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A HAPPY EASTER!

PLUS:

*What Kind of Power Should
Government Have Over Your Life?*

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Placer Sentinel

Volume 23 • Issue 7

Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

First Issue of April 2012

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Distracted Driving Puts Teens at High Risk

Female teens are twice as likely as male teens to use cell phones and other electronic devices while driving, according to a new in-car video study from the AAA Foundation of Traffic Safety. The study also shows that many other potential driving distractions are common and problematic among teenage drivers.

The Foundation study is the first study using in-car video footage to focus on teen distracted driving. Researchers identified the prevalence and consequences of various distracted driver behaviors among teens. They also identified the prevalence and consequences of distracting conditions that teens face. These behaviors and conditions vary based on the presence of passengers, the time of day, the sex of the driver, and other potentially important factors.

"Cell phones, texting, personal grooming, and reaching for items in the car were among the most common distracting activities that the cameras caught inside the cars of new teen drivers," says Cynthia Harris, AAA Northern California spokesperson. "This new study provides the best view we've had about how and when teens engage in distracted driving behaviors, which are believed to contribute to making car crashes the leading cause of teenage deaths."

The main findings from the report show that gender played a role in some of the observed distractions. Females were nearly twice as likely as males to use an electronic device while driving, and overall, were nearly 10 percent more likely to be seen engaging in other distracted behaviors, like reaching for an object in the vehicle (nearly 50 percent more likely than males) or eating or drinking (nearly 25 percent more likely than males). On the other hand, males were



Teen girls are twice as likely to use electronic devices while driving, AAA study shows.

roughly twice as likely to turn around in their seats while driving and were also more likely to communicate with people outside of their vehicle. "Drivers are three times as likely to take their eyes off the road when using electronic devices. They were also two and a half times more likely to look away from the road when engaged in other behaviors," says Harris. "A second may not seem like much, but at 65 miles per hour a car travels the length of a basketball court in a single second. That extra second can mean the difference

between life and death." Foundation data analysis also found that potentially distracting activities significantly decreased when parents or other adults were present in the car. In contrast, loud conversations and horseplay were more than twice as likely to occur when multiple teen peers, instead of just one, were present. These distractions are particularly concerning, as they are associated with the occurrence of crashes, other serious incidents, and high g-force events. Drivers were six times as likely to have a serious incident

when there was loud conversation in the vehicle, and they were more than twice as likely to have a high g-force event when there was horseplay. AAA tips for parents to improve teen drivers' safety as they start to drive on their own: Practice, practice, practice. Once teens have their actual license, continue to ensure that basic skills are mastered and to introduce varied driving conditions such as snow and heavy traffic rural roads with an experienced driver in the passenger seat.

Continued on page 2

Snow Survey Shows Dry Conditions

SACRAMENTO – Department of Water Resources (DWR) hydrologists today announced that water content in California's mountain snowpack is only 55 percent of the April 1 full season average. "An unusually wet March improved conditions, but did not make up for the previous dry months," said DWR Director Mark Cowin. "The take-home message is that we've had a dry winter and although good reservoir storage will lessen impacts this summer, we need to be prepared for a potentially dry 2013."

Snowpack water content is measured both manually on or near the first of the month from January to May, and in real-time by electronic sensors. This month's survey and electronic readings are considered the most important of the year, since early April is when the state's snowpack normally is at its peak before it begins to melt into streams, reservoirs and aquifers in the spring and summer months. The mountain snowpack normally provides about a third of the water for California's households, industry and farms.

Electronic readings indicate that water content in the northern mountains is 78 percent of the April 1 seasonal average. Electronic readings for the central Sierra show 51 percent of the April 1 average. The number for the southern Sierra is 39 percent. The statewide number is 55 percent.

On April 1 last year, snowpack water content readings were 173 percent of the April 1 average in the northern mountains, 161 percent in the central ranges, 155 percent in the south, and 163 percent statewide.

California has above average reservoir storage as summer approaches thanks to runoff from last winter's storms.

DWR estimates it will be able to deliver 50 percent of the slightly more than 4 million acre-feet of State Water Project (SWP) water requested this year by the 29 public agencies that supply more than 25 million Californians and nearly a million acres of irrigated farmland. An acre-foot is 325,851 gallons of water, enough to cover one acre to a depth of one foot.

A 50 percent allocation is not severely low. Wet conditions last year allowed the State Water Project to deliver 80 percent of the slightly more than 4 million acre-feet requested for calendar year 2011. The final allocation was 50 percent in 2010, 40 percent in 2009, 35 percent in 2008, and 60 percent in 2007. The last 100 percent allocation — difficult to achieve even in wet years due to pumping restrictions to protect threatened and endangered fish — was in 2006.

See DWR's new Water Conditions page at: www.water.ca.gov/waterconditions.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood-control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. Contact the DWR Public Affairs Office for more information about DWR's water activities.

What's Up With Hiring? Job demand & hiring trends looking up



SACRAMENTO REGION – Hiring motivated by the need to grow workforces in Sacramento will rise above hiring only for replacements for the first time in several years in the Second Quarter of 2012.

In direct contacts by phone with Sacramento's top regional companies, Pacific Staffing has discovered significant indications

of economic improvement as seventy-one percent (71%) of employers say they are hiring in April, May and June 2012. For the first time in years, forty-two percent (42%) of planned hiring was motivated by the need to grow existing workforces. While just thirty-eight percent (38%) of Sacramento regional employers, polled directly between February

27th and March 17th, attributed hiring needs to attrition, or replacements within their existing workforces. Hiring attributed to growth demands has trended up for three Quarters in a row among Sacramento employers surveyed.

Warmer temperatures are also heating up hiring demand as Sacramento's regional agriculture, recreation and hospitality companies begin seasonal hiring. Ten percent of hiring demand in the second quarter is attributed to seasonal change. While most of the regional economy is improving, some of those involved in residential construction, property development and some peripheral industries remain slow. Three percent of those surveyed report they will consider reducing workforces in the next three months as business remains slow for their individual companies.

Sacramento's employment marketplace is warming back to life but recent strong spikes in

gasoline costs were of great concern to those polled. In anecdotal conversations with company contacts, higher transportation costs for employees; and increased company transportation and petroleum related products costs could throw cold water on hiring plans quickly forcing a renewed slowdown.

While companies are getting a large number of applicants, many are noting the first problems in selecting specific qualifications. Finding applicants with specific skills are among first concerns as companies seek customer service, sales, technical, general office, manufacturing and warehouse workers in the next three months.

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

For more information, employment blogs & market surveys go to www.pacificstaffing.com.

Source: Pacific Trends Quarterly

Governor Brown Delivers Plan to Streamline and Simplify State Government

SACRAMENTO – Following through on his pledge to streamline state government, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., on March 30th, sent a far-reaching reorganization plan to the Little Hoover Commission that cuts the number of state agencies from 12 to 10, eliminates duplicative and unnecessary entities and consolidates those with similar roles and functions.

“The state’s bureaucracy is a labyrinth of disjointed boards, commissions, agencies and departments,” said Governor Brown. “This common sense plan makes government more efficient, responsive and coordinated and will ultimately save taxpayer dollars.”

Currently, many unrelated departments – like Caltrans, the Department of Managed Healthcare and the Department of Financial Institutions – are housed together, while many related programs are scattered throughout different agencies. In many cases departments and programs are duplicative.

The Governor’s plan makes government less costly, more efficient and more sensible through changes, including restructuring the State and Consumer Services and the Business, Transportation, and Housing agencies and other scattered government entities into three agencies with coordinated and consolidated functions:

The Government Operations Agency—responsible for administering state operations, such as procurement, information technology and human resources;

The Business and Consumer

Services Agency—responsible for licensing and oversight of industries, businesses and other professionals; and

The Transportation Agency—responsible for addressing the state’s transportation needs.

The plan also makes the California Emergency Management Agency a new office that reports directly to the Governor; the California Volunteer Agency a unit within the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research; and the Technology Agency a new department under the Government Operations Agency, to be led by a statewide Chief Information Officer.

These changes were detailed in Governor Brown’s 2012-13 Budget and are part of a larger effort to make government more efficient. As required by law, the plan was submitted to the Little Hoover Commission, which has 30 days to review the plan and report its recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. After the plan is submitted to the Legislature, lawmakers have 60 days to consider it. The plan goes into effect, and implementation can begin, unless it is rejected by a majority vote of either house during the 60-day period.

Since taking office, Governor Brown has slashed spending in his own office by more than 25 percent and directed state agencies and departments to:

- Reduce their budgets, amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars in savings;
- Cut state cell phones and the passenger vehicle fleet;
- Stop spending taxpayer

dollars on free giveaway and gift items;

- Halt all non-essential state employee travel;
- Recover millions of dollars in uncollected salary and travel advances; and
- Eliminate unnecessary legislative reports.

Last year, Governor Brown also:

- Eliminated 20 boards, commissions, task forces, offices, and departments, including the office of the Secretary of Education, California Medical Assistance Commission and the Office of Insurance Advisor;
- Proposed and had approved a merger of the state’s personnel agencies to save millions of taxpayer dollars and improve efficiency;
- Restructured CDCR headquarters, saving \$30 million;
- Canceled a plan to build a condemned inmate housing facility at San Quentin, saving taxpayers hundreds of millions; and
- Canceled the sale of state properties, saving taxpayers billions.

Source: Governor’s Press Office

“San Francisco” Shakes Up Silver Screen



Clark Gable finally understands the importance of love in “San Francisco,” shown at 1, 4 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 7, in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada St. in Auburn. For information, call 530-878-7938, or visit auburnsilverscreen.com. Photo courtesy of MGM.

AUBURN – Silver Screen Classic Movie Series continues on Saturday, April 7 with “San Francisco,” from 1936. As we anticipate the spectacle of the 1906 earthquake, we’re treated to Clark Gable’s hard-nosed independence, Spencer Tracy’s wise, priestly intervention, and Jeanette MacDonald’s innocence and powerful singing. The movie is shown at 1, 4 and 7:30 p.m. in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada St. in Auburn. Presented by the Library, the movie is free. For information, call (530) 878-7938, or visit auburnsilverscreen.com.

Blackie Norton has enemies everywhere, but he doesn’t care. This irreverent, charismatic icon of The City’s sinful

Three people scheme to make these goals difficult for him: his best friend, Father Tim Mullin; Blackie’s sworn enemy, Nob Hill scion Jack Burley – in love with Mary herself; and Mary. Mary can’t decide what she wants: to sing opera, or to marry Blackie. Blackie insists she choose.

Ambition and frustration pale, however, in the face of the great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire. Suddenly, only survival counts... survival and human connection. And finally, after long hours of searching for Mary in the city’s rubble, Blackie realizes how much he loves her. And Father Tim finally gets what he’s hoped for all his life: a penitent Blackie.

The next scheduled movie is “Shanghai Express,” on May 5.

Barbary Coast knows what he wants and how to get it. At the moment, he wants to be mayor, and to romance innocent newcomer, singer Mary Blake.

Open Mic for the Spoken Word

AUBURN – An audience is waiting for your words. Whether you are an author, poet or storyteller there is a group wanting to hear you speak.

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nity. Get instant reaction from the group: a chortle, a humph, maybe even a tear.

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Mel’s Diner Backroom
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Sign-In at 6:30, Starts At 7pm
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Distracted Driving Puts Teens at High Risk

Continued from front page

Keep passengers out. Teen drivers’ crash risks multiply with teenage passengers in the vehicle. Set limits and enforce them consistently.

Limit night driving. Reduced visibility makes night driving riskier for drivers of all ages. For inexperienced teens it’s even harder. Allow new teen drivers to drive at night only if it’s truly necessary for them to practice driving in the dark with a parent.

Keep setting rules. Establish and enforce rules above and beyond state laws. In addition to night and passenger limits, set rules for inclement weather, highways, cities, or other driving conditions in which a teen has not gained enough experience. Find a parent-teen agreement on TeenDriving.aaa.com that can help. The data for this report came from an analysis of video clips collected as

part of a three-phase naturalistic study of 50 North Carolina families with novice teen drivers. The first study looked at how parents supervise their teens during the learner’s stage, and the second examined how teen behaviors and driving conditions shift during the transition to unsupervised driving. For the current study, 7,858 clips from the first six months of unsupervised driving were re-analyzed to investigate distraction specifically.

For more information about teen driving visit our website at www.aaa.com/teendriving. AAA Northern California offers a wide array of automotive, travel, insurance, DMV, financial services and consumer discounts to nearly 4 million members. AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers since it was founded more than 100 years ago.

Auburn Community

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Publisher
Paul V. Scholl

Monthly Navy League Meeting

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

speaker is Commander Mitchell Morrison, Executive Officer, US Coast Guard Air Station, Sacramento. Cost of the dinner is \$12 payable at the door. Advance reservations are required. The Navy League membership

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

NOON Friends of the Auburn Library Program

Auburn – It's the Year of the Rabbit! Come to the Friends of the Auburn Library NOON program on Friday, April 6th, where Richard Yue will present an interesting program about the

Chinese in early California history, particularly in the Auburn area with our Joss House and the Chinese Cemetery. Richard will bring some artifacts for show-and-tell, as well. The program

is in the Beecher Room of the Auburn Library at 350 Nevada St., doors open at 11:30 a.m. NOON programs are free and light refreshments are provided. Come early and get a good seat.

NARFE Meeting on Co-Housing

The National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees will meet on Thursday, April 19 at the Sizzler Restaurant

in Auburn. The speaker, at 12:30, will discuss co-housing for seniors, a project currently being developed in Grass Valley. The

luncheon and social hour begins at 11:30. Public is welcome. Contact Karen Reitz for more information at (530) 885-7320.

Republican Women Federated Luncheon

The Auburn Area Republican Women Federated will host their April luncheon on Friday the 13th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

at the Sizzler, located at 13570 Lincoln Way in Auburn. Meet CA Senator Doug LaMalfa who is a candidate for the U.S. Congress.

Lunch is \$15 at the door. The public is invited. Check-in-time is 11:15 a.m. For reservations call Paula at (530) 885-1428



Around Town with Loyce Smallwood

program on ACTV and a lovely felted donation. See Huls' felt sculptures and ceramics at the OT Gallery.

M & Co. on Sacramento Street is offering a tea tasting/dessert party from 11am to 3pm Saturday, May 12 where I expect to meet up with author/volunteer/painter Edna Sparkes who is working up her second book when not volunteering and exploring on her Kindle.

Big congrats to Tea Maven Betty Thompson who recently opened her Goldrush Emporium & Tea shop on Live Oak Highway 49 just south of the Assistant League thrift shop in the Fiddler Green Plaza where the volunteers are friendly and the selection from fashion to jewelry and house wares is alluring.

Off to interview on a tight budget? Check the career wear at AL thrift and Piece by Peace thrift just across Highway 49. Volunteering opportunities are available at the aforementioned thrift stores or try helping out at the Auburn Library where the literacy program helps assist the reading challenged.

Animal lovers can help sort donated books at Friends of Placer County book store in the



Juan Pena

Raley's Center at the Foresthill exit where proceeds benefit our homeless pets. Volunteers can reward themselves with tasty fare including vegetarian selections in an inviting, art adorned setting at Latitudes across from the Auburn Courthouse on Maple Street.

Out in North Auburn enjoy comfort food at Wings at the Auburn airport on New Airport Road where you can take in the impressive Doug Van Howd gallery.

Bring along your sticks and enjoy the dance floor and the range at The Ridge Golf Course where head pro Shawn Kelly will be offering group and private lessons at this public course where the restaurant should now be open, complete with deck dining. Much to be savored, indeed.

Comments/questions to loy@fothill.net

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Mountain Mandarin Festival/ NABA Scholarships Available

NEWCASTLE – Since the Mountain Mandarin Festival started in downtown Newcastle, the Newcastle Area Business Association (NABA) has presented more than \$32,000 in scholarship funds to graduating students in the Newcastle/Ophir/Penryn area. In 2012, the Mountain Mandarin Festival is providing NABA with the

funds to award four \$1,000 scholarships.

To qualify, students must be a high school senior living in Newcastle, Ophir or Penryn, have a 3.0 or better GPA, and plan to continue their education. The 2011 NABA Scholarship Recipients were Sawyer Sewell, Emily Schoof, Stephanie Yanez, and Joel Shaffer, all from Del

Oro High School.

Eligible seniors who are interested in applying for scholarships should contact Gary Gilligan at the Mountain Mandarin Festival, (916) 663-1918, or go to mandarinfestival.com to download an application. The Mandarin Festival is held annually the weekend before Thanksgiving.

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Military Graduates

Air Force Airman Taylor W. Roberts graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Roberts is the son of Kristen Evans of Peace Water Court, and Glenn Roberts of Fremantle Court, both of Roseville.

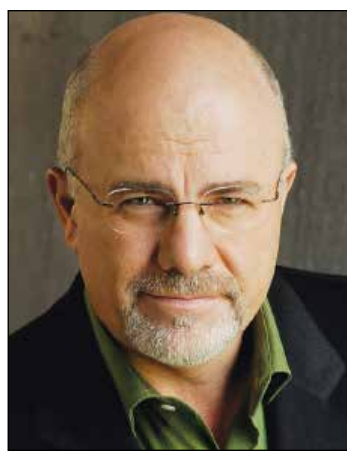
He is a 2009 graduate of Roseville High School.

Army Cadet Nick R. Little, an Army ROTC cadet from Westminster College, served as a cadet marshal during the U.S. Army National Combine in San Antonio, Texas, in January as part of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Week.

This combine is modeled after the NFL combine and is specifically designed to highlight the football abilities of high school sophomores and juniors. Five hundred of students will have their football skills tested for the first time before the top recruiting organizations in high school and college football. The U.S. Army National Combine tests and competitive drills will take place in the Alamodome. The Army ROTC Cadet Marshals help with registration and event management, which exposes the combine attendees to the benefits of Army ROTC.

The U.S. Army All-American Bowl is one of the nation's premiere high school athletic events. For more than 10 years it has provided the national platform for young Division I bound football players to experience the strength of Army Soldiers. Little is a student at Westminster College, Salt Lake City, Utah.

He is the son of Dale and Sissi Little of Boardwalk Drive, Granite Bay. He is the grandson of Louis Little of Cedar Oaks Drive, and Blanche Dinh of Boardwalk Drive, both of Granite Bay. He is a 2004 graduate of Granite Bay High School.



Dave Says

Dear Cheryl,

Yes, you are. Life never works out exactly the way you think it will. You can make all the well-reasoned and best-intentioned plans you want, but sooner or later that snake is going to bite you.

The only thing I'd consider in a situation like this is a debit card that has a rewards system attached. Lots of debit card programs offer the same kinds of rewards programs offered by credit card companies, with one big exception—you don't have to go into debt!

You need to stop chasing these stupid brownie points, Cheryl. According to *Consumer Reports*, 78 percent of credit card airline miles are never redeemed. Studies also show that people spend more when using credit cards as opposed to cash. That extra money you spend on things you don't need is money you could have been saving and investing. So, where's the reward?

Cut up the card and close the account, Cheryl. You don't build wealth by using credit cards!

- Dave

Pension? Invest Anyway!

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are both active duty Marines. She's planning to get out in a few months, but I'm staying in for the long haul.

You recommend saving 15 percent for retirement, but how does that apply in my case when I'll be getting a good pension after 20 years?

- James

Dear James,

I'd like to see you do both. Just imagine the money you guys would have for retirement with your military pension and a big pile of cash from having saved 15 percent of your income over the years.

Having options is a great thing. Think about all the things you could do down the road if you save for retirement and have your pension in place. You could pay cash for a home, or even open a business when you retire from the military. And these are things you probably wouldn't be able to do working with just your service pension.

You've got a great future if you'll just keep plugging along and saving, James. Let the military do its thing, and you guys keep pumping 15 percent of your income into Roth IRAs and other pre-tax retirement plans. It's going to be pretty cool!

- Dave

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

Asking for Trouble

Dear Dave,

I want to keep one of our credit cards open and use the bill-pay option for utilities and other monthly bills. I want to do this so we can continue earning rewards points, and the way I look at it, we'd just be re-routing the money and paying it off every month. My husband doesn't like this idea and thinks we should get rid of them all. Am I just asking for trouble by wanting to keep the rewards card open?

- Cheryl

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Spring Book & Bake Sale for The Applegate Library

APPLEGATE – The Friends of the Applegate Library, under the auspices of the Applegate Civic Center, will hold its Spring Book 'n' Bake Sale on Friday and Saturday April 13 & 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Applegate Community Center, 18014 Applegate Rd. A wide selection of books will be available along with

baked goods and raffle prizes.

The Friends of the Applegate Library provides ongoing donations for new library materials and other items as needed to supplement the Branch budget. It sponsors the Applegate Library's Children's Summer Reading Program. Donations of books are welcome. To donate call 530-392-3041.

The Applegate Friends of the Library helps to support this small but busy branch. Materials, volunteerism, Summer Reading programs for kids and more is provided through the ongoing efforts of the Friends. This small library has an interesting and colorful history. It is the oldest library in the Placer County Library System.

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A fundraising event to support **HERO-Home Emergency Relief Program for Homeless Veterans**—HERO is a grassroots, non-profit service organization that provides assistance for Veterans by providing mini grants to help secure sustainable housing and short-term childcare assistance.

It's a win; win for Veterans, the Community, and the Environment!

Volunteers will be available to assist you with your CRV plastic bottles (labels on), and aluminum beverage cans. The recyclables must be cleaned.

Dates and times for 3240 Professional Drive, Auburn are as follows:

Saturday	April 14	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday	April 15	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturday	April 21	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday	April 22	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturday	April 28	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday	April 29	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Dates and times for the American Legion Hall, 100 East Street, Auburn are as follows:

Saturday	April 28	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Sunday	April 29	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

To make a donation visit HERO's website at homeemergencyrelief.com to use our secure PayPal account.



A Film Review by Tim Riley

Riley Reviews

RELENTLESSLY VIOLENT "RAID" IS ALL ABOUT THE ACTION

fighting instincts who has the primary role to play in the police raid.

The audience instinctively knows that Rama is the good guy when the film opens with him in a tender moment with his pregnant wife as he prepares for his big mission.

Within minutes, the focus of "The Raid" turns to Rama and his crew in a police van on their way to Tama's 15-story tenement building, where the drug lord is holed up on the top floor.

Under the command of a mysterious police lieutenant, the tactical squad, armed with knives, pistols and automatic weapons, has an objective to secure one floor at a time in order to take down Tama.

This mission is incredibly dangerous and suicidal, as even the bravest cops have never been able to breach Tama's fortress in the past. Not surprisingly, the stealth mission is quickly compromised.

Tama is a vicious criminal kingpin who uses his building to shelter his army of loyal dealers and many customers, all of whom are more than willing to take up arms against any invaders.

It takes only a matter of minutes for the police undercover operation to be blown, resulting in about half of the team being shredded in a barrage of gunfire and machetes.

Still, some of the cops manage to survive, including the valiant Rama, and they realize the only way out of their predicament is a determination to complete the mission and take out Tama for good.

The end result is a non-stop bloodbath that unleashes violence so brutal and unrelenting that "The Raid" might as well be marketed

as a video game unsuitable for impressionable adolescents.

A serious drawback is the deficiency of character development which might give viewers a greater rooting interest in the heroic exploits of Rama and his dwindling crew.

Nevertheless, it's very impressive to see Rama almost singlehandedly continue his explosive march through a seemingly endless parade of henchmen and drug-addled crazies.

Though not in wide release, "The Raid: Redemption" will find its audience looking for vicarious thrills in bloody action that makes audiences gasp.

TELEVISION UPDATE

Few television shows get more press coverage and less viewers than "Mad Men," and that's unlikely to change any time soon.

Anyone who has not been watching "Mad Men" on the AMC Network all along could not be expected to pick up on the storylines and intrigues of a Madison Avenue advertising agency.

It's bad enough that the show has been on a long hiatus, and now the fifth season picks up somewhere in the mid-Sixties, when New York City loses its glamour as urban decay begins to set in.

The new season picks up where Jon Hamm's debonair ad man Don Draper is making a go of his impulsive decision in the last season to propose to his secretary.

Those who were curious about Don's rash engagement to Megan (Jessica Pare) will learn some interesting things in the season premiere.

Over at the Reelz Channel, Steven Seagal, who apparently has run out of opportunities for martial arts films, brings his crime fighting style to the new TV series "True Justice."

Seagal leads a hardcore undercover team of Seattle cops who take on the local criminal element with the high-octane style that marked so many of his films.

One problem for "True Justice" may be the inability of the target audience to locate the Reelz Channel.

A History of Continuous Neglect by Placer County

AUBURN – The 2011-12 Placer County Grand Jury finds the current contract to run the County Fair between Placer County and the Placer County Fair Association to be illegal and finds the County has been negligent in failing to terminate the contract because of its illegality.

The Grand Jury further finds that the County has been negligent in failing to monitor Fair Association compliance with the terms of its contract with the County. This negligence has allowed the Fair Association to make major structural modifications to the Speedway without getting the contractually required prior approval from the County and the County has been negligent in failing to terminate the contract because of this material violation of the contract by the Fair Association.

In addition, the Grand Jury finds that the costs of environmental studies that should have preceded any major modifications to the Speedway and have been borne by the Fair Association, have been shifted from the Association to County taxpayers because these studies still need to be done.

Finally, the Grand Jury finds that the Fair Association has been allowed to benefit from its own wrongdoing. For nearly five years the Fair Association has refused to sign a revised contract to incorporate the additional safeguards, controls, and oversight necessary to remedy the numerous environmental problems the Fair Association created when it made major structural modifications to the Speedway without prior County approval.

Yet the County has allowed the current contract with the Fair Association to continue. This allows the Fair Association to run the County Fair, including the Speedway, without the additional environmental protections needed.

The Grand Jury finds that the County has been negligent in failing to protect the public by failing to terminate the current contract with the Fair Association.

The report is available at the www.placergrandjury.org.

The Placer County Grand Jury is an investigatory body with the authority to act as a watchdog on local government, investigate citizen complaints, and assist in criminal matters at the request of the district attorney.

Senator Gaines & Assemblywoman Gaines Team Up to Host Ada Compliance Workshops

SACRAMENTO – Senator Ted Gaines (R-Rocklin) and Assemblywoman Beth Gaines (R-Rocklin) along with local chambers of commerce, California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, and Lawyers Against Lawsuit Abuse, have teamed up to host a series of workshops for small businesses focused on Americans with Disability Act (ADA) issues. These events are being held in response to the alarming number of lawsuits being filed in the region against small businesses for minor ADA/accessibility issues like having incorrect railing height or parking lot striping color. Many of these businesses have been forced to close their doors because they can't afford to operate after settling these lawsuits.

During the workshops, Assemblywoman Gaines will provide information on her two

important measures, Assembly Bills 1878 and 1879, aimed at curtailing frivolous ADA lawsuits and pinpointing conflicting state and federal ADA regulations. Attendees will also receive a walk-through of what they need to know about ADA lawsuits including how to reduce their risk of being sued, and what to do if they have already have been sued.

Panelists will also include Tom Scott, Executive Director for California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse and David Peters, CEO and General Counsel for Lawyers Against Lawsuit Abuse who has been consulted in more than 850 ADA lawsuits throughout the U.S.

These workshops are a "can't miss" opportunity for business owners to learn important information about protecting themselves!

WHEN/WHERE

Placerville
April 25 • 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.
Town Hall
549 Main Street, Placerville

Truckee
April 30 • 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Truckee Donner PUD – Board Chambers
11570 Donner Pass Road, Truckee

Senator Ted Gaines represents the 1st Senate District, which includes all or parts of Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento and Sierra counties. Assemblywoman Beth Gaines represents the 4th Assembly District, which includes portions of Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento and Alpine counties.

LaMalfa Questions Misleading High-Speed Rail Plan

SACRAMENTO - Senator Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) recently issued the following statement in response to the release of the California High-Speed Rail Authority's revised Business Plan:

"While Governor Brown believes that speeding construction on high-speed rail will bring the cost to less than the \$100 billion price tag it carried last week, there's no way to do that without \$55 billion dollars that has yet to appear. California doesn't have any more money than it did last week, so simply claiming that the system will be built faster without having the means to do so doesn't lower costs.

"The Authority must be using 'Sacramento math' when they

claim that a \$68 billion plan is somehow a reduction from the \$34 billion price tag they promised voters four years ago. This looks nothing like what the people of California were promised in 2008, when the Rail Authority claimed that tickets would cost \$50, Sacramento and San Diego would be included and the private sector would fund much of the project. Today these claims are proven false, with tickets over \$80, Sacramento and San Diego left out and private investment avoiding the project entirely.

"Governor Brown seems determined to make high speed rail part of his legacy, even if it comes at the expense of California's schools, universities

and public safety. Unfortunately, he's ignoring the two-thirds of Californians who believe voters should have a chance to reconsider this project and its ballooning price tag. This is one bait-and-switch that cash-strapped Californians simply can't afford."

LaMalfa has authored Senate Bill 985 to place a measure on the November 2012 ballot allowing voters to end state spending on the project.

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.

Sierra College Publishes Electronic Journal Providing Directory of Museums in the Sierra Nevada

From Gary Noy, Director Center for Sierra Nevada Studies

PLACER COUNTY – The Sierra College Press has published an electronic journal entitled "Museums of the Sierra Nevada." This eJournal is the latest edition of The Journal of the Sierra College Natural History Museum. The newest edition of the eJournal presents a directory of museums, libraries, and other cultural and historical organizations throughout the Sierra Nevada region. Nearly 200 institutions are listed. The directory covers seventeen California counties and three counties in Nevada that border California. Also included is Sacramento

County as it is the home of many museums that examine the Sierra Nevada. The directory includes a short description of the venue or organization as well as contact information. For each county there is a video photo gallery presenting photos of the museums and other institutions listed. This is the first updated museum directory for the Sierra Nevada in many years.

The Journal of the Sierra College Natural History Museum has been published twice annually since 2008 and focuses on regional natural history, particularly within the 3200 square mile Sierra Community College District, which stretches from the Sacramento Valley to Lake Tahoe. The journal is a

publication of the Sierra College Press and is edited by Keely Carroll and Jennifer Skillen, Sierra College Professors of Biological Sciences.

The journal can be found online at www.jsnshm.org or through the college website at www.sierracollege.edu/press

Previous editions of this journal may be accessed as well as the other electronic journal published by the Sierra College Press. This journal is Snowy Range Reflections: A Journal of Sierra Nevada History and Biography (www.jsnhb.org) Additional information about these journals and the Sierra College Press can be obtained at www.sierracollege.edu/press

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SWISS AMERICA
THE GOLD STANDARD



By Ronnie McBrayer

On Easter morning a Sunday School teacher began to quiz her class of young children about the real meaning of the day. She asked them, "What is Easter?" and the students were quick and ready to respond.

A little boy jumped up and said, "Oh, I know! Easter is that holiday when we get together with our families, eat turkey, and everyone is thankful." The teacher answered, "No, not quite. Does anyone else know?" Another child enthusiastically answered, "This is easy! Easter is the holiday when we grill burgers and hotdogs, shoot off fireworks, and celebrate our country's birthday."

Again, the teacher replied, "No, not quite." She began to wonder if anyone in the room knew what Easter was really about. But then a little girl stood and began speaking, "Easter is a Christian holiday that follows the remembrance of Jesus' death on Good Friday. Jesus was buried in tomb, and a large rock was rolled over the entrance."

The teacher nearly squealed in delight. She was about to thank the child for such a good explanation when the girl continued, "And on Easter morning the stone is rolled away so Jesus can get out. Then, if he sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter." No, not quite.

While the children in this story gave incomplete answers, the question asked is still a good

Easter and Incomplete Answers

one: "What is Easter? Do we really know what it is about?" Despite a gazillion Easter sermons and Sunday School classes, our answers may still be a little lacking.

Many believers spend Easter morning proclaiming or listening to massive, exhaustive explanations of the resurrection miracle (though miracles, by default, are inexplicable). The gospel accounts are analyzed and reconciled; scientific objections are considered and then dismantled; skeptics are scolded and unbelievers are disregarded. It is apologetic calisthenics, a vigorous workout in defending Jesus' reputation, and not quite the answer.

Other believers hear or give Easter explanations that deal almost exclusively with life after death. The resurrection of Jesus is presented as our ticket to ride the divine bus, transporting us to heaven when we die. Interestingly, the New Testament never directly says "Jesus was resurrected from the dead so you can go to heaven when you die." The eventual application is made to that effect, but that is not quite the message of Easter either.

Rather, the New Testament says, over and over again, that "Jesus is raised from the dead, therefore he must be Lord over creation. Jesus is raised from the dead, he must be — he has to be — the grounding to what life today is all about. Jesus is raised from the dead, therefore God has done something unique and life-giving in this his servant and something unique and life-giving has invaded the entire world."

So Easter, it seems, is not

so much about defending the Christian belief system (Jesus didn't come to provide a "belief system" or a collection of doctrines in the first place; he came to give us life) as it is a revolution of transforming hope for the world.

Easter is not so much a passage way into the nether regions of tomorrow, as it is a powerful, redemptive way to live today. For you see, when God raised Jesus from the dead — and Christians believe Christ is indeed risen — he signaled the beginning of the redemption of all things, and provided the potency to bring this redemption to its fulfillment.

So we must do more than explain Easter. We must live it and "get in" on it today. We must do more than use the resurrection as a hope for heaven. We must use it to instigate heaven on earth. We must do more than say "He is Risen," we must become proof of Christ's resurrection power.

If we have reduced the resurrection of Jesus to mere dogma, or if we employ it as an escape hatch from this life for the life to come, we are responding to the question, "What is Easter?" with an enthusiastic, but incomplete answer.

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.

It's My Body; I'll Exercise It If I Have To

By Rev. James L. Snyder

Lately, I have noticed a lot of news regarding all aspects of the body. According to one report I read, this is a multibillion dollar-a-year business. I never knew my body was worth so much money. I'm tempted to sell it, or at least rent it out on a part-time basis.

I did not know how big of a deal this was until one night this past week I had a little trouble sleeping.

One reason I have trouble falling asleep is my deep fear of falling. Actually, it's not the fall that worries me so much as that sudden stop. For some inexplicable reason I always stop three inches past the floor.

I would not worry so much about falling asleep if I knew I was going to fall on my pillow instead of the floor. However, I can't count on anything these days. Not even my fingers.

I once woke up in the middle of the night engaged in a vicious life or death pillow fight. Unfortunately, the pillow won and I cannot find anyone to take my case.

I did find one lawyer but he was three-sheets-to-the-wind and my case was no breeze.

One fear I have in the middle of the night is falling into the hands of some vicious nightmare because of my horsing around the day before. My wife keeps nagging me about my daytime activities but I have a hard time harnessing these erratic urges.

Often when I have trouble going to sleep or when I wake up in the middle of the night and can't get back to sleep I simply get up quietly so as not to disturb the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and turn on the television. I once disturbed her; when I came to, I vowed never to repeat that offense.

You would think with so many channels on television there would be something interesting to watch in the middle of

the night. Something that would make the time spent profitably. Unfortunately, the nighttime airwaves are devoted to things holding no interest for anybody still clutching to a slim strand of sanity. You do not have to be crazy to watch nighttime TV; it is just a consequence of watching nighttime TV.

What I do not understand is why they run so many infomercials for exercise equipment at two o'clock in the morning. Who in their right mind is up that time of night? I know I'm not.

Using my remote, I channel surfed for probably 20 minutes and found nothing but people demonstrating exercise equipment and taunting me that I need to begin an exercise regimen if I am going to live a healthy life. One man's healthy life is another man's pain in the back, the knees and the elbows. After all this exercise, I only end up with a tennis elbow and athletes foot.

Not only exercise equipment, but also a good portion of these infomercials touts on the latest fad diet. According to one commercial I can lose all the weight I want to lose in a six-month period for only six easy payments of \$99 which they would gladly charge to my credit card account. "Call right now," they invite through the television screen, "for this special one-time offer."

This "special one-time offer" is conveniently offered every night. The only weight being lost is from my checking account. If anyone ever had a gander at my checkbook, they would readily see that my goose is cooked. Perhaps I could start a new fad diet: Cooked Goose. I could market myself as the "Cooked Goose Gourmet."

All this hype made me hungry, so I raided the refrigerator and kidnapped a tasty snack and immediately put it out of its misery and into my middle-age spread.

I say enough is enough. I am tired of other people telling me how to take care of my body. It takes all the strength and energy I have to drag my body from one place to another, let alone adding exercise to my daily schedule.

For a person my age I get plenty of exercise, more than I really need. A typical day for me always includes a rigid exercise regime; jumping to conclusions, running my mouth even when I'm told to be quiet from You Know Who and throwing my weight around every chance I get. After a full day of this, I am thoroughly exhausted.

For my money, it's my body and I'll exercise it if I have to, thank you. However, right now, I have more important things to do. Places to go. People to see. Experiences to enjoy. I can't think of any right now, but anything is better than some artificial exercise program. Who do you think I am? Jack LaLane?

With all this emphasis on exercise, I wish some of these people would exercise the right to keep their viewpoint to themselves.

In my opinion, the apostle Paul had the right attitude about all of this. I like what he writes to a young man by the name of Timothy. "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8 KJV).

The body exercised is no substitute for the daily exercise of godliness. To exercise godliness is to make the best possible use of each day.

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at (352) 687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.



By Marlys Norris, Christian Author

There is a beautiful divine God designed plan for every life and He wants you to lock into it as soon as possible. It is up to each person to search and discover what it is for their life. GREATNESS never dreamed possible, is waiting to come forth out of your life! Greatness God has planned for your life. Yes, out of YOUR life, my friend!

When you begin to sincerely SEEK God's perfect will for your life, you are destined to experience an adventure beyond anything you ever imagined possible. For God is the God of the impossible. God's Holy Words says, "When you seek for Me with your whole heart, you will find Me" and that is just the beginning! When God's Word

You Are Someone Special

comes alive in your heart and life, amazing things will begin to happen. He will give you a life full of meaning and purpose you never had before. He will miraculously fill you with His Spirit. You will experience His presence as you talk to Him in prayer and study His Word. (Bible)

You will be surprised as you begin to say and do amazing things that bless others -- experiencing the sovereign hand of God inspiring you. You will do many things beyond your natural inborn abilities, you never dreamed possible before you found Him. He gifts you with His endearing and everlasting love and gifts you with new talents to serve in the "Family of God". He said, "These words are written, that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through His Name". (John 20:31) "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord". (Romans 6:33) God declares you have been wonderfully made and He

is anxious to empower your life to honor Him that others might desire Him. He will be with you always. You will declare, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". (Philippians 4:13)

Eventually you will be awed and amazed, as you humbly realize, that a loving God has brought seeds of greatness into fruition into your life. Great Faith only comes from God. "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done unto you. (John 15:7) Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth". (2 Timothy 2:15) What you once thought impossible is now a part of your personal testimony of God's greatness and power in your life.

Marlysjn@gmail.com

God Moves Mountains, It was a Miracle!

Intimacy Begins Going God's Way.

Department of Justice Drops Appeal, Pays Pro-life Sidewalk Counselor

From www.LC.org

Washington, DC — April 2nd—The Department of Justice (DOJ) has dropped its appeal in Holder v. Pine against pro-life sidewalk counselor Mary "Susan" Pine, who is represented by Liberty Counsel. The DOJ has agreed to pay \$120,000 for this improper lawsuit. The DOJ had unsuccessfully sought thousands of dollars in fines against Susan Pine, as well as a permanent injunction banning her from counseling women on the public sidewalk outside the Presidential Women's Center ("PWC") abortion clinic.

After 18 months of litigation, the DOJ's case was thrown out of federal court, and the department was chastised for filing a case with no evidence. Federal Judge Kenneth L. Ryskamp stated that Holder's complete failure to present any evidence of wrongdoing, coupled with the DOJ's cozy relationship

with PWC and their joint failure to preserve video surveillance footage of the alleged "obstruction," caused the court to suspect a conspiracy at the highest level of the Obama Administration.

"The Court is at a loss as to why the Government chose to prosecute this particular case in the first place," wrote Judge Ryskamp. "The Court can only wonder whether this action was the product of a concerted effort between the Government and PWC, which began well before the date of the incident at issue, to quell Ms. Pine's activities rather than to vindicate the rights of those allegedly aggrieved by Ms. Pine's conduct." After this ruling the DOJ appealed on the last day possible and gave indication that President Obama ordered the appeal.

Ironically, this past December, in the midst of the

case, Ms. Pine actually counseled a woman outside of PWC and convinced her not to have an abortion, thus saving the life of the child and possibly the mother as well. Her email to Liberty Counsel read, "We saved a life today."

Mathew Staver, Founder and Chairman of Liberty Counsel, commented, "It is irresponsible for the U.S. Department of Justice to place politics above principle when deciding to prosecute, and thus attempt to silence, a pro-life sidewalk counselor without any evidence of wrongdoing. When the nation's highest law enforcement officer files suit against any citizen, the suit must be based on the law coupled with compelling evidence. Anything less is an abuse of the high office. Susan Pine will not be silenced or detoured from her mission to save the lives of innocent children."

Newcastle Business Group Offers College Scholarships

From Joe Irvin

NEWCASTLE — Applications for the annual Newcastle Area Business Association scholarships are now available. Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to college-bound

seniors who reside in the Newcastle-Ophir-Penryn area. The application and instructions can be found online at www.newcastlebusiness.org.

The scholarships are a hallmark of NABA tradition, funded by proceeds from the Mountain

Mandarin Festival.

Students must submit an application no later than April 20, 2012, and be available for interviews during the week of April 23-27.

For more information, please contact NABA at (916) 417-9537.



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 Be wary of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send any money for fees or services. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

Sniffing out Local Jobs is a Lot Easier with the Community Employment Connection



Local employment can be doggone hard to track down these days. That's why our website is linked to the **Community Employment Connection**. With a couple of clicks, you'll be hot on the trail of employment information, upcoming job fairs, career resources and job listings from local media, as well as nearby employment centers.

The **Community Employment Connection** is part of our new, enhanced employment content provided by Northern California's most-respected career and employment resource, JobJournal.com. When you need the most comprehensive information on local employment opportunities, job-search strategies, career planning and workplace issues, this is the place to start nosing around.

Placer Sentinel
www.PlacerSentinel.com

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

Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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

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

Outdoor World

EARLY BASS
In early spring, catchable bass can be scattered almost anywhere in a lake, but you can up your odds by fishing north of the dam where the sun warms the water the most each day. You will get even higher in isolated backwaters along the southern shoreline where water warms faster even yet.

Always remember, the warmer the water the more active the fish. Even in these areas though, the bass aren't going to be active all the time. In an early season lure like a 3/8 ounce white single spin doesn't produce try small jugs and in-line spinners.

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Bob Clavin is a 4 Time Bassmaster Classic Champion
For more info, log onto basspro.com

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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
19				20			21	22					
			23			24							
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37		38		39				
40					41			42		43			
44				45		46				47			
48					49		50		51		52		
				53		54		55		56			
57	58	59	60				61				62	63	64
65						66	67			68			
69						70				71			
72						73				74			

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CLUES

ACROSS

- One who pretends to be something he is not
- Cruise or Hanks, e.g.
- A tropical South American monkey
- Far beyond north
- Bleat
- Floor covering
- Slanted or listed
- Bow shape
- Tripod
- *Pinching crustacean
- *Underwater flower
- Make lacework
- Go cold turkey
- International Monetary Fund
- Holier than who?
- A hand tool for drawing angles, pl.
- "Yes, ___!"
- "Layla" singer-songwriter
- Roman king's abode
- A fit of shivering
- On fishing pole, pl.
- "Coal Miner's Daughter"
- Whatchamacallit
- Relating to the ear
- Caricatured
- *Octopuses
- On top of
- Put to the test

DOWN

- Door sign
- Margarine
- Back wound?
- German surrealist Max
- Knocks on the door, e.g.
- Ski lift
- *Rowboat propeller
- Reverted to China in '99
- Now Thailand
- In addition
- Type of eye?
- ___ of Man
- Move unsteadily
- Olden days anesthetic
- Writing point of pen

24. Eternal sleep
25. Idealized image
26. Ex-Laker Johnson
27. He sold his soul to Mephistopheles
29. Popular dunking cookie
31. A sails-shaped constellation
32. It borders Mediterranean and Red seas
33. *The Titanic was one of these
34. *Spongebob's air-breathing friend
36. Office communique
38. Paper holder
42. *A peri___ lets a submariner see above water
45. Light studies
49. Charged particle
51. Florence Nightingale and the like
54. Thief, Yiddish
56. New show with Debra Messing
57. *Black and white killer?
58. Independent unit of life
59. Obama to Harvard Law School, e.g.
60. Barbequed anatomy
61. Carte du jour
62. Not in favor
63. Individual unit
64. Sleep in a convenient place
67. *It can be electric

For Solution See Page 7

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Dollars and Sense

by James J. Scherer, MBA, CPA

Sprained Ankles

While in college I decided to earn tuition by working for the US Forest Service. Specifically I was a part of an elite group of forest fire fighters called Smokejumpers. We were based out of McCall, Idaho. I remember it so well. It was the first year and we rookies reported in early June. Our training was designed by Army paratrooper. Needless to say it was extremely tough, both mentally and physically.

The first four weeks were spent on ground training. The fifth week would consist of four training jumps. Our first jump would be from a DC-3 at an altitude of two thousand feet. Our job was to, well, jump! If our chute opened correctly we would guide it to a predetermined target. The closest to the target won a special prize.

I had a great jump and found myself heading straight for the target. It was then I made a rookie mistake. I decided to plane the parachute. This is a procedure where you pull down on parachutes front risers, which partially collapses the front of the chute. This in turn causes the chute to descend faster so you won't overrun the target. The added descent speed caused me to land with such force that I sprained both ankles. Ouch!

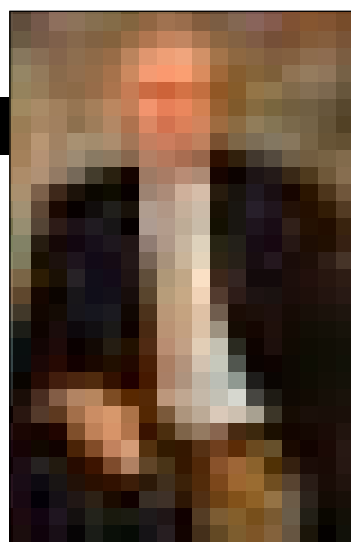
During the ride back to base I made another rookie mistake. Without seeking advice I decided to quit the program and head home.

After spending the next day in the comfort of my home, I called Dad to tell him the news. He would surely understand. To my complete surprise I was shocked to find him in total disagreement. In no uncertain terms he told me to get my "bleep" back McCall and get the job back. Thankfully, I received his tough love, swallowed my pride, and headed back to McCall. This decision to keep focused on my goal changed my life. The course led me to four summers of fun filled adventure.

What can we take for this story to help your investments?

Temporary pain is the price we pay for long term financial success. The roller coaster markets we have experienced have caused pain. However, this emotional pain is temporary. It is the price we pay for long term financial success. I encourage you to keep on investing.

The right council can make all the difference. My dad gave me the right advice. It was tough love, but it allowed me a chance to accomplish something special.



Now is not the time to quit your investing program and give up on your goals. I encourage you to seek the right advice. Sometimes their tough love will shock you out of complacency and help clarify what are your true financial desires.

Finally, it's not a good idea to plane a parachute.

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.

Toys Make Great Gifts, Bunnies Do Not

PLACER COUNTY – Peter Cottontail doesn't make a great gift. For those considering an Easter present of a baby rabbit or chick, the Placer SPCA asks them to reconsider. "Rabbit ownership is great for those who know what they are getting into," said Placer SPCA CEO Leilani Fratis, "but bunnies aren't toys." Rabbits can live for up to 10 years and require regular veterinary care, including spaying and neutering, Fuzzy baby chicks grow into gangly, less-cute chickens.

"We want to discourage people from thinking of pets of any kind as disposable," said Fratis. "We don't

want to see an increase in the number of unwanted rabbits or chickens after the spring holiday." The Placer SPCA and other local bunny rescue groups offer rabbits for adoption.

If you are seriously considering a pet rabbit for your family, don't buy on impulse and keep in mind the following: 1) Rabbits are not low-maintenance. Their cages or pens need to be cleaned daily, and they need fresh hay, vegetables, and water on a daily basis. They also need to be monitored for health issues. 2) Rabbits can easily suffer serious injury if handled roughly or dropped by a

small child. 3) Rabbits need social contact and do not do well when penned outside by themselves. 4) Many rabbits do not like to be picked up or carried, and can scratch or bite. 5) Rabbits are active animals with powerful legs for jumping. They need enough space to move freely, and a small cage purchased as a carrier is not large enough for a permanent home.

For more information, please contact the Placer SPCA, your local animal welfare experts, at (916) 782-7722 or (530) 885-7387, extension 100 or email customer-care@placerspca.org.

Community Festival Returns Home

PLACER COUNTY – After hosting its big Festival at the Roseville Galleria the last two years, Rocklin Kiwanis is bringing it back to Rocklin. For its fourth year, the event has been renamed the Rocklin Community Festival and will be staged at Rocklin's Johnson-Springview Park May 9 to 13. The main attraction will be 17 carnival rides by World Entertainment.

Last year, The Rocklin Kiwanis Club rescheduled its five-day event to warmer weather in May. The goal was twofold: to avoid rain and to have warmer weather for the outdoor carnival rides. As luck would have it, unseasonal rain dampened the event in a big way last year, virtually wiping out the final two days.

Chairperson David Albright and his committee are seeking sponsors, lining up vendors and planning the entertainment. They have broadened the scope of the event by involving other service clubs. The Rocklin Rotary Club will take over the beer garden.



17 carnival rides will be going day and night at Rocklin Community Festival.

Saturday will be the biggest day of the Festival. There will be business vendor booths and an arts and crafts fair that day, running from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Knowing that their Sunday activities coincide with Mother's Day, they are focusing on family activities, plus some special attractions for mothers.

Albright says this is one of the biggest fund-raisers for his local service club. "Kiwanis raises money to spend it on charitable

groups, concentrating on services for children," he said.

A non-profit organization in Rocklin since 1994, Kiwanis spends thousands of dollars a year for worthwhile service projects, mostly concentrating on youth. They sponsor high school Key Clubs, give high school scholarships, take disadvantaged children on Christmas shopping sprees and get involved supporting their community in multiple ways.

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POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

1) The way to navigate this Wild New World is to mend your own life...and that process means you will also mend other people and situations. As the world around us becomes less predictable and systems dissolve, we must let go of our familiar, rigid ways of thinking and behaving to embrace the fluidity of our true nature...the essential characteristics that makes each of us unique. Helping our true nature allows us to surf the change tsunami while helping others in the process.

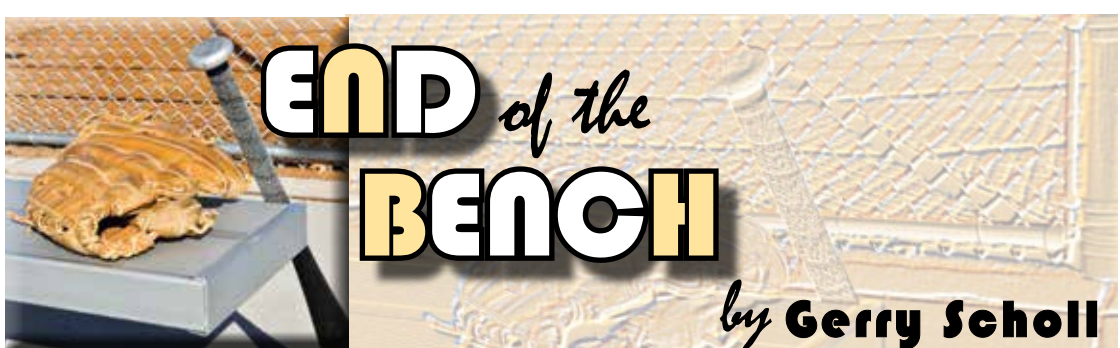
2) In order to restore the nature of ourselves and the earth, we must learn from ancient wisdom. Martha has traveled the world, studying ancient wisdom traditions created and used by the wisdom teachers of many cultures. Our Western culture has lost or put these practices aside for mending the self. Martha believes these traditions are now the key to healing ourselves and the earth.

3) There is a gathering of "wayfinders" mobilizing in every part of the world. In her ravels, Martha increasingly encounters people who share an urgent drive to connect with their own true natures, and consequently help restore the earth's balance. This team of "wayfinders" expressed a remarkably consistent internal desire to forgo

fixed and traditional careers or choices in favor of more fluid and unconventional ones. 4) Everything you need for your journey is already in you. In "Finding Your Way in a wild New World," Martha provides simple yet powerful ideas and techniques to help you connect with your true nature's incredible gifts, leverage your own innate genius, and thrive joyfully as you find your way through our wild new world.

So, there are ways to unlock your potential for deep transformation with Martha Beck, and come home to your true, purposeful, and unafraid self. Martha brings together ancient wisdom and modern science to help us embrace our skills and create the life we really want. If you want to hear more about life, please tune in the POPPOFF Monday thru Friday, or check out on-demand for POPPOFF 24 hours a day at www.kahi.com Check out the life you want at www.marthabeck.com and "Finding Your Way in a Wild New World." It might be the wild wild west out there, but challenge is what makes for greatness. That's what Mary Jane Popp says!!!

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



Together, We're Not Who We Used to Be

The San Francisco Giants will have their final roster decisions for 2012 sorted out by the time they take the field Friday at Arizona for the season opener, but, for sure, they will have quite a different look compared to who they were seventeen months ago when they won the World Series.

Only three of the nine players, including starting pitcher Tim Lincecum, who ran out on the diamond for Game One of that Series are still with the team. Catcher Buster Posey will be back, trying to return to form after missing most of 2011 due to his horrific ankle injuries. First baseman Aubrey Huff is back after a poor 2011 season and in the final year of his contract, trying to retain his position ahead of youngsters Brandon Belt and Brett Pill.

I was flipping through a little book I have on the Giants' 2010 postseason run called "Giant Surprise." There are a lot of pretty cool pictures in there from those forever memorable games.

There's a picture of Cody Ross and Edgar Renteria chest-bumping — both gone now. There's one of Ross, the NLCS MVP, making contact on one of his five postseason home runs, and one of Renteria connecting on his famous homer in Game Five of the Series which provided the clinching margin.

So many of those grinning Giants heroes who paraded triumphantly through the streets of The City are gone now. Loveable Andres Torres and handsome Pat Burrell, particular favorites of female Giants fans, — traded to the Mets and retired, respectively. Juan Uribe and his classic home run pose at the plate in Game One — gone. Overpaid outfielder Aaron Rowand was released and may be found somewhere in the minor leagues,

and infielder Mike Fontenot was recently let go. Clutch-hitting, but fragile, second baseman Freddy Sanchez is back on the disabled list again. Starter Jonathan Sanchez — off to Kansas City.

Possibly only four of the fourteen position players on that World Series roster will be with the team this year. But for a team that turned in an astonishingly abysmal offensive performance in 2011, that might be a good thing. Changes for the better had to be made and, hopefully, "Together, We're Giant."

Three new outfielders, Angel Pagan, Melky Cabrera and Gregor Blanco, along with returnee Nate Schierholtz, and young infielders Brandon Crawford and Emmanuel Burriss will provide upgrades in speed and defense. Their power numbers will be a big question, however. That department will be the specialty of a more healthy and more committed third baseman Pablo Sandoval. It would be hard to imagine the new group could do any worse than last season's offense, one of the worst in Giants history.

The best news is that the Giants have retained the services of eight of the eleven pitchers from the World Series team and may still have the best overall staff in the majors, anchored by Lincecum and Matt Cain, who just re-signed with the team on a long-term deal.

Across the bay in Oakland, the Athletics are, and then again they aren't, who they used to be. There are in the sense that the player turnstiles are fully operational — most of their better players are, once again, gone after ultra-short tenures with the team. They aren't in that there are, once again, a lot of new faces around. The "A" on the cap could stand for "Anonymus."

At least they have decided to start building a regular lineup around

young burgeoning stars. Second baseman Jemile Weeks was somewhat of a revelation through late last season and newly signed Cuban star center fielder Yoenis Cespedes has a bit of a Bo Jackson look about him. First baseman Brandon Allen has impressive power and may be the "sleeper" in the lineup. Young versatile outfielder Collin Cowgill could be a big help off the bench.

The A's have improved the offense and will add suspended veteran star Manny Ramirez to the mix as a designated hitter fifty games in, but that may be too late because of the gutted pitching staff.

Can you name the A's starting rotation? Can manager Bob Melvin name the A's starting rotation? Maybe he could, and maybe he would cringe doing so. And then when he calls for his closer he'll say, "Grant Balfour." And that's the last thing you want your closer to do.

And now I have to go see if the Kentucky Wildcats can go close their deal in the NCAA Championship Game, and wait and see if their drunken fans burn down the whole city of Lexington, win or lose. What's the deal with all these sports celebrations? What spirit!

Coach John Calipari is a hard one to root for with his checkered past of indiscretions at Massachusetts and Memphis. It wouldn't be a surprise to see him leave Kentucky with a probation to face as well, as he moves on again for another bigger payday elsewhere. Go Kansas, I guess.

It has been a relatively uninspiring tournament, but the one lasting impression will be the high-light play against Louisville in the semi-final by Kentucky's freshman sensation Anthony Davis, taking a tipped lob pass with a long reach and slamming it emphatically through the rim. Game Over.



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- 6 - 9am: The KAH1 Morning News with Barry Stigers and the KAH1 News Team
- 9am - Noon: The Laura Ingraham Show
- Noon - 1pm: The KAH1 Noon News with Mary Jane Popp and the KAH1 News Team
- 1 - 4pm: The Dave Ramsey Show
- 4 - 6pm: The KAH1 Afternoon News with Dave Rosenthal and the KAH1 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 KAH1 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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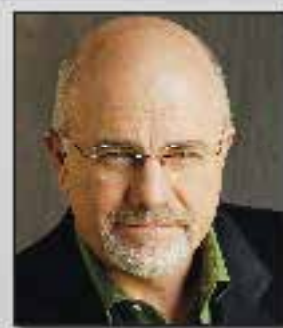
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Mary Jane Popp

Pioneer Presents Concert Series Supports Restoration of Pioneer United Methodist Church

Pioneer United Methodist Church and Auburn Community Concerts are presenting the fifth concert in their series "Pioneer Presents" on April 15th at 3 p.m., 1338 Lincoln Way, Auburn.

The Sierra String Quartet with special guest, Henry Hansen, clarinet, presents "First Impressions: a listening journey through the first movements of two quintessential works in appreciation of the Romantic and Impressionistic musical periods". These favorites include the string quartet by Ravel and clarinet quintet by Brahms. Quartet members include Kristen Autry and Rose-May Mickelson, violins, David Thorp, viola and Martha Brown, cello. All members are professional musicians and teachers in the Sierra foothills. They also play in the Auburn Symphony and many other area musical groups.



Curvd Aire Brass Quintet

beautiful compositions by Faure and Bach, written for the lovely lower tones of the viola. David Thorp is Principal violist of the Auburn Symphony, Stockton Symphony and is a member of many other orchestras and ensembles throughout Northern CA and Nevada. He is a well-known traveling musician with a Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music. He also teaches violin and viola in Auburn and neighboring communities.

Chi Xin Thorp, graduated from UOP conservatory and CSUS. Her love is "to play music that can bring people in touch with their hearts and souls; her joy is to see children excel in music through careful guidance." David with Chi-Xin at the piano, will perform Faure's Elegy and Bach selections.

Curvd Aire Brass Quintet will perform compositions by contemporary women composers featured at "Lifting the Veil", a ten-year old festival of music and arts, by, and for women. It was originated in

2002 by Curvd Aire's leader, Paul Simmons, in conjunction with CSUS as a benefit program for the women's schools in Afghanistan [formerly closed by the Taliban]. "Lifting the Veil has been integrated into other programs and concerts over the years, such as Pioneer Presents, with the same focus of women's music. Curvd Aire is an ensemble of professional musicians, including current and former members of many of the most prestigious musical organizations in the Sacramento region. Members are: Paul Simmons and Maurice Montgomery, trumpets; Angelina Contreras, Horn; Walter Johnson, trombone; and Donna Pool, tuba.

Pioneer Presents is part of an Auburn Community Concert series supporting the building restoration of Pioneer United Methodist Church, an Auburn Historic Landmark.

Suggested donation \$20. Information at www.auburn-communityconcerts.org or (530) 885-9009.



David Thorp and Chi-Xin Thorp.

David Thorp, viola and Chi-Xin Thorp, piano will feature

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What Kind of Power Should Government Have Over Your Life?

Commentary by
Brandon Smith
Whiskey & Gunpowder
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The concept of government power is a strange and complex cipher. The existence of governments has always been predicated on assumptions of necessity, but few societies have ever truly considered what those necessities might be. What is government actually good for? What do they do that is so important? And, what happens when a government fails in the roles and duties that a culture deems vital? We tend to view government as an inevitability of life, but the fact is, government is NOT a force of nature, it is a creation of man, and it can be dismantled by men just as easily as it can be established.

In America, many people see government as an extension of the Republic, or even the source, and an animal that feeds at the behest of the common citizen. An often heard argument against the idea of drastic change or even rebellion within the establishment system is the assertion that the government "is us". That it is made of Americans, by Americans, and for Americans. That there is no separation between the public, and the base of power. This is, of course, a childish and fantastical delusion drawn from a complete lack of understanding as to how our system really operates today. How many people out there who make this argument really believe at their very core that they have any legitimate influence over the actions of the state? I wager not many...

At bottom, to cling to the lie that the government as it stands is a construct of the people is an act of pure denial designed to help the lost masses cope with underlying feelings of utter powerlessness.

Unfortunately, the U.S. government has shown clearly through word and action that its concerns are not with the average American, and that its loyalties rest with decidedly smaller and more elite interest groups. When elections once meant to dissuade political abuse become a false

paradigm tool for the maximization of tyranny, have we not lost our voice as a society? When any government decides it is no longer concerned with the freedom and prosperity of a nation, no matter how righteous that government claims to be, we MUST, as citizens, ask ourselves whether that government is still useful to us, and what kind of power it should be allowed to wield. It is a dereliction of our duty not just as Americans but as human beings to simply treat government as a realm outside of our control or concern. It is lazy. It is dangerous. It could very well be disastrous. Government should answer to us, now and forever.

As the new millennium stampedes forward, however, it appears that the intended roles of the American dynamic have been reversed. The progression of the past decade has seen a hailstorm of legislation and executive orders that impede personal liberties and erode Constitutional protections in place for centuries. So many trails towards totalitarianism have been blazed recently that it is becoming difficult to track them all, and yet, I do not think many in our country have asked themselves what this means to their future. What kind of rights are you ready to hand over to government? How many aspects of your life should the establishment be able to dictate? How much freedom are you willing to give away?

While pondering these questions, each man and woman should also take into account the powers that those in government THINK they deserve. What have they asked for lately? What have they taken without permission? Here is just a short list of the more detrimental declarations of authority attempted over the past decade along with the pieces of legislation and executives orders used to make them "all legal"...

The Power To Invade Your Privacy

The U.S. government has long held at least a private belief that it should be allowed access to every aspect of a citizen's personal life. In the past, the excuse of criminal

suspicion was a standard rationalization, but this expanded beyond the targeting of individuals to broader surveillance of the populace as a whole with the advent of the drug war. Financial records especially became subject to government perusal without warrant and generally without any criminal charges filed.

This trampling of the 4th Amendment over a fabrication of a "war" on substances that by all rights should be legal anyway was just a taste of what was to come. With the explosion of the war on terror (another fabricated conflict), the application of mass surveillance became standardized. The Patriot Acts and the FISA bill, both upheld by so called "Republican" and "Democratic" presidents, have opened the door for centralized electronic spying in the name of "national security". Never before has the world seen such an unbridled assault on the private lives of common citizens. The big brother grids of the Soviet era are child's play compared to the data mining of the 21st century, and this tyranny is made possible by the marriage of government and corporate interests, working in tandem to ensure an ever tightening net.

The usual ill conceived debate point for such surveillance is the claim that it is "for the greater good", for our own safety, and that if we have nothing to hide, we have nothing to fear. It is not uncommon for slaves to embrace the loss of privacy in the name of safety, even if that feeling of safety is an illusion, but, in the end, whether we have something to hide is none of the government's concern. In a true Republic, innocent until proven guilty is a paramount ideal, and this ideal cannot exist in a country where everyone is treated as a suspect at every moment of every day. No politician, no corporate body, no president, no alphabet agency in existence is exalted enough to play the all seeing all judging eye of god. This kind of power in the hands of an organization whose sole purpose is self preservation and expansion at any cost? Absolutely unacceptable!

The Power To Silence

From the DHS, to the private Federal Reserve, to Google and Facebook, the tides of opinion and social observation are being tracked, catalogued, and flagged for future intervention. With active programs now in place to identify and isolate negative online criticism of these institutions as well as to marginalize freelance web journalists and more mainstream media icons with a strong voice, the general public is finally beginning to see what we in the Liberty Movement have been warning about for years.

The invasion of privacy is merely the first step in the process of silencing dissent. If the citizenry is put in a position in which they know they are constantly being watched, they may decide to censor themselves to avoid possible retribution. In fact, the destruction of free speech has always been accomplished in history first by the target population itself. Terrified of real and imagined consequences, people begin to filter their own views, until a single harmless and homogenized collective voice forms.

The near miss of SOPA legislation has proven as well that the government hopes to one day be able to summarily vaporize internet outlets based on whatever guidelines they see fit to apply. It also showed that the American public is not going to roll over while this occurs. I think it safe to say that the internet is the very last bastion of free speech in the world, free from filtration, bureaucratic meddling, and corporate vampirism. SOPA was a test case. New and more subversive methods will arise, and shutting down the web as we know it will be a number priority for our government for the foreseeable future.

"Free speech zones" aside, protest is becoming far more difficult in this country. Less-than-lethal devices like tasers, rubber bullets, tear gas, sound cannons, microwave guns, etc. have "humanized" the act of government violence against peaceful protest, but the effects of violating the 1st Amendment are the same. Add to this the use of Fusion Centers to coordinate armies of riot cops with the help of the DHS, the FBI, and even the military, and you have a high grade goon machine constructed to undermine the people's right to redress grievances. It has become obvious that this government not only wants to stifle your ability to affect change through electoral means, but it is also determined to make sure you can't openly complain about being muscled out of the political process either.

The Power To Financially Destroy

Of course, much of the economic distress that we suffer today was generated by the corrupt activities of the Federal Reserve (a privately controlled banking cartel) and global financing conglomerates like JP Morgan and Goldman Sachs, however, the government's complicity in these activities cannot be denied. It was the Congressional repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act that gave international banks the ability to derivitize massive numbers of mortgages and create the ongoing implosion of the housing bubble. It was the SEC that turned the other cheek for years while credit fraud flooded markets and ratings agencies gave AAA status to toxic and basically worthless assets. It is the U.S. government to this day that defends the Federal Reserve's nonstop quantitative easing, the destruction of the dollar, and increased deficit spending driving our nation even deeper into debt. The passage of the bailouts despite an 80% opposition from the public sent a stark message; the government does

not care what you think about the economy, and will do what it pleases, even if it means destroying your means of fiscal survival.

The Power To Imprison Without Trial

The NDAA is truly a perfect representation of the kind of power the government would like to have over the people, no questions asked. The Obama Administration's half hearted promises to not use the provisions of the legislation to detain American citizens indefinitely without trial are little comfort, especially when one considers that the man has not kept a single positive promise since taking office in 2008. Frankly, I would have slightly more respect for the president (which isn't much) if he had the guts to come out and admit what the language of the NDAA clearly states; that American citizens can and will be designated as enemy combatants under the rules of war, and that anyone, regardless of citizenship, can be labeled a "terrorist" for any reason by the executive branch.

I suppose the one good side-effect of the passage of the NDAA is the level of awakening going on in the American public to the direction our country is taking. Not to mention, the scrambling that political representatives now have to do to cover themselves and explain away their support for the draconian measures.

For those who do not grasp the ultimate goal of this kind of legislation, the NDAA seems outlandish, or insane. But, in a certain light, it is perfectly logical. A government that seeks totalitarian control is REQUIRED to remove the protections that a jury trial affords, otherwise, it cannot function in the manner it desires. If a person is given the opportunity of a jury by his peers, this takes the ability to criminalize out of the hands of government and places it in the hands of a third party. Just as in the economy, the globalists who stand at the helm of our country would very much like to centralize law. This means removing all checks and balances from the equation. In the name of national security, Washington D.C. considers all things possible...

The Power To Kill Without Trial

Another program supported by both Republican and Democratic presidents, the ability to assassinate American citizens without trial based on mere accusations from the executive branch is a highly useful tool for tyranny. Over the past couple years the questions have always been; how far do they plan to take this policy, and, will they try to use it against American citizens on American soil? These questions have been indirectly answered by FBI head Robert Mueller when he tried to dodge them in a recent hearing: Mueller's claim that he is "not sure" if Americans can be assassinated on U.S. soil is the same as an admission that this is at the very least being considered. Given the legaleze wrangling that both Mueller and Eric "Fast and Furious" Holder have tried to implement in rationalizing the use of assassination, I find it hard to fathom that anyone would NOT expect they would use the policy for Americans on home turf. The power to kill or imprison without trial is expressly forbidden by Constitutional law and the Bill of Rights. Such abuses were the primary cause of the Revolutionary War, yet, here we are again, dealing with the same murderous reasoning with a slightly different face.

The Power To Militarize

Federal fusion centers and funding for local law enforcement has irreparably damaged state and county objectivity and opened the door to a steady diet of anti-liberty propaganda for police

officials across the nation. Some eat it up, some don't. However, the issue here is one of intention. Why does the federal government feel the need to arm divisions of local law enforcement with automatic weapons, predator drones, and even tanks? Why is Congress going out of its way to free up FAA regulations to allow police organizations unprecedented access to predator drones, up to 30,000 by 2020, for use in civilian airspace?

Why does the DHS suddenly need 450 million rounds of .40 cal ammunition from ATK? And why has Obama quickly and quietly signed the Executive Order for National Defense Resources Preparedness? Though many will claim the order only refreshes such continuity of government policies seen in older programs like Rex 84, I find it a bit disconcerting that our government suddenly feels the need to rehash Rex 84 powers at all!

The order is a claim to eminent domain, not just over land, but over every resource imaginable in the face of a "national emergency". Using military force, all goods, services, and property, can be confiscated in the name of support for military and governmental logistics. In an article written in February titled "The DHS Defends Globalism, Not America", I warned that Janet Napolitano's language of supply chain protection and resource allocation could only be supported by the pilfering of goods from one place to feed another.

Now we see that this was indeed the intention all along. Given that the John Warner Defense Authorization Act allows the president to declare a national emergency and martial law for almost any reason at any time without oversight from Congress for at least 6 months, the possibility of vast programs of resource confiscation becomes much more likely.

The power to militarize a culture at will, and to force that culture to work and produce in the name of the state and the benefit of the state is perhaps the most terrifying power of all. It is, for all intents and purposes, the power to enslave.

What Has Our Government Become?

Really, who needs terrorists when you have a government like ours? If it is the widespread destruction of the principles that founded our society that you fear, then the last enemy you need worry about is the Muslim boogie man. The greatest threat to our way of life is an institution that has always operated right under our noses and acted with impunity sheltered by the very borders it is tasked to defend. It is the only group in existence that has the resources, the military backing, and the proven intent to undermine liberty in America. It is the supreme threat to individual freedom in the world today. And, the worst irony of all is that it commits every one of its crimes in our name.

So, there comes a point when we have to decide what kind of respect this brand of monstrosity deserves? It would appear that the government, or at least root elements of it, see the American people as the enemy. And why not? We are, in the end, the only force on the planet in a position to deconstruct the machine, so it only follows that we find ourselves locked in its crosshairs. We have not been given much choice. The only decision left to make is one within each individual. How much do we really need the system, and how much pain and horror are we willing to endure to satisfy its insatiable hunger? Where will we finally draw the line...?

Regards,
Brandon Smith
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