

Placer Sentinel



**The Blue Goose
is the Golden
Egg of Loomis**

Page 2



**Moms Come up
with a Great New
Idea to Swap**

Page 3



**Foster Kids
Receive Holiday
Gifts from Intel**

Page 4

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Volume 22 Issue 1

Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

First Issue of January, 2011

A Tibetan Experience in the Heart of Auburn

New Fee on Business Delinquent Taxpayers Effective January 1



The monks wish to be accessible so that all might join together in becoming part of a world community. Photo credits: GSCF

Auburn – Sierra Friends of Tibet (SFOT) is pleased to host the 11th Anniversary visit of monks from the Gaden Monastery exiled in southern India. Gaden Monastery is the original Buddhist monastery of the Gelug tradition of Tibet. The Gelug also known as “Yellow Hats” is the order of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The monastery was founded in 1409 CE. Scholars often compare the monastery to a university such as Cambridge or Oxford, Gaden was a magnificent building complex east of Tibet’s capital city Lhasa. Reputed to have had more than 5,000 monks at the time of the first Chinese invasion in of Tibet, when over 6,000 monasteries were destroyed and 1.2 million Tibetan people perished. It has taken incredible effort on behalf of the Tibetan people, to preserve their precious

unbroken lineage of teachings through unimaginable challenges.

The monks tour for two primary purposes: 1. to be of service to the world community by helping to spread peace, harmony, compassion, and tolerance through cultural exchange, interfaith dialog, and Buddhist teachings. 2. to raise funds which provide for the education, maintenance, housing, and medical needs of the monks at Gaden Shartse Monastery located in the Tibetan Refugee Settlement in Mundgod, India. The monks vision on the tour is not simply to perform, but also to interact and engage with the communities they encounter. The monks wish to be accessible so that all might join together in becoming part of a world community. Over a two week period the monks will construct a sand mandala in St.

Joseph’s Hall in Grass Valley.

On January 15th, the monks will visit their friends in Auburn for two very special events.

2:00 PM MEDITATION CLASS: METTA – Loving Kindness at AHmbiance, located at 884 Lincoln Way in Auburn, on the second floor above Auburn Alchemy.

Metta (Loving Kindness) Meditation Workshop: Metta (Loving Kindness) meditation is one of the most popular vipassana techniques. This insight meditation is used to bring peace and tranquility into one’s own heart and sending loving kindness, along with compassion to others. Metta practice ends the four universal wishes (to live happily and to be free from hostility, affliction, and distress), with a very personal inner love, and by so doing, it has the power for

personal transformation. This is a non-sectarian, universal meditation that can be embraced by anyone, regardless of any religion or spiritual orientation.

The second event will be at 7:30 PM, called A Journey to the Roof of the World, The Sacred Music and Dance of Tibet, held at Music and More, 11596 D Avenue in Auburn.

The performance is family friendly and features rich, ornate costumes, exotic instruments, Himalayan music and the beloved Yak Dance of Tibet which mesmerizes children as well as people of all ages. All of the performances include an introduction as well as a question and answer period. This gives the audience has an opportunity to engage the monks and learn more about Tibetan culture.

Continued on Page 2



“Just another check to the government. It’s a fee, not a tax.”

From BOE Newsroom

Sacramento Region – The California State Board of Equalization (BOE) announced recently that thousands of California businesses will potentially be assessed a fee on past due liabilities beginning in 2011, under recently enacted legislation. More than 90,000 businesses will be notified of this potential fee beginning January 1, 2011.

Legislation imposed the new collection cost recovery fee and requires the BOE to collect a fee on any person failing to pay amounts due and owing. The fee applies to most taxes and fees collected by the BOE and is intended to cover costs incurred in obtaining payment of past due amounts. The fee may only be imposed after the BOE has notified a taxpayer of the potential fee by mailing a notice advising that the continued failure to pay the amount due may result in collection action and potential assessment of the collection cost recovery fee. The BOE could potentially assess a fee on each liability greater than \$250 that remains unpaid for more than 90 days. The fee amount, adjusted annually to reflect the cost of collecting unpaid liabilities, ranges from \$185 to \$925 for calendar year 2011.

The BOE has identified more than 90,000 tax and fee payers with outstanding sales and use tax liabilities or overdue payments in the many tax and fee programs administered by BOE.

Taxpayers can avoid the fee by paying their liability in full prior to the fee being assessed, that is before 90 days from the date the notice expires. The notice they receive will state that the

new collection cost recovery fee will be due if each liability of greater than \$250 remains unpaid for more than 90 days. Taxpayers unable to pay in full now may still avoid the fee if they qualify for, enter into, and complete an installment payment agreement, which allows for payment of a tax, fee, or surcharge debt in smaller, more manageable amounts. Also, if the BOE finds that a taxpayer’s failure to pay the amount being collected is due to reasonable cause and circumstances beyond the taxpayer’s control, the BOE may relieve the taxpayer of the collection cost recovery fee.

The BOE estimates the fee will facilitate additional annual revenue of \$5.2 million from additional collection of taxes, fees, and surcharges for the remainder of the 2010-11 Fiscal Year and \$19.4 million to \$22.6 million annually beginning in 2011-12.

This new collection cost recovery fee requirement was added to the Revenue and Taxation Codes by Senate Bill 858 (Chapter 721, Statutes of 2010).

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than \$48 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

The Special Notice is available on the BOE website at www.boe.ca.gov.



You STILL can't talk on your cellphone!

Placer County – A required motorcycle safety course for under-21 motorcycle permit applicants, new oversight of online traffic violator schools, and extensions of HOV lane stickers are among several new laws of interest to California motorists that will take effect Jan. 2, 2011, the Department of Motor Vehicles announced today.

Following are capsule summaries of the new laws:

Motorcycle Instruction Permit (AB 1952/Niello) This new law requires a person under 21 years of age to complete an approved motorcycle safety course before being issued an instruction permit with which to practice operating a motorcycle, and requires the permit to be held for six months before being issued a class M motorcycle driver license. There are currently more than 6,000 drivers 19 years and younger who are licensed to ride a motorcycle in California.

Traffic Violator School Program (AB 2499/Portantino) Prior to this new

law which starts January 1, the DMV only licensed and regulated “brick and mortar” classroom traffic violator schools. This new law will bring court-approved courses, such as online and home study traffic schools into the DMV Traffic Violator School licensing program and implements a number of recommendations included in a DMV study of traffic violator school issues. This law will have a 3-year implementation process.

High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes (SB 535/Yee) Prior law that permitted certain fuel-efficient, low-emission vehicles to display stickers allowing them to be operated in HOV lanes

with a single occupant was to expire on January 1, 2011. The new law extends the “sunset” date for the yellow stickers for hybrid vehicles until July 1, 2011; the white stickers issued to fully-electric and compressed natural gas vehicles until January 1, 2015; and creates a third sticker, for plug-in hybrid vehicles, to be issued and valid from January 1, 2012 until January 1, 2015.

New Firefighter Endorsement (AB 1648/Jeffries) In an effort to simplify the proper licensing of firefighters while continuing to ensure public safety, this law exempts operators of firefighting vehicles from the

Commercial Driver License program and creates a new license endorsement process.

New Laws Starting on July 1 and Beyond

- Organ Donation (SB 1395/Alquist) Starting July 1, the language on the DMV’s application for a driver license will include a “no” option relative to an applicant’s willingness to register as a prospective organ donor to increase the number of enrollees in the organ donor program. This change will now require the organ donor registration field of the application to be answered with either a yes or no response.
- Local Traffic Ordinances (SB 949/

Oropeza) On July 1, in an effort of ensuring that traffic convictions are recorded by the Department of Motor Vehicles, local authorities may not enact or enforce a local ordinance on any matter covered by the California Vehicle Code.

- Driving Under the Influence (AB 1601/Hill) Effective in January 1, 2012, this bill authorizes a court to order a 10-year revocation of the driver license of a person convicted of a third or subsequent DUI violation, with possible reinstatement after five years if specified conditions are met.

The Goose's Golden Egg A Tibetan Experience



The Blue Goose, originally located in Newcastle, was relocated to Loomis in 1945 on Taylor Road, where it stands today.

By Julie Parker

Loomis- Once upon a time, the foothills of Placer County produced plentiful fruit, such as plums, peaches and pears. In the early 1900s, it was the only county in the state that shipped back east, due to the irrigation left behind by the miners, who used the water to filter gravel. As a result, the county produced the largest fruit crops in California. Fruit sheds began sprouting up throughout Loomis for packing and shipping, so others could enjoy the fruit of their labor (pun intended).

"They would open the first of June," says Walt Taylor. "The growers would bring the fruit in about 4:00, unload, and stack them on the floor. You had to count the fruit, because although the boxes were the same size, the fruit was not. Then, they were put in the cold storage room. The next morning, you take them out and load them into refrigerated boxcars by noon. Usually, growers were through by 5:30 to 6:00. You had to work maybe till 10:00 to unload. But, packers worked all day.

Before the war, there were 'fruit tramps,' who would pack. They would stay until the end of August, then move on to the next. They followed the fruit as it ripened up into

Oregon. A lot of Spanish ladies worked in the fruit house."

Many teachers who worked in the fruit sheds during these summer months would later become inspectors.

"My dad had three ranches," continued Walt, "and all Japanese help. Most of them worked for 60% of the revenue and my dad got 40%. During the war, they [the government] moved the Japanese out. That summer, for replacements, the ranchers went to Berkeley and got a bunch of high school students and housed them at the Placer High School gymnasium. They worked in the fruit house and were taught how to pack.



The Original Blue Goose as it looked in 1923.

I was making boxes. It wasn't too far from the packing line. This one particular girl kept ogling me, so I'm not paying attention, and I hit my thumb with a hatchet."

The Blue Goose, originally located in Newcastle, was relocated to Loomis in 1945 on Taylor Road, where it stands today. The old highway 40 used to run in front of The

Blue Goose, making a little loop. You can see still see the pavement.

In 1960, American Fruit Exchange (American National Growers Corporation) merged with Pacific Fruit Exchange, and the following year changed its name to Blue Goose Growers, Inc. Blue Goose retained American Fruit Growers' original logo of a blue goose, but gave it an updated design.

"When the California Water System came into the Central Valley," says Randy Elder, "it became easier to plant orchards on flat land through the valley. Pressure on prices made it difficult in Placer, so farms went by the wayside. As transitions occurred during the 1950-80s, not much fruit packing was going on in Placer County."

"My father and grandfather used to manage the fruit sheds," says Beth Enright. "I remember playing on the antique adding machines. Even as a kid, I could see the ranches were disappearing. I knew things were changing."

"Blue Anchor, one of the main fruit shed owners, vacated Loomis and moved south," says Randy. "They had a contract with the railroad that when they left the building, they had to tear it down. The railroad didn't want an abandoned building.

A bunch of us formed a group to save the sheds. From roughly 1995 to 2003, not much was done to conserve them. So, we developed plans to renovate. After the Blue Anchor shed burned down, we took the insurance proceeds to install a fire sprinkler system in The Blue Goose. We then actively started gathering plans to create a community center there.

In 2003, we were at the Memorial Hall in downtown Loomis at the Cowpoke Fall Gathering. We said, 'Hey, you should have a dinner and dance after one of your shows and have it at The Blue Goose.' It was such a success, we said, 'Why don't you just have the whole thing at The Blue Goose starting next year?'

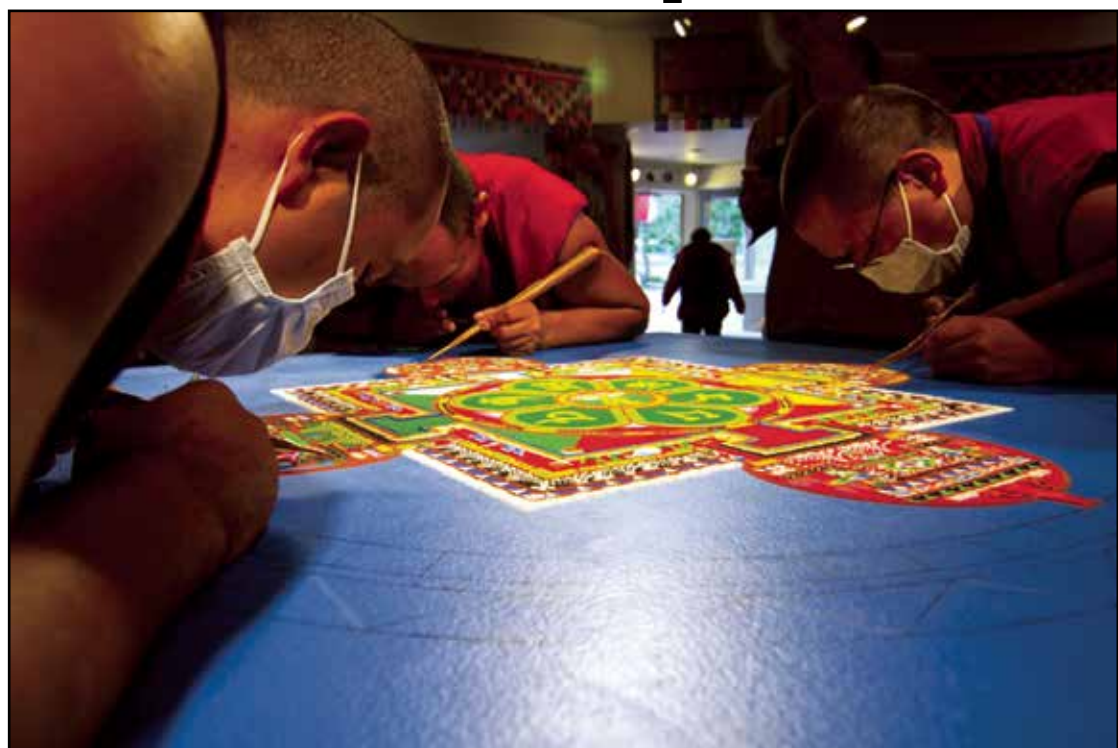
In November 2004, The Blue Goose saw its first official event – the Cowpoke Fall Gathering, composed of cowboy poetry, stories and music. Since that time, The Blue Goose has risen in popularity, hosting wedding receptions, fundraisers and concerts.

When you step inside The Blue Goose, you immediately understand its allure. Its natural wood floors, wall and stage offer a cozy warm atmosphere. Blown-up fruit labels adorn the walls, adding splashes of color to this intimate venue.

Renovations continue, with an eye toward preserving its historical integrity. It currently offers a 400 seating occupancy, but with a renovation of the upstairs loft area (where fruit boxes used to be made by hand) it could potentially rise to 600 occupancy, with the addition of a lift. Future exterior landscaping around the exterior will reflect the gem that lies within.

If you haven't visited The Blue Goose, you have an opportunity to discover this historical jewel at the Business Expo at The Blue Goose (3550 Taylor Road in Loomis) on January 17, 2011 from 6:00 to 9:00. It's free to the public, and in addition to vendors, there will be music, games, and several raffle prizes to give away.

www.bluegooseeventcenter.com



Over a two week period the monks will construct a sand mandala in St. Joseph's Hall in Grass Valley. Photo credits: GSCF

Continued from Page 1

The monk's vision on the tour is not simply to perform, but also to interact and engage with the communities they encounter. The monks wish to be accessible so that we all might join together in becoming part of a world community.

The sacred ritual dances of Tibetan Buddhism are not simply a performance; they are an ancient, spiritual ritual created to transform negativities and obstacles within our world system into positive, harmonious conditions. The origins of these dances have their roots steeped in the secret path of tantric Buddhism. At the monastery they are part of an elaborate ritual that can last from one day to two weeks. The dances require years of intensive training as well as proper initiations to be performed properly. Throughout the dance every movement and ritual implement utilized have a deep and

profound inner and outer meaning. The whole performance is a powerful, transformative experience operating on two levels. On one level the dancers are creating conducive conditions for enlightenment, while simultaneously purifying negativities and obstacles preventing it.

Essentially, consciousness enters as a demon, is transformed, and exits as a deity.

Ancient Tibetan multi-phonetic chanting is a rare and unique experience created by monks singing a chord containing two or three tones simultaneously. The special sound they create is not a simply a song, it is a sacred offering – an offering to the Buddhist deities for the benefit of all sentient beings. The deep, resonate, vibrant chords, representing the essence of the secret tantric teachings of Tibetan Buddhism, fill the room and transform both the environment and the audience with their powerful energy.

The Kangso (ritual of fulfillment) performance combines the rich sounds of Tibetan chanting with their ancient temple instruments to create an offering of melodious sounds. In the monastery the ritual is usually eighteen hours long, on the tour we are able to provide a small sampling of this precious offering.

ALL EVENTS ARE BY DONATION
All donations go to the Gaden Shartse Cultural Foundation, a 501C3 Non Profit.
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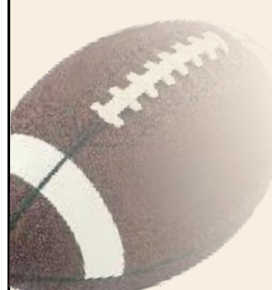
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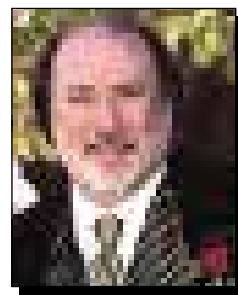
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Distribution Assistant	Gabriel Scholl	
Contributing Writers		
Tim Reilly	Mary Jane Popp	Marlys Johnsen Norris
David Dickstein	Dr. E. Kirsten Peters	
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Peace. Love. Swap.



California Moms start ongoing baby/kid clothing and gear swap and giving to local charities.

Grass Valley – Local moms start an ongoing children's clothing & gear swap & launch website and program to help moms across the US get their own swaps started locally, earn extra income, be able to stay at home with their kids, while at the same time, giving large amounts of baby, kid & maternity items to charity.

Just over a year ago, Meg Franz, mother of 4 began thinking of a way to put together a local swap, where moms could get together and recycle their gently used baby, kid & maternity clothes and gear, and donate the leftovers to moms and families in need. Because kids grow out of stuff every 3-6 months, she didn't want to do just a once in a while swap, but rather create an ongoing swap where moms and their kids could get together on a monthly or bi-monthly basis in a family friendly venue, socialize with other moms, get rid of the stuff that isn't being used anymore, and pick out "new"

items to take home. Going to the consignment stores, posting things online and trying to use online "swap" websites were all proving to be tedious and unproductive.

In July 2009, the first kid's swap – then called the tot swap – was held in Grass Valley, CA. It was a huge hit, and by the second swap there were about 70 moms that showed up. The biggest question from eager moms was "when is the next one?" Soon, moms were emailing from all over asking when one would be in their city. So, in August "the tot swap" became peace. love. swap & Meg started doing the swaps in other areas. In February 2010, Meg realized in order to take p.l.s to the next level she would need help. Enter Elle Beyer- mom of 4. Elle found peace. love. swap while posting her children's clothes online, loved the idea and became a regular swapper. After the first swap, she was addicted as well, and wanted to help take p.l.s to the

national or even worldwide level.

Today, peace. love. swap has swaps going on in 12+ cities, and they are growing every month. By the end of 2010, they plan on having at least 25 locations throughout the US. If you get a few minutes you can get more info, read their mission statement & see what moms are saying at: peaceloveswap.com. In this economic climate & in a time when recycling and keeping stuff out of our landfills is so important, we need to make families aware of something so unique. Swaps are catching on fast, however, when it comes down to it, the moms that attend a p.l.s event just want to be able to show up bring the stuff they want to get rid of and take the things they need; let their kids play while they get "offline" & socialize with other moms- all the time knowing when the swap is over, they are helping families in need. Plus, as an added bonus for the moms that start their own p.l.s event – they also get to make a little extra income on the side.

Meg Franz says "it's green, fun, affordable and catching on fast – we hope to see a peace. love. swap event going on at least every other month cities all over the place. The events really are a win win for everyone involved- the moms, the communities, the venues that host and the charities that get stuff afterwards. How could you not love these swaps?" peace. love. swap can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://peaceloveswap.com/home.html>. For information: megfranz@peaceloveswap.com. Phone: 530.913.6848



Around Town with Loyce Smallwood

pictures/photos and art, long time veterans they are. Should you have the pottery bug, as Yours Truly, you can wind up the way to N2 Pottery, 195 Elm where Pattie will help you dive into decorating your selected item after you've chosen from a variety of plates/mugs/bowls, great fun here that definitely satisfies that creative urge with speedy gratification. Around the corner, you can experience the music scene at Encore Music on High Street where gleaming musical instruments--including a variety of ukuleles, can be tried on for size. Be sure and check out local crafts including eye-catching abalone jewelry by Stan Padilla and bold fish ceramics

by Tony Natsoulas at WizWire DT across from the town square, all proceeds benefitting AAARF pet shelter, No. Auburn.



Artist Stan Padilla

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Dollars and Sense

by James J. Scherer, MBA, CPA



"Bonds 101 - Back to

The fear of the recession tends to influence investors to buy bonds. However, before you jump in we need to look at the risks.

What is a bond?

Bonds represent a loan to a borrower such as a corporation, municipality or government agency. The borrowers issue a formal IOU that promises to pay you a specific amount of interest, usually quarterly or semiannually, and repay the full amount of the principal at a fixed date in the future.

Credit Risk

Credit risk refers to the possibility that a bond issuer won't pay back the money you loaned them. Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's and other companies publish credit quality ratings for bonds. Check your bonds out. As a rule of thumb, bonds issued by corporations or municipalities with at triple B rating or higher are call investment-grade bonds. Non-investment-grade bonds, with ratings as low as D, are sometimes referred to as junk or high-yield bonds because of the higher rates they must pay to attract investors due to the substantial risks involved.

Market Risk

If I sell a bond before maturity there will usually be a gain or loss due to the change in the market value. This is called market risk. Carefully think through your future cash needs before you buy or you may have to sell before you want to.

Interest Rate Risk

Bond prices tend to drop when interest rates rise, and vice versa. Think of it like a teeter-totter. This inverse relationship is referred to

as interest rate risk. If I buy a bond yielding 4% and bond interest rates of similar bonds increase, the market value of my bond will decrease. Please note that exposure to interest rate risk increases with the length of a bond's maturity.

Bonds can be a great way to hunker down when the stock market is underperforming. But go into the investment with your eyes wide open and always get good advice.

This article is not intended to provide specific investment or tax advice for any individual. If you have specific questions consult your financial advisor, tax advisor, or give me a call.

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Foster Kids Receive Holiday Gifts From Intel



Loomis - No peeking! Thirty-eight teens in Koinonia Family House's group home in Loomis received holiday gifts this year from Intel employees. Koinonia, a United Way California Capital Region certified partner agency that provides adolescent substance abuse programs, foster care and adoption, also received a check for \$6,700 from Intel. The funds were proceeds from Intel's LANFest fundraiser, an annual series of gaming events that attract more than 16,000 people each year and have raised more

than \$370,000 for local charities since they began.

Koinonia Group Homes, a division of Koinonia Family Services, works with adolescent youth in several specialized programs. Having six homes located in Placer and Sacramento counties, and a Community School and Treatment Center in Loomis, Koinonia is one of the premiere adolescent substance abuse programs in the state. Each home is staffed with caring, professionals that bring a home-like atmosphere and quality

treatment during this difficult out-of-home placement. Also, in partnership with the County of Placer, Koinonia Group Homes operates the Crisis Resolution Center, a free resource for families with teens in crisis. With the goal of intervening before a family impacts the "system," the CRC serves more than 100 community families a year, quelling the crisis, restoring quality relations and keeping families unified.

Photo courtesy of Kristin Thébaud Portraiture.

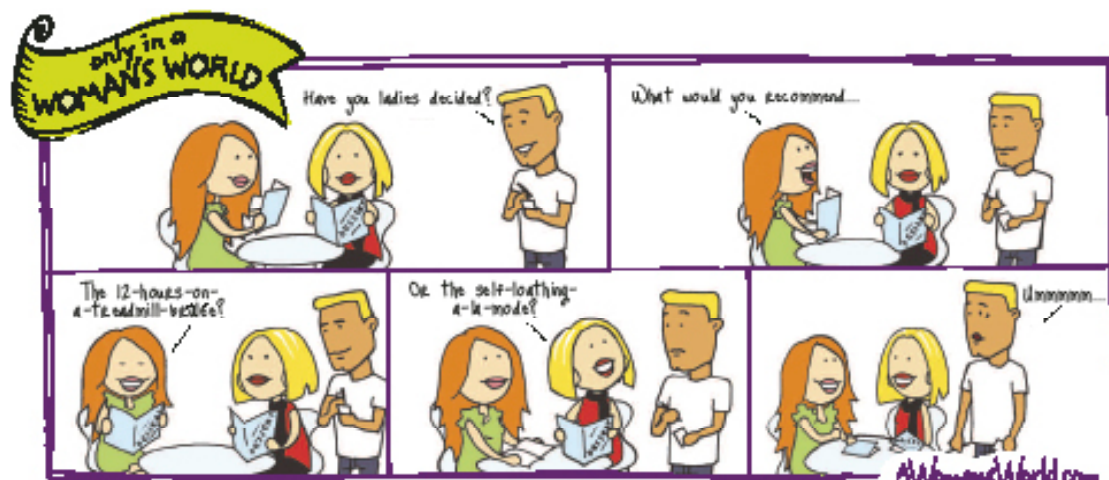
Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Contest

Auburn - All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 in the greater Auburn area are invited to participate in the Knights of Columbus Basketball Free Throw Contest. Boys and girls will compete separately in five different age groups with ten eventual champions. Winners are eligible to advance to the district, chapter, and state championships.

The contest will be held on Sunday, January 23 at the St. Teresa of Avila Parish Hall at 11610 Atwood Road in Auburn. Registration begins at 12:00 PM, and the competition begins at 12:30 PM. This is a free event. Contestants must be at least age 10 as of January 1, 2011. A copy of the contestant's birth certificate to verify age, and parental consent on

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

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People Who Influenced My Life

By Marlys Norris, Christian Author

Years ago one of the persons I came to admire was Norman Vincent Peal. His books and his positive message for living helped me endure life and its disappointments. These were the years when I was unfamiliar with words of the Bible. I valued the words Peal wrote because they were always positive and encouraging.

Another person that has spoken words that have helped my life more than once is Charles Stanley. When we were a young married couple we had many problems. I wanted my husband to make changes. I did not understand or appreciate the

differences in men and women. One evening I heard Charles Stanley talk about people like us who were having difficulty in their marriages. He explained that "when we claim to love someone, we need to accept them just the way they are without any changes at all". When one does this they need to trust God's Holy Spirit to move in their lives without our help. One needs to pray and tell God about their personal needs and trust God to meet those needs. So, I diligently prayed and asked God to help me to "accept my husband just the way he was without any changes". I prayed and failed several times to accomplish this mind-set before I fully accepted those words and began to live my life by them.

Until I actually learned this lesson nothing happened! Then, one day I prayed that I just needed my husband to come home and hold me. It was like a miracle when a couple hours after this, he came home and said, "I think I just need to sit with you on the couch and hold you". He held

me for an hour while I sat in wonderment about what God had done as my eyes filled with tears. For the first time in our marriage I realized my husband had been truly inspired by and listened to God's Spirit and my heart filled with joy. This was when I truly began to love the way God loves. God loves us just the way we are before we surrender or commit our lives to him. God moved in our lives and He has continued to guide and direct our lives beyond our expectations as we love one another completely. It has been a miraculous journey learning God's ways. It is an exciting as our love continues to grow in an all encompassing (Agape) true love for one another. Try my prayer recipe for a happier marriage.

Marlys Johnsen Norris, Author
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Reboot and Reload: A New Year is Upon Us

"Keeping the Faith" Ronnie McBrayer

Maybe faith is a lot like your personal computer. Is that a stretch? Well, think about it. No one really thinks about his or her computer until it stops working. Faith isn't much different.

For example, I spent some time once with a young lady who was convinced God was going to heal her of a serious sickness. She spoke of her faith with conviction, over and over like a magical mantra. But I felt she was trying to talk herself into a hoped-for outcome, more than giving testimony to genuine faith. Then, it happened. Not healing, but surgery.

She was devastated; and not in the garden variety way of being disillusioned. No, this was a bona fide spiritual crisis. What she had believed was reduced to ashes, consumed in the fires of disappointment.

As instructed by her spiritual leaders, she had, as it were, dutifully shoved coins into the Jesus-shaped vending machine that informed her understanding of God. She got nothing in return. No amount of smashing buttons, shaking heaven, or demanding a refund would change that.

I spoke to her after surgery and did my best to explain that faith isn't always an escape hatch. Having faith doesn't mean we always avoid trouble, like a cosmic "Get out of Jail Free" card. Instead, as disturbing as it is, faith sometimes leads to troubles. But in the process, faith is the only

thing to get us through it. I was met with a cold, empty stare and nary a spoken word. Her faith, at least faith as she had known it, was no longer functional.

Leaving her, I immediately met a friend for lunch at a local Chinese buffet. He arrived red-faced and breathing fire even before we got around to the Hunan chicken. It seems the computer system at his office was on the blink.

Heaven knows I can commiserate. Can't we all? I have never seen anything make otherwise normal people (including myself) go absolutely ban-shee-bonkers than a malfunctioning computer. Let the computer system crash at the company office, deprive people of their precious e-mail, let everyone know that all hard drives are fried along with everything on them and there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Formerly mild-mannered corporate cogs will be transformed into bloodthirsty hooligans with torches and pitchforks lying in wait outside the IT engineer's office until they have had the opportunity to tear him or her to pieces.

So, computer crashes and crises of faith have more in common than you may have realized. When faith and computers work, life is grand. When either of these fails, well, it hits the fan. But maybe they also have a similar recovery. Maybe the problem isn't faulty faith or crashing computers at all. Maybe it's a virus.

I'm no computer-geek but I know that a computer virus is a nasty piece of work. It so screws up the operating system and the other software on the computer, that actions as

simple as sending an e-mail become impossible.

Likewise, many of us have viruses in our faith. Sure we have faith, but there are bits of contamination that have wormed their way deep into our operating system. We may not even know these invaders are there until we call upon our faith to actually work.

Like in times of sickness, or when we have marital problems, or in rearing children, or faced with financial crisis, or when we can't access our e-mail; then, with the pressures of life bearing down upon us, we will find out if our faith is functional.

So what do you do if your faith seems a bit virus weakened? Well, don't throw it all away. That would be akin to chunking your new laptop just because your spreadsheets won't load.

Instead, take the time to do a little maintenance. Scan your files. Fix the firewall. Delete the corrupted files. Protect your faith from the glut of enemies it naturally has. Then, reboot, power up, and get to work. You've got mail waiting in your inbox.

Ronnie McBrayer is the author of "Leaving Religion, Following Jesus." He writes and speaks about life, faith, and Christ-centered spirituality. Visit his website at www.ronniemcbrayer.net.

Ronnie McBrayer's weekly newspaper column, "Keeping the Faith," began as a devotional article for his local newspaper. It is now a past Florida Press Association award winner in Religion, and is nationally syndicated. He is the author of multiple books and publications including *Leaving Religion, Following Jesus*, published by Smyth and Helwys.



By Dr. Fred DeRuvo

Chris Matthews tends to be a funny guy, though not intentionally. He says he hates "birthers" (the people who want Obama to show his birth certificate), but he still wants Obama to show the actual birth certificate in the hopes of shutting up the birthers.

In point of fact, that's exactly what birthers want. We want to be proven *wrong*. We believe that the President of the United States should *willingly* show his *real, long-form* birth certificate without hesitation. President Obama prefers to spend millions of dollars to keep his birth

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"Comedian" Chris Matthews Wants Obama to Show Real Birth Certificate

certificate *private*. Why? What is he hiding?

What would happen if it turns out President Obama is *not* legally eligible to be president? For one thing, it seems reasonable to believe that all of his executive orders and bills that he signed would be null and void. It also seems reasonable to conclude that he could be charged with *treason*, at the very least.

However, if it turns out that President Obama *does* have a legitimate United States birth certificate it would put the entire question to rest, wouldn't it? So, show the birth certificate!

There is one birth certificate

that is allegedly going through the court systems now, that purports to show Obama's birth as Kenya, as well as his baby footprint. Is it? Oh gee, it could take *years* before it is determined to be a fake or not. In the meantime, Obama will continue to be president. What do you think - real or not? If the alleged birth certificate from Kenya is determined to be *real*, can you imagine the riots that would ensue? Can you imagine people like Chris Matthews having to spin their way out of the debacle?

I'd rather not think about it...

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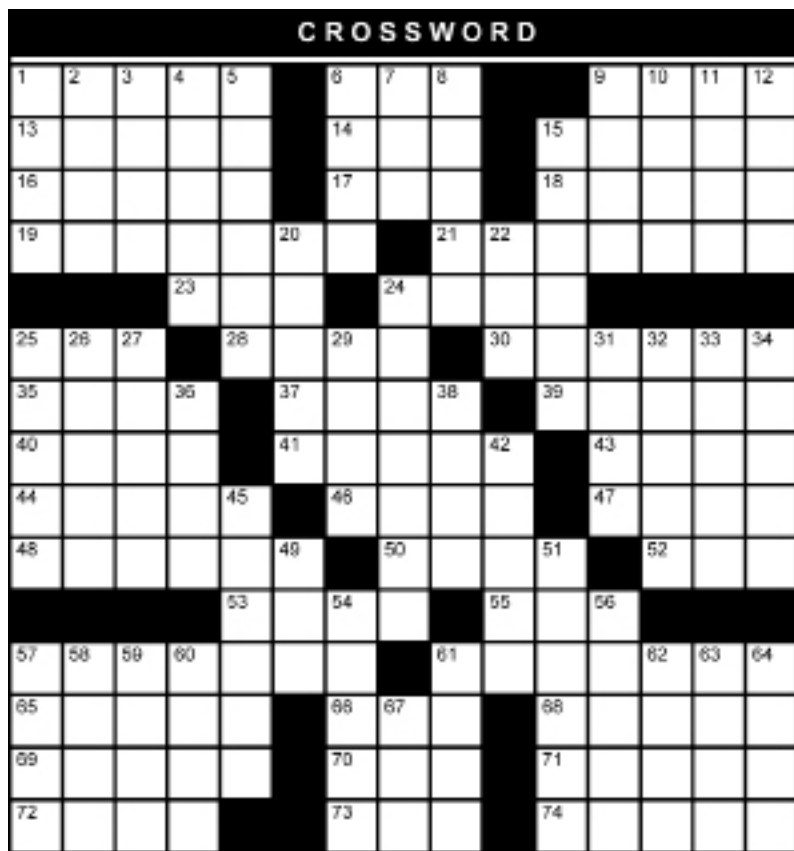
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THEME: 2010 IN REVIEW



CLUES

ACROSS

1. It comes from the past?
6. Like one of the Testaments
9. "Lady Gaga - most charitable ____ of 2010
13. Cooler climate conifer
14. Actress Thompson
15. Garlic mayo
16. "The Hurt Locker" won this
17. Romanian monetary unit
18. Three goddesses of destiny
19. "It broke out in Haiti
21. "2010's best actress?"
23. Object of fairytale princess test
24. Capital of Norway
25. Ad ____
28. Bypass
30. Plane road
35. Verbal test
37. Long narrative poem
39. Impart knowledge to
40. Cosine's buddy
41. Inhabitants of Denmark
43. ---caca, South American lake
44. Native American pole
46. Popular pickling spice
47. Organic compound
48. Heavy windbreaker
50. Margarine
52. Old fashioned "before"
53. "____ on Me"
55. Rub-a-dub-____
57. "Location of air travel-disrupting volcano
61. "Infamous secret spiller
65. Ecclesiastic council
66. Goes with "aah"
68. Scandinavian gnome
69. Everyone but clergy
70. Biography
71. Hollywood's legendary swashbuckler
72. Odds and ____
73. Boundary Waters entry point
74. One ____ what he sows

DOWN

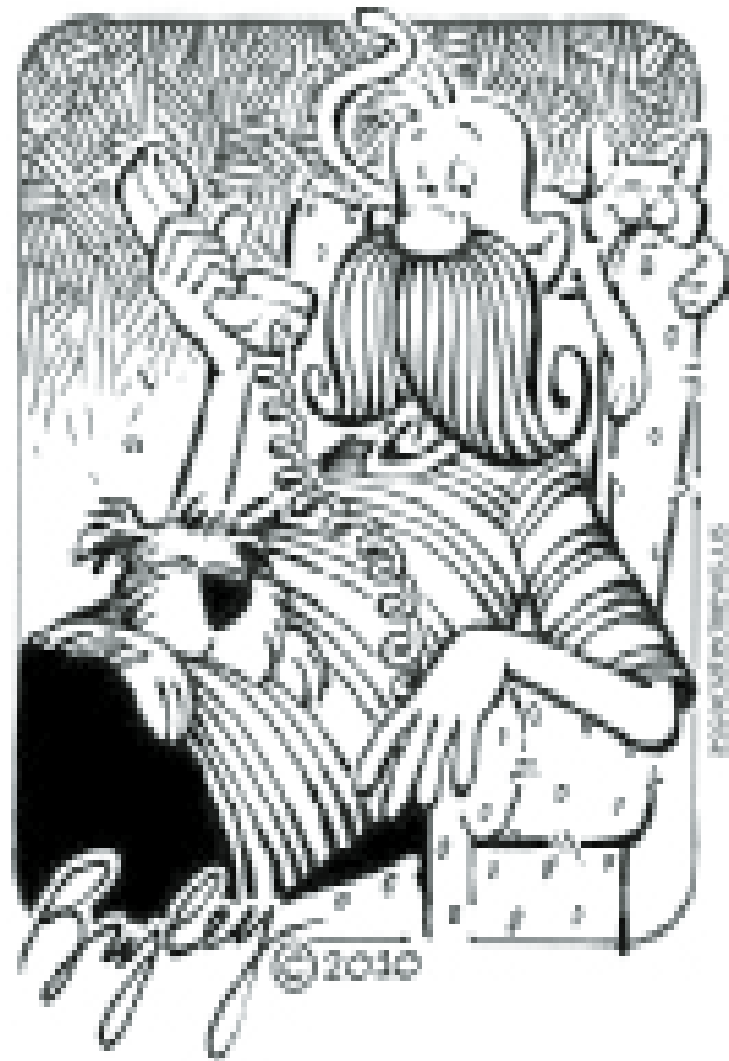
1. Eastern ____
2. Eye hair
3. To be played with a bow
4. Sell illegally, as in tickets
5. "____ a crowd"
6. Used in India for writing paper
7. "Pitcher who led Rangers to first World Series
8. Smears
9. Upper layer of earth's crust
10. Dorothy's dog
11. "This Baldwin co-hosted 2010 Academy Awards
12. Strategic board game
15. Drifting
20. Gathered leaves
22. Preceding month
24. Movie review, e.g.
25. Popular perennial garden plant
26. Belled stamman
27. Ann Patchett's novel "Bel ____"
29. "A revolutionary device?"
31. Intersecting nerves or vessels
32. Easternmost state
33. Thespian
34. "Home to trapped miners
36. Expression of contempt or scorn
38. Text messenger
42. Toboggans
45. Unwellness
49. "Fashion-conscious character from "Toy Story 3"
51. Wrongful dispossession
54. Sun-dried brick
56. Pavlova's rail
57. Just one of British Isles
58. Bluish green
59. Children's author ____ Blyton
60. A bunch
61. Sailor's call
62. Novelist Roberts
63. Lump of stuff
64. Building extensions
67. "Spilled in the Gulf

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For Solution See Page 11



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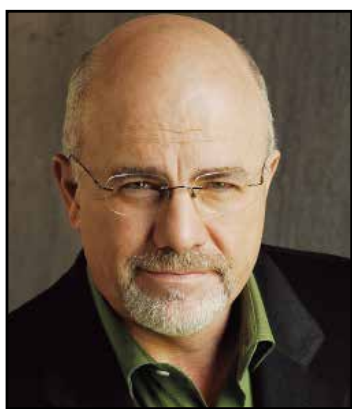
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Dave Says

all the jobs they had to do during the week, with a dollar amount next to each one. When you did a certain job, you were paid that amount.

Keep in mind, though, kids shouldn't get paid for every little thing they do around the house. There are some jobs they should have to do just because they're part of the family, or because mom or dad tells them to do that job. Some of these jobs should have a higher purpose, too. As a parent, you want to find as many teachable moments for your kids as possible.

Once they've earned their money, sit down with them and divide it into three separate envelopes: one for saving, one for spending, and one for giving. This way, they get to learn about these three important things while they're learning how to work.

Teaching kids that there's an emotional connection between work and money is one of the best things you'll ever do as a parent. If they learn this when they're five, chances are they won't be clueless and financially irresponsible when they're 55!

- Dave

What Does "Charged Off" Mean?

Dear Dave,

We recently saw a copy of our

credit report, and one debt we had was listed as "charged off as bad debt." What does this mean?

- Sheila

Dear Sheila,

Simply put, it means you didn't pay them. You had a debt you never paid, so the creditor never got their money, and they wrote you off as a deadbeat. I'm being facetious, of course, but in credit terms that's pretty much what it means.

If you want to get that cleaned up, you'll have to go to the creditor and make arrangements to settle the debt with them. Once you do that, it will read "bad debt settled." It's still not an ideal situation, but it's much better than having "charged off as bad debt" stuck on your credit report.

Remember, you always settle a bad debt in writing. Never give a creditor or collections company electronic access to your checking account, because lots of them will steal from you. I've seen plenty of cases where there was no written agreement, and a collector took out more than they said they would. Then, somebody's house payment bounced!

- Dave

For more financial help please visit daveramsey.com.



POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

LOOK FOR THE LIGHT

I don't know about you guys, but 2010 was kind of a pooppy year. Take your pick from an economy that is still in the dumpsters to lots of illness which I honestly think is due to the stress that has hovered over so many. So I thought I'd take a stab at bringing light on the subject of dark times from a guest I had on the POPPOFF Radio Show. If you find yourself spiraling out of control, and you can't find a way out, then perhaps David Heenan can help out with his book "Bright Triumphs From Dark Hours" Turning Adversity into Success.

The key messages David shares include: We're neither hopeless nor helpless. There's a lot we can do with adversity like...

1) Learn from adversity. Refuse to equate the occasional setback with defeat. "Success is going from failure to failure with no loss of hope," said Winston Churchill.

2) Fashion a new dream. Swim in bigger ponds. Set giant goals. Construct a grand vision of where you want to go and how you'll get there. "Not failure, but low aim is a crime," wrote poet, critic, and diplomat James Russell Lowell.

3) Sell your vision. Those who can illuminate the darkness are experts at restoring people's faith in the future, especially the faith of talented people who have run into brick walls. "A leader must be a dealer in hope," Confucius wrote.

4) Share Your Dream. "We can do as partners what we cannot do as singles," Daniel Webster observed. Therefore, build alliances. Keep good company. Create a brain trust. Connections are invaluable. Develop a cadre of knowledgeable people...mentors, peers, and friends...you can consult in tackling tough times. Share your dreams.

5) Focus, Focus, Focus. Make life as simple as possible. Focus on what you know you can do. Know what you are capable of on any given day...what you can count on. Learn to differentiate between what is truly important and what can be dealt with at another time. Resilient personalities are able to smile in the face of adversity. They enjoy the exhilaration of taking on Everest-size challenges.

6) Start Now. "In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing; the next best thing is the wrong thing; and the worst thing you can do is nothing," said Theodore Roosevelt. Far too often we are unwilling to try something new because we fear the outcome. But the more you push your comfort zone, the easier it gets. Let new ideas take root. Explore. Chuck yesterday's assumptions. Don't rely on what made you successful, but it no longer works. The worst baggage we can carry is the baggage from a successful past. Set goals that are specific and attainable, then break them down into manageable pieces...one step at a time. In the process, passing each mile-stone builds confidence and creates momentum.

The rest is up to you and me. Let's get off our duffs and make 2011 the best year after. But it won't happen unless you begin making "Bright Triumphs from Dark Hours." You can check out David's website at www.BrightTriumphs.com. Get out there and charge 2011 like it's never going to come again, because surprise!!! It's not! A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR to you and yours!!!

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

An Allowance is Like Welfare

Dear Dave,

How do you feel about giving an allowance to kids who are younger than 10 years old?

- Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

I don't do allowances for anyone. The word "allowance" sounds way too much like welfare to me.

We put our kids on commission at an early age. If they worked, they got paid. If they didn't work, they didn't get paid. We put a little dry-erase board on the refrigerator and listed



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Stunning Vistas and Recent Storms

of their choice.

"When you hear the boulders going 'Bang, bang, bang,' you know there's going to be problems," said canyon resident Steve Eighart to the Los Angeles Times.

Rapidly moving boulders are, indeed, your first clue you're in deep trouble. That's because boulders and other large objects like logs are at the front or "head" of the flow as it comes downhill. Behind that comes finer material like sand, and then a great deal of muddy water.

In some parts of southern California the authorities have built large depressions in the land called catch basins. They are meant to contain debris flows that reach them. Some basins have screens built into them to stop large objects like boulders while allowing the watery part of the flow to continue downhill.

Mike Colgan, who has lived in Orange County's Silverado Canyon for 30 years, was impressed by recent events.

"This is only the second time I've seen this much debris flow, and it's the first time I've seen it happen so quickly," he told a reporter.

But Colgan also had a refreshing sense of personal accountability concerning his situation. "When you live up here, you should accept the responsibility of dealing with nature."

The recent California flows were triggered by amazing rainstorms. By the end of the period, downtown Los Angeles was close to setting a record for the wettest December in 120 years, getting more than 7 inches of rain in seven days. For a dry part of the country, that's a stupendous total. Actually, for pretty nearly anywhere it's an impressive number!

As the storm moved inland it

brought many feet of snow to higher elevations. It continued further, providing white holidays to people more than a thousand miles away from California.

The geologic factors that add to the dangers of debris flows in the West are steep slopes and loosened soils and rocks. Canyon walls are exceedingly steep, so it's no surprise to geologists that they move downward when gravity overcomes a slope's ability to hold itself up any longer. Bits of rock and soil then start heading downhill, and they can move as fast as a car on a highway.

Other factors also increase the chance of debris flows. Forest fires remove vegetation that helps hold a slope together. So fires in the West in the summer add to the possibilities of mudslides and debris flows in the winters to come. Human activities like cutting down brush and trees do the same.

Knowing where debris flow problems are likely, we could choose not to build on land that's subject to frequent problems. That's the logic of some zoning regulations. But people are often willing to risk the safety of their houses for the amazing views that canyons, bluffs and hillsides give them. They feel it's better to have a "shining palace" that may not be permanent than a mundane house in a safer part of the world.

Perhaps there's a poet born every minute.

Dr. E. Kirsten Peters, a native of the rural Northwest, was trained as a geologist at Princeton and Harvard. Follow her on the web at rockdoc.wsu.edu and on Twitter @RockDocWSU. This column is a service of the College of Sciences at Washington State University.

ROCK DOC

By Dr. E. Kirsten Peters

Here's a classic poem that's dear to me, both for its manic intensity and its meaning in the natural world. It's so short you can memorize it right now and always have it at your disposal when you consider news of storms and their destruction.

"Safe upon the solid rock the ugly houses stand: Come and see my shining palace built upon the sand!"

The poet was Edna St. Vincent Millay. Her lines always come to my mind when heavy rains ravage the West and homes, bridges and roads are swept away by mudflows and flash floods.

The poem seemed apt as California recently experienced torrential rains that triggered debris flows in canyons. Cascading down the steep hillsides, boulders, trees, mud and water flowed rapidly downhill, imperiling houses and those who lived in them.

As usual, there were reports from the people who had built houses exactly where we geologists would predict the debris flows would be the worst. They had traded safety for the stunning views of living in the steep canyons of southern California. In so doing, they had not built upon the rock, but on the sands of impermanence. When the land above their houses started to move, they instantly knew the significance

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

1 - 4pm: The Dave Ramsey Show

4 - 7pm: The KAHl Afternoon News with Dave Rosenthal and the KAHl News Team

7 - 10pm: Into the Night with Tony Bruno

10pm - 12am: Poppoff with Mary Jane Popp

Thursdays 7pm - 9pm: Thursdays With Bassil

Saturdays

6 - 7am: A Time for Seniors

7 - 8am: The Swap Shop

8 - 9am: The KAHl Corral

9 - 10am: The Garden Guru

10 - 11am: Take Charge!

11am - 12pm: Your Life and Your Money

12 - 12:30pm: Study-Grow-Know

12:30 - 7pm: Big Cletus Country Music

7 - 8pm: A Way With Words

8 - 9pm: Rewind with Jimmy Jay

Sundays

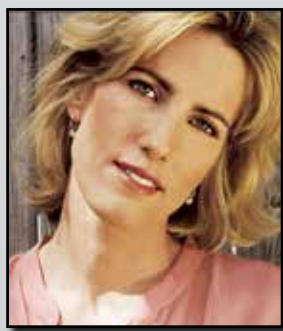
7:30 - 9am: Cruisin' Garage & Swap Meet

9am - 4pm: KAHl's Jammin' Juke box

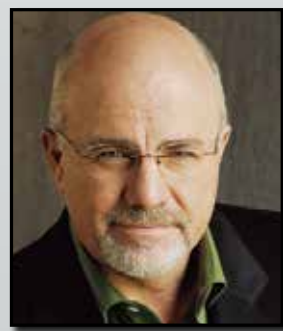
4 - 5pm: A Way With Words

5 - 8pm: The Insana Quotient

8 - 9pm: Hearts of Space



Laura Ingraham



Dave Ramsey



Mary Jane Popp



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Arts, Entertainment and Other Fun Things to do!

New Year Fitness Kickoff Party



Auburn – The Auburn Recreation District and Auburn Gymnastics Center invite families to jump into winter fitness fun. Auburn Gymnastics Center will offer gymnastics lessons as well as provide demonstrations while ARD will provide information on winter/spring activities and programs. This Kids Fit event will be held Saturday January 8 from 1 to 4pm. Youths ages 17 and younger are invited to participate with parental signature. Door prizes will be awarded, including two free months gymnastics as well as medals and ribbons to participants. The event is **FREE** at 11480 C Avenue, Auburn. Call (530) 823-2031 or 885-8461 ext. 15 for more information.

Rock 'n Roll Comes Alive

Placer County: On January 8th, take a magical journey back to the '70s and experience once again the group that made rock-n-roll come alive. Other tribute acts attempt to replicate Led Zeppelin's music, but only Heartbreaker can perform the full range of Led Zeppelin LIVE! onstage, including the most complex and challenging of music. Here's entertainment that's totally fresh, unique and full of energy. Heartbreaker's musicianship, sound replication, costumes and stage presence is the closest to the real Led Zeppelin yet. Enjoy all the hits including Stairway to Heaven, Whole Lotta Love, Ramble On, Dazed and Confused and so many more.

extremely talented and seasoned musicians who are able to capture the essence and sound of Led Zeppelin's music note for note. There is no need to use computer or tapes to recreate this music. That would be cheating their audiences. Heartbreaker plays everything live, the way it should be.

Although many bands can learn how to play a Led Zeppelin song, it takes high quality musicianship to do it tastefully. This means an intense focus and attention to detail—every harmony, every musical part has to be there. The sum of all these elements is a concert that provides nothing less than the greatest production of Led Zeppelin!

Heartbreaker is a group of four

The non profit South Placer

Heritage Foundation proudly presents this concert in the Blue Goose Event Center as a fundraiser for the renovation project of the historic fruit shed. The show is Saturday, January 8 at 7:30pm with doors opening at 6:00pm.

Information and tickets online at www.soplacerheritage.org or www.bluegooseeventcenter.com. The best buy is presale tickets at \$25 at Main Drug and Blue Goose Produce in Loomis. Tickets at the door are \$30. Start the new year off with a bang and support a regional icon.

Blue Goose Fruit Shed, 3550 Taylor Rd., Loomis.

Weight Management Chi Kung with Mariscela Alvarez



without the use of drugs, painful diets or tiring exercises. During class, you will practice conscious breathing, focused intention, body awareness and gentle movements designed to restore the natural flow of your chi (energy) and to manage your weight. This energizing routine regulates the digestive system by relieving the stress that shuts down digestion and holds fat, building core strength and increasing your body's metabolism. With intention and practice, you will be able to reach healthy weight without deprivation or stress, regulate unhealthy cholesterol levels, decrease

hypertension and much more.

Mariscela Alvarez, Chi Kung Instructor, is offering two FREE classes on Tuesday, Jan 11th at 6 pm and on Saturday, Jan. 15th at 10:30 am. Classes are held at the ARD – Teen Center: 123 Recreation Dr., Auburn. Regular classes start on Tuesday, Jan. 18th from 6 to 7 pm at the same location. Classes are held every Tuesday.

For additional information and to register for the free classes, call Mariscela at 530-863-0003 or ARD at 530-885-8461. Visit <http://www.auburnrec.com/adultfitness.html>

Auburn – Excess weight is the sign of imbalance, reducing life energy and vitality. The practice of Weight Management Chi Kung is a natural and non-invasive method to allow your body to manage your weight naturally



Members of the ARD Shotokan Karate class held at Recreation Park. Photo by Kurt Bertilson.

Auburn – ARD has an exciting line up for 2011 in your quest to get and stay fit. Beginning in January there will be a cornucopia of fitness programs in which you can participate. See what's happening for the kids by attending the Kids Fitness Kick Off at the Auburn Gymnastics Center January 8. There will be open gymnastics classes and demonstrations free to youths 17 and younger. ARD has added some new programs for kids to be featured at this event, including Karate, Junior Judo, Kid Fit and a 3 x 3 Junior and Senior High School Basketball League.

For stout of heart adults there is year round Cardio Kick Boxing that is offered up to three times per week at the Karate Do Studio. In February Master's Swimming and Triathlon Training begin at Recreation Park. If you want to exercise in the great outdoors check out the Wild Side of Auburn class or take a paddle on one of the Kayaking Adventures. Fitness classes in Judo, Shotokan Karate, Tai Chi, and Fencing are all available. For those of you who want to try something new, the instructors in Yoga, Chi Kung, and Pilates are offering free introductory classes.

Dance is great for all ages and provides a way to move while having fun. ARD has Ballet, Tap, Jazz, and Hip Hop classes for kids as young as 18 months. Adults have an even larger selection you can choose from including three levels of dance experience in Hula or Clogging. Some other favorites offered include: Belly Dance, Couples Dance Connection, Country Western, Salsa and Tango. For more information on these and many more programs for 2011, visit the website www.auburnrec.com or call 530-885-8461 ext.0.

Kids Fitness Kick Off
January 8 1-4pm
Auburn Gymnastics Center

Chi Kung
January 11 6-7pm
Recreation Park, Teen Center

Chi Kung
January 15 10:30-11:30am
Recreation Park, Teen Center

Yoga
March 29 6-7:30pm
Canyon View Community Center

Therapeutic Yoga
March 30 8-9:30am
Canyon View Community Center

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Films and DVDs for the Whole Family



by David Dickstein

Family Viewing at the Cinema

The Green Hornet
Opens Jan. 14, rated PG
greenhornetmovie.com

Seth Rogen, known for playing big-hearted doofuses in Judd Apatow comedies, is as green as action movies as his latest character. But that's who brings this masked superhero to contemporary moviegoers after starting in radio in the 1930s, then appearing in comic books, film serials and a network TV series.

Newspaper publisher by day, vigilante by night, Britt Reid (aka the Green Hornet) faces off against a city leader (Christoph Waltz) who has united all the gangs under his power. Jay Chou plays Kato, the obligatory sidekick, while Cameron Diaz is the obligatory pretty dame-slash-love interest

of "X-Men" and "Star Trek" fame thinks so. Based on the well-worn character from "One Thousand and One Nights" (aka "Arabian Nights"), the ages-old collection of Middle Eastern folk tales, the movie has Stewart narrating the story played out by a cast of nobodies. In the latest sendup, Sinbad travels to a desert of magic and creatures to save the first born of a sultan who has been kidnapped by an evil sorcerer. The trailer was skewered in its debut by fans at Comic-con, and deservedly so. This flick looks awful.

Family Home Entertainment

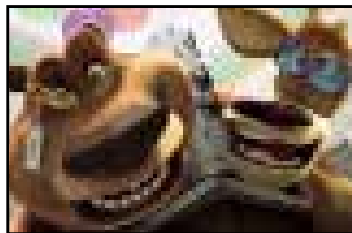
A Charlie Brown Valentine (ages 4 and up, now available, not rated): The good news for everyone's favorite blockhead is he has Peppermint Patty and Marcie wooing him. The bad news is Charlie Brown has eyes only for the Little Red-Haired Girl. Ah, love, Peanuts style. Grade: A-

H.R. Pufnstuf: Complete Series Collector's Edition (ages 5 and up, Jan. 18, not rated): Only 17 episodes were produced over two seasons, yet the wackiness and catchy theme song, plus then-teen idol Jack Wild of "Oliver!" fame, made Saturday morning so much fun from 1969-1971. The collector's edition is loaded with cool stuff to entice another generation of fans, including a bobblehead of the title creature, a life-size dragon and mayor of nutty Living Island. Grade: A-

Nanny McPhee Returns (ages 5-11, now available, PG): A box

office dud last fall, the sequel only made half of what the 2006 original brought in. What a shame. Like its predecessor, Emma Thompson reprises her anti-Mary Poppins, a homely, yet effective nanny who knocks sense into misbehaving children through discipline and magic with nary a spoonful of sugar. Maggie Gyllenhaal, Ralph Fiennes, Ewan McGregor and Maggie Smith head up a strong supporting cast. Grade: B+

Open Season 3 (ages 4-11, Jan. 31, not rated): The quality doesn't hold up to the theatrically released original, but for direct-to-video, this one ranks among the leaders in the herd of animated animal features. It's open season again for silly fun mixed with spunk and, ultimately, sweetness, when bear Boog joins a traveling circus and learns that home is where your heart is. These comical critters are likeable whatever your age. Grade: B+



Wobbly Wheels & Whistles! (ages 2-5, Jan. 4, not rated): Thomas' engine friend Scruff makes his debut in this DVD that includes four episodes from the "Thomas & Friends" series and two bonus features. As always, life lessons on friendship, teamwork and discovery are kept on track like the talking trains themselves. Grade: A-



Season of the Witch
Opens Jan. 7, rated PG-13
seasonofthewitchfilm.com

Oscar winner Nicolas Cage hasn't been in a well-reviewed movie in years, but maybe his critical slump will end with this supernatural thriller in which he plays a medieval knight who must defeat a devious witch to save the world from succumbing to the dark side. Before the ultimate battle, he and a trusted companion (Ron Perlman) are ordered by a dying cardinal to deliver a young peasant girl believed to be the witch responsible for the Black Plague decimating central Europe.

Sinbad: The Fifth Voyage
Opens Jan. 1, rated PG
sinbadthemovie.com

Do we really need another Sinbad movie? Patrick Stewart



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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.

B	L	A	S	T		O	L	D		S	T	A	R
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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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The Feds Want to Crush Your Business

Wake Up. The Government Does Not Love You.

Commentary by
Perry Hartline

Your Wallet - The muscular new mandate for Form 1099 was found two weeks after the Democrats passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Men and women were seining the river of words for toxic life forms. They found this one twitching in Section 9006 of the 2309 pages of the Democrat version of health care reform we now know as Obama Care. The researchers sifting through the sludge and muck gasped. It was as toxic as a Man O' War jelly fish, and it was just as aggressive and hard to stop as a coronary occlusion in the heart of small businesses and individuals. Oddly, this killer was first dredged up by Bush the Younger to track the money individuals and businesses were spending and earning, its tentacles would search for missed tax moneys. Evidently there was too much untaxed cash drifting around during Bush's reign. We can thank him for not unleashing it.

The new Form 1099 mandate is called the '1099 Rule.' On January 1, 2012, the 1099 rule will land on us like a ton of lead. It was supposed to start this year and was postponed. But in 2012 It will no longer be the innocuous 1099 we knew before the economy collapsed; before the Obama-Pelosi-Reid Troika began steering America to the left; before the looting started on Wall Street and in Congress; and before Obama Care began embedding itself on the national hard drive. The powerful new 1099 rule was sold as tax reform, but was in fact a trick to get Blue Dog Democrats to roll over and vote for the Troika's convoluted version of health reform. Bottom line? It was to fill in the financial gaps for funding Obama Care by patrolling, reporting and pinpointing the hidden economy: the people who work for cash, those missed, overlooked and unreported

dollars and small change the government hasn't counted, and tax it.

Rosy Scenario Wins Again

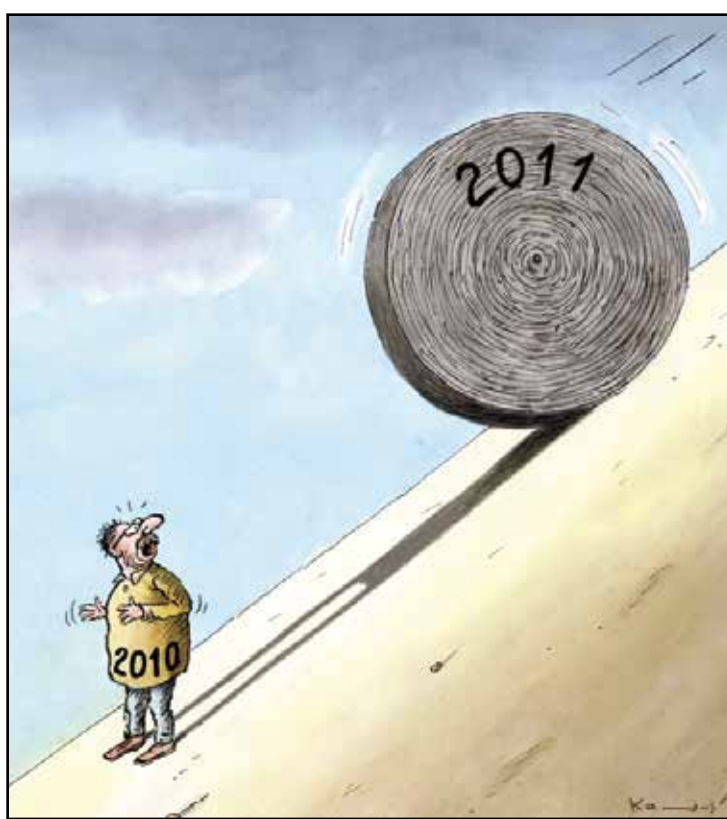
The yield was projected by the recently removed Democrat Congress to be \$19 billion over ten years. The Congressional Budget Office [CBO] claimed this was a smiley-face projection with too rosy a scenario. The IRS opposed the idea saying it seriously doubted the projected numbers and is probably not worth the effort, plus Congress didn't include hiring and training staff to administer an entirely new program, and the IRS stated the 1099 rule may not be enforceable.

President Obama and the Democrats in Congress shoved all complaints aside and demanded the new law be obeyed and enforced. As is usual with government financial projection, Rosy Scenario wins every time. And the most wondrous part of the plan is we're the ones who get to patrol report and police one another. We Americans will be detailing for the federal government how we spend our money more than we've ever done, and we'll be reporting on others. Like it or not, it's the law.

What the 1099 Rule Means for You

Let's illustrate how this works. Assume you've been laid off and are working from home. Sometimes you work as an independent contractor; you'll fill out the normal 1099 for the company you work for. On the same hand you work at home. Your office is there, and you regularly buy ink cartridges, paper, paper clips and so forth at Staples. If you spend \$600 or more you must report it to Staples and to the IRS. Staples is required to do the same for you.

Pretend you own a business. Every Friday you treat your crew to Round Table pizza. Better save the receipts, the IRS needs to see them. And of course at the end of the year Round



...and you think you got steam-rolled in 2010?

Table will send you a 1099. And do remember to give Round Table your 1099. Save your rent receipts and your bottled water receipts. If you buy a used delivery van, that will generate a 1099.

The Wall Street Journal said it well with this example of a small trucking company struggling with the new Form 1099 rules. Its office would have to collect hundreds of thousands of receipts from every gas station where its drivers filled up, determine where the drivers spent more than \$600, and then file countless forms with the IRS.

The coming Form 1099 rule is senseless, and an impediment to progress and efficiency. The burden will tie up and slow down the beast that bears the burden of pulling the wagon. The beast, already staggering under a broken economy, hopes

to get a little farther, hopes life will improve, and believes things will get better as an article of faith. Faith is what keeps him going. Yet those who ought to be clearing the road and encouraging the creature are instead piling on the wagon and doing political pantomime.

Forty million individuals, businesses, local governments and non-profit organizations will be affected by the 1099 Rule. The weight of this mandate will drive many people out of business because they can't take time to cover the myriad of 1099 forms for vendors and suppliers. The amount of paperwork is phenomenal and incessant, production will slow, spending will slow, imagination and creativity will shrink.

Never lose sight of the fact that the "1099 Rule" was put in place by a Democrat Congress to end their

100 year ache for national health care, something 70% of the country doesn't want; it was an enticement, a gimmick to mollify and to buy 'moderate' Democrat votes. Now there are no moderate Democrats left. That aside, the Democrats want the money to pay for our "free" health care. The so-called Progressive Democrats, the progs, could care less what harm they've done to small business.

The First Counter Attack

After the passage of Obama Care, California Congressman Dan Lungren, a Republican, immediately understood the 1099 Mandate danger. It wasn't only a money grab, it was also intrusion, control, and an elephantine burden on small business, and a job killer. Here was the Federal Government inserting itself into our lives, strolling behind us staring coolly over our shoulders each time we reach for our wallets, watching every transaction, counting our money. Last summer Lungren organized a counterattack. He was able to muster most of the House Republicans and found several moderate Democrats weary of being commanded by the progs now in command of the party to join his troop. When the case against broadening the grip on our wallets was made before congress, and the vote taken, it failed. Most Democrats and a majority of Republicans decided to keep the 1099 Rule. Democrats and Republicans see the 1099 Rule as a way of preventing Americans from hiding money from their government and capture the "underground" economy. The 1099 Rule became one of the projected income streams our government devised to fund Obama Care. If it doesn't work, so what, it doesn't matter? It helped pass the ponderous, inefficient, rationed and expensive health care plan the Democrats gave us as Christmas gift in 2009.

So far the Democrat Party's Franken Care has brought us the 1099 Rule and an expensive, limited access, rationed health care plan. It does not cover the poor and those who lack health care.

The Second Counterattack, Led by a Democrat

Senator Max Baucus of Montana, understanding the danger to small business, launched the last counterattack on the 1099 Rule in late November in the Senate. He was joined by Republican Mike Johanns of Nebraska, another harsh critic of the 1099 Rule. It wasn't the first time Baucus and Johanns had started a fight and demanded a repeal of the law together and separately. They knew the reason for the rule wasn't the issue, since most in Congress believe that much 'taxable money' changes hands without being reported because there's no third-party documentation. On November 29, the day of the vote, every Democrat and all but two Republican Senators voted not to overturn the 1099 Rule. And there it lies. They want the money. They need it. The real issue is how to replace the \$19 Billion Congress thinks is out there going untaxed. And with government's voracious appetite any revenue stream is welcomed.

In 2014 when we get our medical ID cards with our medical history on them, plus whether we own firearms, gold and silver and myriad other data about us, somehow this will help the feds find the money they need to finance the universal health care that will begin embracing and cuddling us in 2014.

So now it's up to the 112th Congress to get the job done this year. The question is will they? Or will we get more of the same from the Republicans?

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