

Placer Sentinel

Volume 24 • Issue 23

Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

First Issue of December 2013

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Ropers Celebrates 56th "Sparkling" Christmas

Story and Photos By Linda Harper Business Developer

AUBURN CA (MPG) - November 29th, 1957, a warmer than usual "day after Thanksgiving," marked Ralph Roper and his wife Helen's first Christmas season as Roper's Jewelry Store. When the young couple opened their door that day to welcome Christmas shoppers, little did they know Auburn's temperature would be the warmest on record (a sun drenched 73 degrees), or that their little shop would be a mainstay on Lincoln Way for 56 Christmases.

Fast forward to November 29th, 2013. Auburn experiences seasonably cool weather, but there's genuine, friendly warmth radiating from the floor of Roper's Jewelers, still on Lincoln Way, and now, a second north



Salesperson Royce Birks is ready to assist in any of her customers jewelry needs.

location on Grass Valley Hwy. Christmas shoppers are greeted with welcoming smiles as they enter comfortable surroundings. Although Ropers has never been the only jewelry store in Auburn, it's always been affectionately known as the "Everybody's Jewelry Store." The same dedication to



At Ropers Jewelers, Dawn Sandes (right) and Cynthia Becker Grey (left) are dedicated to offering quality and affordability without cutting corners.

quality and affordability without cutting corners is a contributing factor to their longevity. Roper's serves a multi-generational customer base; something rarely visible in the current retail climate. Many shoppers frequenting Roper's are the children and grandchildren of customers who were some of the store's original patrons. As the community of Auburn grows, so does Ropers. New shoppers round out the perfect mix of customers the Jewelry Store serves. Both locations of Roper's Jewelry Stores are "dog friendly." It's not uncommon to see furry friends accompanying shoppers.

Roper's offers a wide variety of popular jewelry ranging from modest to "one of a kind" custom pieces. They are one of few places offering on site clock and watch

repair, and their Estate Jewelry is exquisite. Both stores do engraving and jewelry restoration, and carry memorable gifts for graduates, new babies, weddings, anniversaries and much more. Roper's Jewelry employs nineteen people ranging from certified gemologists, jewelry designers, a clock repair expert and professional sales people.

Ralph Roper and his young family moved to the foothill community of Auburn because he was looking for a healthy lifestyle, and he heard the schools were good. His passion for community service for the past 56 years is still going strong. Ralph is individually active in civic organizations, and he can be seen participating in many community events. Over the years he has been a big supporter

of anything that promotes a sense of the Auburn community. Although, he has retired from the daily store operations Ralph's tradition of community service is being carried on by his son Harvey, and Roper's employees. They all realize how important and worthwhile giving back to their neighbors is. Numerous contributions from Ropers are given to Auburn charities throughout the year.

Stop by and shop for that "special" holiday gift. You'll find top of the line jewelry and customer service. ★

Roper's Jewelry Stores are located at 818 Lincoln Way, (530) 885-4852 and 2288 Grass Valley Hwy (in the Bel Air shopping center), (530) 885-8020. Their email address is gems@ropersjewelers.com.

Placer County 4-H Active During the Holidays

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Placer County 4-H has been quite busy as the holiday season begins. Early in November, the 18th annual "You-Make-It" Craft Fair Expo, at the Gold Country Fairgrounds, welcomed hundreds of children and adults who made various low-price crafts and gifts. Each of the thirteen Placer County 4-H clubs presented two to three craft projects. The Craft Expo's profits assist the clubs with additional arts and crafts material throughout the 4-H program year.

Additionally, the 4-H State Leaders Forum met and several Placer County 4-H adult leaders attended, acquiring valuable leadership skills. In mid-November, 4-H Achievement Night honored youth and adult volunteers for their participation in the 2012/2013 4-H year. June Stewart was honored as a "Friend of 4-H," along with numerous long-time adult volunteers. Youth club officers and

Star project recipients were also recognized.

Numerous other projects, ranging from Outdoor Life to Reptiles to Arts and Crafts remain open at the local club level. Placer County 4-H is forming a countywide Robotics Program located in Lincoln. In the near future, we plan to offer 4-H youth an opportunity to compete in F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competitions, as well as non-competitive robotics building for grade school through high school youth.

A new club 4-H Club was welcomed in the Colfax area. Recently chartered by California 4-H, this club offers projects of Swine, Poultry, Sewing, Arts and Crafts, as well as Embryology for youth members ages five through eight.

To learn more about Placer County 4-H programs and projects, please visit <http://ucanr.edu/jointhefun4h/> or call the 4-H Office at (530) 889-7386. ★



Placer County 4-H is forming a countywide Robotics Program located in Lincoln. In the near future, plans are to offer 4-H youth an opportunity to compete in F.I.R.S.T. Robotics Competitions, as well as non-competitive robotics building for grade school through high school youth.

Shop Local Auburn for Christmas!

Events at Colfax Greek Bistro

Fri. Dec. 6 – Special Event of Cultural Dance! LIVE music by Nevada City's "Village Folk Orchestra" will follow an international dance class taught at 6:00 p.m. by Roy Butler from Loomis. Come and learn to dance, then join the fun, dancing and entertainment that follows, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Sun. Dec. 8 – 'Gold Country Blues Brothers and Sisters.' Cynthia Gustafson with James DeRose and a group of musicians and singers from all over bring you an eclectic jam of blues and more from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Wed. Dec. 11 – EXTREME Energy: an in-depth presentation and discussion to get REAL about our Energy future! The event is presented by Jordan & Karen Perry, founders of Chickenfoot Ranch and Activist Center in Colfax. 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. ★

Auburn Arts Commission Calls Artists for a Juried Show

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - The Auburn Arts Commission is joining celebrations across the country by sponsoring a juried art show celebrating the 100th anniversary of The Lincoln Highway, the first highway to cross the continent from New York to San Francisco. This iconic highway runs through Placer County from Donner to Roseville, alongside mountains, country, and towns including Colfax, Applegate, Bowman, Auburn, Ophir, Newcastle, Penryn, and Loomis. The Commission is looking for images of Placer County inspired by its part of The Lincoln Highway.

many books about The Lincoln Highway at libraries.

The jurors will be Sonja Hamilton, artist and teacher, Kaz Huette, artist, interior architect and designer, Arts Commission Member and Mayor Kevin Hanley, who is also a painter. Cash prizes of \$200, \$125, and \$75 for First, Second, and Third place winners will be awarded at the artists' reception in the City Hall Gallery on Thursday, December 12 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

Artists may submit two-dimensional artwork that can hang on the wall including paintings, drawings, pastels, digital/photography, and mixed media. Selected entries will hang at the Auburn City Hall Gallery from December 12th through February 8, 2014.

Hand-deliver entries to the City Hall Gallery in Auburn City Hall, which is located

on the Lincoln Highway at 1225 Lincoln Way, Auburn, on Saturday, December 7th, from noon to 2:00 p.m. Artists whose work is selected will be notified by email or telephone. Entries not selected must be picked up on Sunday, December 8th between noon and 1:30 p.m.

Cost to enter is \$15 for up to two pieces. All work must be ready to hang and must have an integral wire to hang directly and securely on the wall. Please label all art on the back with artist's name, address, phone number, title of work, media and price. All sales are to be handled directly between the artist and the buyer. The City Hall Gallery will not charge a commission.

For more information, email artinauburn@gmail.com, call 530-820-3644 or visit AuburnArtsCommission.info. ★

Source: Auburn Arts Commission

County Water Agency Adopts 2014 Budget

AUBURN CA (MPG) - Directors of the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) in late November adopted a combined 2014 calendar year budget of \$90.8 million. The combination includes a Water Division budget of \$53.3 million, a Power Division budget of \$33.3 million, and an agency-wide budget of \$4.2 million.



PCWA Director of Financial Services Joseph H. Parker said, "The Water Division budget reflects the increased wholesale water costs the agency will pay to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company as well as the retail water rate increases approved earlier this year by the water agency board."

"The reason for the water rate adjustment is primarily due to an increase of \$3.8 million in the wholesale price PCWA will pay for water from PG&E starting in 2014," said Parker, who noted that PCWA's general operating costs have risen by an additional \$1 million since its last water rate increase in 2009.

PCWA customers will see an average water rate increase of 9.1 percent in 2014, followed by a 3.7 percent increase in 2015. Adjustments for inflation are planned in 2015-18.

The PCWA Water Division

budget is supported primarily by customers receiving water utility service. The Power System budget is derived through sales of hydroelectric energy while the agency-wide budget is funded primarily through sales of water to other water purveyors in the region.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- approved increases in a portion of miscellaneous charges including service installations, service set-ups, backflow prevention administration, pressure tests and others.
- approved a 1.5 percent increase in charges for private fire services. The charges had not been adjusted since 2009 and will be effective January 1, 2014.
- approved a \$250,000 budget amendment to continue the agency's water supply protection efforts as part of the Bay Delta planning process. Local officials remain very concerned that Placer County

water resources are at risk as the State of California attempts to solve long-standing water conflicts in the Delta.

• heard a report from Director of Power Generation Services Jay L'Estrange on the agency's dam safety program. The plan, which is required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, has been revised over the past year and accepted by the FERC, L'Estrange reported.

The PCWA Board of Directors will next meet in adjourned session at 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 9, 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. PCWA information is also posted at www.pcwa.net. ★

Source: PCWA

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IN MEMORIAM

Robert (Bob) J. O'Neill

February 13, 1927 - October 29, 2013

Bob was born in Sacramento and attended local schools – Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento Junior College and Sacramento State, graduating with a degree in Sociology. He served in the US Coast Guard during World War II and then worked as a parole agent for the State of California Department of Corrections for 30 years. Auburn has been his home since 1970 – a fond and longtime resident of West Lake Road and then The Oaks of Auburn.

In retirement he renewed his passion for learning and took a



St. Theresa's Catholic Church. Bob is predeceased by his wife of 43 years, Marian and survived by his brother John O'Neill, five stepchildren – Steve Belcher, Judy Belcher, Gillian Belcher, Nina Belcher and Sarah Fey; five grandchildren and cousins – Patricia O'Neill-Buchanan, Robin, Steve, Mark and Susan Sheffield as well as longtime family friend Nancy Meister-Pollock. His friends and family will miss him very much.

There will be a mass at St. Teresa's of Avila and burial service at St Mary's Cemetery in Sacramento.

variety of courses, in particular many classes in poetry. He was a member of the Range of Light poets, the Wordsmiths, and



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Contributing Writers	Mary Jane Popp, Marlys Johnsen Norris, Tim Reilly, David Dickstein, Dave Ramsey, Dr. E. Kirsten Peters, Kay Burton, Julie Parker, Ronnie McBrayer, David Graulich
Photography	Amanda Morello, Susan Skinner
Graphics & Layout	Banerjee Designs, Stump Removal Graphics
Advertising Sales	Linda Harper
Distribution Assistant	Gabriel Scholl
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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

Unusual Weekend CSLB Sting in Placer County Yields Big Results

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - It might seem like an unlikely place to catch unlicensed contractors, but the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) successfully used an industry association office during a Saturday sting operation that snared eight surprised, if not unobservant, suspects in Roseville on November 23, 2013.

“Why would unlicensed operators know where the local contractor association office is? They obviously have never been there,” said CSLB Registrar Steve Sands.

Had those cited on illegal contracting charges glanced up as they were walking in, they may have seen the Placer County Contractors Association sign on top of the commercial building.

Investigators with CSLB’s Statewide Investigative Fraud Team (SWIFT) used the location to act as property owners of a real estate business in need of trade work. The team was assisted by investigators from the Placer County District Attorney’s Office, Amador County District Attorney’s Office, and the Department of Consumer Affairs’ Division of Investigation.

Once inside, phony contractors gave bids on work that included paint, tile, landscaping, and general building projects that ranged as high as \$15,000 for landscaping and \$10,000 for a bathroom tile project – far in excess of what the law allows for those working without a CSLB license. Only licensed contractors can accept projects totaling \$500 or more in combined labor and material costs.

All eight suspects received misdemeanor citations for contracting without a license (Business and Professions Code section 7028), which carries a penalty of up to six months in jail and/or a fine of up to \$5,000 if convicted. Seven were cited for illegal advertising (Business

and Professions Code section 7027.1). State law requires contractors to place their license number in all print, broadcast, and online advertisements. Those without a license can advertise to perform jobs valued at less than \$500, but the ad must state that they are not a licensed contractor. The penalty is a fine of \$700 to \$1,000.

The sting also demonstrated that unlicensed contractors are just as likely to prey upon business property owners as private homeowners. “Commercial owners are every bit as vulnerable as homeowners,” Sands said. “If you need to have work done on your business property, be sure to visit CSLB’s website to check on the people you’re considering for the job.”

SWIFT worked from a list of potential illegal contractors that was compiled from the online bulletin board craigslist.org and business cards posted at local stores. One contractor who was invited to the sting turned out to be a licensee who failed to include legally required information in his ad, and he expressed his chagrin in a text message to investigators afterward: “Just so you are informed, I removed/deleted all my CL (craigslist) ads. I apologize for meeting under these circumstances. I will keep my promise and word with you and your department.”

Suspects received Notices to Appear and are scheduled to be arraigned at a time and date to be determined in Placer County Superior Court, 10820 Justice Center Drive, Department 43, in Roseville.

NOTICES TO APPEAR:
Francisco Javier Rosas
 Lincoln
C54 – Ceramic and Mosaic Tile Contracting without a license, Illegal advertising

Ronald Lee Cowger
 Granite Bay
C33 – Painting and Decorating

Contracting without a license, Illegal advertising

Sky Reid Kincaid
 Sacramento
C39 – Roofing Contracting without a license, Illegal advertising

Gerry Wayne Orendor
 Gold River
C33 – Painting and Decorating Contracting without a license, Illegal advertising

Daniel William Byrd
 North Highlands
B – General Building Contractor Contracting without a license, Illegal advertising

Eusebio Baez Velazquez
 North Highlands
C27 – Landscaping Contracting without a license, Illegal advertising

Juan Garcia Vega
 Sacramento
C33 – Painting and Decorating Contracting without a license, Illegal advertising

Donald Mark Frisby
 Citrus Heights
C8 - Concrete Illegal advertising

CSLB encourages consumers to always “Check the License First” by visiting www.cslb.ca.gov or calling CSLB’s toll-free automated line 800.321.CSLB (2757). Also, visit CSLB’s website for tips about how to hire a contractor and to sign up for CSLB email alerts.

The California Contractors State License Board operates under the umbrella of the Department of Consumer Affairs. CSLB licenses and regulates California’s 300,000 contractors, and is regarded as one of the leading consumer protection agencies in the United States. In fiscal year 2012-13, CSLB helped recover nearly \$44 million in ordered restitution for consumers. ★

Source: Contractors State License Board

Hometown Heroes

Placer County, CA (MPG) - Six Former Airman First Class John C. Hanson, Steven A. Baez, David J. Boles, Kirstin A. Dykes, James W. Cooke, and James W. Cooke have completed over 1000 hours of training at least 1000 flight hours in the United States, Texas, and other countries. These brave men, eight years of service, have dedicated their lives to military duty and service to our country. Their names are listed below.

Hanson is the son of [unclear] and [unclear]. He is the son of [unclear] and [unclear]. He is a 2008 graduate of [unclear] High School, Roseville.

Baez earned distinction as an [unclear] graduate. He is the son of [unclear] and [unclear]. He is a 2008 graduate of [unclear] High School, Roseville.

Boles, too, earned distinction as an [unclear] graduate. He is the son of Jennifer and John [unclear] of Roseville. The airman is a 2008 graduate of Oakmont High School, Roseville.

Dykes is the daughter of Cynthia Wahleithner of Lincoln, and Kevin Dykes of Sacramento. She is a 2009 graduate of Lincoln High School.

Lovell is the daughter of Sharon Westfall of Newcastle, California, and Tom Lovell of Rainier, Oregon. She is a 2012 graduate of Rainier High School, Oregon.

Cooke is the son of Blake Cooke of Roseville. He is a 2009 graduate of Woodcreek High School, Roseville.

Source: Defense Media Activity

Senator Nielsen Issues Statement on Proposed New Car Tax

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - State Senator Jim Nielsen (R-4th Senate Dist.), issued the following statement today regarding a proposed ballot measure to tax car owners as much as one percent of the vehicle’s market value:

“California is already over-taxed, and we’re not getting what we paid for.

Now, another special interest group is proposing to take \$3 billion a year from us. This is on top of the current car tax that we are paying.

California is wasting billions of dollars on High Speed Rail that hasn’t built a foot of rail; these monies could be better invested in fixing our roads and maintaining our highways.

California must speak up loudly against the continuous taxation of our properties. We don’t need a new tax. We must stop the proposed High Speed Rail and re-invest the approximate \$350 million being used to service its debt into improving our roads. ★

Source: Senator Nielsen’s Office

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Two Ways to Get Your Medicare Benefits



By David Sayen

to the private insurance company that covers you.

With Original Medicare, you must pay deductibles, co-pays, and coinsurance.

To cover these "gaps" in Medicare, some people buy a type of supplemental insurance called Medigap. If you have a Medigap policy, Medicare pays its share of the covered costs, and then your Medigap policy pays its share.

Medigap policies also are sold through private companies. All plans offer the same basic benefits but some offer additional benefits. The costs vary between insurance companies – and often cost is the only difference between policies. Some Medigap policies also offer benefits that Original Medicare doesn't, such as medical care when you travel outside the United States.

Original Medicare generally doesn't cover prescription drugs. If you want drug coverage, you can get it through Medicare Part D. Part D policies are sold through private companies approved by Medicare. You have to pay an additional monthly premium for Part D.

About 75 percent of Medicare beneficiaries choose Original Medicare, with the rest getting coverage through Medicare Advantage.

Medicare Advantage companies must cover all of the services that Original Medicare covers, except hospice care and some care in qualifying clinical research studies. (Original Medicare covers hospice and qualifying clinical research care even if you're in a Medicare Advantage plan.)

In all types of Medicare

Advantage plans, you're covered for emergency and urgent care. Most Medicare Advantage plans also include prescription drug coverage.

But the plans can charge different out-of-pocket amounts and they have different rules for how you get service.

For example, you may need a referral to see a specialist. And you may need to stay in their provider network, unless you're willing to pay more to go outside the network.

You should always check with the plan before you get a service to find out whether it's covered and what your costs may be. If the plan decides to stop participating in Medicare, you'll have to join another Medicare health plan or return to Original Medicare.

How can you decide whether Original Medicare or Medicare Advantage is better for you?

There's a more detailed explanation of the differences between Original Medicare and Medicare Advantage in the "Medicare & You" handbook. An updated version of "Medicare & You" is mailed to all Medicare beneficiaries every fall.

You can also find "Medicare & You" on the website, www.Medicare.gov. If you have any questions, you can always call Medicare's toll-free number, 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

David Sayen is Medicare's regional administrator for Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and the Pacific Territories. ★

Source: U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



Placer County Sheriff Special Report

Drug Arrest Made in Auburn

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - A Placer County Sheriff's narcotics-certified dog sniffed out a wrapped birthday gift with more than



Donald David Owen

two pounds of methamphetamine inside late Wednesday night, November 27th in Auburn, sending two out-of-townners to jail.

Donald David Owen, 46, of Oakdale and Sarah Marie Bastin, 43, of Modesto, were pulled over by a deputy on

Auburn Ravine Road at 10:42 Wednesday night for traffic violations. Owen was driving on a suspended driver's license and was on searchable probation. K9 Jet was deployed to sniff the car, and he alerted on several items, one of which was a box covered in birthday gift wrap.

Inside the box in a large,



More than 2 pounds of methamphetamine was found gift wrapped as a birthday present.



Sarah Marie Bastin

zipped plastic bag, deputies found 2.29 pounds of meth. Owen and Bastin were booked at the Placer County Jail on charges of sales and transportation of a controlled substance, plus conspiracy. Owen is being held on \$280,000 bail and Bastin's bail is set at \$250,000.

Source: Placer County Sheriff's Office

BareBonesWorkWear Expands

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - BareBonesWorkWear proudly shows off their newly expanded store in Auburn, in which they've doubled their square footage and expanded their selection of Western and Outdoor products just in time for the holidays.

This Auburn flagship store was designed as a model for future franchises and an example of the enhanced customer experience. They expect to launch the franchise in the first quarter of 2014. The Auburn store is located adjacent to the old store located at 13416 Lincoln Way in the Raley's shopping center. BareBonesWorkWear always has "pre-discounted" prices so they are "anti-Black Friday," meaning they'll open for normal store

hours on Black Friday (10 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

BareBonesWorkWear is a leading locally based apparel retailer in the greater Sacramento region with an expansive presence online. Their website features about one million SKUs for this holiday season. Last season they posted record holiday sales which allowed them to invest in developing the franchise concept. They hope this season's holiday will be just as successful as they prepare to launch the franchise. Developing a flagship store design was one of the big pieces of the franchising plan.

"Finishing our flagship store concept was a big hurdle to finalizing our plan to launch the franchise," explained Stu Nelson,

CEO of BareBonesWorkWear. "Brand consistency in every facet of the business is critical with a franchise and the enhanced customer experience in this store will be a true testament to our company personality."

The new design features layout change that highlights departments including Western and Outdoor in addition to their Work lines for medical, food service and rugged workwear. Team members will be empowered to be more involved in assisting customers in the sales process.

For more information and an even larger selection of products online visit www.BarebonesWorkWear.com. ★

Source: Atherton PR

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Senator Nielsen Issues Statement on Legislative Analyst's Budget Forecast

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Gerber) issued the following statement today regarding the state's Legislative Analyst's projection that California's budget would end with a \$5.6 billion reserve in 2014-15:

Today's forecast is reassuring that California's finances are improving. The budget surplus could be as much as \$5.6 billion in two years, if the Legislature and Governor continue to restrain themselves.

Although, this is encouraging news, it in no way means that California's budget is fixed. We need a hard spending cap and a reserve specifically for economic uncertainty and natural disasters.

This money must be used to pay down the state's debts and not for new programs.

Having this massive reserve demands that Sacramento politicians and special interest groups halt their efforts to increase taxes and fees, like the newly proposed

car tax." **★**
Source: Senator Nielsen's Office

Senator Jim Nielsen represents the Fourth Senate District, which includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity and Yuba. To contact Senator Nielsen, please call him at 916-651-4004, or via email at senator.nielsen@senate.ca.gov.

President Obama Stacks the Court in Frightening Power Grab

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - Today, Senator Harry Reid invoked the "nuclear option" on judicial nominations, not including nominations to the Supreme Court. Under the new rules change, a judicial nominee does not need to meet the 60-vote cloture threshold and can be confirmed by a simple majority vote.

"Today's action by Harry Reid is frightening, and every freedom-loving American should be deeply concerned," said Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel. "Not only is the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals considered a launching pad to the Supreme Court, this circuit court hears constitutional challenges to executive rules and regulations."

With a keen memory of the Royal Prerogative, the power of the king of England to disregard acts of Parliament, the framers of the U.S. Constitution clearly stated the powers of the

President in Article II, Section 3: "He shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed."

"President Obama has been issuing 'fixes' and using 'enforcement discretion' to roll out his tyrannical overreach into healthcare," says Staver. "Now he is trying to stack the court that would rule on his unconstitutional executive orders."

"Not only is Obama's power grab frightening, Reid's use of the 'nuclear option' is the height of hypocrisy," says Staver. "Senate Democrats filibustered the nominations of Miguel Estrada and Janice Rogers Brown to the D.C. Circuit in 2001 and 2003, respectively. At that time, Senate Democrats argued that the D.C. Circuit's workload did not necessitate additional judges. Since then, the D.C. Circuit's workload has actually diminished, yet Harry Reid invokes the 'nuclear option' so that three more judges can be added to the

D.C. Circuit," Staver explains. "One thing is clear, today's change in Senate rules is about packing the D.C. Circuit with liberal ideologues that will transform it into a rubber stamp for anything the President wants."

"Democrats rammed Obamacare through the House and Senate without Republican support. Today's Senate rules change shows that Senator Reid has no intention of working with Republicans. Under our Constitution, the Senate has the obligation to provide advice and consent for Presidents' judicial nominations. By suppressing the voice of the minority, Senator Reid has gutted the voice of the American people and given more power to our failing President. Our Constitution requires more; the American people deserve better," Staver concludes. **★**

Source: Liberty Counsel Action

Reward Offered for Information on Burglary

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Placer County Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest of the burglar who stole the ashes of a Granite Bay woman's husband.

The woman, who does not want to be identified, left her home on Long Meadow Road to run errands on the afternoon of Oct. 31. When she returned, she discovered that two urns – one

with her husband's ashes and one with her cat's ashes – had been stolen from her home. The thief also took jewelry.

Detectives said the woman is distraught over the loss of the ashes and would like them returned.

Anyone with information and who wishes to remain anonymous is urged to call Placer County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-923-8191 or report a tip online

at www.placercrimestoppers.org. All Crime Stoppers information remains anonymous.

If the tip results in an arrest, the caller can earn up to a \$1,000 reward. Anyone with information on this case can also call Placer County Sheriff's Detective Dan Meier at (916) 652-2411. **★**

Source: Placer County Sheriff's Office

Whitney Teacher Sentenced to State Prison

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Former Whitney High School teacher Matthew Scott Yamamoto of Rocklin was sentenced today to four years and eight months in state prison by the Honorable Michael Jones in Department 43 of the Placer County Superior Court. Judge Jones also ordered that Yamamoto must register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

At the sentencing hearing, the Judge acknowledged that the defendant had no prior criminal history, and that he had strong family support, but Judge Jones found the defendant's violation of the position of trust and authority he maintained over the victim and the fact that he had essentially robbed her of her high school years outweighed

the mitigating factors.

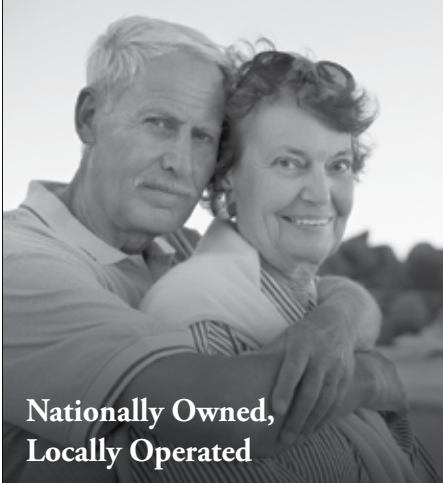
He also indicated his belief that the defendant did not have the ability or willingness to comply with probation as demonstrated by his repeated violations of the restraining order imposed in this case. The Judge was particularly troubled by the fact he taught the victim how to destroy evidence and how to establish fictitious email accounts so that the police would not be able to trace their communications.

Yamamoto plead guilty on October 2nd, 2013, to four felony counts in relationship to his September 17, 2013, arrest by Rocklin Police Department for having an inappropriate relationship with a Whitney High School student. Yamamoto pled no contest to Oral Copulation

with a Minor, Attempted Sexual Intercourse with a Minor, and Sexual Penetration with a Foreign Object on a Minor. He also pled guilty to one felony count of Conspiracy to Obstruct Justice.

This District Attorney Office believes that the sentence imposed by the Judge was appropriate under the circumstances of this case. Parents send their children to school and trust that they will be protected by teachers, not victimized by them. In the rare case where someone breaches that trust, in the predatory way that Yamamoto did, they deserve to be sentenced to state prison and to register as a sex offender for the rest of life. **★**


Source: Placer County District Attorney Press Release



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Apple Apple
Season Sinner Just
sugar, apples, and cinnamon
sticks are the
ingredients for
this classic
holiday treat.

- 1/2 cup apple sauce
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup light cream
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup cinnamon sticks
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup flour

Easy as Pi
This is a simple
recipe for a
holiday treat.
It's easy to
make and
tastes great.

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Top 10 Holiday Must-Haves

1. Apple Pie
2. Hot Chocolate
3. Cinnamon Sticks
4. Sugar Cookies
5. Peppermint Bark
6. Eggnog
7. Candy Canes
8. Gingerbread
9. Marshmallows
10. Hot Cakes

Amazingly Good Bread

- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup cinnamon sticks
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup flour

Amazingly Good Bread

- 1/2 cup milk
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Crossword Puzzle - Page 6

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

Crossword Puzzle on Page 6

S	P	L	A	T		F	E	B		K	E	G	S		
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S	M	E	W			T	E	D		E	R	A	S	E	

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By Ronnie McBrayer

There is a story told a hundred different ways but with the same punch line; it is about a man who falls off a cliff. He slips over the edge, careening and banging downward. Then, as if by miracle, his pants snag for just a millisecond on the skinniest of tree branches. He quickly grabs hold of it, and for the moment remains alive, though he is hanging thousands of feet above the ground.

He can't climb up, and he can't lower himself to the canyon floor below. Stuck as he is, with no one else to call upon, and powerless to save himself, he looks heavenward and prays: "Dear God! Please help me!" A thunderous but calming voice answers from heaven: "Do you trust Me, My beloved son?"

The man cries out in return, "Yes, God, I trust you! Please save me!" God answers, "Okay, just let go of the branch and I will catch you." The man thinks about this offer and his situation for a moment, and looking at the jagged rocks below him, calls out: "Well...is there anyone else up there who can help me?"

Sometimes we want God to intervene. To help us, save us; to show up. His voice and presence, more often than not, are slow in arriving. But sometimes - on rare and unusual occasions - God does speak. He acts. He

Never Left Hanging (First Week of Advent)

intervenes. He appears. And when he does, it often results in more trepidation than if he had held his tongue and remained elusive.

Think of Moses standing barefoot at the burning bush; Jacob in a surprise wrestling match with the Angel of the Lord; Saul, blind and blathering on the Damascus road. As Annie Dillard said of those of us who casually enter our church sanctuaries each week, "Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? We should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews...For the waking God may draw us out to where we can never return."

Advent, which begins this week, is no exception to this experience. It is the rule. God speaks - God arrives - and even though it is in the form of a helpless baby, the world is turned upside down. Shepherds quake. Angels sing. Mary trembles. Awe-inspired Magi bow in reverence. Joseph, a stunned carpenter, probably wonders if someone "else up there" could deliver him from the delivery of this child.

What was it all about? Faith, no doubt. All of these characters are asked to "leap" from their secure perches to land in God's arms. They are all asked to believe that the baby, "wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger," is indeed the Promised One of God, a uniquely born gift to the world. Are we not all asked to believe the same?

And this Advent season is about listening to the voice of God. I am very much aware that when one speaks of "hearing God's voice," it might be time to call the paddy wagon. Great lunacies have been committed by individuals convinced that they were on a divine mission. Some of these insanities have crossed over into atrocity.

But to hear God speak, deep within our hearts, is not necessarily a sign of mental illness. It can be; just like finding Jesus's image in a bag of cheese puffs or an icon of the Virgin Mary on the back of a piece of raisin toast at the Waffle House. It can be a manipulative way to dupe the spiritually naïve (or sell a pile of books just before the holiday season).

Yet, on those rare and unusual occasions, Annie Dillard is right: "The waking God may draw us out to where we can never return." Yes, Advent means that God has spoken and will continue to speak. It means that God has and will continue to intervene. And in the process, God will demand ruthless trust. But, he is trustworthy, and will never leave you hanging.

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, pastor, and author of multiple books. You can read more and receive regular e-columns in your inbox at www.ronniemcbrayer.me. ★

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'Tis the Season to Stuff Myself Like a Turkey and Get Away with It

By Rev. James L. Snyder

Now that summer is out of the way and the holiday season has begun, I can throw out the kitchen window all of those diet restrictions introduced by the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. After all, the whole purpose of the holiday season is to eat.

It begins in late October with the mass distribution of candy, which I have no objection. A little candy in somebody's life can go a long way to produce happiness. Why, a handful of jelly beans really makes the world go around, which may be why I am just a little bit dizzy.

From October all the way through to New Year's Day, it is nothing but one delicious delicacy after another. And, I love it.

Around the middle of October my wife announces, "This year you need to be a little careful about what you eat during this holiday season." Of which I smile back at her and nod my head in the affirmative, whatever that means. Far as I am concerned, a nod is not quite as committed as a word spoken.

In October when I am doling out candy to the kids knocking on my door, I always use this formula: one for them and one for me. After all, what's fair is fair. I have to make sure I have enough candy to go all the way around. As one who is very conscious about not wasting anything, I make sure all of the candy is properly consumed by midnight.

I get away with this because my wife usually has the grandchildren on the other side of the neighborhood going door to door getting candy. My duty is to distribute the candy however I see fit.

Thanksgiving really tickles my fancy. It is an opportunity to stuff myself like a turkey and get away with it. After all, with all the family around the Thanksgiving Day

table there is little opportunity for my wife to supervise what I eat or do not eat. As long as the dishes keep passing, I keep participating.

One thing that makes the Thanksgiving Day dinner so wonderful is that you can stuff your stuff without feeling guilty about it. "Don't you think you've had enough?" my wife will ask.

I have one response to this query I have used for years.

"Do not worry, my dear," I say as I pile more mashed potatoes on my plate, "I plan to go on a diet for my New Year's resolution." What a wonderful New Year's resolution scenario. Whoever invented that should receive the Nobel Peace Prize because it has come in quite handy in my situation.

Thanksgiving is so close to New Year's that it makes a very convenient excuse.

Take the Fourth of July picnic, for example. That is a long way from New Year's Day and the New Year's resolution scenario that I cannot use that excuse. At that picnic when my wife says, "Don't you think you have had enough?" I have to smile and agree that perhaps I did have enough, and lay down my fork in surrender.

What about the summer family picnic time when all of us are getting together? The same thing is happening there. New Year's Day and its resolution scenario are too far in the future to use as a ploy to get second or even third helpings. During any summer picnic, I am on my own and in some regards, I do not like it.

But the Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year's holiday season is my kind of season.

The holiday season is a time for indulgence. After all, has anybody ever seen a skinny Santa Claus? It would be blasphemous to go to the mall during the holiday season and see a skinny Santa Claus. Personally, I would turn around

and go home and sit in the corner for a while to get over it.

The holiday season is for extravagance. Christmas gift giving is giving people presents they do not really need. I cannot recall how many ties I have received down through the years as though I have not enough ties, but every one was an absolute delight.

The season begins with the hearty Thanksgiving dinner, goes to the Christmas Day dinner and then ends with the New Year's Day dinner. What more could a person really ask for?

There is something about the family gathering around the table indulging in the delicacies of the season and just having a good time. It is not a time to count calories, but rather, a time to count your blessings. It is not a time to monitor what somebody else is eating, but a time to enjoy the family fellowship around a good table set by somebody who knows how to set a good table.

If someone in our family did not cook so well I would not have a problem in restraining my eating. So, I do not believe it is my fault.

After the festivities have subsided and all the food has all been consumed, we still are left with the rest of our life. In light of that I like what Paul said, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20 KJV).

For those who know the Lord Jesus Christ giving thanks for everything is a wonderful way of life all year long. ★

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 jamesnyder2@aol.com. His website is www.jamesnyderministries.com.

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CLUES

- ACROSS**
- 1. Easy killing vehicle, 9-11
 - 2. President's Day month
 - 3. Party hours
 - 12. Movie title
 - 14. Breakfast
 - 15. Beyond normal folks
 - 16. ___ the Box
 - 17. Opposite of setting
 - 18. White tent and rear seats
 - 19. "What's all that?"
 - 21. "It's a Wonderful Life" star
 - 22. Suspended baby
 - 24. Winter treat, e.g.
 - 25. White robe and candle
 - 26. ___ good example
 - 28. Best behavior
 - 29. "National Velvet" author (age 10)
 - 30. Santa's neighbor
 - 31. Some are on a cleric's vest than others
 - 32. Window pane
 - 41. Top dog
 - 42. Attached to a school
 - 44. Magazine's special feature
 - 45. "A Christmas Story" tag
 - 47. Capital of the Republic
 - 48. Vial
 - 49. Chopin's condition
 - 52. Chandler Wilde's home
 - 53. Slip of wood
 - 54. "Be Home for Christmas"
 - 55. "It Happened on 9th Street"
 - 56. Movie title
 - 58. Acid in protein
 - 59. Kiss month
 - 60. Holy See papal post-ting different rite
 - 61. Closely watched on West 57th
 - 70. Before profit
 - 71. ___ Chicago
 - 72. Mid West drink
 - 73. "Father's character in 'Holiday Inn'"
 - 74. Clear the mouthwash

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12					14				16		
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- DOWN**
- 1. "No quiet"
 - 2. "Mistle live ___ and Christmas '00"
 - 3. Like a human finger
 - 4. Earl
 - 5. Inverse system organ
 - 6. Slip the skin off
 - 7. Slippery root crawler
 - 8. Mistle-birding event
 - 9. An inward eye or recognition
 - 10. Tropical tuberos root
 - 11. Its seed yields gum used in chewing
 - 12. Small heater
 - 13. Mistle
 - 14. Involving team coordination of field
 - 15. Christmas Eve tag
 - 16. "On the ___" or in a hallogren-ent word
 - 17. "In your bill from store"
 - 18. Mistle
 - 19. ___ hole
 - 20. Pipe problem
 - 21. Yellow rite
 - 22. Speak in the oven
 - 23. "Famous hangover on Christmas morning"
 - 24. Brewer's acquisition
 - 25. Kiss, Mistle
 - 26. Father's Day month
 - 27. Piano composer
 - 28. Italian dish
 - 29. "Agreement to remove Santa's identity"
 - 30. Single a card
 - 31. Rolling in the snow
 - 32. Physics calculation
 - 33. Mistle V.I.P.
 - 34. Agitate
 - 35. All over again
 - 36. "Santa's little old brother"
 - 37. Christmas' word
 - 38. Mistle here
 - 39. Exit
 - 40. Extra site

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	7			4		
6	9	5				1
4	5		9	3		2

For Solutions See Page 7

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Dutch Bros. Coffee Raises \$4,400 for Sober Grad Nights

ROCKLIN, CA (MPG) - Dutch Bros. Coffee of Rocklin and community members banded together in mid-November to raise \$4,400 for Rocklin and Whitney High School sober grad nights.

To raise these funds, Dutch Bros. Rocklin offered drinks for \$1 and donated 100% of proceeds to the cause. The \$4,400 will be split equally between the two schools.

"This will be a fabulous help," said WHS Sober Grad Night co-chair Dina Lombardo. "I feel so blessed that Dutch Bros. came to us and said they were willing to do this for our high school." Dina advised that funds will go toward entertainment, food, gifts and prizes at the event.

"The day was unbelievable," said local owner-operators Jeremy and Heather Mauel. "It was such a great response from the community. We think most of Rocklin came out to see us!"

The donation was in honor of the store's grand opening. The new location, at 3450 Sunset Blvd., will be open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

Since the Mauels opened their Auburn location in 2009, they have given back over \$80,000 to local causes, including Boys & Girls Clubs, Acres of Hope, Foster Youth Services, Relay for Life, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Young Life, Placer County Food Bank, local schools, youth sports, music programs and community events.

Dutch Bros. Coffee gives over \$1 million annually company-wide to local causes and nonprofit organizations to further its goal of "Making a Difference, One Cup at a Time."

Local owner-operators Jeremy and Heather Mauel first fell in love with Dutch Bros. on the other side of the window, as customers in Dallas, Oregon. "We really appreciated the old-school



The donation was in honor of the store's grand opening. The new location, at 3450 Sunset Blvd., will be open from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

approach to customer service," they said of the crew. "They greeted us with friendly smiles and always knew our names and drinks!"

They came to know owner Joe, and, when they were ready to move the family back to their Auburn hometown, he encouraged them to franchise. Now, every day, they enjoy the opportunity they have to make a difference through Dutch Bros.

"We love giving back because we've been given so much!" they said. "The strength and well-being of our community, now and for future generations, is very important to us."

In addition to supporting causing, their givebacks strike a

personal note, with a recent all-proceeds day supporting regular customer Tami Cooke in her battle against cancer. "Our crew also donated 100% of their tips in support of the family," said Jeremy and Heather. "We love watching our employees choose to live a life of service inside and outside of the shop."

At Dutch Bros. Gold Country, relationships extend far beyond the drive-through window. In addition to two beautiful girls, Aria and Audrey, the Mauels enjoy a Dutch extended family of customers, crew and community who help them make a difference, one cup at a time. ★

Source: Dutch Bros.



POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

and over time, critical patterns in marriage and divorce, romance, and relationships. And here's what she knows for sure: small stuff IS a BIG deal! To create a truly happy, healthy relationship, every couple of every stripe, should take the most overlooked and under-discussed relationship killers to heart. She shared seven of them with me.

Freking Out

They're coming! They're coming! Who is coming? In-laws, outlaws, friends and foes alike will be knocking on your door with a smile on their faces and the furrows will start to show on YOUR face. The strain can really affect your marriage too. But, it's the season for merriment and sharing you say! Not if you overlook relationship killers. Dr. Terri Orbuch is a research professor, a marriage and family therapist, and the best-selling author of five books including "Finding Love Again" and a PBS special "Secrets From The Love Doctor" which started airing November 30 nationwide. So I asked Dr. Orbuch on my POPPOFF Radio Show how we can make sure our relationships don't get stressed out as we plunge into the holiday

It's been said that money and sex are the leading relationship killers. True? Perhaps. But, like death by a thousand paper cuts, the good Doctor says little things kill relationships too. For nearly three decades, she had a front-row seat to thousands of relationships. Her ongoing research—a long-term study funded by the National Institutes of Health since 1986—gave her the opportunity to study, closely

1) **Skipping Me Time.** Among unhappy couples, more people point to a lack of privacy or time for themselves as the reason (11.5%) than they do their sex

2) **Staying mum on "minor" annoyances.** A lot of couples sweep little annoyances and pet peeves under the rug. Over time, though, small everyday irritations can add up and put a relationship on life support.

3) **Holding on to feelings about exes.** Expending energy on a past love can bedeadly. Men and women who say, "I don't feel much of anything for my ex" are more likely to be happy in their present relationship.

4) **Keeping old secrets, even small ones.** Ninety percent of people in happy relationships say they "never" feel that their partners aren't completely truthful about their past.

5) **Sparing little signs of affection or approval.** Too many couples wait for special occasions, such as birthdays,

anniversaries, or Hallmark-type holidays, to express loving feelings to one another. Sometimes a goodbye peck on the cheek or a thoughtful compliment is all it takes to make a partner feel loved and appreciated.

6) **Spending too much time or too little time with the parents.** Married couples are 20% less likely to divorce when a man feels close to his mother-in-law. When women feel close to their in-laws, however, the couple is 20% more likely to divorce.

7) **Seeing the glass half empty.** Many couples only talk about what's going wrong in their relationship. But couples that also focus on what's working well—or the glass half full—are much happier over time than those who purely try to "fix" their problems.

Finally, Dr. Orbuch told me that countless couples make the mistake of assuming they know everything about one another. Unlike when they were first dating, they cease asking questions and learning more about each other. Such loss of curiosity, like other overlooked relationship killers, can be lethal. It may be SMALL stuff, but it's a BIG deal! So don't forget the small stuff during the big holiday and party time. It's a reminder that our relationship with our partner comes first all year long. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!! ★

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6 - 9am: The KAH1 Morning News with Barry Stigers and the KAH1 News Team

9am - Noon: The Andrea Tantaros Show

Noon - 1pm: The KAH1 Noon News with Mary Jane Popp and the KAH1 News Team

1 - 4pm: The Dave Ramsey Show

4 - 6pm: The KAH1 Afternoon News with Dave Rosenthal and the KAH1 News Team

6 - 7pm: TMZ Live

7 - 10pm: Sports Byline USA with Ron Barr

10pm - 12am: Poppoff with Mary Jane Popp

Saturdays

6 - 7am: A Time for Seniors

7 - 8am: The Swap Shop

8 - 9am: The KAH1 Corral

9 - 10am: The Garden Goddesses

10am - 7pm: Sinatra & Friends Music

7 - 8pm: A Way With Words

8 - 9pm: Rewind with Jimmy Jay

Sundays

7:30 - 9am: Cruisin' Garage & Swap Meet

9 - 9:30am: The Crossroads Radio Show

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7 - 8pm: A Way With Words

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Scared to Death of Interviews! Now What?

By Julie W. Hubbs

Job interviews can be nerve racking. We are told: "Try to think of the interviewers as ordinary people who are just like us." The difference is the interviewers have jobs, and we want a job. Then we are told, "Don't come across as desperate." How does a person not come across as desperate? The truth is many people are desperate when trying to get a job or find a better job.

Most people go to an interview at some time in their lives. Employers want a chance to get to know their applicants. Of course they want to know if the applicant has the necessary job skills for the position, but more importantly they want to be assured the person they are hiring will be a good fit with their organization.

For example, employers will be asking themselves: Is the applicant easy to talk to? Did the applicant arrive on time for the interview? Did the applicant come across as cocky? Is the applicant confident? Can the applicant look me in the eye? Did the applicant actually listen to what was being asked and then answer the question? Did the applicant come prepared? Is the applicant dressed properly?

In addition to determining if the job seeker has the much needed job skills, many employers are looking for people who are polite, well

mannered, hardworking, and easy to be around. They want people who will represent their organization in a positive way.

I have been on many interview panels and have listened to hundreds of applicants. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of being authentic. In other words be yourself!

Besides being yourself, be sure to stress your strengths and positive attributes. Many people fail to do this because they feel they are bragging. This is not bragging. You are providing important information the employer needs to make an informed decision on whom to hire.

For example, if you are a hard worker who arrives at work 15 minutes early, then say so. If you are attending night school to acquire extra skills and knowledge, then be sure to let the interviewer know this. If you have particular skills that you feel are applicable to the job you are applying for, do not fail to say so.

Remember, your aim during the interview is to help the employer see who you are as a candidate and future employee in the organization. Think about your strengths before the interview, prepare and practice what you want to say, and then share the information with the employer. The employer wants to know you will be an asset. Interviews are the perfect platform to tell your story.

As the employers are

interviewing you, it is important for you to interview them. Creating a good match is important on both sides of the table. What is the point of being fake then taking a position that does not suit you in an organization where you don't really want to work? There is no point. Start out being your authentic self from day one, and you never have to worry about being fake.

Here are some interview tips:

- Dress appropriately for your interview which means one level up from the job you are applying for.
- Use good manners and always be polite.
- Maintain good eye contact and have a good handshake.
- Show confidence not arrogance.
- Cover up tattoos.
- Turn your cell phone off. This does not mean put it on vibrate.
- Be positive.
- Listen to and answer the questions being asked.
- Research the organization and the position you are applying for.
- Rehearse what you want to say.
- ALWAYS be yourself.
- Believe there is a job out there for you. ★

Niello Acura Coming to Roseville Automall



"This is a big win for Niello Acura customers in the Roseville/Rocklin area in terms of convenience and access to high quality service," said Rick Niello, president of The Niello Company. "It's an even bigger win for Acura customers in the pre-owned market because it gives them two locations to access what Acura itself considers its best pre-owned dealership on the West Coast."

ROSEVILLE, CA. (MPG) - The Niello Company will expand into the Roseville Automall by relocating its Acura dealership there in December 2013. The company will retain its Sacramento location on Madison Avenue, offering certified pre-owned sales and a full service and parts operation. Niello Acura Roseville will offer new and used sales, full and express service and parts sales. This move will add approximately 50 new jobs to the local economy.

Niello Acura secured a prime location near the entrance of the Roseville Automall and anticipates being open soon after Thanksgiving. This expansion marks the first time that The Niello Company will have a presence at the Roseville Automall.

Niello Acura on Madison Avenue is ranked by Acura as its Number One Certified Pre-Owned Dealership in Acura's Western U.S. Region. The factory-authorized dealership will continue as an additional resource for Sacramento area

Acura customers by operating a service center and selling pre-owned models.

"This is a big win for Niello Acura customers in the Roseville/Rocklin area in terms of convenience and access to high quality service," said Rick Niello, president of The Niello Company. "It's an even bigger win for Acura customers in the pre-owned market because it gives them two locations to access what Acura itself considers its best pre-owned dealership on the West Coast."

The new Niello Acura Roseville will be operated by Vince Gregory, who has led the Niello Acura team on Madison Avenue the last 11 years. Chad Brown, currently the Co-General Manager of Jaguar Land Rover Sacramento, will take over as General Manager of Niello Acura Sacramento.

The move into the Roseville Automall comes in the wake of FIAT being added to The Niello Company's brand offerings.

In July, 4 Niello dealerships were named in the 100 Best Dealerships to Work for in the United States compiled by Automotive News Magazine. This January, Niello MINI opens in a brand new dealership on Auburn Boulevard.

"Busy times are good times. We are excited by our growth and the opportunities it affords our local community and our local economy." Niello said.

The Niello Company consists of 11 luxury brands including Acura, Audi, BMW, FIAT, Infiniti, Jaguar, Land Rover, Maserati, MINI, Porsche and Volkswagen. Now with 14 dealerships and a Collision Center, The Niello Company is committed to providing distinctive automotive products and exceptional service while treating their customers and employees with unyielding integrity. Visit www.niello.com for a complete list of Niello locations. ★

Source: Runyon Saltzman & Einhorn, Inc.

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Weak Hydraulic Fracturing Rules Fall Short

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Gov. Jerry Brown's oil and gas officials today released draft state hydraulic fracturing regulations that, according to The Center for Biological Diversity, fall far short of protecting California's air, water, communities and climate from fracking, a dangerously polluting practice that involves blasting chemical-laden water into the earth to fracture rock formations.

"Gov. Brown's fracking regulations would leave California's environment and public health horribly exposed to fracking pollution," said Kassie Siegel. "These rules mostly take the narrowest, most oil industry-friendly approach possible under state law to govern fracking. They will permit fracking to spread across the state, endangering our air, water, communities and climate. The only safe way forward for California is a halt to this inherently dangerous process."

The draft regulations go no further to protect Californians than the bare minimum requirements in S.B. 4 — and in some instances fall short even of those minimal mandates. S.B. 4, for example, requires notice of fracking to all tenants living within a 1,500-foot radius of the wellhead of any fracked well, or within 500 feet of the horizontal

projection of the subsurface portion of the well bore. Remarkably, the draft regulations attempt to restrict notification to people with a written lease by defining "tenant" as "a person or entity possessing the right to occupy a legally recognized parcel, or portion thereof, by way of a valid written agreement." (See 1783.2(b)).

"Under California law, you don't need a written agreement to receive legal protections as a tenant," Siegel said. "It's outrageous for the governor's oil and gas officials to attempt to restrict the right to be warned that fracking may endanger your drinking water to people with a written lease."

Among the failings, today's regulations do not address the large increase in deadly air pollutants like particulate matter, ozone, and air toxics that will accompany a fracking boom. The Central Valley and the Los Angeles Basin, where industry is poised for a massive expansion of drilling, already suffer from the worst air quality in the nation.

Oil companies engaged in fracking and other extreme oil production methods used 12 dangerous "air toxic" chemicals more than 300 times in the Los Angeles Basin over the summer, according

to a recent Center report. The regulations will do nothing to reduce such air toxics.

And today's regulations will do nothing to reduce the climate impacts of extracting and burning up to 15 billion barrels of dirty oil. Earlier this week, 20 of the country's leading climate experts called on Gov. Jerry Brown to impose a moratorium on fracking in California, noting that fracking and other extreme oil and gas extraction techniques disrupt the climate and harm California's efforts to be a leader in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"Gov. Brown knows that in order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we need to leave a substantial portion of the world's fossil fuel reserves in the ground," Siegel said. "The only sufficient regulation would be a prohibition on fracking and other extreme fossil-fuel extraction techniques."

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 625,000 members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places. ★

Source: Center for Biological Diversity



DELIVERY MAN (Rated PG-13)
A Film Review by Tim Riley

Vince Vaughn's latest comedic effort, *Delivery Man*, is not likely to catch fire at the box office in the way Jennifer Lawrence's latest chapter of *The Hunger Games* should connect with its built-in audience.

The lanky comic actor, writer and director usually lumps his screen personality into a state of arrested development. Vaughn's either a charming rogue or likeable oaf, and usually a combination of the two.

As such, Vaughn has his persistent detractors and ardent admirers. I lean to the latter category, admiring his eagerness to please and his unrelenting quest to deliver laughs at every turn.

Like most comedians (think of Ben Stiller and Robin Williams, for example) who take chances, Vince Vaughn has his share of brilliant comedies and, well, the not-so-inspired attempts at lunacy.

On the one hand, there's the Vince Vaughn of *Wedding Crashers* and *Dodgeball*, displaying dazzling strokes of comic genius, and then there are less fortunate forays such as *The Watch* and *Four Christmases*.

Delivery Man is arguably a middle-of-the-road endeavor, and as a result, the detractors will point out that Vaughn's aging slacker routine is wearing a little thin. Sadly, there's an argument to be made for that view.

The high-concept of *Delivery*

Riley Reviews

"DELIVERY MAN" SUITS SHIFT IN VINCE VAUGHN'S COMIC PERSONA

Man, a remake of a little known Canadian film called *Starbuck*, seems tailored to the talents of Vaughn's comic persona. And yet, Vaughn is asked to take some detours on his normal path as a comic actor.

Vaughn's David Wozniak, a delivery man in the family's New York City wholesale meat business, long ago donated his sperm to a fertility clinic when he desperately needed cash for work that didn't require showing up on time.

Desperation resulted in David becoming the biological father of a staggering 533 children. Though he signed confidentiality agreements, 142 of the now-grown children have filed a class action suit to unmask the identity of a sperm donor only known as Starbuck.

Coinciding with his legal troubles is the additional revelation that David's girlfriend Emma (Cobie Smulders) is pregnant. Thus, David becomes interested in cleaning up his act so as to be a responsible father and escape being a perpetual underachiever.

Working with his best friend and attorney of dubious legal talent Brett (Chris Pratt), David decides to fight the plaintiffs in the paternity suit so he can remain anonymous.

Brett is an interesting choice for legal counsel. Amusingly, he's struggling with raising four small children on his own, a situation ripe for many of the film's best comedic moments.

Going against the advice of counsel, David also decides to shadow many of his biological offspring, seeking to become,

in his own words, their "guardian angel" and secret mentor or counselor.

Thus, he starts to awkwardly interact with a diverse group of young people, from encouraging a street performer with a guitar to helping an unhappy coffee shop waiter to take time off the job for an acting audition.

To his credit, David is very much affected by his furtive interactions with the kids. Most touching of all are the scenes with a seriously disabled person for whom David does simple yet effective things such as taking an excursion outside the confined space of an institution.

Even while fighting the lawsuit, David still finds himself growing closer to a disparate group of youngsters that range from a drug addict to an aspiring basketball star. In the process, he learns that he just might be ready to be the father to Emma's child.

To a great extent, *Delivery Man* removes Vince Vaughn from his typical comic persona of the fast-talking wiseguy with an endless stream of put-downs and barbed comments. Yes, he's still funny but often in a more subdued or restrained manner.

Delivery Man taps into sentimentality as David learns how to be a more humane and responsible person as the result of getting to know his progeny and understanding their need for a paternal connection.

Director Ken Scott, who performed the same duties for the Canadian version, delivers a feel-good movie in *Delivery Man*, steering Vince Vaughn into some uncharted waters.

Coming full circle from where this review began, it needs to be said that "Delivery Man" just might be the ticket for the demographic audience that is not the target for the adventures of Katniss in *The Hunger Games*. ★

Court Rules to Halt California High Speed Rail

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Representative Doug LaMalfa today commented on a state court ruling which found the California High Speed Rail Authority's plan violated voter-approved law and effectively halted the project. LaMalfa, who authored legislation to place the project back on the ballot while a member of the state Senate, said the ruling would finally force the state government to recognize that the project bore no resemblance to the plan voters were promised.

"It's been clear for years that the California High Speed Rail Authority has little regard for the promises made to voters in 2008. After spending \$600 million the

Authority has nothing to show for it but a plan that violates the written bond measure that was passed," said LaMalfa. "This ruling is a victory for voters and a reminder that California's government must abide by its own laws, regardless of what some politicians think."

While voters were promised a system connecting Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego for about \$34 billion, the Authority's plan costs over twice as much and would reach from near San Francisco to near Los Angeles. Despite being promised a one-seat ride, Californians would need to transfer to local mass transit to actually reach

those cities.

"The ruling halts state spending and most federal funds can't be spent without matching funds from the state, meaning the project is dead in the water," LaMalfa added. "I'll be working in Washington to ensure that the unspent federal funding is redirected to more useful purposes, which at this point would be literally almost anything else."

Congressman Doug LaMalfa is a lifelong farmer representing California's First Congressional District including Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou and Tehama Counties. ★

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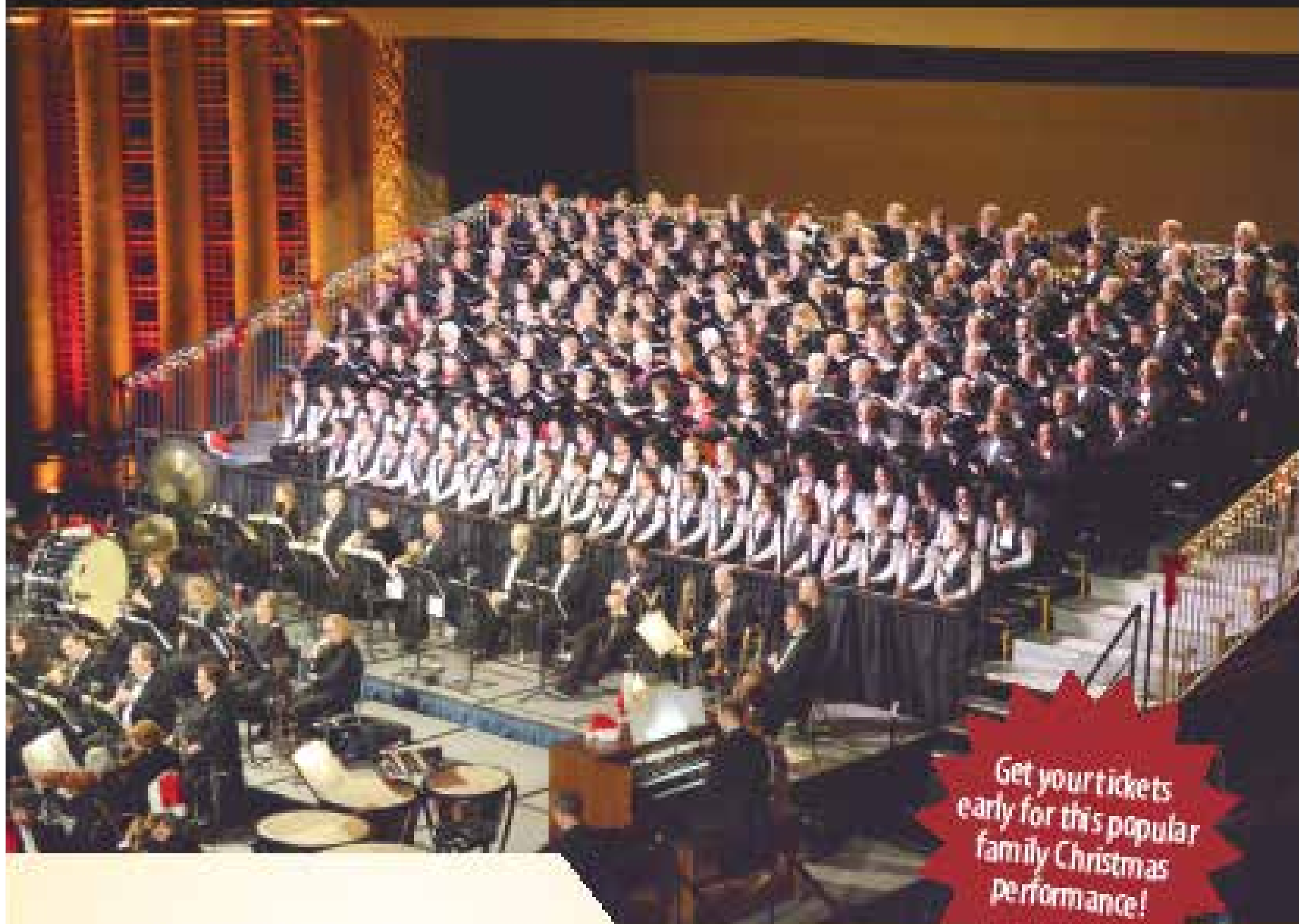
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