



The Sacramento Union

Est. 1851

'Mes' de los Muertos

Local Artist, Restaurant Celebrate Month-long 'Day of the Dead'



Leonardo Ceballos stands next to one of his artistic works, "La Ultima y Nos Vamos" ("The Last One and Let's Get Out of Here!"), at Todo Un Poco Restaurant in Elk Grove. (Sacramento Union Photo/Lance Armstrong)

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Sacramento Union Writer

The annual, Mexican holiday, "Dia de los Muertos" or, in English, "Day of the Dead," was recently celebrated by many people throughout Mexico, as well as the Golden State. But fortunately for locals interested in learning about this tradition, they will not have to wait another year.

Instead, the celebration continues through an educational exhibit, just south of the capital city at Todo Un Poco Restaurant, 9080 Laguna Main St., in Elk Grove.

Through the efforts of the restaurant's owner Marie Mertz and Sacramento artist Leonardo Ceballos, the exhibit was appropriately opened with a reception on the "Day of the Dead," which was held last Saturday, Nov. 2.

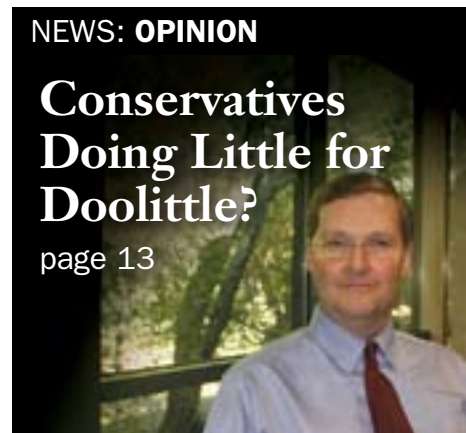
In honor of the "Day of the Dead," which celebrates the lives of those who

see MUERTOS page 10

NEWS: OPINION

Conservatives Doing Little for Doolittle?

page 13



NEWS: SACRAMENTO ROOTS

Celebrating Storied Historian

page 16



Farmers Begin Recovery Efforts as Wildfires Abate

By KATE CAMPBELL and DAVE KRANZ
Special Contributors to The Union

As Southern California farmers and ranchers begin putting their lives and their businesses back together, the wind-driven wildfires that ravaged the region still have not been completely extinguished. But, at the writing [Nov. 1], state fire officials said with calmer winds and lower temperatures,

great strides are being made to put out all of the 23 wildfires that erupted in Southern California last month.

During the worst of the disaster, wind-whipped flames scorched homes, farms and wildland from Santa Barbara County to San Diego County and the Mexican border. At one point about a million

see RECOVERY page 20

Green Boom is Not a Job Boom

By TOM TANTON
Sacramento Union Columnist

"Investing in renewable energy will provide a clean source of power and create an explosion of new jobs."

In late September, this claim attracted the attention of the U.S. Senate Energy and Public Works Committee and its chair, Democratic California Sen.

see GREEN page 21

NEWS: THE SPORTING GOLD

Just Say No to A-Rod

page 24



THE 11TH HOUR OF THE 11TH DAY OF THE 11TH MONTH

*Honoring Their Sacrifice,
Remembering Veteran's Day*

Guaranteed Home Delivery!

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Valley Press

1,000 Words...



It was a howling good time in this photo from *Sacramento Union* reporter Lance Armstrong. Pictured here, costumed youth celebrate Halloween during the 2nd annual Holiday Bazaar at Pleasant Grove High School in Elk Grove on Saturday, Oct. 27. The event featured a haunted house, crafters, artists and home-based retailers.

We want to see your photos, too. Send your pictures to editor@SacUnion.com.



NEIGHBORHOOD REFERENCES
SINCE 1984 – BBB 1996

WE ALSO SERVICE FAIR OAKS, CARMICHAEL,
CITRUS HEIGHTS & ORANGEVALE

- Sod
- Pruning
- Drainage
- Consultation
- Sprinklers
- Plantings
- Retainer Walls
- Full & Re-Landscaping

PICK UP YOUR FREE SACRAMENTO UNION
EVERY WEEK AT:



Coldwell Banker
5034 Sunrise Blvd
Fair Oaks

And more than 400
other locations in the
Sacramento area!

Letters to the Editor

Conservative Conservation?

What has gone too far is the insatiable rate at which we consume finite resources, and the insanity of so-called conservatives, like Senator [Tom] McClintock. What is “conservative” about using finite resources as fast as we can? Is it something like: who cares, as long as my children will inherit my great wealth, they’ll be fine? Good luck with that.

What has gone too far is the destruction of our cities, towns and communities in the name of the automobile. How much farmland do we need to pave over for the low-density housing and wide arterial streets and freeways so we can spend our time commuting to work, play and shopping instead of with our families and in the outdoors of walkable neighborhoods?

What has gone too far is all this talk of the economic harm of saving energy. Every study I’ve ever seen concludes that the cheapest thing we can do to begin the reduction of CO2 emissions is to conserve energy. The upside of our high rate of waste is that this is actually not difficult, technologically or otherwise. Beyond that, maybe we will have to ditch the monster projects and toys that show how we’ve mastered nature. If that means fewer lanes of concrete, less dams, I’m sure no one will starve, they will just have to give up their water hungry lawns.

What has gone too far is how conservatives always cry about how expensive environmental regulation is and that [it] will cost jobs because people won’t pay for it. Hmmm, if it costs jobs, that sounds like saving money (taxpayer’s or otherwise) and

isn’t that good for the economy? (That’s what the free trade folks always say!). On the other hand, if people do pay the added expense, that will create jobs, and I [hear] from politicians that is a good thing, too! Sounds like a win either way, so I don’t see why they are so gloomy about it (read: if only economic and political rhetoric was subject to the same standards as global warming research, we’d be in great shape). Of course, what they really mean is “don’t touch my cash cow.”

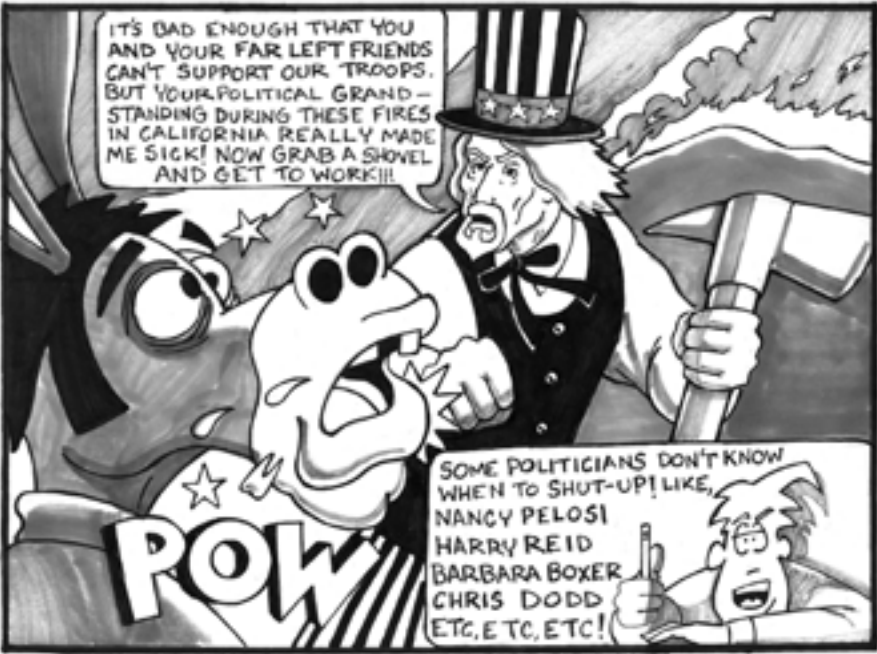
The true “chicken littles” in this are those like McClintock who say the sky will fall if we actually get together and do something to conserve the abundance and beauty of this planet, while energy is still relatively cheap and our economies are intact. Apparently, I have a lot more faith in the collective wisdom and talents of Americans, and humanity at-large to think we can not only maintain, but improve our quality of life, while moving toward a sustainable world.

It’s nice to see that at least some of your writers, like [*Sacramento Union* columnist Peter] Hannaford, are moving in the more constructive direction of debating how to get there. On the other hand, [*Sacramento Union* columnist Tom] Tanton is clueless, so I guess I know where the balance of your readership lies.

Thanks for the opportunity to get that off my chest.

Steve Holzberg, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
Folsom Lake College
Folsom

The Laughing Box by Greg Rico



TheLaughingBox@SacUnion.com

©2007 G.D. Rico

Sac Sheriff Re-introduces Deputy Jim Crow

By MARK WILLIAMS
Sacramento Union Columnist



Lieutenant Rosie Enriquez is the point person for the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department's new program to shield criminals from arrest provided they are

Latino and are in the United States illegally. By extension, the lieutenant is thus tasked with protecting from the law those engaged in the wide range of crimes associated with illegal status as well. Those crimes range from simple loitering and public nuisance, to identity theft and forgery, to extortion, drug use, drug running and crimes of violence such as rape and murder.

Lt. Enriquez spearheads the sheriff's idea to build a one-stop shopping center where white guys can rent brown guys (without being pestered by alarmed residents) at an existing ad-hoc human auction at the AM/PM Mini Mart on 47th and MLK. I have pointed out in previous columns the plight of the humans being bought and sold, so in this column, both barrels are reserved for this atrocious idea from an American Citizen's point of view.

In a unilateral repeal of Constitutionally-mandated Equal Protection (laws must apply to all equally), the sheriff's department has essentially become a co-conspirator – an accessory before, during and after the fact – to a wide range of crimes, ranging from minor to major, while assist-

ing the actual criminals evade capture and punishment. In an interview with the *Sacramento Bee*, Lt. Enriquez excuses and assists the crimes of illegal aliens based on their Latino heritage: "I usually see them as victims..." she says while dismissing complaints from innocent citizens and talks about the "nuisance" of having to deal with those complaints. (Hint: arrest the causes lady, don't help them—and that includes the white guys renting the brown ones.)

Ethnic-centric law enforcement went out with nail-studded baseball bats and setting dogs on marchers at Selma. Neither should any law enforcement agency be in the business of organizing crime—they should all be in the business of fighting crime. The excuse here is that because the U.S. Border Patrol cannot do its job, we must therefore restore institutional racism to being a cop. Here's a clue: many things hobble the border patrol, and one of them is this bone-headed, idiotic, criminal policy by the sheriff's department. This idea should be fodder for a Federal RICO Act (rack-teering) investigation, not a feel good puff piece in the *Bee*.

I know Sheriff John McGinnis (he is a personal friend) and I cannot fathom why he would wrap his tongue around a third rail issue like this one, much less go from crime fighter to crime enabler. Especially given that the sheriff is a constant presence, hat in hand, at the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, pleading departmental poverty. Seems that his department chronically teeters on the edge of bank-

ruptcy, but to spend money helping to promote crime will not look good at budget time—I think we just identified a pile of surplus cash in his budget for the supervisors to reassign to a line item where it may be better utilized. County Commissioner Roberta MacGlashan has already figured that Sacramento County will have a \$31 million shortfall over the next year; add that to Lt. Enriquez's salary plus whatever money the department is spending on studies, lobbyists, public relations and other such aspects of leading their effort to aid and abet criminals. I'm sure that could make a dent in that budget problem.

There is no room in law enforcement for cops who selectively look the other way as Enriquez is doing. Nor do "orders" cut it either. That didn't work at Nuremburg and won't here—duty and oath trump orders. Too many of us fought too long and hard to eliminate race as a basis for deciding who gets arrested and prosecuted. Sheriff John McGinnis owes us all an apology and a vow to return to color blind justice, backed by a total elimination from his force of racists and advocates for the rights of criminals over the rights of innocent citizens.

Mark Williams is a Sacramento-based, award-winning opinion journalist. He appears nationwide on radio and TV and locally in The Sacramento Union. He also appears every other Monday on the CBS 13 Early Morning News at 6 a.m. Learn more or contact Mark through his Web site at www.marktalk.com.



Members of the state's agriculture industry often rely on illegal immigrant labor to keep costs low. (AP Photo)

And they shouted... We Want ORANGE!
WE MUST HAVE ORANGE!

Sacramento
Union

"GETTING THE NEWS RIGHT FOR A CENTURY AND A HALF"

SACUNION COLUMNIST

Profitable Boards, Commissions and Committees And Why You Will Never Be On One...

By KATY GRIMES
Sacramento Union Columnist



As I wrote recently about the Sacramento Library Board, our public officials are stacking the City Boards, Commissions and Committees, and shutting out the public.

They are also getting paid for sitting on many of these boards and commissions.

Here's a board position to which I would love to be appointed: The Compensation Commission. It is an unpaid position; however, "commission expenses" are covered. The members of the Compensation Commission are appointed by Mayor Heather Fargo and approved by the Sacramento City Council. The responsibilities of the Compensation Commission are to establish compensation for the mayor, the city council, and for public members of city boards and commissions.

Let's clarify this: Mayor Fargo and the city council appoint their own compensation committee. Where else but in government can you appoint those who decide your salary? Do you think there may be a tiny conflict of interest?

The city's Planning Commission is also appointed by the mayor and approved by city council members. Planning commissioners are paid \$100 per meeting, not to exceed \$400 per month.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District is comprised of 14 members made up of Sacramento City Council members, Sacramento County Supervisors and city council mem-

bers from surrounding cities (Galt, Elk Grove, Isleton, etc...). These members are paid \$100 per meeting and limited to two meetings per month.

The Sacramento Library Board, the members of which are paid \$100 per meeting, is also made up of the usual suspects—all city councilpersons and county supervisors.

Sacramento Regional County Solid Waste Authority only pays \$75 per meeting, and coincidentally is made up of city council members, county supervisors and one Citrus Heights city council member. It's a dirty job for less pay, but someone has to do it.

The Sacramento Regional Arts Facilities Financing Board is comprised of only five members, but made up entirely of city council members and county supervisors, for no compensation, but their meetings can be held telephonically, and in conjunction with their regular meetings. Although this board offers no compensation, the pitiful existence of a commission such as this only serves to accentuate the uselessness of these boards as they currently operate.

The Sacramento Employment and Training Agency board is also comprised of city council, county supervisors and one member jointly appointed by both board and council—one must be an insider to be appointed to this board. The compensation? \$175 per meeting, not to exceed \$350 per month.

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments pays \$100 per meeting and reimburses for mileage.

Sacramento Regional Transit Board of Directors has eleven members, all of which

are members of the city council, county board of supervisors and surrounding city councils. They are paid \$50 per meeting, not to exceed \$200 per month.

Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission Board members are also all five Sacramento County Supervisors, three Sacramento City Council members, and three surrounding city council members. They are paid \$120 per meeting attended.

This is starting to add up to a tidy sum of money every month for our city council and county supervisors, on top of their salary. If, for example, a city council member sits on 6 to 10 boards and commissions, and is paid a minimum of \$200 per month from each board, that's a cool \$1,200-\$2,000 additional income per month on top of the "official" pay for their city council seat.

What are our elected officials paid for their "public service?" The disclosed base salary for a member of the Sacramento City Council is \$53,040 PLUS an annual \$4,200 vehicle allowance, \$2,500 expense allowance, a technology allowance of \$1,000, a "financial contribution" to medical/dental insurance, life insurance, retirement, a 401 (a) plan and Long-Term disability insurance. This adds up to \$60,740 annual salary plus unbelievable benefits that most people pay for out of their taxable income.

Mayor Fargo's base salary is \$100,776 annually AND an annual vehicle allowance

of \$6,600, expense allowance of \$5,000, technology allowance of \$1,800, as well as a "financial contribution" to medical/dental insurance, life insurance, retirement, 401(a) plan, and Long-Term disability insurance. The mayor's real annual salary is \$114,176 plus paid benefits and retirement(s). There is no mention of travel allowances or expenses (such as trips on "Sister City" junkets to Japan and Moldova). And there is no explanation as to why Mayor Fargo still receives an auto allowance of \$6,600 annually when she has a full-time driver. (Take a guess at what that guy's salary is.)

City and county elected officials make far more than what is advertised. Much of the benefit and remuneration is buried deep within the budget, and taxpayers are paying for their lifestyle.

With our city council members and mayor sitting on nearly every board, commission and public panel, paying themselves to do so and approving their own raises, salaries, benefits and retirement accounts, it is time for the citizens to put a stop to this autocracy. We need to clean up these boards and city hall, and put an end to the madness—quickly, before they vote themselves another salary and benefit increase.

Katy Grimes is a longtime political analyst and Sacramento native. Read her blog at fetchingjen.blogspot.com or email her at fetchingjen@gmail.com.

**PICK UP YOUR FREE SACRAMENTO UNION
EVERY WEEK AT:**



**Doubletree Hotel
(at the guest services desk)
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento**

**And more than 400
other locations in the
Sacramento area!**



Bruce Kaye
Brain Tumor Foundation

**2nd Annual
Bruce Kaye
Brain Tumor Foundation
Golf Classic**

**Monday, Nov 12, 2007
Granite Bay Golf Club**

This event allows the Bruce Kaye Brain Tumor Foundation to continue its mission of helping individuals and families who are fighting brain cancer. Golfers participating in this event have asked family, friends, and colleagues to sponsor them by donating to the Foundation and its cause. We ask those of you who are unable to participate in the Golf Classic to join our cause as well. Thank You.

www.brucekayefoundation.org

info@BruceKayeFoundation.org

Crime Fighting and Myth-busting in Sacto

By OFFICER MICHELLE LAZARK
Sacramento Police Department Officer



Editor's Note: Ask Officer Michelle your question by emailing her at mlazark@pd.cityofsacramento.org or visit her online blog at <http://blog.sacpd.org>.

Is there a SacPd Newsletter?

Does Sac PD generate a newsletter for retired officers as the LAPD does? The agency I work for wants to advertise PT positions to retired officers.

Posted by Shantell

Dear Shantell,

The Sacramento Police Department has been developing a paperless system to communicate to our retired officers. We will [soon] be able to email retired officers on a monthly basis about department news and employment opportunities.

Officer Michelle

Understanding Sacto Meth Trade

Michelle, I have been hearing a lot about the [methamphetamines] problem. It seems like a lot of crimes being committed

are by people under the influence of meth. I learned that a close family member has been using meth. She went through the phase of seeing bugs under her skin a couple of years ago. I think she started using again, [judging by her] rapid weight loss and blemished complexion, not to mention the irritability. What are the signs of a person on meth? Does it have an effect on their eyes or pupils? Do you know of a good Web site where we can learn more about this drug and its effects? Do you have any suggestions for helping our friends/family who are struggling with addiction?

Posted by Gayle

Dear Gayle,

You are correct that people under the influence of methamphetamine are committing a lot of crimes. Unfortunately, it is a vicious cycle. Often, people who do these types of drugs steal to support their habit.

Methamphetamine is a central nervous system stimulant. In other words, it makes your internal system go fast. It can vary from person to person, and can depend if the person has a strong habit. Some of the [obvious] signs are jaw grinding, going long periods of time without sleep, talking fast and fidgeting, dilated pupils, skin

breakouts, seeing things like bugs on their skin that don't exist, paranoia, distancing themselves from family and friends, mood swings, rapid weight loss, puffy fingers, and an increased need for sweets to name a few.

If you notice any of these signs in your family member, you're probably right in that he or she is using. You might notice if your family member has any paraphernalia around. Methamphetamine can be smoked (glass smoking pipe), injected (subcutaneous hypodermic syringes), snorted (through straws that have been cut or even rolled up dollar bills), and eaten (least common method).

You can talk to your family member and confront them. Usually, treatment programs including behavior therapy is best for long term. You can contact your insurance company for information on local programs that are covered. You can also research the Internet. I found www.kci.org/meth_info_4_teachers/index.htm to be insightful. There are other links on that site that you can go to as well. Don't take [your family member's attitude and actions] personally. Methamphetamine use can change one's outlook on everything, including family. Be patient, and good luck.

Officer Michelle

How Are Officer Shootings Investigated?

Officer Michelle,

I am wondering how officer-involved shootings are investigated in Sacramento—who does it; in what time frame; and how the results are made available to the community.

Posted by Littlecat

Dear Littlecat,

In the city of Sacramento, four investigations are conducted in officer-involved shootings. Keep in mind, the procedures may be different in other jurisdictions. Here in the city, there is a criminal investigation conducted by the Homicide Unit, and an administrative investigation by Internal Affairs. The District Attorney's Office and the City's Office of Public Safety Accountability do additional investigations. There is no specific time frame for the completion of these cases; it depends on the complexity of the case involved. One way to have questions answered about [a particular] incident, and possibly ease community unrest, is to contact the OPSA, which is located in the City Manager's Office. The OPSA number is (916) 808-5704.

Officer Michelle

Published Every Friday!

Subscribe Now for Home Delivery Convenience via 1st Class Mail
Order The Sacramento Union – 26 issues for \$49.50 or 52 issues for \$99.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Email: _____

Select Term: ☐ 26 issues for \$49.50 ☐ 52 issues for \$99.50

Select Payment Method:

☐ Check enclosed (Payable to the Campaign Store)

☐ Charge my ☐ Visa or ☐ MC

Credit Card #: _____ / _____ / _____ Exp Date: ____/____/____

Signature (If paying by credit card) _____

Mail subscription request to: The Campaign Store, P.O. Box 1863, Sacramento, CA 95812

Sacramento
Union

"GETTING THE NEWS RIGHT FOR A CENTURY AND A HALF"

Note: Your subscription will be mailed via First Class Mail on the date of publishing. However, please know that The Sacramento Union is a free circulation newspaper available at over 250 locations....and that number is growing.

Or please visit SacUnion.com
to place your subscription
on the web.

Now there's a choice for Northern California – The Sacramento Union

Elk Grove History
Comes Alive!



"Echoes of Yesterday," a new book by The Sacramento Union's own Lance Armstrong, chronicles the growth of Elk Grove from a small agricultural community to the fastest growing city in the nation. For information on how to purchase the book, visit www.echoesofyesterday.com

Buy Your Copy Today

SACUNION COLUMNIST

Senses and Sensibility

By TOM HEAD
Sacramento Union Columnist



The onset of fall is far from the welcome wagon for dormancy. It rivals my former preoccupation with spring. The first rain to hit the tall dry grass spreads the smell of their oils; the dust covered rocks get their first shower in a long time.

The weekend pummeled my senses. The drizzling shower moistened all the mature chives and laid them over, filling the air just outside the house with that sweet onion aroma.

The last of the fresh basil needed to be cut because they were done, but I'll make some containers of olive oil chocked full with so much chopped basil that it will provide its memory through the next week or so.

A veil of smoke wafts through the valley around this time of year and in the distance you can hear the sharp snap and crackle from indoor fireplaces. The smoke acts as a coun-

ter to the visible wisps of breath emanating from your face and out here on my deck.

The crows in my yard evoke the memory of a Van Gogh, creating their own masterpiece by fluttering about in front of the bright yellow leaves, black feathers on the liquid ambers. A fleeting thought came as I noticed of one these black feathered characters, a crow that had been coming around for a while now. He had a tired shuffle about him, and I felt sympathetic, thinking the coming cold will serve as ushers to his kind.

Upon returning to the garage for tools, the fragrance of the Oregano was still hanging in the rafters, awakening recollections that start thoughts about what to pursue later on in the kitchen. Days off can be really cool.

I just wanted to share some real senses devoid of the mundane social insensibilities that make people wonder whether life's worth living.

Tom Head is a local businessman, owner of Abreu Gallery. He may be reached at AbreuGallery@hotmail.com.

High School Coach Resigns Amid Scandal

By GARANCE BURKE
Associated Press Writer

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP) — A Stockton high school football coach resigned last week amid accusations that he was involved in improperly recruiting players from American Samoa.

Franklin High School's head coach Tom Verner sent in his resignation letter to the Stockton Unified School District after local sports authorities dealt the school's football program the so-called "death penalty," a sanction that will ban students from playing football until 2010.

That is believed to be the harshest punishment in the history of the high school sport, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Local sports authorities allege an assistant football coach working for Verner improved the team's standing by improperly recruiting more than a dozen players from American Samoa and offering them housing in Stockton.

The California Interscholastic Federation's Sac-Joaquin Section initially said the school would have to forfeit 19 victories for the past three seasons and would be banned from competing in the playoffs through the 2011 season.

Last week, when the school violated an order to bench three players from American Samoa, authorities shut down the program for this season and the next two seasons.

"These kids presented proper credentials and just like any kid who walked in the door we educated them," said Principal Scott Luhn. "This penalizes and is harmful to too many kids."

State Assemblywoman Audra Strickland, R-Thousand Oaks, called last week for a legislative hearing to look into the powers granted to the federation, which oversees high school sports in the state.

Verner said last week he hoped his resignation would help the school's standing with officials.

"Hopefully, the CIF will say, 'Verner's not there any more,' and maybe they'll reduce the sanctions," Verner told KCRA-3 in Sacramento.

You'll *love* your new windows!™

See why we are America's #1
window replacement company!

Save **\$1,000***

when you purchase 12 or more windows.

Save **\$700***

when you purchase 9 or more windows.

Save **\$400***

when you purchase 6 or more windows.

&

12 Month*
No Interest Financing!

HALL'S

Window and door replacement from a company you can trust.

www.itrusthalls.com



Visit one of our
showrooms

9792 Business Park Dr.
Sacramento
(Off Bradshaw & Hwy 50)
Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 10-5

1210 Roseville Pkwy., #140
Roseville
(Across from the Galleria)
Tues-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-5

1-800-76 HALLS

*DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer #1108. Offer expires 11/30/2007. Financing OAC. Multiple windows in the same opening count as one window towards promotional offer. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. "Andersen", "Renewal by Andersen" and the Renewal by Andersen logo are registered trademarks of Andersen Corporation. All other marks where denoted are marks of Andersen Corporation. © 2007 Andersen Corporation. SCL# 829789. All rights reserved.

'Toys for the Troops' Kids' Kicks off Fifth Year

Special to The Union

CRVA Charities, Inc. announces the Fifth Annual "Toys for the Troops" Kids' Toy Drive, with opening ceremonies on Dec. 1, at noon, concluding at 6 p.m. on Dec. 23. The triple-site event is at the Sunrise Festival Shopping Center, at the intersection of Sunrise Blvd and Greenback Lane, in Citrus Heights, and at the Lake Crest Shopping Center, on Florin Road west of Interstate 5, in Sacramento, and at the Sunrise Pointe Shopping Center at Sunrise Avenue and Cirby Way in Roseville. Co-Sponsors are the cities of Citrus Heights and Sacramento, Sunrise Market Place, Peter P. Bollinger Investment Co., owner of the Sunrise Festival and Lake Crest Shopping Centers, and Patterson Properties, Inc., owner of Sunrise Pointe.

In the 2007 Northern California effort, the offices of the Farmers Insurance Group, Placer Title, and Sylvan Learning Centers, and many regional businesses will also serve as donation sites. McClellan Park provides major support of the effort with donated warehousing and air cargo support.

The beneficiaries of the drive are limited to the children of military members deployed from home at Christmastime, and of military members who have been killed in the line of duty since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In 2006, due to the continuing support of the Sacramento Region's volunteer and business communities, and the generosity of co-sponsors and contributors, the Toy Drive distributed over 24,000 toys to 25 military commands and National Guard units in California, Nevada and Hawaii. The 2007 effort enlarges to five states, striving to distribute toys to additional commands in the states of Washington and Arizona.

Bill Stein, Sacramento attorney, Vietnam veteran, and president of the not-for-profit CRVA Charities, Inc. said, "Our toy drive helps, in a small way, to ease the emotional and financial hardship of the families of our men and women in uniform in harm's way at Christmastime. Our efforts could never equal the sacrifices of our military and their families, but it is the least we can do."

All contributions of toys, in-kind services or money are tax deductible. Monetary contributions can be sent to CRVA Charities, Inc., 815 University Ave, Sacramento, Calif., 95825. Toys may be delivered to any toy drive drop site, at the dates and times indicated, identified at www.toysforthetroopskids.org. Monetary contributions can be made by credit card at the Toy Drive's Web site. For more information, call Bill Stein 916-974-8387 or email billstein@surewest.net.

K-9 Officer Brings Home 40 Trophies

Special to The Union

Sacramento Police K-9 Officer John Azevedo brought home forty trophies from the Western States Police Canine Association's K-9 competitions. Competitors from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies participated in a series of ten trials. The trials were hosted by various Northern California law enforcement agencies throughout this year.

The trials consisted of many different competitive phases such as Protection, Obedience, Agility, Search, Narcotics, and Evidence Searching. Officer Azevedo and his K-9 partner "Blitz"

took the 2007 Top K-9 Competitor award for the overall trials combined. Officer Azevedo and Officer Dustin Smith also took Top K-9 Team for the trials combined.

Officer Azevedo has worked for the Sacramento Police Department since 2001. He was teamed up with his K-9 partner "Blitz" in 2006. Blitz lives at home with Officer Azevedo and is a valued member of his family. Officer Smith has worked for the Sacramento Police Department since 1995. He was teamed up with his K-9 partner "Apollo" in 2004. When not at work, "Apollo" likes to play ball and lounge on the grass.

Judge Sentences Naked Intruder

CHICO, Calif. (AP) – A man who broke into an elderly woman's home while he was naked and beat her is going to prison for the maximum nine-year term.

The attorney for Logan Duane Hursh says his 18-year-old client was high on hallucinogenic mushrooms when he stripped and attacked the 84-year-old victim in a Sierra foothill town east of Chico.

The woman fired two pistol shots into the ceiling after Hursh broke into her home and before he beat her last April.

Police found Hursh, still naked, sitting in a bedroom watching television while the woman lay nearby in a pool of blood. She spent two months in the hospital.

A Butte County judge sentenced Hursh to the maximum prison term last week.

Fantastic Skin Repair And Skin Care Products



Have A Home Spa Party By "Beauty Control"

Order on-Line at:
www.besuripage.com/tamibrumley

To Schedule your spa party call:
Tami Brumley – Consultant
(916) 355-1912
Tami.brumley@juno.com (916) 220-9777

Mention the Sacramento Union and receive 10% discount with 1st order

A BETTER MOVING CO.

(916) 489-3322

ABETTERMOVING.COM



LOCAL & WORLDWIDE MOVING & STORAGE

Sacramento's Best Tasting Brewery & Grill

Discover the Great
Taste of Brew It Up!
-FREE APPETIZER-

Up to \$8.99 Value; Valid with Purchase
of Entree; Limit 1 per Table

Our huge menu includes
incredible salads, steaks, pizza,
burgers and a huge selection of
hot sandwiches.

Reservations, private dining and
validated parking available.

Sacramento's Best Daily Happy Hour

22 Brewery Fresh Beers
\$3.50 Imperial Pints
\$4 Well Cocktails
\$2 to \$4 Appetizer Menu
4pm - 6pm Daily

Best
SN&R
FIRST PLACE 06

WINNER
sacramento spirit
**BEST
OF SACRAMENTO**



**Brew It Up!
Brewery & Grill**
On the corner
of 14th & H
916-441-3000
www.brewitup.com

Moo U: Chico State Dairy Goes Organic

By JIM MORRIS
Special Contributor to The Union

A bold new day has dawned at the California State University, Chico dairy, ushering in an approach that educators and students hope will bring consistently higher prices for their milk and a prosperous future for students.

After 40 years of following the mainstream, the university's dairy in the spring completed a shift from conventional milk production to organic, making it the first educational facility in the West with that distinction.

Animal science professor Cindy Daley is in charge of the university dairy. She cited two major reasons for the change: first, to meet the growing demand for organic food and, second, to bring new and exciting work opportunities to Chico State students.

She said prices for organic milk are steadier and have typically been higher than the conventional market. In fact, for much of the summer, Chico State's organic milk returned more than double the price it would have received for conventional product.

"It was a perfect fit as organics is really booming these days," Daley said. "I think it's also a way of thinking—a mind adjustment where we help the students start thinking out of the box and look at agriculture in a different way."

Organic dairy farming began about 30 years ago, though it has only been in recent years that substantial growth has occurred. It's a growing endeavor in California and nationally. A survey by the Organic Trade Association indicated U.S. retail sales of organic dairy products totaled more than \$2.1 billion last year, a 24-percent increase from 2005 figures.

"Organic dairying in California has certainly expanded in the last five years, especially in Marin/Sonoma and on the North Coast areas of Humboldt and Del Norte,"

said Leslie J. "Bees" Butler, University of California dairy economist. "Organic does provide an opportunity to small dairy producers to improve their profitability, but it is not a panacea for saving small dairy farms."

Those at the Chico State dairy will tell you that, in their case, it's a niche worth pursuing.

Transitioning to organic on the campus farm proved long and arduous. It started with the three-year process of getting their pastures certified organic. Next, conventionally raised heifers were purchased, then transitioned into organic by having them eat from the newly designated pasture. That step took an additional year.

"It's the kind of thing where you have to work with the ecosystem," Daley said. "It's not easy. A lot of technology is designed to make food production easy. Organically managed dairy production is a lot more difficult—you don't have those easy answers. It's not the kind of thing we were trained for in our respective degree programs, so this is a new approach to making milk."

At the center of organic dairy farming is a holistic approach, encompassing much more than meets the eye.

"You have to start at the rock bottom, making sure your soil fertility is correct so that the plants are nutritious," Daley said. "If the pasture plants are nutritious, then our cows will be healthy and produce nutritious milk."

Cows dine on lush green grass a short stroll from the dairy and are rotated to a different field every 12 hours. This ensures that the pastures are grazed evenly and gives the cows fresh grass twice a day. They have nine, 5-acre paddocks that they rotate the herd through.

This new approach is a winner with students, who say they are gaining volumes of knowledge from the hands-on instruction.

Instead of pouring over textbooks, students learn from living resources--thou-

sand-pound animals. There are 60-plus cows at the dairy, with names including Franklyn and Tank, each with a distinct personality, from friendly to cantankerous.

Despite the different dispositions from bovine to bovine, those working with the herd are focused and committed to one thing above all else—ensuring they have truly happy cows. They achieve this by keeping animal stress low and providing good housing, a clean environment, good sanitation and optimal nutrition, including the proper regimen of vitamins and minerals. Following these steps leads to more and better milk.

And, if a cow gets sick, treatment methods differ greatly from conventional dairies.

"You can't just give them a shot or a vaccine and heal them right away. Basically you have to do trial and error to keep them in good health," said Josh Cook, a student majoring in agricultural business and animal science.

The holistic approach bears a similarity to how some people nurse themselves back to health. Extra vitamin C is an answer to some ailments, while garlic tincture taken orally or topically also can provide relief.

This management style has provided tremendous learning for Michelle James, who came to Chico State from Huntington Beach with ambitions of becoming a holistic livestock veterinarian.

"This is my first taste of a farm, my first experience with cows," James said. "I've learned a lot just by being able to treat them with all of the different methods. It involves trial and error and all of the different research. I'm learning so much. I've learned a lot and I want to continue."

At this farm, cows are milked twice a day, seven days a week, at 5:30 a.m. and 5:30

p.m., between February and December. Each animal produces about 4.5 gallons of milk per day. The milk is shipped to Crystal Creamery, where it's processed and sold throughout California under the Organic Valley brand.

A second phase that may be achieved within five years at the campus dairy involves adding on-site milk, cheese and ice cream production, then marketing it on campus and throughout the local area.

"It's absolutely great that we are able to teach the students something that's new to the university system," said research associate Darby Holmes, who's providing assistance to Daley and the students at the dairy. "Organic dairy farming has tons of growth left and, hopefully, from the students learning about it, they'll be able to go out and capitalize on it."

The shift from conventional to organic at the farm was a perfect fit for student Tim Kehoe, who came to Chico State with the goal of a future in construction management, but now strives to eventually take over for his father and run the family dairy farm near the Point Reyes National Seashore.

"This is a wise thing for me to do," Kehoe said. "It will help me better understand everything that's going on with organic and how organic can better help people. I don't think organics are going to go away at all. It's just going to keep building and building."

Jim Morris is a reporter for Ag Alert. He may be contacted at jmorris@cbbf.com. Story reprinted with permission of the California Farm Bureau Federation. For more information about the Farm Bureau or to subscribe to its bimonthly magazine, "California Country," visit www.cbbf.com.

The Sacramento Union

Welcomes

KIM PEROTTI
Advertising Sales Account Executive
(916) 214-6658 • KimP@SacUnion.com

Sacramento River Cats Launch 2008 Speakers Bureau Program

Special to The Union

The 2007 Triple-A and PCL Champion Sacramento River Cats have launched their 2008 Speakers Bureau Program. The "Voice of the River Cats," Johnny Daskow, and River Cats Senior Director of Community Relations Tony Asaro (as well as other members of the River Cats front office) are available to speak to various civic, community-based and professional groups throughout the year. Speakers are provided to organizations at no charge and can speak about a myriad of topics, including "The Business of Baseball," "River Cats in the Community," or topics specifically created.

Daskow, the entertaining and popular

radio announcer for the River Cats for the past 7 seasons, has a unique knowledge of the history of the team and the game of baseball, including personal stories from the radio booth, field and dugout.

Asaro, who has been a member of the River Cats since the team came to Sacramento in 2000, is widely renowned in the Sacramento region for his local outreach efforts and dedication to his local community.

Any organization interested in having a member of the River Cats Speakers Bureau speak at their event should contact Jimmy Spencer, River Cats Coordinator of Media and Community Relations at (916) 376-4751 or jspencer@rivercats.com.

Burning Issue: Who Will Thin Our Forests?

By **TIM FELLER**
Special to The Union

When the new California-Nevada Tahoe Basin Fire Commission recently heard from seven Tahoe area fire chiefs, the message was clear: forests in the basin are tinderboxes and need immediate thinning to help prevent a repeat of the catastrophic Angora Fire.

We know the problem, now the question is how do we fix it—and do so quickly.

The answer requires cooperation and participation of the following: government agencies; foresters and other resource professionals; loggers; bio-fuel facilities and sawmills; the general public and residents whose lives and homes are in harms way.

In the aftermath of the Angora Fire, we've seen these groups work together to clean up devastated areas and set the stage for recovery. Each plays a critical role in the long-term goals of keeping the Tahoe Basin green and Lake Tahoe blue.

Working together, we must look for ways to streamline thinning projects so real fuel reduction takes place with appropriate safeguards and environmental protection.

Equipment used for fuel reduction is now technologically advanced. With a

lighter touch on the land, the result is far less disturbance to the environment. This method minimizes potential project sediments and future wild fire sediments from reaching the lake.

Experienced foresters need the latitude to make meaningful decisions to reduce forests fuels, protect communities and other resource values. We must accept short-term disturbance to prevent the long-term devastating impacts wildfires create.

That means we need to move toward a forest with trees of all ages. Such a forest includes opening the forest landscape by spacing trees, which drops a fire from the treetops to the ground, greatly aiding fire suppression efforts.

Trees removed in thinning operations provide necessary wood products while generating other social economic benefits. This helps the region sustainably meet resource needs, reduces fuels and moves the forest back to a more natural forest condition. Additionally, this also decreases demand for imported wood products.

We also need a bio-fuel facility to consume forest fuels and create clean electricity. Some envision a forest clean-up effort lasting 10 years and then the job is done.

The fact is, Mother Nature's robust production of forest fuels never stops, therefore neither can we. Does a gardener weed once and then never weed again?

California's forestry industry holds many of the important key components to a safer Tahoe Basin.

Unfortunately, California's capacity to harvest and process wood continues to decline. The pressure to protect all resources from any impacts has ignored the unintended consequences of today's devastating wildfires. This protection resulted in reduced harvest, creating mill closures and the loss of experienced wood workers.

In some parts of the state, there are no facilities to process wood. Four years ago in San Bernardino County, a fire in an overcrowded unmanaged forest devastated Lake Arrowhead – even worse than South Lake Tahoe. With no mills or biomass plants within 250 miles, the community couldn't feasibly manage forests to protect them from wildfire. Additionally, after the fire with no mills or loggers, there was no viable economic system to harvest the millions of dead trees.

As last month's Southern California fire demonstrated, the need to remove fuel in

those forests remains a great challenge.

But for Lake Tahoe, there still is enough infrastructure and labor to accomplish the task.

As a community, we must move quickly to improve the health of our forests and dramatically reduce the chance of another catastrophic wildfire. Mother Nature – in the form of the Angora Fire – cleared 3,100 acres this summer.

As North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District Division Chief Norb Szczurek told the California-Nevada Commission, there are three elements that contribute to a fire: weather, terrain and fuel.

"We can't do a thing about the weather or terrain, but we can control the fuel the fire has to use," Szczurek said.

Working together, the public, regulatory agencies and forest industry can carefully manage our forests, reduce the chance of catastrophic wildfire and avoid a repeat of this unnecessary devastation.

Fuel reduction will occur by our proactive efforts or by Mother Nature.

Tim Feller, a California Registered Professional Forester, is District Manager for Sierra Pacific Industries Tahoe District.



6 week weight loss program

**Watch all-new episodes of THE BIGGEST LOSER
TUESDAY 8:30/7:30c NBC**

lose up to
15 pounds
in 6 weeks
for \$
49

plus cost of membership

**5 personal training sessions • fitness assessment
online nutrition planning • program guide**

15 sacramento area locations



**800.224.0240
24hourfitness.com**

Cost of membership varies by location and type. Results may vary. Offer only available with purchase of membership for new members. Must be first-time personal training purchaser. Limit one package of this price with purchase of new membership. Sessions are 25 minutes each. No other discounts with this offer. Must be at least 18 years old (19 in NE), or 12 with parent. Incentives may be offered. Facilities and amenities vary. Not all clubs open 24 hours. Promotion available at participating locations only. Guide available while supplies last. Offer expires 11/30/07. See club for complete details. ©2007 24 Hour Fitness USA, Inc. Source: Newspaper

MUERTOS from page 1

have passed away, Mertz has opened up the entire back room of her restaurant to the public for an exhibit, which includes altars and “Day of the Dead”-themed artwork, created by Ceballos. The altar portion of the exhibit will be on display for at least another week, while Ceballos’ artwork will be available for viewing through Dec. 2.

are certainly not difficult to find at Todo Un Poco.

In addition to serving some of the region’s premier Mexican and Italian food, the restaurant is rich with Latin American artwork.

And the “Day of the Dead” exhibit only adds to the cultural experience of this pop-

Referring to the holiday’s history, Mertz said that the “Day of the Dead” predates the history of Mexico.

Although uncommon in most parts of Mexico, month-long exhibits for this celebration are also featured in a few areas south of the border.

But outside of the Todo Un Poco exhibit, one would be hard pressed to locate another “Day of the Dead,” public exhibit within the Sacramento region that is available for an entire month, let alone an exhibit of this size.

Mertz, who was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, said that the purpose of presenting this exhibit past the Nov. 2 holiday is to give people an extended opportunity to learn about this longtime Mexican tradition.

“I want to share (the “Day of the Dead”) with people and I want people to learn about diversity and art,” Mertz said. “I would love it if more people would take a minute out of their busy schedules to learn more about this wonderful and unique tradition and understand what Mexico is all about. Art, food and culture go together hand in hand and Todo Un Poco is trying to promote and support art, food and culture.”

And art, food and culture are things that

ular Elk Grove dining spot.

Mertz, who spent many hours creating the exhibit’s altars, briefly explained the history of the “Day of the Dead” and the significance of the altars.

Referring to the holiday’s history, Mertz said that the “Day of the Dead” predates the history of Mexico.

“It is a combination of the Aztec, Mayan and Spanish beliefs about death,” Mertz said. “Hernan Cortes and his people, who were Catholics, were told when he came to conquer the Americas (in 1519) that the indigenous people used to have some kind of ritual of playing with some bones and the skeletons of the people. It was a ritual to their dead, but they did it in August. And since the Spanish goal was to convert the indigenous people to Catholicism, they decided that that ritual had to be eliminated completely out of their culture. But you can never really take something away that really belongs to the people.”

Mertz added that the evolution of the “Day of the Dead” included a change in its date, from August to Nov. 2, in order to coincide with the Catholic’s “All Saints Day.”



This large mask is among the many traditional Mexican items on display at the restaurant through Dec. 2. (Sacramento Union Photo/Lance Armstrong)



Artist Leonardo Ceballos and Todo Un Poco Restaurant owner Marie Mertz have teamed up to present a month-long Dia de los Muertos exhibit in Mertz’s restaurant. (Sacramento Union Photo/Lance Armstrong)

Furthermore, Mertz said that in Mexico, a Nov. 1 tradition, known as “Day of the Little Angels,” is also celebrated.

“November 1 is important, but it’s not as important as the second day,” Mertz said. “(Nov. 1) is for the little angels, the younger people, younger souls who died, so they’re like the innocent.”

Mertz added that Nov. 2 is more important than Nov. 1, because this is the day that it is believed that all departed souls return to Earth.

In preparation for this day, altars are created in cemeteries and homes throughout Mexico.

And within the back room of Todo Un Poco, Mertz set up an altar to her father Fred Mertz, as well as altars dedicated to some of the “great minds of humanity,” which include Ronald Reagan, Mother Teresa, Albert Einstein, Hippocrates, Mohandas Gandhi, Galileo Galilei and Rabindranath Tagore.

Upon these altars, a variety of offerings with special meanings are placed for the enjoyment of the dead, who are being honored, Mertz said.

home, and incense purifies the paths and allows the souls to enter the houses without any trouble.

Traditional food for this day, food that the deceased person used to like the most, and ‘Pan de Muerto’ (‘Bread of Death’), specially baked bread for this occasion, are also placed on the altars.”

During the Todo Un Poco reception, Sacramento resident Elva Ramos, who spent the first 20 years of her life in Guadalajara, recalled an altar in Mexico that was dedicated to her grandfather.

“My mom put his favorite food and other things out for him,” Ramos said. “There were tamales, tequila, candy, flowers and even cigarettes.”

When it came to art, in regard to Todo Un Poco’s “Day of the Dead” celebration, Mertz said that she had no hesitation selecting Ceballos to be the featured artist of the event.

Ceballos, who is also a native of Guadalajara, has a resume that alone makes him a worthy candidate to be the exhibit’s featured artist. But it was Ceballos’ original, “Day of the Dead” paintings, which

“Traditional food for this day, food that the deceased person used to like the most, and ‘Pan de Muerto’ (‘Bread of Death’), specially baked bread for this occasion, are also placed on the altars.”

“Each item in the altar has a meaning,” Mertz said. “For example, candles light the way of the souls, a glass of water helps the souls refresh for the long journey back

attracted Mertz the most.

“I think that Leo is a unique artist,” Mertz said. “He’s a great graphic designer, photographer, muralist and painter. His style

varies as well, so that is something that I like. I decided to invite him to work in this year's 'Dia de los Muertos' event with me, because I wanted to do a more traditional (event). Leo worked on the artwork and I worked on the altars and we had a lot of fun doing it this way."

Ceballos, 34, attended the University of Artes Plasticas in Guadalajara, from 1992 to 1996. It was there that he earned a general art degree, which focused on such topics as painting, drawing, animation, photography, drama, music and the history of art.

It was painting, animation and photography, however, which were most interesting to Ceballos.

In addition to his paintings for the Todo Un Poco exhibit, Ceballos has also spent the past 13 years creating animation for Mexican television advertisements. And it is not uncommon to see him with a camera around his neck, prepared to capture new images for his constantly growing photographic portfolio.

Guests of the Todo Un Poco exhibit can view the quality and detail of Ceballos' artwork, which includes a variety of skeleton-themed, acrylic paintings, ranging in size from 8 inches by 10 inches to 10 feet by 12 feet.

Ceballos, who has been painting professionally for the past 11 years, said that although he enjoys creating art, his works are only complete when viewed by others.

And based on the many people, who viewed Ceballos' works with smiles on their faces during Todo Un Poco's opening reception, Ceballos, who was also in attendance, must have been quite satisfied with the "completion" of these paintings.

Among Ceballos' works, which are both on display and for sale at Todo Un Poco,

are: "Todo Un Muerto," a "Day of the Dead"-themed scene at Todo Un Poco; "Fashion," a comedic view of overly thin, skeletal models; and "La Ultima y Nos Vamos" ("The Last One and Let's Get Out of Here!"), a tribute to that "one last drink" at a bar, restaurant, etc.

Attending the reception was 26-year-old Modesto resident and Michoacan, Mexico native Isaura Medina, who said that she has been a longtime fan of Ceballos' works and that she really enjoyed the exhibit.

"When I come into the (exhibit) room, it

looks like living art, but then you are also seeing death through paintings," Medina said.

But the portrayal of death is something that is thought of much differently by Mexicans than those of other cultures, assured Mertz.

"Mexican people, we're a very interesting people," Mertz said. "We see death very differently and by learning more about 'Dia de los Muertos,' people can really begin to understand this. This is one of my favorite holidays. All the elements that surround

the event, you can define it by one word, Mexico. It's one way to experience Mexico, like you really don't know about Mexico until you really know about the traditions, the culture, the food and the people. This event has all of that."

The "Day of the Dead" exhibit can be viewed at Todo Un Poco Restaurant on Mondays through Fridays, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., and on weekends, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

For additional information, call (916) 684-7774.



"Zapata," a 10-foot by 12-foot acrylic art piece, is the largest work on display at Todo Un Poco's Dia de los Muertos exhibit. (Sacramento Union Photo/Lance Armstrong)



"Suerte Suprema" ("Supreme Luck"), an acrylic on canvas work by Leonardo Ceballos, is among the many paintings on display at Todo Un Poco Restaurant. (Sacramento Union Photo/Lance Armstrong)



This large altar is dedicated to the memory of some of the greatest forward thinking minds of humanity. (Sacramento Union Photo/Lance Armstrong)



Leonardo Ceballos created this work to depict overly thin models in a humorous manner. (Sacramento Union Photo/Lance Armstrong)

Tax Dollars Burn During Wildfires

By DAN MINKOFF

Most everything that fire destroys can be replaced, with the tragic exception of lost lives. Unfortunately, government policies are seemingly as permanent as death, and those policies had catastrophic consequences during the wildfires that erupted last month in Southern California.

Government's land management policies have created a more dangerous situation for the growing number of residents who live in fire-prone areas. In addition, the further away tax dollars go from our local communities, the less good it does for everyone.

California annually sends \$50 billion more to Washington, D.C. than it gets back in payments and services. Imagine if we just kept that money in the state how many more water-dropping helicopters, fire-retardant-dispensing airplanes, and other firefighting equipment we could buy.

Since 1980, the amount of government-owned property burned by wildland fires has grown every decade. National Interagency Fire Center statistics show an increase from an annual average of just under 3 million acres during the 1980s to 3.4 million acres in the 90s to about 7 million acres this decade. In fact, before 2000, only one year since recordkeeping began in 1960 saw more than 7 million acres burned by wildfires, and that was way back in 1963.

However, more than 7 million acres have burned in one year six times since 2000. The past three years have all experienced fires that burned more than 8 million acres, and last year set a new record with 9.9 million acres destroyed. So far this year, we're slightly behind last year's pace, but this is already only the second year ever to top 9 million acres burned.

Even allowing for the fact that looking at acreage alone gives, at best, an incomplete picture (because grassland fires are managed differently than those in forests), the data still are headed in the wrong direction.

On the other hand, the *Idaho Statesman* reported on August 19 that "at the peak of one of the worst fire seasons in history, the number of fires burning on private forests in Idaho is effectively zero." Compare that to the 708,000 acres that were burning on national forest lands in Idaho on that date.

Private forests are managed in a more libertarian manner, freed from many of the policies favored by government. Private forests are often owned by companies such as International Paper, Boise Cascade, or Western Pacific Timber, which have an economic incentive to make sure their forests are thinned, that flammable brush is cleared, that firebreaks are built, and that road access is good.

The government, though, often bows to environmentalists' calls to leave forests in their "natural state." What incentive do politicians have to offend environmentalists, who are big campaign contributors? Unlike Boise Cascade's CEO, the interior secretary doesn't have to answer to shareholders demanding ways to prevent such a catastrophe. The secretary can just sound the familiar refrain, "We need more resources," which is not-so-secret code for "make the taxpayers pay for it."

And are we ever.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides a form of welfare for people who live in areas subject to fires, floods, and other disasters. If private insurers won't insure a home built next to a tinderbox, why should the government?

Government bureaucracy and regulations are spreading at least as fast as the Southern California wildfires did. While we know that the fires eventually will be put out, unfortunately, we also know that politicians will continue to support policies that burn through our tax dollars.

Dan Minkoff is a corporate public relations professional in Los Angeles, real estate investor and the media director for the Libertarian Party of California.

The Sacramento Union



Wildfire Lessons Schooled, Scorched by SoCal Flames

Residential development adjacent to wild areas, combined with drought, dry grass, and Santa Ana winds, means that last month's devastating Southern California fires were not a one-of-a-kind disaster. Wildfires are inevitable in California. So what lessons can we gather to prevent worse fires next time?

First, we have to overcome objections by environmentalists to building firebreaks in wilderness areas. As residential development from San Diego and other urban areas encroaches upon grassy, natural areas, we must clear brush to create the fire suppression equivalent of "demilitarized zones" between homes and wild areas. Might this take a localized toll on ecosystems and wildlife? A certain amount of damage would seem unavoidable. But the alternative outcome is measured not in a depleted wildlife inventory but in lost human lives and property. Controlled burns and brush clearance may harm aesthetic values but they prevent larger-scale

damage to the environment in the long run.

Secondly, we should enforce zoning and construction standards that anticipate wildfires. Stevenson Ranch, a 5,000-home, planned community in Santa Clarita, survived the fires because it was armored against them. The development is surrounded by a 200-foot greenbelt, a buffer zone of fire-resistant plants. The homeowners association regularly clears brush. And the developer installed stone and concrete culverts behind houses adjoining open land as barriers against fire.

areas should have to pay insurance rates commensurate with that risk. And that risk should not be socialized among millions of other, more prudent, homeowners who have chosen to live farther from wild lands. Insurance is a free market function. We have no problem with fire insurance premium rates so high that they preclude human habitation of any kind near combustible areas. But we do object to regulators who would place artificial caps on those rates. This only encourages risky, and ultimately costly, choices.

Controlled burns, brush clearance may harm aesthetic values but prevent larger-scale damage to the environment in the long run.

Finally, we need to revisit the controls the state places on companies that insure against wildfire damage. Homeowners who insist on living in severely fire-prone

All of the figures are not in yet, but it appears that the costs of this season's Southern California wildfires may reach \$2 billion. Investing a small fraction of that total now in brush clearance, controlled burns, and other forms of fire suppression will spare lives and property later on.

We cannot continue to build houses near wild areas, refuse to remove fire fuel for aesthetic or environmental reasons, subsidize below-market fire insurance for those who choose to live in the danger zone, and then rely on state taxpayers to pick up the pieces when the inevitable occurs.

The Laughing Box by Greg Rico



TheLaughingBox@SacUnion.com

© 2007 G.D. Rico

**Read more
Sacramento Union
editorials online at
www.SacUnion.com**

QUOTE OF THIS EDITION

“My water manager calls it an impending Armageddon, and I would probably agree with that.”

BOB POLITO IN “‘PERMANENT CROPS’ MAKE WATER LIMITS HARDER TO HANDLE,” PAGE 15

Doolittle and Conservatives Time to Get on the Same Page

Congressman John Doolittle was elected to the California State Senate and then to the United States Congress as a stalwart conservative activist. The Reagan revolution was just beginning, and the newly elected young conservative was part of that movement.

Unfortunately, the perks of political power in Washington D.C. caused Doolittle to lose connection with his conservative constituents. At the same time, many conservatives lost sight of the conservative work done by Doolittle, and they joined the “what have you done for me lately” chorus.

This rift probably would have healed on its own as both sides began to realize how important they were to each other. Unfortunately, we have a drawn out federal investigation of both

Congressman Doolittle and his wife, Julie. Doolittle’s political detractors are enjoying the unfairness of the extended investigation, and they are using it to cast aspersions on both of them.

Even some of Doolittle’s supporters have gotten dismayed over the continued investigation and have cast about for other candidates to support. Every word or action taken by Doolittle or his staff is cast in the most negative light on Web sites, in blogs and always merrily by the daily newspaper in town, the *Bee*.

We do not think it is fair to Congressman Doolittle to keep this investigation going on indefinitely. There is an inherent unfairness in prosecutors impugning the integrity of public officials when they don’t have the evidence to take legal action against them.

You get the feeling that this is more a case about prosecutors trying to boost their careers than seek justice for the American people. It should not take this long to chase down the facts to make a determination of any wrongdoing.

Now that Republicans have lost control of Congress, Mr. Doolittle has less responsibility for making the government run. This gives him an opportunity to get back to being the conservative leader that he has been in the past.

We appreciate his increased attention to district problems as his responsibilities in Washington have diminished. But, we would recommend that Congressman Doolittle get back on the offensive and lead his conservative constituents. We doubt that he would get re-elected if his campaign thrust is all about constituent service.

To the conservatives here in the Sacramento Valley, we would urge you to stop making mountains out of every little molehill you hear about. Congressman John Doolittle is a solid conservative, and he has the voting record to match—one of the most conservative records in all of Congress.

Doolittle has been a stalwart in fighting against big government and liberal social programs in Washington. He has been a strong defender of American security and our military men and women, despite a slight slip of the tongue and a biased newspaper account.

Stop doing the bidding of the left, which would like nothing better to rid themselves of this conservative thorn in their side.

Our hope is that Doolittle will get back to being the conservative leader that everyone can be proud to back and will do so enthusiastically.



Rep. John T. Doolittle

Taxes, Taxes, Taxes

By KEVIN A. HASSETT

Several Democratic candidates in the current presidential-election season and the last one have informed voters that the world’s problems can be solved if only we would repeal the Bush tax cuts. Ever mindful of the median voter, some, like Hillary Clinton, have been careful to add that only the tax cuts for the rich should be reversed.

The candidates have likely adopted this strategy, rather than one that calls for larger tax hikes, because voters remember the 1990s as generally prosperous times. This approach, however, is extremely deceptive. This became vividly apparent in late October, when House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel released his tax plan. The main thrust of Rangel’s plan is a repeal of the dreaded Alternative Minimum Tax. Wary of losing all of the revenue that the AMT is forecasted to raise, Rangel increases tax rates on the rich to offset the AMT’s elimination.

Since Rangel’s tax hikes are focused on the rich, and the AMT is scheduled to draw ever more revenue from the middle class in federal budget estimates, the rate increases necessary to maintain current revenue levels are enormous. Rangel adds a 4.6 percent “surat” on adjusted gross incomes above \$500,000 in the first year of the law. This gives voters the impression that we are simply lifting the current top rate of 35 percent to the good old Clinton rate of 39.6 percent. But in 2011, when the Bush tax cuts expire, the surat sticks, lifting the federal rate to 44.2 percent. Rangel also grabs revenue from the rich by phasing out exemptions and deductions. Add in the Medicare tax, and average state and local taxes, and the combined marginal income tax rate goes to 52 percent. That would make our top marginal rate the second highest among the ten largest global economies, right below France.

This tax “reform” is revenue-neutral, which means that there is no money left over to fund, say, the universal health-care coverage so many of the Democratic candidates favor. If we lift the top rates to fund that too, then our rate would be far higher than that of any other major country, and begin to approach the 70 percent top rate of the 1970s.

Kevin A. Hassett is a senior fellow and director of economic policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute.

The Sacramento Union

November 9, 2007
Vol. 2, No. 16
Est. 1851

P.O. Box 748
Sacramento, CA 95812
Tel 916.925.7600
Fax 916.669.8034
Email info@SacUnion.com

Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
J.C. Dutra
Dutra@SacUnion.com
Associate Publisher
David Gwiazdon
DaveG@SacUnion.com
Managing Editor
Ryan J. Rose
Editor@SacUnion.com
Art Diva
Kelly Davis
Kelly@SacUnion.com
Distribution Manager
Vacant

Contributors
Lance Armstrong
Ron Beehler
Glenn Dickey
Diana M. Ernst
Kathy Fox
Katy Grimes
Peter Hannaford
Tom Head
Vicki E. Murray
Bob Nathan
Susan Neal
William E. Saracino
James J. Scherer
Tyler Stone
Tom Tanton
Liam Weston
Mark Williams
Sports
Jeannie Broussal
Kelly Davis
Mike Finnerty
Kurt Johnson
Bruce Macgowan

Story Consultants
Roger B. Canfield
Steven Jackson
California Talkers
Andy Nevis
Cartoonist
Greg Rico
Eric Bruce Wilson
Design
Sol Design Group
Sales Director
David Gwiazdon
DaveG@SacUnion.com
Account Executives
Tony Kurtis
TonyK@SacUnion.com
Kim Perotti
KimP@SacUnion.com
Marketing
King Media
Sales@KingMediaGroup.com
Accounting
Stephen B. Crocker, CPA
Gilbert Associates, Inc.
Legal Counsel
Glenn W. Peterson
Millstone, Peterson & Watts, LLP

The Sacramento Union is published weekly on Fridays as a free circulation publication to be found in many locations throughout the Northern California area. For guaranteed delivery by the U.S. Postal Service, please place your order thru www.SacUnion.com. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery of 1st issue. This publication is published by The Sacramento Union, LLC ©2007. All rights reserved. Reproduction of any portion without permission from the Publisher is expressly prohibited. If you have questions, comments, or letters to the editor, please write to us at: The Sacramento Union, P.O. Box 748, Sacramento, CA 95812 or email us at info@SacUnion.com. The Publisher cannot be responsible for unsolicited manuscripts and artwork and will not be returned. All advertising is subject to acceptance or rejection by the publisher. For customer service, please email info@SacUnion.com for additional information. And visit us on the Web: www.SacUnion.com.

MUST BE 21 AND OLDER

ALL PROCEEDS
BENEFIT OUR LOCAL

The Party of the Year

sacramento magazine's

Best of SACRAMENTO

party

to benefit the march of dimes

Thursday, November 29, 5:30 - 10 p.m.
at the Sacramento Convention Center
Silent Auction area opens at 4:30 p.m.

FOR TICKET INFO CALL THE MARCH OF DIMES AT:
(916) 922-1913 OR THE COMMUNITY CENTER BOX OFFICE AT
(916) 264-5181 OR VISIT SACMAG.COM
TICKETS: \$75 IN ADVANCE AND \$95 DAY OF THE EVENT
For donation of Silent Auction Items, Call 916-922-1913

PLATINUM SPONSOR



Sutter Health
Sacramento Sierra Region

TELEVISION SPONSOR



MUSIC AND DANCING
AT 9 P.M. TO HIP SERVICE

EVENT CO-CHAIRS: MARIANNE MCCLARY & NICK TOMA OF CW 31'S "GOOD DAY SACRAMENTO"
EVENT MASTERS OF CEREMONIES: AMY LEWIS & KELLY BROTHERS, THE MORNING NEWS TEAM FROM KFBK 1530 AM

THE MARCH OF DIMES THANKS THESE SPONSORS:



'Permanent Crops' Make Water Limits Harder to Handle

By JACOB ADELMAN
Associated Press Writer

A few years ago, the math seemed simple enough for Bruce Allbright: Plant several hundred acres of pistachio trees, add water when needed, and then pick the money from the trees.

Now, drought and water restrictions are exacting a high price on Allbright and other California farmers who must make tough decisions about what to plant or fallow, harvest or plow under, prune or chop down.

"I was hoping to build a nice little pistachio farming operation," said Allbright, who grew cotton and lettuce on his farm in the Fresno County town of Huron before planting the trees. "Right now, it's not as nice as it looked four or five years ago."

In recent years, some farmers have shifted from annually planted fruits and vegetables to more profitable permanent crops such as nuts and grapes.

But with less water, many are struggling to keep the plants alive.

Allbright is among the roughly 4,500 statewide farmers the California Farm Water Coalition said depend on water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, where a judge limited pumping in August to protect the endangered delta smelt.

That ruling came in response to a 2005 lawsuit filed by the Natural Resources Defense Council that claimed the massive pumps used by the State Water Project and federal Central Valley Project were driving the tiny fish to extinction.

"My water manager calls it an impending Armageddon, and I would probably agree with that," said Bob Polito, who grows avocados in Valley Center in San Diego County.

California farmers will likely take 82,000 acres out of cultivation next year if the state receives an average amount of rain and snow this winter, according to a study commissioned by Western Growers, which represents the California and Arizona produce industries.

The economic loss would reach at least \$69 million in farm production, according to the study.

Prices for consumers likely wouldn't change because cuts in supply can be replaced by imports.

But the state's overall agricultural output would be affected, said Chris Scheuring, a lawyer with the California Farm Bureau Federation's natural resources and environmental division.

For many growers, the water cuts appear to be a replay of the early 1990s, when Congress passed the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The legislation restricted the amount of water available for

irrigation to improve habitat for fish and other wildlife.

Growers were better situated to deal with a sharp cut then because they were more reliant on annual field crops that are planted anew each year. Farmers could sow fewer crops if they knew water would be scarce.

More of the state's agricultural acreage is now dedicated to tree and vine crops, which are more profitable but offer farm-

ers less flexibility in dry years because they can't go without water.

Plantings of almonds, one of the state's primary permanent crops, increased by more than a third to 680,000 acres between 1996 and 2005, according to the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Acres with wine grapes and pistachios – other major permanent crops – also increased by about a third.

Acres with lettuce, meanwhile, grew by

less than a fifth over that period, while other annual field crops, such as snap beans, artichokes and garlic, lost acreage.

"The flexibility that was out there was significantly diminished," said David Zoldoske, who leads the International Center for Water Technology at California State University, Fresno. "You can't fallow an almond orchard for a year and not water it. It will be dead."

Alpine GARAGE CABINETS



**LARGEST SALE
IN 24 YEARS!**

**ENDS VETERANS DAY
11/12/2007**

PEGBOARD CABINET

\$95⁰⁰



Reg. \$145

13'8" WORK - STORAGE

25% off



13'8" FULL - STORAGE

**50% off
On 2nd Cabinet**




**SPORTS & GARDEN
ORGANIZERS
35 %
OFF**



SHOWROOM 3110 SUNRISE BLVD 635-7070
RANCHO CORDOVA www.alpineestimates.com

SINCE 1984

CSL #621321

OPEN 7 DAYS

Community Celebrates Historical Career of James E. Henley

City's Longtime Historian Steps Down After 41 Years of Service

By **LANCE ARMSTRONG**
Sacramento Union Writer

A retirement party was held last week for longtime city historian James E. Henley, whose contributions to the preservation and legacy of the river city's history is immeasurable.

The attendance figure at the event alone was a testament to what Henley's contributions have meant to the city and county. And of the 150-plus people who paid \$40 each to attend the event, which was held at the Memorial Auditorium on Oct. 29, a look around the room revealed a sort of

"Who's Who" of local political leaders, both past and present.

Among those in attendance at the event were: Mayor Heather Fargo, former mayors Ann Rudin, Phil Eisenberg, Burnett Miller and Jimmie Yee, District 7 city councilmember Robbie Waters; District 1 county supervisor Roger Dickinson, District 2 city councilmember Sandy Sheedy; District 4 city councilmember Rob Fong; District 3 city councilmember Steve Cohn; District 8 city councilmember Bonnie Pannell; and former county supervisor Murielle Johnson.

In addition to these attendees, many more locals showed up to show their support for Henley during the three-hour event, which included gourmet hors d'oeuvres, beverages, an awards presentation, special comments from longtime associates of Henley, and a video honoring Henley's career through photographs from his 41 years of service to the city.

Recognizing Henley's accomplishments with official resolutions were: the city of Sacramento, the county's Board of Supervisors, Lt. Gov. John Garamendi and Congresswoman Doris Matsui.

Although Matsui was not able to attend the event, she shared her appreciation for Henley's career with *The Union*.

"Jim Henley was a true asset to the city of Sacramento," Matsui said. "The amount of knowledge and dedication he exhibited as the city's historian over the last four decades are remarkable. Our city's history and collection of historic artifacts will be preserved in no small part due to his perseverance. He leaves behind shoes that will be hard to fill."

Understanding this point, the Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center



Jim Henley (center) holds up a framed county of Sacramento resolution, which recognizes his years of services to the county and the city of Sacramento. Pictured with Henley are District 1 county Supervisor Roger Dickinson (left) and county Vice Chair Jimmie Yee. (Sacramento Union Photo/Lance Armstrong)



(L-R) Mayor Heather Fargo, former mayor Ann Rudin and Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center Archivist Pat Johnson were among the many attendees of the event. (Sacramento Union Photo/Lance Armstrong)



Now You See it...
...Now You Don't

10% Discount for Sac Union Readers



Entertainment Centers Plus

(916) 631-6300

3340 Sunrise Blvd Unit F, Rancho Cordova

www.CFDSacto.com

Lic # C5789757

ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS • BOOKCASES • ARMOIRES • OFFICE SYSTEMS • CUSTOM CABINETRY • CHINA HUTCHES • CUSTOM KITCHENS

NEWS: SACRAMENTO ROOTS

(SAMCC), in which Henley established and served as manager, hired Marcia Eymann to replace Henley six months prior to his retirement, so that she could work directly with Henley and absorb whatever advice and knowledge she could obtain from him during this time.

Eymann, who served as curator of historical photography at the Oakland Museum of California, from 1990 to 2005, said that although she appreciated her experience of working alongside Henley, she understands that she was only introduced to a small percentage of his knowledge.

"There's no way I can get everything out of his head. That's for sure," Eymann said. "He's a great guy and although he's leaving, he tells me I can have lunch with him once a month!"

Eymann's kind words about Henley echo the words of many people who had the opportunity to associate with Henley during his long and important career in the capital city.

Another admirer of Henley's work as the city's historian is Miller, who has been associated with Henley throughout his career with the city.

"Jim sort of started the (Sacramento) History Center (today's Discovery Museum's Gold Rush History Center in Old Sacramento) as a student and over the years, he's grown into being the really center of all historical activities concerning the community at large," Miller said. "He's a terrible loss, if we lose him. Actually, I think we'll keep tab of him and keep him active, because no one has the knowledge and information and background on the city's history like Jim has."

Local historian Meade Kibbey, a longtime friend of Henley, referred to Henley's mind as a "giant hard disc."

"I just wish there was a USB connection right behind his ear, but it wouldn't work because the biggest hard drive isn't big enough. We'd have to go into (a higher storage capacity range, called) terabytes."

Henley, 63, recently discussed his lifelong love for history during an extensive, two-part, three-hour interview with *The Union*.

During this exclusive interview, Henley said that his interest in history stems back to his childhood, while he was growing up with his parents, Rufus and Emmaline, and his two older brothers, Ronald and William, in the little town of Oakdale, just east of Modesto.

"Where I grew up, we grew up on a (walnut, almonds and chicken (for eggs)) farm and there weren't too many people around and so, most of the time I read," Henley said. "I read and read and read and history books were a little bit like adventures or windows on the world."

Henley added that a pair of his earliest history teachers also influenced him.

"I had an excellent history teacher in grammar school, who made an impression on me, named Mrs. Kingston, and when I got to (Oakdale) High School, I met a woman named Mrs. (Emma) Enos. She was a wonderful teacher and she really did cause me to be extremely interested in U.S. history and world history."

As Henley's interest in history increased, as he grew older, he eventually attended Sacramento State College – now California State University, Sacramento – where he earned a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in archaeology in 1965.

But Henley admits that by majoring in history, he was faced with a dilemma.

"When you get a degree in history, what do you do with it? You know, that's kind of a good question, so I went and visited my school advisor and I wasn't particularly happy with what he had to say," Henley said. "What he said essentially was, 'Well, you can go on to graduate school and get a master's degree and you can probably teach in a junior college or you can go on and get a Ph.D. and teach in a university or you could maybe get a teaching credential and teach in grade school.' And he said, 'You know, just remember, you can always go to work for Bank of America. They like people with well rounded educations.' That didn't sit well with me at all."

Although Henley said that he did not want to become a banker or a teacher, he nonetheless enrolled in a teaching credential program at SSC.

This decision proved to be the best career choice that he ever made, since it was at this time that Henley met SSC professor Vernon Aubrey Neasham.

A former historian for the state and national parks services, who set up the initial surveys for Alaska and Hawaii, Neasham established and was head of the school's now-non-existent Environmental Resource Management department.

Henley passionately recalls his early relationship with Neasham, who would



Jim Henley works at the Sacramento City and County Museum in 1976. (Photo courtesy of Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center)

Toys for the Troops' Kids

2007 Christmas Toy Drive
(sponsored by CRVA Charities, Inc.)

Give Back to Our Troops and Their Families

Volunteers and donations needed.



For more information call 916-974-8387 or visit
www.toysforthetroopskids.org to make a tax deductible donation
online (Tax ID # 43-2058781).

To volunteer at one of our major donation sites this December,
contact Bret Daniels at 916-224-8444 or bret_d99@yahoo.com.

Thank you for your support.

NEWS: SACRAMENTO ROOTS

eventually become his mentor.

“When I was in graduate school, I needed three more units to keep up my units, so I was looking around and a friend said, ‘You ought to take this guy’s class, he’s pretty good.’ He had a class on museum design, so I signed up for the class and I actually did enjoy it and I really enjoyed talking with (Neasham). He was really a brilliant guy. When the class was nearly over, he called me into his office and said, ‘I’m looking for somebody to come to work for me. I’ve got a project, where I’m doing a historic district (known as Old Sacramento).’”

Little did Henley know that his early work reading blueprints, as well as doing graphic and title research about every Old Sacramento building, for a salary of about \$450 per month would lead to a career with the city of Sacramento, spanning four decades.

“That was where I started was a job working on Old Sacramento,” Henley said. “And about two or three years after that, (Neasham) decided that he wanted to retire and he recommended me to be his replacement.”

Taking on a continuously expanding role in preserving the city’s history, Henley eventually became known as the city’s historian.

And it is a title that fits him well, con-

sidering the vast knowledge that he accumulated about the area’s history and the many local historical projects, which he played major or minor roles in completing or advancing.

Being that Old Sacramento, which is the first historic/urban renewal district in the nation, has been such a lengthy project, Henley has overseen many improvements in the area, including many historic building restorations and reconstructions.

One of the Old Sacramento projects that Henley led was the reconstruction of the Eagle Theatre.

“I put together a research project for the state on the history of the Eagle Theatre and we worked with the (Sacramento) Junior League, who raised the money to reconstruct it,” Henley said.

Henley also put together an “1849-Scene” planning document for the state, regarding how Old Sacramento should appear.

“That was an important document, because it set a lot of precedence for what the parks department decided that they should do down there,” Henley said.

Henley, who is also recognized for helping to save the Memorial Auditorium from the wrecking ball, was also involved in the operation of and acquisition of items for one of the city and county’s early museums.



(L-R) Burnett Miller, Aubrey Neasham, Meade Kibbey, and Jim Henley gather at the door of Pioneer Hall, the first site of the museum, in 1967. (Photo courtesy of Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center)

His efforts to acquire local historical items never evaporated, as Henley continued to assist in the acquisition of many historical items, which today are part of the SAMCC collection, the largest local government archive in the state.

Among the items in this collection are: corporate papers, private individuals’ records, official city and county records, the California Almond Growers and other local organizations’ records, 5 million photographs and 10 million feet of KCRA-TV news film footage, from the 1950s through the 1980s.

Henley also worked on the planning document for the state on what a railroad museum should be like in Sacramento. And Henley said that the museum was built so close to this plan that “it was almost scary.”

In 1985, the Sacramento History Center was established through the efforts of Henley.

And if his aforementioned local history accomplishments were not sufficient for an entire career already, Henley managed to meet his future wife through another historical project, restoring a midtown Victorian. The couple was married on Sept. 22, 1978 and continue to reside in this home.

“I was very much in the mindset of restoring a Victorian house and at that

time everybody, who was restoring houses in midtown, sort of hung around together,” Henley said. “I happened to be at (a ‘greasy spoon’ diner with this group) on Broadway and I met (Paula) there through a mutual friend and that’s where it all started.”

Like many historians, Henley has also put his many years of research in black and white for the reading enjoyment of present and future generations.

He has played a leading role in about five books, written sections in about 15 more and has contributed many small pieces for magazines and journals.

In addition to his published works, which include an award-winning book about Sacramento in the 19th century, called “The City of the Plain,” which he co-authored with Neasham in 1969, Henley plans to write two more local history books, including one about Sacramento’s connection to the 1894 Pullman Strike.

Although no longer in the spotlight as the city’s historian, Henley, as is evident by his desire to continue writing about Sacramento, does not appear to be completely fading away into retirement.

But whether he provides one more contribution to the preservation of this city’s storied past, one thing is for certain, Sacramento owes a great deal to the history of James E. Henley.

HUMAN RIGHTS / FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION

A Government Agency Established To Enforce Civil Rights Laws

1112 I Street, Suite 250 Sacramento CA 95814

Phone 916-444-6903 Fax 916-444-6630

www.hrfh.org



Do you have rental housing questions?

The Commission offers assistance to both landlords and tenants. We encourage landlords to utilize the following program areas:

- ☐ Training in the areas of
 - ✦ Fair Housing Practices
 (including access and accommodations for persons with disabilities)

- ✦ Tenant/Landlord Information

Or Call

The Tenant/Landlord Hotline

(916) 444-0178

Monday – Friday

9:00a.m. – Noon & 1:00p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- ☐ *Small Claims Advisory Clinic*, Hours: M-F 8-12/1-4:30
- ☐ *Small Claims Mediation Program*, Hours: open while court is in session
- ☐ *Unlawful Detainer Advisory Clinic*, Hours: M-F 8-4; 1 hr lunch 12-1, (lunch may be later due to a.m. volume)
- ☐ *Unlawful Detainer Mediation Program*, Hours: open while court is in session

* These services are located at the Carol Miller Justice Center, 301 Biocentennial Circle, Suite 330, Sacramento

The Sacramento History Foundation has established the James E. Henley Internship endowment. Information about this program, which has already raised \$18,000, can be obtained by calling Kristin at (916) 264-7072.

Introducing...cow power

It's clean, green and renewable.

SMUD is working with area farmers to convert methane from cow manure, a potent greenhouse gas, into electricity – improving air quality in the process.

Cow power is just one of SMUD's efforts to provide sustainable energy and a cleaner environment.

Call SMUD or your Commercial Account Representative for information about Earth-friendly options: Energy Efficient Rebates and Financing, Greenergy®, Solar Incentives, Efficient Building Design, Energy Tracking Services and more.

SMUD Commercial Services
1-877-622-SMUD(7683)
www.smud.org



*SMUD received the highest numerical score among electric utility providers in Western U.S. in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2007 Electric Utility Business Customer Satisfaction Study™. Study based on responses from 12,930 interviews with U.S. business electric customers measuring 12 utilities in the West (AZ, CA, CO, ID, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA). Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of customers surveyed October 2006-January 2007. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com



® A registered service mark of Sacramento Municipal Utility District. 10/06-07 (10x11.3)



SMUD

SACRAMENTO MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
The Power To Do More.®

RECOVERY from page 1

people were forced from their homes, which officials say is the largest evacuation in the state's history.

At last tally about 500,000 acres were scorched, including thousands of acres of farm and ranch land. The state Office of Emergency Services has so far totaled 2,767 structures destroyed, including about 2,000 homes. The tally does not include lost fencing, irrigation systems, pumps and equipment.

Southern California officials experienced in the kind of havoc blowtorch winds can cause to agricultural crops say when the extent of damage is fully known, wind damage will likely rival the destruction caused by fire.

Now, with more than a dozen fires fully surrounded, firefighters were pushing to complete lines around seven others. While writing this article [Nov. 1], containment of those major blazes ranged from 50 percent to 97 percent.

"I lost about 1,500 avocado trees--about all I had," said Escondido farmer Paul Thoryk. "I didn't have insurance for the trees. I don't know if there's going to be any kind of help for this. And, it's not just the trees, it's all the irrigation equipment. That got burned up, too."

"But, that doesn't count the crop I was getting ready to pick in the next month or two," he said. "That's probably a loss of \$80,000 to \$100,000. My neighbors got hit pretty hard, too."

About 6,000 small farmers call San Diego County home and together produce about \$1.5 billion in crops each year. The county is ranked No. 1 among U.S. counties in the production of floral, nursery and greenhouse products, as well as avocados.

"Right now we're running around trying to clean up the mess," said Schwabauer. "We've got broken limbs, trees have blown over, roads need to be cleared."

Avocado growers will have to wait weeks before they know if their trees suffered long-term damage in the wildfires. University of California farm advisor Ben Faber said it may take six to eight weeks to learn if avocado trees exposed to fire will even survive.

And, if they do, the trees may lose their fruit and leaves, meaning they will not produce for the next two seasons. But experts also note that avocado trees have proven in the past to be resilient in recovery from fires.

Eco Farms manager Tim Hanify said he saw puffs of smoke from his Temecula office last month and watched the plumes increase as the Santa Ana winds picked

up. At first he thought the fire would be caught, but by noon he realized that wasn't the case.

"Actually, we had a fire in our farm Sunday night from a downed power line, but we were able to get it out," Hanify said. "We got out there in the avocado groves at night and we were able to stop that fire. The fire that took off on Oct. 23 ended up burning that grove anyway."

"When it jumped the freeway, that's when we fled," he said. "The fire was headed straight for my house. The other employees and I live in the Fallbrook area and we could see people pouring onto the freeways. Downtown Fallbrook was chaotic as people were leaving."

"I met my wife at our house, packed, took the cat and got out," he said. "One of the things that was hard for me is my father died in Barstow on Tuesday and I didn't have any clothes for the funeral. I couldn't get back in because of the evacuation. They had guys with automatic weapons manning the barricades."

Hanify said he and his wife were able to get a motel room in Temecula and he was allowed to get some appropriate clothes from his home on Thursday morning.

The wildfire and wind impact on Eco Farms varied by location. In some areas almost all fruit was blown from the trees. In other areas the trees were burned and the drip irrigation equipment was destroyed. The extent of the damage and the value of what has been lost is being tallied now. He said it will take at least a week to get operations anywhere near normal.

In Ventura County, which was hammered by Santa Ana winds gusting to between 80 and 100 miles per hour, the damage wasn't

from fire but extreme wind.

Ventura County avocado and citrus farmer David Schwabauer said estimates of loss in his groves are about 25 percent to 30 percent because of the avocados blown onto the ground. He said perhaps as much as a third to half of his lemon crop in wind-prone areas is scarred. That damage, usually from thorn puncture, reduces quality and therefore the price paid to farmers.

"Right now we're running around trying to clean up the mess," said Schwabauer, who is a California Farm Bureau Federation director. "We've got broken limbs, trees have blown over, roads need to be cleared."

"At least now the winds have subsided and temperatures have dropped," he said.



Fire engulfed a large portion of western Ventura County on Oct. 21, 2007. (AP Photo/Ventura County Star, Karen Quincy Loberg)

"We're just thankful we didn't have fire damage added to all this."

A wider survey of Southern California agricultural officials conducted by Farm Bureau indicates winds and wildfires have not only damaged or threatened avocado and citrus groves, there has been serious damage to nurseries, vineyards, rangeland and other farm and ranch operations.

San Diego County is ranked sixth in the nation in the number of horses, and thousands were evacuated to shelters. It is unclear if all livestock was successfully evacuated or if the animals were able to escape the fires' paths.

While agricultural losses are difficult to quantify and there are areas still not safe to enter, officials are putting a preliminary loss figure for all damage, including homes, at about \$1 billion. Farmers and county agricultural officials will assess the losses to farms and ranches during the next several weeks.

It is clear, however, that the most extensive farm-related fire damage occurred in San Diego County.

"We've had a lot of destruction to vineyards, cattle ranches, poultry ranches, nurseries, avocados and citrus fruit. All those crops are produced in the footprint of the burned areas," San Diego County Farm Bureau Executive Director Eric Larson said.

Los Angeles County: The agricultural commissioner's office reported wind damage in avocado groves. In addition, fire in the Malibu area killed 52 goats that had gathered in a shelter that burned.

Orange County: The county agricultural commissioner's office reported minor fire damage to avocados and to nursery crops and buildings. Most nurseries sent

their employees home and maintained skeleton crews to irrigate plants because of the hot, dry winds.

Riverside County: Strong winds caused the worst trouble. The county Farm Bureau said some pumpkins and winter vegetables were "sandblasted" by blowing dust carried on the strong wind. The county agricultural commissioner's office says it is still assessing damage.

San Bernardino County: The county Farm Bureau reported that apple orchards stand near the path of the wildfires, but has heard no reports of damage so far. It expects fire damage to rangelands. The county agricultural commissioner's office says some beef cattle may have been threatened by the fire but has not received damage reports for livestock.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture said the agency opened fair and rodeo grounds, horse parks, exhibition centers and other facilities in several counties to provide shelter for people and animals fleeing the fires. CDFA said members of its veterinary staff are now working at animal evacuation centers in the Southland to coordinate the movement of resources to support pets and livestock until they can be returned home.

The agency also is assisting dairy farms within the region to continue milk shipments to processors, coordinating with Caltrans and the California Highway Patrol to allow trucks through restricted areas. Many rural roads in the burn areas are not yet passable.

Story reprinted with permission of the California Farm Bureau Federation. For more information about the Farm Bureau or to subscribe to its bimonthly magazine, "California Country," visit www.cfbf.com.

GREEN from page 1

Barbara Boxer. The prospects sound good but the committee got only half the story.

Estimates of just how many jobs our push to go green may generate vary widely, but not all economists believe that there really will be any kind of green-job boom. More important is the question of whether these supposedly new jobs simply displace existing jobs or are make-work schemes to transfer wealth. Will they help improve our productivity and prosperity? Unfortunately, the likely answer is no.

The more complete story is that some jobs may be created, but only at the expense of others. Further, the result would be less overall economic growth on net, and most likely, the loss of existing capital.

The notion that one can make jobs by destroying others is a variation of 19th century philosopher Frederic Bastiat's "Broken Window" fallacy. As Bastiat explained, imagine some shopkeepers get their windows broken by a rock-throwing child. At first, people sympathize with the

shopkeepers, until someone suggests that the broken windows aren't that bad. After all, they "create work" for the glazier, who might then buy food, benefiting the grocer, or clothes, benefiting the tailor.

If enough windows are broken, the glazier might even hire an assistant, creating a new job. Would it be good public policy to simply break windows at random? No, because what is not seen in this scenario is what the shopkeepers would have done with the money that they have had to use

to fix their windows. If they hadn't needed to fix the windows, the shopkeepers would have put the money to work in their shops, buying more stock from their suppliers, perhaps adding a coffee-bar, or hiring new people, or lending it to others with wealth-creating ideas.

Economic growth results from increases in productivity, not by destroying wealth. Government mandates that require producers and consumers to use the most expensive forms of energy, like wind, solar, and ethanol, reduce overall productivity. Less wealth and prosperity is the ultimate result. Reducing productivity also makes us less competitive internationally, in an increasingly competitive global economy. Though some jobs may be created, a long-term downward spiral is also created. Such actions are not sustainable.

Congress should keep long-term implications of their "job creation" arguments for increased mandates in mind as they move forward. Ideally, they will recognize the fallacy of creating jobs at the expense of productivity and destroying wealth. Green energy mandates should not be implemented if the cost is less productivity, less wealth, and less prosperity for all Americans.

Thomas Tanton is an environmental fellow at the Pacific Research Institute. Email him at ttanton@fastkat.com.

GOP Congressman Funds Electoral Vote Reform

By LAURA KURTZMAN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Rep. Darrell Issa, the wealthy congressman who helped bankroll the 2003 campaign to recall California's Democratic governor, is stepping in to revive an effort that could deliver more than a third of the state's electoral votes to the Republican presidential candidate in 2008.

A previous bid to change the way California awards its electoral votes failed last month when the consultants running the campaign abruptly resigned, unable to raise money and facing scrutiny over the one large donation they received.

Those involved in the new effort will need at least \$2.5 million to \$3 million to pay petitioners to gather enough voter signatures by the end of November, the expected deadline to qualify the initiative for the June primary election ballot.

Issa, a Republican who made millions in the car alarm business, said last week that he would contribute less than the \$1.7 million he gave to qualify the measure that led to the recall of Gov. Gray Davis.

But he also said he was urging his

own donor network to give to the Electoral College campaign.

The proposal would abolish California's winner-take-all system of awarding its 55 Electoral College votes. Instead, the statewide winner would get two votes and the

ring to Issa, who represents a San Diego-area congressional district. "Dave has worked out a deal that they get what they need, whether it's from his pocket or his family of contributors."

Gilliard said others would contribute

Democrats have launched a fierce attack against the proposed ballot measure...

rest would be divided up based on which candidate won in each of the state's 53 congressional districts.

If the measure had been in effect in 2004, President Bush would have received 22 of California's electoral votes, and Democrat John Kerry, the statewide winner, would have gotten the rest.

Kevin Eckery, a campaign consultant who was involved in the first effort to qualify the initiative, said he had spoken with the new campaign manager, Dave Gilliard, and had been told that Issa would come through with enough money to qualify the measure.

"My understanding is he's prepared to make sure it gets done," Eckery said, refer-

besides Issa.

"It's not going to be like the recall, where he has to do it all by himself," Gilliard said.

Democrats have launched a fierce attack against the proposed ballot measure, underscoring its potential to upend the 2008 race.

Unless other large states also changed their rules before the 2008 general election, analysts say the California change would make it difficult for a Democrat to win the presidency.

Measure supporters need to collect about 700,000 signatures to endure that they have enough valid signatures of registered voters to qualify the proposal.

**Living pay check
to pay check?
Get a lifestyle &
six figure income.
Call 800-620-4782
or
www.freedomrox.com**

Specializing in Restaurant Equipment Repair

Fast response. Great Service

Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Repair • Electrical Repair
Residential and Commercial Service

Specializing in the repair or replacement of:

Cooking Equipment • Ventilation Systems • Ice Machine • Refrigeration • Electrical Repair

FE

EPA Certified Refrigerant Recovery

**For Service, Call:
(916) 763-1431**

Fletcher's Equipment Sales Corp

2538 Mercantile Dr. Ste K

Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

Please visit our website for more information
www.FletchersEquipment.com

CA Lic. # 637572

How Hillary Got Her 'Groove' Back

By **ANDY NEVIS**
Sacramento Union Talkers Editor

Editor's Note: California Talkers is a special section highlighting the most popular subjects on talk radio. Is there a show or a subject Andy isn't hearing? Email him at ANevis@SacUnion.com.

Talk radio got a chance to beat up one of its favorite punching bags last week: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. After months of a relatively tame campaign, the former first lady turned-U.S. senator had, what many political analysts considered, a terrible debate performance last week in which she was targeted fiercely by her opponents and was unable to give clear answers to questions posed by moderator Tim Russert.

Rush Limbaugh began his show the following day by offering his comments on Clinton's performance.

"I watched this thing last night, and I saw her unnerved, steely-eyed, flip-flopping over basically a mild line of questioning," he said.

Limbaugh also pounced on comments by some that the other Democratic candidates were being unfair by criticizing Clinton, who is nursing a large lead in key primary states. He suggested the media and some

Democrats believe she should be immune from question. "You can't hit the girl, and you especially can't hit Hillary. Hillary is the queen. You can't hit her. That's what these withering attacks are," he declared.

Perhaps the answer that best represented Clinton's performance was her reply to a question about Democratic New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer's plan to give driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. Clinton gave an answer that appeared to endorse both sides of the issue.

"That was the most pathetic skate; the most pathetic avoidance; that was horribly bad... She wouldn't even tell us what she thought about it," Limbaugh reacted.

The attacks against Hillary Clinton continued for the remainder of the week on Rush Limbaugh's program, noting the defense that the Clinton campaign offered (that the other candidates bullied her). By the Nov. 2 edition of the program, Limbaugh had created a new nickname for the candidate—"Victim-in-Chief," and rolled out a parody song to go along with it.

"Boy, I'll tell you, the Clintons, they're out there playing this gender card now," he said. "This is truly insulting. She wants it both ways. One day, one minute, she wants to just be the girl that everybody's beating

up on, and then the next day she wants to be tough as a man, or the next minute."

However, later in the program an explanation for Clinton's apparent indecisiveness was offered.

"It's not that she doesn't know what she believes; it's that she's afraid to tell us what she believes," Limbaugh said, "She's afraid to tell us what she really wants to do. The Clintons want to appear to be for and against everything."

answer, she goes into a kind of [cackling] laugh and dismisses it."

However, this time it did not work, Sullivan argued.

The local-turned-national radio talk show host also noted that Clinton seemed to be running against President Bush instead of the other candidates in the 2008 election.

"She tried to turn every argument into a debate about Bush," he said, noting that

"...she's afraid to tell us what she believes."

Criticism of Clinton's debate performance was not limited to Limbaugh's program or national talk radio. KFBK host Tom Sullivan also took his jabs on the day following the debate. Although he admitted to not watching the full debate, he declared it was apparent the Clinton campaign was trying to avoid answering tough questions.

"They are continuing a strategy of avoiding direct questions," he said.

Sullivan also responded to claims of bias by moderator Tim Russert.

"No, he was asking direct questions," Sullivan said. "When she [Hillary Clinton] gets a question that she does not want to

Clinton uttered Bush's name 25 times during the course of the debate.

Sullivan finally gave some unsolicited advice to the Clinton campaign: answer questions directly.

"She has got to solidify positions beyond the Democratic base if she expects to win the general [election]," he said.

Based on the reactions from talk radio after this Clinton scuffle, it is safe to bet that conservative talk radio will be as entertaining as it is criticism-laden should Clinton retain her frontrunner status and become the Democratic nominee.

DOLLARS AND \$ENSE

Long-Term Strategies for Managing the Market Up's and Down's – Part I

By **JAMES J. SCHERER, MBA**
Sacramento Union Financial Advice Writer
Financial Advisor

Since last July, the stock market has been up, down and now up again. What a volatile roller coaster ride. Volatility is the quick movement up or down in a market. The quicker this movement is the higher the volatility. A diversified investment

mix, a focus on large cap growth stocks, and exposure to active portfolio managers may all help you deal with greater market volatility. Let's take a look at diversification first.

The Return of Diversification

Mixing your portfolio between stocks and bonds becomes more important in

an environment of increased volatility. However, this has not always been the case. During much of the 1980s and 1990s, stock and bond prices generally moved together. This type of diversification offered little value to investors. In contrast, the correlation between stocks and bonds in recent years – just as in the 1950s – has reversed, and currently has a negative correlation.* This means when the stock market goes up or down, the bond market does the opposite. Therefore, diversification is of more value in managing volatility now than at any time in the past 40-50 years.

For example, the recent decline in the stock market was mirrored by a rise in bond prices as market participants' expectations for economic growth were soured. Indeed, since the peak in the S&P 500 on July 19, intermediate term government bonds have gained about 5 percent while stocks have fallen about 5 percent.**

The markets are changing. The good news is the stock and bond markets are not moving together in tandem. With all of the

extraneous market influences around us (i.e. Iraq War, Middle East instability, sub-prime waves and the upcoming elections, etc.) now is the time to review this concept again with an experienced and competent financial advisor and see if your portfolio is properly positioned to help manage market volatility.

* S&P 500 and the Ibbotson Intermediate Term Government bond index.

** Ibbotson Intermediate Term Government bond index.

This article is not intended to provide specific investment or tax advice for any individual. Consult your financial advisor, your tax advisor or me if you have any questions.

James J. Scherer is a financial advisor with, and securities offered through Linsco/Private Ledger, Member NASD/SIPC (CA Insurance License 0C20370). He can be reached at 916-797-1188 or Email at james.scherer.SacUnion@lpl.com.

Advertise in
The Sacramento Union

"Now you have an option"

KIM PEROTTI
(916) 214-6658

TONY KURTIS
(916) 837-8456

SACUNION COLUMNIST

The Camel's Nosebleed

By **PETER HANNAFORD**
Sacramento Union Columnist
American Spectator Online Writer



It was supposed to be a no-lose issue for the majority-holding Congressional Democrats. Expansion of SCHIP, the State Children's Health Insurance Program, to

cover more poor kids, would put them on the side of the angels and, with its flaws masked, throw the Republicans on the defensive.

It worked—for a while. The pollsters asked the people, "Should health care coverage of poor children be expanded?" "Of course," they said. The Democrats trotted out their hoary talking point about the Republicans wanting to throw poor children out in the snow (or wherever they throw children because they always do).

President Bush vetoed the bill. Send me a corrected bill, he said. No, we'll override it to show the public that we are on the right side, the Democrats said. They made a few minor adjustments to the bill, couldn't budge any more Congressional Republican votes. Result: the veto override effort failed.

The secret here is that the Democrats – always trying to plan two jumps ahead – wanted it to fail.

They are convinced that it is a surefire issue for them, come November 2008. They don't care as much about children as about winning the next election. They figure they can hang the blame for "hurting children" on the Republicans, win veto-proof majorities in Congress in '08 and/or the White House. Then, they will move toward their real goal: nationalized, government-run health care for all.

The SCHIP bill was intended to be the camel's nose under the health care tent. SCHIP was actually created by a Republican Congress in 1997 to cover poor children, period. The major flaw in the bill is that it would expand coverage to approximately two million children who are already privately insured. Children in families of four with annual incomes of twice the poverty level (approximately \$40,000) are currently eligible for SCHIP. This would be raised to include families making three times the poverty level, or \$61,900. This is well above the median U.S. household income (\$48,201, according to the Census Bureau). Thus, it would move SCHIP coverage well into the middle class.

This, indeed, is the camel shoving its

nose well into the tent. "Free" government health insurance? If you and your family already have private coverage and make \$61,900 a year, would you drop it for the "free" coverage? Of course. So, this year it's \$61,900; next year is \$80,000, and so forth.

The Republicans have begun to pound on the real reason behind the expansion of SCHIP. It will take a lot more pounding on the down-range cost of expanded "free" care. At the same time, they need to remind one and all of what we'll get at the end of the road: a health care system as clotted as

The secret here is that the Democrats wanted it to fail.

With expanded SCHIPs in place, the Democrats will have the middle class bracketed: seniors under Medicare; children under SCHIPs. The next step would be easy—and both ruinously expensive and inefficient in a country with a Congress that does not know how to face the train wreck heading toward Medicare and Social Security.

those of Canada and Britain.

In short, they need to make sure the camel gets a steady nosebleed.

Peter Hannaford was on Ronald Reagan's senior campaign staff in the 1976 and 1980 primaries. Email him at pdh3292@aol.com. This story reprinted with permission of American Spectator Online, www.spectator.org.



"I haven't a particle of confidence in a man who has no redeeming petty vices."

~ former Sacramento Union Writer Mark Twain

Large Selection of Toto Toilets In Stock

- Shower Systems
- Large selection of Toto Toilets In Stock
- Safety Walk-In Tubs
- Free Standing & Claw Foot Tubs
- Oriental Soaking Tubs
- Air Tubs
- Deep Tubs for Back & Neck Therapy

The World's Largest Selection of Bathtubs!

Our Sacramento Showroom Features Over 200 Models!

With manufacturers like:

Kohler, Jacuzzi, Jetta Aquatic, Trajet, Maax, Americh, Hydro Systems, Jason, Vita Baths, American Baths, MTI, Neptune, Waterdance, Lasco, Acryline, Pearl Baths, Safty Baths, Freestanding Clawfoot tubs and more. With a selection like this, we are sure to find the tub made for you.

916.575.9100

SACRAMENTO

www.tubz.net/info@tubz.net

Open Mon.-Thurs. 10AM-5PM Closed Friday Sat. & Sun. 10AM-4PM

OAKDALE

441 Greger Road
(Behind Hershey Factory.)

209.845.9115

FREMONT

4840 Davenport Place
(Near 880 & Auto Mall Pkwy.)

510.770.8686

SACRAMENTO
830 National Drive, Suite 120
(Near Arco Arena)
916.575.9100

Should the Giants Go After A-Rod?

By **BRUCE MACGOWAN**
Sacramento Union Columnist



While Giants fans are hoping that the team's general manager Brian Sabean will make a big splash this off-season by signing free agent Alex Rodriguez, there are plenty of good reasons not to make the move. Giants' fans are frustrated, and everyone loves a superstar. If anyone can replace the mesmerizing diamond presence of Barry Bonds, it's probably the soon to be 32-year-old Rodriguez, who is at the top of his game.

A lot of Giants fans (not to mention regional media) make a convincing argument that without Barry Bonds, fans would have stayed away in droves from AT&T Park. And there is much truth in the fact that without Bonds, the Giants certainly wouldn't have enjoyed the postseason play-off appearances they experienced in the 1997, 2000, and 2002-03 seasons.

But we also saw how poor this Giants team was when they surrounded Bonds with only mediocre talent. Even at an advanced age, Bonds drew a record number of walks as opposing pitchers knew that people like Pedro Feliz, Ryan Klesko and others were not nearly as threatening as past Giant stars such as Jeff Kent, Ellis Burks, and Benito Santiago.

I think the Giants should stay away from this guy...

If the Giants turn over the keys of their franchise to A-Rod, they would also have a hard time giving him a decent supporting cast because of the huge financial commitment.

Still, don't be surprised if the Giants make a serious bid for A-Rod. Don't think the Giants' front office isn't aware of the impact such big name players have on the gate; the team's owner Peter Magowan frequently points out that the Giants need to keep those turnstiles clicking. Ultimately, the Giants have to pay off the debt they owe on their privately funded park while simultaneously providing financial satisfaction to the large number of co-investors who want to turn some kind of a profit.

There is no question that A-Rod could bring a jolt to the team. He's not only a great player (he just came off a season where he hit 54 homers and drove in 156 runs), but he's also a major drawing card. I remember the first time I saw him play 11 years ago in the Seattle Kingdome. I was on vacation in the Seattle area and took my

wife to the game, partly to see the terrific young 20-year-old shortstop I'd heard so much about. Rodriguez didn't disappoint, as he hammered a triple, a single, drove in three runs, and made two spectacular plays at shortstop in a Mariners' win.

A-Rod would also fill the huge hole left by Bonds—probably elevating the play of the guys around him. And within a few years, he'd not only be chasing Bonds' home run record, he probably wouldn't have any accusations shadowing him concerning alleged steroid use.

But now, here are the more convincing arguments about why the Giants should stay away from signing A-Rod.

First off, his agent is Scott Boras, a man who has almost single-handedly tried to change the salary structure of baseball. When Rodriguez bolted a solid Seattle team to join a mediocre club in Texas for a stunning \$250 million ten-year deal, everyone wondered how owners were going to be able to keep the salaries down. Although there have been some ridiculous contracts handed out in the last few years, most teams have been smart enough to stay away from handing out too much money to top talent.

Still, if anyone is deserving of that kind of a contract, it's probably A-Rod. But Boras showed little class when he upstaged the fourth game of the 2007 World Series to e-mail several prominent members of



New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez responds to questions during a news interview in this Aug. 4, 2007 file photo at Yankee stadium in New York. Rodriguez opted out of his US\$252 million, 10-year contract with the Yankees on Sunday, Oct. 28, 2007. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II, File)

Bonds skipped a lot of team functions and workouts (largely because he kept to himself and followed his own routine), but the bottom line is that he delivered on the field when it counted. Would Rodriguez isolate himself like Bonds or would he mix well with his teammates? Would A-Rod be able to deliver as Bonds did in the clutch? Who knows?

There are also plenty of people who point to Rodriguez's glaring failures in the post season. He's never played on a team that reached the World Series, and his average in postseason play since 2004 is an anemic .136.

I think the main reason the Giants should

stay away from this guy is the heavy financial commitment they would have to make. The Giants have a number of needs: middle relief help, a couple of power hitters, and perhaps another proven young veteran outfielder (like the Twins' free agent Torii Hunter). If they signed A-Rod, they would probably have to forego their other needs, essentially putting all of their eggs in one basket. Is that worth the risk? I don't think so.

Bruce Macgowan is a radio and TV announcer who has been covering professional and college sports in Northern California since 1975. He may be contacted at BruceM@SacUnion.com.

Lansford Hired as Giants Hitting Coach

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) – Former AL batting champion Carney Lansford was hired last week to become the San Francisco Giants' new hitting coach.

Lansford, a five-time All-Star who won the batting title in 1981, received a two-year contract to replace Joe Lefebvre on manager Bruce Bochy's staff.

Lansford batted .290 during a 15-year career with the Angels, Boston and Oakland. Lansford, who was hitting coach for the Rockies' Triple-A affiliate this season, had previously been a bench coach for Tony La Russa in Oakland (1994-95) and St. Louis (1997-98).

"We are thrilled to have someone of Carney's baseball pedigree join the

coaching staff," general manager Brian Sabean said. "He was an excellent big league hitter in his own right, while his expertise, enthusiasm and approach will be tremendous assets to our club moving forward."

Lansford grew up in the Bay Area cheering for the Giants. He went to high school in Santa Clara before being drafted by the Angels in 1975.

Lansford had 2,074 hits, 151 homers and 874 RBIs in his career. He batted over .300 five times and hit .305 in five trips to the postseason. Lansford won one World Series as a player, playing for the A's when they beat the Giants for the title in 1989.

Baseball Schedules Out of Park, Out of Bounds

How Late Night Games and Professional Sports Don't Mix

By GLENN DICKEY
Sacramento Union Columnist



When are baseball owners going to realize they're doing irreparable damage to their games unless they can regain control from the TV executives?

Decades ago, when he was commissioner of the NFL, Pete Rozelle saw television as a way to boost the popularity of his sport and also make it a much more attractive business operation. His predecessor, Bert Bell, had promoted the idea of revenue sharing among the owners and Rozelle continued that with the TV rights, with money being split evenly among clubs.

Rozelle went after the biggest possible deals, and the money just kept going up and up, as it still is. That also meant that he had to give the networks leeway when they scheduled games; the NFL would no longer have complete control over that.

That hasn't been a problem in football because the great majority of the games are scheduled on Sunday. Fans can generally set their schedules in the fall for Sunday

games, with only an occasional Monday night game on the schedule.

That's not true in baseball. Chasing after more and more money has forced scheduling changes in the postseason, which adversely affect both fans and the teams. The latest contract with Fox gives them the right to schedule the start of the World Series on a weekday night instead of the traditional Saturday, because Saturday night has the lowest TV ratings of the week. It also puts extra off days into the schedule during the league championship series.

The effect of this is two-fold: (1) The extra days in the championship series allow managers to use their best starters more often, which can affect the competitive nature of the games; and (2) A team that breezes through its championship series can have a long wait before it plays again.

We saw this last year with the Detroit Tigers and St. Louis Cardinals. The Tigers breezed through the ALCS against the A's and then went stale waiting for the St. Louis Cardinals to emerge from the National League playoffs.

The Cardinals, who had won only 83 regular season games, then swept the World Series.

This year, it was the Colorado Rockies turn to wait around, for eight days after they had swept past the Arizona Diamondbacks in the NCLS. When the Rockies played again, they were swept by the Boston Red Sox in the World Series.

audience with these late night games.

I don't blame the TV people. They're paying a lot of money for the rights and they're trying to maximize their economic interests.

But why do the owners just go for the

I don't blame the TV people. They're trying to maximize their economic interests.

In this case, the better team won, but the Rockies' rust showed in their first game, a 13-1 thumping. I think they would have been more competitive if they hadn't been idle for so long, and the Series would have been more interesting. As it was, it was of interest only to Red Sox fans and those who enjoy watching the wings pulled off a butterfly.

The other problem when TV sets the schedule, of course, is that they set late game times. Combined with the inordinate number of commercials that are run, the games go past midnight in the East. Baseball has always prided itself on being a generational game, but they're freezing out the youngsters who should be their future

most money? As former A's owner Steve Schott once pointed out when owners were discussing a new TV contract, "What difference does it make how much money we get? We'll just give it to the players."

Too true. Every time baseball gets a new TV contract with more money, offers to free agents take a sizeable jump. If the owners took less money in their TV contracts, it would only mean less money for players, not for teams. And they could then regain control of their game.

Read more of Glenn Dickey's columns at www.glenndickey.com.



Your Tickets to the Best Seat in the House

SACRAMENTO KINGS • GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS • OAKLAND RAIDERS •
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS • FRANKIE VALLI • TRANS-SIBERIAN ORCHESTRA
• VAN HALEN • BLUE MAN GROUP • GEORGE LOPEZ • MAMMA MIA •
CIRQUE DREAMS • ANDRE RIEU • SPICE GIRLS • MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER
• RIVERDANCE • WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND • PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
• KELLY CLARKSON • SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE • JINGLE BALL

CONCERTS • SPORTS • THEATRE
We Buy/Sell & Consign Tickets

Preferred Seating

Family Owned Ticket Service Since 1987

www.PreferredSeat.com

1014 4th Street Sacramento, CA 95814 916.498.1400

Granite Bay Coach Must Make Tough Call

By KURT JOHNSON
Placer County Sports Page
PlacerSports.com



Granite Bay boys' soccer coach Steve Fischer may be one win away from one of his toughest coaching decisions ever. As the Grizzlies poured it on against an over-

matched McClatchy squad last Friday, they advanced to the Sac-Joaquin Section Division II semifinals, which were played on Wednesday night. Although the result of that game is unknown at press time, a likely win there would move Granite Bay to the title game on Saturday, and a possibly unusual coaching dilemma for Fischer.

Granite Bay rolled through the first half of the schedule, rising into the national top ten rankings. After returning from a trip to a prestigious tournament in Quincy, Ill., the Grizzlies were stunned as eight top players were suspended for disciplinary reasons. The players, mostly seniors play-

ing in their final high school soccer campaign, were slapped with a six-week suspension from participating in school sports. Between pulling younger players from the junior varsity and calling back players who had missed the original cut, Fischer pulled together a new roster. Following a slight wobble in its first few games after the changeover, Granite Bay went on to run away with the Sierra Foothill League title.

Now, the six-week suspension of the original players comes to an end just in time for Saturday's section championship game. If the Grizzlies managed to survive Oak Ridge, Fischer was sure to be faced with a tough call. Would he reinstate the players and give them their spots back, sending the replacement to the bench? Would he reinstate them and let them be part of the team that takes the field for that last game, but not put them in the game? Would he reinstate them and try to get them some minimal playing time? Or, would he simply not reinstate them and dance with the crew that brought him down the stretch? Reasonable people could make a case for



Granite Bay boys' soccer coach Steve Fischer.

any of these possible scenarios, but just one coach could be faced with making that call, and his decision will be the only opinion that matters.

Placer County				
Sports				
Page!				
VISITOR	1	0	1	4
HOME	2	0	0	6

Visit Sac Union partner
PlacerSports.com for more
stories online.

Placer Sports Round Up, Rehash and Recap

Provided by PlacerSports.com

Race for SFL Football Playoff Spots Down to Final Friday Night

Fresh off a 41-28 win over Oakmont last Friday night, Del Oro (Loomis) sits in a unique position in relation to its Sierra Foothill League counterparts. The Golden Eagles have locked up one of the two available spots to represent the SFL in post-season play, and the league title hangs in the balance in Del Oro's season finale on Friday night against Granite Bay. The Grizzlies control their own destiny for the second playoff opening. An upset win over the Sacramento area's top-ranked team will put Granite Bay into a tie with the Golden Eagles atop the SFL at 4-1, and will give it the top SFL seed in the Sac-Joaquin Section Division II tournament. A Del Oro win, however, will open the door for Roseville and Rocklin to have a shot to crash the playoff party.

Roseville drilled Rocklin 32-7 last Thursday night to pull even with the Thunder at 2-2. The Tigers visit Oakmont Nov. 9, while Rocklin hosts Woodcreek, as each team attempts to reach 3-2 and keep hope alive for a playoff spot. There will be a lot of scoreboard watching on Friday night, as Tiger fans and Thunder fans become closet fans of the Del Oro Golden Eagles, at least for one night.

Four Will Enter, But Just Two Will Move On in the PVL

The chase to become one of two Pioneer Valley League teams to make the playoffs comes down to four teams, in two games Nov. 9. Colfax and Whitney (Rocklin) are in the driver's seat at 4-1, but Bear River and Lincoln are still alive at 3-2. Credit the schedule-makers on this one, as the two 3-2 teams each get a head-to-head shot at one of the front-runners on the season's final night. Colfax shut out Lincoln 34-0 last week, and now must handle Bear River Friday to secure one of the Sac-Joaquin Section Division IV playoff spots. Lincoln will take a shot at Whitney on Friday. When the night is over, there could be two clear winners, or a big mess at the top of the PVL.

Woodcreek Cross-Country Dominance Continues

The Woodcreek (Roseville) boys' cross-country team finished first at the Sac-Joaquin Subsection Division II cross-country meet at Angel's Camp last week, advancing to Nov. 10's section finals in Folsom. The top eight teams and additional top ten individual runners advance to the section meet, where Woodcreek will be favored to earn a spot in the state meet. James Tracy of Del Campo won the individual

title, and was followed by Woodcreek's Garrett Seawell and Chris Romo in second and third positions. With Del Campo's Dan Mitchell finishing fourth, it was the Woodcreek depth from their third, fourth, and fifth runners that captured the team prize. Cameron Mitchell finished eighth, Taylor Newman 16th, and Tom Paulson 32nd for the Timberwolves.

The team qualifiers to the Division II boys' sections are Woodcreek, Oak Ridge, Del Campo, Granite Bay, Pleasant Grove, Fairfield, Rocklin, and Ponderosa, while Jordan Willis of Roseville also moves on individually.

On the girls' side, Ponderosa captured team honors while Woodcreek captured second position. The individual title went to Hayley Scott of Oak Ridge, whose team finished third. Joining those three teams at the section meet will be St. Francis High School, Roseville, Granite Bay, Rocklin, and Buhach Colony. Courtney Crosta was Woodcreek's fastest finishing, claiming sixth place, with a number of teammates not far behind her. Jaime Brooks was 12th, Ashley Buckner 16th, Alex Ciaraglia 17th, and Stephanie Romo 19th for the Timberwolves. Kristine Lozoya and Stacey Haack of Oakmont both qualified for sections based on their individual times.



Del Oro quarterback (5) Cole Saunders. (Photo by Dave Kinsella of The Winning Shot)

NHRA POWERade Series Crowns 2007 Champions

By JEANNIE BROUSSAL
Sacramento Union's Gearhead Gal

It all came down to the last day, Sunday, Nov. 4, to decide the four NHRA POWERade division champions in the "Countdown to One." Going into Pomona, "Hot Rod" Fuller, Tony Pedregon, Greg Anderson, and Andrew Hines were the points leaders in their respective divisions. The full roster of drivers in the championship countdown was as follows: Top Fuel: Rod Fuller 3,135; Larry Dixon 3,083; Brandon Bernstein 3,074; Tony Schumacher 3,068. Funny Car: Tony Pedregon 3,147; Gary Scelzi 3,056; Robert Hight 3,048; Ron Capps 3,034. Pro Stock: Greg Anderson 3,136; Jeg Coughlin 3,102; Dave Connolly 3,088; Allen Johnson 3,033. Pro Stock Motorcycle: Andrew Hines 3,147; Chip Ellis 3,108; Matt Smith 3,096; Peggy Llewellyn 3,054.

Jeg Coughlin driving his Jegs.com Cobalt in the Pro Stock Division was the first to capture a division championship on Sunday by beating Richie Stevens in round two eliminations with a 0.015-6.646-207.88 to Stevens 0.080-6.672-206.80. This is Coughlin's third NHRA POWERade Pro Stock title.

Robert Hight, driving the Auto Club of So. Cal.-John Force Racing Ford Mustang Funny Car, won the semi-final round by beating Mike Ashley in the Torco Race Fuels Dodge Charger, but lost the championship to Tony Pedregon. Hight needed to win the round and post an elapsed time of 4.705 or better to win the title. He came up short. Hight ran 0.100-4.877-255.05 to Ashley's 0.057-4.951-324.51. This is Hight's second consecutive year as runner-up. Hight faced his John Force Racing teammate Phil Burkart (Castrol GTX Mustang) in the final round, taking the event win 0.053-4.731-326.71 to Burkart's

0.053-8.314-104.31.

Tony Schumacher won the 2007 Top Fuel Championship, the fifth of his career, beating UPS Dragster driver Bob Vandergriff 0.075-4.486-328.30 to Vandergriff's 0.072-4.681-317.19. Schumacher is also the Auto Club of So. Cal. Finals event winner.

In Pro Stock Motorcycles, it was a duel to the end when Ellis and Smith faced each other in the final round for the event win and the Pro Stock Motorcycle Championship. Smith captured both titles with 0.033-6.944-191.08 to Ellis's 0.101-6.957-192.17.

Top Fuel driver Larry Dixon, going into Sunday in second place, raced Hillary Will in round one eliminations with both running a 4.52 et, but Dixon got the win because he was off the line 0.062 to Will's 0.094. Brandon Bernstein, in third place going into Sunday, paired up with Cory McClenathan and scored an easy victory with a 0.095-4.557-327.11 to McClenathan's 0.034-12.109-75.31. Next up was fourth place Tony Schumacher vs. Alan Bradshaw with Bradshaw going up in smoke, giving the victory to Schumacher with a 0.069-4.501-325.69.

In round two eliminations, Fuller smoked the tires at the start, giving Bob Vandergriff (who was not in championship contention) the win and leaving Fuller out of contention for the championship. Brandon Bernstein (Budweiser/Lucas Oil Dragster) beat David Grubnic (Zantrex-3 Dragster) with a 0.095-4.549-322.19 to Grubnic's 0.089-5.020-305.77. Schumacher (US Army Dragster) beat Morgan Lucas, posting 0.064-4.501-330.96 to Lucas's 0.035-4.552-327.90. Larry Dixon lost any hope of winning the championship when he lost to J.R. Todd in round two. Todd posted 0.063-4.508-330.88 to Dixon's 0.055-4.549-318.84. In the semi-final round

Schumacher beat Bernstein with a 0.070-4.520-325.53 to Bernstein's 0.065-4.637-319.14. It was Schumacher and Vandergriff (UPS Dragster) competing in the final round with Schumacher getting the win 0.075-4.486-328.30 to Vandergriff's 0.072-4.681-317.19.

In the Funny Car division, "Countdown to One" points leader Tony Pedregon lost to Jeff Arend in round one eliminations and Robert Hight beat Gary Scelzi (both in contention for the championship). Ron Capps (in contention for the championship) lost to Phil Burkart, who is driving John Force's car while Force is recuperating from his accident in Dallas in September. Burkart posted a 0.052 with a 4.861 et at 317.57 to Capps 0.110 with a 4.822 et at 323.35.

In round two, Robert Hight (Auto Club of So. Cal. Ford Mustang) beat Jerry Toliver (Rockstar Energy Drinks), posting a 0.077-4.796-319.29 to Toliver's 0.107-4.839-323.58. In the Funny Car semi-final round Hight beat Mike Ashley 0.100-4.877-255.05 to Ashley's 0.057-4.951-324.51 but it was not enough to get Hight the championship.

In round one eliminations for Pro Stock, championship contender Allen Johnson beat Max Naylor with a 0.025-6.671-206.92 when Naylor red lighted. Dave Connolly gave away all hope of winning the championship by red lighting against Mike Edwards. Championship contender Greg Anderson lost to Justin Humphreys. Anderson went 0.087-6.658-208.42 to Humphreys 0.034-6.669-207.18, and the final championship contender Jeg Coughlin beat Larry Morgan 0.014-6.650-207.34 to 0.020-6.692-206.80.

Going into round two eliminations, Coughlin beat Richie Stevens (Mopar/Valspar Stratus) and won the champion-

ship. Coughlin posted a 0.015-6.646-207.88 and Stevens red lighted. In the semi final round, Justin Humphreys (RaceRedi Motorsports GTO) beat Tom Hammonds (Cobalt) going 0.039-6.674-206.70 to Hammonds 0.025-6.699-206.73. Jeg Coughlin beat Mike Edwards (Young Life/A.R.T. GTO) 0.033-6.654-207.88 with Edwards red lighting. It was Coughlin versus Humphreys in the final with Coughlin the getting the AAA of So. Cal Finals event win.

In Pro Stock Motorcycle, championship contender Chip Ellis beat Junior Pippin in first round eliminations, going 0.110-6.996-189.50 to Pippin's 0.027-7.263-180.94. Championship contender Peggy Llewellyn beat Hector Arana with a 0.052-7.075-187.57 when Arana red lighted and Andrew Hines (championship contender) beat Shawn Gann with a 0.032-6.984-191.46 to Gann's 0.047-7.182-175.46. Sitting in third in the "Countdown to One" championship, Matt Smith beat Angie McBride 0.045-6.994-188.78 to McBride's 0.063-7.152-165.68.

Round two eliminations saw Smith (Torco Race Fuels Buell) take out Llewellyn (Rush Racing Parts Buell), posting a 0.017-6.969-188.73 to Llewellyn's 0.070-7.005-189.28. Ellis (Drag Specialties S&S Buell) knocked out Eddie Krawlec (Screamin' Eagle/Vane & Hines Harley Davidson) with a 0.037-6.979-190.30 to Krawlec's 0.203-7.053-187.08. Hines (Screamin' Eagle/Vane & Hines Harley Davidson) red lighted against Antron Brown (US Army Suzuki), giving Brown the win.

In the semi-final round, Ellis ran a 0.074-.6.987-191.02 beating Angelle Sampey (US Army Suzuki), who red-lighted, and Smith beat Brown who red lighted with a 0.039-6.956-190.30.



2007 NHRA POWERade Funny Car Champion Tony Pedregon (Sacramento Union Photo/Jeanne Broussal)



2007 NHRA POWERade Top Fuel Champion Tony Schumacher. (Sacramento Union Photo/Jeanne Broussal)



2007 NHRA POWERade Pro Stock Champion Jeg Coughlin. (Photo courtesy NHRA.com)



2007 NHRA POWERade Pro Stock Motorcycle Champion Matt Smith. (Photo courtesy nhra.com)



Remodel with a Pro...It Shows

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry was established to advance and promote the remodeling industry's professionalism, product and vital public purpose. As professionals, we create an exceptional experience for the remodeling consumer. It's a symbol you should look for when choosing a remodeling contractor.

Go to NARIsacto.org for more information.

The Voice of the Remodeling Industry™

FEATURED NARI CONTRACTOR

SPECIAL ADVERTISEMENT

Making the Big Decisions Can Create Watery Eyes

By **BRYAN GALT**

So you've been thinking about sprucing up your tired old bathrooms in the past few months and now you are getting serious. You've already picked, tossed and repacked at least five different shades of beige, thumbed through a mountain of books showing the latest styles in bathroom gear from showerheads to high-tech whirlpool tubs and now you find that your brain is bubbling as fast as a Jetta tub on overdrive! You realize that you're going to need some help to make your plans come together, so you go to the phone book, call a couple of "discount" ads and realize that your future bathroom could be placed into the hands of amateurs, which is something out of the question for any proud homeowner!

NARI Certified Professionals

What you need to bring your bathroom design into focus is a professional from the start. The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) is the only independent national association dedicated solely to the remodeling industry. NARI's

focus is on professional conduct, continuing education and training, and fair and ethical treatment within the industry.

NARI certification of professional remodeling contractors serves as the association's recognition of remodeling professionals who have met stringent criteria for experience and pledged a commitment to high standards of practice and NARI's Code of Ethics.

The NARI web site is chock full of great advice that can help you to make the right decisions, ask the right questions and pay the right prices for your masterpiece project. The site even has a search engine that will show you the NARI members nearest to your location so that you can contact them with ease.

The NARI site is located at www.nari.org.

Tubz of Sacramento is a NARI Member

Deciding to remodel your bathroom or any room in your residence is a big decision. Kevin Galt, a co-owner of Tubz of

Kevin Galt, a co-owner of Tubz of Sacramento, knows what you need to help bring your dreams into reality.

Sacramento, knows what you need to help bring your dreams into reality. He has worked in the whirlpool tub industry for twenty years and has a proven reputation for customer satisfaction and loyalty.

When you are ready to select a whirlpool tub or a multi-head custom shower, you should always take into consideration the fact that low prices do not equate into higher quality. What you save today could come back to cost you far more in repair or replacement costs should a "bargain" brand tub fail on you one day.

At Tubz of Sacramento, the company only sells the best-equipped and most respected

brands in tubs, showers and accessories on the market today. They also back up what they sell with full factory warranties, installation advice and they can make sure you get the right product for your project. This is what NARI professionals do for their clients.

This is what Tubz will do for you too. I recommend that you call Kevin at 916-575-9100 today for a consultation on your next tub purchase. You'll be glad that you did.

"If you have to choose, why not choose the best?"
— Call Tubz at (916) 575 9100. See advertisement on page 23.

The Sacramento Union Welcomes

TONY KURTIS
Advertising Sales Account Executive
(916) 837-8456 • TonyK@SacUnion.com

NULTON REMODELING

DEFINING BY DESIGN

A Full Service Design/Build Company
Sacramento Chapter of NARI Contractor of the
Year Award Winner

For

2004 Residential Kitchens \$30,000 - \$60,000

2006 Residential Kitchens \$30,000 - \$60,000

2006 Residential Kitchen Over \$100,000

2006 Residential Addition \$100,000 - \$250,000

Our 26th Year In Business

Contact us today for an In Home Consultation

916.731.5772
NultonRemodeling.com



NKRA

Lic. #406006

The Outstanding Value of Homeownership: By the Numbers

By **JOHN ORR, CAE**
Special Contributor to The Union

Homeownership is by far the single largest creator of wealth for Americans, and consumers who take advantage of today's excellent buying climate to purchase a home will find that it is the best investment they ever made.

Here are a few examples of why, dollar for dollar, homeownership is a solid step-

ping-stone to a future of financial security.

Over the long term, real estate has consistently appreciated, even through periodic adjustments in local markets in response to economic conditions. On a national level, home appreciation has historically increased 5-6 percent annually.

Five percent may not seem much at first, but here is an example that will put it into perspective. Say you put 10 percent down

on a \$200,000 house, for an investment of \$20,000. At a 5 percent annual appreciation rate, that \$200,000 home would increase in value \$10,000 during the first year. Earning \$10,000 on an investment of \$20,000 is an extraordinary 50 percent annual return.

In contrast, putting that \$20,000 down payment into the stock market and getting a 5 percent gain would only yield a \$1,000 profit.

Looking at it another way, over a longer period of time, if someone put \$10,000 into the stock market in 1996, the average annual S&P return would make that investment worth \$21,500 today—an increase of \$11,500. The median home price in 1996 was \$140,000. Today, that same home would have gained nearly \$100,000 in value.

Homeownership is also a more stable investment. Home values tend to increase at a steady pace while alternatives can be extremely volatile. For example, during the stock market decline of 2001-2002, households lost more than \$1 trillion in stock value, while their housing equity continued to climb.

Don't forget there are also fantastic tax incentives designed to make owning a home more affordable. Homeowners save nearly \$100 billion annually on mortgage interest and property deductions alone.

In most instances, all of the interest and property taxes you pay can be fully deducted from your gross income to

reduce your taxable income. These deductions can result in thousands of dollars of tax savings, especially in the early years of the mortgage when interest makes up most of the payment.

Plus, the best tax break available to homeowners is when they sell their primary residence. A couple who own and live in their home for two years and then decide to sell can keep up to \$500,000 of the profit tax-free, and a single owner can keep \$250,000. If the homeowner uses these gains to buy and live in a bigger home for at least two years, the same benefits apply when they go to sell their home.

Buying a home is the largest, and smartest, investment most families will ever make. And with the long-term financial benefits, variety of homes for sale in all price ranges, and historically low interest rates, the timing couldn't be better.

For more on homeownership, visit www.SacramentoHomeownership.com or www.nahb.org/timetobuy.

John Orr is the president and CEO of the North State Building Industry Association.

Questions About Remodeling?

Call the Home Boys
Sundays 3:00 – 4:00pm

Learn about the LATEST in
PRODUCTS and MATERIALS
Building CODES and REGULATIONS...
CONTRACTORS and SUPPLIERS...
Saving TIME, ENERGY, and MONEY

Tune into Bob Nathan, Ron Beehler
and their stable of industry experts
and get your questions ANSWERED!

Call on Sundays 3 – 4pm
866-331-TALK

Talk 650 KSTE
THE TALK STATION



Smile Designs
of Rocklin
Family Dentistry

Sedation Dentistry
WAKE UP TO A NEW SMILE
ASK US HOW!
916.630.9451
www.sedationdentistrocklin.com

UNION CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE LISTINGS

For Lease Prime Location. Old Town Fair Oaks.
Office/Retail. Approximately 650 Square Feet.
Great lease available. Call (916) 967-7947

HELP WANTED

Lead Electricians Commercial electricians
needed for a small but growing firm. Three years
experience in commercial buildings required.
Self starting, highly motivated, and customer
service oriented are all needed traits. Salary
negotiable. Send resumes to 916.861.4368.



Century 21 Noel David Realty, established in 1969 and located
in the village of Fair Oaks, is built on a proven reputation
for the highest standard of personal service and integrity.

Call us for all your Real Estate needs.

Each office is independently owned and operated.

(916) 967-2200 • www.NoelDavid.com





fam'ily-room 1. a wide open place for creating memories.

How do you define the perfect place to live?



MORE PARKS • MORE TRAILS • MORE SCHOOLS

For those who have their own perspective on life. The adventurers. The dreamers. Your time has come at Fiddymment Farm. This new master-planned community by Signature Properties—with more parks, trails and nature preserves than any community in the area—is now ready with homes for immediate move-in.

Come take a look. We've got all the room you need.

FiddymmentFarm.com



FIDDYMENT
Farm

PLEASANT CREEK
by Signature Properties
3 to 4 bedrooms
From the \$300,000's
916-773-3446

THE ORCHARDS
by Morrison Homes
3 to 5 bedrooms
From the mid \$400,000's
916-782-1447

IRONCREST
by Lennar
4 to 5 bedrooms
From the mid \$400,000's
916-783-2078

BELLA TERRA
by KB Home
3 to 5 bedrooms
From the low \$400,000's
916-774-1088

SHADOW CREEK
by Shea Homes
3 to 5 bedrooms
From the high \$300,000's
916-780-1727

THE ARBORS
by Christopherson Homes
Coming Spring 2008

Map not to scale. Prices effective as of publication deadline.

SIGNATURE
PROPERTIES
A Tradition in Homebuilding

SAC UNION COLUMNIST

Letters from Abroad

Illegal Loans for Illegal Aliens?

By LIAM WESTON
Sacramento Union Columnist



Despite much of the publicity surrounding the crisis in the mortgage industry and the alarming number of American families now facing imminent foreclosures, unscrupulous lenders have found a new market of vulnerable buyers: illegal aliens.

I say “unscrupulous” because working and/or residing in any country without legal permission makes one, by definition, transient. Obligating yourself to a 30-year mortgage when you can’t even be sure that you will be here to make the payment is never a smart financial move.

Nonetheless, the number of mortgage products intended for illegal aliens, called “ITIN mortgages,” is growing while traditional mortgages continue to decline. “ITIN” stands for Individual Taxpayer Identification Number and is a nine-digit number created by the IRS in 1997 specifically for foreigners who are not eligible for a Social Security card. The ITIN is used

just like a social security number.

Lenders offering ITIN mortgages unabashedly market to undocumented workers in full knowledge that the borrower must break the law by working illegally to repay the loan. As an example, one wholesale lender, Hispanic Financial Group, advertises on their Web site <http://www.hfg-itin.com>: “HFG specializes in providing loans that recognize the special needs of the Hispanic Community in general and the unique needs of undocumented immigrants in specific (sic). HFG’s loans utilize Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs) in place of social security numbers.”

Applicants for the ITIN mortgages are not required to have any U.S. (state or federal) identification but can instead use their “Matricula Consular” card from the Mexican Embassy. Recent collections for debt of unpaid medical expenses are, curiously, not counted against applicants’ credit. Nor is a FICO credit score required.

How can the lenders afford to take such risks? Statistics. People lending to illegal aliens are making an excellent return in a time when many lenders are hemorrhaging

dollars from bad loans. ITIN mortgages are carefully considered, well documented and normally 30-year-fixed. Given the tenuous position of people working in the country illegally, banks have apparently taken the time to ensure that these borrowers are well qualified and capable of repaying the loans.

According to the *Wall Street Journal* (Oct. 9, 2007), ITIN mortgages have a default rate of only 0.9 percent while prime mortgages have a default rate of 1 percent. The now infamous sub-prime mortgages have a default rate of 9.3 percent.

The lenders of ITIN mortgages are betting against the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). If ICE were even moderately effective in stopping employers from hiring and retaining undocumented workers, the default rate on these mortgages would climb exponentially. Instead, secondary markets of investors willing to package and sell these loans as groups have emerged, thus greatly expanding credit available for ITIN mortgages. The profitability of these loans means the banking industry and the regulators they lobby are joining forces with those opposed

to the enforcement of immigration laws.

Kevin Mukri, a spokesperson for the federal government’s primary regulator of banks (Comptroller of Currency) told a bank trade publication, “Banks are not an arm of the immigration department. As long as those getting mortgages meet the requirements of being authorized bank customers, including proper ID, it would be discriminatory not to service them.”

Well, banks are also not an arm of the ATF enforcement agency either but if I tried to get a loan where I document that my source of income is from an illegal distillery, sales of cigarettes to kids or the manufacture of illegal firearms, the answer would clearly be “no.” Ordinarily, banks would find illegal sources of income risky.

Similarly, the applicant of an ITIN mortgage is required to prove he has worked (without proper documentation) for two years and must demonstrate that he is willing to continue breaking the law to qualify for the loan.

Some politicians are now calling upon the federal government to bail-out the lenders who were responsible for the risky and exotic loans that were so profitable a few short years ago. Economists caution that such an intervention into the free market will create a “moral hazard.”

The moral-hazard argument is correct. Apparently, the industry still hasn’t learned its lesson and is willing to loan money to homebuyers who demonstrate they have no legal source of income in the country and may be deported by the authorities anytime. What will lenders say when these borrowers stop making payments?

Liam Weston works in international business and was recently re-appointed by U.S. Commerce Secretary Gutierrez to an international trade advisory committee. He can be reached at Guchwale@aol.com.



“Letters from Abroad” is a new story series by *The Union* in which columnists Karen Russo and Liam Weston provide firsthand analysis concerning the most prominent foreign policy issues of our time: Israel and the Middle East (by Russo, a journalist living in Israel) and U.S.-Mexican relations in regards to immigration (by Weston, an international trade advisor familiar with Latin America). Russo and Weston will publish alternately every other week and appear on this page.



Natomas
916.574.9900

Elk Grove
916.685.6546

Folsom
916.984.8880

Galt
209.745.7000

Rocklin
916.632.7900



Stockmans Bank wants you to
know there **IS** such a thing as a
FREE LUNCH,
and personal business banking.

**In today's fast moving business environment,
your business needs a Personal Business Banker.**

A business banker who is in tune with your business and
the business environment you operate in.

At Stockmans Bank, your business will have the benefit of a Professional Business Banker who not only understands business. They understand **YOUR BUSINESS!**

Stockmans Bank understands how important your bank is to your business. From day to day operations, to expansion and everything in between, you need a Professional Banker you can rely on to have your best interests at heart... Not The Banks.

At Stockmans Bank you can EXPECT:

- A Personal Banker who is part of your decision team.
- FREE Courier Service.
- Insta Deposit – Remote Deposit 24/7 into your account.
- Fast and Responsive decisions on loans.
- Low fees that won't nickel and dime you at every turn.



STOCKMANS
BANK

Just call us to schedule your **FREE LUNCH** appointment
with YOUR personal business banker.

www.stockmansbank.com
800.573.7700