

Placer Sentinel

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Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

Second Issue of February 2012

Seniors Need to Know: Long Term Care Basics



Page 2

The Bachelor and The Bobby Soxer



Page 3

Why Mitt Romney? He's ready to rebuild American success



Page 10



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Reunite, Reconnect and Rebuild

SACRAMENTO REGION – The Capital Region Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering Reconnection Workshops, courses designed to help ease the transition after military deployment.

Four facilitated sessions will be offered to focus on skills building to enhance the likelihood of positive reconnections with armed forces personnel and their families following a military deployment.

“Deployments are a fact of life in the military,” said Trisha Johnson, emergency services manager. “Whether a service member’s absence is due to a training exercise, sea duty, combat, or unaccompanied duty in a remote location, separation and reunification pose unique opportunities as well as challenges for all family members. The American Red Cross, with support from Walmart, developed a series of workshops to assist all military families in managing the family’s readjustment to the service member’s return.”

Actively licensed and specially trained Red Cross mental



American Red Cross helps military families from the area to reunite, reconnect and rebuild after deployment. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Brian Goodwin/Released)

health professionals lead participants through information and discussions designed to help them identify and respond to the challenges of readjusting to and transitioning back to a changed

family dynamic. The workshops are targeted to service members and their spouses, children, parents, siblings and significant others. Topics include Communicating

Clearly, Exploring Stress and Trauma, Relating to Children, and Working Through Anger. Participants have the option

Continued on page 2

Grange Supports GMO Labeling for November Ballot

Thousands of volunteers are now fanning out state-wide to launch a petition drive to get the California Right to Know Genetically Engineered Food Act on the ballot in November. In the thick of the grass-roots initiative is the California State Grange, one of the leading partners in the effort.

The California State Grange has long supported the idea that GMOs (genetically modified organisms) in the food supply should be adequately tested and that consumers are entitled to know what’s in food they eat. The American people agree. Yet despite overwhelming support for GMO labeling, for over a decade regulators and legislators at the national and state level have largely ignored public concerns.

That’s why the Committee for the Right to Know is taking the issue directly to the voters of California. Now, with petitions in hand, over 1,500 volunteers will be gathering signatures at stores and farmers markets up and down the state.

“The bottom line is Californians have a right to know what’s in the food we eat and feed our children. It’s time to send a strong, direct message to those who govern us, whether they be agency or elected, that we want genetically engineered foods labeled,” says Pamm Larry, founder of the Committee for the Right to Know.

Check the website, www.labelgmos.org for more information on this issue.

Placer County Sheriff Hosts National Night Out



Picture above, from left to right, are PCSO personnel who helped make National Night Out 2011 an award-winning success: Community Services Officer Lynn Harrison, Deputy Victoria Skellenger, CSO Shannon Herdegen, Lt. Wayne Woo, Undersheriff Devon Bell, CSO Amanda Rogers, Sgt. Rob Dellinger and CSO Kim Rivera. Photo by Dena Erwin, PIO

PLACER COUNTY – For the third year in a row, the Placer County Sheriff’s Office has been honored for hosting one of the best National Night Out events in the U.S. in 2011, placing thirteenth, just behind much larger jurisdictions like Los Angeles County and Houston, Texas.

National Night Out is celebrated annually on the first Tuesday of August, when first-responders caravan in emergency vehicles to dozens of Placer County neighborhoods. They visit established Neighborhood Watch groups, which hold ice cream socials, barbecues and all sorts of get-

togethers. In 2011, more than 37 million people in 15,325 communities across the U.S. participated.

Dedicated members of all the Neighborhood Watch groups in Placer County are given credit for the department’s win.

“The commitment these neighbors have shown by taking control

of their neighborhoods and watching out for each other is the reason we earned national recognition again,” said Sheriff Ed Bonner.

Neighborhoods interested in creating a Neighborhood Watch group are encouraged to call the Sheriff’s Office at (530) 889-7800.

Senior Peer Counseling

Placer County Senior Peer Counseling provides volunteer counselors to assist Placer County residents, age 55 and above who are experiencing grief, depression, family conflicts, substance abuse, loss of independence, caregiver stress and physical disability. The counseling is confidential, free and provided in the home.

Counselors are available in Auburn area, Rocklin, Roseville, and Lincoln.

Contact Tom Drake, LCSW (530) 886-3413.

Celebrity Chefs—Cookin’ for the Community

By Paula Mosqueda

AUBURN – Twenty-six years ago, the Celebrity Chefs Event came into being. It started as a fundraiser for local candidates running for office. Now hosted by the Auburn 49er Lions Club, this event has evolved into a fundraiser for local non-profit organizations who use these funds to benefit the residents of the Auburn area.

In early March, scores of area cooks come together and offer samples of their favorite culinary creations. The variety of foods is wonderful and the aromas are delightful. There are tasty appetizers, salads, entrees and desserts to tempt everyone.

A “Celebrity Chef” can be anyone who likes to cook and is willing to share his/her delicious



Jim Ryan and Joe Rawson from the Auburn Host Lions.

cooking or baking talents with the world. Restaurant owners, business owners, city officials, and individuals from all walks of life sign up to participate in the evening’s festivities. There

are always “new” chefs joining in for the first time, and some “old” chefs who have participated every year for 26 years. Everyone is welcome.

This year, the Celebrity

Chefs Cooking for Community Service event will take place on March 1, 2012, in the Placer Building of the Gold Country Fairgrounds, from 5:30-8 p.m. The local Forgotten Soldier Program was selected to receive the proceeds of this year’s event. This program promotes the social, spiritual, and emotional well being of veterans and helps returning members of the military return to civilian life.

If you would like to sign up and become a Celebrity Chef, or if you have questions about the event, feel free to call Paula at 530-863-7503.

Tickets for the Celebrity Chef events are being sold at the following Auburn locations: Golden Swann Jeweler’s, 881 Lincoln Way, Marybelle’s Restaurant, 1590 Lincoln Way, Sun River

Chiefs, 1585 Lincoln Way, Chamber of Commerce, 601 Lincoln Way, Auburn Justice Center–Probation Dept (see LindaLee) 2929 Richardson Dr., Healing Light Institute-the Forgotten Soldier, 991 Lincoln Way (Mon-Thurs). Tickets may also be purchased at the door. The cost is \$15 per ticket.

If you like to cook or bake, or if you just like to eat, or both, the Celebrity Chefs event is a dream come true. You will want to be there. There will be live music, raffles, fun, and lots of great food. The Auburn 49er Lions Club and the Forgotten Soldier Program will be glad you came, and so will you.

For more information about the activities about the Auburn 49er Lions Club, contact them at auburn49erlions@gmail.com.

Taxes Not the Answer for California's Economy



By Senator Ted Gaines

SACRAMENTO – This month marks Presidents Day, and as we celebrate Lincoln's birthday it's timely that we look at the tax farce troubling his home state of Illinois. Last year, in a move that must have left legislative Democrats dizzy with admiration and envy, the Illinois legislature jacked personal income tax rates up by 67 percent and corporate tax rates up by nearly 50 percent. Despite assurances that were made when the taxes were passed, the legislature still has not closed their budget gap, and they won't until they get the political will to control their spending.

Let Illinois be a lesson to everyone who believes in the magical powers of tax increases. They do not occur in a vacuum. Unless governments have the discipline to rein in spending – which California certainly does not – tax increases just enable more extravagant spending plans and takes money away from the working

families who have earned it.

California's problem is not that the people are taxed too little, but that the government spends too much. We have to examine every possible avenue for saving money so that we can keep providing core government services, such as education and public safety, at a price we can afford.

For example, why does California have a full-time legislature? Texas and more than 40 other states do just fine with part-time legislatures that meet far less often than California's and where the legislators make far less than we make every year.

Besides the savings, it's a good idea to get legislators away from the Capitol cocoon more often and out in the real world, living and working under the rules they pass in Sacramento. I own a business and I'm constantly frustrated by the maze of regulations that grows and changes with every legislative session. I know how hard California makes it for businesses to succeed.

In my business I can't just keep spending and spending and then force my clients to pay more and more to cover my spending. When times are tight, I have to cut back, find ways to save money, provide the same services more efficiently. Government should be taking that same approach, when unemployment is eleven percent and state government is running multi-billion dollar deficits. Now is not the time to be growing government.

But, incredibly, Governor Brown's budget plan spends \$6

billion more in 2012-13 than in 2011-12.

And to pay for it, Governor Brown and the Democrats want to pass the bill along to their customers. The Governor is pushing for a five-year, \$35-billion tax increase. Sales taxes and income taxes will go up during those five years, costing families precious dollars that they could use for groceries, vacations, school clothes and thousands of other necessities that are already hard to afford in our high-cost, highly regulated state.

Let's take a private-sector approach before we shake down taxpayers any further. How about putting a stop to the \$100 billion-plus High Speed Rail plan that will soak up billions of dollars a year for decades? How about allowing schools to contract with the private sector to provide services like transportation or food service?

I oppose Governor Brown's call for higher taxes. State tax rates went down last year but state tax revenues are growing and are expected to continue growing for the next several years. This indicates that our economy – slowly and precariously – is moving forward. Let's not kill that momentum by larding on even higher, unnecessary taxes.

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.

Long Term Care Basics

By Ignacio Cespedes



PLACER COUNTY – A prospective new client wanted to utilize their long term care insurance for homecare. Jane needs an in-home caregiver to help provide care for her husband, Don. However, Jane has held off using their long term care insurance due to concerns that their benefits would run out prematurely. Don has a 3-year policy but expects to live longer than that. He needs a caregiver's help with activities of daily living such as standby help with bathing, dressing, transferring, other personal needs, and domestic chores such as cooking and laundry; he is currently in relatively good health.

What many people don't know is that long term care is not a 'use it or lose it' type of insurance; rather, it is a 'use it or save it' type of insurance. The length of the policy assumes that the claimant will utilize the daily benefit amount every day of that period of time, for example, every day of the three year term. But if they utilize half of that every week, the policy would last six years. If they received respite care one day a week, the policy would last 21 years. Even though Don is in pretty good health, he probably won't live to be 102!

LTC insurance is based on a "pool of money" concept. For example, \$200/day benefit for a 3 year plan is equivalent to an initial policy value of \$219,000

(there are options to include inflation protection). If a policy holder uses his/her daily benefit to the maximum level every day, then in this example, the "pool of money" will last 3 years from when benefits started. However, if a person utilizes half of that daily benefit every day, then the "pool" will last 6 years. LTC policies are not based on time (i.e., 3-years); and the policy will last as long as you have money in the "pool."

A key point of consideration is Jane's health. We know from statistics that family caregivers can become stressed and typically tend to undermine their own health. How will Don's care look like if Jane got sick? How soon would they be able to arrange for home care? A side benefit to initiating LTC benefits is the establishment of a working relationship with an in-home care agency and having additional

care readily available. So, Jane started with twice a week in-home care under their insurance's daily cap. At the current level of outside caregiver services, their policy will last for over 12 years. Should Don's health worsen, Jane is ready to step up the outside in-home care. In that case, the insurance will not last as long, but then Don will probably need it for a lesser period of time as well.

The Older Adult Advisory Commission is responsible for advising the Department of Health and Human Services and the Board of Supervisors on the needs of Placer County's older adults. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday, at 1:00 PM. More information may be found online at: www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/hhs/adult/OlderAdultAdvisoryCommission.aspx or by calling the Public Authority at (530) 886-3680.

Reunite, Reconnect and Rebuild

Continued from page 1

of choosing any or all of the workshops.

The workshops will be presented by Walmart, on March 3 and March 24 at the Sacramento office, located at 1565 Exposition Boulevard.

Each workshop is approximately 2 hours in length. Participants can take them in any order and select those most applicable to their situation. Workshops are free to military members and their families and occur in a supportive and confidential environment.

For more information about the current workshop being offered or to register for future workshops go to www.redcross-crc.org or contact Samantha Clark at (916) 993-7087 or clarksam@usa.redcross.org.

Grief Support for Widowed People

AUBURN – Grief support for anyone interested in helping other widowed people work through their grief process and find redirection in their lives.

This organization has trained volunteers who help widowed people work through the trauma of losing a spouse. It has been in the South Placer area since 1986 and is funded by local

community organizations. This meeting will be on February 24th, 1:00 PM in Auburn. For information or other information call (530) 885-8298.

OHV Trails Closed for Wet Season

FORESTHILL – The Forest Service has restricted motorized use by off-highway vehicles such as ATVs and motorcycles in the Sugar Pine OHV area on the American River Ranger District just outside of the community of Foresthill. Snow

covers a large portion of the designated trail system, and soils in the area are saturated with mud and large pools of water on the trails. This closure goes into effect on February 15, 2012 and will remain in place until conditions dry sufficiently to protect

all resources when motorized use resumes. Additional information concerning this closure is available by contacting the district office by telephone at (530) 367-2224 Monday through Friday, 8:00-4:30.



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Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher".

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Publisher Paul V. Scholl

Silver Screen Flirts In "The Bachelor and The Bobby Soxer"

AUBURN – Silver Screen Classic Movie Series continues on Saturday, March 3 with the comedy "The Bachelor and the Bobby Soxer," from 1947. When bubbly 17-year-old Shirley Temple gets a crush on Cary Grant, he can't get rid of her. But then he gets help from an unexpected source: her sister, judge Myrna Loy, sentences him to date Shirley until she gets over him. In the process, Loy and Grant develop their own crush... to our delight. 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.



Cary Grant wishes Shirley Temple would leave him alone in "The Bachelor and the Bobby Soxer," shown at 1, 4 and 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 3, 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 RKO.

Everyone except Shirley expects her crush to burn itself out. Quickly. After all, Grant is

much, much older than she is, and woefully out of place at the malt shop and high school basketball games. But the more she sees of him, the gawker the callow teenage boys look. And she becomes even more captivated with him.

Meanwhile, Grant comes up with his own scheme to make himself unattractive to this playful teenager – a plot that delights those family members observing this amusing dilemma. But Rudy Vallee, convinced he himself is perfect for Shirley's sister, becomes increasingly suspicious of Grant's methods. Because the longer Grant's around, the more attractive he becomes – to Shirley's sister. It's a battle to the finish!

The next scheduled movie is "San Francisco," on April 7.



Around Town with Loyce Smallwood

Red Chair has a colorful assortment of fashions/jewelry/purses along with vintage furniture on Combie Road next to Holiday Market.



Bonnie Gibson with Bud Buczkowski

Congratulations to Wizards of Metal Dan Tenold who spreads his wings and moves his metal art to the back of the Gold Rush Plaza from which South of the Border moves and relocates next door to Pineapple Pier on Sacramento Street where Creative Urges Owner Kathryn Santiago closes her doors next door to horsewoman Shauna Glorioso whose Used Saddle Connection continues to provide an alluring inventory for the horse lovers and those of us who love western fashion/art/jewelry/books and the smell of leather.

Much lovely, gleaming and artistic jewelry across the way at OT Gallery which continues to provide an amazing array of ceramics, carvings, weavings, paintings, glass and photography in a well-lit and spacious environment, a fav of tourists and locals alike.

More congrats to ACTV talent producer Bill Mael who is now on

staff assisting General Manager Paula Johnston who continues to invite would-be producers and asks the public to check out the ACTV website at www.actv20.org regarding needed equipment donations.

Check out the schedule for CONNECTIONS programs including the Mike Holmes segment hosted by ACTV volunteer Bonnie Gibson who will also chat up colorful ceramists Tony Natsoulas and Ellen Huls along with Councilwoman Bridget Powers in March. Media opportunities continue to flourish with ACTV conveniently located at Placer High.

Comments/questions to loy@foothill.net

The Hero Next Door

PLACER COUNTY – Placer SPCA is seeking nominations for the 2012 Hero Awards, to be presented at the 11th annual Funny Bones Comedy and Awards Night on Friday, April 27.



act quickly, as tickets typically sell out weeks before the event.

Do you know a person, animal, organization, or business in Placer County that has gone above and beyond to demonstrate how strong the human-animal bond can be? Nominate them for a Placer SPCA Hero Award! Nomination forms and event ticket sales are available at placerspca.org/funnybones. Last year's Heroes included utility employees who rescued a dog trapped in a reservoir, a dog whose owner brings him to visit nursing home residents every week, and two teens who found a missing cat caught in a storm drain. Funny Bones includes a silent and live auction, full dinner, the Hero Awards presentations, and a set by a national headliner, comedian Dan St. Paul.

Those interested in attending Funny Bones are encouraged to

All proceeds from the event benefit Placer SPCA, an independent local nonprofit organization. Sponsorships are available. For more information, please contact the Fund Development department at (916) 782-7722 or (530) 885-7387, ext. 102 or visit www.placerspca.org. Funny Bones is made possible in part by a Sidesplitting Sponsorship by the Erich Lyss Family Trust.

Hero Sponsors are SureWest Foundation and Wells Fargo. Funny Bones sponsors at the Hysterical level are Mann, Urrutia & Nelson CPAs; Westlake, Grahl & Glover; Al Johnson Consulting, LLC; Folsom Lake Bank; Integral Financial Consulting; Barbieri Consulting; and The Buzz Oates Group of Companies. Sponsors at the Hilarious level are West Roseville Veterinary Hospital, Resort & Grooming; Roseville Automall Association; Wallace Kuhl & Associates; Gurnee & Daniels, LLP; and Pacific Gas & Electric Company.

Widowed Persons Association Auburn

Widowed Person's Association of California will hold its monthly "Get Acquainted" dinner on Thur. March 1, 2012 at 4:30 PM at the Sizzler Restaurant in Auburn. Call (530) 823-5321 for reservations by Tues. February 28, 2012 If you are

new to WPAC this is an appropriate time to meet people who are also widowed.

All Widowed People are invited to attend three activities of this organization prior to joining our membership. Our activities include: card playing,

luncheons, bingo, bowling, trips to Reno, Koffee klatches and special activities.

For a free newsletter call (530) 823-5321.

Submitted by: Ann Steinhart
Publicity Chairperson

<p>Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Sommer E. Angle 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. Angle earned distinction as an honor graduate. She is the daughter of Maria Kader of Hedgerow Court, Roseville. She is a graduate of Oakmont High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in 2009 from California State University, Sacramento.</p>	<p>Air Force Airman Andrew R. Parks 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. He is the son of Lori Musladin of St. Lucia Way, Lincoln, Calif., and Jeff Parks of N.W. Astor Court, Camas, Wash. Parks graduated in 2006 from Lincoln High School.</p>
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TRUMP: NO ONE'S APPRENTICE

Why Mitt Romney? He's ready to rebuild American success



Photo: Gage Skidmore

By Donald J. Trump,
The Washington Times

As Seen in the Washington Times on Wednesday, February 8th, 2012

The time has come for the Republican Party to close the deal. I believe Mitt Romney is the best choice for the presidency. Let me tell you why.

To begin with, like me, Mitt is a businessman, not a career politician. In other words, he's accomplished far more in his life than collecting campaign cash from special-interest groups and making promises at press conferences with the help of a teleprompter.

Mitt played an instrumental role in starting or managing such job-creating giants as Domino's Pizza, the Sports Authority, Staples and many other firms. He single-handedly saved the 2002 Winter Olympic Games from financial ruin and turned it into one of the best competitions in living memory. Amazingly, he governed blue-state Massachusetts as a conservative, balancing its out-of-whack budget while cutting taxes, feats carried out despite a Democratic-controlled legislature.

Mitt has what it takes to turn the country around. And he has laid out a plan to do just that.

Right now, China is cleaning America's clock. The Chinese are building the world's largest airports, biggest ports, a powerful

military and the best of everything. And we're paying for it all by purchasing their products. We're buying everything they make because they keep their currency artificially low, giving them an annual windfall of some \$250 billion. They are holding the yuan at a level at which it is impossible for us to compete.

Mitt Romney not only understands all this, he has thought through the policies we need to begin to set things right. Unless China changes direction, he has pledged to have the Treasury Department designate China as a currency manipulator on Day One of his administration. We can then impose duties on China's unfairly priced products. The Chinese will get the message faster than an ICBM. As Mitt has said, "We don't want a trade war, but neither can we accept our current trade surrender."

Fixing our trade relations with China is just one part of Mitt's comprehensive plan to get America back in gear. The Obama administration seems to have accepted record high unemployment as the new normal. But it is not acceptable to Mitt that nearly 24 million Americans are unemployed, underemployed or no longer even looking for work. Mitt's jobs plan will create millions of jobs over four years, and I will be out there myself doing some of the hiring.

Some people call Mitt's jobs plan conservative. I happen to know something about creating jobs, and I call it common sense. Middle-income Americans deserve far better than the slow-growth and no-growth policies President Obama has put in place. They need a president who will make it possible for all Americans to get a bigger slice of a growing pie rather than crumbs handed out

by Washington. Mitt understands that government needs to get out of the way if American business is to do what it does best: innovate, make the products that people around the world want to buy, and hire American workers.

Right now, government regulations cost us annually \$1.75 trillion. They constitute a stealth tax that is larger than the amount the Internal Revenue Service collects every year from corporations and individuals combined. In just three years, Mr. Obama has added hugely to the annual regulatory bill. Mitt is going to pare that back and make sure every single regulation has benefits that outweigh costs and that they don't kill U.S. jobs.

Mitt also is going to rein in Mr. Obama's out-of-control spending and bring the federal budget back into balance. He's laid out the government programs that he's going to eliminate and cut. He's determined to trim the bloated federal workforce. That's going to take a lot of hard work and the negotiating skills of a successful businessman. It's precisely why we need someone with Mitt's financial background and business experience to run the country.

True, Mitt Romney does have his shortcomings: He's never built a Mitt Romney Tower in New York City or 12 Mitt Romney championship golf courses. Not everyone can be a Donald Trump. However, over the course of Mitt's distinguished career, he has built other kinds of enduring monuments of accomplishment that have earned my highest regard. Mitt Romney is no one's apprentice; he's fully ready to step into the nation's top job as the next president of the United States.

Donald J. Trump is president and CEO of the Trump Organization.

Friends of the Auburn Library

AUBURN – The Friends of the Auburn Library recognize the key importance of volunteers to the quality of living and services in our local community. In

an effort to showcase and recruit additional volunteers, the Auburn Library will display information through the month of February of several important volunteer

organizations.

Featured organizations will be Canyon Keepers, Sight Word Busters, and Sutter Faith Hospital Guild.



Canyon Keepers provide volunteer support to State Parks in the Auburn State Recreation Area. Canyon Keeper programs include Jr. Rangers, docent services in the recreation area, educational programs, guided hikes, and other help to park rangers and personnel.

Canyon Keepers (left to right Linda Schlegel, Brian Robertson, Sheila Toner and Michele Craig)



Sight Word Busters are local volunteers helping local students become strong readers. The Busters tutor beginning readers in kindergarten, first and second grades and can be found daily in the classrooms of Rock Creek Elementary School.

Sight Word Busters (Student and CJ Hobbs)



Jr. Rangers (Cassandra Holt and Heather Burk)



Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital Guild volunteers render service and raise funds for the hospital. In addition to greeting and assisting incoming patients and visitors to the hospital, the guild purchases patient-related equipment, makes annual monetary gifts to the hospital, awards scholarships for continuing medical education, and runs the Guild Gift Shop. Student volunteers, ages 14-17, are a vital part of this service organization.

Sutter Faith Hospital Guild (Marilyn Gerber and Susan Carreón)

If you are interested in learning more or wish to assist in any of these organizations, contact them at:

Canyon Keepers: (530) 887-8335

Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital Guild at (530) 888-4500, x5004

Sight Word Busters (530) 887-8335

Book Sale Fundraiser

PENRYN – A book sale fundraiser will be held for Scooter's Pals on Feb. 25 and 26, 8am-noon. Thousands of books will be sold as well as CDs, DVDs, VHS tapes, and audio books. The sale will be held at 2166 Swetzer Rd., Penryn. Donations of books,

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Water Supply Outlook: Drought!

AUBURN – The current rainfall season is on pace to be as dry as the drought year of 1976-77, it was reported at Thursday's (Feb. 16) meeting of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors.

The water supply briefing was offered by Pacific Gas and Electric Company partnership coordinator Dave Ward, who provided statistics and projections on local and statewide water supply conditions.

Ward said that as of Feb. 16 seasonal precipitation across the Sierra was 42.6 percent of average. Seasonal precipitation is measured each year from July 1 through June 30.

"This year is barely above 1976-77," he said. "If the current pattern continues, it could be the sixth or seventh driest year in 117 years of record-keeping."

PG&E is currently projecting that less than half of normal runoff will occur on the Yuba River watershed (44 percent) and American River watershed (45 percent).

Conditions could change, with March and April often bringing wet conditions, but the short-term outlook is for dry weather to continue through February, said Ward.

On a positive note, PG&E is storing above average levels of water in the mountain reservoirs that supply the PCWA water system, however reduced flows through the Bear River Canal to PCWA are likely this year if dry conditions persist, he noted.

PCWA Director of Field Services Mike Nichol and Senior Engineer Tony Firenzi said the water agency is making contingency plans for dry year water deliveries. "March and April will be the decisive months," said Firenzi.

Director of Customer Services Matt Young has been making

preparations to provide customers with ongoing information via www.pcwa.net and public outreach meetings, as well as through coordination with other local agencies and the agricultural community in the event that dry conditions worsen in 2012.

Board members applauded staff for their proactive approach and expressed hope that more normal precipitation patterns will return over the next few months.

In other business, directors:

- learned that the agency has won three awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Sacramento Section, for its work in 2011. Director of Technical Services Brian Martin said the agency won the Outstanding Engineering Project Award for the spillway enlargement at French Meadows Reservoir and the Utility Project of the Year Award for its Gold Run Pipeline replacement project. PCWA also won the ASCE 2011 Emergency Response Award for its water supply actions following last April's failure of the PG&E Bear River Canal. Award presentations are scheduled Feb. 22 in Sacramento.

- heard a presentation from Director of Administrative Services Michael Willihnganz on his department's 2011 accomplishments and 2012 goals.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Mar. 1, at the PCWA Business Center, 144 Ferguson Road, in Auburn.

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

Stopping SNAP Fraud in its Tracks

Commentary by **Kevin Concannon, Undersecretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services**

Americans expect and deserve a government that ensures their hard-earned tax dollars are managed with accountability and integrity. Without that commitment, we risk undermining public confidence in the value of SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – formerly known as food stamps. This critical nutrition program helps millions of people in need put food on the table through tough economic times until they can get back on their feet. In support of this commitment, and as part of the Obama Administration's ongoing Campaign to Cut Waste and root out fraud and abuse in federal programs, USDA announced new steps to strengthen anti-fraud efforts in SNAP.

In that same spirit, I am pleased

to report on the first quarter results of our anti-fraud efforts in 2012. From Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2011, we penalized – with fines or a temporary disqualification – more than 225 stores found violating program rules, and we permanently disqualified over 350 stores for trafficking SNAP benefits.

While fraud is a relatively limited problem in SNAP – the violating stores represent less than 1/2 of one percent of more than 230,000 food stores authorized to redeem benefits – we have a zero tolerance policy for fraud. USDA's Food and Nutrition Service conducts ongoing surveillance and investigation, to find bad actors and remove them from the program. In fiscal year 2011, FNS reviewed over 15,000 stores, and permanently disqualified over 1,200 for program violations.

As Undersecretary of the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services, at USDA – the federal agency that oversees the state administration

of the program – and having run the program at the state level in Maine, Oregon, and Iowa, I know firsthand the importance of SNAP. I don't tolerate fraud and abuse in the program, and neither do the American taxpayers.

So last December I announced new and expanded anti-fraud activities to strengthen USDA's commitment to promote and preserve the integrity of SNAP, a critical nutrition assistance program that feeds more than 46 million low-income and working Americans.

To adapt state-of-the-art technology to identify suspicious activity, we awarded a 10-year contract to further develop the next generation of fraud detection systems. We are in the process of developing even stronger sanctions and penalties against retailers that misuse the program, we are increasing documentation requirements to verify identity and assure business integrity

as well as researching high-risk stores using tax and business databases, and we recently updated our policies to clarify that advertising the sale of benefits through social media is a violation.

To round out our aggressive steps to combating fraud and trafficking, we recently launched a Fighting SNAP Fraud website (www.fns.usda.gov/fightingsnap-fraud) help raise awareness of the issues and provide a direct portal to report suspicious activities. Public assistance is vital to wiping out fraud and trafficking. If you see suspicious activity, report it. Or persons can always call our fraud hotline, at (800) 424-9121.

Taken together, these steps underscore USDA's commitment to combat fraud, waste and abuse and inspire the confidence in government Americans deserve. I'm proud to say that USDA takes protecting taxpayer dollars very seriously and we are working hard to make sure others do, too.

LaMalfa on Governor's Education Plan

SACRAMENTO – Senator Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) today commented on Governor Jerry Brown's K-12 education plan during a hearing of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee. LaMalfa was supportive of the Governor's plan to eliminate many spending mandates, which restrict the use of already limited school funding to specific uses. "This is a step that has been a long time

in coming. Spending decisions should be made locally, not in Sacramento," added LaMalfa.

"Shifting away from micro-management by the Capitol toward local control is a major step toward repairing our schools." Governor Brown's education plan also shifts school funding from a flat per-student level to a formula that gives school additional funding based on low-income and English-

learner students. Under this formula, some schools would receive increased funding while many some could see state support reduced.

"There are elements of this plan that would definitely help our rural schools, like increasing funding for low income students," added LaMalfa. "However, schools don't receive much new funding from the Governor's tax hike plan and

bear the brunt of cuts if it fails. This is a cynical ploy that prevents Californians from making an informed decision on the issue."

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

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The Gospel According to Jesus

As those words were spoken in that Latino church, the surrounding countryside had just endured its worst flooding in five decades. Gang graffiti clung to the walls and sidewalks just steps from the church's front door. Thousands of people were trying to survive grinding poverty.

To say to all these people and in all these of conditions, that "real life" is checking out of this life for the next one, is a mockery of reality and a refusal to heed the gospel that Jesus actually proclaimed. When Jesus began preaching his gospel in the Galilean hills, his message was clear and singular: "The Kingdom of God is at hand. It is here and now," he said. "It is today."

Jesus' intention, it seems, was not to rescue people from earth, per se, transporting them to a far removed heaven. His intention was to put heaven inside of people. A gospel that ignores this fact – and this current world – because our status in the next world has been properly secured, is a distortion of Jesus' redeeming message.

Thus, the gospel according to Jesus, is not just about a harp-playing, cloud-riding, hymn-singing, glory-praising, pie-in-the-sky heaven. It is holistic, all-encompassing deliverance, now. I'm not denying the existence of the afterlife; no, not at all. But I do not believe that we have to die to personally experience the life God has for us.

Jesus' first disciples did not have the benefit of two-thousand years of Christian tradition and theology. All those disciples

had were Jesus' words: "Follow me, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." They had no promises of a big heavenly payoff. No fluttering angels' wings, no crossing over the River Jordan to the Hallelujah Shore, no promises of golden streets or pearly gates, no "full assurance that you will go to heaven when you die." All they had was the invitation of Jesus to "Follow me." For them, that was enough.

This may sound strange – it sounds a bit peculiar to my own ears – but even if there was not a heaven, I would still be a follower of Jesus. Why? Because I believe that how Jesus taught us to live and the life he has to give, is the greatest hope for our world today. He offers redemption, in all its magnificent and diverse manifestations, as more than the blessed hope of heaven. He offers it as the blessed hope for people today.

So the choice before us plain: We can give up on the present, pack our bags, and wait for the paradise rescue from above; or we can join Jesus in bringing some of that not-here-yet of God's heaven to the here-and-now earth. The choice, I think, is clear for the present – not the future – is the arena in which we follow Christ. Today – not tomorrow – is where we live out the gospel according to Jesus.

Ronnie McBrayer is a syndicated columnist, speaker, and author. His books include "Leaving Religion, Following Jesus" and "The Jesus Tribe." Visit his website at www.ronniemcbrayer.net.



By Ronnie McBrayer

While traveling in Central America, I had the opportunity to worship at an international, interdenominational, English-speaking church. The congregation contained Africans, Italians, Spaniards, Latinos, Americans, and Asians. We sang old Irish hymns and modern, Australian worship choruses.

The service was a mixture of Lutheran, Reformed, and Pentecostal elements. The welcome was given by a Canadian, a German read the Scripture lesson, and an American did the preaching. It was a wonderful, diverse experience, and for a little while I thought the kingdom of God had come.

This, I thought, is what worship should be: People of various Christian traditions, streaming together from all tribes and nations, gathered in an idyllic setting, worshipping Christ together. Then the sermon began, and things changed.

The pastor's sermon could have been heard in many an evangelical congregation in North America. It was about who was "right" and who was "wrong," who was "in" and who was "out." He summed up his sermon, and his philosophy for life, with these words: "Real life is full assurance that you will go to heaven when you die. That is the gospel." At great risk of being misunderstood, I could not disagree more.

Where in My Schedule did January go?

By Rev. James L. Snyder

I take a certain amount of well deserved, if I say so myself, pride in keeping to a well organized schedule; my to-do-list. If it is on that list, I am going to do it, regardless of the difficulty attached. The trick is to get on that list which I guard with my very life.

Not that I worship my to-do-list, but I do reverence it with a great deal of deep personal appreciation. I think long and hard before anything appears on my to-do-list. Once something is on my to-do-list, there it is for all and sundry to gape upon it. It is a deep honor for anything to be put on my to-do-list.

Another reason I take my time in putting something on that list is that the only way it can come off is if I actually do it. After all, that list is not supposed to be stared at but rather to inspire activity on my part.

The other night I was busy with my to do list going over each and every item with the utmost care hoping that St. Nick would soon be there. Each item on that list needs to be carefully scrutinized and sometimes even underlined for emphasis. Often I have to recalculate and sort out the items and give them new priorities. I must have been busily engaged for I did not hear the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage address me.

Finally, it dawned on me that somebody, other than my inner conscience, was addressing me. I looked in her direction and said, "Huh?"

"I just said," she quipped, "what are you so intently engaged in?"

"I'm working on my December to-do-list," I said with a touch of irritation in my voice for being interrupted during such delicate meditation.

"You're working on what?" "My December to-do-list," I said trying to get back

into my sphere of supersensitive concentration.

There was silence for a bit and then my residential companion broke said silence by saying, "You do know what month it is, don't you?"

With an air of sarcasm in my voice I answered, "Of course I know what month it is. It's December and I'm trying to sort out my to-do-list for the month. I think I've got just about everything covered."

Again, there was that silence that you could cut with a butter knife if you had one on your person.

"So," she said rather thoughtfully. "You are completing your December's to-do-list. Is that right?"

I grunted my approval and continued with my ultra-concentration work at hand. I really have no time for nonsensical chitchat. My time is valuable; I have work that needs to be done. I cannot be side tracked by every little noise that comes up.

I take great pride in working through my to-do-list each month. It gives me a great sense of satisfaction knowing that I am actually accomplishing something and I have the records to prove it. If somebody would ever come up to me and ask me to prove that I have been busily engaged in profitable activity, all I would have to do is show them my well documented to-do-list.

"I hate to bust your bubble, but..."

I hate when people say they hate to do something and then they go right ahead and do it. I wanted to tell her to save herself a bucket of hate and refrain from busting my bubble, or whatever she was trying to bust at the time.

Then, being the gentleman that I am, I allowed her to say what was on her mind.

"I hate to bust your bubble, but it is February not December."

Now there was silence from my end of the room. Being the

good-natured person that I am, I just burst out laughing.

"Boy," I said heartily, "you almost got me with that one. I'll give that one to you." Then I went back to my work.

"But it is February," she said more sternly than I have heard her say anything for a long time. "It is now February, not December."

I had to pause. Normally she does not play tricks on me like this. Most of the time she is an upstanding person and always tells me the truth, even when there are times I do not want to hear the truth.

"You're sure it's February?"

She smiled one of those smiles that really irritates me and simply shook her head in the affirmative. I know I am an easy turkey to pluck, but this was actually serious. With the rather stunned tone to my voice I ask, "Whatever happened to January?"

It was then the laughter started. I must say it has not subsided appreciably since. She has a way of rubbing things in when I am wrong. If the tables were turned, and they never are, I would not take advantage of such a situation.

I swallowed my pride, which I have had a lot of practice doing, and began to realize I had been working on a false premise. It was actually February, time had gone by so quick and I was so busy I did not realize how fast it was going.

In Ecclesiastes 3:1, the man of God says, "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."

If you are too busy to know what time it is, you are too busy.

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.

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accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior of their soul— by accepting His death as the sacrificial Lamb of God for the forgiveness of all their sins. We tell them about Adam's sin of rebellion falling on everyone born and their need for a Savior. Sin and rebellion against God will cause those who refuse to choose God's truth actually choose their own destiny to go to hell. Jesus became the "Door" to eternal life through which everyone must go to be accepted by God. Telling them that Jesus paid the sacrificial price on a Cross, to be reconciled back to the Heavenly Father and go to heaven when they die, hopefully will bring conviction and surrender of their life to God. Unfortunately they may do this but it stops there! No one tells them there is more or about reading and understanding the Bible or being obedient to what they hear and learn. So, their lives remain the same without changes. They may "visit or even go to church" every Sunday but that is all! They do not "come alive" and grow in their knowledge of a loving personal God and truly "know" Him. Evidence of this is observed by the lack of

"spiritual fruit" in their lives.

The Holy Bible is God's sovereign love-letter to everyone in the world and it is the simple message of a dynamic, loving God who provided the "Way" for His creation to enjoy eternity in heaven with Him. It breaks His heart so many refuse to accept His loving messages of truth and hope recorded in Scripture. God who "always existed", loved you before the foundation of the earth and desires you to have faith and trust of a little child — believing His Holy Word is Truth so you will come to Him through the death of His only Beloved Son's death on a Cross for you. "For God so loved the world, He sent His Beloved Son into the world (to you and I), that through Him the world (you and I) might be saved" John 3:16. Come! Enjoy the New Life He Gives! Be "Born Again" Spiritually and Be Adopted in His Huge Family all over the world.

Maryllys5934@sbeglobal.net

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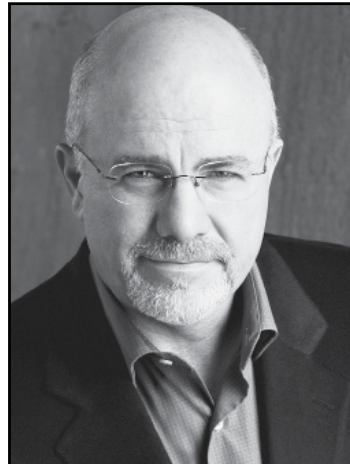


By Marlyns Norris, Christian Author

Many years ago growing up in this world, the name of Jesus was "too sacred to speak" out loud — did nothing to help one understand the significance or power of His Holy Name. Only two times a year, Christmas and Easter, were the stories about His life and death freely discussed by most people. Possibly in some cultures today, it might also be true.

Obviously knowing "about" someone, is much different than actually "knowing" them.. Too many people are "religious" but fail to "know" the Savior. Religion alone will never "save" a person from the depths of hell. We should know that knowing "about" someone will never take us on a connection of the friendship and love journey.

Christians appeal to people in a million different ways to



Dave Ramsey is a personal money management expert, popular national radio personality and the author of three New York Times bestsellers — The Total Money Makeover, Financial Peace Revisited and More Than Enough. In them, Ramsey exemplifies his life's work of teaching others how to be financially responsible, so they can acquire enough wealth to take care of loved ones, live prosperously into old age, and give generously to others.

Take your time with this one ...

Dear Dave,

My boyfriend has a lot of debt. The other day a creditor called, and he wouldn't answer the phone. Then, he told me it would be easier for him to pay off his debts if we were married because I could act as his accountability partner. I don't want to be the money cop, and I wonder if he would truly be more motivated. What do you think?

- Janine

Dave Says

Dear Janine,

Someone who isn't making any headway in getting out of debt while they're single probably isn't going to do a complete turnaround just because they get married. You can act as his accountability partner if you want, but you don't have to get married to help him. In fact, dating is probably a better way to do this, because you can determine whether he's really changing, or if he's just trying to get you on board to help pay the bills!

Don't misunderstand, Janine. Debt, in itself, doesn't keep someone from being marriage material. But you're definitely not marriage material if you don't work, you're irresponsible, you haven't taken control of your life, have no character or can't manage your own behaviors. These kinds of people are going to stay in debt and not be able to pay their bills for the rest of their lives.

I'd say date this guy a little longer, just to see if he's serious about changing. But don't get engaged yet, and don't pay one penny of his bills for him!

- Dave

What's in a Name?

Dear Dave,

My son is a sophomore at a local college, and he wants to transfer to a very prestigious

university. If he did this he would incur more than \$100,000 in student loan debt, and that's with us picking up half of the cost. What do you think I should tell him?

- Will

Dear Will,

I'd have a hard time telling anybody that one school is \$100,000 more valuable than another one. The fact is unless he has \$100,000 lying around somewhere, he shouldn't go to that other school for one very simple reason — he can't afford it!

We hire people every week at my company, and where they attended college is a very minor deal. There will always be a few corporate types out there who play games and try to turn the office into some kind of snooty country club, but the fact is most employers don't care where you went to college.

It's what you learn and being able to use that knowledge in the marketplace that's really valuable, Will. Knowledge is king, and we live in a knowledge-based economy. If you can't retain and apply what they're teaching, then the only thing more worthless than a college degree is a college pedigree!

- Dave

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




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Jail Time for Burglary, Grand Theft and Child Abuse
Placer County Sheriff Department Report

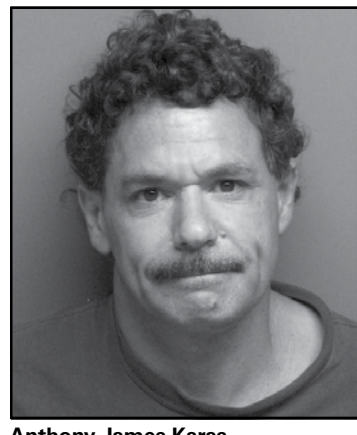


Jason Earl Rogers

The man believed responsible for committing many residential burglaries in Granite Bay over the past few months is in custody at the Placer County Jail.

Jason Earl Rogers, 30, of Citrus Heights, was booked into the Placer County Jail today on charges of residential burglary and possession of stolen property. He was originally arrested by El Dorado County Sheriff's detectives who discovered a large amount of stolen property during a search of his home when he was arrested Feb. 2. El Dorado detectives knew that Placer County detectives were looking for a residential burglar who had kicked in the front doors of dozens of homes and took jewelry. Placer County detectives joined the search of Rogers' home and found property belonging to many Granite Bay victims.

Because of the large volume of cases in Placer County, Rogers was extradited here today. He is being held on a no-bail parole hold.

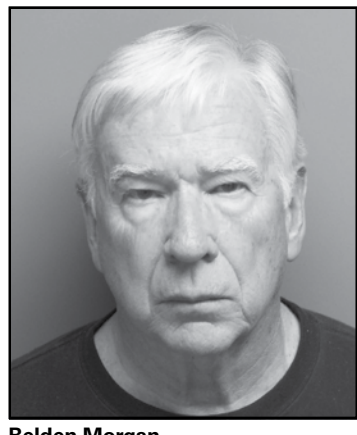


Anthony James Karas

This afternoon, detectives from the Placer County Sheriff's Office arrested the man who stole and destroyed the Ophir state historical marker. The marker was also recovered, but it was cut into many pieces and all of the writing was ground from the solid brass piece.

The California Registered Historical Landmark plaque was first reported stolen to the Sheriff's Office in January. It was located at Lozanos Road and Bald Hill Road. The plaque is valued at \$951, detectives said.

Anthony James Karas, 47, was taken into custody at his Lincoln home and booked at the Placer County Jail on charges of grand theft and possession of stolen property. Last week, deputies found the sawed-up marker dumped along Fiddymont Road and were able to trace it back to Karas.



Belden Morgan

Placer County Sheriff's detectives arrested an Auburn man on suspicion of child abuse Thursday evening.

Belden Morgan, 70, was taken into custody on charges of continual sexual abuse of a child. He is being held at the Placer County Jail on \$1.5 million bail.

The Sheriff's Office was made aware of the alleged abuse that happened several years ago and conducted an investigation, resulting in the suspect's arrest.

The investigation is ongoing, which limits the release of further information at this time.

CLUES

ACROSS

- Type of eclipse
- "1941's "How Green ___ My Valley"
- Drink too much
- Being of service
- Gilligan's home
- Chicago's ORD
- Smelling ____, pl.
- In the past
- Type of beam, also an acronym
- "Best Picture nominee set in Jackson, MS
- "Ripley's Believe It or Not" showpiece, e.g.
- Accused by some of breaking up The Beatles
- Obama to Harvard Law School, e.g.
- Bud or chum
- Cough syrup balsam
- To mark with spots
- ___ vera
- "Nominated for role in "Moneyball"
- Like sound of pinched nose
- Chess piece that looks like castle
- Barges
- Circus venue
- Reason by deduction
- "The Iliad," e.g.
- "Mechanically-inclined film orphan
- Seaman or sailor
- Bus ____
- Room in a house
- Like acne-prone skin
- Charlotte's creation
- Hotel meeting place
- **"The Descendants" nominee
- Wavelike patterned silk
- Make imperfect
- Used for washing
- Often spread in the classroom
- Beaten by walkers
- Imposter
- "Best Actress winner in "Tootsie"
- "Crocodile Rock" performer
- Augmented
- Foolish person
- Frown with anger
- **"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo"
- Band event
- "We the ____" in the Constitution
- "30 Rock" character
- Emerald Ash ____ pest
- "Wolf" in French
- Great masters' medium, pl.
- Strong desire
- "It works with the cast on films
- Most luminous star
- Day before, pl.
- Yesteryear
- Earned at Sloan or Wharton
- "Much ___ About Nothing"

DOWN

- A deadly sin
- Beehive State
- World's longest river
- Even though, arch.
- Wish ill
- Smack or sock
- Leo month
- It has no back and no arms
- Bangkok inhabitant
- Kiln for drying hops
- The hunted
- "Ever" to a poet
- "He played Cold War spy
- Grommets, e.g.

For Solution See Page 7

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A Film Review by Tim Riley

Riley Reviews

FAMILY FUN IN
 "JOURNEY 2" RELIES
 TOO MUCH ON EFFECTS

that he invented the familial craving for wanderlust.

Once in the South Pacific, Hank, in what appears to be a dubious idea, hires goofy, excitable helicopter pilot Gabato (Luis Guzman) to locate the island.

On the upside, at least for Sean, is that Gabato's pretty daughter Kailani (Vanessa Hudgens) tags along for the ride. This, of course, sets up the film's only love interest subplot.

Meanwhile, a crash landing on an island immediately brings to mind that "Journey 2" could detour into a missing episode of "Lost."

Alas, that is not to be, for our intrepid travelers are exposed to the mystery of an upside-down world, where elephants are small and bees and lizards are giant prehistoric beasts.

Naturally, grandpa Alexander, who was busy sending out radio signals with his coordinates, is found on this exotic South Pacific island, which is notable for the fact that it is rapidly sinking into the sea like Atlantis.

The soon-to-be extinct tropical paradise is a wonder of special effects, none more thrilling than watching Sean riding bareback on a giant bee.

Since the story is family-friendly, "Journey 2" lacks the inherent menace of prehistoric threats found in "Jurassic Park," though giant iguanas appear threatening.

To be sure, "Journey 2" is a formulaic adventure story relying heavily on special effects, which is as satisfying as a giant tub of popcorn and a big cone of cotton

candy. It's fun in the moment for the adolescent crowd.

The pairing of Dwayne Johnson and Michael Caine is interesting for some of the back-and-forth dialogue. The film benefits from the presence of these two titans of natural charm.

One good reason not to be late to the screening of this film is that it should be preceded by a funny animated short called "Daffy's Rhapsody," an adventure with Daffy Duck and Elmer Fudd.

Oh, just one more thing, you should know that both the Warner Brothers cartoon and the feature film are in 3-D

DVD RELEASE UPDATE

This column has often extolled the virtues of British television programs that may find their way to BBC America and eventually to a DVD release.

"Northern Lights: The Complete Collection," featuring all 12 episodes and two movies of this comedy series, is being released on DVD by Acorn Media, to go-to outfit for British imports.

The series followed life-long friends and rivals Colin Armstrong (Robson Green) and Howard Scott (Mark Benton) on a hilarious series of misadventures – really classic British wackiness.

As schoolboys, Colin and Howard fought over girls, soccer teams and clothes. Now married men in their thirties, their competition has shifted to more important, if mundane, matters like jobs and cars.

The comedy comes from insane rivalry of one-upmanship, where they try to outdo each other, even with Christmas decorations. Meanwhile, their long-suffering wives endure the collateral damage.

"Northern Lights" is the kind of classic comedy that "The Guardian" rightfully called "warm and witty comedy drama."

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POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

promised her advice will show you why and what you can do to turn things around right now. If you're stuck in bad relationship patterns and want to stop the insanity, she will set you straight.

And, if you're already in a relationship, but can't seem to hold his interest, she will reveal your personal path to keep him wanting more, more, more!!! It's a one-stop shop for women who want to be truly irresistible... inside and out...and experience a life bursting with fun, self-confidence, and well-being.

Marie is quite frank in her advice like, "Trying to manipulate yourself, or someone you're with, into a long term relationship using 'rules' or 'techniques' quite frankly, sucks." And, "Eventually, any woman who's interested in having true love needs to learn how to relate to herself, and others, in an honest, straightforward and compassionate way." "Make Every Man Want You" encourages a spiritual solution that includes recognizing a relationship doesn't fix or complete your life. Here are a few succinct hints at what you need to do.

- 1) Believing that you need a man to feel complete, secure and fulfilled is a surefire way to remain unhappy and unhitched.
- 2) Whining, complaining, and worrying are turnoffs, so drop

the drama! A positive attitude is sexy.

3) Men are "as is" merchandise. Don't try to "fix" or improve them. EVER!

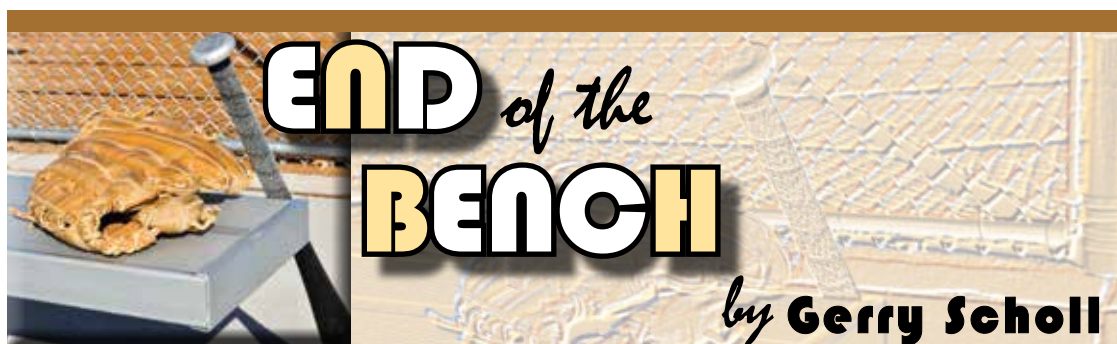
4) Take charge of your life! Confidence will make you more sexy and appealing.

Marie goes on to say sexual mistakes women make turn men off, and this one might surprise you, why "knowing what you want" in a man can actually prevent you from finding one. She also talks about the deadly effect talking about the past... especially if you don't know the right way to talk about it. She also goes into how to upgrade your personal appearance without spending a ton of money to do it.

Bottom line, Marie helps you to overcome the most self-defeating dating mindset. Ladies, she even gets into the biggest mistakes women make in bed that spark a man to stray. She is adamant that women must end the "war." She takes to the battleground in "Make Every Man Want You". You can also check out her website at www.marie-forleo.com.

Good luck at IRRESISTIBLE!

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



Of Rivalries and The Zone

Two of my favorite things in sports are rivalries and The Zone.

With the limited number of hours in a day to tune into sports, I always prefer to zero in on the classic matchups — the rivalries.

There have been a lot of rivalry games in college basketball lately. I really like the college game, and I don't care what anybody else says. Many on-air personalities make a habit of ripping college hoops and the quality of play. Sure, it's not up to professional standards, but I like following my favorite teams, St. Mary's and Cal, and the rivalry games still make it an attraction for me. And, I'm often rewarded with some classic games.

St. Mary's, back in the days when they were rarely good, it was all about beating USF and Santa Clara. Now, under coach Randy Bennett, the Gaels have been good and that has spawned a great rivalry with Gonzaga. I never felt the Gaels (23-5) were quite as good as their national ranking this year (as high No. 13), but they are in position to break Gonzaga's string of eleven straight WCC titles, holding a one-game lead with two to play. The pair shared the crown last season. With two losses and two key injuries, though, St. Mary's has slipped to No. 23 in the ESPN/USA TODAY Coaches Poll.

Meanwhile, Cal (22-6, 12-3) leads the undervalued Pac-12 along with Washington and is on the verge of breaking into the rankings for the first time all season. I most closely follow the former Pac-10 because there are so many long-standing relationships among the teams. For Cal

there is Stanford, of course, and UCLA and Arizona (all despicable foes), but the one I like is with Oregon. It seems every time I watch the two face off it's a great game, including last Thursday's 86-83 thrilling Cal victory.

I'll scour the weekly listings for the best matchups and, I have to admit, I get a good charge out of the North Carolina/Duke feud. Duke won the last meeting a couple weeks ago, 85-84, with a late comeback and a buzzer-beater shot.

As for our area pros, the Sacramento Kings and Golden State Warriors are two lousy teams lost in the ozone again, but when they play each other it is usually pretty good. Or, take either playing against the L.A. Lakers and it could be good because our loveable losers usually raise their level of play, though they usually lose.

Raising the level is all about that over-used word in sports, focus. Focus is all about trying to get into The Zone. The Zone is tunnel-vision, total focus on the task at hand. Everything is clicking. The basketball is part of your hand and the hoop is as big as the ocean. Teammates are like siblings, you are familiar with their every move. You block out all distractions, but absorb the positive influences and vibes of teammates and fans osmotically.

Jeremy Lin is in The Zone. The New York Knicks' young point guard phenom has it all going (except for a few too many turnovers). Lin has broken through from the fringes of the NBA to create Linsanity

throughout the basketball world. On the verge of being cut by a third team this season, he seized an opportunity for playing time and made a sensation out of it. His "game" has been compared to two-time league MVP Steve Nash. Don't get too carried away too soon.

All the well-known rage these days, Lin has led the Knicks back from oblivion and to a 8-1 record since taking over his position, setting a number of records for a beginner along the way. Sunday it was The Kid versus Kidd, Hall of Fame-bound point guard of defending champion Dallas, Jason Kidd. After Lin went for 28 points and 14 assists in a 104-97 comeback victory, Kidd quickly made it over to the new kid on the block to offer a hug of congratulations and encouragement.

Lin, the Palo Alto High and Harvard grad, has gone from sleeping on couches to the tip of everyone's tongue, Saturday Night Live and David Letterman's Top Ten in a couple weeks. In a TV interview he said spending most of last year at the end of the bench for Golden State "brought me to tears." That could do that to anybody. Now he's all smiles on T-shirts everywhere.

It will be most interesting to see if it all continues when injured superstar Carmelo Anthony returns to the Knicks' lineup and infiltrates The Zone — it can be a delicate thing. Regardless of what happens, it was terrific watching Lin light up Kobe Bryant and the Lakers for 38 points during his rise to fame. Linsational!!

MAKE EVERY MAN WANT YOU

Valentine's Day has just passed, but how would you like to be sexy and irresistibly attractive to men all year long? Then forget about playing games. Those things don't work in the long run. That comes from Marie Forleo, Fox News online life coach and relationship expert. Marie gave advice to Rachel Ray, ABC's 20/20, even Kelly Ripa says she has the answers to unlock your inner magnet. Now Marie brings us "Make Every Man Want You."

According to Marie, most women have no idea that many of their normal and traditional ways of relating damage their ability to have satisfying relationships with men...and with themselves? She wants you to break free from old conditioning, dissolve habitual behaviors that wreak havoc on relationship bliss, and unleash your authentic irresistibility once and for all.

When I interviewed Marie on my POPPOFF Radio Show, she

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9am - Noon: The Laura Ingraham Show

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

1 - 4pm: The Dave Ramsey Show

4 - 6pm: The KAH! Afternoon News with Dave Rosenthal and the KAH! 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 KAH! 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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Laura Ingraham



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Mary Jane Popp

IRS Releases the Dirty Dozen Tax Scams for 2012

The Internal Revenue Service today issued its annual "Dirty Dozen" ranking of tax scams, reminding taxpayers to use caution during tax season to protect themselves against a wide range of schemes ranging from identity theft to return preparer fraud.

The Dirty Dozen listing, compiled by the IRS each year, lists a variety of common scams taxpayers can encounter at any point during the year. But many of these schemes peak during filing season as people prepare their tax returns.

"Taxpayers should be careful and avoid falling into a trap with the Dirty Dozen," said IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman. "Scam artists will tempt people in-person, on-line and by e-mail with misleading promises about lost refunds and free money. Don't be fooled by these scams."

Illegal scams can lead to significant penalties and interest and possible criminal prosecution. The IRS Criminal Investigation Division works closely with the Department of Justice to shutdown scams and prosecute the criminals behind them.

The following is the Dirty Dozen tax scams for 2012:

Identity Theft

Topping this year's list Dirty Dozen list is identity theft. In response to growing identity theft concerns, the IRS has embarked on a comprehensive strategy that is focused on preventing, detecting and resolving identity theft cases as soon as possible. In addition to the law-enforcement crackdown, the IRS has stepped up its internal reviews to spot false tax returns before tax refunds are issued as well as working to help victims of the identity theft refund schemes.

Identity theft cases are among the most complex ones the IRS handles, but the agency is committed to working with taxpayers who have become victims of identity theft.

The IRS is increasingly seeing identity thieves looking for ways to use a legitimate taxpayer's identity and personal information to file a tax return and claim a fraudulent refund.

An IRS notice informing a taxpayer that more than one return was filed in the taxpayer's name or that the taxpayer received wages from an unknown employer may be the first tip off the individual receives that he or she has been victimized.

The IRS has a robust screening process with measures in place to stop fraudulent returns. While the IRS is continuing to address tax-related identity theft aggressively, the agency is also seeing an

increase in identity crimes, including more complex schemes. In 2011, the IRS protected more than \$1.4 billion of taxpayer funds from getting into the wrong hands due to identity theft.

In January, the IRS announced the results of a massive, national sweep cracking down on suspected identity theft perpetrators as part of a stepped-up effort against refund fraud and identity theft. Working with the Justice Department's Tax Division and local U.S. Attorneys' offices, the nationwide effort targeted 105 people in 23 states.

Anyone who believes his or her personal information has been stolen and used for tax purposes should immediately contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit. For more information, visit the special identity theft page at www.irs.gov/identitytheft.

Phishing

Phishing is a scam typically carried out with the help of unsolicited email or a fake website that poses as a legitimate site to lure in potential victims and prompt them to provide valuable personal and financial information. Armed with this information, a criminal can commit identity theft or financial theft.

If you receive an unsolicited email that appears to be from either the IRS or an organization closely linked to the IRS, such as the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS), report it by sending it to phishing@irs.gov.

It is important to keep in mind the IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. The IRS has information that can help you protect yourself from email scams.

Return Preparer Fraud

About 60 percent of taxpayers will use tax professionals this year to prepare and file their tax returns. Most return preparers provide honest service to their clients. But as in any other business, there are also some who prey on unsuspecting taxpayers.

Questionable return preparers have been known to skim off their clients' refunds, charge inflated fees for return preparation services and attract new clients by promising guaranteed or inflated refunds. Taxpayers should choose carefully when hiring a tax preparer. Federal courts have issued hundreds of injunctions ordering individuals to cease preparing returns, and the Department of Justice has pending complaints against many others.

In 2012, every paid preparer needs to have a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) and enter it on the returns he or she prepares.

Signals to watch for when you are dealing with an unscrupulous return preparer would include that they:

Do not sign the return or place a Preparer Tax identification Number on it.

Do not give you a copy of your tax return.

Promise larger than normal tax refunds.

Charge a percentage of the refund amount as preparation fee.

Require you to split the refund to pay the preparation fee.

Add forms to the return you have never filed before.

Encourage you to place false information on your return, such as false income, expenses and/or credits.

For advice on how to find a competent tax professional, see [Tips for Choosing a Tax Preparer](#).

Hiding Income Offshore

Over the years, numerous individuals have been identified as evading U.S. taxes by hiding income in offshore banks, brokerage accounts or nominee entities, using debit cards, credit cards or wire transfers to access the funds. Others have employed foreign trusts, employee-leasing schemes, private annuities or insurance plans for the same purpose.

The IRS uses information gained from its investigations to pursue taxpayers with undeclared accounts, as well as the banks and bankers suspected of helping clients hide their assets overseas. The IRS works closely with the Department of Justice to prosecute tax evasion cases.

While there are legitimate reasons for maintaining financial accounts abroad, there are reporting requirements that need to be fulfilled. U.S. taxpayers who maintain such accounts and who do not comply with reporting and disclosure requirements are breaking the law and risk significant penalties and fines, as well as the possibility of criminal prosecution.

Since 2009, 30,000 individuals have come forward voluntarily to disclose their foreign financial accounts, taking advantage of special opportunities to bring their money back into the U.S. tax system and resolve their tax obligations. And, with new foreign account reporting requirements being phased in over the next few years, hiding income offshore will become increasingly more difficult.

At the beginning of this year, the IRS reopened the Offshore

Voluntary Disclosure Program (OVDP) following continued strong interest from taxpayers and tax practitioners after the closure of the 2011 and 2009 programs. The IRS continues working on a wide range of international tax issues and follows ongoing efforts with the Justice Department to pursue criminal prosecution of international tax evasion. This program will be open for an indefinite period until otherwise announced.

The IRS has collected \$3.4 billion so far from people who participated in the 2009 offshore program, reflecting closures of about 95 percent of the cases from the 2009 program. On top of that, the IRS has collected an additional \$1 billion from up front payments required under the 2011 program. That number will grow as the IRS processes the 2011 cases.

"Free Money" from the IRS & Tax Scams Involving Social Security

Flyers and advertisements for free money from the IRS, suggesting that the taxpayer can file a tax return with little or no documentation, have been appearing in community churches around the country. These schemes are also often spread by word of mouth as unsuspecting and well-intentioned people tell their friends and relatives.

Scammers prey on low income individuals and the elderly. They build false hopes and charge people good money for bad advice. In the end, the victims discover their claims are rejected. Meanwhile, the promoters are long gone. The IRS warns all taxpayers to remain vigilant.

There are a number of tax scams involving Social Security. For example, scammers have been known to lure the unsuspecting with promises of non-existent Social Security refunds or rebates. In another situation, a taxpayer may really be due a credit or refund but uses inflated information to complete the return.

Beware. Intentional mistakes of this kind can result in a \$5,000 penalty.

False/Inflated Income and Expenses

Including income that was never earned, either as wages or as self-employment income in order to maximize refundable credits, is another popular scam.

Claiming income you did not earn or expenses you did not pay in order to secure larger refundable credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit could have serious repercussions. This could result in repaying the erroneous

refunds, including interest and penalties, and in some cases, even prosecution.

Additionally, some taxpayers are filing excessive claims for the fuel tax credit. Farmers and other taxpayers who use fuel for off-highway business purposes may be eligible for the fuel tax credit. But other individuals have claimed the tax credit when their occupations or income levels make the claims unreasonable. Fraud involving the fuel tax credit is considered a frivolous tax claim and can result in a penalty of \$5,000.

False Form 1099 Refund Claims

In this ongoing scam, the perpetrator files a fake information return, such as a Form 1099 Original Issue Discount (OID), to justify a false refund claim on a corresponding tax return. In some cases, individuals have made refund claims based on the bogus theory that the federal government maintains secret accounts for U.S. citizens and that taxpayers can gain access to the accounts by issuing 1099-OID forms to the IRS.

Don't fall prey to people who encourage you to claim deductions or credits to which you are not entitled or willingly allow others to use your information to file false returns. If you are a party to such schemes, you could be liable for financial penalties or even face criminal prosecution.

Frivolous Arguments

Promoters of frivolous schemes encourage taxpayers to make unreasonable and outlandish claims to avoid paying the taxes they owe. The IRS has a list of frivolous tax arguments that taxpayers should avoid. These arguments are false and have been thrown out of court. While taxpayers have the right to contest their tax liabilities in court, no one has the right to disobey the law.

Falsely Claiming Zero Wages

Filing a phony information return is an illegal way to lower the amount of taxes an individual owes. Typically, a Form 4852 (Substitute Form W-2) or a "corrected" Form 1099 is used as a way to improperly reduce taxable income to zero. The taxpayer may also submit a statement rebutting wages and taxes reported by a payer to the IRS.

Sometimes, fraudsters even include an explanation on their Form 4852 that cites statutory language on the definition of wages or may include some reference to a paying company that refuses to

issue a corrected Form W-2 for fear of IRS retaliation. Taxpayers should resist any temptation to participate in any variations of this scheme. Filing this type of return may result in a \$5,000 penalty.

Abuse of Charitable Organizations and Deductions

IRS examiners continue to uncover the intentional abuse of 501(c)(3) organizations, including arrangements that improperly shield income or assets from taxation and attempts by donors to maintain control over donated assets or the income from donated property. The IRS is investigating schemes that involve the donation of non-cash assets — including situations in which several organizations claim the full value of the same non-cash contribution. Often these donations are highly overvalued or the organization receiving the donation promises that the donor can repurchase the items later at a price set by the donor. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 imposed increased penalties for inaccurate appraisals and set new standards for qualified appraisals.

Disguised Corporate Ownership

Third parties are improperly used to request employer identification numbers and form corporations that obscure the true ownership of the business.

These entities can be used to underreport income, claim fictitious deductions, avoid filing tax returns, participate in listed transactions and facilitate money laundering, and financial crimes. The IRS is working with state authorities to identify these entities and bring the owners into compliance with the law.

Misuse of Trusts

For years, unscrupulous promoters have urged taxpayers to transfer assets into trusts. While there are legitimate uses of trusts in tax and estate planning, some highly questionable transactions promise reduction of income subject to tax, deductions for personal expenses and reduced estate or gift taxes. Such trusts rarely deliver the tax benefits promised and are used primarily as a means of avoiding income tax liability and hiding assets from creditors, including the IRS.

IRS personnel have seen an increase in the improper use of private annuity trusts and foreign trusts to shift income and deduct personal expenses. As with other arrangements, taxpayers should seek the advice of a trusted professional before entering a trust arrangement.

Source: IRS

Writing Medicare's Prescription

Commentary by
Douglas E. Schoen

The Republican primary in Florida brought discussions of healthcare, particularly Medicare, back to the forefront of the national discourse. With its sizeable senior population, Medicare and Social Security were top of mind to Florida voters.

It is certainly important that health care, and particularly Medicare, be debated thoroughly during the Presidential campaign, as entitlement reform is one of the most pressing issues that Congress and the White House will face next year. Indeed, the latest annual Medicare and Social Security Trustees report projected that the Medicare trust fund will run out in 2024 - five years earlier than previously expected - and the Social Security trust fund will run out by 2036.

The good news is the emerging national consensus, across the ideological spectrum, that we

must address the nation's budget problems and that Medicare reform must be a part of any agreement. It's essential, though, that changes to the Medicare program be made responsibly, starting with the principle that reform must protect the elements of the program that are working efficiently now.

One Medicare program that should be kept intact is Part D, the prescription drug benefit program. Part D is the most cost-effective and successful entitlement program the federal government runs. Even Newt Gingrich, presenting himself on the campaign trail as the champion of conservative voters, has spoken up several times in support of Part D. He has touted the market-based program's success and effectiveness in saving lives, saving money and offering people more choices.

Thanks to competition among insurers, the prescription drug program costs the government and beneficiaries far less than

initially projected. Last year, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) reduced its baseline 10-year spending projection for all of Medicare by \$186 billion, two-thirds of which is accounted for by a reduction in Part D spending.

While Medicare Part D is an example of a Medicare program that works, it is clear that not all Medicare policies and programs are as useful and valuable.

The Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) that was created with the passage of President Obama's health care law is one such provision that should be eliminated. IPAB would allow an unelected and unaccountable board to make program cuts to meet spending targets.

Proponents of the board have argued that IPAB will improve the quality of care as a result of the cost-cutting measures it enacts. In fact, IPAB is a threat to critical medical treatments and services for all Medicare

beneficiaries. The cuts it imposes will only reinforce systemic problems, not fix them, and create unsustainable savings.

Major changes in the Medicare program should not be decided by bureaucratic fiat in a process lacking transparency and oversight. Rather, they should be debated and decided by elected officials who will be held be accountable for their decisions. Everyone knows that tough choices lie ahead. It's up to our political leaders to explain that reforms are essential to make Medicare secure for future generations of seniors.

There are many possible ways to reduce Medicare spending. A broad reform debate will enable people to better understand the tradeoffs involved.

To make sure program benefits remain available for those who need them most, lawmakers should consider eligibility requirements and need-based benefits. By raising the eligibility age for Medicare to 67 from

65, for example, \$124 billion would be saved.

The bipartisan Simpson-Bowles commission has proposed gradually limiting the Medicare benefits the wealthy receive. Last fall, President Obama proposed higher Medicare premiums for high-income seniors as part of the deficit reduction plan that he submitted to the Congressional "supercommittee." Obama's plan would save about \$20 billion over 10 years in Medicare.

Increasing premiums beneficiaries pay for Medicare doctors' coverage to 35 percent of program costs from the current 25 percent could save \$241 billion. Modernizing Medicare's benefit package to include copayments, deductibles and an out-of-pocket maximum could save about \$14 billion through 2018. A cutback in subsidies for "Medigap" supplemental insurance would save \$92 billion.

A still-bolder proposal going beyond Medicare itself would be to remove the distortion in the

tax code that keeps health insurance tied to employment. The tax write-off for employer-provided health care benefits is the single largest tax expenditure. It is estimated to cost the government more than \$1 trillion over the next five years. Capping the tax exclusion in 2018 and then phasing it out over 10 years would result in massive savings that could be devoted to shoring up Medicare and other programs for seniors.

The American people are ready to accept some difficult choices as part of a comprehensive deficit reduction program. It is time for Congress to begin the debate.

Douglas Schoen is a political strategist and author of *Mad as Hell: How the Tea Party Movement is Fundamentally Remaking Our Two-Party System* (Harper 2010), co-authored with Scott Rasmussen.

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