



**Disease Outbreak
Strikes California
Deer Herds**

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**CHP Cadets
Graduate ...
Finally!**

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Dixon

Independent Voice

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JULY 30, 2021

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TO REMOTE
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Local Fish Farm Catches Delicacy's Largest Producer



Above: Erick Shih who started the Lazy Q Fish Ranch, Sterling Caviar General Manager Myra Tallerico, and the owner of both, Eugene Fernandez comprise the leadership team for Dixon and Elverta's fish farms that are making them the nation's top caviar producer. Right: Each tin of Sterling Caviar receives an American flag sticker as part of the company's pride in being made in America Photos by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A few miles out Hackman Road past peaceful row crops and cattle, a bluff hides several large ponds looking like giant rectangles lined up next to each other and filled with sturgeon that occasionally leap out of the water with seemingly total abandon. In our small town known for lamb and steak, there is now Caviar.

This is where Erick Shih started a

fish farm. Born and raised in Taiwan, Shih, a professed "animal lover" went to veterinary school in Taiwan, had a pet crocodile in college, then came to UC Davis for a Master's Degree with a life plan to be "a simple fish farmer," he said. After graduating in 1995, he bought 40 acres between Davis and Dixon and

with the help of Dixonite Brett Atkinson, carved out 10 large ponds for Lazy Q Fish Ranch.

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National Night Out Next Week



Residents, much like in past years, are invited to join the Dixon Police and Fire Departments for this annual event August 3, from 6 pm to 9 pm by holding block parties or neighborhood activities. Photo by Leticia Mendez

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you don't already know your neighbors, next Tuesday, during National Night Out, offers a good time to meet them. It's also a time to reconnect with people in your neighborhood that perhaps over the pandemic,

you've lost touch with. Citizens are invited to join the Dixon Police and Fire Departments for this annual event August 3, from 6 pm to 9 pm by holding block parties or neighborhood activities. National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that

promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie with a goal of preventing crime through awareness. Residents in neighborhoods throughout Dixon, and across the nation, are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside

with neighbors, police, and fire--a special opportunity to bring city personnel and residents together under positive circumstances. Neighbors can host a variety of special events such as block parties, cook-outs, and youth activities with registered activities

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Filing Date to Run for City Clerk is August 6

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If anyone is interested in becoming the first elected Dixon City Clerk – despite that you'd have a bunch of paperwork and loads to learn with little pay – now is your chance.

Election papers were made available by appointment only July 12, with no fanfare from the City. The announcement is available on the City website, and election information is available on the Solano County Office of Voter Registrar's website. The special election will only provide the Clerk spot for one year as it will be put on the regular election cycle after that.

Voters passed Measure T, a ballot initiative to change the city clerk from an appointed position to an elected one back in November but since then, the position has been split into two.

The position became a point of contention when the City Clerk released petitions brought in by the Solano County Taxpayers Association that included signatures and addresses of citizens against a sewer rate hike to the City Attorney and to the City Manager. Without a court order, the documents should not have been released, according to Solano County Taxpayers brief, and they had already been verified and certified thus releasing them to the attorneys was a "breach of electoral privacy," they said. The incident created a significant amount of public distrust.

In addition, a petition was brought in regarding the sewer rate hike and the taxpayers were told no one had access to them but they were bundled differently than when they were brought in, said community activist Michael Ceremello.

"We do not trust City Hall and the City Council has attempted to remove all the duties from the City Clerk position leaving more suspicion that they are hiding something. The question is 'what?'" he said. Ceremello asserts other factors have contributed to the mistrust as well.

The City Clerk position has since been divided into two positions and was approved by the Council majority. One is called an Administrative City Clerk and the other is the Elected City Clerk. The elected one would perform the duties set out by the State of California such as attending all council meetings, keeping accurate records of council proceedings,

Continued on page 2



Saved from a Most Embarrassing Moment with Fish Eggs

By Debra Dingman

Almost every week, I am involved in writing a story that helps me understand more about people and especially about extraordinary ones. I’ve learned that most of the truly successful people have developed a gift of helping other people be their best by listening, learning, and being empathetic.

This week it was my investigation into caviar. Now, let me preface my story with the fact my Daddy sold seasonal produce and fish the rest of the time out of a large, refrigerated truck with large glass windows facing the customers. I would sit on an upturned metal crate bundled in coat and gloves and visit with him while he cleaned fish. But, between the visual and the strong smell, it was simply traumatic for a little girl.

Unless it was canned tuna, my lips never touched fish for the next 25 years no matter how it was cooked, no matter what parent was pressing me, and no matter how many articles were read on how healthy fish is. Over the course of the next few years, I slowly began to like some fish, crab, and lobster.

Yes, that is me at the Veteran’s Hall Fish Fry every time they offer it. But caviar is another story. All during the interview and tour of the Dixon and Elverta Fish Farms, I was moved by the passion of the owner and the admirable care he extended to his workers – as well as the fish. Even the gingerly care of creating Sterling Caviar showed what kind of man this was. I attempted to think of the tiny eggs to be like chicken eggs that I boil for egg sandwiches or fry for weekend breakfasts. They are healthy and delicious. Caviar should be the same, I reasoned.

I wondered if someone discovered caviar when they were out in the wild mountainside desperate to eat. You would come to a part of the cooked fish and think,



Eugene Fernandez is farming sturgeon in an environmentally responsible manner that respects the species, the environment, our communities, staff, and customers. Photo by Debra Dingman

“Oh my, this is really delicious!” just like I do when I eat a tender chicken breast. But when company owner Eugene Fernandez gingerly opened the small gold can and used a tiny seashell-looking spoon to offer me a taste of those small black eggs, I had to decline. I was as embarrassed as someone could be – truly knowing what a delicacy this is and here I am not taking advantage.

For a few seconds, I tried arguing with my mind to take it but then what if I gagged or worse...I could not bear it so I had to be honest. My words seemed to crush him and so I told him about my Dad’s fish and how it took me two decades to like fish and that I was still working on caviar. He seemed to lighten his understanding and his kindness relieved me. It showed his character even more.

I am certain that these companies will become even greater under his care because he listens with genuine care and recognizes that all workers have something to offer. He treated them like family. He spoke fluent Spanish and had staff from various corners of the world. It was most impressive that he openly praised each of them...and yet they held him in equally high regard. Now, it’s a multi-million dollar company serving the world. ★

Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

No City Meeting

Mayor Steve Bird and the City Council voted to cancel the Tuesday, August 3, council meeting for the sake of National Night Out, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community, organizers say. Councilmembers plan to be out visiting neighborhoods as well.

County Redistricting

This is the year for Solano County to redraw District lines for supervisors who represent various Solano County cities. This happens every 10 years to ensure equal representation by each elected official in each agency. Community members have the opportunity to define their communities by telling their own stories and describing their concerns to policymakers. Without this dialogue, those who may not be aware of a community’s best interest might decide for them, according to the County Board of Supervisors.

“It was more of an informational meeting on what redistricting is and how many different districts there are,” said City of Dixon Treasurer James Ward who attended one of the sessions. “I suggested they show a map of the actual boundaries and who is the representative for each one. People want to know what the changes are going to be, but they are going off the 2020 census which isn’t released yet so they

don’t know the numbers and can’t really say.” Out of the 447,643 (2019) Solano County residents, he said it was sad to see less than 25 attend and that the woman who conducted the meeting was from Los Angeles so didn’t know the existing boundaries or cities they included.

The public is encouraged to visit <https://Redistricting.SolanoCounty.com> to determine if the upcoming August meetings will be in-person or via Zoom.

Prizes Wanted

Wanting your business to get some extra mileage? Donating a raffle basket, gift certificate, or prize to be won in the fundraiser at the American Legion Post 208 and North Bay Operation Hand Up dinner on Saturday, September 25, could be the trick! This is to benefit the North Bay Stand Down for homeless Veterans and our local Veterans Building Post 208 and all donations to the nonprofit are tax deductible.

You can bring your contribution any Friday, 4 to 8 pm during the weekly veteran’s dinners and give them to Leah Marlin of the Women’s Auxiliary at the door at the Dixon Veterans Memorial Building, 1305 North First Street. They will be raffled off on Saturday, September 25. At the dinner, there will be a choice of Tri-tip or Chicken and all the fixings. There will be no-host cocktails at 5 pm and dinner will be served at 6 pm at the the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street.

Cost will be \$45 per couple or \$25 per person or you can purchase a table of eight for \$160. For purchase of tickets, also see Marlin or call at (530) 304-5385. ★

National Night Out Next Week

Continued from page 1

getting visits from a fire-truck or patrol car – maybe even a visit from the dog, CrimeFighter McGruff.

It is not too late to throw some plans into place. They can be as simple as blankets on the lawn and a punch bowl of lemonade or as complicated as a hot dog barbecue in the cul-de-sac.

The goal is to know your neighbors, know the cars they drive and something about the children. All of this helps one to know when something is out of the ordinary.

The last day to register for a National Night Out block party is Friday, July 30. There is an online registration form to download or

you can pick one up at the front counter of the Dixon Police Department lobby. Once completed, please email the form and your map to speialevents@dixonpolice.org or bring them to the Dixon Police Department lobby.

For more information, call the Dixon Police Department (707) 678-7070. ★

Filing Date to Run for City Clerk is August 6

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preparing minutes, recording all ordinances and resolutions in books, accepting cease-and-desist letters for Brown Act violations, accepting statements of economic interest and campaign statements, and accepting presentations of statement of claims.

While some voiced their distrust, the City Manager and Councilmembers wanted to ensure the legalities of the City would be performed correctly, they said.

In January, the Dixon City Council voted unanimously to separate the duties of the City Clerk into two positions; one elected and one

administrative even though there was a 57% vote for Measure T, where a “yes” vote supported changing the position of city clerk from an appointed position to an elected one.

After that, the new City Council of which none supported the Measure, voted to transfer most of the duties of the long-time City Clerk position to a newly created Administrative City Clerk position, leaving minimal duties for the new Elected City Clerk position.

In February, after a report by City Attorney Doug White on nearby cities’ compensations for that office, it was

voted to give that elected person a stipend of \$250 per month.

Moving back to Dixon last year to be close to her retired Dixon parents, Kristin Janisch was put forth by Mayor Steve Bird at the March 2 city council meeting to fill the temporarily elected Dixon City Clerk position out of applicants that included the Administrative City Clerk Lupe Ruiz. Janisch will be able to run for the office November 2, 2021. As of press time, no one has pulled papers. Deadline is August 6 and fees add to \$201. Elections will be held Tuesday, November 2, 2021. ★

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Dixon, Now Serving Caviar

Continued from page 1

Over the years, he added two additional land purchases from neighbors and the 160-acre farm with fish in 60 ponds, flourished. Across the nation, fish have been traditionally grown only in tanks. Shih’s ‘pond methodology’ caught the attention of a New York businessman Eugene Fernandez.

Fernandez, a father of five including two who are married and 14-year-old triplets, had lost his Dad to cancer.

“My father was my best friend and he died too soon because of pesticides,” he said. In his grief, he started seriously studying about pesticides and sustainability – the capacity of earth’s biosphere and human civilization to co-exist. He read about the aquaculture industry – fish farms, green houses, and hydroponics. Although his own successful company was in construction originally started with his father, Fernandez finally flew to California and met Shih. They sealed a multi-million dollar deal the traditional Dixon way: a handshake.

“I carry holy water, my rosary and a cross everywhere I go,” said Fernandez explaining his parents gave him a strong faith. “I can’t explain it, but I get pushed to do something. I got into this because of my father.”

There is a mutual admiration with Fernandez’s business expertise and work ethic garnered from his immigrant parents from Spain and Shih’s knowledge of all-things-fish, the company boomed and just a couple years ago, Fernandez purchased Sterling Caviar, the nation’s largest producer of caviar in Elverta next to the Sacramento River. It is also the home of what Fernandez deems as the “model farm where everything is computerized including the fish’s oxygen.”

They plan to start building greenhouses next year in Dixon. Over the next five years, the company will produce seven to ten million pounds of fish.

The Fish

Sturgeons were around in the age of dinosaurs and have an 80-year life span, maturing at around 15 years, and having distinctive characteristics like having a fin similar to a shark, although they have no teeth and are docile. They have white tummies, gray backs, and an elongated body that appears smooth and scaleless.

White sturgeon are not endangered and are reproduced in fish farms.



There are about 500 baby sturgeon about 3-inches long who swim freely in this size of fiberglass pool. Photo by Debra Dingman

Sturgeon always move. They are very hearty fish. They have no teeth and are bottom-feeders meaning their mouths are like vacuum hoses, sucking up their food from the bottom of the pond, river, or ocean. In Dixon, a tractor blows out food comprised of chad and gold shrimp among other sources of nutrients into the ponds where it sinks.

The adult sturgeon looks like a skinny shark with vertically-lined white bumps on the back which looks something akin to exposed vertebrae. Females are raised for their eggs and males are raised for their meat.

The Tanks

The babies look like pollywogs and wiggle with speed through the circular water tanks like busy

birds do in the sky. From the time they are 3-inches, they are given a 5-foot wide fiberglass pond to play with other newborns and have 900 friends swimming with them.

About every seven days, they are sized and moved to the next holding tank. They begin with losing about 70 fish a day for various reasons to only two a day dying. The bit bigger fish are about 500 to a tank. When they are six to eight months or 16-18-inches, they go to the large, dirt-bottom ponds in Dixon.

Each of the 48 large concrete tanks that are 50-feet in diameter and 10-feet deep that are housed in metal buildings in Elverta hold 30- to 50-thousand pounds of fish. They make the water seem like

it’s bubbling while swimming around looking like 8-foot-long glistening snakes.

Harvest Time

Sturgeon mature in these facilities in half the time due to near-perfect conditions. The female eggs are 10-percent of their body weight unless you do not remove them. In that case, they get reabsorbed in the body and the next year, are up to 14-percent. The eggs are also bigger and tastier which is a huge selling point for caviar.

The females get ultrasounds to determine if their eggs are ready for harvest. During “harvest season,” the roe sacks are removed and gently rubbed over a mesh screen to detach the roe from the ovary membrane. These eggs are

washed, drained, and set aside to be salt-cured and graded.

They are then packed in 1 kg OTs (original tins) and refrigerated at the ideal temperature between 28 and 30 degrees Fahrenheit. These OTs are normally sold to wholesalers, distributors, repackers, and other large-volume customers. For those customers ordering smaller portions online, the caviar is repacked into smaller tins with a “Proudly Made in the USA” flag sticker on the back of each tin.

Sterling Caviar

“Only Sturgeon fish eggs can be considered ‘caviar,’ and I love sharing the story about Sterling Caviar and our commitment to true sustainability, the traceability of our product, and the integrity of our company,” Sterling Caviar General Manager Myra Tallerico said. “With Sacramento being the “Farm-to-Fork” capital of the U.S., it’s surprising that white sturgeon is not a regular restaurant menu item, but we’re working to change that.” Tallerico is dedicated to transparency in the entire operation to dispel the “black mark” on the industry caused by a recent news story where a local fish farm, Passmore Ranch, was outed for selling Chinese caviar and relabeling them as his own.

“It’s unfortunate that Passmore was able to carry on this deceit for several years, and why--more than ever--consumers should always ask where the caviar they’re purchasing comes from. Caviar from China is known to contain borax and there are a lot of caviar purveyors importing these products into the U.S. who are not providing full disclosure. Know the source!” she said.

The whole team at Sterling Caviar are part of the ‘farm-to-fork’ movement and now with a recently-built state-of-the-art Repack Building, coupled with a user-friendly website, orders of the black gold can be delivered to one’s door overnight.

“As we move towards a post-pandemic economy, there are a lot of opportunities opening up for the Dixon farm, as well as Sterling Caviar. It’ll be a lot of hard work, but Eugene, Eric and I are cut from the same cloth and we don’t shy away from hard work – a key to our individual, and collective, successes,” she said, pitching that there may even be something in caviar skin-care in the future, as mentioned in Forbes Magazine and USA Today. ★



At the Dixon location, the large ponds holding White Sturgeon have a tractor that drives around the pond and sprays out their specially formulated fish food which they will eat from the bottom. Photo by Debra Dingman



Numerous tanks line the inside of a large metal building in Elverta just off the Sacramento River and house the sturgeon being grown for caviar and meat in a sustainable operation. Photo by Debra Dingman



The tanks are stocked with sturgeon all the same size to prevent “bullying” and are moved up every couple weeks to the next size. In the Dixon dirt ponds, there are between 3,000 and 7,000 sturgeon. Photo by Debra Dingman

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CHP Cadets Graduate ... Finally!



Cadet Vanessa Sanchez receives her badge to become a new California Highway Patrol Officer. Photo: CHP

By Jaime Coffee, California Highway Patrol

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The long-awaited graduation of California Highway Patrol (CHP) Cadet Training Class I-20 took place on Friday, July 16th at the CHP Academy. The CHP's 119 newest officers (18 women and 101 men) received their badges following a swearing-in ceremony 75 weeks after their training began. Traditionally, cadet training at the CHP Academy takes place over 29 weeks. However, a little more than a month after arriving at the academy on February 10, 2020, safety precautions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic led to the closure of the live-in training facility in West Sacramento. While away from the academy, cadets

were assigned to CHP Area offices throughout the state to observe a wide variety of activities and tasks uniformed officers routinely perform, enhancing the knowledge they had gained in the classroom. Cadets also participated in online learning for the first time. "To say these cadets have been well-trained would be an understatement," CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray said. "Today's graduates persevered through challenging circumstances over a lengthy period of time, demonstrating their commitment to serving the people of California." At the CHP Academy, cadet training starts with nobility in policing, leadership, professionalism and ethics, and cultural diversity. Cadets also receive instruction on mental illness response and

crisis intervention techniques. The training also covers vehicle patrol, accident investigation, first aid, and the apprehension of suspected violators, including those who drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The cadets also receive training in traffic control, report writing, recovery of stolen vehicles, assisting the motoring public, issuing citations, emergency scene management, and knowledge of various codes including the California Vehicle Code, Penal Code, and Health and Safety Code. Upon graduation, these uniquely trained cadets will be reporting for duty to CHP Area offices throughout the state. The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★

Disease Outbreak Strikes California Deer Herds



The disease is typically fatal to young deer, particularly fawns, and can be spread by animals in close contact with each other. The virus is not known to affect people, pets or domestic livestock. Image by Manfred Antranas Zimmer from Pixabay

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has confirmed outbreaks of adenovirus hemorrhagic disease in deer in several northern California counties and is asking California residents to help curb the spread by not feeding wild animals, and report potential cases to the department. "Providing attractants for deer – food, salt licks or even water – is against the law for good reason," said Dr. Brandon Munk, senior wildlife veterinarian with CDFW's Wildlife Investigations Laboratory. "Because these artificial attractants can congregate animals and promote the spread of disease, it's particularly imperative to leave wildlife alone during an outbreak. There is no cure or vaccine for this disease, so our best management strategies right now are to track it carefully, and to take

preventative measures to limit the spread." Beginning in May, CDFW began receiving increased reports of mortality in deer, both free-ranging and at fawn rehabilitation facilities. With the assistance of wildlife rehabilitation facilities and the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory, CDFW confirmed cervid adenovirus 1 (CdAdV-1) as the cause of hemorrhagic disease outbreaks this year in Kern, Napa and Nevada counties. The disease is typically fatal to young deer, particularly fawns, and can be spread by animals in close contact with each other. The virus is not known to affect people, pets or domestic livestock. CdAdV-1 was the cause of a 1993-1994 outbreak of hemorrhagic disease in black tailed deer and mule deer that spanned at least 18 California counties. Since then, CdAdV-1 has been identified as the cause of sporadic, often widespread, outbreaks of hemorrhagic disease in

California and other western states. Deer fawns are at greatest risk, with high rates of mortality following infection. Yearlings and adult deer are more resistant but mortalities in these age groups occur as well. Outbreaks can be widespread and may have significant impact on affected deer populations. Affected deer are often found dead without any obvious symptoms. They may be found near water. Sick animals may have excessive salivation (drooling or foaming at the mouth), diarrhea, regurgitation or seizures. In addition to removing food and other attractants, Californians can help wildlife veterinarians track and study the disease by reporting sightings of sick or dead deer. Anyone who observes a deer exhibiting symptoms, or encountering a deer that has died from unknown causes, can submit the information to CDFW through the department's online mortality reporting system. ★

CONVERSATIONS

By Shirley Humphrey

Music at Pardi, What Say You?

While barking dogs, loud music and construction noise are unavoidable in an urban environment, there can come a point when the noise becomes excessive. The State of California recognizes that some types of noise are a serious health hazard and has enacted laws to abate noise pollution as much as possible. We've heard from some residents who want to make sure our investment in the downtown Pardi Market Plaza is utilized but even weekly bands could create an issue for surrounding residents. The California Noise Control Act gives individual cities the power to set strict rules for noise reduction and enforce them as necessary. Because each community sets its own ordinances, there is no single, uniform code covering the entire state. This past week, I received a letter from a downtown resident who brought up some thought-provoking points. The IV welcomes input from local residents and encourages others to provide their viewpoints. In researching the subject, the local writer learned that "noise pollution has been labeled as the next big public health crisis and like all public health crises, it has been shown to disproportionately affect certain populations. Even lower levels of noise have been shown to have significant health impacts. Noise disrupts sleep and has been shown to have negative cardiovascular and metabolic effects. It can also have negative impacts on language development and learning outcomes in children." I want to point out that there are other places downtown that are great loud music

venues that offer less disturbance to older residents and children. Dixon is fortunate to have the restored Old Vets Hall, located at 231 North First Street. The room holds 225 people seated. Music can be listened to past 9 p.m. This beautiful building was restored by Bud and Cherie Fanning. The large banquet hall is completely enclosed with brick walls. There is also the Moose Lodge located in the heart of downtown as well. The May Fair has buildings ranging from small to large for events, perhaps the city can work out a deal with the Fair to rent buildings for music. Also, the high school has a theater with 300 seats that can be rented. Alcoholic beverages cannot be served on site, but as citizens leave the high school theater, they may stop at local bars downtown. The new Vets Hall located at 1305 North First is also available for rental. Recently Ruhstaller started offering live music. This business is located at 6686 Sievers Road and only about two miles from town. This business is not surrounded by houses. As we can see the city has a wealth of large and small places which are available for rental. These rooms are inside buildings which would avoid music being held outside and offer a win-win for businesses-and residents who are trying to sleep. The city council should consider residents as well as business owners and think creatively to make sure everyone is comfortable about noise at the soon-to-be used entertainment venue, the Pardi Market Plaza. What say you? ★

CDFW Relocates Over One Million Hatchery Salmon from Klamath River



The fish were trucked to a nearby satellite facility and to the Trinity River hatchery until Klamath River drought conditions improve. Photo: CDFW

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Due to drought and poor water conditions in the Klamath River, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) successfully relocated 1.1 million juvenile, fall-run Chinook salmon from its Iron Gate Fish Hatchery in Siskiyou County. The fish were trucked to a nearby satellite facility and to the Trinity River Hatchery 122 miles away where the fish will remain until conditions in the Klamath River improve. The baby salmon, about seven months old and about three inches in length, are normally released into the Klamath River in May and June. Due to warm water temperatures, low water flow and an exceedingly high probability of succumbing to disease in the river, CDFW decided to retain these salmon within its hatchery system over the summer until Klamath River conditions improve. The unprecedented relocation happened after extensive monitoring, discussion and close collaboration with federal partners, academic specialists and three Native American tribes in the lower Klamath Basin. The temporary relocation marks the first time CDFW has not released salmon into the Klamath River since construction of the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery in 1962. CDFW relocated the 1.1 million salmon to provide adequate water conditions over the summer and additional space to accommodate the growing fish. Another 1 million juvenile Chinook salmon will remain at Iron Gate. "It's extremely challenging to raise cold water fish species in a drought," said Dr.

Mark Clifford, Hatchery Environmental Scientist for CDFW's Northern Region. "The reality is most of these fish would have died if we released them into the river. We need to maintain the integrity of the fall run on the Klamath River and we especially can't afford to lose this generation of fish." Four Klamath River dams are slated for removal by 2024, the largest dam removal undertaking in U.S. history. The removal is expected to restore fish access to the entire river and the relocated Iron Gate fish could be the first salmon to return to a new Klamath River after their life in the ocean and find miles of additional spawning habitat and contribute to future generations of wild fish. When conditions improve and before the fish are ultimately released to the Klamath River, the relocated salmon will be returned to the Iron Gate Fish Hatchery for a number of weeks to allow the fish to further imprint on the Klamath River. All of the relocated salmon have been outfitted with unique coded wire tags to allow CDFW and other agencies to determine their origin and destination. All of their adipose fins have been removed to visibly identify them as hatchery reared fish. CDFW thanks its partners for their time and expertise in working through this difficult situation. These partners include the Karuk Tribe, the Yurok Tribe, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation and NOAA Fisheries. Video and photos of the salmon relocation along with comments from Dr. Clifford are available for download at the following link: <https://filelib.wildlife.ca.gov/Public/OCEO/Iron%20Gate%20Hatchery%20Chinook%20Relocation/> ★



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The River has Teeth

by Erica Waters

Girls have been going missing in the Wood Thrush Nature Park for years, but it never hit home until Natasha saw her sister’s face displayed across the most recent Missing poster. Her sister’s black and white portrait in blurred copy ink stared at her from every corner, beckoning Natasha to find her.

Della Llyod family has always lived in the Bend, drawing magic from the forest and the river as they carefully craft spells and brews for the local townspeople. But Della and her Da hide an even bigger secret, hidden away in an old abandoned prison, a secret that, if uncovered, will shatter them all.

When all hope of finding her sister starts to fade, Natasha knows there is only one person left to help, even if that means involving the local girl rumored to be a witch. But for Della, helping Natasha could unearth her darkest secret yet. In a story of longing, magic, hopes, and fears, two girls must face what fears them most and turn to one another in order to



- ◆ Publisher: Harper Teen
- ◆ Hardcover, 391 pages
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥

uncover the truth hidden deep within the river’s waters that flow through the Bend.

Hauntingly deep and powerful, *The River Has Teeth’s* ghostly echoes will stay with readers long after turning the last page. A story built on two separate narratives that beautifully intertwine. One girl is driven by the need for answers and redemption, while secrets and magic bind the other, but it’s what they awaken in each other that can truly make them whole again.

Erica Waters delivers

a story written for those who love a dark story and those who need to be released from the ties that bind them. *The River Has Teeth* is unapologetically angry and honest, delivering two main characters that are authentic and raw, but through the power of emotion gives validity and a voice to those who aren’t able to be heard. From the first line of Water’s dedication, readers are shown the exact tempo to which this book will be told.

“For everyone who’s been made to feel like prey, and wished for sharper teeth.”

Told in two narratives, this story will take readers deep into the woods where magic flows from every direction and secrets are calling to be unearthed. However, be careful not to turn your back, this story takes you by surprise; at first it gently flows like a tiny river, but will quickly lash out and take readers under when they least expect it. This book is a perfect summer evening read, begging to be read outdoors with a tall glass of sweet tea. ★

Could Crime Surge Push Newsom Recall?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

Those who want voters to recall Gov. Gavin Newsom joined crime victim advocates at the state Capitol last Tuesday to accuse the governor of being too lenient on lawbreakers as the state experiences a new wave of crime.

They castigated him for unilaterally suspending executions of murderers and making it easier for felons to win release from state prisons.

“The thing that really alarms me about what the governor did, is that it’s a continuation of policies to undermine the criminal justice system, and to put dangerous people back out onto the streets,” said Marc Klaas, whose daughter, Polly, was murdered 25 years ago by a recently released felon. The killer, Richard Allen Davis, is one of 737 murderers benefiting from Newsom’s death penalty suspension.

A few hours later, Newsom’s office announced that he would hold a press conference in Los Angeles Wednesday “on state action to address crime and reduce retail theft in communities across California.”

Newsom devoted much of the event to signing

Assembly Bill 331, which extends an effort to crack down on organized shoplifting that has plagued California retailers in recent months. But he attributed the sharp increase in violent crime, particularly murders, to “a proliferation of guns on our streets” and noted that “There is not a state that’s been spared.”

The back-to-back events imply that crime may be a new front in the recall campaign and that Newsom feels the need to defend himself.

“In 2020, California saw a troubling rise of more than 500 homicides, the largest jump in state history since record-keeping began in 1960,” the Public Policy Institute of California says in a recent report. “Victims were predominantly Black and Latino, male, and killed by guns on our streets, parking lots, or in vehicles.”

Newsom’s comments about “a proliferation of guns on our streets” echoes declarations by gun control advocates that California’s surge of homicides results from a big jump in gun ownership. Californians legally bought a record 686,435 handguns in 2020 – a nearly 66% increase from the year before – and sales of rifles and shotguns also shot upward.

However, Newsom and other gun control advocates offer no proof of the connection. In fact, a new study by University of California-Davis researchers found no evidence that increases in legal gun sales resulted in more violent crime, seemingly refuting Newsom’s assertion.

“Nationwide, firearm

purchasing and firearm violence increased substantially during the first months of the coronavirus pandemic,” the study by UCD’s Violence Prevention Research Program, concluded. “At the state level, the magnitude of the increase in purchasing was not associated with the magnitude of the increase in firearm violence.”

“Results suggest much of the rise in firearm violence during our study period was attributable to other factors, indicating a need for additional research,” the researchers added.

A more likely scenario is that Californians are buying more guns because their fears of becoming violent crime victims have increased. In recent weeks, the residents of three Northern California homes, one in Solano County and two in Stanislaus County, have shot and killed violent home invaders.

The surge in crime, both violent assaults and thefts, is real. The videos of brazen daylight raids on pharmacies and other stores, particularly in San Francisco, by thieves unafraid of either arrest or prosecution, have become cable television and YouTube staples.

While rising crime might not sink Newsom in the recall election a few weeks hence, if it continues to rise, he could feel the backlash when he runs for re-election in 2022.

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



Farmers Markets Slowly Rebound in Uncertain Comeback

California’s farmers markets are facing challenges, even as produce shoppers are returning after easing of pandemic restrictions. Foot traffic remains light at many urban markets as the flow of office workers remains down due to employees still working from home. Some markets remain closed and others – like the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market in San Francisco – are climbing back toward near-normal traffic levels.

Drought, Winds Yield Smaller Avocados

Avocados from California are smaller this year and the seasonal harvest is expected to be down by as much as 30 percent in total pounds. According to the California Avocado Commission, that’s the result of low rainfall totals over the last few years. Another factor is Santa Ana winds that struck avocado-growing regions in January. This year, growers are more likely to fill cartons with 60 smaller avocados rather than 48 larger ones.

November Temperature Swings Damage Walnut Groves

Wild temperature swings last fall are believed to be the cause of widespread freeze damage in California’s walnut groves. In early November, temperatures dropped from 80 degrees to below freezing in several areas. Freeze damage, observed this spring, is most severe in Butte, Glenn and Tehama counties and is also reported in Lake, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Yolo and Yuba counties. Before the freeze, walnut production had been steadily increasing.

Agriculture Coalition Seeks Federal Water System Upgrades

A coalition of western farmers, ranchers, water providers and farm communities is urging the U.S. Senate to pass legislation to upgrade aging water infrastructure. The California Farm Bureau joined with more than 200 organizations in seeking more than \$14 billion in water storage and conveyance projects and related construction as part of President Biden’s jobs and economic recovery plan. ★



Yes, Remember the Alamo

No one is trying to topple the Alamo quite yet, but a new revisionist book on the foundational event of Texas history partakes of the iconoclastic spirit of our time.

The book, titled “Forget the Alamo,” is a harsh call for Texans, and Americans, to get over a battle deeply etched in our popular memory. According to the authors, the Texans (then the Texians) were foolish to try to defend the indefensible. Some of the defenders tried to make a run for it. Santa Anna, the Mexican general central to the story, wasn’t so bad. And given the importance of slavery to the early history of Texas, the Alamo and the Texas Revolution are due an overall post-George Floyd reevaluation.

If there are legitimate disputes over the historical record, it’s really not hard to understand why a badly outnumbered garrison of men who fought ferociously against a government force almost to the last man and provided a rallying cry for a rebellion that quickly swept to success occupies an outsize place in our imagination.

Especially given that two of the most famous Americans of the time, Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, died there.

Such an event is inevitably catnip for myth-making, but even

when stripped down to its essence, the Alamo and the aftermath were truly extraordinary.

Santa Anna, president of Mexico 11 separate times, first took power as a federalist, then switched sides and became a centralizer. A new constitution squashed Mexican states that had been run largely autonomously. Santa Anna put down the ensuing revolt in the province of Zacatecas in horrifyingly brutal fashion, and then he came for Texas.

About 150 defenders holed up in the Alamo, and the rest is not just legend, but history.

Santa Anna did indeed signal that his force of more than a thousand would give no quarter.

William Barret Travis, commander of the garrison, did indeed write an immortal letter concluding, “Victory or death.” He made a plea for reinforcements that never came. “If this call is neglected,” he wrote, “I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country.”

Santa Anna’s troops did indeed launch an early morning attack that was bloodied by the defenders, but quickly overwhelmed the fortification. Santa Anna insisted that roughly half a dozen survivors be executed, and followed up this atrocity with the murder of about 350 other captured rebels in the Goliad Massacre.

Sam Houston, his forces swelled by volunteers, did indeed tell his troops prior to the Battle of San Jacinto: “We will meet the enemy. Some of us

may be killed, and must be killed. But, soldiers, remember the Alamo, the Alamo, the Alamo!” In an astonishing turnabout, the battle turned into a bloody rout of the Mexicans that secured the independence of Texas.

Who wouldn’t want to make a movie of such events?

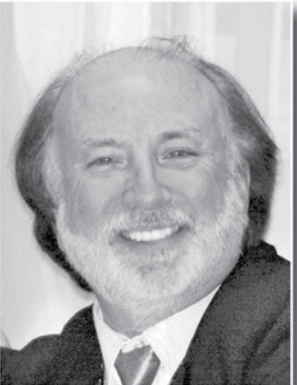
Of course, such popularizations aren’t going to be academically rigorous. Pushing back, the authors of “Forget the Alamo” assail the character of Jim Bowie and William Travis, and, sure enough, you wouldn’t trust them to manage your real-estate holdings. Texas at the time was a hard place, and the Mexicans and Comanche who contended for control of the territory weren’t paragons, either.

The authors note the contribution of the Tejanos, native Texans of Mexican descent, and regret how it’s missing from many accounts of the revolution, which is fair enough, but doesn’t detract from the basic story.

They make much of how Mexico abolished slavery, whereas Texas planters depended on it. Yet Mexico tolerated slavery in Texas and had its own rigidly hierarchical economic system.

By all means, let’s be as truthful as possible about the Alamo and the Texas Revolution. But it’s pointlessly destructive to tear down what deserves to be honored and to forget what – as Sam Houston insisted so ringingly and aptly – should be remembered.


Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.
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Paul V. Scholl**

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IRS Refunds Nearly \$4 Million for Unemployment Compensation Overpayments

By David A. Tucker II,
IRS Media Relation

WASHINGTON D.C. (MPG) - The Internal Revenue Service began another round of refunds to nearly 4 million taxpayers who overpaid their taxes on unemployment compensation received last year.

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which became law in March, excluded up to \$10,200 in 2020 unemployment compensation from taxable income calculations. The exclusion applied to individuals and married couples whose modified adjusted gross income was less than \$150,000.

Refunds by direct deposit began the week of July 14 and refunds by paper check began on July 16. The IRS previously issued refunds related to unemployment compensation exclusion in May and June, and it will continue to issue refunds throughout the summer.

To ease the burden on taxpayers, the IRS has been reviewing the Forms 1040 and 1040SR that were filed prior to the law's enactment to identify those people who are due an adjustment. For taxpayers who overpaid, the IRS will either refund the overpayment, apply it to other outstanding taxes or other federal or state debts owed.

For this round, the IRS identified approximately 4.6 million taxpayers who may be due an adjustment. Of that number, approximately 4 million taxpayers are expected to receive a refund. The refund average is \$1,265, which means some will receive more and some will receive less.

Most taxpayers need not take any action and there is no need to call the IRS. However, if, as a result of the excluded unemployment compensation, taxpayers are now eligible for deductions or credits not claimed on the original return, they should file a Form 1040-X, Amended U.S.

Individual Income Tax Return.

Taxpayers should file an amended return if they:

- Did not submit a Schedule 8812 with the original return to claim the Additional Child Tax Credit and are now eligible for the credit after the unemployment compensation exclusion;
- Did not submit a Schedule EIC with the original return to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (with qualifying dependents) and are now eligible for the credit after the unemployment compensation exclusion;
- Are now eligible for any other credits and/or deductions not mentioned below. Make sure to include any required forms or schedules.
- Taxpayers do not need to file an amended return if they:
- Already filed a tax return and did not claim the unemployment exclusion; the IRS will determine the correct taxable amount of unemployment compensation and tax;
- Have an adjustment, because of the exclusion, that will result in an increase in any non-refundable or refundable credits reported on the original return;
- Did not claim the following credits on their tax return but are now eligible when the unemployment exclusion is applied: Recovery Rebate Credit, Earned Income Credit with no qualifying dependents or the Advance Premium Tax Credit. The IRS will calculate the credit and include it in any overpayment;
- Filed a married filing joint return, live in a community property state, and entered a smaller exclusion amount than entitled on Schedule 1, line 8.

Taxpayers will generally receive letters from the IRS within 30 days of the adjustment, informing them of what kind of adjustment was made (such as refund, payment of IRS debt payment or payment offset for other authorized debts) and the amount of the adjustment. ★

Slight Improvement in Latest Optimism Index Welcomed News

National Federation
of Independent Business

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The release of NFIB's monthly small business Optimism Index showed an improving national Main Street economy, something the California state director for the association that took the poll said Gov. Gavin Newsom could greatly enhance by signing the budget trailer bill that includes Assembly Bill 150, which contains a new elective tax for pass-through entities that is a way for smaller businesses to work around the State and Local Tax (SALT) caps slapped on them by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

"We are still in very uncertain economic times, so messages are more important than they would be during calmer periods," said John Kabateck, California state director for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), which conducts the monthly Small Business Economic Trends report, also known as the Optimism Index. "Signing the budget trailer bill that includes AB 150 would send a strong signal to the Golden State's job-creating entrepreneurs that Sacramento is taking genuinely vital steps toward COVID recovery, and it would nicely

complement the governor's earlier signing of Assembly Bill 80, which partially conforms state tax law to the federal government's regarding the forgivability of PPP loans."

From NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg

"Small businesses optimism is rising as the economy opens up, yet a record number of employers continue to report that there are few or no qualified applicants for open positions. Owners are also having a hard time keeping their inventory stocks up with strong sales and supply chain problems."

Key findings include:

- Owners expecting better business conditions over the next six months rose 14 points to a net negative 12%, an improvement but still in very negative territory; Earnings trends over the past three months improved six points to a net negative 5%;
- The net percent of owners raising average selling prices increased seven points to a net 47% (seasonally adjusted), the highest reading since January 1981.

Keep up with the latest on California small-business news at www.nfib.com/california, where this release can also be read, or by following NFIB on Twitter @NFIB_CA or on Facebook @NFIB.CA. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2021-001385

The following persons are doing business as: : SWEETVDEPOSITORIES
235 Larissa Lane, Vallejo, CA 94590
Yolanda Amos, 235 Larissa Lane, Vallejo, CA 94590
Date Filed in Solano County: June 25, 2021
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is Conducted by: an Individual

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 25, 2026. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)

Publish: July 16, 23, 30 & August 6, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)



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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Dixon Planning Commission ("Planning Commission") will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on August 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in accordance with Executive Order N-29-20, issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54950 et seq.), and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, to consider Planning Application (21-10) requesting Design Review (21-12) approval for two new model homes, in addition to the three approved by the Dixon Planning Commission with Planning Application 20-35, for Valley Glen Phase 4 Unit 1. This phase of the subdivision has a general zoning designation of Single-family Residential – Planned Development (R1-PD). The General Plan and Specific Plan land use designation is Very Low Density Residential (VLD). Pursuant to Section 18.05.120 and Chapter 18.23 of the Dixon Municipal Code (DMC), Design Review is required in the development of new residences in this zoning district. While the subdivision map for this phase has been recorded, the new Assessor's Parcel Numbers are not presently available. The prior APN however was 0114-033-290.

This notice has been sent to property owners within 500 feet of the project's location.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend the August 10, 2021 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the Planning Commission prior to making any recommendation on the application. This meeting will not be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting via video and teleconference. Information regarding participation by video and teleconference will be provided in the agenda for the August 10, 2021 Planning Commission meeting, which will be posted at least three (3) days before the meeting on the city's meetings page at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>. Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Interested individuals will be given an opportunity to speak in favor or in opposition to the above proposed action. Written comments are also accepted prior to the meeting by mail at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be provided to interested individuals upon request. If a challenge to the above proposed action is made in court, persons may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City before the meeting.

Copies of the proposed application will be available, upon request. If you have any questions, please call Scott Greeley, at (707) 678-7000 x1115 or sgreeley@cityofdixon.us.

Dixon Independent Voice July 30, 2021

**City of Dixon
Unclaimed Funds Notice
2021**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, the Finance Director of the City of Dixon, County of Solano, State of California, declares that the following monetary sums have been held by the Finance Director and have remained unclaimed in the funds hereafter indicated for a period of over three (3) years and will become the property of the City of Dixon on the 20th day of September, 2021, a date not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than sixty (60) days after first publication of this Notice.

Any party of interest may, prior to the date designated herein above, file a claim with the Finance Director which includes the claimant's name, address, amount of claim, the grounds on which the claim is founded and the date, name, amount, and heading shown in this notice. The Finance Director may accept or reject the claim. If rejected, the party submitting the claim may, within 30 days of receiving notice of rejection, file and serve on the Finance Director a verified complaint seeking to recover all, or a designated part, of the unclaimed funds. This information and the stale dated check claim form are also available on the website of the City of Dixon at cityofdixon.us.

Contact Senior Accountant, Melissa Welch-Ramirez at 707-678-7000 ext. 1108 for further information.

Payee	Check Number	Issue Date	Amount	Fund
Southgate Glass and Screens Inc.	68754	6/4/2018	\$29.70	General
Dustin Siebert	67445	11/20/2017	\$40.00	General
Regina Espinoza	5235	5/25/2018	\$46.17	General
Garrett Willingmyre	67332	10/27/2017	\$50.00	General
Solano-Yolo Rugby Club	67120	9/22/2017	\$59.03	General
Lightning Demolition and Hauling	68729	6/4/2018	\$59.40	General
Jeremy & Kesiah Brown	67629	12/22/2017	\$71.23	Waste Water
Lloyd Green	5149	4/6/2018	\$137.75	General
Pacific Pavement	68606	5/30/2018	\$311.85	General
Stion Corp.	67434	11/17/2017	\$700.00	Water

Dixon Independent Voice July 30 and August 6, 2021

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Ted Gaines Announces Bid for California Governor



Ted Gaines
From Ted Gaines for Governor 2021

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Senator Ted Gaines (Ret.), Member of the State Board of Equalization (BOE), made the following announcement regarding his candidacy for Governor of California in the recall election.

My family came to California in 1853 and flourished in the rough-and-tumble Gold Rush economy. I'm forever thankful for this state and I'm fully committed to a future as bright as our past." But we are so far removed from the freewheeling environment that attracted the dreamers of '49. California could not have a Gold Rush today. Government would choke it off immediately, regulate and tax it out of existence.

California government micromanages our citizens. Sacramento thinks it knows best how to run everyone's

lives and businesses and it's not shy about exercising its power. But it's time to step back and look at the effects of the policies coming out of Sacramento, not just their intentions.

Has California government made the state more affordable? Safer? More livable? Has it lifted up our most vulnerable? Has it provided the basic infrastructure we need at a reasonable price? For someone who loves this state, who is a father of six children who all live here and six grandchildren, it breaks my heart to say the answer to those questions is, without a doubt, 'NO.'

I want a 'YES' California. A California where families can buy homes, take vacations, save for retirement and for their kids' educations. Where we can all be safe, free, and prosperous. A state that is confident and plans and builds for the future. We have the most beautiful state in the union, and we should match it with the best government.

I'm the highest-ranking Republican in California. I represent 10-million citizens in this state and I'm ready for more. I want to turn the Golden State into a low-tax, high-opportunity zone and for families to feel safe again. I want to reclaim our public spaces from the tent cities and get people the

help they desperately need to stay off the streets.

As Governor, I will be open to all ideas and committed to working with everyone sincere in their efforts to improve our state. Visit my website Ted Gaines for Governor 2021 to learn the basics on how I will restore the freedom and promise that made California an unrivaled destination for builders and creators from around the country and the world."

Senator Ted Gaines currently serves as an elected member of the State Board of Equalization, representing nearly ten million constituents in 30 counties of northern, eastern, and southern California. Prior to his election to the BOE in 2018, he served in the State Senate from 2011-2018, and the Assembly from 2006-2011. He began his public service in local government as a member of the City of Roseville's Planning Commission from 1997-1999. He was then elected to the Placer County Board of Supervisors in 2000 and re-elected in 2004. For more than 30 years, Senator Gaines has run a family insurance business. He and his wife, former Assembly member Beth Gaines, live in El Dorado County, and have six children and six grandchildren.

For more information, visit www.TedGaines.com. ★



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“OLD” RATED PG-13

An existential sense of doom pervades visionary filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan's latest thriller, which is based on the French graphic novel "Sandcastle" that's about a group of people vacationing on a secluded beach who discover they are aging rapidly.

The succinctly titled "Old" follows the same premise of its source material, and that's hardly surprising for anyone who has seen the trailer. It's not a spoiler to reveal the aging process is so fast as to leave little time for an escape from the beach.

A group of unlucky vacationers at a luxurious tropical resort are invited by the unctuous manager for a day-trip excursion of surf, sun and sand at an off-limits nature preserve that turns into a nightmare.

Gael Garcia Bernal and Vicky Krieps are Guy and Prisca Capa, a married couple on the verge of divorce who bring along their 11-year-old daughter Maddox (Alexa Swinton) and six-year-old son Trent (Nolan River) on what may be a last family trip.

Joining the Capa family on the beach outing is surgeon Charles (Rufus Sewell), his mother Agnes (Kathleen Chalfant), his much younger wife Chrystal (Abbey Lee) and their six-year-old daughter Kara (Kylie Begley).

A rapper who goes by the moniker Mid-Sized Sedan (Aaron Pierre) has mysterious nosebleeds and is already wandering around in a daze. But that's nothing compared to how Dr. Charles slips rapidly into a disturbing state of paranoia.

The real problem for the vacationers is that a day at the beach turns the young kids into teenagers even before it's time for a picnic lunch. A dead girl washes ashore and her body quickly decomposes. A psychologist (Nikki Amuka-Bird) faces the threat of epileptic seizures.

"Old" creates an interesting dynamic for the beachgoers trapped in an idyllic place that is anything but relaxing and tranquil. There's a foreboding feeling of tragedy in that the characters are not in control of their destiny.

More than anything, "Old" ramps up tension and the sense of mortal danger with chilling dread. Shyamalan sums it in the press notes saying that he "wanted it to feel like you're watching a two-hour 'Twilight Zone' episode."

Whether Shyamalan delivers an overall suspenseful thriller may be debatable, though on balance the thrills are ominous. Another arguable point is if the twisty ending delivers a suitable conclusion to a supernatural nightmare.

Moviegoers may well argue if the Shyamalan formula of weirdness produces an unsettling effect in "Old." Go ahead and discuss this amongst yourselves.

“LEVERAGE: REDEMPTION” ON IMDB TV

IMDb TV is an ad-supported streaming

Riley Reviews

“OLD” AN EXISTENTIAL PARABLE; “LEVERAGE” WORKS FOR CONS

service owned by Amazon where you can watch TV shows and movies online for free. The service is now in the business of having its own original programming, starting most notably with "Leverage: Redemption."

Back in 2008, the TNT network launched a five-season run of "Leverage," a crime drama series that followed a five-person team consisting of a grifter, hacker, hitter, and expert thief led by former insurance investigator Nathan Ford (Timothy Hutton).

In carrying out capers, the team acted like Robin Hood in fighting predatory corporate types and corrupt government officials that had wronged ordinary citizens. Now the team is back, minus Timothy Hutton, but with a new player joining in Noah Wyle's Harry Wilson.

Returning as the avenging crew is Gina Bellman's grifter Sophie Devereaux, Beth Riesgraf's master thief Parker, Christian Kane's martial artist Eliot Spencer, and Aldis Hodge's computer hacker Alec Hardison.

As a New Orleans lawyer who served as a corporate fixer, Harry Wilson brings a new perspective to the group of dogooder con artists in that he's turned the corner from a career of helping rich and powerful crooks to knowing how to get the upper hand to bring them down.

While Sophie may be the de facto leader replacing the deceased Nathan, Harry represents the emotional core of the mission to help the little guy since he's the one seeking redemption to atone for years of defending the evildoers.

Apparently, Aldis Hodge's schedule only permits a limited participation in this reboot, but conveniently Hardison's foster kid sister Breanna (Aleyse Shannon) takes over as the new master of electronic wizardry.

As with the original series, the motley crew of reformed criminals engages in virtuous scams such that each episode stands on its own for wish fulfillment that justice has been served.

The adventures in the early episodes include an elaborate heist in Panama to thwart an evil billionaire's plan to flee extradition and upending the dastardly plot of a greedy riverboat casino owner to bulldoze the homes of longtime New Orleans natives for his planned expansion.

A very topical undertaking in "The Tower Job" episode is conning a cost-cutting developer out of an entire high-rise apartment building. As filming must have occurred before the building collapse in Florida, this has the feel of a prescient cautionary tale.

While the justice-for-the-aggravated concept of "Leverage: Redemption" and its predecessor is hardly unique, the team of con artists with their own set of special skills work so well together to deliver a fun diversion. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

The Difference Between Wisdom and Knowledge



There's a big difference between wisdom and knowledge. Understanding this is a significant factor in how much you accomplish. What you know, and how you apply it, can be very different. Being wise is much more than being knowledgeable.

Knowledge is the accumulation of information through experience, observation, study, and investigation. Knowledge is more than opinion, conjecture, or consensus. Knowledge is provable and accurate.

Wisdom is the ability to apply your knowledge in order to improve your life, accomplish objectives, and attain goals. Wisdom is deciding what knowledge is most applicable to your situation and which isn't. Wisdom is doing what works, while avoiding what doesn't.

Knowledge without wisdom is wasted. Knowing something works is pointless unless it's applied. How much you know doesn't matter if you don't have the wisdom to use it. True wisdom is using the right knowledge at the right time.

There are people who obtain advanced degrees but lack wisdom. And there are those who have a minimal amount of formal education yet are incredibly wise. Your objective is to acquire relevant knowledge and develop the wisdom to use it appropriately.

There are well established routes for obtaining knowledge. School, apprenticeships, on the job training, seminars, tutorials, books,

and mentors are all effective. However, becoming wiser is less straightforward.

Wisdom requires discerning between that which is relevant to a particular situation and that which isn't. All knowledge is not applicable to all circumstances. It's not wise to speak or act in a manner which makes a situation worse.

Wisdom is doing what needs to be done in order to solve problems, overcome obstacles, and improve circumstances. Wise people are constantly on the lookout for ways to improve their lives and the lives of others.

Wise people think for themselves. They don't blindly accept what they see, hear, or read. They only give credence to information which can be verified as true and accurate. Wise people question anything which doesn't make sense.

Wisdom is thinking and evaluating before speaking or acting. Since learning requires listening, you should listen more than you talk. Ask questions to ensure your perception is accurate. Never assume you know everything. Jumping to conclusions is not a wise strategy.

Asking questions and listening are an effective way to learn about people. The more you know about them, and what they want, the better you are prepared to act intelligently. Helping others get what they want is a great way to get what you want.

Wise people accept others for who they are instead of trying to change them. Wisdom allows you to work

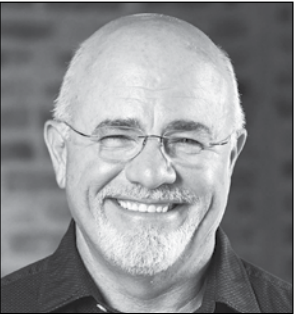
with people instead of clashing with them. Ask others what they need instead of telling them what you will do. People are much more enthusiastic when they feel that they have identified a solution.

Step back and look at a situation from different perspectives. Changing your orientation is wise because it identifies alternatives which were previously not obvious. Also, looking at circumstances from someone else's point of view helps you formulate a more effective plan of action.

Monitoring cause and effect is wise. When your approach is not providing the desired results, adjust your path. Success is not a linear process. There are twists, turns, and detours. What started as a great strategy may need to change as circumstances warrant.

Acquiring knowledge and wisdom is an ongoing process. There is always more to learn along with better ways of applying your knowledge. Maintain an open mind. Be willing to make positive changes as needed. With each passing day, you should become a little wiser.

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 ★



Make an Impact with Investing?

Dear Dave,

A friend recently mentioned something called impact investing to me. What exactly is this? How do impact investment funds perform, and what do you think about them?

– Carson

Dear Carson

Impact investing generally aims to benefit society, while providing a profit for the investor, by investing in companies, funds and organizations that are aligned with causes, certain values or issues. Think of it as a middle ground between traditional investing and charitable giving, where you can match your investing with your own particular

Dave Ramsey Says

beliefs. It really isn't all that different from investing in traditional mutual funds, except for the goal of the funds.

Since their inception, impact investments have averaged returns of a little less than 6%. That's well below the average return of the S&P 500. Impact investing can do some good, but the truth is it's hard to measure exactly how much good it's doing. If you're going to invest in impact investing funds, you need to make sure you understand exactly how your money is going to help the businesses you invest in, if they're actually doing what they say they're doing, and whether or not they're really making a difference for the better.

As with all investments, it pays to do a lot of research and find an advisor with the heart of a teacher. And never invest in anything if you don't completely understand how it works. Remember, it's your money that's in the mix. Don't feel like the odd man out if you're the

only one not joining in on an investment craze your friends are diving into.

Personally, I recommend investing in good, growth stock mutual funds and real estate paid for with cash. And hey, if you want to make a difference in the world and still invest the old fashioned way, create room in your budget for charitable giving or saving with the goal of making donations to organizations and causes you care about.

I hope this helps, Carson!

– 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 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. ★



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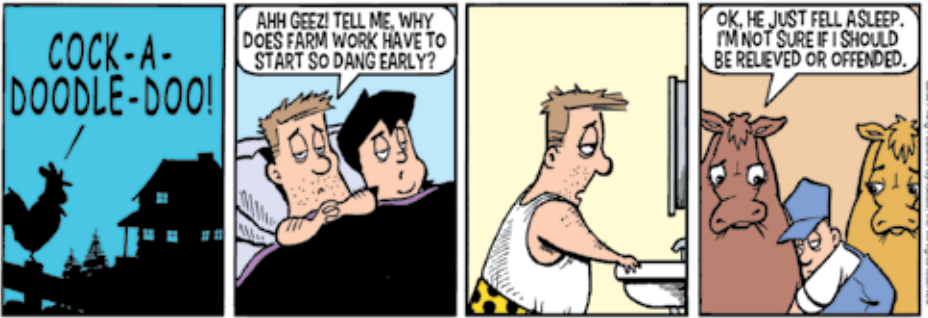


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WEEKLY COMICS

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by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

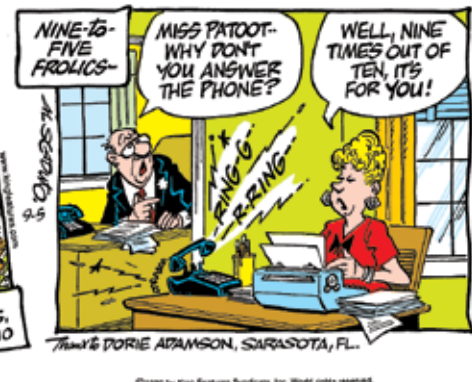


by Gary Kopervas

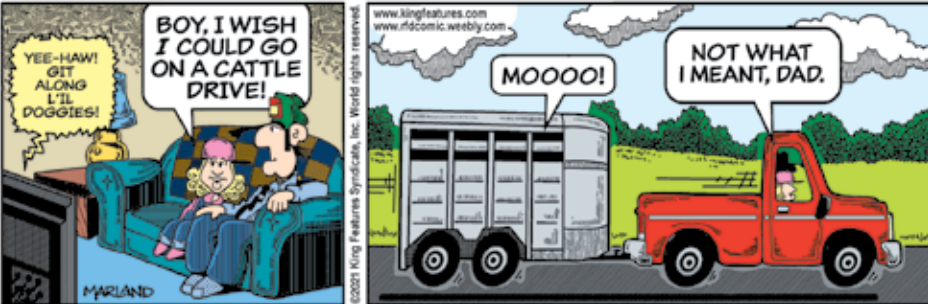
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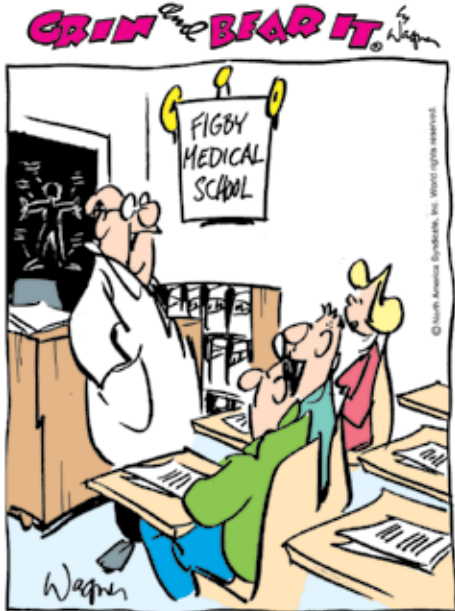
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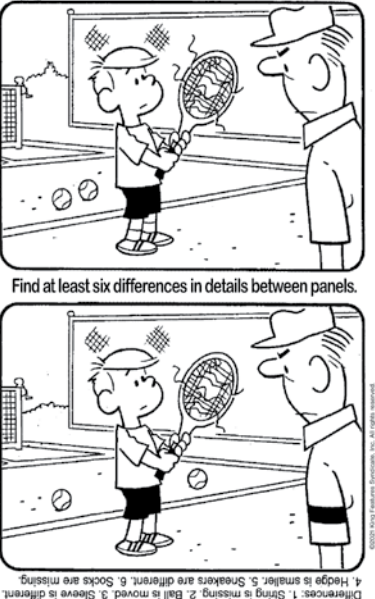
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Warning to Remote Workers: Out of Sight Could Mean Out of Job

Commentary
by Rod Robertson

Although debate continues about whether the business world will return to normal even after most people have the COVID-19 vaccine, the expectation is that many companies will soon call employees back to the office.

Some workers may still get to work part-time from home, and some businesses will make remote work permanent. But tension between owners and workers is building as it becomes evident many employees are resistant to giving up working from home. In a survey, 65% said they want to work remotely full-time after the pandemic. And in a poll conducted by LiveCareer, 29% of working professionals said they would quit if they couldn't continue working remotely.

But those who push back against ownership's preference to return to the office might paint themselves into a corner, especially if they aren't in a position to quit, says Rod Robertson, Managing Partner of Briggs Capital (www.briggscapital.com), international entrepreneur, and author of *Winning at Entrepreneurship: Insider's Tips on Buying, Building, and Selling Your Own Business*.

"The expected stimulus money will dissipate by the third quarter and as companies continue to struggle, the cuts will begin," Robertson says. "Once we reach herd immunity, companies will be deciding whether it makes sense to keep expensive office space.

"Corporate gravity will begin to pull key workers back to the office, and there will be resistance from employees. And those companies that do choose to go remote at least part of the time may still downsize. The bottom line for workers is, if they want to work remotely, they



The bottom line for workers is, if they want to work remotely, they would be wise to take the extra steps to ensure they stand out. Photo courtesy Anastasia Shuraeva Pexels

would be wise to take the extra steps to ensure they stand out."

Robertson says employees who continue to work mostly from home should do these things to keep their performance and communication levels high:

Show up. Even if a company allows employees to work from home permanently, Robertson says they would be wise to go to the office at least one day each week. "Out of sight might also mean out of mind, or out of job, when it's time to trim the roster," he says. "Working from

a distance all the time is going to lower your skill level, your engagement, and your productivity. Employees need to make the time to have facetime in the office and stay in the groove with ownership and management. You can't do that as well at home relying on technology."

Show the human touch. "When we achieve herd immunity, face-to-face meetings with co-workers, managers and clients should be 20 to 25% of someone's portfolio of time," Robertson says. "Zoom meetings are a pain because you

have to set them up. Remote employees should prioritize live voice communication with colleagues, managers, and clients in order to stay in the game. Picking up the phone to talk with someone keeps the relationship alive and brings more clarity than constantly texting or emailing."

Push your boss to measure you quantitatively. "Woe to the remote employees who believe they are not under increasing scrutiny – downsizing is on the way," Robertson says. "The good employees working at home will

have more reporting mechanisms in place. Show your boss your genuine enthusiasm by being proactive and coming up with more measurables for your performance."

Do extracurricular work. "The question is, how can you be front-and-center with the boss?" Robertson says. "One way is to do extracurricular work by bringing relevant and helpful articles to ownership. Develop a thesis for those articles to show that you're a thought leader. Executives and managers are flooded with emails, so the smart employees send a synthesis of an article that's to the point.

"Businesses can't afford slip-page," Robertson says. "Once there is herd immunity, the remote work issue shouldn't be just about where employees feel they are most comfortable, but how they can be the most valuable and effective."

Rod Robertson (www.briggscapital.com) is an international entrepreneur and author of *Winning at Entrepreneurship: Insider's Tips on Buying, Building, and Selling Your Own Business*. Robertson is the owner of Briggs Capital, a boutique international investment bank. He has conducted business in over 15 countries while focusing on developing small-to-medium-sized businesses and taking them to market worldwide. Robertson's 20-plus-year career in transaction experience and entrepreneurship includes guest lecturing around the globe at institutions such as Harvard Business School and other top-flight MBA schools as well as business forums and news outlets worldwide. He sits on numerous boards, guiding firms to streamline operations and make businesses more profitable before selling. ★

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