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in ‘Community  
Center’

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Best in the World

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# Gold River Messenger

“Written by the people, for the people”

Volume 4 • Issue 05

Serving Gold River and Sacramento County

May, 2016

LESSONS  
LEARNED  
ON A DATE



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PROVIDES CARE FOR  
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WHEN NEW YORK  
FALLS, SO DOES  
THE DIVISION



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## Gala Supporters Give a Hoot

Parkway Gem Hosts Art-Auction Fundraiser



Saw-Whet owl Sophia — an Effie Yeaw Nature Center ambassador — will be among hosts at the May 21st Effie Yeaw al fresco gala.

Story and photo  
by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Now in its sixth year operating as a non-profit, the Effie Yeaw Nature Center is preparing for its spring art-auction fundraiser with new

patronage. As honorary chairpersons, art collectors Estelle Saltzman and Russ Solomon (of Tower Records fame) follow such luminaries as Marcy Friedman, Congresswoman Doris Matsui, and artist Greg Kondos in this role.

Administered by the American

River Natural History Association, the facility and its preserve welcome more than 90,000 visitors per year. “The Center has a special history in this community” notes Effie Yeaw Fund Developer Betty Cooper. “Caring supporters keep

us open and available for future

generations.” A portion of funds raised on May 21st will provide free natural science enrichment programs to schools that cannot otherwise afford them.

The Sacramento Fine Arts Center is a vital gala partner and

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## Is High-Speed Rail Gov. Brown’s Latest Green Vanity Project?

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado) issued the following statement regarding recent Senate Transportation & Housing Committee oversight hearing on the updated High-Speed Rail business plan:

“High-Speed Rail is on pace to be the most colossal waste of taxpayer money in California history and needs to be stopped before our citizens take an unprecedented fleecing.



Senator Ted Gaines (R-El Dorado)

“The initial \$33 billion total cost estimate has already ballooned to more than \$60 billion, and the story is about to get worse. The California Rail Authority is facing potential cost overruns of \$400 million dollars on just the first 29 miles of the 500+ mile project. And this is on the flat and sparse Central Valley. What will the cost overruns be in the infinitely more crowded and complex Bay Area, Los Angeles, and San Diego?

“I’m incredibly disappointed that during today’s oversight hearing, where legislators and bullet train representatives went back and forth on the new timelines, routes and funding proposals, there was zero opportunity for anyone in opposition to speak. On a project this big, the critics should be more than a

Continued on page 6

## A Hole-In-One Charity for Kids

By Annika Darling

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Blessings in a Backpack is feeding the future of America, and needs your help! On Friday, June 3rd, they will be hosting a charity golf tournament.

The fun-filled benevolent event includes 18-holes of golf, a cart to zip around on and help you retrieve your ball when you hit that hole-in-one! A lunch is included as well because every golf super star needs sustenance. Awards will be given — including a

Food is an essential building block, and in this case truly is a blessing, especially to a hungry child! Help feed the kids Friday, June 3rd, at the Charity Golf Tournament. Photo courtesy Blessings in a Backpack



Hawaiian golf vacation for 21, various surprises are waiting, and so is Doug Thomas!

Participates can meet Thomas (for those of you who live under a rock he is the rockin’ on-air host from 96.9 the Eagle), as well as MLB Greg Vaughn, and three time boxing champ Tony “the Tiger” Lopez. To find out what other once in a lifetime meeting opportunities will arise you’ll just have to come hit a few golf balls around.

If you like golf, and you like helping feeding children who would otherwise risk going hungry, then this event is perfect for you. Heck, it’s perfect for anyone with a giving heart.

Blessings in a Backpack mobilizes

communities, individuals, and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry. There are more than 20-million children in this country who are at risk of hunger. The consequences of hunger are much more than a growling stomach. Poor nutrition can result in a weaker immune system, increased hospitalization, lower IQ, shorter attention spans, and lower academic achievement. Children are fed during the school week by federal government programs, but Blessings in a Backpack wants to make sure they’re getting nutritional meals over the weekend, too.

Continued on page 2

Local Councilwoman & Business owner  
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# Switzerland’s Unique Travel System Is the Best in the World

By Judy Zimmerman

You can set your clocks by Swiss trains, along with its postal busses, lake steamers, and city bus lines. All are connected in a dense travel system that is synchronized for amazingly easy and prompt connections that is an unforgettable experience.

Although Switzerland’s unique paradise is only 216 miles from north to south and 137 miles from east to west, it encompasses four diverse cultural regions where the people speak different languages: German – 64%, French – 23%, Italian – 8%, and Romansch – 1%.

After landing at Zurich’s airport, it’s an easy walk to the airport’s own train station. From here the route travels through eastern Switzerland to the Europe’s largest Rhine Falls and the city of Schaffhausen, with its landmark Munot fortress.

You pass Lake Constance which shares its shoreline with Germany and Austria, and in about an hour arrive in the university city of St. Gallen, founded in the seventh century. A popular attraction is the Abbey Library, which houses some 170,000 rare books and manuscripts.

The best way to discover all the delights of Switzerland is by taking its “Grand Train Tour” — eight inter-linked rail routes which bring together the highlights of Swiss public transport,



The Bernina Express. Photo courtesy www.swissrailssystem.com

placing the emphasis on must-see attractions. This wonderfully diverse journey will whisk you through spectacular scenery as you lean back, rest, and relax in comfort.

One of the most popular train routes is the famous Glacier Express which links the Alpine resorts of St. Moritz and Zermatt that is surrounded by snow-capped mountains and the majestic Matterhorn. The train crosses no fewer than 291 bridges, passes through 91 tunnels and travels along seven valleys. The journey from Canton Valais to the Engadine takes about eight hours, winding

past glistening glaciers and crystal clear lakes.

The Glacier Express travels through the glorious Goms region with its typical timbered dwellings. The sunny valley of the Upper Goms is one of the most beautiful landscapes in Switzerland.

It then continues through the rugged splendor of the Rhine Gorge (the “Grand Canyon of Switzerland”). From Chur, the route extends to the famous holiday resort of St. Moritz which became the birthplace of Alpine tourism in 1864.

The “Grand Train Tour of Switzerland” also includes three

other panorama trains — the Bernina Express, the Golden Pass, and the William Tell Express.

The Bernina Express is one of the most unforgettable routes

in Switzerland, offering breathtaking views of the Morteratsch Glacier, Lake Bianco, and the Poschiavo Valley in Italian-speaking Switzerland.

The Bernina Express Bus, the Palm Express, runs year-round past a cluster of quaint villages and Lake Como enroute to the palm trees that line Lugano’s lakefront.

The Golden Pass Line links German-speaking central Switzerland with the French language part of the country. This route passes countless lakes and waterfalls, including world-renowned destinations such as Lucerne, Interlaken, Gstaad, and Montreux on Lake Geneva.

And then there is the William Tell Express, which takes travelers to sun-kissed Canton Ticino with its Mediterranean-like magic. The first part of the journey is by boat across Lake Lucerne, followed by the first class train trip in panoramic railcars along the wonderful historic Gotthard route, an outstanding engineering achievement that

was opened in 1882.

The Swiss Travel Pass, valid for 3, 4, 8, or 15 days, is a single all-in-one ticket that covers travel by the Glacier Express, Bernina Express, Golden Pass Line, and William Tell Express. The only extra is the surcharge for a mandatory seat reservation (not required on the Golden Pass Line.) For more information and to purchase a pass, visit [www.swisstravelsystem.com](http://www.swisstravelsystem.com)

The Swiss have also created a perfect system for baggage transportation. Visitors from abroad can hand in baggage at any departure airport worldwide and have it delivered directly to their Swiss destination. With selected airlines, the system operates in the opposite direction when travelling back from Switzerland. And while travelling within Switzerland, visitors can also have their baggage forwarded from one destination to another. To find out more on this, visit [www.SwissTravelSystem.com/baggage](http://www.SwissTravelSystem.com/baggage). ★

## A Hole-In-One Charity for Kids

Continued from page 1

Blessings in a Backpack is a 501 C (3) non-profit organization currently feeding over 83,000 children 900 schools in 46 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. The program is a hybrid of private sector funding and public partnership carried out in schools. They are feeding the future of America, one school at a time.

Food is an essential building block, and in this case truly is a blessing, especially to a hungry child!

Registration for the upcoming Charity Golf Tournament will close on May 18th, so don’t hesitate to sign up for this day of leisure and fundraising. Cost to attend this high-class charity event is only \$100, better yet, bring three friends and get a foursome ticket for only \$360.



Kids come charging from the play yards (after school) to help Blessings in a Backpack unload. Photo courtesy Blessings in a Backpack

One ticket (\$100) feeds one child on the weekends for one 38-week school year through the Blessings in a Backpack program. The results: nourished kids ready to learn.

To register visit [www.BibSac.org](http://www.BibSac.org) or call (916) 213-5595.

Sponsorships are available.

So mark your calendars for June 3rd to help feed the kids. Registration the day of the tournament begins at 7 a.m. and tee-off is at 8 a.m. See you there! ★

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# Local Doctor Provides Care for Future Service Dog

**GOLD RIVER, CA (MPG)** - Henry Schein, Inc. and Canine Companions for Independence, Inc. have partnered with Dr. Kulwant Bindra, a veterinarian who treats local animals at the Gold River Pet Hospital, to provide the essential products and care for Habit, a puppy being raised by a local volunteer to eventually serve as a highly trained assistance dog for a child or adult with disabilities.

Dr. Bindra contributed to the puppy's health and development when he presented a "Henry Schein Cares-Canine Companions Puppy Raiser Care Package" to Habit's volunteer puppy raiser, Abby Johnson of Rancho Cordova, California. The care package contains items essential to caring for the puppy during its first 18 months of life. With a total value greater than \$300, it is designed to help defray the costs that Dr. Bindra and Ms. Johnson will incur while caring for the puppy.

The package is part of a unique program created by Canine Companions for Independence, the first and largest assistance dog organization in the United States helping people with physical disabilities, and Henry Schein Animal Health, the leading companion animal health product and services provider in the country. Dr. Bindra is one of 700 veterinarians who will deliver care packages to volunteer puppy raisers during the program, which began in September 2015. A video about the program can be found here.

"As veterinarians, we enter this profession because we can think



Dr. Kulwant Bindra, right, of Gold River Pet Hospital is pictured here with Uyen Ta, a Territory Manager for Henry Schein Animal Health. Ms. Ta presented Dr. Bindra with the care package that he delivered to Ms. Johnson, as well as a plaque recognizing him for his participation in the "Henry Schein Cares-Canine Companions Puppy Raiser Care Package" program. Photo courtesy Henry Schein, Inc.

of no higher calling than to provide for the health and safety of animals," said Dr. Bindra. "It is an incredible honor to work with Habit, who will provide a deserving child or adult with greater independence, protection, devotion, and so much more. I want to thank Henry Schein Cares and Canine Companions for Independence for sharing my commitment to this incredible animal."

Canine Companions service dogs such as Habit are Labrador retrievers, golden retrievers or crosses of the two. They are partnered with individuals with physical disabilities to assist with daily tasks and to increase independence by reducing reliance on other people. A service dog can pull their partner in a manual wheelchair, push buttons for elevators or automatic doors, and even assist with personal transactions.

"The Gold River community is incredibly lucky to have such a compassionate, devoted and talented veterinarian as Dr. Bindra," said Fran Dirksmeier, President, Henry Schein Animal Health, North America. "These dogs receive the highest level of training, and as such, require the highest level of veterinary care. We are humbled to know that Henry Schein is playing a part in supporting Dr. Bindra as he cares for Habit, and we are honored to partner with Canine Companions in this vital work."

Founded in 1975, non-profit Canine Companions for Independence created the concept of assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities and has placed nearly 5,000 assistance dog teams. The organization has over 1,600 volunteer puppy raisers that provide early socialization and basic obedience training, both of which are essential in preparing a puppy for life as an assistance dog.

"Our program relies heavily on veterinarians like Dr. Bindra, who give so much of their time and talent to caring for our puppies at this critical stage in their development," said Paul Mundell, Chief Executive Officer of Canine Companions for Independence. "It's very rewarding to be able to partner with Henry Schein to provide our veterinarians and volunteer puppy raisers with a selection of products that will help them transform these adorable puppies into remarkable dogs."

Source Henry Schein, Inc. ★

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\* Prices current versus same quarter three years ago, inventory current versus same quarter one year ago.

# Gala Supporters Give a Hoot

Continued from page 1

the art show that supports the fundraiser will offer work from throughout Sacramento. Jurists are Shelly Willis, of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, and designer Jon Stevenson. Celebrity artists who have donated work for auction include Jian Wang, David Peterson, Gregory Kondos, Maria Winkler, and the

late Earl Boley. Auctioneer to the stars David Sobon will wield the hammer for these coveted works. Fox-40's Bethany Crouch adds to the celebrity lineup as emcee.

Silent auctions will offer other award-winning work. Before the date, these can be viewed at the Fine Arts Center (Gibbons Drive), Carmichael.

A sunset supper and beverages

are part of the \$75 per person admission. Art Where Wild Things Are runs from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park. Valet parking is free. Table sponsors are welcome. For information on the event, visit [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net).

To learn about the Sacramento Fine Arts exhibition, visit [www.sacfinearts.org](http://www.sacfinearts.org) ★

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# How to Fix America’s Failing Cybersecurity Capabilities

**Commentary**  
**by Nada Marie Anid**

Barack Obama just became the first U.S. president to write a line of computer code. The gesture is part of a national push for computer science education. In fact, the White House recently announced a \$4 billion “Computer Science for All” initiative that will help educate the next generation of coders.

It couldn’t have come soon enough. In addition to playing an increasingly central role in business, computer science know-how is vital to America’s economic and national security. 2015 was the worst year ever for cybercrime, with nearly 1,000 major data breaches.

These attacks included the theft of 21.5 million records from the federal government’s Office of Personnel Management and a T-Mobile breach that exposed the names, addresses, and Social Security numbers of 15 million customers.

Efforts to bolster cybersecurity all face the same obstacle: a shortage of talent. Protecting our citizens requires a large-scale effort to attract talented people to the cyber workforce and then train them to meet and thwart modern, unexpected threats.

There are currently 209,000 unfilled positions for cybersecurity workers in the United States, according to a Stanford University report. Worldwide, the figure totals roughly 1 million.

With cybercriminals growing

more sophisticated each day, we need a long-term strategy to close the cybersecurity talent gap.

To start, computer science must become a central component of our education system.

According to a recent Gallup survey commissioned by Google, less than one third of K-12 teachers and administrators say that computer science is a top priority for their school. In a survey commissioned by defense contractor Raytheon, 82 percent of millennials reported that no teacher or guidance counselor had ever mentioned the possibility of a job in cybersecurity.

Thankfully, some policymakers are attempting to change the status quo. On top of President Obama’s national initiative, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio has committed his city’s school system to offering computer science classes to all students within 10 years.

Efforts to ignite a passion for cybersecurity careers should give special attention to young women. According to that same Raytheon survey, men are five times more likely to consider a career in cybersecurity than women. Research from a study I’m conducting with colleagues from Cisco and the wider tech community for an upcoming book called The Internet of Women, supports Raytheon’s findings.

Another valuable step would be the creation of a cybersecurity scholarship program. The National Science Foundation already offers funding for

degrees related to cybersecurity, provided recipients work for the government upon graduation.

What’s needed is a more ambitious scholarship program, similar in scope to the GI Bill.

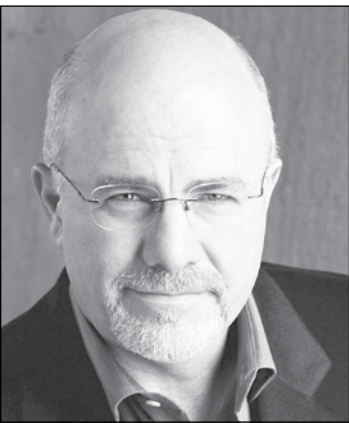
Private-sector businesses such as technology firms and military contractors should establish related initiatives, offering to pay off education loans for students who accept in-house cybersecurity positions.

But it won’t be enough to simply encourage more Americans to earn degrees in computer science. Students also need access to tech immersion programs to see the practical implications of their studies.

My own university, New York Institute of Technology, has worked with industry leaders to create internships and other real-world experiences and opportunities. And we’ve dramatically increased our cybersecurity course offerings, hiring expert faculty in biometrics, swarm intelligence, cryptography, data mining and forensics, and network security. We’ve even added a cybersecurity concentration for undergraduates and a master’s program.

America faces mounting cyber threats. Only through better funding incentives and hands-on immersive training can we hope to attract more young people to the cybersecurity field.

*Nada Marie Anid, Ph.D. is dean of the school of engineering and computing sciences at New York Institute of Technology.* ★



## Dave Says

second case, it’s just a purchase you made as a hobby. That kind of thing can go without a whole lot of thought. If what you own doesn’t have some kind of deep sentimental and emotional connection to family or a major life event, then it’s just stuff.

I hope this helps a little, William. There’s nothing wrong with having some nice things. But there’s a big difference between you having things and your things having you. Never let “stuff” stand between you and your family’s sense of security and financial well-being!

—Dave

### Speeding ticket emergency

Dear Dave,

Recently, I got a speeding ticket. I’m also following your plan, so I was wondering if a speeding ticket is a good reason to dip into my emergency fund.

- Ariel

Dear Ariel,

Well, it depends. Certainly you have to pay the ticket. In most states you could lose your driver’s license for not paying a speeding ticket. You’d have a real emergency then, wouldn’t you?

I would advise looking at the situation this way: what is the amount of the ticket in relation to your income and overall financial health? If the ticket is \$100 and you make \$200,000 a year, then stop worrying and pay the ticket. But if you got slapped with a \$300 ticket and you only make \$20,000 a year, then that could be an emergency.

If you can cash flow it out of your budget, then leave the emergency fund alone. If not, then dip in for just enough to pay the fine and replace the amount as quickly as possible. I mean, you’ve got to get it paid, right?

That’s an interesting question, Ariel. I’m glad you’re working to get control of your money. Just remember to slow down a little when you’re behind the wheel!

—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. Give gratitude  
6. \*In the manner of, French  
9. Etna output  
13. Sainly glows  
14. Filling station filler  
15. Never say this?  
16. Outhouse  
17. FedEx competitor  
18. Gallery opening, e.g.  
19. \*Firm to the bite, Italian  
21. \*Agreement, French  
23. Luau welcome  
24. Prep flour for baking  
25. Public house, for short  
28. Sudden break  
30. Tapioca in primordial stage  
35. Beehive state  
37. Stewie Griffin’s bed  
39. Holy Grail, e.g.  
40. Infamous Roman  
41. Having prongs  
43. \_\_\_\_-a-whirl  
44. Dr. Watson to Sherlock Holmes, e.g.  
46. Hostile to  
47. In good health, often precedes “hearty”  
48. Door holders  
50. Where Magi came from  
52. Feeling blue  
53. \_\_\_\_ cream  
55. Bird word  
57. \*Mashed chickpeas, Arabic  
60. \*\*\*“Airy” dessert, French  
64. Put through a blender  
65. William F. Cody, \_\_\_\_ Buffalo Bill  
67. Alley cat  
68. Ar on Periodic Table  
69. Band booking  
70. L in AWOL  
71. Harbor ill feelings  
72. \_\_\_\_ of Good Feelings  
73. Keyboard key

**DOWN**

1. \*Cover in Spanish  
2. Fling  
3. Like Gobi  
4. Innie or outie  
5. Father of Keynesian economics  
6. Chills and fever  
7. Napkin holder  
8. \*Allegro \_\_\_\_ in music, Italian  
9. Prefix meaning “left”  
10. Affirm solemnly  
11. Vendors do this  
12. Public hanging?  
15. Greek god’s libation  
20. Color lightly  
22. Chlorofluorocarbon  
24. “Mr. Twister” gear  
25. \*Judy’s husband, from Italian Pulcinella  
26. Embryo cradles  
27. Sacha Cohen’s middle name  
29. \*Vocal piece for one, Italian  
31. Comedian \_\_\_\_ Rogan  
32. Bruce Wayne’s Batman, e.g.  
33. \*Fancy country house, Italian  
34. Behaved  
36. \*Mercantile establishment, Chinese  
38. Between Phi and Kappa  
42. Studio 54 heyday genre  
45. Ones of unquestioning obedience  
49. Old French coin  
51. Dishevel  
54. Cell phone bill item  
56. More than occasional  
57. Injure  
58. Drive  
59. Feline noise  
60. \*Long and complicated story, Old Norse  
61. Sigma Phi Epsilon  
62. Cleanse  
63. Ogler  
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# Lessons Learned On a Date

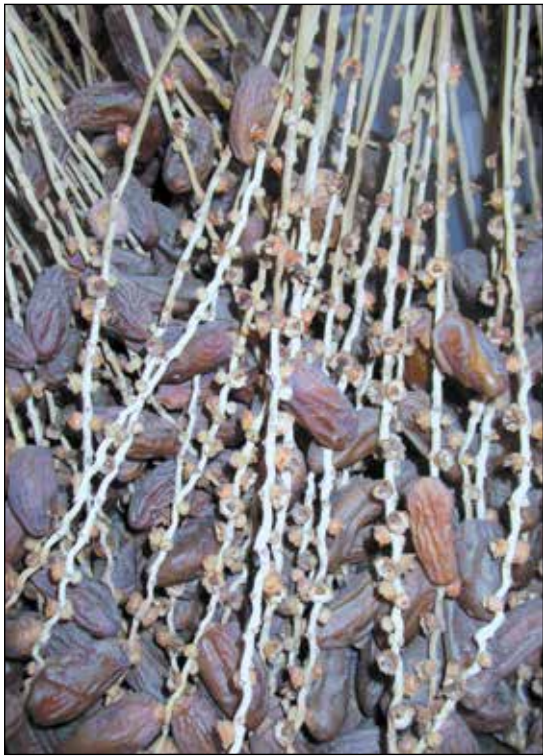
Story and photo  
by Alona Thomas

I truly have so much fun exploring and writing about my discoveries for the Gold River Messenger. The stories that begin with just an inquiry about how someone gets started as an entrepreneur or what is the process that brings something delicious to our table is always a stimulating adventure.

On a recent mini-vacation to Palm Desert I was determined to visit a date farm. Dates are wonderful by themselves and I love to use them many ways including a very easy appetizer. However, I did not know how they got to my plate. My wish was granted by the Pato's Dream Date Gardens located in the Coachella Valley.

Guinea hens announced my arrival at this five acre farm which was fairly obscured by Palm trees. Douglass and Debbie Adair, have owned and operated this organic farm since 1977. As we walked and talked about date farming, I realized I was meeting with an individual that has a very interesting life. Mr. Adair joined the United Farm Worker's Union of America in 1965 at 22 years old after graduating from UC Berkeley. His up bring was academia, but his love of the outdoors and the hard physical work of farming brought him to the fields where he picked peaches, plums and grapes. He was beside Gilbert Padilla and Ceasar Chevez during those years of strikes and organizational struggles. After my visit I could not wait to google him to find out the story and realized I had the good fortune to meet with a man who walks with history.

Douglass purchased the farm with nine palm trees. His intention was to grow grapes, but a friend offered to help him with the date trees and 40 years later "we grow our dates as they were grown in the times of the Bible and Koran". Dates have a sex life — there are male and female trees and no figs will happen unless the two should engage. The female tree flower must be pollinated by the male tree pollen. On Pato's farm this is done by a professional Pollinator which climbs the female tree and distributes the pollen by hand. There are spikes on the trees which can make this a very sticky endeavor. The water source is the Colorado River and when irrigation is required, Douglass orders the water and then regulates it



between the farmers above and below his property to provide for his trees. Palm trees are prolific and develop shoots that are cut from the mother tree and then replanted. The clone of the mother Medjool is thought to be the great, great grandchild of a single oasis in Morocco. Because they use no pesticides or artificial chemicals, the Pato dates are completely natural.

Today, the farm is almost fully populated by date palms. Douglass only sells his dates at farmer's markets and direct through the mail. Medjools, Halawis, Khala, and Mariana's are all available at harvest time. It is possible to purchase a frond with dates and have them hang in the kitchen and pluck at will as they become softer over time. They also sell the tall palm to landscapers that will need a tree of a certain height. They come to the farm, measure the tree for the exact requirement and then dig it up for a future at a resort or home driveway.

It was great day to not only learn about dates, but to meet Douglass Adair also known as Pato.

Alona's hobbies are food and delicious times. Contact Alona at: alonathomas@gmail.com ★

## Is High-Speed Rail Gov. Brown's Latest Green Vanity Project?

Continued from page 1  
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# Game Plots

When New York Falls, So Does the Division

By Noah Howard

The Division has one of the best videogame titles of the generation. Rarely before has the simple name of a game so completely embodied its problems, and so perfectly illustrated what it feels like to play. Because ultimately, The Division is a game divided, attempting to combine two different experiences into one and creating something contradictory in the process.

United we stand, but in The Division, we fall.

The Division takes place in a ruined NYC after a biological terror attack causes many of America's largest cities to collapse. You play as a Division agent, an elite sleeper soldier sent in by the government to restore order by any means possible. And by "any means possible," they really mean, "filling people with lead." Options for real humanitarian aid, which is clearly what the city needs most, are limited to maintaining a base/refugee shelter and handing out sodas on the streets.

Undoubtedly the New York streets have numerous death-deserving characters, be it the gang of flamethrower-wielding maniacs or the power-hungry mercenary goons. But things are more complicated when the game asks you to kill "Rikers," escaped convicts that are all somehow deserving of the death penalty even though the game acknowledges many of them were locked up for drug offenses, and "Rioters," a group of unorganized looters that, it seems, are just trying to survive along with everyone else.



The Division should serve as a lesson to other developers: make sure you know what your work implies in the context of society, or risk dividing your audience as well.

In an era of increased awareness of police violence, the idea of playing as a government agent killing nonviolent criminals and New York civilians is obviously problematic. To be fair, these Rikers and Rioters are programmed to shoot you on sight, but because The Division's enemies usually take at least a full clip of ammo to take down, the design of the game encourages you to shoot first to get a leg-up. From 300 yards away you can take your sniper rifle and eliminate a group of Rioters who are not visibly armed, have not yet threatened you in any way, and whose only crime is showing up red in your targeting reticle.

This has led many to ask the question, why are Division agents any better than the people they fight? They attack violence with violence, they kill with as little account for the justice system of our country as the "criminals" themselves. Oftentimes they will shoot someone in the back for looting a body, and then loot the body of the person they shot. However, The Division makes little to no effort to address this

moral conundrum, and demonstrates little awareness of the actions it pats the player on the back for performing.

Some have pointed out that similar actions have been encouraged in almost every shooter; every Call of Duty in recent memory has a sniping level where you take out assailants without them ever knowing your location. But there's a difference between shooting enemy combatants on a battlefield, and killing Americans on American soil on behalf of the American government.

It's not that the developers at Ubisoft were being actively malicious. It's simply clear that, in their effort to craft a world with so much visual and mechanical detail, they failed to zoom out and look at the bigger picture. Nevertheless, The Division should serve as a lesson to other developers: make sure you know what your work implies in the context of society, or risk dividing your audience as well.

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



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By David Dickstein,  
Gold River resident

I’ve lived in Gold River for nearly 17 years and for all the good our community association does, what doesn’t sit well with me is the usage policy of a building we pay for on Gold Country Boulevard.

You’ve passed by it countless times, but I’ll bet my fully punched Yogurt Monkey loyalty card that most of you have never stepped foot in it. It’s called the Gold River Community Center, and it’s run like no other community center I’ve ever known.

“A building or group of buildings where there are classes and activities for the people who live in a community” is Merriam-Webster’s simple definition of “community center,” and that’s been my experience with similarly named complexes before moving here. Gold River’s facility qualifies, but with a big, discouraging asterisk. Except for official village and GRCA activities, the Gold River community is discouraged from using the Gold River Community Center. Walk into the GRCA office to request use of the clubhouse for, say, a neighborhood social or a meeting of Gold River Discovery Center parents and you’d swear there’s a flat-out ban on usage by residents outside of conducting official association business. Out of curiosity, I’ve gone in a few times over the years and have always been told “sorry.”

But there’s one group that never hears that word if the clubhouse calendar is open. The Gold River Villagers, a vibrant and wonderful club that recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, is given exclusive use of the beautifully appointed meeting space for its members to play mahjong, bunco and bridge, among



During the open forum, I asked if members can rent the very room we were in, and if not why not. The five board members were respectful and congenial, but didn’t give me the impression they would champion any new group using the clubhouse.

other social activities. This benefit is even in writing — on the GRCA Community Center Use Policy that identifies the club as the only entity outside GRCA and the 25 villages to which the facility is available: “GRCA-sanctioned groups (currently The Villagers only).”

Now, I’m not proposing that anyone mess with the good thing The Villagers have going. Give them first dibs on calendar dates into perpetuity for all I care. They were here first and that should be respected. But this is a matter of principle. It’s about fairness. It’s also about at least considering ways to make better use of a GRCA asset we homeowners have bankrolled through dues since it opened in 1990. Maybe start with weekend rentals as a pilot. Except for a couple of hours on one Saturday morning for a GRCA “Coffee & Chat,” the clubhouse was completely dark on weekends in April. Looking back further, the facility was unused nearly every Saturday and Sunday for months.

Which begs the question: Why? The Gold River Online community asked that very question back

in June 2010 after it was learned that Carly Fiorina, a non-resident, was allowed to book the community center to drum up local support for her U.S. senate election campaign. The former HP CEO, who would eventually lose to a re-elected Barbara Boxer, even made campaign calls from the clubhouse. Based on GRCA rules, this was a big, fat no-no. Among the criteria for an event to be sanctioned by the GRCA board is that it cannot be political. Whoops.

I’m not advocating an investigation of this clear rules violation, especially since it happened 6 years ago by a different GRCA board, but I can completely understand the cries of double standards, favoritism and hypocrisy from dues-paying residents back then. A subscriber who goes by “selder” on Gold River Online shared his or her experience trying to introduce a candidate for county sheriff to Gold River voters. “I was told that the GRCA does not allow homeowners to use the facility at all,” the post read. “It could be used for village meetings but for nothing else.

I offered to pay a fee for usage as well as cleaning fee and was still told no! I was very surprised to see on the news that another candidate was able to use the facility. Does not seem fair that some are allowed and others are not.”

“Bloomer” chimed in with, “Why don’t we charge and make some money, defray costs for homeowners? I don’t get why we let that place sit empty not earning money.” “Cynthia” fathomed an answer: “I think it is just pure laziness on the part of GRCA and staff.”

The thread died after “GRGuy” wisely suggested to those upset over the policy to confront the GRCA directly. If anyone ever did, the outcome was never shared online. So I went to a GRCA board meeting the other week to pick up where things left off in 2010. During the open forum, I asked if members can rent the very room we were in, and if not why not. The five board members were respectful and congenial, but didn’t give me the impression they would champion any new group using the clubhouse.

“It’s not meant to be used that way,” said one board member. Others reasoned that it would require GRCA office staff to put in overtime and risk the community center’s pristine appearance. I totally get all of that, but those concerns could be easily quelled by setting rental fees that include staffing costs and require a large

security deposit. Heck, put a lien on event-sponsoring homeowners if there’s damage, just as GRCA does for other violations that can’t be resolved. Just don’t give a flat-out “no” because despite what the community has been led to believe, that would be against policy.

Rules clearly state that “GRCA-sanctioned groups” are allowed facility use. So what does it take to get sanctioned? The organization requesting the meeting space must prove to the board that it has “broad-based community interest” and is open to all members of the GRCA. Policy, as we know was violated by the board in 2010, also states that their purpose of assembly cannot be of a political nature.

The current board seems like good people, and there’s no reason to believe that the elected officials being installed this month won’t be the same. So here’s to being hopeful that when requests come in to use of our community center in the future, residents are met not with an immediate “no” like from a parent who thinks he or she knows what’s best, but given fair consideration. It’s in the rules, after all, and we’ve paid our dues long enough. ★

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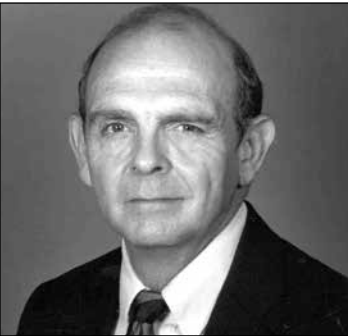
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# Registering Women for the Draft: A Charade, Not a Necessity



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

## Raley’s and iFoster Celebrate Anniversary of Foster Youth Hiring Program

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- In conjunction with Foster Care Awareness Month, Raley’s Family of Fine Stores and iFoster commemorated one year of hiring foster youth by hosting 1,000 foster youth at the River Cats game at Raley Field on Saturday evening. The event marked the largest group of foster youth ever assembled for such a celebration.

In the past year, Raley’s has hired 17 foster youth, with several more candidates currently under consideration. Subsequently, 10 companies have joined Raley’s in employing foster youth who are aging out of the system, resulting in gainful employment for over 100 youth in Placer and Los Angeles Counties, with a 100 percent hiring success rate and 90 percent retention rate through their first 6 months on the job. Nine more companies are in the process of joining the program.

For every youth put on the path to independence, the program saves society an average of \$1 million in lost contribution.

Source: Raley’s Family of Fine Stores

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

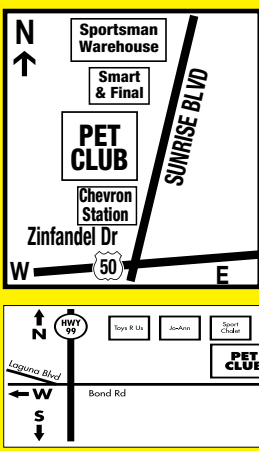
previously existed. Ultimately, the issue of conscripting women is a political charade. Republicans support it to avoid being accused of starting a “war on women.” Democrats do so as a matter of social justice and social engineering and not national security. Either way, drafting women is inane.

—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. ★

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