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BBB Names Top Rip-Offs



Better Business Bureau serving northeast California gathered information from consumers, federal agencies and internally to cultivate a list of the top scams of 2012.

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA – (MPG) Better Business Bureau serving northeast California gathered information from consumers, federal agencies and internally to cultivate a list of the top scams of 2012.

While some scams are fairly new as scammers learn to take advantage of the Internet, others have been around for years continually victimizing consumers. "Our list highlights the scams

that are the newest or most outrageous," said Gary Almond, president of BBB serving northeast California. "While consumers seem to be getting savvier, these scams only become more prevalent with the advent of new technologies."

BBB's top ten scams of 2012: **Top Overpayment/Fake Check Scam: Car Ads**

A prominent company is offering \$400+ per week to consumers

willing to drive around with logos plastered to their cars. They send a check to the consumer and ask the consumer to wire a portion of that "check" to a graphic designer to customize the car. One week later, the check bounces, the graphic designer is nowhere to be found, and the money wired is gone.

Top Emergency Scam: Grandparents Scam

The "Grandparents Scam" has been around a while, but deserves mentioning again: grandchild/niece /friend is traveling abroad and calls/texts/emails to say he or she has been mugged/arrested/hurt and needs money right away. Before wiring money in an emergency, check with the supposed victim or family members to make sure the relative is really traveling.

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State Seeks Caps on Prison Population

SACRAMENTO, CA – (MPG) Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. announced January 8th that the State of California has taken legal action to end a federal court order that caps the state's prison population and another that requires "intrusive supervision" of prison mental health care.

"After decades of judicial intervention in our correctional system and the expenditure of billions of taxpayer dollars, the time has come to restore California's rightful control of its prison system," said Governor Brown.

The state also complied with the court's order to identify options to achieve additional reductions in the number of inmates held in state prison. This filing, made under protest, asserts that further reductions "threaten public safety and interfere with California's independent right to determine its own criminal justice laws."

"California's prison health care system is now a model for the nation," said CDCR Secretary Jeff Beard. "Independent expert reviews have found that California's prison medical and mental health care systems meet constitutional standards. It would be both unnecessary and unsafe for the courts to order further inmate reductions."

In 1991, California prison inmates filed a class action lawsuit, Coleman v. Brown, alleging that California's prison mental health care system was unconstitutional. Subsequently, prior administrations entered into various consent decrees that set in motion vast judicial oversight of our prison system. In the intervening years, California has rebuilt its prison mental health care system into one of the best in the nation, investing billions in additional treatment capacity and hiring hundreds of mental health care professionals. The state seeks to end this judicial oversight because the mental health care provided to prisoners now exceeds constitutional requirements.

In 2007, the Coleman case along with Plata v. Brown, a case concerning medical care, was assigned to a three-judge court. That court found that overcrowding was the primary cause of the failure to deliver constitutional medical and mental health care in California prisons, and in 2009 ordered the state to reduce crowding to 137.5 percent of "design capacity." The U.S Supreme Court affirmed that order in 2011.

Since 2006, the inmate population in the state's 33 prisons has been reduced by over 43,000 and crowding is down from more than 200 percent to just below 150 percent. More than half of the population decline has happened since October 1, 2011, as a result of Public Safety Realignment.

Lowering the prison population beyond this point—as ordered by the court—would require rewriting or disregarding the California Constitution and numerous state laws that limit the early release of prisoners. The result would be shorter sentences for inmates incarcerated for serious and violent offenses, increased burdens on counties, and expanded use of contract facilities at considerable cost to the taxpayers.

Source: Governor's Press Office

Confusing New Lumber Tax Targets Consumers

Commentary
By George Runner
State Board of Equalization

It's a new year, and with it comes higher taxes and more government spending. In 2013, overtaxed Californians will send more of their hard-earned dollars to Sacramento than ever before, growing total state spending to a record \$225 billion.

Higher taxes shouldn't be a surprise. After all, the majority of Californians voted for Proposition 30 this past November. But one new tax hike that took effect January 1 is catching many off guard and driving up costs for everything from new homes to home improvement projects.

Late this summer two-thirds of the Legislature approved and the Governor signed legislation imposing a new "Lumber Products Assessment" on some retail sales. The new law adds a one percent assessment on certain lumber and engineered wood products sold in California.

That might sound straightforward enough, but it's not—and that's one of many reasons I oppose this new tax.

Although some products containing wood will be taxed, others will not. You'll find out when you reach the cash register, assuming your local hardware store has managed to reprogram its cash registers in order to collect it.

Going forward, an unelected bureaucrat at the Board of



George Runner, Board of Equalization

Forestry and Fire Protection will have the authority to unilaterally add or remove products annually from the list of taxable items. This power to declare items taxable could create a constantly changing answer to the question, "How much tax must I pay on this lumber product?"

Items subject to the tax must contain at least 10% primary wood content. Examples include, but are not limited to, lumber, plywood particle board, poles, posts, structural panels, decking, railings, fencing (poles, solid board), roofing (shakes and wooden shingles), siding and sub-flooring.

Items not within the scope of the tax are "secondary wood products" where additional labor has added significant value to the product, including furniture, firewood, paper products, windows and doors.

This new tax came about as a direct result of California's

excessive environmental regulations. California timber producers are at a competitive disadvantage to those in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and other states because of California's high environmental fees, which are a major impediment to doing business and creating jobs in our state.

However, instead of working to lower these high costs, the Legislature concocted a scheme to pass them on to consumers. The one percent surcharge, in addition to the normal sales tax charged on most retail purchases, will serve to buy down the environmental fees that producers would normally pay. Instead of producers paying the fees, consumers must now pay them directly.

This sets a dangerous precedent for taxpayers. Which industry will be next to ask consumers to pay the costs of their environmental impact fees? Farmers? Movie producers? Silicon Valley?

This new tax also causes significant hardship for retailers who must reprogram their cash registers to collect the new assessment. One trade group has estimated that it will cost on average \$4500 per business location to perform this government-mandated reprogramming.

While the law does provide for cost reimbursement, unfortunately a majority of my colleagues on the Board of Equalization voted to limit reimbursement to \$250 per location.

As a result, business owners will be on the hook for any additional costs.

Meanwhile, the Board requested \$1 million of taxpayer funds to recoup its own costs of upgrading computer systems to process the tax.

Struck by inconsistency of these actions, I told my colleagues, "I'm a little embarrassed that we are not afraid to ask for our full reimbursement for costs, but we're not willing to ask for full reimbursements for businesses in California."

Is it any wonder why job creators avoid California like the plague? Business owners in our state never know what new government tax or mandate will hit them next.

Rather than cooking up more complicated taxes and fees, the California Legislature ought to spend its time finding ways to help California job creators succeed. Instead of passing the costs of its excessive laws and regulations on to consumers and business owners, it ought to address those issues directly by determining how costs could be reduced overall.

Elected in November 2010, George Runner represents more than nine million Californians as a member of the State Board of Equalization. For more information or assistance, visit boe.ca.gov/Runner.

To learn more about the Lumber Products Assessment, visit boe.ca.gov/industry/lumber_products.html



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Weimar Center Students Hold Health Expo



PLACER COUNTY, CA – (MPG) As the doors opened to the Roseville Galleria last Sunday, visitors were greeted by students from the nearby Weimar Center of Health and Education. A group of 57 staff, students and medical professionals held a health expo; a first for the middle of Roseville's Westfield Mall. Beginning at 11:00 visitors to the expo were given the opportunity to receive free blood pressure and blood sugar testing, mental performance tests, chair massages and a number of other health related tests.

At noon, Dr. Roger Gallant MD, and other health and medical professionals from Weimar,

began seminars which lasted until 6:30. These seminars addressed common health problems and how the public can reverse certain diseases and the unhealthy lifestyle that is so prevalent today. In addition to presentations from Dr. Gallant and Dr. David Derose MD; Chef Michelle Irwin from the Life and Health Network and Chef Margret Gallant demonstrated the preparation of a low-sugar, granola and showed how anyone can prepare meals from their kitchen that is just as healthy and tasty as what is made in the NEWSTART kitchen itself.

"It was a nice change to get out in the community" Weimar

health student Jordan said "I really liked how we were able to share what I've been learning in school with people."

Weimar Center of Health and Education is known locally for its private high school and college, and worldwide for its 18 day NEWSTART lifestyle program. Focusing on lifestyle and preventative medicine, students on the entire campus are taught the very things that were shared with over 200 visitors at the Roseville Galleria on Sunday.

More information and access to NEWSTART's Lifestyle Club can be found at www.newstart.com.

Top investigative reporter Jasper to Speak on U.N.

GRASS VALLEY, CA – (MPG) The public are invited to attend a presentation by guest speaker William F. Jasper to learn more about Agenda 21, a U.N. global plan to regimate our lives, to obtain control of our property, and strip away our

rights and freedoms.

Mr. Jasper is one of American's top investigative reporters and has covered several international conferences hosted by the United Nations.

This informative discussion will take place at 1 p.m.

on Thursday, January 30th at Denny's restaurant located at 2480 Grass Valley Hwy (in the Bel Air shopping center).

For additional information, contact Jan Frelick at 530-885-5321 or jkfrelick@softcom.net

Nominate a Local Senior for Valentine's Day Friendship and Cheer

AUBURN, CA – (MPG) Do you know a senior in the local area who will be home alone this Valentine's Day? You are invited to nominate him or her to receive a free Valentine's dinner at home with gifts and companionship. This contest is the brainchild of Emeritus at Emerald Hills, the senior living community. One local senior will be chosen as the recipient from among those nominated by the public.

"At the time of year that we celebrate love, it's important to extend caring and friendship to the senior generation," said Mary Ann Peterson, executive director of Emeritus at Emerald Hills. "We know that many will spend Valentine's Day on their own. For those who have lost spouses,

it can be a sad occasion that contributes to feelings of loneliness. Family and friends may live far away, and perhaps physical challenges limit their ability to get out into the greater community. We hope to brighten the day for one of these seniors through festivities and friendship."

Bringing Valentine's Day festivities to a local senior is part of the philosophy of Emeritus' assurance that seniors are living "safely somewhere."

"What that means is we believe it is crucial for seniors to live in environments that enhance their well-being, whether they reside with us or somewhere else. That is why we would like to offer this special occasion on Valentine's Day."

To suggest a senior, please provide: 1. His or her name and contact information. 2. Your contact information. 3. A brief explanation of why you are nominating this person. Submissions are due by Thursday, Feb. 7. Please email them to EmeraldHills-led@emeritus.com, or mail them to Rebecca Partridge, Emeritus at Emerald Hills, 11550 Education St., Auburn, CA 95602. Emeritus at Emerald Hills offers retirement and assisted living and provides care for those with Alzheimer's and other memory-impairing diseases through its Join Their Journey program. It is operated by Emeritus Senior Living.

Knights Of Columbus Free Throw Contest Returns

AUBURN, CA – (MPG) All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 in the greater Auburn area are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Contest. Boys and girls will compete separately in five different age groups with ten eventual champions. Winners are eligible to advance to the district, chapter, and state championships. Conveniently, the District competition will take place immediately after the conclusion of this contest with our champions competing against the champions of other contests previously held in Lincoln, Grass Valley, and Colfax.

The contest will be held on



Sunday, February 10 at the St. Teresa of Avila Parish Hall at 11610 Atwood Road in Auburn.

Registration begins at 11:30, and the competition begins at 12:00 PM. This is a free event. Contestants must be at least age 10 as of January 1, 2013. A copy of the contestant's birth certificate to verify age, and parental consent on the registration sheet are required. Ten and eleven year old competitors will shoot from a distance of twelve feet, while the older competitors shoot from the standard free throw distance of fifteen feet.

Additional information on the contest can be obtained by calling John Sheehan at (916) 645-3737.

Governor Brown Announces Hime Appointment

SACRAMENTO, CA – (MPG) Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. announced the appointment of Rex Hime, 64, of Loomis, appointed to the California State Fair and Exposition Board of Directors, where he has been a member since 1996. Hime has been president and chief executive

officer at the California Business Properties Association since 1984. He was senior assistant to the minority caucus chairman at the California State Assembly from 1983 to 1984 and held multiple positions at the California Commission for Economic Development from 1979 to 1983, including executive director and

deputy director. Hime earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of California, Davis School of Law. This position requires Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Hime is a Republican.

Source: Gov. Brown's Office

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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.

Publisher Paul V. Scholl

Member of Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, and Orangevale Chambers of Commerce

Eat Local Placer and Nevada Kicks Off Tasting Events at Auburn Farmers' Market

AUBURN, CA, - (MPG) – Eat Local Placer and Nevada, an effort managed by the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE), is kicked off a series of tasting events at the Auburn Farmers' Market on Saturday, January 12. The project, which is funded by a grant from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant program, is designed to connect local consumers with local specialty crop growers.

"This project will raise awareness of the health and community benefits of eating local produce," says UCCE's Cindy Fake, who is leading the effort. "We have two major objectives – to increase the consumption of

fresh fruits and vegetables within our local communities, and to increase produce sales for local farmers. We'll be working with PlacerGROWN, Nevada County Grown, and other community organizations."

The tastings feature local, seasonal fruits, vegetables, and nuts. "We'll also provide recipes and nutritional information," Fake explains, adding, "it's a great way to learn new ways to prepare fruits and vegetables that grow in our area."

Customers can also participate in surveys designed to help improve access to local fruits and vegetables. After sampling the recipes prepared by Courtney McDonald, customers can find the featured ingredients

by looking for the Eat Local Placer and Nevada logo in farmers' stalls. "We are suggesting that folks 'Follow the Fork,'" says Fake, referring to the project's logo.

UCCE works in partnership with local farmers and ranchers to build and strengthen the local food system. The organization is dedicated to supporting the local agricultural community and helping it grow and thrive through a variety of educational and community building programs.

For more information, and for an updated schedule of tastings, go to www.facebook.com/EatLocalPlacerAndNevada.

Source: EatLocalPlacerAndNevada



Around Town with Loyce Smallwood



Loyce sharing good times with Kat Stewart.

Delightful to renew The Creekside Café Connection with the enterprising and talented owner Jeanie Bardakjian who served up delicious Mushroom Melage soup swimming with tasty Shitake mushrooms and ginger accompanied by a delicious spinach and swiss cheese wrap topped off with that satisfyingly mellow Pine Mt. Coffee which can also be purchased Saturday mornings at the Auburn OT Farmers Market. Creekside Café is located at 11641 Blocker Drive in the Creekside Center behind the Auburn Railroad Station.

Check out Jeanie's menu online and order ahead. Sentinel Service Stars to the diligent Eric Nordby, owner of Hilda's Bakery where a tasty tomato bisque soup paired with that grilled Swiss cheese on a crunchy jalapeño bagel hits the comfort spot in a warm environment where Nordby always seems to find time for a friendly hello paired with prompt service.

Indulge in a tasty pastry and walk off the calories down Lincoln with a stop at Avantgarden nursery and gift shop where Owner Kim Wright tells me she will soon replenish with inventory ordered from her recent buying trip.

Congrats to painter/instructor Juan Pena who has recently taken over the former location on Harmony Books in the DT Gold Rush Mall. Pena's paintings can be viewed on High Street at the High Street Café, home of that delicious tuna melt. Head back down Lincoln to Kat's Country

Korner where the western-style fashions/accessories/home décor are at close-out prices.

Check out the dazzling array of southwest sterling jewelry and those colorful cowboy boots. Owner Kat Stewart will shutter her doors on January 30th and return to her Santa Rosa roots. Happy Trails Kat.

Out in North Auburn, cravings for the zesty are satisfied at Strings in the Rock Creek Center where Strings Cafe continues to serve up the best curry pasta and that delicious shrimp pizza. Kudos to this establishment for prompt and friendly service in an inviting atmosphere.

Breakfast foodies will be spot on with the fulfilling egg/tomato basil/Swiss cheese breakfast sandwich at LaBou where the

service is always prompt and friendly.

And to the friendly Sutter Auburn Faith Hospice Thrift Store Manager Marin, good luck overseeing the operation of the thrift shop on Highway 49 across from the Fiddler Green Plaza. Look for an extension of operation to 7pm Friday evenings while the thrift finds its demographics.

Donations are very much invited. Continue to donate those gently used books, CDs and DVDs to Friends bookstore at Raley's where Volunteer Teri does a bang-up job with the resale area in the back of the store. Shop/Donate/Volunteer and continue to make Auburn the place to be, indeed. Comments to loycer@suddenlink.net

Dementia Workshop by Seniors First

AUBURN, CA – (MPG) Dementia Workshop Seniors First, with funding from the Placer Community Foundation, is proud to host the 5th in a series of educational classes. Please join us on Thursday January 24th from 5:30-7:30p.m. in the Assembly Hall at the Auburn Senior Center 11577

E Avenue in Auburn. This workshop will provide information along with discussion for caregivers, family members and friends who are caring for or know someone who is living with memory loss. We are happy to have Dementia Specialist, Kristina Blocker as our speaker. For

information and/or to R.S.V.P., please call Kathy at Seniors First: 530-889-9500 extension 219 or e-mail: Kathy@seniorsfirst.org. This is a Free Workshop. Kathy Vieira Hall Fund Development Friendly Visitor Coordinator 530-889-9500 ext. 219 www.seniorsfirst.org Donate Now

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Longtime Auburn Resident Alice Knight Passes

Alice M. Knight, long time Auburn resident, passed away due to natural causes 9 January 2013. She was 99 years old.

She is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, Jo Ann and Ed James of Grants Pass, Oregon (formerly of Auburn), grandson Erik James and his wife Theresa and great grandson William James of Lincoln, California, grandson Dean James and wife, Cyndi of Auburn, younger brother Bill Deuel and wife Beth of Weiser, Idaho, plus numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter C. Knight and brothers and sisters Ralph, Virginia, and Marian Deuel, and mother and father, Jennie and Abram Deuel.

Alice was born in Alhambra, California in 1913, the 4th of 5 children, the first born in California to a mid-western farm family from the Michigan-Indiana border region near Lake Michigan, a place when she would return to spend summers during her youth. She graduated from Alhambra High School and in time met her future husband of 53 years, Walter, when he offered her a ride while she and a girlfriend were waiting for a bus in Pasadena.

Alice and Walter survived the



Alice Knight

Great Depression and the Great War, and in 1950 they settled down in Burbank, California, she as a housewife and he as a technician working for the film studios in Hollywood. During the War she had raised her husband's nephew Eugene for five years, before having her daughter Jo Ann after the war. During those post-war years, the family took many vacations to northern California; the favorite spot was eventually decided upon-- Donner Lake. When retirement came for Walter, the couple decided to flee suburban southern California, and head for the hills toward the favorite vacation spot. But when it came time to find a home, they decided Auburn was

close enough. Above the fog and below the snow, the real estate agent said.

In the final forty years of Alice's life, she spent her time in Auburn, and the family knows of no time she ever indicated that home was now anywhere else. Her daughter's family eventually joined her and Walter in Auburn, and their retirement years were spent with family and friends ever-visiting the couple's rural North Auburn cottage home and, of course, many day trips to Donner Lake.

She was known to all her friends and family for her love of dominos, cards, dice, and board games that she loved. She still dominated the Bingo winnings in the last years of her life at the Auburn Ravine Terrace nursing home. And at 99 years old, days before she passed away, she still managed to come in second place in a family dice game, besting her 13 year old great-grandson with a last chance move that also narrowly missed beating her 40 year old grandson.

A private gravesite service will be held for the family later this Spring in Glendale, California, at Forest Lawn Memorial Park.



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BBB Names Top Ten Scams Of 2012

Continued from Page 1

Top Employment Scam: Mystery Shopping

Working as a secret shopper may sound like an ideal way to supplement income, but scammers have figured that out, too. Many job offers are nothing more than a variation on the Overpayment/Fake Check Scam (above). Sometimes they claim that evaluating the wire service company is part of the job, which is why the consumer needs to send back part of the money. The Mystery Shopping Providers Association says it is not the practice of their members to pre-pay shoppers. Those looking for legitimate opportunities can find a gig through www.mysteryshop.org.

Top Advance Fee/Prepayment Scam: Nonexistent Loans

Loan scams continued to fester in 2012. Most of the scams advertise online and promise things like no credit check or easy repayment terms. The hook: you have to make the first payment upfront, you have to buy an "insurance policy," or there is some other kind of fee that you have to pay first to "secure" the loan. In the end, the consumer ends up with nothing but an empty wallet.

Top Phishing Scam: President Obama Will Pay Your Utility Bills

At the peak of summer with utility costs soaring, consumers received emails, letters and even door-to-door solicitations about a "new government program"

to pay utility bills. Victims "registered" with a website and provided everything scammers needed for ID theft, including bank account information.

Top Sweepstakes/Lottery Scam: Jamaican Phone Lottery

The calls come from area code 876 but the person claims to represent BBB, FBI, or other trusted group. Great news: you won a terrific prize, but must pay a fee to collect the winnings. After wiring money to "collect" the prize, consumers never hear from the scammers again.

Top Identity Theft Scam: Fake Facebook Tweets

"ROFL they was taping you" or "What RU doing in this FB vid?" are typical tweets. In a panic, you click on the link and get an error message that says you need to update your video player. It's a virus or malware that can steal confidential information from your computer or smart phone. Twitter recommends reporting spam, resetting your password and revoking connections to third-party applications.

Top Home Improvement Scam: Sandy "Storm Chasers"

BBB spends a lot of time investigating and reporting on home improvement scams, but this year we saw an unusual amount of "storm chaser" activity following Super Storm Sandy. It's tempting to skip reference checking in an emergency, but that's never a good idea. Always check

a company's licensing before hiring and search for them at necl.bbb.org.

Top Sales Scam: Fake Goods

From the Super Bowl to the World Series, counterfeiters managed to have their hands in consumers' pockets all year long. Some scammers sold cheap knock-offs in front of stadiums. Others set up websites that never had any goods for sale to begin with. Counterfeit goods are not only a rip-off for fans, but also rip-off the teams, athletes, designers and artists who create, license and sell the real merchandise. Buy directly from teams or from legitimate retailers. If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Scam of the Year: Newtown Charity Scams

Within hours of the horrific shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, social media pages dedicated to the child victims began cropping up. Some of them were scams asking for money. The FBI has already arrested one woman for posing as the aunt of one of the children killed, and state and federal agencies are investigating other possible fraudulent and misleading solicitations. Although the number of people defrauded and the total dollars stolen is most likely low, the cynicism and sheer audacity of these scams merits our selecting it as the "Top Scam of 2012."

Source: BBB

Court Dismisses Charges Against Street Preacher

From Liberty Counsel, www.LC.org

TEMPE, AZ – On January 17th, the Tempe City Court dismissed a case against evangelist Doru Neamtu. Liberty Counsel defended Neamtu, who was targeted and harassed for street witnessing. Tempe police have been harassing Neamtu for many years. Among other discrimination, Neamtu is forbidden from using an amplifier on the street, while the bars and night clubs are blaring amplified noise.

Last September, Neamtu was peacefully passing out Christian tracts in front of the post office when a Tempe police officer accused him of "aggressive solicitation." His constitutional rights were further violated when the police officer arrested him on a bogus Failure to Provide Identification charge.

Doru Neamtu grew up in communist Romania, where he saw his dad jailed and beaten for preaching the gospel. His dad still bears the physical scars today. "It is interesting to note that Liberty Counsel's Senior Litigation Counsel, Harry Mihet, who represented Doru Neamtu in court yesterday, was also born and raised in communist Romania where he lived until 1989, when dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown and executed," said Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel. "Both Neamtu and Mihet had Romanian fathers who were jailed by secret police for sharing the gospel. Yesterday, they stood together against religious persecution in America," Staver said. "The courtroom was packed with Romanians, who were persecuted in Romania and had come to America to find freedom."

After being arrested last September, Neamtu shared Jesus with three fellow inmates, who each accepted Christ. When he was released from jail at 11:00 p.m., the Romanian evangelist

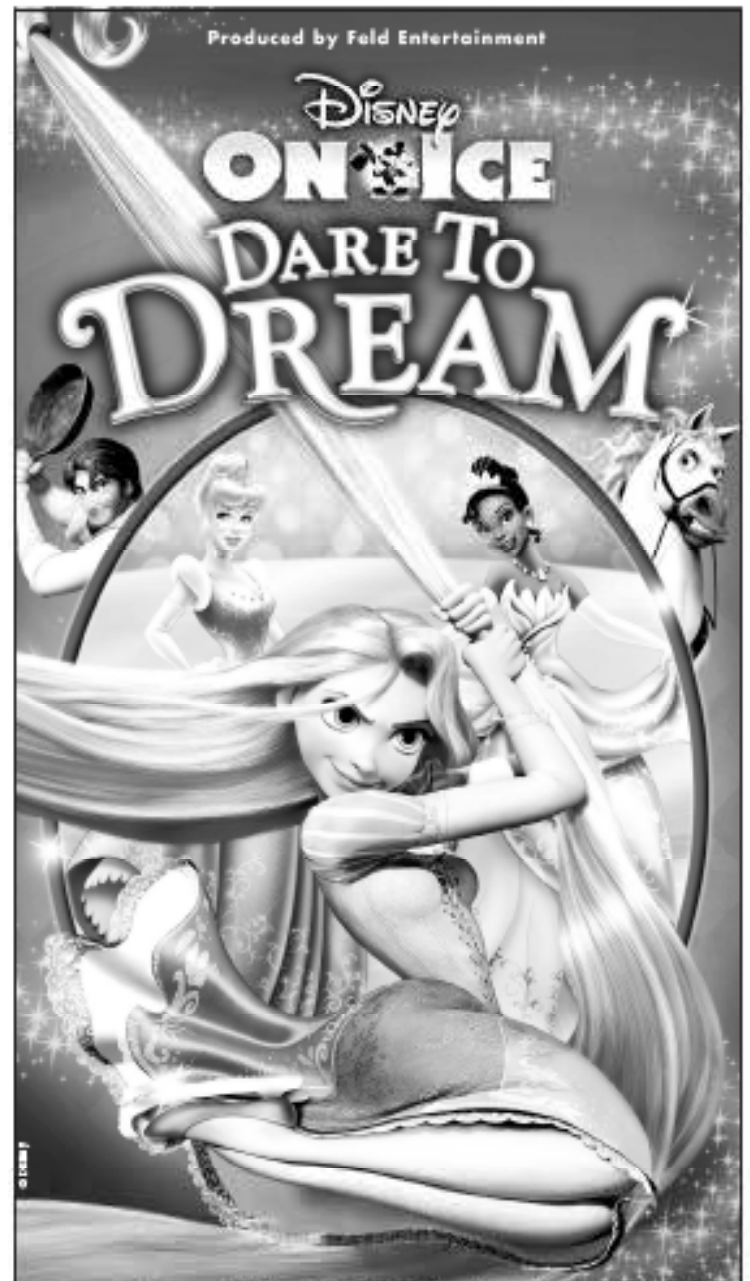
still had one hour left until his customary midnight finish time, so he walked over to the exact spot where he had been arrested and finished his message.

Liberty Counsel came to Mr. Neamtu's aid, engaged the prosecutor in vigorous discovery, filed constitutional defenses, and came ready with ten witnesses for trial. This "shock and awe" approach persuaded the city prosecutor to dismiss the charges.

Based upon countless opinions from the courts, prohibiting a person from witnessing and distributing literature from a public sidewalk is clearly a violation of that person's constitutional rights. The Supreme Court ruled in *Madsen v. Women's*

Health Center, Inc. that peacefully speaking to another person cannot be considered criminal, harassment, or intimidation, even where the conversation is uninvited and not consensual. Mr. Neamtu is dedicated to sharing the gospel of Jesus. There is nothing more important, and Liberty Counsel was proud to stand beside him in court.

Liberty Counsel is an international nonprofit, litigation, education, and policy organization dedicated to advancing religious freedom, the sanctity of life, and the family since 1989, by providing pro bono assistance and representation on these and related topics.



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PCWA Looks at West County Water Needs

AUBURN, CA – (MPG) Amid signs of renewed interest in major land development projects in unincorporated western Placer County, the Placer County Water Agency is updating its water supply master planning efforts for that vast, undeveloped part of the county.

The PCWA Board of Directors on Thursday (Jan. 17) reviewed county General Plan land use designations for areas including Placer Vineyards, Riolo Vineyards, the Regional University site, Placer Ranch and surrounding areas.

The area, bordered on the south by Sacramento County and on the west by Sutter County, has long been seen as a future growth area but lacks the needed utility infrastructure for treated surface water supply, wastewater collection, roads and other services.

PCWA Director of Strategic Affairs Einar Maisch said the agency is preparing to meet with the County of Placer Board of Supervisors to brief them on necessary infrastructure and costs associated with serving the area with treated surface water.

PCWA Director of Technical Services Brian Martin said eventual, long-term build out of the area would require greatly

boosting the agency's water treatment and delivery capacity charges. He said it also opened up additional options for regional opportunities to serve the area with treated surface water.

PCWA uses a Water Connection Charge (WCC) that is collected on a per unit basis to pay for the addition of water system infrastructure to serve new development. The current WCC is \$16,444 for a standard 5/8-inch meter connection. Officials said the charge for a new water treatment plant, tanks and pipelines would increase the WCC to reflect the actual costs to meet and serve projected future new water demands in western Placer County.

Martin said the numbers used in the presentation are based on preliminary estimates and would be refined as more details become known as to actual intended growth and location of new projects.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- heard an announcement that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) rolled back its land use fee increases. PCWA has actively opposed the new fees which had greatly increased the agency's use of federal

forest lands for the Middle Fork American River Project. Agency officials said they expect the FERC fees to be reduced back to near the earlier level.

- held a tribute for the late Placer County community leader Paul J. Lunardi, who died Jan. 11 at age 91. Mr. Lunardi, at age 32, served as Roseville's youngest mayor before going on to serve for eight years (1958-66) in the California State Assembly and State Senate. He was credited with carrying important legislation that allowed PCWA to move forward to construct the Middle Fork American River Hydroelectric Project in 1963-67.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 7, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn. PCWA board meetings are open to the public.

Information on PCWA board meetings may be obtained through the Clerk to the Board at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030. PCWA information is also posted at www.pcwa.net.

Source: PCWA

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Keeping the Faith

are, at what everyone else is doing wrong. But by Jesus' own word, the church is not permitted to become this type of condemnation-meting society. We are not called to operate a business of inflicting punishment on others. In fact, we aren't called to mind others' business at all.

In my vocation I often come across those who are hostile toward the Christian faith. I try to engage such individuals and learn something from them. What I have learned from people such as these, more often than not, is their exasperation over how we Christians frequently come across as a kind of moral SWAT team.

We intrude into the lives of others filling the air with the ammunition of "ought, should, and must" when we would be better served by turning our energies and attention to our own hearts and examine our own lives, not the lives of others. Dietrich Bonehoeffer said it like this, "Jesus is the only standard by which disciples should live, but he is not a standard we can apply to others. He is a standard we can only apply to ourselves."

So, when we as Christians get blisteringly angry with those who sin differently than we do, we should remember to mind our business. That business is to love, not to condemn. That business is to begin with the self, for beginning there will keep us busy for a lifetime.

To that end, there is a wonderful story from famed Rabbi Mendel Futerfas, who survived years in the Soviet Gulags of Siberia. In the Gulag, one of the many activities that was prohibited and dealt

with harshly was playing cards. Still, some of the inmates managed to smuggle in a deck of cards, and they would play for hours without the guards knowing.

Finally, however, an informant sold the card-playing prisoners out. The guards would storm in with surprise inspections looking for the cards, but could never find them. They checked every inch of the barracks including strip searches of the inmates, but the result was always the same: Nothing. Yet, as soon as the guards left, the cards would reappear and the games continued.

Rabbi Mendel couldn't understand how this happened, but eventually the card players let him in on their secret. "You see," they said, "we are professional pick-pockets. As soon as the guards enter the barracks, we slip the cards into their pockets. Right before they leave, we slip them back out again. It never occurs to the guards to check their own pockets."

"Judging" does not prevent us from having and sharing opinions. It doesn't mean we can't give a verbal witness to our faith. But it does mean we refuse - absolutely refuse - to condemn others. We leave "room in our hearts for God's grace," and that room is made possible by looking in and emptying our own pockets first.

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.

As My Luck Would Have It

By Rev. James L. Snyder, D. Litt

I am not superstitious [knock on wood] but some things happen to me that leave me a little bit suspicious. I am not sure if there is a connection between superstitious and suspicious, but if there were, that would explain a lot in my life.

I start every year with high hopes of making certain changes in my life. If I had a quarter for every change I wanted to make in my life but didn't, I would have all the change I need.

This past week was one of those weeks. I was minding my own business, which for me is a full-time job without benefits, and no matter what I did; I was either a day late or a dollar short.

I had to go across town for a business meeting and as my luck would have it, I hit every red light. I am not sure but it seemed that there were 1,937 traffic lights in route to my destination.

I had a gift card that I cannot remember when I got it, but I thought I would get a nice gift for myself. I selected my gift, went to the cash out counter and was informed that my gift card had expired "yesterday." I think I have just too many yesterdays in my life. I would like a card once that would expire "tomorrow". I have plenty of them.

The bookstore that I do my business was having a special on a book that I really wanted. I got to the store, stood in line for well over an hour and, as my luck would have it, the person in front of me got the last one. Where's my gun when I need it?

I believe if there are 100 people playing a \$10 million lottery I would be number 101. I come so close so many times, but you know what they say, an inch

missed is like a mile missed.

When my wife and I started our marital journey, we did not take a vow of poverty. It just has turned out that way. As soon as we have a little cash ahead, my wife begins to wonder what is going to break in the house. And, as luck would have it, she is usually right.

All week long, my week went like this. All week long, I could not catch anything and then, as my luck would have it, I caught a cold. I did not set out at the beginning of the week to catch a cold. Whoever threw that cold at me I would like to find out right now. Of course, why I caught it in the first place is to be questioned. I really did not see it coming.

Why is it you cannot catch what you want but usually can catch what you do not want?

A friend of mine always reminds me along this line that, "That's life."

I caught a cold and now I did not know what to do with it.

I got up late in the morning, put on my bathrobe and went toward the kitchen wheezing and coughing as I shuffled down the hallway. When I got to the kitchen the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage looked at me with one of "those looks" and said rather sternly, "Don't you dare give that cold to me."

I was sick but I was not too sick to know a death threat when it came my way.

When it comes right down to it, I am really a generous person. I would give you the shirt off my back if you needed it. However, when I have something like "a cold," I cannot give it to anyone. Nobody wants it! Believe me, the cold I have to give I would give freely.

"You turn around," my wife said very sternly, "and march

yourself right back into bed." Not only did I catch a cold, but also I am now catching the dickens.

I must confess that I am an expert at catching the dickens. I have just never figured out what to do with it when I got it. If I was good at catching luck as I am with catching the dickens I would be the luckiest man in the world. If someone knows a profitable market for "dickens" please contact me soon.

Slowly I turned, step by step, I walked down the hallway, it seemed like of thousand miles, I finally threw myself into bed. Thankfully, the bed caught me.

And so, as luck would have it, I have caught the cold, caught the dickens from my wife, and now I plan to catch up on some sleep.

I am not sure if you starve a cold and feed a fever or if you feed a cold and starve a fever. So in my confusion, I fed myself.

Resting on my bed, I thought of one of my favorite Bible verses. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28 KJV).

Life is full of ups and downs. Just when you think you are up you find yourself on the way down. The important thing in life is to have a safety net. For me, Jesus is my safety net and has never let me down. He will always catch me.

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 Ronnie McBrayer

In these days when it seems everything has become angry polarization, it's not uncommon to hear someone in the heat of an argument invoke the familiar words of Jesus: "Judge not, so that you are not judged." These words are probably misapplied as much as anything Jesus ever said.

Jesus' prohibition against judging has less to do with our academic arguments than it does with how we treat people. The better translation of his words is, "Do not condemn others." This changes the whole equation, as Jesus doesn't ban "judgment" in the sense of discernment, making honorable choices, or being an informed person. Rather, Jesus is precluding the use of condemnation against others.

Yet, if you turn to the media, read much of what is printed by Christian publishers, listen to what is repeated in church pulpits, or spend time perusing the Christian blogosphere, it seems the only voice we Christians have is that of a crotchety old man, angry that the neighborhood kids won't stay off our lawn.

Yes, some of what we say is healthy, principled dissent; but too much of it is an exhaustive collection of condemnation and angry finger-pointing, incensed as we

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By Karen Anderson

Once again, you look around at your life and you realize you haven't moved even an inch. You are STUCK, and life can become so frustrating that you don't know what to do. My question to you is... how did that happen? I know for me, what gets me stuck is that long "To-Do List" and life's distractions that get in the way of my good intentions. I get so mad at myself, because at the end of the day I look back and realize the day was a waste. The next day I wake up with the same intention but I remember what happened the day before, and many times the day is a waste once again.

I have talked about this before; ask God for His help. Did you know that He will come and help if asked? All you have to do is say, "Help me God!" The

Out Of The Quicksand

enemy (Satan) does not want you to accomplish anything that is God's purpose for your life, so he uses your life against you. NOW YOU'RE STUCK. He is the king of deception. His royal decrees continue to trap us. Don't take his power over you so lightly. You might think this is just your human nature creating these distractions for you, but it is not. Remember, Satan lives on earth with us and he is roaming around like a lion ready to ruin your life and your good intentions.

I'm serious about praying openly to God for help in these areas. Something I was never good at was praising and thanking God for His help. Get in the habit of telling God how much you love and appreciate Him. That's what I am making a point to do. He doesn't always answer prayers right away, but praise Him for the answers that are on their way. God's Word says, "Be strong. Take courage. Don't be intimidated. Don't give them a second thought because God, your God, is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; He won't

leave you." Take this to the point of believing when Satan is attacking you with whatever stops your life, CLAIM THIS VERSE!

I promise, as you claim God's scripture, the enemy will flee from you. Ask God's protection to surround you; then move through your day. One very important thing...at the beginning of your day, spend time with God, but remember that at the end of your day, thank God for everything He did for you. I, personally, am still working on this, but it is a blessing for me to see that God really did show up and helped me get UNSTUCK! If I can do, you can do it. Blessings to you all for staying UNSTUCK...make it a regular routine, every day.

PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 31:6 (The Message)

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.

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Penryn Book Sale

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Call 916-663-1608 for more information.

Widowed Person's Association Luncheon

AUBURN – Widowed Person's Association of California will hold its monthly luncheon meeting - at the Sizzler Restaurant in Auburn.

Call Jeanette at 888-6880 by February 18th to make reservations. All Widowed People are invited to attend three activities of this organization prior to joining our membership.

Other activities include: card playing, luncheons, dinners, bingo, bowling, trips to Reno, Koffee klatches and special activities. Koffee Klatch will meet at Mon's Kitchen at 395 Nevada Street Auburn, Mon. January 16, at 9:00 AM.

Hope to see you there. For a free newsletter call Denise (530) 823-5321.

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Sweeney Todd's weapon
- "Recluse from 'To Kill a Mockingbird'"
- Dumbfounded
- "Fear of Flying" author Jong
- Unit of electrical resistance
- Groom, to a bird
- Brightest star in Cygnus
- Anonymous John
- Shadow
- Covered with scabs
- "F. Scott Fitzgerald's mysterious millionaire"
- Nada
- Circle overhead?
- Douglas ____
- Lowest brass
- Catch in a net
- Bad day for Caesar
- Grey, of tea fame
- Spanish saint
- Church section
- "Poe's talking bird"
- Bucolic poem
- Chirp, as in bird

DOWN

- "Twilight" series, e.g.
- "The farmer in the ____"
- Bonnie and Clyde's doing
- Mythical bird, pl.
- Without professional help, acr.
- Sound of impact
- Tint
- "T. Williams' fading Southern belle"
- "J.D. Salinger's young cynic"
- Pilaff or plov
- ET carrier
- Unbroken
- Dadaist Max ____
- Rip off
- Savory taste sensation
- Kind of moss
- Affirmative English rock band
- Tom down
- Like Stephen Crane's Badge of Courage
- Mars, to the Greeks
- Brass component

- Home to largest mammal
- "John Updike's ____ Run"
- "Stephen King novella 'The ____,' adapted into 'Stand by Me' film"
- Exclamation of surprise
- The end
- They're missing from Venus de Milo
- He played Sergeant Joe Friday
- Suggestive of supernatural
- Piece of evidence
- Capers or charades
- Gloomier
- Brewpub offering
- "John Updike's alma mater"
- "Harper Lee's Atticus ____"
- Gem State
- Live it up
- Bleats
- "Occupation featured in 'The Help'"
- Terminated

- They're found at checkout
- "Truman Capote's party girl"
- Garden starter
- Toy block
- Jack Black's "____ Libre"
- Blow out the candle, e.g.
- Sigma ____ Epsilon
- S
- Shylock's practice
- Swelling
- ____ Straits
- Arm bone
- Cat-headed Egyptian goddess
- Gremlins
- Timeline divisions
- What one goes by
- ____ rally
- "Wicked Witch of the West to Dorothy Gale"
- Jack-in-the-box part

For Solution See Page 7

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

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.
Come back every week for Sudoku! For Solution See Page 7.

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POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

His Christmas cards the last few years have been a delight, but how he shares what he has done in his life continues to astound me. In 2012, he has made 347 appearances around the world. Yet, he still finds the time to jog one hour every night. He even offered the political mouths his service to get them together to come to a compromise on the fiscal cliff which is still teetering on the edge. He wanted to get them together in a room to finally talk and not get out until a deal was struck for the good of the people not the politicians. Did they take him up on it? Of course not. It might benefit you and me more than their next run for office. And this was not a publicity stunt. Kreskin was truly concerned and wanted to help. I guess they didn't like it when he said he is not a liberal or a conservative. He is an independent thinker. What a novel idea these days. He gets very upset when he says today's politicians just don't listen to one another.

So what upsets Kreskin? Lobbyists for one...some 35,000 in the belt way. He used the words infection and influence in the same sentence with Lobbyists. He wondered where the statesmen are like Benjamin Franklin, a printer and George Washington, a farmer? Today they are just politicians, and he did not say that in a positive reflection. He laughingly said he listened to the debates last fall to read their thoughts and he got a blank. I think we did too. He quoted the old saying that if we forget history, we are bound to live it over again. He worries about the debt we have. Kreskin claims if we pick a day in history...say the birth day of Christ and add one million dollars every day up till today, it still would not add up to our present debt. He talks seriously about the economy continuing to be difficult and the job market a struggle. But his advice is take whatever job you can and look to the future. On violence,

he got very serious and shared an exclusive that he has not told to anyone before. Some years ago, he was reading to some kids in a grade school and got into the conversation of violence with the kids. And the quotation was used that guns don't kill people, but people kill people. And one of the kids came out with a statement that totally leveled Kreskin. In his simplicity, the child said, "If that's the case, then is it safer if no guns were in people's hands?" Out of the mouths of babes. Perhaps we need to assess what our humanity is all about too.

As for his philosophy of life that keeps him going, I guess I was not surprised by his answer. His energy is astounding no doubt. But even with some of his health challenges, he believes he is blessed with good health. His mom lived to 96 and his dad 91. Good genes passed on to Kreskin. But I loved his way of thinking. As he put it, "I believe that all people I meet in life give me energy. Everyone is interesting in some way. Even a ditch-digger is proud of his work." I love that philosophy... one that we all should consider. We all have something to offer in this life, and we should pursue it to the max. As Kreskin put it, you don't have to play the piano at Carnegie Hall as he did. Go to your living room and play to your hearts content. Don't make resolutions, he told me, go to bed and awaken with the conviction to do it. And don't wait till the New Year. Do it now. Make up your mind and get it done!

And so this is the Kreskin I got to know, and I look forward to our next time together with this man who has achieved so much, and yet cares more about sharing his talent to better us all. I am honored!

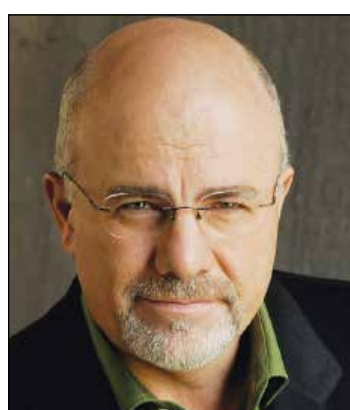
Join Mary Jane for the **KAHI Noon News Monday-Friday and then again for POPOFF 10 PM - Midnight.**

AMAZING

His Life has been an incredible journey. He calls himself a Mentalist, but he makes predictions that are uncanny in their accuracy. He's been amazing for decades back to appearing on the Steve Allen TV Show up to today's Jimmy Fallon Show. In "Conversations with Kreskin," The Amazing Kreskin reveals what this man is all about. I have had the pleasure of interviewing this extraordinary personality several times on the POPPOFF Radio Show, but never have I been more impressed than the last two times as he shared so much of his life and times that are unbelievable to say the least. But suffice to say, you ain't seen nothin' yet from this 78 year old dynamo! Is he a psychic? He claims he is not, but he does call himself a Mentalist. Does he make predictions? Yes, he does and comes up with some whoppers!

He's been through it all. He beat cancer in 2009 after 44 treatments of radiation when does told him it was not possible. But Kreskin did it. Did you know that the character of Karnac the Magnificent that Johnny Carson played for many years on his nightly show was based on Kreskin's first appearance on the Steve Allen Show these many years ago? It's when Kreskin took a nosedive literally in his entrance, and so the trip that Johnny made every time he did his Karnac bit with Ed McMahon was born. Wonder what the Great Karnac would say about the Amazing Kreskin today?

I know what I have to say. I feel like he has become more of a friend than a guest on my show.



Dave Says

some of that money to live on until his job situation improves.

Then, the moment he returns to work and things are stabilized, you jump back into getting control of your finances. Use whatever is left of the \$38,000 to pay off debt that very day. But right now you don't need to worry about becoming debt-free, only to turn around and be in a mess in the event he has trouble finding another job.

Let me give you a warning too. Thirty-eight thousand dollars is a great gift. If someone handed me a check for that amount, I'd cash it in a heartbeat. But it's not \$380,000 or \$3.8 million. It's easy to develop a false sense of security if you've never received a check of that size. This kind of money is enough to keep the wolf away from the door for a while, but it's nothing to retire on.

This little nest egg is a real blessing, Kristen. Just make sure you handle it wisely, and take into account all of the possibilities over the next couple of months. In a best-case scenario your husband won't need surgery, he'll find a job pretty soon, and you guys won't have to dig in to the inheritance money. Hang on to as much as possible, though. This sounds like a time of personal and professional transition for you both, and having that kind of extra cash around could be a lifesaver!

- Dave

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.

Be Tightfisted Until The Crisis Is Over

Dear Dave,

Recently, my husband had to quit his job due to an old back injury. We have \$25,000 in debt, but I'll be receiving a \$38,000 inheritance in a couple of weeks. Should we use the money to pay off our debt, or hold on to it in case he needs surgery?

- Kristen

Dear Kristen,

Now is the time to keep the cash piled high. You're in the middle of an emergency, and that means you push the pause button on your Total Money Makeover and stop paying extra on debt. Surgery is a possibility at this point, plus you may need

Should We Ever Buy A House?

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are on Baby Step 2 of your plan. We move every two or three years due to our jobs, so would it ever make sense in our situation to buy a house?

- Janelle

Dear Janelle,

In most cases like this it doesn't make sense to buy a house, especially if the real estate market in your area is lethargic. Some markets have bounced back and are doing very well, while some are worse than slow. It all depends on where you're moving.

Here's the big question: Can you get the place sold quickly the next time you have to move? Another thing to consider is whether or not you can sell it for more than it cost when the time comes. If not, you'll be writing a check for home ownership, and that's not a good plan.

As a general rule, a two- to three-year window is not enough time to own a home. There are rare exceptions to this rule, places where you have a hot, escalating price market. But if you're not careful you'll end up leaving behind a rental property and playing landlord, whether you want to or not!

- Dave

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- 9am - Noon: The Laura Ingraham 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: The Drive Home Show with Dave Rosenthal
- Wednesday: Wealth Strategies with Hunter William Bailey
- 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 Guru
- 10 - 11am: The Dew Sweepers Golf Show
- 11am - 7pm: Sinatra & Friends Music
- 7 - 8pm: A Way With Words
- 8 - 9pm: Rewind with Jimmy Jay

Sundays

- 7:30 - 9am: Cruisin' Garage & Swap Meet
- 9:00am - 7pm: Sinatra & Friends Music
- 7 - 8pm: A Way With Words
- 8 - 9pm: Hearts of Space

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