

# Placer • Sentinel

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Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

First Issue of July 2012

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# The Train to Nowhere. All Aboard!

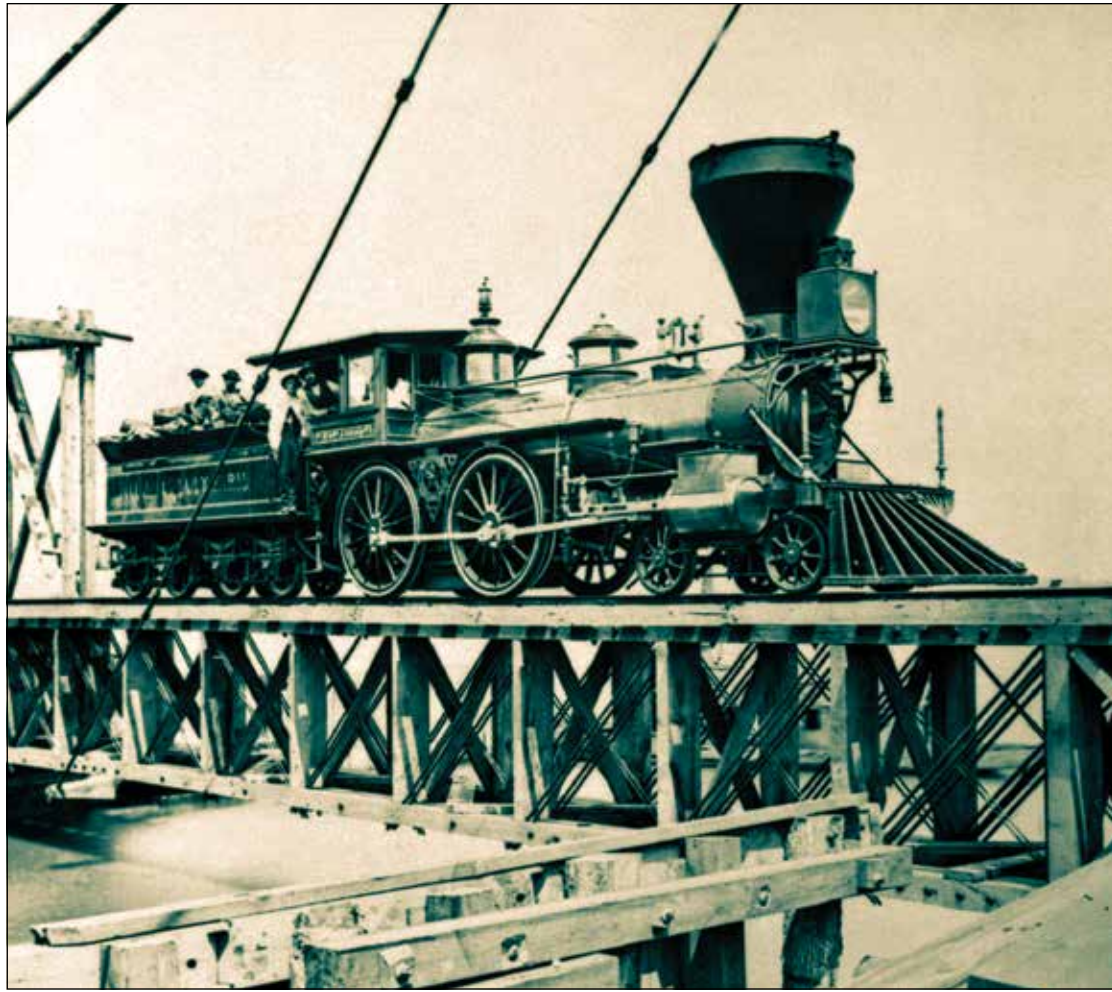
SACRAMENTO – It's not what California voters voted for, it has grossly exceeded the original estimated cost, and it passes simply because enough politicians traded one vote for another. Some would call that stealing. Stealing from schools. Stealing from real infrastructure repairs needed right now. Stealing from real people who need health care today.

Bureaucrats ignored voters, refusing them a say in the new plan, moving probably faster than the "high-speed" rail ever will, to borrow \$8 billion for the project by a slim majority. It passed funding over common sense bipartisan objections.

Senator Doug LaMalfa released the following statement after the state Senate passed a plan. "Today Sacramento sent California speeding down the tracks to one of the largest fiscal boondoggles in history. With the appropriation of over \$8 billion in largely borrowed money, California will construct a non-high speed track in the middle of the Central Valley that can't even be used for decades."

LaMalfa continued, "The worst part of today's choice to spend billions California doesn't have is that this just the beginning. We can't afford to start high-speed rail today and we won't be able afford to finish it in the future. Our state teeters near bankruptcy, yet this proposal spends even more than the Governor's tax hike would bring in. California's spending reflects the legislature's priorities. Unfortunately, this vote prioritizes a train California can't afford over our children's education, health care and public safety. Every dollar we spend on debt service for this bond is a dollar we don't have in the budget for real priorities."

"The plan has changed, the price has more than doubled, and California is broke. Now that the legislature has rubber stamped this financial gamble, California's voters deserve a do over. I will redouble our efforts to allow California's voters to put an end to the biggest public works fiasco in our state's history, an idea two-thirds of voters agree with."



From there to here, when? The only thing that's "High-Speed" about the Rail Project is the cost to the taxpayers.

Democrats in the Senate voted against LaMalfa's motion to send the project to the voters, now that the price tag has more than doubled.

The project directly mirrors the un-balanced budget in its make-up. In his monthly newsletter Senator Ted Gaines said "On June 27, the Democrats put forward a budget plan. Once again, it is an irresponsible budget that is not balanced, not honest and not what the people of California deserve from their government. It is a phony, gimmicky document that does nothing to address the chronic, structural overspending that plagues our state and I absolutely could not support it." So how does the High-Speed rail project improve upon the already out of balance budget?

A new report from California Common Sense found that with expected cost overruns, the revised and smaller project would likely cost over \$99 billion. The report also found that California would need to make annual payments of \$6.5 billion

for the project if the state shoulders the burden alone. That is more than the state currently spends on the California State University, the University of California and state-sponsored childcare combined. The federal transportation bill passed last week prohibits future federal funding for the project, virtually assuring that California alone will carry the costs.

"Costs for high speed rail will continue to rise even as public support plummets," said Senator LaMalfa. "California doesn't have the money for this project. We are cutting the school year, releasing violent offenders early, and the governor wants to increase taxes on every Californian while spending billions we don't have on a project citizens don't want."

In LaMalfa's earlier press release about the project he states "Additionally, a Field Poll released today indicates voters who support Governor Brown's tax increase are less likely to support the measure if the state continues with high speed rail

spending. The poll shows voters support Governor Brown's taxes 54-38%, but 21% of those who support the tax would oppose if the state uses the money for high speed rail. Voters simply aren't buying the line that we need to cut education and public safety but have ample money for high speed rail, and they're right not to."

Senator Ted Gaines offered more in his newsletter about the overall budget mess, "Even worse, it (the budget) grows state spending by more than \$10 billion and assumes that voters will approve an additional \$47 billion in sales and income taxes. Tax increases lost in every county in the state in 2009. The latest tobacco tax failed and it is a huge gamble to bank on voters balancing the budget through higher taxes."

Gaines also said, "I've said this over and over again – we need to enact serious, long-term solutions that will not only prevent future financial meltdowns, but will encourage job creation and allow California's economy to recover."

## California Attracts Call Center: 2000 New Jobs

SACRAMENTO REGION – A Pennsylvania call-center operator announced earlier this month that they would open a new facility in the North Highlands area with plans to hire upwards of 2000 employees. The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) worked with Advanced Call Center Technologies for several months, working to attract the company to California and ultimately identify a site for the center. The state, along with the Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization (SACTO), made a compelling case for California over several other states including Kansas, Florida, Wisconsin and Missouri.

"ACT's decision to locate in California is the result of our aggressive efforts to compete for major job creating projects," said Mike Rossi, Governor Brown's Senior Jobs Advisor. "The state's jobs team – GO-Biz – and our regional partners are actively working to provide assistance to companies like ACT looking to expand or relocate into the Golden State." California was one of seven competing states, each offering extensive benefit packages including cash incentives and land. However, because of ACT's experience with GO-Biz and SACTO, the company maintained a strong interest in opening the center in California if the state could demonstrate that it was financially viable.

The state was able to deliver two major incentive packages that offset the cost of opening the new facility and hiring a significant workforce. The Enterprise Zone program will provide the company with a competitive tax rebate and the Employment Training Panel program will help pay for the cost of training a new workforce. Once the call center opens there will 600-900 new jobs with the possibility of ramping up to a total of 2,000 over the next two years. This will be a huge boost to the local economy which will benefit from an expanding workforce and increased economic activity from the employees. If you are interested in applying for a position with the company, call (916) 263-1878 or visit the company's website [www.acttoday.com](http://www.acttoday.com).

Source: Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

# Placer County Libraries: A Past Few Realize

By Ken Westernen

PLACER COUNTY – Modern libraries are an essential asset to the communities they serve; with titles on every subject imaginable, periodicals by the dozens, new information is only an arm's reach away. Add to this, the electronic media with its e-books, audio books, and computer access to even more information; it is staggering what is available at our finger tips.

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries things were very different however. Books were precious resources one attained only through extreme effort on the part of the seeker as well as those committed to making books available to all who treasured them.

Volumes made their way to remote locations by every means available. Librarians literally



Photo courtesy California State Library Foundation

covered thousands of miles during their careers; toting heavy volumes on foot to inhabitants of isolated locations. Horses traversed mountain passes; dog teams pulled their cargo over snow and ice, carts and wagons hauled books across our great state and county with the ever

present librarian leading the way. Hearty souls these early librarians had to be. Braving inclement weather, dangerous trails, all in the quest to deliver books; and deliver they did!

The structures that housed these books were only limited by the imagination and creativity of

these early librarians. Anything and everything available was made to work as a book depository; wooden boxes nailed to trees, telegraph offices, trading posts, general stores, post offices, even saloons. Some folks even converted rooms in their homes; others converted chicken coops to house literature. Flexibility and ingenuity were definitely strong characteristics of these early pioneers.

Thankfully this profound dedication is still alive today. One such example is David McAfee, member of the Literacy Support Council of Placer County and the driving force in developing the "Little Free Library" program locally here in Placer County. This program provides books to remote communities by placing a handmade Little Free Library box filled with books for locals to borrow on an honor system.

Residents can also leave their books in the Library for others to enjoy. Each community will have a volunteer resident committed to be the custodian of their particular Library.

Mr. McAfee, the Literacy Support Council, Placer Adult Literacy Service (PALS), and the Placer County Library are working harmoniously to make this project successful. Within these organizations there are many people volunteering time and resources, like our forefathers, to provide books for all to enjoy. Echoed is the spirit, reading and literature inspires in those who recognize its power and contribution, to individuals and their communities.

If you would like to donate books to the Literacy Support Council for the Little Free Library program you can contact the LSC by emailing [LSCplacer@yahoo.com](mailto:LSCplacer@yahoo.com).

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# Academy Award-winning Film GOLDFINGER

AUBURN - Quick now, what is the fastest grossing film of all time? According to Guinness World Records, it is Goldfinger, the third film in the James Bond series. Starring Sean Connery as the MI6 agent, "It is fast, it is entertainingly preposterous and it is exciting." The film's plot has Bond investigating gold smuggling by gold magnate Auric Goldfinger and eventually uncovering Goldfinger's plans to attack the United States Bullion Depository at Fort Knox. See it on the BIG screen one more time.

Goldfinger was the first Bond blockbuster, with a budget equal to that of the two preceding films combined. The American Film Institute has honored the film four times, putting it on their top 100 lists for: Best Movie Quote ("A martini. Shaken not stirred."), Best Song ("Goldfinger,") Best Villain (Auric as Goldfinger,) and most thrilling film. Even its iconic car,



the Aston Martin DB5, is named "Best Car" in films. Goldfinger was the first Bond film to win an Oscar.

Goldfinger will play one time only on Thursday July 19, at The State Theatre, 985 Lincoln Way, Auburn. Box office opens at 5:30, film at 7 pm. Tickets are \$8 and can be purchased online

at [www.LiveFromAuburn.com](http://www.LiveFromAuburn.com). Call (530) 885-0156 for more information or visit the website.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the James Bond series of films and special events are happening globally including a 5-film showing of Bond films at this year's Cannes Film Festival and an 8-film showing last April in San Francisco. As of August 1, Bond films, in all formats, are being pulled from circulation by the distributor for an unknown length of time. The State Theater managed to obtain Goldfinger just in time. Join us for the excitement of James Bond at Cinema at the State, July 19.

For information on upcoming films, visit [www.LiveFromAuburn.com](http://www.LiveFromAuburn.com).

August 16: the original "War of the Worlds"

Sept. 20 : Danny Kaye's comic masterpiece "Court Jester"

Oct. 18: "Fargo"

# Swim Team Water Show



Three Mermaids performing in a recent dual meet with Cordova.

AUBURN - The Auburn Recreation District's Synchronized Swimming team is holding a water show. Saturday July 15 at 8pm at the Sierra Pool in Auburn the Mermaids will be

performing their annual show FREE to the public. This is a tune up for their league Championships to be held July 21 and 22. ARD is hosting the Valley Foothills Competitive

Aquatics League Championships that includes swimmers from Sunrise, Cordova, Fulton-El Comino and Davis.

Competition begins at 9am both days and is free to the public.

## Dancing at the Mt. Vernon Grange Hall

AUBURN - Partnering with the Mt. Vernon Grange Hall #453, the LOP Sliders are offering weekly ballroom dance lessons as well as two monthly dances. LOP Sliders is a social dance club formed originally at Lake of the Pines. Due to clubhouse renovation, the Sliders moved their venue to the Grange located at 3185 Bell Rd., Auburn. The Auburn Grange Hall offers over 2,000 sq. ft of dance floor space with a separate community room complete with kitchen.

Every Monday, the LOP Sliders meet for lessons, taught by Barry Connick from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Each month a new dance style is taught. During

June, we finished up on learning the basics of the Samba. July, the American Smooth Tango will be taught and in August the Foxtrot will be the teaching theme. Couples and singles of all dance levels are welcome.

The Mt Vernon Grange Hall promotes a "Fun Night" the first Saturday of each month. Pie and ice cream is served at 6:00 pm followed by board and/or card games to get the evening started. Around 7:00 pm the LOP Sliders turn on the music and invite everyone to join as they "Slide" around the floor practicing the dance styles they learned each Monday. You do not have to be a Grange member to join at any of

these events. The "Fun Night" is free to everyone.

Once a month usually the second Friday of each month, the LOP Sliders hosts a dance featuring DJ Ed Lawson. Ed boasts a library of music of over 45,000 songs and encourages the dancers to make requests. Ed also can be heard at the Golden Empire Grange Hall the fourth Saturday of each month located at 11283 Grange Ct., Grass Valley, Ca as well as well at the DeWitt Center Tea Dance the second Sunday of each month. Information regarding all these events can be found by visiting [www.LOPSliders.org](http://www.LOPSliders.org) or contacting Barry Connick at 530-268-3176.

## Monthly National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association's Meeting

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association's monthly meeting will be Thursday July 19 at the Sizzler Restaurant 13750

Lincoln Way in Auburn.

The meeting begins with lunch and a social hour from 11:30 to 12:30. This month the membership will appoint delegates

and discuss and vote on the resolutions being presented at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada in August. For additional information call (530) 885-7320.

## Navy League Of The United States

AUBURN - The Placer County Council of the Navy League will hold its monthly meeting beginning at 6 PM, on Monday, July 16th, at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn. This month's speaker is Walt

Wilson, who will discuss the Navy ordinance explosions in Roseville in the early 1970's. Cost of the dinner is \$12 payable at the door. Advance reservations are required. The Navy League membership

is open to all those who support the sea services: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine. No prior military service is required. Please contact Bonnie Potter at (530) 823-2820 for further information.

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## Auburn Recreation District to Host First Gold Pan Ukulele Festival

AUBURN - The world-wide love affair with the ukulele comes to Auburn August 18 when the Auburn Area Recreation District hosts the Gold Pan Ukulele Festival at the Canyon View Community Center, 471 Maidu Drive.

The community-based event features workshops by experienced ukulele performers and teachers, an all day open mic, an evening performance, sing-a-long sessions, casual jamming, and a showing of the popular documentary The Mighty Uke.

Workshop presenters include ukulele virtuoso, teacher and historian Dan Scanlan of Nevada City who has had his own love affair with the ukulele since 1961. In 1998 he returned the ukulele to its ancestral home of Madeira Island, Portugal, where he

taught the ukulele to folk musicians and then performed with them and two other American performers at the World's Fair in Lisbon. He help found the Dublin, Ireland, Ukuhooley group, played his tune Giant Silent Redwood to Julia Butterfly Hill in her tree after ascending 100 feet by rope, and has nearly 20 years experience leading large ukulele groups.

Scanlan's class of ukulele performers, The Strum Bums of Grass Valley, will perform and lead a sing-a-long with the audience. The group received a standing ovation at the New York City Ukulele Festival in 2007. The group has performed at convalescent and retirement homes, festivals and schools at least weekly since 2001. Scanlan will be offering an absolute beginner's

workshop as well as techniques for advanced players.

Michelle Kiba is a music therapist who uses the ukulele to entertain seniors and others and she is a professional entertainer and teacher as well. She will be offering workshops on Hawaiian and swing music. Andy Andrews is one of the co-founders of the huge Santa Cruz Ukulele Club 10 years ago. He created the "Ukes for Kids" program that donates ukuleles to youngsters and their teachers. He recently moved to Hawaii where he started Puna Ukulele & Kanikapila Association. He will present his Blues for Ukulele workshop.

Rhan Wilson is also a Santa Cruz ukulele icon and will be presenting rhythm workshops; Cliff Johnson of Lake of the Pines will present a workshop



for Advanced Beginners. Johnson and Scanlan are two of the producers of the event. Stu Herreid is the proprietor of Ukulele University in the Sacramento/Foothills area and on-line and will be presenting his Strumbelievable workshop. Lorrie Freitas leads

the FunStrummers in Modesto, a 60-member ukulele group founded by one of Scanlan's students. Freitas will offer two workshops: 50's Rock and Roll, and How to Play Two and Three Chord Songs Without the Music. Admission to the day long

event (8am to 8pm) is \$30, under 12 free. Vendors will offer food drink and ukuleles. Vendor inquiries should be made to Sheryl Petersen, Auburn Recreation District, (530) 863-4615. For more information, visit the festival website at [www.auburnrec.com](http://www.auburnrec.com) under events.

# Placer Sentinel

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**Publisher's Statement:**  
It is the intent of the Placer Sentinel to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. We consider our Editorial and Opinion pages to be a public forum for our readers. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.



**Publisher Paul V. Scholl**

# Rooster Tails Fishing Club

## features Kent Brown, Professional Bass Fishing Guide

AUBURN – Kent Brown, Professional Bass Fisherman, will be the special guest speaker at the Rooster Tails Fishing Club breakfast on Friday, July 20, at the Auburn Elks Lodge, 195 Pine St., Auburn, CA 95603. The doors at the lodge open at 7:00 AM with a fantastic \$12 buffet breakfast served from 8:00 to 9:00 with the presentation beginning at 9:00 sharp.



Kent Brown, Professional Bass Fisherman

at his presentation. Kent hosts the popular Ultimate Bass Radio show on KHTK 1140 every Saturday at 5am.

Kent's favorite lake is Lake Folsom and he will be talking about some of the techniques that will work on Folsom or any of the local spotted bass lakes. Learn topwater, jigs, worms and the new Alabama Rig that has

taken the fishing world by storm the past year.

The 30 year old, 140+-member Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc. is a non-profit organization that meets the third Friday of each month to educate, entertain, and enhance a fishing experience. Unlike many bass and fly fishing clubs that concentrate on very specific types of fishing, the Rooster Tails Fishing Club provides a balanced mix of fishing techniques presented by fishing experts targeting a variety of fish species on multiple types of waters. Further information can be found at [www.roostertailsfishingclub.org](http://www.roostertailsfishingclub.org). For more information on attending Rooster Tails Fishing Club of Northern California, Inc. meetings, contact Jim, Club Chairman, 530-887-0479, or [pres@roostertailsfishingclub.org](mailto:pres@roostertailsfishingclub.org).



# Around Town

## with Loyce Smallwood

gleaming inventory of hand blown glass including lustrous jewelry, bowls, goblets and pumpkins.

Gail Morgan will guest in August on ACTV CONNECTIONS along with metal sculpture artist Jay Stargaard.

Seeking balance? Check out Auburn Yoga & Fitness in the Victorian Village where owner Gwenn Jones offers a variety of yoga classes including a class for golfers. Check out the Yoga & Fitness website at [www.AuburnYF.com](http://www.AuburnYF.com) for more details.

Live on greens at Black Oak with nine-hole specials and enjoy The Ridge Experience at this very public course with two dance floors. Continue to celebrate The Auburn Staycation by joining the merry CELEBRANTS meeting

Mondays at 11am at LaBou, home of the tasty Breakfast Sandwich in the Belair Center where the emphasis is on community connections with conversation about art, travel and entrepreneurship.

Remember to drop off those gently used books to Friends of Placer County in Raley's Center where volunteers/donations are welcome and sweet felines await their forever homes.

Sentinel Service Stars to PC Guy Matt Cummins whose skills and talent have put The Smallwood computer back on track.

And thanks to the capable handyman/golfer Mike Kelly for taking swell care of home matters.

Again, ask a busy person. Comments to [loy@foothill.net](mailto:loy@foothill.net).

## Placer SPCA Urgently Seeks Donations for Pet Food Assistance Program

PLACER COUNTY – The cupboards are nearly bare for the Placer SPCA's Food Assistance Program. The organization is urgently seeking donations of dry dog and cat food. Through the Food Assistance Program, the Placer SPCA receives daily requests for dog and cat food from Placer County pet owners.

last month," said Placer SPCA CEO Leilani Fratis. "It is hard to turn away people who may find themselves having to choose between buying food for their pets or food for their families."

All food available through the Food Assistance Program is donated. "Food donations may be down a bit," said Fratis, "but the main factor here is that demand is up. We receive 70 to 100 requests for dog and cat food every month from pet owners who are having a tough time making ends meet." The shortage of donated food does not mean animals in the care of Placer SPCA are going without. Through a generous donation

from Hill's® Science Diet®, Placer SPCA receives supplies of food designated for the shelter animals.

Donations of unopened bags of pet food for the Food Assistance Program may be brought to the Placer SPCA at 150 Corporation Yard Road in Roseville. For more information about the program, contact the Placer SPCA at (916) 782-7722, (530) 885-7387, or email [customer@placerspca.org](mailto:customer@placerspca.org). Local companion animal welfare experts, the Placer SPCA offers many services for the pets and people of Placer County. Learn more at [www.placerspca.org](http://www.placerspca.org).

Auburn continues to brim with colorful choices and peeps and Sentinel Stars to Easley's Nursery for the lively Sunday afternoon art and live violin music performed by Giorgi Khokhobashvili, all on site at their busy nursery where a new connection was made with talented OT Auburn gourd artist Jodi Reed who along with other artisans, displayed crafts amidst the array of alluring garden accessories and plants. Looking forward to hosting Reed on ACTV CONNECTIONS in August.

More choices for the happy gardener along with colorful hats and gifts at DT Avantgarden just down the street on Lincoln Way from the colorful Kat Stewart, owner of Kat's Country Korner filled with art, hand-made furniture, home accessories and fun fashions with a southwest style including beaded jackets, vests, hats and shirts and skirts. Check out the glass case filled with shimmering jewelry, a good eye the owner has.

More hand-made jewelry, photography, paintings, ceramics and textiles in array at OT Gallery where mother and daughter Gail and Shannon Jane Morgan have a



Kat Stewart and Loyce.

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## NID's Ron Nelson Announces Retirement

GRASS VALLEY – Ron Nelson, general manager of the Nevada Irrigation District for the past 10 years, announced Wednesday (June 27) that he will retire later this year to enjoy more time with his family.

Nelson made the announcement as part of the regular bimonthly meeting of the NID Board of Directors. He said he would remain with the district in coming months to assist the board in the transition to new management.

"Ron has made an enormous contribution to the district," said NID Board President Nick Wilcox. "The board, employees and community owe him a great deal of gratitude."

Nelson arrived at NID in September 2002 after 22 years as general manager of the Central Oregon Irrigation District in Bend, Oregon. During his tenure there he served as a member and vice chairman of the Oregon Water Resources Commission.

Under Nelson's leadership,



NID has made several significant advances. The \$46 million Banner Cascade Project, in planning and very controversial when Nelson arrived, is scheduled for completion this summer. It is one of the largest water projects ever undertaken by NID and will improve water system reliability for thousands of Nevada County residents.

He has personally overseen

the district's ongoing federal relicensing program for the Yuba-Bear Hydroelectric Project, and helped negotiate the recent 20-year power sale agreement with PG&E that is expected to produce significant future revenues for use in NID water system infrastructure.

Importantly, he guided the district through the recent four-year economic down cycle which brought slower growth and reduced water sales, while maintaining quality service to the district's 24,000 customers in Nevada and Placer counties.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) and has been active with other regional water and hydroelectric organizations.

*Nelson and his wife of 44 years, Becky, live in Grass Valley. They are planning an active retirement including plenty of time with their two sons, daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren.*

## Everyone Needs a Place to Go

Cash for medical care no longer accepted at Placer County Community Clinic

Commentary by  
Linda Harper

Everyone needs a place to go, somewhere to be and others to be with. The human need for purpose and accountability is universal and cannot be differentiated by any of the usual discriminatory allowances; sex, religion, race, etc. For those people who have encountered various forms of personal devastation, having a place to be at a certain time for a particular reason is more important than ever. In their disshuffled life, something as simple as a medical appointment brings order to their day, a sense of normalcy.

I'm not speaking from a psychological or social work venue. My perspective is expressed from a chair in the waiting room at Placer County Community Clinic. By nature, I'm inquisitive and intuitive, always looking past the obvious, peeling back the layers of any given situation to find the real story. From my perch in the waiting room, I have found the real story to be as multi-faceted as the people sitting next to me.

For the most part, I've not given the concept of a community clinic much thought. Having worked all my life in situations where health insurance was made available to me, I was entitled to receive medical care whenever I needed it. I'm Diabetic and suffer from several of the nasty complications we've all heard about. So medical care was, and still is, paramount to me. Several years ago, I lost my job along with my medical coverage. Of course, I was eligible for COBRA if I offered up a pound of gold, my first born child and my common sense every month. I was abruptly on my own to enter what I refer to as "grey space." This is the area people go when they are somewhere in between losing their health insurance, and qualifying for government assistance by becoming destitute. It took me three years to arrive at the below poverty mark. The fruits of my \$70K a year job had been exhausted; no retirement account, no savings, no nice car, no more unemployment and no medical care. I survived by "doctoring" via the internet, using an inferior insulin I could buy over the counter, eating with food stamps and accepting the generosity of friends and family to keep a roof over my head.

I'm one of those hopelessly optimistic individuals who believe everything happens for a reason, and that God creates a path for us to follow. Three years ago, my path led me to the front door of the Placer County Community Clinic. This is where the "real story" begins....

Having never been in a county clinic, I was taking in the ambiance of the waiting room. It was obvious to me that not much money had been spent on making the area "warm and fuzzy." A linoleum floor and blue plastic chairs, seemed to act as a shelf for the simple, wood trimmed windows that lined the perimeter of the room. The available wall space was decorated with posters issued by the health department, addressing various subjects in both English and Spanish, and a

plastic container with face masks was affixed to the wall. I closed my eyes to visualize the last real medical appointment I had three years prior. My mind recalled the opulent, color coordinated waiting room, complete with designer lounge chairs, expensive Asian art and a very large, built-in salt water aquarium that hosted rare sea creatures from all over the world. Suddenly, my mental stroll down memory lane was interrupted by voices, joyful noise, in fact.

People were beginning to fill up the waiting room and visiting with each other, as if they were meeting up at the local pub or coffee shop. Many knew each other by name, and those who didn't, were quickly introduced to the others. Back packs, duffel bags and bags on wheels littered the floor, never leaving the sight of their owners. I couldn't help but overhear conversations critiquing the previous nights housing and dinner accommodations. I put two and two together and said to myself, "so these are 'clinic people.'" They weren't at all what I had envisioned them to be. Everyone seemed to be sober, and most were clean and well kept, although, their clothes and shoes showed wear and tear. As I looked at each weathered face and listened to the stories being told, one thing was apparent to me, these folks were members of a community, within the community. Soon, the waiting room was filled with more patients arriving by foot, public bus and private vehicles. For some, the clinic was somewhere to be. For others with scheduled appointments, it was an opportunity to be held accountable. But for everyone, it was an occasion to be with others who had experienced some loss in their life that brought them to their current situation. Most of all though, it was a welcoming, safe place where individuals could not only receive needed medical care, but also a kind word and valued respect. Just as my name was called, I felt a fleeting realization. I wasn't much different than the others in the waiting room...I just didn't have a back pack.

The past three years has brought me to the Placer County Community Clinic many times, where I have received superior, life saving medical care. I've had a chance to meet countless people in the waiting room, each with their own purpose for being there. The excellent level of care has remained the same, but the waiting room landscape has changed. Now, filling the blue chairs, in addition to the patients on public assistance, there are teachers who have lost their jobs, government workers who have been laid off and many other professional people who have entered the same "grey space" I had been in. Most are in the process of becoming destitute, as each week of unemployment passes. These people are county residents, taxpayers who need medical care, and have no where else to turn.

Placer County Community Clinic's public website states, "We provide high -quality primary, medical, dental and pharmacy care on an out-patient basis to adults and children, regardless of the source of payment. We accept

Medicare, Medi-Cal, other insurance and private pay, and provide health care for the county's residents with no other source of health care." This is a proud statement. Too bad it's no longer true.

Last week, I took a friend who was ill to the Placer County Community Clinic for medical attention. She is a professional woman who lost her job and health insurance. Her only income is unemployment, which will last for two more weeks. She had some severance pay in her savings to subsidize her living expenses if she didn't find a job. That little bit of savings disqualified her for Medi-Cal, so she was planning to pay the reduced rate of under \$80 to be seen. You can imagine our surprise when she was turned down for her willingness to pay cash. My friend completed the walk-in registration form and when she turned it in. The clinic receptionist told her they weren't taking cash any longer, unless she was pregnant. My friend explained the website states the clinic will accept Medicare, Medi-Cal, private medical insurance and cash as payment for services. The receptionist gazed at her and replied, "I don't know about any of that, sorry." Bewildered, we left the clinic and headed for Sutter Roseville Emergency Room. She was treated and released. Yesterday, she received a bill for \$1,300 for care that would have cost less than \$80 at the clinic.

No matter how a person looks at it, this new policy of not accepting cash is wrong. It's discriminating against Placer County residents who do not qualify for public assistance, but have paid taxes. It's a confusing business move, to rely on taxpayers for additional help, rather than accept patients with cash or private insurance to subsidize grant money. Most of all, it's a negative reflection on our County, and how it takes care of its residents.

Today, I called the Placer County Supervisors office to see if they were responsible for the decision to turn down cash at the clinic. I wanted an explanation. The person on the other end of the call told me she didn't know, but thought it might be complicated. She suggested I call Placer County Health and Human Services. She even transferred me to their office. When I was able to get through, the person who answered the phone replied to my question by asking if I had talked to anyone at the clinic. She said there were many levels of people "over there," I could speak to, but in the end, she connected me with the clinic manager. I left a message detailing my question. I haven't heard back, and really don't expect to. Regardless of who made the decision or why it was implemented, the Placer County Supervisors should be held accountable. After all, not much gets done in the county without their blessing.

While I'm waiting for an explanation of the situation, I can't help but wonder where cash paying Placer County residents, who are not immigrants, homeless, indigent or pregnant will now go for affordable medical care... certainly not to Placer County Community Clinic.

## Give Up Your Facebook and Web Privacy?

Sacramento Region – The human resource managers at Sacramento's top companies have definite opinions about giving up their personal online privacy to an employer. When contacts at Sacramento regional companies were asked, "Would you give an employer the password and complete access to your Facebook account?" seventy-eight percent (78%) said No. Some were emphatic responding, "absolutely not" and one definitively saying, "no, and hell no!" Anecdotal comments focused on the issue of individual privacy outside of the workplace with some noting that Facebook was a social medium not specifically tied to work related activity.

While four percent (4%) didn't have a Facebook account or declined to answer, eighteen percent (18%) didn't have a problem with allowing an employer complete access to their online lives.

More than one HR manager said they specifically didn't have a personal Facebook account, as it was in their opinions, "inappropriate" to have employees 'friending' the people who decide on their employment and compensation through web-based social media like Facebook. Some did qualify employer access by noting that work-related postings or negative comments would likely force an employer to review or respond.

Sacramento's top employers are hiring at twice the rate of those not hiring in the 3rd Quarter. Pacific Staffing discovered that sixty-six percent (66%) of those surveyed are hiring in July, August and September.

Hiring is active in all regional employment sectors and twenty-two percent (22%) of worker demand was motivated by seasonal needs. Active hiring in Q3 among Sacramento companies

polled between May 23 and June 15th is reflected in forty-two percent (42%) attributing growth as their motivation to hire. Forty percent (40%) say they are seeking replacements due to attrition in their existing workforce in the next three months.

While employers say they are getting large numbers of applicants, some are finding it difficult to find specific backgrounds or skills from their industry. Strong demand is noted for sales, customer service and technical skills, including industry specific computer software and hardware backgrounds, in the next quarter. Employers are also seeking warehouse, manufacturing and general office experience.

How does this Quarter compare to last Quarter, or last year? Find out for yourself.

For more information, employment blogs & market surveys go to [www.pacificstaffing.com](http://www.pacificstaffing.com).

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## Governor Brown Announces Appointments

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

Patrick Tami, 50, of Roseville, has been appointed to the California Board for Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors and Geologists. He has served on the board since 2007. Tami has been vice president at RBF Consulting since 1995 and was a project manager at Greiner Industries Inc. in 1995. He was a survey manager at Santina and Thompson Inc. from 1993 to 1995 and survey manager at Stedman and Associates from 1986 to 1993. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Tami is a Republican.

Jill Larson, 57, of Loomis, has been appointed to the California State Rehabilitation Council. Larson has held multiple positions at the California

Department of Education since 2001, including secondary transition specialist, education research and evaluation consultant and education programs consultant. She was a teacher and school-to-career coordinator at the California School for the Deaf from 1986 to 2001 and was a teacher in the Little Lake City School District from 1984 to 1986. She served as a teacher and department chair in the Los Angeles Unified School District from 1979 to 1984. Larson earned a Master of Science degree in school counseling from the University of La Verne and a Master of Arts degree in deaf education from California State University, Northridge. This position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Larson is a Democrat.

John Wagner, 49, of Sacramento, has been appointed director

at the California Department of Community Services and Development. He has served as the interim director since 2011. Wagner was director at the California Department of Social Services from 2007 to 2011. Wagner was a commissioner at the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance from 2002 to 2007. He was assistant secretary at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services from 1995 to 2002 and a policy analyst at the Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services from 1992 to 1995.

Wagner earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a Master of Public Policy degree from Georgetown University. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$142,964. Wagner is registered decline-to-serve.

# American Medical Care: It's Terminal

**Commentary by Jim Karger  
Whiskey & Gunpowder  
Re-printed by permission**

The final nail has been driven into the coffin of America's medical care system (note it's not healthcare because the system has nothing to do with health).

With the Supreme Court decision last week on ObamaCare, the US has taken its failed venture into socialized medicine, i.e., Medicare, and foisted it upon the general public, most of whom really believe they are going to get something for nothing.

It is as if the U.S. government doesn't understand that doubling down on a losing bet doesn't make it a winner. And let's not forget that Medicare, which came to America as part of Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society," has been a tragic, unmitigated failure.

US medical care is the most expensive care in the world. Some say that is because it is the best. Nonsense.

The overall health of the average American is nothing to write home about. The average life expectancy for a person born in the U.S. today is 78.49 - significantly lower than for people born in Monaco, Macau and Japan, for example, which have the three highest life expectancies at 89.7, 84.4 and 83.9 years, respectively.

American medical care is the most expensive because too many Americans are stressed-out, overweight pigs at the trough and the free market is not allowed to act as a not-so-gentle reminder that health is our individual responsibility. If insurance companies were allowed to fully underwrite risk on an individual basis, a 300 pound smoker probably couldn't get insurance which might act as an incentive to stop smoking and lose weight.

To add fuel to the fire, Medicare has resulted in an artificial demand for medical services since they appear to be free (or nearly free) for those over 65. Have a hangnail? Go to the doctor. Cold? Go the doctor. Just need someone to talk to? Go to the doctor. Dying and want to squeeze out another month or two of lying in a bed connected to machinery at a cost of a million dollars or more? No worries. Government is going to pay the tab.

In still another affront to the market, Medicare utilizes price-fixing, the same kind of conduct that would result in you or me being imprisoned. The government decides what it will pay and the medical providers have to accept it. The net-net has been to transfer costs from the public sector to the private sector which has increased the cost of private health insurance while disguising the real cost to the taxpayer.

Three health insurance programs—Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health

Insurance Program (CHIP)—together account for 21 percent of the entire US budget (or did in 2011), to the tune of \$769 billion. Nearly two-thirds of this amount, or \$486 billion, went to Medicare. Even using the government's numbers, it is estimated Medicare will be bankrupt and unable to pay benefits in just eight years, or, if you listen to Medicare's own actuary, it will fail 4 years from now, in 2016.

The socialists don't care. Their goal remains the same: to squeeze blood out of a turnip and to spend as if there is no tomorrow until there is no tomorrow. They don't understand because they don't want to understand.

However, it is not the socialists, but the so-called conservatives, who are the most disingenuous in criticizing American medical care. On the one hand, the neo-cons are up in arms over the Supreme Court's decision in finding ObamaCare constitutional pursuant to the government's power to steal (aka "tax") but are silent when the subject is their own version of ObamaCare, or Medicare. Even the Republican Romney has made it clear that while he will try and repeal ObamaCare (in and of itself an ironic contention considering he invented it), he won't touch Medicare. And, when he utters that wholly dishonest promise, you can hear a pin drop.

Even more pathetic than the politicians -- none of whom have the guts to pronounce Medicare DOA -- are those who are sucking the hind tit of socialized medicine today while raising hell over, well, socialized medicine.

How can Americans justify lining up for Medicare while being against ObamaCare? The most common response to this question? "I paid for it. I deserve it."

The problem with that response? It is wrong. Charles Hugh Smith summarized the numbers as follows:

"Medicare tax is 2.9% of wages, 1.45% each for employer and employee. If the typical worker makes \$30,000 a year for 35 years, then lifetime earnings are about \$1 million. If we take the \$40,000/year average, then that rises to around \$1.4 million in lifetime earnings. The 2.9% Medicare tax thus totals about \$30,000 to \$40,000 in lifetime contributions for the average worker. The average benefits extracted from the system run from \$393,000 to \$525,000 (due to the benefits extended to non-working spouses, benefits for never-married people may be somewhat lower). Average annual costs per beneficiary run as high as \$18,000, though expenses typically rise significantly in the last year of life."

Medicare isn't insurance. It is not something you fund with a willing counterpart taking the risk for a negotiated premium

based on individual underwriting. Medicare is welfare, plain and simple. It is a government transfer program. Few receiving Medicare today paid enough to justify the government largess they are now receiving (or are hoping to receive).

Medicare is nothing more or less than a contemporary bread line for the sick and is destined to hasten the bankruptcy, and ultimate default by the United States.

ObamaCare isn't different. It is just piling on. While the mechanism may be private insurance, there will be nothing free or free market about it. Government will use its heavy hand to influence, and ultimately decide both premiums and prices. The final tab for the assured deficit will make its way to the taxpayer.

Those who are pounding the drum, denouncing ObamaCare as if it was something new and hideous, are unimpressive. Where have they been the last 47 years? They have been enjoying it, knowing that someone else will ultimately have to pay their tab. The frequently heard admonition that "we shouldn't be passing this debt to our children," sounds good, but means nothing. They are more than happy to pass the cost of their freebies to their children and grandchildren while crying crocodile tears and cursing big government.

Which brings me to the end, literally. One reason America is going to fail economically is simple and straightforward: No one is willing to take the pain for the profligate spending. The battle cry may be "Balance the budget!" But listen carefully. After the echo subsides, there is an almost imperceptible, but very real whisper, "... just don't take away any of my entitlements."

The patient has expired.  
Regards,  
Jim Karger

*Jim Karger is a lawyer who has represented American businesses against incursions by government and labor unions for 30 years. He has been the subject of many feature articles, including, "Outlandish Labor Lawyer Gets No Objections From Staid Clients," published in the Wall Street Journal, and most recently was featured in an article entitled, "You Can Get There From Here," published by the American Bar Association. In 2001, he left Dallas, and moved to San Miguel de Allende in the high desert of central Mexico where he sought and found a freer and simpler life for he and his wife, Kelly, and their 10 dogs.*

*Today, Jim takes a handful of assignments each year, and speaks regularly to industry associations and employers on issues involving government regulation, over-criminalization, and privacy. His website is www.crediblyconnect.com*

# IRS Harassment of Tea Party Groups



**House Chamber,  
Washington D.C.  
By Congressman  
Tom McClintock**

Mr. Speaker:

A defining aspect of the American tradition is that groups of citizens band together for a wide variety of civic purposes. They recruit volunteers, raise funds and spend those funds to promote whatever project or cause brings them together.

For more than a century, our tax laws have recognized that such voluntary associations – non-profits, we call them today – should not be taxed, because their proceeds are devoted entirely to improve our communities through education, advocacy, and civic action. Section 501 of the Internal Revenue code recognizes them today, and civic groups like Move-on-dot-org, the League of Conservation Voters, the ACLU, the National Rifle Association and various taxpayer groups have always been included in this definition.

We don't apply a political test to these civic groups – we recognize the fundamental right of Americans to organize and to pool their resources to promote whatever causes they believe in – left or right. Indeed, whatever their political persuasion, these civic groups perform an absolutely indispensable role in our democracy by raising public awareness, defining issues, educating voters, promoting reforms,

holding officials accountable and petitioning their government to redress grievances. Abolition, Women's Suffrage, the Civil Rights movement – all would have been impossible without them.

In order to be recognized as non-profit groups, these organizations must register with the IRS – a purely ministerial function that has, in the past, been applied evenly and without regard to their political views.

At least until now. It seems that Tea Party groups are now being treated very differently than their counterparts on the political Left. For the last two years, many have been stonewalled by the IRS when they have sought to register as non-profits and most recently, they have been barraged with increasingly aggressive and threatening demands vastly outside the legal authority of the IRS.

Indeed, the only conceivable purpose of some of these demands could be to intimidate and harass. A Tea Party group in my district is typical of the reports we are hearing from all across the country. This group submitted articles of incorporation as a non-profit to the state of California, and received approval within a month. Then, they tried to register as a non-profit with the IRS. Despite repeated and numerous inquiries, the IRS stonewalled this group for a year and a half, at which time it demanded thousands of pages of documentation – and gave the group less than three weeks to produce it.

The IRS demanded the names of every participant at every meeting held over the last two years, transcripts of every speech given at those meetings, what positions they had taken on issues, the names of their volunteers and donors, and copies of communications they had with elected officials and on and on. Perhaps most chilling of all, the

organizer of this particular group soon found herself the object of a personal income tax audit by the IRS. Mr. Speaker, these are groups of volunteers who pass the hat at meetings to pay for renting the hall. They give of their own time to research issues and pay out of their own pockets for printing fliers. The donations made to them aren't tax deductible, so there is no legitimate purpose for asking the names of their donors, let alone of their volunteers – unless – and this is the fine point of it – unless the intention is to harass and intimidate. Ironically, the same tactics we now see used by the IRS against the tea parties were once used by the most abusive of the southern states in the 1950's to intimidate civil rights groups like the NAACP.

No such tactics have been reported by any similar civic groups on the political left, so the conclusion is inescapable – that this administration is very clearly, very pointedly and very deliberately attempting to intimidate, harass and threaten civic minded groups with which they disagree using one of the most feared and powerful agencies of the United States Government to do so.

Mr. Speaker, these facts speak for themselves and need no embellishment or interpretation. They should alarm every American of good will regardless of political philosophy, for if this precedent is allowed to stand, no one's freedom is safe. I bring these facts to the attention of the House today and ask that they be rigorously investigated; and if found accurate that those officials responsible be exposed, disgraced, dismissed and debarred from any further position of trust or power within our government.

*Source: House Chamber,  
Washington D.C.*

# Heat has Long Puzzled Science



**ROCK DOC**

**By Dr. E. Kirsten Peters**

Hot enough for you? I've been thinking about heat lately, and not just because of the nation's mostly torrid weather.

We all can easily verify that hot air rises – when you change a light bulb near the ceiling of your living room, you find the air up there is warmer than it is near the floor. Another fact about heat rests on a simple experiment. If you rub your palms together you'll feel some warmth. Then, if you bear down on your hands, pressing them together hard, you'll create quite a bit of heat.

Early scientists tried to understand the basic facts of heat with general theories. One such theory stated that heat was something like a fluid. After all, it seemed that it could flow from warm bodies into cold ones, equalizing over time so that both were at the same temperature. It sometimes affected the size of the bodies it inhabited, for example making hot air take up more volume than cold air – creating the reason that hot air rises.

But heat was an odd substance in some ways. It had no mass, a fact verified by weighing a solid object, then heating it up, and finding it still weighed the same.

Benjamin Thompson was an early scientist who studied heat.

Born in 1753 in Massachusetts, he later moved to continental Europe where he was ultimately named Count Rumford of the Holy Roman Empire in recognition of his scientific accomplishments.

Count Rumford is famous in the history of science for a heat experiment. Back in his day, it was known that boring (grinding) out cannons made for a great deal of heat. Count Rumford immersed a cannon in a water bath, then ground out the hole as he measured the rise in temperature of the water. The change was so great the water actually boiled after two and a half hours of the heavy work. Count Rumford argued that the heat wasn't a fluid at all, but something quite different that had been created by the vigorous motion of the grinding.

Count Rumford's work revived a theory of heat that had been put forward much earlier by Francis Bacon. As Bacon had put it, the "very essence of heat is motion and nothing less." Heat and cold garnered Bacon's attention in a way that may have cost him his life. As the story has it, he was riding in a coach in March of 1626 when he had the idea that cooling meat might delay its decay. He gathered up some snow with his bare hands and stuffed it into poultry. Shortly after that experiment, it's said that Bacon caught cold and then died of bronchitis.

Bacon's idea that heat was motion started to gain more adherents after Count Rumford's work with the cannon. It fell to a man named James Prescott Joule to show that work of any kind can be transformed into heat. That included mechanical work – like rubbing your hands together

or grinding out a cannon hole – or chemical work or electrical work. When heat became recognized as something that could be equated to work, the modern science of energy began to come into focus and the unit of energy we call a "joule" was not far off.

Even apart from rubbing your hands together, you'll be an example of energy relationships today as you go about your daily life. You'll take in chemical energy from food. As you know, if you eat more than you expend, you'll gain a little weight – fat that later can be converted into energy.

No matter what else you do, you'll burn energy today to meet the basic demands of keeping your body functioning. Even converting the food you eat into useful energy demands energy. So part of what you eat gets used up doing exactly that.

Beyond maintaining yourself and digesting your food, exercise can lead to significant energy expenditure. A gentle walk will use 150 to 300 calories per hour, while vigorous work like running or shooting some hoops can burn 500 to 700 calories per hour.

Best wishes managing your personal energy balance today. Remember, no matter how you do with it, you'll come out ahead of Francis Bacon and his unfortunate experiment with the snow.

*Dr. E. Kirsten Peters, a native of the rural Northwest, was trained as a geologist at Princeton and Harvard. Follow her on the web at rockdoc.wsu.edu and on Twitter @RockDocWSU. This column is a service of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University.*

# Recent Arrests in Placer County



**Joseph L. Engel**

PLACER COUNTY – Placer County sheriff's deputies arrested two Castro Valley men after the stolen car the pair were riding in rammed two patrol cars around 1 p.m. Tuesday.

Deputies were following a Honda on Galena Drive in north Auburn after they ran the plate and found out the car was stolen

from Penryn. The car turned onto Town Court, near Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital, when the driver, Joseph L. Engel, 21, swerved into the opposing lane and struck a patrol car head-on. Engel then backed up and rammed another patrol car. Two detective's vehicles were also damaged by Engel. No one was injured in the incident.

Engel and his passenger, Daniel Collins, 20, were able to drive a short distance and then run from the car. A short foot-pursuit ensued and both suspects were taken into custody. Deputies found a second stolen vehicle parked at the Galena Drive address the men were associated with. That car had been reported stolen from Davis.

Engel and Collins are being held at the Placer County Jail. Engel was booked on charges of vehicle theft, assault with a



**Daniel Collins**

deadly weapon, evading, possession of a stolen vehicle and possession of burglary tools. Collins was booked on charges of possession of stolen property and being under the influence of a controlled substance. Bail for Collins is set at \$5,000 and Engel's bail is \$25,000.

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By Ronnie McBrayer

## Better to Lose the World

church's youth minister. It was finally determined that this particular minister (predator) had committed "intentional acts of misconduct" against multiple female parishioners.

He was fired, but because of liabilities, litigation, and the constant threat of legal actions, nothing was really done afterwards. The whole episode was a "hush-hush" topic, and the victims were largely ignored, suffering in silence. But then, years later, the church decided to do something bold.

The leadership publically admitted that the abuse had taken place. They publically admitted that they had not responded as compassionately and as truthfully as they should have in the process. Out of fear of the consequences, they admitted that they had not been supportive to those harmed by the abuser. They began an intentional ministry to the sexually abused, within and without, their congregation.

Not everyone was happy with this action. The church's insurance company sent a warning to the pastor: "Do not make any statements, orally, in writing or in any manner, to acknowledge, admit to or apologize for anything."

To this the pastor said in a sermon the following Sunday: "We are profoundly sorry that our response after the abuse was discovered was not always helpful to those entrusted to our care... We won't hide behind lawyers... Jesus said the truth will set us free."

Then turning to a group of young women in the audience, he said, "Let me speak...to our

survivors. We, as church leaders, were part of the harm in failing to extend the compassion and mercy that you needed."

Was that a risky thing to do? You bet it was. Could it cost the church its finances, members, and years of court proceedings? Probably so. But risky or not — and regardless if the church survives or thrives in the aftermath — it was absolutely the right thing to do. It was right to tell the truth so that people — an entire congregation — could get on with the healing process.

When it comes to abuses such as these, the church must practice what it preaches: Confession, repentance, honesty, truth-telling, and the asking for forgiveness. Such practices are only bad for business if the church misunderstands the nature of its business. The church doesn't exist to protect itself, its assets, its financial bottom line, or the reputation of its clergy.

The church exists as an instrument of God's love. Its business is the healing business, maintaining a heartbeat for those damaged and broken, those who are vulnerable and at risk. And when it's the church that has put people at risk, then it's all the more urgent to own up and repent.

Yes, such honesty can result in much loss, but it is better to lose the world than to lose one's soul by failing to say and do what is right.

*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](http://www.ronniemcbrayer.net).*

## Why Not Just be An American

By Rev. James L. Snyder

As we celebrate another birthday of this great country, I cannot help but think back on some of our history. What a grand history we have had. I know some people are ashamed of our history and so we have revisionists rewriting American history. Nevertheless, I certainly want to celebrate the real America.

My wife and I were relaxing after a scrumptious supper and were watching a little bit of TV. I was half dozing, as is usually my condition after such a supper, when my wife startled me with a question.

It was a news program on television updating us with the latest political scratch-talk. If it were not for politics, the airwaves would be silent. Oh, for those wonderful sounds of silence. Personally, I would be glad to double my tax rate if in doing so we could put to silence all this political-scratch-talk. I call it "scratch-talk" because whoever is talking is trying to scratch somebody's back even if it is just their own. I guess we have a lot of itchy backs in this country. Thankfully, we have an endless supply of backscratching politicians.

It does not matter which way the wind is blowing each political party says it is blowing in their direction. I guess you have to go to eight years to Harvard and have a student loan debt of \$120,000 to understand how that works. If you do not mind, I just do not want to know how it works.

With the politicians unable to create work in our country for common Americans, the real Americans, they sure know how to work a situation, usually to their advantage. If they could put all of this to work for the good of the ordinary American, I would feel happier about paying my taxes. As it is, I pay my taxes but not happily.

Back to my wife's question. "Who are," she said very carefully, "the real Americans in this country?" Then she paused for a moment and followed it with this question, "Who does America really belong to?"

Well, those two questions got me thinking.

Who are the real Americans? Are they Republicans, Democrats or Independents? I know there is

a bunch of other miscellaneous political parties but I cannot think of them right now. Which one is the American Party?

If I do not like any political party, where does that leave me? I am all for parties, but the whole idea of a party is for people to have fun. I do not see any political party where I could have fun. The strange thing today is, if I do not "belong" to some political party I am not able to vote in this country. Moreover, if I do vote, who in the world do I vote for?

My wife and I got to talking about this and I, for once in my life, posed a question. How would you describe the average American?

Is the average American black, white, yellow, red or a mixture of colors? Do you define an American by the color of his or her skin? What about gender? Is the average American male or female? Then there is age. How old is the average American?

We bounced these questions around for a long time and did not come up with any good answers. Then there was silence.

I come back to one thought; why can't we just be Americans. Why do we have to have all the emphasis on variations, colors, temperaments and the people we elect to office who cannot tie their own shoes without conducting some poll? Why can't we send ordinary, common sense Americans to Washington DC who understands the American life?

Most of the politicians, if not all, live in a bubble and cannot relate to the average American in this country. I challenge these politicians to act like, live like common, everyday, normal Americans.

We normal Americans have to live on a budget. If I do not have enough money, I have

come to the end of my buying spree. I think this concept ought to be copyrighted and sent to Washington DC. It is a new concept. It will need somebody to interpret it to those who are living in that venomous circle that we call the capital of the United States. I would recommend a first grader.

It would be refreshing to have somebody in Congress or the Senate who had common sense. I guess Will Rogers was right when he said the problem with common sense is it is no longer common.

A real American is one who is committed to the concept of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. A real American is one who embraces the red, white and blue. A real American is the one who can clutch his five-dollar bill and say, "in God we trust." If it is good for our money, it is good for our life.

If only the American people, the real people of America, would wake up and see what our politicians are doing, perhaps they would do what our early founders did.

In celebrating another Fourth of July, my thought is simply, why not just be an American.

A real American also embraces what Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's" (Luke 20:25 KJV).

Is that the sound of a drumbeat I hear off in the distance?

*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](mailto:jamesnyder2@att.net). The church web site is [www.whatafellowship.com](http://www.whatafellowship.com).*



By Marlys Norris, Christian Author

## Is Silence Golden?

are to "avoid foolish disputes". (Titus 3:9)

Silence however is not golden when another person neglects or refuses to communicate completely. Scripture clearly states that we need to be reconciled to one another after any conflict. When we have attempted to reconcile we are to "reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned". (Titus 3:10-11)

In such cases and lack of response, silence is received as "rejection" and a total lack of love and understanding. It is not accepting another person to the same measure God loves them the same as you! Communication does not need to be in areas where obvious differences exist. By Christ's love accepting and rejecting those differences in each other can truly enrich any relationship. Reconciliation is

not an option to any believer!

Let your silence, passion and love for God be more important than any difference or challenge you face in a relationship honors God. As believers we are live "Possessing the Passion" of God in all the areas of our life, because with God we can face a multitude of things and survive in spite of them. Others will see and experience the "love of God" they feel in knowing us. God has given every one of us a mission to live as an example of His love before others. The spiritual fruit of God's love is evident as we remain silent accepting them as God made them. We can be reconciled through appropriate silence and His Divine Love operating through us!

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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9	2	1	7	8	4	3	5	6
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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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



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Whether you're seeing the details of the lure, which they would see during the day, bass only see the outline. So using larger lures at night than you do during the day is a good idea.

*Johnny Houston is the host of "Johnny Houston Outdoor" TV Show*

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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- \*Talking board?
- King or queen
- Drink too much
- \*Poker stakes
- Romanian monetary unit
- Sweet tooth addiction
- Novelist Anne and footballer Jerry
- Landers or Coulter, e.g.
- Members of the media
- Beat hard
- \*Type of checkers
- To \_\_\_ a dog on someone
- Brian Urlacher, e.g.
- Beauty treatment site
- Tibetan priest
- Covered with hairs
- \*Journey from college to retirement
- Master of his castle
- Body center
- Desktop picture
- \_\_\_ attack
- Drunken reaction
- Welsh dog breed, pl.
- Very bright star
- Fly like eagle
- Eternal, in the olden days
- Time distortion
- A layer in plywood

**DOWN**

- Crew tool
- Used for measuring
- Allergy symptom
- They go with cheers
- Lash out
- Dull or uninteresting
- Poetic "even"
- Knucklehead
- Wrong \_\_\_
- S-shaped molding
- \*Football play
- Gaelic
- State of one's emotions
- Sell illegally
- U-\_\_\_
- Faux \_\_\_
- \*Opposite of chutes
- Like the Witch of the West
- Theater guide
- \*Highest or lowest card
- Found in Boy Scouts
- Found on a map
- 4 qts.
- Ship away from harbor
- Ants' structure
- Finish line
- Attention-seeking
- As opposed to mishap
- Barn occupant?
- Pizza serving
- Edging of small loops, as on lace
- In front of
- Sound of disapproval
- Right hand column, like in baseball
- The lowest deck
- \*Round up the \_\_\_ suspects!
- \*Game of apologies
- Denotes engineer
- Ants' structure
- Prima donna
- Plural of "carpus"
- Be inherent in something
- A husk of corn
- \*Blinky, Pinky and Inky game
- Habitual practice
- \*Hockey players do it
- Boozer
- Reproductive structures
- Indian soup
- \*\*The farmer in the \_\_\_
- Join by heating
- More
- Legal right to a property
- \*Kick it
- \*Never \_\_\_ never

For Solution See Page 7

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*A Case in Point*

# The Case of the Charging Cow

By David Graulich, Esq.

The concept of “strict liability” was once described by famed trial lawyer Gerry Spence in a closing argument to the jury. Spence was suing an energy company, Kerr-McGee, regarding alleged accidents at a nuclear plant. “If the lion gets away, Kerr-McGee has to pay,” Spence told the jurors.

In other words, if you engage in an inherently dangerous activity, you are liable when something bad happens — even if you weren’t negligent. Keeping a lion in your yard, or operating a nuclear plant, or manufacturing dynamite, are all inherently dangerous activities. If someone gets hurt, you have to pay.

In some personal injury cases, the question of whether strict liability applies can be the dominant issue. That brings us to the injuries suffered by a 46-year-old man named Nelson Thomas.

Mr. Thomas was riding his Triumph Tiger motorcycle on a one-mile-long private paved road that connects several houses with Chileno Valley Road in Marin County, near Petaluma. He was en route to visiting his aunt and uncle, the Bentleys, whose house was accessible only by the private road. There was no fence along the private road, which was an easement for shared use by the houses that would otherwise be landlocked.

Another family, the Stenbergs, used the grazing land adjoining the private road to raise Black Angus cattle on their ranch, the E Lazy S. As Mr. Thomas drove through the Stenbergs’ property, he noticed a black cow in the shadows about 30 yards to the left. He slowed down, thinking the cow intended to cross the

road. Instead, she starting coming right at him and he applied the brakes. The cow put her head down and crashed into his gas tank and his shoulder. Mr. Thomas was thrown over the handle bars and landed on his left shoulder; the motorcycle was lifted in the air and crashed on its left side. Mr. Thomas needed surgery on his shoulder, while the motorcycle was a total loss.

The cow, whose name was Annie, belonged to Erland and Maryann Stenberg. Mr. Thomas sued the Stenbergs, claiming that they were strictly liable as result of the inherently dangerous activity of raising cattle.

The Stenbergs won the first round when the trial court dismissed the case. Mr. Thomas appealed, and the matter went before the First Appellate District in San Francisco.

The Court posed two key questions: 1) As a species of animal, were Angus cows inherently dangerous? 2) If not, did this particular cow possess dangerous propensities that the Enbergs should have known about?

A veterinarian was called to testify by Mr. Thomas. Annie was pregnant, he said, which contributed to her aggressive behavior. Beef cattle tend to be less docile than dairy cattle. Herefords are more docile than Angus, and Red Angus tend to be more docile than Black Angus. He also testified that a 1,200-pound cow is capable of using its head to butt up against a motorcycle and throw it in the air.

On cross-examination, the vet said that even within various breeds, cattle behavior varies from cow to cow. One can see a whole range of behavior, from

aggressive to mellow, in cows of the same breed. The vet admitted that he did not examine Annie, nor did he know whether Annie had displayed dangerous propensities in the past.

When the court announced its decision, the judges affirmed the trial court and dismissed the case. Annie and the Stenbergs had won again.

“Cattle consist of species which are not regarded as inherently dangerous,” the Court said. The Plaintiff presented no evidence concerning Annie’s individual propensities. Although livestock owners owe a general duty of care to prevent stray animals from entering public roads, this lawsuit concerned an easement shared by several parties, who collectively had done nothing to curb a herd that grazed regularly on both sides of the road and has done so for decades. The Stenbergs were not liable for Mr. Thomas’ injuries or financial loss.

Afterword: The case in which Gerry Spence used his “lion” metaphor involved the death of Karen Silkwood, a Kerr-McGee employee. A 1983 film starring Meryl Streep, “Silkwood,” was based on this case.

*David Graulich, Esq. of Fair Oaks is an attorney with The Law Firm of Tim O’Connor. David welcomes comments on “A Case in Point” columns at (916) 932-2312 or by email: David@timocconnorattorney.com. This column is not intended as an offer of legal advice. Contact a qualified attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem.*

# Now You Are Taxed for Abortion

Jay Sekulow, ACLJ Chief Counsel

The ACLJ represented more than 100 Members of Congress and 145,000 Americans in challenging ObamaCare before the Supreme Court. Today’s decision is extremely disappointing.

With this decision, the mandate to buy health insurance that covers abortion stands, the abortion surcharge stands, the abortion-pill mandate that violates religious liberty still stands; but we will not stand idly by and let this happen.

We are already working with Congress to pass a full repeal of ObamaCare, and our multiple lawsuits against Planned Parenthood and the abortion-pill mandate continue.

Our work has increased but so has our determination to stop pro-abortion ObamaCare.

When trying to pass the ObamaCare bill, President Obama claimed it was not a tax;

but while defending it at the Supreme Court, the President’s attorneys argued that it was a tax and the Court agreed. This could represent the largest middle class tax increase in American history. This law is not what our nation needs or deserves.

The ACLJ will continue to stand against this massive expansion of abortion by forcing higher taxes on the American people. Please continue to stand against ObamaCare with us.

**Take action, make a tax-deductible donation to fight ObamaCare today.**

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*As always, let us know of threats to freedom in your area by calling (757) 226-2489. And tune in to our daily radio program, “Jay Sekulow Live!”*

# Lassen-Applegate Emigrant Trail Ride

PLACER COUNTY – Relive the gold rush era as you travel the famous Lassen-Applegate Emigrant Trail in your sport utility vehicle (SUV), marveling at such sights as the beautiful Black Rock Desert, the majestic High Rock Canyon, Double Hot Springs, and Soldier Meadows.

All of these sights as well as stories from early emigrant diaries will spring to life for participants on the 18th annual Lassen-Applegate Trail Ride, Friday, July 20 through Monday, July 23, hosted by the High Rock Trekkers Four Wheel Drive Club.

This exciting 200-mile journey begins near Imlay, NV, follows the same wagon train route used by Peter Lassen in 1849, and concludes in Surprise Valley, CA near Cedarville in Modoc County. This was also an alternate route used by early pioneers to reach central Oregon.

“For me, this trail is special and as a historian, I get to relive the past by thinking of John C. Fremont, Kit Carson, and Thomas ‘Brokenhand’

Fitzpatrick and many other brave men and women as they made this arduous journey from small towns throughout the Midwest,” said Warner Anderson, trail boss from the High Rock Trekkers.

Anderson said the trip is open to all four-wheel drive enthusiasts and their families. It is not a difficult route, but there are a few places where four-wheel drive will be required or where trail committee instructions must be followed.

“The emigrants wrote in their diaries such good descriptions of their trip that we can identify the majority of key points of interest in the history of this route,” Anderson said.

Camping the first night will be at Double Hot Springs, former camping area for all of the pioneer wagon trains and the second night participants will spend the evening at Stevens Camp, which provides toilets, spring water, and possible hot showers. Participants will need to bring their own tents and sleeping bags.

Cost for the trip is \$275 per

adult, \$150 for children seven through 14, and children under seven are welcome free of charge. The cost includes all meals from breakfast on Saturday through breakfast on Monday. In addition to tents and sleeping bags, participants are encouraged to bring a CB radio, camera, folding chairs, snacks, refreshments and drinking water.

The Lassen-Applegate Emigrant Trail Ride is fully insured and operates under a permit from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Proceeds from the event help support the California Association of Four-Wheel Drive Clubs’ Conservation and Education Foundation.

The trip is limited to the first 25 vehicles on a first-registered, first-served basis.

To register for this exciting trail ride, contact Warner Anderson at (775) 629-9232 or wana7448@sbcglobal.net or Ron Vance at (775) 246-4099 or vance63@charter.net. Registration is also available online at www.highrocktrekkers.com.

# THE FUTURE OF MONEY

## Preparing for a Global Currency Collapse

By PAT BOONE

Our once great nation and economy are about to hit a wall!

“Today public confidence in more than 200 paper currencies worldwide is hanging by a thread,” according to economist and author Craig R. Smith.

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# POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

wife must now blend their worlds together and see themselves as a team, one that puts the relationship first...above families, friends, and fantasies. He must be a Team Player, with his stability and sense of commitment trumping (but not eclipsing) his sense of fun and adventure. She must be a Relationship Builder, competently handling the new challenges before her and resisting the impulse to run to her friends or mother for constant advice.

a troubling "now what?" mindset that can lead to boredom, and worst, resentment. It is essential to re-focus on each other, as first happened in Stage 2. The husband needs to be a Revitalizer, a constant well of new ideas for ways to spend quality, intimate time together. The wife has to be a Renewer, taking interest in her husband's hobbies and passions, while recreating herself as someone who fascinates him.

**3) THEN COMES BABY.** In this, the most difficult and emotionally taxing stage in most marriages, both spouses are required to drastically revise their priorities, values, and goals. He must be an ally, who realizes that the new member of the family is as much his responsibility as his wife's, from daycare to diapers. She becomes Chaos Control Manager, who understands that a positive atmosphere at home is the most important thing for her baby, and she can always tell a real crisis from a false alarm.

**4) FAMILY TIES.** The dust has settled, and if they made the necessary changes, husband and wife have made it out of Stage 3 in one piece. Now the focus is on running the family as a well-oiled machine. The husband becomes the Family Man, shifting from explosive bursts of energy and endurance to measured expenditures of work and wisdom, careful not to burn out while still meeting obligations. The wife becomes the Chief Operations Officer, learning to perform an awe-inspiring juggling act that is the key to the machine running smoothly.

**5) EMPTY NESTING.** Now that the hardest and most thrilling part-raising children-is over, many married couples fall into

**6) THE GOLDEN YEARS.** This is when the roller coaster is slowing down and the end of the ride is in sight. Nothing is more important than being a dependable Companion, the role that must be equally fulfilled by both husband and wife now. With patient caretaking and a bit of selective amnesia, the final years together can be the most joyous of all.

**Dr. Craig** has crafted the only toolbox needed to build a lifetime of wedded bliss in *"The 6 Husbands Every Wife Should Have."* You can check out his website at [www.drstevenraig.com](http://www.drstevenraig.com). He is also host of "Therapy Thursdays" on one of Detroit's top rated morning shows. Six steps. That doesn't seem too difficult. But I think he neglected one aspect for every one of his steps. It's called commitment. The piece of paper you both sign means nothing if you are not really committed from the heart to making a go of your life together! Believe me I know. Rick (my loving husband) and I have had 41 great years together and commitment is the key!

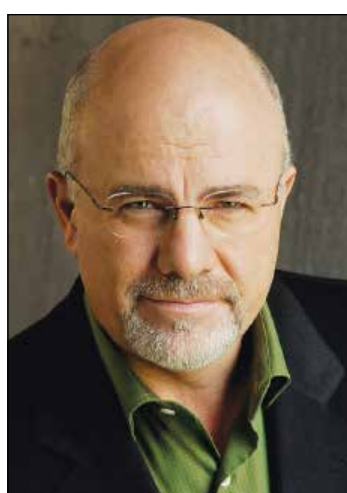
Join Mary Jane for the **KAHI Noon News Monday-Friday and then again for POPPOFF 10 PM - Midnight.**

## SIX HUSBANDS EVERY WIFE SHOULD HAVE

Is marriage on the rocks? Celebrities last just long enough to get a reality show, then poof... all gone! So why is marriage so fragile? According to Therapist, Corporate Coach, and Author, **Dr. Steven Craig**, there is a way of seeing marriage for what it is...a decathlon, not a marathon. He outlines the most common and dangerous pitfalls at each stage of marriage and he told me on my POPPOFF Radio Show that there are six stages every marriage goes through. The key to a long and happy union is how to adjust our values and behaviors for each... in essence, to become six different people. I know. You are ready for the big six, right? So here goes. In brief, here are the six stages from *"The 6 Husbands Every Wife Should Have."*

**1) GETTING STARTED.** This is when it is essential to honestly assess the long-term viability of the relationship, and to avoid lopsided "compromises" that will be poison in the future. The husband-to-be ought to be a Good Catch, young at heart but mentally and physically strong, while the wife-to-be needs to be a Girl of my Dreams, full of energy and life while remaining grounded about who she is and wants to be.

**2) THE OYUNG MARRIED COUPLE.** The honeymoon is over, and the new husband and



# Dave Says

about money as much as it's about your son becoming a man. At this point in his life it's going to be really good for him, emotionally and spiritually, to stand on his own two feet.

It sounds like you've got some good ideas about saving and financial responsibility, and he needs to take some of Mom's advice in those areas. But it's time he had his own place and started paying his own bills. It's time for this one to leave the nest, spread his wings, and fly. Here's something else to think about. He's going to look a whole lot better to the world if he's out there standing on his own. I think lots of young ladies, not to mention their parents, will be much more impressed by a guy who's making his own way rather than living at home with mom.

He's at a point where he's reaching for dignity and trying to make his way in the world. Let him do it. I've got a feeling he'll make you proud!

- Dave

## Whole Life for Adult Kids?

Dear Dave, My husband and I have about \$50,000 in debt. It started piling up several years ago when one of our sons was injured. He's

33, his brother is 23, and we've got whole life insurance policies on each of them. The combined cash value of the policies is about \$21,000. Should we sell them in order to help pay down our debt?

- Lori

Dear Lori, You're not responsible for the final expenses of a 33-year-old or a 23-year-old. And the fact that they're your sons doesn't change anything. Whole life insurance is a horrible investment. The rate of return is almost nothing. When someone dies with these policies, the extra money you paid to create the cash value is wasted, because the insurance company keeps the cash value. They only pay out the face value! That's not what I call smart investing.

If it were me, I'd cash in both of the policies immediately. Now, if either of them has become uninsurable and you want to transfer a policy to them, that's fine. Otherwise, they both need to take care of their own insurance and other financial needs. You guys are staring at a lot of debt, and \$21,000 will go a long way toward cleaning up that mess. Cash them in!

- Dave

\*For more financial help, please visit [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com).

*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.*

## This is about Manhood

Dear Dave, My son has worked and saved all through school and will be graduating this year with a degree in electrical engineering. He has a job waiting for him when he finishes, and he wants to move out on his own then. I think he should continue to live at home and save up more money. What do you think?

- Sue

Dear Sue, Honestly, I think he should move out. This situation isn't

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**Weekdays**

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

9am - Noon: The Laura Ingraham Show

Noon - 1pm: The KAHI Noon News with Mary Jane Popp and the KAHI News Team

1 - 4pm: The Dave Ramsey Show

4 - 6pm: The KAHI Afternoon News with Dave Rosenthal and the KAHI News Team

6 - 7pm:

Monday: The Good Life, Live with Gary Moffat

Tuesday: Law Talk with David Frank

Wednesday: Wealth Strategies with Hunter William Bailey

Thursday: Leaders Without Limits with David McCauley on Asset Protection

Friday: The Drive Home Show with Dave Rosenthal

7 - 10pm: Sports by-line USA with Ron Barr

10pm - 12am: Poppoff with Mary Jane Popp

**Saturdays**

6 - 7am: A Time for Seniors

7 - 8am: The Swap Shop

8 - 9am: The KAHI Corral

9 - 10am: The Garden Guru

10am - 7pm: Sinatra & Friends Music

7 - 8pm: A Way With Words

8 - 9pm: Rewind with Jimmy Jay

**Sundays**

7:30 - 9am: Cruisin' Garage & Swap Meet

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

7 - 8pm: A Way With Words

8 - 9pm: Hearts of Space

Tune into KAHI Radio each weekday for seven hours of locally produced and locally focused programming plus the best in nationally syndicated talk radio programming.

KAHI is also the foothills home of Sacramento Kings Basketball, Oakland A's Baseball, San Jose Sharks Hockey, William Jessup University Basketball, and Cal Bears Football and Basketball.

Most of our locally produced programs are available for replay or podcast download at the 'Audio On Demand' page at [www.kahi.com](http://www.kahi.com).

**Don "The Garden Guru" Yamazaki**

Saturday Mornings at 9am on KAHI.

Laura Ingraham

Dave Ramsey

Mary Jane Popp



### Know your varieties

There are five different types of Yukon Gold potatoes. Use this guide to purchase the right potato for your favorite dishes.

- **Blondie** — Best used for baked dishes, or when making french fries or french fries, and for your salad.
- **Blondie white** — Great for soups, stews, gratins, roasts, and for your salad.
- **Blondie red** — Best for baked, steamed, roasted or served in a salad, and for late summer and fall.
- **Yellow flesh** — Can be baked, roasted or steamed, available from late summer to early spring.
- **Blondie purple** — Great for baked dishes, roasted or steamed, and for late fall.

# GRILLED POTATOES

## Make for a Crowd Pleaser

**C**ooking potatoes for a crowd is a challenge, but it's also a great way to enjoy the versatility of this vegetable. From boiling to roasting, grilling, and frying, potatoes are a crowd pleaser. Our guide provides some inspiration for the Yukon Gold, Red Bliss, and Yellow Finn varieties to choose from for a variety of uses. For more information, visit [www.placersentinel.com](http://www.placersentinel.com).

Get the best out of your potatoes. Yukon Gold potatoes are a variety of potato. In fact, you can find potatoes of many different varieties.

- Only if you're sure you're using Yukon Gold.
- If you're using Red Bliss, you'll want to use the Yukon Gold and Red Bliss varieties.
- All kinds of potatoes are delicious. Yukon Gold is a great choice for a variety of uses.



### Grilled Potato Kabobs

Yield: 10 kabobs | Grill Time: 20 minutes

- 10 kabobs
- 10 potatoes, sliced
- 10 bell peppers, sliced
- 10 zucchini, sliced
- 10 onions, sliced
- 10 skewers

Preparation: Wash and peel potatoes. Wash and peel bell peppers, zucchini, and onions. Cut potatoes, bell peppers, zucchini, and onions into 1/2-inch slices. Thread potatoes, bell peppers, zucchini, and onions onto skewers.

Grill kabobs over medium heat for 10-15 minutes, turning frequently. Kabobs are done when potatoes are golden brown and vegetables are tender.

Yukon Gold potatoes are a variety of potato. In fact, you can find potatoes of many different varieties. Only if you're sure you're using Yukon Gold. If you're using Red Bliss, you'll want to use the Yukon Gold and Red Bliss varieties. All kinds of potatoes are delicious. Yukon Gold is a great choice for a variety of uses.



### Grilled Yukon Gold Potatoes

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# Who Knew God Had a Sense of Humor?

By Eric Nelson

This may be hard to believe but shortly after tumbling about a thousand feet down a rock- and ice-covered mountain and suffering multiple injuries from head to toe, I had to laugh.

Despite the trauma, despite the pain, and despite the fact that it would be hours before anyone would find me laying flat on my back in the middle of nowhere, the words of a familiar hymn came to mind and made me smile. And then chuckle.

"Shepherd, show me how to go," the hymn, written by Mary Baker Eddy, begins, "O'er the hillside steep." (Did I happen to mention how I found myself in this predicament?)

"How to gather, how to sow, / How to feed Thy sheep." (And did I mention that the only thing left in my rucksack was an apple?)

"I will listen for Thy voice, / Let my footsteps stray; / I will follow and rejoice / All the rugged way."

Tell me these words weren't written just for me. And tell me that their coincidental references to rugged hillsides and wandering footsteps aren't just a little, well - funny.

I was barely fifteen years old at the time but this wasn't the first time - and thankfully not the last - that God had used humor as a gentle yet effective way of reminding me that He was on the scene and that everything was going to be okay.

Although most of my injuries were pretty obvious - two broken legs, a broken hand, and what felt like a pretty banged up face - there were other, less obvious problems I was dealing with, including hypothermia and internal bleeding. Yet simply knowing that I was in the presence of the Divine was enough to keep my thought from lapsing into fear and helplessness and just letting go, perhaps slipping even further down the mountain.

About three or four hours later, just before sunset, a rescue team arrived and airlifted me to a nearby hospital.

By the time I arrived my parents were waiting for me in the emergency room and were, of course, deeply concerned about what had happened. Here again, all it took was a moment of divinely inspired levity to remind them as well that everything was going to be okay.

"Is he allergic to any foods," the admitting nurse asked my mom.

It was at this moment that I

became mentally alert, although my eyes were still closed. In the split second between the nurse's question and Mom's response, it occurred to me to say "asparagus," knowing that by doing so it would reduce the chances of my being served what was then a dreaded vegetable.

"Asparagus," repeated the nurse.

And then, with what I'm sure was a smile on her face - not to mention a great sense of relief - Mom said, "He's not allergic to anything; he just doesn't like asparagus. Obviously his sense of humor is still intact. I'm sure he's going to be just fine."

Although my parents and I had relied successfully on prayer in lieu of medicine many times before - even in emergencies - given the seriousness of the situation it seemed wise to go ahead with the various operations being recommended by the team of doctors assigned to my case.

Of course, praying for a healthy body isn't new. Far from it. There are many stories of physical healing throughout the Bible as well as contemporary examples of people from a variety of backgrounds who pray regularly for this kind of help, and with good results.

According to a study published by the American Psychological Association, the number of people who pray for their health increased from roughly 14% in 1999 to nearly half the adult population in 2007. In a related survey, conducted about the same time, the Pew Forum found that 36% of respondents reported "experiencing or witnessing a divine healing of an illness or injury."

For years medical researchers have been trying to figure out if a prayer-based approach to health is good, bad, or indifferent. Ask Candy Gunther Brown, associate professor of religious studies at Indiana University, and she'll tell you that part of the problem is in how their studies are conducted.

In an article published in Psychology Today, Dr. Brown notes that in one of the most well known studies - a study that concluded that prayer could actually have an adverse effect on health - there was a fundamental flaw. Apparently a large number of those asked to pray for the recovery of coronary patients belonged to a religious group that considers intercessory prayer useless. Rather than proving anything definitive about the effectiveness of prayer

itself, this study would seem to indicate that the thought of the person praying - or, by association, even the thought of the medical doctor - could play a larger role in the healing process than previously assumed.

In my own case I was fortunate to be surrounded by a group of individuals - medical staff and family members alike - who all expected me to recover; this, despite the fact that the original prognosis, as my father told me some years later, was rather grim. Although it took awhile for me to fully recover, I began seeing the effects of my own and my parent's prayers right away.

During an operation to repair what was diagnosed as severe internal bleeding, the doctors found that there was actually nothing wrong. As one of the members of the surgical team put it, "Someone must have gotten in there before us."

On another occasion, immediate surgery was scheduled for a condition that wasn't progressing as expected. My parents and I asked if it would be okay if we postponed the operation for just one day to give us an opportunity to pray about the situation. The next morning new x-rays were taken which showed dramatic improvement. Instead of carting me off to the operating room plans were made for me to complete my recovery at home.

As for the "banged up" face, my doctors thought that plastic surgery might be required. Instead, every last scratch and scar was quickly healed without any intervention.

Today, many years later, not only have I been able to walk across the Grand Canyon in a single day and ride my bike for as much as two hundred miles in a single stretch, something curious has happened to my taste buds as well. Asparagus has now become my favorite vegetable.

Leave it to God to have the last laugh.

*Eric Nelson is a Christian Science practitioner whose articles on the connection between consciousness and health appear regularly on a number of local, regional, and national web sites. He also serves as the media and legislative spokesperson for Christian Science in Northern California (www.norcales.org). This article shared with permission by Communities @ WashingtonTimes.com.*

# PCWA Concerns Heard in Nation's Capital

AUBURN - Local agencies are losing capacity to produce clean renewable hydroelectric energy because of a decentralized permitting process, while at the same time California and the nation are trying to find ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy production, a local water official told a congressional committee on June 27.

Placer County Water Agency Director of Strategic Affairs Einar Maisch on Thursday (July 5) briefed the PCWA Board of Directors on his recent visit to Washington, D.C. and his testimony before the House of Representatives' Natural Resources Committee.

Maisch told the committee that an average of 8-10 percent of hydroelectric generation capacity is being lost by local agencies across the nation as they go through the federal relicensing process. These losses are often due to mandatory conditioning authority exercised by select federal and state resource agencies that can require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to issue new licenses that redirect water away from generation to enhance environmental conditions for species under those resource agencies' jurisdictions.

Maisch said PCWA has spent \$37 million to date in efforts to obtain a new federal license to operate the Middle Fork Project, which the agency built in 1963-67 with the proceeds from a \$140 million local bond issue passed by the voters of Placer County.

"We began our scientific studies five years early and we've done seven years of collaborative work to demonstrate the health of the Middle Fork American River watershed," he said. The result is, he said, "we only anticipate a 5 percent loss in energy production." Additionally, under new terms and conditions the agency expects to spend \$20 million in capital improvements, \$2.4 million a year in additional operational costs and another \$1 million per year in direct cash payments to resource agencies. "Under the current regulatory framework, this is what success looks like."



On The Job Training The Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors on Thursday (July 5) recognized five college students who are completing summer internships with the PCWA Engineering Department. Pictured with PCWA Deputy Director of Technical Services Brent Smith, left, and PCWA Board Chairman Mike Lee, right, are Curtis James of Loomis, Stephanie Yanez of Penryn, Shelby Miller of Auburn, Reyna Schenck of Roseville, and John Heltzel of Sacramento.

Maisch said the difficulties are in the law. "The problem lies in the structure of the current process, where individual state and federal resource agencies with narrow charters mandate costly conditions which cannot be balanced against other national environmental priorities such as maintaining the flexibility to incorporate non-dispatchable renewable energy sources into the grid, or economic considerations. The resource agencies are not to blame per se; they are simply carrying out their narrowly focused mission to protect the resources under their separate jurisdictions. The problem is that no one is empowered to balance competing interests."

He encouraged Congress to revise and streamline federal licensing regulations, provide greater authority to FERC to balance resource needs and electric generation value, require clear definitions and give options to local agencies that may seek to propose and implement alternative conditions and solutions.

The testimony was part of a hearing titled, "Mandatory Conditioning Requirements on Hydropower: How Federal Resource Agencies are Driving Up Electricity Costs and Decreasing the Original Green Energy."

"It's a problem that needs to be solved and we've been offered an opportunity to help develop that legislation," said Maisch.

PCWA Board Chairman Mike Lee and other members of the

board applauded the agency's effort and encouraged Maisch and General Manager David Breninger to remain engaged in the process and provide follow-up information as needed.

Other business, PCWA directors: • heard an update from Director of Technical Services Brian Martin who said construction of a new water tank at the Electric Street Reservoir site in Auburn is set to begin by early August. PCWA has set a neighborhood meeting to introduce the project and hear any concerns from area residents. The meeting will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 24, at the PCWA Business Center in Auburn. All interested members of the public are welcome.

• heard a report from Director of Field Services Mike Nichol on a water main line rupture that occurred June 29 near Nevada Street and Highway 49 in Auburn, affecting several businesses in the area. Repairs were completed on two sections of pipe and service was restored the next day. He said water customers were "very gracious and understanding."

• recognized five college students who are completing summer internships with the PCWA Engineering Department. Introduced were Shelby Miller of Auburn, Stephanie Yanez of Penryn, Reyna Schenck of Roseville, Curtis James of Loomis and John Heltzel of Sacramento.

PCWA information is also posted at [www.pcwa.net](http://www.pcwa.net).

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