



## Before That Long Trip to Grannys

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**PLUS:**  
**New Holiday Classics**  
Sweet and savory recipes for the holiday season.

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# Placer Sentinel

Volume 22 Issue 24

Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

Second Issue of December, 2011

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## Santa Checks Auburn's List



Santa Checks His List Twice Before Visiting Auburn

## Cell Phones are California's Biggest Traffic Safety Problem

SACRAMENTO – In a dramatic turnaround, California drivers ranked cell phone talking and texting as the biggest safety problems on the road in 2011, decisively moving past the top problems of 2010, which were speeding and aggressive driving.

These and other opinions of driving habits are included in the results of the second annual Traffic Safety Survey, released today by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). In 2010, 21.5 percent of drivers thought that speeding and aggressive driving were the biggest problems, followed by cell phone talking and texting, which totaled 18.3 percent combined. In the latest 2011 results, speeding and aggressive driving dropped to 17.6 percent, while those worried about drivers using cell phones more than doubled to 38.8 percent.

Drunk driving was next on the list, replacing last year's "bad roads," with 12.6 percent of respondents considering it most dangerous. "This second year of surveying the opinions and habits of California's drivers shows how quickly they react to the real problems we all face on the road," said OTS Director Christopher J. Murphy. "This information provides us with unique insight into the concerns of Californians.

It is very telling that we've seen such a shift in opinions on cell phone use in just one year." In the most distracting category, combined cell phone talking and texting jumped from 75 percent to 84 percent. Those who say they still use handheld phones for either talking or texting dropped from last year, while those who say that they have been hit or nearly hit by someone talking or texting on a cell phone increased.

Drivers are a bit more aware of the anti-drunk driving message,



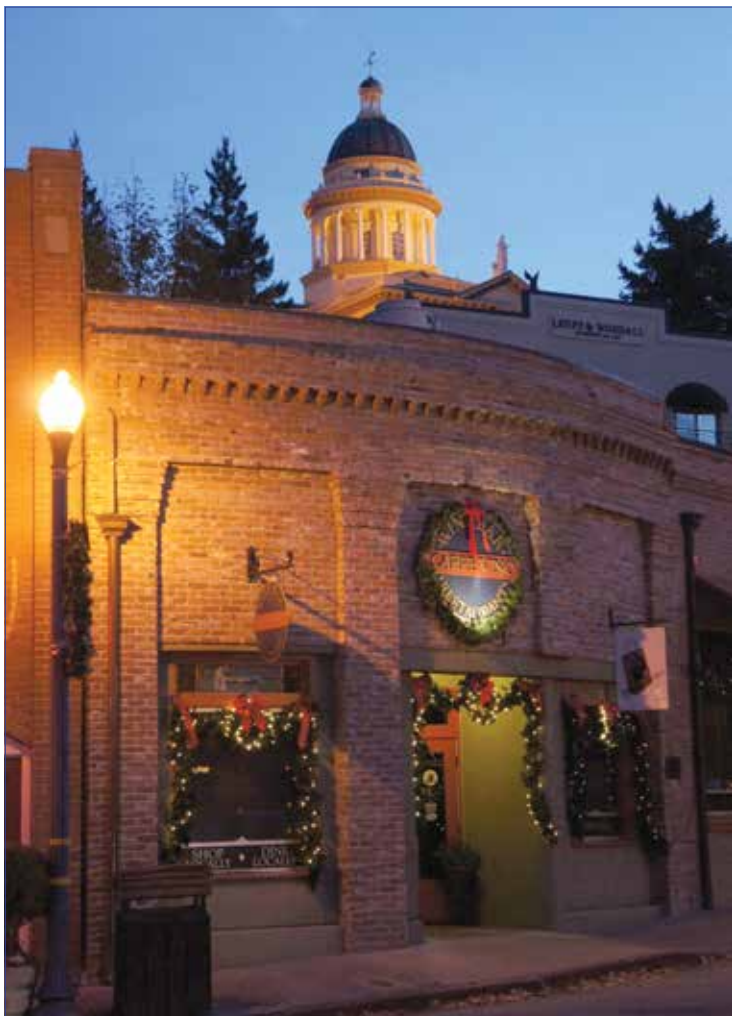
Cell phones and driving can be a deadly combination for Californians.

with more actually saying that they aren't drinking at all. In addition, drivers are more aware of DUI checkpoints, and at a high 88 percent approval rate, the vast majority of California drivers support them as well. More people are also aware of the Click It or Ticket seat belt campaign and buckle up because of it. The statewide survey was fielded in late summer and 1,801 drivers age 18 and over were interviewed at gas stations in 15 counties throughout California. The results will help the California Office of Traffic Safety and those involved in the Strategic Highway Safety Plan better identify and track driver attitudes, self-reported driving behavior, awareness of high visibility enforcement efforts and safety communications. "Having this second year of results is very helpful," said Murphy. "It has validated what we took from the first year and is beginning to show trends. It is providing valuable data for our planning, particularly in distracted driving programs and the emerging drugged driving problem."

Additional results include:  
• Drunk driving was the biggest safety concern of the 18-24 year old age group, at 30.3 percent, up from 11.5 percent

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## Carpe Vino on OpenTable's Top 100 Restaurant List



Auburn's Carpe Vino gets a great Christmas gift – being placed on OpenTable's top 100 Restaurant List.

AUBURN – What do world class restaurants Le Bernardin and Per Se in New York; The French Laundry and The Kitchen in northern California; and Mama's Fish House in Maui have in common with Auburn's Carpe Vino? All have been named to OpenTable's Diner's Choice list of 2011's Top 100 Restaurants. A nationwide reservations network for 12,000 fine dining restaurants around the country, OpenTable's list was based on more than 10 million reviews penned by diners around the country.

"We were absolutely blown away back in October when we were named to OpenTable's Top 50 Restaurant Wine Lists for 2011," said Carpe Vino's co-owner, Gary Moffat. "But to be recognized with so many legendary restaurants around the country is one helluva Christmas present."

Carpe Vino was one of only four restaurants to be named to both lists. Addison at the Grand Del Mar in San Diego also ranked tops in both food and wine, as did two restaurants in North Carolina.

"Of course it makes no sense for a 32-seat restaurant in a town of 13,000 people on the edge

of civilization to be recognized in the same breath with restaurants operated by the likes of Thomas Keller, but the people have spoken," Moffat said. "In the five years we've been open, I've heard it hundreds of times from people who appreciate fine food and wine... 'Carpe Vino is a good as any place we've ever dined...anywhere.' And now I believe them."

Although Carpe Vino has been in business for nearly 10 years—opening in 2002 as a wine shop and wine bar—the restaurant has been serving since 2006. The same core staff is still in place: Chef Eric Alexander, trained at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY; Drew Moffat, co-owner and general manager; and Ada Campos-Sutcliffe, also CIA-trained and responsible for the front of the house.

"Eric is a remarkably inventive chef who has consistently executed creative menus exploiting the fabulous resources we have in Placer County and beyond," Moffat said. "He has a sensitivity toward and understanding of everything about running a kitchen that have led to this

recognition. He inspires everyone in the building."

Carpe Vino's core business is selling wine, and that's part of the draw for so many people who make the trip to Auburn. "Even though he is only 30, my son, Drew, has an incredible palate," Moffat said. "In my opinion he's a superstar, and he's taken our business to a level that is competitive with any of the big boys."

While the restaurant has many local fans, it draws foodies up the hill from all around the Sacramento region. "I've always said that if we could pick up Carpe Vino and move it to a metro area, we'd have a line around the block every night," Moffat said. "The double recognition from OpenTable can only help drive more people to Old Town Auburn, and that's a good thing for everyone."

Carpe Vino is located at 1568 Lincoln Way in Auburn. The restaurant is open Wednesday through Saturday starting at 5 p.m. Wine can be purchased and dinner reservations made online at [www.carpevinoauburn.com](http://www.carpevinoauburn.com), by calling (530) 823-0320 or by visiting [www.opentable.com](http://www.opentable.com).

# Before that Long Trip to Grannys

by Ken Western,  
Dog Trainer, Colfax

If a long trip is on the list of "to do's" for the holidays it is a good idea to start early in preparing your dog for the journey. Even if your pet is familiar with short trips around town, preparation is necessary when traveling for long periods of time.

Start with local trips that increase in duration over several days or weeks. Have your pet secured in his normal travel crate or seat belt harness for these test runs.

When the big trip comes, feed your pet 2-3 hours before departure, giving his meal plenty of time to digest. This will help with motion sickness and help him feel content.

Around and under the crate or location of the seat belt harness place some piddle pads; these will make clean up easier in the event of a toileting accident or motion sickness.

Frequent stops for potty breaks and a chance to stretch are also recommended. During these stops do not give Fido any treats to eat. Some water will be necessary; however food should be avoided until you reach your



Sophie Western wonders what's up for Christmas. Photo: Rusty Western

destination. If the trip goes into dinner time, feed your dog a light meal and wait at least an hour before heading out again.

A familiar blanket, favorite toy, even a chew toy placed in reach will make her feel more secure and have something to occupy her time.

Once you reach Granny's, or a dog friendly hotel set your dog up in a quiet place with his familiar toys and blankets. Stick to your normal routine as much as possible with feeding times and

potty runs. The more normalcies you can incorporate into the trip will go a long way in relieving any anxiety your dog may experience in his new environment.

Taking a little time to introduce Fido to the new toileting area and his new surroundings is a plus. Use proper introduction techniques with people and pets that are strangers to your dog.

These tips will help keep everyone including your pet happy and calm; a joyous holiday for everyone.

# 41 Placer Foster Youth Receive Holiday Stockings

SACRAMENTO – United Way's Women in Philanthropy members and people across the region donated stockings for 41 Placer County foster youth in Koinonia Family Services' programs through United Way's Women in Philanthropy. The donation was part of the group's annual gift and stocking drive that this year raised 133 stockings and 150 gifts for 183 foster youth, and those emancipated, across the region.

Fifty foster youth in Sacramento County's Gifts From The Heart program received the holiday gifts they requested. United Way's Women in Philanthropy and community members also filled stockings for 133 current and emancipated foster youth with United Way's SenSe-Ability project funded partners: Amador-Tuolumne Community Resources, Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, Koinonia Family Services and New Morning Youth and Family Services.

"Some of these kids are scared, suddenly removed from their homes during what is supposed to be the happiest season of the year," said Lisa Watts, chair of United Way's Women in Philanthropy. "Others have experienced years of pain as they bounce from one foster home to another and now prepare to live on their own. United Way's Women in Philanthropy gives women across the region a tangible way to touch these kids' hearts during the holidays."

United Way's Women in Philanthropy brings women together to foster the future, preparing foster youth for a successful adulthood. A dynamic group of businesswomen, homemakers and community



Camilla Ryland and foster youth Kimberly of Koinonia Homes for Teens in Loomis help fill stockings for foster youth at United Way's Women in Philanthropy wrapping party.

leaders, Women in Philanthropy members raise funds, hold drives and provide trainings focused on helping foster youth rise to their dreams. The group also is a partner in United Way's SenSe-Ability project, helping foster youth become financially self-sufficient through financial literacy courses and individual development accounts that provide a matched savings program.

For more information, visit [www.yourlocalunitedway.org/wip](http://www.yourlocalunitedway.org/wip).

Sacramento County's Gifts from the Heart is an annual holiday gift-giving program that operates on donations and benefits children and seniors who are in the Department of Health and Human Services' system of care.

For more information, call (916) 875-2027.

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

**Publisher Paul V. Scholl**

# Mike Lee to Lead PCWA Board

AUBURN – District 4 Director Mike Lee has been named by his fellow directors to serve as 2012 chairman of the Placer County Water Agency Board of Directors. The unanimous vote came at Monday's (Dec. 5) meeting of the PCWA board.

Lee, of Loomis, is a former longtime member of the Placer County Board of Supervisors who has served on the PCWA board since 2000. This will be his third term as board chairman.

He succeeds District 3 Director Lowell Jarvis, of Ophir, who served as 2011 board chairman.

District 5 Director Ben Mavy, of Meadow Vista, was elected as the board's vice chairman for 2012.

The other two members of the five-member PCWA governing board are District 1 Director Gray Allen of Roseville and District 5 Director Alex Ferreira of Lincoln.

In other business, PCWA directors:

- approved an interim contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to renew and extend the supply of Central Valley Project (CVP) water



District 4 Director Mike Lee

the bureau supplies to PCWA. Legal adviser Janet Goldsmith said the interim contact was needed because the bureau is presently prohibited from entering into long term water supply contracts.

- heard a report from Resource Planning Administrator Andy Fecko on the agency's ongoing effort to reduce increases in land use fees it pays to the federal government for the PCWA Middle Fork American River Project. Fecko said PCWA, working with other agencies, is now facing annual fees of \$800,000 to \$900,000, or less than half of the \$2 million originally sought. The fees have

increased substantially from the \$280,000 the agency paid in 2008.

- heard an update from Field Services Director Mike Nichol on the annual canal maintenance outage being conducted this fall by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Nichol said water supply impacts to PCWA customers have been avoided during PG&E's work on the Bear River and South canals.

- approved \$4000 for the Placer Nature Center's watershed and water educational programs for young people. Directors said educational outreach is needed to emphasize the importance of the county's water resources at a time when downstream interests are looking to deprive our area of water for their benefit.

The next regular meeting of the PCWA Board of Directors will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 15, 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](http://www.pcwa.net).



# Around Town

with Loyce Smallwood

spreading the word about community TV where super thanks are sent to upbeat volunteers including guitarist/vocalist/photographer Bill Mael who also produces his own entertainment program on ACTV and thanks to colorful co-host/vocalist/musician Bonnie Gibson for adding to the mirth mix.

Special thanks/appreciation/gratitude to all those volunteering at the Friends of Placer County bookstore in the Raley's Center, helping to provide adoptions/care for the homeless pets with kudos to volunteers Betty and Suzi for their selfless commitment/devotion.

Reminder: Donate your gently used books and knick-knacks/jewelry/fashion accessories sold in the back of the bookstore where loving felines wait for their forever homes. Shop for treasures and enjoy a tasty shrimp or vegetarian burrito next door at the Burrito Shop.

Ahead of the holiday challenges? Volunteer at the bookstore or at the Hospice thrift shop down the street on Lincoln Way. Volunteers



Red Bike Café owner Linda Lareau.

also needed at St. Joseph Thrift Downtown, now open Saturdays.

And special thanks sent to those who love to bake/cook and share, in particular, Sutter Hospital volunteer and animal advocate Maria Scoggins.

And to The Sentinel for the opportunity to spread the gratitude, thank you. Happy Holidays.

Questions/comments to [loy@foothill.net](mailto:loy@foothill.net)

# Local Animal Welfare and Sheltering Organizations Join Forces

*Our Animals Need a Home for the Holidays!*

PLACER COUNTY – During the month of December, animal rescue and sheltering organizations from throughout Placer County will work tirelessly toward finding permanent loving homes for the animals in their care.

Placer SPCA, Placer County Animal Services, Friends of Placer County Animal Shelters, Angels Rescuing Kritters, A New Hope Animal Foundation, Humane Society of the Sierra Foothills, Auburn Area Animal Rescue Foundation, and Field Haven Feline Rescue will offer

adoption fee rebates for specially selected adult cats and while funding is available. This is possible thanks in part to a grant from the Placer County Animal Trust Fund.

"We have many wonderful animals available for adoption and our collective wish is they all have a home for the holidays," states Placer SPCA CEO Leilani Vierra on behalf of these groups. These Placer County organizations know that acquiring the right pet can be an uplifting and magical experience

and encourage residents to make a difference in the life of a homeless animal right here in their own community.

Vierra adds, "Certainly, there are some folks who aren't in a position to adopt but there are other ways to support the efforts of these local groups, consider donating, volunteering or temporarily fostering an animal." For questions about Rebates for Rescues, please contact (916) 782-7722, ext. 106, (530) 885-7387, ext. 106, or [administration@placerspca.org](mailto:administration@placerspca.org).

# A Thousand Paws of Light

ROSEVILLE – At the Placer SPCA, staff and volunteers are gearing up to find homes for 300 animals this month, a record for the organization for the month of December.

"In December 2010, we adopted 275 animals, meaning 1,100 paws crossed the threshold," said Placer SPCA CEO Leilani Vierra. "This year we would like to see 1,200 paws walk out of our center on their way to permanent homes in time for the holidays." In an effort to encourage adopters, the adoption fee is waived for all cats over four months of age.

For dogs, the adoption fee is reduced by \$10 for every year of the animal's age. "We hope this



Eight-year-old Lani, a Labrador Retriever mix, is available for an adoption fee of \$45 at Placer SPCA.

may make someone take a closer look at dogs like Lani, who is

eight years old. A lucky adopter will receive \$80 off her regular adoption price of \$125 and bring home a fabulous companion for the holidays." All adoptions from the Placer SPCA include spay or neuter surgery, microchip, vaccinations, and a voucher for a free veterinary exam. Special adoption pricing is in effect at the Placer SPCA at 150 Corporation Yard Road in Roseville, and also at the Auburn location, at 1482 Grass Valley Highway, Auburn. For more information, please contact the Placer SPCA, your local companion animal welfare experts, at (916) 782-7722 or (530) 885-7387, visit [www.placerspca.org](http://www.placerspca.org), or email [customer-care@placerspca.org](mailto:customer-care@placerspca.org).

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## Plan B Not the Plan A for Children

The American College of Pediatricians applauds Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in her correct and courageous decision to retain the age restrictions on the emergency contraception pill, Plan B. Given the potential for misuse, overuse, and the significant side effects of this drug, these age limits are in the best interest of the adolescent and are supported by science.

In this nation, where we hold the health and care of children in such high regard, the over-the-counter sale of Plan B to

unsupervised minors would have been an unmitigated medical and psychosocial disaster. Modern science has made clear for at least the past decade that the cognitive areas of the brain needed to make such major decisions do not mature until twenty to twenty-five years of age. That's why parent and physician involvement is essential to achieve optimal medical decisions for teens. It is disturbing to see this significant science ignored by so many when it comes to adolescent health policymaking.

Thank you, Secretary Sebelius,

for placing the well-being of children above the political agendas of others.

*The American College of pediatricians is a national medical association of licensed physicians and healthcare professionals who specialize in the care of infants, children, and adolescents. The mission of the College is to enable all children to reach their optimal physical and emotional health and well-being. For more information about the College, please visit our website [www.Best4Children.org](http://www.Best4Children.org).*

## Local Pork Producer Scheduled to Address Industry's Progress

AUBURN – California pork production takes center stage on Wednesday, December 21, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Auburn Kiwanis Club. Steve Weaver of Weaver Farms in Elk Grove, Calif., will address the group at 6:30 p.m. at the Sizzler located at 13570 Lincoln Way in Auburn.

Titled "The Pork Industry: More Than Just the Other White Meat," the speech by Weaver will showcase the industry's rural economic impact plus on-going

programs to enhance the nutritional quality of pork, to protect the environment and to treat livestock humanely. Due to new technologies and management systems, U.S. pork producers have trimmed pork's fat content 31 percent since 1983.

"Like other industries facing strong competitive pressures," Weaver remarked, "we're working to constantly improve our ability to provide tasty, affordable and nutritious pork products in a responsible manner. I'd like

to thank the Auburn Kiwanis Club for giving me an opportunity to discuss how pork producers are providing quality pork products, benefiting the local economy and being responsible neighbors."

Weaver is one of 68,000 U.S. pork producers in the United States. He said the typical size sow operation can generate \$27,000 in property taxes, \$65,000 in state taxes, 21 jobs, and support another 19 indirect local jobs.

## Busted for Stealing Gas

Four Sacramento residents were arrested by Placer County Sheriff's deputies early Monday morning when they were caught in the act of stealing \$2,600 worth of gasoline with a gas card stolen from the City of Auburn.

Deputies responded to the Dawson Oil card lock station on Bowman Road in Auburn at 1:42 a.m. after a caller reported that someone appeared to be stealing gas. Deputies found two pickup trucks with a total of twelve 55-gallon vinyl barrels filled with gasoline in the back of the two trucks. Suspect Raymond E. Farmer, 54, was in the process of filling one barrel in the back of his truck when deputies arrived. The second truck, driven by suspect John Patrick Steel, 47, was parked next to Farmer's and was sitting very low to the ground due to the weight of the full barrels.

Both Farmer and Steel had outstanding warrants and Farmer was on searchable probation. Farmer said they had purchased the gasoline using a Dawson Oil credit card but he told deputies that he did not know who owned the card. A Dawson Oil employee who came to the scene determined that the card belonged to the City of Auburn. Neither suspect works for the city. Farmer also said he took the 55-gallon barrels from a business in Sacramento, but he did not know the name of that business.

Farmer and Steel were arrested, along with a female passenger in each truck, and booked at the Placer County Jail. The women arrested were Dawn Marie

Darnell, 47, and Ranae Lynn Miller, 40. All four were charged with grand theft, possession of stolen property, conspiracy and theft by credit card. Dawson Oil could not reuse the oil due to potential contamination.



Raymond Farmer



John Steel



Ranae Miller



Dawn Darnell

## Is That Family Acting Responsibly?

*Congressman McClintock voted NO on HR 3671*



By Congressman Tom McClintock

Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 and he issued the following statement on the legislation: HR 3671— Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012: NO.

Viewed in isolation, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2012 reduces total discretionary spending authority (those expenditures that don't require statutory changes, including war and emergency spending) from

\$1.209 trillion in FY 2011 to \$1.181 trillion in FY 2012), or \$28 billion (2.3 percent). Viewed over the past five years, however, this still constitutes an increase of \$144 billion, in discretionary spending (13.5 percent).

This may constitute an improvement over the past year, but begs the question, "Does it put the nation back on the path to fiscal solvency?" The overarching issue is what impact does this bill have in conjunction with total spending levels. Are we reducing spending enough to avert the fiscal collapse of the United States Government?

The Ryan budget was only supportable because it included significant reform of mandatory spending that, together with a discretionary spending cap of \$1.019 trillion, put us on a trajectory that balanced the federal budget by the mid-2030's and paid off the national debt by the mid-2050's. H.R. 3671 would take our annual discretionary spending (in conjunction with all other bills) to \$1.181 trillion without any reform of mandatory spending.

All told, this bill cements total authorized federal spending for FY 2012 at \$3.693 trillion with revenue of only \$2.635 trillion, assuring another one trillion dollar-plus budget deficit.

That means roughly \$13,000 of additional debt on every family of four (per capita x 4), which they will be required to repay through their future taxes. Last year (FY 2011), total authorized spending amounted to \$3.650 trillion meaning that total federal spending has increased by \$43 billion, or about \$550 per family (per capita x 4) in the past year. Proportionally, this is the same as a family earning \$26,350 that plans to spend \$36,930 next year, putting another \$10,580 on a credit card that already carries a balance of more than \$150,000.

Rather than cutting its overall spending, it has increased it by \$43, while cutting only \$28 from its "discretionary" choices. The question on HR 3671 comes down to this: "Is that family acting responsibly?"

## Wells Fargo Bank Donates to SEDCorp

The Sierra Economic Development Corporation (SEDCorp) is pleased to announce the generous donation of \$45,000 made by Wells Fargo Bank through SEDCorp's companion non-profit, Economic Partners In Change (EPIC), on December 7, 2011. Donald Terry, Community Development Officer for the Northern California Region, presented the check to Mike Holmes, SEDCorp's Chairman, at the December Board of Directors meeting in Auburn.

"Wells Fargo has been a great partner to SEDCorp," said Mike,

"they really fulfill their role in supporting regional economic development." SEDCorp CEO, Brent Smith, added, "This generous grant from Wells Fargo adds to our financial strength and our ability to support the region's small businesses by providing more training for business owners and continuing to make direct small business loans."

Donald Terry shared that "it's been great to provide a little support to SEDCorp over the last couple of years in their Business Boot Camps and their lending program. We look forward to a

continuing partnership."

SEDCorp is a 501(c)(4) non-profit corporation formed in 1969 as a regional economic development district, serving the counties of El Dorado, Nevada, Placer and Sierra in their economic development endeavors. The multi-county organization is funded from a combination of federal, state and local sources to promote and support job preservation and creation and a stable economy throughout the region. Visit the SEDCorp's website at [www.sedcorp.biz](http://www.sedcorp.biz) or call (530) 823-4703 to discuss business financing options.

## Kiwanis Club of Auburn



See's Candies Store is located in the Raley's Shopping Center at 13412 Lincoln Way

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# Riley Reviews

### THE EXPLOSIVE, COOL FACTOR FOR “SHERLOCK HOLMES” EXCITES

and lurches in a wobbly array of almost incomprehensible action scenes. It may all be a bit confusing at first.

Fortunately, the story settles down into a globe-trotting adventure that has Holmes absconding with his best pal and reluctant partner, Dr. Watson (Jude Law), just as the good doctor has married the lovely Mary (Kelly Reilly).

Set in 1891, the action quickly shifts out of London when Holmes and Watson, investigating terrorist plots that target political figures, get pulled into a rescue mission for Gypsy fortune teller Simza (Noomi Rapace).

Soon enough the trio is racing through France, and then Germany, in search of Simza’s missing brother who is apparently caught up in revolutionary schemes.

The ever-smart Holmes, of course, figures that his arch enemy Professor Moriarty (Jared Harris) is cleverly manipulating and orchestrating a dastardly plot to assassinate various European diplomats.

The nefarious Moriarty plan is to spark all-out conflict between France and Germany so that he may profit from having cornered the munitions market.

To this end, Moriarty schemes his evil plan to occur at a summit that is scheduled to take place high in the Swiss alps at a hide-away that looks like something from a James Bond film.

Given his cinematic history, Guy Ritchie puts a real premium on the breakneck pace of explosive action, and “Sherlock Holmes” delivers the action goods in spades.

Most impressive of all is Ritchie’s slow-motion technique for many action sequences, where the unhurried pace is used

brilliantly to allow Holmes to visualize in great detail his next moves on the action chessboard.

Of course, there’s more to the action scenes than just the deliberate, measured pace of the slow-motion sequences. Once visualized, Holmes’ perceptions are rendered expertly into real time speed with forceful impact.

Though it may not seem this way, there’s more to this “Sherlock Holmes” than just high octane action. One of the best scenes is a chess game between Holmes and Moriarty realized as a cerebral cat-and-mouse exercise.

In a film filled with delightful characters, one of the best may be Stephen Fry’s Mycroft Holmes, the famous sleuth’s older brother who provides some comic relief.

“Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows,” loaded with explosive action, is an exciting adventure. But best of all is the great chemistry between Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law; their collaborative effort really pays off.

#### DVD RELEASE UPDATE

I find it hard to pass up a DVD release of old buried treasure from the glory days of television. “I’m Dickens...He’s Fenster” falls into this category.

This brilliant but short-lived 1962 ABC TV situation comedy starred John Astin (“The Addams Family”) and Marty Ingels (“The Dick Van Dyke Show”).

The show was created by Leonard Stern, the writer and/or producer for such great comedies as “Sgt. Bilko,” “Get Smart” and “The Honeymooners.”

“I’m Dickens...He’s Fenster” followed the comic exploits of two construction workers and bosom buddies (Astin and Ingels).

Though the TV show was a favorite of critics, it ran for only one season of 32 episodes. It suffered the fate of a premature cancellation.

Because it never had enough episodes to qualify to run in syndication, “I’m Dickens...He’s Fenster” has been a lost treasure up until now.

The Volume One release offers the first 16 episodes, along with bonus material such as commentaries from the original stars.

# Fire Camps Hearing Sheds Light

SACRAMENTO—Senator Doug LaMalfa (R – Richvale) attended the Rural Caucus Fire Protection Working Group December 5th where the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFIRE) and Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) gave a very grim picture for fire camps in light of realignment. By 2013, CalFIRE expects to lose a minimum of 1,500 inmates on fire crews. Reductions in firefighting capacity could seriously endanger Californians and result in even larger catastrophic fires. “Today’s

hearing showed the danger of deadly catastrophic fires increases significantly when the number of hand crews are reduced, stated Senator LaMalfa. “The Legislature is placing the public at risk and increasing the cost of fighting fires.” Inmate fire crews work at a very low cost to the state and save the taxpayers over \$100 million per year.

“Californians are being asked to pay ever more in taxes and fees yet are receiving less in terms of services,” continued Senator LaMalfa. “The Government is

pushing forward on taxing rural Californians an addition \$150 a year but also reducing the number of personnel fighting fires. Under these plans citizens will pay more per home and fire danger is increased, a true lose-lose situation.”

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.

# Cell Phones are California’s Biggest Traffic Safety Problem

Continued from Page 1

in 2010. This age group also lead in those who report that they have recently had too much alcohol to drive safely.

- A larger percentage of drivers (40.4 percent) say they talk less on their phones while driving than last year (34.5 percent) because of the hands-free law. 45.8 percent say that they have made driving mistakes while talking on cell phones. 60.1 percent say that they have been hit or nearly hit by other drivers who were talking or texting.
- A higher percentage of 18-24

year olds than any other age group think that texting while driving is a serious distraction, yet more of them actually do text and drive than any other age group.

- There are differences between what Northern and Southern Californians think are the biggest problems. 33.2 percent of Southern Californians think texting ranks high, while 25.7 percent of Northern Californians think so. Similarly, 25.6 percent in the southland think drunk driving is the biggest problem while 15.2 percent in the north rank it at the top.

- 25-44 year olds lead in hands-free cell phone talking, even though it is no more safe than hand-held talking.

- 71.9 percent think that the Report Drunk Drivers – Call 911 campaign has helped police make more DUI arrests.

- 88.3 percent support the use of DUI checkpoints For full survey results, visit [www.ots.ca.gov](http://www.ots.ca.gov).

Kimberly Keyes On behalf of California Office of Traffic Safety (916) 239-4615 or (916) 492-0923.

### SHERLOCK HOLMES: A GAME OF SHADOWS (Rated PG-13)

Anyone who thinks director Guy Ritchie would not stamp the legend of Sherlock Holmes with his own contemporary cool factor hasn't paid attention to his career.

The legendary detective, famous for logical reasoning and the use of forensic science to solve crimes, not to mention the artful use of disguises, is an unlikely source for a modern action hero.

Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," as well as his 2009 version, has redefined Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's iconic character for a new generation.

To the purists who believe the British sleuth is best represented by Basil Rathbone, there's a big surprise in store for the rough-and-tumble style that Robert Downey Jr. brings to the role.

The titular character created by Downey defies convention. Gone are the emblematic deerstalker hat, curved pipe and posh British decorum.

Still possessing a brilliant, logical mind, the new Holmes is a streetwise, bare-knuckled brawler, whose physical prowess is equal to his superlative mind and preternatural powers of perception.

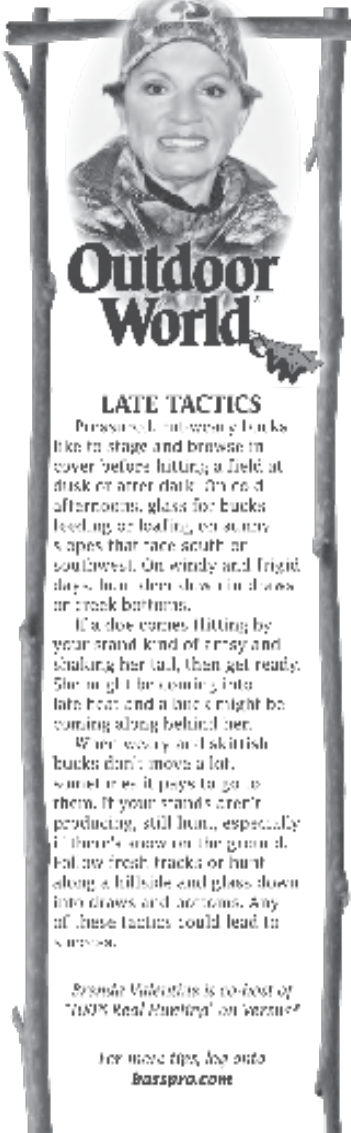
Guy Ritchie remakes Sherlock Holmes into the ultimate 19th century action hero, whose physical dexterity and keen interest in all types of weaponry make him a more contemporary figure.

At the very beginning of the story, "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" staggers

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



**Outdoor World**  
LATE TACTICS  
Presents... Late evening hikes like to stage and browse in cover before hitting a trail at dusk or after dark. On road afternoons, glass for bucks feeding or leading, on sunny slopes that face south or southwest. On windy and frigid days, in a clear view in a woods or creek bottoms.  
It's doe season, hitting by your stand end of day and hauling her tail, then get ready. She might be coming into late heat and a doe might be coming along behind her.  
When you're on skittish bucks don't move a lot. When it's time to go to them, if your stand isn't producing, still hunt, especially if there's snow on the ground. Put any fresh tracks or hunt along a hillside and glass down into draws and meadows. Any of these tactics could lead to a win-win.  
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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Presumptuously daring
- He has final say at the plate
- Where to get pampered, pl.
- Scoundrel
- Needlefish
- Diver's lung
- Independent African ruler
- Big Island necklace
- Type of paint
- Deposed despot
- "Atlantis was the last one
- Right-angle building extension
- Another spelling for #16 Across
- Bon Jovi
- Like Jekyll and Hyde's personality
- "Arab \_\_\_\_\_"
- Stratfor-upon-\_\_\_\_\_, Shakespeare's birthplace
- "The Man Who \_\_\_\_\_ Too Much"
- Become established
- Holy Father
- It cuts edge of yard
- Verde National Park
- A rooster to farmers?
- Ready and eager
- Eurasian duck
- Scandinavian, e.g.
- It can be wringed?
- Greed or sloth, e.g.
- Diamonds or hearts, e.g.
- Nervous twitching
- "They were super
- "Royal beau
- Autumn color
- Witness
- Polynesian kingdom
- Like a new car
- Employ
- Homework assignment
- "Pitched at Occupy Wall Street
- 6th sense?
- Reminiscent of the past
- Convex molding
- With no face value
- "Retired from "60 Minutes"
- Roentgen Equivalent Man, pl.
- Particulars
- One born to Japanese immigrants
- Chewed on
- Smart but awkward
- "The Way We \_\_\_\_\_"
- Straight muscles
- It loves company
- Mixed breed puppy
- Out of \_\_\_\_\_
- October's "Time," e.g.
- Bring to an end
- Well-mannered Emily
- Heart feeling
- Body part that can double
- Superman's last name
- "Read'em and \_\_\_\_\_"
- In or of the present month
- Petri dish gel
- \_\_\_\_\_ Clinic
- Female suffix

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*For Solution See Page 7*

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“Keeping the Faith”

By Ronnie McBrayer

Was there ever a time when the holidays were not busy? Probably not. I suppose if we went back to the very first Christmas we would find a great deal of hurried busyness: Joseph was out sitting in the garage on the donkey, honking the saddle horn, doing his best to hurry Mary along just a bit.

She was inside packing one more bag for the holiday trip to visit Joseph’s neurotic family in Bethlehem. Of course she was moving as fast as she could. A woman better than eight months pregnant, who was planning an excursion over field and fountain, moor and mountain, was moving nowhere very quickly.

But there were places to go, people to see, and history to be made. So Mary and Joseph hurried on their way into the throngs of people who had gathered in the famed City of David for the census demanded by the Roman authorities.

The story is as familiar as our own children’s names. Upon their arrival there was no room for Mary or Joseph at the local Econolodge. So they checked the Fairfield. Strike out. The Motel Six? Nope, not there either. The young couple was forced into being squatters at the local KOA campground. There Jesus

## Jesus is Missing!

was born, ignominiously into a Palestinian backwater. All the while the counting of people, taxes, sheep, and profits went on unhindered. The world was too busy to note his arrival.

Several Christmas seasons ago I was very busy at the hospital where I worked. There was a high census of patients. There were extraordinary cases in the Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department. The entire staff was attempting to coordinate help for patients who would not have a Christmas for their families.

In our busyness, we were on the verge of overlooking the old “reason for the season.” Then, one of the hospital volunteers, unknown to her, brought us a much needed reprieve and put a smile back on everyone’s face. She came rushing into the Pastoral Care office with the panicked words, “Jesus is missing!”

At first, I thought someone had taken a crucifix out of one of the hospital rooms when they discharged to go home. It happens more times than you might imagine. As a person packs their bags, sometimes Jesus finds himself among a patient’s personal belongings. But no worries; the hospital keeps a whole box of Jesuses in a hidden cabinet to replace the stolen ones. Such theft doesn’t bother me. I figure if a person needs Jesus enough to steal him off the wall of a hospital, then by all means, take him.

But the missing Jesus this volunteer spoke of was the baby Jesus from the Nativity scene. Everyone was there: Mary, Joseph, the magi, shepherds,

sheep, donkeys, angels – all the usual suspects. Except for Jesus. The manger was empty. Our volunteer concluded that he had been stolen from his crib while sleeping. The Christmas carol says the shepherds were watching and guarding Jesus – but apparently not in the hospital chapel.

To the volunteer’s relief, it was quickly clarified that Jesus was not missing. He simply hadn’t arrived yet. Baby Jesus was wrapped, not in swaddling clothes, but in shrink wrap and stuck in drawer. He was safe and sound waiting for Christmas Day before making his grand entrance. We, along with all the Nativity scene characters, wait for him until then.

In your own heart Jesus may be locked away, collecting dust in some dark little corner. You may have grown so busy that you have not even thought of him since last year (or at least since Easter). If so, I think he’s do an unwrapping, don’t you?

Break the packaging. Knock off the dust. Get him out of the drawer. Let him take his place at the center of this Advent season, and at the center of your life. We may be busy, but not so busy that we forget to “glorify and praise God for all we have heard and seen” in this child born in Bethlehem.

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.ronnie-mcbrayer.net](http://www.ronnie-mcbrayer.net).



By Marlys Norris,  
Christian Author

Whether it is a special ticket for an opera, a play, or football game that is required to attend, it is gladly purchased. What-ever the price, it is paid! However when it comes to accepting the “free-gift” God provides -- man/woman hesitates and questions. Why? They are not familiar with the promises of God provided in His Holy Word, the Bible. And a commercial holiday has been out made of a sacred event God provides.

Christmas is the time families gather together to celebrate the day of preparation God planned for His Son to be born a baby in human-form beginning His plan of redemption for every one of us. The future forthcoming special day, 30 plus years later, when Jesus the Lamb of God, paid the full sacrificial

## Reservations for Heaven Merry Christmas!

price for our redemption to gain a special opportunity for reservations of our individual entrance into heaven by accepting His Son as the payment for our eternal salvation. “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; But made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of servant and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name; That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.*” (Philippians 2:8-11)

There is only one Way to heaven and Jesus is the Door through which every one of us must enter. Accepting His forgiveness and death and every

ounce of His shed blood to wash us clean of our sins, provides deliverance and our Way to heaven. Jesus proved His deity that He IS the true Messiah for all of us by His Resurrection. No other religion on the face of the earth provides such as this! **God does not lie** and in Him is ALL Truth and Life. He gave us a simple answer to our *Reservation for Heaven*. Why so many refuse to accept it -- missing is truly hard to understand.

“*For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God*”

(Romans 14:11-12) Someday every knee shall bow and acknowledge that “Jesus is Lord.” May your eyes be opened today and have your name written in the Book of Life as you become Jesus gift to the Heavenly Father God.

Marlys Johnsen Norris  
Award Winning  
Christian Author  
Marlys5934@sbcglobal.net.

## Whatever Happened to Cute?

By Rev. James L. Snyder

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had commandeered the Christmas decorating operation for yet another year. I am not quite sure how she remembers when to start all of this, because the thought had not yet entered my mind.

Here it is Christmas and I am about as prepared for Christmas this year as I was last year. One of the great things about my wife is that she keeps all of these holidays in order and on time. I am still reeling from my Thanksgiving Day turkey indulgence.

Once again, our home is in decorating mode. My great contribution to the Christmas holiday decorating plan is to keep out of my wife’s way. One year I tried to help her and let’s just say we will not repeat that again. I just have no decorating expertise at all. I cannot tell the difference between a wrapping bow and a Christmas tree bulb.

Before I could get out of the way of the decorating frenzy in our home, I ran across something in the back of a box. How it got there, I have no way of knowing. How I got up this morning, I have no way of knowing either. However, there was a photo album from when I was a young person.

I want to stress the fact that there was a time when I was a young person. We will not discuss how long ago that was, but just know that there was a time in my illustrious career when I was a young person.

I opened up the album and saw all of those photographs from when I was a young person. The photograph that really caught my attention was one taken before I was one year old. I had forgotten this photo. Of course, I have no recollection of when that photo was taken. I was

about nine months old and I was mostly occupied with the rascal who confiscated my bottle.

I had simple concerns at that time. I was not worried for example about world affairs, politics or the economy. As long as I knew where my next bottle was coming from, I was a happy little camper in a diaper. I miss those days of naivety. I am looking forward someday returning to that state of mind.

I delighted looking at all of those pictures of what’s was supposed to be me when I was very young. Then I found a picture I had completely forgotten about. It is valuable at times to go back and relive the past. I know you cannot really relive the past, but you can look at the past and see how far you have come. Photographs are a marvelous way of reliving the past. These were the old black and white photographs, so you know how long ago that was.

The photo that really caught my attention was when I was very young. I believe this is the first photo ever taken of me. It was in the year of our Lord 1951 and I was nine months old. Looking at that picture I had to admit to myself that I really was a cute little guy.

It was a black-and-white photo but my mother had carefully colored it with crayons. She did a marvelous job but then she had a great piece of work to begin with, if I say so myself.

The important thing about this photo was it was a picture of me, but it was also a picture of the winner of the cutest baby award in our community in 1951. I had won a beauty award when barely 9 months old. How many people can boast about that?

I really do not know any of the details of that beauty contest. After all, every nine-month-old baby is cute. I really do not think I was the cutest baby but then

again I won the title and I have the picture in my hand.

Unfortunately my beauty career peak then and it has been on a downward slide ever since. I have the skid marks to prove it.

After looking at that picture for a while, went into the bathroom and looked into the mirror. What a shock. I could not see any resemblance in the mirror to anything in the picture. It would be a stretch for anybody to say that the two pictures were of the same person.

When anybody says that beauty is in the eyes of the beholder I would like to correct them and say that beauty is in the hands of the holder of a picture of the baby who won the cutest baby award in 1951.

In the years since that picture was taken, I have lived quite a bit and Father Time has carved his initials on my face. I can honestly say I am not the same person in that photo. What innocence then. What naivety. There in that photo was a person who had not yet experienced the lumps of life yet.

The verse of Scripture that has encouraged me throughout my life has been Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV), “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Life is full of ups and downs, gains and losses but in the end, those who trust Christ are marvelously guided throughout life and enjoy life of blessing to the Lord.

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

## DMV's New Web Page to Honor Military

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is proud to honor the courageous men and women of the armed forces with a new “Area of Interest” web page, exclusively designed to offer a centralized clearinghouse of valuable resources accessible from anywhere in the world.

“Whether you are a veteran or currently serving, the DMV wants to thank you and your family for the sacrifices you have made for this country and the citizens of California,” said DMV Director George Valverde. “Many of our own employees are veterans, so we feel a personal connection to our military community.” Veterans, active military and their fami-

lies will not only enjoy convenient DMV online services at [www.dmv.ca.gov/coi/veterans/veterans.htm](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/coi/veterans/veterans.htm), but can also link with our partner, the California Department of Veterans Affairs, to find resources including information about home loans, voter registration, medical services, and educational assistance.

In addition, a few clicks of the mouse will transport visitors to the websites of the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. State Department. “We are grateful to our partner, the DMV, for creating this website which serves and honors California’s veterans,” said Peter J. Gravett, CalVet Secretary. “This DMV web page will greatly assist veterans in taking care of issues deal-

ing with their motor vehicles. I also remind all veterans to make sure they identify themselves as veterans on the form when they renew their drivers license or identification card so we can ensure they get notified of all the benefits they have earned.”

An estimated 2.2 million veterans live in the Golden State and that number increases as an average 30,000 troops return each month from Iraq and Afghanistan. Remember, you can order California Veterans special interest license plates at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov). The California Department of Veterans Affairs uses proceeds to benefit participating county veteran service offices and to commemorate veteran organizations.

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# Blind Obedience to the State: The Sheep Are Now Ready for the Slaughter

**Commentary by  
Gary D. Barnett,  
Whiskey & Gunpowder  
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*A really efficient totalitarian state would be one in which the all-powerful executive of political bosses and their army of managers control a population of slaves who do not have to be coerced, because they love their servitude. To make them love it is the task assigned, in present-day totalitarian states, to ministries of propaganda, newspaper editors and schoolteachers...The greatest triumphs of propaganda have been accomplished not by doing something, but by refraining from doing. Great is truth, but still greater, from a practical point of view, is silence about truth.*

~ Aldous Huxley

Men are born with free will, so why do they behave as slaves? Most in this country believe that the politicians are civil or "public" servants, while the common man is king. Most believe, because they cast a ballot to choose their "leaders," that

they are free, but the politicians among us are really the masters of a population of slaves. To paraphrase Charles de Gaulle, the politician simply poses as a servant in order to become the master.

In America today, the many are ruled by the few. The many allow this tyranny voluntarily, and with open arms. The only men who can be reduced to servitude are those who choose to do so. For men who cling to liberty with passion can never be ruled, and will never allow their freedom to be taken from them. These are men of truth and character, and sadly, they are the extreme minority. These men of integrity are now directly in the cross hairs of this oligarchy called America, and without them, the rest of society is doomed to a life of serfdom.

To obey the restrictive rules crafted by the politicians, and without resistance, is to guarantee the destruction of liberty. It is not only a fatal form of apathy, but it is also the basis for the destruction of our soul. Politicians after all, are the lowest form of man, and do not deserve respect when

their aim is to rule over and control the rest of us. For what are we if we simply do as others in power demand, without the courage to stand up for what is right? What are we if we bow our heads in fear when our fellow man is being trampled? What are we when we allow all that we have earned to be taken from us by force and say or do nothing to stop it? What have we become when the worth of a man is judged by his allegiance to the state?

It is time for these questions to be answered honestly, because those who are willing to fight against tyranny are now being targeted for extinction. The nefarious Senate of this land just passed Senate Bill 1867, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012. If accurately titled, it would be called instead the Sedition Act of 2012. Most of those opposed to this horrible legislation are concentrating on just two sections, those being Sections 1031 and 1032. While Section 1031 allows for any American to be captured, held indefinitely without charge or trial, tortured or worse, the

rest is not much better, and the entire bill should be scrapped immediately!

It is instructive to understand that the U.S. government and its military have been for the past 10 years capturing and incarcerating foreigners and Americans, and without benefit of due process. The president now "claims" the power to assassinate any on Earth he chooses to, including American citizens, and without charge or trial. But this new legislation will, in my opinion, not only massively expand these so-called powers, but also bring them under the guise of legality. This is more dangerous than most realize, because it will help keep the sheep at bay when mass roundups of American citizens become the norm. This is due to the nonsensical popular belief that just because the ruling class makes a law, it must be followed, even if it is bad law.

And now Fusion Center documents have labeled any who investigate the Oklahoma City bombing as terrorists. Pair this with the passage of S. 1867, and the terrifying picture becomes clear. The government now holds

the position that any who question what goes on in this country, or even any who question the government story line, are practicing terrorism. This cannot be doubted, especially considering the Fusion Center story and the passage by the senate of S. 1867.

What this means in real terms is that all dissenters, all truth tellers, all protesters and all who question "authority" can in the eyes of government be captured and imprisoned indefinitely, and without benefit of trial. All of us who question what this government does and what its motives are, can now be hauled away to concentration camps, and even tortured or murdered, all under the umbrella of the "law"!

As for me, I question every single thing this government says and does, and I investigate most every government action. Because of this despicable legislation, what will become of the truth tellers? What will become of honest libertarians? What will become of those of us who are unafraid to expose lies and corruption? What will become of all of us?

The scope of this legislation is far reaching, and without limit. The literal barbarity of this is obvious to any right-thinking person, and the probable consequences of speaking one's mind in the future could be deadly.

The most dangerous sound now could be the sound of silence, for if we do not speak out and rebel against this travesty, we will be doomed to a life of servitude. When we finally refuse to serve no more, then we will at once be free. No man should serve another by force, and no man deserves to be free if he does. It is incredible how as soon as a people become subject, it promptly falls into such complete forgetfulness of its freedom that it can hardly be roused to the point of regaining it, obeying so easily and willingly, that one is led to say that this people has not so much lost its liberty as won its enslavement.

~ Etienne de la Boetie  
Regards,  
Gary D. Barnett  
President, Barnett Financial  
Services Inc.

## California DUI Deaths Drop to Record Low

Largest Decline of Any State in Nation

SACRAMENTO – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) announced today that California's DUI deaths reached their lowest level ever in 2010. This also signifies the largest single yearly drop of DUI deaths in the past 14 years. A record low of 791 persons were tragically killed in DUI crashes on California roadways last year, compared to 950 in 2009. DUI deaths in California increased yearly from 1998 to 2005, but have decreased every year since 2005.

"This marks a huge milestone in the fight against drunk driving," said California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) Director Christopher J. Murphy. "While

we are elated by these figures, there were still 791 lives, futures, and dreams that will never be fully realized. We cannot back off from our ultimate goal – toward zero deaths." The Office of Traffic Safety credits the record number of DUI checkpoints conducted in 2010 as partly responsible for the sharp reduction in DUI deaths. OTS allocated \$16.8 million in federal funds to law enforcement agencies to conduct 2,553 DUI checkpoints in 2010, up from the \$11.7 million allocated to 1,740 checkpoints in 2009.

According to NHTSA, checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement

strategies, while yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent. In addition, 88 percent of Californians surveyed report they support the use of checkpoints. Other contributing factors include countywide Avoid DUI Task Force operations that saw the California Highway Patrol (CHP) team up with police departments across the state to arrest impaired drivers, the widespread recognition of the "Report Drunk Drivers Call 911" message promoted by CALTRANS through their changeable message signs, the many action items addressing DUI developed and implemented by state departments such as the

Department of Motor Vehicles and local agencies through the Strategic Highway Safety Plan, the successful programs aimed at keeping alcohol from minors implemented by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC), and the great work done by advocate and educational organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), Safe Transportation Research and Education Center at U.C. Berkeley, and RADD – the entertainment industry's voice for road safety.

"Preventing these tragedies remains our top priority," said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "By combining DUI

enforcement efforts of the entire law enforcement community, with the support and dedication of our traffic safety partners and the motoring public, we will continue to make strides toward reducing DUI fatalities." The announcement comes just days before the December 16 start of California's December DUI Crackdown and NHTSA's nationwide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign.

The increased enforcement campaign ends January 2. Statewide 2010 DUI arrest numbers have been consistent with the past five years and higher than any year between 1997-2005. "California has taken

a comprehensive approach to reducing drunk driving including aggressive use of sobriety checkpoints" said NHTSA Administrator David Strickland. "We commend California for its commitment to highway safety and efforts by its law enforcement officers to keep drunk drivers off the roads." "The people of California are to be congratulated along with all those who actively worked to avoid these tragedies," said Murphy. "They see that not only is drunk and drugged driving a serious crime affecting the lives of so many, it is now seen as a socially unacceptable behavior for everyone."

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# Seniors Need To Know *Victory in Iraq?*



Doing research and asking questions makes choosing a medical procedure less stressful.

By Irwin A. Herman, MD

This is somewhat of an ad-on to the prior article I wrote regarding being pro-active and assuming responsibility for your health care. It was brought to mind by the news of the recent death of Andy Rooney, the curmudgeonly sign-off commentator on the CBS "60 Minutes" investigative reporting news show.

For those who might have missed it, Rooney had been ending the show with his pithy comments about many of life's little (and some times big) annoyances in a rather humorous and thought provoking way. At age 92, he had retired just a few months ago after a lifetime in the journalism and broadcasting field, amid accolades over his success. He died November 5<sup>th</sup> after some as yet, at the time of this writing, unknown complication after a *minor* surgical procedure. It was the *minor* that got me to thinking.

As a specialist in a surgical field of medicine, we used to jokingly say that the definition of a *minor* procedure was one that was done on someone else! Nothing could be farther from the truth. You may rest assured that any surgeon who is accomplished in his or her field knows full well that Murphy's law is always lurking in the background and that if something can go wrong, it will go wrong at some point in time and hopefully he will not be there when good old Murphy rears his ugly head. Any invasive procedure on the human body always carries some risk, and that is where you as the patient, must be totally involved in the decision making.

In my 35+ years of patient

care, there was always someone who would say, "Doc, do whatever you've got to do!" – an almost certain recipe for disaster. You can trust me when I tell you that no doctor, no matter how successful or accomplished, wants to be on the end of a mal-practice suit for something that was either omitted or committed in the care of the patient, and, even if there is no suit involved, just the stress and aggravation of dealing with working your way out of a problem successfully, can be nerve wracking and have an effect on you for a long time.

OK, enough about the doctor, how about your role as the patient? This is where you come in. Every health care provider must now provide you with informed consent about procedures that are being considered to be necessary for your care; and even if you don't want to listen, you're obligated to do so and in most cases, attest to that fact with your signature (or your guardian's as the case may be). Therefore it is important that you consider a few of the things that you need to know, and not only know, but understand:

- What is the procedure and why is it being recommended?
- What are the problems now that make this necessary?
- What can I expect as a result?
- What are the possible complications?
- How long will my recovery be?
- What are the major precautions that I need to be aware of?
- What, if anything, will I NOT be able to do afterwards, and if so, for how long?
- If I need an anesthetic, will I be able to meet the provider beforehand? Will by primary

care provider be involved?

•Do you know what medications I am taking now and will there be any reason I won't be able to continue them?

•What kind of postop care will I need and will I be able to provide this for myself or by a skilled provider in my home?

• If the procedure that is being recommended is new or controversial, how many have you performed and what is your success rate?

•Do I have any other options that are less of a risk or are non-invasive?

You can add as many others that you can think of and only when you are satisfied and comfortable with the answers that you receive, that is the time to make your decision. But, and it's a big but, there is always risk, some predictable and some not, and medicine is not a perfect science as yet – never has been and probably never will be when dealing with the human body. So, be aware, be prepared, be content with your decision and look forward to the best result that modern medicine can provide for whatever your problem may be.

*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/Departmentshhs/adult/OlderAdultAdvisoryCommission.aspx](http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departmentshhs/adult/OlderAdultAdvisoryCommission.aspx) or by calling the Public Authority at (530) 886-3680.*

Commentary By  
**Jeffrey Tucker,**  
*Whiskey & Gunpowder*  
Reprinted by permission

There is no peace treaty, no humbled enemy, no national glory and certainly no newfound freedom. The "liberation" of Iraq leaves a widely hated puppet dictator in charge with a mandate "to see that process of strengthened central authority continue," in the words of a U.S. cable revealed by WikiLeaks.

Still, the U.S. has declared victory in Iraq after a war that lasted not nine years, as the media says, but 20 years, if you include the first war and the decade of cruel sanctions that separated it with the second war on Iraq. At least 4,500 Americans are dead, 32,226 are wounded, uncountable millions of Iraqis are dead, too, the Iraqi economy is in ruins and the American economy is more than a trillion dollars poorer.

As the Americans held somber goodbye ceremonies at a heavily guarded airport, hundreds of Iraqis burned the American flag and cursed the infidels as never before. On the very day that the Americans said goodbye, there were bombings in Tal Afar, Mosul and Baghdad that killed six Iraqis and wounded 44 more.

The deaths on that day hardly made the news at all because it is so routine. This once-peaceful and relatively prosperous country -- people from all over the region and the world came to study in its universities and play for its symphonies -- has been reduced to warring religious tribes with far-diminished populations after all the emigration over the years of war. The scars are deep and the resentment extremely high.

Yet to the U.S. governing elite, this is victory. During final ceremonies, official after official came to the microphone to assure the soldiers that their sacrifices have not been in vain, that they are brave and courageous and leave behind a wonderful legacy. But the soldiers themselves know otherwise. Everyone does. This war was a disaster from beginning to end, and it was wholly unnecessary.

Looking back to the first segment of war against Iraq, it was pushed because the first President Bush faced disastrously falling poll numbers, the end of the Cold War and growing cries to pull back on the American imperial

presence in the world. He had a personal bone to pick with the one-time American puppet Saddam Hussein and a gigantic military budget that needed to be spent, lest the pressure mount give the money back whence it came.

The public-relations angle Bush chose was that Iraq had to be punished for invading Kuwait. Leaked cables have reinforced what close watchers already knew, namely, that the U.S. had been given a green light for that action by Iraq. Bush said that the aggression would not stand, but today, the U.S. not only owns and controls Kuwait -- which is now populated by American troops -- but also purports to control the future of Iraq, too. This type of aggression is perfectly fine.

So the first great opportunity for peace after the Cold War was squandered in a pointless struggle against one of the liberalized and non-fundamentalist, mostly Islamic nations where people of all religions lived in relative peace. Bush declared victory back then, too, but kept on the trade sanctions. President Clinton followed suit with punishing policies that kept the boot on the nation.

After Sept. 11, George Bush junior seized the opportunity to repeat the mission of his father and waged war yet again. Riding the wave of anger for terrorism on our soil, he attacked a country that everyone admitted had absolutely nothing to do with Sept. 11 (however, the terrorists did admit that that were partly acting out of vengeance for the sanctions), and then on the false pretense that Saddam was building weapons of mass destruction. We were really supposed to take seriously this idea that a now-im-poverished country, with no real military and negative economic growth, was a genuine threat to the world.

Many people hoped that President Obama would stop the madness of what he called a "dumb war," but he did not. He stepped up troop levels instead. There would be more violence, longer terms for soldiers, more pressure, increased surveillance, more authoritarian measures. Nothing worked. As The Wall Street Journal puts it, "The advanced U.S. military was brought low by primitive weapons: homemade bombs made from fertilizer or discarded

artillery shells."

The resistance grew and grew. The Iraqi people could never be made to love the empire that ruled them. The only genuinely successful Iraqi politicians these days are those who set themselves against U.S. presence. Finally, the incredibly obvious became undeniable, even to the arrogant conquerors: The only hope for Iraq was for the U.S. to leave.

The U.S. promised liberation and brought conflict, destruction and death. The pullout at this point is hardly a victory, but an incredible defeat, the very archetype of the truth that the world's mightiest military force cannot finally prevail over a people that will not submit.

This lesson is not unknown to those who remain in Iraq. There are two bases and several thousand soldiers along with diplomats that remain. They are all targets and will continue to be for many years to come. Meanwhile, life in Iraq will certainly start to improve now. Income is lower there today than it was in 1940, so this wouldn't be hard.

In truth, this pullout is one of the few pieces of good news that Iraq has had in many decades. And it should be a model for the U.S. for the future. Close the rest of the bases and pull the rest of the troops out. And do this in the other 140-plus countries in which the troops are stationed. That is the way forward.

In 2004, Dick Cheney declared of Iraq: "I think it has been a remarkable success story to date when you look at what has been accomplished overall." He might as well have been speaking for the military contractors who, as Robert Higgs has pointed out, made off with the loot that this war stole from the American taxpayers.

And it is not only about loot: It is about liberty. War mongering and freedom are not compatible. This war and other wars like it have made us less safe and more dependent on the police state. They give health to a war machinery that should have been dismantled a quarter of a century ago. Instead, it survives to find some war somewhere to fight another day.

*Regards, Jeffrey Tucker*  
Executive publisher, *Laissez-Faire Books*  
December 15, 2011  
Auburn, Alabama, U.S.A.

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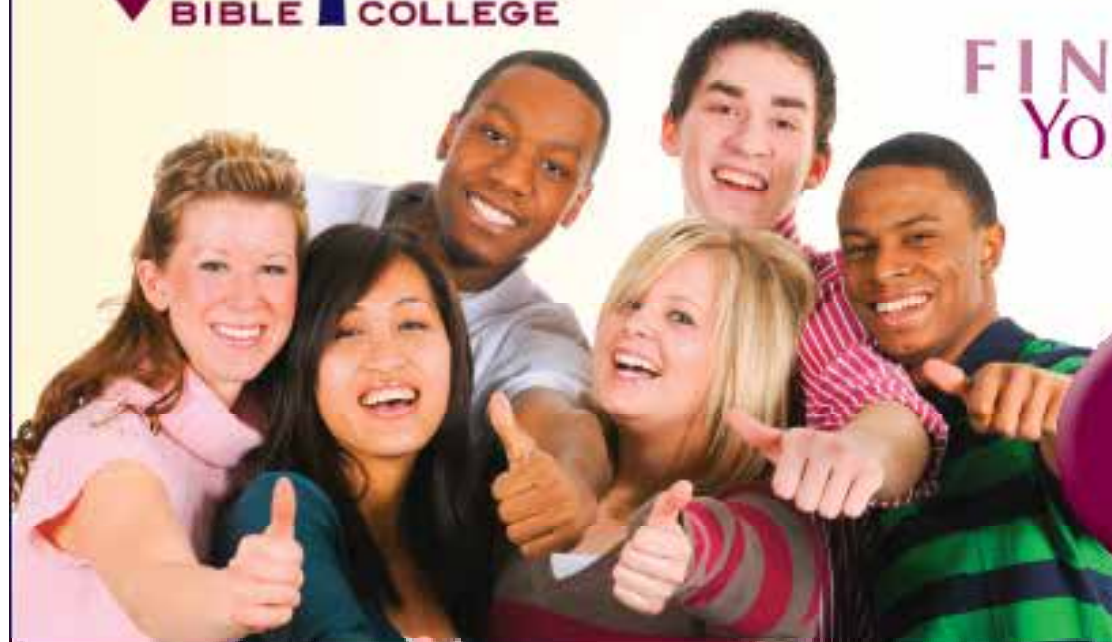


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# POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

great stocking stuffer or hostess gift when paired with a holiday themed mug. I threw in my two cents and suggested purchasing the mug at the dollar store of your choice. Hey, why not! A mug's a mug! All you have to do is spruce it up!

2) **Lights Out:** Stock up on all the lighting essentials. Keep a supply of extra light bulbs in a variety of sizes for your house and both indoor and outdoor strings of holiday lights. Also, include surge protectors, extension cords and power strips. Between your holiday lights, decorations, and visiting friends, the last thing you need is to blow a fuse...at least the electric kind!

3) **Coffee Compost:** Reuse and recycle. After you brew your coffee, add the grounds to your composting efforts to keep your garden green.

4) **Writing Thank You Notes:** Get a jump on thanking folks like teachers, party hosts, and gift-givers by printing out a bunch of holiday thank-you cards ahead of time, which can usually be found for free.

5) **Create A Quick Holiday Atmosphere:** Pick up a new set of votive candles (remember the dollar store) and glass holders for instant and elegant atmosphere. And, a little water in the bottom of the candleholder will help prevent melted wax from sticking to the glass. Give your kitchen a simple holiday

feel with a few seasonal items like snowmen oven mitts or reindeer dish towels.

6) **Low-cost Holiday Touches:** Freeze cranberries, fresh mint, or citrus twists in ice cubes to add a hint of seasonal flavor to beverages when unexpected guests drop by.

7) **Keep the Kids Occupied:** Be sure to have plenty of frozen sugar cookie dough on hand along with holiday sprinkles and cookie cutters as last minute baking activity for parents and kids. Then keep homemade holiday cookies crisp by putting crumpled wax paper in the bottom of the cookie jar so the air can circulate and prevent them from becoming soggy.

8) **Keep the Adults Occupied:** For easy group entertainment, make sure you have a selection of classic board games on hand and take a minute to make sure all the playing pieces are intact, cards are accounted for and pencils are sharpened.

9) **Contain Spills and Thrills:** Have a stain stick handy for the inevitable table mishaps. No one wants a family photo with a big stain on their holiday sweater.

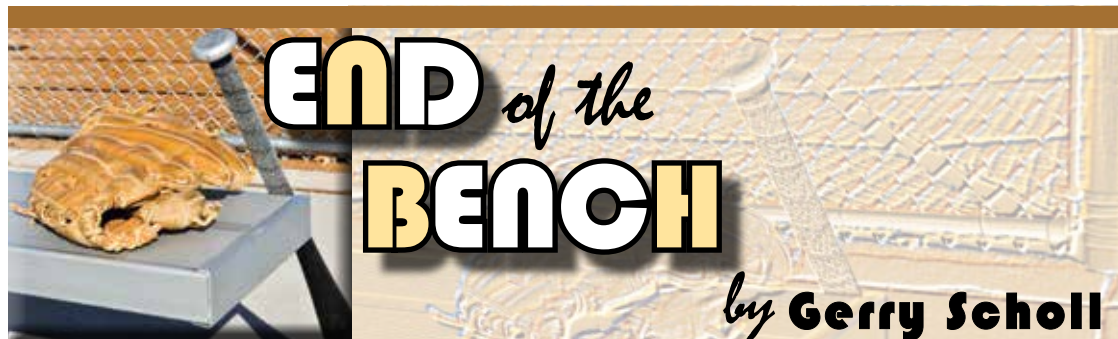
That should get you started. If you want more tips, go to [www.jeannebenedict.com](http://www.jeannebenedict.com). And bottom line...HAVE FUN!!!

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

## NO SWEAT HOLIDAYS

All right, calm down and don't get a hernia. I know the holidays are upon us, and you're about to have a nervous breakdown. Well, don't! I had the opportunity to speak with **Jeanne Benedict** to get us a helping hand. I know you'd recognize her from the Today Show, and also from her four season run as host/chef/designer for the DIY Network's show "Weekend Entertaining." She also shared lots of tips with "Regis and Kelly," "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" and a myriad of other popular programs. It was great to have her on POPPOFF to do the same. She actually paired up with Dunkin' Donuts to offer last-minute tips and gift ideas as well as remedies for the inevitable entertaining snafus that include the following:

1) **Last Minute Gifts:** Find last-minute gifts while shopping. Look to your favorite aisles for inspiration. For example, a bag of Dunkin' Donuts packages coffee makes a



## Once Upon a Time, But No Time Soon

Once upon a time, long, long.....long, long, long ago, a NBA championship was won in northern California.

Sacramento Kings fans, sorry to remind you of this, but it wasn't your team. Came close about a decade ago a couple times, but some bad calls, some poor free throw shooting, a lucky shot, and some guy named Robert Horry... and the Kings were denied.

Golden State Warriors fans, so many of you were not alive or old enough to remember, but it was your team in the 1974-75 season...a long time ago.

Our world has changed an awful lot since then, but one constant has remained — no more National Basketball Association championships for the north state faithful.

Thanks to Comcast, while waiting for this delayed NBA season to get underway, the opportunity has been there to review that one championship year on television. So far I've watched most of a couple of the games in the Warriors' Western Conference Finals (Jerry Sloan, Chet Walker, Bob Love, Norm Van Lier), and the first game of the finals against the Washington Bullets.

That Washington team was a powerhouse, with a speedy point guard (Kevin Porter), a great shooter (Cal's own Phil Chenier), and a first-rate front line with the great "Big E," Elvin Hayes and brute Wes Unseld. The Bullets won 60 games and eliminated the Boston Celtics to reach the Finals and face the Warriors.

They all said it was going to be a sweep. The Bullets would

smash the upstarts from the west coast. It was a sweep, all right. In what is still regarded as the biggest upset in NBA Finals history, it was the Warriors who won four straight and the title.

Coach Al Attles (the nicest guy I've ever met in professional sports) primed his team for Game One by pointing out to them that one Washington scribe called them "the worst team to ever play in the finals." That worked. The Warriors, led by one of the top players in league history, Rick Barry, and truly smooth-as-silk Keith (later, Jamaal) Wilkes, guard Phil Smith (out of USF) and center Clifford Ray, rallied from a 16-point deficit to win on the road, 101-95.

It was really something to see again, as it was back then.

Just over two years into married life, the wife and I got together with our former college friends to watch that Warriors playoff run. We were ardent followers of the game and that team. We were into every shot, every play. When a bad call went against the Warriors we would throw our dirty socks at the TV screen.

We've come a long way since then, and so has the game.

Watching it now — oh, how things have changed. There's no three-point arc or shot, and bonus free throws are one-and-one or three-chances-to-make-two. There are only two refs, and TV has no crawl at the bottom of the screen and they're using grade-school graphics. The players are lean and not so mean. Look at the hair and the clothes — like Attles' leisure suit and the short shorts on the players (the girls

loved those). There are no shaved heads on the floor, but lots of bushy sideburns everywhere.

Comcast even runs occasional commercials from the original broadcast (with a young Brent Musburger on play-by-play). Two things I took from those were: Candice Bergen was hot when she was young and I don't need Aqua Velva to feel like a man.

The station will show Game Three Friday night, Dec. 23 and the clinching Game Four at a later date.

On the show Attles said, "We never talked about winning a championship, we talked about the next game...until the last game."

Well, we NorCal folks haven't talked much about winning a championship since then either. The following year the Warriors had a great regular season but got knocked out of the playoffs too early. There was the big upset of top-seeded Dallas in 2007, but they had no chance of going all the way. The Kings, of course, had their great seasons during the Chris Webber-Vlade Divac-etc. era, but the fates conspired against them, and only once did it really feel like they had a real shot at the top prize.

But, with each new season there is new hope. The Warriors-Kings preseason matchup Saturday showed off their new top draft picks, Klay Thompson (Warriors) and Jimmer Fredette (Kings), and both teams' revitalized and upgraded rosters and coaching staffs. But in all honesty folks, neither team has much hope for raising that long elusive championship banner any time soon.

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9am - Noon: The Laura Ingraham Show  
Noon - 1pm: The KAHI Noon News Plus with Mary Jane Popp and the KAHI News Team  
1 - 4pm: The Dave Ramsey Show  
4 - 6pm: The KAHI Afternoon News with Dave Rosenthal and the KAHI News Team  
7 - 10pm: Nick & Artie Sports Talk  
10pm - 12am: Poppoff with Mary Jane Popp

**Thursdays**  
4:30 - 4:45pm: Auburn Honda Gold Country Golf Show with Jay Cooper and Mike Remy  
4:45 - 5pm: Auburn Autohaus Auto IQ Show  
6:05 - 6:30pm: Leaders Without Limits with David McCauley  
7 - 9pm: Thursdays With Bassil

**Saturdays**  
6 - 7am: A Time for Seniors  
7 - 8am: The Swap Shop  
8 - 9am: The KAHI Corral  
9 - 10am: The Garden Guru  
10am - 7pm: Sinatra & Friends Music  
7 - 8pm: A Way With Words  
8 - 9pm: Rewind with Jimmy Jay

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

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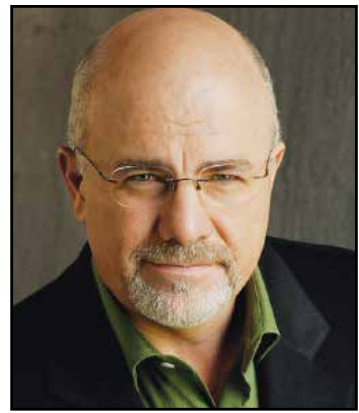
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# Dave Says

*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.*

## Where Does the Donation Go?

Dear Dave,  
Our financial situation is pretty good now, and my husband and I feel it is time to start giving something back. There are several organizations we're interested in helping, but how can we know if they're legitimate and will use our money wisely?

- Laura

Dear Laura,  
I really appreciate your giving spirit, but the truth is you can never be 100 percent certain about this kind of thing. About the best you can do is put in some serious time researching and digging beneath the surface of various organizations to find some that are a comfortable fit for you.

My wife and I give the majority of our donations to Christian ministries. It's not unusual for us to take a tour of the place to see what kind of feel we get while we're there. If they're secretive or not forthcoming with what we consider to be basic information about how they operate, or if we see signs of opulence or super-luxury, you can bet we'll be asking lots of questions.

Talk to the leaders and administrators about what they plan to do with the money from your donation. You have a right to know this. I mean, if they're going to give the money to hurricane victims, you want the victims to get the money, right?

People who work for a charitable organization need to make a decent living just like everyone else. But if they're ultra-rich, it could be a sign that they're not being responsible with their donations. Take a look at their administrative costs – what percentage of donations goes directly to the cause – and anything else you feel would help you make the right decision.

Giving is like anything else. It takes time and work to do it responsibly and with excellence!

- Dave

**Where Does Debt Go When Filing Bankruptcy?**  
Dear Dave,  
What happens to the money that is owed when someone files bankruptcy? Do creditors just have to write it off, or do other people pay the price through

taxes or higher interest rates?

- Grace

Dear Grace,  
In most cases the creditor just loses the money. That's one of the risks businesses face. Of course, any bankruptcy is also a seriously bad mark against the filer's credit record.

Chapter 13 filings may be considered a little less severe than Chapter 7 because you're showing an interest in retiring the debts. They often allow – if you have a regular income and limited debt – to keep some of the property you might otherwise lose. Also, some debt balances may be partially discharged, with the filer agreeing to make monthly payments to the trustee for distribution among remaining creditors.

A Chapter 7 bankruptcy is lots tougher on the one who files. It involves liquidating all assets that aren't exempt. Some of the filer's property may be sold by a court-appointed official – a trustee – or just turned over to creditors.

It's really a lose-lose situation, Grace. The business loses money, and the filer suffers the emotional pain of participating in a shameful process.

- Dave

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

# The Christmas Spirit Lives

By Paula Mosqueda

AUBURN – Larry Norris was a member of the Auburn 49er Lions Club. He really enjoyed the Christmas season. He would dress up as Santa Claus and, along with his wife dressed as Mrs. Claus, visit convalescent homes and the Auburn Faith Hospital. He carried with him two bags of candy, one regular and, the other, sugar-free. He would make the rounds with a nurse who would tell him from which bag the patient could sample some goodies.

Today, decades later, the Larry Norris Project continues to be held in his honor. Over time, it has evolved. Again this year, Auburn 49er Lion Kelly Post worked with the Salvation Army to select families who meet the criteria to participate in this event.

The families were notified and asked to provide a Christmas wish list for each child. For each family, a 49er Lion took the list and tried to fill it. The gifts were wrapped. Candy canes were



From left to right: Jim Mallery, Dennis Arietta, Dave Brown, Debra Oldziewski, Linda Lee Talso, Santa (Dave Johnson), Marie Lavoie, Norm Kendall, Linda Arnold, Ray Arnold, John Power and Paula Mosqueda.

attempted a rendition of, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." There were many smiles and lots of laughter. Christmas is the season of sharing. The Auburn 49er Lions are happy to continue the Christmas spirit of the late Larry Norris. One can only hope it will live on in the hearts of us all.

To learn more about the activities of the Auburn 49er Lions club, contact them at [auburn49erlions@gmail.com](mailto:auburn49erlions@gmail.com).

## Military Graduates

**Air Force Reserve Airman Madison E. Post** 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.

Post is the daughter of Margo Stanion of Gambah Drive, Auburn, and Ken Stanion of Bellevue Drive, Modesto.

She is a 2009 graduate of Placer High School, Auburn.

**Air Force Airman Taylor J. Domschot** 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.

Domschot is the son of Penny Domschot of Auburn.

He is a 2009 graduate of Golden Sierra High School, Cool.



## TAX HELP from a Tax Pro

Dean Alexander Sr.

## Year End Tax Help Planning: Stock Sale

Being an investor in the stock market entails buying and selling of stocks. The buying and selling of the stocks entail gains and losses on these stock transactions. The gains or losses are capital gains. Capital gains, as opposed to ordinary gain, are taxed at a lower tax rate.

How can one benefit from gains and losses of the stocks? There are several ways you can manipulate the tax liability resulting from the gains and losses of stocks.

For example, if you have capital losses, these losses are limited to three thousand dollars a year.

They will be carried from one year to another until they are exhausted. So, if you have two hundred thousand dollars of capital losses, you can imagine how

many years it will take to use those losses at the rate of three thousand dollars.

Thus they become almost meaningless. And then you may run into the tax problem of expiring years on those capital losses and lose what is not utilized of them.

So, what can we do to benefit from those losses? What we need is to examine our stock portfolio. If we have any built in gain in some of the stock, it may be a good opportunity to dump the stock and declare capital gains which will be absorbed by the losses. So, the idea is to create gain to be absorbed by those wasted losses.

You may run into a problem of biasness in favor of some stocks that you don't want to sell. If you

like a specific stock so well and you were reluctant to get rid of it to get tax relief, you may turn around and buy that stock back. But you need to watch the wash sale rules. Basically, you have to wait thirty days before you buy it back.

If you do that you will find a tax resolution to the limitation on capital losses. No tax liability, no tax debt or back taxes and no need for installment agreement or otherwise of IRS settlements.

Dean has 30 years experience as a CPA and tax consultant and he is currently on two radio shows. He is the managing director of National Financial Advisors (NFA Tax Help), a national firm headquartered in Houston. He is also a Chartered Financial Consultant and Chartered Life Underwriter. He consults exclusively on tax matters particularly tax audits and tax collections at both the federal and the state levels.

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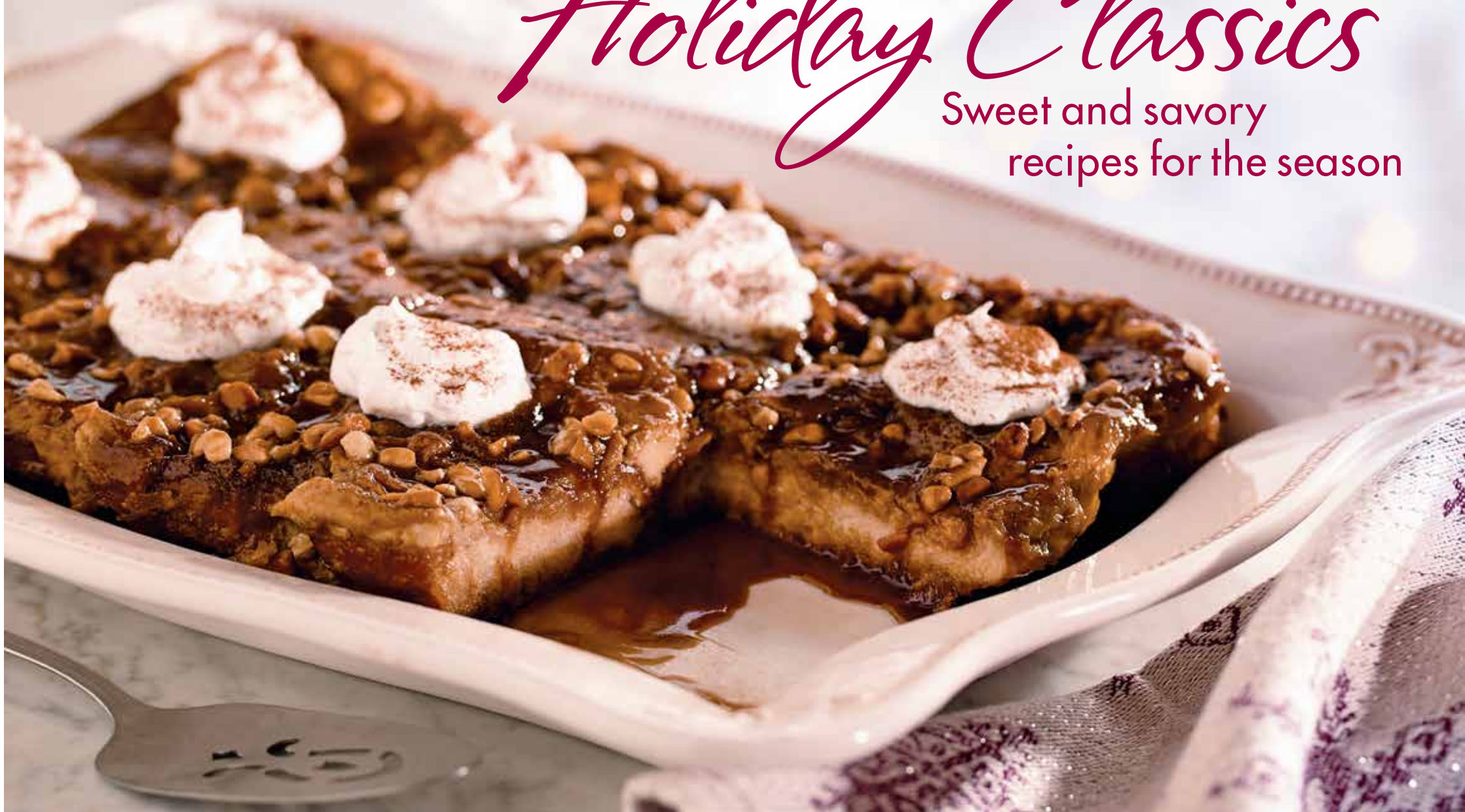
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NEW

# Holiday Classics

Sweet and savory  
recipes for the season



## FAMILY FEATURES

The holiday season is the perfect time to gather around the table with friends and family and share delicious dishes and treats. Every family has their traditional favorites — whether sweet or savory.

Consider giving your traditional holiday feast a creative twist with these three recipes. They all feature the fresh-roasted taste of Jif® Peanut Butter, a versatile ingredient that complements both sweet and savory dishes, turning simple recipes into new holiday classics.

**Peanut Butter Caramel French Toast:** This decadent breakfast or brunch dish can be prepared the night before, so all you have to do in the morning is pop it in the oven. It's an easy way to start the day off with friends and family.

**Rigatoni Romesco with Grilled Shrimp:** This flavorful pasta dish features peanut butter in a zesty red sauce with grilled shrimp. And it comes together in no time — which means you have more time to enjoy the company of good friends.

**Apple Cranberry Peanut Butter Crisp:** Take baked apples to a whole new level with a peanut butter crumble topping. It's so good you might want to make two and save one for later.

For more sweet and savory holiday recipes with a peanuty twist, visit [www.jif.com](http://www.jif.com).

## Peanut Butter Caramel French Toast

Servings: 8  
Preparation Time: 30 minutes  
Cooking Time: 45 minutes

### Crisco® Original No-Stick Cooking Spray

- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup Jif Extra Crunchy Peanut Butter
- 2 tablespoons light corn syrup
- 12 1-inch-thick slices French bread
- 6 large eggs, beaten
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- Whipped cream or whipped butter

1. Coat 13 x 9-inch baking dish with no-stick cooking spray. Stir brown sugar, butter, peanut butter and corn syrup in small saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly, until smooth and thickened. Pour peanut butter mixture into baking dish. Place bread slices over mixture, trimming to fit.
2. Whisk together eggs, milk, salt, vanilla and almond extracts in a medium bowl. Pour egg mixture over bread. Cover and chill 8 hours or overnight.
3. Heat oven to 350°F. Remove cover. Bake 45 minutes or until lightly browned. Invert onto large serving platter. Cut into servings. Serve with whipped cream or whipped butter.

## Create Your Own Classics — and Win

Now through January 18, 2012, creative cooks can share original recipes using at least two tablespoons of Jif Peanut Butter in Sweet and Savory categories for the chance to win one of two \$10,000 kitchen makeovers in the Jif New Classics Recipe Contest.

Complete Official Rules are available at [www.jif.com](http://www.jif.com). Contest open to legal residents of the 50 United States and D.C., 18 years or older. Void where prohibited.

## Apple Cranberry Peanut Butter Crisp

Servings: 9  
Preparation Time: 15 minutes  
Cooking Time: 40 minutes

- 6 cups peeled, sliced Gala apples (about 3 large)
  - 1/4 cup dried cranberries
  - 1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
  - 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Topping**
- 6 tablespoons Pillsbury Best® All Purpose Flour
  - 3 tablespoons toasted wheat germ
  - 1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
  - 1/2 cup Jif Omega-3 Creamy Peanut Butter
  - 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
  - Smucker's® Sundae Syrup™ Caramel Flavored Syrup (optional) or Smucker's Sugar Free Sundae Syrup Caramel Flavored Syrup

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Stir apples, cranberries, 1/4 cup brown sugar and cinnamon until coated. Spoon evenly in 9 x 9-inch baking pan.
2. Mix flour, wheat germ and 1/4 cup brown sugar in medium bowl. Cut in peanut butter with fork until crumbs form. Stir in walnuts. Crumble over apples.
3. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until apples are fork tender and top is golden brown. Cool 10 minutes. Drizzle with caramel flavored syrup, if desired. Serve warm.

## Rigatoni Romesco with Grilled Shrimp

Servings: 6  
Cooking Time: 20 minutes

- 2 tablespoons Crisco® 100% Extra Virgin Olive Oil, divided, plus 1/3 cup olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, divided and chopped
- 1 slice white bread
- 1 cup Jif Extra Crunchy Peanut Butter
- 1 (12-ounce) jar roasted red peppers, undrained
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 (14.5-ounce) cans diced tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons chopped Italian parsley
- 2 teaspoons salt, divided
- 3/4 teaspoon black pepper, divided
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 3 pounds (about 3 dozen) large raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 (16-ounce) package rigatoni pasta, cooked according to package directions and kept warm

### Optional Garnish

Chopped Italian parsley, chopped peanuts or roasted red pepper strips

1. Add 1 tablespoon oil and 2 cloves garlic to a large non-stick skillet on medium heat. Sauté and stir about 1 minute.
2. Transfer garlic to small bowl. Add bread to skillet and cook 2 minutes on each side until toasted. Remove bread and tear into large pieces.
3. Place sautéed garlic, remaining clove raw garlic, bread, peanut butter and roasted red peppers in food processor and puree well. Add in pepper flakes, tomatoes, parsley, 1 teaspoon salt, 1/4 teaspoon pepper, vinegar, chili powder and paprika; puree. With processor running, add 1/3 cup oil gradually through the feed tube and mix well. Return sauce to skillet and heat thoroughly. Keep warm.
4. Heat grill. Season shrimp with remaining 1 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon pepper and 1 tablespoon oil in large bowl. Stir to combine. Grill about 2 minutes on each side or until opaque.
5. Place pasta on large platter. Top with sauce, then shrimp. Serve hot. Garnish with Italian parsley, chopped peanuts and red peppers if desired. Serve hot.



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