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Beneath the Wage Floor

Gems, Jewelry, Fossils, Minerals and More



Much of the current problem with youth unemployment is due to the high minimum wage increases we've seen over the last five years.

Commentary by Jeffrey Tucker
Laissez Faire Today
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Publisher's Note: Read the entire story to get the real message.

There are certain sounds that tend to make people crazy. Think of nails on a chalkboard. An infant screaming nonstop on a long flight. A piercing whistle that won't go away.

Now we need to add another: a U.S. president who thinks he can legislate high wages into law. For anyone who knows the basics of economics — not distorted by a bogus central-planning mentality — hearing this is like torture. It's painful. It makes you crazier and crazier until you finally want to

yell, "Make it stop!"

This is how I felt when President Obama said the following:

"Let's declare that in the wealthiest nation on Earth, no one who works full time should have to live in poverty, and raise the federal minimum wage to \$9.00 an hour. This single step would raise the incomes of millions of working families."

Why stop there? Let's also declare that everyone should make \$9,000 or \$9 million per hour. If all that stands between us and total riches is the word of a president and an action by Congress, let's get on with it!

Does Obama really not get what's wrong with this approach? I've long disagreed with him, but I've never really thought he was

ignorant. But even from the earliest interviews I've read, he does seem to have a tin ear on economic topics. He doesn't seem to get where wealth comes from. He doesn't seem to understand how prices work. And now we can be certain that if he understands how wages work, he isn't willing to let on.

Of course, he could also be lying. It wouldn't be the first time a politician did that.

Much of the current problem with youth unemployment is due to the high minimum wage increases we've seen over the last five years. When the crisis hit in 2008, the minimum wage was \$5.85. Lots of jobs got shaken up. Low-wage workers hit the road. When things settled

down again, they went knocking

on doors. The next year, they found that it was illegal to accept a wage less than \$7.25. And we wonder why so many people are unemployed? It's not a mystery. The huge increase in the wage floor is not the whole reason, but it is a contributing factor.

A wage floor of any sort traps people in the basement. The higher the floor, the larger the basement. Today, millions are rattling around down there, unable to find their way out. And now the U.S. president, in the name of creating jobs, wants to make more of the unemployed more permanently unemployed.

I feel a particular frustration with this issue, and it's not because of the economics texts I've read alone.

Continued on Page 9

SACRAMENTO, CA – MPG Northern California's largest Gem and Mineral Show is coming to the area. This fun family event, with educational activities for kids and scouts, is a full day of something intriguing for everyone!

The event is newly expanded this year, with over 45 vendors in four buildings, plus outside vendors and activities, featuring: crystals, beads, gemstones, and gold panning where you can take home real gold! There will be meteorites, fossils, and for the kids, an "Education Station" expanded by popular demand, and an interactive educational area.

This Gem Show brings the museum to you, with over 35 unique exhibits. The show also features polished stones, jade, opal, world-class mineral specimens, tourmaline, gold, and petrified wood. You will find everything you need to assemble your own jewelry. Attendees can watch demonstrations in the arts. You can also bid on silent auction items.

This is a high energy, diverse show that will have you busy the entire day. It serves as a great introductory experience to the world of collecting rocks, crystals, and more, while enjoying the great outdoors.

General Admission \$6.00, Seniors 60+ \$5.00, Kids - 12 and under Free. Grab a discount coupon on their website: <http://www.rockrollers.com/show.html>. There event has free parking available. Fabulous food is available.

RockRollers is a non-profit (501C). This is their annual fundraising show that supports our education center.
Event Dates: 3/23 & 24/2013.
Location: Roseville (Placer County) Fairgrounds, 800 All America City Blvd (off Washington), Roseville.
Event Time: Saturday - March 23 - 10am-5pm / Sunday - March 24 - 10am-4pm

Penalties Lacking for Sex Offenders Who Remove their GPS Devices



Commentary by State Senator Jim Nielsen
Reprinted by permission

As distressing as it may be, for the sake of your family, take a look at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's link: <http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Parole/GPS-Wanted-Alerts.html>. Scroll down and you will see mug-shot after mug-shot of some of the thousands of convicted sex offenders who have cut-off or disabled their GPS tracking devices and are now living who knows where.

After perusing the site, you might want to double-check your

doors and windows before you head off to bed. You might think twice before you allow your children to walk out the front door by themselves. You might also want to sign up for a class in self-defense, or maybe get yourself a big dog, a home alarm system and some pepper spray.

Voters approved Jessica's Law in 2006, in part because it requires that all convicted sex offenders be fitted with a GPS monitor and tracked for life upon their release. We found a little measure of comfort in the assurance that someone was sitting behind a computer tracking exactly where these potentially dangerous people are all the time, but there remain limitations in law enforcement ability to monitor and because under the Governor's realignment plan, even those caught now face minimal or no consequences.

Unsurprisingly, a recent widely circulated news story reported that there are currently about 3,400 open arrest warrants for GPS tampering, and most of them are sex offenders. The number of parolees who have ditched their GPS tracking devices is up by 118 percent in the year following

the implementation of Governor Brown's realignment plan.

Before realignment, parole violations included a more severe penalty for removing a GPS monitor — a return to prison for a full year.

Today, under the Governor's "historic" realignment, such parole violations incur a penalty of no more than 90 days in a local jail — and probably much less as a direct result of local jail overcrowding — a consequence of the state pushing former state prison inmates into county jails.

Sex offenders, in some instances, strolled into their parole officers' offices, dropped their GPS devices on the counter, told law enforcement officials to pound sand and walked out. This brazen attitude is becoming the norm among criminals.

The National Institute of Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice found that for sex offenders who are not monitored by GPS, the risk of re-offending triples. Of course, even jail time can only be imposed when public safety officials actually locate the offender, and that's more difficult to do once the tracking device is removed. With local jails already overcrowded,

even the most dangerous felons are being released. In the first week of the AB 109 implementation sex offender parole violators were being arrested, and immediately released for their violations because of jail overcrowding. This continues.

Governor Brown calls realignment a success. The state may have saved \$1 billion on prison costs to date, but what is the cost in human suffering?

One of the registered sex offenders who removed his GPS device is Sidney Jerome DeAvila of Stockton. DeAvila was an AB109 inmate, according to the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office. Records showed that DeAvila was arrested at least 10 times in the past nine months. In almost every instance, he was released within 24 hours due to overcrowding.

Shortly after his last release in February, he was charged with raping and killing his 76-year old grandmother and leaving her body in a backyard wheelbarrow.

As a first step, I am supporting State Senator Ted Lieu's (D-Torrance) Senate Bill 57, which defines GPS tampering or removal as a felony. This bill does require amending to ensure

all sex offender parole violators are subject to the maximum return to custody with no good time credit. We may have some difficulty garnering the support of the Democrat majority, however. For many years now, the Democrats in both houses have abided by a blanket policy of rejecting any and all legislation that either creates or expands felony sentencing. Nevertheless, I have to have faith that those who hold a majority in both houses of this Legislature will recognize the significant threat to public safety that GPS tampering presents.

After my colleagues in the Legislature take a good look at the long list of offenders walking our streets, and if they are willing to hear the collective voices of overwhelmed local public safety officials as well as the testimonies of victims of realignment and their family members...well, I have to believe that SB 57 may just have a fighting chance.

This bill is only one step. I am asking for a special session to be called so the governor and legislature can focus on and pass a number of bills to address this public safety disaster.

The Great Struggle

Washington, D.C. - Congressman McClintock, on March 13th, delivered the following opening statement at a hearing of the House Budget Committee held to consider the budget bill for 2014. Congressman McClintock is a member of the House Budget Committee, and he voted in favor of the bill.

"This budget reflects a great struggle between American families and their government over whether they, or the government, can best spend the money that they have earned.

This budget bends that struggle slowly back in favor of those families, by returning to them a little of the freedom to spend more of their own money and make more of their own decisions again.

Every billion dollars spent in

Washington means nine dollars taken from an average family - either in direct taxes or in tax-driven price increases as businesses pass along their costs to consumers.

It is about time we started thinking of these numbers in family-sized terms - because ultimately these numbers have a very real impact on families who are struggling to balance their own budgets, set their own priorities, and look after their own needs.

Ultimately, what government spends is what it taxes - either now or in the future. Today we pass more than a third of the cost on to our children, and finance the remainder through a tax system in which politicians pick winners and losers through an appallingly unfair and distorted tax code.

This budget calls for doing

away with those tax distortions that reward some and punish others; distortions that shift capital away from economic expansion and into the service of political objectives.

And this budget calls for flattening and lowering tax rates to assure that no American family pays more than a quarter of its earnings to the federal government. Those nations that have adopted similar reforms have been rewarded with explosive economic growth.

That means fairness for every American taxpayer and an economy unshackled from the burdens and political favoritism of our current system.

In short, freedom works, and it is time that we put it - and America - back to work.

Source: The Office of Congressman McClintock

Soroptimist Awards Make a Difference in Loomis Basin

(LOOMIS, CA) - Soroptimist International of Loomis Basin (SILB) presented community awards on Wednesday, February 27 at the Train Depot in Downtown Loomis. The club's fundraising efforts enable the club to fund these awards.

Soroptimist supports women and children locally and throughout the world.



Rebecca Kattenhorn, 8th grade teacher at Loomis Grammar School, will use her award to rebuild her class library to help her students reach their goal of reading 40 books this school year.

Susan McQueen, 6th grade math and science teacher at Loomis Grammar School, received a grant to buy "The Hands-On Equations Learning System," a supplemental math program that uses visual and kinesthetic approaches to provide students with a foundation for success with algebra.

Tracey Curry, 1st grade teacher at Ophir Elementary School, was given an award to purchase Learning Palettes, tactile manipulative kits that can be used by multiple students year after year to reinforce and practice key first grade math and reading concepts.

Dana Swain, 4th grade teacher at Placer School, received a grant to buy the "All About Banking" project to enhance both math and history curricula. This program will reinforce the concept of decimals while working with money, and teach students about banking services, financial institutions and how money impacts us every day as a cornerstone of our economy.

Amanda Tibbits, Kindergarten teacher at Placer School, will use her award to purchase reading books to build the kindergarten leveled readers' library. These books can be read in small or large groups, with buddies or one-on-one.

For information about Soroptimist International of Loomis Basin, contact Kaera Anzalone, president at 652-4024. Learn more about joining the club at a prospective member mixer on Wednesday, March 13 at 5:30 p.m. at Rejuvenate, located at 3431 Taylor Road in Loomis.

Meetings are held weekly on Wednesdays at 8 a.m. at the Train Depot at the corner of Taylor and Horseshoe Bar Roads in Loomis. Starting in April, the club will hold an evening meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at Lorenzo's Mexican Restaurant in Loomis. Follow the club on the Soroptimist Loomis Basin Facebook page. Join us for Tostada Bingo on March 9 at the Loomis Veteran's Hall; get \$20 tickets at the Loomis Chamber Office. Soroptimist (soroptimist.org) is an international volunteer service organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world. Soroptimist International of Loomis Basin is a 501(c)(3) organization. The club supports Loomis L.I.F.E. center, women's transition home and other community projects.

Violet Richardson Award

Katie Conkle, a Del Oro High School student, received the Violet Richardson Award that recognizes young women who make the community and world a better place through volunteer efforts. She volunteers for Lakeside Equestrian Center Therapeutic Riding Program in Loomis. According to Conkle, the Lakeside program enhances the quality of life for people with disabilities by improving their muscle tone, social skills, flexibility and other skills. Participants perform different activities on horseback. "As a side walker, I walk alongside the horse with an arm over the rider's leg," said Conkle. "I make sure the rider is safe and lead them through various exercises and games." She says that she has learned: "the importance of patience, to never give up and that it only takes a little bit of time to make a positive difference in someone else's life."

Women's Opportunity Award

Kathryn Potts won the Women's Opportunity Award that aids women who support their families and need additional training to upgrade their employability. Potts is a single mother of two children who attends Sierra College with the goal of becoming an automotive technician or an automotive service writer. "I have always liked fixing things and seeing how they work," said Potts. "By working in this traditionally male field, I will be able to make a great life for my kids." According to Sierra College faculty member, Johnnie Terry, Potts has been persistent in the pursuit of her dreams. "She has an education plan and knows what moves to take to fulfill it," said Terry. "She will also make an excellent role model for her daughter."

Ruby Award

Sherrie Douppnik Edgar won the Ruby Award for Women Helping Women that is given to those who improve the lives of other women or girls through their professional or personal activities. According to Chris Hebard-Summers, Edgar initiated the Loomis Christmas Basket program over 10 years ago. "She has worked tirelessly in the community for the past 25 years," said Hebard-Summers. "She is a Loomis Chamber of Commerce past-president, South Placer Heritage Foundation board member and Cowpoke Fall Gathering committee member." Edgar is the president of Gary Douppnik Manufacturing and lives in Loomis.

Sanford J. Weinberg Reader Award

Jennifer McAlister received the Sanford J. Weinberg Reader Award, given to a volunteer who reads to students. She was nominated by teacher Kathy Lowry who says that McAlister is a dedicated volunteer. "She has spent four years as a 'Volunteer Reader' in K-3 classrooms at Ophir Elementary School," said Lowry.

Special Recognition

Fred & Acsa Hitchen received a grant to continue their work at the Senior L.I.F.E. Center of Loomis, a place where adults over 55 years of age enjoy social and educational activities as well as lunch contributed by local businesses and organizations. Soroptimist International Loomis Basin helped establish the center in 1978 and has supported the program since its inception.

Fuzzy Jarnagin accepted the grant to American Legion Post #775. American Legion members are veterans who have served active duty in the armed forces of the United States during a period of conflict. Soroptimist appreciates the many ways that the veterans have partnered with the club to support community events such as the Loomis Family Fest and Loomis Easter Egg Hunt.

Teacher Grants

SILB provides small grants to help fund teachers' long-term projects that will benefit numerous classes over time.

Bobbi Nelson and Angela Smith, Kindergarten teachers at Franklin School, received grants to buy a set of leveled reading books with appropriate text, pictures and vocabulary for beginning reading in kindergarten.

Jennifer Ameigeiras, a Title One teacher at H. Clarke Powers School, will use her grant to start and facilitate a student-run morning news program for 7/8th grade students. Students will write, produce, edit and star in a news and edit a news broadcast to deliver school-wide morning announcements.

Patricia Sleizer, Kindergarten teacher at H. Clarke Powers School, was awarded a grant to purchase the "Daily 5," a program which uses different media and activities to foster literacy independence and improve reading and writing skills.

Clinics for Young Archers

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA - (MPG) The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will offer two beginning archery clinics this spring for young archers between the ages of 8 and 17.

The first clinic, the Youth Archery Spring Fling, will be held Saturday, April 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Maya Archery Range, 750 Galleria Blvd. in Roseville (Placer County). The second clinic, the Mojave Youth Archery Blast, will be held Saturday, June 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Mojave Archers Range, 10500 Eaby Road in Phelan (San Bernardino County). "Archery is a sport that motivates youth to spend time

outdoors, and California has some of the best and most scenic outdoor ranges available to the public," said Lesa Johnston, CDFW's coordinator for the California National Archery in the Schools Program. "We hope that by offering archery opportunities, youth will be encouraged to explore the possibilities and participate in this lifelong sport." Each clinic includes a safety orientation, fundamental archery instruction, an introduction to various types of equipment and plenty of actual target practice. Clinic participants will be supervised by adults as they practice shooting at the outdoor stationary bull's-eye targets.

Separate instruction will

be provided for youth (8-12 years old) and teens (13-17). Participants of both age groups must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The cost is \$15 for all ages, and includes the use of the equipment, snacks and lunch.

Parents and guardians will also receive a lunch at no additional charge. CDFW will co-sponsor the clinic with the California Bowmen Hunters and the State Archery Association. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Online registration is available on the CDFW website at www.dfg.ca.gov/yo. For additional information, please call the program coordinator at (916) 322-8933.

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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.

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Paul V. Scholl

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Tutor Time a Strong Advocate for Student Success



Tutor Time services include implementation of reading fluency programs as well as individual assistance in targeting academic competencies within the math, reading, and language arts curriculum. Photo courtesy of TutorTime

PLACER COUNTY, CA – (MPG) Tutor Time, a philanthropic program of Assistance League of Greater Placer, is a strong advocate for student success throughout the Greater Placer County area. The chapter volunteers have a long history of providing strong educational support to the elementary students.

Currently, there are twenty-one volunteers providing service to ten different classrooms in both Auburn and Roseville. Under the guidance of classroom teachers, these tutor volunteers work tirelessly to facilitate student learning and academic growth. Tutorial sessions are typically provided on a weekly basis. Individual tutors, in collaboration with classroom teachers,

determine the amount of time spent within each classroom.

Services include, but are not limited to, implementation of reading fluency programs as well as individual assistance in targeting academic competencies within the math, reading, and language arts curriculum. Since September, 2012, our volunteers have logged over three hundred fifty hours, providing service to over one hundred twenty-five children.

These volunteers have impacted not only academic success but also the self-confidence and self-esteem levels of each of their students. Their efforts have made a significant difference in the lives of many children within the communities we serve.

Funds for all Assistance League programs come from fundraisers, donations, grants and money raised by selling reusable clothing, household items and furniture in our Thrift Shop at 1263 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn. Assistance League of Greater Placer served more than 13,000 Placer County children and adults who needed support last year.

For more information on Assistance League of Greater Placer, visit their website at www.greaterplacer.assistance-league.org or the Thrift Shop at Fiddler Green Plaza, 1263 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn, CA 95603 530-885-1982.

Around Town with Loyce Smallwood



Spring-like weather calls for prolonged outdoor experiences so double your pleasure with the breakfast sandwiches enjoyed outdoors served up in friendly manner at LaBou in The Belair Shopping Center and then take the short drive over to The Ridge Golf Course and enjoy the golf experience on the dance floor and the range. Assistant Pro Jason tells me The Ridge Grille is now open daily serving up a variety of drinks and luncheon fare, inside or on the patio. Drive into town and stop to shop at Piece by Peace Thrift, 1310 GV Highway adjacent to Vintage Collectibles Thrift and Sutter Auburn Faith Hospice Thrift which continues its extended 7pm opening Friday evenings enticing shoppers with tasty pastries generously donated by Eric Nordby, owner of Hilda's Bakery and The World Pub.

Donations of household goods, clothing and collectibles are needed at Hospice Thrift so clean

out your closets and remember to take used books/DVDs and CDs to Friends of Placer County bookstore in the Raley's Center at Foresthill Exit where the friendly/dedicated volunteers manage to keep the bookstore open on a daily basis helping to provide needed funds for homeless felines awaiting adoption on the premise. And speaking of books, congrats to DT Auburn Healing Light founder Donna Arz whose current book dealing with the challenges of our returning veterans can now be found on Kindle. Those who love to turn real book pages can donate books and enjoy the used book sale at the Auburn Library annex, the first Wednesday of the month and following Saturday.

Tickle your fancy at Placer ARTS 808 Lincoln Way DT Auburn where artist Nancy Hakala has a whimsical display of her art on display including murals/paintings/prints.

Remember to check in at the DT Gold Country Mall where cheerful artist Juan Pena invites the public to drop by and enjoy the art scene and sign up for art instruction in his colorful gallery. For more outdoors delight grab the pizza/salad special at OT Pizza and nosh in the sun before strolling over to see Auburn Antiques Owner Gloria Padilla who has a store filled with vintage collectibles ranging from jewelry to dolls to glassware to ceramics and Padilla tells me her neighbor Paul Williams, owner of Williams Antiques & Collectibles, 1582 Lincoln Way OT, is the expert on Royal Copley ceramics. Donate, shop, dine; and in this weather, delight, indeed. Comments to loycer@suddenlink.net



Artist Nancy Hakala. Photo by Loyce Smallwood

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Medicare: Did You Really Pay for That?

Commentary by Dr. Mark W. Hendrickson
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SACRAMENTO REGION, CA – (MPG) Last summer, Barack Obama riled a lot of entrepreneurs when he got carried away at a campaign event and told any American who had built up a successful enterprise, “you didn’t build that.” An even greater backlash awaits any politician who dares to tell Medicare recipients, “You didn’t pay for that”—for there are far more seniors than entrepreneurs in our country.

Time after time during Election Year 2012, seniors and near-seniors reacted to the slightest mention of Medicare reform with indignation and the emphatic insistence, “Don’t you dare touch Medicare; I’ve paid for it!” There is only one problem with that statement: In a mathematical sense, it isn’t true.

The amount that American workers have paid and are paying into Medicare isn’t enough to fund all the benefits that are being paid out to seniors under Medicare. The trustees of Medicare have stated that the promises they have made exceed their projected revenues by tens of trillions of dollars. Senator Tom Coburn (a physician in private life) has estimated that the average American couple contributes approximately \$110,000 to Medicare over their working careers and receives over \$330,000 of Medicare benefits. On Feb. 20, USA Today cited Urban Institute data pegging those same figures at \$88,000 and \$387,000, respectively. There are differing estimates of the size of the gap, but clearly Medicare suffers from an unsustainable funding deficit.

Let me hasten to say that I have sympathy for those who

make the “I paid for it” case. Through decades of their working lives, millions of seniors paid into the system and were promised that Medicare would be there for them starting at age 65. These citizens played by the rules, acted in good faith, and held up their end of the bargain.

The problem is that the politicians in Washington have not acted in good faith. Instead, they have committed a gigantic fraud by underfunding the program. The fact of the matter is that we’ve been swindled, and the anger and sense of pending betrayal that many seniors feel is understandable. At the same time, we, the people, need to accept some responsibility for this sorry state of affairs.

Certainly, the members of Congress and presidents who allowed the imbalance between Medicare income and expenditures to get so out of whack are ethically culpable. Still, “we the people” share some responsibility for the Medicare fiasco. The mistake was naïveté and gullibility. We can see now what an enormous mistake it was to trust politicians’ promises.

Regrets and recriminations aside, the question now is: Where do we go from here? What are our options? The only way that the oncoming flood of baby boomers will be able to receive all the Medicare benefits that they were promised would be to either increase payments into the system or reduce disbursements from it.

We already have seen how volatile, contentious, and divisive the political strife over Medicare has been. Sadly, it is likely to get much worse. Generations will be arrayed against generations.

On the one side, gray-haired Americans will demand that the promises made to them, and for which they upheld their end of the bargain, be kept. The

progressives have played a masterful political game; they will have huge numbers of average Americans who think of themselves as anything but socialists egging them on and supporting them in their quest to absorb and appropriate more property. The great American middle class, which has the most to lose when Big Government supplants the private sector, will be energetically demanding some of the very policies that will crush the life out of the economy.

On the other side, at some point the younger generations are going to rebel against the debt slavery to which they have been subjected, and they will push back as a matter of economic survival and a desire to feel as free as their elders once did. Responding to pressure from the young, the federal healthcare blob inevitably will ration health care.

What a terrible price Americans will pay for falling for the seductive promise of a benign government caring for us all in our old age. Not only will the country be poorer and less free, but the quality of health care itself is bound to decline—all while our society is riven between young and old when the common enemy is the idea that the compulsory economic relations imposed by government comprise a way of life that is somehow more just, more harmonious, more helpful, and more prosperous than a society in which each individual’s life and property are his own and economic exchanges are voluntary (i.e., a society in which people are free).

— Dr. Mark W. Hendrickson is an adjunct faculty member, economist, and fellow for economic and social policy with The Center for Vision & Values at Grove City College.

10,000 Meals in 60 Days

AUBURN, CA – (MPG) According the American Academy of Family Physicians, nearly one in ten seniors in America suffers from poor nutrition. This can exacerbate problems already common among seniors, including depression, improper healing, and a depressed immune system. Emeritus Senior Living, the nation’s largest assisted living and memory care provider, is helping combat this problem by delivering 10,000 meals to seniors in 60 days and visiting with them to ensure they are able to get the nutrition they need every day.

“Seniors may not get the nutrition they need for a variety of reasons,” says Steve Sacco, Senior Director of Dining Services. “For some, it’s due to a lack of financial resources; for others, a lack

of reliable transportation. And in many cases, isolation and depression have caused seniors to lose interest in cooking and eating healthfully.”

Emeritus at Emerald Hills has long been providing outreach to seniors who live at home through their Home Visits program, where dedicated senior living professionals visit people in their home to identify where they could use help and connect them with the services they need.

“We are committed to making sure that every senior in need in this area finds the combination of programs and services that serves them best, even if they do not live with us,” says Mary Ann Peterson, Executive Director. “The 10,000 Meals initiative also supports our ‘Safely Somewhere’ program, ensuring that no matter where a senior

lives, they are safe and living a purposeful life.”

To help meet their goal, Emeritus is asking for the public’s help. If you know of a local senior who could use a nutritious meal, please find the Emeritus community nearest you and give them a call. “We’ll deliver the meal along with a friendly face and some good conversation,” says Peterson.

If you are interested in helping a senior get the nutrition they need, please call Emeritus at Emerald Hills at 530-888-8847.

Emeritus Senior Living is the nation’s largest memory care and assisted living provider, with the ability to serve nearly 50,000 residents. Its experts provide insights on senior living, care, wellness, brain health, caregiving and family topics at www.Emeritus.com.



Placer County Sheriff Special Report

Bay store using a stolen credit card taken from one of the burglarized homes. Anyone who has information on these subjects is urged to contact Detective Dan Meier at (916) 652-2411. To remain anonymous and be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to an arrest or arrests, contact Placer County Crime Stoppers. All tips remain confidential. Crime Stoppers can be reached at 1-800-923-8191 or online at www.placercrimestoppers.com.

The suspects were driving an older, blue Ford pickup truck with a lumber rack on top and a toolbox mounted in the truck bed. At both homes, the thieves took bicycles, wallets, purses, credit cards and electronic equipment. The two suspects are white males, one with a shaved head and wearing a long-sleeved burgundy shirt and blue jeans. The other wore a dark-colored hooded sweat-shirt, a dark-colored baseball cap and light-colored pants.

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PCWA Board Okays Interim Power Agreement

AUBURN - Directors of the Placer County Water Agency on Thursday (Mar. 7) approved an interim agreement to continue the sale of the agency's hydroelectric energy output to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, effective May 1.

Andy Fecko, PCWA's director of resource development, said the interim agreement is needed because the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has not acted on a May 2012 application for approval of a long term agreement.

PCWA and PG&E last May negotiated the long term power sale agreement, which is designed to replace an existing 50-year contract that expires Apr. 30. It covers the sale of the electrical energy produced by PCWA's five hydroelectric power plants.

Fecko said the interim contract may be needed for only a few weeks, or not at all, but that the two organizations needed to be

prepared for any possible delay. He defined it as a "status quo" agreement that would continue existing terms as needed.

The interim contract also won approval earlier in the day from the Middle Fork Project Finance Authority, a joint powers partnership between PCWA and the County of Placer.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- heard a presentation from former state assemblyman Roger Niello, who is currently president of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. Niello briefed the PCWA board on the chamber's Next Economy Capital Region Prosperity Plan, which lays out a vision for future economic development in the six-county capital region. Information is available at www.nexteconomycapitalregion.org.

- heard a presentation from City of Roseville water conservation

coordinator Lisa Brown, who represents Placer County and inland Northern California on the board of the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC). PCWA and Roseville were among the regional leaders that were successful two years ago in gaining north state representation on the council, which had leaned heavily to the south.

The PCWA Board of Directors will next meet in adjourned session at 2 p.m. on Monday, Mar. 11, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. The next regular meeting of the board will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 21. 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.

Ranchers and Farmers in the Sierra Nevada Receive \$5.2 Million in Prop 84 Conservation Grants

SACRAMENTO, CA - (MPG) The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Governing Board today approved \$5.2 million in Proposition 84 grant awards to assist Sierra ranchers and farmers in 18 counties with conservation measures designed to protect California's most important watersheds. The action was taken at the board's quarterly meeting, held in Sacramento.

With the completion of this grant round, the SNC has awarded \$52 million to nearly 300 projects in the Sierra in the past five years. A wide variety of projects have been funded, including those to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire, protect important landscapes and improve watershed health.

"These working landscapes have a rich and important place in our region, so preserving that

heritage is critical to our future," said SNC Executive Officer Jim Branham. "These lands provide not only economic benefits, but substantial natural resource benefits as well. These projects will help conserve or restore land and water resources valuable to those living downstream."

Projects will result in reduced erosion, meadow and stream restoration, conservation easements, ranch infrastructure development, invasive species removal and pre-project environmental work.

Funding was made available following a competitive grant round in which 62 qualified applications were received, totaling \$11 million in requests. Eligible applicants include public agencies, qualifying nonprofit organizations whose charitable purposes are consistent with the

purposes of the SNC, and eligible tribal organizations. Where the funds are used by applicants on private land, there must be a demonstrated benefit to the public.

Created in 2004, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency whose mission is to improve the environmental, economic, and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada region. The SNC, which receives no general fund tax dollars, has awarded approximately \$52 million in grants for projects including fuels reduction, conservation easements and acquisitions, and watershed and habitat restoration. Funding for these projects comes from Proposition 84 passed by voters in 2006.

Source: SNC

LaMalfa Questions Homeland Security Plan to Release Illegal Immigrants

WASHINGTON, DC - Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) commented February 27th on the Department of Homeland Security's order to release as many as 10,000 detained illegal immigrants under the pretenses of President Obama's sequester funding cuts. "The Department of Homeland Security's plan to release thousands of convicted criminals is simply playing politics with Americans' safety," said LaMalfa.



Doug LaMalfa caption to go here.....

crimes including theft, fraud and drunk driving.

Additionally, the committee reported that DHS is releasing documented gang members and those arrested for serious crimes who have not yet been convicted. While DHS has a number of other options to make the spending reductions the President's sequester requires, Secretary Napolitano

has chosen to release thousands of criminals rather than look for savings with the DHS' \$50 billion budget.

"The President's sequester means that every part of the government will be cut, including Congress, and my office has worked to ensure that we can continue our mission of serving the First District," LaMalfa added. "The question is, why didn't the Department of Homeland Security plan look for savings in its \$50 billion budget rather than ignore one of its largest responsibilities?"

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.

Rep LaMalfa Commends Senator Rand Paul's Stand for the Constitution, Due Process

WASHINGTON, DC - Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA) released the following statement on March 11th of support for Senator Rand Paul's historic filibuster protesting the Obama administration's initial refusal to admit that it lacked legal authority to use drone strikes against Americans on American soil. While members of the House of Representatives do not have speaking privileges on the Senate floor, Rep. LaMalfa was part of the "conservative cavalry" of House Republicans joining Sen.

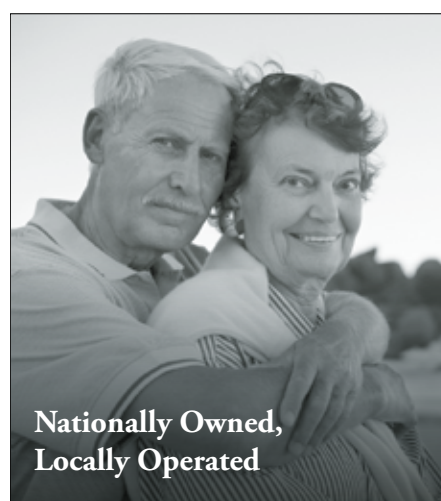
Paul on the floor to support to his filibuster.

"Senator Rand Paul spoke for the millions of Americans concerned about individual liberty and government overreach, and he did so in a way that could not be ignored. It was an honor to join a number of House Republicans on the Senate floor to lend moral support to his efforts and a night that will always stand out vividly in my memory.

"The debate over the use of drones on American soil is

symbolic of the larger debate over the role and scope of our government, and I firmly believe that Senator Paul is on the right side of history on both issues. I am proud to stand with Rand in defense of liberty, due process and the Constitution."

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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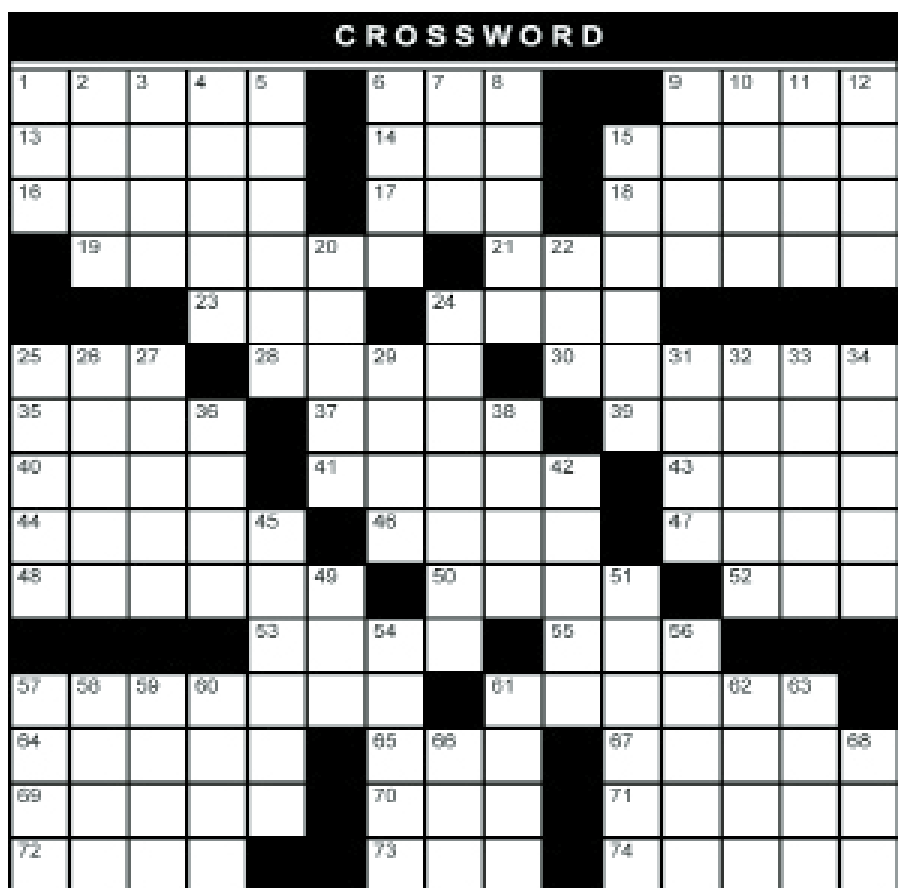
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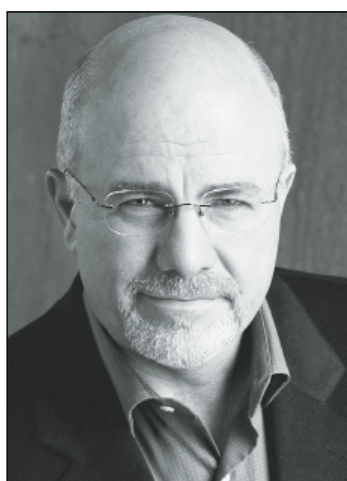
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CLUES

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| <p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Father of Hector, Paris and Cassandra Young newt Perching place Fungal skin infection Tap order Less than right angle On pins and needles Bottom line Isabel Allende's "Portrait in _____" "Say _____ to winter and hello to spring" "Celebrated saint" One of peeps Cobbler's concern Mudbath site Cellist great "The _____ Spring, led by Alexander Dubcek" Snaky swimmers "Daffodil or tulip, originally" Yuletides | <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Harper Valley _____" Sign of engagement A fan of Famous for his fables "Dance-around-the-pole holiday" _____ button from Staples 1918 pandemic, e.g. Dancer's beat Maple, to a botanist Brazilian indigenous people Relating to the ear Reach a high Rearward Splotches European peak Lonely musician? "Garden's beginnings" Peter in Spain Tattered Tom's creator Exclamation of disgust First rate | <p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive advantage Skedaddle Profit REM picture Fuzzy fruit Second-most traded currency in world Kinda One who speaks a Slavic language OB-GYN test Boor "These sox train in spring" "Precedes May flowers" Okinawa martial arts Great reviews Lawyer group She turned to stone Amber _____ "Family _____" Ar, atomic number 18 Homework to a student "a.k.a. Tokyo" | <p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> "Faster!" to a horse U in UV To impede The Vatican to Catholics, e.g. B in BCS Miss America's topper Harass Either _____ or against "Occurring now" Utilization or employment Farm type 32-card game Mau dance Lyric poem, pl. W in W-Fd Boxer's last blow Not for here Jet black "Spring Growth" European Nuclear Society |
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For Solution See Page 7



Dave Ramsey is America's most trusted voice on money and business. He's authored four New York Times best-selling books: *Financial Peace*, *More Than Enough*, *The Total Money Makeover* and *EntreLeadership*. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 5,000,000 listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com.

Can I Motivate My Parents?

Dear Dave,
My parents are close to retirement and very heavily leveraged. Do you have any advice on how I can help motivate them to succeed financially?

- Jack

Dear Jack,
I appreciate your concern for your mom and dad, but I'm not sure you can motivate anyone to do something. Sometimes people don't have motivation because they've lost hope. In turn, it's that sense of hopelessness that keeps them from moving forward. I think in these situations the best you can do is to show them hope. And one of the best ways to do that is to share your own story. You can also examine the numbers with them to show that the light at the end of the tunnel isn't always an oncoming train.

I do this a lot with callers on my radio show. After we look at the pieces of the puzzle together, I might show them how they can pay off \$50,000 of debt in a year's time. Most of these people aren't bankrupt; they're just plain scared. So there's a lot of power in that little word "hope."

Sit down with your parents and let them know how much

Dave Says

you love them and want them to enjoy their retirement. See if you can find out how much income they have versus the amount of debt they've piled up, then begin to formulate a step-by-step plan. Show them how they can begin to get traction and free up their money by living on a budget and getting out of debt. You can even offer to be their counselor or accountability partner.

You want them to be safe and secure in their retirement, and they deserve some dignity after working hard all their lives. So, in my mind, hope is the best thing you can offer. Motivation is a different story. That has to come from within. You can't really motivate the unmotivated.

- Dave

No On Rent-To-Own!

Dear Dave,
What do you think about rent-to-own housing? I'm not sure we're financially ready to buy yet, but we don't like giving money to landlords. Is rent-to-own a wise compromise?

- Mike

Dear Mike,
I wouldn't recommend getting mixed up in a rent-to-own

situation. I don't think it's a wise compromise, and it's also the kind of deal that works out well for the landlord, not the buyer.

If you're not financially ready to purchase a house, then you need to get your life in order before you take on a major commitment like becoming a homeowner. Get your debts paid off, get an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses in place, and save up for a down payment of 20 percent. I know it'll take some time and it might be difficult, but that's what I'd recommend.

Buying a home when you're broke, or trying to trick the system with a rent-to-own deal, usually doesn't work. I spent a lot of time in the real estate business, and I still own several properties. I don't do these deals because statistically the majority of people who rent to own never end up owning the property.

Take my advice and go slow, Mike. When you buy a home, you want it to be a blessing, not a burden!

- Dave

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WORK ON JET ENGINES

Train



By Ronnie McBrayer

In ancient Jerusalem there was a pool of water called Bethesda. The location served as an impromptu hospital ward, a collection point for the sick, blind, and paralyzed. These infirmed went to Bethesda to receive a hoped for healing – not from a physician – but from the therapeutic waters themselves.

Back then it was a common belief that an angel came from heaven at certain times and “stirred up the water” of Bethesda’s pool, resulting in miraculous healing for anyone who could get in the water. They didn’t take this stirring as natural warm springs, percolating mineral water, or air escaping the limestone aquifer. They believed it was a divine intervention.

In the New Testament gospels, Jesus makes a visit to Bethesda and finds a lame man lying alongside Bethesda’s waters. Jesus doesn’t drag him over to the pool and dunk him. He simply heals him. Then, he gives the now-made-well man exuberantly practical instructions: “Pick up your mat and walk.” This wasn’t to get the man’s bed out of the way. Jesus was saying, “Get it out of here so that you won’t come back to it!”

This former invalid, the best we can tell from the gospels, had

Walk On

been coming to Bethesda for the better part of four decades. That is a long time to waste lying alongside a bubbling brook. And now that he was empowered to live a better, healthier life, it would be easy for him to fall back into old habits. Jesus wanted this stretcher removed so that the man would not have the temptation to return to it.

This olden story of faith pre-dates today’s advances in neuroscience by centuries, but Jesus already knew what researchers have confirmed in recent decades: When habits are formed, the brain actually changes. Routines – good or bad – cause neurons in the brain to alter their patterns. So in the process of breaking a habit, the brain must also be “rewired” to not only change a person’s behavior, but to change the firing of synapses inside his head.

Recent studies also show, that if a person returns to their former habits, the brain returns to its former patterns as well. But every addict and Al-Anon participant already knows this. We will return to the things that hurt us, again and again, and again and again. Body and spirit will slide right back to where we once were.

If we want sustained change for our lives, if we want to be whole, redeemed, complete, reinvigorated people, then yes, we must admit our powerlessness to be well on our own, and at the end of ourselves collapse into grace. But as important as this first step is, here is another: If we are going to live out this

transformation, there must be a grace-infused commitment, not to return to those ways, habits, persons, lifestyles, and behaviors that will only take us back to the unhealthy way of life we knew before.

The door to the past has to be slammed shut. Obstacles have to be put in the way to keep us from returning to old ways of thinking and old ways of acting. Spiritual reprogramming and rewiring has to take place. That is why Jesus told this man to get his mat and get out, because that was the only way he could remove himself from this dead-end, superstitious pool-sitting that would only enslave him, not heal him.

If we are going to remain well, we can’t go back. Life, redemption, wholeness, and healing: These are waiting for us only as we move forward. After the hard work of being brought back to life has been done, let us not lose our future by returning to the past.

So while we all will have to carry the burden of our yesterdays, our wasted days, and our years of regret – the mats and stretchers we used to rely upon – God’s grace and healing will lighten that burden. And that same grace will help us to walk on, never returning to who and what we once were.

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

Excuse Me, But I Just Gotta Be Me

By Rev. James L. Snyder, D. Litt

I refuse to answer for anybody else because it is a full-time job trying to answer for myself. I must confess though, I sometimes cannot give a good answer for myself. I can give an answer, but not a good one, and when it comes to answers, the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage demands good ones.

How do you explain yourself to someone when you cannot even explain yourself to yourself? I do not pretend to be a man of mystery, but many things about Yours Truly I certainly do not understand.

For one, I am not an actor. I want to make that very plain to all and sundry. Within the confines of my presence, are absolutely no acting skills.

I have some friends who are always acting like a fool. I am assuming they are acting and give them the benefit of the doubt. Another friend of mine at certain times acts dumb. I have known him for a very long time and I can usually tell when he is acting. By the way, he is a very good actor. Many of my friends are excellent actors and if they ever were competing for some Oscar or Emmy award, they would come pretty close to winning.

I am another story. It is very difficult for me in the area of acting. With me, what you see is what you get. I suppose when you boil it all down, I am just not smart enough to be a good actor. I am not even smart enough to be a bad actor.

Putting all of this in context, I must confess that my wife believes I am a great actor. I have tried to dissuade her from this opinion, but up to this point, I have not been successful. When she thinks of me she always says, “And the Emmy goes to...”

How she came to this point, I’m not quite sure. No matter what I do, she still holds to this personal opinion of me. I keep telling her that I am not that good of an actor, which she keeps smiling and nodding her head in my direction.

Some examples need to be given here to show my point.

Just the other night we were at a restaurant with some friends, having a good time, or so I thought. I must say when I’m on a roll, I’m on a roll. But all during my “roll,” I kept feeling somebody under the table kicking me. I ignored it thinking perhaps our friends did not quite know what they were doing. Never once did I suspicion my companion with this action. I kept rolling on.

Finally, both of them excused themselves to take a break and when they were out of listening distance, my wife said to me, “Will you stop acting so foolish?”

I looked at her, not quite knowing what she was referring to, and said quite innocently, “But, my Precious, [it’s a name I use when I’m in trouble but don’t know why] I’m not acting.”

She gave me one of “those looks” and said, “Stop acting foolish.”

This is what I admire about my wife. She has the highest opinion of my abilities particularly in the area of the thespian arts. Our friends were coming to the table when I was about to tell her I was not acting foolish, it just came natural.

Another example comes to mind.

I remember she was trying to explain something to me one time. I do not know what it was now. It was something to do with something in the garage, a place I have not been for years, and I was not connecting the dots, as they say. She was going into a

long dissertation on what needed to be done and I was just standing there staring at her. I was trying to understand what she was saying, but nothing was clicking upstairs, if you know what I mean.

In the middle of her dissertation she stopped, looked at me intensely, placed both hands on her hips and said, “Don’t act so dumb.”

Smiling broadly I whispered, “My Precious, I’m not acting.”

With a glare that could have intimidated good old Goliath, she quipped, “I’m coming to believe you’re right. You are not acting. You’re just naturally dumb.”

Somebody once sang a song called, “I gotta be me” which has become my theme song. What you see is what you get, when you are dealing with me. I am not smart enough to act and I am too old to play. Therefore, it all boils down to this one thing, I am what I am, like it or lump it.

I do not like it when people pretend to be something they are not. I want people to be real with me. This is doubly true with my relationship with God. He is honest with me and I want to be absolutely honest with him.

“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?” (1 John 4:20 KJV).

Many people say they love God and yet it is all an act. It is easy to love somebody you cannot see but hard to love a brother right in front of you.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at (352) 687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.



By Karen Anderson

Once again there is that voice, telling me what to do and what not to do. I want to say, “Mind your own business! Get out of my way and let me work on my goals and dreams.” Does this happen to you? Do you have a little person inside you that stops you from achieving your heart’s desire? I do, and she comes up at the worst times. This is your conscience talking to you. She needs to be there to help us

The Little You

stay on the right course, but she can be a burden as well. When I really want to do something important in my life, she stands there with her hands on her hips saying NO. I have found a way to keep her quiet. This is when I need God’s help and direction to find out if her stubbornness is for His direction and purpose for my daily life. Recently, I have realized that God uses my conscience to talk to me and help me stay on the straight and narrow. I also know that Satan can use it against you and trap you into bondage. Sometimes his suggestions seem perfectly acceptable, but they are wrong and he is leading you away from God.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

This is where you need to pray for discernment in every decision of your life, whether it is something like getting out of bed to spend time with God, or sleeping that extra 30 minutes. Remember that whatever time you share with God, He will give back to you. That means you don’t have to worry about your busy day. Spend the time with God...it is worth it, and the ‘little you’ will also be working with you instead of against you.

PASSAGE: Ephesians 6:10-11 (NIV)

Karen Anderson is an accomplished speaker, author, and chaplain. Latest books, “Nikki’s Tail-Waggin’ Lessons” and “The Little Book of BIG Thoughts Series.” Leave a message for Karen through her website www.doablesteps.com/contact.

Grief Workshop Offered March 21

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA – (MPG) Made possible through a grant from the Placer Community Foundation, Seniors First will host a workshop identifying the stages of grief and loss and ways to manage them. Mary Pat Feeny,

R.N., LCSW has been a nurse and social worker in the hospice setting and is currently in private practice in Auburn. This workshop will have an interactive approach and will provide support and community bereavement resources. Please join us

on Thursday March 21st from 5:30-7:30 in the Assembly Hall at the Auburn Senior Center 11576 D Street. For questions and to R.S.V.P. please call kathy at 530-889-9500 extension 219. This is a FREE workshop and open to the public.

Widowed Person’s Association of California

AUBURN, CA – (MPG) Widowed Person’s Association of California will hold it’s monthly “Get Acquainted” dinner on Thur., April 4th at 4:30 p.m. at the Sizzler

Restaurant in Auburn. Call (530) 823-5321 for reservations.

The purpose of WPAC is to provide a support group for widowed men and women of all ages and

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When walking through your hunting area, approach openings carefully and check them out well before opening your eyes. This means taking a long look at the opening first, eyes and moving slowly even though you think you are well hidden.

Denise Valentine is a member of the Red Mountain Hunting Team

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Beneath the Wage Floor

Continued from Page 1

My first real job was working maintenance at a department store. I was 15 (yes, I lied about my age; you could do that back then). My job was to clean toilets, crush boxes, pick pins out of the dressing room closets, wax the floors in the china shop, vacuum the place, and shine the glass.

It was a great job. I mean, truly great. I loved it because it was a hugely important job. If I didn't clean the bathrooms well and replenish the toilet paper and towels, customers the next day might be grossed out and never come back. I played a big role in ensuring the profitability of this store.

I especially loved my co-worker. His name was Tad. The department store would close, leaving just the two of us to have so much fun doing all this wonderful work. We would sing together, thrill to the danger of the wax machine, gross out at the mucky bathrooms, and just have that wonderful feeling that comes with having a real work partner.

You see, Tad was not a normal kid. He had some physical deformities. His face was oddly shaped and had what looked like a large stain on half of it. He couldn't move around that well, really. I had to help him and

assign tasks carefully. He was also mentally retarded. He spoke in a muffled way, and you had to be very clear about instructions.

But I tell you what, when he was happy, it made me happy. To see that big smile come across his face when I would praise the way he shined up a counter just gave me a huge lift.

One day, a poster appeared in the workroom. It was from the Department of Labor. The minimum wage was going up by 50 cents. Tad pointed the sign out to me. He said, "Look, we are getting a raise!" I was a bit suspicious. I was pretty sure that the boss was the one who set the wage, not some weird distant government thing. I didn't quite believe it was true. Still, I was happy that he was happy.

The next day, I showed up at the usual time after school. I was getting the mop ready, running hot water in the pail and prepared to do the thing. Tad wasn't there. I asked the boss, "Where's Tad today?"

Well, he explained that he had hired Tad only because he was a boy he knew from church. He needed work. He knew that he would require a lot of help, which was one reason he was excited that I was able to work with him. In the end, he said, this was charity, because he knew that I could do the job by myself.

It worked for us to be together so long as he could afford it, but this new minimum wage changed things. The store's profit margins were very thin, and he had to make a hard decision.

The long and short of it: Tad had to be let go.

I was devastated. I stared at the Department of Labor sign again. Cursed thing! That sign just ruined a kid's life. It stopped a great act of charity. And look what it did to me. I now had to work alone.

Management left, the lights dimmed, and I heard the familiar click of the doors leading to the outside. I would have to clean alone today. I did all the tasks I had to. But there was no more music, no more laughter, no more clowning around, and no more beautiful smiles. Tad was somewhere else, probably at home, confused and sad.

He died a few years later.

This is what the minimum wage means to me. So you can say that I have a vendetta. When the president announces that he is raising wages to make everyone better off, I can't help but think of the millions of Tads that will lose that opportunity to do wonderful things in this world and with their lives.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Tucker

Films and DVDs for the Whole Family



by David Dickstein

Family Films



"The Croods"
Opens March 28, rated PG
thecroodsmovie.com

Set in the Croodacious era (don't bother looking it up), this is the computer-animated story of a caveman named Grug (Nicolas Cage) and his family who are forced to leave everything behind when an earthquake strikes their volcanic world. In search of a new home, Grug's reliance on old traditions doesn't help matters, especially in his relationship with his oldest daughter (Emma Stone), who falls for a charming nomad (Ryan Reynolds).

Homepage Trailer "Jack the Giant Slayer"
Opens March 1, rated PG-13
jackthegiantsslayer.com

Parents should be mindful of the rating; this isn't a child-friendly retelling of "Jack and the Beanstalk." For the tween-plus crowd, however, intense scenes of fantasy action violence should carry this tale an ancient war that is revived when a young farmhand inadvertently opens a portal between this world and a long-lost race of horrifying giants. Jack must clean up the giant mess he started.

"Oz: The Great and Powerful"
Opens March 8, rated PG
ozthegreatandpowerful-movie.com

We're off to see the wizard in this fantasy adventure inspired by L. Frank Baum's 1900 novel, "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," and set before the 1939 Judy Garland classic film -- so consider it a prequel to "The Wizard



of Oz." James Franco is Oscar Diggs, a corrupt, small-time circus magician who turns over a new leaf after helping the Land of Oz sort out who's good or evil among three witches (Mila Kunis, Rachel Weisz and Michelle Williams). Sam Raimi directs.



Family DVDs

"Curious George Swings into Spring" (March 12 on DVD, not rated): Spring is in the air, but George's excitement isn't shared by Hundley the dachshund. Making matters worse, Hundley gets lost, and it's George, the Man with the Yellow Hat and others to the rescue. Bad dog! ... but a good hour-long, full-length feature. *Grade: A-*

"An Easter Bunny Puppy" (March 5 on DVD, not rated): The third in a series of canine-loving, low-budget, live-action holiday movies stars Kristine DeBell (yes, the same from the 1979 classic "Cheerleaders Wild Weekend") and an adorable pooch named Russ who dreams

of being the Easter Bunny for some dog-gone reason. *Grade: C*

"Rise of the Guardians" (March 12 on DVD and Blu-ray, rated PG): Not since "The Avengers" has such an esteemed team of superheroes been assembled to fight off evil. For this computer-animated visual treat, Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny, Jack Frost, the Sandman and the Tooth Fairy join up against an evil spirit bent on overtaking the world by inspiring fear in the hearts of the world's children. Voice cast stars Chris Pine, Hugh Jackman, Jude Law and Alec Baldwin. *Grade: A-*

"Tom and Jerry: Pint-Sized Pals" (March 5 on DVD, not rated): Fans of the longest-running cat and mouse game will revel in this two-disc collection of 30 shorts that yields 3 1/2 hours of cartoon fun. Personal favorite: "That's My Mommy," featuring a sweet baby duckling named Quacker who mistakes



Tom for his mother. Still holds up after 58 years. *Grade: A*

"Wreck-It Ralph" (March 5 on DVD and Blu-ray, rated PG): The Oscar-winning animated feature stars "Ralph," a video game character (John C. Reilly). Ralph is tired of being the bad guy in his classic '80s arcade game, and when he doesn't return to his game as scheduled and starts visiting the worlds of other games, including a modern, first-person shooter game, he turns the entire structure of his arcade upside down. Also heard are Jane Lynch, Sarah Silverman and Jack McBrayer. *Grade: A*





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POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

CREATING CHEMISTRY

Can you create chemistry with anyone? Leil Lowndes thinks you can. She is one of today's most sought-after speakers on communication techniques and is author of the international best-sellers "Goodbye to Shy," "How to Make Anyone Fall in Love with You," and "How to Talk with Anyone." So my curiosity got the best of me, and I had her on my radio show POPPOFF to talk about her seventy-five ways to spark it fast and make it last book "How to Create Chemistry with Anyone." I honestly thought this was a stretch, because there are some people that...well you know...no way in Hades you can have a relationship. It just doesn't come together. But Leil says never fear, she has plenty of ways to cope. I've got to admit, so many books promise ways to keep passion alive forever. I wondered if that's even possible? Leil gave some no-nonsense practical info in her book. She said that on the average, intense passion only lasts from eighteen months to two years because, no matter how exciting or beloved someone is, sex with the same person doesn't produce the same hormonal and dopamine rush. Additionally, pregnancy causes very different chemicals. Tragically, many couples feel when the passion diminishes, it means loving is diminishing too. Absolutely not! Often it means

just the opposite because bonding chemicals—which mean long-term contentment—are in conflict with testosterone. So I asked Leil to give me her top ten ways to encourage lasting chemistry for couples:

- 1) **Keep doing dopamine-producing fun and active things together.** You'll spend a lot more on divorce or marriage counseling than you will for babysitters and movie tickets now.
- 2) **Touch a lot, especially the non-sex kind.** Accidental or intended, fleeting or abiding, touch stimulates the trust chemical and reinforces togetherness.
- 3) **Encourage him to hold his newborn infant.** This stimulates vasopressin, another bonding chemical in males, which has the effect of making him more protective of his family.
- 4) **Laugh a lot together.** When your body is laughing, you're brain thinks you're happy and, of course, you're mate thinks you're the reason for the joy.
- 5) **Support each other's goals and aspirations.** Encourage your partner to talk about them.
- 6) **Understand your partner's very different way of thinking due to brain structure.** (Example: He is not neuroanatomically capable to easily talk about his feelings even if he'd like to. She can't stop making interconnections and assumptions about everything.)
- 7) **Men, become sensitive to her "micro-expressions."** Women respect his silent times. It's easier when you realize the different ways your partner's brain is wired.
- 8) **Ladies, give him lots of quickies, even when you don't feel like it.** He'll interpret it as loving him. If he gets turned down too often, he won't start the slow lovemaking you like for fear of being rejected.

9) **Gentlemen, think "slow seduction," not "sex."** Remember turnabout is fair foreplay. Make time to give her lots of slow-ies.

10) **Words work wonders.** Keep saying what your partner craves hearing. Gentlemen, tell her you love her—once a day minimum. Women, find ways to let him know you actually need him (whether you actually do for certain things or not.)

I absolutely love how Leil describes the distinction between being in love and lasting love. For this, she quotes the English author, Louis de Bernieres.

"Love is a temporary madness. It erupts like a volcano and then subsides. And when it subsides, you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have become so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is: Love is not breathless, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion...That is just the being "in love" which any fool can do. Love itself is what is left over when "being in love" has burned away, and that is both an art and a fortunate accident." This should be mandatory reading before a marriage license is granted. But I realize few will read and most will ignore the wisdom behind this statement. After forty-two years of marriage, I can truthfully say that these are true words of wisdom. For more info on Leil Lowndes and her latest book "How To Create Chemistry with Anyone" go to www.peoplemagnit.com. And my hope is that love remains in your life always!

Join Mary Jane for the **KAHI Noon News Monday-Friday and then again for POPOFF 10 PM - Midnight.**



A Case in Point

The Case of the Dog That Wouldn't Die

By David Graulich, Esq.

This is a tale about a dog named Prince. The story begins tragically, takes an inspiring twist, and then turns surreal.

Marjorie Fredeen lived in Portland, Oregon. In December 1969, Fredeen noticed that her German Shepherd dog, Prince, was limping. Prince had been shot in the right hind leg under unknown circumstances – possibly while chasing sheep. Fredeen took Prince to a Portland veterinarian, Dr. Richard L. Stride, where she learned that surgery would cost between \$150 to \$300 (up to about \$1,800 in today's dollars). Moreover, Dr. Stride wasn't sure if the dog would recover.

It was an awful situation. Prince was in extreme pain, and Fredeen could not afford surgery. With a broken heart, Fredeen consented to have Prince put to sleep, left a payment of \$10 towards that purpose, and went home.

But wait — the story brightens. Because it was the weekend, the euthanasia was scheduled for Monday morning. Over the weekend, two young kennels helpers, Darold Berube and Gimmie Vance, fell in love with Prince. On Monday morning, they begged Dr. Stride to let them try to nurse to Prince back to health and find a home for him. Dr. Stride agreed.

During the next two weeks, Prince made an amazing recovery from his injury, without surgery. Maybelle MacDonald of Portland, an acquaintance of Gimmie Vance's mother, learned that the dog was available and offered to adopt him. MacDonald took Prince to her son's home in the small rural town of Scappoose, Oregon. MacDonald paid nothing to Dr. Stride, other

than the charge for a rabies shot. All that MacDonald knew about Prince was that he had been injured and was available for adoption – she wasn't told about Prince's previous owner.

About six months later, MacDonald received a visit in Portland from her son and family, including Prince. They were all walking in their neighborhood when they were seen by someone who, coincidentally, lived in the same Portland neighborhood: Marjorie Fredeen.

MacDonald was now confronted by an agitated stranger who insisted that the MacDonald family dog wasn't really the MacDonald family dog, but her dog, the same German Shepherd who was supposed to have died six months ago.

Fredeen called Dr. Stride, who admitted that Prince was alive. Fredeen sued Dr. Stride and MacDonald for mental anguish, "genuine emotional damage caused by aggravated conduct on the part of the defendant."

The case went before the Supreme Court of Oregon in 1974. The justices dismissed the charges against MacDonald: "Her motivation under the circumstances was entirely benevolent." The remaining question was whether Dr. Stride was liable for inflicting mental anguish on Fredeen.

Fredeen testified that she had nightmares because she thought the dog had been put to sleep. She said that even after learning that Prince was alive, her torment continued: "I knew that the dog knew my children and that they must be living nearby. And I knew if he found out exactly where they were living, the children would go over and try to get the dog to come to us and

that there would be all kinds of troubles. The dog would try to get away and get hurt."

Dr. Stride said that he merely did what he thought was best for Prince. As to which of the two women should own the dog, he said, "That's between the two of you."

What did the Court decide? The Oregon Supreme Court ruled in favor of Marjorie Fredeen. "A veterinarian should not give a client's dog to a third person without the consent of the owner." The Court further said, "We conclude that there is evidence to support the jury's verdict of damages for mental anguish against defendant Stride."

Dr. Stride was ordered to pay Fredeen \$4,000 in damages. Alas, the court decision does not say what ultimately happened to Prince, and which household he lived with.

Do you think the Oregon Supreme Court got it right? Did Dr. Stride have an obligation to return Prince to Fredeen? Or did Fredeen forfeit her property right once she paid \$10 and agreed to have Prince euthanized? Send me an email with your opinion, and I'll devote a future column to your responses.

David Graulich, Esq. is an attorney with the Law Office of Jeffrey D. Fulton in Sacramento. David can be contacted at (916) 993-4900 or dgraulich@jful-tonlaw.com. He is available to speak to community groups at no charge. This column is not intended as an offer of legal advice. Contact a qualified attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem.

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- 7 - 8am: The Swap Shop
- 8 - 9am: The KAHl Corral
- 9 - 10am: The Garden Guru
- 10 - 11am: The Dew Sweepers Golf Show
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- 8 - 9pm: Rewind with Jimmy Jay

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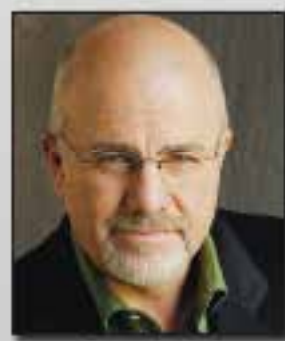
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NID Maintains Good Water Storage

GRASS VALLEY, CA – (MPG) Despite one of the driest midwinter spells on record, Nevada Irrigation District water storage remains above the seasonal average, NID reported Friday (Mar. 1).

“Although January and February precipitation amounts were far below average, the snowpack has remained intact and there has been little change in the snowpack water content from a month ago,” said NID Operations Supv. Sue Sindt.

As of Mar. 1, storage in NID’s 10 reservoirs stood at 211,100 acre-feet, which is 84 percent of capacity and 124 percent of average for the date.

This follows a January that produced just 2.01 inches (16 percent of average) of precipitation at NID’s Bowman Reservoir (elev. 5650 ft.). February was even drier, with 1.34 inches (13 percent of average), and ended as the eighth driest February in NID’s 127 years of records.

A year ago, district officials were concerned that by Mar. 1 precipitation had reached only 50 percent of average and water

content was at 38 percent. Then, the so-called “March Miracle” brought significant rain and snow and boosted water storage well into the average range.

“You never know what is going to happen,” said Sindt. “With this year’s switch from a wet to a dry weather pattern the district will continue to be conservative with water releases, which is helping to keep water storage above average.”

Water content in the mountain snowpack now stands at 60 percent of the Mar. 1 average, according to results of NID’s official Mar. 1 snow surveys which were conducted on Thursday (Feb. 28).

In the Mar. 1 measurements, NID snow surveyors recorded snowpack depth and water content on six mountain snow courses at elevations of 4,850 feet to 7,800 feet.

The snow surveys showed NID’s highest course, Webber Peak, at 7,800 feet, had 67 inches of snow with a water content of 26.9 inches. The English Mountain snow course (7,100 ft.) had 54.2 inches of snow with

a water content of 21.8 inches. Webber Lake (7,000 ft.) had 50.3 inches of snow with a water content of 19 inches. Findley Peak (6,500 ft.) had a snowpack of 30.8 inches and a 12.9-inch water content. Bowman Reservoir had 24.6 inches of snow with a water content of 10.5 inches.

The sixth snow course, Chalk Bluff, at 4,850 feet on the Deer Creek watershed, had a 13.9-inch snowpack with a 6.7-inch water content (The Chalk Bluff snow course is not included in the five-course average).

Seasonal precipitation at Bowman Reservoir (elev. 5,650 ft.) stood at 45.31 inches as of Feb. 28, which equals 94 percent of the Mar. 1 average. Seasonal precipitation is measured July 1-June 30.

A member of the California Cooperative Snow Survey, NID conducts four official snow surveys each year, in February, March, April and May. Results of the snow surveys are used to predict water availability locally and statewide.

Source: NID Newsroom

Governor Brown Announces Harper appointment

SACRAMENTO – Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. recently announced the following appointments.

Deborah Harper, 48, of Roseville, has been appointed deputy secretary of administrative services at the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Harper has been chief of the Customer Service and Publishing

Division at the California State Board of Equalization since 2005. She held multiple positions at the California Department of Justice from 1996 to 2005, including budget analyst, manager of the administrative unit for the Legal Support Branch and manager of the California Bureau of Criminal Identification and Information. Harper was a staff services analyst

at the California State Lottery from 1994 to 1996. She was an executive secretary at the California Department of Justice from 1993 to 1994 and legal secretary at the State Compensation Insurance Fund from 1986 to 1993. This position does not require senate confirmation and the compensation is \$117,120. Harper is registered decline-to-state.



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