Opinion: Vet pleads for coddling to stop

By Richard Allen Smith, Esquire

For the last 14 years, uniformed Americans have been in some of the most challenging conditions imaginable. We've parachuted into Iraq, marched wearily through the mountains of Tora Bora, and slept in s– at Musa Qala. We've toppled dictators, trained counterterrorism forces in Africa, and killed the most dangerous terrorist in the world. And then, too many of us have come home and whined about every minuscule slight, offense, or lapse in judgment perpetrated against us while indulging in some of the most decadent of accommodations.

We've got to stop.

It's not entirely the fault of 21st century veterans that we demand to have our egos coddled. The desire early on to suppress dissent for the poorly justified conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, plus a sense of collective guilt for the shameful treatment of Vietnam veterans, forced our nation to open its proverbial arms and wrap us veterans in soft, star-spangled blankets.

That is how we arrived at a place in American society where the roughest men and women our country can produce are babysat. Our supermarkets have reserved veteran parking spaces, despite handicapped spaces already existing for any veteran who actually needs accommodation. We grandstand for veteran employment programs without considering that the veteran unemployment rate is actually less than that of the general population. We rant about the broken promise of disability compensation while the Department of Veterans Affairs is awarding disability claims at the fastest rate in

history. Even with all these faux controversies, we still manage to find time for manufactured outrage about gym wear and TV ratings gambits.

Read the whole story

Young women living at home as if it’s 1940

By Associated Press

Young women are living with their parents or relatives at a rate not seen since 1940 as more millennial women put off marriage, attend college and face high living expenses.

A Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data found that 36.4 percent of women age 18 to 34 lived with parents or relatives in 2014, the most since at least 1940, when 36.2 percent lived with family.

It is a very different world for women now, though, despite the “return to the past, statistically speaking,” says Richard Fry, a senior economist at Pew.

Fry says young women are staying home now because they are half as likely to be married as they were in 1940 and much more likely to be college-educated. Economic forces such as increasing student debt, higher living costs and economic uncertainty are also playing a role.

Millennials, you literally cannot call yourselves adults until you take this pledge
Casey Ballard, 29, was living in Portland, Ore., but rent ate up roughly two-thirds of her paycheck and she was ready for a

career change. A September move back with family in California allowed her to try out teaching as a substitute, and now she plans to pursue teaching full time.

“There was that element of frustration and feeling like a failure,” she says about returning home. “But then the logical side of me kicked in and said, ‘It’s just fiscally responsible.'”

Young men have historically lived with parents at higher rates than young women, and similar economic and cultural forces are keeping an increasing number of men at home too in recent years. But the rate young men are staying home with their parents and relatives, 42.8 percent, remains below the 47.5 percent level for men in 1940.

The percentage of young men and women living with family fell after the 1940s as more women joined the workforce, the overall workforce expanded, and marriage rates increased.

Marriage was once the life event that triggered a move out of the family home, but it is now coming later with each generation, if it comes at all. The median age of marriage for women is now 27, up from 21.5 in 1940. For men, it is 29.3, up from 24.3 in 1940.

Young women and men began staying home or returning there at a more rapid rate after 2000, a trend that sharply increased with the economic uncertainty brought on by the housing collapse and recession in the late 2000s.

Although the retreat home for young adults is also clearly a result of economic pressures, it is not, according to Fry, an employment issue. For example, more young adults are living with their family now than in 2010, even though the job market has improved since then.

“The job market has gotten significantly better” for this group, Fry says. “Unemployment has come down, more have jobs

and some are even getting paid a bit more.”

Another factor in the change, Fry says, is increased ethnic diversity across this age demographic, which in turn has introduced cultural traditions of living with parents and relatives longer into life.

“I don’t think it’s as bad as people think it is,” says Stacey Sholes, 26, who moved back into her parents’ house in Fresno eight months ago after leaving college in San Francisco and working in Los Angeles.

Sholes is still a few credits shy of graduating but isn’t sure if she will return because her private school was very expensive and she’s not confident she’ll be able to find a job in the film industry even with a degree.

She is living with her parents while she figures out her next step and has taken a holiday job at the same store she worked when she was 18 to bring in some cash.

There are bumps, like when she fails to tidy up or check in with her parents regularly. But otherwise it’s a comfort to be with her family.

Still, she hopes to find a new place soon with a roommate.

“I have a very loving, supportive family; they don’t give me a hard time about it,” she said. “It’s a good place to crash while I figure my life out.”

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets

in South Lake Tahoe



Roman

Roman is a nice Miniature Pinscher mix who is 2 years old. He’s been at the shelter the longest of all the dogs; more than two months. And we don’t know why! He’s house trained, walks nicely on his leash, and he comes when he’s called. He likes dogs and kids, and did not chase the cats that he met here. He is an active, happy little boy who is very sweet.

Roman is neutered, microchipped, heart worm negative, and vaccinated. He is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes.

Go to the Tahoe animal shelter’s Facebook page to see photos and descriptions of all pets at the shelter.

Call 530.573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go **online**.

– Karen Kuentz

CHP working to keep kids safe in vehicles

The California Highway Patrol has partnered with the California Office of Traffic Safety to implement the Children Held in Proper Place Every Ride campaign.

The CHIPPER campaign will run for one year focusing on reducing the number of children killed in traffic collisions throughout California. The CHP will host educational seminars, classes, and child safety seat inspections.

Officer will also be conducting enforcement operations concentrating on occupant restraint violations throughout the year with a special emphasis during the national “click it or ticket” campaign and national Child Passenger Safety Week.

Child passenger safety seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71 percent for infants and 54 percent for toddlers in passenger cars, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports. CHP’s Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System recorded 198 unrestrained children (age 7 and younger) killed in traffic collisions throughout California in 2014.

Marriott to become worlds largest hotel company

By Craig Karmin and Ezequiel Minaya, Wall Street Journal

Marriott International Inc. said Monday that it has agreed to acquire Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc. in a deal worth $12.2 billion that will create the world's largest hotel company with more than a million rooms globally.

Under the terms, Marriott will forward 0.92 share along with $2 in cash for each Starwood share, for a total of $11.9 billion in stock and $340 million in cash. The transaction has a value of $72.08 a Starwood share.

The merger creates a portfolio with more than 5,500 hotels with 1.1 million rooms world-wide, the companies said in a news release.

Marriott owns two properties in South Lake Tahoe.

Read the whole story

K's Kitchen: A festive hummus for the holidays

By Kathryn Reed

I keep wanting to like hummus. I finally found a recipe I really like. It is the added lemon that makes it better than the average concoction.

Eating pink food isn't always appetizing. If you can get over

the color, the taste is great.

This would be a great dish to have at the holidays to give a little color to the table and be festive. Golden beets might work well for Thanksgiving – a little more fall-like.

It’s also one dish than can be made up to a week ahead of time.

Turning on the oven for more than an hour just for one beet seems like a waste of energy. So, while the beet for the hummus was cooking I roasted other veggies for dinner. I have not tried cooking a beet in the microwave like you can do with potatoes. If it were to explode, that would be one mess I would not want to clean.



Roasted Beet Hummus

1 medium beet, roasted

1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas

¼ C tahini

5 large garlic cloves

1 medium lemon – juice and zest

½ tsp Kosher salt

¼ tsp pepper

1/8 C olive oil

Place beet in pan, bake at 400 degrees for at least an hour. It should be tender when a fork goes into it.

Let beet cool, then peel it. Puree in food processor or blender until smooth.

Add chickpeas and liquid, tahini, garlic, lemon zest and juice, salt, pepper. Blend.

Gradually add in oil to the consistency you like. Water can be added if it's too thick. Adjust seasonings.

Serve with veggies, crackers and/or pita chips.

Snippets about Lake Tahoe



· The Douglas County Public Library in Minden and Zephyr Cove will be closed Nov. 26-27. Both libraries will close at 5pm Nov. 25.

· North Shore's Dead Winter Carpenters will be releasing their next album after the first of the year.

· The STEM Building on the Douglas High School campus was dedicated to Lisa Noonan, former Douglas County School District superintendent.

· There will be a public hearing Dec. 10 at 8am in the Tahoe City Public Utility District board room regarding the

notice of intent to adopt a negative declaration regarding snowmaking at the Tahoe City Winter Sports Park.

Black Friday could be Bleak Friday for retailers

By Paul R. La Monica, CNN Money

Cue the Elvis. It may be a blue Christmas for America's retailers.

Gap, Macy's, Nordstrom and Fossil all reported lousy results last week.

JC Penney actually bucked the trend with decent sales growth, but it's still losing money.

The only major retailer to have unabashedly good news was Kohl's (KSS), which topped analysts' forecasts thanks to strong back-to-school shopping.

So will Black Friday wind up being more like Bleak Friday?

Read the whole story

EDC schools superintendent

resigns

By Kathryn Reed

PLACERVILLE – The El Dorado County board of education today unanimously accepted Superintendent Jeremy Meyers' resignation.

Meyers had not been to work since his last driving under the influence arrest on Nov. 5.

He oversees education in a county that for the students and staff there is a zero tolerance policy for drugs, which includes alcohol.



Jeremy Meyers when he was booked Aug. 22.

Meyers' DUI arrest this month was the second in a five-month span. According to the California Highway Patrol his blood alcohol level was 0.19 percent. He was arrested in the middle of a workday after crashing his truck.

The first incident was June 5; also in the middle of a weekday. The 45-year-old pleaded no contest to misdemeanor charges that resulted in a sentence of five days on home arrest. He collected his nearly $200,000 during that time and still was until today.

Deputy Superintendents Ed Manansala and Robbie Montalbano

issued this statement, “This resignation allows the county office of education, the staff and board, to move forward.”

Details about the separation agreement have not been released.

It is up to the board to replace Meyers. Because Meyers is an elected official the board could not just remove him.

This was the second meeting the board convened to discuss Meyers. No action was taken at the Nov. 7 meeting. Meyers did not attend either meeting.

Three of the about 30 people at the Nov. 16 meeting spoke before the board went into closed session; all wanting Meyers to be removed from office in some manner.

Harry Norris, who was on the board for 10 years, suggested the board make Meyers’ salary $1 a year if he does not leave voluntarily.

Steven and Jackie Neau who live on the West Slope said their needs to be consequences for Meyers’ actions.

“I think he should be asked to resign. If that doesn’t happen, I’m willing to start a recall,” Steven Neau told the board.

Meyers was appointed by the school board to the position effective July 1, 2013. He was taking over for Vicki Barber who retired. At the time Meyers was the deputy superintendent. In June 2014 he ran unopposed for a four-year term.

Tahoe skiers a familiar sight

in Warren Miller movie

By Benjamin Spillman, Reno Gazette-Journal

Anyone who saw Amie Engerbretson, Lexi Dupont and McKenna Peterson bombing across Alaska in an RV loaded with ski gear could be forgiven for thinking the three women were on a dream vacation.



Warren Miller has been making ski movies for decades. Photo/LTN file

No doubt heading to Valdez to ski the snowiest range in Alaska is tons of fun.

But this crew of professional skiers on their way to the Thompson Pass area also had serious business to which they were attending.

They were heading out to shoot a segment for “Chasing Shadows,” the 66th installment of an annual ski and snowboard film from Warren Miller Entertainment.

Read the whole story