

## Family — The Glue That Holds Circus Vargas Together!

## **PLUS:** What Did The Bugs Do Before I Came?

# ~ Placer entinel

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First Issue of September 2014

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# The Problem is Not the Price



By Sally C. Pipes

Is \$84,000 too much to pay to save a life? That's a question worth asking now that the insurance industry has declared war on what it has deemed outrageous prices for new specialty drugs.

In this case, the complaints focus on Sovaldi, a breakthrough treatment that gives three million people suffering from hepatitis C hope for a cure. That cure isn't cheap. Each of the 84 pills needed to complete a course of treatment costs \$1,000.

The drug's manufacturer "is asking for a blank check," complains Karen Ignagni, president of the insurer trade group America's Health Insurance Plans. "It will blow up family budgets, state Medicaid budgets, employer costs and wreak havoc on the federal debt."

Such short-sighted attacks on the price of life-saving drugs threaten patients' ability to access them — and discourage companies from investing the billions required to develop new cures. They also invite more government intrusion into our health care — without doing anything to actually reduce health costs.

The idea that \$84,000 is

somehow too much to spend saving a life doesn't make economic sense. That sum can buy many additional years of productive work — the economic value of which far exceeds the cost of the drug.

Vanderbilt University professor W. Kip Viscusi, one of the world's leading experts on the statistical value of life, estimates it at \$8.7 million.

Second, by fixating on drug prices, the insurance industry ignores the long-term savings that pharmaceutical treatments and cures can engender throughout the healthcare system.

The treatment options currently available to hepatitis C patients don't cure the disease. They can have terrible side effects — leading to liver transplants and premature death.

A recent analysis published in the journal Hepatology notes that the cost of treating these side effects can run more than \$270,000. If the patient ends up requiring a liver transplant, the cost can jump by \$577,000.

Suddenly, \$84,000 looks like a tremendous bargain.

The economic impact of treating or curing other diseases can be even greater. A 1% reduction

in cancer-related deaths yields \$500 billion in economic and quality of life gains, according to a paper published in the Journal of Political Economy.

New drug therapies also generate savings elsewhere in the healthcare system. The Congressional Budget Office has concluded that increased access to drugs for seniors through the Medicare Part D drug benefit has reduced other costs in the program.

But the real harm from the insurance industry's war on drugs is the risk it poses to pharmaceutical innovation.

Right now, some 5,000 new drugs are within the approval pipeline, many of them firstin-class drugs aimed at once untreatable diseases, "orphan" drugs for rare conditions, or diseases that haven't had a new treatment option in decades.

The cost of this innovation is staggering, including more than a decade's worth of research and development, a high risk of failure and expenses that can reach \$5.9 billion for each new drug that actually makes it to market.

But the result is breakthrough drugs that have turned the likes of HIV/AIDS into a manageable chronic disease and increased the life expectancy of those with

Pharmaceutical companies charge the prices they do to recoup their multibillion-dollar investments. Efforts to limit those prices can bring drug research and development to a halt.

For evidence, just look at Europe, where governments have forcibly limited drug prices for years. Three decades ago, the continent produced more than half the intellectual property around new medical innovations. "Europe now represents less than 25%," notes Robert Hugin, CEO of U.S. drug maker Celgene.

Insurance industry executives trying to deflect blame for rising premiums — or worried about meeting their quarterly earnings targets — may not care about declines in medical innovation.

But their single-minded focus on price hurts both patients desperate for cures today and the patients of tomorrow.

Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Taube Fellow in Health Care Studies at the Pacific Research *Institute. Her latest book is The* Cure for Obamacare (Encounter

### **IRS Phone Scam Calls Continue**

The Internal Revenue Service issued a consumer alert providing taxpayers with additional tips to protect themselves from telephone scam artists calling and pretending to be with the IRS.

These callers may demand money or may say you have a refund due and try to trick you into sharing private information. These con artists can sound convincing when they call. They may know a lot about you, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling. They use fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. If you don't answer, they often leave an "urgent" callback request.

"These telephone scams are being seen in every part of the country, and we urge people not to be deceived by these threatening phone calls," IRS Commissioner John Koskinen said. "We have formal processes in place for people with tax issues. The IRS respects taxpayer rights, and these angry, shake-down calls are not how we do business."

The IRS reminds people that they can know pretty easily when a supposed IRS caller is a fake. Here are five things the scammers often do but the IRS will not do. Any one of these five things is a tell-tale sign of a scam. The IRS will never:

- 1. Call you about taxes you owe without first mailing you ar official notice.
- 2. Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- 3. Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- 4. Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- 5. Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you get a phone call from someone claiming to be from the IRS and asking for money, here's what you should do:

If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1.800.829.1040. The IRS workers can help you with a payment issue.

If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General Continued on Page 9

## Raley's Settles Civil Environmental Case

Special Report District Attorney's Office

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) -

District Attorney Jan Scully joins 25 other California district attorneys in announcing that West Sacramento-based Raley's supermarket was ordered to pay \$1,599,000 in civil penalties, costs and supplemental environmental projects, as part of the settlement of a civil enforcement prosecution, which includes a final judgment and permanent injunction. Raley's cooperated with the prosecution

team throughout the investigation into their unlawful practices. The judgment is the culmi-

nation of a civil enforcement lawsuit filed in San Joaquin County to stop the supermarket chain from unlawfully transporting and disposing of retail hazardous waste. The lawsuit claimed that more than 130 Raley's supermarket stores improperly stored, handled, and disposed of hazardous waste and pharmaceutical waste products into company trash bins. Instead of being sent to authorized disposal sites, hazardous wastes and contaminated materials were being unlawfully transported to area landfills. Additionally, the lawsuit alleges that Raley's failed to take sufficient steps to preserve the confidentiality of their pharmacy customers' information.

As a result of the prosecution, California Raley's supermarkets modified existing policies and have adopted new policies and procedures designed to eliminate the disposal of retail hazardous waste products and pharmaceutical waste into store trash compactors for eventual

disposal into local landfills not equipped to handle such wastes. Hazardous waste produced by California Raley's supermarkets through damage, spills, and returns is now being collected by state-registered haulers, taken to proper disposal facilities, and properly documented and accounted for.

In addition, the settlement requires Raley's to dispose of or destroy all confidential customer medical information in a manner that preserves the confidentiality of the records.

In addition to devoting

resources to California environmental compliance with regard to hazardous waste identification, classification, storage, transportation, and disposal, Raley's has agreed to purchase five mobile freshwater purification systems to provide safe drinking water to local communities in California in times of emergency or other pressing need. The mobile freshwater purification systems will be located in Placer, El Dorado, Sonoma, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties, but will be available for use by other counties within the state.

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## William's Story



By Linda Frederick Yaffe

"I never met my father. I started going to school but they took me out of first grade. I never got to go back." William, a quiet, neatly-dressed man, looked away. His voice dropped to a whisper: "I never really learned to read."

William is a developmentally delayed man. Born in San Francisco in the early 1940's, he was passed from one residence — and institution — to another. Although he loved school, he was never allowed to return to the classroom. William has struggled for years with obsessive-compulsive disorder. He craves safety and certainty - the kind of security that he was denied during most of his life. Spending his days alone, year after year, he was isolated, unsocialized, and uneducated. William's life was thrown away like a paper cup.

In recent years, William's life has turned around. Through Placer Adult Literacy Service (PALS), a Placer County Library program since 1985, he has learned to read and write. He loves dogs, and has proudly memorized every breed. William especially enjoys books about happy families: families with parents taking their children places, having fun together. When he sees an image of a father playing with his children, he lingers on the page, looking fondly at the dad and stroking the picture. Reading - and imagining - vicariously give William the intact family he has longed for. As well as receiving regular reading help from his PALS Reading Coach, William attends an excellent educational day program, and lives comfortably in a local residential care home. He now enjoys the stability he craves. The other two

William, "my best friends." Can you find time in your life - a couple of hours a week - to teach someone to read? If you can read you can teach someone else to read. You have the power to change a life. Call Placer Adult Literacy Service (PALS) at (530) 886-4530, cell phone (530) 217-8266, or email PALS@placer. ca.gov. Ask how you can help by serving as a Reading Coach. Think how much reading influences your own life: pleasure, safety, instruction, a better job,

men living in the home are, says

helping children with homework, life-long learning. Then imagine how different your life would be...without the ability to read.

If someone you know struggles with reading, writing, or simple math, tell them to contact PALS for free, private, confidential, one-on-one help. They, too, can turn their lives around.

And you can help by joining the Literacy Support Council of Placer County (LSC): become a Reading Booster who organizes and speaks out for literacy. LSC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization since 1991, is a United Way Partner. Give through United Way at your workplace, CA Capitol Region LSC ID# 3061, or donate directly to the Literacy Support Council of Placer County, PO Box 5291, Auburn, CA 95604. Email us at LSCPlacer@yahoo.

Please join us at the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada St., Auburn on Saturday, September 20, 10 AM - 2 PM, as Placer County Library celebrates Family Literacy Day: free crafts, story times, new interactive online learning tools, and "Sweetie" the Dog.

Auburn resident Linda Frederick Yaffe is a longtime PALS volunteer Reading Coach and is President of the Literacy Support Council of Placer

## **PCWA Sees Opportunity in Water Bond Election**

AUBURN, CA (MPG) -Funding for water resource improvements in Placer County could be possible if California voters support the \$7.12 billion bond issue on the Nov. 4 ballot, it was reported at Thursday's (Aug. 21) meeting of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors.

PCWA leaders have been studying the funding opportunities following the State Legislature's Aug. 13 action to place the water bonds on the

The measure, Prop. 1, is titled the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. It authorizes \$7.12 billion in new water bonds and reallocates \$425 million in previously allocated bonds for a total of \$7.545 billion.

The bonds include \$2.7 billion for new water storage. Funding would not be used to pay for the widely debated water conveyance systems in the Delta.

"We see a number of areas where the Agency could be competitive for Bond funding for projects that would benefit our customers," said PCWA Director of Strategic Affairs Einar Maisch, who noted PCWA's participation in Integrated Regional Water Management Plans through both the Regional Water Authority and CABY (Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba) watershed planning group.

The PCWA board took no action on the item but will con-

sider it further in coming weeks. In other business, PCWA directors:

• heard a water supply update from drought project manager Tony Firenzi, who said customers are saving water and agency staff is optimistic that we have an adequate supply of water for the remainder of this year. He said the agency and PG&E are working to optimize use of remaining water supplies in the mountains for next year.

• heard an update on the planned transfer of PCWA's Zone 4 water system in eastern Placer County to the adjacent Northstar Community Services District. The system supplies about 600 connections in the Martis Valley.

Director of Technical Services Brent Smith said the transfer is under review by the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Approval is anticipated this fall.

• heard an update on PCWA's

capital improvement program. Engineering Services Manager Jeremy Shepard outlined six recently completed water projects, nine current projects and an additional ten projects planned

The next meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4, 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.



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VISA



Publisher Paul V. Scholl



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## **Americans to Honor Local Vets with Stand Down**



By Chaplain William Hart

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Our communities have a growing number of homeless and at-risk veterans. Many of them women. Some with children. The "Stand Down" concept is all about Americans helping Americans get what they've earned and deserve

In times of war, exhausted combat units requiring time to rest and recover were removed from the battlefields to a place of relative security and safety. Today, Stand Down refers to a community-based intervention program designed to help the nation's estimated 200,000 homeless and at-risk veterans "combat" life on the streets. Recognizing the best way to get veterans off the streets is to keep them from there in the first place, we extend an invita-

tion to ALL veterans. Gold Country Chaplaincy will, for the fourth consecutive year, host a Veterans' Stand Down at the Roseville Fairgrounds, 800 All America City Blvd., CA 95678 on September 16-18, 2014. Dozens of service providers and government agencies will be on-hand to assist our veterans in obtaining the benefits and services they have earned from a grateful nation. Sleeping arrangements will be provided for up to 100 veterans who wish

to stay overnight. Meals will be provided for all veteran. 300-400 veterans from around the region are expected to attend the threeday event.

This year, we changed our name to Gold Country Veterans' Stand Down to better reflect our desire to serve all veterans, regardless of where they live. The Stand Down is a team effort involving many local organizations, including: Veterans Services, The Vet Center, Kaiser Permanente, COSTCO, Walmart, KPVA, Red Cross, DAR, Kiwanis, American Legion, Goodwill, VFW, Safeway Inc. and many more supported by hundreds of volunteers over the three-day event.

For homeless and at-risk Veterans and their families, life on the streets is debilitating at best. Suffering from lack of shelter, unemployment, physical and emotional disabilities, and lack of food, veterans often feel completely isolated from mainstream society and unable to break out of the self-perpetuating cycle of homelessness. For those who do seek assistance, many are unable to access the help they need because the services required are spread out over a wide geographic area. Frustration and resignation often results. Imagine how the veteran feels knowing he or she has given so much

for their country, yet find themselves scraping for food or just a place to get out of the weather, let alone trying to gain VA benefits, such as medical care or the GI-bill. Many Stand Down volunteers were, themselves, homeless, unemployed veterans, or in danger of becoming so. We KNOW how it feels.

In assisting our veterans, we realize that sometimes it takes just one small hand up for them to break out of the cycle of homelessness. Even providing for the simplest need, such as a photo identification card, a bus token, a pair of shoes to start a new job, or just a shower and a warm bed to rest in for a night can start our honored veterans begin to break the cycle.

Individual volunteers, as well as services providers and government agencies are welcomed to participate and, of course, monetary and in-kind donations are always greatly appreciated. Please, contact the Gold Country Veterans Stand Down administration at (916) 632-6000and/or email us at msellie@bigplanet. com. You may, also, reach us through Placer County's Veteran Service Office.

Chaplain William Hart is available to talk to your group about Stand Down and how you might help give a hand up to our veterans.

## Girl Scouts Calls for New Members and Volunteers to Join in the Fun

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) -Girl Scouts Heart of Central California (GSHCC) is making its back-to-school push for girls and adult volunteers to join Girl Scouts, the country's preeminent leadership development organization for girls. With families thinking about how to allocate their free time during the coming school year, Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has released new data showing the organization's benefits for both girls and volunteers

Results of a summer 2014 pulse poll conducted with over 3.500 volunteers and parents of Girl Scouts in the K-5 age range show positive effects on members of all ages. Ninetyseven percent of parents agree that Girl Scouts has been a positive activity for their daughter, that she has had fun and exciting new experiences (95 percent), and that she has learned or tried something new (96 percent). In addition, 94 percent of parents say that because of Girl Scouts their daughter feels special, has more friends (95 percent), and is happier (89 percent).

The data shows it is not just girls who benefit: 94 percent of volunteers have made new friends, 88 percent believe their life is better because they volunteer with Girl Scouts, and two-thirds believe their volunteer experience has helped them professionally. Ninety-five percent of Girl Scout volunteers are happy knowing they are making girls' lives better.

"I'm proud of my Girl Scouts who are giving back to their community, while learning what it means to lead others," said Girl Scout Troop Leader Andrea L'Heureux. "My favorite part of being a Girl Scout volunteer is helping girls find what drives them and encouraging them to pursue their passions in a safe place."

Girl Scouts are trying new



activities, giving back to the community and gaining essential leadership skills. Wouldn't it be great if more girls could be part of experiences just like this? In order to guarantee this, we need even more volunteers—women and men, college students, parents and nonparents, retirees, young professionals, and more to accommodate the growing list of local girls looking to become Girl Scouts.

"Girl Scouts is an amazing model for leadership and truly makes a difference in the lives of both girls and volunteers," said Sarah Sanford, GSHCC's Assistant Vice President, Membership Development. "It's a safe place to belong and filled with exciting opportunities and new experiences. And sometimes I don't know who has more fun, the girls or volunteers!"

Girl Scouts is open to all girls from kindergarten through grade 12. The more adults step forward to volunteer, the more girls will get the chance to be a Girl Scout. Adults over age 18 may become volunteers, and there's training and support offered to every volunteer. Both girls and adult volunteers can join at any time of the year. To join or volunteer, please visit: girlscouts. org/join. Or attend a local Girl Scout information night; events are now occurring regularly throughout the region and for the next couple months.

\*Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Mariposa, Merced, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba.

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## Hometown Heroes



Air Force Airman Min Soo Goh 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.

Goh is the son of Seong Je Goh of Rocklin, Calif. He is a 2012 graduate of Rocklin High School, Rocklin, Calif.

Air Force Airman Samuel K. Gonzalez 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.

Gonzalez earned distinction as an honor graduate.

Gonzalez is the son of Amy K. Verner-Gonzalez of Rocklin, Calif., and Lorenzo Gonzalez of Covina, Calif.; and he is the nephew of Lisa and Paul Verner of Seattle, Wash.

He earned a diploma in 2012 from Rocklin High School, Rocklin, Calif.

Source: Joint Hometown News Release



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## Family — The Glue That Holds **Circus Vargas Together!**



Circus Vargas' connoisseur of comedy, Alex Acero, has the uncanny ability to make even the most austere of audience members erupt into fits of laughter! Photo courtesy of Circus Vargas.

PLACER COUNTY. CA (MG) - Circus Vargas is indeed a family operation. Owned and operated by a talented young couple who together with their immediate and extended family have managed to produce some of the most incredible productions in live family entertainment in generations all under the Big Top!

Every member of the family is involved in the day to day operations of the circus and together they function like a well-oiled machine. From the most veteran member of the family to the youngest child everyone works together. Like a village of artists and performers, when you visit them, it's almost impossible not to feel at home! "Our goal is to make everyone who comes to Circus Vargas feel welcomed, like part of the family", says Katya Quiroga, Co-Owner-Producer along with husband

A small self-contained city on wheels, they travel from town to town, yet always manage to keep some semblance of stability and continuity. Laid out across whatever parking lot or grass field the

setup is almost always the same. "We are our own little community. We have the same neighbors in each town. The trailers are parked in the exact same spots relative to the Big Top, so the environment is always familiar. You feel at home even in a place you've never been to before" says Katya.

The Quiroga family has 4 generations of its own traveling with Circus Vargas. Add to that the many other performers from all over the world along with their families and you'll understand why no one is ever lonely and certainly never bored. There are more than 20 children and teenagers at Circus Vargas and they have constant supervision. "There is always someone's grandmother, father, mother, brother or aunt around", laughs Katya, "so not much chance for anyone to misbehave and we are very big on respecting our elders." They are the perfect example of the "It takes a village..." theory. It is quite simply, a unique establishment. There is such a wonderful mix of energy, a cross between the United Nations and one big motley magical family!

Circus Vargas host, Jon Weiss, who travels with his wife and 3 children says it best. "The circus is a family in the sense that we feel responsible for each other. There is a tremendous respect you have for each other that doesn't come from any other kind of job. Sometimes you literally have each other's lives in your hands. We work together. We play together. We have barbeques, birthdays and baby showers. There is a kinship and sense of community."

It is only fitting that with so much togetherness, these friendships foster a deep respect and camaraderie that cultivates into sincere affection. They care about each other. Not only while they are performing but behind the scenes, as well. "You'll notice in the circus community that family really does come first," says Jon. It is the backbone, the glue that keeps Circus Vargas together. "We may not be related...but we are definitely family"!

Tickets available on-line at Circus Vargas.com, by phone at 877-GOTFUN-1 or at the Circus Box Office.

Lucky

Source: Circus Vargas









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## There is Magic at a Doll Show, **Bring Some of it Home**

is a doll & teddy bear show/sale about? The event showcases all aspects of the doll and teddy bear world, along with an international group of high profile

**PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) -** What artists sharing what they do. It is all about leaving the cares of the world behind and walking into a world of imagination and beauty, with the ability to bring some of the magic home.

This lighthearted show and sale is for enthusiasts of all ages with a sales floor packed with dolls, teddy bears, antiques, miniatures, clothes, accessories supplies, & more: from antique to modern and the carefully hand crafted. Several of the leading doll & teddy bear experts in the US as well as experts of reviving your well-loved treasures will be available to identify those mysterious dolls or teddy bears that are living in your 'wonder what they are worth' closet.



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- appraisal, bring up to 2 items · Teddy Bear identification and
- appraisal, bring up to 2 items • Extensive group of antique
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creativity

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#### Sierra Shoot Out Water Polo Tournament

PLACER COUNTY, CA - (MPG) The Sierra Shoot Out Water Polo tournament is back for another year at Sierra College. The junior college has hosted this high school tournament for over 20 years now, and 2014 brings another installment. The tournament will also continue to be a fundraiser for the Sierra College aquatics complex, which it has been in previous years.

The tournament takes place on two different weekends, with the men's games held September 5-6, and the women's games held September 12-13. Last year, there were 40 men's teams and 44 women's teams. Teams come from all over Northern California, with some coming from as far as the Fresno area.

The Sierra Shoot Out Tournament has notoriously been

one of the top High School Water Polo tournaments in the nation, especially on the women's side. For years, it has been considered one of the best and most competitive water polo tournaments in the Western United States. At one time it had a whopping 56 women's teams for one weekend, and the tournament committee hopes to reach that number again soon.★

Source: Placer Valley Tourism

# **Stand Up Placer Opens** Registration for 5K, 10K Run



AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Stand Up Placer has opened registration for its fourth annual Stand Up and Run 5K and 10K run and walk event. The event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 4 at Sculpture Park in Roseville.

Stand Up Placer is Placer County's primary provider of comprehensive services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, which includes a 24 hour crisis line, an emergency safe house, support groups and walk-in support at its Auburn and Roseville service offices. Onehundred percent of the funds raised from the family-friendly event go toward the organization's efforts to assist those in

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immediate crisis and survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

"We are grateful for Placer County residents' continued support of our mission to foster communities where abuse is not tolerated. Each person that stands up with us against domestic and sexual violence becomes an essential piece of the puzzle in helping those who have been victimized," said Michelle Coleman, Executive Director of Stand Up Placer. "The Stand Up and Run event helps create awareness of the critical services available to survivors of abuse in Placer County.'

In 2013, Stand Up Placer assisted more than 2,500 Placer

County residents, provided 5,819 safe bed nights in the safe house and answered a total of 3,694 calls on the 24 hour crisis line.

Stand Up and Run race registration costs \$25 for adults and \$15 for children, with special rates available for families and teams of five. Information about available event sponsorships and donations can be found on the organization's website. Registration can be completed online, by visiting www.standupplacer.org/standup-and-run/

Source: Stand Up Placer

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## California Catholic Universities Compromised

Commentary from The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights

Bill Donohue comments on a decision by the administration of California Governor Jerry Brown forcing Catholic universities to pay for abortion in their health plans:

Governor Brown and his administration caved into requests from pro-abortion groups and reversed an earlier decision that allowed Santa Clara and Loyola Marymount universities to exclude coverage for "elective" abortions in their previously approved health insurance plans. Both schools are now being told to include coverage for all abortions.

"Abortion is a basic health

care service" said the health department's director, Michelle Rouillard. She said the exemptions violated a 1975 state law that required health plans to cover all services that were "medically necessary." She did not say why electing to kill children in utero was "medically necessary."

As part of the exemption both schools had already agreed to cover abortions when they were needed to save the life of the mother, or prevent serious health damage. Loyola Marymount even allowed employees to pay extra if they wished to have "elective" abortions included in their health insurance plans as well. But this was not enough to satisfy abortion-rights zealots.

Catholic universities have a

right and a duty to uphold the tenets of their faith in everything they do. Paying for abortions is in direct conflict with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Not only is this decision morally obscene, it violates the religious liberties of Catholic institutions. The universities should now sue on First Amendment grounds. Perhaps a judge can educate the Brown administration on the need to keep church and state separate. ★

The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights 450 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10123

Phone: 212-371-3191 Fax: 212-371-3394 Email: pr@catholicleagu

Dare to Live Without Limits Positive Thinking



Does positive thinking really work? Have you tried it and been disappointed? Do you find your thoughts drifting to the negative even though you try to make them positive?

Positive thinking is extremely powerful. It is essential to goal achievement. Positive thinking begins the process of attracting the circumstances and people you need in order to get where you want to go. Positive thinking is a crucial component of problem solving.

If you haven't had great success with positive thinking, you are likely discouraged. Even if you may not have realized the results you had hoped for, what's the alternative? Negative thinking?

Although you may be skeptical about positive thinking, no one can claim negative thinking is preferable.

Since negative thinking will certainly exacerbate any problems, you have nothing to lose by thinking positively. Positive thinking has benefits without any negative side effects.

Negative thoughts are displaced with positive ones. Many people have far more negative thoughts than they realize. Start by monitoring what you think about. Supplant each negative thought with a positive one. For example, replace I can't with I can, it won't work with I'll find a way to pull it off, I don't know how with I'll find a way, and I don't want to fail with I'll be successful

Changing your thoughts is a continuous process. Even the most positive people have negative thoughts. However, they catch themselves and immediately engage in positive replacement.

With practice, your positive thoughts will far outnumber any negative ones and the negative ones will be more readily displaced.

Although positive thinking is great, two additional components are required in order to realize its full, unlimited potential. Your positive thoughts must be accompanied by a positive plan and positive action. Your positive thoughts will facilitate plan formulation and motivate you to take action.

Your plan is the roadmap that delineates the steps required to attain your goal. A goal can be something you want to accomplish, a problem that needs to be solved, or an obstacle to be overcome.

A common pitfall is to make each step in your plan too large. It's hard getting started on a big step. Make sure you divide each big step into smaller, more manageable segments. By so doing, you reduce the likelihood of becoming overwhelmed.

If you have problems formulating a workable plan, tap into your positive thinking. Direct your mind to discover a workable plan. Leave you mind open to all possibilities. Be patient. An idea or inspiration can come at anytime, from anywhere.

A plan is dynamic. It can be modified as needed at any time. You can add, change, or eliminate steps. Your positive thoughts keep your mind receptive to any alterations you'll need to make.

Once your plan is in place, you must take action. Without action nothing happens. Start with the first step in your plan. It doesn't matter how small the step might be, getting started is what's imperative. Procrastination is particularly debilitating when you want to get started. The longer you delay taking action, the longer it will take before you see results.

After the first step, take the next one. Continue taking action until your goal is accomplished. If you get side tracked, stumble, or suffer a setback, just get back on course. As long as you keep moving forward, you will ultimately be successful.

Begin with positive thoughts. Next create a positive plan. Then take action. Utilizing this combination strategy enables you to accomplish more than you previously thought possible.

This is exactly the same method used by all great achievers. ★

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

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5	1	4	3	O)	2	7	6	8
9	8	7	4	1	6	2	5	3
4	5	8	2	6	9	3	7	1
7	3	6	1	4	5	8	9	2
1	2	9	7	8	3	6	4	5
8	4	3	9	5	7	1	2	6
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2	9	1	6	3	4	5	8	7

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WHO CHANGES THE BAGS?

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#### By Ronnie McBrayer

The Buddha said, "When the student is ready, the teacher will appear." Well, ready or not kids, your teachers are showing up in classrooms everywhere. It's time to crack open the books, slip the surly bonds of summer, and head back to school.

In the coming days, and in some regions the academic year is well under way already, this country's 130,000 public and private schools will be firing on all cylinders, spending \$600 billion on the rudiments of reading, writing, and arithmetic; employing some four million teachers, and educating more than 60 million children. Of course many who have completed their secondary education will now proceed to college, technical school, or university.

My counsel is to go back to school every autumn as long as the administration will allow it – not to avoid the employment line or devour your parents' purse mind you – but to learn all you can. And more so, to learn to become a learner: For when you stop learning, the proverb goes, you've stopped living.

This applies even to those who have the parchment hanging on the wall, those in well-established careers, and to those who haven't set foot onto a school yard in decades. We are always in school,

## Stay in School

or at least we should be, and those who feel they have matriculated to the point of knowing all they ever need to know have given up on a large part of living.

Review your own education. You began with phonetics and pronunciation, the beginnings of how to read. You learned about numbers and basic mathematics. You were taught elementary history. You got to finger paint or draw pictures in art class.

As you progressed, you repeated the same lessons, the same subjects, and the same material but always with increasing breadth and greater depth. What began as basic pronunciation eventually became ability to read Shakespeare and Dickinson. Simple mathematics became the building blocks for geometric calculations and a career in engineering.

You began with George Washington and Paul Revere and then moved to post-Enlightenment studies, geo-political globalization, and macroeconomics. You move from finger painting to creating magnificent portraits or composing musical scores. You learned the same lessons over and over again – but each time you went further.

So, if we reach a point in our studies - in life or faith where we think we know it all, or at least we know enough, we haven't graduated. We have quit. We have run aground. When we refuse to learn anything more, we become fixated, immature masters of minutia, nothing more, and life grows incredibly small – looking like old men and women stuffed into preschoolers' chairs.

Mystery is murdered, discoveries dry up, and gone is the joy and excitement of new, daily revelation. How many treasures are forfeited by those who "know that they know that they know," but they have learned nothing new in decades? Their minds and hearts as closed as a freshman's Algebra book. In the words of Russian giant Leo Tolstoy, an author that every student should aspire to read, "Even the strongest current of water cannot add a drop to a cup which is already full."

Maybe the always returning school year is a reflection of how God lets life bring each of us back to the classroom. It is an act of redemption, really, for we get another chance to learn our lessons; to take the same course, again and again if necessary, so we can get it right; to pick up the material that we have not yet mastered or refused to heed, and to go

Still, I suppose that every student, from the Kindergartener learning to read to the old man once again attempting to kick his addiction, feels like he is being crushed by the repetition of the classroom. But God's classroom isn't a form of punishment. The lessons must be learned for our own maturation and well-being, and the Teacher knows this. Therefore, he is infinitely patient with his instruction, giving us every opportunity to succeed – if only we will.

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.

## What Did The Bugs Do Before I Came?

Dr. James L. Snyder

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and Yours Truly finally exercised our right to a vacation and planned for a whole week to spend with our son and his family. Preparing for a week vacation takes about six weeks prior to the vacation and then six weeks after the vacation to get caught up. I do not know how people take vacations all the time.

It was to be a great week of relaxing and spending time with our son and his family in the state of Ohio. Ohio is remarkable for a lot of things but when my wife and I think of Ohio we think of one thing: our grandchildren.

Someone once remarked that grandchildren was God's way of apologizing for our children. Maybe that is so, I do not know. If so, I gladly accept His apology. All I know is it is wonderful to spend time with grandchildren. The important thing about being a grandparent is discovering the skills necessary to adequately spoil your grandchildren within a week's time frame. Secretly, my plan is to get back at my children for their childhood in my home by spoiling my grandchildren in their home.

Revenge is sweet and wonderful.

It was about the middle of the week and my wife and I were sitting outside enjoying the cool weather. All of the grandchildren had been snuggled down into their beds for the night. It certainly is tiring to spend the day with grandchildren who have no shortage of energy and whose tongue is a well oiled machine and does not know how to be quiet.

Our ears were still tingling from the day's childish verbiage extravaganza.

We were sitting in the backyard sipping some hot coffee, enjoying the quiet evening when I heard this buzzing sound on the left side of my head. Automatically

my hand swatted in that area and I went on drinking my coffee as though nothing had happened. I thought perhaps the kids were still up or maybe it was a flashback from the afternoon.

My wife looked at me as though something weird happened, but we continued enjoying the evening atmosphere with only the soothing sounds of sipping coffee.

Then I heard the buzzing sound again. This time it was on the other side of my head and as I swatted I began to realize what was happening. All of the bugs in the state of Ohio had received a memo that I was vacationing in the state. In well organized shifts they began the welcoming process. Within a short time I was swatting bugs with both hands which did not seem to change the situation at hand.

I know I am a sweet person, but this was becoming ridiculous. I would like to retain my sweetness for something other than bugs.

I am not quite sure how many bug bites I received that night, I stopped counting at 2,973,442 bites. I am not quite certain, but it was feeling more like it had exceeded 3 million bites. If I had a penny for every bug bite I would buy some very expensive bug repellent.

It seemed like they were working in shifts and it got to the point where my mind shifted into a murder scenario. Is it a crime to murder a bug who has bitten me so many times? Of course the real question is, is it really murder? Could it be considered a mercy killing?

And if it is murder, what is the penalty for murdering a bug? I was at the point that I would gladly have paid handsomely for the privilege of putting some bugs to rest.

As a spiritually minded person, I wondered if bugs go to heaven when they die? If they go to heaven, do they continue to bite? And, would it be proper for an angel to swat a bug in heaven?

The mood I was in, after being bitten so many times by these lousy bugs, I had an opposite destination in mind. Since they like fire so much and are attracted to it, I would be glad to accommodate them. I know a place that would fit the situation quite well.

After two hours of fighting these stinking bugs, my sanity, as fragile as it is, was on the brink of collapsing. Once my sanity collapses I am not responsible for what I will do or say. It was hard to find a place on my body one finger wide where a bug had not tasted the delicacy of my sweet

One question I reflected on was simply, what did the bugs do before I arrived? Did they save up all their energy for when I would come and visit? This is not the kind of celebrity status I am seeking. My preference is to be anonymous to all the bugs in

All of these insects, whatever they were, were simply bugging me to death.

When I regained some composure, I thought about what it must have been like for Jesus to come into this world. The writer of Hebrews puts it this way, "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Hebrews 9:28).

So many things in this world bug me, but I have something greater to look forward to, a place called heaven.

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 jamessnyder2@att.net. His website is www.jamessnyder-

# Just a Pinch



Sharing Hometown Recipes, Cooking Tips and Coupons

By Janet Tharpe

Earn an A+ with this Easy Dinner, Parmesan Chicken Pops

"The whole family will love these!"





Stacey Lawson New Orleans, LA (Pop. 343,829)

s back-to-school activities gear up, need a quick and Aeasy dinner idea? Make sure to put Stacey Lawson's

Parmesan Chicken Pops on your menu! This is a simple recipe with seriously big flavor. And, they're a fun, easy way to talk your kids into eating their dinner.

See step-by-step photos of Stacey's recipe plus thousands more from home cooks nationwide at: www.justapinch.com/pops

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

#### Parmesan Chicken Pops

## **What You Need**

1/2 c crushed corn flakes 3 tbsp grated parmesan cheese 1/4 tsp granulated

garlic

1 1/4 lb skinless, boneless chicken breasts halves 3 tbsp melted butter Salt and pepper

Bamboo skewers

### **Directions**

 Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

• In a bowl combine crushed corn flakes, cheese and garlic. Salt and pepper to taste.

 Dip chicken pieces in butter and roll in corn flakes mixture.

Place on a baking

rack in a shallow

baking pan.

• Bake for about 30 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink.

cooled, stick bamboo stick into

## When somewhat strip.

#### Submitted by: Stacey Lawson, New Orleans, LA (Pop. 343,829) www.justapinch.com/pops

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#### **CLUES**

ACROSS 1. Gold measurement 6. \*Trans World \_\_\_lines

9. Daughter of Zeus 13. Broadcasting sign 14. \*Watson's and Crick's

15. Alternative to truths

17. Denouement

18. Beginning of a sickness

19. \*1950s car feature

21. Aroused 23. + or - atom

24. Montana tribe 25. Pecking mother

28. Do over 30. Genuflect in

submission

35. Spill the beans

37. \*McCarthy's foes

39. Wither from heat 40. Fairvtale beast

41. Anklebone

43. Crunchable info 44. New World parrot

46. Acute

47. Grand

48. In need of fixing

50. Brooklyn team 52. Bia fuss

53. Minor damage

55. Beehive State native 57. \*Type of skirt popular

60. \*First man-made satel-

lite to orbit earth

64. Schoolmarm's whip 65. Rainy

67. \*It supported the North in Korean War

68. Brandish 69. Sodium hydroxide

70. Piece of cake

71. Approximately 72. Coniferous tree

73. Indian \_ DOWN

1. \*Nixon's respectable Republican

\_ Karenina

3. Hindu princess

4. Garlicky mayonnaise

5. Make an attempt 6. Yemeni port

7. \*Holiday \_\_\_ motel chain

8. Highway patrolman's gun 9. \*Slugger Aaron debuted in 1954

10. Gaelic 11. "\_\_\_ there, done that"

12. "C'\_\_\_ la vie!" 15. \*The Platters' sound

20. Dead to the world

22. Moo goo gai pan pan 24. Young codfish 25. \*Thermonuclear weapon

26. "Pomp and Circumstance

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27. Narcotics lawman 29. Wanted state in old west?

31. Bankrolls

33. "Eight Is Enough" group, e.g. 34. \*Frisbee and Hula Hoop maker

36. Yellow on bald eagle 38. "Absolutely!"

42. Get something ready

45. Tied the knot

49. Not a thing 51. Exterior plaster

54. Very recently 56. Set of principles

57. Lucy and Ricky, e.g.

58. Has a mortgage 59. \*1952 Olympic site

60. Like soup, but thicker

61. Supreme Court count 62. Ancient Peruvian 63. \*Newsweek sports editor, "Boys

of Summer" author 64. Pencil type 66. \*CBS unveiled this logo in 1951

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First Issue of September 2014 Placer Sentinel • 9



## **The Unemployment Charade**

The government report is favorable: "The U.S. unemployment rate decreased to 6.1 percent in June 2014." So explain why The Orange County Register's financial columnist, Johathan Lansner, seems depressed when he writes: "Why don't you feel as good as the economic trends suggest you should? . . . the unparalleled depths and pain of the most recent downturn - the worst since the Great Depression... continued economic angst is certainly tied to stubbornly high joblessness."

There's a reason why conditions feel bad; it's because they are! The U.S. Labor Department

defines unemployment, by its U-3 category, to be "...when people are without jobs and have actively looked for work within the past four weeks." Thus the ex-\$60,000 per year executive now flipping burgers at In-N-Out is not unemployed, nor is the poor jobless stiff whose unemployment insurance just ran out.

A more rational definition of unemployment is classed U-6, which includes persons who have looked for work during the past 12 months, last resort part-timers and others who have given up in disgust. By this categorization, it's believed our nation's unemployment rate is between 17 and 22 percent—not quite up to the

1930s level, but getting close.

A final comment: As our political leaders are favorably regarded with a brisk economy and low unemployment, they've decreed, by definition, that the unemployment rate will be low. Could it be that the only unemployment which truly matters to them is their own?

Al Jacobs, a professional investor for nearly a half-century, distributes a monthly newsletter in which he shares his financial knowledge and experience.

You may sign up for it at www. onthemoneytrail.com.

#### **PANDEMIC PANACEA**

Can you read the news or watch TV news or listen to the radio news and not be fearful of your health? The headlines scream with fears of a global pandemic as people in West Africa are dying in the 1200 to 1400 range and more from the Ebola virus. Florida health officials are warning beachgoers about a seawater bacterium that can invade cuts and scrapes to cause flesheating disease. It's enough to want to hole up in a cave someplace away from everything, but then, there might be something worse in the cave...maybe rabid bats or something. We even worry about thousands of illegal kids coming through our borders from Central America with diseases we thought we had licked decades ago.

So, how do we protect ourselves from all the possibilities? I'm sure there is nothing 100% guaranteed, but I did speak with Dr. Elaina George on POPPOFF recently, and she told me there are some things we can do to give

with Mary Jane Popp us a shot at playing 'keep away' with some of these diseases. Dr. George is a Board Certified Otolaryngologist which specializes in ear, nose, and throat afflictions, and she also hosts her own radio show "Medicine On Call." Since we hear so much about how touching our face can pass on so many nasty things, I figured **Dr. George** is the perfect person to give us some tips on

POPPOFF!

1) GET A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP. An average 7-8 hours will promote the immune system to reset.

how to stay healthy in the very

unhealthy world we live in. So

she shared her top tips with me.

2) WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY. Soap and water is very effective.

3) STAY HYDRATED. She prefers filtered water.

4) CHOOSE ORGANIC FOODS WHEN POSSIBLE. Co-ops and Farmer's Markets are cost effective.

5) ADD PROBIOTICS DAILY. 70% of the immune system is in the gut. Taking probiotics can replace the good bacteria to help the immune system work more efficiently to promote protection.

ADDING IMMUNE **BOOSTING SUPPLEMENTS** CAN HELP. Some of the

vitamins are Vitamin C, Zinc, Vitamin D3 (before starting Vitamin D, have a doctor check your Vitamin D levels to make sure you know your baseline. After you begin your supplementation, have your levels checked periodically so that levels will remain in the normal range.

7) LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF REFINED SUGAR IN YOUR DIET. The culprits can be soft drinks, candy, cake, etc. Sugar can depress the immune system.

8) LIMIT FRUCTOSE IN YOUR DIET AS IT AFFECTS THE FUNCTION OF THE LIVER. The liver is one of the most important organs that helps remove toxins from the body.

If you want more information about things you can do to help yourself, you can check out Dr. George's website at www. drelainageorge.com. From what I learned from Dr. George, your immune system is your key to staying healthy not only from future diseases, but everyday problems from colds to fatigue. We've got to take the bull by the horns and aim those horns at every nasty condition facing us every single day. STAY WELL! STAY HAPPY!

## **IRS Phone Scam Calls Continue**

Continued from Page 1

for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1.800.366.4484 or at www. tigta.gov.

If you've been targeted by this scam, also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use their "FTC Complaint Assistant" at FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your complaint.

Remember, too, the IRS does not use email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue. For more information on reporting tax scams, go to www.irs.gov and type "scam" in the search box.

Additional information about tax scams are available on IRS

D8A8D41D. and Tumblr http:// internalrevenueservice.tumblr. com where people can search "scam" to find all the scamrelated posts.

social media sites, including

YouTube http://youtu.be/UHlx

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A Special Article by Tim Riley

The pendulum often swings wildly in the world of network television programming, and even the most stable and profitable networks are susceptible to a changing landscape of shifting tastes in the popular culture.

Case in point: The CBS network, which has thrived for years with police procedurals and shows skewering to an older demographic, rolled the dice last year and pursued a different direction, namely launching four comedies and only one drama.

The CBS 2014 fall season is fast approaching, and the ratio of new comedies to dramas has been completely flipped. We're going back to the good old days. The one anomaly is that last year's only new drama, "Hostages," couldn't pay the ransom and got cancelled.

Two of last year's four comedies remain on the schedule, "Mom" and "The Millers," and I am not sure why. The other two series were dropped, the egregiously bad "We Are Men," and most famously "The Crazy Ones," starring Robin Williams, the cancellation of which occurred before his tragic suicide.

The other big news this year about the CBS network is that Nina Tassler, longtime president of CBS Entertainment, got a big promotion to Chairman of CBS Entertainment. A fixture on the TV critics press tour, Tassler announced that "CBS is also coming off another season as America's most-watched network, the 11th time in 12 years." That's an almost typical yearly refrain.

A few critics challenged Tassler about the network's lack of diversity, as compared to ABC, for example, which has several new series with mostly minority casts. The charge was leveled that there's not a single show on the fall schedule where a non-white person is the star of the show.

Tassler pointed that network programming is a year-round event, and if one were to look at the overall picture it would be evident that one of the biggest stars just happened to fit

## Riley Reviews

#### **CBS FINDS COMFORT LEVEL** WITH NEW DRAMAS ON **FALL SCHEDULE**

the diversity mold, namely Halle Berry in the summer science-fiction series "Extant."

The diversity question offered Tassler an opportunity to plug the one new comedy. "The McCarthys," though it is about a close-knit, sportscrazed Boston family that is pure vanilla, one of the lead characters in the family is openly gay.

Interestingly, Tyler Ritter, the son of the late comedian John Ritter, plays the part of Ronny McCarthy, the one member of the family disinterested in sports but recruited by his reluctant father (Jack McGee), a gruff high school basketball coach, to become his assistant.

A recognizable figure from many TV shows, Laurie Metcalf plays the part of Ronny's mom, who claims Ronny is her favorite child, probably because he's the only who is willing to watch "The Good Wife" with her rather than a sporting event.

If it's not yet clear, Ronny is the gay family member. This does not upset his mother; she's only distraught that Ronny wants to leave Boston and his family to take a teaching job in faraway Rhode Island. An abrupt change in career plans should lead to comic relief.

The "NCIS" franchise hardly needs a boost. It is claimed to be the most popular drama on television, drawing a viewership near 20 million. "NCIS: New Orleans" looks promising as a spin-off, and not just because Mark Harmon will be on hand in the beginning for the effective crossover effect.

Drawing Scott Bakula back into primetime as the head of the New Orleans office, "NCIS: New Orleans" looks to succeed on its own merits, regardless of pedigree. For one thing, the pilot episode was thrilling, with the added bonus of authentic location shots straight out of the Big Easy, a visually compelling metropolis.

"Madam Secretary" is pure fictional drama, but it is sure to invite comparisons to a famous female Secretary of State, and I am not talking about Madeleine Albright, whose memoirs have the same title as the CBS show. Far too attractive for a high government post, Tea Leoni stars as Elizabeth McCord, a college professor and brilliant former CIA analyst tapped for

the top diplomatic post.

The shrewd and determined McCord returns to public life at the request of the President, following the suspicious death of her predecessor at the State Department. The President values her deep knowledge of the Middle East and her ability to think outside the box.

McCord may have to handle intrigue, debate third world problems and finesse foreign dignitaries at work, but that's just a warm-up to going home at the end of the day to a supportive husband (Tim Daly) and two independently-minded bright children.

CBS Chairman Tassler could have pointed to Maggie Q as a prime example of minority representation in a starring role. In "Stalker," Maggie Q stars as Lt. Beth Davis, a strong, focused expert in the field of investigating stalking incidents for the Threat Assessment Unit of the Los Angeles Police Department.

A recent transfer from the same type of unit in the NYPD's homicide division, Dylan McDermott's Detective Jack Larsen has a history of questionable behavior that has landed him in trouble before. Larsen has a few personal issues involving his ex-wife that cause him to be a borderline suspect for stalking. Besides, he's got problems with his new boss, Lt.

That "Stalker" is created by Kevin Williamson, the talent behind "The Following," should be a clue that this could be an eerie and disturbing drama. Let's just say that the opening scene of this series is definitely frightening and unsettling, which is likely the effect the creator had in mind.

If the cast of "The Big Bang Theory" just happened to tune into an episode of a new CBS series, that show would have to be "Scorpion," a highoctane drama that is apparently inspired by a true story of eccentric high-tech genius Walter O'Brien.

O'Brien (Elyes Gabel) and his team of brilliant misfits form the last line of defense against high-tech threats of the modern age. As Homeland Security's new think tank, O'Brien's "Scorpion" team is a collection of socially awkward oddballs who are not comfortable with the outside world.

The nerdy masterminds in "Scorpion" get the perfect job, a place where they can apply their exceptional brainpower to solve the nation's crises. This series celebrates nerd power in a way that could make Sheldon and the gang to have a look that is positively retrograde.

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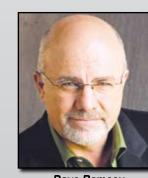


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Dave Ramsey



Mary Jane Popp



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## **SWEET IDEAS FOR** Al Fresco Entertaining





ou can heighten the fun of every outdoor gathering with the right nibbles, noshes and refreshments. A fruitful al fresco experience involves lively conversation with good friends, easy finger foods and tasty, versatile drinks that fit the laid-back atmosphere. For the hosts who long for a successful backyard bash, consider serving palate-pleasing Moscato. This deliciously sweet wine varietal has become very popular as its approachable flavor profile is a guaranteed crowd pleaser.

#### Mix it up with fun flavors

In addition to the classic peach taste of the Gallo Family Vineyards Original White Moscato, try the aromatic orange blossom notes of their Pink Moscato or the yummy red berry finish of their Red Moscato.

Or, dust off your finest barware and make a splash by serving simple wine cocktails. Whether it's a refreshing spin on a classic, like the Moscato-lini below, or your own recipe, Moscato's fruit-forward flavors make it a great and unexpected base for cocktails.

#### Add a bit of flare

To keep outdoor gatherings exciting, Gallo Family Vineyards offers these refreshing tips:

- Label your food offerings for guests in a fun way by cutting a slit in wine corks and inserting a small card. ■ Help guests cool down by
- serving sweet wine cocktails on ice.
- Give your guests a fun way to keep track of their drinks by painting the bottom of wine glasses with chalkboard paint. Guests can use chalk to write their names and draw pictures.

For other ideas to make outdoor entertaining a hit, visit www.GalloFamily.com.

#### **Blackberry Moscato Bellini**

Servings: 1

1/4 cup blackberries 1 tablespoon water

- 5 ounces chilled Gallo Family Vineyards Moscato
- 1 whole blackberry for garnish

Combine blackberries and water in blender and puree until smooth. Strain through fine-mesh strainer, discarding seeds and solids. Fill bottom of chilled Champagne coupe with blackberry puree. Top with Moscato and garnish with fresh blackberry.

#### **Moscato Moscow Mule**

Servings: 1

- 4 ounces ginger beer
- 3 ounces Gallo Family Vineyards Moscato
- 1 ounce lime juice 1 lime wheel
- 1 mint sprig for garnish

Pour ginger beer, Moscato and lime juice into ice-filled copper mug. Garnish with lime wheel and mint sprig.

#### **Moscato Meatball Skewers**

Prep time: 15 minutes Cook time: 30 minutes Servings: 32 meatballs

- 2 pounds bulk spicy Italian sausage
- 1/2 cup Gallo Family Vineyards Red Moscato
- 1 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 cup diced cucumber 1 lemon
- 1/4 cup cilantro, chopped

Parmesan cheese, optional Preheat oven to 350°F.

In large bowl, stir together sausage and Moscato until combined. Using medium cookie scoop, form meatballs and place on baking sheet, evenly spaced. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until no longer pink.

Meanwhile, in small bowl stir together all other ingredients to create yogurt sauce.

Thread meatballs onto skewers and serve alongside yogurt sauce. Garnish with additional cilantro and grated Parmesan cheese, if desired.

#### **Strawberry Pink Moscato Ice Pops**

Prep time: 15 minutes (plus at least 10 hours to freeze) Cook time: 1 minute Servings: 16

#### Fruity layer:

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup water
  - pound ripe strawberries, hulled
- pinch of fine sea salt
- 8 fluid ounces Gallo Family Pink Moscato

#### Creamy laver:

- 1 can (14 ounce) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 1/2 cups half and half 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon orange blossom water
- 1 pinch of fine sea salt

To make fruity layer, combine sugar and water in small saucepan. Heat over low, stirring until sugar dissolves. Remove from heat and let cool completely. Add cooled syrup, strawberries and salt to jar of blender and puree until almost smooth, leaving bit of texture. Stir in pink moscato.

To make creamy layer, place everything into a 4-cup capacity measuring cup with a spout and whisk together until well combined.

To freeze, fill ice pop molds about one-fifth of way with either mixture (layers can be any size or amount you choose). Put in freezer until first layer is set enough to hold another layer, 60-90 minutes. Store mixtures in fridge between lavers.

Remove and fill another one-fifth with opposite mixture. Return to freezer until layer is set. Repeat until molds are filled to top, adding ice pop sticks in once third layer is added (adjust to type of ice pop mold). After final layer is added, freeze at least another 6–8 hours before serving.

To serve, run bottom of molds under hot water for few seconds, or until able to pull ice pop free from mold. (If using paper cup, just peel cup away.)

Note: If you don't want layers, whisk mixtures together. You can also make each layer into its own ice pop, if you choose.



#### **Food Pairing Notes**

Moscato is more than just a dessert wine. It tastes great with a variety of food and particularly helps balance out spicy dishes that heat up the night. No matter what cuisine you're cooking up, a chilled glass of Gallo Family Vineyards Moscato and the pairing guide below are the perfect combination to elevate your outdoor engagements.

- White Moscato: The honey notes are a perfect match for grilled seafood, such as shrimp or trout.
- Pink Moscato: Great paired with spicy Asian or Mexican dishes, and complements everyday desserts.
- Red Moscato: This refreshing red is served cold. Try it with light cheeses and juicy burgers.

#### **Moscato Mango Mojito**

Servings: 1

- 1 lime, cut into eighths
- 5 leaves basil, plus more for garnish
- 1/2 teaspoon demerara sugar
- 1 1/4 ounces Gallo Family Vineyards Moscato
- 1 ounce white rum
- 1 1/4 ounces mango puree or mango nectar

Muddle lime, basil leaves, and sugar in bottom of cocktail shaker. Fill with ice; add Moscato, white rum and mango nectar. Shake and strain into ice-filled rocks glass. Garnish with basil sprig.

## When Government **Openness Matters**



Commentary By Lee H. Hamilton

One of the fundamental lessons of the 9/11 tragedy was that our government carried a share of blame for the failure to stop the attacks. Not because it was asleep at the switch or ignorant of the dangers that Al Qaeda posed, but because the agencies charged with our safety did not share what they knew, either up and down the chain of command or with each other. The attacks were preventable with shared information.

This insight was highlighted in the report of the 9/11 Commission — on which I served — and became a key driver of the reforms instituted by the U.S. intelligence community over the last dozen years. Within the government, there are plenty of people who now understand that sharing information and using it to inform planning and debate produces better policy: rooted in facts, well-vetted, and more robust.

So it's worrisome that today it seems harder than ever to know what our government is doing, and not just when it comes to national security. Secrecy and a widespread failure to share information both within government and with the American people remain major barriers to the effective operation of representative democracy.

This unwillingness to be open

often arises for the wrong reasons. In many cases, officials claim they're trying to prevent harm to the national security, but actually want to avoid embarrassing themselves or to sidestep the checks and balances created by our Constitution.

So secretiveness infiltrates government culture. The White House has become remarkably adept at making sure the President rarely faces an unscripted or uncomfortable moment — a trend that's been building for decades. The government classifies far too many documents at too high a cost, to the point where vital information is inadequately protected because of the sheer volume of needlessly classified information.

Federal agencies often keep information from inspectors general, our nation's appointed watchdogs. They do their best to put strict limits on what Congress finds out; I often get the impression that the executive branch would prefer an uninformed Congress to one knowledgeable enough to press high-ranking officials, including the President, on their understanding of policy challenges, the steps they're taking to address them, and the articulation of the policy. Congress — ostensibly the people's branch of government - all too often lets the Executive get away with it.

Failing to share information makes us weaker. It enfeebles congressional oversight, which is one of the cornerstones of representative democracy and which, when aggressively carried out by fully informed legislators, can strengthen policy-making. It makes it far more difficult to maintain our system of checks and balances. It exacerbates mistrust between branches of government and between the government and the American people. And it chips away at the foundation of our system, which rests on a public that is wellinformed about what government is doing and why.

Without that information, we are poorer in our ability to exercise discriminating judgment on the conduct of policy and of politicians, and we lose our advantage over authoritarian societies: the spread of knowledge to people searching for a solution to our society's challenges and problems.

In fact, if you look at the public discussion of any number of recent controversies — Benghazi, NSA surveillance, the IRS rulings, reform of the VA, the subsidies going to solar manufacturer Solyndra — what's clear is that as more information became available, resolving the problem became more straightforward. And failing to share information can ensnare an administration in worse problems than it was trying to avoid. Iran-contra, Watergate, the Pentagon Papers: each of these had a major impact on our constitutional system, and each was characterized by efforts to suppress information.

In short, on most issues we're better off if the American people know what's going on. Full disclosure doesn't produce good government by itself, but it makes it more likely.

To be sure, on occasion secrecy is legitimate and necessary, but representative government — with its systems of checks and balances - cannot function properly without openness and the presumption should always be in its favor. If officials want to keep information secret, they should bear the burden of explaining why. I hope you'll join me in pushing for an era of openness in government.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Repair Now or Buy Later? Dear Dave,

I'm driving a 10-year-old car with 195,000 miles on it. The car needs \$1,500 in repairs, and it's worth \$5,000. I have \$40,000 in cash saved, \$40,000 in investments and I make \$80,000 a year. I also have \$15,000 in student loan debt, but the only other thing I owe on is my house. Should I pay to repair the car or buy something else for \$15,000?

- Dave

Dear Dave,

Nice name! If you wrote a \$15,000 check for a newer car and wrote a \$15,000 check for the student loans, it would leave you with \$10,000. I wouldn't buy a \$15,000 car in your situation. I'd buy a \$10,000 car. You could sell your current car for around \$3,500 if it needs repairs, combine that with your money and get a \$13,500 car. Then, you could write a check and pay off the student loan.

Dave Says loan payment and a good car, you can really lean into your budget. Think about it. You'd have no debt except for your home, and you could rebuild your savings in a hurry and be in really great shape in about six months. Plus, you'd

have \$15,000 sitting there in the

meantime! - Dave

#### No Pets Allowed

Dear Dave,

I have several rental properties, and lately I've been spending a ton of money remodeling them because I allow pets. Do you think I should begin refusing tenants with pets?

Dear Jim,

This is a tough one for me, because I have three dogs of my own. I've got a pug that's older than dirt, a shih tzu with an attitude and the best golden retriever on the planet. I love animals, and like you, I've got a lot of rental properties. But I don't allow animals in my properties.

Some people have accused me of hating all animals except my own. I can tell you that's not true. But the fact is a lot of people don't take good care of their animals and keep an eye on them. It's hard enough to find trustwor-With no car payment, no student thy, responsible renters these days, and if you add a dog or cat on top of that you're just asking for trouble. I've had situations in the past where I had to spend \$10,000 to clean up a house after a tenant had a dog or cat in there. They'll chew things up, stain and stink things up, and tear things up. Sometimes you even have to replace the floorboards!

I had a lady offer me \$10,000 deposit the other day on one of my properties, just so she could move in with her dog. I said no. It's in all my leases now — no animals. I don't allow them in at the beginning, and if one of my tenants gets one after they move in they either have to find a new home for the animal or move out themselves. At that point they're in violation of the lease.

The problem is I really do have a heart for animals. I love them. But as a landlord who's running a business, it just doesn't make sense. - Dave

\* Dave Ramsey is America's trusted voice on money and business. He has authored five New York Times best-selling books. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 8 million listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.





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