

A year to remember

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Intersection nightmare

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Musical masterpieces



Benicia company does painstaking work on constructing pipe organs
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Men can thank a woman for the holiday

BY NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPOKANE, Wash. — Sonora Smart Dodd sat in church on Mother's Day in 1909, and didn't like what she heard.

The Rev. Harry Rasmus was rambling on about the importance of mothers, but had nothing to say about fathers.

Dodd decided then that men like her father, William Smart — a widowed Civil War veteran who raised his six children on a farm — needed a similar holiday, and embarked on a lifelong quest to make it happen.

It was a long slog for the Spokane woman.

While Mother's Day was quickly accepted as a national holiday, it took decades for fathers to get the same acclaim. Father's Day only this year is celebrating its 35th anniversary since President Nixon made it a permanent holiday in 1972.

Fathers enjoy a murky pop-culture image, from Homer Simpson to Darth Vader to Alec Baldwin.

That troubles author Michael Gurian, a Spokane father who has written extensively about the relationship between fathers and sons.

"Certainly now there is a lot of media imagery that makes dads look dumb," Gurian said.

That's a major reason why the nation needs Father's Day, he said.

"We are basically buying some time with that holiday," Gurian said. "It's an opportunity for fathers to pass something

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A special father's day



Brad Zweerink/Daily Republic

A 19-year Air Force veteran, Master Sgt. Eric King recently returned home from deployment in Iraq. He was welcomed home by his three sons, from left, Eric, 14, Jordan, 5 and Jaydon, 10.

After serving in Iraq, Travis sergeant cherishes time with family

BY AMY MAGINNIS-HONEY
DAILY REPUBLIC

TRAVIS AFB — Father's Day festivities will have to take place this morning at the Travis Air Force Base home of Master Sgt. Eric King.

He will then leave in the afternoon for five days of temporary duty in Illinois.

His family, including his wife of 15 years, Cassandra King, isn't ready to see him go again. After all, King returned in early April after spending more than six months in Iraq.

He missed Thanksgiving, Christmas and the birthday of one of his sons, to name a few special occasions.

King, 39, feels he doesn't need any Father's Day gifts.

"I've been blessed already," he said. "I came home and all three (sons) are still healthy. I've got the gift of

their presence."

A 19-year Air Force veteran, King helped welcomed fellow service members to Iraq by ensuring they received needed training and had all their affairs in order.

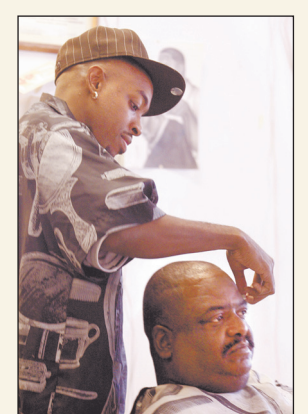
"I was a liaison for those coming over," said King, who usually worked six 12-hour days a week in Iraq.

Like most deployed military personnel, he kept in touch with home via telephone and e-mail. When his oldest son, Eric, turned 14, his father did both.

"This year, he was on the cross-country team at school and played soccer. I didn't get to see him do either," King said. "He was into track when I got home, and I made sure I went to all of his meets. He did good. I was so proud of him."

Young Eric will be a freshman at Vandenberg High School in the fall.

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INSIDE
J's Barbershop owner Wendell Cooper cuts the hair of Reggie Crayton. Cooper reflects on how fatherhood has changed him. Page C1.

Police: Rival gangs duke it out; 3 stabbed

BY SUSAN WINLOW
DAILY REPUBLIC

FAIRFIELD — Bits of glass, terra cotta pottery and rocks still litter the road on Hickory Avenue where a fight between two suspected rival gangs broke out early Saturday morning.

The end result was three stabbings and a neighborhood in shock.

"We're all upset we had this type of situation in our neighborhood," said a Pinyon Court resident who didn't want to be named. "It's a quiet area."

The fight between 30 to 40 people allegedly involved members of the Nortenos and Surenos gangs, police said in a press release. They used knives, chains and broken bottles, residents told police.

Events unfolded on Hickory Avenue when suspected Surenos showed up at a party allegedly associated with Nortenos, police Sgt. Dan Pilcher said.

The littered road is the only sign left that pandemonium between the two groups infiltrated this quiet neighborhood near Laurel Creek Elementary School about 2:30 a.m. Saturday.

Neighbors said they don't know how it started but the screams and breaking glass woke them up.

"I started hearing the glass breaking and the girls screaming," the Pinyon Court resident said. "When I got out there I saw (one) group chasing another group."

"I saw all these kids screaming, shouting and throwing rocks and bottles," he added.

Police started getting calls from the neighbors about 2:30 a.m. The Pinyon Court resident is one of many neighbors who called Fairfield police that night.

So is Eleni, whose last name was withheld for her protection.

"I woke up because I was hearing screaming and bottles

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State resurrects canal proposal to reroute water supplies

BY SAMANTHA YOUNG
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — In 1980, as California was recovering from its longest drought since the Depression, state lawmakers thought they had found a solution to weather future water shortages.

A 43-mile canal would route fresh Sierra runoff around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, an environmentally sensitive region that sits at the heart of California's water-delivery system. But the plan proved too controversial and was trounced two years later in a statewide election.

A quarter century later, the idea is back in play.

Declining fish populations, fragile levees that could crumble and allow sea water to contaminate the delta and rising oceans caused by global climate change have prompted policy makers to reconsider the Peripheral Canal.

They say a new plumbing system could



The Associated Press

Part of the defunct peripheral canal is near the intersection of Interstate 5 and Highway 12 near Terminous.

solve the delta's worsening environmental problems and safeguard California's water supply.

"There is a growing recognition that the present layout of the levees and delivering fresh water out of the delta is something we can't maintain long term," said Robert Twiss, a University of California, Berkeley, environmental planning professor who advises the state on water issues.

Efforts to protect a threatened fish, the delta smelt, have created a sense of urgency and refocused the debate on building a canal that would route California's freshwater around the delta and its many trouble spots.

Earlier this spring, state and federal courts ruled separately that pumping operations are killing the fish. After a record low count of the smelt's population, the state Department of Water Resources temporarily shut down its main pumping plant for more than a week, forcing some cities and rural water districts to

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WEATHER



Breezy with plenty of sunshine. Look for a high of 87 and a low of 55. Page B8

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