



Artist Kris Rosa Answers the Call

PAGE 2

Ambassadors Needed for Aviation Festival

PAGE 10



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SEE INSIDE

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PAGE 4

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PAGE 5

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Honoring Our Firefighters



Honored firefighters at City Hall last week L-R: Captain Jarrod Infante, Reserve Firefighter Martin Vega-Martinez, Firefighter Wade Norberg, Engineer Paramedic Andrew Tomelloso, Firefighter Paramedic Grant Haynie, Firefighter Michael Raycraft, Captain Paramedic Matt Fields, Reserve Firefighter Patrick DaVault, Engineer Paramedic Nick Warren, Firefighter Paramedic Taylor McAbee, Captain Paramedic Jason Barker, Engineer Markus Lincoln, and Firefighter Paramedic Justin Hemje. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - “Our community needs to know the names and faces of the people that serve selflessly to protect our citizens and region,” said Dixon Fire Chief Todd McNeal who recognized numerous Dixon firefighters at the first in-person City Council Meeting recently. “I feel that publicly recognizing our Dixon Fire members is vitally important,” he said.

He gave a somber presentation about Dixon firefighters committed to “service before self,” including that some of them were not there because they were deployed to the Dixie Fire and some were helping families evacuate the Caldor Fire.

As he spoke, fires raged with more than 10,000 acres burning per day in El Dorado County. The blaze has charred more than 73,400 acres and remains 0% contained, according to last Friday’s morning update by Cal

Fire as reported by CNN.

Also at that time, the number of people evacuated jumped to about 23,000 from 16,380 the previous day, according to the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services.

The first awards that the Chief presented were to Andrew Tomelloso who was recognized as Firefighter of the Year Engineer Paramedic.

“He is an exemplary member and demonstrates how to improve the department as well as improves his own skills,” McNeal said, adding that it was Tomelloso’s second time receiving the honor.

Then, the Allen Benefield Award was given to Firefighter Christian Arriaga-Bautista.

Commendation of Superior Effort for response to the 2020 LNU Complex were: Captain Al Apaka; Captain Paramedic Jason Barker; Reserve Firefighter Jason Ford; Firefighter Brady Hartinger;

Firefighter Paramedic Justin Hemje; Captain Jarrod Infante; Engineer Markus Lincoln; Division Chief John Malone; Firefighter Paramedic Taylor McAbee; Captain Brian Schroeder (Ret.); and Engineer Paramedic Andrew Tomelloso.

The Cody Robben Life Saving Award was bestowed upon: Captain Al Apaka, Engineer Paramedic (Ret.) Steve Coleman, and Engineer Markus Lincoln.

James “Cody” Robben, 24, passed away on July 23, 2010, from injuries he sustained during an off-duty auto accident in Dixon. He had grown up in the Dixon Fire Department, following the footsteps of his father, Tony Robben.

Lastly, the Commendation of Outstanding Effort for their voluntary response to assist with the COVID surge in Southern California were Firefighter Paramedic Grant Haynie and Firefighter Paramedic Taylor McAbee. ★

Free USAF Concert in Hall Park Saturday

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Bring your chairs and blankets for an evening of patriotic and pop music on the grass at Dixon’s Hall Park where the acclaimed, 50-piece United States Air Force Band of the Golden West will present a free concert at noon on Saturday, September 11, next to the Aquatic Center.

The band has performed in Dixon before and is always extremely popular. One might envision a blue uniform with Air Force Wings on the bass drum in a marching band but quite the contrary, they offer all kinds of music that will surprise you.

These musicians make up the American military band based at Travis Air Force Base but its area of responsibility outside its home state includes Washington, Oregon, Arizona, and Nevada. It also supports 13 bases, eight reserve wings, and six recruiting squadrons.

It is the only active duty Air Force band west of the Rockies, and comprises about 60 talented and versatile Airmen-musicians under the command of Major Joseph S. Hansen. They play a variety of music

Bring a picnic dinner, or enjoy a meal purchased from Trap Meals Food Truck, specializing in seafood and Cajun pastas. This event is sponsored by the City of Dixon thanks to the coordination with City recreation and parks staff by Larry Burkhardt, Economic Development/Grants Manager. Note that consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in City of Dixon parks.

The organization offers several outstanding performing groups: Concert Band, Ceremonial Marching Band, Commanders jazz ensemble, Mobility popular music ensemble, Travis Brass quintet, Golden West Winds woodwind quintet, and Galaxy popular music ensemble. Additionally, the Band of the Golden West provides solo vocalists for the performance of our National Anthem and solo buglers for Taps details.

The purpose of the band is to foster, enhance, and lift the morale of Airmen in the United States, outside the nations, and in deployed locations. They strive to increase public awareness of the importance of the dedication of Airmen, inspire patriotism, and foster a deep appreciation of the rich history and legacy of the Air Force. ★

Fire Chief’s Goal: Community Emergency Response Teams

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A sign of what kind of man we have in Dixon’s Fire Chief Todd McNeal is the fact that his office includes a conference table with several chairs. He sits quietly at the table – a bit subdued as he tells of missing out on the numerous city functions of which he’s heard about in Dixon’s tight-knit community.

“I’ve missed every social event,” he said listing many of them including the department’s 150th anniversary for which would be a grand celebration. He hasn’t been able to meet people and establish an important rapport with the community – an asset he’ll need when establishing a Community Emergency Response Team. CERT is a program to prepare and train community volunteers for emergencies and disasters that has been put on hold since his arrival in Dixon in August 2020 due to the pandemic.



Fire Chief Todd McNeal has had to put his passion to develop a CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) involving local citizens on hold due to the pandemic but is anxious to get the program started here in Dixon. Photo by Debra Dingman

It is a program that he utilized and built up at his former department in Twain Harte District and Strawberry District where he worked before being hired in Dixon. McNeal and his wife, Pam, grew up in Sonoma County and spent several years in the Montana fire service before

moving back to this state. “I had a very simplistic view of careers when I was younger,” he said about why he chose to become a firefighter. “You could work inside or outside. I played sports and liked that team feeling; that the sum is better than the individual parts. The spark

was outdoors. Wildland fire was my passion and worked on Federal Incident Management Teams,” he said.

“I saw the pride of our town after the Rim fires,” the father of two sons said. “At the time, it was the third largest California

Continued on page 4



Patti's Tree is Having a Tough Time

By Debra Dingman

"It's my baby," said Patti Sousa-Liu as she began to tear up after telling me how she grew the 5-foot tree in front of her from a tiny sprig she got from a PG&E booth at a Home and Garden Show at the Dixon May Fair. The condition of the tree now resembled something akin to Charlie Brown's Christmas Tree sitting in the middle of a foot of pine needles, dead leaves, and trash. Along the fence behind it were missing boards looking like a 7-year-old's missing teeth.

She brushed away a bunch of that with her foot to expose the circular plaque that read, "Donated February 15, 2017 by Patti Sousa Owner of Clip-N & Groom-N." Patti was a popular pet groomer for many years but is now retired. I remember writing the story because I thought it was a wonderful idea since the City has a "wish list" of things community members could donate to improve our community. This was one of them.

"They were giving out these little bitty trees so it's like my baby," Patti said. "It was 12 years ago when I bought my home on Victoria Court; that's how I remember. I spent all those years and all that time nurturing it and when it was too big for my house, I donated it to them. It was full and green. To see it like



An unhappy Patti Sousa-Liu told the City Council it was "plant abuse" for the City neglecting landscaping in the Women's Improvement Club Park where the tree she donated 12-years-ago now appeared to be struggling. She borrowed a rake and cleaned up a large amount of debris surrounding it. Photo by Debra Dingman

this, breaks my heart," she said.

She recalled when she contacted the city about donating it to an area in the Dixon Women's Improvement Club Park and they found a place in the back where it would be protected yet still next to the children's section of the library. It continued to flourish – until this year when a long-time City of Dixon parks worker retired. "Those of us who are pet owners would never do this to our pets. It's plant abuse," she said with a fiery tone matching her long red hair.

Another woman with a young child came to inquire why we were investigating the tree.

"As a community – and

especially young people, we need to take more of an active role to make sure Dixon is a place our children can grow up in," said Jessica Corcoran, Dixon resident and mother of a 2 and 5-year-old. "We should be able to look around and see that we've taken pride in our community. All the bushes and landscaping should be trimmed so that we can bicycle with our children and walk our dogs."

Patti made a request for attention and better care for all the parks at City Council last week. District 1 Rep Scott Pederson addressed the situation by repeating several times, "We see you. We hear you. This Council is working on it." ★

Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

DHS Football

Dixon High School Football will be at Winters High School Friday night, August 27, but there will be a home game in Dixon the following Friday, on September 3. Home football game admission prices are: Adults \$8; Seniors (55+) \$5; Student \$5; Barnyard Shirt \$2; and, children under age 5 are free, according to Norma Holtmeyer, DHS Athletic Director's Secretary.

Paper Shredding

Travis Credit Union has announced a paper shredding event at their corporate headquarters, 1 Travis Way in Vacaville on Saturday, August 28, from 9 am to 12 noon. This service is to aid in protecting one's privacy and ensuring unwanted documents are properly disposed of.

Local residents are invited to bring up to three boxes of personal and business documents to be professionally shredded. Data is the most important part of information security—and also a sensitive one. The most serious threat to data privacy is information being compromised because one does not have adequate data protection measures in place to properly destroy sensitive paperwork, organizers said.

No City Meetings

There aren't any City meetings scheduled for next week on Tuesday, August 31. Thank goodness because the air conditioning was not fixed at the last City Council Meeting and Manager Jim Lindley thanked participants at the end for enduring the sauna. The City had brought in four swamp cooler units but they were of little value during the 3-hour meeting.

More Covid Relief Monies

The City of Dixon is now accepting applications for the second round of its COVID-19 Small Business Support

Program. The Program represents an additional way in which the City seeks to assist those small businesses affected by COVID-19 that are so much a part of our community. Funded by the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Program will provide financial assistance in the form of forgivable loans to eligible Dixon for-profit businesses significantly impacted by the pandemic. The Program goal is the retention of existing jobs.

Eligible businesses must be operating for profit and be located and licensed in the City of Dixon; have a payroll of fewer than 25 full-time equivalents as of July 1, 2021; and may not have access to an active line of credit or tax liens and must have proof of all required operating and licensing permits.

Eligible employers will be able to apply for up to \$10,000 for each job that they retain, up to a maximum of seven jobs. If the employee is retained at the same or higher rate of pay for a minimum of 120 days, the loan will be forgiven. Loans will be approved contingent upon the City receiving committed funds from the California Department of Housing and Community Development. For more details about the program, please contact lburkhardt@cityofdixon.us, or 707 678-7000, ext.1126.

Chamber Postpones

The Dixon District Chamber of Commerce is sad to report the second time they're having to postpone the "Stars Come Out at Night" originally slated for Saturday, September 18, at the Olde Vets Hall, in downtown Dixon. This is the event where Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, and Veteran of the Year are revealed and/or honored.

The decision was made based on the rise of the Delta Variant virus rising among the Dixon population. For more information call (707) 678-2650. ★

Artist Kris Rosa Answers the Call



A 2004 Dixon High grad Kris Rosa returned to his hometown of Dixon recently to beautify the old phone booth in front of Frosty's. Photos by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The call from Matt Andrews, owner of the Frosty's in downtown Dixon, was transferred from an Instagram buddy to Artist Kris Rosa, who knew he had to answer the call. Especially because it was for someone to paint the old telephone booth in his hometown where Rosa grew up and graduated from Dixon High School.

"I knew immediately I wanted to do this," he said looking up from a tray of paints with a paintbrush in hand. "I wanted to give back to the city and give people—hopefully—something they will enjoy."

Rosa spoke fondly of Ms. Parker and Ms. Brown, his Dixon art teachers whom he still holds in his heart even though he graduated in 2004 and now lives in Davis.

He works as a cook and in construction but manages his passion for art through shows across the United States and his website, RosaOriginals.com.

He met with Andrews to discuss what Andrews wanted on the busy corner and was commissioned to create the colorful designs. The top of the booth has a stain glass look on the top glass panels and the lower panels show iconic Dixon images such as a windmill against a bold blue sky and bright green Dixon Ridge Mountains. Another will be of Dixie the Dinosaur.

According to the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, roughly 100,000 pay phones remain in the U.S. but this Dixon one has no phone – just beauty. To see more of Rosa's unique portraiture and art, you can also go to Instagram @ RosaOriginals. ★

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New Dixon Business Licenses Issued



This beautiful table spread was created by Chef Shylene Moize of a new Dixon business called "Gourmet Grazers". Photo by Shylene Moize

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A variety of businesses--from a merchandise reseller to a personal chef--were issued licenses by the City of Dixon in the past few months.

Sandy's Discount Emporium is owned by Sandy Schilling, an experienced online eBay seller who operates a home-based business at 960 Pembroke. She sells brand new merchandise such as overstock from Target and other companies, she explained.

"I am a collector and seller. Find items from your childhood or grab up some holiday items. I am a wife and mother and have enjoyed selling for over 10 years on eBay," she posted on social media.

Kevin and Maria-Fernanda Evans are opening The Familia Tortilla Shop in the Safeway Shopping Plaza, Suite C, hopefully by October. Maria was born and raised in Mexico and moved here in 2013 and has spent time trying to teach her husband about authentic Mexican food.

Back in Mexico on one of their trips to visit family, Kevin figured it out.

"The tortilla tastes completely different," he told her. So, we did a lot of research and discovered how it has changed over the years. The "legit ones," she said, "are made from ground corn imported from Mexico and are 100-percent Mexican processed with no genetic modifications, and no preservatives," she explained. She has her favorites like blue corn and a spicy chipotle, but they will also sell traditional white and corn tortillas as well. The shop will be more like a bakery, not a restaurant. Watch for their grand opening soon. Phone is (949) 413-1231.

Himalayan Pure Water is at 1180 Matmor Rd., #384 and can be reached at (747) 998-7645.

Every Body Sculpting was opened recently by Amy Villapondo, Certified Body Sculptor, at 409 North Adams. She uses Radio Frequency Therapy to boost collagen productivity and tighten skin; ultrasonic cavitation to blast apart fat cells; laser

liposuction to melt away body fat; and vacuum therapy for butt and breast lifts. She offers 50% off any first-time client and you can email her at info@everybodysculpting.net or call (707) 316-9064.

Waterfowl Hunting Guide/Spring Valley Outfitters was licensed out of 640 Ferguson Court with phone: (707) 338-0353.

Dixon is getting another mobile Notary called "Arrange It! Mobile Notary Services" at 480 Syracuse Lane in Dixon. (707) 341-2361

We're also getting another company that will help us clean up our yards and properties thanks to Hilskey Hauling, 1695 Pearl Place, (707) 249-5624.

Gourmet Grazers is at 900 West A Street in a home-based business for personal Chef Shylene Moize. She said she also does charcuterie trays, and you can see some delicious-looking samples on her website

"It has been a dream of mine for many years to bring my passion for food to others. Our goal is to create the most stunning, modern buffet tables and boxes imaginable. If you can dream it, we can create it," she said on social media. You can reach her at (559) 355-4187.

Panorama Art Productions is a digital sign and media production company at 1170 North Lincoln, Suite 101, and phone is (707) 533-1131.

K and W Enterprises located at 7586 Nunes Road was created for Ag and Fire Support and can be reached at (530) 979-1029.

Primo's Barber Shop, owned by Juan Desmarais, a former Marine who owns four other sites including Vacaville and Winters, posted his license proudly on social media.

"The City of Dixon is very veteran friendly," he said about the process that ran into delays during the pandemic and some shops were shut down. "We're not new. We opened April 2018," he said, adding that business is good. The popular barber-shop is at 124 Porter Road and phone is (707) 693-3005. ★

Fire Chief's Goal: Community Emergency Response Teams

Continued from page 1

wildfire in history." It burned more than 250,000 acres. That fire impacted him the most.

"You travel to other people's backyards and put out their fires but that one was in my own backyard. It was very different when your own backyard is burning," he said, appearing to reflect deeply.

"Instinctively, people want to help others and in a crisis, all differences are forgotten while they come together to save or rescue others. It unites people. It is a community-based response to need," he said which is why he is passionate about the program being implemented in Dixon.

The 20-hour training course teaches volunteers basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. It offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"It's still a volunteer program like the Reserve Firefighter Program," he said. "But with a Human Resource conversion program, we will consider hiring from reserve status first to a full-time. It is an investment." That pool would be helpful to a department of 27 reserve and full-time firefighters in

addition to support staff and officers. They field about 3,000 calls a year and provide mutual aid from North Vacaville to Putah Creek and down toward Rio Vista. Our district is the largest in Solano County and encompasses approximately 300 square miles.

At this first year anniversary in Dixon, McNeal is looking forward to getting out of "Covid gloom" and seeing the second Dixon Fire Department built in Homestead next to the park in the Southwest Development off Pitt School Road.

"It will improve our response time," he said. "Although it won't solve the bi-section of town, it will help us serve better. The current Council is very public-safety minded and we're growing quickly. We've got to add resources."

He likes to stay positive and looked for silver linings during the pandemic and said getting to "focus internally" was that silver lining.

"It is the most rewarding work when you work side by side in a really dedicated fire department. Some are long-timers and some are new but they are very interested in protecting this community," the Chief said. "It's contagious to be next to that. Anyone in leadership wants to foster that."

As soon as they are able, that conference table is going to be filled with people busily planning Fire Prevention Week at the beginning of October and the 150th Anniversary of the Dixon Fire Department. ★

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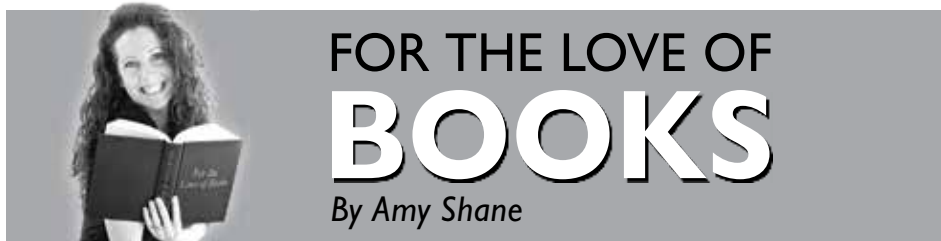
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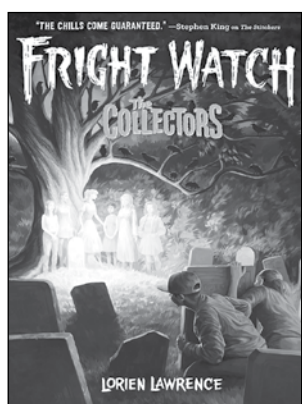
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy_fortheloveofbook

The Collectors (Fright Watch Series) by Lorien Lawrence

Quinn and Mike thought everything from their crazy summer was finally behind them. After all, the Oldies are gone forever, and their neighborhood is finally getting back to normal, or so they thought.

Quinn has had an unsettling feeling about the new neighbors the moment they moved in. At first, everything seemed ok, and then things became a little alarming. It's not the fact that they moved into the Oldies' old houses, or that the five women are always immaculately dressed, never with a hair out of place, or even the fact that they always wear white; it's the feeling that she gets when she is around them. First, it's the way they stare at her and the fact that she feels cold whenever they are around, but when Quinn thinks she sees a glass fall through one of their hands, she knows there is definitely something wrong.

To make matters even worse, the new neighbors, who Quinn and Mike nicknamed "The Ladies in White," invite Lex to volunteer at their design firm. Within days Lex starts to seem a little off. It begins with Lex ditching her colorful, trendy outfits only



- ◆ Publisher: Amulet Books
- ◆ Hardcover, 288 pages
- ◆ Intended Audience: Middle Grade; ages 10-14
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥

to wear white, then as time moves on, Lex starts to look as if she is starting to fade! Quinn knows if she and Mike don't act fast, they will lose Lex to the Ladies in White forever.

But this time, jumping into a new investigation proves to weigh a little heavier on their minds. Will they be able to uncover the truth before it's too late, or will The Ladies in White get what they are after?

This series continues all the thrilling *Eerie Indiana* and *Goosebumps* vibes, adding another strange piece of evidence into the mystery of Goodie Lane. At first, it was the

Oldies, and now it's the Ladies in White. Lorien Lawrence continues to deliver all the spooky vibes in the second book of the *Fright Watch* series, *The Collectors*. You might want to read this one under a blanket with a flashlight in hand.

This time readers will get an even deeper look inside Quinn and Mike's daily life as the strain of balancing friendship, teammates, family, and responsibilities might be too much. Wherever Quinn and Mike are, they can't run from the haunting feeling that seems to follow them. However, it's not just the scary ghost-like feelings; it's also the little sparks they feel when they tap each other with the tip of their shoe or their fingers brush against one another. The little tender moments are enough to keep readers rooting for these two to discover their feelings while also trying to solve the new mystery of Goodie Lane.

Fright Watch is quickly becoming the highly anticipated middle-grade series that is going to take readers by storm. What mystery awaits Goodie Lane next? I guess we will have to wait to find out. ★

'To Newsom or Not to Newsom'



Commentary by W. Bruce Lee

Governor Newsom's recall election concludes September 14, and the rhetoric is heating up, so it's important to carefully evaluate what's being said! We will see more political advertisements bombarding us!

The first ad I saw was the rapid-paced Newsom's "Roaring Back" blitzkrieg. It starts with, "Newsom is delivering money to your pocket!" It continues ... \$1,100 in your pocket, plus \$500 if you have children (Covid relief). It then proclaims he delivered \$4 billion in small business grants (again Covid). A couple projects by Newsom are mentioned and it ends with "Free Pre-K" for every child!!

Honestly, my first reaction was that Newsom is paying us to vote for him. Money for everyone! However, most of that money is federal money and all of that money is taxpayer money.

The other ad I viewed was US Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Massachusetts) "Here's the Deal" declaration. "Republicans across the country are attacking the election results and the right to vote." And, she asserts, these same evil forces are attacking California in a power grab. This "Partisan Recall" is "abusing the recall process," Warren declares!

How so, I wonder? How is the process being abused?

The process was laid out in state law for anyone to use since 1911.

Since 1913, eleven recalls have qualified for the ballot (of 179 attempts) and six were successful per the Secretary of State. Of those six, three republicans and three democrats were recalled. That doesn't seem too partisan. And, if this is such a partisan power play, why is Warren from Massachusetts doing the ad and not one of our two US California Senators (both democrats)? Other Newsom ads speak of "anti-science republicans" and other guilt by association smears.

And, by the way, if you ask who is funding the Warren ad, it's Reed Hastings (Netflix founder/CEO) who was also on the board of Facebook; the Service Employees International Union #215 (state employees union); and the California Democratic Party.

Newsom blasts the \$276 million cost of the recall, which is a lot of money. However, that pales with other state expenditures, such as the proposed \$1 billion being foisted by the legislature to tear down and rebuild the Capitol annex so legislators can have new luxury offices! The recall is a legitimate expense of citizens exercising ownership over their government. The Annex is just the legislators padding their own chairs!

There are approximately 22 million registered voters in California. About 24.2% are republicans, 46.1% are democrats, and 24% have no party preference. To gather the 1.5 million signatures to qualify the recall (1.6 million were collected), I am confident that there were a few democrats mixed in the petitions. And, last spring when Newsom touted the

30 day period when people could retract their signatures ... less than 50 did so. How embarrassing!

In an August 2-4, 2021 statewide poll for the San Diego Union, 51% favored recalling Newsom (up from 36% in May). Only 40% wanted to keep him (down from 47% in May).

Now, you may like or dislike Newsom, and I'll keep my opinion to myself, but I can confidently predict the recall is not about partisanship, but perceived performance by the voters.

If voters do recall Newsom, we have 46 replacement candidates, most of whom are useless, "vanity candidates" who clutter the names of the six or seven serious candidates. Yes, with \$4,200 and 65 friends, you, too, could have run for governor! Please don't waste your vote on a lost cause candidate, the issues are too important. Just be glad we don't have the 135 candidates as we did in 2003 with the Gray Davis recall.

Be skeptical of advertisements. Beware of what is promised but unproven! Come to events, such as our SacTax (Sacramento Taxpayers Association) interviews with Governor candidates this year. Be informed and intelligent. Exercise ownership over our governments. These recommendations will make each of us better citizens!

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). ★



Infrastructure Bill Boosts Water Projects in the West

Water projects in the West stand to benefit from the Senate's recent passage of a bipartisan infrastructure bill. The bill, still to be passed in the House, would provide more than \$8 billion for new water storage facilities, upgrades to aging dams and canals and other infrastructure. Western states face severe drought impacting farmers and water providers. A national coalition, led by the California Farm Bureau, backed the legislation.

Drought Curbs Tomato Harvest, Stokes Fears of Harder Times

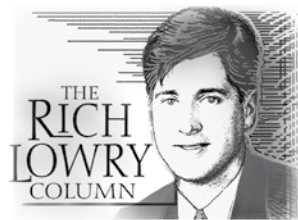
California tomato farmers are expecting only a modest decline in output this year. But growers fear exceptional drought conditions could lead to a far greater drop in tomato production next year. The California Tomato Growers Association said this year's very hot growing season will impact Central Valley yields. The state's tomato forecast of 12 million tons has been revised downward by 400,000 tons and may fall some more.

Tariffs From China Still Impact California Farm Products

Tariffs as a result of trade disputes with China are continuing to impact a range of California farm products. In particular, tree nuts and wine still face increased duties, despite last year's implementation of the Phase One U.S.-China trade agreement. Meanwhile, tariffs on farm products have been suspended for exports to Europe under an interim agreement between the U.S. and the European Union.

USDA Provides Healthy Food Grants to California Communities

The U.S. Department of Food and Agriculture is funding \$69 million in grants to provide nutritious foods to low-income communities enduring the pandemic. The money includes more than \$6 million in nutrition grants to increase fresh fruit and vegetable offerings for shoppers in underserved California areas. Funds also will support the VeggieRX nutrition program at Fresh Approach in Concord and provide produce to Los Angeles County residents with diabetes. ★



President Biden's Man-Made Disasters

President Biden arrived in office with the southern U.S. border secure and Afghanistan in a state of fragile equilibrium.

Eight months later, the border continues to be deluged with migrants overwhelming our capacity to properly house and process them, and we are evacuating our personnel from Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul overrun by desperate Afghans fleeing the Taliban.

The crisis at the border and the stunningly swift defeat in Afghanistan are entirely on Biden. He took sustainable situations and overturned them out of ideological fixity and fantastical wishful thinking.

The outcomes were utterly predictable. Indeed, anyone who knew anything about the border or Afghanistan warned what would happen.

The debacles haven't been the product of forces beyond Biden's control; events didn't take a hand, he did. These are man-made disasters.

Throw on top the crime wave in U.S. cities that is a product of the left's enthusiasm for fashionable anti-cop sentiments, and the picture is of a party that is unable to maintain order or rationally calculate the downside consequences of its rhetoric and policies.

One hallmark of the

Biden approach has been laughably false assurances.

He maintained at a press conference in March that there was nothing unusual going on at the border, when the historic surge had already begun. Only last month, he confidently predicted that there'd be no dramatic rooftop evacuations from Kabul, when a rapid collapse of the government was always a distinct possibility.

Then, there are the ineffectual warnings. Biden officials have repeatedly told migrants to stop coming to the U.S. border, when they have every incentive to continue to do so, and his representatives tsk-tsked the Taliban about sweeping to power by force – something that they have fought to do for 20 years – because it would supposedly harm the group's international image.

And, finally, the rank blame-shifting. Biden's team has outlandishly tried to argue that President Donald Trump somehow created the conditions for the border spinning out of control, when the truth is that Trump, after false starts, figured out how to get a handle on it. Biden points the finger at Trump, too, on Afghanistan.

Here, he has more of a case – the so-called peace deal that Trump cut with the Taliban was a travesty that undercut the Afghan government. But nothing forced Biden, who has happily reversed field on most Trump policies, to abide by an agreement that the Taliban violated from the outset or to execute a withdrawal that kneecapped the Afghan army in the midst of fighting

season and a gathering Taliban offensive.

He was the one whose exit denied the Afghan army the U.S. air support and logistics it had always depended on, who left without securing a nearby base in the region, who didn't care enough about Afghan allies who had risked their lives for us to ensure that they could get out of the country, who sent a message of abandonment that was a blow to Afghan morale from the top all the way down.

It's a particularly galling Biden rhetorical move to use the catastrophic failure of the Afghan forces that he helped bring about to insist that his decision to leave was the only responsible one. He's gone from claiming we could safely leave because the Afghan security forces would do just fine on their own, to arguing we had no choice but to get out because they couldn't manage without us.

Both at the U.S. border and in Afghanistan, Biden merely had to keep in place what he inherited to sustain success or at least avoid disaster. On the border, Trump's pandemic-era controls and his agreements with Mexico and Central American countries were sensible and tested. Afghanistan was more difficult, but with some determination and finesse, Biden could have maintained the minimal U.S. commitment that had forestalled a Taliban takeover for years.

Instead, in both cases, he quite literally chose chaos.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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IRS: Families Now Receiving August Child Tax Credit Payments

IRS Press Release

WASHINGTON DC (MPG) - The Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department announced that millions of American families are now receiving their advance Child Tax Credit (CTC) payment for the month of August as direct deposits begin posting in bank accounts and checks arrive in mailboxes.

This second batch of advance monthly payments, worth about \$15 billion, are reaching about 36 million families today across the country. The majority will be issued by direct deposit.

Under the American Rescue Plan, most eligible families received the first payment on July 15, and payments will continue each month for the rest of 2021. For these families, each payment is up to \$300 per month for each child under age 6 and up to \$250 per month for each child ages 6 through 17.

Besides the July 15 and Aug. 13 payments, payment dates are Sept. 15, Oct. 15, Nov. 15 and Dec. 15.

Here are further details on these payments:

Families will see the direct deposit payments in their accounts starting today, Aug. 13. Like the first payments, the vast majority of families will receive these payments by direct deposit;

The IRS wants to alert some recipients who received direct deposits in July that they will receive the August payments by mail. Due to an issue expected to be resolved by the September payments, a percentage of these recipients – less than 15% – who received payments by direct deposit in July will be mailed paper checks for the August payment. For those affected, no additional action is needed for the September payment to be issued by direct deposit. Families can visit the Child Tax Credit Update Portal to see if they're receiving a direct deposit or paper check this month;

For those receiving their payments by paper check, be sure to allow extra time for delivery by mail through the end of August. Those wishing to receive future payments by direct deposit can make this change using the Child Tax Credit Update Portal (<https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/child-tax-credit-update-portal>), available only on IRS.gov. To access the portal or to get a new step-by-step guide for using it, visit [IRS.gov/childtaxcredit2021](https://www.irs.gov/childtaxcredit2021). A change made by 11:59 p.m. ET on Aug. 30 will apply starting with the September payment;

Payments went to eligible families who filed a 2019 or 2020 income tax return. Returns processed by Aug. 2 are reflected in these payments. This includes people who don't typically file a return but during 2020 successfully registered for Economic Impact Payments using the IRS Non-Filers tool on IRS.gov or in 2021 successfully used the Non-filer Sign-up Tool for advance CTC, also available only on IRS.gov;

Payments are automatic. Aside from filing a tax return, including a simplified return from the Non-filer Sign-up Tool, families don't have to do anything if they are eligible to receive monthly payments. The Non-Filer Sign-Up tool is available until October 15, 2021;

Families who did not get a July payment and are getting their first monthly

payment in August will still receive their total advance payment for the year. This means that the total payment will be spread over five months, rather than six, making each monthly payment larger. For these families, each payment is up to \$360 per month for each child under age 6 and up to \$300 per month for each child ages 6 through 17;

Additionally, the IRS is correcting an issue regarding the advance CTC payments for families where the parent(s) have an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and the qualifying children have a Social Security number. Such families who did not receive a July payment are receiving a monthly payment in August, which also includes a portion of the July payment. They will receive the remainder of the July payment in late August.

Low-Income Families Can Still Sign Up

It's not too late for low-income families to sign up for advance CTC payments. The IRS urged anyone who normally isn't required to file a tax return to explore the tools available on IRS.gov. These tools can help determine eligibility for the advance CTC or help people file a simplified tax return to sign up for these payments as well as Economic Impact Payments and the Recovery Rebate Credit. People can get these benefits, even if they don't work and even if they receive no income.

The IRS continues to raise awareness of the expanded Child Tax Credit. The IRS encourages partners and community groups to share information and use available online tools and toolkits to help non-filers, low-income families and other underserved groups sign up to receive the advance Child Tax Credits as well as Economic Impact Payments. People can check their eligibility for the advance payments by using the new advance Child Tax Credit Eligibility Assistant.

Families Can Stop Payments Anytime

Families can stop payments anytime, even after payments begin. They do that by using the unenroll feature in the Child Tax Credit Update Portal. Eligible families who make this choice will still receive the rest of their Child Tax Credit as a lump sum when they file their 2021 federal income tax return next year. To stop all payments starting in September and the rest of 2021, they must unenroll by 11:59 p.m. ET on Aug. 30, 2021.

For married couples, each spouse must unenroll separately. If they each choose to unenroll, they will receive no monthly payments. If only one spouse unenrolls, they will still receive monthly payments, but they will be half the normal amount.

The unenroll feature can also be helpful to any family that no longer qualifies for the CTC or believes they will not qualify when they file their 2021 return. This could happen if, for example, someone else, such as an ex-spouse or another family member, qualifies to claim their child or children as dependents in 2021.

Links to these tools, a step-by-step guide to using the Non-filer Sign-up Tool, answers to frequently asked questions and other helpful resources are available on the tax agency's special advance CTC 2021 page. It's at [IRS.gov/childtaxcredit2021](https://www.irs.gov/childtaxcredit2021). ★

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



President of Ag College, Beijing, and VP College Education, Beijing at their hotel in Berkeley and headed for Sacramento to pick up the HPI Secretary (she had the credit card for our lunch!)

On our way out of Sacramento, I drove through the Harbor area from which much rice and wheat were shipped to their homeland. They got a kick out of seeing the actual ships being loaded and headed for their lockers in China.

Lunch was a huge success as we stopped at the small winery, Satiety, near Woodland. The sandwiches were excellent, but the Ambrosia was even better.

As we toured along country roads toward Esparto, we observed many crops in various stages of maturity. There was corn, wheat, alfalfa, safflower, almonds, walnuts, pistachios, and sunflowers. There was also cattle, sheep, and goats. I have probably forgotten some but you get the idea of the diversity.

About 1/2 mile west of Esparto, we stopped at the Manas Ranch. This is a working peach processing ranch where they package peaches for shipment

all over the country. Mr. Manas took my visitors under his wing and gave them a grand tour of the packing plant and shipping sheds.

On the way out, one of my visitors shouted "Look here! Honeydew Melons!" They explained the FDRs Secretary of Agriculture, Henry Wallace, had introduced honeydew melons to China and it was a favorite to this day. They packaged up a dozen melons to take back to Berkeley and share with the rest of the crew.

Our last stop was at Dixon Y to observe a tomato inspection plant. There was a lull in the tomato trucks passing through, so they gave my visitors another grand tour. It seems we were quite lucky on that tour and took advantage of the hospitality offered by the crews.

We took the 15 route back to Berkeley and they marveled at the acres and acres of black and white (Holstein) cows that stretched for miles in the San Joaquin Valley. It had been quite a day and was enjoyable by tour guide and passengers.

Ed Heeneey,
Dixon Resident

Dear Debra/Editor,

I enjoyed your article about your drive through the local country and enjoying our bounty of agriculture and products. The article reminded me of a similar "field trip" I enjoyed a few years ago. I thought you might enjoy reading about my adventure so here goes.

A few years ago I got a call from headquarters of Heifer Project International, a hunger and poverty organization for which I had done some volunteer work. It seems all the VIPs were out of town and they needed someone to give a contingent of Chinese educators a tour of California agriculture.

That sounded like an interesting Sunday activity, so early that morning, I picked the Vice

iVoterGuide Provides Key Information about Recall and Candidates

Hamilton Strategies Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California gubernatorial recall election is underway and voters across the state are eager to make their voices heard. This special election is being held to answer two important questions: Should Gavin Newsom be recalled from the office of Governor? If so, who should replace him? How voters answer these two questions could transform the political landscape of both California and the U.S. for years.

For Debbie Wuthnow, president of iVoterGuide, this recall election provides a unique opportunity. "An opportunity like this hasn't occurred in California in years. Recent polls indicate that the state is evenly split over the effort to recall Governor Newsom, with the majority of California voters still undecided. This is exactly what iVoterGuide is for – equipping voters with facts about each candidate so they can cast an informed vote."

While Republican voters may have already decided whether Governor Newsom should be recalled, iVoterGuide provides the well-sourced facts that California voters can share with their family and neighbors who need a reminder of Governor Newsom's policies and actions that led to the recall effort. If the vote to recall exceeds 50%, then the candidate who receives the most votes will become California's governor until the November 2022 election. The toxic political climate and recent global events underscores the urgency for voters to choose the candidate most likely to respect personal freedoms

and govern with integrity.

Voters asked for iVoterGuide to cover this election and provide research to assist them in choosing between the dozens of contenders, and iVoterGuide quickly compiled all the necessary information about the current candidates. iVoterGuide gathered links to candidate websites and social media accounts, as well as listed important ideological donations either given to or by the candidates. For those who have held office, iVoterGuide lists any vote ratings earned. Additionally, each candidate received an issue questionnaire.

iVoterGuide is a one-stop resource for candidate ratings and election information. In 2020, iVoterGuide's expert researchers gave an in-depth analysis – and overall rating – from the perspective of unchanging truth for 8,000+ candidates in more than 3,300 races nationwide. Additionally, iVoterGuide offers election dates, registration deadlines, polling locations, and other information needed to help Americans vote wisely and identify candidates on the ballot who share their values. Related tools are also available to inform family, neighbors, and business associates about getting their own personalized ballots. iVoterGuide is helping to restore the principles of limited government, free enterprise, and traditional American values.

iVoterGuide also created Pray for Leaders, an easy way for voters to pray by name for the officials whom they personally have the authority to elect.

For more information on the iVoterGuide at hamiltonstrategies.com/ivoterguide/ ★

Building a Pardi Stage



Work continues behind the scenes at the Pardi Market Plaza at the corner of A and First Streets with construction of the stage being part of Phase 2. Downtown visitors are finding parking spots elsewhere but not happily as they saw concrete and bark torn up that had just been put down about a year ago in Phase I. The new construction is supposed to be done in November. Photo by Debra Dingman

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

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

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Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
15					16				17				
18				19					20				
				21					22				
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	50	51					52				53	54	55
56							57				58		
59							60				61		
62							63				64		

CLUES

ACROSS

- *_mater
- *Graduate degree, acr.
- Opposite of stereo
- Defense ditch
- Fishing rod attachment
- More sure
- One's final notice
- Dutch cheese
- Golfer's traction aid
- *Half-year terms
- At the summit of
- Water nymph
- Actor ___ Mahershala
- Be a busybody
- Metrical foot in poetry
- Earlier in time, archaic
- Become bony
- Shakespeare's tragic monarch
- Labanotation founder
- Theodor Geisel, ___ Dr. Seuss
- Threshold
- Relating to the ear
- Weather advisories, e.g.
- + or - atom
- Widely esteemed
- Most mature, as in fruit
- Indian dish
- Dashboard window
- Female sheep, pl.
- *"The Breakfast Club" punishment
- Flower holders
- Singles
- High school breakout
- Acoustic output
- Overwhelming defeat
- *Gym class test?
- Catchall abbr.
- *Geography class staple
- Not talker?

DOWN

- ___ of cookie fame
- Stud site
- Cripple
- *Go to class
- Mythological princess of Colchis
- TV cooking show pioneer
- James ___
- Contributions to the poor
- *Kind of choice
- Black and white treat
- Less than average tide
- Table scrap
- Laces again
- Milan's La ___
- Manicurist's office
- Is it ___ wonder?
- Hard on outside, juicy on inside
- One of the Muses
- Payment option
- From a great distance
- Chill-inducing
- Type of palm tree, pl.
- Council of ___ city in Italy
- *Back-to-School retail event
- WWII general who became President
- *Faculty member
- "Peace" with fingers
- TV classic "___ in the Family"
- Superlative of true
- Lowest male singing voice
- Small bomb
- Christopher Columbus' birthplace
- Consumed (2 words)
- Small ladies' handbag
- What one does at the altar
- *College freshman's new digs
- International Civil Aviation Organization
- Half as much as twice
- ___-do-well
- Every American's uncle?

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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

Solutions on Page 7

Will Legislature Confront California Housing Crisis?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

California had a huge and growing housing problem before COVID-19 reared its ugly head 18 months ago, falling well short each year of state construction goals.

The pandemic, which continues to flare up, “exacerbated a long-standing housing shortage, intensified a statewide affordability crisis, and provoked housing instability,” the new state budget declares.

While suddenly unemployed workers struggled, and often failed, to make their monthly payments, the prices for homes soared, freezing out many who aspired to ownership.

The budget projects that California will add, at best, about 100,000 housing units this year, which is scarcely half of the 180,000 units state housing authorities say are needed to meet current demand and reduce the backlog. And that projection did not take into account the current COVID-19 surge.

The Legislature has reconvened after its summer vacation and is sprinting toward adjournment in mid-September. Housing is, or should be, at the top of its agenda.

While many factors affect the housing shortage,

the most important is the reluctance of suburban communities to embrace multi-family housing projects, particularly those for low- and moderate-income renters.

Dubbed “not-in-my-backyard,” or NIMBY, it is by no means a recent phenomenon. One could trace it back to the anti-Asian exclusion laws of the 19th century, and 20th century anti-okie laws and whites- and Christians-only deed covenants.

As California’s population exploded after World War II, some rural communities attempted to avoid becoming commuter suburbs. When Petaluma adopted a strict growth control law in the early 1970s, developers sued and the case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which allowed Petaluma’s law to remain in effect.

The state has made multiple attempts to overcome NIMBYism, such as imposing residential zoning quotas on regions and cities. Recent versions contain some penalties for cities that ignore their quotas and the state sued one city, Huntington Beach, for ignoring its quota.

One of the state’s many anti-NIMBY actions is the Housing Accountability Act, first enacted in 1982 and later tightened up. It essentially bars local governments from arbitrarily blocking housing projects that are “consistent with objective local development standards.”

Citing the law, pro-housing organizations have been challenging local governments when they reject low- and moderate-income projects and two cases are looming as tests

of the law’s efficacy.

One is in Huntington Beach, which rejected a 48-unit project. The California Renters Legal Advocacy and Education Fund (CaRLA) sued but a local judge ruled for the city, declaring that it had valid reasons, such as increased traffic, to deny a permit for the project.

CaRLA is also suing San Mateo, which imposed stringent design requirements on a 10-unit project that its developers said were onerous. Once again, a local judge ruled for the city and even questioned whether the Housing Accountability Act can be constitutionally applied to a charter city under the home rule doctrine.

Both cases are headed up the legal appeals chain and state Attorney General Rob Bonta is intervening in the San Mateo case to defend the law’s application.

That brings us back to the final weeks of the legislative session and two highly controversial anti-NIMBY measures. Senate Bill 9 is the latest effort by Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins to allow small multi-family projects on lots zoned for single-family homes, while SB 10 would allow local governments to approve up to 10 units of housing on any lot, regardless of current zoning, near transit.

Whether they pass or fail will tell us much about the direction of housing policy as California’s crisis continues.

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

“THE PROTÉGÉ” RATED R

Netflix’s “Gunpowder Milkshake” has as its protagonist a young woman who’s quite proficient as a professional contract killer. Meanwhile, the same situation is at hand in “The Protégé,” a stylish action thriller with a deadly efficient female assassin.

In a 1991 prologue, we find a young Vietnamese girl hiding in a closet and holding a gun she used to kill the murderers of her parents. Rescued by legendary assassin Moody (Samuel L. Jackson), the young girl is trained in the business.

Now an adult, Maggie Q’s Anna, teamed in an apprenticeship with her father figure Moody, becomes a skilled contract killer in her own right, all the while running her own London store selling rare books as her true passion.

With a nagging cough and a looming retirement seeming inevitable, Moody’s days as a wily assassin may be coming to an end. Meanwhile, the enigmatic Michael Rembrandt (Michael Keaton) visits Anna’s bookstore, setting in motion an inevitable cat-and-mouse game.

While there’s an oddly flirtatious situation between Anna and the much older Rembrandt, the romantic friction only delays for the moment the fact that Rembrandt is an agent for a crime boss hiding out in Vietnam who presents a danger for Moody and Anna.

Not wanting to return to her homeland as the result of bad childhood memories, Anna must nevertheless seek out the mysterious crime lord while getting some help from a biker gang led by Robert Patrick’s Billy Boy, who would look more at home at a rally in Sturgis.

Anna goes from looking glamorous in a sleek red dress at a fancy restaurant dinner with Rembrandt to becoming a hostage being tortured by waterboarding by a bunch of thugs who ultimately prove no match for this assassin.

Directed by Martin Campbell (“Casino Royale”), one can be forgiven for having the notion that “The Protégé” is like a test run for having Maggie Q in a future role of a female James Bond. She certainly demonstrates the chops for a tough secret agent.

An action picture offering gripping escapism, “The Protégé” is worth watching if for no better reason than enjoying Maggie Q’s fierce take on lethal vengeance which delivers an exciting excess of breakneck thrills.

“9/11” DOCUMENTARIES ON TV

Not surprisingly with the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attack on our mainland coming on September 11th, a variety of 9/11 documentaries are scheduled across various platforms.

At the end of August, National Geographic Channel will premiere the

Riley Reviews

“THE PROTÉGÉ” MASTERS VENGEANCE; “9/11” TV DOCUMENTARIES

six-part documentary series “9/11: One Day in America” made in official collaboration with the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

The series offers a comprehensive account of the day using archival footage – some never before seen – and new, original interviews with eyewitnesses who now have had almost two decades to reflect on the events they lived through.

The perspective of first responders and survivors includes the first FDNY chief to arrive at the World Trade Center and a firefighter who escaped the North Tower just before it collapsed. Paramedics recall their devastating encounters of searching for life in the rubble.

The History Channel plans an extensive observance of the 9/11 anniversary with a series of seven hours of documentary programming, beginning with “9/11: The Legacy,” a poignant sharing of stories from young adults who were children impacted by the terrorist attack.

“Rise and Fall: The World Trade Center” covers the first terrorist attack during the 1993 bombing and unpacks in vivid detail a timeline of how and why the building fell after commercial airliners flew into the towers on September 11.

Through personal narratives of family and friends, “9/11: Four Flights” tells the riveting and emotional human stories of those aboard each doomed jetliner. We probably recall the final heart-wrenching phone calls and harrowing yet heroic moments especially on the United 93 flight.

Featuring rare footage and audio, “9/11: I Was There” unveils an intimate portrayal of the events of September 11 captured by ordinary people who chose to pick up their video cameras that day.

A two-hour documentary, “9/11: I Was There” puts viewers in the shoes of New Yorkers and visitors alike to unfold the tragedy, the fear of what was next and the horrific aftermath to follow resulting in a raw and unfiltered telling of that fateful day.

Apple TV+ announced “9/11” Inside the President’s War Room” which tells the story of 9/11 through the eyes of President George W. Bush and his team of key decision makers who responded for the nation during the 12 hours after the strike on that horrific day.

The Apple TV+ documentary will feature never-before-heard testimony not only from President Bush, but from administration officials that include Vice President Dick Cheney, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State Colin Powell and Chief of Staff Andy Card, among others.

Anyone of a certain age to remember September 11, 2001 will be likely moved by the storytelling of a dark chapter in our history and yet be inspired by those who displayed feats of heroism and altruism in response. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Now is the Time



Do you fret over the past? Do you worry about the future? Do you put things off until you get around to it? Do you avoid dealing with problems? Do you spend today focused on yesterday or tomorrow? Do you spend time worrying? Now is the time to take control of your life.

Now is what matters. Yesterday is over and can’t be changed. Nothing can be accomplished tomorrow because you don’t live in tomorrow. Every day is today. Now is when you can get things done. Now is the time to be proactive.

Now is the time to pursue your goals, solve problems, learn, grow, and improve. Now is the time to stop procrastinating. Now is the time to get the most out of life. Now is the time to develop good habits and break bad ones.

Now is the time to appreciate all of the good in your life. Cultivate your attitude of gratitude each day. Be thankful for all of your blessings. This approach makes each day a better day by feeding your positive attitude.

Now is the time to smile. Smiling boosts your emotions, along with the emotions of those you encounter. Every day is a reason to smile because it is a new beginning. Each day you can choose happiness. Now is the time to take control of your emotions.

Now is the time to let

go of the past. The past is over, don’t waste effort lamenting what has already transpired. Don’t allow the past to pollute the present. Learn from the past. The past teaches you what works, and what doesn’t.

Now is the time to take responsibility for your life. Don’t make excuses. Don’t blame other people or circumstances. If you are not happy with your situation, take positive steps to fix it. You are the only one who can make changes to your life.

Now is the time to stop worrying. Worry is like being in a rocking chair; it’s a lot of activity which doesn’t get you anywhere. Replace worry with action. If you are concerned about a situation, do what is necessary to deal with it.

Now is the time to find the solution which exists for each problem. Once a problem is identified, focus your energy on solving it. Complaining about it accomplishes nothing. If you say you can’t do something, you are right. Conversely, if you say you can do something, you are also right.

Now is the time to prepare for tomorrow. You can’t alter the past, but the actions you take today influence what happens in the future. Don’t wait for things to change, do what is necessary to create the change.

Now is the time to grow

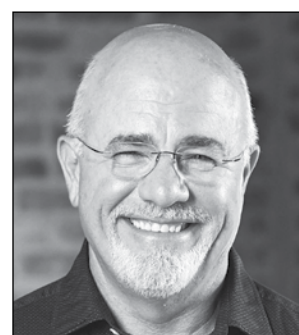
and improve. Education is a lifetime pursuit. There is always more to learn. Learn from others who are where you want to be. Observe how they have become successful. You can save yourself a lot of time by learning from others experiences.

Now is the time to be aware of your thoughts and self-talk. What you say to yourself determines what you think about. If you are saying things such as, “I can’t do it,” “It won’t work,” “I’m not good enough,” “That’s impossible,” or “Nothing ever works for me,” you are programming your mind for failure.

Now is the time to replace negative self-talk with positive. Tell yourself, “I will do it,” “I can do it,” “I’ll figure out a way to do it,” and “I will succeed.” Program your brain for your desired outcomes.

Now is the time that matters. The actions you take today shape your future. Take positive steps now to make changes, solve problems, and prepare for tomorrow.

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



Sounds Suspicious to Me

Dear Dave,

My husband and I have a rental property in South Carolina we want to sell. The current renters’ lease is up in December, but our property manager tells us the renters won’t let anyone in the home, not even just for photos to post online due to COVID-19. How do you think we should handle this situation?

– Tracy

Dear Tracy,

I don’t know much about current COVID-19 restrictions in South Carolina, but this sounds suspicious to me. I’m also thinking your property manager is kind of a wuss, but I have the spiritual gift of cynicism.

I’m old school, and if I own a house, I’d like to go in it any time I want – within reason, of course

Dave Ramsey Says

– if renters are in there. They have the legal right of quiet enjoyment, meaning I don’t get to show up at all hours and harass them. But I’m not letting them stiff-arm me and use COVID-19 as an excuse. I mean, tenants thinking they have the right to give the landlord and owner zero access? Maybe places like the Socialist Republic of California allow this kind of crap, but most states have common sense, plus reasonable tenant and landlord protections. Yeah, the whole feel of this makes me think there’s something very wrong going on inside this house.

I can imagine your frustration, Tracy. It makes me angry just thinking about it. If they’ve got a sick child or adult in the home, or someone’s out of work but actively looking for a job, then I’ll show a lot of compassion and back off a little. I’ll try to work with them to resolve things in a way that’s good for everyone. But if they’re just playing games or misbehaving and using COVID-19 as an

excuse on top of that, I’d have no problem removing them.

I think you need to dig a little deeper on this one. Check the current laws in South Carolina, especially any laws concerning a possible eviction moratorium and get in touch with a good real estate attorney. There are times when we’re called upon to be understanding and generous. But I have very little tolerance for someone who tries to take advantage of me.

–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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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



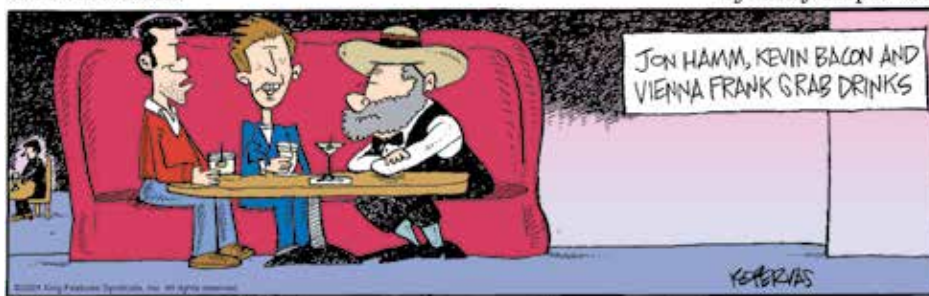
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



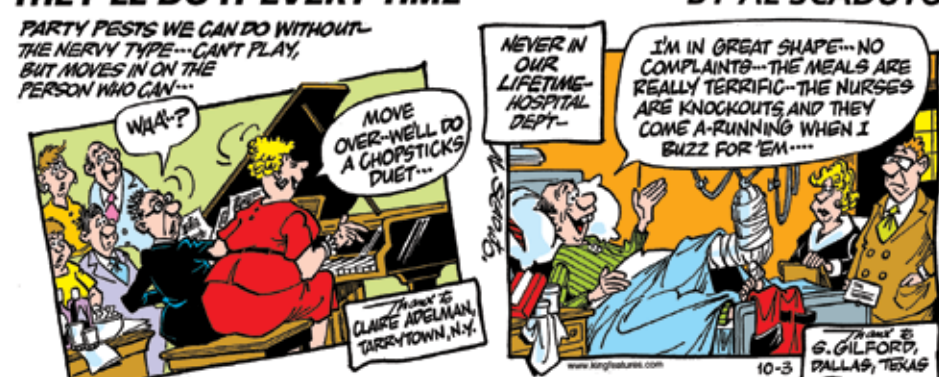
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



GRIN and BEAR IT

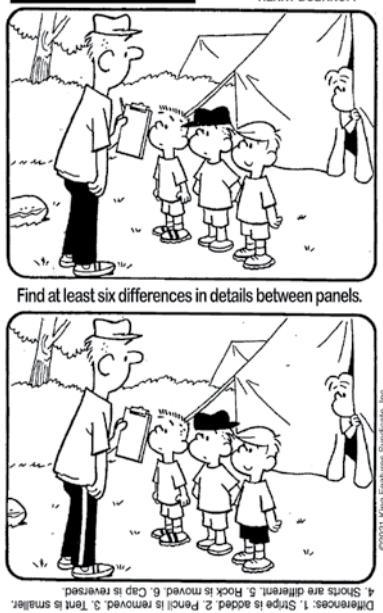
LAFF-A-DAY

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



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Airshow Ambassadors Needed for Aviation Festival



Volunteers don't need to have any prior experience, and you don't need to know anything about aviation. Photo by Mark Loper, courtesy CCA

Story by Shaunna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Volunteers are needed for the 2021 California Capital Airshow (CCA), which is presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova. The annual event, held at Mather Airport, is designed to honor the history of aviation while inspiring attendees with exciting in-air performances by talented pilots.

Volunteers will have behind-the-scenes access to all the excitement the festival has to offer, while playing a crucial role in ensuring the success of the airshow. Volunteers work in the performers chalet, where the pilots have lunch; pick up debris on the main show ramp as part of the Foreign Object Debris (FOD) Squad; and engage with attendees in a range of hospitality roles, such as greeting guests and helping them get autographs from their favorite performers.

Ronlyn Vasconcellos, CCA volunteer coordinator, said in a press release that the volunteers are referred to as "Airshow Ambassadors," and that "many have served for a decade or more, providing an opportunity to build a great sense of community around this event."

One such volunteer is Mark Crawford of Rocklin, CA, who has been volunteering at the airshow for approximately 13 years. He first started out years ago by getting a group of people from his office to volunteer with him, and after all their hard work, he said they saw the "direct benefit of our efforts and the success of the show."

Crawford is now a Hospitality Team Leader, and he has volunteers on his team who come back year after year – in addition to new recruits each year who are eager to get in on the action. "It is a lot of work, and several long days," Crawford said, "and it is all worth it. I've not only built relationships with the other

volunteers, I've also built relationships with many of our guests that have also been coming back year after year. It is so awesome to watch their kids grow and experience this special event every year." Crawford has even been getting his own son involved as an Airshow volunteer in recent years.

Volunteers don't need to have any prior experience, and you don't need to know anything about aviation. "We have many great volunteers that can tell you all kinds of information about every single plane they see, and we have volunteers that don't know anything about planes ... you don't need to be a plane expert to get involved," said Crawford. "Anyone with a heart to serve and a smile on their face will do an amazing job and have one of the best times at the airshow."

Crawford explained that volunteers are well taken care of during the airshow: "Caring for the volunteers is always a high

priority for the organizers, so we have plenty of water to drink during the day, opportunities to take breaks during the day to explore everything, and they provide a great lunch as well each day."

If you enjoy helping others, engaging in exceptional customer service, and working outdoors in a fun, fast-paced atmosphere, consider volunteering your time at the 2021 California Capital Airshow. Adults (18 and older) can volunteer either Friday, September 24 from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM or Saturday, September 25 and Sunday, September 26 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Volunteers will receive an "Airshow Crew" t-shirt, and meals and water will be provided. Volunteers will also be required to comply with all state and local COVID-19 protocols during the airshow.

For more information or to sign up as an Airshow Ambassador, visit <https://californiacapitalairshow.com/become-a-volunteer/>.

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