The top challenge ahead for Human Resource pros in the area remain serious concerns about how to manage changes in healthcare benefits and costs relating to new laws.

Sacramento Region—Twenty-six percent (26%) of Sacramento’s top regional employers are pessimistic about the economy for the next year. As “consumer confidence” (67%) were positive about employee hiring or didn’t know, sixty-seven percent (67%) were sure about employee expansion when asked if the company would grow its workforce in the next year. As “consumer confidence” opens the economy, improving economic outcomes are raising “employer confidence” that leads to more hiring.

Sacramento’s top companies aren’t going anywhere soon. Eighty-nine percent (89%) of the top employers also expect to be in the same local-address through 2011. Traditionally the slowest period for hiring in the Sacramento region, fifty-one percent (51%) of companies report planned reductions caused by weather-related concerns and continued slow demand for their products or services in the first three months of the New Year. For those seeking employment among the area’s top companies customer service/sales and technical skills are in high demand in the next Quarter. Sacramento employers are also seeking workers with experience in manufacturing, product assembly, warehouse and shipping over the next three months.

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DMV Announces New Online Services

Customers Can Now Create a Personalized DMV Online Account

Sacramento Region–A new, online service has been launched to make doing business with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) easier. The new service is a SACDOT customer care service.

‘Online Services’ launched. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is excited to announce the launch of new online services. The new service is called eDMV and it allows customers to register and create a user ID and password, then log in. For example, a driver license renewal or change of address requires the customer to become a registered user. Once logged in, customers will have access to the following new DMV online services driver record, vehicle registration, CDL and license renewals and payment and permits of drivers.

Customers can also access the following new online services for written and drive tests; pupil registration and driver license renewals, selection of personalized license plates, changes of address and payment of fines or expense debt transactions. Customers can also effect transactions by calling DMV customer service at (800) 777-0133.

DMV Offers an array of services to customers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through its Web site (www.dmv.ca.gov), including online appointments for written and drive tests; pupil registration and driver license renewals, selection of personalized license plates, changes of address and payment of fines or expense debt transactions. Customers can also effect transactions by calling DMV customer service at (800) 777-0133.

The Sacramento Region–The Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SACDOT) is prepared to provide quick response to roadway maintenance incidents that may result from severe weather conditions. Maintenance and Operations Division crews provide year round 24/7 response for weather related incidents, roadway hazards, urgent road- way repairs, pavement maintenance problems, traffic control and detour sign posting. Although, crews are on the road every day, they can only call on the assistance of residents, especially during bad weather conditions to report problems affecting roadways.

Report any of these Roadway Issues:
• Traffic Signal Out: Signal and Lightning technicians are dispatched immediately to repair signals that are out or malfunctioning.
• Downed Street Signs and Stop Signs: Street signs that are knocked down, driven over or by a collision will be replaced as soon as possible. Downed street signs are a priority and SACDOT’s goal is to have them back up within two hours of notification.
• Street Light Out: To report street lights that are not contact Customer Service. If possible, when reporting a problem, have the pole number or pole address available. The pole number can be found on a sticker approximately 8 feet high, usually on the traffic side of the pole.

To report an incident residents can contact SACDOT Customer Service. Phone: 916-774-5171 or their website: www.sacdot.com – Report A Problem.

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• Flooded Places: Flooded roads are the responsibility of the property owner. SACDOT crews will work to continue to clear what is causing the problem right away. If the flooded road cannot be cleared, signage will be placed to close the roadway and maintenance crews will work to continue to clear the roadway.

DMV Available at Home:
• Plug in Stamps Database: Above ground. If a storm drain is plugged with leaves or debris above ground, SACDOT maintenance crews will clear the drain.
• Plug in Cables: Cables maintenance and operations are a SACDOT responsibility. If a cable is plugged, SACDOT crews will use a vacuum truck to clear out vacuums or a vacuum truck to dislodge and remove leaves or other debris from the drain.

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Natural gas costs can change quickly during the winter months depending on weather and market conditions. PG&E takes steps to manage significant price fluctuations, including smart purchasing decisions and using its 75-year-old transportation infrastructure to purchase and store natural gas when it is less expensive in anticipation of winter demand. The utility passes the wholesale price of natural gas through to customers without mark-up.

Customers can take steps to help reduce their natural gas bills. Simply turning down your thermostat by just one or two degrees and wrapping older, working water heaters can help reduce their natural gas bills. Customers can also take steps to help increase their efficiency. More information is available at www.pge.com. Customers in need of assistance can call 800-PGE-5000.

Second, lblanc de students at Howe Avenue Elementary were picked by the toy drive put together by Rita American High School AVID program; the AVID students have been selecting and wrapping toys demand by the E4’s community to help families of students whose families cannot afford gifts during the holidays. Ribbons classic cards adopted a theme of elves and Christmas trees, Christopher begins with the delight giving those who were in need the true meaning to the spirit of Christmas.

Santa, who is the symbol of kindness by one person or many who secret anymore. And so this is a single act of kindness by one person or many who can make such a difference for others. And by the grace of God we can come face to face with one of our Angels. We are invited to celebrate the Christmas season to the Secret Santas’ Home throughout the year!
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New Fee on Business Delinquent Taxpayers Effective January 1

From BOE Newsroom
Sacramento Region – The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) announced today that thousands of California businesses will potentially be assessed a fee on past due liability beginning in 2011, under recently enacted legislation.

More than 90,000 businesses will be notified of this potential fee beginning January 1, 2011.

Legislation imposed the new collection cost recovery fee and requires the BOE to collect a fee on any person failing to pay amounts due and owing to the BOE to collect a fee on any person notified of this potential fee beginning January 1, 2011.

The BOE has identified more than 90,000 tax and fee payers with outstanding sales and use tax liabilities, and fee programs administered by the BOE. The BOE estimates the fee will facilitate additional annual revenue of $5.2 million from additional collection of fees, taxes, and surcharges for the remainder of the 2010-11 Fiscal Year and $19.0 million to $22.6 million annually beginning in 2011-12.

This new collection cost recovery fee requirement was added to the Revenue and Taxation Codes by Senate Bill 858 (Chapter 712, Statutes of 2010).

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves as the state’s chief tax collection agency, which administers property taxes, personal income and corporate taxes, and regulates the motor vehicle, tobacco, and air pollution control programs. The BOE also regulates the newspaper and cable television industries.

The five-member BOE is elected to six-year terms and is the only state tax board in the nation that is elected by the people. It is an independent, nonprofit agency with a strong public accountability mission.

The BOE is the leading voice for tax reform in California and is a vocal advocate for tax reform at the federal level.

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This Hot Wet Towel Treatment will relax your overworked sympathetic nervous system. Just focus on the hot towel placed on your neck. You will breathe more naturally and deeply and will sleep deeper and longer.

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Please contact Yoshi’s Acupuncture & Herb Clinic for consultation.

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

For Solution See Page 7.
California Adopts Improved Cigarette Tax Stamp

**Updated Stamps Adopted to Better Combat Counterfeiting**

Sacramento, CA - The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) has adopted new, improved high-tech tax stamps to help better combat cigarette counterfeiting. The new stamps will have a unique serial number and a color-shifting effect, making them more difficult to counterfeit.

The new stamps are designed to help reduce the trafficking of counterfeit cigarettes and related excise taxes. They will be used primarily on cigarettes sold in California and will help to simplify authentication and discourage tax stamp counterfeiting.

Since the stamp was first introduced in California in 2000, the BOE has made improvements to the stamp design and encryption methods to better combat counterfeiting. The new stamps will continue to include a unique serial number and a color-shifting effect visible on the stamp, making it more difficult to replicate.

The improved stamps will also help retailers to verify the authenticity of their cigarettes and to combat the sale of counterfeit cigarettes. The BOE has also made changes to the distribution and enforcement of the new stamps to help reduce cigarette tax evasion and to ensure that the stamps are being used as intended.

With the adoption of the new stamps, the BOE continues to work with retailers and consumers to help combat cigarette counterfeiting and to ensure that the stamps are being used as intended. The BOE will continue to monitor the use of the new stamps and to make any necessary adjustments to help combat counterfeit cigarettes and related excise taxes.

For more information on the new stamps and to learn more about the efforts of the BOE to combat cigarette counterfeiting, visit the BOE’s website at http://www.boe.ca.gov.
Reboot and Reload: A New Year is Upon Us

Dannie McIntyre

Maybe faith is a bit like your personal computer. Is that stretch? Well, think about it. No one really thinks about his or her computer until it stops working. Faith isn’t much different.

For example, I spent some time once with a young lady who was convinced God was going to heal her of a serious sickness. She spoke with assurance and conviction, over and over again, of a serious sickness. She spoke her faith with conviction, over and over again.

I spoke to her after surgery and did my best to explain that faith isn’t always an escape hatch. Having faith doesn’t mean we always avoid trouble. As a combatant, “Still not of this world” and as distraction does not mean sometimes leads to troubles. But in the process, faith is the only thing to get us through it. I was not with her as she said her prayer and spoke word. Her faith, at least faith as she had known it, was no longer functional.

Leaving her, I immediately mot to a local Chinese buffet. He arrived Real-located breathing fire even before we got there. Either of these fails, well, it hits the fires of disappointment. As instructed by her spiritual leader, the last thing she wanted to think about was a cold, empty stare and nary a pitchfork lying in wait outside the door of the company office, deprive people of their precious e-mail; then, with the pressures of work, let the computer system crash at the company office, deprive people of their precious e-mail; let everyone know that all hard drives are fried along with everything as they are fried along with everything on the computer, that actions as simple as sending an e-mail become impossibly slow, the time to do a little maintenance. Scan your files. Fix the firewall. Ectile the corruptible files. Protect your faith from the glut of viruses that are everywhere. Then, reboot, power up, and get to work. You’ve got mail waiting in your inbox.

YOGI BEAR
(Rated PG)

During this holiday season, the pedaling for family fun at the movies seems a little thin. The intense “Black Swan” won’t do, and neither will the Carse Brothers’ “True Grit.” Well, probably not. “The Tourist” or Mark Wahlberg in “The Fighter?” Well, maybe not. “Tron: Legacy,” but what’s out there? For “Black Swan” won’t do, and neither seem a little thin. The intense slapstick gags, there is something undeniable, charming and irresistible about a Yogi Bear. The smart thing about this adaptation of the classic Hanna-Barbera cartoon series is that “Yogi Bear” clocks in at a running time of 429 minutes, so that means it breaks from the park rules. This means, of course, that the film steals people’s lunches. The plot is predictable, and full of these little plug-o-patches, there is something undeniably, charming and irresistible about it. The goes with “aah” and other modern comforts.

The movie opens with Yogi (voiced by Dan Aykroyd), the pear-shaped gourmand as a fireworks display gone horribly awry, Yogi’s efforts prove that, in the end, it all comes down to the biggest question: “Are we smarter than the bears?”

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Dave Ramsey: A personal finance management expert, popular national radio personality and the author of three New York Times bestsellers: The Total Money Makeover, Financial Peace Revisited and More Than Enough. In these, Ramsey exemplifies his life’s work of teaching others how to be financially responsible, so they can acquire enough wealth to take care of loved ones, move generously into old age, and give generously to others.

An Allusion is Like Welfare
Dear Dave,

How do you feel about granting an allowance to kids who are younger than 10 years old?

-Anejmae

Dear Anjema,

I don’t allow allowances for anyone. The worst “allowance” sounds way more than much like welfare to me.

We put our kids on commission at an early age. If they worked, they got too much like welfare to me.

If you want to get that cleaned up, you’ll have to go to the creator and make arrangements to settle the debt with them. Once you do that, it will read “bad debt settled.” It’s still not an ideal situation, but it’s much better than having “charged off” as bad debt on your credit report.

Remember, you always settle bad debt in writing. Never give a creditor or collections company electronic access to your account information, because faxes of them will steal from you. I’ve seen plenty of cases where there was no written agreement, and a collection took interest in what they could, and then, somebody’s house payment bounced!

What Does “Charged Off” Mean?
Dear Dave,

We recently saw a copy of our credit report, and one debt we had was listed as “charged off as bad debt.” What does this mean?

- Stacia

Dear Stacia,

Simply put, it means you didn’t pay them. You had a debt you never paid, so the creditor never got their money, and they wrote you off as a deadbeat.

I’m being fiscally, of course, but in credit terms that’s pretty much what it means. If you want to get that cleaned up, you’ll have to go to the creator and make arrangements to settle the debt with them. Once you do that, it will read “bad debt settled.” It’s still not an ideal situation, but it’s much better than having “charged off” as bad debt on your credit report.

Remember, you always settle bad debt in writing. Never give a creditor or collections company electronic access to your account information, because faxes of them will steal from you. I’ve seen plenty of cases where there was no written agreement, and a collection took interest in what they could, and then, somebody’s house payment bounced!

What Does “Charged Off” Mean?
Dear Dave,

We recently saw a copy of our credit report, and one debt we had was listed as “charged off as bad debt.” What does this mean?

- Stacia

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of "X-Men" and "Star Trek" fame thinks so. Based on the well-known character from "One Thousand and One Nights" (aka "Arabian Nights"), the ages-old collection of Middle Eastern folk tales, the movie has Stewart narrating the story played by a cast of nobodies. In the latest Sunday, Sinbad travels to a desert of magic and creatures to save the firstborn of a sultan who has been kidnapped by an evil sorcerer. The trailer was swept under the carpet by fans at Comic-con, and deservedly so. This flick looks awful.

Family Home Entertainment

A Charlie Brown Valentine (ages 4 and up, now available, not rated): The good news for everyone's favorite blockhead is he has Peppermint Patty and Marcie zooming him. The bad news is Charlie Brown has eyes only for the Little Red-Haired Girl. Ah, love, Peanuts style. Grade: A-

Dr. Mark DeBruin

Local Doctor Creates Plan to Help those Without Medical Coverage

Dr. DeBruin also offers discounted medical services under his new care program. These include minor office services; some laboratory testing including biopsies and pap smears; injections and immunizations for all ages; routine limited color exams. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. For more information on Dr. DeBruin’s Community Care, visit www.DeBruinCommunityCare.com or call 916.989.2929, or visit the website www.DeBruinCommunityCare.com for an online application. You can also visit the office at 9352 Middletown Ave. Ste. 1, Orangevale.

Wobbly Wheels & Whistles! (ages 2-5, Jan. 4, not rated): Thomas’ engine friend Scruff makes his debut in this DVD that includes four episodes from the "Thomas & Friends" series, a life-size engine and major of Murray Living Island. Author: A

Nanny McPhee Returns (ages 4-11, now available, PG): A box office hit last fall, the sequel only made half of what the 2006 original brought in. Whoa. Like its predecessor, Emma Thompson reprises her anti-Mary Poppins, a battle, yet effective nanny who knocks sense into meddling children through discipline and magic with nary a spoonful of sugar. Maggie Gyllenhaal, Ralph Fiennes, Evan McGregor and Maggie Smith head up a strong supporting cast. Grade: B+

Open Season 3 (ages 4-11, Jan. 31, not rated): The quality doesn't hold up to the theatrically released original but for direct-to-videos this one makes among the leaders in the short of animal features. It's open season again for silly fun mixed with spice and, ultimately, sweetness, when bear Boog joins a traveling circus and learns that home is where your heart is. Those comical critters are likeable whatever your age. Grade: B-

The Green Hornet

Cameron Diaz is the obligatory sidekick, while his power. Jay Chou plays Kato, who has united all the gangs under a city leader (Christoph Waltz) in the latest serials and a network TV series. Starting in radio in the 1930s, then contemporary moviegoers after bringing this masked superhero to green to action movies as his

Plague decimating central Europe.

dying cardinal to deliver a young

the dark side. Before the ultimate

defeat a devious witch to save

dramatic slump will end with this

movie in years, but maybe his

sinbadmovie.com

A Nurturing, Full-Service Landscaping Company

Lawnman is a comprehensive landscaping company serving commercial property owners/managers and residential customers in Northern California since 1992. We’re founded on the principle that landscaping is primarily a relationship business.
Anticipation High as Ohio Valley Gold and Silver Refinery Opens for Business Next Week in Auburn!

By DAVID MORGAN
STAFF WRITER

"Have you got gold or silver? Or do you have a relative who has it?" This is a question that has been asked by many people in the past. The reason being the high demand for gold and silver in the market. As a result, the prices of gold and silver have been on the rise. In this article, we will discuss the current prices of gold and silver and the factors that affect them.

Silver and Gold Coin Prices Up During Poor Economy.

Collectors and Enthusiasts in Auburn with $200,000 to Purchase Yours!

By DAVID MORGAN
STAFF WRITER

The current economic downturn has led to a surge in the demand for gold and silver. Many people have started investing in these precious metals as a hedge against inflation. As a result, the prices of gold and silver have been on the rise.

Items of Interest: Vintage Guitars: Martin, Gibson, Fender, National, Rickenbacker, Gretsch, Mandolins, Banjos and others

Pocket Watches: Hamilton, Illinois, Waltham, Patek Philippe, Braid, Howard, Elgin, and others

Wristwatches: Omega, Accutron, Longines, Hamilton, Breitling and many more

Old paper money: United States, Bank of America, Blanket Bills, $100.00 bills and more

War Memorabilia: Swords, Bayonets, Helmets, German, Confederate, Union, USA, and others

Local Residents are ready to cash in!

International antique buyers in town next week and ready to stimulate economy!

By DAVID MORGAN
STAFF WRITER

The local government has opened the first mints and began distributing the coins in 1972. By the beginning of the 19th century, coins and paper currency were wide spread and our monetary system was in place.

The government is trying to make the economy stronger by introducing gold and silver coins to the public. All types are welcome and the event is free.

Collectors will be on hand to identify and authenticate the coins, regardless of quality or grade will be determined. According to collectors, the market for gold and silver is higher than ever before.

The gold and silver are worth a great premium right now. The world and heavy circulated ones are bringing good premiums. Franklin and Kennedy half dollars are worth 100% silver, and except nickels and pennies.

The coins worth is determined by the rarity and grade of the coin. Old dollars are worth a great premium right now. The world and heavy circulated ones are bringing good premiums. Franklin and Kennedy half dollars are worth 100% silver, and except nickels and pennies.

Gold coins are really worth a lot right now, according to Brian Eades of the International Collectors Association. "This country didn't start minting coins until 1792," says Eades. "Before that people would trade gold and silver coins and barter. You could trade for items purchased. There was no uniform system of making change."

Items we will accept include:

Scrap Jewelry
Dental Gold
Sterling Silverware
Sterling Silver Tea Sets

Silver Dollars
All Coins 1850’s and Earlier
Industrial Scrap
All Forms of Platinum

Ohio Valley Refinery will open for business Monday morning and the event continues every day through next Friday. No appointment is needed.

If you go:

WHO: Ohio Valley Refinery
Reclamation Drive
WHAT: Open to public to sell gold and silver
WHEN: January 3rd - 7th
WHERE: Ridge Golf Course Road
 $200 Golf Course Road
Auburn, GA 9503
TIMES: MONDAY-THURSDAY
5:00pm-6:00pm
EVERY DAY
SHOW INFO: (217) 523-4225

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