



Placer Sentinel

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Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

Second Issue of January 2012

Kids Basketball Free Throw Contest



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\$1,000 Wedding Gown Giveaway



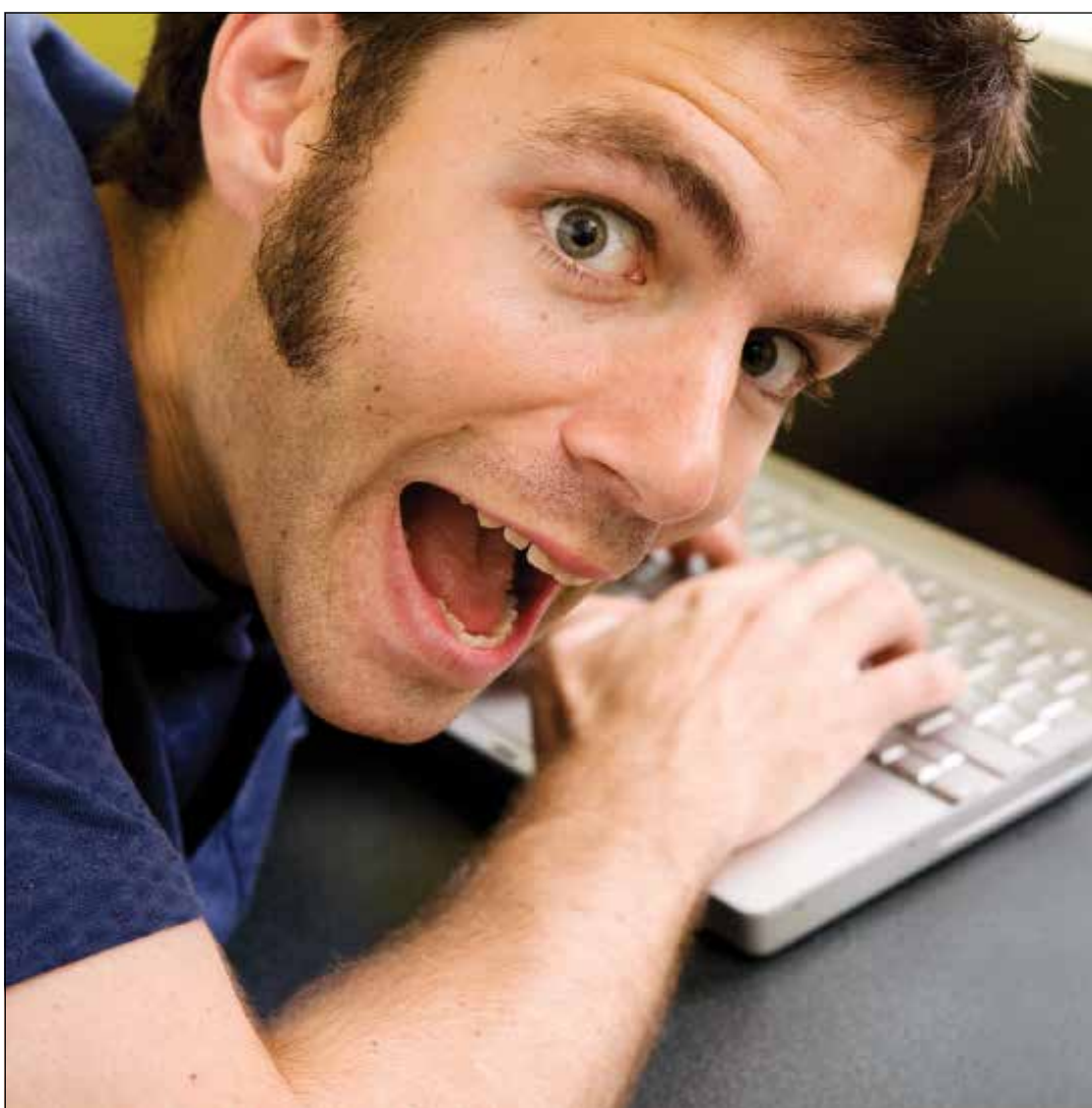
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Faith; Far More Than An Opiate



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BBB's Top 10 Scams Of 2011



This year's top sweepstakes scam was an email claiming to be from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

SACRAMENTO REGION – Better Business Bureau released its list of top 10 scams of 2011 today. The list cites job hunters, home owners and internet users as top targets for fraudulent activity.

“The internet is a goldmine for scammers,” said Gary Almond, president of BBB serving Northeast California. “Some of these scams are annual players, but the rise of social media has added a few new twists to our list.”

The list is compiled using data from Better Business Bureaus across the United States, documented via spikes in complaints and consumer inquiries. Following is the list, in no particular order, of scams and rip offs

that took advantage of consumers across the U.S. in 2011:

Top Job Scam

BBB sees many secret shopper schemes, work-from-home scams, and other phony job offers, but this job-related scam can steal identities. The emails, websites and online applications look professional. Candidates are interviewed for the job (usually over the phone) and then receive an offer. In order to start the job, however, the candidate has to fill out a “credit report” or provide bank information for direct deposit. The online forms are nothing more than a way to capture sensitive personal data – Social Security number or bank accounts – that can easily be used for identity theft.

Top Sweepstakes and Lottery Scam

This year’s top sweepstakes scam was an email claiming to be from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg announcing the recipient was the winner of \$1 million from the popular social networking site. BBB always urges consumers to never click links they are not sure about. Instead go directly to the homepage of the company mentioned. If they are really giving away \$1 million, there will be some kind of announcement on their website.

Top Social Media Scam

Viral videos claiming to show everything from grisly footage

Continued on page 11

Teddy Bears Give Hugs to Children in Need



Assistance League member April Shiro and a child receiving a teddy bear.

PLACER COUNTY – Assistance League of Greater Placer’s Philanthropic Program, Sierra Bears, began in 1989. Since the program’s inception, over 8,100 Teddy Bears have been given to children in our community to offer comfort and reassurance during a traumatic event in their life.

Teddy bears are provided to all Placer County hospital emergency rooms, the California Highway Patrol, Auburn Fire and Police Departments, the County Sheriff’s Department and to Sutter Auburn Faith Children’s Bereavement Program.

When a child in our community is hurt, frightened or traumatized by an unexpected accident, injury, illness or loss of a loved one, an Assistance League of Greater Placer bear is there to help. The bear provides a familiar face to hold onto until the crisis passes.

Assistance League of Greater Placer is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that puts caring and commitment into action through community based philanthropic programs which last year touched the lives of over 9,800 children and adults in our community. Funds to support these programs are provided through grants, fundraisers, generous donations and money raised from our Thrift Shop at 1263 Grass Valley Highway, in Fiddler Green Plaza in Auburn. To learn more about our organization or to schedule a speaker for your organization, please visit our web site at: www.great-placerassistanceleague.org.

Assistance League Of Greater Placer serves Auburn, Colfax, Cook, Foresthill, Georgetown, Granite Bay, Grass Valley, Lincoln, Loomis, Newcastle, Ophir, Penryn, Rocklin, Roseville, Sheridan and Truckee.

LaMalfa Comments on Resignations of High-Speed Rail Chairman, Director

SACRAMENTO – Senator Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) released the following statement in response to the announcement that California High-Speed Rail Authority Executive Director Roelof van Ark and Authority Press Secretary Rachel Wall would resign, while Authority board member Tom Umberg would step down as Chairman:

“The more Californians learn about this project, the more angry they become at the \$100-billion bait-and-switch the Authority pulled on voters,” said LaMalfa. “The resignations of van Ark and Umberg signal that even the Authority no longer believes

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A New Year with Many New Laws

As we begin a new year, California motorists should be aware of some of the new laws going into effect this past January 1, 2012. These new traffic laws were passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor earlier in 2011, and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is asking the motoring public to familiarize themselves with the changes before they take effect.

“Our hope is by educating the public of these new traffic safety laws in advance, more lives will be saved in the new year,” said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow.

The following are highlights of a few of the significant changes for the upcoming year:

- A change to California’s Child Passenger Safety Seat law will now require children to ride in either a car seat or booster seat until the age of eight, or until they reach a height of 4 feet 9 inches. This law also requires children who do not meet the age or height requirement to ride in the rear seat of a vehicle unless the vehicle has no back seats, the restraint system cannot be properly installed or the rear seats are already occupied by children under age eight. However, the law still maintains that a child may not ride in the front seat of a vehicle with an active passenger airbag if they are under one year of age, less than 20 pounds, or riding in a rear-facing child safety seat. (SB 929, Evans)
- Drivers are required to stop and submit to a sobriety



Motorists need to know that many new laws came into effect January 1st in California.

checkpoint. However, peace officers will be prohibited from impounding a vehicle for 30 days out of a sobriety checkpoint if the only offense by the driver is failing to hold a valid driver license. The new law requires that the officer make a reasonable attempt to identify the registered owner in order to release the vehicle. (AB 353, Cedillo)

• Anyone who is convicted of reckless driving under Section 23103.5 of the Vehicle Code can apply for a restricted driver license prior to the completion of their one-year suspension, provided they meet specified

conditions, including the installation of an Ignition Interlock Device in their vehicle. (AB 520, Ammiano)

• Vehicles will be prohibited from crossing double parallel solid white lines except where permitted. (AB 1105, Gordon)

• Electric Vehicles (EV) must now be plugged in for refueling when occupying an EVdesignated parking space, otherwise they may be towed. In addition, the law prohibits a person from obstructing, blocking, or otherwise barring access to an EV-designated parking space. (AB 475, Butler)

• Local governments can now regulate advertising signs on any motor vehicle parked or left standing upon a public street, except for signs painted directly upon or permanently affixed to the vehicle for permanent decoration, identification, or display that do not extend beyond the overall length, width, or height of the vehicle. (AB 1298, Blumenfeld)

A law dealing with repeat driving under the influence (DUI) offenders that was passed in 2010 also goes into effect on January 1:

• Section 23579 was added to the Vehicle Code, which authorizes courts to revoke a driver’s license for 10 years if a person is convicted of three or more DUIs. Under this law enacted in 2010, a motorist may be allowed to apply for reinstatement of his or her driver’s license with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) after five years, if the person installs an Ignition Interlock Device (IID) in their vehicle. The law allows the DMV to terminate this restricted license if the IID requirements are not met. (AB 1601, Hill)

The points above are only a synopsis of the new laws listed here and only a partial list of California’s new laws adopted for 2012. For complete information on chaptered bills enacted in 2011, please refer to the Legislative Counsel website at www.LegInfo.ca.gov.



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Lawsuit Filed Over Lake Tahoe Ski Resort Expansion



The lawsuit claims the agency further weakened the existing Tahoe Regional Plan by passing special amendments.

Lori Abbott,
California News Service

PLACER COUNTY – A controversial expansion of Lake Tahoe’s Homewood ski resort may be put on hold. The Sierra Club and Friends of the West Shore are suing the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) and Placer County for approving what they call “an ill-conceived and environmentally disruptive development.” Their attorney, Wendy Park, with Earthjustice, says the \$250 million project would increase traffic, worsen air pollution and speed runoff into the lake.

“Tahoe itself is a really fragile

area. There are special standards the Agency has to achieve to ensure that the lake is protected in the long run.”

Homewood wants to turn 1,200-acre property into a destination resort that includes a four-story hotel, condos, two lodges and retail space. If allowed, it would be the biggest hotel built on the west shore of the lake since 1901. Local residents challenged the plan when it was first proposed, but TRPA approved the project in December.

Park says they are not against development in Lake Tahoe, as long as it is done responsibly. She says the current project is simply too large.

“The issue is that this project is so out of scale with the local community. Our clients would be happy with something that was smaller, and that didn’t have the same kinds of impacts on traffic and air quality that this project does.”

The lawsuit claims the agency further weakened the existing Tahoe Regional Plan by passing special amendments for Homewood that will waive or weaken restrictions on building height, residential density and commercial development.

More information about the case is available at www.earthjustice.org.

Water Storage is Good Despite Lack of Rain, Snow

AUBURN – The mountain reservoirs serving Placer County are holding above average water storage for this time of year, even though the month of December was one of the driest on record.

This message was part of a water supply outlook presented at Thursday’s (Jan. 5) meeting of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors.

PCWA Director of Field Services Mike Nichol reported that statewide water storage remains at 118 percent of average for this time of year and that local reservoirs in Nevada and Placer counties also are at higher than average levels. He said storage is good despite Jan. 1 snow surveys that showed an average 2-inch water content in the California snowpack, just 19 percent of average for this time of year.

Local water storage has been assisted through a Pacific Gas and Electric Company maintenance project at Lake Spaulding, where water releases have been limited over the past three months, allowing more water to be kept in storage, Nichol said. He said Spaulding is holding more than twice average levels.

PCWA Director of Power Generation Services Jay L’Estrange said water storage is ample in the agency’s two large high country reservoirs, French Meadows and Hell Hole, which now hold 175,000 acre-feet of water, well above the 142,000-acre-foot average for this time of year.

Nichol said agency staff is working closely with PG&E and NID to monitor the water supply situation and to take appropriate steps if necessary.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- authorized the agency to join with an alliance of Northern California government, business and labor organizations in the submittal of a letter to the Delta Stewardship Council, where an environmental impact report is under review on a plan for the future of the Delta. “They are calling for more natural flows of water into the Delta,” said PCWA legal adviser Janet Goldsmith. “This could be catastrophic for communities in the north state.”

- received a presentation from actuary John Bartel of Bartel Associates on alternative retirement options offered by

CalPERS for new employees, and the potential impact of those options on the Agency’s future pension liability. The matter was referred to committee for further study.

- heard reports on 2011 accomplishments and issues anticipated in 2012 from Director of Strategic Affairs Einar Maisch and Director of Financial Services Joseph Parker.

- declared an election for three seats on the PCWA board and requested that it be consolidated with the Placer County general election on Nov. 6, 2012. Voters will be asked to decide four-year terms for the District 3, District 4 and District 5 seats on the PCWA board.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19, 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.

Irrigation Water Management and Hedgerows Discussed at PlacerGROWN

AUBURN – Food and Farm Conference Irrigation Water Management and Hedgerows will be presented at the PlacerGROWN Food and Farm Conference scheduled for Saturday, February 4th at Lincoln High School.

Mark White of the Placer County Resource Conservation District will discuss the factors and information needed to develop an irrigation system. Irrigation water management (IWM) principles will be discussed. Attendees will be provided a summary of the resources available to help them

manage an existing irrigation system or to plan for a new irrigation system.

Rick Gruen and Matt Dunnahoe will discuss the multiple conservation benefits of hedgerows on rural acreage landscapes and working farms. While most often used for recruiting native pollinators, the hedgerow design and native plant selection makes this practice equally suited for enhancing wildlife habitat, creating soft edge buffers and even value added agricultural products.

This presentation focuses on the Placer County Hedgerow

Program and provides information on site determination, soil suitability, soil preparation techniques and native plant selection for the central Sierra foothills. These will be one of 25 workshops to be held on February 4, 2012, at the Lincoln High School, Lincoln, CA.

For more information, including registration, visit either www.placergrown.org/wp/ or call PlacerGROWN at (530) 889-7398 or UC Cooperative Extension at (530) 889-7385.

Auburn Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Contest

AUBURN – All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 in the greater Auburn area are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Contest. Boys and girls will compete separately in five different age groups with ten eventual champions. Winners are eligible to advance to the district, chapter, and state championships. Conveniently, the District competition will take place immediately after the conclusion of this contest with our champions competing against the champions of other contests previously held in Granite Bay, Grass Valley, and Colfax.

The contest will be held on Sunday, January 22 at the St.

Teresa of Avila Parish Hall at 11610 Atwood Road in Auburn. Registration begins at 12:00 PM, and the competition begins at 12:30 PM. This is a free event. Contestants must be at least age 10 as of January 1, 2012. A copy of the contestant’s birth certificate to verify age, and parental consent on the registration sheet are required.

Ten and eleven year old competitors will shoot from a distance of twelve feet, while the older competitors shoot from the standard free throw distance of fifteen feet. Additional information on the contest can be obtained by calling John Sheehan at (916) 645-3737.



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Publisher Paul V. Scholl

Member of Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Fair Oaks, and Orangevale Chambers of Commerce

Five \$1,000 Wedding Dresses up for Grabs in Wedding Gown Giveaway



SACRAMENTO REGION – Since Christmas and New Year’s are the most popular times for couples to get engaged (followed closely by Valentine’s Day), there are now thousands of new brides-to-be hot on the trail of the perfect wedding dress. And with the economy still sputtering along, most couples will likely be looking to trim their wedding costs wherever they can. Luckily for all those newly engaged brides-to-be, Sacramento Perfect Wedding Guide’s Great Gown Giveaway offers a chance to win the perfect wedding dress!

Not only is PWG’s Great Gown Giveaway unique with its large number of first place prizes (5), but it’s also a standout in the sea of wedding contests in that it is a true “creative contest”, not a sweepstakes or public voting setup. That’s important because it greatly increases one’s chance of winning.

“Creative contests are typically entered by a much smaller

number of people than a sweepstakes, because there’s effort involved”, says PWG’s publisher, Abby Schneider. “But a little effort can really pay off for that exact reason.” Creative contests are rare these days, but were very popular in the 60s and 70s, as Schneider can attest to. Her mother was a contesting fanatic back in the slogan, jingle, and 25-words-or-less heyday. She taught a course on “How to Win Contests”, and even appeared on the 70s TV game show “To Tell the Truth” as a contesting expert.

In keeping with the creative style contests of the past, the Great Gown Giveaway rules ask entrants to tell “Why they are the perfect couple” in 100 words or less, and include one photo. To help creative contest newbies get the idea, Schneider offers these suggestions: “Some favored techniques for winning creative contests include writing poems (rhyming, acrostic,

limericks, etc.), using humor, and being artistic. Since this contest requires you to include one image, that opens up a whole world of possibilities. You might write a clever mini one act play, and then take a photo of the two of you as the actors. Or you might design your entry as a scrapbook page and take a photo of that. You might even create an entry that you can also use for your save-the-dates, or to display at your wedding, making your creative time serve double duty!”

A bride’s wedding gown is of course a very important choice that only she can make, and she won’t have to sacrifice that prerogative if she wins. Prior to submitting their entries, contest entrants can visit the five local participating bridal shops to scope out their favorite Sacramento wedding dresses, and then enter to win a gown of up to \$1000 value at the shop where they know their perfect dress is calling. No worries if it turns out that dress costs more than \$1000 - the prize can be applied towards a higher value dress. The participating Sacramento bridal shops are Sparkle Bridal Couture, Enchanted Bridal Shoppe, Dreamette Bridal, Bridal Gallery, and A Bride’s Dream Come True.

Perfect Wedding Guide is the most comprehensive source for planning Sacramento weddings, with free resources available through their web site (sacramento.pwg.com), magazine (free at local bridal and jewelry stores), and Engaged Wedding Library, their unique wedding planning boutique that offers free use of wedding books and magazines, and a large selection of local vendor portfolios.

For more information on how to enter PWG’s Great Gown Giveaway, go to www.EngagedSacramento.com. Entries must be received by March 15, 2012.



Around Town

with Loyce Smallwood

Gibson who on January 19 at ACTV chats up historian/playwright/entrepreneur Bud Buczkowski whose play tells the life story of world heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles.

THE QUIET CHAMPION play will be performed by actor Brian Price in a one-man performance at ACTV on January 26. The public is invited to both tapings which will be broadcast thereafter to ACTV subscribers. Looking to produce your own television show? Call Manager Paula Johnston at (530) 887-8778 for details on production and volunteering opportunities.

Dress is usually casual at ACTV but for those seeking to make a memorable first impression in the workforce smart career apparel and accessories can be found at tempting prices at Assistance League Thrift in the Fiddler Green Plaza; Piece by Peace Boutique across from the plaza; and The American Cancer Discovery Shop in the Belair Center where the Discovery Shop is asking for jewelry donations for its jewelry event on



Alison Rae Campbell

February 10 and 11.

Also seeking donations to help the homeless pet cause, Friends of Placer County Book Store in the Raley’s Center awaits your gently used books. Yet another reason to drop by our fav OT Auburn restaurant, Latitudes, as we hear artist Alison Rae Campbell will soon be showcasing her vivid, whimsical art vibrating with bright color and bold shapes. Auburn delights, indeed.

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The Battle Inside You: *Part 1*



By Bryan Golden

not in a contest. It doesn't matter what others have. Devote your efforts to pursuing your own goals.

People who constantly feel sorrow or regret are spending too much time in the past. These feelings emanate from events that are over. In order to move forward, decide where you are going from here. If you remain chained to the past, you will sacrifice your future.

Greed is self-absorption. Greedy people are only concerned about their own needs. They are often willing to act in an unscrupulous manner. Greed repels happiness. To get what you want, help others get what they need.

A person who is arrogant believes they are better than others. The attitude of superiority they radiate repels people. You are not better than anyone, and no one is better than you. Treat each person you encounter with respect and dignity.

Victims feel self-pity. You are not a victim, you are in charge of and in control of your life. If you are not happy with your circumstances, change them. Don't blame others or expect someone else to solve your problems.

Guilt can be self-imposed or precipitated by others. Guilt can be related to things you have done or connected to a decision you are about to make. If you make the best decision possible, with all the information you have at the time, you have nothing to feel guilty about. You will never be able to please everyone, so don't try.

Resentment serves no purpose. You may not like what

has happened, or the manner in which you have been treated. Being resentful won't make you feel any better. You will only feel bitter. Regardless of whatever has happened, keep focused on what you want to do next. If you want positive results, take positive actions.

Thinking you are not good enough produces feelings of inferiority. You feel others are better or more important. This leads you to sell yourself short, often settling for much less than is warranted. You are a good person. No one is better than you.

A life based on lies has no foundation and will soon crumble. Don't do anything you are ashamed of. There is never a need to lie about who you are or what you do. If you believe there is, you need to make some changes.

Feeding one's ego turns off other people. Don't brag about what you do or what you have. If your motivation is to impress others, you will never be happy, and ironically, no one will be impressed. It really doesn't matter what other people think.

In the next two columns, I will write about the positive emotions of joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. ©2007 Bryan Golden

Free Training Educational Training Alcohol Licensees

PLACER COUNTY – The Placer County Sheriff's Office is offering free educational training to businesses that have licenses to sell alcohol.

As part of a grant from the State of California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control for 2011-2012, the Sheriff's Office is offering LEAD (Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs) training on three upcoming dates: March 6 at the Rocklin Police Department's Community

Room, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin; March 29 at the Auburn Justice Center Community Room, 2929 Richardson Drive, Auburn; and April 5 at the Tahoe City Public Utility District, 211 Fairway Drive, Tahoe City.

All classes will be held from 12:30 to 4 p.m.

The LEAD Program is a free, voluntary prevention and education program for retail licensees, their employees, and applicants. The curriculum is designed for

licensees, managers, and employees. The program is 3-1/2 hours long and participation is limited to 50 persons per class.

The LEAD Program has received two national awards and is certified by the California Coordinating Council on Responsible Beverage Service.

To reserve a space, contact Deputy Gregg Hopping at (530) 308-1547 or e-mail him at ghopping@placer.ca.gov.

LaMalfa Comments on Resignations of High-Speed Rail Chairman, Director

SACRAMENTO – Senator Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) released the following statement in response to the announcement that California High-Speed Rail Authority Executive Director Roelof van Ark and Authority Press Secretary Rachel Wall would resign, while Authority board member Tom Umberg would step down as Chairman:

"The more Californians learn about this project, the more angry they become at the \$100-billion bait-and-switch the Authority pulled on voters," said LaMalfa. "The resignations of van Ark and Umberg signal that even the

Authority no longer believes its own spin on the project. I hope that Governor Brown will reconsider his plan to borrow billions for a project that Californians don't want, don't need and can't afford."

The resignations of van Ark and Umberg are major blows to the project, which has ballooned in cost even as the scope was reduced and completion timelines pushed back by a decade. A recent Field Poll found that nearly two-thirds of Californians think the project should be reconsidered. The resignations come on the heels of a

report by the High-Speed Rail Peer Review Group urging the legislature not to fund the project, which it called "an immense financial risk on the part of the state of California."

"High speed rail's last cheerleaders were those paid to support the project, and by now even they realize it's a bad idea," added LaMalfa. 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.

Opening Night of "Rumors" Benefits Auburn Community Cancer Endowment

AUBURN – January 20, 2012 is opening night for Placer Community Theater's production of Neil Simon's "Rumors" but there is another reason why this performance is special. It is a fundraiser for the Auburn Community Cancer Endowment Fund (ACCEF).

ACCEF started in 2001 when a group of Auburn citizens joined to raise money for cancer research. Their goal was to raise one million dollars for the UC Davis Cancer Center, the only major cancer research center in the area. After many community events which publicized their cause and encouraged individuals and businesses to support the endeavor, the group met their goal in 2005. Currently the fund is \$1.7 million. Interest from the fund plus contributions from supporters are donated to UC Davis Cancer Center. According

to ACCEF Board Member Betty Bennett, that totals an average of \$90,000 per year.

The Placer Community Theater Board of Directors learned of ACCEF through Ben Harwell, local State Farm Insurance Agent and co-star of PCT's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Harwell asked the Board to do a benefit performance for the group. Placer Community Theater members were eager to help, as was Auburn Placer Performing Arts Center (APPAC) President, Paul Ogden, who donated the use of The State Theater for the event. It's the first time the two organizations have worked together to assist a local charity.

"ACCEF is the type of organization through which both PCT and APPAC can fulfill our mutual charters of giving back to the community that we

serve," says Phil Jacques, PCT Vice President and "Rumors" Co-Producer. "ACCEF is a purpose directed group that gives unselfishly to UC Davis Cancer Center to benefit not only our Auburn area population but for the greater good of cancer patients worldwide. Our donations help everyone involved."

PCT Board Member and "Rumors" Co-Producer Connie Holt is looking forward to a successful event. "We certainly hope that the supporters of ACCEF come and sell out our opening performance."

The benefit performance of "Rumors" is on Friday, January 20, and starts at 7:30pm. It is at The State Theater at 985 Lincoln Way in Auburn. Tickets are \$30 and are available at www.brownpapertickets.com or through www.placercommunitytheater.org.

Grief Support for Widows

AUBURN – Grief support for widowed people will hold a meeting for anyone interested in helping other widowed people work through the 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 January 27th, 1:00 PM in Auburn. For location or other information call (530) 885-8298.

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LaMalfa Comments on Resignations of High-Speed Rail Chairman, Director

Continued from page 1

its own spin on the project. I hope that Governor Brown will reconsider his plan to borrow billions for a project that Californians don't want, don't need and can't afford."

The resignations of van Ark and Umberg are major blows to the project, which has ballooned in cost even as the scope was reduced and completion

timelines pushed back by a decade. A recent Field Poll found that nearly two-thirds of Californians think the project should be reconsidered. The resignations come on the heels of a report by the High-Speed Rail Peer Review Group urging the legislature not to fund the project, which it called "an immense financial risk on the part of the state of California."

"High speed rail's last cheerleaders were those paid to support the project, and by now even they realize it's a bad idea," added LaMalfa. 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 Rich Are Getting Richer; So Are the Poor

Commentary by
Jarrett Skorup
www.VisionAndValues.org

"No matter your thoughts about the Occupy Wall Street movement, the protesters were right in at least one respect: The rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer."

Variations on this statement were repeated in dozens of blogs, commentaries, and even news reports in the past months. The claim comes via a Congressional Budget Office analysis that shows incomes for the top 1 percent of Americans growing by 275 percent between 1979 and 2007, while the lowest 20 percent saw their inflation-adjusted incomes grow by "only" 18 percent.

The numbers from the report are correct, but the assertions based on it are true only because of careful

wording. While the "top 1 percent" had the highest growth of income, if broadened to include the top 20 percent (the usual way of analyzing such figures), the growth rate was a far less stratospheric 65 percent. This contrasts with about 40-percent growth for the middle three-fifths of all wage earners, and 18 percent for the lowest one-fifth.

Statistically, the lowest 20 percent of households are poor for one main reason: They don't work as much. Among the causes are medical issues, disability, and bad incentives. Not surprisingly, households in the top 20 percent are far more likely to include people with jobs. Here's how professor Mark Perry, a member of the Mackinac Center's Board of Scholars and chairman of the economics department at the University of Michigan-Flint, described it:

"American households in the top income quintile have almost five times more family members working on average than the lowest quintile, and...are far more likely...to be well-educated, married, and working full-time in their prime earning years. In contrast, individuals in low-income households are far more likely to be less-educated, working part-time, either very young or very old, and living in single-parent households."

More significantly, the "rich getting richer" storyline insinuates that the top 1 percent and bottom 20 percent include the same individuals over time. For example, as reporter Julie Mack writes, "Overall, the numbers show that the more affluent you are, the better you've done in the past three decades." Note how this ignores the reality that many individuals who were in the poor-

est group years ago have long since moved up and out, while among the rich are many families who are literally nouveau riche—they've recently arrived from lower income levels.

That's the risk of relegating real people into statistical categories. Economist Thomas Sowell explained it this way: "The actual empirical evidence cited has been about what has been happening over time to statistical categories turns out to be the direct opposite of what has happened over time to flesh-and-blood human beings, many of whom move from one category to another over time."

Data that tracks real people show that Sowell is correct. For example, as reported in The Wall Street Journal, IRS tax-return data shows that individuals in the bottom one-fifth back in 1996 experienced in-

come growth of 91 percent by 2005. In contrast, individuals in the highest one-fifth saw their incomes increase just 10 percent over the same period. Incomes of households in the top 5 percent and 1 percent actually declined, by 7 percent and 24 percent, respectively.

Anecdotally, this makes sense: For example, in 1985, my father was just out of college and probably in the lowest 20 percent. But by 2007 he had moved up. Such examples are commonplace, but are completely missed by statistical aggregates.

In the late 1970s, Steve Jobs was trying to expand a struggling computer company. Bill Gates was writing code and just beginning to start working on a personal computer. And one of the founders of Google, Sergey Brin, had just arrived as a six-year-old immigrant from the USSR.

These are individuals who did not enter that top 1 percent until many years later—in the process displacing former "one percenters."

It was these individuals, not statistical categories, who created companies and wealth by making products people wanted. Establishing conditions in which individuals can move up the income ladder by creating, innovating, and building is what America is all about.

Jarrett Skorup is a 2009 graduate of Grove City College and former student fellow at The Center for Vision & Values. He is the research associate for online engagement for Michigan Capitol Confidential at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, a research and educational institute headquartered in Midland, Mich. See www.VisionAndValues.org

Freedom Gets a Boost

Commentary by
Jeffrey Tucker
Whiskey & Gunpowder
Auburn, Alabama
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Every once in a while, the Supreme Court takes notice of the Constitution and actually comes to the defense of that thing called freedom. True, it doesn't happen often, and hasn't happened much at all for, oh, 100 years or so. But it can and does happen. This time, the issue concerns the relationship between commerce and religion, and freedom came out on top. We can work with this.

The backdrop is this... A small Lutheran school in Michigan (the Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School) hired Cheryl Perich to teach many subjects, including theology. After a semester, she developed narcolepsy and said she couldn't show up for work for a month after the Christmas break. The kids would just have to wait.

But in this competitive market, failing to deliver educational services could be financially devastating, not to mention very detrimental to the kids. So the school hired someone to take her place. When Perich finally showed up for work, she sensed that she had been replaced and prepared a disability lawsuit. The school tried to give her benefits in exchange for resigning, but she refused. So she was

finally fired for insubordination and causing disruption.

It's not a particularly unusual case. Businesses face this sort of thing all the time. The way the law works, businesses are routinely blackmailed by disgruntled employees who demand to be paid, even though they aren't wanted. It's beyond me why a person would want to work at a place where he or she is not wanted, but that's the way it is. And the law, citing their "civil rights" to other people's money, usually comes down on the side of the worker.

The EEOC decided in favor of the Perich, but the school persisted, and the case went to the high court. Here the justices delivered a surprisingly sensible decision on interesting grounds. The Constitution says that the government can't interfere with religion. Perich was teaching religion at a religious institution. For the government to demand her reinstated, it would be a clear imposition on this institution and an obvious violation of the First Amendment.

"Requiring a church to accept or retain an unwanted minister, or punishing a church for failing to do so," said the court, "intrudes upon more than a mere employment decision. Such action interferes with the internal governance of the church, depriving the church of control over the selection of those who will personify its beliefs.

By imposing an unwanted minister, the state infringes the Free Exercise Clause, which protects a religious group's right to shape its own faith and mission through its appointments."

Darn right. But wait! What about her "civil rights"? The court said that whatever the employee's legal rights would be in a normal commercial institution, they can't possibly apply in the case of a commissioned minister of a religious institution. Otherwise, we would have the government effectively deciding who must or must not be a minister, which obviously contradicts the whole point of the First Amendment.

The language of both the majority and concurring opinions makes a series of uncommonly sensible points. The concurring opinion by Samuel Alito and Elena Kagan points out that it is part of Lutheran teaching that disputes be handled within the community and not be taken to secular courts. But this teacher, Perich, totally disregarded this core principle and immediately started threatening the school with a lawsuit.

Your eyes just pop out to read the court wholly endorsing the Lutheran view: "Hosanna-Tabor discharged the respondent because she threatened to file suit against the church in a civil court. This threat contravened the Lutheran doctrine that disputes among Christians should

be resolved internally without resort to the civil court system and all the legal wrangling it entails." For courts to interfere "would dangerously undermine the religious autonomy."

Again, darn right.

But you know what the problem here is? The court wrapped its defense of freedom here in clerical robes only. In order to enjoy the autonomous right to hire and fire, you have to be a religious institution, and it has to pertain to someone who is teaching, however little, some aspect of doctrine. That's the right decision, but why shouldn't the same principle apply across the board to all commercial institutions and, indeed, to all private institutions? Why should religious institutions be the exclusive beneficiary of a laissez-faire policy?

All businesses, all nonprofits, all private clubs, all neighborhood associations have internal policies and should enjoy the right to manage their own affairs without government intrusion. To impose a government plan on their labor policies is a serious compromise of rights and liberties, which must always include not only the right to associate but to disassociate.

The critics of the case worry that the decision is too broad, so broad that the court didn't even bother to define what a minister is. The critics are completely wrong. This court decision is the right one, but the

problem is that it is too narrow: In the name of freedom, all privately owned groups should be granted the same right to manage themselves.

Interestingly, this case even has implications for the current political war over Mitt Romney's activities at Bain & Co., a private equity firm that specializes in corporate restructuring. Its work can result in either profits or losses, expansions or closings. People are hired, people are fired. Who decides? The owners and managers do — in response to market trends — so it should be always and everywhere in a free society.

Newt Gingrich, apparently, doesn't like this idea. He calls Romney a corporate raider who needlessly puts people out of work — as if Gingrich knows better than the stockholders how to run a company.

A particular issue for Gingrich concerns a steel mill in Kansas that Bain was instrumental in closing, leaving massive job losses behind. Hello? Steel? Its production was once integral to the U.S. economy, but those days ended some 30 years ago when overseas companies demonstrated that they could do the same thing at a fraction of the cost. Is Gingrich really suggesting that every means should be used to keep steel plants open, even if it means looting American businesses and consumers who are forced to pay

the highest possible prices for no good reason?

This way of thinking puts Gingrich on the side of Cheryl Perich: against the rights of the property owners. Just as the Supreme Court said, such a system would involve massive coercion against people and intolerable intrusions into the private affairs of others.

Whether it is a tiny religious school or a multinational corporation, up with freedom of association and freedom of disassociation! That's the way liberty works. Its genius is its capacity to adapt the economic environment to a changing world, so that we stay on the path of growth to support rising living standards for humanity. The stasis of a socialist, state-run economy is not an option in today's world, and neither is the economic stagnation that comes with national protectionism and special privileges for workers. You can't have genuine profit and expansion without the possibility of losses and plant closings, and without the owners of institutions having control over who can and cannot get paid for services.

What applies to the Lutheran school should apply to every sector of society that is privately owned, whether or not their workers are called ministers. It is not only religion that needs protection against government interference. Everyone does. Granted, this would be a gigantic step in the right direction.

Should it Be a Crime for Persons Not Born in the US to Carry a Handgun?

Commentary by
California Right To Carry

1923 - California says Yes!

In 1923, the state of California passed a law prohibiting persons not born in the United States from carrying a handgun. The same law required a permit to carry a handgun concealed in public without a permit.

Gevino Rameriz, a foreign born citizen of the state of California, not being able to even own a handgun, let alone carry one concealed without a permit, was convicted of violating the new law.

The California Supreme Court in 1924 heard his case and concluded that the law was constitutional. Mr. Rameriz raised two defenses.

1. The California law violated his Second Amendment Right under the US Constitution.

2. The California law violated his right to Property under Article 1, Section 17 of the California Constitution.

Curiously, Mr. Rameriz did not raise as a defense Article 1, Section 1 of the California

Constitution - The Right to Self Defense. Perhaps his attorney thought the Second Amendment self-defense claim was sufficient, we'll never know.

Article 1, Section 1 of the California Constitution has stated an enumerated right to self-defense since 1848.

The California Supreme Court never addressed his right to property claim. The Court concluded that the Second Amendment applied only to militias and only to the Federal Government.

In 2008, the United States Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment guarantees the right to openly carry a weapon, particularly a loaded handgun, for the purpose of self-defense.

In 2010, the United States Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment applies to all states and local governments.

These decisions came about 86 years too late for Mr. Rameriz, he was sentenced to five years in prison.

1972 - Oops! We Made A Mistake, Our Bad!

In 1972, the California Court of Appeals held that the section of the 1923 law which made it a crime for persons not born in the United States to carry a handgun was unconstitutional (under the 1923 law, foreign born persons were not prevented from carrying rifles and shotguns in public).

In 1974, the California Legislature repealed that section of the law which made it a crime for foreign born persons to Openly Carry a handgun in public.

2011 - California Bans Everyone From Openly Carrying A Handgun

In 2011, the California Legislature passed a bill which makes it a crime to Openly Carry an unloaded handgun in public. It had become a crime to Openly Carry a Loaded firearm in public back in 1967.

Well not exactly, the 1967 law was intended to disarm the Black Panther Party. In May of 1967, the Black Panthers had marched into the state Capitol openly bearing arms in protest of

the law. The bill flew through the state legislature and was signed into law in July of 1967. It went into effect immediately.

The ban on openly carrying an unloaded handgun does not apply to a wide variety of special interests such as bill collectors, claims adjusters, bankers...you know, the special interests who run this state.

For you and I however, it is a crime to openly carry a handgun in public.

2012 - The Federal Courts Will Now Decide

Charles Nichols, President of California Right To Carry has asked a Federal District Court judge to decide if the United States Supreme Court meant what it said about the Second Amendment guaranteeing our right to openly carry a fully functional, loaded handgun for the purpose of self-defense.

Unlike Mr. Rameriz in 1924, Mr. Nichols is also arguing that California's ban on openly carrying a loaded handgun is a violation of Article 1, Section 1 of the California Constitution

which states that all persons have a right to self-defense.

If the Federal District Court judge agrees that the United States Supreme Court meant what it said about the Second Amendment, or that the right to self-defense under the California Constitution is meaningless if one is denied the means by which he may defend himself, then the judge will issue the injunction by late Spring.

If not, then the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals will deliver its opinion around the end of the year.

Given that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has already decided that the US Supreme Court meant what it said about the lawful manner of Carry (Open Carry) and that convicted felons do not have a right to carry a gun and that states may ban dangerous and unusual weapons such as hand-grenades and landmines; it is unlikely that the 9th Circuit will conclude that all of the restrictions the High Court said in its 2008 decision applies to California but not the core right itself - To openly carry

a loaded firearm, particularly a handgun, for the purpose of self-defense.

In the unlikely event that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ducks the question, the United States Supreme Court will have the opportunity to say whether or not it meant what it said about the Second Amendment.

The defendants in the Federal lawsuit are Governor Brown, Attorney General Kamala Harris, the City of Redondo Beach, the Redondo Beach Police Department and the Police Chief of Redondo Beach.

Attorney General Harris has stated that the US Supreme Court "wrongly decided" on the meaning of the Second Amendment. The City Attorney for Redondo Beach has said that California law does not apply to his city. The position of the police department is that neither state nor Federal laws apply to them.

Mr. Nichols says that he is eager to hear the defendants defend these claims in open court.

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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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Widowed Person's Association Luncheon

AUBURN – Widowed Person's Association of California will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Fri. January, 20th at 12:00 PM at the Sizzler Restaurant in Auburn.

Call Jeanette at 888-6880 by January 18th to make reservations. All Widowed People are invited to attend three activities of this organization prior to joining our membership.

Other activities include: card playing, luncheons, dinners, bingo, bowling, trips to Reno, Koffee klatches and special activities. Koffee Klatch will meet at Mon's Kitchen at 395 Nevada Street Auburn, Mon. January 16, at 9:00 AM.

Hope to see you there. For a free newsletter call Denise (530) 823-5321.

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CLUES

ACROSS

- "We Are the _____"
- Madonna's cone-shaped garment
- Clarified butter
- Farewell in France
- "Barbara _____" sung by The Beach Boys
- Private university in Des Moines, IA
- Times New _____
- "Papa's got a brand new one"
- Oil tanker
- "A rockabilly original"
- Ran away to marry
- Open box attached to long pole handle
- Scratch or scrape
- Programmer's bane
- Pocket bread
- Chew the fat or chat
- It will
- Literary "through"
- Peter in Russian
- "In _____ of"
- "Behind Wilson sisters, this group rose to prominence in 1970s"
- Japanese soup
- Treeless plain
- Affirm
- A bunch, often followed by "of"
- Inhabitant of republic on southwestern shores of Arabian Peninsula
- "Heat of the Moment" band

DOWN

- "Let's do the time _____ again"
- Detected by olfactory organ
- Ice crystals or frost
- Some keep others on a short one of these
- Tire brand
- "The Beach Boys' "Don't Worry _____"
- DNA transmitter
- "Aerosmith song with one-word title"
- "Get a _____!"
- Exhibiting vigorous good health
- Added to, commonly followed by "out"
- Poetic "ever"
- "Popular R&B style of 1950s and 1960s"
- Archie Bunker's wife

22. French lake
24. Single-file procession
25. "It's still Rock and Roll" to him
26. Being of service
27. Flash of light
29. Titaness who was mother of Helios, Selene, and Eos in Greek mythology
31. Jodie Foster's "_____ Island"
32. Laertes and Fortinbras to Hamlet, e.g.
33. Like ship away from harbor
34. "Mr. Dynamite"
36. Anything half-moon shaped
38. Mine deposits
42. "Chuck Berry went to prison after one _____"
49. "_____ & Tina Turner"
51. Software plug-ins
54. Literary technique
56. Razor sharpener
57. "I Love Rock 'n' Roll" singer
58. Initial stake
59. What Jack's beanstalk did
60. Made in Vegas
61. It turns on a light bulb?
62. Mix together
63. Gaelic
64. "Hop on the bus, _____"
66. John or Jane _____

For Solution See Page 7

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Sweet Adelines International Sierra Gold Chorus Holds "Open House"



AUBURN – All over the globe, Sweet Adelines International choruses are joining together to teach the world to sing. Women of all ages (teens to seniors) who enjoy singing are invited to Sierra Gold Chorus' Open House on Monday, 6:30 PM, January 23, 2012, at Burbank Hall, DeWitt Center, 11577 E Avenue, Auburn. Sierra Gold Chorus is the local chapter of Sweet Adelines International, an organization of nearly 25,000 women worldwide who sing four-part a cappella harmony, barbershop style.

The Sierra Gold Chorus members, from Placer, Nevada and Sacramento county, share a love for music and singing barbershop harmony. As a member, you too can experience the exhilaration

of performing and singing with the chorus. Any woman of average singing ability, with or without vocal training, will find a part that fits her voice range with the help of the chorus' musical leaders and director(s).

The Sierra Gold Chorus performs regularly throughout the community, offering its talent for entertainment at civic events, county fairs and charitable functions. Sierra Gold Chorus recently entertained hundreds of people at the annual Christmas shows (pictured above) in Nevada City and Auburn, and will be preparing for the April Regional competition in Reno, NV.

Sweet Adelines International is a musical force in the United

States and around the world. The organization is headquartered in Tulsa, Okla., where it was founded in 1945. This nonprofit music education organization is one of the world's largest singing organizations for women encompassing nearly 25,000 members, 1,200 registered quartets and 600 choruses in most of the fifty United States, Australia, Canada, England, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Scotland, Sweden, The Netherlands and Wales.

To find additional information about Sierra Gold Chorus, visit sierragoldchorus.org or contact Carol (530) 478-0130, Barbara (530) 885-4202 or Bev (916) 663-2105.

A Little Night Music

AUBURN – Assistance League® of Greater Placer is once again hosting a concert fundraiser to support its philanthropic programs. "A Little Night Music" is an ensemble featuring: Bob Draga, clarinet; with Jason Wanner, piano; Eddie Erickson, vocalist, guitar and banjo; Lenny Pollacchi, bass; and Ron Jones, drums. The event will be held February 9th, 2012 at the Rocklin Sunset Center, 2650 Sunset Blvd, Rocklin. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and no host bar will be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The concert will run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. with complimentary dessert and

no host bar at the Intermission. Cost is \$25 per person of which \$20 is tax-deductible.

Tickets are available at the Assistance League Thrift Shop, 1263 Grass Valley Hwy, Auburn or you may call the following people in your area:

- Auburn:
Joyce Petruk: (530) 887-0479
- Lincoln:
Mary Hobbs: (916) 543-7853
- Rocklin/Roseville:
Carolyn Thomas: (916) 435-9471
- Sacramento:
Patty Jones: (916) 712-1501

As with last year's concert,

funds raised at this event will help Assistance League continue its philanthropic programs that are administered by over 200 volunteers in our local communities. Some of these programs provide school clothing and supplies for over 1,800 children, 842 teddy bears to comfort traumatized children, 3,000 dictionaries to third grade students, clothing for 56 adults re-entering the work force, and classroom tutoring and life skill classes, including puppet programs on bullying and safety to over 3,100 children in kindergarten through third grades.

Poetry Comes to Life

PLACER COUNTY – The award-winning **Take Note Troupe** will make you laugh as they bring poetry to life through an upbeat and energetic original play, Poetic License. This show makes Poetry and the arts FUN!

Among the works presented are traditional haiku and limericks, poems by Shel Silverstein, Emily Dickinson, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and even the bard himself - William Shakespeare. Dramatic presentations lift Robert Frost's "The Road Less Traveled" and John

McCrae's "In Flanders Field" off the printed page and into audiences' hearts. More than just a recital however, this play loosely knits a wide variety of poems together with a plot involving Ralphie, a student whose lack of poetic understanding is matched only by his lack of caring for the subject. Like Ebenezer Scrooge, he meets three muses, each illuminating another dimension of poetry. The upbeat tempo, variety of poems and audience participation ensures interest in the presentation.

Whether audiences already appreciate poetry or resemble Ralphie, our leading man, this play pleases.

Show Dates:
Feb 17th: 4pm & 7:30 pm
Valley Springs Church
2401 Olympus Drive Roseville
Feb 24th & 25th: 4pm & 7:30pm
Auburn Performing Arts Center
State Theater
985 Lincoln Way, Auburn
For more information visit
www.takenotetroupe.org.

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To learn more, visit our website at www.AppetasersUSA.com. Thank you.

NARFE Meeting Notice

AUBURN – The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet January 19 at the Sizzler Restaurant, 13750 Lincoln Way,

in Auburn. Gene Lorance, Project Manager for the Hawver Caves will give an illustrated talk. Lunch and social hour begins

at 11:30. Lecture is at 12:30. Business meeting to follow. For more information call (530) 885-7320.

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POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

adjustment. I felt a teeny pressure and then he said I could sit up. I told him go ahead. I was ready when, to my amazement, he told me I was done. No way I said, and yet, I felt much better. Guess what. It's been about five years now that I go in about every eight to twelve weeks. No more twice a month and certainly no surgery. No force is needed. **Dr D** saw my exact misalignment and made the very gentle adjustment to my atlas. The bottom line is so goes the atlas...so goes the spine...and so goes the pain for many parts of the body. What a relief.

Here's what I found magical. It works for a variety of problems from migranes to sciatica, fibromyalgia, stress, and many injuries...any trauma. You can even throw in relief from depression, fatigue and allergies.

Now let's get to keeping that body of yours happy. **Dr Erwin** told me three things to remember...E.N.S.

EXERCISE: Lots of varieties and intensities from yoga to aerobics.

Pick what works for you based on your own goals and limitations. Always check with your own doc to be sure you are healthy enough to begin a program. Variety is key. Include strength training, flexibility training, and aerobic training. Change your routine periodically to keep it fun. Lots of benefits not only looking better, but reducing cholesterol, weight loss, and even less anxiety, better sleep, and stress reduction.

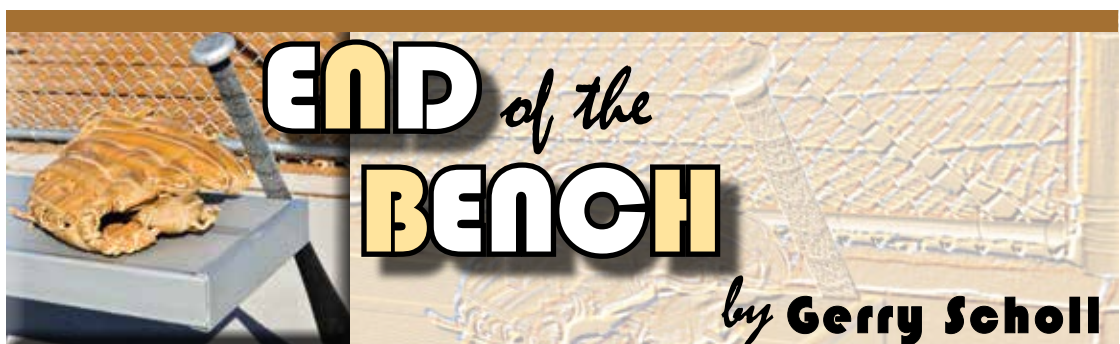
NUTRITION: Lots of options on this one from high protein and low carbs to lots of carbs and low protein. From fats to veggies to even eating for your blood type. Do what makes sense for you. Do you want to lose weight, gain

muscle, or manage diabetes? But experts do agree on a few things like your body needs protein. It's a body building block like meat, beans, dairy, and nuts. Most of your diet should consist of fresh and preferably organic fruits and veggies. These are complex carbs which provide energy and are your primary source of vitamins. Then there are fats. Go for the omega 3 fatty acids to help heart health and overall inflammatory response throughout you body. Sources like fish oil, flax, and chia seeds will do it.

SLEEP: We need a good night's rest. It helps with memory and learning, inflammation in the body is reduced, better athletic enhancement, weight loss, stress and depression reduction to name just a few. Some tips for good sleep include eliminating coffee after 2 PM, a bath or shower before bed, stretching and yoga, and no TV or computer exposure before bed. Don't forget exercise during the day will help you relax and able to sleep.

If you have any questions about some of these tips or if you want to know more about NUCCA, the good doc gave me permission to give you his number to call him personally at (916) 973-0623 to talk about your concerns. We've got enough pains in our lives... especially the two-legged kind, so make a new resolution to make life better in 2012. It's not that complicated. Remember, if at first you don't succeed, try try again! Just do something!

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



It's Crying Time Again

There's no crying in baseball! But there is in football.

Exhibit A: Vernon Davis of the Forty Niners as he went to the sideline in tears Saturday after catching the winning touchdown pass in San Francisco's 36-32 NFC Divisional Playoff victory over the New Orleans Saints at Candlestick Park.

NOBODY cries better than that! Tears of joy are the best.

The best. Few experts or fans thought the 49ers would be the best team on the field Saturday. The Saints, Super Bowl winners behind prolific quarterback Drew Brees two years ago, were 3 1/2 point favorites on the road going in — the only road favorite in the four weekend playoff games. That continued two trends: the lack of respect for the 49ers' way over the last several seasons; and a certain disbelief that they could continue to be successful throughout this season and into the playoffs.

But there are plenty of gamblers, fantasy freaks and prognosticators crying in their beers now.

Their doubts about the team's capabilities, of course, were not unfounded. The Niners had not reached the playoffs since 2002 and will be appearing in their first NFC title game since losing in 1997 to the Green Bay Packers. This year's team is led by a rookie coach, Jim Harbaugh and a much-maligned quarterback, Alex Smith. Questionable credentials, to say the least.

But these are not your run-of-the-mill-Mike's (Nolan, Singletary) unimaginative 49ers. For years San Francisco fans have been crying out, complaining about their boring, losing

team. Harbaugh and his assembled staff of top-flight coaches have inspired the players to greater success and turned the fans' cries to cheers, resulting in a sea of red at sold out Candlestick Saturday and a true home-field advantage.

In turn, that fan support spurred the 49ers offensive unit down the stretch against the Saints. In a game in which the lead changed hands four times in the closing minutes, they needed all the help they could get. It was said the 49ers were "winning ugly" all year, and this was shaping up as a who-ever-has-the-ball-last-wins type game — which should favor the Saints.

After building an early 17-0 lead with the help of Saints turnovers (five in the game), the 49ers eventually trailed, 24-23, with four minutes left. But the reborn QB Smith marched his offense 80 yards on six plays, finishing the drive with his own 28-yard surprise TD run down the left sideline for a 29-24 SF lead.

But, the record-setting Brees matched that with a 66-yard TD pass to Pro Bowl tight end Jimmy Graham to retake the advantage, 32-29, with just 1:37 to go.

That's when Smith and Davis teamed up to complete what has been called for each of them, "the game of his life."

Smith and Davis hooked up on a 47-yard pass and run to the Saints' 20-yard line before connecting on the winning play from 14 yards out with nine seconds remaining. Davis finished with seven catches for 180 yards, a record for tight ends in

the playoffs, while Smith completed 24 of 42 passes for 299 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions.

Smith, drafted No. 1 overall in 2005, and Davis, picked No. 6 in 2006, have been seemingly joined at the hip for years, viewed by most as notorious twin underachievers. Throughout unsettling circumstances surrounding the team, the two players have consistently supported one another.

"Never doubt Alex Smith again!" shouted 49ers radio man Ted Robinson after the winning score. At the same time Coach Harbaugh was giving the tearful Davis a big hug on the sideline, telling him, "You're a great player!"

The 49ers have been celebrating the 30th anniversary of "The Catch" this season — the Joe Montana-to-Dwight Clark touchdown in the NFC Championship against Dallas on their way to their first Super Bowl victory. Now, with this new catch by Davis, just about everyone wants to put a nametag on it. Davis himself suggested "The Grab."

Considering the circumstances and the two players involved, I have a nomination. How about "The Redemption Reception?" Like it or not, come up with your own.

Regardless of how that turns out, the 49ers will host the New York Giants, who ousted defending champion Green Bay, in the NFC title game Sunday. A win sends them off to Super Bowl XLVI, Feb. 5. Hopefully for the 49ers and their fans the next three weeks will produce plenty of happy tears.

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Military Graduates

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Kelsea L. Wuester 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. Wuester is the daughter of Stephanie Rennie of Grandview Drive, Bishop, and Anthony Wuester of Lonetree Boulevard, Rocklin. She is a 2011 graduate of Bishop Union High School.

Army Spec. Ryan S. Carnahan has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier received training in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, core values and traditions. Additional training included development of basic combat skills and battlefield operations and tactics, and experiencing use of various weapons and weapons defenses available to the infantry crewman. Carnahan is the son of Kathy Patterson of Oak Ridge Way, Auburn. He is a 1994 graduate of Bear River High School, Grass Valley. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in 1998 from Humboldt State University, Arcata.

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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

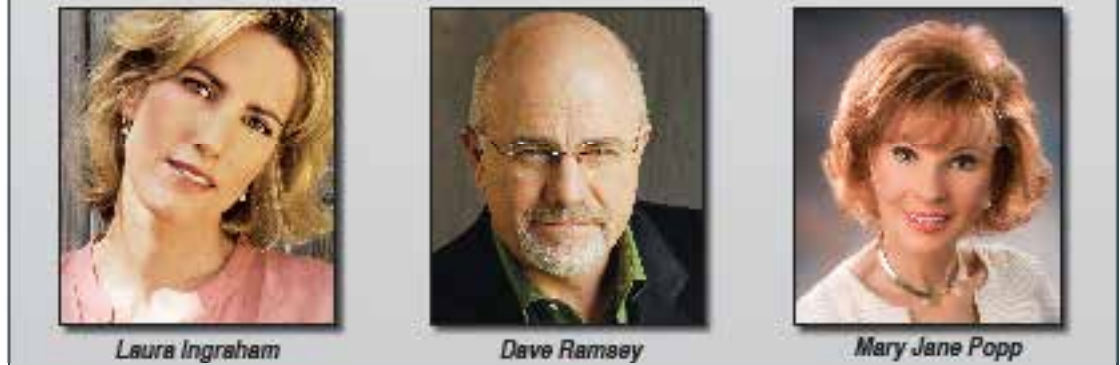
Sundays
 7:30 - 9am: Cruisin' Garage & Swap Meet
 9 - 9:30am: Bayside Auburn Church Service
 9:30am - 7pm: Sinatra & Friends Music
 7 - 8pm: A Way With Words
 8 - 9pm: Hearts of Space

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Most of our locally produced programs are available for replay or podcast download at the 'Audio On Demand' page at www.kahi.com.

Sinatra & Friends Music - Now on Saturdays and Sundays on KAH1.



Top 10 Scams of 2011

Continued from page 1

of Osama bin Laden's death to the latest celebrity hijinks have shown up on social media sites, often looking as if they have been shared by a friend. When one clicks on the link, a prompt to "upgrade your Flash player" appears, but the file that downloads contains a worm that logs into the social media account, sends similar messages to the recipient's friends, and searches for personal data.

Top Home Improvement Scam

Always near the top of BBB complaint data are home improvement contractors who leave homes worse than they found them. They usually knock on the door with a story or a deal – the roofer who can spot some missing shingles or the paver with some leftover asphalt who can give a great deal on driveway resealing. Itinerant contractors move around, keeping a step ahead of the law. The worst are those who move in after a natural disaster, taking advantage of desperate homeowners who need immediate help and may not be as suspicious as they would be under normal circumstances.

Top Check Cashing Scam

They contact a seller via a craigslist.org posting and send the seller a check for more than the amount they owe. The seller is then asked to deposit it into a bank account and send them the difference via wire transfer. A deposited check takes a couple of days to clear, whereas wired money is gone instantly. When the original check bounces, the seller is out of the money wired and stuck with whatever her or she was trying to sell.

Top Phishing Scam

"Phishing" is when one receives a suspicious phone call asking for personal information

or an email that installs a virus to hunt for personal data. The most pernicious phishing scam this year disguised itself as official communication from NACHA – the National Automated Clearing House Association – which facilitates the secure transfer of billions of electronic transactions every year. The email claims one of the recipients' transactions did not go through and urges the consumer to click a link. It may take the consumer to a fake banking site to "verify" account information or it may download malware.

Top Identity Theft Scam

This scam is so prevalent that many hotels are posting warnings in their lobby. Here's how it works: The guest receives a call via the phone in the room in the middle of the night. It's the front desk clerk, very apologetic, saying their computer has crashed and they need to get the guest's credit card number again, or they must have gotten the number wrong because the transaction won't go through. Scammers are counting on the guest being too sleepy to catch on that the call isn't from the hotel at all. By morning, the credit card has been fraudulently charged.

Top Financial Scam

After the federal government announced or expanded several mortgage relief programs this year, many sound-alike websites popped up attempting to fool consumers into parting with their money. Some sound like a government agency, or even part of BBB or other nonprofit consumer organization. Most ask for an upfront fee to help deal with the mortgage company or government (services easily done for free), and almost all leave consumers in more debt than when they started.

Top Sales Scam

Sales scams are always popular, but the internet has introduced a whole new way to rip people off. Penny auctions are popular because it seems like one can get something useful – cameras, computers, etc. – for below retail. Consumers actually pay a small fee for each bid and if they do not win, they lose all the bid money. Winners often are not the top bidder, but the last bidder when time runs out. Although not all penny auction sites are scams, BBB recommends treating them the same way one would legal gambling – know exactly how the bidding works, set a limit, and be prepared to walk away before exceeding that limit.

Scam of the Year

The BBB phishing scam – Hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of people received emails imitating an official notice from BBB. The subject line says something like "Complaint Against Your Business." The instructions tell the recipient to either click on a link or open an attachment to get the details. If the recipient does either, a malicious virus launches. The virus can steal banking information, passwords and other critical pieces of information needed for cyber-theft. BBB is working with security consultants and federal law enforcement to track down the source of these emails, and has already shut down dozens of hijacked websites. Anyone who has opened an attachment or clicked on a link should run a complete system scan using reputable anti-virus software. If a computer is networked with others, all machines on the network should be scanned.

For more information on these and other scams, go to BBB Scam Source (www.bbb.org/scam).

Bring Out the Barrel!



PLACERVILLE – El Dorado Winery Association (EDWA) invites you to hunt for your next favorite wine during their annual Bring Out the Barrel event on January 28 and 29, 2012. The event will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each day.

Bring Out the Barrel is a self-guided tour of 27 wineries nestled in and around the Sierra Foothills of El Dorado County. During the event, wine lovers of all levels will get a special preview of wines that are about to be bottled, by tasting them straight from the barrel. There will also be an opportunity to taste extraordinary varietals that are ready to be purchased and enjoyed now. In addition, the weekend will feature learning more about winemaking from the vintners themselves, sales on wine futures, light appetizers and demonstrations.

As you're discovering great wines, you can also be on the hunt for your ideal wine assortment as part of the Good Wine Hunting Treasure Hunt. A drawing will be held after the event

and five winners will be selected to receive 2 tickets to EDWA's upcoming Passport event, a free Passport designated driver ticket and gift baskets. Details regarding qualifications for the drawing will be posted on the EDWA website as soon as they are available and will also be provided on the day of the event.

To purchase tickets for this event, go to www.eldoradowines.org. Tickets are \$35, which includes both days of the event. Only a limited number of tickets are available. Find additional information about the wineries, touring maps and touring tips on the eldoradowines.org website. For more information about the event, you can also contact the El Dorado Winery Association at (800) 306-3956 or info@eldoradowines.org.

Just about an hour from Sacramento or South Lake Tahoe and a little over two hours from Reno or the San Francisco area, El Dorado's wineries beckon both beginning wine tasters and experts with award-winning wines, friendly tasting room staff

and idyllic views. El Dorado wineries are also family friendly with outside areas for picnics.

In El Dorado wine country you will find hundreds of microclimates, from 1,200 to 3,500 feet, nearly 50 varieties of grapes, and dozens of artisan winemakers with a passion for experimenting with all of the above to achieve exceptional wines. Our vintners credit mountain and hillside vineyards, along with a long growing season and cool nights for their stylish and unique wines. The terroir encourages a balance of fruit flavors, tannin and body that valley regions just can't match.

Because our wineries are small, family owned wineries, visitors often have the unique experience of wine tasting with an owner or winemaker. Come visit to explore the distinctive characteristics that sets El Dorado apart from any other wine region. Learn more about our wines and events, and get touring maps and tips at www.eldoradowines.org.

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El Dorado Winery Association Presents

Bring out the

BARREL

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27 Wineries

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