed a Felony Complaint which

charged Adams with the murder of John Owens on January 21, 2000 in the City of Roseville. An arrest warrant was also issued that same day.

The Placer County Cold Case Unit is funded by a grant from the National Institute of Justice, Solving Cold Cases with DNA.

Adams was arraigned in Placer County Superior Court on June 20, 2011. He entered a plea of not guilty and is being held on no bail. His next court date is July 18, 2011 at 8:30 in Department 13.



Tsuda's Old Town Eatery serves up local treats as well as local art.

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AAUW Scholarship Winners



Photo courtesy American Association of University Women

Auburn – The Auburn Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) honored the recipients of the AAUW scholarships at their annual luncheon. Outstanding high school senior girls are each awarded a \$1,000 scholar-

ship to pursue higher education in the fields of math, science, engineering, business, or computer science. Pictured are Scholarship Committee members Mary Walker and Daniella Zimmerman. Scholarship winners Emily Cady (Del Oro High

School), Danielle Weismann (Foresthill High School), Caitlin Devitt-Payne (Del Oro), and committee member Beth Falor. Missing from the photo is scholarship winner Celeste Havener (Placer High School).

Soldiers Project Receives \$17,500 Grant

Placer County – The Soldiers Project-Sacramento will kick off a free counseling program for military families on July 7, thanks to a \$17,500 community wellness mini-grant recently awarded by the Roseville Community Foundation.

Family Ties seeks to educate and support spouses, children and loved ones of soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan while their warriors are overseas and when they finally return home.

Offered in two-hour sessions weekly for eight weeks, "Family Ties will encompass much more than group counseling," said licensed therapist Carolyn Fink, who serves as outreach director for The Soldiers Project-Sacramento and is the driving force behind Family Ties.

"The program will touch on every aspect of family life from learning the symptoms of post-traumatic stress and how to deal with it to finding financial resources, jobs and educational opportunities within the community," Fink said. "Family

Ties will give children and spouses a safe, confidential place to voice their frustrations and address their fears."

Participants who attend the free Family Ties program will meet at 6:30 p.m. every Thursday beginning July 7 at Sierra Family Services, 333 Sunrise Ave., suite 701, in Roseville. Those who complete the eight-week course may then choose to lead a peer-to-peer support group after receiving additional training.

"If Family Ties is the oak tree, then the peer-to-peer groups will be its acorns, spreading out into the community and giving us the opportunity to serve a growing number of military families," Fink said.

Family Ties is just one of 23 Placer County projects to benefit from \$339,000 in community wellness mini-grants awarded on June 14. Veronica Blake, chief executive officer of the Placer Community Foundation, praised The Soldiers Project-Sacramento for the services

it provides local residents.

"Through the guidelines of this competitive grant program, their (Family Ties) project has been recognized as providing a natural, community-based network of support to address mental wellness needs among county residents," Blake stated.

She said the goal of the grant program is to promote wellness and to "learn from, and build upon these natural networks formed among families, friends, faith-based organizations and community groups."

Funding for the community wellness mini-grant program is provided by the State of California Mental Health Services Act. The Placer Community Foundation is contracted by the County of Placer to manage and administer the program on its behalf.

For more information or to register for the first free session of Family Ties, call (877) 557-5888 or e-mail Sacramento@TheSoldiersProject.com.



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Around Town with Loyce Smallwood

Auburn – Summer stimulation absolutely rife what with experiencing the scintillating aspects of the Loomis High Hand conservatory/restaurant/gallery and lush nursery/garden complete with exotic koi fish this past Fathers Day. Thanks sent to High Hand Gallery artist Unni Stevens for the invite to visit the past Sunday art exhibit at High Hand fruit sheds DT Loomis.

See Stevens vibrant art at Courthouse Coffee in OT Auburn and drop by the CONNECTIONS table where our casual group socializes/networks Thursdays at 11am. Amble down Lincoln Way and experience yet more splendor at Eggstra Special Gallery at 1558 Lincoln where owner/artist Virgi Bondi gives forth with hand-finished, Fabergé-style eggs in a dazzling array of sizes/colors and designs, many bejeweled with Swarovski crystals. Virgi lays claim to the only egg art gallery in the United States and will

be celebrating with a champagne grand opening gala at 5pm July 1. A tip of the Sentinel hat to A Book Xchange owner Louis Borelli who continues to schedule local authors to alternate Saturday book signings at his Fiddler Green bookstore, 1209 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn.

It All Started In Nebraska author Phil Raynard regaled the CONNECTIONS group with down-home tales on Monday and avid reader/critic/editor Jack Smallwood should now be deep into Raynard's home-spun memoir. Raynard will be signing July 9 and the colorful Borelli invites local authors to drop by the bookstore and talk about their books. The Monday CONNECTIONS group is dominated by local authors such as screenwriter/television producer/host Ron Montana; long-time Auburnite/author Edna Sparkes; KAHN radio co-host/artist/author B.K. England; *Ockham's Razor* author Bill Burton and artist/author Suzanne Blaney.

Local authors/artists are welcome to join the fun-loving group at 11am at LaBou in Auburn where Trumpery



CHC Owner Mike Zuvella and Virginia Boyer

costume designer/docent Joyce Silva and Via Fiorente winery owner Lisa Mann often fall into the friendly mix which now includes colorful book store owner Louis Borelli and computer guru/animal lover Steve Kirwan. Wannabes also invited to dive into the diverse mix of locals including Skip Michael, author of *The JARRIAN Chronicles*, another Jack Smallwood pick. For more information about CONNECTIONS reference www.connectionsloyce.wordpress.com; comments to loy@foothill.net

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14 Home-based Support Programs Seniors need to know – home-based support programs

By Monica Sandgathe

Placer County – Home-based support plays an integral role in providing independence to older adults. Demand for resources and support for caregivers remains high and will likely increase as older adults strive to remain at home for as long as possible. An estimated 85% of older adults (persons 65 years and older as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau) are aging in their own homes.

Resources such as The Senior Connection, an Eskaton-sponsored public service program, has reached out to more than 4,300 individuals this past year with workshops on fall prevention, dementia diagnosis, driving skills, advice on better sleep and nutrition. “Ask the Care

Manager” was introduced this year as another public service program offering older adults and caregivers free monthly, one-on-one consultations with a certified geriatric care manager. The TLC Telephone Reassurance Program makes over 110,000 calls and 700 visits a year to isolated older adults throughout Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, and El Dorado Counties.

A Caregiver Resource Guide has been developed to provide caregivers and consumers a needed source of referral information. The free Guide maintains an extensive directory of senior resources in the greater Sacramento area and includes definitions of commonly-used terms, information on levels of care and guidance in determining associated

costs. The directory is available at no cost on line or CD-ROM format.

For more information on these and other community services provided by The Senior Connection visit them online at www.eskaton.org/home-based-support.html or call them at (916) 334-1072.

The Older Adult Advisory Committee is responsible for advising the Department of Health and Human Services and the Board of Supervisors on the needs of Placer County's older adults. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday, at 1:00 PM.

More information may be found online at: www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/shs/adult/OlderAdultAdvisoryCommission.aspx or by calling the Public Authority at (530) 886-3680.

Letter To The Editor

On Sunday, May 22nd, we featured our 17th Annual Fun Golf Event with 144 golfers enjoying the day at Winchester Country Club. Represented were golfers from the Bay Area, Nevada & various Northern California Lions clubs plus friends from all over. We obviously want to thank our

70+ hole sponsors & 80+ raffle sponsors for their generosity this year!! And to the golfers, friends, Winchester personnel, and the many involved Lions who made the event successful. The donations that we receive are directed to our Auburn community in the form of scholarships, sight &

youth improvement projects, community endeavors and the like.

Thanks again, Auburn, for the support and we look forward to next years' golf event...

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New Director of Power Generation Services for PCWA

Jay L'Estrange brings 22 years of hydro management experience

Auburn – The appointment of Jay L'Estrange as the new Director of Power Generation Services for the Placer County Water Agency was announced Monday (June 20) by PCWA General Manager David A. Breninger.

L'Estrange, who brings 22 years of experience in hydroelectric energy management, succeeds Steve Jones, who retires July 1 from a 28-year career with the agency.

The newest member of the PCWA management team comes to the agency from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla, Washington, where as chief of the technical support branch he managed a staff of 18 providing technical support for six hydroelectric projects.

His previous experience includes 9 years with the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) in Eugene, Oregon where he served as generation supervisor and generation manager.



Jay L'Estrange, PCWA Director of Power Generation Services

He also worked for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as an electrical engineer and operations and maintenance supervisor for the Central California Area Office, including 11 years at Folsom Dam.

"I've always hoped that I would be able to come back to this area," said L'Estrange, a U.S. Navy veteran and 1989 electrical engineering graduate of California State University, Sacramento.

He said he is impressed with the PCWA Middle Fork American River Project, which he will be managing. "I've toured the facilities and they're in good shape. They've been doing a good job up there. I want to keep that going."

During his years with EWEB, L'Estrange was involved with federal relicensing efforts, an experience expected to serve him well over the next few years as PCWA seeks to renew its original 50-year license on the Middle Fork Project.

The PCWA Power System is based in Foresthill and operates the Middle Fork Project with its extensive network of reservoirs, dams, waterways and powerhouses. The system employs 18 and has a 2011 operating budget of \$13.8 million.

L'Estrange and his wife, Jessica, have settled in Auburn. His first day with PCWA was June 20.

Sutter Auburn Faith Receives Top Honors from MIDAS+ Platinum Quality Award Program

Auburn — Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. recognized Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital as one of the top performing hospitals for excellence in clinical outcomes in the 2010 ACS MIDAS+ Platinum Quality Award Program. The award is based upon Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital's achievements in the areas of quality outcomes, care efficiency and consistent delivery of evidence-based best practices in nursing and medicine. Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital is among the top five percent of the 600 hospitals that participate in the ACS MIDAS+ Quality Award Program.

This is the second year in a row that Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital garnered this award and in addition, this year Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital is the only hospital in California to be recognized as a top performing hospital.

"This recognition is due to the dedication of our physicians and staff who work to enhance the quality of care for our patients," said Mitch

Hanna, CEO, Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital. "We are always striving to provide the best in medical treatment and care at our hospital."

The 2010 ACS MIDAS+ Platinum Quality Award is the second outstanding quality award the hospital has received in the past couple months. Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital was also recognized earlier this Spring by Sutter Health with the System's highest Quality Award for 2011.

In addition to the outstanding Quality Awards, earlier this year Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital also received a three-year accreditation for its cancer program from the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer program and also received certification as a Primary Stroke Center from the Joint Commission.

"I'm very proud of our staff and their contributions to quality healthcare for our patients," said Hanna. "We are committed to excellence and these awards reflect our dedicated efforts."

Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital is an affiliate of Sutter Health, one of the nation's leading not-for-profit networks of community-based health care providers, delivering high-quality care in more than 100 Northern California communities. For more information on Sutter Auburn Faith, visit the web site at www.sutteraurnfaith.org

ACS MIDAS+ is an operating unit of the ACS Healthcare Provider & Applications Solutions Group within Affiliated Computer Services, Inc. (ACS), a Xerox Corporation company. MIDAS+ provides a suite of clinical and operational care management software and data analytic tools for more than 1,300 hospitals nationwide. Xerox Corporation is a \$22 billion leading global enterprise for business process and document management. Through its broad portfolio of technology and services, Xerox provides the essential back-office support that clears the way for clients to focus on what they do best: their real business.

Mosquito Ridge Road is Open

Foresthill – The Mosquito Ridge Road is now open to the LL Anderson dam at French Meadows Reservoir. Though the snow is quickly melting, the boat ramp and campgrounds at French Meadows are still inaccessible. When campground managers can reach the facilities, they will assess the situation on the ground and take care of any hazards before

opening. Modification of the spillway at French Meadows is continuing, with people and large equipment working along the crest of the dam, and throughout the area. Traffic is controlled and confined to one lane through the work site. The public is urged to drive cautiously and be alert to signs and traffic signals. Work will be ongoing throughout the summer.

Information about the spillway work can be located on PCWA's website at www.pcwa.net/main/Spillway-Modification-Project.pdf.

People interested in visiting the French Meadows area should contact the Foresthill Ranger Station at (530) 367-2224 for further information.

Rock Removal Needed on Boardman Canal Relocation Project at Pacific Avenue

Auburn – An underground rock formation is causing delays and additional work on a Placer County Water Agency pipeline installation project along Pacific Avenue near Railroad Park in Auburn.

Brent Smith, Deputy Director of Technical Services at PCWA, said the rock was discovered as project contractor, Marques Pipeline, Inc., was digging a 17-foot-deep trench along Pacific Avenue midway between Meadowlark Court and Sacramento Street.

Smith said the rock formation is 150-200 feet long and will be drilled and jackhammered over the coming four weeks. He said the work will cause noise, possible ground vibration and traffic controls in the area.

The work is necessary to complete installation of a 54-inch diameter pipeline which is buried under the

roadway to depths of eight to 17 feet.

The deep pipeline is part of a project to relocate a section of PCWA's Boardman Canal that runs through an old pipe beneath the adjacent Pacific Heights Apartment complex. The Boardman Canal is a key PCWA conveyance facility, carrying water to and through wide areas of central and western Placer County.

The old pipe was installed many years ago by a developer who wanted to make full use of the property. It does not lie directly beneath any of the apartment buildings but runs through the complex and is failing and inaccessible for maintenance purposes, Smith said.

"Once the new pipeline has been put into operation, the old portion of the canal under the Pacific Heights Apartments will be filled with concrete to prevent collapse in the

future," he said.

Work began last year and resumed this spring as drier conditions appeared. Completion is anticipated this summer. "We apologize for this temporary inconvenience and we will work quickly to minimize the impact to our customers," Smith said.

Meanwhile, detours are in effect in the project area Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and neighbors should be prepared for noisy working conditions during these hours.

Questions about the work should be directed to the PCWA Customer Services Center at (530) 823-4850, weekdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. After-hours emergency calls should be directed to the same number where an answering service is on duty.

The water agency will be posting weekly project updates every Friday on its website at www.pcwa.net.

PlacerGROWN Elects New Board Members, Officers

Auburn – PlacerGROWN elected board members for 2011-2012 at its recent Annual Meeting. Seven new board members were elected, including Tom Aguilar, Mandarin Hill Orchards, Penryn, representing Mandarins; Phyllis Boorinakis, Boorinakis-Harper Ranch, Auburn, representing Orchards; Charlie Green, Green Family Winery, Auburn, representing Wineries & Wine Grapes; Deborah Lynn, KidzKount, Placer Community Action Council, Auburn, representing Nutrition; Stephanie Rickey, Rickey Ranch, Granite Bay, representing Produce and Cathy Theobald, Larkspur Landing Hotel, Roseville, representing Tourism;

and Mary Towne, Elevate Public Relations, representing Marketing.

Continuing Board members are Dave Chappell, Placer School Gardens Project, Penryn, representing School & Community Gardens; Beckie Perell, Loomis Alpacas, Loomis, representing Alpacas/Fiber Production; Karin Sinclair, Sinclair Family Farm, Penryn, representing Livestock & Eggs; and Mary Schug, Auburn, representing Community/Culinary. President Emeritus is Karen Killebrew, Nature Media, Applegate.

At the Board of Directors meeting held on Monday June 6, the following officers were elected for the 2011-2012 year: Dave Chappell, President;

Mary Schug, Vice President; Beckie Perell, Secretary and Tom Aguilar, Chief Financial Officer.

PlacerGROWN is a nonprofit, membership organization formed to assist local agricultural producers market their products and to provide educational information to the community and to producers. The goal is to bring farmers, ranchers and community members together to maintain and enhance the viability of agriculture in Placer County. For information or to contact PlacerGROWN, visit PlacerGrown.org, email placergrown@gmail.com or call (530) 889-7398.

Source: Nature Media Network

Widowed Persons Association for Auburn

Auburn – Widowed Person's Association of California will hold its monthly "Get Acquainted" dinner on Thursday July 7, 2011 at 4:30 PM at the Sizzler Restaurant in Auburn. Call 530-878-1728 for

reservations by Tues. July 5, 2011. If you are new to WPAC this is an appropriate time to meet people who are also widowed.

All Widowed People are invited to attend three activities of this organization prior to joining our membership. Other activities include: card playing, luncheons, bingo, bowling, trips to Reno, Koffee klatches and special activities.

For a free newsletter call 530-878-1728. For one on one grief support call 530-885-8298.

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 Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.
 Come back every week for Sudoku! For Solution See Page 6.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 11

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Placer High Class of 1956 Reunion
 Members of Placer High's class of 1956 will gather for their 55 year reunion on August 12th at 5PM. It will be held at Lake of the Pines country club. The cost for the event is \$50.
 For additional information, call John Towers at 530-885-6136 or Harry Benzie at 530-268-3747.

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"Keeping the Faith"
Ronnie McBrayer

Disappearing Dump Trucks

brave squeals and the hair of our chinny, chin, chins.

I haven't given up on this building metaphor completely, but recently I did adopt a new narrative. It's not about construction, but deconstruction. Last year I visited a housing project in San Salvador that is home to more than a thousand people. With homes, churches, markets, and a school, it is a safe and healthy neighborhood, thus far insulated from so much of the gang violence, extortion, and troubles of the city. It is no utopia, but it is a shining light within a very dangerous section of the city.

The land upon which this neighborhood sits was given to a group of USAmerican volunteers by the city of San Salvador because the city had basically given up on it. It was nothing but a forsaken junkyard, filled with crushed cars, old buses, dilapidated construction equipment, and families: People were living in the junkyard because they had no place else to go.

Ultimately, these people were moved out, new homes were built, and the people moved back in. My favorite part of this venture, and my new narrative, involved a dump truck that was just too big and heavy to move. It sat in the middle of the jobsite untouched, until six eight-year-old boys attacked it.

Every day these little boys, none past third grade, would come to the site with their hacksaw blades, pieces of t-shirts wrapped around the edges for handles, and they would saw away. Then they would take whatever they cut

off and sell it for a few pennies at a time on the street, helping to meagerly support their families.

This went on day after day, week after week, and month after month until one day, almost like magic, this huge dump truck weighing tens of thousands of pounds was just gone. Six elementary school-aged children had consumed it, like vultures consuming a carcass.

One of the onsite missionaries told me that when he felt like quitting, that when he thought what he tried to do didn't matter, or when overwhelming odds made it all hopeless, he would revisit the memory of those little boys confronting their dump truck day after day. They knew, as only children can know, that if they stayed at it long enough, nothing would be impossible. The truck would one day disappear.

Those little boys can help reorient our lives. We may not "build" a whole lot with the few years we have been given, and parts of what we build will get blown away. But with the blessed ignorance of children, we can keep sawing - keep parenting, keep teaching, keep fostering, keep nursing, keep showing up at whatever it is we do - until finally, almost like magic, the dump trucks disappear.

Ronnie McBrayer is the author of "Leaving Religion, Following Jesus." He writes and speaks about life, faith, and Christ-centered spirituality. Visit his website at www.ronniemcbrayer.net.

On Pledging My Allegiance

By Rev. James L. Snyder

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly just finished supper and we were resting in the living room watching the TV news. Actually, my wife was watching the news while I was perusing a book. As far as I am concerned, nothing equals the relaxation of a good book after a good supper. My definition of a good book is the one I am reading at the time.

I had just settled into my book when I heard a groan coming from the other side of the room where my wife was setting. Thinking it was her just winding down after a busy day, I paid no attention to it.

Then I heard it again followed by, "I just cannot believe that!" Assuming she was talking to herself and not addressing me in particular, I ignored her and continued in my book.

Then she said, "Do you believe what they did?" When I looked at her, I discovered she was looking at me. The question was addressed to me. Not knowing what she was talking about I responded with my typical, "Huh?" Huh, as most people know, is short for "I have no idea what in the world you're talking about." This seems to be where I am most of the time.

Then my wife explained to me the story on the news. It seems, in some school somewhere, someone was objecting to standing and pledging allegiance to the American flag. My wife, and right she should be, was irritated at these people refusing to pledge their allegiance to the American flag.

"What in the world is wrong with these people?" she queried me. Then she went into her typical diatribe about how important it is to be a good citizen. "How can you call yourself an American," she continued, "and not want to salute the American flag?"

Well, I think she has a good point. I tried to go back to my book and she went back to watching the news but I could not get back into my book. I thought about all of these people objecting to pledging their allegiance to the American flag.

What is the big deal? What is their objection? Why are some people of-

fended by the American flag? I think the biggest question I might ask, why do they want to live in America?

I am a firm believer in the First Amendment and the right of everybody to express his or her opinion. If people do not want to pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, that is their right. I just do not get it.

I would be the first to admit our country is not perfect. After all, we have politicians running this country. Even though there are things about this country that are not right and that I do not agree with all the time, I still pledge allegiance to the American flag, I still pray for our country and I pray for the president of the United States and all those in leadership positions.

I have thought further about these people refusing to pledge allegiance to the American flag and how inconsistent they are in their whole life.

For example, most of these people refusing to pledge allegiance to the flag will pledge allegiance to some credit card. They will sign up, gladly paid the fee, willingly accepts a high interest rate and then go on a spending spree. Every month they will salute and pledge allegiance to that credit card by sending in a check.

Others will pledge their allegiance to some mortgage company for their house. Month after month, these people pledge their allegiance to the mortgage company or the bank by writing out a hefty check, including interest and fees.

The same people will pledge allegiance to some car loan company in order to buy a new car. Month after month as regular as the sun rising in the morning, these people will pledge

their allegiance to the car loan institution by sending them a check. By the time they have paid for a \$20,000 automobile they will have given to the car loan institution \$60,000. Of course, I could be a little wrong on my math, but not by much.

It seems a little amusing to me that the same people who object to pledging their allegiance to the American flag and who object to prayer in any public setting will pay their allegiance to the credit card company, the mortgage and loan company, and the auto loan institution with money that has printed on it in bold type, "In God we trust."

Let those who object to these things object to them but not in such a way as to hinder me from pledging my allegiance to the American flag. If you do not believe in prayer, fine, but do not force your unbelief on me. If there is no such thing as God, why are some people so upset when someone like me prays to God?

I go by the scriptural admonition, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (1 Timothy 2:1-2 KJV).

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America...

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at (352) 687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 5

Enjoy Sudoku Every Week

If You Search for "Me" You Will Find "Me"

so doing, to have lives changed and transformed by Gods supernatural power. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That a man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) The goal in understanding the Book is to apply what is learned to one's life, making it "living word." Application brings greater understanding of its truth. The experience should bring healthy conclusions and decisions based on scriptural principles that one will decide to become a part of their lifestyle.

Faith is born from hope. Faith comes from trusting and resting upon the truth of God. The study of God's Word should change our natural ways of living. Faith is needed to enable us to forgive, and to love. It helps us to understand God's sovereign plan in the world, for our personal destiny, for the reality of

eternal life and must come from the only authoritative source available to man, The Bible! The seeker will find it!

Left to himself, a man does not know how to live or how to die. Man's opinions only prove his ego is in tact. Mans ideas are filled with selfishness and greed as well as bitterness and anger. Scripture says, "For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" Only God has the answer to the questions about life and death. The inception of the Word of God brings light and Gods prescription for leading a peaceful, joyful and satisfied life as well as provides the answers to life after death.

May your personal search begin today...

Marlys Johnsen Norris, Author Marlys5934@sbc global.net "Intimacy Begins Going God's Way" "God Moves Mountains, It was a Miracle"



By Marlys Norris, Christian Author

There comes a time in most people's lives when they begin a sincere search for truth

Becoming a seeker of truth most always brings the seeker to the Word of God, the Bible, because instinctively one knows the Creator of the Universe has the answer to what they want to know. A consistent study of the Word will draw one into a deeper intimacy with God and prepare the reader to live spiritually and to comprehend intellectually how to live in light of God's memoir about life.

The intent of the Bible is to reveal the God of the Book and in

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An Alzheimer's Awareness Day

Saturday, July 9, 2011
Location: East Lawn Memorial Park, 43rd St. and Folsom Boulevard
Time: 9:00 AM - Noon

Calendar of Events:

- 9 AM - Welcome, and a light breakfast.
- 9:30 AM - Panel discussion featuring Hospice Care, a Neurologist, family members who have cared for a person with Alzheimer's disease and family members who are dealing currently with Alzheimer's disease, and an Elder Law Attorney.
- 10:30 AM - Unveiling of the "Wall of Honor." A place where people can create an inscription in honor of or in memory of a family member who has suffered from Alzheimer's disease.
- 10:45 AM - Untimed one-mile walk within East Lawn.
- 11:30 AM - Free luncheon.

There will be a variety of children's activities and a photo booth for your family's memories.
We will be having a kid's race as well!
 There will be many vendors at the event to answer any questions you may have.

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Redistributing Wealth to Wall Street The Truth about Energy Profits

Commentary By Gus West

Remember those dark days after the 2008 financial collapse, when Congress vowed it would get tough with the banks? Well, that resolve seems to be dwindling. A move to undo some of the reforms legislators were touting just months ago was barely stopped on June 8.

The issue at hand this time was debit cards. Currently, when you make a purchase with a debit card, the retailer has to pay a so-called swipe fee of 1% to 3% on the transaction. The rate is set by whatever credit card company the bank is affiliated with - often Visa or MasterCard - but the fee goes to the bank. Banks say they have to charge swipe fees to cover the costs of processing the transactions. But in reality, as the Federal Reserve has determined, the fees are far in excess of the banks' costs.

Few consumers are even aware that these charges exist. Yet they add up. Total swipe fees for debit cards are estimated at nearly \$20 billion annually. That money ultimately comes out of consumers' pockets because merchants raise prices to recoup the swipe fees.

Worst hit are the poorest Americans, who don't carry credit or debit cards and must pay cash. The "unbanked" don't have the convenience of using debit cards, yet they end up subsidizing their use by the better-off. Latinos are disproportionately unbanked and are accordingly hit hardest, as a 2009 study by the organization I chair determined.

A new financial reform scheduled to take effect next month will bring some overdue common sense to the fees associated

with debit card transactions, putting limits on what banks can charge merchants. But that reform, part of the Dodd-Frank financial overhaul, was under serious threat earlier this month.

Under the reform, starting July 21, rather than a percentage charge, swipe fees paid to the biggest banks will be set at a flat 12 cents per transaction. This is a huge reduction: The average swipe fee for debit card transactions in 2009 was 44 cents. Given that the Federal Reserve has determined average processing costs are really around 4 cents per transaction, a 12-cent fee seems more than reasonable.

The new rules include protection for smaller community banks - those with less than \$10 billion in assets, which in truth account for a minuscule share of transactions. They will still be able to collect higher swipe fees under a two-tier system that takes account of their higher costs in processing transactions.

All told, merchants, and ultimately consumers, will save \$14 billion a year under the reform. Another way of putting that, though, is that big banks will be losing \$14 billion a year in free money. And that's why they mounted a full-court press in recent weeks full of absurd claims and distortions aimed at killing or at least delaying the reform.

Sens. Bob Corker (R.-Tenn.) and Jon Tester (D.-Mont) put forward an amendment in early June that would have delayed the new fee-limit regulations and required more study of the issue by the Federal Reserve. The Fed could then have revised the rules if it found that they would've hurt consumers

or small banks.

The legislation was stopped - but barely. To pass, the amendment needed 60 votes; only 54 senators voted for it. Still, it's alarming that a majority of senators were prepared to back the banks against consumers, and it doesn't bode well for the future. Banks are already warning that they will raise other fees, such as those for checking accounts, to make up for the lost income. And it's not looking as if we can count on our elected officials to keep them honest.

Visa and MasterCard have been jacking up swipe fees for years. That has kept the banks happy and encouraged them to issue more cards. Meanwhile, the banks most efficient at processing transactions have profited the most from the fixed fees. Ordinarily, competitive pressure would force them to pass on some of their increased efficiency to consumers in the form of lower fees. The genius of the way the system is rigged, however, is that the banks don't set the fees and therefore don't have to compete with one another. They are insulated from competition by Visa and MasterCard, and they happily profit from it.

The last thing Americans need is to pick up the tab for the banks again. In this economy, consumers - and especially the poorest and unbanked among them - deserve a break. And our elected officials should be on the side of the people.

Gus West is chairman of the board and president of the Hispanic Institute. www.thehispanicinstitute.net.

Commentary By Lawrence J. McQuillan

America's largest oil and natural gas companies recently reported quarterly earnings, and as expected, profits were up. But the caricature of fat-cat energy executives lining their pockets at the expense of the everyman doesn't hold up to scrutiny.

ExxonMobil posted quarterly earnings of \$10.7 billion on Thursday, up 69 percent from last year. And on Wednesday, ConocoPhillips reported quarterly earnings of \$3 billion, reflecting an increase of 43 percent from a year ago. Impressive, but not shocking given the current price of crude oil.

No less predictable was the outrage voiced by politicians. President Obama called for new taxes on the oil industry, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid promised to introduce legislation to that effect when Congress is back in session.

Talking tough when pump prices are high might be safe politically. After all, it's easy to get outraged while people struggle to fill their tanks. But we should consider some facts about the American energy industry before breaking out pitchforks or enacting knee-jerk policies.

Yes, pump prices are high, but companies like ExxonMobil and Chevron have as much control over the price of gasoline as they do the price of speeding tickets. The single biggest factor affecting pump prices is the cost of crude oil, which is set by global futures markets subject to the laws of supply and demand.

Right now the recovering global economy, Mideast turmoil, and declining dollar are driving up the price of crude. The truth

is ExxonMobil can't control the price of a barrel of oil, but the higher price naturally results in higher revenues.

No one is asking drivers to shed a tear for gasoline stations forced to charge high prices at the pump. But equally unfair is the assumption that those high prices mean 24-hour champagne and limos for company executives. The U.S. oil and natural gas industry actually operates at lower margins than most American manufacturing.

In arguing for higher energy taxes, politicians cite that America's five largest oil and gas companies had a net income of \$484 billion from 2006 to 2010. What they don't tell you is those companies' profit margin during those years was 6.65 percent, below the U.S. manufacturing average.

Because of the large size of the industry, profits sound exorbitant when stated in absolute dollars. But those dollars are distributed to millions of ordinary Americans who are shareholders and plowed back into oil exploration and next-generation energy R&D.

The caricature of greedy oil company executives falls apart even further when one considers who owns most energy companies. Only 1.5 percent of oil and gas shares are owned by those companies' executives. Fifty-three percent of the shares are owned by mutual funds and individual investors. Twenty-seven percent are owned by pension funds, and 14 percent are held by IRAs. In other words, average investors, people who have begun saving for retirement, and retirees benefit from their investments in energy companies and these investments are paying off.

A new study examined the performance of oil and natural gas investments in the two largest public employee pension funds in four states-Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The oil and gas investments had returns between 41 percent and 49 percent from 2005 through 2009, while the funds' non-oil and gas investments had returns between 10 percent and 17 percent. And the gains are not just enjoyed by a select few-these funds account for between 50 percent and 89 percent of the total membership and total assets of all public employee pension programs in these states.

The Obama administration's 2012 budget proposes almost \$90 billion in new taxes for the U.S. oil and natural gas industry. These taxes will hurt ordinary Americans and public employees, and the energy industry already pays one of the highest effective income tax rates in the country. About 44 percent of every dollar earned by oil and gas companies goes to income taxes, while retailers pay about 33 percent.

Caricatures shouldn't be the basis for government policy. In reality, energy profits have not been excessive compared to other industries, are plowed back into exploration, and benefit ordinary Americans. Congress and the Obama administration shouldn't impose higher taxes or other sanctions on the industry. Instead, they should eliminate barriers to oil production, helping consumers at the pump.

Lawrence J. McQuillan, PhD, is director of Business and Economic Studies at the Pacific Research Institute. Contact him at LMcQuillan@pacificresearch.org.

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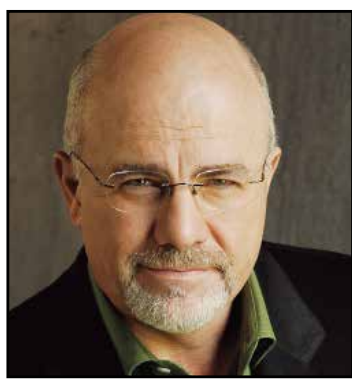
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Dave Says

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Broke people can't help broke people, meaning only the strong can help the weak. At this point, you guys should be working together to get your own financial house in order. I'm talking about becoming debt-free, with a fully loaded emergency fund of three to six months' worth of expenses in place, and something set aside for your golden years. Then, once all that has been taken care of, if you have a friend or family member in financial need, you can gift them \$300 or whatever you guys agree is an appropriate amount.

I'm a big giver, both at my business and in my personal life. But I've learned that my first gifts should go to my wife and family. After I've taken care of my own, then comes giving outside of the household. You guys need to take care of yourselves right now. Kill off the debt and build up some wealth so that your husband's heart can function in that gift!

- Dave

Planning for a future

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are both spenders. We want to get on a plan and handle our money better, but is there

anything that will help us learn to give up stuff now so that we'll have more in the future?

- Beth

Dear Beth,

I know what you're talking about. Old habits are really hard to break, especially when they're fun old habits. Even when you wake up and feel the pain and realize you shouldn't have done something, it's easy to slip right back into the same old stuff, isn't it?

The only way I've ever been able to achieve anything like that is to find something specific I want bad enough out there in the future to give up something in the present. You may have heard me say, "Live like no one else, so that later you can live like no one else." Well, this is more a case of you have to want to live like no one else later, so that today you'll live like no one else.

I saw a bumper sticker once that read "Nothing tastes as good as thin feels." I've got to agree with the idea behind that. No discipline is pleasant, but it's the pain of changing something in your life that eventually leads to a positive result.

Think about it this way. A great definition of maturity is learning to delay pleasure. Ouch!

- Dave

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

Dave Ramsey is a personal money management expert, popular national radio personality and the author of three New York Times bestsellers – *The Total Money Makeover*, *Financial Peace Revisited* and *More Than Enough*. In them, Ramsey exemplifies his life's work of teaching others how to be financially responsible, so they can acquire enough wealth to take care of loved ones, live prosperously into old age, and give generously to others.

The weak can't help the weak

Dear Dave,

My husband and I have been married less than a year, and already we're having huge disagreements over money. He's got a big heart, but often he'll just give money to friends and family. Sometimes, this leaves us short when it comes to monthly bills, paying off debt, and saving anything. I guess he thinks we'll get by somehow, but it scares me. What can I do?

- Summer

Dear Summer,

It sounds like he does have a big heart, and I'm sure that's one of the reasons you love him. But this kind of behavior is completely irresponsible. What's worse, it's driving you crazy.



POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

Dr. Gahlinger claims there are lots of reasons for this travel like:

1. Decreased costs...for example, a bone marrow transplant is about \$250,000 in the United States vs as little as \$25,000 in India. Medications are also cheaper, often less than 50% of the cost in the U.S.
2. Avoidance of lengthy delays in treatment...this is particularly true with managed care insurance in the U.S. including Medicare and Veteran's Administration.
3. Availability of high quality care...many overseas hospitals excel in new or highly sophisticated procedures. Excellent hospitals in the U.S. are generally limited to major coastal cities.
4. Cosmetic or medical procedures that are unavailable in the home country...for example stem cell therapy, which is not generally available in the U.S.
5. The opportunity to combine a vacation with medical care. This is not available in the U.S. except for very limited procedures and highly expensive accommodations.
6. The opportunity to combine medical care for multiple family members in a single trip. This is not available in the U.S., where each family member is treated entirely separately and often in different facilities.
7. The opportunity to combine diverse types of health care: for example, cosmetic surgery, dental care, and executive physical, spa treatment,

and alternative methods such as ayurvedic care. In the U.S., separate facilities and individual arrangements would be needed for each.

1. The doc does cover some of the concerns like:
2. Lack of knowledge
3. Lack of advice
4. Lack of trust
5. Lack of follow-up care
6. Lack of medical malpractice protection
7. Lack of quality assurance
8. Lack of travel experience or preparatory knowledge

Dr. Gahlinger is a physician and medical school professor who has traveled and studies medical tourism in 120 countries. He serves as an adjunct professor of medicine at the University of Utah and as a funding analyst for the Bioastronautics Research Division of NASA. He attempts to tackle all the issues in "The Medical Tourism Travel Guide" or you can check out his website www.medicruiser.com. As Dr. Gahlinger puts it this way, what if you could get top-notch medical care by highly skilled, U.S.-trained physicians in a world-class medical facility, all at a cost far less than treatment in the United States? A new idea to ponder! But always keep in mind...Buyer Beware...no matter what country you choose.

Join Mary Jane for the KAH1 Noon News Monday-Friday and then again for POPOFF 10 PM-Midnight.



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Weekdays

- 6-9am: The KAH1 Morning News with Barry Stigers and the KAH1 News Team
- 9am-Noon: The Laura Ingraham Show
- Noon-1pm: The KAH1 Noon News Plus with Mary Jane Popp and the KAH1 News Team
- 1-4pm: The Dave Ramsey Show
- 4-7pm: The KAH1 Afternoon News with Dave Rosenthal and the KAH1 News Team
- 7-10pm: Into the Night with Tony Bruno
- 10pm - 12am: Poppoff with Mary Jane Popp

Thursdays 7pm - 9pm: Thursdays With Bassil

Saturdays

- 6 - 7am: A Time for Seniors
- 7 - 8am: The Swap Shop
- 8 - 9am: The KAH1 Corral
- 9 - 10am: The Garden Guru
- 10 - 11am: Take Charge!
- 11 - 11:30am: The Auburn Honda Gold Country Golf Show
- 12 - 12:30pm: Study-Grow-Know
- 12:30 - 7pm: Big Cletus Country Music
- 7 - 8pm: A Way With Words
- 8 - 9pm: Rewind with Jimmy Jay

Sundays

- 7:30 - 9am: Cruising' Garage & Swap Meet
- 9am - 4pm: KAH1's Jammin' Juke box
- 4 - 5pm: A Way With Words
- 5 - 8pm: The Insana Quotient
- 8 - 9pm: Hearts of Space

Tune into KAH1 Radio each weekday for seven hours of locally produced and locally focused programming plus the best in nationally syndicated talk radio programming.

KAH1 is also the foothills home of Sacramento Kings Basketball, Oakland A's Baseball, San Jose Sharks Hockey, and Oakland Raiders Football.

Most of our locally produced programs are available for replay or podcast download at the 'Audio On Demand' page at www.kahi.com.

Follow the Oakland A's, every game, all season, live on KAH1.



TAKE CHARGE

With Dr. Kathryn Reeves Weston
Saturdays from 10 to 11am. *Take Charge!* is a guide for coping with life. Dr. Kathryn helps you find your purpose and passion and access the power of the universe to help you live your best life!



All I really need to know, I learned from baseball.

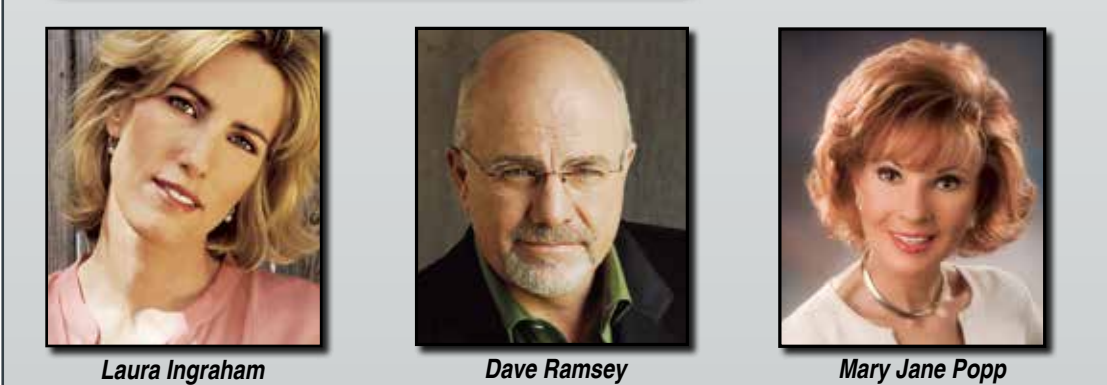
#1 Clean your plate.

JUNE 30-JULY 3
vs TUCSON PADRES
AFFILIATE OF SAN DIEGO PADRES

JULY 2 AND 3
INDEPENDENCE WEEKEND CELEBRATION

- ★ Saturday, July 2 @ 7:05 p.m. Sutter Health postgame fireworks
- ★ Sunday, July 3 @ 6:35 p.m. presented by US Army Sutter Health Fireworks Extravaganza

For the complete game schedule and promotions visit rivercats.com. Tickets available at the Raley Field Ticket Office or ticketmaster.com. Call 916.371.HITS (4487) for information on season tickets, suites, and hospitality areas.



Arts, Entertainment and Other Fun Things to do!

Parkside Church Celebrates Freedom Day by Feeding the Hungry



Parkside Church's will be gathering food donations at their annual Freedom Day event. Photo courtesy Parkside Church.

Auburn - On Sunday July 3rd Parkside Church of Auburn will be hosting its annual Freedom Day event from 10am - 2:30pm in front of their property at 3885 Richardson Drive in Auburn. They will have a delicious BBQ, super fun games for the kids, a bounce house, bingo, and the band Machaira will be playing live music for all to enjoy.

The band Machaira is very popular in the Auburn/Grass Valley area and is known for putting on quite a show. In fact one of the reasons they are so popular, especially for the kids, is because they often times give away free bicycles at the end of

their show, and this show will be no exception. You can find out more about them at www.Machaira.Com.

Although this is an annual event, this year they have decided to do things a little different. Because Parkside Church is a church for the community, they have decided to use their Freedom Day event as a means of gathering food donations for the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet.

Pastor Donny Crandall, the Senior Pastor of Parkside Church, believes that Parkside should focus not only on meeting the needs of their church

members, but also on meeting the needs of the community which is why they regularly do things like feeding the students at Chana High school, or giving showers and meals to people in the Gathering Inn homeless ministry, or feeding and caring for people at their weekly Friday night Road to Recovery service.

Parkside Church is excited about Freedom Day and hopes that everyone in the community will attend and join in the fun.

For more information contact Parkside Church at (530) 823-9911 or you can find them on the world wide web at www.ParksideNaz.Org.

Swing Dance Workshop and DJ Dance

Placer County - Dance Workshops in both East Coast and West Coast Swing, plus a DJ Dance will be held Sunday, July 3, at the Roseville Veteran's Hall, 110 Park Dr., next to Royer Park, Roseville. Doors open at 6:00 PM. with dance lessons at 6:15 PM and 7:30 PM taught by Richard Kowaleski, followed by a dance from 8-10 PM, included in the ticket price. DJ Dale Chessey of Allstar Entertainment will provide a mix of rock and roll, ballroom, country and Latin dance music. Dress is casual. The workshop is sponsored by Christian Single Network, and both singles and couples are welcome to attend.

Richard shows will teach both the East and West Coast Swing in a two-part workshop which starts promptly at 6:15 p.m.- please arrive by 6:10 to register. Doors open at 8:00 p.m. featuring all types of dance music from country to rock and roll.

Tickets are \$10 pre-sale, \$15 at the door, which include light refreshments and bottled water. Presale tickets are available on the CSN website at www.christiansinglesnet.com and at the following locations: Berean Christian Bookstore, Sacramento, Jirah's Bookstore in Placerville, or by mail through CSN, P.O. Box 909, Meadow

Vista, CA 95722..

Northern California's largest inter-church singles group, CSN also holds dances every 3 to 4 weeks on Saturday nights - these dances are \$15 presale and \$20 at the door. The next Saturday dance is July 9 at Carmichael Presbyterian Church. CSN also hosts mixers, workshops and concerts and retreats. For information call the office at (530) 878-8606 or the 24 hour information line at (916) 658-0606.

The CSN website, www.christiansinglesnet.com, includes directions to the dance as well as calendar featuring upcoming events sponsored by CSN and other singles groups.

A Gift of the Heart Orchestra and Singers

Auburn - Start your Independence Day events off with "Homeland," a patriotic concert for all your family and friends celebrating our national heritage. Performed by A Gift of the Heart Orchestra and Singers, with special guests, Sierra Community Chorus, this inspiring evening of music features

vocal and instrumental arrangements of American classics such as "America," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Star Spangled Banner," Irving Berlin tunes, "Homeland" and more! Bring blankets or lawn chairs to relax on the grass at this scenic outdoor amphitheater. Pack a picnic basket or purchase dinner from local

vendors to enjoy while listening to these talented performers.

For more information, go to www.agiftoftheheart.org or call (530) 823-8330.

This FREE concert will be held on July 1, 2 and 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Auburn Library Garden Theater, 350 Nevada Street in Auburn.

Placer County Master Gardeners at Farmers' Market

Auburn - Come and visit the Placer County Master Gardeners at the Auburn Farmers Market July through September!

Time: Master Gardeners attend Farmers Market from 8a.m. to Noon
Where: Auburn Old Town Courthouse Parking Lot - free parking Auburn-Folsom Rd. at Lincoln Way

Do you have a gardening or composting question that you need answered? Do you want to chat about your home garden? Talk to the Master Gardener volunteers at the Farmers Market in Auburn and pick up free UC publications on home gardening.

When: First and Third Saturdays of the month (July 2, 16; August 6, 20; September 3, 17)



By David Dickstein

Family Films



Cars 2
Opens June 24, rated G
disney.go.com/cars

Now-humbled Lightning McQueen and the friends he made in once-dusty Radiator Springs are back in this sequel to the 2006 Disney-Pixar animated feature. Moving the action from the desert to both Asia and Europe they go for the thrills and excitement of the first-ever World Grand Prix. Owen Wilson, Bonnie Hunt and Larry the Cable Guy again head up the all-star voice cast.



Green Lantern
Opens June 17, rated PG-13
greenlanternmovie.com

Like most superheroes at the start of their crime-fighting careers, Hal Jordan (Ryan Reynolds) was just a common

Films and DVDs for the Whole Family

Joe until something extraordinary happened to him. A ring bestowed to him from a dying alien gets him inducted as the first human to join the Green Lantern Corps. Reluctantly, Hal must play cop to the universe, a job that, for him, comes with some alien bigotry.

Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer
Opens June 10, rated PG
judymoodymovie.com

Judy is a third grader whose plans for an awesome summer vacation go south when her best friends announce they're heading off and Mom and Dad need to leave town as well. Stuck at home with her aptly named brother Stink and in the care of Aunt Opal, the dejected Judy will find that she might not have a miserable summer after all.

Family DVDs

Green Lantern: Emerald Knights (ages 12-17, released June 17, not rated): From the producers of the live-action "Green Lantern" feature movie out this month is a companion made-for-DVD animated movie featuring a much cheaper cast. Want proof?

Nathan Fillion of basic cable TV's "Firefly" gets top bill. Hopefully the big-screen version is amazing because this home entertainment title is shoddy stuff. Grade: D

Roary the Racing Car (ages 2-5, released June 7, not rated): The premiere DVD of this show on PBS Kids Sprout includes never-before-seen episodes, all fronted by a revved up, infectious theme song. Narrated by Indy and NASCAR racer Sam Hornish Jr., each segment serves as a positive pit stop for youngsters. Grade: A-

VeggieTales: Live! Sing Yourself Silly (ages 10-17, available May 3, rated PG-13): (ages 3-8, released June 7, not rated): Last year's "Sing Yourself Silly" live stage tour never ventured west of the Bible Belt, but a November performance at a megachurch in Tennessee was taped so the rest of the world could watch Archibald Asparagus, Bob the Tomato, Larry the Cucumber and their fellow produce pals sing and dance through 18 song favorites. In person the show might have been a hoot, but on the small screen it's flatter than a road-killed Henry the Potato. Grade: C



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Capitals 2011 Schedule

Watch top-ranked and world renowned tennis players including Serena Williams, Martina Hingis, Mardy Fish and the Bryan Brothers.

DATE	OPPONENT	THEME
July 8 th	New York Sportimes	Caps Come Home <i>featuring Martina Hingis</i>
July 9 th	Washington Kastles	Drop Shot Diva Day <i>featuring Serena Williams</i>
July 10 th	Newport Beach Breakers	Play Tennis Sacramento
July 12 th	Kansas City Explorers	Family Night <i>featuring the Bryan Brothers</i>
July 15 th	Newport Beach Breakers	Catch the Wave <i>featuring Mardy Fish</i>
July 20 th	Boston Lobsters	Caps Go Green
July 21 st	Springfield Lasers	Fan Appreciation Night

Sacramento Capitals Ticket Office, 6023 Sunrise Mall, Citrus Heights. (916) 488-5000



PLACER COUNTY GRAND JURY

Resolution Opposing Assembly Bill 622

Auburn, May 25 – The Placer County Grand Jury issued a Resolution, entitled, "Resolution of the 2010-11 Grand Jury of the County Of Placer, State of California, Opposing

Assembly Bill No. 622, Authored by Assemblyman Roger Dickenson, Relating to Civil Grand Jury Proceedings." The Resolution was sent to the

Governor's Office and the elected State officials representing Placer County. The Resolution is available at <http://www.PlacerGrandJury.org>.

A Report on the 49 Fire

Auburn, May 31 – On August 30, 2009, two arson-initiated fires occurred near the intersection of Rock Creek Road and Highway 49 in Auburn. Due to weather conditions, the two fires merged into one nearly unmanageable, fast moving fire that consumed 343 acres, 62 homes, and

two businesses. The 49 Fire caused approximately \$40,000,000 in property damage and cost \$1.3 million to fight.

The Grand Jury finds the response, recovery, investigation, and subsequent process improvements to be effective. First responders, county

agencies, volunteer organizations, churches and individual community members provided maximum effort under near impossible firefighting conditions.

The report is available at the <http://www.PlacerGrandJury.org>.

Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District – Double Taxation Must Stop

The Placer County Grand released a report finding that multiple counties collected the same parcel tax levied by the Tahoe-Truckee Unified School resulting in double taxation on several parcels.

Auburn, May 31 – The Placer County Grand Jury released a report in response to a complaint received concerning the collection of a Tahoe-

Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) parcel tax by both Nevada and Placer Counties.

Since tax year 1989-1990, the Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District (TTUSD) has levied a parcel tax (flat tax, not dependant on property value) on the properties in the District. Taxes are collected in Nevada, Placer, and El Dorado Counties. There are properties that are

split by a County Line. These properties have Appraiser's Parcel Numbers in each County. The School Tax has been collected by both Counties, thereby requiring the property owner to pay the tax twice.

The Grand Jury recommends that TTUSD discontinue double taxation.

The report is available at the <http://www.PlacerGrandJury.org>.

Relay For Life Cancer Benefit Bus Trip

Auburn – Come and enjoy a Relay For Life benefit gambling bus ride to Harrah's Reno July 9th 2011. Cost is only \$30.00. You will receive \$5.00 and \$5.00

food credit plus a fun trip. We will spend 6 hours at Harrah's. We need 15 more passengers to fill the second bus. Pick up will be at Penryn, Auburn and Colfax. If in-

terested please call Manuel Ferreira at 530-885-9226 or 530-210-7554 to reserve your seat and for pick-up times and location by July 4th.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THEME: INDEPENDENCE DAY

CROSSWORD

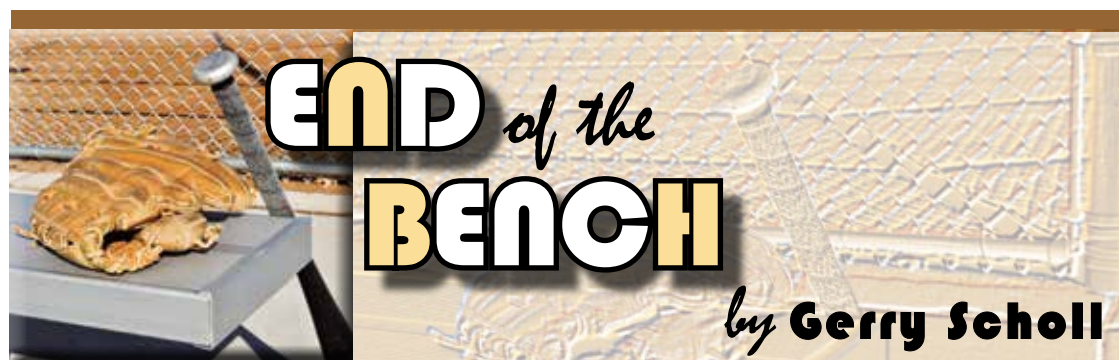
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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Very light wood
 - School support org.
 - "Don't get fireworks"
 - Once more
 - Poetic "even"
 - "Done to America on the Fourth"
 - The _____, Marvel Comics
 - Landers or Coulter, e.g.
 - One up
 - "First to sign the Declaration"
 - Not yet tested
 - Make a mistake
 - Clothed
 - Ogre-like creature
 - Target of grand theft
 - "Wild Blue _____"
 - Action word
 - This over matter?
 - Hollow rock
 - Butter substitute
 - Haze over
 - Seed cover
 - Twisted cotton thread
 - Irritate or disturb
 - Printing unit
 - 8vo
 - City in Nevada
 - Eye infection
 - SAT, e.g.
 - Gremlin or pixie
 - Name of geographical place
 - "Between life and pursuit of happiness"
 - What volcanoes do
 - "Home of the brave"
 - Ralph in Paris
 - Puzzle in pictures
 - Cow chew
 - Fill with optimism
 - "Seamstress Betsy"
 - "Anthem writer"
 - Truth _____
 - Less than average tide
 - Singer and actress Day
 - Authoritative proclamation
 - 4 x 4 race
 - Cowboy's necktie
 - Clinton's 1996 contender
 - Many geniuses
 - "When in the course of human _____"
 - _____ moron
 - _____ Chinoises, aka shadow play
 - Without self-control
 - "Famous portrait painter"
 - Territory, abbr.
 - Dunking treat
 - Taverns
 - Chopin's creation, e.g.
 - Tramp's companion
 - Lion's sound
 - "Swan Lake" outfit
 - Big bang theory's original matter
 - File a suit
- DOWN**
- Soaking ritual
 - Title for Turkish leader
 - Past participle of "lie"
 - From then on
 - Fluffy sweater material
 - Pinnacle
 - "Number of amendments in Bill Of Rights"
 - Declare invalid
 - Grim
 - Not in favor of
 - Pie a la _____
 - Poking instrument
 - "Edible favorite"
 - Pigeon food?
 - Negative response
 - Acquire more evidence
 - Convex molding
 - Antiquity of the past
 - Summit
 - Wedding cake layer

For Solution See Page 5



A Special Joy

What's so special about the Special Olympics? Just everything, that's what!

There was an overwhelming sentiment of sheer joy permeating the scene at Toomey Field on the UC Davis campus Sunday during the track and field events in the 2011 Special Olympics Northern California Summer Games. It was evident on all the faces in the crowd: the many volunteers and organizers; the teammates, coaches, family members and friends on the field, in the stands and hugging the railings during events; and the athletes preparing to compete, toeing the starting line or celebrating the completion of their events.

In many ways it was just like any other track meet. It was hot. There was a lot of standing around and sometimes a lot of time between events. There was intensity on the marks before the starter's gun and last-second coaching tips from the sidelines. There was a reasonable gathering of fans, mostly comprised of people with immediate connections with the competitors. And yet, it was a totally different vibe. The focus wasn't centered

on winning, but on exulting in personal triumphs. Every time the greatest cheers came as the final runner came down the stretch.

Last week in this space I was exorcising demons, venting on many of the not-so-nice goings-on in the world of sports. And, wouldn't you know it, this week is so completely the opposite. Just a couple of hours absorbing the vibe and I felt as if I'd undergone a sporting spiritual revival.

"Some really do get upset if they don't win," one coach said. "As a coach my job is, win or lose, to make sure they are having fun on the track. Their emotions are the same as anybody else, and then some. They are more open to learning, and have a willingness to learn and get out there and do it."

I visited one of the information booths for some helpful notes. I was welcomed to lots of impressive facts and figures regarding the volunteers, the donors and participants. But most impressive about all of that was the enthusiasm with which it was delivered. "It's about training for life, and self-awareness, self-

esteem and character."

A teacher from a nearby community was out to watch his 18-year-old student, Jeremiah, compete. He bragged on the event, "Well done. A labor of love." He effused pride and joy talking about Jeremiah's second-place finish in the 100m and first in the 4x100 relay. "They're all out there trying hard to be successful, and to feel confident regardless. It's beautiful."

The Fresno Fire, Santa Clara Speedsters, Tri-Valley Rockets, Team Davis, The Sacramento County Chargers and many more wore their team colors proudly and athletes cherished their gold, silver and bronze medals. There were winners on many levels.

A badge that many people were wearing might have said it best: "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." This was a rare occasion when many brave souls meant that everybody wins.

"It's so nice when you get the whole family involved," someone said.

Special Olympics: One big happy, joyful family.

Power System Manager Steve Jones Retires

Auburn – Retiring Power System Manager Steve Jones was recognized at Thursday's (June 16) meeting of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors. Jones retires July 1 following a 28-year career with the agency.

"Our Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project has been highly successful because of Steve's energetic and professional management," said PCWA General Manager David A. Breninger.

"Steve has always prided himself on keeping our project in a 'good as new' condition, in both appearance and operational performance, as it was back in 1967 when it was completed," Breninger continued. "He has made sure the project generates as many megawatts of energy as possible while storing our Placer County 'area-of-origin' water supplies for maximum beneficial uses by the water agency."

The PCWA Power System, based in Foresthill, operates the Middle Fork Project with its extensive network of reservoirs, dams, waterways and powerhouses. The system employs 18 and has a 2011 operating budget of \$13.8 million.

Jones' administration of Power System contracts, supervision of many contractors over the years, and administration of projects, including the current upgrade of the spillway at French Meadows Dam, won accolades. He also was commended for his personnel management abilities, team building over the years and for



Steve Jones, right, was honored at Thursday's meeting of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors. Jones, who is retiring after 28 years with the agency, is pictured with General Manager David Breninger and Board Chairman Lowell Jarvis. Photo courtesy PCWA.

nurturing pride of workmanship and high performance among his staff.

"Over the years, Steve has spent a great deal of time in negotiations with our power purchase partner, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, to ensure adequate support and funding to sustain our project at a high level," said Breninger. "He has worked closely with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the U.S. Forest Service, and other important regulatory agencies."

Jones said he is thankful for the

opportunity to work with "great people, highly competent people. It's been a tremendous pleasure to work for PCWA these past 28 years," he said.

An engineering graduate of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Jones spent eight years with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, working out of the Sacramento regional office, before joining PCWA in June 1983.

Jones and his wife, Debbie, reside in Foresthill. In retirement, they plan to enjoy some travel and spend plenty of time with their grandchildren.

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Sizes 6 - 9

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Get the Most Bang for Your Buck: 2011 Fireworks Buyers Guide

By David Dickstein

Sacramento Region – The diversity of consumer fireworks sold in honor of America's Independence Day is wide, not unlike the Melting Pot whose birthday they symbolize. What's new? What's loud? What's colorful? Is that \$30 fountain really worth the money and how long is it?

As sure as Betsy Ross could sew, a trip to a fireworks stand can be a puzzling pyrotechnic experience.

To help you get the most bang for your buck this Fourth of July, we present our 2011 fireworks buyers guide. Every new state-approved fountain was put to the test along with selected returning items. TNT and Phantom, which enjoy a duopoly in Northern California, have more than a dozen new items between the two.

Fireworks were rated on a 5-star scale for performance, duration, distinctiveness and overall comparative value. Judges included firefighters of Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Station 65, who graciously provided the test site. Products are listed in order of price, high to low.

A tip: Shop early or risk having to choose from items not good enough to make this list, meaning, except with the new stuff, they didn't score at least 3 1/2 stars.

Let the sparks fly!

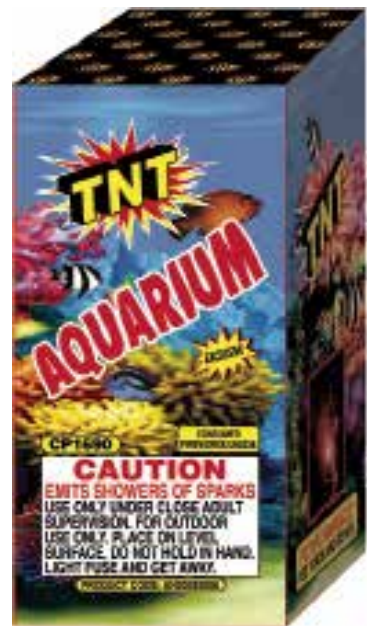
New for 2011

Festival of Lights (Phantom), \$49.99 – A synonym for "festival" is



"fair," and a homonym of that is an adequate assessment of this so-so 500-gram newcomer. Has all the standard effects except whistle, but when you can buy six Apache Firedances of similar performance for just a few dollars more, well, you do the math. 148 seconds. 2 1/2 Stars

Star Voyager (TNT), \$29.99 – Earns "best new finale" honors with a long-lasting, 500-gram performance of bright and crackling titanium bursts that reach the 10-foot-high legal limit (maybe even surpassing...shhh!). 146 seconds. 4 1/2 Stars



Phantom Crown Jewel (Phantom), \$29.99 – Dazzling 500-gram display of white flowers, colored pearls and crackles, gold chrysanthemums and silver crackle. Packs a wallop, but that also reduces burn time. 84 seconds. 4 1/2 Stars

Bonsai Pipeline/Magma Glow Fountain (Phantom), \$29.99 – Terrific burn time and the tallest of the freshman class, if size matters to you, but a far better pick from Phantom at this price is Brew Haha. The cylindrical newbie goes by both names and different labeling. 119 seconds. 3 Stars

Jumbo Purple Rain (TNT), \$24.99 – TNT's best-selling Purple Rain gets super-sized, offering up juiced-up gold, purple and crackles. 89 seconds. 3 1/2 Stars

Pyropalooza (TNT), \$19.99 – Excellent height, crackle and vivid hues – a vivacious visual. 115 seconds. 4 1/2 Stars



Main Squeeze (TNT), \$19.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Pleasing red, white, orange and pink sparks spew from cute, unique packaging that gives this fountain its name. 90 seconds. 3 1/2 Stars

Phantom Night Owl (Phantom), \$12.99 – An instant classic is hatched among the growing category of fountains with an internal glowing feature. Three loud screeches and an exciting overall performance make this nocturnal newbie a hoot. 65 seconds. 4 1/2 Stars

Radiant (TNT), \$10 – Top of the class of 2011, this low-priced beauty pushes the legal limit for spreading



sparks. One of the few fountains living up to its name. 82 seconds. 5 Stars

Home Run (TNT), \$9.99 – Middling crackle finish, low altitude, OK burn time for the price. Despite its name, score this one a double. 105 seconds. 2 1/2 Stars

Snakes in the Grass (Phantom), \$5.99 six-pack – Clever name and having those black pellets in a canister keeps fingers clean, but these snakes that grow while aglow are better when free range. 2 Stars

Viva El Futbol (TNT), \$4 – Terrific altitude and crackle for the price. 43 seconds. 3 1/2 Stars

Aquarium (TNT), \$3 – So-so stars and red globs. Nothing memorable. 24 seconds. 2 Stars

Orchid (TNT), \$2 – Don't blink or you'll miss an impressive burst of crackling sparks. 17 seconds. 2 Stars

Best of the Rest (4-5 Stars)

New York Harbor (Phantom), \$39.99 – Stellar burn time and multiple effects, including some of the finest chrysanthemums for a consumer firework. 195 seconds.

Brew Haha (Phantom), \$29.99 – Beer stein-designed 500-gram fountain brims over with effects, including a loud opening whistle and a cavalcade of color. 145 seconds.

Rock Around the Clock (Phantom), \$24.99 – Unique spinning hands are hard to see at night, but this

clock-designed novelty-fountain is a stunner with a powerful fan-like spray. 84 seconds.

TNT Fountain (TNT), \$23.99 – Long-burning, powder keg-shaped fountain has a colorful, crackling performance. 154 seconds.

American Spirit (TNT), \$19.99 plus bonus – Offers up a patriotic blend of red, white and bluish stars, gold showers and super-loud whistles and crackles. Comes with the boisterous, multi-colored Sizzler Fountain (90 seconds). Super deal. 125 seconds.

Molten Pot (TNT), \$19.99 – Entertaining combo of colorful globs, titanium crackles, fish, glitter and chrysanthemums. 73 seconds.

Alpha Wolf (Phantom), \$19.99 – Green and purple droplets, gold shower and crackling stars finale are awesome. No whistles, doesn't need them. 83 seconds.

Triple Gemini (TNT), \$17.99 – Impressive pink and gold fish, and crackles that sound like a string of titanium-laced firecrackers. 85 seconds.

Apache Firedance (Phantom), \$17.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Low altitude is more than compensated by a super-long burn time and marvelous sequence of crackles, whistles, white flashes and multi-colored sprays. Up \$2 from last season, but still a solid combo deal. 210 seconds.

Hasta La Vista Baby (Phantom), \$16.99 – Like color and hate whistles? Then this is a solid pick with a screech-free spectrum of fast-changing colors. 125 seconds.



Funky Monkey (Phantom), \$15.99 – This pyrotechnic primate features red pearls and a solid overall performance. 80 seconds.

Mad Dog (TNT), \$14.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Amazing crackles, whistles and multi-color sparks are improved by TNT again making this a two-for-one item. 80 seconds.

Firecracker Fountain (Phantom), \$14.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Lives up to its name with a remarkable crackling barrage among multi-colored pearls. 106 seconds.



Flying Stars Fountain (Phantom), \$12.99 – Fantastic fish-featuring fountain that, because it's noiseless, is also friendly to pets and fuddy-duddy neighbors. 97 seconds.

L.O.L. (TNT), \$12.99 – The happy 3-D face on the package features a red mouth and blue eyes that glow from within, making for loads of fun. 80 seconds.

King of Bling (Phantom), \$10.99 – The crackles heard during the final third sound just like popping popcorn. Majestic chrysanthemums and whistle. 90 seconds.

Night Treasure (TNT), \$12.99 – Looks like a fan fountain, and it is, albeit only for the final half-minute. Still, a reliable, fair-priced item. 113 seconds.

Volcanic Vortex (Phantom), \$10.99 for three – Cones usually produce more yawns than sparks, but not this awesomely intense trio. 45 seconds each.

Luck of the Irish (TNT), \$9.99 – This classic fountain features gold and silver spray, red and green balls and some super-loud whistles. 80 seconds.

Painted Desert (Discount Fireworks Superstore), \$8.99 – Pretty thing with gold, copper and green flashing stars, and orange and pink globs. 76 seconds.

Lil Red Devil (TNT), \$8.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Packs plenty of

heat for the size and price. Titanium crackling sparks spread out an impressive 9 feet. 30 seconds.

Electrical Shock (Phantom), \$7.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – Red and green showers give way to a raucous whistling and crackling finale. 40 seconds.

Pink Diamonds (TNT), \$6.99 – Not much pink in the fireworks marketplace, so props to this unique, modestly priced item. 61 seconds.

Phantom Mystical Magic (Phantom), \$8.99 (buy-one-get-one) – Fleeting duration, but love those multi-colored, marble-sized blooming globs. 24 seconds.

Phantom Dragon Slayer (Phantom), \$5.99 – Got some white, blue and lemon chrysanthemums, rowdy crackles and red stars going on. 66 seconds.

Moondance Fountain (Phantom), \$3.99 for two (buy-one-get-one) – 4-inch dynamo spews loud crackles, purple pearls and glittering gold and white sparks. [Note: Identical to TNT's Purple Rain, \$5.99 for two.] 45 seconds.



Honorable Mentions (3 1/2 Stars)
Komodo 3000 (Phantom), \$49.99, 240 seconds; **Delirium** (TNT), \$45.99, 94 seconds; **Blooming Flower** (Phantom), \$29.99, 70 seconds; **Hexagon Magic** (Phantom), \$19.99, 104 seconds; **Jade & Butterfly Duo** (Phantom), \$4.99, 28 seconds each; **En Fuego** (TNT), \$4, 31 seconds; **Black Widow** (TNT), \$3, 42 seconds.

For more information, visit: TNT Fireworks (www.tntfireworks.com) and Phantom Fireworks (www.phantomfireworks.com).



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