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'CORRIDOR OF CORRUPTION' YIELDS NEW CASE



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Saving the Milk Farm Cow



Dawson's Restaurant owner Jill Orr, Museum President Bill Schroeder, and Steve Ropp try to put the Milk Farm Cow back in the 'barn' at the Dixon History Museum this past week. Photo by Darla Wear

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Finding a giant wood cow may not be exciting to some but to Greg and Jill Orr, owners of Dawson's Bar and Grill, it was a discovered Milk Farm treasure and one they would pass onto the Dixon Historical Society.

The Milk Farm started in 1928 during World War II just outside of Dixon along the Highway by Karl A. Hess, according to Wikipedia.

It quickly became a very popular restaurant with 10-cent pony rides for children and an all-you-can-drink milk contest. It was eventually featured in a 1940 issue of The Saturday Evening Post, effectively putting

Dixon on the map and giving it the nickname "Dairy Town" because at the time, Dixon was at the very heartland of the California dairy industry.

Decades later, it closed in 1986 after a storm ripped a whole in the roof. Ultimately, the vacant building decayed with repeated vandalizing. Although Dixonites were able to keep the towering sign from being destroyed, it still stands today complete with the happy cow jumping over the moon along I-80 on Milk Farm Road.

This past week, Karen Johnson, a friend of Jill Orr, spotted the adorable cow and another Milk Farm sign being offered by Steve Ropp, owner of the Architectural Salvage

Yard in Sacramento where his business is to repurpose, salvage, and restore. Johnson has done a lot of the same to decorate her yard so is familiar with the site. She immediately alerted her Dixon "peeps" and the Orrs made the deal.

"Originally I freaked out. My first reaction, was 'why isn't that at the fairgrounds?' Then, it was okay, calm down," said Johnson who lives in Willows, California but grew up in Dixon and her father still resides here.

"I've been following Steve before he had the salvage yard," she explained. "He knows what he's doing. I texted Steve and said, 'I don't care what it cost, we have to get

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Settlement Reached Between County Assessor and Genentech

Solano County News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Over two decades in the making, Solano County Assessor Recorder Marc Tonnesen is pleased to announce the Solano County Assessment Appeals Board reached a settlement agreement between Genentech and the Solano County Assessor's Office. The settlement agreement of \$7.67 billion for the final group of assessment appeals covers the years between 2010 – 2020.

Although this amount represents \$2.14 billion, or 22 percent, less than the original County assessed value of \$9.815 billion dollars for the Vacaville plant over the past 11 years, Tonnesen says he is satisfied.

"Considering the high value of this facility, the evidence for the "opinion of value" of each party and complex nature of the assessment, this is a fair settlement for the County and Genentech," Tonnesen said. "The settlement also avoids a potential costly and lengthy court battle between the parties."

This settlement concludes all the assessment appeals filed by Genentech for its Vacaville facility, dating back to 1997. The Solano County Auditor-Controller will release the nearly \$40 million held in an impound account to cover the Assessment Appeals Board's decision. A portion of that money will be refunded to Genentech, with the rest distributed to the County and affected local taxing jurisdictions.

By law, the assessed value is the taxable value of a property against which the tax rate is applied. In most cases, the taxpayer's "opinion of value" indicated on the assessment appeal application form has little bearing on the assessed value or taxes collected unless the assessment appeals board decides otherwise.

As was done with this most recent group of assessment appeals, prior settlements were broken into groups of years with similar circumstances, such as facility useability and market value. In Genentech's case, portions of the facility were being kept out of productive use and the real estate market condition was greatly depressed during the Great

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Principal Emphasizes Family Collaboration

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - She was born in Mexico with a father who worked the crops of California, leaving the young family for several months at a time. She was only in kindergarten when her father decided that it "wasn't good to stay in Mexico," and moved his family of six children to Vacaville at first, then to the Dixon Migrant Center.

"I remember it all very clearly," said Marta Salazar, the new Principal at Gretchen Higgins Elementary School. "I am a migrant camp child."

The Dixon Migrant Center is like a small city housed in a former U.S. Navy Installation on Radio Station Road in the boon-docks of Dixon and was established in 1950 by the Yolo Housing Authority to respond to the seasonal labor needs of farmers.

"The City of Dixon assumes the liability; the farmers pay a fee; and the day-to-day running for the center is paid for by state grants through the



From Migrant Camp Child to Principal of Gretchen Higgins Elementary School, this mother of six grew her career and her family right here in town. Photo by Debra Dingman

Department of Migrant Services," said Devon Nishimura who served as Chair for the Dixon Housing Authority Board during his council term.

Over the years, a plethora of services from daycare to bussing students

have been provided to thousands of extremely low-income and low-income residents of Yolo and Solano Counties such as Salazars. They have to overcome the language barrier and often, health issues after experiencing

long periods of poverty. The goal is to make sure all migrant students reach the same standards as traditional students and graduate with a high school diploma or complete a GED.

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We Adopted a Polling Place



Kiwanis Poll Volunteers are left to right: Mike and Patti Liu, Chris & Kathy Wallace, Karstin Feinhandler, David & Debra Dingman, and Tye McDaniel. Photo by Arthur, Poll Staff

By Debra Dingman

This is why older people get settled into life: Change is hard. For me, the simple act of setting the alarm to 5 am made me wake up every hour worried I'd sleep through it. But, I am a morning person and I was excited for hubby and I to drive out of the garage at 5:45 to get to the Veteran's Memorial Hall by 6 am. That was required by the Office of Voters Registrar for the Adopt-a-Poll fundraiser. We would not be done until after the polls close at 8 pm and clean up.

All the Kiwanis club members showed up right on time and there were others who had awakened often during the night worried they'd get something wrong. We all had been training online for our jobs and some of us took in-person classes, too. None of us had ever done anything like this and on my bucket list, I can now check this one off.

It seems I've always had someone in my direct family running for office from my oldest son to my youngest one and Dad and I in between, so working a poll was a conflict of interest.

But, back to the poll experience. I have to tell you the two hardest positions I accidentally gave to the perfect people. At the beginning when you assign folks their jobs, you don't know much about the jobs but Karstin Feinhandler of Almond Tree Mortgage is my new very favorite Kiwanis member. She had the "Provisional Clerk" spot and handled almost no-two-problems-alike beautifully and professionally.

Extra kudos also go to Tye McDaniel who effortlessly (of course, he's a digital native) set up all three of the e-ballot clerks before I was even figuring out where all the signs went. Kathy Wallace

was a gem as a Ballot Clerk which was "normal" voting and David Dingman, our Equipment Clerk, came out of his shell, happily telling every voter that if they saw the flag on the screen of the ballot counter, they did it all correctly and their vote was counted. Out of the 24 years of marriage, I've not seen him like this. He was demonstrative and smiled happily at everyone. Hmmm. Is this what retirement does?

Patti Sousa-Liu was our Greeter out front and enjoyed the heat while I would have melted and her hubby, Mike Liu, another e-Roster Clerk was also willing to perfectly manage the "Touch Writer," which printed blank ballots for those out of the precinct. We also had a few other volunteers come through to help and Ed was so helpful as he'd been through it before.

Let me tell you, this is why I love Kiwanis. We did it and we did it well. The community needed us and there we were. With all the classes and day of work, we should earn somewhere around \$1,500 which we will happily put back into our community for children via fixing band instruments, supporting Science Camp, giving scholarships, building libraries, and more!

It was an experience that I did not want to repeat due to my aching feet that would not stand anymore. But, then I slept through the night, never waking once, and the next morning, I thought maybe we'll do the one for the City Clerk Election. That should be easier since there are no out-of-towners that would vote, and now we know what we're doing. I am one happy camper. Thank you, Dixon Kiwanis Club! ★



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Saving the Milk Farm Cow

Continued from page 1

that cow back to Dixon!" I knew Jill would flip her lid so I tagged Jill and my dad and several others. I don't think I even finished tagging Jill when she called and then it just turned out."

Both signs were purchased sight unseen and donated by the Orrs.

"People need to understand the significance of these pieces," Johnson said. "Anybody under the age of 40 would not have even known what that was. We have a responsibility to save as much as we can."

Ropp brought the large 5x6-foot brown cow bearing a cherubic look and a smaller Milk Farm parking sign to the Dixon History Museum this past week and announced on social media that the Milk Farm signs made their way back to Dixon and will now be on display at the new museum location, 125 West A Street.

"They have a cool display case with other Milk Farm artifacts as well. I had a great time talking with Mr. Bill Schroeder, museum docent and local history expert, about this and that. Make sure to visit!" said Ropp.

"It's a trip down memory lane for me because there were very few landmarks on 80 between Sacramento and the Bay Area back in the day, pretty much [it] was milk farm, the Budweiser factory, the PGE powerplant and Nut Tree. This was long before all the tract homes and outlet stores," he added.

"I felt excited because we always wanted the



Dixon's iconic Milk Farm is paid tribute on shirts, hats, mugs, and magnets inside the Dixon History Museum that is now open Thursday, Fridays, and Saturdays 10 am to 2 pm. Photo by Debra Dingman

original sign from the Milk Farm to put in the museum and I always had my eyes set on the cow jumping over the moon," said Museum President Bill Schroeder, as he ran his hand over the edges of peeling paint on the brown cow.

Historical Society Board Directors are researching a way to seal the sign to protect it and discussing where they will display it – indoors or outdoors. The large cow is made out of tin and plywood with 1-inch angle irons on the backside which would keep it off the wall itself so it can breathe, explained Schroeder who hopes to see it outdoors to attract children into the museum.

"It's sad the Executive Director, Gary Erwin, resigned the week before we got it," said Schroeder. Erwin, who was temporary,

had to return to his former job at the Moscone Center, San Francisco's premier meeting and exhibition facility that had been shut down during the pandemic. "There is a void and we are looking for a new Director," Schroeder added.

The group of volunteers are also looking for docents.

"The lower participation of docents on Tuesdays and Wednesdays meant that we will now be open Thursday through Saturday instead and the hours are now 10 to 2 pm," said First Vice President Loran Hoffmann who arranges two docents each shift. "However, we are open for special tours."

For docent information and training, call Hoffmann at (707) 372-7094 or go to the museum and sign up there. ★

California Farm Bureau President Praises Nomination of Elaine Trevino

CFB Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson today applauded President Joe Biden's decision to nominate Elaine Trevino as his top agricultural trade negotiator.

Trevino, who is from California's Central Valley, is president of the Almond Alliance of California. She previously worked on international trade programs as deputy secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture under former governors Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Johansson is urging her swift confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

"California's farmers and ranchers are extremely pleased with Elaine


Trevino's appointment as chief agricultural trade negotiator for the United States Trade Representative," Johansson said. "She brings a real-life understanding of California farm communities and served in key leadership positions for both Democratic and Republican administrations. Her experience in the top agricultural production and export state in the nation gives her deep knowledge of how our nation should best navigate trade issues for the benefit of farm producers across America."

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 34,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 5.6 million Farm Bureau members. ★

MEMORIAL NOTICE

Perry Lee Hunt

April 19, 1930 to September 12, 2021



Perry Lee Hunt, 91, loved and loving husband, father, brother, friend passed away in his sleep on Sunday, September 12, 2021 after contracting the Covid virus. He had survived bladder cancer and multiple strokes.

Perry was born on April 19, 1930 to Lobel and Bonnie (Barker) Hunt in Roquemore, Texas, and graduated from Minden high school, Minden, Texas in 1948. He received an A.A. in Electronics from Yuba College in Marysville, California in 1968.

He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1950 and retired in 1977 as a CMSgt. His career in metrology, specializing in avionics calibration and measurement, earned him accolades, commendations, and medals for his leadership, problem solving, efficiency and management. Those skills served him at Barksdale AFB, LA; Andersen AFB, Guam; Beale AFB, CA; Itazuke AB, Japan; K.I. Sawyer AFB, MI; Ubon AB, Thailand; Dover AFB, Delaware; and Travis AFB, CA. and after retirement from the Air Force in Saudi Arabia with Northrup Corporation and Aramco.

He is survived by a daughter and son, Sharon Hunt and Michael Hunt, two grandchildren, Alexandra Hunt and Trevor Hunt, his sister Joyce (Hunt) Sanderlin, and several nieces and nephews. Perry was

preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Willa Jean (Pierson) Hunt; son Stephen Hunt; and siblings Wallace "Pete" Hunt, Bonnie Maude (Hunt) Smith; Doris "Dobbie" Hunt; Lobel "Son/Shorty" Hunt; Amos "Tinsey" Hunt; George Hunt; and Catherine "Cat" (Hunt) Wood.

Perry met his wife, Jean, while working on oil rigs in Nebraska. They married in 1951 and she shared his life in the military. They retired to and came to love Dixon, CA in 1977. Walking neighborhood streets was his favorite exercise. He loved traveling with his family and going to family reunions. He and Jean travelled extensively through the continental U.S., Canada, and Europe. Perry enjoyed music, especially old-style country western music. He grew flowers, tomatoes, and beans and shared them with neighbors. His hobby was tinkering with mechanical and electronic equipment. He put a full-sized color TV together in 1965 from a kit. He was a daily crossword, cryptogram, word jumble, and sudoku puzzle solver.

The Hunt family extends their gratitude to the caring staff at the Brookdale Beckett Meadows assisted living facility in Austin.

The interment service will be at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery near Dixon, CA at a date to be determined.

Principal Emphasizes Family Collaboration



Marta Salazar

Salazar started first grade at Silveyville Elementary School and got all her basic education in Dixon, graduating from Dixon High School. Afterwards, she attended UC Davis and was first in her family to earn a degree. Her major was Spanish.

“I wanted to be a Business Spanish major and work in International Business but motherhood called and two sons had been born before she finished college with a teaching credential. She began her student teaching at Silveyville in Kindergarten and thankfully, she says, with a veteran teacher. After several years there and two more children, she “took some time off.” Although

that wasn’t more than one year.

She began again at Gretchen Higgins as a bilingual first-year Spanish teacher. Then twin daughters arrived and she took two years off to concentrate on her family.

She returned to Silveyville as a part-time Reading Specialist. When it closed, she went over to Anderson Elementary picking up the rest of the hours in English Language Development.

“My desire was to educate families that went through what I went through,” said Salazar. “My parents never did get the partnerships with the schools that we have now, and I wanted a larger scale impact. My story is their story.” She began thinking of going into administration and took some more classes to move in that direction.

Dixon Unified School District Superintendent Brian Dolan encouraged her to apply for the Principal spot. This year with her oldest son now 32 and the twins 19, she was chosen to run Gretchen Higgins.

“There is so much to learn!” she said. “It is quite a leap [from teacher to Principal] and quite an adjustment. But I love being able to connect with the kids on a different level.” She gives the daily school announcements in both languages and enjoys connecting with students during lunch duty where she reports “there is much more to say when one can speak both languages.”

“This school has an awesome team of teachers and great people in the office; that’s why I said yes,” said Salazar. “I have a genuine interest in doing what’s best for the students and incorporating the family.” With six children of her own and a wealth of experience in Dixon schools, this homegrown Principal should know.

Gretchen Higgins has about 370 Kindergarten through fifth grade students with a large English Language Learner population – some from the Migrant Center. There are about 20 teachers and about ten full- and part-time support staff. It is located at 1525 Pembroke Way. ★

District Attorney is Celebrating National Forensic Science Week

Solano County District Attorney’s Office

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Please join us in recognizing all of our employees at the District Attorney’s Office Bureau of Forensic Services as we celebrate National Forensic Science Week. As stated in the Resolution passed by the Solano County Board of Supervisors, forensic science is a vital public service. It plays an important role in the investigation of crimes throughout our county and nation, from exonerating the innocent to identifying the guilty. Forensic science also plays a critical role in public outreach and crime prevention.

As we celebrate the dedication and commitment of the professionals working in our forensic laboratory and the Solano County Sheriff’s Office, we also recognize that their work is essential to the fair and ethical administration of justice. We would like



Criminalist Sam Mahil. Photo Solano District Attorney



Criminalist Nat Overlid. Photo Solano District Attorney

to thank all of the forensic science professionals for their contributions to public safety and their exceptional service to our community. ★



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Dixon News Briefs



A crew of pancake chefs from a previous pancake breakfast hosted by Grace Fellowship Church. They will be working again on Saturday, Oct. 2, beginning at 8 am while supplies last. Photo by Pastor Paul Sheldon

MPG Staff

Parks & Rec on ZOOM

Tuesday, Sept. 28, is the next City of Dixon Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting but please take note that the air conditioning system is still broken and therefore the meeting will be held via ZOOM. You can view the agenda on the City of Dixon website and click on the Government tab then scroll to Boards & Commissions, then click on Parks and Recreation. For those who did not enjoy feeling very warm in the recent meetings, this is a chance to wear your pajamas and sit in your air-conditioned homes yet still not miss the meeting.

Pancakes at Church

A free food and clothing give-away is set for Saturday, Oct. 2 from 8 to 11 am at Grace Fellowship Church, a spirit-filled, multi-ethnic church at 535 West H Street.

The church is raising money to help expand their Hispanic Ministry, said Pastor Paul Sheldon.

If you'd like to give to the cause by cleaning out your closets and your children's closets, the church is receiving donations of clothing items on Thursday, Sept. 30, and Friday, Oct. 1, and they're making it very easy for folks. Just drive up from 4 to 7 pm those evenings and drop off your gently-used clothing, and shoes for babies, children, women, and men.

For more information, call (707) 678-5700 or email dixongracefellowship@gmail.com.

Honor Guard

The Honor Guard is looking for a few good folks who can serve in the volunteer group that assists at veteran's funerals and/or public recognitions. They are both military and non-military volunteers serving primarily the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery and surrounding cemeteries. The purpose of the Service Veterans of

Northern California Volunteer Honor Guard is to provide and assist in administering full and complete military honors to veterans who have served this country and are being interred at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery and surrounding cemetery.

Team members are trained and qualified to assume the flag folding and presentation duties, the playing of “Taps” and firing rifle volleys as needed. The SVNCVHG rifle team is available Monday and Friday by appointment. Services are provided at no cost to the family of the deceased. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact via svncvhg.org or call (415) 619-9554.

Paper Shredding

If you have been waiting for a time to clean out your old mortgage papers and old tax filings, now is the time. Mark your calendars as Atkinson Self Storage will be hosting a Paper Shredding Event on Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 am to noon. They are located at 1800 North First Street (Highway 113) and the event will be held inside the storage facility, around the 'D' aisle end cap.

Cost will be \$5 a box and there should be no binder clips but regular paper clips and staples are okay. It is open to the public so you are welcome to tell a friend. For more information, call (707) 693-9200.

150th Anniversary

Also on Saturday, Oct. 9, the Dixon Fire Department will be celebrating 150 years and has plans for an Open House from 10 am to 2 pm at 205 Ford Way, behind Ron DuPratt Ford on North First Street. The event is in collaboration with Fire Prevention Week and this newspaper will be highlighting more information in our next edition. ★

Settlement Reached Between County Assessor and Genentech

Continued from page 1

Recession, contributing to the lower tax amount.

It is common for these types of appeals to end up in the court system, such as the case of Proposition 13, which ended up in the California and Federal Supreme Courts. By law, a party who is dissatisfied with

the local appeals board decision may appeal it to a higher superior court. The court may reverse the appeals board decision on legal issues, and remand, or send the case back, to the appeals board with instructions to resolve it to a point where no issue of value remains.

Genentech is the second

largest private sector taxpayer in Solano County, and their years-long appeal proved to be a large and complex appeal case. It is important to note that Genentech has unique qualities, including that facilities are built and occupied by the drug manufacturer. ★

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Huge GE Appliance Distribution Warehouse Arriving



The construction going on next to Walmart is a GE Appliance Distribution Warehouse where 50 trucks a day will load and unload. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - GE Appliances, a Haier Company, has been electrifying and modernizing life while bringing convenience and fun to kitchens and homes for more than 100 years. Now, they'll be providing that from Dixon's backyard.

That humongous building going up next to Walmart on Dorset Drive, is a GE Appliance Warehouse – not for sales–but for distribution.

Bulldozers and front loaders have been scraping the surrounding grounds this past week and walls are in place. The building is 505,000 sq. ft. with about 492,000 used for warehouse and 10,000 used for office space, according to City of Dixon staff report and Larry Burkhardt, Economic Development/ Grants Manager at City of Dixon.

"It is 10 acres and the concrete pad was the size of a football field—that is pretty impressive," said Burkhardt who walked it when the concrete was laid. He reminded that there will be no sales tax revenue generated being that there will be no sales at the facility. But, City of Dixon reports do show it will bring an additional 60 jobs, hopefully for Dixonites.

Even from nearby Vaughn Road, the concrete building looks huge surely because of the 50-foot tall walls on 31 acres that are creating some discussion on social media. It is being built by Scannell Properties, an Indianapolis-based company with a Northern California branch in Lafayette.

The building will have 126 loading docks for trucks. The garage door-like

enclosures at the back of the warehouse are an effective way to ensure that large freight trucks get loaded and unloaded efficiently. And, there will be about 50 trucks per day loading and unloading appliances. They will travel on a 50-foot-wide driveway that surrounds the building. For other workers, there will be two additional driveways at the site.

The facility will also have a 6-foot-tall galvanized steel gate entrance, a 120,000-gallon water storage tank, and a 14-foot-tall pump room, according to City Associate Planner Scott Greeley in a report to the Planning Commissioners back in February of 2019 when it was approved. The project also calls for expanding a stormwater retention pond nearby from six acres to just over eight acres. Estimated completion date is unknown at press time.

GE Appliances is headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, and is part of the global corporation Haier Group, which has six appliance brands. GE makes refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, washers, dryers, water filtration systems, air conditioners, and water heaters.

In the list of the Top 100 Most Valuable Chinese Brands in 2018, Haier ranked first, with a brand value of 209.208 billion yuan (if I've done my math right, that is about \$32 billion dollars.) In July 2018, Qingdao Haier Co., Ltd. entered the Fortune Global 500 list with overwhelming momentum for its amazing revenue scale and brand strength in smart home and advanced manufacturing, according to Google on July 15, 2021. ★

Legislature Approves Police Training Bill

By Paul Payne,
Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Legislature has approved a bill from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that would help train law enforcement officers in their criminal investigations and public interactions, ensuring they uphold civil rights and treat people with dignity and respect.

"I'm happy to take this important step toward addressing how law enforcement is trained to interact with the public," Sen. Dodd said. "Because people deserve to be treated fairly and respectfully by police officers. My bill ensures they will not have their rights trampled through demeaning or coercive tactics that can result in false confessions."

Over the past 75 years, police have relied on a criminal interrogation strategy known as the Reid Technique, which relies heavily on assuming guilt, assessing behavioral cues of deception and administering psychological manipulation. However, studies have raised questions about the validity of the technique. A 2006 meta-analysis found the ability to correctly detect deception averaged only 54% –about the same chances as flipping a coin.

Of the more than 300 people exonerated in the U.S. through post-conviction DNA testing, more than a quarter had given false confessions, and experts say that Reid-style interrogations can produce these false confessions.

Senate Bill 494 would require the California Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training to create and integrate officer training on interview techniques that are more ethical

and effective at getting accurate information while avoiding false confessions. Further, it would require training to ensure everyday interactions with the public are civil.

SB 494 is supported by the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office and the California Innocence Coalition: Northern California Innocence Project, California Innocence Project, Loyola Project for The Innocent. The bill was approved with overwhelming support in the Senate late Wednesday after previously clearing the Assembly. It heads next to Gov. Gavin Newsom for his consideration.

"Research has shown our law enforcement officers can better serve their communities when they are trained in science-based ethical human engagement strategies," said Vern Pierson, El Dorado County district attorney. "I am grateful to Sen. Dodd for sponsoring legislation and the bipartisan support from the Legislature that will improve the interaction between law enforcement and the people they serve and puts us on a path to a more thoughtful criminal justice system."

"SB 494 would require that the training outlined in the law be incorporated into the basic training courses for all California law enforcement officers and that the initial training be supported by periodic retrainings," said a support letter signed by leaders of the California Innocence Coalition. "Enacting this law would promote a fair and effective criminal justice system by ensuring that law enforcement training and interviewing techniques safeguard the life, dignity, and liberty of all persons, without prejudice to anyone." ★

Mexican Independence Day Celebrated



Mexican Independence Day-Día de la Independencia-is celebrated every year on September 16, to commemorate the country's freedom from centuries of Spanish rule. In Dixon, it was celebrated at Ruhstaller Farm, 6686 Sievers Road, Dixon. The events went from 5 to 9 pm and featured Los Tres de Winter, a band that entertained all evening and food by La Cocina de Lozano Serrano. There were beautiful and colorful Mexican dancers that added to the festivities. The City Council approved a Proclamation designating September 15 – October 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month at their last meeting. Photo by Nicolas Brown



2 MILITARY JET TEAMS

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FOR THE LOVE OF
BOOKS
By Amy Shane

BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy_fortheloveofbook

September's Cover Love and Favorites

Enola Holmes And the Black Barouche by Nancy Springer

Fans of the Netflix movie will be thrilled to discover that Enola Holmes is back with a whole new adventure. As the younger sister of the infamous Sherlock Holmes, it is no surprise that Enola is a strong, confident, independent girl even at the age of fifteen. With all the skills, wit, and independence of her brothers, this time it's Enola's turn to uncover the truth behind the Black Barouche and the missing wives of the Earl of Dunhynch. However, going undercover turns out to be more difficult than she first intended, and this time she might need the sleuthing help of her brother, Sherlock.

Fans of the series will fall in love with Enola all over again as this story perfectly continues Enola's story. Nancy Springer delivers all the wit, determination, and spirit of the adventurous young Holmes. The perfect story for fans of the movie and an empowering read for young girls.

Once Upon A Broken Heart by Stephanie Garber

Raised in her father's curiosity shop, Evangeline Fox grew up on beautiful stories filled with magic and



fairytale. Evangeline didn't need to see evidence of the magic; she knew in her heart it existed. So, when her heart becomes shattered by her one true love, she knows there is only one person who can help, The Prince of Hearts. The Prince of Heart's ill-fated kiss alone was worth giving up the world, but this time the price might be more than she is able to give. The Prince of Heart wants more, and he always gets what he wants. Now, Evangeline will have to determine just how far she will go for her fairytale happy ending.

Stephanie Garber takes her readers by the hand and leads them into a story of broken hearts and Happily Ever After's, teaching readers to beware of making a bargain with Fate. Powerful storytelling opens the door to an imaginative, magical

world that will have readers falling under Garber's spell and believing in Fates and fairytales. However, watch out, readers; you might find yourself in love with a mischievous Fate, leaving you on your own dangerous quest for love.

The Lost Girls by Sonia Hartl

Holly Liddell has been sixteen for thirty years, and she is ready for revenge. It's not just the fact that she still has crimped hair or that the only job she can get is fast food; it's the fact that her Vampire ex, Elton, has cast her aside for another. Even worse, Holly discovered she wasn't his only love. But fate has its own plan, and when all the exes meet, they decide to take back their power and kill their vampire ex once and for all, breaking their eternal ties. It's a perfect plan, except Holly falls in love with Elton's new girlfriend. Will Holly be able to face her past, kill their ex, and get the new girl?

Sonia Hartl takes her readers into a story of vampire bad-girls banding together to seek revenge, but along the way, discovering who they are and what they mean to one another. A fun story for fans of the 80's vampire movies. ★



Why Democrats Can't Pay for Their Ambitions

Benjamin Franklin was right about death and taxes, but new taxes only become inevitable when a Democrat is elected president, and here we are.

The House Ways and Means Committee released an outline of tax proposals to offset President Biden's jaw-dropping spending plans, and it's the expected assortment of tax increases on business and the affluent that Democrats like to pretend can fund a social welfare state of the sort that Bernie Sanders has long pinned and advocated for.

The individual tax rate would increase from 37% to 39.6%, the capital gains rate from 20% to 25%, and the corporate tax rate from 21% to 26.5 %, among sundry other provisions befitting the hideously complex U.S. tax regime.

It's a sign of the scope of Biden plans that the committee version represents a step back from his tax proposals, yet still clocks in at an enormous \$2.2 trillion in estimated new revenue over ten years.

The corporate taxes are particularly noxious. Democrats love the politics of taxing corporations, based on the lazy and wrongheaded idea that the corporate tax is the way to stick it to executives and shareholders. To the contrary, if businesses are taxed at a higher rate,

they have less resources available the capital investments that improve worker productivity over time. This ultimately means lower wages for workers.

It is telling that no one is talking about going back up to the pre-Trump rate of 35%.

According to the Tax Foundation, a top corporate rate of 28%, the level that Biden favors, would once again give the U.S. the highest rate in the OECD at 32.3% once state level corporate taxes are factored in as well. France currently has the highest rate but is set to reduce it next year.

What's the sense in instantly making the business environment in the United States less favorable and giving a competitive advantage to foreign countries?

While the Way and Means draft rejects Biden proposals such as taking the capital gains rate all the way up to 39% (!), it does everything it can to try to hold anyone making less than \$400,000 harmless. As The Washington Post puts it, "The efforts are designed to avoid even the appearance of affecting middle- and lower-income households."

This is where the Democrats are willing to talk the talk about a cradle-to-grave welfare state, but not walk the walk. There can be no European-style welfare state, at least not sustainably so, without European-style taxes.

The dirty secret about the Scandinavian countries that the left constantly holds up as a model is that they aren't afraid to tax

the middle class. These alleged models of social justice tax more than we do and tax much more broadly, realizing that taxing the rich and corporations isn't enough to fund extensive and generous social programs.

The Tax Foundation calculates that if the U.S. had a tax system comparable to Denmark, we would be taxing all income over \$70,000 at 55.9%, Denmark's top rate.

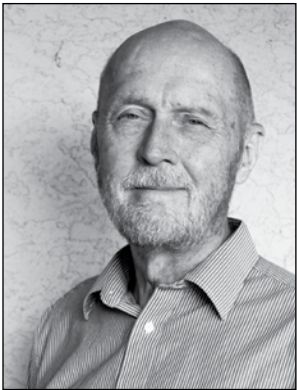
The Ways and Means tax hikes would, sure enough, create Denmark-like rates. As Robert Frank of CNBC notes, the combined state and federal top tax rates in New York City would be 61.2%, in California 59.7%, and in New Jersey 57.2%. But the rates wouldn't reach down into the middle class. In fact, Democrats from high state taxes are determined to raise the cap on federal tax deductions for state and local taxes – limited in Donald Trump's tax reform – to reduce the tax bite on their relatively affluent constituents.

Maybe don't increase taxes in the first place?

Indeed, rather than trying to spend historic amounts of money while their slender majorities last, it'd be better for the country if Democrats sought to fund their priorities by reallocating dollars within the already vast federal budget. But standing the aforementioned Benjamin Franklin on his head, they believe that a trillion saved is a trillion wasted.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Covid and Beyond



Commentary by bil paul

The latest covid surge in Solano County has slackened off. There was just one new death last week, and the number of those covid-hospitalized fell from 106 to 85. The number of active cases also fell. The number of new cases in Dixon has plateaued, with 36 last week.

The county public health people won't tell me how many Dixonites have died of covid, but I calculate the figure to be approximately 15, based on the total number of covid deaths in the county.

670,000 Americans have died of covid to date. That's equal to the entire city of Boston being obliterated by an A-bomb. Or Portland, OR.

Then look at China, whose population is four times larger than ours. Their reported covid death toll? 4,600. That's probably on the low side, because China's always trying to look good, but still, that extreme difference is due to an authoritarian country that exerts heavy control over its mostly compliant citizens. When several Chinese come down with covid, they and their recent contacts are immediately quarantined. Entire cities have been locked down

with people not allowed to leave or enter. An important Chinese port was recently partly closed when just one port worker came down with the disease. Criticism of the government is "discouraged."

Americans, as we've seen recently, are not so compliant and not so controlled. Here, the individual states have a lot of power vis-à-vis the federal government (which resulted in vastly different reactions to the spread of covid). Individualism and rebelliousness are valued. The results are that rampant misinformation, political maneuvering and infighting have resulted in a lot of unnecessary deaths. It's the cost of our freedoms.

As I said, I got my Pfizer booster shot (a third shot). Some stats say that a booster makes a person 10 times more immune to the virus. However, I will continue to wear my mask in stores and other public places. Most Walmart customers wear masks, and most Home Depot customers don't.

It could be that we will never eradicate covid, but keep it somewhat under control, like the annual spread of the flu. We now know that being vaccinated won't guarantee you won't get the disease. But you'd be much less likely to be hospitalized, or die, from covid.

Remember that there was an anti-vax movement long before covid came along. Some parents didn't want their kids vaccinated for anything. Speaking of kids between five and 11, they could be eligible for Pfizer covid shots around the end of October.

The federal government

is trying to put the squeeze on federal workers, federal contractors, military personnel, and perhaps health workers to get vaccinated or get tested weekly or be laid off or fired. It is true that the more people vaccinated, the sooner we'll get over this latest covid surge and ease off on covid hospitalizations.


The statement many people make – "I have the right to control what goes into my body" – is more or a political statement than a declaration that they are very, very careful about what they ingest and breathe in. People not getting vaccinated are very short-sighted and small, and aren't bearing any responsibility for their own health, and the health of their family, friends, co-workers and strangers.

End note: Are you as tired as I am of accident-injury lawyers advertising on TV? It seems one law office took to the airwaves, and all the others didn't want to get left out, incredibly adding to the profits of the TV stations. It's become a circus complete with clowns and goes to show how much disposable income these lawyers have, and the big cut of settlements they take. They won't take on a case unless they're pretty sure they'll win.

bil paul did PR for the Postal Service, worked in the medical field and as a reporter and photographer. He is the author of the book about Dixon's failed movie studio project ("The Train Never Stops in Dixon") and has a book coming out next year titled "Awaiting the Sun: World War Two Veterans Remember the Aleutians." ★

DIXON POLICE LOG

Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.



Tuesday, September 14, 2021

0620 - A vandalism report was taken from Hall Park.

0722 - A Dixon resident was assaulted in the 1300 block of Pitt School Road. Another Dixon resident was arrested and booked into the Solano County Jail for the assault.

1023 - A Sacramento resident was issued a citation for trespassing and possessing an open container of alcohol in the 1300 block of Commercial Way

1933 - Missing person reported in the 1300 block of West H Street.

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

0923 - Traffic collision report in the 100 block of East B Street.

1107 - Officers located a pickup towing a stolen trailer in the 100 block of Gateway Drive. Three occupants were contacted in the truck but were determined not to be involved with the stolen trailer. All subjects were released and the trailer was towed by All About Towing.

1245 - Theft report in the 200 block of West A Street.

1453 - Traffic collision report in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue.

1554 - Traffic collision report in the 1000 block of West Cherry Street.

1619 - Information report in the 200 block of West A Street.

1717 - Information report in the 500 block of College Way.

1906 - A felony warrant arrest report was taken in the 400 block of E. Mayes St. Officers contacted (S) Humberto Avalos-Negrete (27) of Dixon. AvalosNegrete was arrested and taken to the Solano County Jail.

2030 - A found property report was taken in the 400 block of La Esperanza Dr.

2240 - An Evading arrest report was taken in the 400 block of W. Chestnut St. Officers contacted (S) Michael Maxell (43) of Dixon. Maxell was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail. Maxwell's 2006 Yamaha was towed pursuant to 22651 (h)(1) & (p) V.C. by Octavio's Towing.

Thursday, September 16, 2021

0625 - Vandalism report in the 400 block of East Mayes Street.

0836 - Warrant arrest in the 1900 block of North Lincoln Street.

1309 - Information report in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue.

1423 - Warrant arrest in the 200 block of Bowen Lane

1655 - A sexual assault arrest report was taken in the 1200 block of Bello Dr. Officers contacted (S) Elijah Torres (19) of Dixon. Torres was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.

1759 - A vandalism report was taken in the 200 block of E. Chestnut St. (Hall Park in soccer field)

This Is Not about Freedom or Personal Choice



Commentary by Jane M. Orient, M.D.

Today we have two contrasting quotations from world leaders. One said: “Mandatory vaccinations will never be allowed because [this] is a free country and its people are sovereign.” The other said: “This is not about freedom or personal choice.”

The first was by Vladimir Putin. Russia, a free country! The second was by Joe Biden. The U.S. is no longer a free country, and the people are not sovereign. Nor are the once-sovereign states. If state governors won’t cooperate with him, “I’ll use my power as president to get them out of the way.” It is not clear exactly how he would accomplish that. Invade the state and occupy its capitol and its courts? Arrest the governor and perhaps the legislature and throw them into prison without bail like some January 6 demonstrators? Already, many states are suing – perhaps we will learn whether the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution has any meaning.

Who would have believed that a U.S. President would ever say such things?

Biden claims jurisdiction over 17 million healthcare workers, especially if they work in a facility that gets funding from Medicare or Medicaid. “If you’re seeking care at a health facility, you should be able to know that the people treating you are vaccinated – simple, straightforward, period.”

Never mind if the alternative may be having *no* qualified person to care for you. Never mind if the unvaccinated worker, who cared for people before there were vaccines, got infected, recovered, and now has better immunity than

vaccinated people. Never mind that workers with 20 years of dedicated service will have their careers and their livelihoods ruined if they don’t obey the dictator. Never mind that some of the obedient servants die – just coincidentally? – a few days after the shot. Or that some experience heart damage or paralysis. The government with its sovereign immunity does not have to compensate them, and neither do the vaccine makers or administrators, who are protected under the mantle of government.

“This is a pandemic of the unvaccinated,” states Biden. This non-evidence-based assertion is false. The most vaccinated countries in the world, including Israel and Gibraltar, are having the worst outbreaks. Both vaccinated and nonvaccinated persons shed virus, get hospitalized, and die. In the UK, a majority of the COVID-19 deaths last month were among vaccinated people, with a death rate dramatically higher than a year ago, when there was no vaccine.

Why, besides vaccine failure, would public health officials be pushing for continued masking, distancing, and a “booster” injection a few months after a person is “fully vaccinated”?

Can we blame it on the Delta variant? Did unvaccinated persons make it? Or did the vaccine, with its narrowly targeted immunity, actually select out this variant, creating or worsening the problem? Dr. Robert Malone, an inventor of mRNA vaccines, talks about “escape mutants.” Could we be creating a “monoculture” immunity, which like monoculture agriculture, is disastrously vulnerable if a resistant pathogen comes along?

Not content with owning the bodies of healthcare workers and federal employees and contractors, Biden appeals to the private sector, such as employers of 100 or more persons, to exert his will on other Americans. “To those of you running large entertainment venues from sports arenas to concert venues to movie theaters, please require folks to get

vaccinated or show a negative test as a condition of entry.”

To “protect” children under the age of 12, who are at very low risk, Biden wants everybody around them to get the vax—teenage siblings, parents, caregivers. Children over 12, that magic threshold, should get vaccinated, Biden says, and he “strongly supports independent scientific review for vaccine uses for children under 12.” He adds: “We can’t take shortcuts of that scientific work.” So far, the scientific process has been anything but independent. Moreover, studies are not scheduled to be complete before the end of 2022, and studies on myocarditis, to which teenage boys may be most vulnerable, until 2027. Any shortcutting there? And how long would fertility effects take to show up in a child who is 11 when vaccinated?

The satirical *Babylon Bee* has dubbed the program: “Your body, my choice.” Are you pregnant, worried about a miscarriage? Hoping to be pregnant? Aspiring to an athletic career? Do you have a history of allergies, but have not yet had anaphylactic shock from polyethylene glycol (PEG) or Polysorb 80?

The choice of what risks you have to take will be Biden’s. But the consequences will be all yours.

Jane M. Orient, M.D. obtained her undergraduate degrees in chemistry and mathematics from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and her M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1974. She completed an internal medicine residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital and University of Arizona Affiliated Hospitals and then became an Instructor at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and a staff physician at the Tucson Veterans Administration Hospital. She is the editor of *AAPS News, the Doctors for Disaster Preparedness Newsletter, and Civil Defense Perspectives, and is the managing editor of the Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons*. ★

Our Quaker Ancestors: Their History and the Records They Left

Solano County Genealogical Society

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - Annette Burke Lyttle will present “Our Quaker Ancestors: Their History and the Records They Left” at the next meeting of the Solano County Genealogical Society. The virtual presentation begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 2nd.

Quakers were among the earliest settlers in North America and as they moved west they were often the earliest settlers in newly-opened territory. Quakers were amazing record-keepers. Not only did they record births, marriages, and deaths, they kept extensive records on those who came into

their local meetings and those who left. Learn about the history of these pioneering Americans and how to find the rich records they left behind.

Annette B. Lyttle owns Heritage Detective, LLC, providing professional genealogical services in research, education, and writing. She speaks on a variety of genealogical topics at the national, state, and local levels and loves helping people uncover and share their family stories. Annette is a member of the board of directors of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Guests are welcome to attend this free event. If interested, send an email to the society at scgs@scgsca.org no later than 4 p.m. October 1st, and request ★



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Unintended Consequences



Commentary by Bruce Lee

Driving by a local Chick-fil-A recently, I was surprised to see their largest sign (30 feet in the air) proclaim \$17 per hour as their starting wage! The restaurant’s premium ad space was not directed to customers, but to potential employees! Wow, that’s \$4 an hour over the \$13 minimum wage if 25 employees or less (\$14 if over 25 employees). \$35,000 a year for unskilled labor – that’s more than some teachers make. I don’t think the Chick-fil-A prices have increased much, so this small business’s bottom line is being squeezed.

At a local Denny’s, I called to reserve a table and was told that they close at 5pm because they had no employees! What? Yes, the manager advised. “We need 30 employees, but only have ten. We can’t find anybody to work.”

I related the Denny’s experience to a friend, who said, “It serves them right. These big corporations don’t pay a livable wage to workers to risk their life with Covid!” I explained that this Denny’s is a franchise (a small business owner who I know) and Covid barely impacts younger, healthy people.

Clearly, the lack of employees has become a big thing for many businesses! Remember Costco food samples by Club Demonstration Services

(CDS)? A highlight of my Costco visits! They stopped with Covid, but they’re back, in limited number. A CDS employee advised that they need 25 servers at Folsom, but could only find five, and one of those drives 36 miles from Jackson – one way!

Kathrin Grosse, a German immigrant, started Kathrin’s Biergarten in Rocklin in 2017, says the employee shortage for she (and vendors she depends on) is extremely stressful – working herself and family to death while not knowing what business hours she can keep open due to staffing. “Soon people will not know how to work anymore and feel entitled. And, when I’m closed, it hurts my people who want to work!”

Here’s the thing, basic unemployment is about \$400 per week (it ranges \$40-\$450), and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) provides \$300 weekly. That’s \$700/week, \$2,800 a month, or \$36,400 a year!

A manager of a Tahoe breakfast restaurant was blunt: “Not everyone wants to come back to work. If you work, you make \$3,000 to \$3,500 plus a little extra tip income. But, if I can make \$2,800 a month, why bust my ass, I’ll stay home!”

The lesson is that government interference with the economy is a delicate balance (from “laissez-faire” to “command and control”) and almost always creates “unintended consequences.” Working years in the Governor’s Finance, I was briefed on these matters. For example, Proposition 13 reformed taxes, but that created other problems, so we did something else...which created new consequences, so we tried another thing, and so forth. The current FPUC

extension ends Labor Day, but it could be extended to 2022 (per rumors as of this column submission).

Government tends, with the best of intentions, to bumble along. Nobody thought the FPUC payments would stifle employment by creating a worker dependency upon government money – disincentivizing employment. Politicians were being “nice.” But the “politics of niceness,” as I call it, creates problems. Bureaucrats who live thousands of miles away cannot predict all consequences. And, their “one shoe fits all” approach seldom works well.

Hence, decentralized decision making is usually the best approach. Local decision makers are in-tune with local circumstances. And, better yet, the most decentralized process is to provide reliable information to citizens and let them make the best choices for themselves! In this way, we have liberty, as well as healthy decision making.

Decentralized government to practical extent is an important protection of our unalienable rights. This is the sixth principle in my list of founding principles of our America. This is why Thomas Jefferson wrote in 1811, “(T)he true barriers (defensive walls) of our liberty in this country are our state governments ...”

W. Bruce Lee is an educator and speaker (WBruceLee.com) with a career in government as an elected official and fiscal advisor, who has worked at the local, state, and federal levels. He authors the “We the Government” column as a community service. He is President of the Sacramento Taxpayers Association (SacTax). His private message telephone is 916-624-6476. ★

Darrell Savelli is Found Guilty on Several Sexual Violations of a Minor


Solano County Superior Court News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On September 13, 2021, in Department 2 of the Solano County Superior Court, before the Honorable Judge Daniel Healy Presiding, the jury found Defendant Darrell Savelli Guilty of Oral Copulation of a Minor Ten Years or Younger in violation of Penal Code section 288.7(b), and four counts of Lewd and Lascivious Acts of a Minor Under the Age of Fourteen in violation of Penal Code section 288(a). From February 2, 2009 through September 28, 2010, when the victim was seven to nine years old, the defendant, who was 44 years old, was living with the victim and the

victim’s family as a friend of the victim’s father. The victim courageously testified at jury trial on August 30, 2021, regarding the crimes the defendant committed.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on November 19, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 2 of the Solano County Superior Court. The defendant is facing fifteen years-to-life plus fourteen years in state prison.


Sgt. Leslie Bottomley of the Sonoma County Sheriff’s Office, formerly of the Vallejo Police Department, investigated the case. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Barry Shapiro. Victim Witness Advocate Amy Harris provided advocacy and support to the victim. ★



Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

M	O	W	E	R		C	F	C		K	U	D	U
E	R	O	D	E		A	D	O		F	I	R	E
T	E	N	E	T		R	A	M		A	L	G	A
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R	I	N	K					E	A	H		D	E

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Ridden or pushed around yard

6. Chlorofluorocarbon

9. Spiral-horned antelope

13. Make a canyon, e.g.

14. Much of this about nothing?

15. Forest destroyers

16. Basic belief

17. Popular pickup

18. Lake scum

19. *Popular email service eventually bought by Microsoft

21. "CD "maker"

23. FEMA's assistance

24. Musician's time to shine

25. Stephen King's Christine, e.g.

28. Plural of locus

30. Mongolian monetary unit

35. Wraths

37. Jar covers

39. Like yellow polka dot bikini?

40. Desert in China and Mongolia

41. Knight's mount

43. Cogito ____ sum

44. Change the Constitution, e.g.

46. Ready and eager

47. Table mineral

48. *Jennifer Aniston-inspired haircut, with "the"

50. Bank on

52. Modern prefix

53. Beacon light

55. Oolong, e.g.

57. * ____ Sese Seko, overthrown Zairian dictator

60. *African National Congress leader released from prison

64. Like a candle?

65. *1997's "Fly" by Sugar

67. Lowest point

68. Smart ____

69. Marching insect

70. Opposite of digest

71. *Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan's domain

72. Employer Assisted Housing, acr.

73. Fender bender consequences

DOWN

1. Crystalline hydrochloride, colloquially

2. Nabisco top best-seller

3. Refuses to

4. Bodily swelling

5. Not wholesale

6. Lewis of sprinting and long jumping fame

7. Vaccine-approving agency, acr.

8. Burger, fries and soda

9. Brick-drying oven

10. It's hard to resist

11. Precedes Abby

12. Consume, as in drugs

15. Slang for radical or cool, 2 words

20. America's singer choices

22. Last, abbr.

24. Weapon in a holster

25. Fidel Castro's smoke

26. Pleasant odor

27. Renaissance instrument resembling a violin

29. *TV hit "Sex and the ____"

31. "Bee ____"

32. What many TV hits have done

33. Fireplace

34. * ____ Protocol, climate change-related international treaty

36. Hyperbolic sine

38. Withered

42. COVID-19 variant

45. Expose the falseness

49. " ____ the Games Begin!"

51. Pined

54. Sign of a saint, pl.

56. "Bad news travels fast," e.g.

57. Algeria's neighbor

58. Plow-pulling duo

59. "Where It's At" singer

60. Urban story

61. Adam and Eve's garden

62. *Oscar winner "Schindler's ____"

63. A in BA

64. *Gulf ____ or Bosnian ____

66. American Nurses Association

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15			
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71					72						

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			3			
3					6	5

Solutions on Page 7

California’s ‘Corridor of Corruption’ Yields New Case



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

Six years ago, the HBO network aired an episode of “True Detective,” an anthology of complicated crime stories.

It was set in the fictional Southern California city of Vinci, a cesspool of corruption and crime obviously based on Vernon, once described as “the most corrupt five square miles in California.”

In addition to fictionalizing Vernon’s sordid history, the episode folded in California’s bullet train project, but it was deservedly flailed by critics as incoherent.

Vernon, unfortunately, is not an isolated example. The southeastern quadrant of Los Angeles County is rife with municipal malfeasance, and was once dubbed a “corridor of corruption” by state Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon. Numerous local officials have been charged with bribery, self-dealing and other transgressions.

Last week, the Los Angeles County district attorney charged four men, including former state Sen. Frank Hill, with stealing \$20 million that the City of Industry advanced to a company called San Gabriel Valley Water and Power LLC for a solar

power project that never materialized.

The case stems from a battle among several cities for control of a 2,500-acre cattle ranch called Tres Hermanos in the Chino Hills, which was to have been the project’s site.

Hill, a Republican who was snared in a federal investigation of Capitol corruption three decades ago and spent four years in prison, was a consultant on the project. Others facing charges are William Barkett, owner of San Gabriel Valley Water and Power, attorney Anthony Bouza, and former Industry City Manager Paul Philips, now city manager of Bell, the scene of another corruption scandal a decade ago.

Philips and Bouza allegedly handled the funds, which between 2016 and 2018 were routed to an account controlled by Barkett, according to the district attorney’s office.

“While some of the money was paid to other vendors, Barkett is accused of spending about \$8.3 million on personal items. He also allegedly falsified or altered invoices to inflate the amount,” the DA’s office said.

Barkett is no stranger to questionable financial dealings. As I wrote about the Tres Hermanos squabble nine months ago, “In 1993, federal authorities unsealed an indictment of him and eight other persons involved in what was described as a penny stock scheme aimed at defrauding elderly retirees.

“Two years later, the charges were dismissed by a judge, who cited

unreasonable pre-trial delays by prosecutors. A decade later, Credit Suisse, an international banking company, accused Barkett of misappropriating millions of dollars he had borrowed to launch a large farming operation in the San Joaquin Valley. The suit was later dropped after a confidential settlement.”

Barkett is the scion of a politically powerful Stockton family and in the interest of full disclosure, the head of the family sued me and the Sacramento Union for libel four decades ago after I wrote a column about his influence. We were exonerated by a San Joaquin County jury.

The City of Industry is also no stranger to corruption allegations. In 2009 the Los Angeles Times probed the city’s insular structure, revealing, as it noted last week, that “for years, the city government was headed by former Mayor Dave Perez, who owned trash-hauling and maintenance companies that racked up millions of dollars a year in contracts with the city...”

“An audit years later by KPMG found that Perez’s companies had made a fortune off the city, with contracts valued at more than \$326 million,” the Times reported.

Once again, the corridor of corruption yields a case of insider dealing, but it’s not the first and won’t be the last. The corridor’s surface has barely been scratched.

Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“COPSHOP” RATED R

The production of a B-movie could either be a low-budget commercial film or in the broader sense a genre picture with an exploitative or even campy quality, which might describe any number of action thrillers starring Gerard Butler.

The B-grade is often used in a pejorative sense to diminish the artistic appeal of an action picture, but for “Copshop,” in which Butler has a key role, that would be an unfortunate misjudgment.

Butler’s Bob Viddick is a man of mystery, but first the proper set-up is to observe that Frank Grillo’s Teddy Murretto is equally enigmatic as he drives along an isolated Nevada desert highway in a car riddled with bullet holes.

Why is Teddy on the run, but more puzzling, why does he sucker-punch police officer Valerie Young (Alexis Louder) who is trying to break up a wedding brawl outside a casino?

Teddy wants to get arrested so that he’s safely tucked away in the jail at the remote police station of Gun Creek, little aware that assassin-for-hire Bob is on his trail and just as eager to stage an ostensible drunk-driving accident to end up in a cell across from Teddy.

What ensues is a lot of tough-guy jabbering between the two jailbirds, as Teddy has a bounty on his head that seemingly has something to do with the murder of the state’s Attorney General and missing documents in a briefcase.

The reasons for the political assassination are not only murky but actually prove irrelevant to the plot. Bob wants to kill Teddy, while Teddy just wants to find out if his ex-wife and son are safe, but from what or whom we don’t really know.

Meanwhile, a truly psychotic killer named Anthony Lamb (Toby Huss) shows up at the police station carrying birthday balloons and a machine gun, and then promptly goes berserk in a bloody rampage.

With most of her colleagues falling victim to the psycho and after being injured herself, Officer Young manages just barely to find refuge in the holding cells and is faced with the dilemma of deciding whether to trust Bob or Teddy for help.

Trust is hard to come by at this police station when one of the officers has a keen interest on retrieving contraband stored in the evidence locker. What’s his connection to any of the criminals?

As good as Frank Grillo and Gerard Butler may be as relentless adversaries, Alexis Louder’s rookie cop steals the show with her wit and intelligence as well as

Riley Reviews

“COPSHOP” B-MOVIE THRILLS DONE RIGHT; “KATE” ON NETFLIX

fearless bravery in the face of extremely challenging circumstances.

Capturing the essence of ‘70s exploitation, “Copshop” proves to be similar in a good way to a grindhouse film with the feel of something Quentin Tarantino might have directed flanked by “Reservoir Dogs” and “Pulp Fiction.”

Best of all for this entertaining, rousing thriller, filled with tough dialogue and even rougher violence, is the climactic moment of an escape that leaves room for a sequel that one hopes brings director Joe Carnahan (“Smokin’ Aces”) back behind the camera.

“KATE” ON NETFLIX

While we’re on the subject of violent action thrillers, why not take a look at Netflix’s “Kate,” a brutal drama involving an assassin in Japan racing against the clock after being poisoned to hunt the party responsible for her condition.

As the titular character, Mary Elizabeth Winstead’s assassin, mentored in the craft by a father figure in Woody Harrelson’s Varrick, bears a lot of similarity to “Gunpowder Milkshake,” another recent Netflix film. Or think of Natalie Portman in “Leon: The Professional.”

Not to divulge too many details, Kate violated one of the rules of a professional killer, which is why she was poisoned by a deadly dose of Polonium-204 and can only keep going with occasional jabs of adrenaline.

In the quest to find her killer, Kate teams up with rebellious teenager Ani (Miku Patricia Martineau), who has ties to the Japanese underworld but is disaffected with her criminal relatives who have made her an orphan.

The storyline for “Kate” is hardly distinctive. Winstead’s Kate is to Harrelson’s Varrick what Maggie Q’s Anna is to Samuel L. Jackson’s Moody in “The Protégé,” at least on the superficial relationship of a female contract killer to her male mentor.

In the final analysis, “Kate” is a derivative pastiche of the genre, cursorily satisfied with seizing only the most ruthlessly intense and borderline sadistic actions of a professional killer operating in a fantasy underworld.

Of course, since Winstead’s Kate has only 24 hours to live, all niceties must be dispensed with in her headlong rush to kill every Yakuza scumbag that stands in the way of her ultimate target.

While “Kate” may waste its star’s versatile talent, mindless escapism is not necessarily something to dismiss as we breathlessly await better films at the multiplex. Good thing that the next James Bond film “No Time to Die” is just around the corner. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Sacrifice



Results don’t occur by themselves. Life isn’t like the lottery. You can’t buy a ticket and then sit back and hope to win. In the real world, it’s up to you to do what it takes to achieve the outcome you want. Sacrifice always precedes success. Unfortunately, the concept of sacrifice has a negative connotation for many people.

As such, it’s not unusual to hear a person declare “I’m not willing to make the sacrifice” or “The sacrifice is too great.” The variety of excuses is virtually endless. Sometimes it seems as if people put more effort into concocting excuses than would be required to reach their goals.

Sacrifice is synonymous with effort. Effort is worthwhile because it leads to results. Since effort is beneficial, sacrifice is good. Sacrifice involves giving. Only by giving will you receive. Rather than shying away from sacrifice, embrace it as the opportunity it is. It’s a chance to begin the journey to reach your destination.

Sacrifice has many manifestations. In general, sacrifice entails exchanging one thing to realize something else. Sacrifice isn’t a loss; it’s a gain. You trade a combination of time, energy, or money for that which is of greater importance or value.

A single parent may work two jobs to support his kids. He gives up his time to keep them comfortable. He puts his children’s

needs ahead of his own. In return he gets the satisfaction that his kids are happy and well cared for.

A college student may work full time while going to school. She gives up any social life in exchange for the opportunity to get an education that will serve her for a lifetime. She exchanges short-term fun and entertainment for long term benefits.

A small business owner works 10 hours a day, six to seven days a week, building her business. She sacrifices all her free time to develop her dream. She asks her family and friends for understanding. She realizes that once her business is successful, opportunities will emerge that would have otherwise been unavailable.

A young couple scrimps and saves to accumulate enough money for a down payment on a house. They cut back on or eliminate all discretionary spending. To accelerate their savings, each spouse works a part time job in addition to their full time employment. Without their sacrifice, they would never be able to own their own home.

A budding high school athlete wants to be good enough to play sports in college. He practices daily, utilizing every minute of his spare time. He sacrifices time with his friends. He misses parties and dating. He realizes that if he doesn’t do what it takes today he may well miss out on future opportunities.

A son, whose mother has died, takes his father into his home. He and his family sacrifice a lot of privacy and independence to care for him. But he has the satisfaction of giving something back to his father in return for all of his sacrifices.

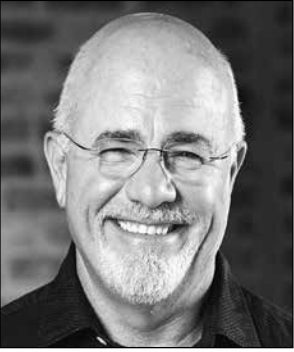
The examples of sacrifice are endless. The people in the above illustrations were willing to sacrifice in the short term for long term gain. The desire for instant gratification is the enemy of sacrifice.

If you require instant gratification and are unwilling to give up anything to reach a goal, you will never have the satisfaction of accomplishment. It doesn’t matter what you are trying to achieve. If you won’t go the distance, you will never experience the rewards.

Sacrifice isn’t paying a price, it’s enjoying having an opportunity. You should consider it a joy to be able to make a sacrifice. Without sacrifice, there is no growth or gain.

Be willing to sacrifice today for long term achievement tomorrow.

NOW AVAILABLE: “Dare to Live Without Limits,” the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2021 Bryan Golden ★



Dave Ramsey Says

Think of an Emergency Fund as Insurance

Dear Dave,

I have decided it’s time to get control of my money. Your plan sounds workable, but I talked to some friends about it, and they think I would be better off using a credit card for emergencies. Can you explain why you advise saving a separate emergency fund?

—Leslee

Dear Leslee,

When bad, unexpected things happen, like a job layoff or a blown car engine, you shouldn’t depend on credit cards. If you use debt to cover emergencies, you’re digging a financial hole for yourself. My plan will walk you out of debt forever, and a strong foundation of any financial house includes an emergency fund.

Putting together a fully funded emergency fund is Baby Step 3 of my plan for getting out of debt and gaining control of your money. Before you reach this point, however, steps one and two should be completed

first. Baby Step 1 is saving \$1,000 for a starter emergency fund. Baby Step 2 is where you pay off all debt, except for your home, using the debt snowball method.

A fully-funded emergency fund should cover three to six months of expenses. You start the emergency fund with \$1,000, but a full emergency fund can range from \$5,000 to \$25,000 or more. A family that can make it on \$3,000 per month might have a \$10,000 emergency fund as a minimum.

What is an emergency? An emergency is something you had no way of knowing was coming – an event that has a major, negative financial impact if you can’t cover it. Emergencies include things like paying the deductible on medical, homeowners or car insurance after an accident, a job loss, a blown automobile transmission or your home’s heating and air unit suddenly biting the dust.

Something on sale you “need” is not an emergency. Fixing the boat, unless you live on it, is not an emergency. Want to buy a car, a leather couch or go to Cancun? Not emergencies. Prom dresses and college tuition are not emergencies, either.

Never rationalize the use of your emergency fund for something you should save for. On the other hand, don’t make payments on medical

bills after an accident while your emergency fund sits there fully loaded. If you’ve gone to the trouble of creating an emergency fund, make sure you are crystal clear on what is and isn’t an emergency.

Also, keep your emergency fund in something that is liquid. Liquid is a money term that basically means easy to access with no penalties. I use growth-stock mutual funds for long-term investing, but I would never put my emergency fund there. I suggest a money market account with no penalties and full check writing privileges for your emergency fund.

Your emergency fund account is not for building wealth. It’s an insurance policy against rainy days!

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of “The Ramsey Show,” heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on “Good Morning America,” “CBS This Morning,” “Today,” Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

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Nurse Shortage at Crisis Point

By Kristen Hwang, CalMatters.org

In the past month, four emergency room nurses – exhausted by the onslaught of patients and emotional turmoil wrought by COVID-19 – have quit at the Eureka hospital where Matt Miele works.

Miele, who has been a trauma nurse for four years, is actively looking for a less stressful nursing position and has colleagues who are, too.

“On the bad days, I think ‘What am I doing and is this what I want to be doing?’” Miele said. “It’s shifting me to my core.”

Around California – and the nation – nurses are trading in high-pressure jobs for a career change, early retirement or less demanding assignments, leading to staffing shortages in many hospitals.

Hospitals are struggling to comply with the state’s nurse staffing requirements as pandemic-induced burnout has exacerbated an already chronic nursing shortage nationwide.

But burnout isn’t the only thing compounding California’s nursing shortage: The state’s new vaccine mandate for health care workers is already causing headaches for understaffed hospitals before it is even implemented. Some traveling nurses – who are in high demand nationwide – are turning down California assignments because they don’t want to get vaccinated.

Hospitals say they are reaching a crisis point, straining under the dual forces of more people seeking routine care and surging COVID-19 hospitalizations driven by the Delta variant.

Hospitals, some with more COVID-19 patients now than during the winter surge, say they are confronting unprecedented staffing shortages, particularly among nurses.

The staffing shortage is so severe that Scripps Health is considering temporarily consolidating some of its outpatient centers. Scripps, which has five hospitals and 28



Traveling nurses Candace Brim, left, and Janet Stovall, right, are based in North Carolina but have been traveling to California to work in intensive care units since the beginning of this year. They are now working in hospitals in Alameda and Folsom. Photo by Anne Wernikoff, CalMatters

outpatient clinics in the San Diego area, told CalMatters that it is serving nearly 20% more patients on average than before the pandemic. At the same time, job openings at the hospitals have increased 57% since August 2019. For nursing jobs alone, vacancies have increased 96%.

Emotional and physical exhaustion is the primary reason nurses are fleeing the bedside, experts say. It has been a long and brutal 18 months.

Hospital administrators worry that the state’s vaccine mandate for health care workers, which goes into effect Sept. 30, could drive some of their workers out. Already, some report resistance among employees.

Administrators are particularly concerned about low vaccination rates among support staff like janitors and food service workers. However, some nurses also are wary of the COVID-19 vaccine. Some nurses with large social media followings have participated in protests in Southern California,

arguing that the mandates violate their personal freedom.

The vaccine order allows only for narrow religious and medical exemptions. Until Sept. 30, unvaccinated workers must undergo weekly COVID-19 testing. The state nursing association issued a statement saying “all eligible people should be vaccinated.”

While California was first in the nation to impose a vaccine mandate for health care workers, other states have since joined in, but their mandates aren’t as broad.

Cole of Scripps Health said the state’s testing requirement, imposed this week, already has discouraged some out-of-state, traveling nurses from taking temporary jobs at California hospitals.

“If they don’t want to get vaccinated, they are turning down California assignments,” he said.

To contend with local shortages, hospitals are increasingly turning to hiring temporary, traveling nurses from around the country.

During the past 18 months, Janet Stovall, a traveling ICU nurse for

more than 20 years, has worked in hospitals in the Imperial Valley town of Brawley, Visalia, Wichita, Kan., and now Folsom and Alameda, and all of them have been running on “very lean staffing.”

“Last night there were ambulances waiting just to get into the ER to be evaluated... They pulled a nurse from the ICU to help with the ER, and we worked without a charge nurse or a break nurse,” Stovall said.

Stovall said traveling nurses like her are in high demand. At one hospital, “we hadn’t even finished orientation when the VP of patient services called and said ‘You need to leave right now, test out of orientation, and be at work by 11 p.m.’” Stovall said. “That’s how desperate they are.”

Nationwide more than 52,000 temporary health care jobs are posted, and Aya is only able to fill about 3,000 per week, she said.

To entice nurses to come to California, the state Department of Public Health agreed to pay up to \$145 per hour for Aya Health’s

ICU nurses and more if a facility had a “critical need.” Stovall, who works for Aya, said between October and December 2020, she was paid \$10,000 per week with an additional \$2,000 if she picked up an extra shift.

The money is pulling full-time staff nurses into traveling positions, further aggravating the staffing shortage nationwide. Stovall, who is based in North Carolina, said her sister-in-law took a week’s vacation from a full-time nursing gig to pick up an \$8,000 traveling contract. She also convinced a longtime friend, Candace Brim, to leave her staff position and travel during the height of the pandemic in December.

Traveling has been key to helping them avoid burnout, Brim and Stovall said. It’s rewarding to be able to come in and “save the situation” at hospitals in dire need of extra hands, Brim said, and the money is good enough that they can afford to take weeks off at a time after difficult assignments. Their contracts in Folsom and Alameda last until Thanksgiving.

Time off has helped them cope with the somber realities of treating COVID-19 patients in the ICU: In the past seven months, every COVID patient Brim and Stovall treated has died.

“We took care of about 65 COVID patients in Brawley and not a single one made it,” Stovall said. “We coded one every night.”

“Before (COVID-19), you could make a difference in someone’s life. Now I will do anything for a patient, and it does not make a difference. ... Three days later they don’t make it.”

Will so many nurses burn out and leave the profession that California will face long-term shortages? It’s possible. Pre-pandemic, one projection said California will be short more than 44,000 nurses by 2030, while other studies suggested that there will be an adequate supply of new graduates. ★



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