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# Gold River Messenger

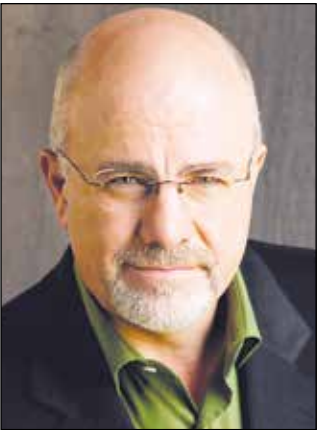
"Written by the people, for the people"

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Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

June, 2016

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### FOOL'S GOLD WAGES, WALKING AND WEAR, OH MY!



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### GAME PLOTS CINEMATIC GAMES ON THE DECLINE



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## The Eagles Have Landed

River Parkway Hosts Rare Residents



Eagle eye. Still bearing residual juvenile plumage, the male eagle's profile is iconic.

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Proof of a comeback by a once-endangered species, two bald eagles have made a home on the American River's Lake Natoma. A rich habitat for North America's largest raptor, the 2,000-acre lake and surrounding reserve falls between Gold River, Folsom, and Orangevale.

On water and in surrounding

suburbs, sightings of the iconic pair are being reported; naturalists hope they will breed in the state park. For this photographer, finding them on lake bluffs rewarded a long local search for the species. Our nation's proudest symbol, the bald eagle is common in more northern and mountainous areas of California. Ornithologists are thrilled to see it soaring above homes and streets near Sacramento; these birds have baldly gone where no other eagles dared.

"They're in areas where they've never

been recorded before," says Captain Mark Jeter from the California Fish and Wildlife Department. "This shows how well the species is recovering. We've also had eagles nesting at Folsom Lake for the last eight or nine years."

The news comes decades after the giant birds seemed close to extinction. In years following WW II, widespread use of the DDT pesticide — absorbed by animals common to eagle diets — caused eggshell

Continued on page 3

## Sac Metro Begins Search for New Chief

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Due to the December retirement of Fire Chief Mark Wells, the Board of Directors for the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District is seeking a dynamic and visionary leader in the fire service to serve as the next Fire Chief.

Metro Fire is the largest fire agency in the Sacramento region and the 7th largest in California, serving roughly 728,000 people living and working in a 417 square mile area. Metro Fire provides all-hazard emergency services



Sacramento Metro Fire Chief Mark Wells

to the communities it serves and assists with emergencies outside our jurisdiction through mutual-aid agreements and deployments on local, state, and federal emergencies around the country.

Last year, Metro Fire's thirty-six fire engines, six fire trucks, and 22 medics responded to more than 93,000 calls for service. As an all-hazard fire district, in addition to Emergency Medical Response and Structure/Wildland Fire Suppression, Metro Firefighters specialize in Hazardous Materials Response (HAZMAT), Aircraft Firefighting, Technical Rescue, Aviation and Dozer Operations, Urban Search & Rescue (US&R), Swift Water Rescue, Tactical EMS (TEMS), Incident Management Teams, and Joint Terrorism Task Force/Homeland Security.

The ideal Fire Chief candidate will have a passion for public safety and be energized by Metro Fire's fast pace and the diversity of service demands. A proven track record of leading through good, as well as challenging times, in a manner that adheres to the District's core values of Integrity, Professionalism, Teamwork, and Service before Self will be expected.

Extensive information regarding Metro Fire, including the District's Budget, can be found at [www.metrofire.ca.gov](http://www.metrofire.ca.gov). The closing date for this recruitment is midnight Monday, May 30, 2016. To be considered for this opportunity, follow the instructions on the "Apply Now" feature at [www.tbcrecruiting.com](http://www.tbcrecruiting.com).

Source: Sac Metro Fire Dept. ★

## Golden State Water Adjusts Outdoor Irrigation Restrictions

Customers May Now Water Landscapes Up To Three Days Per Week, Effective June 1

**GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG)** - Golden State Water Company has announced adjusted outdoor irrigation restrictions for its Arden and Cordova systems. Effective June 1, 2016, Golden State Water customers in Arden, Gold River and Rancho Cordova may water outdoor landscapes up to three days per week.

The adjusted restrictions permit addresses ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) to water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday; odd addresses (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) may water landscapes on Tuesday,

Thursday and Saturday. All outdoor irrigation must occur before 8 am or after 7 pm, and should not exceed 10 minutes per station. Restrictions do not apply for trees or edible vegetation watered solely by drip or micro-spray systems.

"Last month, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted new emergency regulations that give water providers an opportunity to tailor their conservation strategies based on the local supplies and anticipated demand," said Paul

Schubert, General Manager of the Northern District for Golden State Water. "While we are still assessing how the new regulations may impact our customers and conservation requirements, the current supply conditions for our Arden and Cordova systems afforded us the opportunity to make an adjustment to the outdoor irrigation restrictions for our Arden, Gold River and Rancho Cordova customers.

"We encourage customers to continue using water responsibly, and also remind the

community that these adjusted outdoor irrigation restrictions could change again in the coming weeks when supply conditions are verified."

Golden State Water's Cordova System—which serves customers in Gold River and Rancho Cordova—remains in Stage 1 of Staged Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing (Schedule 14.1) to help customers meet the 32 percent reduction mandate assigned by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Continued on page 6



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# Phone Directory Scam Returns to Four Counties

**Special Report from  
Better Business Bureau**

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Better Business Bureau (BBB) is warning business owners of a well-known invoice scam that is making its rounds throughout the region once more.

Businesses are receiving solicitations via fax, demanding fees ranging between \$499 and \$1,999. The invoices are being sent from various names and locations. Businesses have reported receiving the solicitations in Butte, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties.

They closely resemble solicitations that circulated the area in Nov. 2014. However, rather than luring companies with phone directory advertisements, they are hoping to reel victims in with social media.

The solicitation identifies the

product name as “Facebook and Twitter Features,” and includes a warning that reads: “LAST CHANCE TO PROTECT YOUR CREDIT SCORE IN GOOD STANDING!”

According to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), a business may not send an unsolicited advertisement via fax unless they have an established relationship with the recipient. The advertisement must also inform the recipient of their right to opt out of future solicitations, and must contain information about how to do so. No such information was found on the solicitations.

Tips for business owners:

- Do not respond. If you receive a fax or phone call from a company asking for payment, verify that you employed their services.

- Do not be fooled by fake logos and company names. Scammers will often use logos and names of legitimate businesses as an attempt to gain your trust and reel you in.

- Do not rely on caller I.D. Scammers have the ability to spoof a legitimate phone number, and it may look like you are receiving a call from a trusted organization or business.

- Train your staff. Keep your employees updated on potential scams, and encourage them to flag suspect invoices for review.

- Report scams to the BBB Scam Tracker. Contact your local Better Business Bureau and report scams at [bbb.org/scamtracker](http://bbb.org/scamtracker).

Source: Better Business Bureau ★



**By David Dickstein, Gold River resident**

**Making vs. Earning the \$15 Minimum Wage** – IHOP emailed me a certificate for a free birthday breakfast, so as fans of gratis grub my wife and I drove across Sunrise for Rooty Tooty Fresh ‘N Fruity pancakes on the house (of pancakes). Instantly after the hostess seated us we noticed that a coffee pot and two tea kettles hadn’t been cleared off the table. Even more disturbing, the dish for coffee creamers had used, crumbled up sugar packets wedged between the little buckets of half-and-half. Not OK. What’s also not OK is if this were the year 2020, the busser who didn’t clean the table properly and the unobservant hostess would be getting a minimum of \$15 an hour.

Imagine it: The guy at a pet supply store who can’t answer a single question about the dog brushes they sell, the frozen yogurt shop worker who clearly doesn’t know that sweeping the floor is part of the job, and the sandwich maker who has to be told “toasted, please” three times – all actual and recent examples here in Gold River – are going to start out at \$15 an hour in less than 6 years.

Making and not necessarily earning that much is a whole bowl of wrong with or without used sugar packets. Just as outrageous is the projected 38 percent hike consumers will spend as businesses make up for the increased labor costs. Economists said we can expect to pay roughly \$9.25 for a steak burrito bowl at Chipotle’s, \$9 for a foot-long turkey sandwich at Subway, and \$8 for a Big Mac meal at McDonald’s. Or not. Many fast-food chains, including the Golden Arches, are looking at replacing workers with machines. As a guy who tries to avoid self-service check-out lines at such stores as Bel Air and Home Depot, the thought of ordering an Egg McMuffin or Quarter Pounder from a touchpad is wince-worthy, but if I were a franchise owner forced to pay wages akin to what

# ‘Fool’s Gold’ Wages, Walking and Wear, Oh My!

people with college degrees might get in some jobs, I, too, would seriously consider super-sizing my store with non-human labor.

Some industries are looking for other ways to combat the short-sighted “Fight for \$15.” A Purdue University study suggests that fast-food chains could consider changing portions rather than prices. With that business model, to keep prices the same after the minimum wage goes to \$15, a Big Mac would shrink somewhere between 12 and 70 percent. That might not be such a bad thing nutritionally, come to think of it, but it would stabilize prices. There’d have to be a name change for McDonald’s signature burger, though, as the only thing “big” associated with the newly shriveled sandwich would be wages of the people making it.

**Crossing the Lines** – Nowhere should crosswalks be painted with higher quality than in a school zone. But check out the two in front of Gold River Discovery Center. For years the crosswalk at Roaring Camp and Poker Flat drives has been in horrible shape with yellow-painted striping so severely gouged and lines so splattered with tar you’d think it was in front of a long-abandoned building, not a vibrant school with nearly 800 students.

Apparently, the Sacramento County Department of Transportation doesn’t care enough about our kids getting clobbered to fix the problem; I first brought the poorly painted crosswalks to the agency’s attention in May, and at press time there’s been no action. Maybe you’ll have better luck. Here’s the hotline: 916-875-4311 or 311.

**Fashion Statements** – There I was at the Gold River Racquet Club, working out on an elliptical machine, watching Fox News’ broadcast of a Donald Trump victory rally through my noise-canceling earbuds. A fellow Gold River dad saw me and gestured that he wanted to talk. Although I didn’t want to miss any of Trump’s speech, I removed my earbuds and gave this quasi-friend my attention. He looked at me, then turned his head to see what I was watching, then looked back and said, “That guy is a douchebag.” And with that, I promptly put my earbuds back on and told him to buzz off. The encounter

was out of character for the man who had always been respectful and unthreatening. I wondered if even in the usually gentle community of Gold River do people let their rude side show when opposing politics are involved.

So I conducted a week-long social experiment at the racquet club. I worked out on a Monday and Wednesday in my “Trump for President” T-shirt and on a Tuesday and Saturday wearing my bluest Dodgers T-shirt. I figured if there were any two shirts from my wardrobe that would get a strong reaction, it’s those.

I was half right. Interestingly, and perhaps indicating that either Gold River is Trump country or The Donald isn’t as polarizing as the media portray, I didn’t get a single boo or hiss. My “douchebag” friend was nowhere to be found, by the way. In fact, the only comment I got with the Trump shirt was from a student of Gold River Discovery Center who gave me a “yeah!” and a high-five as I walked out of the club.

While the “Trump for President” shirt didn’t get a rise, the Dodgers shirt clearly peeved some of the members. I would have been disappointed had it not, this being the land of the Giants. My sporty fashion choice earned me several playful sneers from fellow members during the experiment, especially on the night three TVs in the cardio room were showing the Giants getting trounced by my Boys in Blue.

The smack thrown my way wasn’t exclusive to members. Even a worker got in on the act. At check-in, the young fella saw my shirt and instantly went into full-blown neener-neener mode. “The Giants have three titles in the last five seasons. When was the last time you guys won?” A comeback to this jab is hard to come by for L.A. fans because the Dodgers haven’t won a World Series, let alone played for a championship, since 1988.

That doesn’t mean I didn’t get the last word, however. The Dodger hater may have reminded me of all those Giants championships, but I won the debate by giving him a little reminder of my own: “Dude, you’re the employee and I’m the member. So back off.” Air mic dropped. Peace out. ★



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## Lancers of '76 Plan 40th Reunion

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - The Cordova High School Class of 1976 is hosting its 40th Class Reunion on Saturday, September 24, 2016, at the Lake Natoma Inn in Folsom, California. The event will be from 6pm to 11pm with a buffet dinner and no-host cocktails. Music will be provided by VisionProDJs and the attire is casual to dressy. RSVP to Dawn (Yankovich) Johnson [dj19582002@yahoo.com](mailto:dj19582002@yahoo.com) no later than Friday, September 3, 2016.

The cost is \$75 per person payable by check, money order, cash or PayPal or \$85 at the door. Checks or money orders can be mailed to Julie (Ratkovich) Parr at 8339 Piper Glen Way, Antelope, CA 95843. PayPal account: [cordovaclassof76@gmail.com](mailto:cordovaclassof76@gmail.com). Hotel room reservations can be made at [www.lakenatomainn.com](http://www.lakenatomainn.com). A block of rooms is being held for this event. Room rates are \$139/night + tax. When making reservations please mention CHS 40th Reunion. ★



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# The Eagles Have Landed

## River Parkway Hosts Rare Residents

Continued from page 1

weakness and incubation failures. Bald eagles faced a bleak future. By the 1970s, less than 50 breeding pairs remained in California. The pesticide was banned in 1972. Protective laws and programs were introduced and the birds have repopulated in what could only be called a victory for conservation. “Their numbers are on the rise all across the nation,” confirms Captain Jeter.

My American River quest to photograph the eagles began years ago. During the 2006 salmon run I heard of a juvenile near Nimbus Dam. Reports filtered in over following seasons. Early this spring, my camera trigger-finger itched when I heard a pair had alighted at Carmichael’s William Pond Park. They began a nest but apparently reconsidered — possibly after a holiday weekend when scores of off-leash dogs hit the parkway. Newer hints from El Dorado Hills sent me to an eyrie built there, not by eagles but by red-tailed hawks — magnificent birds but not my Holy Grail.

Weeks ago, Lake Natoma neighbors confirmed gold. A hiker swore point-blank a bald eagle had snatched a fish from the water before her astonished eyes. Then my KFBK radio editor friend Judy Farah identified a “bald” flying near the lake. I followed her directions and searched. During a recent, unforgettable sunset, my eagles landed. The couple perched 30 feet above me, mere yards from bluff-side homes. As their pompadours caught sunlight I idiotically felt like saluting. They eyed me with unconcerned majesty. I learned bluff residents had been observing



The “balds” are back. An iconic presence on Fair Oaks and Orangevale bluffs, bald eagles keep evening watch.

these rare raptors for months.

Flying from the forbidden snake-infested bluffs, the couple landed atop conifers below. On lake trails, hikers greeted me with news of “our eagles.” Their presence seemed common knowledge.

The birds are unmistakable when spotted on tree tops. Huge, yellow feet enable precarious landings and perches. Unannounced lunges into the abyss indicate a fish is in sight. As predators, they are not infallible. I photographed the female circling (inadvertently buzzing a kayaker), before her talons hooked, and then dropped, a carp. Though they often hunt solo, the partners remain within calling distance of each other. They reunite chattering. Their whistles and chuck-chucks are sweet, melodious celebrations.

Is there a nest? Probably, but I suspect this couple might yet be childless. Eagles can skip a breeding year if a nest fails or eggs are lost. My photos indicate traces of juvenile plumage on the male so I theorize he might be younger than the

five-year age for breeding. His mate appears older, larger, and dominant. Perhaps they will multiply next year.

Isolated from others of their species, the Natoma couple finds smaller raptors acceptable company. As thermal air rose above Folsom one evening, they spotted a distant gang of turkey vultures enjoying the free lift. My balds sped from the bluffs to join the rapturous rally. From a telephoto vantage, I saw them — huge and shining — in the vortex. According to eagle expert Captain Jeter, the birds employ thermal air to gain effortless height and a stable lookout for prey.

To me, it seemed like they were rejoicing in camaraderie, and in survival.

Footnote: The bald eagles frequent much of Lake Natoma State Park but Negro Bar (off Greenback Lane) is a reliable point to spot the couple. The eagles will not harm humans. They, their nests, and eggs are protected by law. Contact the author at sknrband@aol.com.★

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**Crossword Puzzle on Page 5**

M	A	D	A	M		U	S	A		S	H	O	E
A	G	O	R	A		R	U	B		T	I	A	R
S	H	E	E	R		A	N	A		A	T	L	A
K	A	R	A	K	U	L		F	I	R	E	F	L
			S	E	N		S	T	O	P			
S	P	A		T	I	N	T		N	O	D	O	F
L	A	N	E		T	E	A	L		N	I	S	E
I	T	E	M		Y	O	D	E	L		R	I	N
D	E	N	I	M		N	I	N	E		T	E	C
E	N	T	R	A	P		U	S	P	S		R	E
			T	E	R	M		E	W	E			
B	O	N	F	I	R	E		D	R	I	V	E	I
O	N	I	O	N		E	T	A		V	E	R	N
L	U	P	U	S		V	A	T		E	R	G	O
T	S	A	R			E	N	E		L	Y	O	N

**Sudoku Puzzle on Page 5**

3	9	7		1	2	5	4	8	6
2	5	8		3	4	6	9	7	1
1	6	4		8	7	9	3	5	2
6	7	1		4	3	2	8	9	5
4	8	5		6	9	1	7	2	3
9	2	3		5	8	7	1	6	4
7	3	6		2	1	8	5	4	9
8	4	2		9	5	3	6	1	7
5	1	9		7	6	4	2	3	8

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# Registering Women for the Draft: A Charade, Not a Necessity



Commentary by Earl H. Tilford

The Armed Services Committee (ASC) recently approved a measure requiring American women aged 18 to 26 to register for the draft and sent it to the full House for consideration. If this measure becomes law it will do nothing to enhance gender equality in the Department of Defense that recently lifted a ban on women serving in combat.

The ASC’s action typifies the inanity extant in the legislative branch. Although the measure passed by a vote of 32 to 30, Representative Duncan Hunter, the Republican head of the committee who submitted the measure, voted against it. If it becomes a bill and makes it to the White House, President Obama will sign it. Why is it inane?

First, it has been 43 years since anyone has been drafted. Over those years the Army shrank from over 1,000,000 active duty soldiers to half that number and is on track to dip to 420,000 by 2017. Additionally, the Department of Defense claims the all-volunteer force works well. Indeed it does.

Second, modern conscription of citizen soldiers began with the French Revolution’s Levee en Masse in 1793 to raise a citizen’s army to oppose European monarchical armies marching to crush revolutionary France. Conscription also was used during the American Civil War—though unpopular on both sides. North and South allowed bounties for substitutes and many Confederate states refused to support the draft.

Washington and Richmond

turned to conscription because Civil War battles were deadly confrontations between armed masses where the latest technological advances like rifled musketry and rifled artillery fostered previously unimagined slaughter.

Third, by 1914 the Industrial Age factories and transportation systems made it possible for major powers to raise, train, equip, feed and then transport immense armies. Further advances in military technology to include machine guns, rapid-fire rifles, chemical weapons and combat aircraft escalated the carnage. Conscription heightened by nationalism and driven by competing ethnic and ideological dispositions drove armies into battles that consumed humans at a rate that made the first half of the 20th century the world’s bloodiest. In 1945, at end of World War II, the atomic bomb and later the proliferation of nuclear weapons made that kind of warfare almost impossible for the handful of powers able to raise and sustain such armies because using them was no longer necessary or desirable given that the ultimate ridiculous conclusion would be mutual nuclear annihilation.

Fourth, while North Korea, China, and to some extent Russia still field modified examples of large Industrial Age armed forces, the United States does not. North Korea chooses to have an army of 1,000,000 (twice the size of the U.S. Army) because its sole reason for being is to overwhelm South Korea. The armed forces of China and Russia are much more sophisticated but also large because these countries are major land powers sharing the same Eurasian continent.

The armed forces of the United States are transitioning to Information Age and Cyber Age warfare. The United States can use smaller forces to dominate battlespaces extending from space to the ocean’s depths. These forces rely on speed, stealth, information dominance,

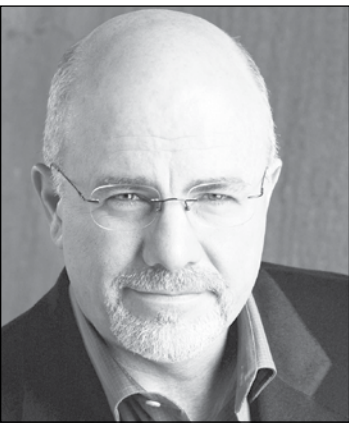
and precision munitions to find, fix, and annihilate opposing forces. Even if needed, the United States could not generate a million-person Industrial Age armed force because America lacks the heavy industrial capacity and the wealth to do so. Given the cost of modern weapons, purchasing enough to support a force a quarter the size of our Industrial Age armies would be prohibitive. Beyond that, being nearly \$20 trillion in debt means that the United States cannot afford a massive military buildup. In any case, Beijing is unlikely to lend Washington the money to fight it.

Conscription makes about as much sense as poodle skirts in the age of pant suits and eight-barrel carburetors in the era of fuel-injected engines.

Conscription makes about as much sense as poodle skirts in the age of pant suits and eight-barrel carburetors in the era of fuel-injected engines. As for gender equality, current policies allow women who want to serve to do so in any military capacity for which they physically and mentally qualify. Furthermore, given the size of the modern battlespace, female service members have been in combat since Desert Storm, when two were captured, neither of them at the time involved in what would be considered a “combat” operation. Today’s battlefield is multi-dimensional, not linear with the “front” and “rear” areas that previously existed.

Ultimately, the issue of conscripting women is a political charade. Republicans support it to avoid being accused of starting a “war on women.” Democrats do so as a matter of social justice and social engineering and not national security. Either way, drafting women is inane.

—Dr. Earl Tilford is a military historian and fellow for the Middle East & terrorism with The Center for Vision & Values at Grove City College. From 1993 to 2001, he served as Director of Research at the U.S. Army’s Strategic Studies Institute. ★



## Insurance for young couple

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are both in our early 20s, we’re debt-free, and we’re just a couple of months away from having a fully loaded emergency fund of six months of expenses. We both also have 401(k) plans at work, and we’re looking forward to starting additional investments later this year. Right now, we’re trying to decide on which life insurance policies to buy. I know you always recommend term insurance, but how long should the coverage last? Would you suggest 15-, 20- or 30-year policies?

- Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Wow, it sounds like you two are starting your lives together on the right foot. Congratulations on being super smart with your money!

I recommend 15- or 20-year level term policies, unless you have children. I’m assuming

# Dave Says

kids are not in the picture, since you didn’t mention any. Then, if you decide to grow your family at some point down the road, I’d advise converting those to 30-year term policies. The idea behind this is you want the insurance to be there to protect everyone in the family until the kids are out on their own and established.

In the meantime and in the years after, your continued saving and wealth building will lead you to a place where you and your wife are self-insured.

Way to go, guys. I’m proud of you!

—Dave

## How much house?

Dear Dave,

Based on your annual income, how do you determine how much house you can afford?

- Ryan

Dear Ryan,

I always tell folks never get a home loan where the monthly payment is more than a fourth of your take home pay. I’m talking about basing this on a 15-year, fixed-rate mortgage. Twenty-five percent of your

monthly take home pay is the absolute most you should have going out the door toward a mortgage payment.

I realize that’s a pretty conservative number in most people’s minds. You can actually, technically qualify for almost twice that figure. But I think having that much of your paycheck going toward house payments is pretty dumb. Your shortest, quickest path to wealth is being debt-free. And when most of your money isn’t flying out the door to make payments on stuff, it’s easy to build wealth and increase your level of generosity!

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is America’s trusted voice on money and business. He has authored five New York Times best-selling books: *Financial Peace*, *More Than Enough*, *The Total Money Makeover*, *EntreLeadership* and *Smart Money Smart Kids*. The *Dave Ramsey Show* is heard by more than 8 million listeners each week on more than 500 radio stations. Follow Dave on Twitter at @DaveRamsey and on the web at daveramsey.com. ★

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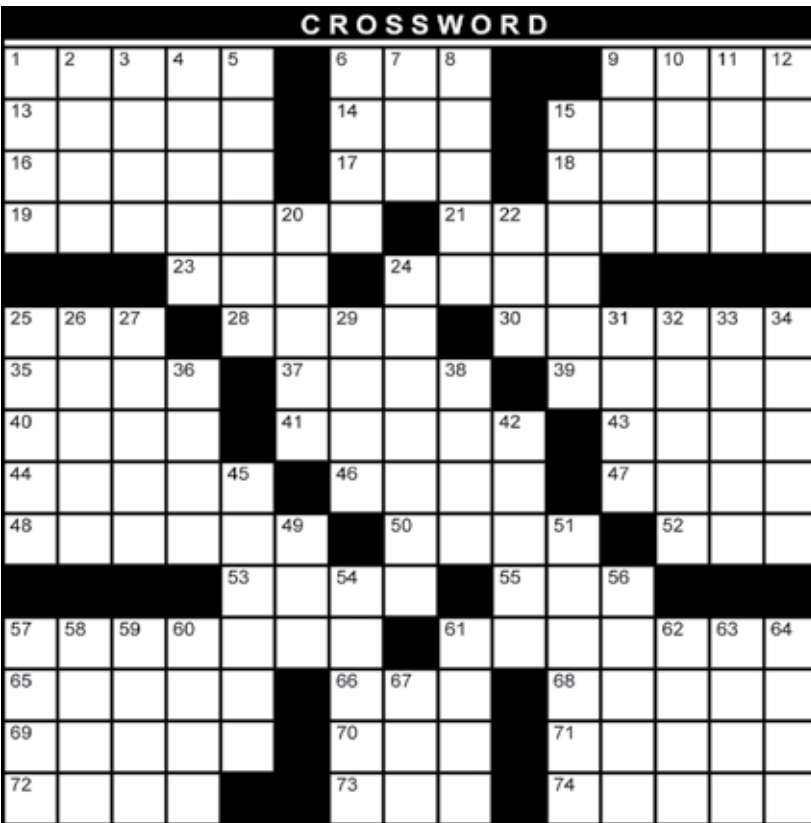
### CLUES

#### ACROSS

1. Tea Leoni’s “ \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary”
6. Red and blue states
9. \*Summer sandal, e.g.
13. Ancient Greek marketplace
14. “\_\_\_\_\_a-dub-dub”
15. Royal topper
16. See-through curtain
17. Santa \_\_\_\_\_ winds
18. \*Olden-day road trip assist
19. Brezhnev’s hat fur
21. \*Luminescent summer catch
23. D.C. bigwig
24. Octagonal warning
25. Rejuvenating spot
28. Windshield option
30. Fall asleep
35. Bowling ball path
37. Bluish green
39. Japanese-American
40. Individual unit
41. Cry of the Alps
43. Sign of engagement
44. Levi’s fabric
46. \*Halfway around links?
47. Modern support
48. Catch in a snare
50. Delivery org.
52. Renewable Energy Technology, acr.
53. Obama is in his last one
55. One of Bo Peep’s flock
57. \*S’more cooker
61. \*Summer movie venue
65. Tear jerker
66. Pilot’s estimate
68. “Around the World in Eighty Days” author
69. Homo homini \_\_\_\_\_
70. Tank
71. Cereal killer
72. Ivan the Terrible, e.g.
73. Compass point between NE and E
74. City on Rhone River

#### DOWN

1. Jim Carrey’s 1994 disguise
2. Muslim honorific
3. As opposed to talker?
4. Zones
5. \*Outdoor shopping venue
6. Russian mountain range
7. \*Soaked up in summer
8. Behind a stern
9. Location
10. Two quarters
11. Like family lore
12. Piece of cake
15. Saltwater game fish
20. Wholeness
22. Charge carrier
24. \*Peanuts and Cracker Jack venue
25. \*Slip-n-\_\_\_\_\_
26. Similar to a plate
27. With regard to, archaic
29. Vegas glow
31. \*Gardener’s turf
32. Willow twig
33. Use an épée
34. Conflict or dispute
36. Arab chieftain
38. \*It’s in your sunglasses
42. A pariah avoided by others
45. Monastic nighttime liturgy
49. P in m.p.g.
51. Office chair feature
54. “Super” Christopher
56. Each and all
57. \*Summer discharge
58. Cross to bear
59. Australian palm
60. They were Fantastic
61. Romantic occurrence
62. Cogito \_\_\_\_\_ sum
63. Involved in a secret
64. \*Butterfly catchers
67. \*Popular summer color



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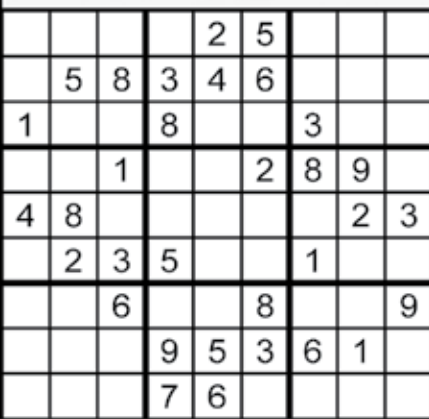
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# Game Plots

## Cinematic Games on the Decline

By Noah Howard

Ever since the advent of 3-D graphics around the turn of the millennium, videogames have incessantly pursued the holy grail of the “cinematic experience,” attempting to imitate the style and feel of playing a film. Certain games like *Call of Duty* and *Max Payne* threw videogames leaps and bounds forward towards this goal, before finally, with the release of the PS3 and Xbox 360, *Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare* set the tone of the entire rest of the generation: a tightly controlled movie-like experience is the best experience.

There was no reason to expect this to change with the PS4 and Xbox One. As always demonstrations of the consoles’ power seemed geared towards making the cinematic experiences we already loved even more detailed and immersive. As such, the PS4 released around *Killzone: Shadowfall* and the Xbox One around *Ryse: Son of Rome*. Both games represented exactly the movie-like experience that the developers thought we wanted. Both were released to mediocre reviews.

Instead, the additional power

of modern consoles has been routinely used not to create more detail in small places, but to create more expansive, believable worlds that allow the player to roam free rather than stick to a developer’s tightly choreographed story. Even franchises that have traditionally been more or less linear, like *Ghost Recon* and *Metal Gear*, have transformed into free open worlds where you can do what you want and go where you want

That’s why *Uncharted 4: A Thief’s End*, a mega-blockbuster by developer Naughty Dog, feels like a beast out of its own time. *A Thief’s End* is a flawlessly executed experience that perfectly applies every aspect of design theory from the last generation into something that looks and feels not like most movies, but better than most movies. It’s undoubtedly the best cinematic game ever made, but it feels not just like a goodbye to the beloved *Uncharted* series, but a goodbye to a style of game development that has floundered in the past few years to make way for the open expanses of *No Man’s Sky* and *Final Fantasy XV*.

That’s almost a shame. Cinematic games of the past molded the genre into what it



Uncharted 4 is likely the last truly great cinematic game, and though we mourn the loss of such an influential style, perhaps it’s time to put it behind us.

is today, and helped gain societal acceptance for videogames and gamers. But replaying some of those older games today, they do feel constrictive and imposing, especially to someone used to modern open worlds.

To be fair, *Uncharted 4’s* ingenious design avoids such a feeling, but few developers understand how to design a game as deftly as Naughty Dog, and it’s unrealistic to expect similar games to follow in *Uncharted 4’s* footsteps. *Uncharted 4* is likely the last truly great cinematic game, and though we mourn the loss of such an influential style, perhaps it’s time to put it behind us, and embrace the feelings freedom and exploration that the current generation of videogames lends us..

To respond to Noah’s articles email him at digitalartsnoah@yahoo.com ★

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## Golden State Water Adjusts Outdoor Irrigation Restrictions

Customers May Now Water Landscapes Up To Three Days Per Week, Effective June 1

Continued from page 1

Additionally, customers are reminded that the following actions are now permanently prohibited in California, as outlined in Governor Jerry Brown’s Executive Order issued on May 9, 2016:

- Hosing off sidewalks, driveways and other hardscapes.
- Washing a motor vehicle with a hose, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.

- Operating a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is part of a recirculating system.
- Watering outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes excess runoff, or within 48 hours following measurable precipitation.
- Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians.

Customers can visit gswater.com/arden-cordova for weekly

reduction updates, local drought restrictions and information about Staged Mandatory Water Conservation and Rationing, or call our 24-hour Customer Service Center at 800-999-4033 for additional information about the drought and local conservation resources. Please follow Golden State Water on Twitter @GoldenStateH2O for real-time information about the drought and local water service.

Source: Golden State Water ★

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By Kay Burton

On Thanksgiving and Christmas my mom and I go to Chris and Terri's old farmhouse where the whole family gathers for the holidays. I always like to go there because there are lots of friendly people to pet and hold me; they even let me sit on their laps. There is only one fly in the ointment. Chris and Terri have a pet cat, whom we all call The Evil Cat Matilda. She started out as just plain old Matilda, but as she bit her way through the family her name was expanded. After she bit my mama two Christmases ago, I was the only one in the family who was bite free.

Of course, I am always my friendly and charming self with all animals, even Matilda. But this past Christmas that was not enough. While I was walking past Matilda she reached down from her chair and walloped me hard on the

## Who's Naughty and Who's Nice?



The Evil Cat Matilda.



The Friendly and Charming Dog Fiona.

nose with her pointy claws. So, I hot footed it to Mama and tried to do a Mt. Everest climb. She scooped me right up, and for the rest of the holiday I was snuggled in arms and laps. At times I adopted camouflage, as you can see in my picture. At the same time, Matilda kept her evil eye on me, as you can

see in her picture. (I sent the picture to my vet, just titled ECM, but she knew who ECM was as soon as she saw her.) I'm thinking of taking kick boxing lessons before the next holidays. Or perhaps ask my mom to invest in a doggie suit of armor, to protect me from that evil cat.... ★

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# Berryhill Response to Legislature's Attack on Gun Owners' Rights



She recently called for allowing more people to join Medicare – the government-run healthcare program for seniors – by allowing those “55 or 50 and up” to buy into it. Sanders can no doubt take credit for

Nevertheless, Sanders's focus on single-payer has attracted attention. A recent survey found that 63 percent of people had a positive reaction to the term "Medicare for all." Meanwhile, thousands of doctors recently

The recent history of single-payer systems sponsored by the federal government isn't much more encouraging.

This spring, thousands of junior doctors went on strike. Patients had no choice but to wait for the walkout to end, as hospitals postponed more

*Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith is a Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is The Way Out of Obamacare (Encounter, 2016).* ★



**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Senator Tom Berryhill (R-Twain Harte) issued the following statement in response to the Legislature agreeing to a package of bills that further restrict the rights of California's law-abiding gun owners:

“In some instances Governor Brown has already vetoed a similar policy idea. SB 1407 for example is almost identical to 2014’s SB 808. His veto message says it all:

'I appreciate the author's concerns about gun violence, but I can't see how adding a serial number to a homemade gun would significantly advance public safety.'

"What the Senate passed today is an attack on the Constitutional Rights of law-abiding gun owners. It will do little or nothing to deter criminals."

*Senator Berryhill represents Rancho Cordova and the counties of Amador, Calaveras, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Stanislaus, Tuolumne and parts of Fresno, Madera, Sacramento and Tulare. For additional information about Senator Berryhill visit [www.senate.ca.gov/berryhill](http://www.senate.ca.gov/berryhill).* ★

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. recently announced the appointment of Zia Zafir, 56, of Gold River, to the State Mining and Geology Board. Zafir has been vice president and chief seismic engineer at Kleinfelder Inc. since 2010, where he has held several positions since 1994, including practice leader, principal engineer and staff engineer.

He was a staff engineer at Geo Spectra Consulting Engineers Inc. from 1993 to 1994. Zafin earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in civil engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Zafin is registered without party preference.

Source: Office of Gov. Brown ★

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. announced Amy Miller, 42, of Folsom, has been appointed associate director of female offender programs and services at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, where she has served as associate director of reception center institutions since 2014. Miller served in several positions at California State Prison, Centinela from 2010 to 2014, including warden, chief deputy warden and associate

warden and was a correctional officer there from 1999 to 2000. She served in several positions at Calipatria State Prison from 2000 to 2010, including facility captain, lieutenant and sergeant and was a correctional officer there from 1996 to 1999. Miller was a captain at the California Institution for Women from 2006 to 2007. This position requires Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$148,188. Miller is a Democrat.

Source: Office of Gov. Brown ★

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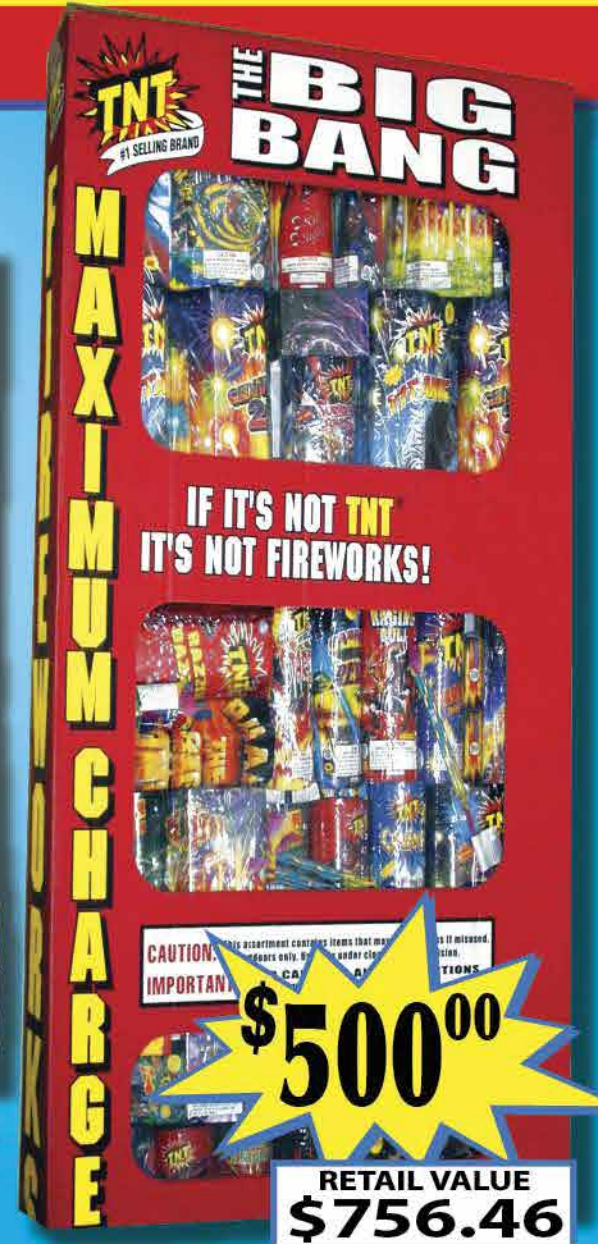
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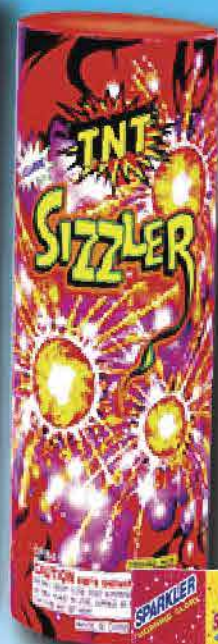
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