

Placer Sentinel



We wish Our Readers a Merry Christmas



What's Happening Around Town with Loyce Smallwood

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Have You Been Following the Gold & Silver Market Lately?

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Volume 21 Issue 16

Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987

Second Issue of December, 2010

What if There Were No Mandarins in Placer County?

Tiny Insect Threatens California's Multi-Billion Dollar Citrus Industry



The mandarin's future is threatened as a tiny insect, the Asian citrus psyllid, moves into California. Inset: a close-up view of the mandarin bug infestation.

Placer County – The annual Mandarin Festival just wrapped up in Auburn, California, celebrating a thriving local mandarin production industry. USDA research has shown the health benefits of this golden orange citrus fruit, and people wait all year for mandarin season to arrive. However, the mandarin's future is threatened as a tiny insect, the Asian citrus psyllid, moves into California. The insect carries a disease deadly to citrus trees called Huanglongbing or HLB. Once a tree is infected with the disease, there is no cure. The fruit from infected trees becomes inedible and infected trees usually die with a few years.

The psyllid and HLB have caused devastation to citrus production in

Asia, India, parts of the Middle East, and South and Central America. Both are found in Louisiana, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.



Damage caused by the Asian citrus psyllid egg.

The insect and disease are ravaging Florida's citrus industry, which is losing 10-12% per year of their citrus production. Thus far, about

200,000 acres of Florida citrus has been lost. The psyllid is also found in Hawaii, Texas, and Southern California. Fortunately, HLB has not been found in California to date.

The National Academy of Sciences estimates that 100 million trees in 40 countries are affected by HLB. Major production areas such as Florida and Brazil may be able to temporarily mask the bitter-taste of some infected fruit because the fruit is processed for juice. Brazilian authorities estimate that once discovered, a citrus grove with HLB is rendered unprofitable within five years. California's citrus is primarily destined for fresh-market

consumption, and juicing is not an option.

"This pest threatens not only the ability of homeowners to grow citrus in their backyards, but also the entire California citrus industry, and for that reason, we need to be aggressive in our fight," said Ted Batkin, president of the California Citrus Research Board (CRB). "Increased trapping for the pest and testing for the disease are just a few of the things we are doing to protect California citrus..." The CRB is funding trapping in commercial orchards to complement urban trapping by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

The CRB is also continuing research to find ways to fight the bacteria itself. It has opened a diagnostic laboratory in Riverside to allow for large scale, rapid testing of psyllids and plant material for the disease. The CRB plans to open a second lab in the San Joaquin Valley this year.

Most detections of the Asian citrus psyllid in California have been in residential citrus. Homeowners are asked to learn to recognize the insect and regularly inspect new growth on their citrus trees. For more information and to find out what to look for, visit www.CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org. Most important to stop the spread of the insect, do not import citrus leaves or trees into your county from any other county, state or country.

Mandarin growers, home citrus growers, and consumers need to work together to prevent these pests from destroying the Mountain mandarin industry.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors and Friends Helping



Cooking noodles. Howard Fleming from Meadow Vista Lions and Tom Morse, executive chef at Giovanni's. Photo courtesy of Paula Mosqueda.

By Paula Mosqueda

Colfax – On Thursday evening, Nov. 18, 2010, Giovanni's Restaurant, of Colfax, burned to the ground. This tragic event sparked an out-pouring of good-will and support from Giovanni's patrons, friends, neighbors, and strangers, not only from Colfax, but from the surrounding areas.

Immediately, concern for the 27 displaced restaurant employees was paramount. Long time patrons gathered to make plans on how to give aid to the friends and neighbors who worked at the local gathering place. These patrons included Laura and Al Cea, Judy and Dan Coker, Barbra and Joe Conner, Alan Perrone, and Jeanne and Carl Wagner. They became the organizing committee.

On the following Monday, the 27 employees had a meeting to discuss their situation. To their surprise and delight, they were presented with all the food-stuffs for 27 Thanksgiving dinners.

The committee was just beginning. Donation jars were placed throughout the community, and a benefit dinner was in the works.

Food was donated. The Sierra Vista Community Center, of Colfax, donated the building. People from near and far offered their services.

On Dec. 12, 2010, everything came together. The Colfax High School football team directed parking. Dave Johnson, and the Meadow Vista Lions

Club cooked eighty pounds of spaghetti noodles, lots of garlic, tomato and meatballs and served up 40 loaves of bread for the over 600 supporters who came for dinner.

The Colfax Lions and Lionesses, and the Auburn 49er Lions Club took care of the thirsty crowd.

The evening included live music, provided by three local groups, Karaoke, raffles, auctions, and dancing. Donating their musical talents were the Brazen Huzzies & the Bad Boys, Jamal Walker & the Loo\$e Change Blues Band, and the Dyin' Breed.

Several diners related their stories about their visits to Giovanni's over so many years. Giovanni's will be missed and everyone hopes that it might be re-built.

At the end of the evening, friends and neighbors had opened their hearts and their wallets to raise over \$28,000 for the Giovanni's Employee Emergency Relief Fund. Donations are still being received. If you would like to aid in this effort, donations may be sent to the U.S. Bank, P.O. Box 1093, Colfax, Cal., 95713.

The organizing committee would like to thank each and every one involved with this endeavor. Witnessing the out-pouring of caring and support for friends and neighbors is enough to warm even the coldest heart.

DMV Announces New 2011 Motor Laws

Motorcycle Safety Course Required for Under-21 instruction permit applicants

Sacramento – 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



You STILL can't talk on your cellphone!

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.

Holiday Recipes Available at Placer Sentinel Website

Auburn – The Placer Sentinel is making dozens of recipes available to our readers just in time for the holiday season. You can find recipes from salads to entrees to desserts on our website under the recipe section on the homepage.

Our website includes hundreds of additional articles not found in the printed copy of the newspaper. They include articles on finance, family, travel, car care, beauty, consumer news, food, fashion and more. We bring you a complete "Sunday" paper product online every week. Check it out at PlacerSentinel.com.

49er Lions Plan 25th Annual Celebrity Chef Event



Pictured from left to right: Dennis Arieta, past president; Debra Oldzewski, past president; Paula Mosqueda, Club News Reporter; Norm Kendall, 1st Vice President.

By Paula Mosqueda

Auburn – For 24 years, the city of Auburn has enjoyed the culinary talents of its local celebrities, in the annual Celebrity Chefs Cooking for Community Service event. The evening is filled with enticing aromas and savory flavors of the edible creations of local, talented cooks. On March

3, 2011, the Auburn 49er Lions Club will once again host this delicious gala smorgasbord at the Placer Building of the Auburn Gold Country Fairgrounds.

Each year, the 49er Lions partner with another local nonprofit organization to raise funds which will be put back into our community. The 49er Lions are currently in search of such an organization. If you are a member of a

group that would like to be considered, please contact Norm Kendall at Auburn 49er Lions, P.O. box 5703, Auburn, Ca. 95604 and provide information about your group by Dec. 30, 2010.

49er Lion Norm Kendall, 1ST vice-president, is spearheading this upcoming event. He expects this silver anniversary gala to surpass all others. Kendall is extremely excited about this event and feels that the community will, in spite of challenging times, step up and support this worthy cause. Auburn has always been a supportive and generous community. His goal is to more than double the proceeds of last year's event.

If you would like to demonstrate your cooking talents and join the celebrity chefs on that evening, or purchase tickets, contact Norm at 530-613-8255. Donations for tickets are \$15.00.

The 49er Lions have been serving the Auburn community for over 40 years. If you would like to learn more about the activities of the 49er Lion Club, go to auburn49erlions@gmail.com.

A Kinder, Gentler World for All?

Commentary by Marilyn Jasper

When it comes to human nature, the vast majority of people are kind, compassionate and caring. In interacting with others, man's first instinct is to assist. From historical community barn raisings to social programs, we humans have a well-documented innate desire to help others.

For decades, that caring passion has evolved and expanded to encompass other animals. For example, our pets are now often considered integral parts of the family unit. During disaster rescue operations, people will risk losing their own lives rather than leave a beloved pet behind.

Although other countries, especially third world, may have different values as to what constitutes animal cruelty, most civilized countries ban the obvious, such as dog and cock fighting. In addition to outright cruelty or abuse laws, we have additional "neglect" and other laws that reflect our compassionate regard for animals.

In spite of well-defined laws, some animal activities continue and elicit an innate public or private outrage when they violate or infringe on our values or standards of animal welfare. The debate is fierce when it comes to rodeos (calf roping, steer wrestling), charreadas (steer tailing), piales (horse tripping), fox hunting (allowed in the U.S., but banned in England and elsewhere), live "coursing" (releasing hounds, often for coyote or bear, but pity the poor animal whose scent is crossed), circuses (training with bull hooks), and so many others. Unfortunately, though it is extremely painful and disturbing for most kind-hearted humans to bear witness to the abject cruelty of these activities; it is easier to ignore

them. The sanitizing, whitewashing, and hiding the truth by event promoters and participants serve to keep the public in the dark and their propensity for compassion subdued.

Animal Services and nonprofit Humane Officers do their best to enforce animal abuse and neglect laws. Additionally, a society's motivation to pass such animal welfare laws is justified by studies that show a direct correlation between animal cruelty and human abuse, which is a separate discussion but can be a subtle factor when enacting animal cruelty laws.

For growing numbers of humans, that ever-expanding animal passion has carried over to wildlife, especially as awareness grows of unacceptable practices. Hunting of wildlife by humans, whether by weapons, hounds, falcons, etc., is regulated by CA Department of Fish and Game (DFG) which is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2011 hunt season, and public comment is welcome. The public also has until December 1 to comment on the proposed State Game Refuge closures.

With hunting, an overriding doctrine is known as "fair chase," but it also is fraught with conflicting views. With the onslaught of high-tech lethal weaponry and debatable practices (laser rifle scopes with night vision capabilities, the use of "scents," tree stands, remote cameras to determine game locations and routes, and many other "modern techniques"), what constitutes "fair chase" may not be so obvious. Lately, the public has become aware of less-than-honorable hunting activities, such as: "Canned Hunts," where animals are bred (genetically manipulated), enclosed, or trapped, and so-called hunters pay for guaranteed kills under artificial

conditions; "Hunt Clubs" where game birds are raised in crowded pens and, on the day of a hunt, are "planted" in the fields in dazed states ("twirled" to confuse them to stay put); baiting or "chumming"; etc.

Increased public concern stems both from ethical treatment of animals to environmental impacts. We know how critically important species diversity is for sustaining life on the planet, which is partly why DFG is charged with protecting and preserving our natural resources, native fish, wildlife, plant species, and natural communities, for their intrinsic value and benefit to people. An understaffed cadre of California Game Wardens enforces regulations as best they can, but poaching and illegal hunting is rampant. One estimate of poaching is that for every legally killed animal, another one is killed illegally; but we may never know the full impacts of poachers.

If animal issues are of concern, the public must become involved. Attend local, county, and state commission meetings to become aware of the issues. Participate in DFG's public opinion polls and comment on legal documents. Pay attention to both anti- and pro-animal legislation, laws, and ordinances that will be introduced in 2011 (on local, state and federal levels). Help ensure enforcement of existing measures, such as Proposition 2 (mandating that chickens, calves, and pigs have humane housing conditions). Insist that the District Attorney rigorously prosecute violations of local and state laws.

Whether your Thanksgiving is vegan, vegetarian, or otherwise, best wishes for a kind and gentle holiday.

Marilyn Jasper is Chair of the Public Interest Coalition.

Workers Assert Constitutionally Protected Rights after Demands

From The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation

Sacramento – (December 20, 2010) – A Sutter Roseville Medical Center healthcare professional has filed federal labor charges against a local union for coercing her and her colleagues into paying forced union dues.

With free legal aid from National Right to Work Foundation attorneys, Mary Massen filed the unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board regional office in San Francisco.

Because California does not have Right to Work protections for its workers, Massen, who elects to

refrain from formal union membership, is still forced to pay union fees as a condition of employment. However, because of a National Right to Work Foundation-won Supreme Court precedent in *Communication Workers v. Beck*, she cannot be compelled to pay the portion of union dues used for the union's political, lobbying, and member-only activities. Union officials are also legally obligated to inform workers of these rights and to provide workers with an independently verified audit of chargeable and non-chargeable expenses.

Service Employees International Union (SEIU) United Healthcare Workers – West union officials

refuse to provide the Center's nonmember employees with the disclosure Beck requires. SEIU United Healthcare union officials also require the workers to annually object, a tactic designed to force workers into paying full union dues. Foundation attorneys defeated the annual objection requirement of another union before the NLRB earlier this year.

Additionally, this union requires employees who choose not to join the union to provide their social security numbers to refrain from supporting the union officials' non-bargaining expenses, further discouraging workers from exercising their rights.

The use of social security numbers by union bosses to retaliate against workers who refuse to toe the union line is not without precedent. In an ongoing case, Foundation attorneys are assisting 16 employees in North Carolina whose social security numbers and other personal information were publicly posted by union officials in apparent retaliation for exercising their right to not join the union.

"It is unconscionable for union officials to require employees to give away sensitive personal information for no other reason than to discourage them from exercising their constitutional rights" said Patrick Semmens, Legal Information Director of the National Right to Work Foundation. "California needs a Right to Work law to protect workers from these forced unionism abuses in the future."

The National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization providing free legal aid to employees whose human or civil rights have been violated by compulsory unionism abuses. The Foundation, which can be contacted toll-free at 1-800-336-3600, is assisting thousands of employees in nearly 200 cases nationwide. Its web address is www.nrtw.org.

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Serving Auburn and Placer County since 1987



Publisher—Paul V. Scholl

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THANK A VETERAN TODAY



Corley Earns Sierranaders Award

From Clifford Johnson

Auburn - Each year one member of our local barbershop singing chorus, the Sierranaders, receives an award called "Barbershopper Of The Year" (BOTY). This year, Clifford Johnson, the outgoing BOTY, presented the plaque to Corley Phillips. While being presented with the award, Corley was given thanks for his

dedication to this uniquely American art form of harmony singing, and for his contributions to the group. Any man that likes to sing is invited to come to our practice at 7PM on Tuesday evenings in Auburn to join in the fun and camaraderie of harmony singing- call Vern Bagby @ 530-2683405 or visit the website www.sierranaders.com



Clifford Johnson, the outgoing BOTY, presenting the plaque to Corley Phillips

Where the Jobs Went

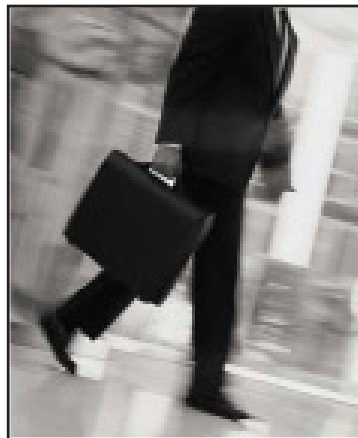
Commentary by Henry Daniels, Whiskey & Gunpowder

As we head into the Holidays, with no signs that things are ever going to get better, some news was recently released that casts an interesting, and gloomy, light on why there are no jobs.

If there is one common theme I've heard from friends who still have jobs over the last two years, it's that they are working harder than ever and making the same or less than they used to. Personally, I'm self-employed, and while I work 15 to 20 hour days, seven days a week, it hasn't been in vain; the last two years have been my best ever.

Today, I heard a report on corporate profits and amazingly (or not) the quarter has been the most profitable in corporate history since they started keeping records on such things over 60 years ago.

The math is simple. If a corporation can get by with 50 to 65 percent fewer employees while holding production steady, they will make a lot more money. So what if people have to work two or three times harder than they did a few years ago? If they don't like it, there are ten people standing in line to take their place.



This means there's no incentive for corporations to hire. None. At least not until one of three watershed events occur.

The first watershed will be when the workers productivity starts to falter. The truth is that the only way work is getting done on time these days is because the workers are forced to take shortcuts to meet deadlines and quotas. It is already showing up in the quality of products, things are not made as well or last as long as they did just a few years ago. The failure rate is getting alarming on car parts, computer components, and customer service.

The second watershed event will be when the workers decide they are tired of being exploited, and if anyone else wants their job they're welcome

to it. We will see worker slowdowns similar to those popular in Europe. Suddenly, corporate profits will be jeopardized.

The third watershed event will be when corporations no longer have anyone left to sell to. In other words, if the number of unemployed keeps rising, at some point there will no longer be anyone left to buy things until they get employed again. At this point corporate survival will dictate the need to hire people if only to continue selling their products.

Last week, we talked about how one of our first indications of where things are going would be the Black Friday and Cyber Monday's sales figures. By all accounts, sales this year were basically flat compared to last year. This argues quite forcibly that status quo is where we are stuck for a while.

My guess is we won't see new jobs for at least a year, maybe two. There will be no trickle down job creation. It's going to take something more visceral to stimulate job creation.

We've become a nation fixated on short-term quotas while we ignore the long-term consequences of such actions. I've never held that to be a way to run anything: not your life, not your personal finances, not corporate policy.



Around Town

with Loyce Smallwood

shelter in North Auburn.

Next door, feast your eyes on a dazzling selection of home furnishings and accessories at Eclectic Home where Manager Michele Smith oversees a vast trove of con-signed treasures including framed art and ceramics in the newly added gallery.



Ceramic Fish by Artist Tony Natsoulas

Want to buy/sell/trade books? Visit published author/co-owner James Van Eaton who'll share his enthusiasm about his newest book. You'll be awed at the overwhelming selection of books on every imaginable subject including fiction, non-fiction, history and biography. Upstairs you'll discover a trove of books on crafts, beading, pottery, wood, and glass including books on baking and cooking.

Ready for a real bakery treat? Travel up Lincoln Way to Gimme Cake Too bakery where you can relax in this colorful eatery and enjoy hot coffee and a sweet treat all while enjoying people watching streetside, DT Auburn.



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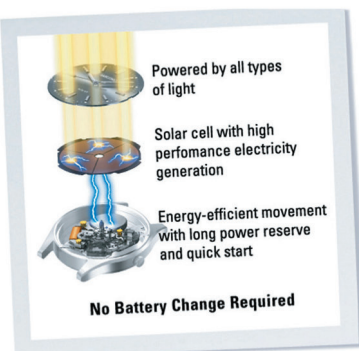
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Time to Derail High Speed Shake-Down of Taxpayers

Commentary by
Jim Nielsen,
Assemblymember,
2nd District
California State Legislature

During these extremely difficult budget times, rooting out waste in the spending of your tax dollars must be a top priority. There's no better way to get started than to end the boondoggle that is known as California's yet-to-be constructed high-speed rail system.

This system would connect San Francisco and Southern California. While a nice luxury to have, it's not worth the effort just so we can say to our neighbors we are "greener" than them. Despite being given \$10 billion in bonds by the voters in 2008, the California High-Speed Rail Authority has little to show for it other than being a sugar daddy for high-priced bureaucrats and media consultants. Not one inch of track has been laid.

Completing the project is now estimated to cost \$43 billion, which would make it one of the nation's most expensive public works projects. The final price tag could soar to \$80 to \$100 billion because of the state's poor credit rating and likely cost overruns.

The additional money that will be spent on high-speed rail can be better spent on real infrastructure needs that would benefit all Californians for generations. For example, we can repair potholes on our streets, provide storage for our long term water supply needs, or expand existing highways. These investments would serve the

millions and the generations—a much wiser investment than spending billions to build a train network that may serve only a few thousand commuters.

Yet for all the money that it has spent, the High-Speed Rail Authority can't even properly document some of its expenses. In fact, in an audit conducted by the non-partisan State Auditor in April, it found millions spent with little or no accountability.

For example, staff paid at least \$4 million of invoices from contractors without having evidence that they had performed the invoiced work. The Authority also developed a business plan that would spend \$17 to \$19 billion in federal funds, even though it has only secured about \$2.9 billion from the federal stimulus program.

Revelations like these are just the tip of the iceberg in the report appropriately titled, "High-Speed Rail Authority: It Risks Delays or an Incomplete System Because of Inadequate Planning, Weak Oversight, and Lax Contract Management."

As if to double-down on their questionable decision-making, the Authority's board recently voted to go ahead with building a "train to nowhere" that would connect the San Joaquin Valley prison town of Corcoran to the small community of Borden. It will cost \$4 billion to build and not even include actual locomotives or passenger cars!

All of this spending sounds eerily familiar to other public project boondoggles where taxpayers had to pay much more than the originally advertised price tag. Take for example the

construction of Los Angeles' Red Line, which ultimately cost taxpayers there \$4.5 billion (instead of the projected \$1.45 billion) because of cost overruns, mismanagement, political infighting and an economic recession. It led voters to block further use of local sales tax revenue for subway construction. Despite its completion, the subway has done little to wean L.A. residents from their cars.

Whatever its advantages, we cannot afford high speed rail when we are faced with addressing a \$6 billion deficit in the current budget year, and a projected \$26 billion dollar deficit in the next budget year. Such a deficit threatens essential state priorities and could lead to higher taxes for families statewide. Instead of building a fancy train, why not devote our resources to saving our schools and keeping dangerous criminals behind bars? This is why I have co-authored Senate Bill 22 with Senator Doug LaMalfa, to send this issue back to the voters, and ask them to repeal the funding for this high speed rail to nowhere.

It's high time to end the high-speed boondoggle now before additional taxpayer dollars are wasted. I hope the people and my legislative colleagues will take a second look at this project and decide that incurring more debt for such a dubious purpose is not the best use of our limited resources.

Assemblyman Nielsen represents the Second Assembly District, which includes: Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, Tehama and Yolo counties.



ROCK DOC

By Dr. E. Kirsten Peters

It's that time of year once again.

As a geologist, I'm not thinking of the holiday season when I note this time on the calendar. What's impressed me lately is the clear start of the annual cycle in which we benefit from a recharging of the nation's water supply.

In late November, while I was digging my pickup truck out of 14 inches of snow, I had time to meditate on the importance of this time of year. Not long after my shoveling effort, the Midwest was hit by major snowfalls. Now other parts of our geographically complex nation have had substantial rains.

Both snow and rain are different ways of spelling water, of course. Roughly 10 inches of snow are the same as an inch of rain. I say "roughly" because snow can be dry powder, in which case it doesn't have much water content, or sloppy stuff that weighs a heck of a lot more because it's got more water in each scoop of my shovel.

There are two basic ways that significant parts of the country will depend on this winter's snow and rainfall well down the road. That's

Recharging the Battery Made of Water

worth a moment's consideration, because we're just as dependent on water as we are on energy.

First, winter snows at high elevations build up over time. Near the start of the summer, those snows melt. Water enters creeks that flow down into larger streams. That's why a healthy snowpack at high elevations leads to plentiful water in rivers during the summer. With current climate trends in the western U.S., snowpack runoff may happen earlier in the spring and summer – with important consequences for our ability to generate electricity and meet peak irrigation needs later in the warm season.

But there's a second, more invisible, way that precipitation is crucial to our water supply. In several regions of the country, aquifers hold water beneath our feet and supply the water that we all depend on.

Here's the story.

As we all can observe, rain and snowmelt soak into the soil. What we can't easily see is that part of the water in the soil continues to move downward. It's a slow process, but over time water trickles into the little cracks and tiny holes that exist in the solid rock that's beneath the soil.

If you drill a well down through the soil of my backyard and into the rock under it, you'd reach the water table. That's the depth beneath which water flows into open holes in the Earth, like wells.

Rock doesn't hold a lot of water. Imagine you could look at some of the rock under my house that's beneath the water table, a cubic piece of solid stone that was one foot on each side.

Only a thimbleful of water would flow from that rock into a well, nowhere near enough to fill my coffeemaker each morning.

But a good well gets the benefit of the water that's stored in huge volumes of rock. And each morning I fill my coffee pot with water exactly like that, what geologists call groundwater from a deep aquifer.

All aquifers have to be recharged. That's what is happening at this time of year. Snow and rain are trickling down into soil. Over time, water will move into the rock underneath the soil, recharging the systems on which so much depends.

It's an unfortunate fact that we are pulling water out of major American aquifers at a faster rate than Mother Nature recharges them. The day will come that we will have to change our way of doing business. It's not that we will abruptly have no water at all to use, but that we'll have to engineer more solutions to meet our needs, deal with new environmental impacts, and end up spending a lot more money for water than we're used to doing.

It's impressive that such a simple substance as water gives us so much we really need to think about. For the New Year let me raise with you a toast of cold, clear water – an often overlooked but precious gift.

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](https://twitter.com/RockDocWSU). This column is a service of the College of Sciences at Washington State University.

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WEDDINGS

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Reward Offered for Church Vandalism Arrests

From the Office of Sheriff Edward N. Bonner

Foresthill - A cash reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest or arrests of those responsible for vandalizing and burglarizing a church in Foresthill December 13.

The Placer County Sheriff's Office is investigating the case and Placer County Crime Stoppers is offering up to \$1,000 for anonymous tips.

According to Sgt. William Walton, commander of the Foresthill substation, vandals entered the New Hope Lutheran Church, where Forest Charter School students were preparing for a performance.

They destroyed property and stole numerous items. Some of the stolen items were found in a shack about 50 yards behind the school in a forested area.

Witnesses reported seeing a young male riding away from the church on a bicycle shortly after the crime was discovered.

Anyone with information on this crime is urged to contact either the Placer County Sheriff's Office at (530) 889-7800 or Placer County Crime Stoppers at 800-923-8191. By calling Crime Stoppers, callers remain anonymous and are eligible for up to \$1,000 if the information leads to an arrest or arrests.

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Man Goes "TOAD-AL" at High School Reunion

BEXAR COUNTY - After using Thera-Gesic® on aching joints, Tom W. attended last Friday's reunion where, according to 5 amused and concerned classmates, he went TOAD-AL. He squatted, extended both arms to the ground, arched his back and did his best to hop numerous times while croaking.

When asked to explain his behavior, he painlessly replied, "None of your dang business!"

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By Marlys Norris, Christian Author

Some people spend a whole lifetime trying to find the missing ingredient in their life. They fill their lives with material things, events, wealth, travel, work, people, socials, sports, drugs, sex, even religion trying to find the ingredient that will make them feel complete. Shouldn't they believe that one of those things would satisfy? Possibly for a short duration of time any one of those things give a sense of euphoria, but it doesn't last. Not one of those things gives them the kind of inner satisfaction, meaning and purpose they are seeking.

What's Missing?

Depending on their temperament and personality they will jump from one to another, continually trying to fill that void in their life. Others may accept their lot and live in a state of denial but miss the mysterious one simple act that would give their life that special ingredient. And some will recognize their dilemma and diligently seek answers.

Will they find what's missing? The answer is not complicated but often too simple for many. A simple answer can be found yearly in the story as it is replayed in the church and news with the yearly celebration birth of baby Jesus (Christmas) and 33 years later, (Easter) His sacrificial death on the Cross. His Son's shed blood purchased and washed away mankind's acts of sin and reconciled us back to the Father. Jesus was the Father's gift to us and when we accept His Son, we become Jesus gift back to the Father.

When God created man/woman he placed an empty place in each of us for the residence of His Holy

Spirit to help every individual in their journey to "know and love" Him with their heart and soul. A simple willful act and many miss ever discovering it because of their rebellion and negligence. The void or empty place purposely left in each of us by God. This empty unfulfilled place can only be filled when a person accepts Jesus death on the Cross as payment for their wrongful acts (sin) and then, invite God's Son (Jesus) into a their heart and life. God's Words says "You must be born-again not of water but of the spirit to enter the Kingdom of Heaven". Just kneel where you are now and ask Jesus to come into your heart and life and you will be born-again into a brand new life. (John 3) and heaven is Father's gift for accepting His Son, Jesus Christ.

Marlys Johnsen Norris, Author
Marlys5934@sbc global.net
"Intimacy Begins Going God's Way"
"God Moves Mountains, It was a Miracle"



Commentary by Lee Hamilton

I've never been able to figure out why Congress seems so interested in giving up power. When you're sworn in as a member on Capitol Hill, you take an oath to uphold the Constitution, which places Congress first in the firmament of national governance and makes it coequal to the presidency. Yet over the years, members of Congress have repeatedly handed the executive branch more power, in everything from going to war to budget-making to designing the specifics of financial-industry reform.

Capitol Hill's latest exercise in self-shrinkage is its proposed ban on earmarks. These are the moves by individual legislators to direct federal dollars — usually in the form of spending or tax breaks — to specific projects, interests, or companies. The unsuccessful attempt to fund Alaska's infamous "Bridge to Nowhere" was through an earmark. On the other hand, earmarks were used to develop the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., the Human Genome Project, and the Predator drone missile. They also may well have helped fund the highway improvement you drive to work on, the flood control project that protects your home, or the federal contract that keeps some of your neighbors employed.

You would think, given the rhetoric we've been treated to recently on earmarks, that they're a significant part of federal spending. Not even close. As Daniel Inouye, the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, pointed out recently, earmarks make

Congress Keeps Ceding Power to the

up less than one-half of one percent of the total federal spending. We have a \$1.3 trillion deficit, he told fellow senators, and "if we accept this proposal to eliminate all earmarks and take the second necessary step of actually applying the savings to deficit reduction, the total deficit for the United States would still be \$1.3 trillion."

There is no question that the earmark process has been misused and abused over the years. Members have curried favor with powerful constituents, steered federal funds to prominent campaign contributors, and supported projects whose benefit to their districts, let alone their country, was dubious at best. All of this was usually done in total secrecy.

But any dispassionate look at earmarks would suggest that most of them have been useful and defensible. Over the last few years, moreover, Congress has made the earmark process more transparent, detailing members' requests so that the names of their sponsors are public information and readily available.

This trend toward transparency should be encouraged — indeed, I would argue that if you want to sponsor an earmark, you should also be willing to stand up in your chamber and defend it in the face of an up-or-down vote, rather than allow it to be slipped into some massive spending bill where it disappears from sight. Congress needs to make progress on this front, just as it could do a better job of figuring out where a particular project ought to fit in terms of national priorities — and not simply allow it to rise to the top because the member supporting it has seniority. Still, these ought not be fatal flaws.

The most important argument in favor of earmarks is that they give members of Congress — the people in the federal government who are most intimately familiar with the needs of

their home districts and states — the ability to make sure that needed projects get attention. Because make no mistake: money on roads, bridges, transit projects, sewer lines, flood-control projects, and community centers is going to get spent. The only question is whether the decision on where it's spent gets made in at least some cases by our elected representatives, or exclusively by federal bureaucrats who may or may not be familiar with the communities they're affecting.

During a recent debate over the proposed earmarks ban, Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin had this to say: "When a Federal agency announces that a facility should be built in Nebraska rather than Texas or Alabama or whether a defense contract should go to a company in Colorado or Arizona rather than Rhode Island or Ohio, there may be no accountability to voters for those decisions. The employees of Federal agencies are...good people, but they are not elected. They do not meet with constituents. They cannot possibly understand the needs of local communities as well as those who stand for election." He's right.

In the end, then, the debate over earmarks is not about improving the federal deficit, it's about power over the federal purse-strings and whether to give the President and the federal officials who work for him exclusive power to decide where money gets spent. If Congress yet again opts to diminish itself while strengthening the President, you've got to wonder how much further Congress will go in handing over more power to the President and rejecting its constitutional role as a coequal branch of government.

Lee Hamilton is Director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years

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For Solution See Page 7.

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The Right Role for Insurance Exchanges

Commentary by Peter Pitts

In October, the Department of Health and Human Services closed its "comment period" for the new regional health insurance exchanges — a major component of the Obama health reforms.

As state officials implement their plans, they should strive to ensure that these exchanges don't crowd out free market insurance mechanisms. While the options available on these exchanges will work well for many people, a substantial slice of the patient population will find them unsuitable.

Preserving a vibrant private insurance market in addition to the exchanges will maximize choice and enable people to find the insurance plan that best fits their particular needs. When the President said that people who are happy with their insurance "can keep it," we should keep him to his word. Choice is crucial.

The thinking behind the exchanges is sound. Large employers can negotiate good health insurance rates because they have a big workforce to spread risk. Individuals and small businesses don't have that advantage, and therefore they end up paying significantly higher rates than their larger counterparts.

Exchanges will help level the playing field. Participating insurers will offer a standard set of plans that

must conform to specific government standards. Groups of people that typically have difficulty finding affordable insurance, including the self-employed, unemployed, and smaller firms, can buy the standard plans through the exchange.

In this way, these groups can pool their purchasing power and get lower rates. The federal government will also provide subsidies for lower income consumers.

Exchanges go live in 2014. If a state hasn't started the process of establishing one by 2013, the federal government will take over the responsibility and run the exchange itself.

The healthcare law imposes an array of legal requirements on insurers that participate in the exchanges. Insurers must include a package of to-be-defined "essential" benefits in all plans offered. Insurers are also prohibited from charging deductibles exceeding \$2,000 for individuals and \$4,000 for families.

The exchanges only require insurers to offer two types of coverage. "Silver" plans covering 70 percent of all medical costs. And "Gold" plans covering 80 percent.

Many consumers will benefit from these newfound choices. But not everyone will find them suitable.

There are people who will want even more expansive coverage, say a "Platinum" plan covering 90 percent of costs. And there will be patients who want to risk higher out-of-pocket

expenses for lower upfront charges, and are happy with a "Bronze" plan covering just 60 percent of costs.

And still there are other demographic groups who won't find any of these options ideal. The young and healthy typical don't require much medical care, and just want catastrophic coverage in case of an emergency.

As is, the exchanges aren't required to offer these other options. And the federally mandated minimum benefits effectively prohibit the exchanges from offering cheap, stripped-down plans.

Healthcare coverage isn't one-size-fits-all. There needs to be an insurance market outside the government exchanges to ensure people with unique plan preferences can get the coverage they want.

The new insurance exchanges will reduce the number of uninsured, and should decrease the price of coverage for many patients.

But policymakers and private healthcare stakeholders need to work together to ensure that the exchanges don't become the only way to get health insurance. The more options patients have, the more likely they are to get the coverage that best fits their individual medical needs and financial means.

Peter J. Pitts is President of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest and a former FDA Associate Commissioner.

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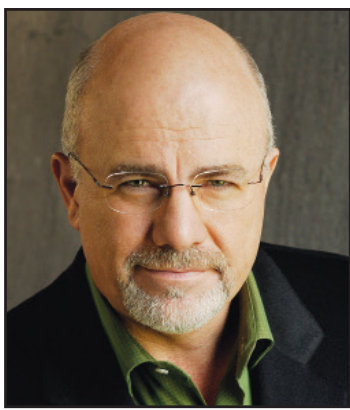
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Dave Says

and with the right plan in place you'll make more money, too!

Now, doing this will probably result in a temporary pay cut. But even if he goes from making \$100,000 to \$50,000 that first year, you guys can adjust your lifestyle and still live comfortably. You can get by on way less than a hundred grand, and if needed, you can live for a little while off bits and pieces of that big pile of cash you've got in savings.

I can't imagine spending my entire life doing something I hate. If every Monday morning looks and feels like you're having a root canal, then it's time to find something else. Just make sure you've got a plan, and be smart about it!

- Dave

Refinance for a Lower Payment?

Dear Dave,

How do you feel about people refinancing their homes? Is it smart to refinance a house in order to have a lower mortgage payment?

- Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

No, it's not. But it is smart to refinance a house to get a lower interest rate. By doing this, you pay off the home faster.

Think about this. Right now, with a 15-year fixed rate mortgage and one point paid, you can get an interest rate under four percent. That's awesome! Let's say you have a \$300,000 mortgage, and you refinance from six percent to four percent. A two percent savings equals \$6,000 a year, and that's \$500 a month in interest saved. In my book, that's worth doing!

So, refinancing definitely makes sense in cases where you're going to stay in the home a long time

and you get a lower interest rate. Good question!

- Dave

The First Team Meeting

Dear Dave,

Our company is about to have its first-ever employee meeting. Do you have any suggestions on how to conduct something like this

- Brooke

Dear Brooke,

If you have an existing company, and you've never had an employee meeting in the past, I think the first one should be spent explaining why you've decided to have employee meetings.

We have staff meetings every week with all 300 team members, mainly for the purpose of communication between the different departments and divisions. We cheerlead when things are going right, and lots of times I'll read email letters bragging on various team members.

Now, no company is perfect, and sometimes there's housecleaning to be done. That kind of stuff isn't always pretty, but we tell the truth and shoot straight with the team about these issues. Occasionally, I'll even use one of the meetings to teach on the principles of the way we run the company. This can cover accounting, marketing, or even the concepts of unity and loyalty.

Just do things gradually, and don't hit your team with too much right off the bat. You might even take suggestions from your team as to what they feel would be beneficial in your meetings!

- Dave

For more financial help please visit daveramsey.com.



GET OVER THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are upon us! Oh my gawd!!! The horrors return like your mother-in-law criticizing the centerpiece you spent hours creating or grandma thinking the gravy is too watery and on and on. Can you cope? Sandra Harper thinks you can, if you find some humor in the holidays with her book "Over The Holidays."

Sandra has seven strategies to survive the holidays:

- 1) If your sister or best friend is one of those gals who LOVE Christmas, then let THEM do your shopping and cooking.
- 2) Take a second job that leaves you no time for holiday fussing, and extra cash for the things you'd rather be doing.
- 3) Have dinner out (and margaritas) with your girlfriends with the promise of no gifts and split the bill
- 4) Go to the movies as long as it's not a film ABOUT the holidays.
- 5) Make yourself tea every afternoon (spike, if needed), and enjoy

POPOFF!

with Mary Jane Popp

with any Christmas cookies that have landed in your house. Or treat yourself to something you REALLY like from your local bakery. Chocolate is always good.

6) Create your own seasonal cocktail and spend the greater part of December perfecting it...preferably with a hunky Santa.

7) Read "Over the Holidays" by Sandra Harper.

And perhaps the best way to approach the holidays is with a sense of humor. And Sandra takes it to the max with Vanessa's (one of her main gals in the book) Emergency Bag for surviving the holidays. Have these things handy:

Extra strength aspirin

Coupon for free cheese pizza

Magazine article: "How to Create a Meaningful Holiday in Five Easy Steps"

Single serving of Chardonnay

Tin of Jelly Bellies

Lots of Kleenex

Let's face it, we don't have the staff that Martha Stewart has to create all she does, and who cares. I thought Christmas was a season of love and sharing...even if it's just a cup of cocoa and a cookie. Or you can prepare some of Vanessa's Cinnamon Rolls. The recipe is pretty simple, and according to Sandra, you don't have to be a master bakery chef to

do it. Gotta' have something for the home-baked school potluck anyway.

Here goes:

1 package of refrigerated biscuits

Handful of chopped nuts

1/2 cup sugar

1 teaspoon cinnamon

Loads of melted butter

Then :

- 1) Grease an 8" round cookie pan with some melted butter. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- 2) Separate biscuits and nestle them together in the baking pan.
- 3) Combine sugar and cinnamon
- 4) Brush loads of butter over biscuits and then sprinkle liberally with the sugar mixture and the nuts.
- 5) Bake 20 minutes or until brown.

Serves 6-8, and will satisfy that potluck requirement with not too much fuss.

And of course, you need to test at least one roll with a cup of java and a great book in a comfy chair!

See!!! It's not that hard. A little humor and a good attitude will help you make it through the insanity. Check out Sandra's website at www.sandraharper.us for more tips. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

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

State Announces \$1.4 Billion for Shovel-Ready School Construction Projects

Substantial Job Creation Anticipated Statewide

Sacramento - (Business Wire) - The State Allocation Board (SAB) announced that it has allocated \$1.4 billion for "shovel-ready" school construction projects across the state. These state matching funds will help finance 442 school construction projects within 137 school districts, resulting in substantial job creation.

"The action taken at the December 15th Board meeting represents the largest round of funding for California K-12 school construction projects since 2008," said SAB Chair Cynthia Bryant. "By granting funding first to shovel-ready projects, we give a boost to the economy by providing much needed school facility funds that help create construction jobs in communities across California."

The construction dollars approved

represent the second round of funding approved under accelerated funding rules approved by the SAB in May. The \$408 million allocated in August under the initial round was recently distributed to 78 school construction projects within 42 school districts.

In order to qualify for priority funding, participating school districts certified that within 90 days of receiving an apportionment, they would have local matching funds, usually 50 percent of the total project cost, in hand, and at least half of their construction contracts in place. School districts in financial hardship were also able to compete for the priority-ordered funding to purchase sites or begin design work.

Prior to the approval of the accelerated Priorities in School Construction Funding rules, apportionments were

granted based on the receipt and approval dates of complete funding applications, or on a first in, first out basis. Each approved project had up to 18 months to request release of the State funds.

The SAB is responsible for determining the allocation of voter-approved school construction bonds, as well as the administration of the School Facility Program, the State Relocatable Classroom Program and the Deferred Maintenance Program. The SAB is the policy level body for programs administered by the Office of Public School Construction, which provides the staff and support for state financing of school facilities. Funds for these projects are provided by bonds authorized under Propositions 1D, 47 and 55.

THE VOICE OF THE FOOTHILLS

AM 950 KAHl

Community Involved

Live at AM 950-Live at www.KAHl.com

Weekdays

- 6am-9am: The KAHl Morning News with Barry Stigers and the KAHl News Team
- 9am-Noon: The Laura Ingraham Show
- Noon-1pm: The KAHl Noon News Plus with Mary Jane Popp and the KAHl News Team
- 1pm-4pm: The Dave Ramsey Show
- 4pm-7pm: The KAHl Afternoon News with Dave Rosenthal and the KAHl News Team
- 7pm-10pm: Into the Night with Tony Bruno
- 10pm-12am: Poppoff with Mary Jane Popp

Thursdays 7pm - 9pm: Thursdays With Basil

Saturdays

- 6am-7am: A Time for Seniors
- 7am-8am: The Swap Shop
- 8am-9am: The KAHl Corral
- 9am-10am: The Garden Guru
- 10am-11am: Medically Speaking Radio
- 11am-12pm: Retirement Catch-Up
- 12pm- 1pm: Your Life and Your Money
- 1pm-1:30pm: Study-Grow-Know
- 1:30am-7pm: Big Cletus Country Music
- 7pm-8pm: A Way With Words
- 8pm-9pm: Rewind with Jimmy Jay

Sundays

- 7am-7:30am: Bayside Auburn Church Service
- 7:30am-9am: Cruisin' Garage & Swap Meet
- 4pm-5pm: A Way With Words
- 5pm-8pm: The Insana Quotient
- 8pm-9pm: Hearts of Space

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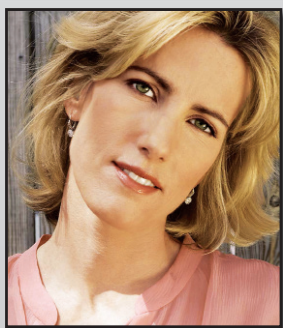
KAHl is also the foothills home of Sacramento Kings Basketball, Oakland A's Baseball, San Jose Sharks Hockey, and Oakland Raiders Football.

Most of our locally produced programs are available for replay or podcast download at the 'Audio On Demand' page at www.kah1.com.

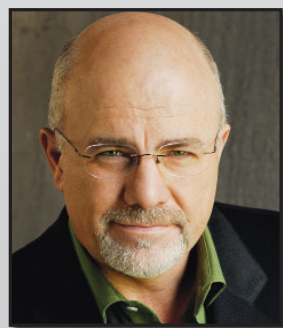


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KAHl broadcasts every Placer Hillman Football game live on the air and live on the internet. If you missed last week's game it is available for podcast download at our "Audio on Demand" page at www.kah1.com



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Dave Ramsey



Mary Jane Popp

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Arts, Entertainment and Other Fun Things to do!

Fun and Fit with ARD

Masters Of Magic



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.

- FREE to the Public**
- Pilates**
January 4 9-10am
Regional Park, Lakeside Room
 - 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

Family-Friendly Production Show Returns to Tahoe's South Shore for Christmas - New Year Week December 25, 2010 - January 1, 2011

South Lake Tahoe – "Masters of Magic," a high-energy, family-friendly show featuring four headliner magicians with grand illusions, sleight of hand, mind-blowing tricks and a splash of comedy, will appear nightly at MontBleu Resort Casino & Spa, (<http://www.montbleuresort.com>) December 25, 2010 through January 1, 2011. This world-class family production in a major show-room at South Lake Tahoe has tickets priced at \$24.95 for adults and \$16.95 for children 17 and under.

Masters of Magic features four award-winning national headliners in non-stop action with grand illusion, sleight of hand, mind-blowing magic, and a splash of comedic relief. It is produced by the recipients of the 2010 Producers Of The Year award, Paul Reder and Tony Clark, which is magic's equivalent of an Oscar.

Starring in this grand production is World Champion master magician, *Tony Clark*. Clark won the coveted title of World's Best Sleight-of-Hand Magician at the International Magic Awards. He was also named World Class Stage Champion by the Society of American Magicians, and he is a recipient of the Bill Baird Award for Excellence in Manipulation, as well as the Best Classical Magic Act Award

at the World Magic Awards which aired on CBS TV.

The Award Winning Magic Of *Eli Kerr* has toured the World performing for royalty and heads of state. You may have also seen one of his numerous television appearances, like NBC's

"Americas Got Talent" or on "Comedy Central". His performances have also earned him many accolades like "Best Casino Show", and "Best Magician in Northern Nevada". His unique look, dramatic stage presence, one-of-a-kind sense of humor, and quick wit, all come together to produce one amazingly talented entertainer!

Mark Kornhauser is one of the most successful comedy magic acts in the world. Above he is seen on the cover of the January issue of *MAGIC* magazine. He has performed as an opening act for some of the biggest celebrities in show business: Tom Jones, Elvis Costello, Lou Rawls, Tony Orlando, Dom Delouise, Terry Fator, Frankie Valli, and many more. He has worked consistently in the most prestigious casinos and shows in Las Vegas, Reno, Lake Tahoe, and Atlantic City. He has appeared on dozens of television shows including "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno". He was this year's Master of Ceremo-

nies for the prestigious and celebrity studded Academy of Magical Arts Award Show at the Beverly Hilton, and was nominated by his peers in a recent *MAGIC* magazine survey as one of the funniest magicians in the world.

Zsa Zsa was 6 years old when she made her live performance debut. She has performed in five different Las Vegas Casinos and at the Magic Castle in Hollywood. She was discovered 6 1/2 years ago at the Henderson Animal Shelter and became the famous, *Zsa Zsa - The Talking Dog*. She is mostly Australian Cattle Dog and Terrier Something. Definitely a herding dog, she still retains the one bad habit of occasionally going after a stray human's heels.. Everyone loves *Zsa Zsa*.

Master of Magic will run Saturday through Sunday in MontBleu Theatre inside MontBleu Casino Resort starting December 25, and run through January 1, 2011. Show times are 8:00p nightly. Tickets are only \$24.95 for adults and \$16.95 for children 17 and under. Tickets are available at the MontBleu Box Office, or charge by phone at 800-648-3353 or purchase online at www.ticketmaster.com.

For more information call MontBleu, (775) 588-3515.

PLACER COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION • 530-889-8020 Early Childhood Education • Early Care & Education Workshops

Kids in the Kitchen 6:30pm - 8:30pm • PCOE Annex Bldg • 365 Nevada St, Auburn
Learn fun and interactive ways to engage children in food preparation and associated tasks. Children from a very young age can learn food preparation skills. Recipes, meal plans and resources for you and the families you serve will be provided.
University of California, Cooperative Extension, Nutrition BEST Program

Placer Nature Center Series PCOE Annex Bldg • 365 Nevada St, Auburn
Using tools and inspirational ideas, educators & parents learn to facilitate nature study while weaving themes into other indoor activities. Learn methods and strategies to nurture children's natural curiosity and innate sense of wonder in your outdoor environment.

Setting the Foundation for Positive Behavior
1-12-11 Wednesday • 6:30pm - 8:30pm • Lincoln Library • 485 Twelve Bridges
Setting up early childhood environments correctly is the key to smooth transitions and positive behavior management. Learn tools that will assist you in setting the proper foundations.

Eat What! 6:30pm - 8:30pm • PCOE Annex Bldg • 365 Nevada St, Auburn
Please join PCOE for an evening of healthy and maybe not-so-healthy insight, as we learn the true nutritional value of the foods and drinks that are encountered on a daily basis. Based on the book "Eat This Not That FOR KIDS" by David Zincenko and Matt Goulding.

The Arts Building Gallery Presents Distant Lands

Auburn – The Arts Building Gallery presents *Distant Lands* from December 2 through January 8. This exhibit features interpretations of the Far East in bronze, stone, photography, jewelry, zen painting and gardens by four regional artists.

Photographer Richard Murai will exhibit large format photographic prints of his travels to Bhutan and Laos. In warm sepia tones with haunting perspectives, Murai's photographs are printed on handmade paper.

John Mowen, owner of Mowen Solinsky Gallery in Nevada City, will show his stunning sculptures of stone and bronze. What began as an

exploration into stillness and simplicity evolved into a unique interface between the creative and the sacred. In his Sanctuaries and Sacred Symbols series, the soul of the artist springs forth through lovers and warriors, Buddhas and symbols.

Jewelry artist Meggan Mackenzie will be sure to take your breath away with her wearable art creations, custom made to compliment and interpret the theme of *Distant Lands*.

Bringing the outdoors in are the zen paintings and gardens of Hiro Matsuda. Hiro, well known as a local bonsai artist, will donate several of his bonsai and zen gardens to be

raffled throughout the show. The exhibit also features a selection of unique holiday gifts.

The Arts Building Gallery is located at 808 Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 am-5 pm, and Saturdays, 12 noon-4 pm. For information, call (530) 885-2787 or email office@placerearts.org.

PlacerArts is the Arts Council of Placer County, a non-profit, public benefit agency founded in 1983 and the designated state-local partner of the California Arts Council for the County of Placer.

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Riley Reviews

FILMS WORTH THE EFFORT TO SEE; "THE TOURIST" NOT SO MUCH

York ballet troupe at the Lincoln Center. Of course, there's the titillation about the encounter between Portman's repressed ballerina Nina and sexy new dancer Lily (Mila Kunis).

Nina may appear to be the innocent, but she's ambitious enough to want to take over the lead role in "Swan Lake," as it is being imagined by choreographer Thomas Leroy (Vincent Cassel), a smooth-talking lothario who is very demanding on his dancers. A very proficient ballerina, Nina perfectly executes the role of the White Swan, but she seems too stilted to create the dark side of her alter ego, the evil Black Swan. This is where the sexually liberated Lily comes into the picture, looming as a rival to Nina's ambition. Meanwhile, Nina suffers from raging paranoia and many hallucinations, and she has to contend with her domineering mother (Barbara Hershey), the stage mother from hell.

In terms of pushing the limits of psychological thrills to keep the audience on edge, director Aronofsky doesn't hold back in creating a hellish nightmare world for his top dancer Nina, who is driven to the brink of madness. "Black Swan" is lurid and sensational, not surprisingly for an R rated film. Who knew that ballet could so gut-wrenching and emotionally violent? One is likely to look back at "Black Swan" with the curious wonder of what was real and what was an illusion.

One of the best films of the year that may have even less distribution at theaters is "The King's Speech." You'll have to search this one out,

and it will be worth the effort. This is based on the true story of the relationship between an Australian speech therapist and Albert, Duke of York, who had to overcome a speech impediment in the years leading up to his unlikely coronation as King George VI. Excellent actors Geoffrey Rush and Colin Firth are cast, respectively, as Lionel Logue, the unorthodox therapist, and the future king, known to friends as Bertie.

The Duke of York is unlikely to succeed his father, King George V (Michael Gambon) because his older brother David (Guy Pearce), an irrepressible playboy, is next in line. This is a good thing because Bertie stammers horribly when placed in a situation of public speaking. When David eventually becomes King Edward VIII, his reign is brief because he would rather abdicate the throne so that he can marry the twice-divorced American socialite Wallis Simpson. On the eve of World War II, the unprepared Bertie is thrust into the unwanted limelight, and it becomes imperative that he must rally his countrymen to stand united against Hitler and the forces of evil.

As much as anything else, "The King's Speech" is a buddy film, albeit a strange, unorthodox and rocky road to friendship. Before he becomes King, Bertie is pushed by his loving wife Elizabeth (Helena Bonham Carter) - the future Queen Mother - to use the services of the eccentric Lionel Logue. Much of the movie is about the unsteady, twisting relationship between the self-taught commoner and the future monarch. There's plenty of give-and-take between the shy royal, who maintains a quiet dignity, and the brassy therapist. The future king's ability to lead his subjects in rousing speech is trapped inside him, and it's up to Lionel to entice it out of his royal pupil. "The King's Speech" is so good that it won't take much to coax some Oscar nominations for it.

Detectives Seeking Weimar Robber

From the Office of Sheriff Edward N. Bonner

Placer County - Placer County Sheriff's detectives are seeking a robber who held two Weimar Country Store clerks at gunpoint during a robbery Monday night. The suspect apologized to the clerks and told them he had also been robbed and needed money for Christmas.

The man, described as 6 feet, 5 inches tall and weighing 180 pounds, entered the store on Paoli Lane at 7:05 p.m. He approached

the male clerk who was working at the back of the store and displayed a handgun. The suspect ordered the clerk to the front of the store, where he and a female clerk were ordered to open the cash register and dump the money into a bag.

The suspect then bound the wrists of both clerks before he fled the store on foot. Shortly after he left, two vehicles were seen leaving the area: a silver Toyota pickup truck and a tan or brown Ford pickup truck with a red camper shell. Shortly after the suspect fled, the

male clerk was able to free himself and call 9-1-1.

The suspect's face was covered during the robbery. He had brownish-blond hair and was described as approximately 20-25 years of age.

Anyone with information on these vehicles or the suspect is urged to call Detective Bill Summers at (530) 889-7843. Anyone wishing to give information but remain anonymous could be eligible for a cash reward by calling Placer County Crime Stoppers at (800) 923-8191.

Domestic Violence Costs Auburn Man Prison Term

From the Office of District Attorney Bradford R. Fenocchio

Placer County - Thomas K. Bennett's inability to curb his temper with female partners will cost him seven years in state prison.

Calling Bennett a "danger to women," Placer County Superior Court Judge Mark S. Curry handed down the prison term Friday after reviewing the 61-year-old Auburn man's record, which showed a history of criminal convictions for domestic violence.

Prosecutor Karin Bjork of the Placer County District Attorney's Office urged the judge to impose the seven-year sentence.

"This defendant has three prior convictions for domestic violence," Bjork said. "Plus, he threatened one other victim. I think Mr. Bennett has gotten all the chances that he should." Curry was in agreement.

"He is now 61 and his behavior is not abating," Curry said. "He doesn't



Thomas K. Bennett, 61, will serve seven years in state prison.

seem to understand his violence toward women."

Bennett's latest conviction came in October when a trial jury found him guilty of inflicting corporal injury upon a cohabitant and of assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury, both of which are felonies.

Evidence in the trial showed that Bennett beat and choked a cohabitant during an argument at an Auburn

apartment on March 24, 2010, and that he put his hand over the woman's mouth as if to suffocate her.

Judge Curry added that Bennett had admitted to special allegations that he had previously been convicted of domestic violence and had served prior prison terms for those, meaning that a judge could tack on extra years in prison for his latest conviction.

Bennett spoke briefly to the court, saying he was "devastated" by the outcome of his jury trial.

He asked whether people in the courtroom had ever been in the position of having to prevent injury to both a partner and themselves, and he indicated that it sometimes calls for extreme measures.

"It's difficult," he said.

But Curry said he had a problem with Bennett's record of trying to deal with situations.

"He has violence toward women," he said. "I feel he is a danger to women, regardless of his statement to the court."

Loomis Residents Arrested for Residential and Vehicle Burglaries



Left to right: Jacob Delaney, Philip Hodge, Kevin Johnson

Placer County - Placer County Sheriff's detectives arrested three Loomis residents over the weekend and found property on the men taken from several Loomis residential and vehicle burglaries. Detectives are also looking for the owners of more stolen property.

Jacob Ronald Delaney, 20, Philip Hodge, 23, and Kevin Johnson, 56, were arrested on various charges and booked at the Placer County Jail.

They are responsible for entering unlocked cars, garages and homes. Delaney was charged with burglary, possession of stolen property, possession of a controlled substance and needles; Hodge was charged with possession of stolen property, possession of burglary tools and a parole violation; and Johnson was charged with theft of a firearm. Hodge is being held without bail; Delaney's bail is set at \$60,000;

and Johnson's bail is set at \$80,000.

Detective Ryan West is seeking the owners of power tools and a camera that may have been taken from garages and vehicles. Anyone who believes they have had those items stolen in the past two weeks is asked to contact West at (916) 652-2423.

Unlocked garages and vehicles are easy targets for criminals, and people are urged to keep their belongings secure.

Holiday Dining Ham for the Holidays



A hearty lunch or light dinner during the busy holiday season can be simple to create when you start with a great ham.

(NAPSA) - Preparing a delicious ham for the holiday dinner table can be easier than you think with help from a special holiday ham hotline staffed by experts.

The experts from Kentucky Legend Ham at the first hotline dedicated just to ham are at (866) 343-5058 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday until January.

"Even people who don't cook

often can wow their family and guests with a great ham dinner," says Diane Morgan, author of more than 14 cookbooks, including several on entertaining. "And the holiday dinner is just the beginning-the leftovers can star at every meal, from a breakfast omelette to economical casseroles for lunch and dinner."

The ham helpers can advise at-home chefs about choosing, preparing and serving ham, and even provide ideas for the tasty and versatile leftovers, including recipes like this one:

Mediterranean Ham Sandwich

- 4 slices of Kentucky Legend Ham
- 4 slices of wheat bread or 2 croissants
- 1 package (3 oz.) softened cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons sliced, pimiento-stuffed green olives

Tomato slices
1 small container alfalfa sprouts

If using croissants, cut in half; spread cream cheese evenly on each croissant bottom or two slices of bread. Place all other ingredients on top of cream cheese; replace croissant tops or bread slice and serve.

Kentucky Legend Hams have been made for more than 100 years in Owensboro, Kentucky, where producing great hams is done the traditional way-by hand, from a recipe handed down through generations. The hams are hand stuffed, hand selected and hand trimmed, then slow cooked in their own natural juices and double smoked for the legendary taste that gave them their name.

To learn more about Kentucky Legend Hams and to find recipes, go to www.specialtyfoodsgroup.com.

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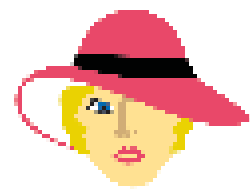
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Anticipation High as Ohio Valley Gold and Silver Refinery Opens for Business Next Week in Auburn!

By **DAVID MORGAN**
STAFF WRITER

Been following the gold and silver market lately? Well if you have a jewelry box or lock box full of gold or a coffee can full of old coins you should be according to Ohio Valley Refinery spokesperson John Miller. "The gold and silver markets have not been this strong for over 30 years," said Miller. Typically when the U.S. dollar is weak and the economy is flat gold and silver markets soar. "That's good news if you are sitting on a few gold necklaces or an old class ring," says Miller.

Next week, starting Monday at 9am and every day next week through Friday, the Ohio Valley Refinery will be setting up a satellite refinery right here in **Auburn** at the **Ridge Golf Course**. During their 5 day stay, anyone can bring gold, silver or platinum items and turn them in for immediate payment, explains John Miller. "Just about everybody has some amount of gold or silver just lying around collecting dust and next week anybody can sell theirs direct to our refinery. Typically, selling direct to a refinery is reserved for larger wholesale customers like jewelry stores, pawn shops, and laboratories," says Miller. "We are changing how business is done," he explains. "We want to do business with everybody so we took our business to the streets. Our teams visits various cities around the country hosting 5 day events allowing the general public to take advantage of our services. The turnout has been overwhelming," says Miller. "Usually each day is busier than the previous day. It seems once people come to us and sell something, they are so amazed by what an old ring or gold coin is worth that they go home and start digging around for more and tell relatives, friends and neighbors. It's like a feeding frenzy by the third day. People line up with everything from gold jewelry to sterling



Above • Refinery representatives will be on hand next week, starting Monday and continuing through Friday, to purchase all gold, silver and platinum items, as well as coins. Public welcome!

silver flatware sets to old coins. I think during this bad economy everybody can use extra money but most people say they are taking advantage of selling direct to our refinery because of the higher prices we pay."

During this special event anyone is welcome to bring all types of gold, silver and platinum to the refinery and turn it in for instant payment. The types of items they will accept include: all gold jewelry, gold coins, gold ounces and dental gold. We also buy coins dated 1964 and before including: Silver Dollars, halves, quarters and dimes. Anything marked "sterling" is accepted including: flat ware sets, tea pots, silver bars, silver ounces and all industrial precious metals.

What should you expect if you go to the event to sell your gold and/or silver? Just gather up all gold silver and platinum in any form. If you are not sure if its gold or silver, bring it in and they will test it for free. When you arrive at the event you will be asked to fill out a simple registration card and

will be issued a number. Seating will be available. When your number is called you will be escorted to a table where your items will be examined, tested and sorted. This only takes a few minutes using their expertise and specialized equipment. Items will be counted and/or weighed. The value of the items will be determined based on up to the minute market prices. Live feeds will be available at the event displaying current market prices of all precious metals. If you choose to sell your items, they will be bagged and tagged and you will be escorted to the cashier to collect your payment. Waiting time to sell your items may range from just a few minutes to 1 hour so bring something to read.

If you are the owner of a jewelry store, pawn shop, dentist office or a dealer, you are encouraged to call ahead to make an appointment with the smelt master to discuss their special dealer programs. You can call our venue to make an appointment at **(530) 888-7888**.

Ohio Valley Refinery will open for business Monday from 9am-6pm. The event continues every day through next Friday. No appointment is needed.

If you go:

WHO: Ohio Valley Refinery
Reclamation Drive

WHAT: Open to public to sell gold and silver.

WHEN: January 3rd - 7th

WHERE: Ridge Golf Course
2020 Golf Course Road
Auburn, CA 95603

TIMES: MONDAY-FRIDAY
9:00am - 6:00pm
EVERY DAY

SHOW INFO: (217) 523-4225

Silver and Gold Coin Prices Up During Poor Economy.

Collectors and Enthusiasts in Auburn with \$200,000 to Purchase Yours!

By **DAVID MORGAN**
STAFF WRITER

Got Coin? It might be just the time to cash in. Next week, starting Monday and continuing through Friday, the International Collectors Association, in conjunction with the Ohio Valley Gold & Silver Refinery, will be purchasing all types of silver and gold coins direct from the public. All types are welcome and the event is free.

Collectors will be on hand to identify and sort your coins. Then the quality or grade will be determined. According to collectors I talked with, the better the grade the more they are worth. With the current silver and gold markets, prices are up for older coins too. Any coins minted in 1964 and before in the U.S. are 90% silver, except nickels and pennies.

The coins worth is determined by the rarity and the grade. Old silver dollars are worth a great premium right now. Even well worn and heavy circulated ones are bringing good premiums. Franklin and Kennedy halves, Washington quarters and Mercury and Roosevelt dimes are all worth many times their face value. While older types like Seated Liberty, Standing Liberties, and Barber coins are worth even more.

Gold coins are really worth a lot right now according to Brian Eades of the International Collectors Association. "This country didn't start minting coins until 1792," says Eades. "Before that people would trade goods using gold dust and nuggets. Some shop keepers would take more gold than needed to pay for items purchased. There was no uniform system of making change."

The government opened the first mints and began distributing the coins in 1792. By the beginning of the 19th century, coins and paper currency were wide spread and our monetary system was here to stay. In 1933, Roosevelt required all banking institutions to turn in all gold coins.

Once all banks turned in this gold, the president raised the gold standard from \$20.00 per ounce to \$33.00 per ounce. This was his way of stimulating the economy during the great depression. However, gold coins were never redistributed after the recall. Not all gold coins were turned in. Many folks during that time didn't completely trust the government and chose to keep their gold.

These gold coins are sought after by collectors today and bring many times the face value. Any gold coins with the mint marks of CC, D or O will bring nice premiums. Collectors at the event will be glad to show you where to look. Other types of coins will also be purchase including: foreign coins, Indian head cents, two cent pieces, half dimes, three cent pieces and buffalo nickels to name a few.

Collectors warn people against trying to clean their coins as significant damage can be done and the coins value lessened.

Items we will accept include:

- Scrap Jewelry
- Dental Gold
- Sterling Silverware
- Sterling Silver Tea Sets
- Silver Dollars
- All Coins Dated 1964 & Earlier
- Industrial Scrap
- All forms of Platinum

Items of Interest:

Vintage Guitars: Martin, Gibson, Fender, National, Rickenbacker, Gretsch, Mandolins, Banjos and others

Pocket Watches: Hamilton, Illinois, Waltham, Patek Phillipe, Ball, Howard, South Bend, Elgin and others

Wrist watches: Omega, Accutron, Longines, Hamilton, Breitling and many more

Old paper money: United States, Confederate States, Blanket Bills, \$1000.00 bills and more

Antique Toys: Trains, Tin wind-ups, Mechanical Banks, Robots, Pressed Steel trucks, and many more

War Memorabilia: Swords, Bayonets, Helmets, German, Confederate, Union, USA, and others

Local records reveal to our research department that recent vintage guitar sold for \$2400.00 and another for \$12,000.00 to a collector that will be tied into the event next week via live database feed.

Local Residents are ready to cash in!

International antique buyers in town next week and ready to stimulate economy!

By **DAVID MORGAN**
STAFF WRITER

Hundreds of phone calls from local residents this week to the corporate office of the Ohio Valley Gold and Silver Refinery pour in inquiring about items to be purchased all next week by the team of antique buyers that is on site with OVGSR.

The team of buyers next week are purchasing a vast array of vintage items (see left) along with coins, gold jewelry, and sterling silver items the refinery deals in. It is a Local shot in the arm for our economy. The spokesperson for the event expects to spend in excess of \$200,000.00 next week at the **Ridge Golf Course** paying local residents on the spot. The spokesperson for the company explained that these collectors are paying collector price for vintage items. It's a great way for people to get a great value for their items.

Top Five Items To Bring

- Gold Jewelry
- Silver Coins
- Gold Coins
- Pocket Watches
- Sterling Silver

Refinery representatives will be on hand next week starting Monday to purchase all gold, silver and platinum items, as well as coins. Public welcome!