

How does one make billions of dollars?

By LYNDON ZAITZ

A neighbor asked me the other day how he could become independently wealthy. Heck, if I knew that I would become independently wealthy myself.

Independently wealthy means one earns it on their own from the very first dollar. An old phrase said that if you built a better mousetrap, the world would beat a path to your door. That is still true, just substitute a product for a mousetrap.

That brings to mind the just-released HBO documentary, *The Inventor*. This riveting film is about the start, growth and, finally, the fall of Theranos, a blood testing company. Elizabeth Holmes founded the company in Silicon Valley when she was 19 years old. The idea behind the company was inspiring: using one drop of blood to test for any number of diseases. Holmes and her engineers invented the machine that would give results in a matter of minutes.

Theranos and its machine would revolutionize health care and allow people to take control of their own care. As they say, if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is. It was too good to be true and now Holmes and her business partner are under indictment for fraud and the company, once valued at \$9 billion, is no longer.

That is how Elizabeth Holmes made more than a billion dollars. It is still uncertain if Holmes started out to perpetrate a fraud.

Aside from skirting the law and physics (watch the film), there are still ways for people to make billions of dollars besides inheriting it. It takes

hard work to become a billionaire but it also takes passion. Steve Jobs believed the iPhone would work, many dismissed the idea until they all came around when the phone became reality and changed the world.

Success is 1 percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration. Jobs, Gates, Dell and many others worked night and day, day and night to achieve the level of success they eventually attained. All successful people are passionate about what they are working on; they believe with every fiber in being that they are right and their idea will change the world.

Some people dream of winning the lottery. A recent, anonymous, winner walked away with a \$800 million check. There was no perspiration that came with that money, there was no work involved in it rather than handing over a few bucks for lottery ticket. That person's wealth is no less viable than an inventor who strived for years.

The odds of winning \$800 million in a lottery are quite astronomical, as are the odds of inventing a better mousetrap. Regardless of the odds, someone with an idea they are sure will sell millions of units or change the world for the better should shoulder on, bear the struggle, bear the sweat, the naysayers and listen to the inner voice that says "You can do it."

How can my neighbor become independently wealthy? Unless he has a million dollar idea or invents something that will change the world, he will have to do what we all do: do the best we can now for ourselves and our families and accept the fact that we will never have a billion dollars or two.

(Lyndon Zaitz is publisher of the *Keizertimes*.)

zaitz writes

Learning to fight a wild fire

By HUNTER BOMAR

"At the end of the day, if you aren't covered in black dust and dirt, then you didn't work hard enough. You gotta get that fire blood all over you to know you did a good job."

We all heard this as we stood in a line. Each soldier held a different tool. Some had shovels, a few had axes, and others had rakes. Each man stood side by side while they hacked at the dirt in front of them.

In March, my fellow soldiers in the Oregon Army National Guard and I were sent to Camp Rilea in Warrington to get our wildland firefighter certifications to get prepared to fight fires in the summer.

The majority of our training was in the classroom, and we covered important topics like fire behavior, fire shelters and weather patterns. The most important information I learned in the classroom was what to be aware of in the forest when engaging a forest fire. "Widow makers," which are trees that can fall and crush someone due to the fire weakening them, were heavily covered. Understanding the critical need for good communication was also discussed, and how pointing out something unsafe was everyone's job, not just the leaders.

That day though, we left the classroom and were digging dirt side-by-

side. We were being taught how to dig a fire line to prevent a wildfire from continuing on its destructive path. I enjoyed this part of the training because I like being active.

We worked hard to practice getting a little of that fire blood. We joked, laughed and cursed as soldiers do, and listened to each other's stories while we worked. Our instructors pointed out potential "widow makers" as we worked. They also told us about their experiences fighting forest fires.

After two hours of digging dirt that resulted in half a mile of fire line, the instructors decided we were finished. My back was tight, my legs were numb and my hands were stuck as if I was still holding onto my shovel. But it felt good.

Once we packed up our gear, we marched back the two miles we needed to cover to get back to our barracks. It wasn't raining and the now emerging sun had burned off the icy coastal air. We arrived back to a well-made dinner and hot showers to wash off the sweat and dirt.

I was filled with new knowledge and skills, and when our training ended, I looked forward to fighting those fires and getting a real taste of that fire blood.

(Hunter Bomar is a community reporter with the *Keizertimes*.)

my take

Demo praised, Trump condemned

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS

President Donald Trump, meet California Gov. Gavin Newsom, the Democratic rising star who tracks mud across the legal system the same way you do, but his dirty footprints win accolades from the mainstream media.

Last week Newsom signed an executive order granting execution reprieves for all 737 inmates on California's death row. The night before the signing, a *New York Times* headline announced, "After Soul Searching, Gov. Gavin Newsom Will Halt Executions in California."

Soul searching. Those are two words one rarely sees pinned on the Trump brand.

Soul searching is a grand term for a politician who said one thing when it served him, and then the opposite when it did not.

Newsom ran for office on the assertion that while he personally opposed the death penalty, he would carry out the ultimate sentence upheld by California voters at the ballot box. In 2016, California voters rejected a ballot proposition to end the death penalty, but passed another one to speed up the process.

During the 2018 campaign, his spokesman Dan Newman told the *San Francisco Chronicle* that Newsom "recognizes that California voters have spoken on the issue and, if elected governor, he'd respect the will of

the electorate by following and implementing the law."

Last week, surrounded by Democratic lawmakers the way Trump frequently has GOP lawmakers surround him, Newsom actually told reporters, "I don't think this comes as a huge surprise to anybody." He always had made it clear that he personally opposed the death penalty.

Newsom also claimed he was being "forthright and honest" in announcing his actions Wednesday.

The *Sacramento Bee* duly editorialized that "Newsom's unprecedented move also distinguishes him as a leader willing to be honest and forthright about one of society's most challenging moral issues."

In an editorial, *The New York Times* supported Newsom's flip-flop. Critics "argue that the governor is subverting the will of voters, but electing a governor who has a consistent record on society's harshest penalty is also an expression of voters' wishes."

The same editorial page slammed Trump for "taking executive overreach to dizzying heights" in pushing his national emergency at the border.

More from the Grey Lady's editorial: "The poison cherry atop this sundae is that Mr. Trump is subverting American democracy for a cause opposed by a majority of the public." Note: When polls suggest a voter opposition to border security, that clearly carries more weight at the *Times*

other voices

Measles panic or Pharma marketing?

By BRITTANY RUIZ

In May of last year Oregon Health Authority's Immunization Department sent out a good news report to the Governor's office showing a wonderful graph that our immunization rates were very high with MMR being the highest at 96.1 percent but statewide vaccine uptake for all school required vaccines at 94 percent.

In June, OHA then sent out a press release trying to shift attention from the high immunization rates to the "sudden sharp rise" in exemptions for kindergarten students. Like wild fire all major papers pushed this narrative that we have the highest exemptions in the nation and the lowest vaccination rates.

I then learned that OHA's Immunization Manager is a Board member of a non-profit fully funded by vaccine manufacturers, Association for Immunization Managers.

I inquired with OHA on how they arrived at their statistics and why they

are not telling the true data about how exemptions are counted. OHA's Stacy Matthews responded and told me that more than 50 percent of the exemptions are people that are actually mostly fully vaccinated and only 2.6 percent of Oregon's school children are fully unvaccinated, which per that same report only saw a .3 percent increase from 2017 to 2018 (student body increased by 3 percent).

Between, private and charter OHA reports 604,000 students. Out of those 604,000 students there are 31,500 exemptions to 1 or more of the 22 required vaccines. Out of those 31,500 exemptions roughly 15,705 children are fully unvaccinated for all vaccines in school.

Per the Center for Disease Control (CDC) statistics, measles have never been eradicated. Oregon has seen over 56 cases in 20 years. CDC reports 68 percent of outbreaks have occurred due to importation of wild measles from people traveling from European counties to the U.S. and both vacci-

guest opinion

gene h. mcintyre

Admission scandal hurts national morals

When a nation's highest government leader is repeatedly reported to behave badly, unethically, immorally and illegally, his conduct is likely to inspire his country's men and women to follow the principal's examples with duplicitous accuracy. Such is the case right here at home as more and more Americans in all walks of life, whether in private or public roles, choose to copy their leader and end up practicing unlawful conduct, diminishing integrity and trust.

There is no better example than the college admissions bribery scandal. It happens nowadays that all of us are daily barraged by stories of corruption, greed and amoral behavior. These revelations have led to thousands, perhaps millions, of Americans, figuratively throwing their hands skyward and committing themselves to new set of anything-goes rules.

Yes, outside of the latest crookery to gain elite college admission, the citizens of our country have not always been free of circumventing laws and ethical standards, swindling customers and pocketing illicit gains. However, more of it is happening by way of constant high-profile scandals involving bankers, drug companies, sports organizations and government officials. Bottom line appears to be a dark place where the U.S. has fallen into inappropriate opportunities and benefits, whereby a former society of social and professional restraints are no longer viable.

The buy-your-college-of-choice scandal has been identified as the biggest such scam ever prosecuted in U.S. Justice Department history. Fifty Americans to date have been charged in the scheme with many more suspected. A scheme where those already arrested and charged paid more than \$25 million in bribes to coaches and other college-associated people

to gain entry of offspring into elite schools of higher education.

Possibly no one who is familiar with elite universities and their admission practices has found this matter a surprise. The milieu with the children of wealthy families is that they notoriously have had things arranged to their advantage. What's argued as new is that those considerable advantages are not enough for some who now buy elite-university entry. Worse yet,

it's alleged that many esteemed institutions in the U.S. are participants in this extraordinary shamefulness.

Hence, public cynicism abounds. It can be seen here and there by the annual Gallup poll on Values and Morals showing a record 49 percent of Americans view values and morals as poor with a mere 14 percent rating them excellent or good. It is believed that the fewer viewing the U.S. as moral has been contributed to by President Donald J. Trump's and his administration's departure from longstanding ethi-

cal norms and specifics like failure to reveal tax returns, refusal to divest business holdings or place them in a blind trust. Citizen conclusion: hiding skullduggery.

We the people should be demanding of Congress that our representatives tighten ethical standards for the executive branch and themselves by strengthening reforms brought after the Watergate era. Then, too, colleges and universities should act immediately to reform admissions in their own bailiwicks, using audits and use of independent accreditation agencies.

All of us who want a constitutional democracy to survive have a responsibility to yell "foul" and demand "correction" when we witness improprieties. When we allow everything formerly valued to be now measured solely by their worth in dollar bills, then crime, corruption and ill-begotten gains can ultimately take all that we hold dear and trash them, ultimately to place America into history's sink hole of once-great civilizations.

(Gene H. McIntyre shares his opinion regularly in the *Keizertimes*.)

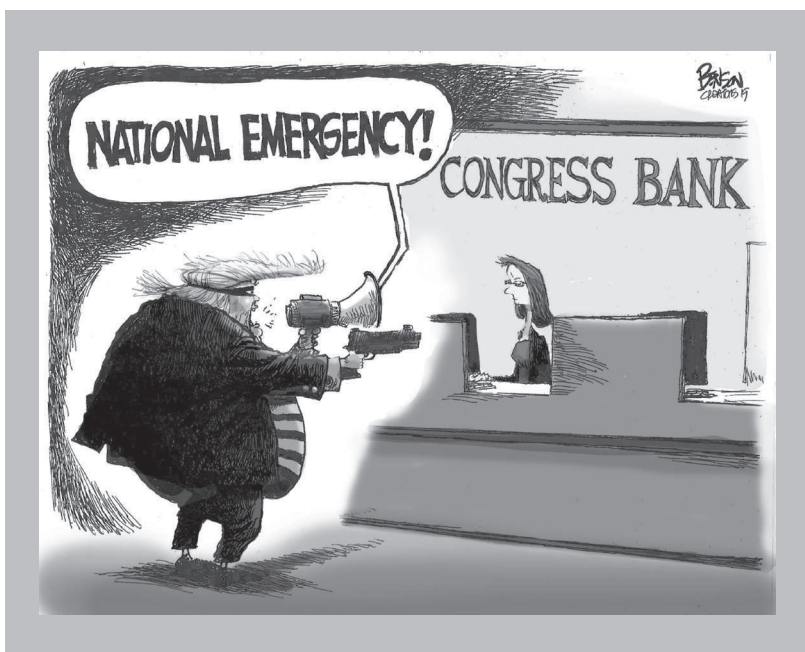
than when California voters repeatedly and consistently pass pro-death penalty measures on the ballot. Trump declared a national emergency to carve out \$5.7 billion to fund another 100 miles of wall along the Southwest border. While Democrats scoff at the notion that the border is at a crisis point, *The New York Times* has reported on a border at the "breaking point" with 76,000 unauthorized migrants passing in a month. Personally, I think Trump should have worked with Congress early on to pass a measure with more funding for border security. While Democrats want to deny him funding for his signature wall, he has found ways to use past allocations to strengthen structures along the border.

To me, this is a fight that could have been avoided.

But I don't understand how so many journalists can bash Trump as a tin-pot dictator for not respecting the process, as they cravenly praise a politician who misled his way into the governor's office so that he could trample on the will of California voters.

In Sacramento Wednesday, Newsom proclaimed, "The people of California have entrusted me by their will and constitutional right to do exactly what I'm doing."

Trump can say the same thing, but with more authority, because he actually campaigned for a border wall. (Creators Syndicate)



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Lyndon A. Zaitz, Editor & Publisher

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