

Placer Sentinel

Volume 23 • Issue 14

Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

Second Issue of July 2012

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Historically Low Housing Supply

SACRAMENTO REGION – Saleable listing inventory in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Yolo counties is all but gone. Industry veteran Pat Shea, President of Lyon Real Estate says, “We are currently among the lowest housing supply inventories the Sacramento Region has experienced in the past two decades and area interest rates remain the lowest since the mid 40’s.” With close to 25 years in the industry and deep roots in the Sacramento area, Shea reports deep drops across the board.

Total active listing inventory on June 30, 2012 was 3,288 — a remarkable 54% lower than last year. The bank-owned or “REO” segment was down to 344 listings, 73% lower. Short-sale ended at 532 active listings, which was 73% lower than June 30, 2011. Significantly, even in the \$400,000 and above price point, where the region has been struggling to find able buyers, inventory dropped 20% to 1,145. Shea notes that “saleable” has some important qualifications that some properties just do not meet.

Specifically: the seller must have equity, be a bank; or can be approved for a short-sale; list price realistically maps to market activity; property condition is acceptable to lenders; seller needs to, or really wants to, sell;



Real Estate Data: The number of new escrows was up 12% in Placer County.

buyers are active in the price point.

“When we acknowledge the qualifications listed above and consider that approximately one-third of our 1.3 month supply of active listings is over \$400,000, it’s fair to assume the listing cupboard is empty,” says Shea. This shortage creates opportunity with agents reporting multiple offers on every appropriately priced listing under \$400,000 and on many homes above that mark as well. Upper end areas such as Land Park, East Sacramento, Sierra Oaks

and key neighborhoods in Placer, El Dorado and Yolo counties are experiencing multiple offers in all price points.

The number of new open escrows was up 33% year over year in El Dorado County, 12% in Placer County, 8% in Sacramento County and 5% in Yolo County. Average Sales Price continued to see modest month over month increases in the 4 county area and when combined, finished 5% above June 30, 2011. Shea suggests that an unrelenting supply of ready, willing and able buyers, coupled

with a nominal housing inventory, should continue to drive modest appreciation across the Greater Sacramento market area for the foreseeable future.

“Appreciation produces more inventory through equity sellers and subsequently more move-up buyers for the upper end market,” says Shea. “It’s a long, steady climb but all the evidence shows that Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Yolo counties are making significant progress.”

Source: Runyon Saltzman & Einhorn

Well Now, That Didn't Last Very Long. Gas Prices Up!

SACRAMENTO REGION – Average retail gasoline prices in Sacramento have risen 5.8 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.64/g yesterday. This compares with the national average that has increased 4.9 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.49/g, according to gasoline price website SactoGasPrices.com.

“Gasoline prices continue to rise across much of the nation, which is precisely what we had forecast earlier this year, so it does not come as much of a shock,” said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan. “Either way, I don’t expect the national average to break out of its mid-\$3/gal rut until mid-to-late September, then we may get some action to the downside,” DeHaan said.

GasBuddy operates SactoGasPrices.com and over 250 similar websites that track gasoline prices at over 140,000 gasoline stations in the United States and Canada. In addition, GasBuddy offers a free smartphone app which has been downloaded over 20 million times to help motorists find gasoline prices in their area.

New Sheriff Patrol Vehicles to Hit the Streets

PLACER COUNTY – With the demise of the old patrol car standard, the Placer County Sheriff’s Office has started to phase in a new vehicle, the Chevy Tahoe two-wheel drive SUV.

The Tahoe’s superior handling and large cargo area were among the reasons sheriff’s officials selected the Tahoe when Ford announced it would no longer manufacture the Crown Victoria. Deputies have had a chance to drive the Tahoe’s on a test track and their reactions were overwhelmingly positive.

The Sheriff’s Office evaluated the Chevy Tahoe, as well as available Ford and Chrysler products, and chose the Tahoe for the price,



larger cargo area and its suitability for Placer County’s varied terrain.

The Sheriff’s Office was able to purchase the vehicles at a lower

price than they had been paying in the past. The Tahoe’s were purchased for \$26,209, the Ford’s for \$28,348.

As well as offering a larger

body style with more cargo space and an additional 70 horsepower, the Tahoe also has a slight edge over the Ford when it comes to fuel economy.

Phasing the Chevy Tahoe into the fleet to replace both the Crown Victoria’s and the Expedition’s will standardize the office’s entire fleet. The patrol vehicles and equipment will be the same from Tahoe to South Placer.

The new patrol SUV’s also sport a new striping and lettering package. The design was chosen for the sleek yet powerful presence of the word “SHERIFF” on the doors. The 3M reflective green stripe and reflective gold lettering stand out from hundreds of yards away on the street.

Governor Brown Signs California Homeowner Bill of Rights

On Wednesday, July 11th, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed the California Homeowner Bill of Rights to halt the “abusive tactics” of loan servicers and protect struggling homeowners who are trying, in good faith, to renegotiate their mortgages.

“Californians should not have to suffer the abusive tactics of those who would push foreclosure behind the back of an unsuspecting homeowner,” said Governor Brown. “These new rules make the foreclosure process more transparent so that loan servicers cannot promise one thing while doing the exact opposite.”

“The California Homeowner Bill of Rights will give struggling homeowners a fighting shot to keep their home,” said Attorney General Kamala D. Harris. “This

legislation will make the mortgage and foreclosure process more fair and transparent, which will benefit homeowners, their community, and the housing market as a whole.”

The Homeowner Bill of Rights has four major components:

- 1) Prohibiting “dual track” foreclosures that occur when a servicer continues foreclosure while also reviewing a homeowner’s application for a loan modification;
- 2) Creating a single point of contact for homeowners who are negotiating a loan modification;
- 3) Expanding notice requirements that must be provided to a borrower before taking action on a loan modification application or pursuing foreclosure; and
- 4) Allowing injunctions against

foreclosure until violations are corrected and permitting civil penalties against servicers that file multiple, inaccurate mortgage documents or commit reckless or willful violations of law.

These new laws make California the first state in the nation to take provisions in the National Mortgage Settlement, which covered the nation’s five largest mortgage loan servicers, and apply those rules to all mortgage servicers.

By prohibiting dual-track foreclosure, this legislation provides borrowers with certainty that their loan application will receive full review and consideration before any foreclosure occurs. These requirements also provide the borrower with a legal remedy to challenge the actions of servicers

that engage in dual-track foreclosure or other material violations of law.

The Homeowner Bill of Rights also requires a single point of contact for borrowers seeking loan modification. This requirement will make loan servicers more accountable and prevent them from repeatedly transferring applications and phone calls to various departments and employees.

Under the new law, servicers must notify borrowers when a modification application is due, if foreclosure has been postponed and if a modification has been denied. Each of these new rules increases transparency and helps to ensure that borrowers are properly informed of the actions taken by a servicer before foreclosure

activities begin.

Borrowers have a right to file private lawsuits under this new law to block foreclosure until the lender corrects any material violation. Borrowers can also receive treble damages up to \$50,000 if servicers act intentionally or recklessly in violating the law. These provisions protect the rights of consumers, while allowing servicers to correct unintentional violations.

The California Homeowner Bill of Rights, AB 278 and SB 900, was sponsored by California Attorney General Kamala D. Harris. AB 278 was authored by Assembly Members Eng, Feuer, Mitchell and John A. Pérez. SB 900 was authored by Senators Leno, Evans, Corbett, DeSaulnier, Pavley and Steinberg.

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Better Than You Found It



By Linda Ferderick Yafee

PLACER COUNTY – Cool and clean, the highest reaches of the Sierra Nevada Mountains stand aloof and unspoiled. Above 10,000 feet, tough whitebark pines struggle up windswept peaks. In this region, described by John Muir as “storm-beaten sky gardens,” only picas, marmots, and Clark’s Nutcrackers live year-round. Long ago, campers built fire rings – and left the remains of messy wood fires – at these sensitive elevations where, today, campfires are prohibited. But sometimes, especially in remote off-trail locations, decades-old campfire rings still mar otherwise pristine spots.

If you discover one of these old rings – charcoal and trash surrounded by burnt rocks – you have an opportunity to leave damaged public land better than you found it. First, be creative: settle the blackened rocks in the soil or gravel, burnt side down, some distance apart, positioned naturally. Next, sift through the ashes, bagging bits of metal and plastic to pack out. Finally, disperse the ashes over a wide area, well away from water sources. An easy half-hour’s work makes a damaged alpine nook appear fresh again. Imagine the coming

winter’s snow, followed by the spring melt, washing away and healing the long-ago damage. And think of others – for decades to come – discovering this new, unspoiled paradise.

You can make our world better than you found it. The Literacy Support Council of Placer County – a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving our communities for over twenty years – needs your help. You can help by joining us: become a Reading Booster. Reading Boosters provide vital assistance to the Placer Adult Literacy Service (PALS), a program of the Placer County Library since 1985. We help reach out to people in our communities who have reading difficulties... a hidden but devastating problem. Twenty-three percent of adult Californians, citizens whose first language is English, have reading and writing skills that are so poor they cannot complete a simple job application form. When people cannot read, or can barely read, our whole community suffers. Low literacy directly affects all Americans: non-readers cost hundreds of billions of dollars in lack of productivity in the workforce, crime, and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.

As a Reading Booster, you can put your energy and talent to work. You can network with – and learn new skills from – others who share your passion for reading and who want everyone in their community to be able to read. Diverse talents and abilities are welcome; enthusiasm and a desire to help others are essential. Reading boosters advocate for literacy: writing letters, making phone calls, visiting businesses, tabling at community

events, and speaking to friends and organizations. Reading Boosters act as ambassadors. We help spread the word: Placer Adult Literacy Service (PALS) offers free reading help throughout Placer County. This valuable free service is confidential, one-on-one, and lets learners set their own goals and work at their own pace.

You can also help by donating to the Literacy Support Council of Placer County. Your gifts help people in our communities qualify to take the G.E.D. Your donations help Placer County citizens improve their spelling and grammar skills – and move up to better jobs. Your gifts help parents learn to read, allowing them to help their children with homework. And your donations will let grandparents read to their grandchildren – for the first time. Leave a legacy for generations to come: remember the Literacy Support Council of Placer County in your estate plans. Leave the world better than you found it.

“Action expresses priorities,” advised Mahatma Gandhi. If you believe that everyone should be able to read, you can support the improvement of reading skills for adults in your community: become a Reading Booster, make a donation, tell a friend, and make a positive difference. Donate through United Way at your workplace: CA Capitol Region, Literacy Support Council ID#3061. Or donate directly to the Literacy Support Council of Placer County, PO Box 5291, Auburn CA 95604-5291; donate online: <http://LSCPlacer.blogspot.com>; and “Like” us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LSCPlacer.

Pioneer United Methodist Church Offers A Premiere Performance



Binns Melander, currently an Auburn resident and Board member of Auburn Community Concerts, customarily presents concerts annually at the Beecher Room of Auburn Placer Co Library for family and friends.. Photo courtesy of Sue Dings.

AUBURN - A premiere performance of Binns Melander’s second Concerto for Piano and Strings will be presented August 12, 3 p.m. at Pioneer United Methodist Church. Pianist, Chi Xin Kao will be joined by the Dolanc String Quartet and Leslie Tierney, double bass, to perform this exciting composition, to be heard for the first time, written by Auburn’s own prolific composer, Binns Melander.

The program will also include the J.S. Bach’s Gamba Sonata in g minor played by David Thorp, viola and Chi Xin Kao, piano.

The Dolanc String Quartet will present a movement of the famous “American” String Quartet by Antonin Dvorak and other selections.

Binns Melander, currently an Auburn resident and Board member of Auburn Community Concerts, was the pianist with the U.S. Marine Band in Washington D.C. His jazz trio performed for Presidents Johnson and Ford at the White House. It has been his custom to present concerts annually at the Beecher Room of Auburn Placer Co Library for family and friends. This year he

is generously sharing his music with the community at Pioneer Church.

Members of the Dolanc String Quartet are: Christina Brice Dolanc, Sarah Almetus, violins, David Thorp, viola, and Chris Dolanc, violoncello with Leslie Tierney, double bass.

Binns Melander said he chose Chi Xin Kao, an accomplished pianist who teaches piano at Music and More, to play his composition because of her sensitive musicianship. David Thorp, plays viola with the Dolanc Quartet and is Principal Violist of the Auburn Symphony and several other orchestras in Northern CA. Leslie Tierney, playing String Bass, is a long time member of the Auburn Symphony and other musical groups in the area. Christina Brice and Chris Dolanc are professional musicians from the Davis area.

This concert is being offered as a benefit for the historic Pioneer Church building where many concerts are heard. A donation to the restoration fund will be appreciated as the price of admission. The church is located at 1338 Lincoln Way, Auburn CA 95603. For information: 530-885-9009.

PCWA Board Hears Presentation on Water Efficiency Programs

AUBURN - Advanced water meter technology and a range of water use efficiency programs are in use and being planned as the Placer County Water Agency continues to improve and expand its customer service programs.

In presentations to the PCWA Board of Directors on Thursday (July 19), members of the PCWA Customer Services Department provided overviews of the automatic meter reading technology used to read meters of nearly 35,000 accounts, and the programs the agency offers to help customers use water more efficiently.

Water use efficiency is a priority at PCWA as officials seek to implement best management practices so that local Placer County water supplies will not be claimed by downstream interests. Over the past decade, PCWA has become a regional leader in water efficiency practices.

Deputy Director of Customer Services Linda Yager outlined three new efforts, the regional Blue Thumb campaign, the Green Gardener at Home Program for residential customers, and a school water education

program now being planned. She also announced that the agency would be receiving two state water efficiency grants totaling \$227,000.

Following the regular board meeting, directors toured the Water Efficiency and Meter Services facilities known as the Sierra Center on the PCWA campus off Ferguson Road in Auburn.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- agreed to intervene in the current Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) relicensing proceedings for the Nevada Irrigation District Yuba-Bear Project and the Pacific Gas and Electric Company Drum-Spaulding Project. PCWA Resource Planning Administrator Andy Fecko said the agency must make sure Placer County water sources are protected if changes come to upstream water flow patterns.

- heard a presentation by Rui Cunha, assistant director of emergency services for Placer County, who provided an overview of his department’s mission and its activity during the recent

Robber’s Fire near Foresthill.

- heard a presentation from Lincoln Mayor Spencer Short, who briefed the board on land use and development in the city, use of recycled water, the planned regional sewer project and the current Highway 65 bypass project. The mayor said that after three difficult economic years, Lincoln has a balanced budget and a small surplus, and is seeing some building activity.

- were introduced to three college interns who are working for PCWA this summer. They are Adam Lipsmeyer and Claire Nelson who are working in the Financial Services Department, and Christian Young, who is working in Customer Services.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 2, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn.

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.

“If ever a time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin.”

Samuel Adams, 1776

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Arrest Made in Robbers Fire

AUBURN – On Friday, July 20th, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Law Enforcement Officers, with assistance from the Placer County Sheriff’s Office, arrested a suspect for allegedly starting the 2650 acre Robbers fire burning near the community of Foresthill in Placer County. Bryon Mason, age 28 of Sacramento was taken into custody without incident and booked into the Placer County Jail. Mason is charged with Penal

Code Section 452, defined as; A person guilty of unlawfully causing a fire when he recklessly sets fire to or burns or causes to be burned, any structure, forest land or property.

CAL FIRE is asking for the public’s help and would like to speak to potential witnesses or anyone who may have additional information about the fire. Investigators can be reached by calling CAL FIRE’s arson hot line at 800-468-4408 and callers can remain anonymous.

“This is the third arrest our officers have made in less than a month,” said Chief Ken Pimlott, director of CAL FIRE. “We don’t need reckless acts of carelessness and arson compounding California’s wildfire risk and we will continue to aggressively pursue those that engage in these types of acts.”

Source: California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Placer Sentinel

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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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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



Around Town

with Loyce Smallwood

week. AL located on Highway 49 in Fiddler Green Center continues to provide relief to the needy in our community and is stellar with its many community programs helping to elevate the Auburn quality of life.

Included in the dedicated volunteer mix is stalwart volunteer Suzie who cares for the homeless felines at Friends of Placer County bookstore where Suzie was recently personally tending to Bunny Wallace who was proudly giving off 'tude standing tall on two rear legs in her bid for her forever home.

Remember to drop off those gently used books at Friends located in the Raley's Center at

hopefully, will fall in with the CELEBRANTS mix when we make the regular Monday 11am scene at LaBou—home of the tasty egg salad sandwich—in the Belair Center.

Good to see Reiki Therapist and Senior Care business owner Therese Johnson with associate/friend Dolores Marsters along with artistic photographer Stephen Chandler. Dynamic ACTV staffer/volunteer/photographer and musical performer Bill Maels encourages those who are on limited budgets to volunteer at the DT State Theater in exchange for viewing the "9 to 5" show through August 11.

Top off your delight with a visit to our fav OT Gallery where

Are we having fun yet? Delights abound throughout our colorful hamlet where the DT Visitors Center on High Street shines with much information for both locals and visitors, staffed by a friendly volunteers including outgoing Dutchman Henk who shared his own interesting history with Yours Truly.

While I awaited a visit to the industrious Kat Stewart's shop Kat's Country Korner on Lincoln Way where I enjoyed the colorful inventory and cooled off with a delicious pineapple yogurt treat from Tango's across the street in Central Square now adorned by majestic Native American dancer bronze statue by Artist VanHowd whose gallery is open to the public out in North Auburn off Bell Road on New Airport where you can indulge your senses in the lush landscaping and waterways complete with egrets surrounding the Sutter Office complex and then wend your way over to The Ridge our fav 18-holer for a light lunch at The Putz Grille home of the lightly breaded fish sandwich and fries.

Check out the golfing specials in the pro shop and tweak your game with Head Pro Shawn Kelly or assistant pro Jason Rogers. Auburn brims over with dedicated volunteers including talented Valerie Harrison delighting the Assistance League Thrift shoppers with her musical skills on the piano Saturday last



OT Gallery Artist Ellen Hulls

Foresthill Exit. Volunteers also wanted for shifts at Unity Thrift on High Street where the cordial and newly retired Stephanie Langley cheerfully contributed her time Monday last and,

the zany Ellen Hulls showcases her artsy collection of felted creations along with her colorful ceramics. Enjoy.

Comments to loyce@suddenlink.net

The (Not So) Hidden Epidemic

By Irwin A. Herman, MD

WARNING – this material may hit close to home and create anxiety!

This epidemic really knows how to throw its weight around in a costly manner. You may have guessed it already since it's been in the news a lot lately due to its impact on children, but not too much mention of its significance in older adults.

OBSESITY! According to Forbes in its April 12th edition commenting on a report from the CBO (Congressional Budget Office), the directly related costs of this problem is more than 190 BILLION dollars, or 21% of the annual health related expense in this country, and far more than the health care costs related to smoking! Compared to the average amount spent for hospitalizations, treatments and medication by non-obese patients, \$512/year, the cost for obese men is more than twice that and for obese women almost seven times as much, over \$3500/year!

The current measure of obesity now used is the BMI or Body Mass Index, which is a calculation that correlates weight and height as a function of surface area. You can easily check your own results by Googling BMI and in the Stanford University link there's a small window that quickly calculates your own findings once you enter your weight and height. A normal BMI is 18 to 25, up to 30 translates to overweight while over 30 puts you in the obesity category. A result over 40 signifies morbid obesity. Since 1960 the diagnosis of obesity has increased 34% and continues to rise at an alarming rate. As a not so humorous anecdote, someone went so far as to calculate that the cost of driving the added weight around requires an additional ONE BILLION gallons of gas per year!

On a more morbid note, health care costs to treat the complications of obesity far outweigh the



Data shows that 71% of Americans over the age of 60 are overweight.

cost of treating smoking related diseases. A Dutch study found in the Library of Science Medical Journal concerning smoker related lifetime health care costs in the U.S. found that compared to a healthy individual who is responsible for \$437,000 in expense, the smoker only costs \$325,000. Why? Because smokers die 10 years earlier and thus use the health care system for a shorter length of time.

So why is this appearing in an article designed to address Senior issues? Two reasons. One, unfortunately, data shows that according to a 2008 study by the Department of Medicine of the University of Adelaide, 71% of Americans over the age of 60 were overweight. And of those over 65, 20% were obese. Given the fact that by the time you reach age 75 you will begin to lose weight naturally due to loss of muscle mass and bone mass, the percentage of obesity of all adults over 65 takes on a much greater significance. Some of this increase is due to an increase in both the number and size of fat cells in our bodies as well as some insulin resistance and lower metabolism, but the majority of the weight increase is still due to an imbalance in calories in and calories out. Simply put, it's

eating too much for the amount of energy expended by a more sedentary life style. And the risks encountered by this imbalance are numerous, including type 2 diabetes, higher incidence of gallstones, hypertension, increased cholesterol and its associated coronary artery disease, stroke, sleep apnea, asthma and chronic joint disease with joint replacement surgery as a result. A Rand Research study showed evidence that obesity results in a 67% increase in chronic conditions as well as the prospect of living in poverty and dying at an early age from one of these conditions.

Second, and perhaps even more important, is that more than likely, 95% or more of the people reading this have grandchildren and the fact is that most of us are role models for these little people. The CDC estimates that 20% of children from ages 6 to 11 are already obese and from 6 to 19, the number increases to 33%! Statistics reveal that of these high risk children, 70% will end up with at least one early death risk factor such as hypertension, high cholesterol, pre-diabetes leading to type 2 diabetes, bone and joint pathology and obviously to adult obesity. You can be instrumental in reversing this tragic end point in their lives. We are part of the "Greatest Generation" – we can do it, but only if we do it for ourselves first. What legacy do you want to leave behind?

It is the overall goal of the Placer Older Adult Advisory Commission to promote the well-being and to enhance the quality of life for older adults of Placer County by advising the Placer County Board of Supervisors and the Placer Department of Health and Human Services on issues affecting the lives of older adults. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1 p.m.

For more information: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/hhs/adult/>

Assemblywoman Gaines Responds to the Resignation of State Parks Director

Emphasizes much more is needed to reign in corruption.

SACRAMENTO – Assemblywoman Beth Gaines, R-Rocklin, supports the decision of the State Parks Director to resign and the firing of her second in command. Assemblywoman Gaines calls for a further investigation after officials learned the Parks Department was sitting on \$54 million in surplus money for as long as 12 years.

On Tuesday, Assemblywoman Gaines sent a letter to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee

calling for a further review of the State Parks Department after the Sacramento Bee article reveled that Parks Department management staff took advantage of a costly vacation buyout. "It is clear that our office has only touched the tip of the iceberg on the culture of corruption within state government," Gaines said. "Where was the Department of Finance and the Controller's Office in reviewing these obvious accounting gimmicks?"

"As a small business owner, when we make mistakes we do not expect the customer to pay the difference," Gaines added. "In all these cases, taxpayers have been left holding the bag. This is wrong and needs to stop immediately."

Assemblywoman Beth Gaines represents the 4th Assembly District, which includes portions of Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento and Alpine counties.

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Tuesday, September 18 (6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

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A Film Review by Tim Riley

Riley Reviews

BATMAN'S "DARK KNIGHT" TRILOGY "RISES" TO GRAND OCCASION

THE DARK KNIGHT RISES (Rated PG-13)

Starting with "Batman Begins" in 2005, writer and director Christopher Nolan envisioned an epic trilogy for the story of Gotham's Caped Crusader, a superhero without any real superpowers.

The conclusion arrives in spectacular fashion with "The Dark Knight Rises," which begins at a point eight years after "The Dark Knight," notwithstanding the fact that the second film was released in 2008.

A lengthier passage of time allows for the consequences of actions taken by Batman and others, including Commissioner Gordon and D.A. Harvey Dent, to have percolated into a state of palpable anxiety.

Action begins with a daring opening sequence that would be the envy of any James Bond film. An incredible skyjacking of another aircraft gives us our first chilling glimpse of the evil embodied by terrorist Bane (Tom Hardy).

Meanwhile, Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale), having retired the Batman cape and cowl in his subterranean hideaway, has turned into a Howard Hughes-like recluse at Wayne Manor, absent the neurosis of keeping a germ-free environment.

To allow Gotham the veneer of law-and-order serenity on the surface, Batman slinked away into oblivion, taking the blame for the demise of Harvey Dent, whose martyrdom brought an end to crime in the metropolis.

The sensitive and sensible Commissioner Gordon (Gary Oldman), his conscience wracked by the truth, knows only too well that the crime-free status of Gotham is predicated upon lies. Soon enough,

he will need Batman's return. Trouble is quickly brewing from multiple sources. Corruption is evident below the surface. A slimy businessman is taking a run at a hostile takeover of Wayne Enterprises.

True malevolence arrives with thuggish terrorist Bane hatching a plan to undermine the institutions of the city, beginning with a violent assault upon the Stock Exchange.

A terrifying figure, Bane has his face covered in a strange mask that serves not to conceal his identity, but to regulate the transmission of painkilling medication. Bane resembles Darth Vader, but without the charm.

Notwithstanding Bane's unvarnished villainy, the first bad guy to seize Bruce Wayne's attention is Selina Kyle (Anne Hathaway), a cat burglar he catches in the act of lifting family jewels from the Wayne Manor safe.

Of course, Selina represents Catwoman, but oddly enough she is never called Catwoman. For his part, Bruce is intrigued by the cunning sexy vamp's facile ease of delivering witty quips and sharp barbs.

Selina brings welcome humor to a film that is heavy on a dark, gloomy mood. She also helps get Bruce's Batman back into the game, considering that he's out of shape and still healing from old physical wounds.

In a way, Selina helps Batman to focus his attention on the bigger problem posed by Bane's terrorist plot to destroy Gotham with nuclear weapons, but not before bringing down the city's financial empire.

As if inspired by the French Revolution and the attack on the Bastille, Bane and his thugs launch an assault on the local prison to free those incarcerated by the Harvey Dent law that brought an end to crime.

Having rigged bombs in the city's sewer system, Bane figures a way to trap most of Gotham's police force below ground

in subway tunnels and other passageways.

Few people outside of Batman and Commissioner Gordon grasp the immediate gravity of the situation, though rookie cop John Blake (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) displays earnest integrity and courage with great conviction, earning himself a leading role in the fight for Gotham.

Other key players are Wayne Enterprises CEO Lucius Fox (Morgan Freeman), the steady hand on the weapons programs needed to fight crime, and new Board member Miranda Tate (Marion Cotillard), a wealthy philanthropist interested in an environmental project.

During much of the early going, the angst-ridden Bruce Wayne is attended by his faithful butler Alfred (Michael Caine), who grows increasingly frustrated that his boss has retreated so fully from engagement with the outside world.

Egged on by the wisecracks of Selina and the dastardly acts of Bane, Bruce Wayne undergoes training to bring himself into fighting shape, as the inevitable showdown with the masked villain is a real doozy.

"The Dark Knight Rises" delves into social-political issues of the day, though one could reasonably come away with differing opinions or interpretations.

Corruption and treachery are not limited to the establishment. Bane's thugs run a kangaroo court where the death penalty is imposed freely and without due process by Scarecrow (Cillian Murphy).

One could ask if the violent attack on the Stock Exchange is an expression of discontent with income inequality or does it represent the Occupy Wall Street movement taken to the reprehensible violent extreme of mob rule anarchy?

Pondering the philosophical implications of perhaps conflicting points of view is a mental exercise soon overcome by brutish, sustained violence. To be sure, Bane is clearly a nihilist committed to destroying many innocents.

What does not appear so debatable is that "The Dark Knight Rises," with exciting chases, superior effects and spectacular stunts, is not far removed from the comic-book underpinnings created by Bob Kane and published by DC Comics.



By Linda Louise Haines

Have a little extra time? Gas prices are a little lower. I suggest wondering around your usual shopping areas and even explore into new areas to see what is there. New shops? New services? Sales or discounts for seniors certain days of the week?

Buzzin' up or down Hwy. 49 in North Auburn, it is easy to focus on the road ahead (that's a good idea!) and not notice an A-frame sign announcing a new business in a tiny strip of shops. Behind the Lucky Dragon Restaurant, 1511 Grass Valley Hwy. at Live Oak Lane is **Thompson's Goldrush Emporium & Tea Shop: Gourmet Tea & Unique Personalized Gifts.**

You know about wine tasting—how about tea tasting? You may remember Emporium co-owner, Betty Thompson, from SetToATea, traveling tea parties. Now, she and hubby David Thompson have this cozy shop that makes you feel good just by walking in the door.

Try a variety of teas and buy

Shopping Colfax & Beyond

bulk specialty teas. Come for one of Betty's themed Afternoon Tea Soirees complete with fresh-baked scones and all the accoutrements. Or book a catered High Tea at your location.

Did I mention the gifts? Betty sells a line of yummy smelling body products. Being a big fan of good teas like Chai (can't start my day without a large Chai in hand!), I fell in love with a line of products called The Naked Bee, (www.nakedbee.bz) organic lotions. One is scented Chai Tea. Did you hear me swoon?! Wow!

And, what is David's expertise? He restores old photos. Plus, he can take your old photos and reproduce them on a variety of surfaces that you provide or he provides. And, recently as a disabled vet he had a special promotion to recreate old dog tags and part of the proceeds went to DAV (Disabled American Veterans).

Goldrush Emporium is a tiny shop, but there is way too much to tell you about. Contact them at 885-3360 or www.goldrushtea.com.

Back up the hill to Colfax, new in downtown: **Mountain Man Mining** (John Davenport) and **Ammo Camo & Bait** (Brian Garcia) in the same retail space, 1 S. Main Street at Grass Valley Street.

Combining the two businesses, Davenport listed some of the items for sale: equipment for

camping, fishing, hunting, kayaking, metal detecting, plus new and used camouflage gear and clothing. They also have bait for fishing. If it relates to the outdoors, they've got it.

Services include: **Matty's Fishing Guide Service**, current information on local fishing holes (what's running and where), and kayak rentals.

Davenport also buys fine gold and placer nuggets at 80 to 90% of "on spot" value established daily by the NYSE [New York Stock Exchange.] He has a background in retail business. However, he explained that as a local miner, he knows how physically demanding and at times dangerous mining can be. So, with that experience and his knowledge of the resale gold business, he says he can offer the best deals when buying gold.


In addition, they are set up for internet sales. And, googling any of the three businesses will get you, www.MountainManMining.com. Ammo and archery equipment will be coming soon.

Currently the store is open weekends, Fridays through Mondays, but that will expand through the summer. Call the store, 346-7960 for more information.

Are you celebrating something with your business? Contact Renee Charleston, (530) 637-4190 or lavender1@wildblue.net or lindalouise@exwire.com.

DMV: "Ask George"

Expert Answers to Common DMV Questions



Do you have questions about general driving related requirements like registration and insurance?

Are you unclear about laws and restrictions related to driving?

The California Department of Motor Vehicles has answers.

"Save Time by Going Online," at www.dmv.ca.gov.

By George Valverde - Director, California Department of Motor Vehicles

US Telecom Fake Bills Fool Businesses

BBB warns businesses to double check invoices before paying

SACRAMENTO REGION – Better Business Bureau is warning of misleading advertisements being mailed to businesses across the Sacramento region by US Telecom.

The advertisements resemble an invoice or bill, complete with a description of services, rate, and total balance. The invoices received by BBB do not have any statements that the information is a solicitation.

U.S. Postal Service regulations require all mailings resembling bills or invoices include a disclaimer which states, in part, "THIS IS NOT A BILL. THIS IS A SOLICITATION. YOU ARE UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO PAY THE AMOUNT STATED ABOVE UNLESS YOU ACCEPT THIS OFFER." This

statement must be in at least 30-point font in boldface capital letters.

North Dakota Attorney General's office filed a cease and desist order against the company and its principal, David Bell, on Feb. 17, 2012. The order, in part, prohibits the defendants from advertising, soliciting or selling to North Dakota consumers through use of mailings that could be reasonably interpreted to be a bill or invoice.

U S Telecom currently has an 'F' rating with Better Business Bureau after collecting over 450 complaints in the last year, some of which remain unanswered. BBB in Los Angeles contacted

the company in September 2011 requesting US Telecom include a disclosure statement to let businesses know the mailer is an invoice. To date, BBB has not received a response.

BBB advises the following to avoid invoice scams:

- Alert accounts payable to be on the lookout for phony invoices.
- Carefully review invoices from businesses you do not typically do business with.
- If an invoice is questionable, contact the company and request proof of services rendered.
- Check out the business at necal.bbb.org to review complaint details for the company.



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Q: My husband and I have started to take daily walks around our neighborhood for exercise. We live in an area with heavy street traffic and want to know if there are any rules we should keep in mind as pedestrians. Do you have any advice?

A: Thank you for seeking out information about how to be a safe pedestrian! One out of every six traffic fatalities is a pedestrian, so it is important for you to be informed. The California Driver Handbook offers these tips to pedestrians:

- Never "jaywalk," or cross a street between intersections. Always cross at a crosswalk.
- Do not suddenly leave a curb or other safe place and walk or run into the path of a vehicle close enough to be a danger to you.
- If there is no sidewalk, walk in the direction that faces the oncoming traffic
- When a signal first changes to green or "WALK" for you to cross, look left, right, and then left again and yield the right of way to any vehicle in the

intersection before you cross the street.

- At night, make yourself more visible by wearing white clothing and retro-reflective materials or by carrying a flashlight.
- Most importantly, always be aware of what is going on around you!

You can view the California Driver Handbook online at www.dmv.ca.gov.

Q: I have decided that I want to be an organ and tissue donor. My license doesn't expire for another three years and I want to change my organ donor status now. How can I do this?

A: You do not have to wait until your license expires to update your organ and tissue donor status! Simply visit <http://DMV.ca.gov/about/donateLife/donateLife.htm>. From there you can become a registered donor, read answers to frequently asked questions and real life organ donor and recipient stories. Congratulations on your decision to become an organ and tissue donor!

Q: My brother recently purchased a motorcycle and though he has a motorcycle license, I do not. Am I allowed to drive his bike?

A: No. Driving any motor vehicle without the proper license is against the law. If you are interested in legally driving your brother's motorcycle you should obtain your motorcycle (M1 or M2) license.

The procedure for acquiring a motorcycle license varies based on age, but all applicants must pass a written test first. For a checklist of what is required, visit http://www.dmv.ca.gov/about/2011mc_lic.htm

The DMV is a department under the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Acting Undersecretary Traci Stevens. The DMV licenses drivers, maintains driving records, registers and tracks official ownership of vehicles and vessels, investigates auto and identity-related fraud, and licenses car dealers, driving schools, and traffic violator schools. For more information about the DMV, visit www.DMV.ca.gov.

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Where Is The Line For Revolution?

**Commentary by Brandon Smith
Whiskey & Gunpowder
Reprinted by permission**

The subject of revolution is a touchy one. It's not a word that should be thrown around lightly, and when it is uttered at all, it elicits a chaotic jumble of opinions and debates from know-it-alls the world over. The "R" word has been persona non grata for quite some time in America, and until recently, was met with jeers and knee-jerk belligerence.

However, let's face it; today, the idea is not so far fetched. We have a global banking system that is feeding like a tapeworm in the stagnant guts of our economy. We suffer an election system so fraudulent BOTH sides of the political spectrum now represent a hyper-rich minority while the rest of us are simply expected to play along and enjoy the illusion of choice. We have a judicial body that has gone out of its way to whittle down our civil liberties and to marginalize our Constitution as some kind of "outdated relic".

We have an executive branch that issues special orders like monarchical edicts every month, each new order even more invasive and oppressive than the last. And, we have an establishment system that now believes it has the right to surveil the citizenry en masse and on the slightest whim without any consideration for 4th Amendment protections.

There are plenty of pessimists out there who would assert that Americans are totally oblivious to these developments. I have not found that to be true at all. Millions of people are awake to such issues, and millions more are, at the very least, angry at the state of things, though they may not fully understand the source of their distress.

Only a fool would deny that a fight is in the air...

Though the atmosphere of conflict is present, we are indeed experiencing a pause, a breath, a quiet moment before the breach, and this is a confusing time for many.

We human beings have a very

odd tendency to view our own species as inherently and irrevocably violent, or at the very least terribly flawed. However, for all the negative press mankind gets for being "warlike", if we look back at history it is much more customary to find people desperately trying to avoid conflict, not provoke it, especially if there is an element of tangible risk. Wars are usually not fought by the general citizenry, or the men who promote the pursuit of hostilities. They pay other people to fight for them. If they were ever expected to actually participate in the same battles they just after, they would probably change their minds about the whole idea rather quickly.

Most often the only instances in which common people take up arms and charge towards combat based on principle have been revolutions. Some revolutions are based on lies, and some are based on inspiration, but all of them require men to conquer their own apathy and fear of confrontation. This is no easy task, and it sometimes takes years or decades of social adaptation and organization.

The elements of a revolution are synchronous. They are like the ingredients of a boiling tropical storm. Each vital aspect of the event must be in place, or there can be no energy or direction. That said, if an environment is left sweltering and volatile, and this electric stew is maintained long enough, eventually, a tempest will rise.

The real question is; where is the tipping point? What causes a population to tolerate or ignore certain crimes by governments, but not others? Where is the line in the sand that if crossed, turns an apprehensively meek citizen into an "enemy of the state" ready to lay down his life against the very system he was born into? The answer is an intuitive and psychological one, rather than mathematical.

Colonial Americans suffered through numerous and mounting indignities over the course of many years before taking up

arms. They attempted nearly every method imaginable to counter or reason with British oppression without turning to violent means. They exhausted every avenue, legal, political, and social. They held rousing protests. They decentralized economically and countered British trade controls. They constructed brilliant legal arguments appealing to the monarchy to embrace logic. They attempted diplomatic redress after redress. It was abundantly clear that they did not want a war. When average Americans consider the revolution that gave birth to our free republic, they tend to forget the long struggle that was necessary to rally support for a declaration of liberties. No society, no matter how right in their position, and no matter how heinous the tyranny, jumps directly behind the muzzle of a gun to solve the problem. Revolution takes time...

As difficult as it is to rationally gauge the exact moment or circumstance that triggers revolt, the intensity or build up to conflict can certainly be felt. That pressure is tactile in America today, and is becoming difficult to ignore. The reasons are obvious. In the past 10 years alone elements of our government have cemented into place the "legal" framework to:

- 1) Detain U.S. citizens indefinitely without trial under the guise of enemy combatant status.
- 2) Assassinate U.S. citizens without trial and without due process under the law, including the very clear requirements of the treason clause.
- 3) Confiscate resources, including your private property, in the name of national security and preparedness.
- 4) Take control of or eliminate all communications networks including phone, radio, television, cell, internet, etc. in the name of national security.
- 5) Unleash a swarm of unmanned Predator Drones over our homes and towns to make mass surveillance of the public easier. All without probable

cause or the protections of the 4th Amendment.

6) Capture, collate, and monitor the communications of millions of citizens without probable cause or a warrant under the FISA domestic spy bill.

7) Declare martial law without congressional oversight and embed active serving military amongst the populace in a law enforcement capacity. This includes the institution of Northcom, which is a standing military presence in the U.S. whose primary mission is to quell domestic dissent.

Most of the laws and executive orders that qualify this behavior from our government have been tested, at least in a limited capacity. These abuses of power have already galvanized a groundswell of activists across the country, and I believe that if implemented in a broader manner, will instigate revolution. Where is the line? I believe the line will be drawn with these trespasses:

- 1) Any action that involves the standardization of indefinite detention or rendition against American citizens will result in rebellion. The second due process is thrown out the window and the right to a trial by jury is revoked, there is not much left for a population to do but fight back. This includes pre-emptive assassination as well. The more often enemy combatant status is applied to get around Constitutional protections, the more exponential public anger and fury will be. Black bagging people will lead to war.
- 2) Economic mismanagement or deliberate derailment by banks has been accomplished with the aid and collusion of government. This has been made abundantly clear by numerous instances of exposed fraud, including the Libor Scandal, in which the private Federal Reserve and agencies within our own system have openly admitted to hiding the precarious nature of our financial situation. Any further implosion of the overall economy will be blamed on this fraud

by a considerable portion of the public. When people's wallets and bellies become empty, it's amazing how quickly they will get off their couches to solve a crisis. If they can't find justice within the system, history has shown that they will look for justice outside of it.

3) The institution of checkpoints, invasive technology like naked body scanners, and exaggerated law enforcement presence on a wide scale, will invariably lead to revolt. Dealing with TSA thugs in an airport is one thing; people fly voluntarily, and when they do it often involves a particular level of fear and anxiety, which can be used as rationalization for extreme security measures. Dealing with blue-shirts on the streets near your home, at the bus stop, or on the highway, on the other hand, is not going to go over too well. These tactics have already been experimented with on a small scale. I don't care how sheepish the American people appear to be in this era; start invading their personal space on a regular basis and many will eventually respond with fists instead of shrugged shoulders.

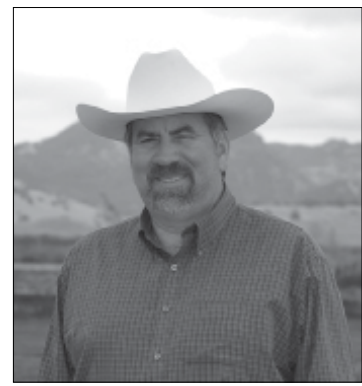
4) Predator drone fleets hovering over every square mile of the U.S. is not only completely unacceptable, it is going to escalate dissent into the realm of revolution. Any society that harbors even the slightest morsel of individualism is going to think "expedient regime change" when flying surveillance cameras are buzzing over their shoulders 24 hours a day. Set aside the fact that many of these drones will be launched weapons capable. No government has the right to categorize the whole of a citizenry as potential criminals. "When innocent until proven guilty" becomes "guilty until proven innocent", revolutions become inevitable.

5) Martial Law is an impractical solution to any national crisis. The Founding Fathers understood this well, which is why they specifically opposed the use of standing armies, especially in peace time. Under the

Constitution, the private citizenry was supposed to be the disaster reaction force, not government paid centurions. There were multiple reasons behind this position. First, military troops are not trained for and do not have the capacity to police a domestic population (especially their own) in a practical manner. They are trained to do one thing; dominate an enemy. Second, the citizens within a particular state or county would have a much better understanding of that region's needs and complexities. A military composed of mostly unfamiliar outsiders would not know or care about how a local system operates, and would instead try to impose its own one-size-fits-all methodology. Finally, as apathetic as many people seem, they still do not like to feel bullied or subjugated. Being surrounded by armed troops at every turn with the executive granted legal authority to detain or kill without verifiable cause would make any man a little perturbed. I do not believe many in the U.S. will quietly accept a martial law scenario, regardless of the excuse given by government (terrorism, economic disaster, foreign war, etc.). A move towards military administration of domestic affairs will lead to revolution.

The internal strife of a nation is not predicated on the transitory moods of its people but the attitude of its government. Revolutions are not waged by happy men in an honorable land. True revolutions are a product of generations of discontent stemming from dishonest and vicious bureaucracy. An establishment government facing a wave of discord from the masses has, in most cases, done something to deserve it. I, like many, do not relish the idea of a new American revolt, but if I am to be honest in the face of the facts, I have to acknowledge that the potential for one within my lifetime is significant. I also can't say that it is not necessary. Unless tomorrow brings a miraculous shift in current totalitarian trends, revolution may be all we have left...

Were UC Facilities and Staff Diverted for Political Activity?



Senator Doug LaMalfa questioned On July 19th whether the use of University of California (UC) facilities and staff after action by the UC Board of Regents (Regents) and President Mark Yudof to support a ballot measure violated UC policies and state law. After the Regents endorsed a tax increase proposition slated for the November ballot, UC staff distributed emails sup-

porting the proposition using an email account at the University of California Office of the President (UCOP).

"The simple fact is that University of California's staff are paid with tax dollars, so it is completely inappropriate for them to tell Californians how to vote," said LaMalfa. "This political activity by the University of California is contrary to conflict of interest guidelines posted on the UC's own website, which specifically prohibits the use of UC resources for such purposes."

Policies posted on the websites of both the Regents and UCOP clearly prohibit the use of UC facilities, equipment and staff for political purposes. State law generally prohibits the use of taxpayer-funded resources for political purposes, a rule that ap-

plies to elected officials and state employees alike. LaMalfa also noted that he intends to submit a request for internal emails under the Public Records Act in order to determine the extent of any political activity within the UC.

"Even if the UC's political activity is found to be within the law, there's no question that it is ethically suspect," LaMalfa added. "Whichever side of an issue you may be on, the government should not use taxpayer funds to tell citizens how to vote."

Senator Doug LaMalfa is a lifelong farmer representing the fourth Senate District including Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Siskiyou, Sutter, Del Norte, Placer, Trinity, Yuba and Nevada counties.

Governor Brown Chooses High-Speed Rail Over California's Children

PLACER COUNTY – California state Senator Doug LaMalfa issued the following statement on July 18th in response to Governor Jerry Brown's signing of SB 1029, the bill authorizing the borrowing of billions of dollars to begin a high-speed rail project: "Whether you believe high-speed rail is good for California or not, this plan doesn't add up. "Politically, this is a reckless move by Governor Brown. He and legislative Democrats passed a budget that threatens schools unless voters approve his tax increase. But, support for the tax increase drops off when voters see their tax dollars spent on high-speed rail.

Why would the governor jeopardize the education of our children for a runaway vanity

project? "Fiscally, at a time when the state budget is underwater by \$16 billion, the Democrats are adding on hundreds of millions of dollars of new annual bond debt. What's worse is that this new debt won't get us anywhere close to an operating HSR system, and no one, anywhere, can cite a reliable source for where the rest of the money will come from.

"Legislatively, why is it a priority to spend money creating new state debts when Democrats have dragged their feet on pension reform, which would reduce our state's long-term obligations? It's no wonder the public believes our state is moving in the wrong direction, because we are. "In 2008, California voters were told the High Speed Rail bond measure would pay for about a third of a complete, self-sustaining

system. Now we see a plan for a bunch of disconnected pieces, with a price tag that's already ballooning out of control before construction has even begun.

"Again, this is not the High Speed Rail plan that voters approved in 2008. In fact, voters have made it clear they want a second chance to vote on the current plan, now that it's been mangled out of recognition.

"Californians deserve responsible leaders who will make responsible decisions when trusted with the people's money."

Senator Doug LaMalfa is a lifelong farmer representing the fourth Senate District including Shasta, Tehama, Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Siskiyou, Sutter, Del Norte, Placer, Trinity, Yuba and Nevada counties.

Assemblywoman Gaines' Legislation to Clear Backlog Takes Effect Immediately

SACRAMENTO – Assemblywoman Beth Gaines, R-Rocklin, announced Jul8th that her measure to help reduce backlog with Humane Officers background checks has been signed by the Governor and will take effect immediately.

Assembly Bill 2194 amends state law so that already-required background checks can be performed on humane society officers.

"With the passage of this measure, government backlog for Humane Officer applicants will be cleared so these well-trained

people can do their jobs," Gaines said. "Humane Officers play a key role in the health and safety of animals and the general public. This will ensure that the many pets that need help are treated with care and are not at risk of abuse."

Legislation by Senator Dave Cox in 2010 made various changes to the appointments process for humane officers, including criminal background checks, which involves verifying FBI criminal histories that are obtained by the California Department of Justice.

Specific language required by the FBI was not included in the final version of the bill, creating a temporary backlog of criminal background checks for humane officers. Gaines' bill includes the necessary information to fix current law.

Assembly Bill 2194 will take effect immediately due to an urgency clause in the measure.

Assemblywoman Beth Gaines represents the 4th Assembly District, which includes portions of Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado and Alpine Counties.



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By Ronnie McBrayer

Like a Good Neighbor

mile past the scene of the crime before she called 911.

Then a third traveler came upon the victim: A cocaine dealer and cartel member. A man who was in the country illegally, who had booze on his breath and marijuana in his bloodstream, and who hadn't been to Mass since he was a child.

He saw the shooting victim and somehow his heart was broken with compassion. He steered his car to the side of the road and jumped out with a first aid kit and a bottle of water. He triaged the wounded man the best he could, loaded him into the back seat of his car, and drove him to the hospital.

There, this good neighbor checked his rescued friend into the Emergency Room. He arranged for the transport of what was left of the victim's car, and he then went to the hospital administrator with a pile of cash, saying "I don't know if this man has health insurance, but I will stand good for the bill regardless."

Now I ask you, "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" Of course this question is not mine and neither is the story. It is a question and story that belongs to Jesus. It is a retelling of the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Jesus framed as radical a possibility conceivable by the community of his day — far more drastic than anything I have said here. He took a known pariah, a well-established outcast and

no-gooder, and turned him into a moral and spiritual hero — all at the expense of the upright church-goers.

Jesus told such a story, not to define the boundaries of neighborly behavior, but to define what it means to love. Graphically, he showed his listeners that those who do not fit into our religious boxes, our precise doctrinal categories of right and wrong, and our church systems are sometimes more capable of acting like God than we professionals who pride ourselves in saying we know who God is.

After all, to act like God is simply to love. And to love, it is not necessary to have perfect doctrinal integrity, to get the details of church "right," or to be as religiously and moralistically pure as possible. No, to love like God is to dirty our hands by helping our neighbors — "to do to others what we would have done" for ourselves.

Clucking our tongues, shedding a few tears, and simply observing the pain of our world while keeping a religious and respectable distance from the suffering is no substitute for binding wounds, wiping tears, and embracing those in need. We might just need such an embrace ourselves one day — even if that embrace comes from the most unlikely of neighbors.

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.

Whatever Happened to Old-fashioned Spankings?

By Rev. James L. Snyder

Sometimes watching the news on television gets rather disparaging. Now that we have 24/7 news, not only can we see the news any time we want to, but we can see it over and over and over again. It is particularly disheartening when there is a "slow" news day. I think all of us can remember O.J. Simpson's mad race down a Los Angeles highway.

I can remember the good old days when Uncle Walter brought us up to speed on the day's news inside of a 30-minute program. Oh, for those good old days.

Never has an American generation been exposed to so much and knows so little for so short a time.

This all came to me recently when the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were watching the news after our evening repast. I think it was the 9,999 times this particular news story had been played. Of course, we do not watch television that often and so we may only have seen a very short portion. The short portion that we saw was just about enough and my wife said so.

It was the news story, if you remember, of the bus lady who was bullied by children.

"I think those children," my wife said and then paused while she grit her teeth violently, "need a good old-fashioned spanking." And with that, she crossed her arms and set her face in a defiant manner. Luckily, I was not one of those children or I would have received the intentions of her mind at that point.

Her comment got me to thinking. There was a time, back in "the day," when spankings were rather normal. Someone once said that if you saw a young boy on the street you should stop what you're doing and give him a good spanking because he was either coming from trouble or headed for trouble. Raising children then was a community affair. I am not

sure that ever took place, but it does have an authentic ring to it.

I semi-fondly remember when I was a youngster I had the heebie-jeebies whaled out of me by my father on a regular basis. And I can testify that I have not missed those heebie-jeebies. My life is better for not having them.

Watching the video about the kids bullying that bus lady, I could not help but think that they were a rather spoiled bunch of little brats. Pardon my French. I think I would have taken it one step further than my wife. Not only do those youngsters need a good old-fashioned spanking but I think their parents do as well. Kids today are only a mirror of what they see and hear at home.

When I was young, the only spoiled brats around were the children of the rich folk. They could afford to be spoiled brats because their parents with their money bought their way into society. The only thing those kids ever earned was a bad reputation and disdain from the rest of us. The rest of us, having gone through the spanking rituals, could not afford to be spoiled brats. Good parents made sure of that.

I think of what my father use to say, "Son, I'm going to take this Board of Education and apply it to the seat of your learning." I can testify that he was very enthusiastic about his job. With all that education, I have had multiple degrees on my posterior. Even to this day, every time I sit down I am reminded of that education.

This "Board of Education" that my father was superintendent of, always hung by the door. Being the religious person that my father was, he had printed on this "Board of Education" the phrase from a favorite hymn, "I Need Thee Every Hour." It was a motto he lived up to all the years of my boyhood.

I often prayed my father would get weary of exercising that "Board," but I must confess that

my naughtiness wearied long before he did. Looking back, I am grateful.

I will not go as far as to say that I am a good person, only that I am not a spoiled brat. I have learned through the years, thanks to the energy of my father, to extend courtesy to everybody around me and be respectful.

Respecting other people is not something that comes naturally. Everybody needs to be taught that everybody deserves respect. Some people have earned more respect than others, I grant you. However, nobody deserves deliberate disrespect like those kids gave that bus lady.

With all the studies are being done through our governmental grant programs, I wonder why nobody has ever, at least to my knowledge, done a study on the importance of discipline in the home.

It is at this point I must agree most heartily with the scriptural injunction on this subject. Solomon, the wisest man in the world, had much to say about disciplining children. And if anybody should know about disciplining children, it was Solomon.

"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him" (Proverbs 22:15 KJV).

"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Proverbs 13:24 KJV).

Disciplining children to ensure they grow up to be proper adults demands a whole lot of energy especially from parents. Love sometimes carries a large stick.

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.

A man was going from Indianapolis, Indiana, to Louisville, Kentucky, when along the way he had a flat tire. Stranded on the side of the road, he was robbed, his car was stripped, he was shot, and left for dead.

A Baptist pastor, on his way home from the annual meeting of his denomination, saw the man. But he had a report to deliver to his congregation about the virtuous resolutions passed at the meeting he had just attended and an important sermon to preach about our culture's deteriorating family values. Besides that, his children were in the car, and he refused to traumatize them with this carnage. So he never took his foot off the accelerator.

A few minutes later, a Bishop of the Methodist church came driving by. A successful woman, she sat on the board of Focus on the Family, the National Association of Evangelicals, and Concerned Women for America. Considering the scene before her, she concluded that her work in these organizations must continue.

It was the only way to stop such meaningless acts of violence; violence most likely perpetrated by dangerous gangs of teenagers who were the products of broken homes and without the proper Judeo-Christian guidance. She was a



By Marlys Norris, Christian Author

Limitless Love of God

up in the church and understand the depth of its "agape" (all encompassing) meaning, it is a magnificent emotion and expression described in I Corinthians 13 of the Bible. Read it in several versions to fully understand love.

New King James Version reads: "Though I speak with tongues of men and of angels, but have not love I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and through I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and through I give my body to be burned, but have

not love, it profits me nothing" Listen to these words! "Love suffers long and is kind, love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things".

It continues: "Love never fails, but whether there are prophecies, they will fail, whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and prophecy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part, will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then shall know just as I also am known. And now abide, faith, hope, love, these three but the greatest of these is love"

You are the apple of God's eyes and your name is written on His hand. The Bible is His book of love to all of us. The ageless, meaningful, abundant, abiding, limitless, endless, merciful, forgiving, unconditional and magnificent love of God wants you to know — He loves You and has a beautiful plan for your life! Submit and Commit your life into His hands and begin your lifetime adventure that will bring meaning and purpose into it. Marlys Johnsen Norris *God Moves Mountains, It was a Miracle (True story about my brother's kidnapping)* Marlysjn@gmail.com

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By Karen Anderson

Never Fear, FAITH is Here

put our trust in the government, our businesses, families, friends, churches, we will be sadly disappointed. We can only trust the one true Father—GOD. When we turn from fear towards faith, we can move mountains. I know I am using a lot of old sayings but they are true.

In the face of overwhelming financial and other problems, have you found yourself in a panic or are you trusting God? At this crunch time you need to be living moment-by-moment with Him. I, too, have to trust Him for everything, but in reality I would rather be in His capable hands than any place else. It is a haven of peace and rest. He promises to help you, so don't panic and just BELIEVE that God will answer. Remember He is a God of details and all you have to do is rest in Him He will come flying to your aid. Remember that His word

says that He is sufficient for all YOUR needs. All we have to do is thank Him and TRUST.

I encourage you to not give up hope and heart—follow God's vision for your life and you will be able to move from fear of falling apart during the recession to being faithful to God through this bump in the road. Would you rather depend on you and your own means or depend on God? My answer is I BELIEVE IN AND DEPEND ON GOD!

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

PASSAGE: Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)

Karen Anderson is an accomplished speaker, author, and chaplain and has a local TV show, *Move Your Mountains*. Contact Karen at www.doab-lesteps.com, or 916-961-4765.



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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.



Outdoor World

CAMPING TIPS

Change out of boots into slippers or sneakers on returning to camp. Before putting them on again, sprinkle a teaspoonful of baking soda into each boot and shake to distribute evenly.

Baking soda can also substitute well for the toothpaste and the deodorant you forgot and left at home.

Empty squeeze butter bottles make excellent containers because they nest together, have a handy pour spout and can be made water tight.

Also, don't forget the dust tape which can fit most anything and Zip-Loc type storage bags which have a multitude of uses.

There's nothing like the warmth of a campfire as evening temperatures cool. Whenever possible, make your fire near the flat face of a large rock, which will reflect the heat of the flames back toward you.

Larry Whitby is host of the award-winning Outdoor World Radio.

For more tips, log onto www.outdoorworld.com

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Like smell of burning rubber, e.g.
6. Known for its brown trucks
9. *Given name of Russian Gymnast who competed in 1970s
13. "The Red Badge of Courage" author
14. Cul de ____
15. Landowner
16. It fits into a mortise
17. Ostrich-like bird
18. "Or else" in music
19. **_____, Higher, Stronger"
21. *Boxing weight class
23. A great distance
24. Suite cleaner
25. Comes from pine tree
28. Italian currency, pl.
30. Type of deodorant
35. William Simmons was a founder of this infamous group
37. Piece of metal covered by leather and used for hitting
39. Not a soul
40. Hipbones
41. On a cruise
43. Dante's Beatrice, e.g.
44. A mood disorder
46. *Sprinting and long jumping great
47. Spawned
48. *Most-decorated gold medalist
50. Thick, messy substances

DOWN

1. Parts of play
2. *a.k.a. rowing
3. Hindu princess
4. ____ and out; on and ____
5. Relating to teeth
6. Substance abuser
7. * ____ Shriver, gold medalist tennis star
8. Aqua-lung
9. Kiln for drying hops
10. *Gold medalist and WNBA star, ____ Leslie
11. Sinister
12. Dental group
15. *2012 Olympics site
20. "Fear of Flying" author Jong

22. On ____

24. Stuffed in a bottle?
25. Pinch to save
26. Muslim God
29. Founding Father Thomas
29. Officer training program
31. Pigeon call
32. Glovers or frowns
33. Beginning of illness
34. Always demanding attention
36. Victim of nervous biting
38. Villain's rival
42. Central Pacific greeting
45. Pause in breathing, pl.
49. Socialist, abbr.
51. Idiot ____
54. Interior designer's concern
56. Waste water pipe
57. Smiley face
58. *It represents a continent
59. Looker or ogler
60. Sudden impact
61. Like a tatting product
62. Irritates
63. No kids or empty ____
64. *Bermuda and Iraq each previously won this many Olympic medals
66. Be in debt

For Solution See Page 7

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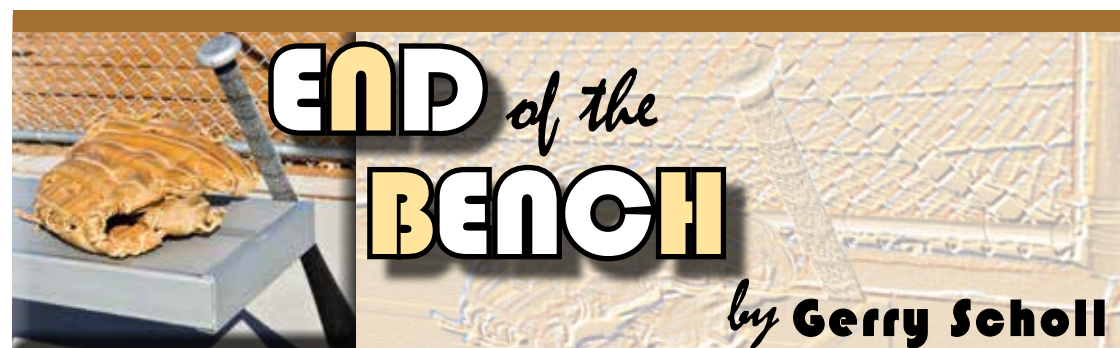
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by **Gerry Scholl**

Simply Amazing

The Oakland Athletics passed their mid-term exams with green and gold colors flying by coming out of the All-Star break to win eight of nine games, including five of six against a pair of powerful division-leading teams.

The A's won four straight one-run games over the Beasts from the East, the New York Yankees, who have the best record in the majors. That followed a two-game split with West leader Texas and now the A's and Angels are both within striking distance of the Rangers and/or playoff spots.

Sunday's 5-4, 12-inning victory was the A's' 11th walk-off win of the season. Their exciting resurgence calls for a rebirth of their long-lost nametag, The Amazin' A's.

When over 30,000 fans were going cuckoo for Coco Crisp when he singled in the game-winner Sunday, one couldn't help but notice a new dynamic. A's fans had regained "ownership" of their home park. In the past, New York fans (and Boston Red Sox fans) would routinely overrun the Coliseum to the point it seemed the visitors held the home-field advantage.

But three rookie starters, part of a seven-rookie staff currently, and a bullpen which has league-leading 2.71 ERA, limited the Yanks to ten runs in the series. The A's' lineups of young unproven players and fringe-

caliber players had just enough each day to take down Yankees lineups laden with big-money free agents. Two New York players, Alex Rodriguez and pitcher C.C. Sabathia, are paid more than the Athletics' entire 25-man roster. Go figure.

Over 100,000 fans attended the New York series, partly because it was the Yankees, but also because the Oakland BART train (Baseball Again Really Thriving) is really rumbling to the sound of a 14-2 record in July. Winning can produce amazing results.

You have to wonder if Oakland co-owner Lew Wolff might be a little upset with general manager Billy Beane. Could Beane's surprisingly successful personnel moves and manager Bob Melvin's guidance have temporarily derailed Wolff's ambitions of eventually moving the team? We'll see... He better get it done before another movie comes out!

Meanwhile, things are going pretty well across the bay. The San Francisco Giants returned from a 4-2 eastern road trip still in first place for a 10-game home-stand. Tim Lincecum seems to be returning to form, joining the party with the rest of the dominating starting staff. Despite a few hiccups, the bull pen is still one of the best around.

The offense averaged better

than six runs per game on the trip. All-Star MVP Melky Cabrera is still milking his season-long hot streak, leading the majors in hits. All Star catcher Buster Posey is busy validating the votes with a hot streak that has vaulted him into the top ten in hitting in the National League. All Star Pablo Sandoval has been a little off his game since his decisive three-run triple in the Mid-Season Classic, but his track record shows he should be productive.

Ryan Theriot has saved the day at second base, relatively nullifying the disappointing loss of injured Freddy Sanchez. Mildly disgruntled Nate Schierholtz gave the outfield a boost with strong play in Philadelphia. Angel Pagan and Gregor Blanco have been slumping. A three-man rotation providing plenty of playing time and rest, and energy off the bench could be a good solution.

The biggest issue is fewer baby giraffe hats in the stands and anemic production from first base. You may as well ask Abbott and Costello who's on first, because they could give as good an answer as anybody. The answer does not appear to be Brandon Belt, mired in a long, deep slump and looking much more like Lance Niekro or Damon Minor than Will Clark or J.T. Snow.

Reliance Partners Real Estate in Roseville Office Opening Ceremony



The entire BHGRE Reliance Partners Real Estate office staff, agents, and owners with local Chamber of Commerce representatives, Roseville Mayor Pauline Rocuccci, and Roseville Vice-Mayor Susan Rohan.

PLACER COUNTY – Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Reliance Partners recently opened a new innovatively designed office in Roseville, targeting the needs of homebuyers and agents alike.

With its "home meets Apple store" feel, the conference room is designed like a formal dining room - with a 70 inch touch

screen to give customers an interactive experience when researching properties. The lobby takes on a living room feel, equipped with a mantel, fireplace, couch and big screen television. Another area, the "Touch Screen Bar," features three 32 inch touch screens that can be used by agents or customers, allowing them to digitally

edit homes on the market by altering aesthetic features, such as landscaping and paint colors. This gives the homebuyer the opportunity to see how a home will look with their unique touches.

The opening was held Thursday, June 28, 2012. Their location is 925 Highland Pointe Drive, #120, in Roseville.

Consumers Warned About Gold Plum Candy

SACRAMENTO REGION – Dr. Ron Chapman, director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and state health officer, today warned consumers not to eat Gold Plum candy imported from Taiwan after tests conducted by CDPH found the products contained levels of lead that exceed the state's standards. Consumers in possession of the candy should discard it immediately.

Recent analysis of this candy by CDPH determined that Gold Plum candy contained as much as 0.29 parts per million (ppm) of lead. California considers candies with lead levels in excess of 0.10 ppm to

be contaminated.

Gold Plum candy is sold in a 6-ounce package that has black, gold, green and orange stripes at the top and bottom. In the top right corner there is an image of a small girl with a white face and brown hair, wearing an orange outfit. The name 'Gold Plum Candy' appears in the lower left corner. The individually wrapped candy has various Asian characters on the wrapping.

Gold Plum candy is imported and distributed by Roxy Trading Inc., Pomona, CA, which has initiated a voluntary recall after being notified of the test results by CDPH. CDPH is currently working with the

distributor to ensure that the contaminated candies are removed from the market place.

Pregnant women and parents of children who may have eaten this candy should consult their physician or health care provider to determine if medical testing is needed. Additional product information is available on the CDPH website.

Consumers who find this candy for sale should call the CDPH Complaint Hotline at 1-800-495-3232. For more information about lead poisoning, contact your county childhood lead poisoning prevention program or public health department.



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POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

book. So how about a few of those simple lifestyle changes that can really make a difference. I can't get all 109 in this one column, but here are some helpful tips to get you started.

- 1) Take a vacation! People who don't take an annual vacation are 32% more likely to die of coronary heart disease than those who take time off each year.
- 2) Disguise your exercise. Get off the bus or subway a stop early and walk the rest of the way. Take the long way back from the restroom to your desk. Unload one grocery bag at a time from your car.
- 3) To make sure you start your exercise program off on the right foot, wait until the end of the day (when your feet are the largest) to shop for athletic shoes.
- 4) Floss! Flossing your teeth may help prevent inflammation and bacteria, which can cause injury to coronary artery walls.
- 5) Meditate. Studies at UCLA and Harvard show when you are asleep, you're oxygen level is decreased by 8%. With meditation, it's 12%, an indication that your body is equally if not even more deeply relaxed.
- 6) Turn off the TV. America is perhaps the most informed nation on earth. Unfortunately, what is presented on TV is often unbalanced, not necessarily in the "left or right" sense, but because TV news presents hyped-up versions of today's headlines that are invariably sensationalized and negative. Instead of producing clarity, it increases anxiety.

- 7) Rough up your diet. We should all be eating 20 to 35 grams of fiber a day, with at least 3 grams of soluble fiber.
- 8) Get your antioxidants from food. According to the American Heart Association, "It is preferable to get vitamins and minerals such as beta-carotene, vitamin C and vitamin E in a nutritious diet rather than through supplements.
- 9) Limit your caffeine. Americans consume about 33 million gallons of coffee a day, equal to 30 seconds of full flow at Niagara Falls. Too much caffeine has a negative impact on cardiac health.
- 10) Visit the mall. Exercise indoors when the temps are extreme like blistering heat, or simply anytime the weather is simply unpleasant. If you don't belong to a gym, walk at your local shopping mall. Many malls open their doors early just for this purpose.

That's just a small sampling of the 109 things to do. They go into much detail and they talk about testing and what to ask for and look for. It doesn't hurt that you can understand what your doctor is telling you either. You can also check out Joe's website at www.joepiscatella.com. It's called "Prevent, Halt and Reverse Heart Disease." Now the ball is in your court! Stay well!!!

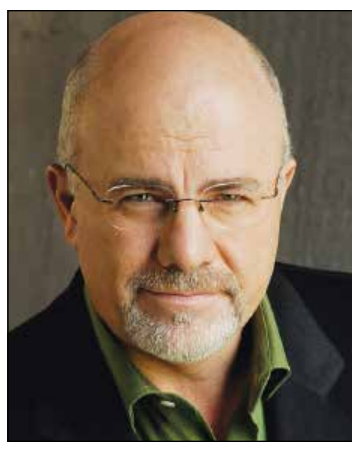
Join Mary Jane for the **KAHI Noon News Monday-Friday and then again for POPOFF 10 PM - Midnight.**

PREVENT AND REVERSE HEART DISEASE

There's a killer on the loose. Heart disease is the number one killer in the U.S. But what if I told you it doesn't have to be that way, and it's not so scary either? **Joseph Piscatella**, President of the Institutes for Fitness Health, and Dr Barry Franklin, say 80% of us can prevent heart disease by making some simple lifestyle changes. They have some 109 things you can do in "Prevent, Halt and Reverse Heart Disease." We let it sneak up on us, Piscatella told me on my POPPOFF Radio Show, but that can change right now. First of all, there are ten critical cardiac markers to assess your risk.

- 1) Cholesterol and other Lipids
- 2) Coronary Inflammation
- 3) Blood Clotting
- 4) Weight
- 5) Blood Pressure
- 6) Diabetes
- 7) Metabolic Syndrome
- 8) Aerobic Activity
- 9) Smoking
- 10) Personality

There's a whole cardiac marker profile you can assess after you look at the above markers in the



Dave Says

Do you know what the number-one cause of security clearance problems is in the military? It's debt. And financial irresponsibility is the third most prevalent reason for dishonorable discharge from the armed forces. And yet, with this kind of program, they're shoving debt into young people's faces right off the bat.

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.

Just Another Form of Debt

Dear Dave,
My son is 22 and about to enter the Navy as an officer. He's been offered a Career Starter Loan. His plan is to invest the money and let it grow while he's in the service. I'm not sure this is a good idea. What do you think about it?

- Mary

Dear Mary,
The Career Starter Loan is just another form of debt, so it's something I can't recommend. Basically, it's the military trying to do a nice thing for its men and women. The problem is that it's still a loan that has to be repaid. It's not a signing bonus. In my mind, if you want to help me start my career, kick things off by giving me a job and a paycheck.

I appreciate the fact that he's trying to use an academic approach. I'm sure he sees a scenario where he can borrow money with low payments and a really low interest rate, invest it and make a ton of money. The problem is he's leaving risk out of the equation. What happens if the investments don't pan out? He could lose the money and still have to repay the loan.

Being older, and having a bit more wisdom, you and I realize things don't always work out the way they're planned. In other words, life happens. But don't be too hard on him. He's trying to use his intellect, and that's a good thing. Still, wisdom always trumps academia. And that whisper of wisdom is telling us this situation could be a mess waiting to happen!

- Dave

To Catch A Thief

Dear Dave,
My stepson is about to turn 18. I have reason to believe that his biological father has used his son's name to open credit accounts. I've been told that you can't do a credit check on a

minor, so what's the easiest way to go about checking this out?

-Tom

Dear Tom,
I'm not sure who told you that you can't do a credit check on a minor. I did it on all my kids when they were younger. There are three national credit reporting bureaus: Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. Just go online to each one, and pull his credit reports to see if anything is showing.

If you find anything, you'll need to file a police report in the locale where the offense occurred. After you file the report, get a copy and approach the business in question, explaining what happened. You'll have to make sure they understand this guy is not the kid's legal, parental guardian, and that he stole his son's identity to open the account. Then, provide them with a copy of the police report and make sure they take his name off the account.

Checking a credit report is pretty easy, and it will give you a wealth of information. The biggest hassle is making the contacts and explaining things to creditors and the reporting bureaus. But it's a lot bigger hassle for the identity thief once the companies that have been duped and the authorities know what's going on!

- Dave

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

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10am - 7pm: Sinatra & Friends Music

7 - 8pm: A Way With Words

8 - 9pm: Rewind with Jimmy Jay

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9:00am - 7pm: Sinatra & Friends Music

7 - 8pm: A Way With Words

8 - 9pm: Hearts of Space

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