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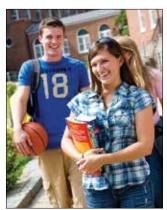
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Volume 23 • Issue 9

Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

First Issue of May 2012

International Students Need Host Families



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DA Scott Owens Hosts 1st Annual Victim's Rights Breakfast



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"Starting New at Golf" Course Now Open



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Authors' Fair Comes to Auburn

AUBURN – Authors from around the region are coming together this month in a local presentation of a wide variety of exciting topics. The Gold Country Authors' Faire, set for May 12th at the Auburn Library, is sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Weiters from Lincoln Proceedings

Writers from Lincoln, Roseville, Auburn, El Dorado, Nevada City, Penn Valley, and Citrus Heights will be on hand to sell and sign their books. Throughout the day featured authors will be reading from their work in Authors' Chats then discussing the writing of the book. Genres include children's, biographies, fiction, fantasy, health care, local history, among others.

Inside the library, in the Beecher Room, a group of writers' workshops will be going on throughout the day. Speakers will cover topics for both aspiring authors and published authors. The information will be the "nuts and bolts toolbox" every writer will need.

Continued on page 10



Gold Country Authors' Fair includes many tips about publishing from many local authors.

Pioneer Presents: Rising Stars



The Begin family (L-R, Joesph, Annie, Jeannine and Gail) has been performing together for the past nine years. Performing many styles of music (Celtic, country jazz and rock), they frequently feature violinist, Annie, who plays with the Auburn Symphony as well as the Begin Family Band.

AUBURN – Young musicians are being featured in the concert Pioneer Presents: Rising Stars, on Sunday afternoon, May 20, 3 p.m. at 1338 Lincoln Way, Auburn.

Stride pianist, Will Perkins, is a 19 year-old wonder who has performed all over the United States, and recently in Europe. He has performed in the West Coast Ragtime Festival and was the winner of their student music competition in 2007. He has competed in the "Old Time Piano Playing Contest" in Peoria, Illinois and will compete there again later this month.

Gail Begin and her three

children Annie (17), Joseph (15) and Jeannine (12) started performing as a band nine years ago shortly after they moved back to the Auburn area with husband/father Phil Begin from Los Angeles. They have many styles styles of music in their repertoire, ranging from

Celtic, to country, to jazz, to rock.

Annie has continued to study classical violin with her teacher in Los Angeles achieving the highest levels of training making her a virtuoso as a classical violinist and country/folk/jazz fiddler. Joseph has a talent for doing vocal impressions, and can sing in the style of Elvis. Their current goals are to continue to provide quality yet affordable entertainment to the local community.

They are sometimes asked, "Why don't you try out for all the big talent shows on T.V. so you can become famous?" To which Gail replies, "Do you want us to quit being able to perform around here which is what we really love? I

don't think so...We love Placer and Nevada County, the people and easy going rural atmosphere, so for now this is where we want to stay."

The New Traditionalists [TNT] is the regional jazz honor band sponsored by the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society. Musicians are selected by audition from Sacramento area high schools. Their members include Alyssa Clark, clarinet; Nolan Cyr, trumpet; Devan Kortan, guitar and banjo; Bryce Korte, saxophone; Carson Messer, drums; Saray Peralman, Trombone; Dexter Williams, bass; Olivia Sarro, vocals.

This is the sixth concert in a series sponsored by Pioneer United Methodist Church and Auburn Community Concerts to benefit the historic building restoration of the church which hosts many community services and concerts. The public is invited.

Suggested donation: \$20. For more info: (530) 888-6493 or AuburnCommunityConcerts.org.

"Fire and Steel" Descends on Colfax

By Ken Westeren

COLFAX – If you have not had an authentic "Burning Man" experience now is your chance to get a glimpse of what this burner style event is all about. Billed as a family friendly event with a cavalcade of activities, everyone will surely find many things of interest and entertainment.

Bring your bicycle to the bike boutiques and decorate it for free then join the revelers by participating in the "bike parade."

Food, beer, wine, and a margarita garden will provide refreshment. There will be numerous free events including a fashion show.

Historic Downtown Colfax is the location; Saturday May 26 is the date: admission is \$10 if dressed in costume and \$12.00 without. When promoter Jim Bowers was asked to describe acceptable costumes he replied with, "Any kind of costume; traditional Burner Wear, Mardi Gras, face painting, cruise wear, fun clothing. Just be creative and have fun with it."

Other experiences to enjoy are the Fire Art and Sculpture exhibits, performing fire spinners, Hoop Dancers, fire breathers, and burning man art cars. Additionally there will be live painters and artists; gift vendors will display their wares, including hand crated items.

The Celebration begins at 2 pm and runs until 11 pm with the after parties starting at 10 pm going until 2 am.

The "after parties" hosted by 5 local businesses will highlight live music from 10pm until 2am for those night owls in the crowd. Different varieties of music will be featured at each location. Everything from drum circle, classic rock, heavy metal, classic country, rock, and percussion will be offered for your enjoyment. Take in a little of each to expand your horizons.

Proceeds from the event are planned to fund several community and art projects. For those who would like more information regarding this event, you may call Jim Bowers at (916) 521-4489 or visit www.tinyurl.com/fbfire.

Family Bike Festival Rolls Through Auburn

AUBURN – The Sierra Foothills Cycling Club is hosting its second annual Gold Country Century and Family Bike Festival. Join the club Saturday May 12, at the Auburn Recreation Park, for a fun filled day of riding and events for the entire family.

The Gold County Century starts at 7 am in the Gold Rush town of Auburn. From the Auburn Recreation Park the 68 mile metric century and 33 mile half metric century traverse the rolling roads of the Sierra Foothills. From your bike experience Spring; wildflowers, vineyards and green meadows, as you ride through California's Gold Country. The rides end at Auburn's Recreation Park. Awaiting your arrival are raffle prizes, music, drinks and a BBQ lunch.

Proceeds from the BBQ lunch benefit the Auburn Community Cancer Endowment Fund. Music is by the Republicrats. The Metric and Half Metric Century costs \$55 and \$45. The BBQ post ride lunch is included.
Starting at 9:30 am a free

Starting at 9:30 am a free Kid's Bike Safety Check is performed by certified mechanics from Auburn's bike shops. Twenty free helmets to be given away on a first come first served basis.

For the entire family a 3 mile bike ride over the streets of Old Town Auburn starts at 11 am. Auburn's Police Chief, John Ruffcorn leads the ride. Rolling streets closures insure a safe

Event Schedule:
6:00 am – on site
registration: online www.
goldcountrycentury.com
7:00 am – start Century
8:00 am – start Half
Metric Century
9:45 am – Kid's Bike
Safety Check
11:00 am – Family Three
Mile Bike Ride
12:45 am – Half Mile
Trike/Bike ride.

Location: Auburn Recreation Park – corner of Racetrack St. and Recreation Dr.



ride. Medals are given to each participant compliments of Maki Heating and Air. The cost; \$10 per entrant or \$25 per family. The BBQ lunch is not included in the entry fee

in the entry fee.

For the younger kids there is a free half mile trike/small bike ride

over the paved trials in the park. This event starts at 12:45 am.

Your participation benefits two local organizations that focus on our youth, the leaders of tomorrow: The Auburn Recreation District Youth Sports Programs and The Boys and Girls Club

Sports, Fitness and Recreation Programs.

For more information or to register for the Gold County Century or the 3 mile Family Fun Ride go to www.goldcountrycentury.com.

49er's Helps Out the Forgotten Soldiers

By Paula Mosqueda

AUBURN - In March of 2012, the Auburn 49er Lions Club held its annual Celebrity Chefs Cooking for Community Service Event. Each year, the 49ers Lions select a local nonprofit to receive the proceeds from the evening's festivities. This year's recipient was Auburn's Forgotten Soldier Program.

Recently, Donna Arz, Executive Director of the Forgotten Soldier Program received a check in the amount of \$5,000 from 49er Lions Club President, Norm Kendall.

The Auburn 49er Lions and the Forgotten Soldier Program would like to thank the over 100 chefs who donated their time and cooking talents to support our community. Once again, members of Doctor Bach & His Jazz Practitioners donated the music enjoyed by all. Thanks to all



who came to sample the wonderful food and have a good time. We hope you will return again next year.

For more information about

the activities of the Auburn 49er Lions, go to auburn49erlions@ gmail.com. For more information about the Forgotten Soldier Program, call (530) 889-2300.

International Students **Need Host Families**



AUBURN – International high school exchange students are coming to study in the Auburn area during the 2012-13 school year. These students will integrate themselves into a local family with the goal of experiencing American culture as an American high school student does. In turn they will provide insight into their own culture.

STS Foundation, a non-profit student exchange organization, is proud to help facilitate these relationships. They have been

doing so for the past 20 years and look forward to finding new host families in Auburn and connecting them with exchange students. Two of the students STS is looking for host families in the area for this year are coming from Denmark and Norway respectively.

The boy from Denmark 16 years-old and from a small town in Denmark. He loves to play sports, especially tennis, and coaches younger children after school. He enjoys skiing with his

family and would love to learn to snowboard during his stay in the US. He is excited to learn more about American culture and meet new people.

The girl from Norway is also 16 years old and loves to dance. She has been taking lessons since she was a child. She loves summers in Norway because her family spends a lot of time on the coast, enjoying their boat, fishing, and sail boarding. She is a motivated student who hopes to be a midwife some day and is interested in helping others. Her family describes her as kind, easygoing, and independent. They are both excellent students and will have their own spending money and health insurance.

The host family provides a separate bed, family meals and a loving and safe environment. If your family is interested in being a host family please call Lillian Clemente at 1-800-522-4678 or send an email to lillian@stsfoundation.org.

For more information visit www.stsfoundation.org.

"Good" Quality Water Flows In PCWA

AUBURN - Water flowing from the mountains into Placer County Water Agency water treatment plants is of good quality and has only minimal upstream contaminants, as reported Thursday, May 3rd.

In a presentation to the PCWA Board of Directors, Colfaxbased water resources consultant Bonny Starr reported on her firm's recent study of water flowing from the Yuba-Bear River watershed into and through the PCWA canal system.

The report is an update to PCWA's existing Yuba-Bear River Watershed Sanitary Survey, which must be updated every five years, under State Department of Health guidelines.

Starr said few changes were measured over the five-year study period and that inflow to the PCWA system is at very good levels, meets state standards, and carries low risk of any waterborne pollutants. Starr noted that E. Coli values in the untreated water in the Boardman Canal increase as the water flows from higher in the watershed to lower areas that are more populated. However, E. Coli detections

in the Boardman Canal above Auburn revealed no clear source, she reported.

Samples of water coming out of water treatment plants after treatment showed very low levels of turbidity. Starr termed PCWA's solids reduction treatment as "terrific," ranging from 98.3 to 99.7 percent, well above the required 80 percent level.

PCWA's location close to the mountain watershed reduces the chances for upstream pollutants to enter the raw water supply. Potential sources of contamination on the watershed include herbicide use, livestock grazing, forest activities including timber harvesting, fire, public recreation, wastewater collection and treatment facilities, and spills in areas such as highways and railroads.

Completed in recent weeks, the report already has been accepted by the State Department of Health. PCWA also supplies water from the American River watershed and is planning to update its sanitary survey in

In other business, directors: • heard a report from legal adviser Janet Goldsmith who is monitoring the planning of water flows for improvements to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Increases in flows to the Delta of water from the Yuba, Bear, and American rivers could have serious impacts to the people, wildlife and economy of Placer County, she said.

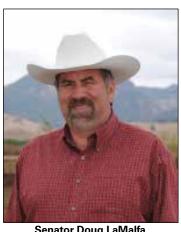
PCWA and numerous north state government agencies and water purveyors remain concerned about loss of local water supplies to solve Delta issues.

• approved a policy revision to allow for temporary water service to disconnected residential and commercial properties being inspected in connection with a real estate transaction.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 17, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in

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

LaMalfa, Nielsen Honor Blue **Star Mothers of America**



Senator Doug LaMalfa

SACRAMENTO - Senator Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) and Assemblyman Jim Nielsen (R-Gerber) were joined today by members of the Blue Star Mothers of California on the floor of the California State

Senate. LaMalfa and Nielsen led the Senate in recognizing May, 2012 as Blue Star Mothers of America Month.

"The Blue Star Mothers are an important support structure both for military personnel stationed overseas and veterans living here in California," said LaMalfa. "The care packages they give our service men and women are a small piece of home during their time in the most dangerous parts of the world."

At the request of the Blue Star Mothers of America's Sierra Nevada Chapter, LaMalfa has authored Senate Concurrent Resolution 78 naming the Brighton Street Overcrossing over State Highway Route 20 in the City of Grass Valley as the

Gold Star Memorial Bridge. The bridge will be renamed in honor of three Nevada County residents who lost their lives while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Many of our men and women are fighting on the frontline for our country," said Nielsen. "There are many more forces contributing to the cause of our nation – the Blue Star Mothers is such a distinguished group, whose efforts are deeply appreciated and just as significant as those soldiers whom they support."

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





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

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

Publisher

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Publisher's Statement: Paul V. Scholl

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 First Issue of May 2012 Placer Sentinel • 3

Leadership Summit Brings Over 50 Nonprofits Together

AUBURN - The Second Annual Nonprofit Leadership Summit was a day to be remembered. Hosted by the Placer Community Foundation, the summit was held on May 2, 2012 at the Orchard Creek Lodge in Lincoln Hills, California. Honoring the many leaders who volunteer their time on our region's boards of directors, more than 250 Board and executive staff members participated in thoughtfully led discussions around best practices in governance, exploring trends, fundamental principles, and an array of techniques that can engage board members. That's over 50 different communitybased organizations in Placer County.

"I am so impressed by the many dedicated community leaders in Placer County," said Jeff Birkholz, Board Chair for Placer Community Foundation. "It was important for us to do the Summit, because we want to make every attempt to provide first-rate services that can improve the quality of life in our region."

Between the years 2000 and 2012, the growth in the nonprofit sector has been tremendous. In Placer County alone, the number of nonprofits who filed tax returns increased from 225 (\$786M) to 738 (\$1.9B) — A growth of 228%. "The ultimate investment in our community and in Board leadership as a whole is not only critical to our region, but vital to the success of the important services our nonprofit sector provides to our residents," said Veronica Blake, CEO of Placer Community Foundation.

Participants represented sectors in health and human services, the environment, animals, education, and the arts. Placer SPCA, a nonprofit organiza-

Placer County, was well represented at the event, bringing six members to participate. "Being an advocate for the organization and cultivating relationships with existing and potential donors is critical," said John Mason, President-Elect. "It was important for us to be here to help our Board learn more ways to steward and cultivate donor relationships."

The Placer Community Foundation gratefully acknowledges the following participants and donors in this year's summit:

Participants (55)

A Touch of Understanding, Acres of Hope, Advocates for Mentally Ill Housing, American Red Cross-Auburn, Animal Spay & Neuter, Art League of Lincoln, Assistance League of Greater Placer, Auburn Interfaith Food Closet, Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center, Auburn Symphony, Battle for Veterans, Boys & Girls Club of Auburn, Child Advocates of Placer County, Community Recovery Resources, Field Haven Feline Rescue and Adoption, Friends Forever, A Cat Sanctuary; Friends of The Roseville Public Library, Full Circle Treatment Center, Hispanic Empowerment Association of Roseville, Junior Achievement of Sacramento, Keaton Raphael Memorial, Kids First, Lighthouse Counseling & Family Resource Center, Lilliput Children's Services, Lincoln Community Foundation, Lincoln Hills Foundation, Literacy Support Council of Placer County, New Mourning Counseling, Pacific Chapter of the Neuropathy Association, Placer Community Foundation, Peace for Families, Placer Community Theater, Placer County Bar Association, Placer County Law Enforcement tion dedicated to facilitating the Chaplaincy, Placer Food Bank, humane treatment of animals in Placer Land Trust, Placer Nature

Center, Placer SPCA, PlacerArts, Redirect Nuevo Camino, Ride to Walk, Rocklin Community Theatre, Roseville Arts, Roseville City School District Foundation, Salvation Army- Roseville, Seniors First, Sierra College Foundation, Sierra Mental Wellness Group, Sierra Native Alliance, St Vincent De Paul Society- Lincoln, St. Vincent De Paul-Roseville Area Conference, Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital, Sutter Roseville Medical Center Foundation, The Gathering Inn, and the Sikh Temple School.

Donors (20)

Armrod Charitable Foundation, AT&T, Azevedo & Associates, Inc., CFY Development, Community First Bank, Comstock Mortgage, First 5 of Placer County, Five Star Bank, JMC Homes, Kaiser Permanente, Pacific Gas & Electric, Placer County Employees Giving Fund, PRIDE Industries, Propp Christensen Caniglia LLP. SureWest Foundation, Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital, Sutter Roseville Medical Center, Taco Bill, Inc., Teichert Foundation, and Wells Fargo.

About Placer Community Foundation Placer Community Foundation was founded as a private foundation in 1948 and was restructured by the board of directors in 2005 to support its mission of growing local giving to benefit our community. We connect with donors who care with causes that matter and are known for sound financial management and knowledge of the nonprofit sector. The combined assets of the Foundation and its supporting organization are \$8.5 million. To learn more about the Placer Community Foundation and how you can give back to your community, visit www. placercf.org.



Kudos to Avantgarden owner Kim Wright who not only has almost eleven years of successful business under her belt but has currently expanded from her High St/Lincoln Way location up to the former Quiet Path store onto Lincoln Way. More colorful accessories for the home and person are vividly displayed in the Lincoln Way site where you'll also meet a cheerful staff.

The newly opened High Street Thrift and Gift adjacent to the fairgrounds welcomes donations of gently used clothing, home accessories and jewelry; and popular author Edna Sparkes can be found volunteering on alternate Tuesdays.

Pet lovers will delight in Bella's Bark Avenue—also new on the scene—a colorful, lively shop in the back of the mall in OT Auburn.

Remember to donate those gently used books, art magazines and DVDs to Friends of The Library when on May 12 from 11am to 3pm the Auburn Library invites the public to The

Around with Loyce Smallwood

Gold Country Authors Faire with numerous authors, writing workshops and crafts for children.

On May 18 in the Beecher Room of the library David Antonucci talks up the 1960 Olympics at Squaw Valley and Lake Tahoe, this for The Friends Noon Program. Celebrants, the group for authors/artists and colorful peeps gathers Mondays at LaBou Bakery in the Belair Center where "Death Panel" author Dan Lombard recently fell in along with Tea Maven Betty Thompson who recently knocked off our socks when Thompson guested on Connections at the ACTV studio where the entrepreneurial Thompson threw the crew quite a colorful tea party complete with homemade scones, tea sandwiches and other delectables.

Betty, owner of Goldrush Emporium on Highway 49 is slated for a return segment on cake decorating with DT Auburn Gimme Cake Too owner Kathy Bianchi who will demonstrate the art. Check www.actv20.org for scheduled times.

Craving zest for the palate? Enjoy the outstandingly savory shrimp tacos at the colorfully appointed Joe Caribe Bistro & Café on Lincoln Way near Lou La Bonte's.



Author Edna Sparks.

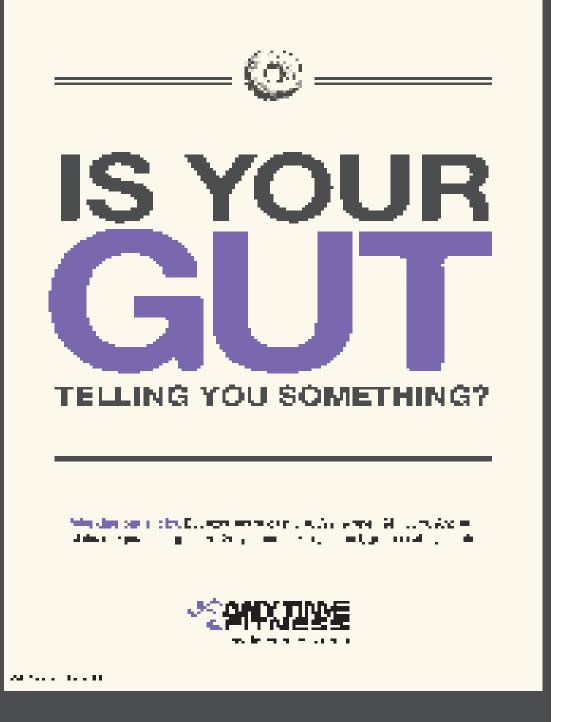
Enjoy the golf scene at Black Oak golf course when Head Pro Terry Fischer oversees The Ladies Cheese/Wine Golf Night Out complete with lesson and play from May 17 to June 14, Thursdays at 5:30pm.

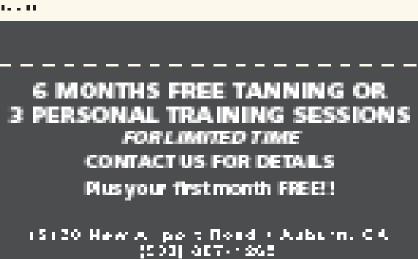
Delight in the art experience outside on May 19 starting at 10am at the Auburn Arts In The Park at the School Park Preserve on College Way. Volunteers are needed for the event and are encouraged to call costumer Joyce Sylva at (530) 823-0409.

Stay tuned for more delights and send comments to loy@ foothill.net.

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Old items, new items, antiques, collectibles, crafted items and treasures galore

For vendor information or questions, call Ray at 530-878-3888

> Breakfast and lunch prepared by the Auburn 49er Lions

District Attorney Scott Owens Hosts 1st Annual Victim's Rights Breakfast

District Attorney R. Scott Owens hosted the first annual Victim's Rights and Community Appreciation breakfast at the Historic Blue Goose in Loomis, California. The event was cohosted with the Placer County Law Enforce-ment Chaplaincy led by Executive Director John Akers and was done in connection with sexual assault awareness month and victim rights week. District Attorney Owens was joined by the counties law enforcement partners includ-ing Placer County Sheriff Bonner, Chief Hahn from Roseville Police Depart-ment, Chief Lawrence from Rocklin Police Department, Chief Ruffcorn from Auburn Police Department, Chief Shelgren from Lincoln Police Department, Chief Probation Officer Marshall Hopper and Joe Whiteford and John Arra-bit from the California Highway Patrol.

The Keynote Speaker Michele Corrao spoke regarding the benefits of public safety working together and in particular, acknowledging the efforts in Placer County where law enforcement does an excellent job. Corrao shared her compelling story of how she survived



her own sexual assault.

Owens also recognized three local citizens with honors for their support of victim's rights, public safety and the community. The "Public Safety Leadership" award was presented to Crime Victims United Founder Harriet Salarno for her long time advocacy for victim's rights. Auburn resident Virgil Traynor was presented with the "Heart of the Community" Award for his longstanding service and commitment to Placer County. The final honor was the "Citizen Recognition

Award" which was awarded to a victim of a recent violent sexual assault who came forward and told of her assault. Her courage led to a life sentence for a violent sex-ual predator.

In his comments Mr. Owens thanked the community for their support of victims and praised the great efforts by law enforcement. Owens also reiterated the District Attorney's Office long standing dedication and commitment to advocating on behalf of the victims of crime in Placer County.

Kiwanis Highway 40 Hot Rod Show

of Greater Colfax is hosting its 4th Annual Highway 40 Hot Rod Show on Saturday, May 19th in Downtown Colfax. Time of the event will be from 10 am - 3 pm.

Breakfast featuring pancakes and/or eggs and bangers and bacon will be available from 8:00am-11:00am. Lunch featuring hot dogs, hamburgers and fixings will be available starting

Car entries allowed will be pre-1970 vehicles and due to space, we are limited to the first 100 entries. Ten trophies will be awarded with the top two being Best of Show and Owner's

COLFAX – The Kiwanis Club Choice. One hundred seriallynumbered dash plaques will also be distributed.

> Pre-payment entry fee is \$15.00 and day of event entry

Because of the new boundaries for our congressional, assembly and state senate districts, candidates of all parties for all offices are invited to set up an informational booth for a \$50.00 fee. For positioning purposes, space must be reserved in advance. NOTE: Neither Kiwanis clubs nor Kiwanis International can endorse any candidate or issue.

All proceeds from our events go toward local projects such as:

Seniors Easter Brunch, Acres of Hope Mother's Day Luncheon, end-of-year awards at Colfax Elementary school, Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAP), Colfax Junior Falcons Football & Cheer, Touch of Home packages for deployed Colfax servicemen and women, Community Recognition Programs, Seniors Christmas Dinner and our Flag Donation Program for our American Military Cemeteries overseas.

For an entry or booth application, please call Melba Delfino *− (530) 346-6539*

Pianist Thomas to Perform at The State Theater

AUBURN - Richard Thomas' last appearance at the First Congregational Church in Auburn was so popular that it is with great anticipation that we have scheduled a 2nd performance at the State Theater in Auburn. He will be performing classical pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Prokofiev, Ravel and Liszt on June 3. Social hour starts at 2:30 pm

Richard will be performing at the Vatican in Rome, Italy with the Peninsula Musical Arts Association (PMAA) this summer. Working with the Choral group they will perform Mass at Saint Peter's Basilica as well as



Richard "Chad" Thomas

other Roman Cathedrals. Proceeds will help fund travel expenses.

Richard began his study of the piano at Music & More in Auburn, and moved to San Francisco to study at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. He is currently working in San Francisco as a pianist and performs in concert, teaches, accompanies, and performs at various musical venues.

Tickets are \$30; please purchase in advance as seating is limited. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Julie Thomas @ (916) 316 2695. Seating Is Limited. Tickets include concert and refreshments. Wine/beer bar for additional purchase.

Bright Future for Placer Libraries

By Ken Westeren

The Placer County Library was recently awarded a \$50,000 strategic planning grant through the Library Services and Technology Act, funds distributed from the California State Library from federal matching dollars. The objective of the strategic planning process is to utilize information and input provided by the community that will result in a series of reports which will help to determine the Library's course of action over the next five years.

The first community conversation was held in early April in Auburn. Though attendance was small, everyone participated enthusiastically and offered excellent feedback to the questions posed by consultants and facilitators George Needham, Library Strategist, and Joan Frye Williams, Library Futurist. "Pundits, planners, problem solvers – we're librarians on a mission! Teaming a futurist (Joan) with a strategist (George) lets us dream big but stay real. We focus on what nonlibrary "civilians" really want, what libraries can do to stay ahead of their communities' changing needs and expectations, and how we can all maintain some perspective and retain our principles so that moving forward doesn't get us down."

The facilitators asked many questions of the participants including: What is great about living in Placer County? What changes would you like to see? The last question queried what advice would you give the Library, which received a variety of positive suggestions.

Mary George, Director of Library Services, said of the first community conversation, "I was energized by the folks who contributed to the community conversation...and the ideas shared will be the first of many building blocks to a dynamic strategic plan for the library. We will continue to ask how the library can benefit our community and make respectful decisions based on the outcomes."

The Placer County Library would like the community to consider the following in providing the hired consultants with valuable feedback needed to shape the five year strategic plan:

- Looking ahead five years, what changes would you like to see in your community?
- What would you like to remain the same?
- · What would contribute to a better future for:

Children Long-term residents Seniors

Business people New residents Visitors

Whether or not you are a current library user, this is an opportunity to help shape the future directions of your public library.

Heidi Johnson, Library Advisory Board Member, is a veteran of this process having sat on the committee that helped draw up the previous Library Facilities Plan after the 2000 census. Of the community conversation Mrs. Johnson says, "I thought it was very stimulating... We weren't just lectured to, the speakers asked and we responded. It will be fascinating to see how these general comments on Placer County's needs; will fit into a five year library plan."

Residents of Placer County are encouraged to direct questions regarding future community conversations and other public input opportunities by calling Mary George at (530) 886-4551.

The Placer County Libraries include branches in the following areas: Applegate, Auburn, Colfax, Foresthill, Granite Bay, Kings Beach, Loomis, Meadow Vista, Penryn, Rocklin, Tahoe City, and the Bookmobile.







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First Issue of May 2012 Placer Sentinel • 5

Oil and Gas: Giving Due Thanks

By Robert L. Bradley, Jr.

Politicians in Washington continue to pick favorites when it comes to energy.

At the bottom as least favorite are oil and natural gas companies, which have again come under fire by the Obama Administration after their release of quarterly earnings. Policymakers see profits and think tax increases -- not a good thing in a free economy.

At the top as most favorite are the politically correct renewables solar and wind. They draw generous praise from green-minded politicians and receive lavish taxpayer subsidies.

But as the Solyndra bankruptcy demonstrated, renewables have seriously failed to live up to the hype. "Green" tech companies have taken in tens of billions in taxpayer support -- and generated little in the way of jobs, sustainable economic activity, or consumer benefits.

Meanwhile, America's oil and natural gas industry continues to make an outsized contribution to our economy. It's time to check that list of favorites and rethink this preferential treatment.

The country's largest gas and oil companies just released the year's first-quarter earnings. Just as expected, the left was quick to launch its familiar attack on the industry, condemning it for its apparent excess.

This quarter Chevron generated \$6.5 billion. Shell's earnings rose to an impressive 16 percent to \$7.3 billion. ExxonMobil, the leading U.S. oil company, posted a whopping \$9.45 billion. The numbers are certainly eye-popping, but they are far from excessive. Just consider what those profits mean for the economy.

1. What's excessive about creating jobs?

The oil and natural gas industry supports approximately 9 million American jobs. Major new projects can create steady employment for entire communities. The Barnett shale, for instance, supports 100,000 jobs in northern Texas alone. Natural gas production in the Marcellus contributes double that to the Pennsylvania economy.

And job growth in oil and gas has a profound multiplier effect in other industries from manufacturing to transportation to accounting. In fact, one analysis from PricewaterhouseCoopers found that each oil and gas job indirectly supports three other positions in the rest of the economy.

The Labor Department estimates that total American oil and gas jobs jumped by half in the past decade, making this industry one of the few to keep adding positions despite the recession.

2. What's so excessive about investing in America?

In 2010 -- the most recent year of complete data -- the oil and natural gas industry accounted for almost a half trillion dollars in benefits to the American economy. This estimate is comprised of \$266 billion in new capital spending, \$176 billion in paid wages, and \$35 billion in stock dividends.

3. What's so excessive about generating tax revenue?

Taxes paid in the United States by many of the biggest oil and natural gas companies actually exceed their domestic earnings. For example, over the past five years, ExxonMobil has paid three times more in U.S taxes (\$60 billion) than its U.S. earnings (\$19 billion). State and municipal governments across the country are staring down massive budget shortfalls. The federal government has racked up \$14 trillion in debt. Strong tax generation from oil and gas firms provides some much-need relief on the public balance sheet.

4. What's excessive about improving returns on retirement investments?

When oil and gas stocks thrive, the benefits aren't confined to a cadre of industry elites. Nearly 50 percent of industry shares are held in public and private retirement plans. Individual investors own another 20 percent.

As a result, when this industry grows, the retirement savings for millions of average Americans get stronger. After the devastation wrought on 401(k)s and IRAs during the recession, this boost has been vital.

5. What's excessive about plentiful energy?

Remember in the 1970s when Americans had to wait in long lines to buy rationed fuel? In addition to driving uncertainly, people worried about having enough home heating oil through the cold of winter. In some parts of the world, petroleum products are still very scarce and a luxury.

But here in America, energy is easily accessible at competitive prices. That's due to the ability of the oil and gas sector to find, develop, produce, and market a product that remains vitally important in American life. It's time to give thanks where thanks are due.

Robert L. Bradley Jr. is the CEO & Founder of the Institute for Energy Research and author of seven books on energy history and public policy. He blogs at www.masterresource.org.

A Blueprint for Medicare Reform

Commentary by Douglas Schoen

Medicare, which according to a new assessment will go bankrupt by 2024, is in dire need of reform. But there are right ways and wrong ways to go about it. The right reform would save money while giving seniors better access to care.

Between 1991 and 2009, Medicare grew at an annual rate of 8 percent. In 2010, it cost the country an eye-popping \$450 billion. We can't afford this for long. In the next 75 years, Medicare will face unfunded liabilities approaching \$36 trillion.

This is especially daunting because Americans are protective of the program. Seventy percent - including 53 percent of Republicans - would like to see it remain the way it

is, according to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation poll.

The hard truth is that that's impossible. Both Republicans and Democrats recognize the need for change. Unfortunately, their proposals have come up short

Rep. Paul Ryan's plan, which passed the House this month, has many flaws. But it also has elements worth considering.

The Wisconsin Republican has proposed an exchange in which seniors choose among competing plans. It would give seniors a set level of support based on the cost of plans where they live, guaranteed to cover insurance at current levels. Those who opt for cheaper plans could pocket the savings. A recent American Enterprise Institute study found that competitive bidding of this kind could save \$339 billion over

10 years without raising taxes or sacrificing benefits.

But many doubt that seniors would have enough guidance to choose wisely and that competitive forces would keep out-of-pocket expenses low. Plus, Ryan's plan doesn't even begin to balance the budget in its first decade. Indeed, it would likely keep seniors with the most serious health conditions in traditional Medicare, putting additional financial pressures on an already-overburdened system.

The main cost-control element in President Obama's health-care law is also problematic. The law established the Independent Payment Advisory Board, an all-powerful panel charged with keeping a lid on costs. Beginning in 2014, it will recommend cuts whenever Medicare is projected to exceed preset spending levels.

Its recommendations can be overridden only by a two-thirds vote of Congress or by a law imposing cuts of equal value, making them all but equivalent to law.

Worse, the board has limited options. It can't adjust Medicare premiums, cost-sharing, or eligibility. What it can do is reduce reimbursement of healthcare providers.

Lower reimbursement rates could devastate the 44 million Americans who rely on Medicare by spurring an exodus of physicians from the program. Already, the American Academy of Family Physicians reports that more than 12 percent of its doctors no longer accept Medicare.

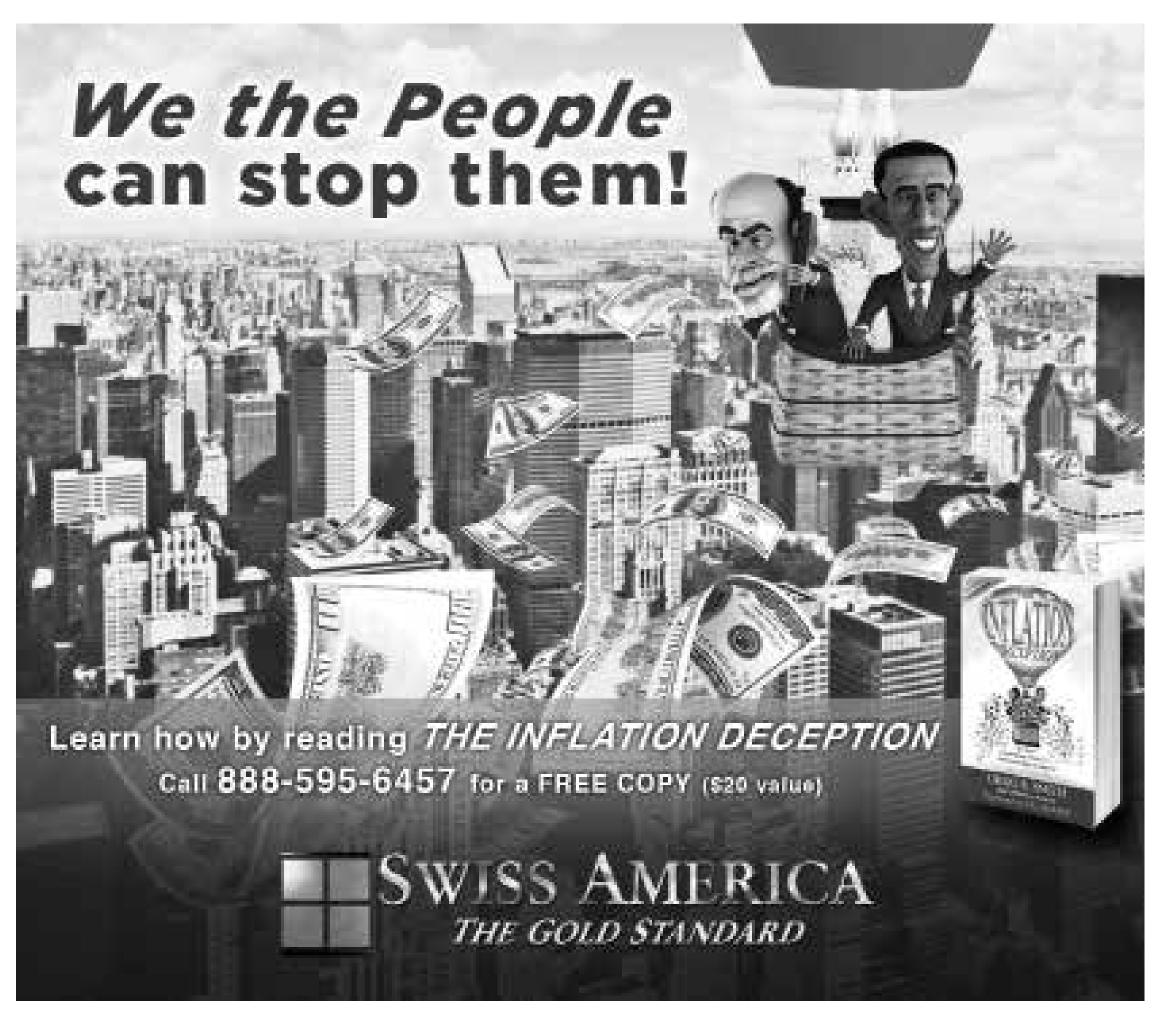
Any major changes in Medicare should be debated and decided by elected officials. A transparent discussion of the options would help Americans understand the trade-offs.

For example, lawmakers could consider raising the eligibility age for Medicare from 65 to 67, which would save \$124 billion over 10 years. Increasing beneficiaries' share of costs from 25 percent to 35 percent would save \$241 billion. Gradually limiting benefits for high-income enrollees - an idea proposed by Obama and backed by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles commission - could save another \$20 billion.

Lawmakers should also look at the parts of Medicare that work in particular, the prescription drug benefit, known as Part D. In Part D, private insurers vie for seniors' business, competing on price and choice. Thanks to this competition, it has become the country's most successful and cost-effective entitlement program. In important ways, this approach isn't very different from Ryan's plan. Asked if the Part D model could be extended to the rest of Medicare, the respected chief actuary of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services said, "Obviously, it would represent a large change from the status quo, but I think it could work."

Lawmakers need to address concerns about Ryan's proposal. A plan that squeezes or bewilders seniors isn't the answer. But neither is the unaccountable, inflexible panel created by the healthcare law.

Douglas Schoen is a political strategist and the author of "Hopelessly Divided: The New Crisis in American Politics and What it Means for 2012 and Beyond" (Rowman & Littlefield).





By Ronnie McBrayer

I was smacked away from the dinner table on one occasion. Calm down, I was never abused, not even close. But my parents did believe in the effectiveness of that proverb, "Spare the rod, spoil the child." Thus, I was definitely not spoiled.

Even if corporal punishment had not been practiced in my childhood home, I still would not have been over-indulged. Our family was quite poor. My father often worked two jobs in the textile mills to pay the bills and keep the roof over our heads, and my mother cared for my youngest sibling who was very ill. There was always more month than money, and my wardrobe of patched blue jeans and worn-out tennis shoes proved as much and sometimes, so did our diet.

On what felt like the umpteenth night in a row that my mother served us the culinary delights of macaroni and cheese and fish sticks, I just could not eat another serving of the Gorton's Fisherman. So, not knowing the economic pressures of feeding a family on a meager income, I voiced my complaint: "Fish sticks, again! Is that all we

You can guess the response. She said, "Why don't you learn to be thankful! There are children all over the world who

Love, Mom

would love to have a fish stick to eat." You can also guess my unwise answer: "Well," I said, "Why don't you send those children my fish sticks, because I can't stand to eat another one." I discovered that a fish stick tastes pretty good with a fat lip.

My mother shared a lot of other well-worn but accurate expressions with me as well (usually not as forcefully as the whole fish stick episode turned out). You heard these words of wisdom too: "Money doesn't grow on trees...When you have your own house you can make your own rules...Quit running with that or you will put your eye out...If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all...Don't put that in your mouth; you don't know where it has been...Close the door were you born in a barn...Always wear clean underwear...If everyone jumped off a cliff would you do it too...Your face is going to freeze like that."

We've all heard these things because children of all generations need words of wisdom and correction; because children of all generations like to run with scissors in their hands, object to their mother's cooking, and leave the door standing wide open. Words of correction (even those that are a bit unorthodox at the dinner table) are expressions of a mother's love, and all children need love.

We Christians emphasize the Father-like love of God. And yes, he is our Father. But this emphasis on the paternal, can give us a blind spot so that we fail to see and emphasize the deep motherquality to God's love for us. God is also Mother, with a love that is warm, deeply affectionate, and unconditional. In many ways, a mother's guiding, nurturing, compassionate love is best reflective of whom God is.

I like how John Killinger, in his book Lost in Wonder, puts it. He writes, "I believe in the love of all mothers, and its importance in the lives of their children. It is stronger than steel, softer than down, and more resilient than a green sapling on the hillside. It closes wounds, melts disappointments, and enables the weakest child to stand tall and straight in the fields of adversity. I believe that this love, even at its best, is only a shadow of the love of God, a dark reflection of all that we can expect of him, both in this life and the next.'

Certainly, not everyone has experienced this kind of love from their parents, and are thus quite suspicious of a God who offers to love us without manipulation, abuse or ill-treatment. Still, as the Psalmist said, "Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close" (Psalm 27:10). And hold use he/she will, because we all need love.

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.

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.

My Mother Was Wrong About Spinach

By Rev. James L. Snyder

One of the great joys of getting older, and there is at least one joy involved in this grueling process, is discovering that you were right all the time. I try not to boast here because, well, that's just the kind of person I am. And, I'm not going to make a list of all of the things I was "right" about. No sense in boasting, but I just can't resist one.

Some of these things centered on my relationship with my mother. One advantage a mother has over her children is that sense of authority and being right all the time. Looking back, I can see that she was not right all the time.

As a young person, my mother told me things I have since learned not to be true. For example:

It takes more than clean underwear to survive an accident.

The boogieman under my bed does not exist... any more.

None of my friends wants to jump off a bridge.

I will grow up even if I don't

clean up my plate. And, it's almost impossible to

behave yourself and have a good time simultaneously. My mother, like other mothers, was not a bad mother.

She just had bad information, much of which she got from her mother. I'm not sure where grandmother got her information, but it too was wrong. And, when you have bad information, there is nothing more you can do but inflict it upon your children. And my mother inflicted away at us children.

This week another one of these "not true things," was revealed. This one was the mother of all untrue things mothers tell their

I must confess there is a bittersweet sense of victory in this recent announcement.

I can't tell vou how many times my mother told me to "Eat your spinach. It's good for you." When I would protest she would further admonish me by saying, "Finish all of your spinach on your plate, it won't kill you."

Boy was she wrong. I hate to say, "I told you so." However, the temptation is beyond my ability to resist. After all, I'm only a man. I guess I never ate enough spinach for the strength to resist everything.

For years, I told my mother that spinach was not good for me. Now, I have scientific proof as well as verification from the United States government that spinach can kill you.

Where was all this information

and government verification when I was young and being force-fed spinach? Some things should be retroactive. If I could find a way to give back all the spinach I have eaten from my mother's table I certainly would do it right now. (Could someone find me a porkbarrel?)

Of course, there is always the idea that my mother knew this and was simply trying to kill me. No, after further thought, I'm sure that is far from being true. But don't think I haven't been pondering this, lately. She had plenty of evidence to incite this kind of attitude toward me, I assure you.

My mother used everything she could think of to get me to eat my spinach. She used intimidation, arguments and a gold old-fashioned thrashing. None of it seemed to make her spinach taste any better.

One of the arguments my mother used to get me to eat spinach was good ole Popeye. "Popeye eats spinach," my mother would taunt me. "Look at all of the things he does because of eating spinach."

Of course, from my observation, Popeye only ate spinach when he was in extreme trouble and his life was being threatened. I tried to have an agreement with my mother that I would eat spinach every time my life was threatened. Then she threatened my life.

Her arguments continued. 'Certainly you want to be like Popeye, don't you?" my mother

To which I responded, "Yes, and he smokes a pipe too. Can I smoke a pipe?" I did not think it fair for my mother to make me eat spinach and then not

allow me to smoke a pipe. If you choose one the other comes too.

At the time, my mother was not too amused with my argument concerning Popeye's pipe. I tried explaining that Popeye's use of spinach was only occasionally but his use of the pipe was continuously. This argument had no effect upon my mother, but it did cause severe pain in my left ear as she led me by my ear back to the table to finish my

At the time, my mother had a one-track mind, which led to a plate of spinach. I, on the other hand, had a one-track mind, which led as far away from that plate of spinach as possible. Nothing would do but clean up my plate of spinach. Only one mind could win, and it sure wasn't mine.

I listened with amusement to all this news concerning spinach this past week. Reflecting upon this incident from my past, a verse of Scripture came to my mind. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17

At the time of my spinach eating frenzy, my mother thought she was doing the right thing. At the time she was, much to my consternation. It's not so much, what we do, as it is what we

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at (352) 687-4240 or e-mail jamessnyder2@ att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.



By Marlys Norris, **Christian Author**

Sin is a word most people to do not like because it means they must face responsibility and be accountable to someone for our actions. Sin is some action a person does they know God, their parents and society disapprove and they feel helpless to stop.

The enemy of God uses sin to destroy ones life and relationships. Any form of sin causes a person to come into a form of "bondage" that cripples their life when they continue to yield to it. The longer one allows a sin to rule the actions of their life the harder it becomes to break away from.

One who continues to yield to their sinful nature becomes Satan's advocate as he/she

A Word No One Likes

speaks unfruitful words to others. Their words bring division and destroy unity. Satan attacks believers in many different ways and if someone is immature in their walk with God unkind words will devastate their lives. For instance: Satan may even come as an angel of light, gently approaching someone who has not yet matured in the faith. He will cunningly persuade and convince them, that what they once knew and believed is childish and immature. They assure them they have a better idea and to put aside everything they have previously believed. If they do this Scripture warns that God will take them home to heaven early rather than lose them to His enemy. Backsliding is not an option in the mind of God. (see O.T. Deuteronomy 30:17-18)

Satan also uses people who are not sincerely committed to God, to do his bidding and to hopefully destroy lives and/or their testimony. Satan's focus is especially on anyone who is a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.. Depending on a person's

knowledge of God's Holy Word and their personal practice of prayer — will govern both their response and personal ability to acknowledge where the hateful words originate.

One day everyone will be accountable! Scripture clearly tells us — " . . . for all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God". (Romans 3:23) Jesus death purchased our forgiveness and salvation. When a believer is faithful, their life is fruitful. They live to buildup and edify everyone in their personal journey and knowledge. The authority of their lives comes from God. They live in an attitude of forgiveness and live according to all the instructions in the Word of God, The Holy Bible.

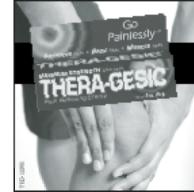
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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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Sentinel

well as nearby employment centers. The Community Employment

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employment resource, JobJournal.com. When you need the most comprehensive information on local employment

to start nosing around.

3 5 4 5 3 8 6 9 5 8 6 3 9 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!

CRAPPIE TRICK Having trouble catching spring crappies? Here's all Hie trick that could help you put a mess of good eating crappie in Attach a mannow to a *4 style isidk almint 3 or 4 laat melar a small to meditum size babber. and without any other kind of eedgin. When you cast it out, the machaw will drop very slowly hooligh the water. If you court get a laite, gently eep (be rod tip) or 4 feet pul ing the minnow right back to the surface so it can fall through the water again. The steht of that slowly falling, struggling minnow is usually more fran even the most finicky crapple can resist. Jimmy Heaston is Host of Yimmy Houston Ouldpars 77 Show on ESPN29 Her interesting los pinto





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9. *This Harvard team rows on Boston's

16. Catherine Middleton's new accessory

. Formula One racer

ACROSS

6. Holiday helper

14. Be a witness

24. 8 to Caesar

15. *East side of Jersey

19. Like a black-tie event

25. Rudyard Kipling novel

__-de-camp

35. Black tropical cuckoos

37. Elton John and Bono, e.g.

40. Anything half-moon shaped

41. Brother of a certain secret orde

50. Like #44 Across, this also wafts

30. To produce within

39. Lined with crystals

43. Largest continent

44. It usually wafts

46. Farmer's storage

48. Navy rank

47. Short for "dictionary"

21. *In the middle of the U.S.

23. Often comes before "out"

__ capita 18. *Native of Des Moines

Charles River

13. "Get

CLUES

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53 Birdhrain 55. Small protuberance

57. *Steamboat and Old Faithful, e.g.

61. PBS street 64. German submarine destroyer

65. Philosophical system 67. "On a of 1 to 10'

69. Averages 70. Water in Paris

71. Tiny amounts

72. Bent when genuflecting 73. Decay

74. Beside, archaic

DOWN 1. Dojo pad 2. *Like Mohave Desert

3. Popular cooking method for Ahi tuna 4. Hindu woman's dress

5. *Mount McKinlev state

6. Oscar of sports _ Harvey Oswald

8. Nobel-winning physicist

9. Grub

10. U.S. furniture maker 11. Time periods

12. Moved or exited

15. Building side

20. Temblor or quake

22. Mad King George, or George ____

24. Particular rendering

25. *Southernmost point of U.S 26. Contain the ashes 27. King of ancient Crete

29. Buenos 31. Necklace pearl, e.g. 32. Violinist's pine resin

33. Court order, e.a. 34. End of the road?

36. 18-wheeler 38. Auctioneer's exclamation

42. Not a soul 45. Ends of shoe laces 49. And not

51. *Western neighbor to #5 Down

54. Twig of a willow tree

56. Comes in bits for salads 57. Thick messy substance

58. Jet black 59. Yestervear

60. Equal

61. Plant fungus 62. Friend from Down Under

63. Distinctive elegance 66. Paolo

68. *Three ahead of PST

For Solution See Page 7

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Placer Sentinel • 9 First Issue of May 2012



by David Dickstein

Family Films

"The Raven" Now playing, rated R imdb.com/theraven

Edgar Allan Poe's dark and brooding 1845 poem, "The Raven," has been adapted as a movie roughly two dozen times for a century, from silent screen versions to a recent direct-to-video spin set in the 1920s. So much for what the bird said about "nevermore."

Since always more seems to be in style when it comes to movies inspired by one of the most famous poems ever written, it's that time again to add another to the already vast collection. After all, the new release is titled "The Raven." Uh, not so fast, Poe fans. This "Raven," to borrow from the anti-macabre "Sesame Street," doesn't belong with all the others.

Rather than basing the movie on a single literary work, this entertaining though flawed piece of historical fiction is a Poe's "greatest hits," of sorts, centered on a serial killer whose victims die in ways straight out of the American writer's genius. The protagonist isn't one of Poe's characters, but Poe, himself, played by John Cusack. The writer is reluctantly brought into the murder case as a criminal profiler, and things get personal fast. Not only does Poe's lady love find herself in grave danger, but he is subjected to seeing his grisly tales come to life at the hands of a homicidal maniac whose identity is expectedly revealed very late in the game. Think "Saw," Se7en," "Misery" and "Silence of the Lambs" all mixed together.

Cleverly worked into the film, directed by James McTeigue ("V for Vendetta"), are "The Tell-Tale Heart," "The Pit and the Pendulum," "The Masque of the Red Death," "The Cask of Amontillado" and several other tales, plus a reading of "Annabel Lee" for good measure. Those unfamiliar with Poe's work will be the lesser for missing the ceaseless references, and it helps to know some aspects of Poe's bizarre final hours going in.

For a movie based on one of the greatest literary writers ever, Poe's memory deserves better than a script with plot holes the size of Baltimore. Plus, there's a fair share of historical errors, one being that



Movies and DVDs for the Whole Family

"serial killer," used for a newspaper headline in 1849, wasn't coined until the 1970s. Also weighing down an otherwise engaging thriller is the makeup, or lack of, used on Cusack. The actor's healthy-looking face, boundless energy and sharp-asa-tack mind fail to bare even a hint of the personal torment and addition to opiates and alcohol suffered by the man being portrayed. Quoth the movie-going raven, "Best you check your logic at the door." 3 of 5 Stars

"Moonlight Kingdom" Opens May 25, rated PG-13 focusfeatures.com/ moonrise_kingdom

The rating suggests that tots should steer away, but parents of tweenish-aged children cool on coming-of-age movies are probably in for a treat. Writerdirector Wes Anderson's ("The Fantastic Mr. Fox") story, set off the New England coast in the 1960s, follows a young boy and girl in puppy love. When he goes AWOL from summer camp and she runs away from home to rendezvous in the wilderness, the



"The Avengers" Opens May 4, rated PG-13 avengers.marvel.com

What do you get when you mix Iron Man, The Incredible Hulk and Thor with Captain America, Hawkeye and Black Widow? Probably a huge presummer hit. Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson and unceasing special effects head up this popcorn flick that finds an unexpected enemy threatening global security. Our only hope is in a superheroic dream team assembled by an international peacekeeping agency known as S.H.I.E.L.D.



"Men in Black III" Opens May 25, rated PG-13 meninblack.com

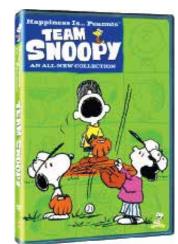
Fifteen years since the original and 10 since the nearly successful sequel, Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones are back in a world where humans and aliens co-exist fairly peacefully. Unfortunately, there's one alien set on killing Agent K (Jones), and for some reason Agent J (Smith) must travel back in time to stop this from happening. Josh Brolin plays a young Agent K, a tasty add-on in what is Smith's first film in 3 ½ years – overexposure resolved.

town is turned upside down. The loaded adult cast includes Bruce Willis, Bill Murray, Frances McDormand and Tilda Swinton.

Family DVDs

"Dougie in Disguise" Volumes 1 and 2 (ages 2-5, now available, not rated): Sold separately, these two discs teach preschoolers about different jobs, animals and parts of the world. Dougie and his dog Tim move from vignette to vignette with the help of young viewers who "choose" stickers from an album. Grade: A

"Happiness is ... Peanuts: Team Snoopy" (ages 2-7, released May 8, not rated): The 2003 special "Lucy Must Be Traded, Charlie Brown," the first U.S. DVD release of the multiskit "Snoopy's Brother Spike" from 1985 and two half-hour shows highlight a good sportsthemed mix on a single disc. The newer stuff isn't up to snuff animation-wise, but, hey, it's still Peanuts. Grade: B+



Dollars and Sense

by James J. Scherer, MBA, CPA

Pitfall of 529 Saving Accounts

The IRS, under code section 529, provides for a tax free method for paying for qualified education expenses. In general you may gift money to a qualified plan, and if certain rules are kept, there will be no tax to neither the owner (normally the parents) nor the beneficiary (normally their child), if the funds and earnings are used to pay for qualified education expenses. This article will discuss some of the pitfalls associated with these plans.

Gifting Issues:

Watch of if you plan to give more than \$13,000 (\$26,000 for a husband and wife) to a qualified individual in a tax year. The excess over these amounts may be subject to gift tax. However, there is an exception to this rule if you make an election on form 709 to "treat the transfers made this year to a qualified tuition program as made ratable over a 5-year period beginning this year". Translated this means a single individual can give \$65,000 (\$130,000 for a husband and wife) to a qualified individual in year one. However, be sure you file the gift tax return in the year the gift is made and make this election. If a married couple elect's gift-splitting, both husband and wife must file separate

gift tax returns and make the fiveyear election. The gift tax return is due by April 15th after the year in which the gift is made.

Investment Issues:

The IRS allows you to change your investments only once a year. In the current secular bear market this rule has wreaked havoc on investment results of 529 plans. Since 2001 the stock market has been flat to down from its March 2000 highs. Many plans are flat and some have even lost money. Therefore, make your yearly investment selection wisely.

Account Rollovers:

Watch out for rollovers! You can rollover a 529 plan to another plan with the same beneficiary only once every twelve months. It is much like the IRA rollover rules. If you break this rule taxes and penalties will be due. If you have two or more 529 plans for the same beneficiary check to be sure that you have not rolled over any of these plans during the last twelve months. Rollovers must be deposited into the new 529 plan within 60 days from the distribution.

Timing the Payment of **Qualified Expenses:**



Distributions used to pay for qualified expenses should be made in the same calendar year the expense is incurred. However, IRS may the distribution if made by March 31 following the calendar year of the expense was incurred. As with all tax law it changes quickly. Be sure to check with your tax accountant.

James J. Scherer of Towne Scherer Private Wealth Management is a Registered Principal and Financial Advisor with and securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC, and CA Insurance License # 0C20370. He can be reached at 916-797-1188 or by email at james.scherer@townescherer.com. The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Del Oro Hosts Sierra STEM Instructors at SketchUp Workshop

PLACER COUNTY - College and high school instructors spent Saturday, April 14 together at Del Oro High School to learn how their classes might use the free Google SketchUp (http://sketchup.google. com/) 3D modeling program combined with the sketchyphysics (http://code.google.com/p/ sketchyphysics/) plug in that animates designs. The Sierra STEM Collaborative (http://sierraschoolworks.com/) at Sierra College, dedicated to promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers, organized the event. Instructors from Sierra College as well as Placer, Woodcreek and Del Oro high schools also shared best practices and toured the Tech Essentials, Welding and Wood labs to see equipment and student projects.

According to participants, sharing ideas with other Career Technical Education teachers is one of the best forms of professional development. Participants said that what they learned was relevant, they could see their classes importing sketches and CAD drawings into SketchUp and that sharing concepts, projects and teaching tools was very valuable.

Tom Stargaard, Tech Essentials teacher at Del Oro, demonstrated SketchUp, explained how he integrated it into the Tech Essentials class required for freshmen and then helped participants try it themselves. In addition, the teachers discussed assignments using the Career Cruising program supplied to the schools through the Sierra STEM



Collaborative to help students identify careers and the education path to get to their goals.

Sierra College's goal is to attract students to Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education and careers explained Carol-Pepper-Kittredge, Sierra College CACT director, who administers the Sierra STEM Collaborative. "College and high school instructors told us that they want to see labs, share projects and find out about other teaching tools," said Pepper-Kittredge. "When college and high school instructors collaborate, many students benefit and it contributes to a smoother transition to college."

The California Community College Chancellor's Office awarded grants to Sierra College to create a pipeline of students prepared to fill the need for skilled technical employees. For information, go to www.sierraschoolworks.com or contact Carol Pepper-Kittredge, director, Center for Applied Competitive Technologies, Sierra College, at cpepper-kittredge@sierracollege.edu or (916) 660-7517.

"Starting New at Golf" Course Now Open

NEWCASTLE - Have you ever wanted to play golf but did not want to go through the frustrating learning period? Here in Newcastle, there is a 9 hole SNAG (Starting New at Golf) golf course at Home on the

Auburn Recreation District in partnership with Home on the Range is offering camps this summer both for adults and children. We're starting out with a free SNAG golf day, Saturday May 26, 10am to 1pm, at Home on the Range, 671 Newcastle Road, Newcastle, 95658. SNAG is designed to be easy and fun for both beginners and seasoned players of all ages (2 to 102).

SNAG is played with oversized clubs, mini tennis balls (weighted the same as an official golf ball), and Velcro targets. While traditional golf can take



two and a half hours to play 9 holes, SNAG can be played in less than 30 minutes.

Come out and play with us.

Registration for camp will be taken on the 26th at Home on the Range or visit www.auburnrec. com for further information.

Visit us online at www.PlacerSentinel.com (530) 823-2463

Denis Peirce to Speak at Fishing Club Breakfast

owner of Arctic Fox Trolling Flies, will be the special guest speaker at the Rooster Tails Fishing Club breakfast on Friday, May 18, 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.

Denis, a renowned media personality, fly & lure manufacturer, and fishing celebrity has lived and fished in Nevada County since 1978. He is the weekly radio host of the KNCO Fishing & Outdoor Reports that airs on Friday evenings, repeating on Saturday morning. He also manufactures fishing flies and the Arctic Fox

AUBURN - Denis Peirce, Trolling Flies for those fishermen who troll for trout rather than fly casting. Denis will talk about fishing tackle for various types of fish including trout, shad, steelhead, etc. and bring samples of his trolling flies. Tom Moreno will also attend and present a video about underwater trolling flies.

Also, at the breakfast, the Rooster Tail Consignment Program will continue. Members, guests, and visitors are invited to bring new and used table-top fishing tackle, rods, reels, and related fishing tackle and fishing items to the Elk's Lodge to sell, trade, or donate to the club. Prices are set by the seller with a requested 10% donated to the Rooster Tails treasury. A great way to bring your fishing gear up to date for pennies on the dollar!

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. 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.



MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL

How can you show MOM you really care on her special day? You can do the usual... flowers, candy, dinner. Wait a minute! What did Mom do for you when you were growing up? Remember the time she held your hand when you missed that home run pitch? And the time she kissed that boo-boo after you toppled off your bike? Or the time she stayed up all night to help mend that broken heart? It's not how much you spend for Mom on any day. It's more like doing something from hand and heart that will leave an impression she'll long remember. Easier said than done? Not really. I checked out a couple of sources and jotted down a few ideas that will make you her kid hero all year 'round!

From Susan Stone's Book "Memories In Moments"...cherished ideas for every holiday and season including Mother's Day

1) Freeze edible flowers in ice cube trays. Fill each cube halfway with water, place flowers and freeze. Then fill each to thetop and freeze. It'll warm her heart.

POPPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

2) Plant your favorite bedding plant in a small basket. Tie on a gift tag with a checkered ribbon.

3) Bake bread in flower-shaped

4) Surprise Mom with a quiet retreat in her own bathroom. Make sure it's clean first. Bring in scented candle, flowers, new magazine or book, a cold drink, and a portable stereo with soothing music. The most important part would be a sign on the door reading "JUST FOR MOM... PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB!

Then I turned to Casey Kellar for some wonderful tips to complete the picture from one of her books "The Good Earth Bath, Beauty, And Health Book" with more than 75 easy-to-make formulas for self-pampering and gift-giving like:

1) Luxurious Scented Bath Oil. You Will Need:

½ Cup apricot kernel oil

1 teaspoon jojoba oil

2 tablespoons olive oil

one 400 unit Vitamin E capsule (pierce it with a needle and squeeze oil into mix)

3-6 drops essential oil (your choice)

Mix all together. Use 1 tablespoon per bath. Store in bottle in cool place. Shelf life:4-8 months 2) Super Moisturizing Massage

You will need:

½ cup sweet almond oil

1/4 cup coconut oil 4 tablespoons jojoba oil

1-1/2 tablespoons avocado oil 3-5 drops essential oil of

your choice (either one or a combination)

Mix all together. Store in cool dry place. Shelf Life: 3-6 months

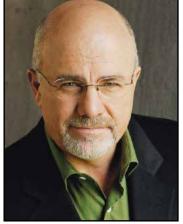
3) All-in-one Linen and Sweater Protector And Cedar Chest Revitalizer, you will need: 1 cup white rice

6 drops cedar wood essential oil 1 drop orange essential oil

Add essential oil to the rice and blend with spoon about 30 seconds. Shelf Life: Approximately. 6-8 months (then can be re-fragranced again

Remember, the best gift you can give your Mother is love. Spend time with Mom. Let her know you care. There will come a day when she is gone, and you don't want to be saying...if only! I know. My mom is gone now, but her memories will always be in my heart. I know they will be in yours too. Happy mother's Day in the sweetest way...giving of yourself!

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



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

Frustration Along the Way?

Dear Dave,

I'm about to complete Baby Step 3. I've been very intense about following your plan, but I was wondering if there's ever any kind of frustration or letdown after you've come this far.

- Rasheed

Dear Rasheed

You're right. The beginning three Baby Steps are very intense. First, you get \$1,000 in the bank—\$500 if you make less than \$20,000 a year—for a beginner emergency fund as fast as you can. Then, pay off all your debts, except the house, from smallest to largest, and after that you finish out your emergency fund with three to six months of expenses. This is a real whirlwind of activity, because everything should be wrapped up in an aggressive, we've-got-to-get-this-done kind of attitude.

I guess if there's a letdown it could come from the feeling that once you're out of debt except for your house, things should kick into overdrive and you'll become instantaneously wealthy. That just isn't realistic. But it does remove a ton of stress from your life, and you'll experience a sense of freedom that you've never felt before.

As for frustrations, they'll be fewer because a huge cause of stress and frustration will disappear after you gain control of your money and get out of debt. You may feel like things aren't moving fast enough, but things never seem to move fast enough when you're intense and really into what you're doing!

- Dave

Time to Play it Smart!

Dear Dave.

Our son is 21, and he's embarking on a career as a professional soccer player. He'll only be making about \$30,000 a year, and we want to know how we can help him manage this money and not get caught up in the idea that he has to live a glamorous lifestyle.

- Karen

Dave Says

Dear Karen,

"Glamorous" isn't the word I'd use to describe a \$30,000-a-year job, even for a 21-year-old. I think the biggest thing here is to make sure he develops some emotional maturity and uses basic, common-sense guidelines to help keep things in perspective. If he makes a habit right now of budgeting and living on less than he makes, he's going to have a lot easier time later on if he starts raking in the big bucks.

Help him prepare his heart for two things. First, that a career as a professional athlete will probably be a short run. Enjoy it, be smart, then prepare to move on to the next part of your life, and develop a different career track.

The second thing is that even if he beats the odds and ends up making a ton of money, he's got to view the money as a responsibility and a privilege. This is when the common sense and maturity really come into play. You can't run out and buy a bunch of houses and cars and expect even big money to last for long!

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

Authors' Fair Comes to Auburn

Continued from page 1

At 11am Maryellen Burns will start with a program titled "How to Plan a Book" explaining all the steps it takes to create a book - from concept to finished book. Learn how to organize your writing, develop a stepby-step plan with timelines, and storyboards. She'll cover how to put your work into final manuscript form so you can submit it to a literary agent and publisher. The process she teaches is the same whether you are writing a fiction or non-fiction book.

At noon local printer Steve Reynolds, and graphic designer Michele Tuggle will talk about "The Role of the Local Publisher and the Graphic Designer". Reynolds will discuss formatting a book into a digital file compatible with the sizing of the finished book. He'll discuss choosing a cover based on the final use of the book and durability factors of binding. Tuggle will emphasis the look of the finished book from paper, fonts and dust jacket design to inside graphics. Even the choice of author's photo is covered.

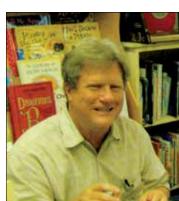
Lawrence Fox from the Sacramento Public Library will be on hand at 1:00 to talk about "Print on Demand and the Espresso Machine". The new machine is the only public digital printer of its kind in Northern California. Fox will begin with the how-to of formatting your flash drive that can be plugged into the machine, and the choices an author has for paper, cover and graphics with the new technology. He will discuss the pricing scale for a few books to

several hundred. At 1:30 Maryellen Burns will be back to present a short primer on "Writer Self-promotion" including book store signings, speaking engagements, book reviews, authors' fairs and local

appearances.



Donna Howell





Linda M. Schulman

THANK A

Veteran Today

Shawn Hansen's' "10 Minute Marketing" presentation at 2:00 will demonstrate how a writer needs to build, grow and improve their "small business" just as any retail store would using online resources. She'll talk about supporting a website and selling with Pay Pal, the advantages of Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin and YouTube, and SEO, Search Engine Optimization. She'll finish with the reason an author may want to give their book away free.

At 2:30 Skip Michael a local e-book publisher will be look at "The Book in the 21st Century". He'll demonstrate the steps necessary to get your book published to Kindle and other e-book sites. A look at interactive books and books in other forms than printed on paper will give listeners an insight into the future of reading.

A free children's craft booth will be available during the fair for children to assemble Mother's Day cards. Also, there will be family story reading for the youngsters. Food will be available from 11 to 2 from Maria's Taco and Burrito food truck. And the Auburn Hip Hop Congress members will be on hand to help

The Auburn Library is located at 350 Nevada Street, in Auburn. Local authors' will set up tables in the garden area to the south of the main building from 11 am



Rodi Lee and Mike Lynch



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9am - Noon: The Laura Ingraham Show

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

1 - 4pm: The Dave Ramsey Show

4 - 6pm: The KAHI Afternoon News with

Dave Rosenthal and the KAHI News Team

6 - 7pm: The Drive Home Show with Dave Rosenthal 7- 10pm: Sports by-line USA with Ron Barr

10pm - 12am: Poppoff with Mary Jane Popp

Wednesdays

6 - 6:30pm: Wealth Strategies with Hunter William Bailey

Thursdays

4:30 - 4:45pm: Auburn Honda Gold Country Golf Show with Jay Cooper and Mike Remy

6:05 - 6:30pm: Leaders Without Limits with David McCauley on Asset Protection

7 - 9pm: Thursdays With Bassil

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 - 9:30am: Bayside Auburn Church Service

9:30am - 7pm: Sinatra & Friends Music

7 - 8pm: A Way With Words

8 - 9pm; Hearts of Space

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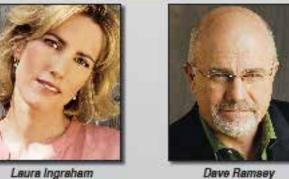
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First Issue of May 2012 Placer Sentinel • 11

is Perfectly Preposterous



Commentary by Eric Nelson

According to Ivan Oransky, a medical doctor and editor of Reuters Health, everyone reading this article is suffering from the universally terminal condition called pre-death. This assumes, of course, that everyone reading this article is actually alive.

Although said with tongue firmly planted in cheek to an audience of health groupies at last week's TEDMED conference in Washington, DC, Oransky's point is clear: The rush to label people with one medical condition or another - even if it's a pre-condition - has gotten out of

"As if actual diseases weren't frightening enough," writes The Atlantic's Brian Fung in his review of Oransky's talk, "we now have what seems like a whole encyclopedia of prediseases to fear" - everything from pre-hypertension and prediabetes to pre-anxiety and pre-dementia.

"I have another name for these preconditions," said Oransky. "I call them preposterous."

As new school as the thought of being predestined for disease may sound, its roots are actually quite old school.

Drawing on familiar Bible verses such as "Many are called,

but few are chosen" (Matt 22:14), sixteenth century theologian, John Calvin, popularized the idea that only a select group of people will be saved and go to heaven, while everyone else, regardless of piety, will suffer eternal damnation. As harmless as such notions may sound, there's at least one documented case of someone becoming physically ill at the mere thought of such random selection.

In her book, Retrospection and Introspection, nineteenth century religious leader and medical reformer, Mary Baker Eddy, relates that before being admitted as a young girl to the Congregational Church, she became "greatly troubled" by Calvin's doctrine of predestination.

"I was unwilling to be saved, if my brothers and sisters were to be numbered among those who were doomed to perpetual banishment from God. So perturbed was I by the thoughts aroused by this erroneous doctrine, that the family doctor was summoned, and pronounced me stricken with fever."

After praying for a short time mentally exchanging the thought of eternal and perhaps inevitable damnation for a more inspired view of God's eternal love – the fever lifted.

"The physician marveled; and the 'horrible decree' of predestination — as John Calvin rightly called his own tenet — forever lost its power over me."

Although this may sound like health/archive/2012/04/ an isolated, unrelated event, people like Dr. Oransky are beginning to question the effect that other, if less dire, prognoses like pre-hypertension and pre-diabetes are having on a society prone to seeking medical treatment that may actually do more harm than good. He cites the over 100,000 people who die each year, not from the conditions they're suffering from, but

from the mostly drug-based remedies they require to manage these conditions.

Perhaps a more important question to ask is if we're all predisposed to disease in the first place. Is it possible that health might actually be our natural, terminal – maybe even eternal – condition? As crazy as that may sound, there's no denying the fact that we're seeing an increasing number of people these days living longer, healthier lives – many without the aid of medical intervention and, presumably, without the burden of unnecessary and unwarranted prediagnoses.

Certainly, then, this remains a possibility for everyone reading this article.

Eric Nelson writes a weekly column on the link between spiritual consciousness and health for Communities @ WashingtonTimes.com. He also serves as the media and legislative spokesperson for Christian Science in Northern California (www.norcalchristianscience. com). This article shared with permission by Communities @

LINKS FOR ONLINE VERSION:

WashingtonTimes.com.

Dr. Ivan Oransky blog http://theoranskyjournal.wordpress.com/about/

Brian Fung blog post - www.theatlantic.com/ the-preposterous-epidemic-of-

Mary Baker Eddy www.marybakereddylibrary.org

pre-diseases/255800/#comment-

497286428

People living longer, healthier lives - www.nature.com/ nature/journal/v464/n7288/full/ nature08984.html

Proliferation of Preconditions What's Up with Measure A?

Commentary by Michael Otten

The Auburn City Council has rehired the same law firm that the City of Bell is now suing and blaming in part for the runaway corruption that followed Bell becoming a charter city.

The action came on the strong recommendation of Auburn City Attorney Michael G. Colantuono and city staffers. It is part of the lack of complete transparency about the Measure A controversy.

The top transparency failure is the City Attorney and Council deciding not to have the 1,481word charter printed in the sample ballot. It forces voters in the June 5 election to find what they are actually voting on by calling the city clerk and having a copy mailed at taxpayer expense. The City Attorney would have us think his socalled "impartial analysis" is better than the real thing.

The hiring of the Belltarnished law firm came after Colantuono lost a taxpayer financed lawsuit on behalf of the Council. Colantuono unsuccessfully argued the opponents of the Council's charter proposal were making bald-face lies in their ballot arguments with Bell type linkages.

Without dissent the Council voted April 23 to hire the law firm of Best Best and Krieger to help with legal issues over the state's taking of redevelopment agencies. The minimum billing rate is \$295 an hour.

Bell's malpractice lawsuit accuses the law firm and its former partner, Edward Lee, Bell's City Attorney for 15 years, of giving the city faulty legal advice that allowed Bell to pay extraordinary sums and loans to top city officials and council members. The suit singles out the law firm for failing to advise Bell on a \$35 million bond issue in 2007 that never went to

Best Best and Krieger is a law firm with some 200 attorneys with offices in eight California cities, including Sacramento, and in Washington D.C. It provides legal services to about 40 cities and many other governmental entities. It had previously worked for the Auburn Urban Redevelopment Agency.

has focused on whether the vaguely written charter measure will benefit or hurt. Auburn next year will observe its 125th anniversary of reincorporation and has always been a general law city. Its first incorporation in 1860 only lasted six years when the City Trustees voted to disincorporate to avoid paying \$50,000 for a railroad subsidy.

Little attention has been focused on the functions city attorneys play in Auburn and in the some 480 in the state or how much they cost taxpayers. Colantuono's March billing to the City of Auburn was nearly \$50,000. That sounds like a lot of money for a city of some 13,400. His law firm is on course to bill Auburn for a record spending total this year. attorney declined to recuse him

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The total could climb under a charter city and increased legal

Whether in favor of going charter or not, one should look at the seemingly unfair role city attorneys play. Ponder too whether the proposal is of the people, by the people and for the people.

Consider that Colantuono, despite his impressive background, does not represent the citizens of Auburn or live here. He heads a 14-lawyer firm with offices in Nevada and Los Angeles Counties.

Colantuono is also the city attorney for Grass Valley and Calabasas as well as general counsel for a number of entities. He has also served as city attorney for Barstow, Cudahy, La Habra Heights, Monrovia and Sierra Madre. He considers himself perhaps the state's leading expert on the law of local government revenues and was presented the state Bar public lawyer of the year award in 2010 by the state chief justice.

Colantuono is the city's expensive go-to guy over drafting a wide-open charter proposal, suing former mayors in an effort to try to bully and silence some of the arguments raised...

The Council has continued to meet in closed session over the lawsuit and strategies and how much taxpayers' money the lost cause might end up costing.

Those who signed the ballot argument against Measure A on the June 5 ballot are four former Auburn mayors (Hank Gonzales, George Beland, O. C. Taylor, Bud Pisarek) and the former president of the Placer County Taxpayers League (Wally Reemelin). Should their tax dollars be used to censor their free speech?

In Auburn's situation Colantuono did the final draft of the charter proposal. The city appears to have made a major mistake in not providing voters the actual charter as part of the sample ballot and as required for state measures. This could be a problem come Election Day. Voters might think it is so bad it is not worth voting for. The city also has failed to put any of the material at the local library as well.

Colantuono vigorously con-Up to now the vitriolic debate tended the city shouldn't have to pay for opposition arguments to be mailed to voters without his personal editing. The suit was silent on whether any of the assertions in the proponents' arguments might be lies.

Judge Colleen Nichols in Roseville ruled Colantuono not only failed to meet the legal filing deadline for such suits but failed on all his allegations. The appointed city attorney's March billing included more than \$22,000 related to the lawsuit. He met again in a secret strategy session with the council on April 23 reportedly to discuss whether to refuse to pay the respondents' legal fees. The lawsuit alone could cost city taxpayers \$50,000 or more.

And guess what, the city

and wrote the so-called "impartial" analysis of the measure that is being mailed to voters despite the fact his law firm could be one of the biggest beneficiaries. There are other potential conflicts of interest. One is that Colantuono serves both Grass Valley, which has a different charter, and Auburn, which battle for businesses that can bring in sales tax revenue.

In a 2008 paper for the League of California Cities education seminar for city attorneys, Colantuono's law firm says courts have recognized such an analysis "generally carries greater weight with voters than do the partisan arguments published by the "yes" and "no" campaigns.'

Of course, the city attorney is the biggest financial beneficiary of the measure, win or lose. To date the city has not disclosed how much taxpayer money is being spent to get this measure passed.

The Council has boosted its city attorney budget by \$100,000 after the budgeted amount was exceeded in the first six months. It has created a sort of uncivil, civil war in this small county seat.

The self-dealing scandal in Bell "was probably inevitable, given the gaps in the Brown (open government) Act and the newspaper publishing tradition that once provided small towns with a watchful eye and a voice to be reckoned with," wrote Terry Franke, former legal counsel with the California Newspaper Publishers Association.

Rather than a city charter and the lack of responsible news coverage by the Auburn Journal what is needed is an open governance act. The Journal is part of a San Diego-based 60-newspaper chain that has acquired a vast majority of Placer County's newspapers.

Bell, like Auburn, no longer had a locally owned newspaper. Out of town newspaper chains with the eye primarily on making money have gobbled them up. Franke said the long absence of a community newspaper "left Bell not a perfect storm, but a perfect swamp."

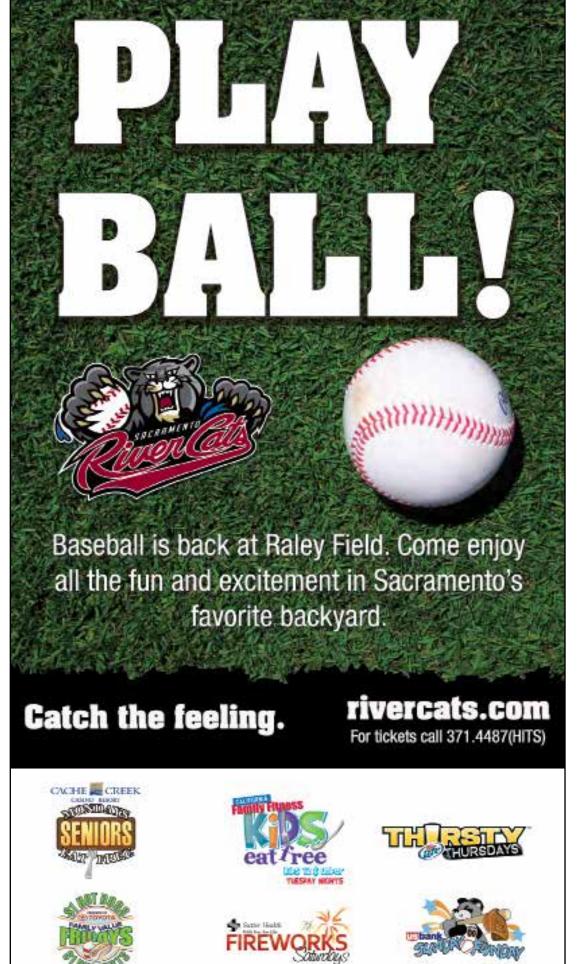
Franke, who served 14 years as executive director-general counsel for the California First Amendment Coalition, is the general counsel for the nonprofit

He has assisted citizens in Dixon and Berkeley in putting Sunshine Ordinances on the ballot this November. Dixon is a general law city of 18,000 in Solano County. Berkeley is a charter city of 114,000 in Alameda County.

Franke calls it a way for citizens to obtain "a transparent city hall." Should Auburn be next?

Michael Otten, is a former Sacramento Union Capitol Bureau chief with more than 40 years in journalism and who chaired the Freedom of Information Committee and served as president of the Society of Professional Journalists' Central California Chapter.

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