

Opinion
MARCOS BRETON



mbreton@sacbee.com

Capital's race issues linger on

Seven years ago, Sacramento had its own racial flare-up between police, some African Americans and politicians.

But it sure wasn't Baltimore: The national news cameras were nowhere to be found. There was no unrest in the streets and – truthfully – barely anybody showed up to discuss Sacramento's racial/police problem when it came before the Sacramento City Council.

The focal point of frustration among the very few people paying attention was a city-commissioned report stating that African American motorists were pulled over far more frequently in Sacramento than any other group. As The Sacramento Bee's Ryan Lillis reported at the time: "(The report) found that black and Latino drivers were asked to get out of their cars more often than Asian and white drivers."

Latino motorists also were patted down "at a significantly higher rate than would be expected ... Asian and white motorists were stopped less often than would be expected."

Heather Fargo, then mayor of Sacramento, went so far as to apologize on behalf of the city.

"I want to offer a very sincere and heartfelt apology to those that have suffered from the profiling that has been done," Fargo said. "I want to apologize to those citizens who feel they haven't received equal treatment or protection."

To this day, Sacramento's Police Department is not very diverse. In the 1990s, the agency was wracked by internal unrest when Arturo Venegas became the first Latino police chief and some senior white officers fought him at every turn.

Yet Venegas changed the culture, rooted out some really bad people over time and forced a new level of openness at Sac PD. By 2008, the response by Sacramento police leadership to the profiling accusations was admirable.

Then-Chief Rick Brazziel set a tone of candor that defused the 2008 racial profiling report. Brazziel held community meetings. He didn't shy away from tough questions or withdraw when some questions were posed disrespectfully.

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THE PUBLIC EYE | Watchdog Report

Prizes pursued for office work

SCHOOL MONEY GOES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AWARDS' ENTRY FEES

By DIANA LAMBERT
dlambert@sacbee.com

Sacramento-area school districts are spending thousands of dollars annually to enter contests and win awards for employees.

Twin Rivers Unified spent more than \$1,000 annually – for a total of

\$3,560 – to enter the Association of School Business Officials International Meritorious Budget Award competition over the last three years. The district won the award for fiscal management all three years.

The ASBO contest is one of the most costly contests entered by local districts. It has entry fees starting at \$600 for member districts with budgets of less than \$50 million and up to \$1,475 for nonmember districts with budgets of more than a billion dollars.

School district communications

departments in the Sacramento region also spent big on entry fees.

Twin Rivers reported paying \$907 between 2012 and 2014 for entry fees in the National School Public Relations Association awards, according to public records requested by The Sacramento Bee. The Sacramento County Office of Education spent \$1,215 and San Juan Unified \$985 for contest entries in the California School Public Relations Association awards program during that same time.

"Spending \$3,000 to enter a contest to hope to win an award seems a little unseemly," said Jon Coupal of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Coupal said most people would think the money could have better been used for books or to update facilities.

But Twin Rivers Superintendent Steven Martinez said the contests serve a worthy professional development purpose.

SCHOOLS | Page B2



Randall Benton rbenton@sacbee.com

Workers gather smallmouth bass for transport at The Fishery in Galt on Wednesday, which supplies live fish to markets and restaurants in Sacramento.

Catfish, anyone? Drought could change the fish on our dinner plates

GROWERS CONFRONT LACK OF WATER, RISING TEMPS

By EDWARD ORTIZ
eortiz@sacbee.com

GALT – At Ken Beer's fish ranch, thousands of white sturgeon and catfish thrash in round tanks or in long concrete raceways.

Beer's 320-acre operation, called The Fishery, supplies live fish to markets and restaurants in the Sacramento region. It depends on a supply of cool water. If water temperatures are too warm, cool-water fish such as sturgeon can't survive.

Luckily for Beer, he can tap groundwater from wells on his property to keep his business going. But some other fish farms can't. California's multiyear drought is changing the state's aquaculture industry. Experts say it eventually could alter the species that wind up being sold in the state's fish markets, farmers markets and in restaurants that buy fish directly from growers.

Rising atmospheric temperatures and



Experts say less water and rising temperatures may mean less sturgeon or trout and more catfish, like these fingerling catfish at The Fishery.

drought may spur the rise of certain fish species – like catfish, said Fred Conte, aquaculture specialist at UC Davis. "Catfish do very well in higher temperature water," Conte said.

He said new fish species will likely be introduced by farmers as the environment changes.

"We already have plans to move toward more native species like Sacramento perch and Sacramento blackfish," said Conte. "These fish do well in warmer temperatures."

However, the sight of farmed perch and blackfish at live markets will not happen anytime soon, Conte said. "We still have to perfect the technology to put that fish into production."

Meanwhile, some existing fish farms have been profoundly affected by the drought. The Calaveras Trout Farm in Snelling, for instance, lost 2 million fish last year because the water in its tanks became too warm, said owner Tim Goodson.

In April, Goodson received word from the Merced Irrigation District that he would receive no water this year. He closed the farm soon after, giving away or burying the 1.7 million trout that had hatched in October and laying off seven employees.

Goodson said the shutdown cost him \$1 million.

FISHERIES | Page B3



McGeorge School of Law students Selena Farnesi, left, and Rebecca Caporale show off Derby Day hats at The Porch.



Ish Monroe from Modesto, a four-time Bassmaster champion, holds the fish he caught in pursuit of a \$100,000 prize.



Friends and family of Gabriel Ortigoza gather in his Elk Grove home for a viewing party of the Pacquiao-Mayweather fight.

Brian Nguyen bnguyen@sacbee.com

A CAPITAL DAY FOR HORSE SENSE, LEFT JABS AND FISHIN'

By SAMMY CAIOLA | scaiola@sacbee.com

Sacramento sports fans came out in full force Saturday to watch three widely anticipated events. The high-stakes day started with a boat launch and closed with a boxing match, with a flurry of horse racing in between. Enthusiasts gathered at Discovery Park to watch the Bassmaster Elite, at Cal Expo to view the Kentucky Derby and in a number of homes, bars and restaurants to take in the Floyd Mayweather-Manny Pacquiao welterweight title fight.

Anglers reel in crowds for Bassmaster Elite: The big-league bass tournament kicked off at 6:15 a.m. with a boat launch at Sacramento's Discovery Park. Saturday marked Day 3 of the fishing competition, which drew 113 of the world's best anglers to town. Of those, 52 competed Saturday and 12 were selected to return Sunday for a shot at the \$100,000 prize.

The pro anglers hailed from three

countries and a dozen states, but only a handful had home-field advantage when they cast into the Sacramento waters. The Bassmaster series takes place in nine cities throughout the world each year, but hasn't been in California since Stockton hosted it five years ago, said Mike Sophia, director of the Sacramento Sports Commission. This year marks its debut in Sacramento.

"This region is really into outdoor

sports, fishing, hunting," he said. "This is an event that really connects with the community."

Enthusiasm exuded from the crowd of about 8,000. Some sampled rods and reels from the exposition tents; others perched on the sunny riverbank to await the anglers.

"It's people who have a love, a passion, for bass fishing," said Skeet Reese, a pro angler and Auburn na-

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SPORTS
 Coverage of the Kentucky Derby and the fight between Mayweather and Pacquiao. **Page C1**

OUR REGION

Fisheries: Hurt by long drought

FROM PAGE B1

The Merced Irrigation District draws water from Lake McClure, which is currently only 10 percent full, said Mike Jensen, the district's government relations manager.

Starved for water, the Merced River is getting warmer. "The water temperatures in July got up to the 80s, and that's too high to sustain the trout," Goodson said. Most of the trout he raises are sold to the recreation fish industry. His operation doesn't have chillers to cool the river water he receives.

California's high, low and average temperatures have been rising, and extreme heat events are on the increase, according to a recent report by the California Environmental Protection Agency. That re-

port said the rate of warming has accelerated since the mid-1970s, and that nighttime minimum temperatures increased almost twice as fast as maximum daytime temperatures.

Existing fish farmers who can tap groundwater are far better off than those, like Goodson, who depend on rivers. But with overpumping depleting groundwater levels, they are becoming more conscious of the need to husband every drop.

Water is used and reused at the Passmore Ranch fish farm in Sloughhouse, whose fish swim in 80 million gallons of groundwater pumped up from the Cosumnes aquifer.

The water flows first to tanks inhabited by the most sensitive fish, like sturgeon



Randall Benton rbenton@sacbee.com

Workers haul in a large net to gather fingerling catfish at The Fishery in Galt. There are 144 freshwater fish farms registered with the state, but the ongoing drought could change that.

and black bass.

"Our water travels to our tanks first, then onward to our lakes, then finally to our gardens," said Michael Passmore, co-owner of the farm.

"After the fish have utilized the water, we then send it to irrigate our land-based crops to utilize that water yet again."

In Galt, Beer's operation supplies 2 million pounds of

fish to local outlets. He recycles most of the groundwater he pumps out of the ground - by moving it from pond to circular tank to raceway.

At the moment, Beer is

weighing whether to spend \$300,000 to install three cooling towers to keep the water on his farm habitable for sturgeon. In order to reach maturity, and especially for caviar production, sturgeon need water in the range of 40 to 45 degrees.

Beer said he thinks the size of his operation gives him some room to maneuver and adjust to the drought. Others may not be so fortunate, he said.

There are currently 144 freshwater fish farms registered with the state. Commercial aquaculture operators account for less than a quarter of that number, said Beer. The rest grow stock for the recreational fishing industry.

"There will be some attrition if the drought continues," said Beer. "I don't worry about competitors; I worry about our industry almost disappearing."

Call The Bee's Edward Ortiz, (916) 321-1071. Follow him on Twitter @edwardortiz.

NEVADA CITY

House fire injures 2

By HUDSON SANGREE
hsangree@sacbee.com

Firefighters responded Saturday afternoon to a possible explosion and house fire near Nevada City that sent a child and adult to a hospital with minor injuries.

The fire occurred in the 12000 block of Poke Place, an area of rural homes outside Nevada City.

Battalion Chief Steve Smith with the Grass Valley Fire Department said investigators would determine the fire's cause.

"It's too early to tell if there was an explosion," Smith said.

The house was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived and was about 50 percent destroyed, he said. A child and an adult were taken by ambulance to a hospital with minor injuries, he said.

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