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Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

Second Issue of December 2012

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## Santa Checks List



Santa Checks His List Twice Before Visiting Placer County

## New Directors Join PCWA Board

AUBURN – The Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors on welcomed two new members who took the oath of public office and began four-year terms on the board.

Robert Dugan, a former planning commissioner and longtime community leader in Roseville, is the new District 4 director on the countywide board. Former Colfax mayor and longtime city council member Joshua Alpine is the District 5 director.

The new members, along with returning District 3 Director Mike Lee, were sworn into office by Ryan Ronco, Assistant Registrar, of the Placer County Elections Office.

The new board elected District 1 Director Gray Allen, of Roseville, as PCWA Board Chairman and Alpine as vice-chairman for 2013. Outgoing chairman Mike Lee was recognized for his leadership in 2012 as chairman.

PCWA is the primary water resource agency for Placer County, with a broad range of responsibilities including water resource advocacy planning and management, retail and wholesale supply of drinking water and irrigation water, and generation of hydroelectric power.

ower.

For more information about the agency, visit www.pcwa.net.



PCWA Board, 2013, The 2013 Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors is pictured at the PCWA Business Center in Auburn. From left, Board Chairman and District 1 Director Gray Allen, District 2 Director Alex Ferreira, District 3 Director Mike Lee, District 4 Director Robert Dugan, and Vice Chairman and District 5 Director Joshua Alpine.

## Year End Travel Highest Since 2006

SACRAMENTO REGION – Consumer optimism is offsetting unresolved financial issues as millions of Californians help propel this year's holiday travel season into the second highest number of travelers seen in the past decade, according to the latest travel survey from AAA Northern California. They predict an estimated 11.7 million Californians will travel during the end-of-the-year holiday season, representing an overall increase of 1.8 percent compared to 2011.

"For the fourth consecutive year, California has seen a slow to steady increase in travel volume," said AAA Northern California spokesperson Cynthia Harris. "This season we are experiencing the highest number of travelers since the 2006-2007 travel peak as Californians kick-start the New Year with a holiday vacation."

AAA estimates that more than 10 million Californians traveling during Christmas and New Year's will choose to drive to reach their holiday destinations, representing a 1.4 percent increase compared to last year. The air travel industry will also experience an increase of 4.4 percent this year as more than 950,000 Californians are expected to fly.

Approximately 398,000 state residents are expected to travel by other modes of transportation, such as boats or trains. This represents an increase of 7.4 percent compared to last year. Nationally, AAA projects that more than 93 million people will travel 50 miles or more during the holiday festivities. That's a 1.6 percent increase compared to last year.

Family travel constitutes 32 percent of total travelers during the year-end holidays. An average West Coast family of four will save money by staying with friends and family, spending an average of \$1,048 on their trip. An average West Coast road trip will consist of approximately 838 miles.

Californians who take to the skies during this holiday season will pay an average price of \$203 per round trip ticket for the top U.S. air routes. This represents a decrease of three percent from last year. On a national level, air travel is expected to increase 4.5 percent as 5.6 million travelers will take to the skies.

#### AAA Winter Travel Survival Tips

- Pack a cellular phone and car charger. Have emergency numbers available. Carry your AAA card for help in an emergency. For members who become stranded, AAA can be reached by calling 1-800-AAA-HELP (1-800-222-4357)
- If you become snowbound, stay with your vehicle. It is an excellent shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to find you.
- Stay focused. Avoid distractions such as texting, talking on the phone and adjusting the radio or other electronic devices. AAA Air Travel Tips
- Hit the web before the airport. Check in online up to 24 hours before flying and print your boarding pass at home. Many airlines offer discounts for prepaying during online check-in.
- Pack light. Avoid checked bag fees and bring carry-on luggage only. Check with your airline on the maximum size of bags allowed in overhead bins. TSA regulations require the name on your airline ticket/boarding pass to exactly match your name as it is printed on your government-issued identification.
- Make reservations for accommodations and rental cars ahead of time so prices can be locked in. Air fares are typically cheaper if arrangements are made early.
- Liquids and gel carry-ons will only be allowed in containers no larger than 3 ounces and must be placed in a quartsize Ziploc clear plastic bag.

AAA's projections are based on research conducted by IHS Global Insight. AAA has been reporting on holiday travel trends for more than two decades. *Source: AAA* 

## One Family's Tragedy: Hope for the Other

By Elise Spleiss

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - When George Becker died, it meant Alfonso Garcia would live. The two young men had never met, but their lives intersected when each one came down with rare ailments at about the same time. Becker died of a rare brain infection and Garcia would die within 48 hours without a new liver. With modern transplant technology and a generous spirit, one family's tragedy led to hope for the other.

When he was applying for his driver's license at 16, Becker answered 'yes' to the question: "Do you wish to register to be an organ and tissue donor? He told his mother, Connie Mays, "That makes sense, if I'm not going to be here anymore, someone else might as well use my body parts." That resulting little pink dot on his license would mean life for Alfonso Garcia.

It also led to an unlikely bond between their two families, which will come full circle at the Pasadena Rose Bowl Parade on January 1, 2013. Garcia will be one of 32 riders who are recipients of organ and tissue transplants on the 'Donate Life California's Journeys of the *Heart float*, celebrating new life organ transplantation can bring. The 200-foot long float will be lined with 72 Floragraph portraits of donors. Garcia will ride next to Becker's portrait. This year's parade theme, "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" is the title of a favorite Dr. Seuss children's

The sudden symptoms of an apparent bad sinus infection brought 21-year-old Becker of Lincoln, California to Mercy San Juan Hospital in Carmichael on the morning of January 28, 2010. His symptoms worsened so quickly that within hours of arriving at ER he was declared brain dead. What was thought to be a sinus infection turned out to be a rare bacterial brain infection. It had gone to Becker's brain, formed an abscess and burst. Both neurologists on the case had said that in all their years they had read about and studied the condition but had

While this was happening Becker's family had no way of knowing a similar chain of events was taking place for Alfonso Garcia of Pinole and his family, only 100 miles away at UCSF in San Francisco. The next 48 hours would join the two families together for life.



At Alfonso Garcia's high school graduation with donor's parents, Rick and Connie Mays.

Before Becker's parents, Rick Becker and Connie Mays, could recover from the shock of what was happening to their recently active and healthy son, and wrap their minds around this unthinkable turn of events; they would have to make a decision. Knowing Becker was on the California Donor Registry, his doctor told them there was a 15-year-old boy in the Bay Area who has two days to live, and George was a perfect match for a liver transplant. Would they agree to their son's liver going to this young man?

From this moment Mays says, she felt an immediate connection with Garcia. Without hesitation Becker's parents said 'yes'. They said their goodbyes quickly so tests and preparations could be made for the harvesting of their son's liver and other recoverable organs. Becker's pancreas and both kidneys would also save two more lives.

The young man in the Bay Area doctors spoke about was

Alfonso Garcia. He was only 15 years old when he too was taken ill suddenly. He was diagnosed with Wilson's disease, a rare genetic disorder that prevents copper from being eliminated from the body. Copper accumulates in the body, damaging the liver and nervous system.

Garcia's liver was failing fast, and he was given 48 hours to live if he did not receive an immediate transplant. As soon as this diagnosis was made, he was quickly transferred from Kaiser in Santa Clara to Benioff Children's Hospital at the University of California in San Francisco.

Benioff is internationally renowned for the care of children with liver disease and the care of patients who undergo liver transplants. Garcia could not have been at a better hospital for his condition especially as his father, Oscar Garcia is employed at UCSF where he has been a respiratory therapist since 1989.

A transplant team from UCSF immediately made their way to Santa Clara to do the testing and carry out the procedures to bring Becker's liver back to the hospital and to Garcia. Before they left the hospital, one of the team members found Mays to fulfill a promise made to Garcia's mother, Marta. It was of great importance to her for the doctor to give Mays a hug in her stead and express her profound gratitude for the gift Becker was giving their son.

On January 30, 2010 these two young man's lives became intertwined forever when George Becker was taken off of life support and the successful liver transplant took place that would save Alfonso Garcia.

It is not common for donor and recipient families to meet and form friendships, but another series of events would lead to the families meeting and becoming a force to honor Becker's life as advocates for the cause of saving lives through organ donations.

friend. In July of 2011, her friend was watching a Giant's game on television when she saw a young man being interviewed after throwing out the first pitch. The California Transplant Donor Network sponsored the appearance. Garcia was their ambassador. Mays' friend noted some facts the young man recounted about his case during the interview corresponded exactly with what had been in the letter. Phone calls were made and Becker's sister, Richelle, immediately conducted a search for Garcia and found him on Facebook. Following their connection a tearful meeting took place only a few days later.

From the moment Garcia opened the door to their home, the bittersweet meeting played out like a dramatic Lifetime movie. It felt like a homecoming for Mays and her family as they were greeted by a receiving line of dozens of grateful friends and family. Their meeting was a celebration of Becker's life, and the start of a new partnership, joining young Garcia in spreading the word on organ donation. Mays says she has found peace knowing that, "George was a gift the day he was born. His life was a gift and his life continues to he a gift and to touch so many."

Garcia has become a major force in changing the perception of the public's feelings regarding organ donations. As an Ambassador for the California Transplant Donor Network (CTDN) donor program, he visits high schools and community groups where he speaks to students to inspire them to register as donors when they apply for their driver's license. Being Hispanic himself he considers it a privilege to help debunk the

while he isn't planning beyond school and his work with CTDN, a career in the media and sports is not out of the question. He will need to take anti-rejection medication for the rest of his life and must avoid activities that could harm his liver, but otherwise can lead a normal, fulfilling life.

Garcia's passion to give back to his community for his gift of life recently moved to a new level when he appeared twice before the California State Assembly to testify in favor of the passing of AB1967. The legislation, which passed in September mandates 15 minutes of education on organ and tissues donations for every 9th and 10th grader in their health and science classes. This will be crucial in helping students and their parents make an informed decision when faced with the organ donation question on their application.

The DMV also celebrated reaching their goal of 100 million registered donors in the United States in October of 2011. Still, the number of patients awaiting donations continues to far outnumber registered donors.

Donate Life California administers the California Donor Registry which consists of four organ recovery agencies. While there are many registered donors, not all will be able to donate. For many reasons, only 3 in 1,000 deaths result in an actual donation. Currently there are over 110,000 people on UNOS National Organ Transplant waiting list. 21,000 or 20% of this total are waiting in California. Of those waiting nationally, a staggering 1 in 3 will die because of a shortage of organs. In the U.S. 18 patients drop off the waiting list due to death each day, but that number goes right back up with a new name being added to the national list every 13 minutes.

On the positive side, one donor can save up to 8 lives, and one tissue donor can improve the lives of up to 50 recipients. Becker's case falls into the category of the 70% of 13,500 cases each year where patients declared brain dead patients are still medically able to be organ

Alfonso Garcia's knows George Becker will always be a part of his life, literally. No matter what path he chooses he knows he has been entrusted with a special gift to care for and protect. A profound reminder of this came in the words of his transplant surgeon, Dr. Hyutaro Hirose. When Connie Mays put her hand on Garcia's chest over her son's liver, Hirose reminded Garcia, "George's DNA is in you". The story continues.

Resources: Donate Life California: http://www.donatelife.org

DMV online: http://www.dmv. ca.gov/about/donatelife

CA Transplant Donor Network: www.ctdn.org

UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital: http://www.ucsfbenioffchildrens.org

Donate Life Rose Parade Float: www.donatelifefloat.org

All photos courtesy of Becker and Garcia Families



Donor's mother Connie Mays at Donate Life walk in 2012.

Their meeting after 18 months was the result of a letter Mays received from Garcia about a year after the transplant. Garcia thanked her warmly for her son's gift and told her he hoped they could meet someday. Mays shared this letter with a close

myths some Latinos have about organ donations. In California, Latinos make up 35% of those awaiting organ transplants.

Garcia, now 18, is a freshman at UCSF studying Communication with a minor in Latin American Studies. He said

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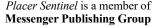
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Team George - friends and family of George Becker at 2012 Fremont Donate Life run

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For home delivery in Auburn, subscriptions should be mailed to: Placer Sentinel.

7405 Greenback Lane, #129, Citrus Heights, CA 95610.

Subscription rate is \$25 per year. Placer Sentinel is published twice monthly. Call 530-823-2463 for more information. (ISSN # 1948-1918).

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**Publisher** Paul V. Scholl Second Issue of December 2012 Placer Sentinel • 3

The holiday cup doth runneth

over and great to be handed a

personal mug at the brightly dec-

orated Courthouse Coffee where

the Family Zuvella were busily

serving up holiday fare includ-

now back on the Auburn scene.

sandwich.

those pesky buttons.

Across the street at 957 Lincoln

Way, Gaia's Basket health food

store now offers "grab and go"

selections including Greek pizza,

butternut squash and Thai soups.

## **Auburn 49er Lions Partner** with Leadership Auburn



From left to right - Andy Gonzales, Celebrity Chef Chairman Don Ales - Leadership Auburn Project Manager Paula Mosqueda & Norm Kendal, Celeb Chef committee.

AUBURN, CA - (MPG) Every year, the Auburn 49er Lions Club partners with another nonprofit organization to raise funds at the Celebrity Chefs Cooking for Community Service event. Recently the 49er Lions Board of Directors selected Leadership Auburn as the group benefitting from the funds earned. This year's Leadership Auburn class has decided to renovate the High Street entrance of the Gold Country Fairgrounds.

Their proposed project includes landscaping, hardscape, renovation of the ticket booth, new signage, paving, and other assorted improvements. It is an ambitious project that will enhance the site of many activities in our community.

The 27th Annual Celebrity Chefs Cooking for Community service event will take place at the Placer Building of the Gold Country Fairgrounds on Thursday, March 7, 2013 at 5:30 pm. Tickets

will be sold throughout our area and at the door. Tickets are \$15.

The Celebrity Chef event is not only a fundraiser; it is a fun evening for everyone. Dr. Bach and his Jazz Practitioners provide live music. There is a chance to win wonderful raffle prizes from the Sugar Plump Fairies. The food, of course, provides a yummy assortment of aromas and flavors. There are appetizers, salads, side dishes, finger foods, entrees, and desserts to tempt even the fussiest eater. There is something for every palate.

Auburn 49er Lion Andy Gonzales is spearheading this year's event, and expects that the evening will, as always, be delicious experience for all and, at the same time, provide the means to improve a community landmark. It's a win-win for all.

If you wish to join in, share your culinary talents, and become a Celebrity Chef, or if you have questions about this event, or need ticket information, feel free to call Paula at (530) 863-7503.

If you want to learn more about the activities of the Auburn 49er Lions Club, contact them at auburn49erlions@gmail.com.

## Around Town

with Loyce Smallwood



Around Town with Camille Zuvella and Loyce! at Court House Coffee.

Down Lincoln Way you can take in the collectibles and antiques at Auburn Antiques and then amble over to Mary Belle's diner where the stalwart Gail Stout always serves up delicious comfort food including zesty tomato your senses with the amazing bisque soup and that tasty tuna array of southwest sterling jewelry, western-influenced clothing Winding back up Lincoln and accessories at Kat's County Way across town, you'll find a Korner where horse enthusiast/ colorful array of costumes and

vintage fashions and jewelry at first Christmas in style. Get Dressed where seamstress/ Head over to the Unity Church owner Maria Francis is quick thrift shop on High Street on on the turn-around for repairs. Thursday, December 20th when Thanks Maria for sewing on you can reap the bargains and fill a shopping bag of bargains Heading towards Central for \$5 with proceeds benefitting Square stop in for a coffee and the homeless and other commubagel at newly opened Cabe's nity causes. Bring in donations bakery where breakfast and Monday through Thursday lunch fare provide yet more and make the Loyce!/Edna choices for the busy shopper. Sparkes Connection Wednesday

owner Kat Stewart celebrates her

afternoons. Heading back to North Auburn stop by the Assistance League Thrift in the Fiddler Green center on Highway 49 where the volunteers have been raving about the

delicious fare at The Taqueria eatery where I can heartily recommend the satisfying vegetarian tacos. Volunteers needed at Piece by Peace thrift shop across Highway 49 where the Hospice thrift should be open by January with yet more bargains for the treasure hunter.

Stop at LaBou in Belair for a crunchy peanut butter or ginger cookie before enjoying your shopping experience at the Discovery Cancer thrift shop down the way. Special Sentinel Stars for outstanding service along with hefty and delicious servings to Strings Italian eatery in the Rock Creek Shopping Center. Shop; donate; volunteer. Celebrate The Season.

Comments to loycer@suddenlink.net.

## **Governor Brown Announces Appointments of Onderko and Moir**

SACRAMENTO, CA – Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. recently announced the following appointments; Timothy Onderko, 35, of Loomis, has been appointed to the California Housing Partnership Corporation. Onderko has served in various positions at The Money Brokers Inc. since 2005, including vice president. He was a consultant to California Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez from 2004 to 2005 and a staff member on the Ira Ruskin for Assembly campaign in

the State Building and Construction Trades Council of California from 2002 to 2004 and a legislative aide and senior consultant to California Assembly Speaker Robert Hertzberg from 2000 to 2002. This position requires Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Onderko is a Democrat.

Sylvia Moir, 47, of Penryn has been appointed to the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. She has served as police chief at the El 2004. Onderko was a consultant to Cerrito Police Department since

2010. She served as police commander at the Menlo Park Police Department from 2008 to 2010 and was police lieutenant at the Sacramento Police Department from 1990 to 2008. Moir is a member of the California Police Chiefs Association, International Association of Chiefs of Police and International Association of Women Police. This position requires Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Moir is a Republican.

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Seniors Need to Know

## A New Concept in **Health Care Delivery**

By Irwin A. Herman, MD

A relatively new concept in health care delivery systems has been making its way through the medical community over the past several years and may, in time, become the future of medicine. This concept is currently known as the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), an idea first conceptualized primarily by family practitioners and pediatricians and being promoted by the American Academy of Family Practice (AAFP).

This concept of the PCMH is being actively studied by various research groups as well as by the federal government and many of the other medical specialty communities as a way to provide cost effective quality medical care in a culturally comfortable environment. The "Home" as it is pictured here is not a specific site or structure but refers to our own defined space that we occupy at any given time, be it our own home, a community development or in a shared facility such as living with a parent or a child.

The Medical Home is also undergoing evaluation of a number of different models designed to see which method will integrate and transition more readily into our current health care delivery system with the least interruption in doctor patient relationships and in the most cost effective way. So, what exactly is this concept and how will it affect us?

As envisioned and defined by the AAFP, its principle is providing primary patient responsibility from the first contact through

continuous and comprehensive care to end of life issues. This entails the use of a team approach under the guidance of a primary care giver, for instance a family practitioner or internist and incorporates, among others, nurse practitioners (NP), gerontologists, medical specialists, hospitals, hospice providers as well as the usual office staff who are often the first contact and who can set the tone of the given practice. In essence, the primary care giver is the quarterback leading all the others in a coordinated approach to providing the best quality care available for the betterment of the patient, namely

This approach includes expanded access often described as 24/7 care, with open scheduling, an increase in available office hours, increased communication using all available methods and increased quality and safety through the availability of modern information technology (IT). And all at a reduced cost to the health care system and payers.

How is this all possible at a reduced cost? It has been shown that by using the "high touch" method of providing care, that is personal contact with a team member, there is a greater degree of monitoring and preventive care which in turn has led to a decrease in high cost care such as emergency room visits and in-hospital admissions and care. Along with providing early care and treatment for a given condition, let's consider pneumonia for instance, this approach may avoid more costly treatments later on and lead to increased patient satisfaction as well. So it becomes a win-win situation for all involved.

Of course, there are other considerations that must be resolved as well, two of which are the decreased number of primary care providers and the lower reimbursement rates that these providers have to deal with. As regards to the first problem, recent data of medical residency training programs shows an increase in the number of applicants for primary care residencies among medical school graduates, and the second problem can be resolved by showing evidence of decreasing high care cost centers (ER and hospitals) so that there can be a shift of resources to provide more compensation to the primary care providers commensurate to their value in the health care system. A goal long overdue.

Hard to say when this will become mainstream, but you can probably bet that it's in the future, so keep your eyes and ears open for PCMH and you may find that wherever you are has just become a real "Medical Home."

The Older Adult Advisory Commission is responsible for advising the Department of Health and Human Services and the Board of Supervisors on the needs of Placer County's older adults. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday at 1 PM. More information may be found online at:www. placer.ca.gov/Departments or by calling the Public Authority at (530) 886-3680.

## **Placer County Sheriff Special Report**

#### Man Arrested for Raping Disabled Woman

Last night, Placer County Sheriff's detectives apprehended a man they had been seeking for more than a month on rape charges. The man was wanted for raping a severely disabled woman in a Penryn care home where he worked last vear.

Detectives arrested Marquise Montgomery, 22, in Elverta, for the rape of a person unable to give consent. In November, 2011, detectives were first notified by the care home that the woman was pregnant.

Montgomery was identified as a person of interest early in the investigation, but detectives were unable to locate him. Other male employees at the care facility volunteered to



**Marquise Montgomery** Photo courtesy of Placer County Sheriff's Office

give DNA samples and were all cleared of any involvement.

Eventually, investigators were able to get a DNA sample from a relative of Montgomery, which was tested and as a result, enabled detectives to obtain a warrant for Montgomery's arrest. Once the warrant was received, detectives actively sought him for more than a month.

He is being held at the Placer County Jail with bail set at \$150,000. He is scheduled to appear in court Friday morning.

Date/Time of Release: Thursday, Dec 13, 2012 Date/Time of Occurrence: Wednesday, Dec 12, 2012 Nature of Event: Rapist Arrested Location of Call: Placer County, CA Released by: Dena Erwin, PIO (530) 889-6901

#### Deceased Newborn Found Discarded in Trash Bag



Placer County Sheriff's Detective Mike Davis, Chief Deputy Coroner Dennis Watt and Evidence Technician Jane Xepoleas, along with two Placer County Law Enforcement Chaplains, braved the storm to give a baby a decent burial in the New Auburn Cemetery last week. Chaplain Jim Milne is kneeled down next to the tiny casket, saying a few words. Photo courtesy of Placer County Sheriff's Office

Despite last Wednesday's driving rainstorm and gusting winds, Placer County Sheriff's employees, along with members of the Placer County Law Enforcement Chaplaincy, laid to rest the body of the newborn baby boy who was found discarded in a trash bag along a

Newcastle roadway on June 21. Although the mother of the

baby has not been found, investigators wanted to give the baby a decent burial. He was buried in the baby section of the New Auburn Cemetery.

The gruesome discovery of the baby's body was made when

a woman walking along Green Hills Court in an undeveloped subdivision waved down a deputy and told him there was a foul odor coming from a pile of garbage bags several feet off the roadway. The deputy found the baby's body, along with other garbage bags.

Anyone with information that could lead investigators to the baby's mother is urged to call the Placer County Sheriff's Office at (530) 889-7800. For callers wishing to remain anonymous, please call Placer County Crime Stoppers at 800-923-8191. All callers remain anonymous and are eligible for a cash reward of up to \$1,000 if the information leads to an arrest.

Date/Time of Release: Monday, Dec. 2, 2012 Date/Time of Occurrence: Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012 Nature of Event: Baby Boy Buried in **Auburn Cemetery** Location of Call: Placer County, CA Released by: Dena Erwin, PIO (530) 889-6901

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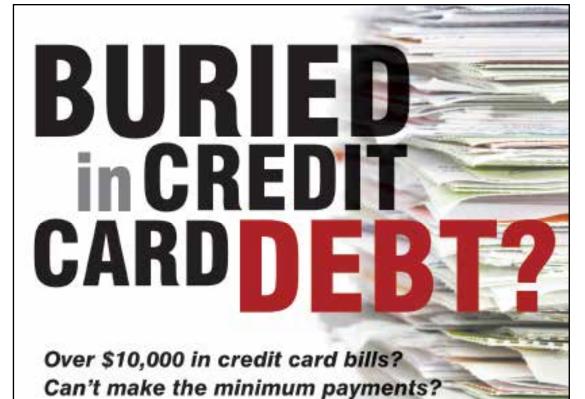
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## Simple Gifts, Better Health



By Eric Nelson

For the first time in history retail sales on Black Friday topped \$1 billion as millions of Americans began their holiday gift shopping early – and in earnest. But the momentum didn't stop there as Cyber Monday saw a 30% increase in sales over last

At first blush this looks like pretty good news. If nothing else it would seem to indicate that consumer confidence is growing, even though by most accounts a broader economic turnaround is still a distant dream. On the other hand, such increased spending – as well-intentioned as it may be - could simply be an indication of an on-going and potentially unhealthy consumerism that is forever seeking solace in the latest, greatest gadget.

I say "unhealthy" not because gift-giving itself is bad but because the media-driven desire to buy this or that – particularly if the cost is beyond our present means - can cause considerable stress, especially when this

desire is left unsatisfied.

While most of us consider stress no less a part of the holidays than Santa Clause and mistletoe - unavoidable but essentially harmless - medical research paints quite a different picture. In fact, some studies indicate that stress accounts for between 60 and 90 percent of all visits to the doctor and acts as the precursor to a variety of more serious health issues.

The underlying problem, of course, is not one of material lack. If it were, we'd see doctors prescribing less drugs and more widescreen TVs. It is, instead, a kind of spiritual void that would have us believe that happiness is to be found in things, that our worth is measured in terms of material possessions, and that this void can only be filled with more spending.

This is not to say that buying fewer Gameboys and Furbys will make us happier and healthier. (I mention this in case anyone reading this column has already bought me a Furby for Christmas). Over the years, however, I've found that it's the simpler gifts that are the most meaningful.

I remember a time during my first trip to Nepal over a decade ago when my hosts greeted me with a garland of marigold flowers. To this day I keep it inside a small earthenware pot as a reminder of what it means to give what you have to another, no matter how simple or insignificant it may seem.

This offering was accompanied by my host saying, "Namaste," along with a slight bow of the head and hands pressed together in front of the heart – an outward expression of the belief that there is a divine spark residing in each one of us. Although I'm not accustomed to greeting people this way, I do make it a habit of seeing the God-given good in others, even if I don't share this sentiment as often or as visibly as I might like.

As it turns out, even the simplest expression of gratitude even the slightest acknowledgement that we are loved – has been proven to have a significant impact on our health.

Whether or not this sort of thing will have any impact on the national economy remains to be seen. What is certain, however, is that these gifts from the heart are by far the most readily available, the most lasting – the least expensive – and the most enriching.

Eric Nelson is a Christian Science practitioner, whose articles on the link between consciousness and health appear regularly in a number of local, regional, and national online publications, including The Washington Times. He also serves as the media and legislative spokesperson for Christian Science in Northern California (www.norcalcs.org). This article shared with permission by Communities @ WashingtonTimes.com.

## So, This Is How The World Ends!

By Rev. James L. Snyder,

Since the election, there has been a lot of jibber-jabber by the kings and queens of jibber-jabber about some financial cliff we are facing. I have no idea what they are talking about, and I have a suspicion they do not either, but if I am to guess I would say, it is not a great leap of faith.

The great thing about being a jibber-jabber is you do not have to know what you are jibber-jabbering about. In fact, the less you know the more you can jabber your jib.

As one great American consumer and I only speak for myself, I am tired of all of this

In the light of this, I bring good news concerning this ominous financial cliff. I am always happy to bring a little bit of good news in the midst of all of the twaddle and idiotic jibber-jabbing that goes on in our country. I know good news does not make the front page but I think it helps those of us who are tired of the

The good news concerning this financial cliff is that we do not have to worry about it at all, thanks to the Mayan's calendar. Wherever they are, somebody needs to congratulate them on saving not only our world but also our country from a financial disaster. If we had the time, I would recommend that they be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

According to the Mayan's calendar, the end of the world, whatever that means, is to take place on December 21. How they had the foresight to come to our rescue at such a portentous time we will never know. Thanks to them, we do not have to worry about any financial cliff that might be looming ahead of us.

jibber-jabber the rest of us are tired of hearing.

As grateful as I am to the Mayan calendar, I do have a little bone to pick with them.

I do not mind people predicting the end of the world. Really, they have nothing on me. For years I have predicted the end of the world at the end of every month. Believe me, some months I really came close to the end of the world. At least the end of my

Now the bone I have to pick is simply this. Why did they pick December 21, which is four days before Christmas? This is very frustrating to me. If they would have consulted with me, I would have suggested maybe the end of the month. After all, give everybody a few days to enjoy his or her last Christmas.

Personally, I do not mind missing New Year's Eve. In my opinion, it is all hype and nothing else. After all, Dick Clark is gone, so what is the use of celebrating New Year's Eve? In my lifetime, I have seen enough people drop the ball; I do not need to stay up to midnight to watch everybody drop the ball. But, Christmas Day, that's a whole different ballgame.

The problem I face is simply this, if I buy a Christmas present and the world actually does end on December 21, I have wasted my money. Being a tightwad such as I am, that is a most blasphemous thing to do. On the other hand, if I do not buy Christmas presents assuming that the world will end on December 21, I am going to be redder in the face on Christmas day than Santa's suit. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will not accept some lame excuse that I thought the world was going to end on December 21.

This whole thing has put me in quite a quandary. I know there have been hundreds of people

down through the years predicting the end of the world. The problem I have is, what day is going to be right, and who is to say when?

Many people are putting a lot of credence on this Mayan calendar. Some are pointing out how brilliant these people were. However, I have one simple

question to ask is. If the Mayans were so smart, where in the world are they now?

I am rather suspicious of their disappearance, especially, when we come to the end of the world according to their prediction. If they can predict the end of our world, why were they not able to predict the end of their world?

So, let us say December 21 is the end of the world. What I am doing to prepare myself for that is stockpiling Apple Fritters. I do not know what the end of the world means, I do not know the condition I am going to be in, but I do know that an Apple Fritter is the panacea for all ailments. If I just have enough Apple Fritters, I know I can face anything, even the end of the world.

thing I do before the world ends is savor a delicious Apple Fritter. Actually, I have something

It would be nice that the last

"But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" (1 Peter 1:25

I do not know how the world is going to end, but I do know who is really in charge.

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 jamessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

## GOT LOCAL NEWSP Call 530-823-2463

#### I think this should be enough www.PlacerSentinel.com to silence all of this political The Battle for Equal Rights in the Arab World

#### Commentary by **Charity Wallace**

The Taliban's recent shooting of a 15-year-old Pakistani girl for speaking out in favor of women's education is a stark reminder of the global plight of women. As the Arab Spring progresses, strong constitutional commitments to democracy and human rights are essential for the region to enjoy the peace and prosperity its people deserve.

Recent political developments in Egypt could hinder these efforts.

Since the fall of the Mubarak regime, Egypt has worked to create a new government, including new foundational documents. As the cultural heart of the Arab world and the largest Arab Muslim nation, this constitutional process could have

profound regional impacts. Unfortunately, there are some reports that suggest Egypt could pioneer efforts to permanently

undermine the rights of women. In early October, the Egyptian Constitutional Assembly released a new draft constitution. That draft calls for equality between the sexes so long as that equality is consistent with Islamic law.

In other words, there is a loophole that could be used to restrict the rights of women and appease radical clerics who see those rights as un-Islamic. Human Rights Watch says the draft constitution "falls far short of international law" regarding women's rights and religious and

personal freedom. Egypt is not alone. According to the United Nation's 2009 Arab Human Development Report, discrimination against women is "evident on the law books of several [Arab] states." In Saudi Arabia, for instance, women are not allowed to drive, are legally

subservient to men, and must wear the full-covering abaya in public.

These restrictions are mild compared to the brutality of female genital mutilation and stoning, both of which are still practiced in some countries. According to the World Health Organization, 140 million women and girls have been subjected to genital mutilation. In the Middle East, it is practiced in Egypt, Iraqi Kurdistan, Jordan, Oman, the Palestinian territories,

and Yemen. Stonings for adultery have been recently reported in Afghanistan, Mali, Iran, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Pakistan,

and the United Arab Emirates. Religious and ethnic minorities also face harsh discrimination. Egypt's population is 10 percent Christian. And they're "deeply anxious about what the future holds for them and their country," according to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

A Christian pastor in Iran spent to solving society's problems. years under a death sentence for "apostasy" before finally being acquitted this year. Dozens of Iraqi teenage boys were stoned to death simply for sporting

Western dress and haircuts. These violations of basic human rights pose a danger to the gains made during the Arab Spring. In the long run, democracy and the rule of law offer Arab society a strong foundation upon which to a build a bright future that's still consistent with the desires of its people, culture, and history.

The Middle East will struggle to become stable and prosperous without societal reforms. I saw this first hand on a recent trip to the region as part of my work for the George W. Bush Institute's Women's Initiative.

Women's oppression keeps half of the Arab population from lending its full talents and efforts

And this oppression fuels frustration that bubbles up in the streets in the form of protests.

Private efforts such as the Women's Initiative can play a significant role in promoting peace and stability in the region. But there is a role for the U.S. government as well. By speaking out for the basic

human rights, America can help cultivate peace and prosperity in the world. The U.S. government can serve our national security interests by supporting those who desire a brighter future for their countries but are being oppressed by their own leaders.

This support will give people yearning to be free a reason to join us in the fight against radical and extreme ideologies.

We must press for human rights to be protected in the constitutions of the Middle East and elsewhere. Even if these rights are not perfectly honored in the short-term, their inclusion in a nation's constitution gives future generations of reformers a powerful legal and rhetorical tool. Civil rights leaders here in America pointed to the constitution constantly in their battle for freedom.

Even in today's volatile environment, our influence in the Middle East remains strong. Each year, we give billions of dollars in foreign aid to this region. As freedom advocates build a new social foundation with new constitutions, the U.S. has a unique opportunity to ensure that that foundation is stable and capable of supporting a vibrant society by pressing for the protection of equal rights for women and religious minorities.

Charity Wallace is the director of the Women's Initiative at the Bush Institute.



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By Ronnie McBrayer

While in Central America earlier this year, I visited the Mayan ruins at Tazumal, El Salvador. Tazumal is one of the best preserved ruins in that country, and I learned from my guide, that it was a central religious site. Tazumal was a place where the ancients gathered to ceremonially soothe their cruel, bloodthirsty deities.

If a severe drought struck the region, then the gods were angry; shed some blood. If the rainy season was monsoonal, the gods were perturbed; shed some blood. If the spring corn crop refused to grow, the gods were against the people; shed some blood. Sickness, plague, earthquakes, tidal waves, floods, or accidents; these all had the same explanation. The fickle and

nefarious gods had to be appeased. All ancient religions were built on a similar foundation: God is angry and humanity stands in constant danger, thus someone has to pay. Much of current religion is anchored to this mooring as well. Is it no wonder then, that the world is filled with hate, bloodshed, panic, and terror when religious people, the vast majority of the world's population, expect the same from their gods?

Regrettably, faith has failed to mature or evolve beyond its most elementary and primitive beginnings; and when Christianity succumbs to this type of feardriven hysteria, it is especially disconcerting. That God is an unpredictable executioner with an itchy, twitchy trigger finger that must somehow be pacified is a gross misrepresentation of our faith, because it is a gross misrepresentation of Jesus Christ, his person, and his mission.

We who are Christian believe that Jesus "is the visible image of the invisible God," as the Apostle Paul wrote. Paul continued, "And through Christ, God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace w ything in heaven and on earth."

Put simply, the Advent of Jesus, his coming into the world that we celebrate during this season, was not to save us from God, but to show us what and who God is really like. And what is he like? He is at peace with us. He has reconciled all things. There is no anger to placate and no blood to shed, only his love to receive, explore, and share.

God loves us, not because we are good; not because we are loveable; not because of what we can do for him or for others; and not because of the way we make him feel. He loves us because he is actually, truly, really that good. And what we and our world need more than anything – a world up to its collective ears in fear and bloodshed – is that kind of real, unconditional, healing love.

I enjoy how Father Richard

Rohr explains this. He tells a story about eating dinner with a family from his parish. They had a wonderful meal and the whole time the toddler in the family, who had just learned to walk, was running about everywhere. The little guy could really move, but he had a problem stopping.

He ran to the top of a set of stairs but could not find his "brakes" in time to stop. He toppled, over the edge, banging and careening his way downward. No one at the table moved; they all held their breath in dread. Four, five, six, seconds passed. The father finally jumped up and ran to the stairwell. There the youngster was at the bottom of the steps, only bruised a bit, but lying in shock, his eyes bugged out over what had just happened to him. Only when his dad got to him and picked him up did he start crying.

Father Rohr made this appropriate observation: "We can never acknowledge our pain and let the healing begin, until we are taken up in the arms of love. Love allows the crying and the mending to begin." God wants to take up the hurt and injured into his arms to love and mend, not destroy. So let the mending begin in each us, and we might discover that the mending will begin in our world.

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.

## Keeping the Faith I'll Have A "Red" Christmas, Thank You

By Rev. James L. Snyder, D. Litt

The Christmas holiday season is always ablaze with beautiful colors. I find it hard to be gloomy or grumpy this time of the year. I must confess, not everybody belongs to this "Holiday Cheer Club." It is an exclusive club but open to anybody who is tired of being grumpy.

Colors abound throughout the season and the Christmas songs highlight this. "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas." "I'll have a blue Christmas without you." "Rudolph the red nose reindeer."

Oh the wonderful colors of Christmas.

One of the most obvious colors of Christmas is green. Right at the center of this Christmas holiday is the Christmas tree decked from top to bottom in beautiful colors and lights. Nothing says Christmas quite like an old-fashioned Christmas tree.

My thoughts along this line are, let the grumps and grouches complain about the Christmas tree. For myself, I will look with admiring wonder at the beauty of the Christmas tree.

Then of course, who could forget good old Santa Claus dressed in his red suit. I never could figure out why Santa's suit was always red. Throughout the years, I never gave it too much thought and assumed it was a fashion statement from the North Pole.

I had some time this week to do a little rummaging through my old thought gallery. For the most part, we only celebrate Christmas once a year. I think Charles Dickens had it right with old Mr. Scrooge, after his conversion, celebrating Christmas every day of the year. I wonder what kind of world this would be if all of us would celebrate Christmas every day of the year?

If I were president of the United States, I would enact a law that would set aside one year to be a year of celebrating Christmas all 365 days. I think I would only have to do it once and nobody would want to go back to the old grumpy times of celebrating it only one time out of the year.

I was thinking about this the other night when the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage jarred me back to reality.

"Have you," she queried most seriously, "finished with your Christmas shopping?"

Christmas shopping! I had forgotten about it. I know we celebrate Christmas every year but I sometimes get so caught up with celebrating Christmas I forget about buying Christmas presents. After all, that Christmas tree would be somewhat naked if there were not Christmas presents to litter around the bottom.

I had to look at my wife and say, "No, I haven't even started."

By the time the dust of that thought settled I had to ask her, "How many Christmas presents do I have to buy?"

"Silly boy," she said with a chuckle that could compete with good old Santa Claus any day of the week, "you got to buy Christmas presents for everybody in our family." Then she chuckled some more just to set that thought into my cranium.

Everybody in our family? Now I am beginning to see red. Santa's red suit has nothing

to do with a North Pole fashion statement; it has everything to do with my financial statement.

I got a piece of paper and together my wife and I jotted down all of the members in our family. A few members I wanted to veto, but my wife vetoed my veto. By the time we were done, I would have to purchase Christmas presents for hundreds and hundreds of family members. Boy, did I see red!

At the beginning of the month of December, my checkbook is in the black, but each day of the month the black begins to fade into expanding shades of red. By the time the 24th of the month comes around my checkbook is a solid, brilliant, scarlet red.

I sighed quite deeply as I closed my checkbook. I almost said to my wife, "Remember the day...?" I stopped short of vocalizing that thought. I thought back when we first were married, which seems like hundreds of years ago, we only got presents for each other. I bought one present for her and she bought one present for me. What a Merry Christmas we had back in "the day."

A few days later as we were wrapping those presents I began thinking of another color. I looked at my wife and said, "This must be what they mean when they talked about the golden days." She laughed, and I thought some more.

My thoughts centered on the fact of what a wonderful family we have. After all those years, we have accumulated a marvelous family. Thinking about all the ones in my family, I began to retract those thoughts of veto.

"You know," I said to my wife quite thoughtfully, "red becomes my checkbook." All that red means all that family.

The Christmas holiday season means family. There is no family more glorious than the family of God. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16 KJV). The whole spirit of Christmas has to do with giving, and God started it all.

I do not mind a "red" Christmas because everyone in my family is worth it. As Tiny Tim said, "God bless us all, everyone."

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 jamessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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By Karen Anderson

It's time to take stock of your life...look closely, don't miss anything. Can you actually see the hand of God working in your life? If not, why not? I have said this before; you need to first have that wonderful relationship with God's Son, Jesus Christ. Now, if that relationship is where it should be, then why are you not seeing the "Hand of God" working in your life? God's Word says, "With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all..." I know this verse is talking about that Jesus Christ has risen but I want you to take notice the phrase "And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all." You need to identify

## Hands of God

the blinders in your life that stop you from seeing Him.

has for you. Be constantly aware of how He can impact your life. Sometimes, I find myself living in my own little world, not really aware of His presence. I can almost imagine Him standing, in the distance, waving His arms frantically to get my attention. He wants so much to be a part of every moment of my life. Let's make an agreement, you and me, that whatever we do in our day, we bring God along with us. Also, don't forget His son, Jesus. He wants to be with you too.

I know you can probably already answer this question, but it needs to be asked again. Why do vou think that vou don't see God's Hands? It is the enemy (Satan), who creates those blinders. As a piano teacher, I have worked with students over the past 30 years. Every student has the instinct to watch their hands instead of their music when playing so they won't make a mistake. Maybe they think I'm going to be upset if the music is not perfect. As a result, the song

comes off choppy and not very musical, and it lacks the love and I want so much for you to feeling that music can produce. understand the true gift that God Maybe, dear friends, this is why you let Satan create blinders. Are you afraid that maybe God won't want to be with you anymore because your life isn't perfect? Maybe you harbor some bad habits that would offend God? Remember, perfection is impossible without God. We will not be perfect until we are in heaven with Him.

Once and for all, bind Satan from putting the blinders over your eyes. Rejoice in the fact that God loves you, no matter what. I am thankful to be His daughter, and I can't even imagine a life without Him. Thank you, Jesus, for being the love of my life. AMEN!

PASSAGE: Acts 4:22 (NIV)

Karen Anderson is an accomplished speaker, author, and chaplain. Leave a message or questions for Karen through her website www.doablesteps.com/contact.





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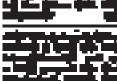
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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8



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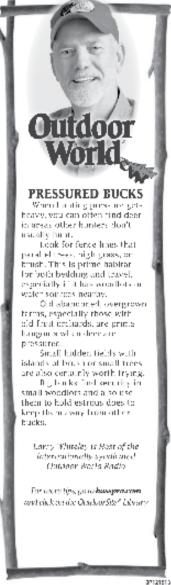
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22. Pillbox or tricorne, e.g.

26. A threat to food safety

31. \*"Curiosity" landing site

33. Weasel's aquatic cousin

36. \*Felix Baumgartner's space

42. Indian side dish of yogurt and cucumbers

38. "Brave New World" drug

29. Part of ROM

34. Outbuildings

32. Preface

24. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, e.g.

25. Whitman's dooryard bloomer

27. "\_\_\_ on the ground floor

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#### **CLUES**

**ACROSS** 1. Come from an egg

6. Bad-mouth

9. Cargo

13. Gem state 14. Make a choice

15. Move sideways 16. Chocolate substitute

17. Wade's opponent

18. \*"The \_\_\_\_\_" moved to Chicago from

19. \*GOP's 2012 choice 21. \*Deceased singing legend

23. Pock mark disease 24. Boris Godunov, e.g.

25. Chicken order 28. Vegetative prickle

30. Speed of play, pl.

35. Like decorated cake

37. Luau souvenirs

39. Third rock from the sun 40. Laughing on the inside, in a chatroom

41. Small drum 43. Memorization method

44. Full of pep 46. Russian parliament

47. Farmer's purchase 48. Auteur's art 50. Peacock's pride

65. Bard's before 67. Lifeboat support 69. Elephant trainer's goad

52. \*Ann to Mitt

55. Excessively

57. \*PSY's style

61. Bronx Bomber

64. Whippet or Basset, e.g.

53. "Anything \_\_\_\_?"

70. Summer mo. 71. "Lohengrin," e.g.

72. In a golfer's pocket 73. Registration, for short

74. One born to Japanese immigrants

DOWN 1. Wino's sound?

2 Month of Purim

3. Tropical tuber 4 Rite

5. Rub elbows 6. Nemo's forgetful friend

7. \*Facebook's big move 8 Seethes

9. Drver fire hazard 10 Scandinavian war god

11 Burn soother

12. Refuse to accept 15. Evening party

20. Jump for joy

49. Chicken \_ \_\_ king 51. \*Where many struck gold 54. \_\_\_\_ campaign

45. Corrects or edits

56. Giraffe-like African animal 57. Steps to the river 58. First rate

59. Heat in a microwave 60. African migrators

61. Safecracker 62. December 24 and 31, e.g.

63. Michael Collins's country 66. Parisian way 68. Chi precursor

For Solution See Page 7

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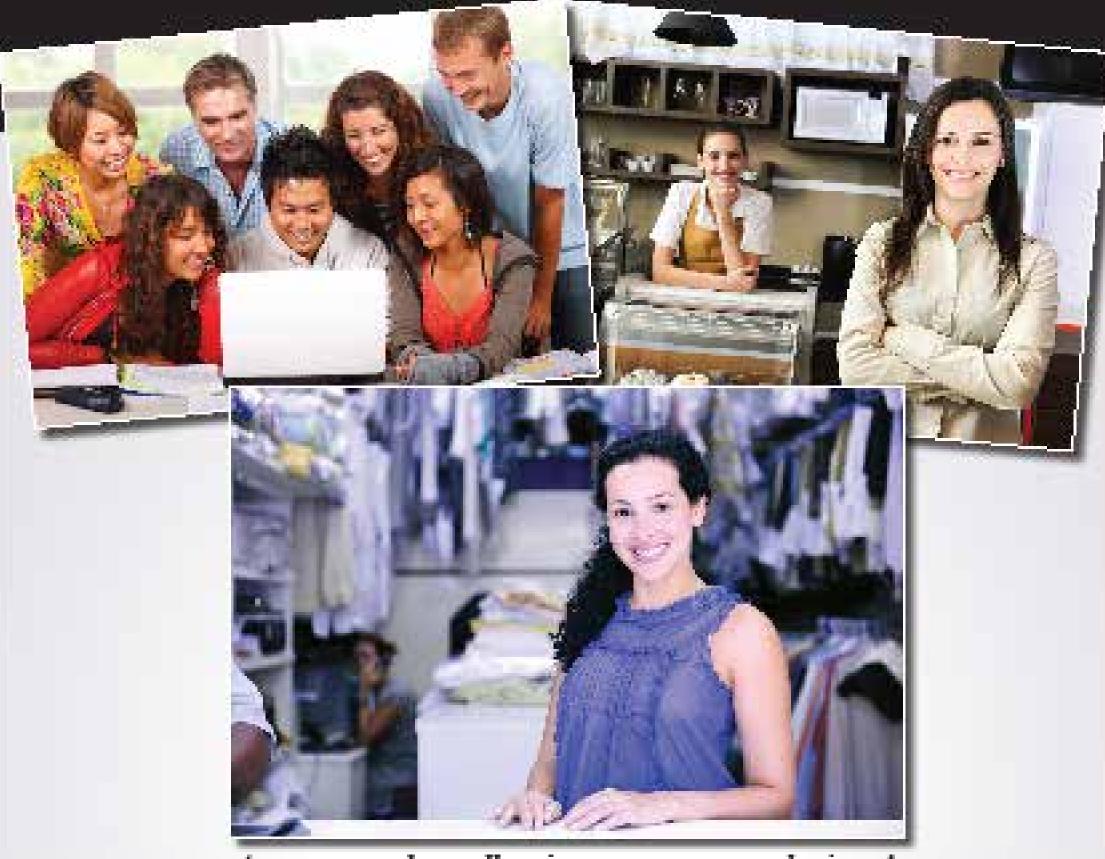
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#### **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

It's that time of year when the house gets decorated and the gifts get wrapped, but have you ever thought about some of the traditions we follow year after year and how they came about? I did, and tried to get some info on a few of them at best!

Let's start with 'ole St Nick. St. Nicholas was born in 280 A.D. in Patara, a city of Lycia, in Asia Minor. He became the gift giver of Myra. His gifts were given late at night, so that the gift giver's identity would remain a secret. St. Nicholas was eventually named the patron saint of children, sailors, Russia, and Greece. St. Nicholas was a Christian priest, who later became a bishop. He was a rich person, and traveled the country helping people. He did not want to be seen giving the gifts, so the children were told to go to sleep quickly or he would not come. Not much has changed with Santa Claus!

Now what about that Christmas star? The stars that appear in the sky today are the same ones that were there two thousand years ago. Was there a nova at the time of Jesus birth? The exact time of his birth is questioned, but astronomers cannot place a new star anywhere near the possible time. But the Wise Men followed a star, so was it a true miracle? Some star gazers suggest if we move the birth of Jesus to the springtime of 6 B.C., we can attribute the star to the time the planets Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn were close together in the heavens. They formed a triangle in the group known as Pisces. The Wise Men were astrologers and studied the stars and the planets and knew, according to Jewish Rabbis, of the triangle and that it appeared before the birth of Moses. Perhaps they interpreted

## POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

it as a sign of that great event in the land of the Jewish people. This may have been the star of Bethlehem. Pisces became the special constellation of the Hebrew people.

Now to some of the more fun traditions. Mistletoe was held sacred by the Norse, the Celtic Druids and the North American Indians. The Druid priests would cut mistletoe from an Oak tree with a golden sickle. The branches had to be caught before they touched the ground. Sprigs were hung over doorways as protection from thunder, lightning, and other evils. In the 18th century, the exchanging of kiss between a man and a woman was adopted as a promise to marry. Today, it's just a fun kiss me under the mistletoe, but be careful what you wish for!

What about the beleaguered fruitcake? According to "The joy of Cooking," by Irma Rombauer and Marion Becker, "Many people feel that these cakes improve greatly with age. When they are well saturated with alcoholic liquors, which raises the spirits and keep mold down, and are buried in powdered sugar in tightly closed tins, they have been enjoyed as long as 25 years after baking." I think that fruitcake first fruitcake is still circulating today. And then there's eggnog. According to Captain John Smith, the first eggnog made in the United States was consumed in his 1607 Jamestown settlement. Nog comes from the word grog, which refers to any drink made from rum. AHA!!!

Now on to that gorgeous Christmas tree. Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness. Germany is credited with starting the first Christmas tree tradition as we know it in the 16th century when devout Christians brought decorated trees into their homes. Most 19th century Americans found Christmas trees an oddity. The first record of one being on display was in the 1830s by German settlers of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania

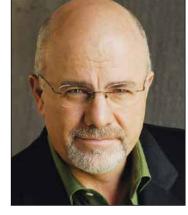
German settlements had community trees as early as 1747. But as late as the 1840s Christmas trees were seen as pagan symbols and not accepted by most Americans. My how times have changed, and we do love out trees!

Only have time for one more, so how about Rudolph? I used to love that song until I really thought about it, and how that poor Reindeer was bullied to the max. Then I found out Rudolph's origin. In 1939, Copywriter Robert L. May of the Montgomery Ward Company created a poem about Rudolph, the ninth reindeer. May had been "often taunted as a child for being shy, small, and slight." He created an ostracized reindeer with a shiny nose who became a hero one foggy Christmas eve. A copy of the poem was given to Montgomery Ward customers. In 1949 Johnny Marks wrote the song and Rudolph was relocated to the North Pole. The rest is history!

Of course, much of this is conjecture, and I'm sure you can find lots of reasons for so many of the traditions, but what does it matter? I found all my info on the good 'ole internet. All we should care about is what the meaning of Christmas is all about. It is about loving and caring. It's not about big fancy presents, but about sharing yourself with others. So enjoy the mince pies and the turkey, even the fruitcake. But remember that the word love needs to be at the top of the list. It lasts so much longer than all the bright shiny things we get on Christmas Day.

Wherever you are, it will be a Merry Christmas just the same. For our troops in Afghanistan, it is "De Christmas Akhtar de Bakhtawar Au Newai Kal de Mubarak Sha." For those in still in Iraq, it's "Idah Saidan Wasanah Jadidah." For our friends south of the border, its "Feliz Navidad." But for all it's still MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!!

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



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.

#### The Tuition Payment Plan Dear Dave,

Our son is graduating from high school next spring. We've saved cash to pay for his first vear of college, and we have enough in mutual funds to pay for another semester. When should we pull out the money to use for his education?

- Denise

Dear Denise,

until right before you write the

Dave Says

Dear Jacob, checks. However, I don't want Absolutely! When you're you to follow my advice just because I said so. My mutual stuck in the middle of an emerfunds have made a little more gency you always push the pause than 16 percent this year. If they button on your Total Money stay at that pace, or if they make Makeover and save as much as just 10 percent during the first part of 2013, I'd want it to just sit there a while longer. Why not let the power of compound inter-

much money as possible? The biggest question is what are you going to do for cash after the first three semesters? Your son needs to make sure he's That's why it's important to have working summers, and maybe a big pile of cash on hand. even part-time during school, in order to fuel his education. And neither of you should borrow money to make it happen. You guys have gotten him off to a great start. So if he does his part there's no reason for either of you to go into debt for his col-

est do its thing and make you as

Stop, Emergency Ahead!

Dear Dave.

lege degree!

- Dave

If someone is following your plan, and they experience a health crisis, should they stop putting money into their debt snowball?

Think of it this way. Cash is your umbrella when it rains, and you never know just how bad the storm will be or how long it will last. Even if you have great health insurance, you're likely to end up paying a chunk out of pocket in situations like this.

Remember, things like this are often just a bump in the road. They can be expensive, but taking care of important issues doesn't have to mean giving up on taking control of your finances. Take care of immediate issues with yourself or your family first. Then, the come back when things are better and pick up where you left off on your Total Money Makeover!

\*For more financial help, please visit daveramsey.com.

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THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

## Dancing with Auburn Recreation District

AUBURN, CA - (MPG) The Auburn Recreation District (ARD) has a rich history of providing instructional dance opportunities to the community. The newest offering is Clogging for Kids. Clogging is truly a made in America dance that combines Scottish, English and Dutch-German folk dance steps with Cherokee Indian, African, and Russian Gypsy influences. Accompanied by bluegrass music and fiddle tunes this dance form evolved in the Appalachian Mountains during the mid 1700's. Each of its names flat-footing, buck dancing, jigging, foot stomping, and clogging indicates what these dancers do, foot taps and heel clicks.

In January ARD plans to launch a weekly Kids Clogging class taught by Susi Thomas, Director of the local Thunderfoot Cloggers. Thunderfoot is a precision performance dance team that originated in Auburn in 1989. They perform annually at local fairs and festival events. Thunderfoot will invite all students to participate in some local events throughout the year; with the ultimate goal of forming a year round ARD performance team. All boys and girls ages 6 and up are welcome to participate. Thomas also offers three different levels of Clogging classes for adults.

Other ARD children's dance programs include Keiki Hula, taught by Tammy Moana Silva, director of "Halau Hula O Moana" and Ballet, Jazz, and Lyrical classes taught by Paula Duffy and her Come Dance With Me staff. All classes are held at Recreation Park in Auburn.

In addition to Clogging ARD offers adult dance instruction including: two levels of Hula, Spicy Salsa, and Argentine Tango, Beginning Belly Dance, and Lady Athena's Belly Dance Troupe. For more information or to sign up for these classes visit www.auburnrec.com or call (530) 885-8461 x0 and request an activity guide to be mailed to you.

Source: Auburn Recreation District



Weekdays

6 - 9am: The KAHI Morning News with Barry Stigers and the KAHI News Team The Laura Ingraham Show

9am - Noon: 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 The Drive Home Show with Dave Rosenthal 6 - 7pm: Wednesday: Wealth Strategies with Hunter William Bailey

7 - 10pm: Sports Byline USA with Ron Barr 10pm - 12am: Poppoff with Mary Jane Popp

#### **Saturdays**

A Time for Seniors 6 - 7am: 7 - 8am: The Swap Shop 8 - 9am: The KAHI Corral The Garden Guru 9 - 10am:

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 Sinatra & Friends Music 9:00am - 7pm: A Way With Words 7 - 8pm: 8 - 9pm: Hearts of Space

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Leura Ingraham





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