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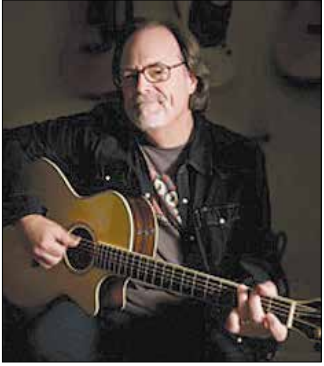
Placer Sentinel

Volume 24 • Issue 21

Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

First Issue of November 2013

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Discovering Gold



Join in the fun with a Mandarin Recipe cooking contest, professional chef demonstrations, food, artisan crafts, and activities featuring the Mandarin orange, a Peel & Eat contest, live music and entertainment.

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - The new gold in Placer County California is growing on trees as the County has become known for their intensely flavored, sweet, Mandarin Oranges. The annual Mountain Mandarin Festival, November 22-24, 2013, will celebrate 20 Magical Years in 2013 with the new crop of delicious, foothills-grown Mandarin oranges. Placer County growers will sell thousands of pounds of fresh Mandarin oranges and gift baskets, accompanied by all the free samples you like. Join in the fun with a Mandarin Recipe cooking contest, professional chef demonstrations, food, artisan crafts, and activities featuring the Mandarin orange, a Peel & Eat contest, live music and entertainment.

The Festival is held under the autumn-leaved trees of the Gold Country Fairgrounds in Auburn, CA where their golds, rusts and burgundies are punctuated with the bright orange globes of Mandarins

everywhere you turn. The tangy scent of citrus is in the air as visitors discover chocolate-covered fresh Mandarins, Mandarin pizza, or pulled pork, and English Scones with Mandarin Curd. Visitors can take home Mandarin BBQ sauces, syrups, olive oils, dressings and dozens of other Mandarin inspired concoctions.

More than 200 vendors of quality gift items sell Mandarin scented lotions, soaps, and candles, along with artisan-crafted jewelry, home accessories, and holiday items. Hop aboard the solar-powered green train for a guided tour of the event. Buy your bags of mandarins early and leave them at the Boy Scouts check station for delivery to your car when you are ready to leave. Live music provides a festive atmosphere as you stroll the grounds and visit with the growers.

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IRS Warns of Pervasive Telephone Scam

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Internal Revenue Service warned consumers about a sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, throughout the country. Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a pre-loaded debit card or wire transfer. If the victim refuses to cooperate, they are then threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting.

"This scam has hit taxpayers in nearly every state in the country. We want to educate taxpayers so they can help protect themselves. Rest assured, we do not and will not ask for credit card numbers over the phone, nor request a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer," says IRS Acting Commissioner Danny Werfel. "If someone unexpectedly calls claiming to be from the IRS and threatens police arrest, deportation or license revocation if you don't pay immediately, that is a sign that it really isn't the IRS calling." Werfel noted that the first IRS contact with taxpayers on a tax issue is likely to occur via mail.

Other characteristics of this scam include:

- Scammers use fake names and IRS badge numbers. They generally use common names and surnames to identify themselves.
- Scammers may be able to recite the last four digits of a victim's Social Security Number.
- Scammers spoof the IRS toll-free number on caller ID to make it appear that it's the IRS calling.
- Scammers sometimes send bogus IRS emails to some victims to support their bogus calls.
- Victims hear background noise of other calls being conducted to mimic a call site.
- After threatening victims with jail time or driver's license revocation, scammers hang up and others soon call back pretending to be from the local police or DMV, and the caller ID supports their claim.

Taxpayers should be aware that there are other unrelated scams (such as a lottery sweepstakes) and solicitations (such as debt relief) that fraudulently claim to be from the IRS.

The IRS encourages taxpayers to be vigilant against phone and email scams that use the IRS as a lure. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. The IRS also does not ask for PINs, passwords or similar confidential access information for credit card, bank or other financial accounts. Recipients should not open any attachments or click on any links contained in the message. Instead, forward the e-mail to tophishing@irs.gov.

More information on how to report phishing scams involving the IRS is available on the genuine IRS website, IRS.gov. You can reblog the IRS tax scam alert via Tumblr. ★

Cloudy Skies Don't Deter Pancake Diners from Raising \$2,500 for The Soldiers Project/Sacramento



Christian Haws, 3, and his grandmother Lory Winkelmann of Carmichael enjoyed pancakes and sausages during the Third Annual Pancake Breakfast for Veterans at St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church in Roseville.

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - As gray skies overhead threatened rain at any moment, intrepid diners ate their way through several hundred pancakes and even more sausages one Saturday morning last month...not just to enjoy an al fresco dining experience, but also to help raise about \$3,000 for The Soldiers Project/Sacramento (TPS).

Organized and hosted by St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church in Roseville, the event was the Third Annual Pancake Breakfast for Veterans.

"Our sincere appreciation goes out to the St. Anna congregation for sponsoring this

event," said Becca Bettis, TSP program director in the Sacramento region. "The volunteers work so hard to put the breakfast on and we know it's a heartfelt effort."

Between pancake breakfast sales and individual donations, about \$1,950 was raised for The Soldiers Project, which provides free psychotherapy to active-duty military members and veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families. TSP's volunteer therapists focus on the treatment of post-traumatic stress and the symptoms of traumatic brain injury, problems that can arise long after

veterans leave the service and come home.

Another \$1,000 was donated by Conoco Phillips, which contributes through an employee match program. Mike Dindio, the church's volunteer coordinator for the breakfast, is a Conoco Phillips retiree. Another \$300 was given by Key Sponsor USAA, a leader in financial products and services to the military community, to offset food costs plus a \$50 gift card directly to TSP.

Other in-kind donations came from Brookfields

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Fundraising Dinner Will Support Gold Country Fair

By Paula Mosqueda

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - It is common knowledge that the national economy has been suffering for some years. It follows that the local economy has followed suit. The Auburn Gold Country Fair has not been exempt from the challenges of the current financial climate. In fact, the Gold Country Fair has lost 100 percent of its state funding. That amount is \$185,000 per year. Non-state funding has also been reduced. Needless to say, keeping the fairgrounds open has become an on-going concern.

Consider the changes that would take place in the Auburn area if the fairgrounds were no longer available. There would be a need to find other venues for the Home Show, music festivals, crab feeds, livestock exhibits,

arts and crafts shows, Celebrity Chefs events, Demolition Derby, 4H and FFA events, rodeos, and many other activities that currently have a home at the fairgrounds.

With this in mind, on Thursday, Nov. 7th from 5:30-8:30 p.m., the Auburn 49er Lions Club is sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner at the Placer Building of the Gold Country Fairgrounds. All proceeds will be donated to the Gold Country Fair.

Tickets are available at the Fairgrounds office, the Chamber of Commerce, Sun River Clothing, and the Golden Swann Jewelers. Tickets for adults are \$10; children 11 years of age and under are \$5.

Because the proceeds of this dinner will going to give assistance to a community resource, the Auburn 49er Lions have

encountered many friends of the fairgrounds who have come forward to help support the evening's activities. These supporters have contributed funds to defray the costs of the dinner, so that all funds earned from tickets sales can go directly into the Fair coffers. To date, these supporters include Harris Industrial Gas, Lindy Young, realtor, Joanne Barragan, KMSensors LLC, Maki Heating & Air, The Black Forest, Cruisers Car Wash, and Taco Bell.

The Auburn 49er Lions Club is planning for an evening full of community spirit. Everyone is invited to come out to support the fairgrounds by enjoying a delicious dinner and opportunities to win a raffle prize. ★

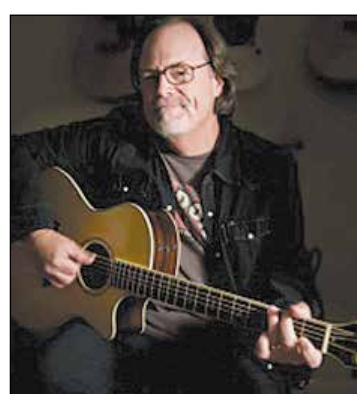
More information is available by calling the Auburn 49er Lions Club at 530-863-7503.

Songwriting Workshop Series Offered in Auburn

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - Accomplished singer-songwriter-player Larry Diehl is set to lead a workshop series -- "Songwriting from the Heart to the Soul" -- at the Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center's State Theatre beginning November 5th.

The seven-part series meets on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Sessions end on December 17th. The cost for the entire series is \$175.

The workshop is for aspiring songwriters with limited to no experience in the craft. Students will gain an understanding of song structure including verse, chorus and bridge, as well as



Accomplished singer-songwriter-player Larry Diehl

song elements such as melody, rhythm and rhyme. Special emphasis will be placed on writing songs from the student's own experiences and observations.

Along the way, students will receive constructive and non-judgmental feedback on their songs from the facilitator and their peers.

Larry Diehl plays in the tradition of folk, rock, and rhythm and blues, and is an experienced musical instructor. For more information about Mr. Diehl visit www.larrydiehlmusic.com.

Contact appac@att.net for registration information or register online at <http://www.livefromauburn.com/tickets.html>. Those interested are encouraged to register early since class size is limited! ★

Source: Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center

Widowed Persons Association of California to Hold Get Acquainted Dinner

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - The Auburn Chapter of the Widowed Persons Association of California (WPAC) will meet to socialize at a "Get Acquainted" Dinner to be held at the Sizzler Restaurant, 13570 Lincoln Way, Auburn, starting at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday November 7, 2013. Interested widowed

persons are invited to join.

WPAC offers grief support at no cost to all widowed persons to widowed men and women of all ages and promotes a wide range of social activities through which widowed persons have the opportunity to make new friends and find redirection in their lives.

For more information about the dinner, please call Denise at 530-823-5321; for information about grief support, call Sandy at 530-885-8298. ★

Source: Auburn Chapter of the Widowed Persons Association of California

Placer County Discovers "Gold" at Annual Mountain Mandarin Festival



Continued from page 1

The seedless, easy-to-peel Owari Satsuma Mandarin oranges are particularly suited to the warm days and cool nights of the Placer County foothills, at the base of the Sierras. A study by researchers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed that the juice from Owari Satsuma mandarins grown in Placer County orchards contains significant amounts of synephrine, a natural product that can help relieve the symptoms of colds and allergies.

For information visit www.MandarinFestival.com. Proceeds benefit the scholarship fund of the Newcastle Area Business Association and the Newcastle Volunteer Fire Department. ★

DETAILS:

Location: Gold Country Fairgrounds, 1273 High St., Auburn, CA
Hours: Friday: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm; Saturday: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm,
Admission: Friday Preview: \$3 admission Saturday/Sunday Admission: \$7; Seniors \$5; Age 12 & Under Free
Gold Country Fairgrounds Parking \$5, some street parking available
Public information: 916 663-1918 or www.mandarinfestival.com



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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

Cloudy Skies Don't Deter Pancake Diners from Raising \$2,500 for The Soldiers Project/Sacramento



Volunteer cooks George Econome, left, and Fred Stephenson work on a batch of pancakes at the Third Annual Pancake Breakfast for Veterans at St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church in Roseville.

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Restaurant, Carlson Insurance Agency, Costco, Denny's, Nugget Market, Raley's, Safeway and Starbucks.

The Soldiers Project/Sacramento, named in 2012 by the White House as one of the nation's top 20 military service organizations, is comprised of about 45 volunteer therapists who last year gave nearly 1,000 hours of free treatment to soldiers and their families. Its unlimited services

go beyond those provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs medical system.

For more information about The Soldiers Project/Sacramento and its programs, visit www.tpsacramento.org or visit the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/tpsacramento. To be connected with a therapist, call locally 916-792-3728 or toll-free 877-557-5888 or e-mail Sacramento@TheSoldiersProject.org.

Source: The Soldiers Project

Final Gravity Tap Room and Bottle Shop Celebrates the Best in Local Craft Beer



By Linda Harper, New Business Development

PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The term "final gravity" is used to describe the moment at which beer reaches a point of perfection in the brewing process. Final Gravity is also the name of one of Placer County's finest tap rooms and bottle shops.

Nestled in the foothills between Roseville and Granite Bay, this establishment celebrates the best in local craft beer and specializes in West Coast, Northwest and Belgian beers. Featured are twenty-six rotating taps and a multitude of bottles that can be enjoyed at the bar or taken out.



Kyle and Amy Ruthnick (above photo) opened Final Gravity in July 2012. They consider themselves forward thinkers and knew the area would grow, making their tap room a popular neighborhood gathering place as well as a destination spot.

Local breweries gaining recognition through Final Gravity Tap Room & Bottle Shop are

Truck -7 out of Sacramento, Loomis Basin Brewery, Auburn Ale House, Heretic from

Fairfield, Out of Bounds brewing in Rocklin, Sonoma Springs, Roseville Brewery and River City Brewery, to name a few. The list of local breweries is growing consistently.

Kyle and Amy Ruthnick opened Final Gravity in July 2012. They consider themselves forward thinkers and knew the area would grow, making their tap room a popular neighborhood gathering place as well as a destination spot.

In addition to great craft beer, patrons of Final Gravity can enjoy special promotions and events. Every Wednesday night is Trivia Night, on Thursdays a different brewery is featured and Happy Hour runs all day Sunday with \$1.00 off all beer and wine. Monthly events can be enjoyed also. "Midnight Sun Tasting" happens on Friday, November 8th while "Stouterday 2013," is scheduled for December 14th. A great list of Stouts will be available. When the weather is nice, the patio is open and friendly dogs accompanied by their humans are welcome.

Final Gravity is an intimate gathering place for friends, a holiday party or just a great retreat after work to enjoy a beer and good conversation. The shop is located at 9205 Sierra College Blvd. in Roseville. They're open seven days a week and the phone number is (916) 782-1166. For more information about Final Gravity, go to www.finalgravity.com or visit them on Facebook and Twitter.

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Rooster Tail Meeting Coming Up Featuring State Recordholder Mike Elster

AUBURN, CA (MPG) - The Rooster Tails Fishing Club breakfast meeting will be held on Friday, November 15 at the Auburn Elks Lodge, 195 Pine St. at Lincoln Way in Auburn. The doors to the Lodge open at 7:00 a.m. with a \$12 wide-selection buffet breakfast served at 8:00 a.m. At 9:00 a.m. sharp, Mike Elster, Mike's Fishing Guide Service, will share tactics and techniques for catching landlocked salmon in Northern California. The breakfast meeting is open to the public. Interested men and women anglers are encouraged to arrive early to secure a good seat.

Mr. Elster has been an avid trout and kokanee fisherman for over 20 years, fishing primarily Whiskeytown, Trinity, and Shasta Lakes. His guide service focuses on Whiskeytown Lake where he targets kokanee, rainbows and kings. He also fishes Lake Almanor several times a year and has planned a five-day trip to there in early April 2014.

Mr. Elster set his third California "Inland Chinook" state record this past summer with an 11.18 lb Chinook caught



Mike Elster with his third California 'Inland Chinook' state record, an 11.18 lb Chinook caught at Trinity Lake on 8/13/12. Photo courtesy of Rooster Tails Fishing Club.

at Trinity Lake. He enjoys sharing his experience and equipment with his clients and friends and says he enjoys learning a thing or two from them.

The 30-year-old, 190-plus member Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc. is a non-profit organization that meets the third Friday of each month to educate, entertain, and enhance fishing experiences. Unlike many bass and fly fishing clubs that concentrate on very specific types of fishing, the

Rooster Tails Fishing Club provides a balanced mix of fishing techniques presented by fishing experts targeting a variety of fish species on multiple types of waters.

Further information can be found at www.roostertails-fishingclub.org. For more information on attending Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc. meetings, contact the Club at 530-887-0479 or info@roostertailsfishingclub.org. ★

CAL FIRE Urges Californians to Check Their Smoke Alarms To Help Keep Their Family Safe

PLACER AND SACRAMENTO COUNTIES, CA (MPG) - To help reduce the number of home fire fatalities, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is reminding all Californians to make sure they have working smoke alarms in their homes. Nearly two-thirds of home fire deaths result from fires in homes with no working smoke alarms. A little attention to these important life saving devices can go a long way in increasing one's chance of surviving a devastating fire.

"Smoke alarms give you and your family an early warning when there is a fire so you can quickly escape to safety," stated California State Fire Marshal Tonya Hoover. "Making sure you have a working smoke alarm in your home will help keep you, your family and guests

safe."

Smoke alarm safety tips:
 • Place properly installed and maintained smoke alarms both inside and outside of sleeping areas and on every level of your home.

• Interconnected smoke alarms are best, because if one sounds, they all sound.

• Get smoke alarms that can sound fast to all types of fires. CAL FIRE recommends that every residence and place where people sleep be equipped with ionization and photoelectric smoke alarms or dual sensor smoke alarms, which contain both ionization and photoelectric smoke sensors.

• Inspect, test and clean smoke alarms and change alkaline batteries at least once every year, or when the alarm signals ("chirps") the end of the battery

life. You can use a date you already know, like your birthday or when you change your clocks as a reminder.

• Follow manufacturer's instructions if you have a 10-year smoke alarm which uses a long-life lithium battery.

• Never paint over a smoke alarm.

• Replace your smoke alarm at least every ten years.

• Practice exit drills so everyone understands what to do when they hear a smoke alarm.

Keep your smoke alarm working: never remove batteries from your alarm. ★

For more information on smoke alarms, please visit the CAL FIRE's website at www.fire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_smokealarms.php.

Modern Day Effects of War on Mom

By Julie W. Hubbs

I grew up in a home with a father who read and studied everything he could get his hands on regarding World War II. In addition, he had two brothers who served in the Army during that war. Because of this I learned a few things by reading his books and listening to his stories. I was most intrigued by the communications between the soldiers and their families.

I heard and read about wives sending love letters to their husbands, mothers sending letters of care and concern to their sons, fathers sending letters expressing pride, and children sending stories and pictures to their dads. Most letters were mailed hoping they would actually reach the hands of their loved ones. Families did not know if their letters arrived safely to the recipients, and at times they did not know where their soldiers were located. I am guessing prayers were prayed and candles were lit as extra precaution to help ensure the safety of their family members and the safe return of all those fighting in the war.

The first time my son was sent to the war in Iraq by the U.S. Army I was prepared to write letters of care, concern, and support. I was expecting to wonder if my letters would reach him. I

was prepared to not know where he would be located. I purchased candles to put in my window to light his way home, and I prayed for the safe return of all those fighting in the war, especially my son.

During that first deployment, I received phone calls with a bit of an overseas delay, but the sound was very clear. I woke up to e-mails on the computer and received little gifts in the mail. I remember saying to my husband, "This is great! It's like he is just down the street." I also remember my husband saying, "I don't know." That is all he said even though I tried to get him to elaborate on his thoughts and feelings. I remember thinking, what does he know that I am missing?

One morning on New Year's Day, I received a call from a female soldier we know. She called to wish everyone a Happy New Year. She was calling from Iraq, and with the time change her New Year's Day was coming to an end. She was right in the middle of expressing how much she missed home when there was the sound of a loud explosion in the background. She said in her sergeant's tone of voice, "I have to go!"

I said, "Wait. What was that noise? Was that a bomb?"

"Yes!" she said. "I have to go. Tell everyone hi and I love

them." With that the line went dead, and there was no further communication for the next several weeks.

As I replaced the phone in its cradle, I had a horrible knot in my stomach. Was she safe? Was the base safe? Were they under attack? Were people being hurt? There were no answers to my questions at that time. Months later when I saw her and asked about the explosion during our phone call, she couldn't even remember the event. She said, "Oh, there are explosions going off all the time over there. Who knows what was happening on that day?"

As my son prepares to leave on his sixth or seventh deployment, I too am preparing for his departure. I know I will talk to him on the phone, and there will be an overseas delay. I know it's possible a brutal sand storm may come up without warning, and he might have to hang up abruptly. I am preparing to put our conversation on hold while a helicopter or two or three lands right outside his tent. I am preparing to hear loud explosions when we talk on the phone. I know he might write that he needs an extra homemade blanket from Mom because of the extreme temperature changes from day to night when he's freezing. But most importantly, I am preparing to expect the unexpected. ★



Placer County Sheriff Special Report

Placer County Sheriffs Arrest Bank Robbery Suspect



PLACER COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Detectives from the Placer County Sheriff's Office, North Lake Tahoe station, with assistance from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office and the FBI, arrested a man wanted in connection with two Lake Tahoe bank robberies was apprehended in Reno, Nevada, in late October.

James Patrick Harnett, 49, of San Francisco at 5 p.m., at the Reno Transit Center on E. 4th Street. Harnett was considered armed and dangerous, as well as a flight risk.

Harnett was considered armed and dangerous, as well as a flight risk.

Placer County Sheriff's detectives received

information that the suspected bank robber was in the downtown Reno area and a warrant for his arrest had been issued. A Washoe County Sheriff's detective initially contacted the suspect while he was attempting to make a call from a payphone inside the transit center. The suspect was taken into custody without incident or injury to the officers or the surrounding public.

Harnett is suspected of robbing the Bank of the West in Kings Beach on August 23, 2013, as well as robbing the Eldorado Savings Bank two days earlier in South Lake Tahoe. Harnett is currently in custody at the Washoe County Sheriff's Main Jail in Reno, awaiting extradition to Placer County on a \$100,000 arrest warrant. ★

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Message From State Assemblymember Beth Gaines

Dear Friends and Supporters,
 It seems that every year Sacramento produces more and more ridiculous legislation. As bills pop up left and right, it seems that there is always more work to be done and progress to be made. Being a conservative, pro-business legislator in this current environment is a constant uphill battle. But rest assured, I will keep fighting for the interests of the people of California. Even as Democrats pass more bills that regulate and tax everything in sight, I will always work to stop these excessive laws. I have presented many bills that are anti-tax and regulation, and hope to continue my efforts until we see some positive results.



Beth Gaines speaking on the dangers of realignment and other public safety issues.

Obamacare

As summer is drawing to a close, we must prepare ourselves for the looming implementation of Obamacare. Although I did all I could to prevent this piece of legislation from affecting our everyday lives, our hopes now rest with conservatives in Washington- and I wholly support their efforts. Still, Obamacare takes effect in October, and I would like to share this information to help guide you through the bill's tedious details. In a recent poll, 75% of voters under the age of 65 said that they had heard little to nothing about Covered California, the new state health exchange. So let me start off by saying, you are not alone.

If you already have health insurance, you might be able to keep it, but the coverage must meet federal standards. Also know that your employer is not required to continue providing the same coverage, and higher costs might force them to change their coverage policies. If you are a young adult under the age of 26, you can stay on your parent's plan to avoid an IRS penalty. If you don't want health coverage, you can always pay a fine the \$95 annual penalty in 2014. This may be your best option if you are a young, healthy adult

considering the average annual premium for minimum insurance in 2014 is \$2,208.

If you own a small business, with 50 or less full-time workers, then you are not required to provide your employees with health care. However, watch out for the hidden clauses; for example, multiple part-time employees may be classified as a fulltime employee, which may trigger a requirement to purchase insurance or pay a tax penalty to the IRS. For those of you whose business employs 50 or more workers, you are considered a large employer. You are required to purchase health insurance for you employees, with coverage beginning in January 1, 2015, or pay tax penalties to the IRS. If you already provide insurance to your employees, you may be grandfathered in under the law, but if your plans change, they must meet federal standards. If you do not provide health insurance for your employees, you will owe a tax penalty to the IRS if even one of your employees

receives a subsidy through Covered California.

How much are these penalties? The penalty is applied to all of a firm's employees, excluding the first 30 workers. If an employee is subsidized, receiving insurance through the government, the penalty is \$3,000 each. If an employee is unsubsidized, who purchase their own insurance, the penalty is \$2,000 each.

So many unknowns, so many special interests lobbying for exemptions, and so many delays all prove that Obamacare is not ready for prime time. It is sad that California is racing to implement a program that no one truly understands and a majority does not support.

Realignment

With such misfortunes taking place in Sacramento, I cherish the few victories that are achieved during the legislative session. I am proud to present positive updates on the subject

of prison realignment.

Realignment has been a much debated topic for the past few years, and since it went into effect in 2011, more than 28,000 offenders have been moved from state to county facilities. These county facilities are not equipped to house these inmates, lacking both the space and resources to properly house them. After SB 109, criminal reoffenders were released before their sentence was completed. Numerous tragedies have followed.

Keeping our communities safe and secure has always been a priority of mine in the legislature. That is why I called on the Governor to continue fighting the courts on the early release of prisoners from our state prisons, and commend him on his efforts on this front.

Unfortunately, it has not been enough. That is why I was proud to support SB 105, a bill that makes one final request to Federal Judges for a three year extension on compliance with prison population reduction.

If this three year reprieve is granted, up to \$200 Million of the \$315 Million budgeted for SB 105 would be spent to reduce criminal recidivism rates, with the rest returning to the general fund. If the reprieve is not granted, this plan would shift prisoners from state prisons to instate and out of state correctional facilities to meet the population demands by the

December deadline imposed by the courts. By exploring out of state facilities, as opposed to paying more than double for instate unionized labor, and by making sure that clear and concise reports exist on how SB 105 money will be spent, we can ensure the best return on our investment for safer communities.

As long as I am in office, I will continue to guard the public's safety and to do so in a fiscally responsible manner.

AB 1266

In yet another aggressive abuse of power, the legislature has again decided to get involved in local school issues. Nowhere is this more evident than AB 1266, which plainly states that, "A pupil shall be permitted to...use facilities consistent with his or her identity, irrespective of the gender listed on the pupil's records."

In other words, there will be no rules, definitions, guidelines, or standards to define who can use what facility. Boys and girls will be forced to share anything from bathrooms to locker rooms and even showers. This law will take away all of the privacy in K-12 schools, taking away a child's security and comfort in having their own personal space. Being a young student is hard enough as it is, but sharing these personal facilities will only make fitting in more difficult. These children are not ready to share something as personal as

a locker room, when many are not even comfortable changing in front of their own gender. A child's worst fear is to be singled out and treated differently than the other children, so why put them through this hardship?

As a parent of six, I recognize that there is nothing more important than protecting our family. AB 1266 does the complete opposite. It violates our student's right to privacy. Every child deserves an equal opportunity to an educational environment where they do not have to fear public facilities. Let us protect the future of our children by stopping this piece of legislation now. If you wish to help stop this bill, go to privacyforallstudents.com. There you can print a referendum form, sign it, and send it in. Please do not hesitate to make your voice heard, as it will make a difference in our community.

If you share my beliefs and wish to get more involved, please join me at my next fundraiser event. This fun event will bring like-minded people together to bring positive improvements to our state. Please save the date for Wednesday November 6th, when we will meet at Sammy's Rockin' Island Bar and Grill, located at 238 Vernon St. in Roseville. If you are thinking of attending or have any questions, please call Capitol Development Strategies at 916-498-9223. This is your chance to make a difference- I hope to see all of you there!

Sincerely, Beth B. Gaines



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Booklet Puzzle on Page 8

4	1	8	7	2	5	5	7	3
7	2	6	7	9	2	8	5	1
8	5	5	5	7	1	2	5	4
6	7	7	3	6	7	3	0	7
9	7	2	3	7	6	4	6	5
5	8	0	3	2	4	7	0	7
5	3	7	1	6	0	8	4	3
2	9	0	7	4	3	5	1	3
1	5	4	5	8	5	7	2	3

Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

F	A	S	H	A		I	I	I	I	N	S	A		
A	C	H	E	S		W	A	R		F	A	U	L	A
W	H	O	R	I		W	A	C		F	I	R	O	W
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Birthing Babies

in excellent health (in that same Buick, by the way).

Granted, this birth was not typical. Some mothers labor for hours. Some children enter the world only by surgical intervention. Some babies are born in a maternity ward, some at home, some with a cadre of attending physicians, and indeed, some are born in the most bizarre of environments. What they all have in common is this: When it comes to birth, every newborn needs all the help he or she can get, to ensure good health.

This, as I see it, should be the calling of the church. Congregations should provide safe, welcoming environments for faith to be born within people. Churches should strive to be delivery rooms where the new in faith can grow, be nurtured, and become the people God wants them to be.

There are many helpful images that define the church's mission. It is a hospital providing healing to the sick and injured. It is a fuel station for those who are exhausted. It is a banquet hall of grace open to all who will feast at God's table. But let us not forget our role as incubators of developing faith, skilled midwives who assist with spiritual birth.

And as it is with physical birth, spiritual birth is not an invariable experience. Some come to faith easy and early, like they can't wait to get here, and all you have to do catch them. Others get wedged in the birth canal with philosophical, spiritual, and emotional sticking points. Others arrive in grand fashion, genuinely born again, but quickly

lose their way.

There are the doubters, the skeptics, the seekers, the confused, the angry, the stuck, the ready, the breeched, the premature, and those needing intensive neonatal care. None of these are targets of our marketing efforts. These aren't clients, customers, or converts. They aren't potential new members, and definitely not those whose vulnerability and needs should be used against them. These are precious people on the road to some kind of spiritual birth. Our role is to simply help their personal, unique faith emerge.

In my own individual journey of faith, so many people have helped me, people with a soft touch but strong, steady hands. Few of these helpers ever lectured me, formally "disciplined" me, twisted my arm, force-fed me Bible verses, or beat me over the head with the latest and greatest new book guaranteed to revolutionize my life.

No, recognizing that something new was struggling to be born, they were there to gently guide, encourage, support, and coach me. They dove right in – right where they found me – skilled midwives, who let me know that life and faith are worth their struggles. And when the pain of labor has passed, the anguish gives way to joy – for all – for faith has been born in the world. ★

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.

ThumbsUp, Thumbs Down, Now Everybody Turn Around

By Rev. James L. Snyder

Flying in an airplane is not my preferred style of transportation. However, flying without an airplane is quite disastrous, if you know what I mean!

I am not quite sure the Wright brothers would be too happy with some of the things passing as an airplane these days. It seems to me that psychotic midgets have designed modern day airplanes. Nothing in an airplane is designed for the normal person, and I might as well say it, I consider myself normal. I may be a shade taller than normal but I am normal in every other respect.

The one plane I took from Detroit to Dayton Ohio was about as small as I have ever been on. Walking down the aisle, I could not even stand up but had to bend over in order to walk down the aisle. I heard a noise behind me that startled me and I stood up only to dash my head against the ceiling. That was not the worst headache of my flight.

One of these days, I would like to meet the person who designed the seats in those planes. I will admit to being a little post thin, but after all shouldn't you be able to sit down in a seat when you are flying?

I truly do not understand what a seatbelt is for with individuals like me. I can barely squeeze myself into that seat and then it takes me about 15 minutes to extract myself from the seat. I suppose a seatbelt is for the comfort of the pilot who believes that somehow I will not bounce out of my seat while he is flying. I could not bounce out if my life depended upon it.

My seat was so tight and I fit so snugly in it that when I sneezed it felt like I did some damage to my inner organs. Somewhere in the Constitution there has to be something to the effect that an individual has the

right to sneeze without hurting himself.

What I want to know is why do I always have to sneeze when I am in certain situations like this?

Then, comes the time when you need to go to the bathroom. The flight attendant will bring you all the free beverages you can consume. They know, and I guess they are snickering behind our back, that everybody is going to have to go to the bathroom at the same time.

Coordinating the bathroom run is one of the trying exploits of flying the friendly skies.

For one, by the time I realize I have to go to the bathroom there is a line for the bathroom. Fortunately, but the time I extradite myself from my seat the line has dwindled dramatically. Then again, I have to go to the bathroom so bad I am dancing up the aisle to the bathroom to the great applause of the people sitting there.

Once I fasten myself into the seat, I try to get comfortable enough to do a little reading. Since I am sitting in the aisle seat, everybody is bumping into me as they go up and down the aisle.

Now that I am situated so that I cannot move, they come again with beverages. Why is it I forget there is a link between drinking a beverage and going to the bathroom? I know there is a link but when I am up in the air so high my tiny little grey cells are working in slow motion. So why take a free beverage? Well, it is free!

I am at the age in my development where going to the bathroom is a frequent activity, even when not drinking any beverages. When consuming a beverage, this activity kicks into high gear. Once again, I need to extricate myself from my seat and find my way to the

bathroom.

I am not quite sure about this, but I believe in mid air the airplane pilot switches the bathroom from the front to the rear. I am dancing up the aisle, which I believe is in the direction of the bathroom, only to discover I am going in the wrong direction.

A few of the people in the seats are smiling at me and one person gives me a thumbs-up as I turn around and dance in the direction of the actual bathroom facility. With a forced grin, I give a thumbs-up back at him and proceed in the direction of the bathroom.

It is at this point that I run into a line. Wouldn't you know it; the line is for the bathroom?

This is a real thumbs-down for me. It is at this point that I really wish I was not a gentleman. After all, a gentleman has to let the ladies go first. I think if some of these ladies would know the actual situation, they would insist I go first and I certainly would give them a wonderful thumbs-up.

As I was standing in line, a verse of Scripture popped into my head.

"And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:21 KJV).

Many things in life have us going in circles to which there is no end. God, however, puts us on the straight and narrow path that ends with Jesus Christ. ★

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@att.net. His website is www.jamesnyderministries.com.



By Ronnie McBrayer

Making my usual pastoral rounds at the local hospital some time ago, I witnessed the most unusual of circumstances. A dilapidated Buick had jumped the parking lot curb and had crash-landed in the flower garden just outside the main doors. The driver's door was wide open, and a group of hurried and harried medical staff was doing something to someone in the driver's seat.

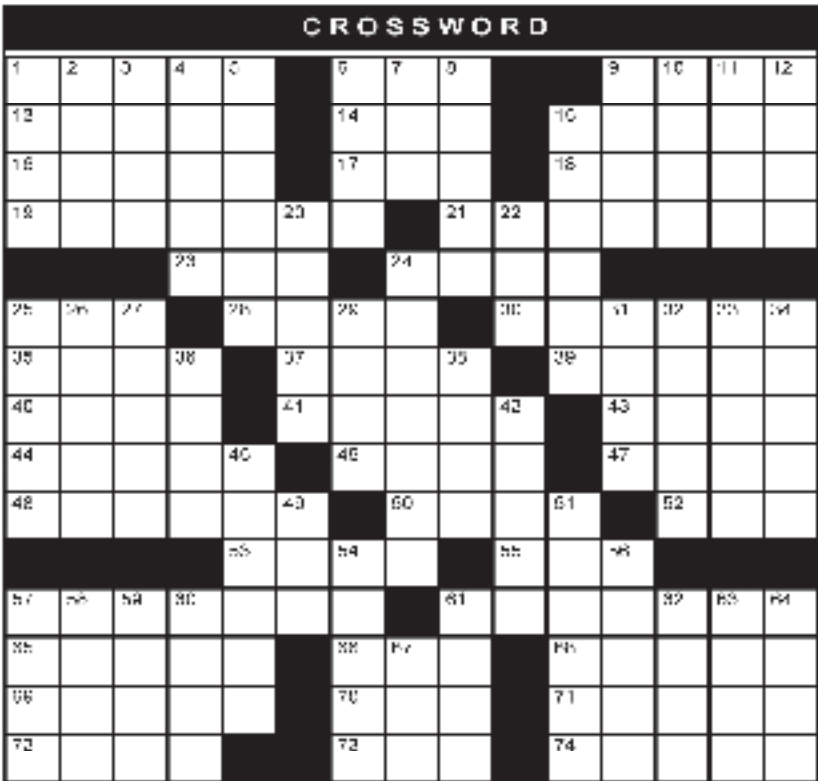
My curiosity was far too strong, so I slipped out of the hospital lobby to get a closer look. To my astonishment, a baby was being delivered right there in the front floorboard of that car. Thank God I didn't stumble upon this situation alone, for in the magnificent words of the late Butterfly McQueen, "I don't know nothin' 'bout birthin' no babies!"

All I could do was offer quiet prayers – for the laboring mother, for the new life struggling to be born, for the skilled and steady hands of the medical staff, and for myself – that I not pass out and create a secondary medical emergency. Within minutes the child, a boy, was born (more through the efforts of the mom, midwives, and nurses, not my prayers), and within days the two patients left the hospital

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- ACROSS**
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 2. Goes with heart
 3. Frigate ant.
 4. Partur of panther
 5. Calendar sin.
 6. Major Abbot
 7. Scapegoat, e.g.
 8. Cultural Foundation leader
 9. _____
 10. "The most distinguished contribution to American literature for children" award
 11. "The Wind in the Willows"
 12. "Spot read"
 13. Move slowly and carefully
 14. Remonstrance for soldiers
 15. Boon Urban tree
 16. Winter leaf feature
 17. Flower
 18. Trilled groucer
 19. Mary Zoroastrian deity
 20. Eight hits
 21. "The thing" and "the things" Heron
 22. Equal exchange, the wrap
 23. Learning
 24. Make a picture
 25. Can be washed or tied
 26. Mutual risk information
 27. Which
 28. Ocean or horizon
 29. Supreme Court count
 30. More, in Hindi
 31. Holed, to mung
 32. "Biggs neighbors"
 33. Cover story
 34. Mithraical, e.g.
 35. Launch or drive
 36. Crinkled old junk
 37. One less than just
 38. "Beehive Street" regular
 39. Licor's silver
 40. Talk, talk, talk
 41. File account, pt.



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 5. In R.E.M. songs
 6. Anatomical "breathing bear"
 7. Strong smell
 8. "Like Eric Carter's bear"
 9. "Hedgehog for Bush"
 10. Flagon symbol
 11. Lisa Ford movement
 12. "Crowned the Big Bird Dog's Post"
 13. Burns steel plates
 14. Don't just stand there
 15. Bottle in wine
 16. Plunge
 17. "King of the Elephants"
 18. Temple's heavenly machinery
 19. Recovering lesson
 20. "Water of life" or life
 21. Definition
 22. Success
 23. Scrambling in the air
 24. "A.K.A. Pippinella (The business)
 25. American runner's magazine
 26. "My's first island"
 27. Hindu religious leader
 28. "Covers both reporter and Snowy's mother"
 29. Between "ready" and "ira"
 30. Account for dinner, e.g.
 31. Foot
 32. About 1.6 cubic yards
 33. "You, _____"
 34. "The _____ Floor"
 35. Mother's story/it
 36. Add in wine
 37. Long and lean
 38. Pyroc, or Ballroom Marling Camper Draper Pyroc
 39. "Like Cradle of WI"
 40. Side the picture
 41. "Prisoner's name of inmates"

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By Karen Anderson

There is something that we all suffer from. Don't deny it... it's WORRY. We used to have a running joke in my family that I was the "champion worrywort" next to my grandfather, dad, and then me. I worried about what I should wear...girls gotta look good. I worried about walking down a dark path...someone would attack me, I worried about being in the wilderness...I might fall (I don't like to fall). I worried about the money...want to be independent. Most of these worries still plague me today but I'm tired of this getting in my way.

The question is this, "Why do I put myself through this?" Do you realize, friends, what really

Champion Worrywort

is behind this? It is fear of what is waiting for you around the corner, which is a lack of trust. I have started a study of Psalm 91 and realize that God has provided a way for me to build my trust in Him. It is His Umbrella of Protection. Just in the first two verses I realize I haven't spent the time He wants from me. It is so easy to get sidetracked with all the busyness of the day. From this day forward, I choose forever more to make Him my first priority. I know I have talked about living a moment-by-moment life with Him, but it is hard to stick to it. No more excuses...He will be my first thought upon rising and my last thought when I retire for the night.

Now let's look at the second verse. He wants me to open up to Him with all my hurts, fears, and disappointments. It's silly to think that I can hide anything from God. He knows everything about me, so why not go ahead and open my heart and my words to Him?

Once the first step is established in your life, the next step for this protection is to say what

is troubling you. Say this: "Lord, You are my refuge—You are my fortress—You are my Lord and my God! In You I put my total trust!" When facing that challenge learn to say, "In this particular situation of _____ (name it out loud), I choose to trust you, Lord." Is that really so hard? It shouldn't be.

"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust!" I look forward to my continual study of His Word and I want you to get excited and accept God's protection...all you have to do is act on it.

PASSAGE: Psalm 91:1-2 ★

Karen Anderson is an accomplished speaker, author, and chaplain. Her latest books, "Nikki's Tail-Waggin' Lessons" and "The Little Book of BIG Thoughts Series" can be found on Amazon.com. Leave a message for Karen at www.soaringtohope.com or connect with her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SoaringtoHope



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How To Improve the Road Ahead



Commentary By
Lee H. Hamilton

One of the more amazing spectacles in the days after the government shutdown ended was the obsession in Washington with who won and who lost in the showdown. Yes, the capital is focused on next year's elections, but honestly! There was only one real loser, and that was the American people.

Why? Because nothing got resolved. The agreement leaves the government open only until mid-January, and gives the Treasury the ability to borrow through early February. All that effort secured us the barest minimum that we needed. Tax reform, spending, entitlements, jobs and economic growth: we're no better off than we were before a small faction in Congress brought us to the brink of an unnecessary disaster. So the question is, can we avoid a similar crisis down the road?

The record of the recent past gives no ground for optimism, though members of Congress may now recognize the enormous economic costs to the nation of a shutdown and near-default. To avoid repeating their recent sorry spectacle, however, they will have to confront three challenges.

First, Congress has to break its habit of governing by crisis. Second, its members need

to take a leaf from this most recent experience and remember that the essence of legislating is negotiation. Finally, they need to recognize that every time Congress fails to assert itself, other institutions gain more power at its expense.

Great democracies do not lurch from doomsday moment to doomsday moment. They plan ahead, confront and resolve their challenges, fulfill their responsibilities abroad, and respond to their own people's needs. Congress can do none of these things so long as its members insist on resolving one crisis by setting up another a few months down the road.

Some people in Washington argue that this is because we live in trying times, faced with bewildering economic upheaval, social and demographic change, and a sorely divided body politic. That's all true — but politics has always been about getting things done in difficult environments. Congress was designed to be the institution where the difficulties of the moment could be overcome by legislators with the skill and temperament to work together to overcome them. Instead, we face a host of challenges with a Congress unable to address them because it can only postpone a crisis from one date to another.

I find myself thinking often these days of the skillful legislators I've known over the years. Where are their counterparts today? The negotiations that produced the last-minute settlement may have taken a lot of effort, but they do not measure up to what's required.

Congress only works well when its members understand some key things: that each party has to walk away with something; that it's crucial to preserve flexibility and avoid pandering and scorched-earth rhetoric;

that it needs to address the issues Americans care about most; that to avoid failure all the key players need to be at the table; and that they need the fortitude not to walk away from talks when things are going poorly.

Years ago, key players in serious negotiations went out to Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, and were confined to the compound until they came to a resolution. We need legislators who are willing to roll up their sleeves and commit that fully to the process.

Because in our system, power never evaporates, it just flows elsewhere. So when Congress doesn't perform, it cedes power to others.

By its inaction, Congress has given power to the President, who can use executive actions to enact policy. It has strengthened the federal bureaucracy by leaving regulatory decisions to federal agencies with very little direction or oversight. It has given massive economic power to the Federal Reserve, since someone has to promote economic growth in the face of congressional failure to deal with our fiscal issues. And it has allowed the Supreme Court to become the central policy-making body on controversial issues from campaign finance to affirmative action to environmental regulation.

"Any society that relies on nine unelected judges to resolve the most serious issues of the day is not a functioning democracy," Justice Anthony Kennedy said in a recent speech. I'm sorry to say that he's talking about us. ★

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.



Living Skinny In Fat Genes

It's my genes. That's why I'm overweight. How many times have you heard those words? In fact, it's the best excuse for eating all you want during the holidays! But let's face it. There is no doubt that Americans have some of the world's worst diet habits. Maybe it's time to take some tips from our neighbors across the ocean.

I recently had nationally recognized dietitian, author, and former TV host Dr. Felicia Stoler on my POPPOFF Radio Show. She made a trip to Malaysia this summer and wants to share the diet secrets of the Asian culture. Compared to Americans, Asians have much lower rates of obesity, cancer, and heart disease. In fact, American women have five times greater risk of heart disease than Chinese women do. So how do they do it? Dr. Stoler tackled the issue in Living Skinny in Fat Genes. Hopefully it's the healthy way to lose weight and feel great. So, no more, it's my genes" with these rules.

1) Eat in moderation-portion control. This always seems to be the most obvious, but it's true. Our portion "distortion" has really gotten the best of us. Look at the SERVING SIZE! When she counsels individuals, showing them models of appropriate portions-there is always that "aha" moment.

2) Be physically active-even

POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

30 minutes a day. People assume "exercise" is something one does in a gym that causes extreme perspiration and shortness of breath in order for it to be effective. This is not the case. You can increase your calorie expenditure by moving more. Quick tip-take a 5 minute walk every hour that you are at work...during an 8 hour work day, you'd accumulate 40 minutes of physical activity. That's not bad!

3) Eat a variety of fats. We need to eat various types of fats. You've heard of the benefits of fish oil, olive, and canola oil. Tropical oil, like Malaysian palm fruit and coconut oil can be added to your regimen. Malaysian palm fruit oil is loaded with beta carotene and tocotrienols, which wonderful antioxidant properties. Since various oils have different flavor profiles, you can change them up regularly in your food.

4) Eat smaller portions of animal sourced protein. In researching her book, Dr. Stoler found that animal proteins are consumed in much smaller portions than what we eat in the US. As one of her chemistry professors told her, "protein is cheap in America." It crowds out other food that we should be eating.

5) Go back to your roots. If you consider where in the world your family originated, one thing you'll find is that they consumed more grains...in fact usually the white variety like white rice, flour etc. Brown rice is really an American phenomenon. They don't eat whole wheat croissants in France nor whole wheat pasta in Italy.

6) Don't eliminate food groups. This is always listed as

a surefire way to identify a fad. Recommendations to cut out food groups always have a hidden agenda. No one food group is responsible for your health.

7) Eat more veggies. For over 12 years, this is the most common food fix that Dr. Stoler sees in most people's diets. Eat more plants...plain and simple. They do taste great. Fresh is best, but canned or frozen can make cooking at home quicker.

8) Get adequate sleep. We need at least seven hours of rested sleep. It is when our bodies have time to recharge, repair, and renew. Just like you plug in your cell phone each night...give your body the rest it needs. You burn the most fat while you are sleeping.

9) Modify your relationship with food. Don't reward yourself with food or use it as a coping mechanism when you are stressed or feeling down. Think of food as energy for life. Hippocrates said, "Let food be thy medicine."

10) Choose a healthy lifestyle. All foods can fit into a healthy lifestyle if you balance your calories in versus your calories out. Diet and exercise are the least expensive, least invasive, and most effective ways to prevent and treat disease.

So there you have it. No more "my genes" make me fat. These are simple and practical. Most of them we already know, but just don't do. You can check out more info from Dr. Felicia Stoler at www.feliciastoler.com. And remember, you can be "Living Skinny in Fat Genes" the healthy way to lose weight and feel great! ★

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- 9am - Noon: The Andrea Tantaros Show
- Noon - 1pm: The KAHI Noon News with Mary Jane Popp and the KAHI News Team
- 1 - 4pm: The Dave Ramsey Show
- 4 - 6pm: The KAHI Afternoon News with Dave Rosenthal and the KAHI 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 KAHI 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
- 10 - 11am: The Dew Sweepers Golf Show
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- 7 - 8pm: A Way With Words
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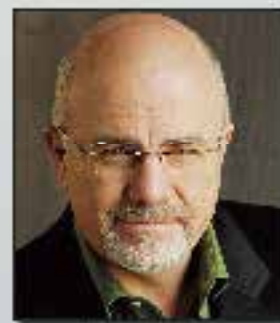
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Measure Introduced to Protect Agriculture from Unrealistic Floodplain Regulations

SACRAMENTO AND PLACER REGION, CA (MPG) - Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) and Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) today announced the introduction of a bipartisan measure to protect farms and ranches from new flood rules. The bill, H.R. 3315, exempts agricultural structures like barns, sheds and silos from FEMA requirements that effectively prohibit construction in areas designated as floodplains. These regulations, which apply to new construction and rehabilitation of existing buildings, require structures to be raised above any potential flood lines – a requirement that is too costly and impractical for large structures like equipment sheds and rice dryers.



Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)

most flood regulations make sense, farmers need to replace old buildings as they wear out and build new ones as their businesses grow. Agriculture is the backbone of the North State's economy, and we need to ensure that it can continue growing well into the future."

"We're trying to bring some common sense to the new federal flood regulations and allow our region's agriculture to continue growing," said LaMalfa. "While

in Northern California out of business – and the problem is spreading across the country," said Garamendi. "We will continue to work with district stakeholders in advocating for a solution."

"This bill will provide some much-needed regulatory relief for our region. Unless there are changes to these regulations, agriculture simply won't be sustainable over the long term," said Sutter County Supervisor James Gallagher.

"We're excited about the bipartisan leadership on this issue. Rural areas have been struggling under flood regulations for years, so we're hopeful that this provides some much-needed relief to farmers and ranchers," added Kristi More, executive director of the Agricultural Flood Management Alliance. ★

Source: Congressman Doug LaMalfa

Sacramento Is a Scary Place for Taxpayers and Not Just on Halloween HJTA Releases 2013 Legislative Report Card

SACRAMENTO AND PLACER, CA (MPG) - Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (HJTA) has released its 2013 Legislative Report Card. HJTA's scorecard is intended as a tool to help struggling California taxpayers hold legislators of both parties accountable. Of the 120 members of the Legislature, 79 received a grade of "F" while only 25 earned an "A" grade. Twenty bills were used and represent the priorities of HJTA's 200,000 members.

"Our report card is designed to help Californians gauge how their state representatives are actually performing on taxpayer-related issues including tax increases and direct attacks on Proposition 13,"

said HJTA President Jon Coupal. "Regrettably, the grades show that Sacramento continues to be very hostile to taxpayers."

Nine lawmakers received a perfect score:

- State Senator Joel Anderson (second consecutive perfect score)
- State Senator Ted Gaines (second consecutive perfect score)
- State Senator Steve Knight (second consecutive perfect score)
- State Senator Jim Nielsen
- State Senator Mark Wyland
- Assemblyman Brian Dahle

- Assemblyman Tim Donnelly (third consecutive perfect score)

• Assemblywoman Beth Gaines (second consecutive perfect score)

• Assemblyman Brian Jones

To review the Report Card in its entirety and to see how individual representatives scored, visit HJTA.org and look under "Hot Topics" at the bottom of the home page. For more information about our methodology and scoring system go HJTA.org or e-mail Legislative Director David Wolfe at david@hjta.org. ★

Source: HJTA.org

Taxpayer Group Applauds Senator Jim Nielsen Lawmaker Given Perfect Score by Howard Jarvis Group

SACRAMENTO AND PLACER COUNTIES, CA (MPG) - Advocates for the protection of Proposition 13 – the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – today touted Senator Jim Nielsen's voting record to preserve taxpayers' rights. In its review of lawmakers' votes on bills pertaining to taxes during the 2013 legislative year, Senator Nielsen received a perfect score of 100 percent.

"Californians are heavily taxed in our everyday lives from cell phone taxes to car taxes. These taxes are in addition to income and sales tax increases, the fire tax and the ever increasing fees

imposed by state agencies on all of us," said Senator Nielsen (R-Gerber). "Yet, Sacramento politicians are constantly looking at different ways to tax us to pay for their pet projects."

Nielsen added, "The practice of politicians raiding taxpayers' pocketbooks to fund an increasingly burdensome and dysfunctional government must stop."

After tracking over 20 pieces of legislation that would have significant negative impacts on taxpayers, HJTA thanked Nielsen for his support of taxpayers and his tireless efforts to fight on

their behalf.

HJTA's President Jon Coupal said, "For 35 years Jim has been a staunch supporter of Proposition 13 on behalf of taxpayers. This year's perfect score demonstrates a continued level of consistency that is commendable. His is a record that taxpayers can trust, and a model that other legislators should look to."

Founded in 1978, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association is the leading taxpayer group dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13. ★

Source: Senator Jim Nielsen

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When the Fever Dream Breaks

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Congressman Tom McClintock delivered the following remarks on the House floor on October 29th:

It has become obvious over the past few weeks that we are now watching nothing less than the collapse of the American health care system. Millions of Americans are losing their health plans and are being set adrift into a dysfunctional system where they cannot find comparable affordable policies.

Few are signing up on the Obamacare exchanges. How few we don't know, because the numbers are so embarrassing the administration refuses to release them. There are published reports that some 80 percent of the signups are pushed into the Medicaid system, which is itself nearing functional collapse as doctors simply opt out.

Those who are able to keep their health plans are seeing their rates skyrocket to unaffordable extremes. The few who can find affordable policies often discover that they are losing their doctors. Many employers are dropping their employee health plans, or reducing salaries, or cutting back on work hours, or laying off workers as they try to cope with the increased costs. A constituent of mine reports her employer cut her salary 23 percent as it tries to deal with Obamacare costs.

The Obamacare website is a monument to governmental incompetence. This is a website designed to sell a single product that has been under development for more than three years at a taxpayer cost of more than \$600 million – more than was spent developing Facebook or Twitter. And yet it does not work.

But that's not the big problem. The big problem is that

today there are fewer people with health insurance – apparently a lot fewer – than before this program began less than one month ago. This is the disaster that Republicans tried to prevent or at least delay. Now that disaster is unfolding before our eyes with dire consequences for millions of Americans.

With all its flaws, the American health care system was the finest in the world: it was the most innovative, the most advanced, the most adaptable and the most responsive to the individual needs of patients. And now we are losing it.

The one question I keep hearing is, "Well, what do the Republicans propose?"

In fact, Republicans have had a comprehensive alternative for years. Spearheaded by Dr. Tom Price of Georgia and Dr. Phil Roe of Tennessee and sponsored by the Republican Study Committee, this package would bring within the reach of every American a health plan that they could chose according to the individual needs of their own families, that they could own and they could control. But this package has never passed the House. And it is high time that it did.

- It extends the same tax breaks we currently give to companies to individual employees so they can afford to buy their own health care again according to their own needs.

- It expands Health Savings accounts so people can meet their needs with pre-tax income.

- It restores to people the freedom to shop across state lines to find the best policies to suit their needs.

- It restores flexibility so that health plans can accommodate people with pre-existing conditions while expanding risk pools to provide for those conditions.

- It attacks cost-drivers like medical liability law that helping to make health care unaffordable.

- It restores pricing flexibility to plans – so that a healthy young person can again purchase a catastrophic plan for next to nothing.

- It takes the best of the American health care system and preserves it while correcting its flaws.

I realize this reform will be buried in the Senate – but it is important that the House pass it so that the American people can see that there is still hope to save what was once the finest health care system in the world, once this fever dream of Obamacare finally breaks.

We have just been through a government shutdown because Democrats refused even to consider delaying the Obamacare train wreck. They got their way. And that train wreck is now upon us. I believe in coming months, the American people will recognize the urgent warnings that the Republicans tried so desperately to convey. And they will be looking to us for a way out.

We need to blaze that trail now, and for that reason, I rise to ask the House leadership to bring the Republican health care reforms to the floor – get them to the Senate – and then let the American people decide. Freedom works. And it is time we put it back to work. ★

Source: Congressman Tom McClintock



A TV Article
by Tim Riley

If you are not getting enough of "Masterpiece" or the running of old episodes of "Downton Abbey" on PBS, then the Starz cable channel has a special treat in the five-episode series "Dancing on the Edge."

Understandably, Starz is hopefully filling the gap while fans of British period costume dramas await the fourth season of "Downton Abbey," scheduled to start in January, 2014.

Adjusting to a competitive cable marketplace, Starz is just now concluding its series run of "The White Queen," a British television drama about royal palace intrigue set against the backdrop of the War of the Roses.

Unfortunately, Starz discovered that interesting dramas like "Boss" and "Magic City," both series set uniquely on the American stage, one involving raw politics and the other the glitter of Miami Beach, didn't have staying power.

"Dancing on the Edge" may not be a tip of the scales to an Anglophile programming trend at Starz, but there is undeniable appeal to many of the British imports that are now thriving on American television.

Loosely inspired by the true accounts of the iconic Duke Ellington Band mingling with royalty in Europe during the Great Depression, "Dancing on the Edge" is entirely fictional but no less compelling than the obvious societal challenges faced by black jazz musicians during that era.

British actor Chiwetel Ejiofor plays Louis Lester, who starts his own band and dreams of introducing American jazz

Riley Reviews

BRITISH DRAMA
"DANCING" TO COSTUME
PERIOD GLORY ON STARZ

music to the United Kingdom during the early 1930s. He's almost immediately befriended by ambitious journalist Stanley Mitchell (Matthew Goode).

Writing for Music Express magazine, Stanley has an eye for talent. He discovers and becomes enamored with the Louis Lester Band while they are performing in a basement jazz club that apparently caters to more bohemian tastes.

Stanley immediately signs them to headline at the illustrious Imperial Hotel. At first, the hotel's older, elite audience is hostile or indifferent to the band, owing to racial prejudice and the lack of familiarity with jazz music.

But the younger crowd of aristocrats is enchanted by this new music and invites the members to play at a garden party, where Prince George, the Duke of Kent, is in awe of the private performance, taking notice of the lead singer Jessie (Angel Coulby).

Writer and director Stephen Poliakoff is no stranger to period drama. He penned a note to critics in which he revealed that during research for his drama "The Lost Prince" he discovered that Prince George's passion of jazz music was absolutely genuine.

Poliakoff learned that Prince George patrolled the clubs of London with his eldest brother David, the Prince of Wales, to explore the music of different bands, and the two princes mixed with the musicians and invited some of them into their homes.

Again, the Louis Lester Band's interaction with royalty is entirely fictional, but there is little doubt that visiting American musicians like Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong were given an enthusiastic

welcome in London.

Still, against the backdrop of the worldwide financial meltdown of 1929, Britain endured an enormous gulf between rich and poor, and society was torn by racism and prejudice, especially among the aristocracy and the ruling class.

Yet, at the same time, certain black musicians were blending with high society, playing at their parties and even having love affairs with them. The latter is the case when Louis meets attractive society photographer Sarah (Janet Montgomery).

Not only royalty pays attention to the band, the mysterious American mogul Masterson (John Goodman), who loves jazz and resides at the Imperial, senses popular culture and journalism about to explode and he becomes obsessed with potential lucrative opportunities.

Meanwhile, the eccentric aristocrat Lady Cremone (Jacqueline Bisset) known for discovering unknown talent is persuaded by Stanley to become a key player in propelling the career of the Louis Lester Band.

"Dancing on the Edge" is ambitious for the number of stories that are told. It's about more than the rise of a popular musical genre. Race and class issues run deep throughout.

Nineteen-thirties England was a time when certain musicians could find themselves one week on the verge of being deported and the very next week fraternizing with the ruling elite at a great country home.

Sudden success and the acclaim of London society are heady experiences for the Louis Lester Band. Just at the height of their fame, one terrible event overtakes them and they get to discover which members of their elite fan club are truly genuine in their support.

"Dancing on the Edge," beautifully evoking the 1930s, is entertaining on many levels, including the mystery element that should remain a surprise. Of course, the music is excellent, making for a terrific soundtrack. ★

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