



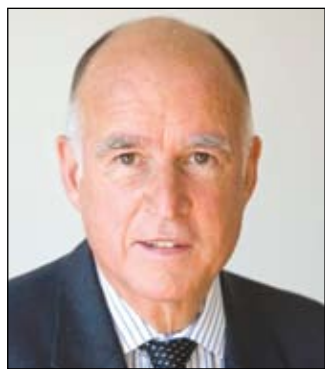
# Placer Sentinel

Volume 25 • Issue 20

Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

Second Issue of October 2014

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## Auburn Rallies Around the Gold Country Fairgrounds



The Fairgrounds has lost all state funding—\$185,000 per year. It has also lost non-state funding. Keeping the Fairgrounds open is an on-going concern. Fortunately, the Auburn Gold Country Fairgrounds is not forced to stand alone. A great number of businesses, individuals, and local service clubs are offering support. Photo courtesy of Gold Country Fairgrounds

By Paula Mosqueda

**AUBURN, CA (MPG)** - The Gold Country Fairgrounds has been a landmark for the City of Auburn for many decades. Its history is fascinating. It first opened in 1889. Activities at the Fairgrounds were suspended in 1903, and then resumed in 1935. In the 60s, the State of California included our Fairgrounds on a list of fairs slated to be closed. The community rallied and contacted legislators and petitioned the governor. The state removed our Fairgrounds from the list. In 1970, Ronald Reagan proclaimed that ours was, "The little Fair that wouldn't die."

Today, due to our current economic climate, Auburn is once again standing up for the Gold Country Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds has lost all state funding—\$185,000 per year. It has also lost non-state funding. Keeping the Fairgrounds open is an on-going concern.

Fortunately, the Auburn Gold Country

Fairgrounds is not forced to stand alone. A great number of businesses, individuals, and local service clubs are on hand to give support whenever it is needed. The list of supporters is lengthy. The type of support varies from financial donations to providing services without compensation. To name a few, supporters include NorCal Beverage Co., Magnussen's, Don Robinson's Sand & Gravel, Recology Auburn, Eisle's Nursery, Echo Valley, Home Depot, Wells Fargo, County of Placer, Cal Fire, and all local service clubs.

Recently, the Auburn 49er Lions Club decided that precedes from the March 5, 2015 Celebrity Chefs Cooking for Community Service event will be shared by the Harvey Roper Leadership Auburn Scholarship Fund and the Gold Country Fair Heritage Foundation.

Considering the events and activities that are held at the Fairgrounds, keeping this

landmark open is in everyone's best interest. What other venue could be used to hold the Home Show, the Mandarin Festival, Celebrity Chefs, Pow Wow, Demolition Derby, 4H and FFA events, crab feeds, arts and crafts shows, year-round 49er United Soccer, music festivals, swap meets, the rodeo, Salvation Army Thanksgiving Dinner, the Christmas Basket Program, livestock exhibits, and the many other events that have a home at the fairgrounds?

On Wednesday, Oct. 22, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., the Auburn 49er Lions Club will sponsor a spaghetti dinner in the Placer Building of the Gold Country Fairgrounds, 1273 High St, Auburn. All proceeds will be donated to the Fairgrounds.

Tickets are available at the Fairgrounds office, Golden Swann Jewelers, and Sun River Clothing.

Continued on page 4

## Placer County Law Enforcement Leaders Oppose Proposition 47

A joint statement from R. Scott Owens, Placer County District Attorney; Sheriff Edward Bonner, Placer County Sheriff; Chief Daniel Hahn, Roseville Police Department; Chief Ron Lawrence, Rocklin Police Department; Chief John Ruffcorn, Auburn Police Department; Chief Rex Marks, Lincoln Police Department

**PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Proposition 47, the so called "Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund," if passed, will have the opposite result of its title. The measure minimizes criminal consequences that will compromise the safety of our communities and prove costly for businesses and citizens alike. There are many reasons why law enforcement leaders across the State of California are lining up to oppose this misleading proposition.

This measure that seeks to reduce criminal punishment is on the ballot this November. Proponents of Prop 47 readily admit that its passage could result in the early release of up to 10,000 persons currently serving time in state prison. Under the new sentencing laws that went into effect, people who are in state prison are there because their criminal records include serious or violent offenses. Under the "resentencing" provisions of Prop 47, people with prior convictions for crimes like carjacking, armed robbery, residential burglary, and kidnapping would be eligible to have their current felony sentences reduced to misdemeanors. These are not the "low-level" offenders that the supporters claim the measure is intended to help.

While the preamble of Prop

Continued on page 5

## Arms and Legs are Not a Luxury

By Linda Harper

**SACRAMENTO REGION (MPG)** - Did I get your attention? If you're reading this article in your community newspaper, you're probably turning the pages to view vital stories, features, and advertisements published to keep you informed of the happenings in your neighborhood. Now, imagine the frustration you would feel if you have no arms or hands to aid you in grasping the pages, the simplest of every day tasks. You have an artificial limb to provide you physical freedom, give you self reliance and ability, but it's propped up on the sofa a few feet away, unable to be utilized. It doesn't fit properly, and your medical insurance won't pay to have it repaired or adjusted because you've used up your allotted yearly or lifetime benefit. For the over two million people in the United States who have suffered the loss of

one or more of their limbs, this situation is not unusual and is a harsh reminder that things are just not what they seem within President Obama's Affordable Healthcare Act. In California, it's been given the catchy name Covered California.

The main goal of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), signed into law in 2010, was to make health insurance not only affordable but comprehensive for everyone. Federal law contains a set of 10 "essential health benefits" providers must guarantee consumers of individual, small business insurance policies, and government sponsored programs (Medi-Cal). The White House has said repeatedly that these Obamacare guarantees "eliminate substandard policies that don't provide minimum services." States were allowed to craft their own set of essential health benefits, and California even came up with several additional benefits that range from organ transplants for HIV

sufferers to Phenylketonuria treatment. Although a minimal allowance for prosthesis is available under the Rehabilitative and Habilitative portion of California's declared essential benefits, there doesn't appear to be an equitable provision for the replacement, repair, and maintenance of artificial limbs.

According to the healthcare cost and utilization project state in-patient database, California leads the country in hospital amputations performed: 14,800 in 2012. Due to this staggering number of new surgeries, California insurance carriers realize providing prosthesis coverage for an amputee who has suffered the trauma of losing a limb is vital. But when there are financial caps put on the lifelong process of actually being able to use the device, it can be devastating. Losing a limb is obviously a permanent occurrence.

Continued on page 12



In a study performed by the California Insurance Commissioner's office, it was determined that the overall cost to consumers to include comprehensive prosthetic coverage to Covered California's Essential Benefits list would be 16 cents per month, or less than \$2.00 per year. In perspective, paying to ensure an amputee can walk or have the use of their arms and hands would cost California insurance consumers less than purchasing 40 pieces of bubble gum within a year's time. Photos courtesy of the Amputee Coalition

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# Old Town Auburn Launches Holiday Season With Safe Trick-or-Treat

**PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Whether we call it Halloween or Harvest Time, it's an event kid's look forward to every year. Dressing up in costumes and anxiously searching for treats is the focus of this yearly ritual.

Old Town Auburn merchants have banded together to offer a Safe Trick-or-Treat venue. On Friday, October 31, start early and bring the kids down to the streets of Old Town Auburn between the hours of 2 and 5 p.m. Any store displaying the paper Pumpkin Pie Plate in their window is a merchant who will have safe goodies for the little ones.

Costumes are optional but encouraged.

## Avoid the Day After Thanksgiving Crowds at Candy Cane Friday

The day after Thanksgiving is the biggest shopping day of the

year. Most Old Town Auburn merchants will be open late for shopper's convenience. Trade in your hectic, crowded Black Friday Roseville and Sacramento mall shopping plans for an enjoyable holiday experience in Old Town. A raffle highlights the day. On that Friday only, enter your name and phone number with any Old Town merchant. The winning entry will be drawn at Sierra Moon the next day. No need to be present to win. The Grand Prize and subsequent prizes will be announced soon. Tsuda's will be offering Candy Cane Oreo Pops for 50 cents from 5 to 8 p.m.

Old Town auburn merchants offer many one-of-a-kind gifts. There will be plenty of candy canes and laughter to go around.

**Old Town Auburn's 28th Annual Old Town Country Christmas**

Mark your calendar for December 13 and 20. Old Town Auburn will be hosting two Old Town Christmas events from 5 to 9 p.m. each day. The community is invited to share in the holiday fun. Crafters and artists will have their wares for sale. You're sure to find that one-of-a-kind Christmas gift. There's great food and entertainment planned. Kids (and those big kids too) can have their picture taken with Santa. Restaurants will be open, and shops will be holding their annual Holiday Open Houses. This popular event is sure to be fun for the whole family.

For more information about these events and others in Old Town Auburn, visit [www.oldtownauburn.com](http://www.oldtownauburn.com).

Source: [www.oldtownauburn.com](http://www.oldtownauburn.com). ★

# Forest Health in Rapid Decline Drought is Adding Fuel to the Fire

**AUBURN, CA (MPG)** - A new report released today by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy shows that many Sierra Nevada forests are in critical condition and that natural benefits that these forests provide, such as clean air and water, are at risk from large, intense fire. Sierra watersheds are the origin of over 60% of the state's developed water supply, and store significant amounts of carbon. According to the report, the current drought and a changing climate are rapidly intensifying the situation in the Sierra.

The State of Sierra Nevada Forests Report compiles current science and research that tells the story of a region of great value to the state in extreme danger. According to the report, Sierra communities and forests are faced with unprecedented fire danger due to current forest conditions, and numerous other values such as air quality, water supply, wildlife habitat, tourism and recreation, and carbon storage are at risk. In order to protect these values, the report highlights the urgent need for an increase in the pace and scale of ecological forest restoration in the Sierra.

"The health of many of our Sierra forests is not good and getting worse," commented Jim Branham, Executive Officer of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. "Failing to understand the urgency of the situation and act appropriately will have devastating consequences to California's environment and economy."

The 25 million-acre Sierra Nevada Region encompasses one-quarter of the state, and all or part of 22 counties. In addition to serving as California's primary watershed and storing vast amounts of carbon, Sierra forests provide clean air, provide habitat for hundreds of wildlife species, and are a world-renowned tourist destination.

The report cites research that indicates that the size and severity of wildfires has been increasing, and with that comes increased post-fire erosion in Sierra streams and reservoirs, increased greenhouse gas emissions, higher levels of air pollution from smoke, loss of recreational opportunities, loss of critical habitat, and negative impacts to local economies. Impacts in the forested watersheds of the Sierra Nevada affect virtually all Californians.

The State of Sierra Nevada Forests Report identifies specific obstacles that need to be addressed in order to put Sierra Nevada forests on a path to ecological health and protect California's air and water quality. The report also calls for a commitment from a variety of state, federal, and local entities to address these challenges.

Based on the conclusions in the report, the Conservancy is developing an Action Plan to address the issues. They intend to use a collaborative approach in doing so, involving state, federal and local entities, as well as a wide range of stakeholders representing various interests.

"We need a dramatic increase of pace and scale of ecological restoration, especially on our federally managed lands," Branham continued. "There is broad consensus on the need to act and to do so in an ecologically sound manner."

For more information on the State of Sierra Nevada Forests, to download the full report, or to review the executive summary, please visit [www.sierranevada.ca.gov](http://www.sierranevada.ca.gov).

Source: Sierra Nevada Conservancy ★

# Applegate Fire Update

**PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG)** -The fire on the eastside of Interstate 80 in the Applegate area resulted in 459 acres burned and has been 100% contained. There were two injuries, and six residences and four outbuildings were destroyed. The cause is still under investigation.

Firefighters continued to mop-up the fire interior and patrolled the fire perimeter. Fire suppression repair work also continued. Demobilization of fire resources continued, allowing them to return to their respective jurisdictions.

The incident management team was CalFire, and agencies that cooperated in response to

the fire were CDCR, Placer County SO, CHP, CCC, Cal Trans, Union Pacific, PG&E, CAL OES, Placer County OES, Placer County Water Authority, Placer County Animal Control, Gold County Fair Grounds, BLM, BOR, CA State Parks, Red Cross, and the Salvation Army. ★

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**Publisher's Statement:**  
It is the intent of the Placer Sentinel to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. We consider our Editorial and Opinion pages to be a public forum for our readers. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

**Publisher Paul V. Scholl**

# District 4 Congressional Debate: McClintock-Moore

Story & photos by Ben Barber

**AUBURN, CA (MPG)** - The 4th district congressional race heated up Tuesday morning with a debate between candidate Art Moore and incumbent Tom McClintock. The debate took place at the Auburn City Council Chambers and took place from 7 a.m.-8 a.m., limiting those who could attend. None the less, the house was full of eager voters who were ready to hear what the politicians had to say.

McClintock opened first. He expressed his goals for fiscal stability and budget reformation with the hope of maintaining the American dream and security for district residents. He followed with his concern for the environment, addressing his principals on water management and forest fire control. Moore then had his turn to take the floor, and aggressively brought attention to his concerns about the current congressman, calling him a "coward" for backing out of a previously scheduled debate, which brought an eruption of laughter from the



The 4th district congressional race heated up Tuesday morning with a debate between candidate Art Moore (below) and incumbent Tom McClintock.

questions to each candidate. The first question was directed to Moore in regard to his lack of voting during his service as an officer in the Army and Army National Guard. Moore responded with his beliefs surrounding a tradition in the Army Officer Core that focuses on the importance of an a-political military core that can provide unbiased military advice to the commander and chief regardless of their political affiliation. At which point he turned the focus to McClintock, stating he's voted more in district 4 than his opponent has.

McClintock, finally able to take the floor, addressed the arguments before him, blaming the recession for his inability to move into the district and explaining why he backed out of the previously scheduled debate. McClintock's position was people should be able to ask questions directly to the candidates without being filtered by the sponsors of the debate.

The two candidates continued to address the minor issues

of their campaigns before jumping in and tackling the real issues that face district 4, such as fire control. Both candidates were on the same page on the matter, stating that resources should be used to prevent fires in the first place rather than to put them out.

Bart Ruud, a Vietnam veteran, had this to say when asked about the importance of the voting issue with Art Moore, "I understand that and I appreciate it, and I understand somebody that doesn't waiver, I appreciate the fact that he stands solid on his perspective. Is it the right perspective? I'm not going to judge it." A bigger concern for Ruud was the resource management issue, "We are not properly managing our forests, we need the economic return, we need the product ... We have not emulated nature, and with that, we have permitted the fuel loading to grow up to the point that now when we get a fire going they're going to rip, and they have..."

Visit [www.PlacerSentinel.com/community.html](http://www.PlacerSentinel.com/community.html) to see video of the entire debate. ★

# Sacramento Region Continues Impressive Water Use Reductions in August

## 14 Agencies Cut Water Use by 20 Percent or More

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)**

- Customers at 14 Sacramento-area agencies (listed below) reduced water use by 20 percent or more in August compared to the same period last year, according to an analysis by the Regional Water Authority (RWA), which represents water providers in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, and Yolo counties. The findings come from a review of August water use data submitted to RWA and the State Water Resources Control Board.

"Residents have been spectacular in their water use reductions," said RWA Water Efficiency Program Manager Amy Talbot. "August is typically one of the hottest months of the year, which makes the temptation to ramp up sprinklers hard to resist. But the data shows that residents have made a serious commitment to preserving our limited resources during the severe dry conditions."

Overall, the region averaged a 21 percent reduction in August, and is averaging a 19 percent reduction from January through August 2014, compared to the same timeframe last year, RWA's analysis found.

"As we move into fall and winter, it will be important for residents to continue conserving water," Talbot said. "Even normal or above-average precipitation is unlikely to erase the effects of three dry years. We're in this for the long haul."

One action that residents can take immediately is to reduce sprinkler times by at least two minutes per zone. "Fall is prime time for overwatering landscapes," Talbot said. "Shorter days and cooler temperatures reduce the water demands of lawn, trees, shrubs and plants, so it's time to dial back sprinklers," Talbot said.



"Residents have been spectacular in their water use reductions," said RWA Water Efficiency Program Manager Amy Talbot.

### New Drought Resources Available

The Regional Water Authority has launched a revamped Web site at [BeWaterSmart.info](http://BeWaterSmart.info) to provide additional drought information and tips for reducing water use.

The site includes a new sprinkler scheduling tool that allows visitors to enter information about their landscape (such as plant materials, soil type and sun exposure) and receive a custom watering schedule based upon the weather and local watering restrictions.

Other features include brief videos about low-tech solutions for determining when and how much to water your landscape, as well as how to fortify and maintain your landscape while reducing water use. Both the sprinkler scheduling tool and the videos were sponsored by the Water Forum, which includes water providers, environmentalists and business leaders who work together to meet the co-equal goals of providing reliable water supplies and preserving the Lower American River.

### Drought Busters

Percent reduction in August 2014 compared to August 2013: 25% California-American Water, 25% El Dorado Irrigation District, 25% Rio Linda/Elverta Community Services District, 24% Orange Vale Water Company, 24% Placer County Water Agency, 24% City of Sacramento, 24% City of West Sacramento, 23% Carmichael Water District, 23% Citrus Heights Water District, 23% Fair Oaks Water District, 23% San Juan Water District, 21% City of Roseville, 20% Elk Grove Water District, and 20% Sacramento Suburban Water District.

**About the Regional Water Authority:** RWA is a joint powers authority representing two dozen water providers and affiliates in the greater Sacramento area. Its primary mission is to help its members protect and enhance the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.

Source: Christine Kohn, [incommunications.biz](http://incommunications.biz) ★

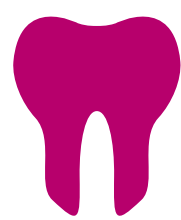


audience. Moore continued by bringing attention to the fact that McClintock doesn't live in the district he's running for. Moor said he's running for congress because the current congress is not doing its job, and he wants to create jobs.

After the opening statements, the audience was able to field

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Oct. 22, 29 at 2:30 p.m.  
Nov. 5, 12 at 2:30 p.m.

#### ROSEVILLE

Mimi's Café  
1104 Galleria Blvd.  
Oct. 23, 30 at 2:30 p.m.  
Nov. 6 at 2:30 p.m.

# PCSO Undersheriff Completes Studies at Naval Postgraduate School



Pictured from left are: Capt. Mark Reed, Capt. Wayne Woo, Lt. Andrew Scott, Undersheriff Devon Bell with his grandson, and Lt. Darrell Steinhauer.

**PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Placer County Undersheriff Devon Bell completed coursework for a Master of Arts Degree in Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security on September 26.

Devon Bell began his career with the Placer County Sheriff's Office in 1992. He has worked a wide variety of assignments within the agency, including corrections, patrol and the Special Investigations Unit. As a sergeant, Bell was assigned to field services at the North Lake Tahoe station for nearly two years. Bell later transferred to the South Placer Substation where he directed the Community Services Unit, which includes school and youth services. Bell also served as the administrative support lieutenant and later became the captain overseeing that division. In December 2006, Bell was named Placer County's first-ever Assistant Sheriff. The position was created because of the tremendous growth and need for additional administrative support. In November of 2007, Sheriff Ed Bonner appointed Assistant Sheriff Bell to the rank of Undersheriff. Bell is a Loomis native and a Del Oro High

School graduate. He has a B.A. in Criminal Justice Management and has completed numerous management and training courses. Bell and his wife Sue live in Roseville.

During the 18-month online and in-residence program, Bell collaborated with homeland security officials from across the nation on current policy, strategy and organizational design challenges. The topic of Bell's thesis is "Sovereign Citizens: The Shifting Ideological Winds of Change."

"I cannot describe how proud I am of this accomplishment by Undersheriff Devon Bell," said Placer County Sheriff Ed Bonner. "To put it in perspective, more than 5,000 applicants from across the nation applied for entrance into this Naval Postgraduate School program and only 32 were selected. Included in Devon's class were fire and law enforcement leaders from across the United States including New York, New Jersey, Utah, Washington State, and Virginia to name a few. There were also classmates from the Navy, Alaska Air National Guard, several state's Departments of Homeland Security, as well as members of the Secret Service. During his

time spent in the NPS program, Devon has emerged as a class leader, developed an incredible skill set in researching, evaluating and resolving emerging issues that pose a threat to our nation and communities. The Naval Postgraduate School is to be commended for offering such an innovative course of instruction and Undersheriff Devon Bell congratulated for completing the intensive course of study. There is no doubt in my mind that the citizens of Placer County will profit from Devon's hard work."

Undersheriff Devon Bell, shown holding his grandson, received his Master's Degree Friday. With him, from left, are Capt. Mark Reed, Capt. Wayne Woo, Lt. Andrew Scott and Lt. Darrell Steinhauer. CHDS, located at the Naval Postgraduate School, is the nation's homeland security educator. The CHDS is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), National Preparedness Directorate, within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). (For information, visit [www.chds.us](http://www.chds.us).)

Source: Placer County Sheriff's Office ★

# A Halloween Double Creature Feature

Thursday, October 30th at Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center

**AUBURN CA, (MPG)** - The Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center presents a Halloween double feature! The 1931 classic horror film *Frankenstein* and Mel Brooks' hilarious comedy *Young Frankenstein* provide a great Halloween event. Come at 5:30 p.m. for no-host frankfurters and beer in the Marquee Room.

Come as your favorite Frankenstein character and win prizes in the Costume Contest! There are five prize categories:

1. Best all around
2. Best Dr. Frankenstein
3. Best Frankenstein
4. Best Igor
5. Best Bride of Frankenstein

An act from the current Los Rios College production of the musical *Young Frankenstein* will also be presented.

In the original movie, an obsessed scientist assembles a living being from parts of exhumed corpses. *Young Frankenstein* is an American comedy film directed by Mel Brooks and starring Gene Wilder as the title character, a descendant of the infamous Dr. Frankenstein. *Young Frankenstein* ranks No. 28 on Total Film magazine's 'List of the 50 Greatest Comedy Films of All Time.'

Sponsored by Gateway Real Estate. Call (530) 885-0156 or visit [www.livefromauburn.com](http://www.livefromauburn.com) for more information.

Source: Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center ★

# Auburn Rallies Around the Gold Country Fairgrounds

Continued from Page 1

Tickets may be also obtained at the door on the evening of the event. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 11 years of age and younger.

Because this fundraiser will benefit the Fairgrounds, many locals have come forward to give support. These Fairgrounds friends have donated funds to defray the cost of the dinner so that all funds earned by ticket sales can go directly into the Fairgrounds coffers. To date,

these supporters include JR's Transmission, Auburn Service Center, The Black Forest, Ekland Insurance, Lindy Young, Joanne Barragan-Realtor, Auburn Host Lions Club, and Meadow Vista Lions Club.

The Auburn 49er Lions Club is planning for an evening of fun and community spirit. You are invited to come out and support your Fairgrounds while enjoying a delicious dinner. You can also take part in the raffle and/

or the silent and live auctions. Please support the Gold Country Fairgrounds, and bring all your friends.

If you wish to learn more about how you can support the Gold Country Fairgrounds, call Don, President of the Gold Country Fair Heritage Foundation, at (530) 330-4312.

If you wish to learn more about the activities of the Auburn 49er Lions Club, feel free to call (530) 863-7503. ★

# PCWA Encourages Rapid Watershed Protection

**AUBURN, CA (MPG)** - In wake of the King Fire, the Placer County Water Agency is encouraging expanded and rapid remediation of heavily burned National Forest Lands to protect water quality of the Rubicon River watershed before winter storms.

The agency's concerns were aired by General Manager David Breninger and Director of Resource Development Andy Fecko at Thursday's (Oct. 16) meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors.

Fecko said, "The water agency is appreciative and grateful of the efforts of the Eldorado National Forest in fighting the massive blaze that burned 98,000 acres or 152 square miles of the American River watershed. But questions remain over charred forest soils and debris along 19 miles of the Rubicon River that supplies PCWA power generation facilities, as well as water quality for downstream water users."

In a letter to U.S. Forest Service Regional Forester Randy Moore and comments to the Board of Directors, Breninger said, "PCWA staff believes that remediation efforts outlined by the Forest Service have excellent

potential to combat erosion and should be expanded to protect infrastructure as well as the ecosystem of the Rubicon River." He said, "The Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team has identified approximately 6,500 acres of land in the watershed as suitable for remediation by mulching but because of funding limitations, treatment of only 1,000 acres is planned by the Forest Service."

"PCWA believes the Forest Service should endeavor to treat all eligible acreage before the onset of winter storms, and the agency stands ready to assist in advocating for the federal emergency funding necessary to enable this critical remediation," he wrote.

In remarks to the Board, Fecko added, "This mulching technique was proven effective in the aftermath of last year's Rim Fire near Yosemite National Park, and the Agency is hopeful that the US Forest Service can find the funding for not only this near-term action, but for the long-term actions necessary to restore the health of the Rubicon River, Pilot Creek and South Fork American River watersheds."

In other business, PCWA directors:

- Heard a presentation by attorney Stanley Powell who provided an overview and update on California's new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which was passed Aug. 29 by the State Legislature. PCWA participates with other agencies in ongoing groundwater management plans in western Placer County and in the Martis Valley in eastern Placer County.

- Adopted a new energy risk management policy for the Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project.

The next meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, October 30th, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.

Information on PCWA board meetings may be obtained through the Clerk to the Board at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030. For drought updates and water conservation information, see [www.pcwa.net](http://www.pcwa.net).

Source: Placer County Water Agency ★

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## Dare to Live Without Limits Tolerance



*Tolerance: The capacity for or the practice of recognizing and respecting the beliefs or practices of others.*

*If everyone is thinking alike then somebody isn't thinking.*  
-George S. Patton

Are you a tolerant person? Are you worried about appearing intolerant of others? What exactly is tolerance? Today, tolerance is a term which is freely thrown around anytime two or more people or groups disagree on some topic or concept.

In its overuse, the meaning of tolerance has become distorted to imply whatever anyone does for whatever reason must be tolerated. Tolerance does not exist if it is only one sided. If one person or group respects another without reciprocity, then there is no true tolerance.

Being tolerant does not mean you have to allow someone else to take advantage of you. If someone does not respect your rights, you certainly have no obligation to be tolerant of their actions. Being tolerant is not synonymous with being treated as a door mat.

Sometimes people who are themselves mistreated feel that they must have done something wrong that invited the mistreatment. They then show tolerance, and even make excuses, for the offending party. This can be rooted in a false sense of guilt and a desire to avoid any appearance

of a prejudicial attitude.

This is a very important point: you do not have to tolerate any form of mistreatment, either mental or physical. When a person or a group is seeking to bring harm to you or anyone else, there is no place for tolerance.

True tolerance is a two way street. It occurs when there is mutual respect and understanding between all parties. People don't have to agree with each other. They should recognize differing outlooks.

You have a right to your views, opinions, and outlooks as much as others are entitled to theirs. Too often, your position may be derided by the very same people who demand respect and tolerance for their perspective.

Intolerant people attempt to change your views by making you feel guilty or foolish. They will criticize and even make fun of you. Don't succumb to this pressure. You are entitled to your position so long as it doesn't harm or advocate harm to anyone else.

One of the many great things about our country is its diversity of people and thought. The key to our strength is that people with different backgrounds and views have worked together throughout our history to make America a nation with more rights and freedoms than any other place.

It's not tolerance when you only accept those who share your

beliefs. Claiming to be tolerant while demeaning those who disagree with you is hypocrisy, not tolerance. Pressuring others to conform to your way of thinking is proselytizing, not tolerance.

Intolerant people tend to be angry and unhappy. They are quick to blame others for their circumstances and resist taking personal responsibility for their life. Intolerance is a dead end that spirals downward.

A tolerant person keeps an open mind and is receptive to new ideas and approaches. This is how you learn and grow. Regardless of how much you know, there is always much more to be learned. Those who are intolerant rarely, if ever, make any personal progress. Since their minds are closed, it's virtually impossible for them to discover anything new.

Success and happiness are linked to tolerance. When you accept others for who they are, your stress level falls because you stop trying to change tolerance. You are the one who will benefit.

**NOW AVAILABLE:** "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit [www.BryanGolden.com](http://www.BryanGolden.com) or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at [bryan@columlist.com](mailto:bryan@columlist.com) or write him c/o this paper. © 2009 Bryan Golden. ★

# Placer County Law Enforcement Leaders Oppose Proposition 47

Continued from Page 1

Prop 47 states that it will ensure that people convicted of murder, rape, and child molestation do not benefit from it, those previously convicted of crimes like robbery, residential burglary, and assault with a deadly weapon, will benefit. For example, under current law, possession of predatory drugs commonly referred to as "date-rape" drugs can be charged as a felony. Proposition 47 reduces possession of Rohypnol, Ketamine, GHB, and any other drugs designed to render a victim helpless to a simple misdemeanor.

The theft and drug charges that Prop 47 seeks to make misdemeanors can currently be charged as either a felony or misdemeanor at the discretion of the prosecutors and the courts. Typically offenders with little or no criminal history are charged with misdemeanors and those offenders who repeatedly commit these crimes and refuse to benefit from rehabilitation efforts are charged with felonies. Under Prop 47 no matter how many prior convictions a criminal offender has they may only be charged with a misdemeanor. In sum, no matter how many times the individual gets

caught, a Judge will be forced to sentence him as if he were a first timer.

Proposition 47 would also eliminate automatic felony prosecution for a criminal who steals a gun. Under current law, stealing a gun is a felony. Prop 47 would redefine grand theft in such a way that theft of a firearm could only be considered a felony if the value of the gun is greater than \$950. Almost all handguns (which are the most stolen kind of firearm) retail for well below \$950. People don't steal guns just so they can add to their gun collection. They steal guns to commit another crime. In short, criminals who steal guns are protected from felony prosecutions under Prop 47.

Prop 47 minimizes the impact of theft and forgery on the public and small businesses. A defendant with a prior residential burglary who forges a victim's stolen check will only be charged with a misdemeanor if they keep the amount under \$950. As long as a criminal steals less than \$950 worth of goods at one time, no matter how many times he or she steals from the same store, even if previously convicted of robbery, they will always be considered misdemeanor conduct.

And then fencing that stolen property will be just a misdemeanor if caught with property valued under \$950. Without deterrence of a felony conviction and sentence, the offenders will undoubtedly continue to commit these offenses knowing there will be little consequence for their criminal behavior.

California does not need Prop 47. Our state already has many laws and programs that allow judges and prosecutors to keep first-time, low-level offenders out of jail and prison if it is appropriate. They have the discretion to order offenders to drug and alcohol treatment or other programs that may aid in their rehabilitation. They also have the discretion to sentence offenders who continue to reoffend to jail or prison. Prop 47 would strip judges and prosecutors of that discretion.

Please join law enforcement, business leaders, and crime victim advocates and vote no on Prop 47. The initiative may sound like a common-sense approach, but in reality Prop 47 is a dangerous package of ill-conceived policies wrapped in a poorly drafted initiative that will endanger the citizens and economy of California. ★

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## Governor Brown Signs Legislation to Ban Single-Use Plastic Bags

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed the nation's first statewide ban on single-use plastic bags, SB 270, aligning state law with ordinances passed by a growing number of local governments in California to reduce plastic waste.

"This bill is a step in the right direction - it reduces the torrent of plastic polluting our beaches, parks and even the vast ocean itself," said Governor Brown. "We're the first to ban these bags, and we won't be the last."

The legislation, authored by Senator Alex Padilla (D-Pacoima), prohibits grocery stores and pharmacies from distributing single-use plastic bags after July 2015 and enacts the same ban for convenience stores and liquor stores the following year. It will also provide up to \$2 million in competitive loans - administered by CalRecycle - to businesses transitioning to the manufacture of reusable bags.

Thus far, over 120 local governments in California have passed ordinances banning single-use plastic bags in some fashion, with widespread support from community and environmental groups. SB 270 is supported by many of these same groups, along with local governments, businesses and labor organizations.

"I applaud Governor Brown for signing SB 270 into law. He continues to lead our state forward with a commitment to sustainability. A throw-away society is not sustainable. This new law will greatly reduce the flow of billions of single-use plastic bags that litter our communities and harm our environment each year. Moving from single-use plastic bags to reusable bags is common sense. Governor Brown's signature



Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.

reflects our commitment to protect the environment and reduce government costs," said Senator Padilla.

"The California coast is a national treasure and a calling card for the world, helping us attract visitors and business from around the globe. Removing the harmful blight of single-use plastic bags, especially along our coastline and waterways, helps ensure the kind of clean and healthy environment we need to have a stronger economy and a brighter future," said Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins.

"SB 270 is a win-win for the environment and for California workers. We are doing away with the scourge of single-use plastic bags and closing the loop on the plastic waste stream, all while maintaining - and growing - California jobs. As we further develop our green economy, SB 270 will be a model for balancing the health of the planet with the preservation of people's livelihoods," said Senate President pro Tem-elect Kevin de León, a joint author of the bill.

"For nearly 10 million Californians, life without plastic grocery bags is already a reality.

Bag bans reduce plastic pollution and waste, lower bag costs at grocery stores, and now we're seeing job growth in California at facilities that produce better alternatives," said Californians Against Waste executive director Mark Murray.

"California is the first state in the U.S. to ban the most ubiquitous consumer item on the planet, in an effort to drive consumers towards sustainable behavior change. Data from the over 127 local plastic bag bans has proven that bans are effective at reducing litter and changing consumer attitudes, and have refuted industry's claims of apocalyptic impacts on jobs and poor communities. A state plastic bag ban saves taxpayers the huge amount of money spent on litter cleanup, and protects the environment," said Clean Seas Coalition and Seventh Generation Advisors director Leslie Tamminen.

"SB 270 is a great victory for all of California. We've seen locally that plastic bag bans lead to cleaner water and healthier wildlife, keeping trash off our beaches and out of our creeks. The success of bag bans in our local communities has empowered state legislators to make the right decision for the health of California's waterways. Governor Brown's signature of this statewide bag ban is an important moment for our state, demonstrating that California is once again willing to take the lead on important environmental issues," said Save the Bay executive director David Lewis.

For full text of the bill, visit: <http://leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>.

Source: *The Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.* ★

## Governor Signs Runner-Sponsored Bill to Help Disabled Veterans

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Legislation sponsored by George Runner to protect California's disabled veterans has become law. Senate Bill 1113, authored by Senator Steve Knight (R-Antelope Valley), passed the Legislature with unanimous, bipartisan support, and has been signed by Governor Brown.

"This new law will help those who bravely served our country," said Runner. "Bureaucratic delays will never again rob veterans of the tax benefits that are rightfully theirs."

Under California law, veterans who receive a 100% disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may be eligible for a property tax exemption on the value of their home up to \$124,932 or \$187,399 in 2014 and equivalent amounts adjusted for inflation in future years. The

exemption starts on the date of disability and disabled veterans may claim a refund for up to four years of back taxes paid.

Unfortunately, due to VA backlogs, some veterans have had to wait more than four years to receive their disability rating certifications. As a result, they've missed out on thousands of dollars in property tax refunds to which they were entitled and anticipated receiving.

SB 1113 increases the availability of refunds on taxes previously paid from four years to eight years, allowing veterans to receive the full benefit of their exemption, even if the rating process takes more than four years to complete.

"Veterans who are disabled as a direct result of serving our country shouldn't be harmed by delays over which they have

no control," said Knight. "Now disabled veterans who encounter bureaucratic delays can still claim this key property tax exemption to which they are entitled."

The full Board of Equalization voted to support SB 1113 at its March 25 meeting, and the measure has also received support from the California Assessors' Association, California Taxpayers Association, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and a broad coalition of veterans' organizations.

Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents more than nine million Californians as a member of the State Board of Equalization. For more information, visit [www.boe.ca.gov/Runner](http://www.boe.ca.gov/Runner).

Source: *State Board of Equalization* ★

## Marijuana Cultivation Sites Cleaned to Protect Endangered Species

**PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - California wildlife officers will work with several allied agencies and scientific personnel to clean up six polluted illegal marijuana cultivation sites to protect three species threatened with extinction. The sites encompass habitat of the federally endangered Coho salmon, federally threatened northern spotted owl and the Pacific fisher, which was recently proposed for listing as federally threatened.

Scientific data conclusively proves how pollution from illegal marijuana cultivation has further degraded habitat quality for each species, and how bioaccumulating rodenticides, common to illegal cultivation sites, continue to acutely affect the northern spotted owl and the Pacific fisher. Consequently, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) applied for and received Section 6 federal

funds earmarked to benefit such species to conduct cleanup operations after the sites were eradicated and secured.

Wildlife officers from CDFW, the California Air National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force, and the Trinity County Sheriff's Office conducted the raids and eradication of each of the six sites in mid-summer, and marked them for return and environmental reclamation. The growers are alleged members of one or more international drug trafficking organizations. In addition to polluting the land and water and destroying habitat, they represent a serious threat to public safety.

Personnel from all agencies will work together to restore the sites to as pristine a condition as possible. They will remove the entire infrastructure of the grow site including rodenticides, fertilizers, pesticides, human waste and garbage, and thousands of

feet of irrigation tubing.

On October 16th, representatives of the media will be escorted into one of the grow sites. The general location will be in Trinity County off of Highway 299, midway between Whiskeytown and the coast. It is a 40 minute hike from the road. Those joining the tour should be in good physical condition, wear long pants and long sleeves with good hiking boots, wear gloves and have eye protection, wear a wide brim hat, carry plenty of water (most operational personnel will have 100 ounces or more CamelBak style water containers) and an energy bar type of snack. Photographers are advised to prepare for the extremely dusty conditions that result from working underneath a helicopter.

Source: *Wildlife CDFWNews* ★

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Want to Buy
Retired Carmichael native looking for a 1950s or 60s Porsche for restoration project. Not running OK. I'm not a dealer or reseller. I sold my '63 years ago and always regretted it. Honest and friendly. 916-803-0480 Jack. (MPG 06-30-14)

WANTED JAPANESE MOTORCYCLE KAWASAKI 1967-1980 Z1-900, KZ900, KZ1000, ZIR, KZ1000MKII, W1-650, H1-500, H2-750, S1-250, S2-350, S3-400 Suzuki G5400, GT380, CB750 (69-70) CASH Paid. 1-800-772-1142, 1-310-721-0726 usa@classicrunners.com (NANI)

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Piano lessons for children and adults by experienced, creative teacher. Citrus Heights. For more information, visit www.anitraalexander.com, or call (916) 725-1054 (MPG)

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

Table with 9 columns and 9 rows of numbers for a Sudoku puzzle.

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NOTICE TO READERS
California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$50



By Ronnie McBrayer

# The Trick to the Treats

How many middle-aged men and women do you know who are in wretched condition because they are no longer the young, athletic, studs and cheerleaders on campus? That used to be their identity, but now it is gone, and they don't know how to live without it. If you are an athlete, you are not going to be unable to compete forever; what then? If you are an accountant, one day you will lose your mental fortitude; who are you then? If you are a teacher, budget cuts could put you out of job; what is beneath your mask?

On and on it goes. Mother, husband, Methodist, physician, American, artist: We can play any of these roles, healthily and with fulfillment, so long as we remember that they are temporary. These are all just masks we wear. If we are shackled to these masks, mistaking them for the real person beneath, we will be shattered to pieces when the time comes to put them away; or when life inevitably takes them from us.

One year my son dressed as the cartoon spaceman Buzz Lightyear for Halloween. It was fun—"To infinity and beyond!"—and that's about how long I thought the boy would wear the costume. In his mind, this wasn't a temporary role he was playing. Buzz Lightyear was who he really was, his identity. That was okay for a while, but it reached unhealthy limits.

"No, you can't take a bath as Buzz Lightyear. Take the costume off," I would say. "I'm sorry, you can't be Buzz Lightyear at school.

It will distract the other students," and he would protest. "No, you can't wear the Buzz Lightyear costume to Aunt Inez's funeral!" You get the idea.

Every time he had to lay aside his costume and mask, it was the proverbial end of the world with weeping and gnashing of teeth. It was as if he was losing himself, as if he didn't know how to live apart from that imaginary facade. Of course the real him was beneath that rayon spacesuit—everybody knew it—except him.

This is a common affliction. We build these dramatic images of ourselves, who we think we are, who we should be, what we should accomplish, and once constructed, they have to be maintained and protected. We have to live up to our own billing, never letting a tear or a crack show in our veneer, and the mask to which we cling slowly becomes a prison. We go through life kicking and screaming every time a perceived threat begins to pull at the hem of our make-believe cape.

Here's a better way: Fulfill the roles that God, fate, or life has assigned to you. Fulfill them with gusto. But never accept the masks you must wear as a substitute for the person you really are; that's the trick to a sweet life.

*Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, pastor, and author. His newest book is "The Gospel According to Waffle House." You can read more at [www.ronniemcbrayer.me](http://www.ronniemcbrayer.me).* ★

# It's Hard Being a Gentleman in Today's World

Dr. James L. Snyder

The week was going quite well until I ran into Ms. PC. I know a thing or two about language and words, but I still am flabbergasted when it comes to the latest PC. I think somebody ought to do a weekly update on this aspect for us who are not up to date.

I do not make any apologies, but I am from the generation that believes in being a gentleman. I know that does not fit well into today's society, but I am rather hesitant to change this aspect of my life. My father and even my grandfather instilled in me that I needed to be a gentleman at all times. It has been rough down through the years, but I have tried to maintain my gentleman's status through life.

Then I ran into Ms. PC. I am not quite sure where these people come from but I know where I would like to send them; as far from me as possible!

I was about to enter a store and as I opened the door, I noticed a lady behind me. This is where my gentleman DNA kicks in. I opened the door, turned to the lady behind me, and said, "After you, Ms." As I said it, I smiled and nodded my head.

"That is," she said in a very angry voice, "the most sexist thing I have seen all week. How dare you?"

Not only was I blindsided by these remarks, but I was dumfounded.

"Excuse me, ma'am," I said as apologetically as possible.

"There you go again," she glared, "with more of your sexist comments."

Not knowing what she was talking about I just looked at her while holding the door for her.

"I suppose you think you are better than me," she queried. "Where you get the idea that you are better than I because you are a man I will never know."

"I am just holding the door open for you, ma'am," I explained.

"There you are again thinking you are better than I am because I am a woman. Where have you been all your life? Don't you know that men and women are exactly the same?"

Now I was confused. I did not know who I was talking to or rather I should say, who was talking to me. I did not understand what she was saying. I was just trying to be a gentleman.

I thought I would try to explain it to her. Mistake!

"Ma'am," I began, and then she interrupted me.

"Don't you dare call me ma'am again. I am nobody's ma'am!"

Now I did not know what to do. Should I walk into the store and shut the door behind me? Or, should I just shut the door and walk away? At this point, no matter what I did would have been wrong.

"I am just trying to be a gentleman. That's all. I don't mean any disrespect."

I thought it would at least ease the tension in this situation, but I was mistaken.

"That is the problem with people like you. You want me to believe that you are a gentleman and I don't believe it. This world does not need any gentlemen I will tell you that right here and now."

To say I was a little irritated is to grossly understate the situation. Then I noticed something on the door. On the inside of the door was a lock so the door could be locked from the inside. I do not know what come over me, but I am not responsible for the irritation level I was at at the time.

I turned away from the lady, walked into the store, pulled the door shut behind me, flipped the lock and walked away. Out of the corner of my eye I could

see that this woman had stepped up to the door and was rapping on the door, all the time her mouth was going a mile a minute. Thankfully, I could not hear a word she was saying. Since she does not need a gentleman, she did not need me.

For a brief moment, I felt a little guilty about my shenanigans. I have never done anything that outrageous before in my life. Sometimes a gentleman needs to show a lady that being a gentleman is a good thing.

I will continue to be a gentleman and I hope this little incident is a rare exception. Today people make it rather hard for other people to exercise politeness. In our politically correct society nobody knows what is good or what is bad.

The aforementioned lady, and I know she would not want me to call her a lady, and for all practical purposes she was not, has no idea the difference between a man and a woman. Evidently, she has never been married.

If men and women are exactly the same without any difference, why then, are there men and women? Those who do not believe that there is any difference have been sold a bill of goods by some slick shyster who is making them look foolish.

The Bible says, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

My standard of behavior is not set by the people around me, but by the Word of God that is within me.

*Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, P.O. Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 866-552-2543 or e-mail [jamesnsnyder2@att.net](mailto:jamesnsnyder2@att.net). His website is [www.jamesnsnyderministries.com](http://www.jamesnsnyderministries.com).* ★

That faint noise you hear is the sound of pint-sized spooks, banshees, and vampires gathering on your lawn. They will soon be knocking at the door plastic pumpkins outstretched. Spare yourself the tricks and go ahead and give up the treats—the unhealthy, sweet, nougat-filled goodies in your cupboard.

Keep your stinking apples, raisins, toothbrushes, and granola bars. Cavity creating sugar; hyper-activism inducing chocolate; gut busting high fructose corn syrup: This is what the ghosts and ghouls want. In a few short years the tykes will have to turn in their costumes, so don't deprive them of this rite of childhood passage.

This doesn't mean adults don't get in on the fun. Americans spend nearly \$3 billion each Halloween, not on adorning their children for the festivities, but on themselves. Adults love to play dress-up, it would appear, and not just in October.

We all hide behind masks, masks we have worn for so long, we forget the real person who lurks beneath. We so over-identify with our dress-up characters, that is the roles we play in life, that when the roles change—and they will change—we experience miserable frustration.

## Just a Pinch

Sharing Hometown Recipes, Cooking Tips and Coupons

By Janet Tharpe



### Your Family Will Flip for This Crispy Mac & Cheese

"My favorite on a busy day!"

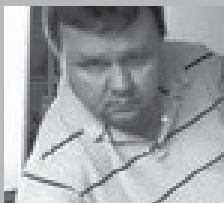


Comfort food takes center stage now that the weather is getting cooler. And one recipe that will shine on your dinner table is Wallace Hale's Crispy Mac & Cheese. It's super creamy and we just love the added crunch of salty shoestring potatoes. Yummy!

See step-by-step photos of Wallace's recipe plus thousands more from home cooks nationwide at:

[www.justapinch.com/crispymac](http://www.justapinch.com/crispymac)

You'll also find a meal planner, coupons and chances to win! Enjoy and remember, use "just a pinch"...



Wallace Hale  
Sikeston, MO  
(pop. 16,318)

- Janet

#### Crispy Mac & Cheese

##### What You Need

- 1 box macaroni and cheese (powdered cheese type)
- 1 10.75 oz can cream of chicken or mushroom soup
- 1/2 c milk
- 1/2 tsp mustard
- 1 dash ground black pepper
- 2 c grated cheddar cheese, divided
- 2 c crushed shoestring potatoes or plain potato chips

##### Directions

- Boil macaroni in 2 cups water for 4-5 mins.
- Mix soup, mustard, pepper, cheese packet, milk, 1 cup of cheddar cheese and cooked macaroni. Place in a 1 1/2 quart casserole dish.
- Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until hot.
- Stir and sprinkle with shoestring potatoes or plain chips and remaining cheese.
- Bake until chips are browned and cheese is melted.

Submitted by: Wallace Hale, Sikeston, MO (Pop. 16,318)

[www.justapinch.com/crispymac](http://www.justapinch.com/crispymac)

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### CLUES

- ACROSS**
1. Range
  6. Group of exercise reps
  9. A large number or bunch
  13. "I am \_\_\_\_\_, hear me roar"
  14. In the past
  15. Bilbo Baggins' land
  16. Eye opener
  17. Negative conjunction
  18. Dip a \_\_\_\_\_ the water
  19. \*Team with most World Series titles
  21. On the shore
  23. If you do this you shall receive?
  24. Type of Asian food
  25. On most pants and skirts
  28. High fidelity
  30. Elevated box
  35. October birthstone
  37. Winningest Super Bowl coach
  39. Run off, as in couple
  40. Have the blues
  41. Russian prison
  43. \*Go to extra innings when the score is this
  44. "Bravo! Bravo!" e.g.
  46. Strong review
  47. Spanish Surrealist
  48. Kind of monkey
  50. \*1972 World Series MVP, \_\_\_\_\_ Tenace
  52. Newsman Rather
  53. Easy to pull and hard to push
  55. Rub the wrong way
  57. \*First non-U.S. team to win World Series
  61. \*First World Series losers
  65. Dodge
  66. \*1925 World Series hero and HOFer, \_\_\_\_\_ Traynor
  68. Put up with
  69. \*A hard hit ball
  70. Funerary vase
  71. Fiji's neighbor
  72. \*2013 World Series ended with one for Cardinals
  73. Teacher's \_\_\_\_\_
  74. Atones, archaic
- DOWN**
1. Like a tree in the wind
  2. RC, e.g.
  3. Yemen's neighbor
  4. Winter wear
  5. Catch in a net
  6. "Without" in French
  7. Freudian topic
  8. Pentateuch
  9. Pest command
  10. In \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
  11. Sportscaster \_\_\_\_\_ Andrews
  12. Direct one's way
  15. \*Reason for 1994 World Series cancellation
  20. Increasing or adding to, often used with "out"
  22. CO2, e.g.
  24. Farmland under cultivation
  25. \*Reggie Jackson's forte
  26. Geologic period
  27. Syrup flavor
  29. \*Minimum games played in modern World Series
  31. Big Bang's original matter
  32. Sheep or buffalo, e.g.
  33. Met's offering
  34. Xe
  36. Grassy land tracts
  38. Cleanse or wash
  42. Genius, pl.
  45. \*\_\_\_\_\_ Field, where Braves hosted 1999 World Series
  49. Chronic drinker
  51. Misprints
  54. \*When it landed in 1996, Yanks were champs
  56. Shish \_\_\_\_\_
  57. Be a snitch
  58. Hodgepodge
  59. \*You need more than opponent to win a game
  60. Lyric poems
  61. Closely confined
  62. Like Tim of "A Christmas Carol"
  63. U2 guitarist
  64. Red one and Yellow one, e.g.
  67. Anger or wrath

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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								9	
7	9	4		2					
					7		5	2	
1		3			5		4		
	4	6				1	2		
	8		3			6		5	
4	3		8						
					9		5	1	4
	5								

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 Solutions See Page 7

Come back every week for Crossword and Sudoku!





# POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

in too many directions. They try to meet others' needs at the expense of their own, which can cause mounting resentment.

**3) DIGITALS.** They are rational and principled and have a gift for quickly understanding complex situations, but they can become closed to others' perspectives and feelings.

**4) TONALS.** They have a gift for understanding others and their dilemmas, but during moments of conflict, their ability to read between the lines can morph into hearing what was never said, felt, or thought.

A relationship begins with the meeting of two unique energies. This union of energies, though invisible, determines the way you communicate, fight, love and want to be loved. So Donna and David drew on their experience counseling couples in their "Energies of Love" workshops, as well as their own relationships as a husband and wife team, to show how an understanding of your energy system and that of your partner can help you build a more harmonious and loving bond. Their book provides a map of those invisible energies that impact your relationship. Besides, they told me love gives you energy, as well as zest, confidence, happiness, health and vitality. Love puts years on your life, and as mysterious as love

seems, it operates according to principles that can be understood. Did you know that there is an inescapable dynamic that "before your bodies touch, your energies meet?" Seems like ancient disciplines got it...like yoga, qi gong, and acupuncture as well as by contemporary physics and consciousness studies. And here's one better. According to this dynamic couple, the practices they profess can be applied to professional, familial, and other types of relationships too. They told me that this is not just some abstract energy out in the universe. The differences in your energetic make-up cause you to express caring in different ways from one another, to communicate differently, and to want to be appreciated differently.

So, if you can begin to understand these energetic differences between you and your boss, or you and your child, or you and your best friend, those relationships can enter new dimensions of pleasure, satisfaction, and mutual support.

This gives you a brief synopsis of who you are, but next time, **Donna and David** will share ten practical tips with us that will get us going. Check out [www.theenergiesoflove.com](http://www.theenergiesoflove.com). Now go analyze yourself, and I'll check in with you in Part II of "The Energies of Love." ★

## LaMalfa Thanks Firefighters and Introduces New Bill on Their Behalf



Rep. Doug LaMalfa

Dear Friend,  
I appreciated hearing from so many of you who shared your thoughts on the ongoing fires

in the North State. As towns such as Weed and others continue to recover and rebuild, I would like to commend and thank the men and women who are fighting these blazes on the frontlines. In particular, I want to take a moment to recognize our fire wildland firefighters who, despite putting their lives on the line daily, are still classified as "forestry technicians" under a severely outdated government policy. At this very moment, there are thousands of wildland firefighters in the North State spending weeks full of eighteen-hour days on fire lines in our National Forests. They

have some of the toughest jobs around, traveling long distances to work in dangerous and difficult conditions in remote areas. If they aren't firefighters, I don't know who is. To ensure these brave men and women receive the recognition they deserve, I introduced H.R. 5677, a bill that would simply align the position titles of federal firefighting personnel at the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to reflect the work these courageous men and women do all year long: fight fires.

Sincerely,  
Doug LaMalfa ★

### ENERGIES OF LOVE PART I

Can energy medicine help to keep your relationship thriving? **Donna Eden**, a pioneer in the field of energy medicine and Clinical Psychologist **Dr. David Feinstein**...also husband and wife...tell us how to in "The Energies of Love" using energy medicine. We all have different ways of making sense of the world around us so they gave me a breakdown of the different ways we make sense of that world when faced with conflict, especially with those we care about most. We tend to revert to one of four 'Energetic Stress Styles.'

**1) VISUALS.** They are extremely passionate and inspire others to care about the things they care about, but in moments of conflict, their take on the situation can overshadow what is actually occurring, undermining their ability to empathize with their partner.

**2) KINESTHETICS.** They are generous, compassionate, and accepting of other people, but their caring nature pulls them



## Riley Reviews

THE JUDGE

irritating to prosecutor Mike Kattan (David Krumholtz).

Exchanging heated words with the prosecutor outside the courtroom, Hank is a master manipulator of the law who keeps his scruples in check because his services are only available to the highest bidder. As he coolly professes to his nemesis, "Innocent people can't afford me."

During the middle of a high-profile trial, Hank receives a message that his beloved mother has just passed away. Hank has had no contact with his dad, and his mom is the one person in his family that he had remained in touch with for the past 20 or so years. His mom's death is the only event that can draw him home.

What waits for him in the idyllic town of Carlinville, a place caught in a time warp, however, is much more than a memorial service, and far from a warm welcome. Neither his older brother Glen (Vincent D'Onofrio) nor younger one Dale (Jeremy Strong) is ecstatic for Hank's return. To Joseph Palmer, Hank is definitely not the prodigal son.

Family resentments abound. Glen, we learn, looked to have a promising future as a professional baseball player, which was cut short by an unfortunate accident that may or may not be blamed on Hank. On the other hand, Dale, the mentally challenged gentle presence, is witness to family dysfunction by his use of the ever-present Super 8 camera.

A complex character, Hank has created a strong protective wall around his emotional being, choosing to deflect even the slightest opportunity for self-reflection with sarcastic humor and intellectual superiority. His marriage is falling apart and he only cares about his young daughter, though he rarely has time for child-rearing.

Judge Joseph Palmer, though,

he may be a man of many contradictions, represents the old guard who sees just about everything in black and white, probably because he's served as the town's magistrate for more than four decades. He's all about honor and protecting his legacy of meting out fair justice. Naturally, the judge does not appreciate his son's scheming approach to legal matters.

Everyone's comfort zone is upended when on a rainy night Joseph takes a drive in his vintage Cadillac and returns home with a dented fender and evidence of a possible hit-and-run accident. The problem is that the dead victim was a local thug that the judge had previously sent to prison.

The senior Palmer claims not to recall the events of that evening, and perhaps there are good reasons why he can't. The prosecutor assigned to the case, Dwight Dickham (Billy Bob Thornton), is determined to find the judge guilty. After a local attorney (Dax Shephard) bungles the defense, Hank reluctantly steps in, though his father is not too keen for his help.

Though there is plenty of verbal sparring in the judicial chambers, "The Judge" is more family drama than courtroom drama. One of the best scenes, outside Hank's efforts to needle prosecutor Dickham, is when prospective jurors are interviewed as part of the jury selection process. The acceptance or exclusion of potential jurors results in some of the most humorous moments.

Not to be overlooked is Hank's verbally brilliant take-down of a bunch of lowlifes in a bar itching for a fight but backing off in the inevitable oral onslaught of a defense attorney's skewering. Robert Downey, Jr. has a knack for delivering humiliation tinged with sarcasm and biting wit.

"The Judge" may not be the most compelling legal drama, but with Robert Downey, Jr. and Robert Duvall in total command of challenging figures in family and legal wrangling, this film proves to be truly effective and entertaining. ★

**THE JUDGE (Rated R)**  
A Film Review by Tim Riley

Courtroom dramas don't seem to make it to the big screen with the frequency that John Grisham novels were once adapted for theatrical release. Not based on a book, "The Judge" is an original, with a story and screenplay put together by members of the film's creative team.

Having directed raunchy, R-rated comedies "Wedding Crashers" and "The Change-Up," David Dobkin would seem an unlikely candidate for the same duties in an ambitious legal drama. And yet, he also co-wrote the story, so it would appear his talents grow more diverse by the project.

For "The Judge," the filmmakers did themselves a great favor by landing A-list actors for the starring roles of the father-and-son dysfunctional family members. Robert Downey, Jr., excellent outside his superhero comfort zone, and Robert Duvall, always brilliant, are near perfect as one could hope as the reckless son and stern father, respectively.

Downey stars as big city defense attorney Hank Palmer, who returns to his childhood home in rural Indiana where his estranged father, the town's judge (Duvall), becomes the prime suspect in a hit-and-run murder. Hank sets out to discover the truth, but not without having to unpack a lot of emotional baggage.

We first glimpse the high-priced lawyer Hank in a Chicago courtroom, mounting a solid defense for a white collar client that is obviously guilty. That Hank is the counsel that every high-class criminal wants by his side in a courtroom is understandably

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4 - 6pm:	The KAH1 Afternoon News with Bob Stephenson and the KAH1 News Team
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7 - 10pm:	Sports Byline USA with Ron Barr
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11am - 6pm:	Sinatra & Friends Music
7 - 8pm:	A Way With Words
8 - 9pm:	Hearts of Space

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Masquerade Cookies, Caramel Apple Popcorn, Pumpkin Spice Popcorn and Pumpkin Pound Cake

## BREW UP A FRIGHTFULLY FUN Halloween Party

FAMILY FEATURES

**H**unted with the thought of a ho-hum Halloween? Never fear — trick-or-treaters will want more than just candy once they see your party table. Throw a fabulous Halloween party fit for little goblins or grown-up monsters with some devilishly good sweets.

Try these easy party ideas from Wilton to make your Halloween spook-tacular:

- **Add some “pop” to popcorn:** Trick out ordinary popcorn into a sweet-and-salty party pleaser. Drizzle on Candy Melts® candy for festive flavors, and then capture the Halloween spirit by adding fun sprinkle mixes.
- **Masquerade cookies:** Who says you can't play with your food? Create edible masks with decorated shaped cookies and attach them to cookie sticks with melted Candy Melts candy. Set up a photo station at your party, so guests can take pictures with their cookie mask creations before eating them.
- **Jack-o'-lantern cakes:** It wouldn't be Halloween without carved pumpkins. Make yours edible by baking a delicious pumpkin spice pound cake shaped like a pumpkin. Increase the fun by adding silly icing facial features.
- **Midnight potions:** Spice up the night with candy corn drinks served in containers guests can devour, making cleanup easy and delicious. Or, toast the night with the Witch's Brew Mocktail.

For more Halloween ideas and inspiration, visit [wilton.com](http://wilton.com).

### Masquerade Cookies

Servings: 2 dozen cookies

- 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Imitation Clear Vanilla Extract
- 1/2 teaspoon Imitation Almond Extract
- Royal icing
- Orange, Black, Green, Lemon Yellow, Brown and Violet Icing Colors, as desired
- Orange, Yellow, Orange, Lavender and Black Colored Sugars, as desired
- Halloween Jimmies, Nonpareils and Icing Decorations, as desired
- Candy Melts candy
- Cookie sticks

Preheat oven to 350°F.

In large bowl, mix flour, baking powder and salt. In second large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in egg and extracts. Add flour mixture to butter mixture 1 cup at a time, mixing after each addition. Do not chill dough. Divide dough into 2 balls.

On floured surface, roll each ball into a circle approximately 12 inches in diameter by 1/8 inch thick. Dip eye and glasses cookie cutters in flour before each use. Arrange cookies on ungreased cookie sheet.

Bake 8–11 minutes or until cookies are lightly browned. Cool completely on cooling grid. Decorate as desired using tinted royal icing, colored sugars and Halloween icing decorations. Use melted candy to attach sticks to backs of cookies; chill until set.

### Pumpkin Spice Popcorn

Servings: 6 cups

- 6 cups popped kettle corn
- 2 cups mini pretzel twists
- 1 package (10 ounces) Pumpkin Spice Candy Melts candy
- 1 bottle (2.5 ounces) Pumpkin Mix Sprinkles

Spread popcorn and pretzels on parchment paper-lined cookie sheet.

In disposable decorating bag, melt candy in microwave at 50 percent power for 1 minute; remove bag and knead. Continue melting candy for 30-second intervals at 50 percent power until completely melted. Snip off end of bag and drizzle melted candy over popcorn mixture; immediately add sprinkles. Let stand until candy has hardened, about 20 minutes. Break into pieces to serve.

### Caramel Apple Popcorn

Servings: 6 cups

- 6 cups popped popcorn, buttered and salted
- 3/4 cup roasted salted peanuts
- 1 package (10 ounces) Caramel Apple Candy Melts candy
- 1 bottle (2.5 ounces) Spider Mix Sprinkles

Spread popcorn and peanuts on parchment paper-lined cookie sheet.

In disposable decorating bag, melt candy in microwave at 50 percent power for 1 minute; remove bag and knead. Continue melting candy for 30-second intervals at 50 percent power until completely melted. Snip off end of bag and drizzle melted candy over popcorn. Immediately top with sprinkles. Let stand until candy has hardened, about 20 minutes. Break into pieces to serve.

### Pumpkin Pound Cake

Servings: 16

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 cups canned 100 percent pumpkin (not pie filling)

Preheat oven to 325°F. Prepare Dimensions Large Pumpkin Pan lightly with vegetable pan spray with flour. Place on baking sheet.

In medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, cinnamon, salt and nutmeg. In large bowl, beat butter and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition; beat in vanilla. Add flour mixture alternately with pumpkin; mix well. Pour batter into prepared pan.

Bake 70–80 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 15 minutes in pan. Turn onto cooling rack. Cool completely before serving.

FOR  
GHOULISH  
GUESTS  
OF ALL  
AGES



Witch's Brew Mocktail and Candy Corn Drinks

### Witch's Brew Mocktail

Servings: 6

- 3 cups ginger ale, chilled
- 1 1/2 cups pineapple juice, chilled
- 1/3 cup sweetened lime juice, chilled
- Green gel food color or green icing color (optional)
- Black Colored Sugar Gummy Eyeball Skewers

In large pitcher, combine ginger ale, pineapple juice, sweetened lime juice and, if using, gel food color.

To prepare glasses, dip rims of martini glasses in water, then in black sugar. Fill with drink mixture; add eyeball skewers.

### Candy Corn Drinks

Servings: 8

- 1 cup (half of 12-ounce package) Bright White Candy Melts Candy, melted according to package directions
- 1 cup (half of 12-ounce package) Orange Candy Melts Candy, melted according to package directions
- 1 package (12 ounces) Yellow Candy Melts Candy, melted according to package directions
- Orange flavored fruit drink, orange, peach or mango juice or other favorite drink

Fill disposable decorating bag with melted bright white candy. Divide evenly among cavities of 8-cavity silicone shot glass mold, taking care to not get any candy on sides of mold. Repeat process with orange and yellow candy. Refrigerate until candy is set, about 30 minutes. Carefully remove candy glasses from mold and set aside. Fill with orange drink.

# Property Tax Bills Have Been Mailed

**PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Placer County Treasurer-Tax Collector Jenine Windshausen announced the property tax bills for the 2014-2015 fiscal year have been mailed. Windshausen indicated there are 161,181 tax bills for taxes and voter approved special assessments.

Pursuant to state law, the first installment of taxes is due November 1, 2014, and will become delinquent if not paid by close of business Wednesday, December 10, 2014; thereafter a 10% penalty will be added. The second installment is due February 1, 2015, and will become delinquent if not paid by close of business Friday, April 10, 2015; thereafter a 10% penalty as

well as a \$10 cost will be added. Both installments may be paid when the first installment is due. Payments remaining unpaid after June 30, 2015, accrue additional penalties at the rate of one and one half percent per month (eighteen percent, annually), plus a \$15 State of California charge.

Windshausen noted an automated phone system is available 24 hours a day to assist taxpayers by calling (530) 889-4120. To pay by credit card, debit card, electronic fund transfer (EFT), or by virtual check, visit [www.placer.ca.gov/tax](http://www.placer.ca.gov/tax) or call toll free: 1-866-4TAXPMT (1-866-482-9768), fees apply.

Mailed payments should be sent to 2976 Richardson Drive,

Auburn, CA 95603 and must be United States Postal Service post-marked by the delinquent dates to avoid penalties. Payments may also be made in person at the Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office at 2976 Richardson Drive in Auburn. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., holidays excepted. For added convenience, a drive-up deposit box in the front of the building, as well as one in the lobby of the Tax Collector's Office, are also available. Payments must be placed in the drop boxes no later than 5:00 p.m. on the delinquent date to be considered timely.

Source: Placer County Treasurer-Tax Collector ★



By Gerry Mifsud

As part of my *NEVER GIVE UP TV Show* on ACTV20, I held a town hall style meeting on my talk show set in the living room of my apartment. I gathered questions and comments from the Auburn community for the four candidates running for City Council, two of whom are popular incumbents: Mayor Bridget Powers; Councilman Mike Holmes; Matt Spokely, City Planning Commissioner; and Daniel Berlant, Auburn Union School District Trustee/CalFire spokesman. I met with each candidate separately and asked each the same questions; this was not a joint debate.

Mayor Powers was eager to get started; she told me to ask her anything. Her focus was "bringing jobs to Auburn and filling vacant shops." She responded to the public's concern about wasteful spending by saying, "I have consolidated departments to save money." Maintaining a sound budget and promoting growth in downtown, Old Town, and Hwy. 49, were examples of her "rock this city" attitude "deserving of re-election."

Incumbent Mike Holmes confidently spoke of his "moving the city forward" and "not resting

# NEVER GIVE UP

## Town Hall Meeting for Our Candidates



on his accomplishments." He wants to continue his progress on "economic development, historic preservation, and exploring alternatives to the current defined benefit retirement system for city employees." Mr. Holmes believes more public participation is needed in the city's budgeting process.

With three seats open to four candidates, including two popular incumbents, the newcomers spoke with passion and desire.

Matt Spokely, a local Civil Engineer for 20 years, and on the Auburn Planning Commission for the last seven years, said, "I will bring a fresh perspective and new ideas to improve the local economy and the city infrastructure, keeping its small town charm and focusing on public safety." He has budgetary concerns and feels that his involvement in the planning committee will be beneficial.

With great intensity, Daniel Berlant, spokesman for CalFire, was proud of "balancing the budget" in his capacity as trustee for the Auburn Union School District, while criticizing the City Council's present budget problems. He's concerned about small businesses leaving Auburn because the council let in the big outlets. "Borrowing over

\$100,000.00 from our reserve funds while road conditions go unaddressed is not acceptable." Berlant feels that his experience helps him to see Auburn's problems and envision plans for Auburn's future.

The public's lack of faith in the present City Council means that a change is essential for a fresh new direction. Spokely and Berlant seem to have drawn the interest of the public. Some feel the council is progressive but out of step with the times. Many question the City moving forward with other projects while the City's roads are still unsafe, suggesting the City Council is "Auburn's out."

"Incumbent upon us" is defined by Webster's dictionary as "resting on something else," and perhaps this applies to these incumbents.

The voices of the candidates have been heard at the town hall meeting, and now it is time for the voices of the public to be heard by voting on Tuesday, November 4th. Never underestimate your power, and *NEVER GIVE UP TV* your right to vote.

Gerry Mifsud, TV Host and Senior Activist. ★

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# Hometown Heroes



**Air Force Airman Jeremy B. Cross Rodde** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Cross Rodde is the son of Quinton T. Rodde of Colfax, Calif., and of Jannell M. Groundwater of Auburn, Calif. He is also the nephew of Randy A. Cross of Sarasota, Fla. The airman graduated in 2013 from Placer High School in Auburn.

Source: Joint Hometown News Releases



**Air Force Airman 1st Class James A. Meyers** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. He is a 2011 graduate of Colfax High School, Colfax, Calif.

Source: Joint Hometown News Releases

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# Arms and Legs are Not a Luxury

Continued from page 1

During the lifetime of an amputee, the physiology of their severed limb changes due to many different reasons. Since a prosthesis is individually made in the initial stages of loss, any variance in weight, shrinkage of a stump, infection, etc. can cause the device to become ill fitting and useless. Multiple trips to the prosthetist (limb maker) are necessary to correct the problem. Sometimes it even requires more than one artificial limb be crafted within the same year. Because there are financial caps and special rules associated with this ongoing treatment by insurance companies, the likelihood of a complete restoration, repair, or replacement is diminished and an otherwise vibrant, self sufficient member of society is reduced to becoming a slave to their disability, and in some cases, an invalid requiring constant assistance; a costly insurance benefit which IS offered

under most California insurance plans. To better understand the demoralizing and hopeless lifelong ramifications that can result from state controlled insurance exchanges placing financial caps, and thoughtless rules on the needs of people who have lost limbs, we can look at New York's lifetime cap.

If an individual suffers the loss of two limbs and requires prosthetics, under the "one limb per lifetime" rule, that person may have to make a choice as to which limb he or she wants to replace with an artificial device. In the event both legs or both arms are amputated, does the patient choose the right or the left, since only one may be paid for? Many children fall victims of accident or illness that result in the loss of a limb. At their young age, they will receive an artificial arm or leg. However, as they grow, the device doesn't grow with them, rendering them in need of additional artificial

limbs throughout their life to continue on a path of independence and normalcy. This rule and the practice of "capping," no matter what the level in any state, is cruel and in the long run, due to secondary complications, has the potential to carry excessive expense above what the initial cost would be.

California passed a law in 1986 (10123.7 CA Insurance Commissioner) recognizing that prosthetic limbs need to be covered by private insurance. In 2007, the wording was amended to proclaim that coverage must be "adequate." Unfortunately, it does not stipulate that insurance companies must cover prosthetic devices and ongoing care. According to the Amputee Coalition, this has created a situation where some plans (including many California Kaiser Plans) provide minimal or no coverage for prosthetic devices. By enacting the Insurance Fairness Amputee Act through government legislation, the needs of limbless individuals would be treated as other basic essential care items, guaranteeing amputees receive the attention they deserve at a reasonable cost.

Even with ongoing federal health reform, the Department of Health and Human Services bulletin released earlier this year indicated that prosthetic coverage was included with physician and specific office visits and surgery among other classifications. In simple terms, receiving an artificial limb and the necessary ongoing care that will assure it's useful is put in the same category as going to the doctor when you have the flu or having an appendix removed. This means the same percentage of co-payments and financial caps would come

into play. Since an artificial limb can cost between \$5,000 and \$50,000 depending on the type and mobility requirements, the out of pocket expense to an amputee can be prohibitive under this interpretation.

According to the Covered California information office based in Sacramento, under the Covered California guidelines, the amount of "adequate coverage" provided by private insurance and government health care guidelines is determined by the level of insurance coverage an individual purchases (bronze,

silver, or gold plans).

The least expensive plan would warrant the most out of pocket expense. In a study performed by the California Insurance Commissioner's office, it was determined that the overall cost to consumers to include comprehensive prosthetic coverage to Covered California's Essential Benefits list would be 16 cents per month, or less than \$2.00 per year. In perspective, paying to insure an amputee can walk or have the use of their arms and hands would cost California insurance consumers less than purchasing 40 pieces of bubble gum within a year's time. It seems like a small price to pay to guarantee the growing population of those who have lost limbs, and future amputees, the right to experience the same life everyone else can. Let's remember that arms and legs are not a luxury. If limbless individuals are not given the opportunity to be independent by offering them the allowance they need, they will have no choice but to rely on other aspects of the medical insurance industry and government sponsored programs to compensate, creating an unnecessary taxpayer burden.

We as California constituents can do something to eliminate Covered California's unfair practice of placing financial caps on the needs of those who have suffered the loss of one or more limbs. The Amputee Coalition, a national organization committed to enriching the lives of America's amputees, has worked to raise awareness of this issue since the passage of the Affordable Healthcare Act (Obamacare) in 2010. They've provided public comments to Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Center for Medicare Services (CMS) as well as to state governors, legislators, and insurance commissioners, emphasizing the importance of including prosthetic and orthotic devices and vital continuing care in the mandated Essential Health Benefits. Four years later, there is little resolve nationwide. The members of the coalition are working with federal legislators to provide a sign-on letter to members of Congress. The instrument requests that the HHS and CMS offices use the enforcement powers they were bestowed by the Affordable Healthcare Act to include necessary, on-going care



According to the healthcare cost and utilization project state inpatient database, California leads the country in hospital amputations performed; 14,800 in 2012. Due to this staggering number of new surgeries, California insurance carriers realize providing prosthesis coverage for an amputee who has suffered the trauma of losing a limb is vital. But when there are financial caps put on the lifelong process of actually being able to use the device, it can be devastating. Losing a limb is obviously a permanent occurrence. During the lifetime of an amputee, the physiology of their severed limb changes due to many different reasons. Since a prosthesis is individually made in the initial stages of loss, any variance in weight, shrinkage of a stump, infection, etc. can cause the device to become ill fitting and useless.

Photos courtesy of the Amputee Coalition

to amputees. Join in to make a positive, worthwhile change to a growing population by contacting your elected officials and asking them to "do the right thing." After all, it's an election year in many districts, and politicians should be reminded that voters can't get out to the polls without legs, and they can't punch the ballot without arms and hands.

For more information, visit [www.amputee-coalition.org](http://www.amputee-coalition.org). There, under the advocacy heading, you can find sample scripts, a downloadable letter to email to our elected officials, and personal stories outlining the difficulties amputees have in attaining medical insurance coverage for the basics: arms and legs.

Sources: [www.amputee-coalition.org](http://www.amputee-coalition.org), advocacy department; [www.mobilizessaves.com](http://www.mobilizessaves.com); [www.affordablehealthca.com](http://www.affordablehealthca.com); [www.coveredcalifornia.com](http://www.coveredcalifornia.com); Assembly Bill 1453 (Manning); Senate Bill 951 (Hernandez); [www.healthbenefitexchange.ny.gov](http://www.healthbenefitexchange.ny.gov) ★

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