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Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 31 • ISSUE 33

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AUGUST 18, 2023

**SEE
INSIDE**

**THIS IS OUR MAN:
NIC BROWN**



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LIFE STORIES

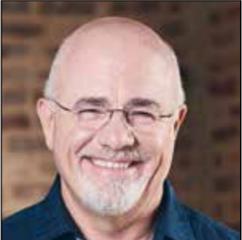
By Kathy Craig Harteis



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**YOU NEED A
BETTER PLAN**

By Dave Ramsey



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Arias Rides into Maine Prairie



Angelina Arias is a motorcycle-riding mama who doesn't fit traditional molds which may make her a perfect new Principal for Maine Prairie High School.

**Story and photos
by Debra Dingman**

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Riding into a new role at Maine Prairie High School is Angelina Arias, the choice by the Dixon Unified School District to step into the shoes of now retired Principal Yvette Ramos. Dixon's continuation high school is an alternative to a comprehensive high school and this year will have 80 to 100 students. "It's a smooth transition from Mrs. Ramos because they worked together so long. Angelina was a counselor with Yvette for years and the staff loved her and the District made the

wise decision," said DUSD Board of Trustee Jewel Fink.

Arias was born and raised in Winters in a large migrant family of 12 children that shared a family motto of "Get Educated." She is the first generation to be bilingual and bi-cultural and is a mother of four adopted children – aged from senior in high school to three younger, elementary-aged children.

"I come from a family of teachers," she said. But after seeing her sister's teaching workloads, she decided she wanted a career that spent more one-on-one time with students. She attended Sacramento State

then Sonoma State University and graduated in 1997. She holds her credential in Pupil Personnel Services and worked as a high school administrator for her first eight years. She's been with DUSD for seven years since.

"I took inventory [while at Sac State Migrant Assistance Program] and knew I wanted to work with children. To be a witness to someone's journey is an honor and a privilege," she said.

"I believe in working with the whole student and breaking down the barriers so they can access

Continued on page 3

Plan Now for Lambtown

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you have friends that are really into wool or just love Dixon's annual Lambtown Festival, it is good to know that reservations are now open at the Dixon May Fair for camping sites or RV spaces. Reservations must be booked directly through Lambtown, however.

The annual event will be on October 7 and 8 with workshops beginning October 5.

Registration is also open now for the skeins and textiles competition. Enter your best work in the competition for a chance to win ribbons. Categories include hand-spun yard, knit, crochet, felted or woven items. All entries will receive useful feedback from Judge Kira Dulaney, and you can watch the live judging on October 8 at the Dixon Fairgrounds, 655 South First Street.

If you're not entering an item, you can still vote for the People's Choice Awards but only on Saturday, October 7 from noon to 5 p.m. Awards will be posted on Sunday, October 8.

Workshop registrations are open and of the 34, some have already sold out. There are 18 instructors with over 300 combined years of experience still offering a 4-day schedule. The other classes open are for a wide range of skill levels. Subjects include crochet, dyeing, felting, fiber prep, knitting, spinning, and weaving.

Robin Lynde is one of those instructors from Dixon. She has been a local sheep farmer, fiber arts teacher, and weaver for more than 30 years. She raises sheep and is well known in the fiber community for her fleece and fiber products, her handwoven goods, and her unique farm club.

Her sweet baby blankets have made life-long heirloom shower gifts for many in Dixon.

Lynde teaches fiber arts classes at her Meridian Jacobs Farm Studio and around California. To see her work, see her website: www.meridianjacobs.com.

For more info, go to workshops@lambtown.org. ★

Neighbors Ask: Who Do You Call?

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Being a good neighbor sometimes means taking action when others don't, won't, or can't. This was the case recently of two Dixon women who worked to make things right with regard to water issues.

First, there is the story of Emily Twiss, long-time Dixonite and mother who likes to create charcuterie boards, grow flowers, and loves to cook but noticed about a week ago a whole lot of water pooling in the court where the family lives. They thought it might be a main water line as "it's been leaking so much water," she said. It seemed to dwindle during the day but noted it was "flowing like a creek" in the evening but her and her husband, Andy, weren't too concerned because the City had some vehicles out checking on it.

But when the Premier Pools guys finished installing an inground pool at their neighbor's house and they began to wash the leftover residue into the



After installing an inground, pool workers wash leftover residue into storm drains. Photo courtesy of Emily Twiss

gutter, Emily got very concerned as she watched it mix with the other water and flow into the storm drains.

Those stormwater drains at our curbs begin an underground journey which ultimately will lead into a river or lake where the ecosystem or environment will be affected

— especially if the residue was toxic.

First, she tried talking with the contractors asking what it was they were washing down the drains, but they didn't seem to understand her language. She then called the City of Dixon to see if someone could tell her what was going on. She captured

video footage of it flowing down the gutter and pictures of the residue it left behind.

Her concerns were heightened when she researched pool constructions and discovered there are questionable chemicals that are used for spraying on finished pool forms.

Continued on page 3





Life's too SHORT

Unteaching Homelessness

By Debra Dingman

We have an opportunity in America through the public school system – if not family homes and/or churches – to assimilate children into the ‘American way.’ No matter what country one came from, or how anyone got here, what made America great was the assimilation of shared values such as patriotism, integrity, hard work, etc.

Those values were encompassed in the Ten Commandments in church and The Golden Rule in school and, thankfully, mostly in our homes where children were raised. The important thing to remember is how 50 years ago, the ‘American way’ was SHARED values.

Like learning the Pledge of Allegiance, these values were put into practice every day while children learned to be kind to one another and they developed a sense of common decency.

Over the years, more layers of societal expectations were added like pull up your pants; wash your hands; keep your desk neat and orderly; return your library books, and never smart-mouth your teachers. These simple guides for children translated easily into adulthood:

Mow your lawn; sort your laundry; do the dishes; dump the trash; remember to change the oil in your car; and, respect the police. Of course, there are people who can “make” us do certain things such as Principals, landlords, bosses, and the law but certainly somewhere, one has to be accountable to one’s self.

The Bible says the age of accountability is 12. If you watch America’s Favorite Videos, you will see that there is absolute proof a child knows way earlier than that what is right and what is wrong.

Along the train ride out of Davis and past Sacramento – and seen behind every major city to Grand Junction, Colorado, one could see proof that America has grossly failed at passing on

these values. We traveled by the most shameful and disgusting blight one can possibly see in a civilized country.

There are many different philosophies about what caused this homeless situation but whether you believe it was the housing shortage, overdependence on government hand-outs, or drugs, or simple ignorance, the bottom line is we need to start looking at how to stop it going forward. I’m convinced that is working with children and teaching them that being responsible to ourselves, others, and Mother Earth is what’s best.

How many years now have we known that drugs are addictive, and alcoholism destroys lives? How many decades have we looked the other way at hobos, addicts, and the homeless? None of the things we have done has helped and I believe it’s because we inadvertently encourage people to be helpless. Out of the goodness of our hearts, we give them money, food, shoes, school supplies, blankets, tents, and more. We have provided the perfect “I’m a victim” mentality.

On the grand scale of things, I believe nothing will stop this situation until this generation passes. We should focus on spending time with our children more; staying married and being a great partner and provider; teaching in school better; saying no when your gut tells you what’s the better choice; and surrounding our country’s youth with intelligence about the real world.

Like, LEARNING the importance: of money from the time you are a youth and how to save it for when there is an emergency; of having a job and understanding that there is no perfect one; of getting along with others so there will be people who are happy to be around you; taking care of your belongings so you won’t live out your life in a hoarded mess; planning and thinking ahead about your body aging and the need for help in living out your life. Like, learning to live in society – not in a tent. ★

Dixon News Briefs



There seemed to be a nice turnout of students and parents for the first Dixon Unified School District Back to School Festival held at the Pardi Plaza. Although there was an abundance of book markers supplied by the Dixon Public Library, plus pencils, rulers, and erasers from other organizations, the bigger surprise was all the schools represented by their Parent Teacher Organizations. Parents met those leaders and got questions answered while the children worked on crafts, listened to books read by a librarian, and getting to meet Dixon Police and Fire personnel. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

10-Year Anniversary

Congratulations to Andrea Kett and Yvonne Lenhares who are celebrating 10 years of scrapbooking at their unique store, It’s All About the Scrapbook! They expressed their sincere appreciation for all their customers and are having special sales and classes all month. Here is their website www.itsallaboutthescrapbook.com/module/events.htm?pageComponentId=3534170&month=current&year=current Note you can learn watercolor with Georgia Sommers on Saturday, September 9 or get in on the fun of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas books or cards if you register now.

Meatloaf Dinner

Meatloaf will be the dish for August 18 Friday Night Veterans Memorial Hall Dinner along with mashed potatoes and gravy and corn, roll, and butter. The general public is welcome. Dinner is only \$10 so bring a friend and share good times. 1305 North First St. across from DuPratt Ford.

Lions Club Poker

Dixon’s 15th annual Poker Fundraiser, the Texas Hold ‘Em Tournament will be Saturday, August 26, at the Downtown Olde Vets Hall, 231 North First St. Cocktails start at 5 p.m. and Poker is at 7 p.m. Donation is \$100 per person. For more info, call Joe Bruch at (209) 305-5930 and tickets are available from Lions members.

Kiki’s Spot Checks

Located in the Walmart parking lot where Burger I.M. there, then went to Wings & Things is Kiki’s Chicken Place from Sacramento, a business that started with food trucks that seems to just keep growing. They serve chicken wings, chicken strips, all kinds of sauces to go with those wings and fries to name the items making them so popular. Chicken and waffles are to die for, according to one guest who called us. They are open now and will soon announce their official grand opening.

DDBA Wine Stroll

On Saturday, August 19, from 4 to 8 p.m. the Downtown Dixon Business Association invites the public to enjoy their annual Wine & Art Stroll while visiting our downtown merchants and meeting

business owners. Tickets purchased before Aug. 10 are \$30; afterward they will be \$35. Each ticket comes with a commemorative wine glass. For more information, go to www.downtowndixonca.com or call the DDBA phone at (707) 678-8400.

Veterans Fundraiser

To honor and thank veterans, the American Legion Post 208 will hold a fundraising dinner and silent auction on Saturday, September 23, 5 p.m. It will be a Tri-tip or chicken dinner “with all the fixings plus dessert.” The Veterans Memorial Hall is at 1305 North First Street and tickets are \$30 each or \$55 for two or \$220 for a table of 8. Email alpost208@aol.com or call (530) 304-5385.

Farmers Market

Next Thursday, August 24, will be the next Farmers market in the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club Park from 5 to 8 p.m. Come join the fun and thank the Downtown Dixon Business Association!

Cake Decorating

This is the best class for young mothers who have a lifetime of children’s birthdays and special events ahead of them! Now taking reservations for Course 1 that will start September 5 with four Tuesday classes, 6-8 p.m. at Every Baking Moment, 143 North First St. in downtown Dixon. Call (707) 693-0112.

Senior Ice Cream Social

As long as we are talking about cake, we should also mention the Senior Ice Cream Social coming up on Friday, August 25 at 11:30 a.m. at the Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 South Fifth St. Please call (707) 678-7022 to reserve your spot.

Senior Fraud Prevention

Also, at the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center will be a Senior Fraud and Scam Prevention Presentation on Wednesday, September 6, at 10 a.m. It is free and is sponsored by the Solano Senior Fraud Prevention Center.

Concert Postponed

Due to the high temperatures expected on Thursday, August 17, the Concert in the downtown Pardi Plaza featuring Delbert Bump’s band SAZIL has been rescheduled to Thursday, September 28, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. ★

Sacramento Weir Widening Project to Affect Traffic

Yolo County News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - The United States Army Corps of Engineers’ (USACE) contractor, Granite Construction, has begun work to widen the Sacramento Bypass flood control structure. The Sacramento Weir Widening Project is taking place along Old River Road, also known as County Road 22, just north of the City of West Sacramento city limits. This crucial step toward bolstering flood control measures along the Sacramento River aims to enhance flood stage management both upstream and downstream of the Sacramento Weir during high-flow events, thereby mitigating flood risks and safeguarding the areas adjoining the Sacramento River.

As this project gets underway, it is imperative

for commuters to anticipate potential delays stemming from project construction, which is anticipated to persist until late 2026. Motorists are encouraged to exercise caution, adhere to construction signage, and reduce speeds while navigating through the construction zone. When possible, motorists are encouraged to take alternative routes.

Motorists will encounter a temporary all-way stop intersection situated at the northern end of the existing Sacramento Bypass bridge structure, where County Road 126 converges with Old River Road. This temporary measure, including the installation of stop signs and detour roadway, is anticipated to be implemented by August 21 and will remain until the weir extension component of the project is completed in 2025.

A key element of the project entails the construction of a 1,500-foot-long extension of the Sacramento Weir, stretching northwest along Old River Road. This extension will be accompanied by essential improvements such as levee enhancements, roadway upgrades, utility enhancements, and fish passage improvements.

To accommodate the construction of the weir extension, a section of approximately 1,000 feet of Old River Road will be temporarily removed. In its place, a detour route will be established. This detour is projected to be operational for an estimated two-year period during the course of the weir extension construction.

To obtain comprehensive information regarding road closures within Yolo County, please visit www.yolocounty.org/road-closures ★

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City of Dixon Urges Caution and Safety Beginning School Year

Dixon PD News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - With the commencement of the new school year in Dixon, residents are reminded to anticipate increased traffic, especially in school zones, and to exercise heightened caution for the safety of our children.

As students eagerly return to the classroom, many will be walking, biking, or riding buses to school. This influx of youthful commuters necessitates that drivers pay particular attention to crosswalks, school bus stops, and bike lanes. The City implores everyone to slow down, obey traffic laws, and remain vigilant to the possibility of children crossing the street or biking in traffic.

The Dixon Police Department will be allocating extra resources to monitor traffic laws and flow around school

areas. This increased presence ensures that traffic rules are enforced, and that the safety of our children remains paramount. Speeding, illegal passing, and other reckless behaviors will not be tolerated, particularly in school zones.

Remember, a small delay in your commute is a small price to pay for the safety of our children. Please plan for possible delays, be patient, and keep an eye out for young pedestrians and cyclists.

The City of Dixon is committed to ensuring the well-being of all its residents, particularly as the community comes together to embrace the new academic year. Thank you for contributing to a safe and successful start to the school year.

For more information about traffic regulations and school safety, please contact Madeline Graf at (707) 678-7000 x 1125. ★

Arias Rides into Maine Prairie



Angelina Arias, new Principal for Maine Prairie High School, poses in her office surrounded by AVID goals for this year.

Continued from page 1

learning and support,” she added from her principal’s seat surrounded by posters of a peaceful Buddha, The Schoolwide Expectations: Respectful, Responsible, and Safe, as well as school calendars, class schedules and photos of her children.

She worked alongside Mrs. Ramos and is grateful for the experience.

“Not a lot of counselors saw the job ‘in action,’” she explained. “Mrs. Ramos and I had similar philosophies about working with students who struggle. We got to know them, their families, and observed staff in the classrooms. Being here allowed me to use the skills and make an impact.”

When COVID struck, Arias took the opportunity to get savvy with technology. She developed some programs for the students which included a virtual wellness center so she was still involved with the students.

“That’s really the key to working with students,” she said. “You don’t know the impact you have until much later,” she said. “That’s why I’m here everyday. It’s planting the seed and it resonates.”

Arias is a big fan of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID.) It is a

fourth- through twelfth-grade system to prepare students in the academic middle for four-year college eligibility. Her goal is to make MPHS a model for AVID in the alternative education setting.

She’s already implementing major changes such as leading a student-parent orientation last week that was well attended by 30 families. She introduced them to the “culture at MPHS” and to their requirements and reminded them that the “value of our diplomas” is the same as any high school. She will continue the college and career fairs and wants to build relationships with local industry. Another goal is to establish an ‘advisory’ with a mental health clinician who can help with social and emotional concerns.

“Again, it is about nurturing those relationships – so we build a community within a community,” she said. “Every week there will be a theme that will apply to students and staff.” Arias worked all summer in preparation for this year and seems relaxed and ready for it.

“She is just a warm, wonderful woman. She doesn’t have a ‘this doesn’t work’ bone in her body. There is hope for every student back to school,” said Fink. ★

Neighbors Ask: Who Do You Call?

Continued from page 1

“I showed one of the guys and asked would he want his child walking on this stuff or his spouse bringing it into the house on their feet and he said no way!” she said.

After researching the City Code for dumping things down storm drains, she called the Dixon Police Department.

“What constitutes a ‘threat?’” she asked. Is it a threat to bodily injury or is a threat to your property a crime?” She called Councilman Thom Bogue, Mayor Steve Bird, and HAZMAT. The Mayor told her it was common at construction sites. The difference was that the water line break was sending it into the water drains, and no one could tell her what it was.

“I just got off of the phone with Courtney from HAZMAT (county) and she informed me that what went down the storm drain was cement and that per the pool company it was not toxic. She then said that she spoke to the city and that they would not be testing samples.

I then informed her that I had already reached out to the state department Wildlife, Fish and Game and that Warden Cameron Roth is going to be picking up samples shortly. I told her that I was surprised that cement is not prohibited to go down our storm drains. She said that it is prohibited and then tried to give me the runaround again.”

Emily is still waiting for answers. She isn’t the only one. Pam Franklin was hopeful that the pool outside her Heritage Apartment door was going to get cleaned up soon but after seeing the mosquitos that the green water was attracting, she started making phone calls and took pictures, too.

“First, I went searching online, then was pointed to the newspaper ad about Solano Mosquito Abatement. A couple more calls and then I called Dixon Police Department Code Enforcement. They are coming out today and will cite them. You just keep calling until you get someone to help.” she said. ★

Passing on the Trade

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Frank Koehler, long-time shop teacher at CA Jacobs Middle School isn’t here anymore, but he is still passing on construction skills to youth through a \$1,000 scholarship to Dixon High School graduates. This year’s went to Alejandro Cabrera Torres who plans to major in Civil Engineering in college and has a goal of becoming a construction manager.

“I know my husband would be very proud,” said Regina Koehler at First Northern Bank where she handed Cabrera Torres a check for a thousand dollars. “Frank taught in the Dixon schools for 25 years in science and industrial arts. He appreciated the value of hands-on learning. He saw amazing talent in



Alejandro Cabrera Torres receives a \$1,000 scholarship from Regina Koehler, wife of the late Frank Koehler, who taught construction trades his entire career in Dixon schools. Photo courtesy of Regina Koehler

his students and wanted them to be encouraged, appreciated, and recognized,” she added. ★

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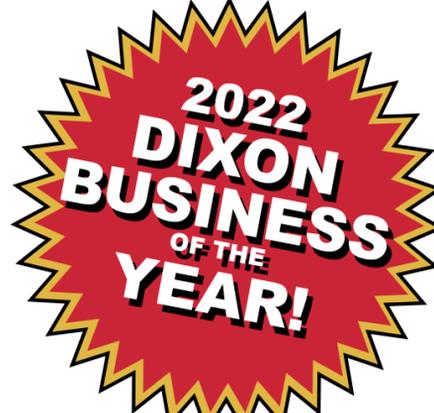
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China Gets by with a Little Help from Its Friends — on the Supreme Court

Commentary by Paul Michel

China is overtaking America in a variety of high-tech industries — thanks to some inadvertent help from the U.S. Supreme Court.

According to a brand-new report from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, the communist nation has outstripped America in 37 out of 44 key technologies, including advanced aircraft engines and hypersonics, 5G and 6G, and quantum communications.

This Chinese high-tech renaissance springs from the regime's deliberate policy of incentivizing research and development, both through subsidies as well as extremely strong patent protections.

With this robust patent system, China has seen an explosion of innovation. In 2021, Chinese researchers filed 1.59 million patent requests — more than twice the number of American filings, and nearly half the global total.

By contrast, America is weakening patent protections. The Supreme Court has steadily expanded the number of inventions that count as unpatentable “laws of nature, natural phenomena, and abstract ideas.”

In *Mayo v. Prometheus*, for instance, the Court classified certain diagnostic tests as unpatentable “laws of nature.” A similar ruling in *Association for Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics* denied patents to genetically modified gene sequences.

Both decisions rocked the biotech industry. Mayo reduced venture capital investment for in vitro diagnostics technologies by about \$9 billion over four years, according to one study.

Another study found that, in the wake of Mayo and Myriad, half of U.S. university technology-transfer offices surveyed had decided against developing molecular tests.

Artificial intelligence has taken a hit, too. In *Alice Corp.*, the Supreme Court

ruled that certain computer-implemented inventions, machines, and processes are “abstract ideas” — and, thus, ineligible for patenting.

The justices of the Supreme Court have good intentions. But they lack the training and expertise to craft U.S. innovation policy. That job belongs to elected officials in Congress and the White House.

Congress can start by passing Senator Thom Tillis's (R-NC) Patent Eligibility Restoration Act, introduced in 2022. The bill would address problems with Mayo, Myriad, and Alice Corp. by ensuring it is possible to obtain patents for gene therapies and, potentially, AI.

Other measures fall to the executive branch. The Biden administration must uphold the original intent of the Bayh-Dole Act — which grants universities and small businesses IP rights to their inventions, even when they have accepted federal funding.

Since 1980, Bayh-Dole has facilitated more than 480,000 inventions, more than 117,000 patents, and more than 200 drugs and vaccines.

But lawmakers and activists are urging Biden to weaken IP protections under Bayh-Dole. They want the administration to use the law's “march-in provision” — which outlines cases when the government can relicense patents for federally-funded products — to forcibly crank down drug prices.

Biden has refused their request. It is crucial that he continue doing so. Stripping biotech firms of their patent rights would only drive the United States further from parity with China.

China — along with the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Japan — have recently strengthened their patent laws. If we want to reclaim the mantle of the world's tech leader, we will need to follow suit.

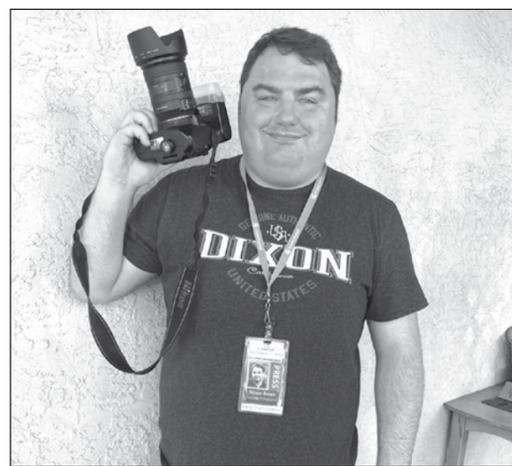
Paul Michel served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit from 1988 to his retirement in 2010, and as its chief judge from 2004 to 2010. He currently serves on the board of the Council for Innovation Promotion. ★

This is Our Man: Nic Brown

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Nicolas Brown's first photo job for the Dixon Independent Voice was to respond to a police call of a motorhome engulfed in flames. He was an ‘untested’ source at that time but had shown some examples of nice work. He had worked other jobs but hadn't found work that was a good fit for his needs. Then-Publisher Dave Scholl made the call and was greatly impressed with Nic's photos. The photo of that fire was clear, and it was run on the front page.

That was several years ago and in the past three years, our readers have enjoyed seeing his cool shots of community events, impressive citizens, and especially his outstanding football, and other high school sports photos. He's also won some ribbons at our Dixon May Fair, plus he was written up in a magazine about a different photo. If you watch the nightly news, occasionally,



Nicolas Brown, MPG photographer. Photo by Debra Dingman

Nic's photos will make it to viewers.

“I don't really have one favorite thing to photograph,” he admitted. “I get equal enjoyment from action figures to landscapes, from animals to people.” Brown says that his skills have expanded and so have his tools of the trade but has received a lot more than that as the job in itself brought unexpected benefits.

“The reward went far beyond what I ever imagined. It's given me something constructive to do right here in my community and I feel like I'm giving back,” he said. If you see Nic with his camera, smile and say, “Cheese!”

He wears our Messenger Publishing Group Press Badge and will be around town as usual as our newspaper photographer. ★

City of Dixon Welcomes Officer Chris Kerner as New School Resource Officer

Dixon PD News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City of Dixon is proud to announce the appointment of Officer Chris Kerner as the new full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) assigned to all schools within the City. In his “freshman” year in this crucial assignment, Officer Kerner is eager to serve and protect the educational community, embodying a commitment to safety, mentorship, and positive relationship-building.

School Resource Officers play an essential role in our schools, fostering a safe and secure learning environment. Their presence not only contributes to campus security but also provides educational support, bridging the gap between law enforcement and the youth. SROs enhance the connection between students, faculty, and local law enforcement, promoting a spirit of collaboration and understanding.

The partnership between the City of Dixon and the Dixon Unified School District (DUSD) has historically been a resounding success. This collaboration has resulted in enhanced safety protocols, student engagement, and community trust.

Officer Kerner's appointment strengthens this partnership even further, signaling a continued commitment to nurturing a positive and secure atmosphere in all Dixon schools.

Officer Kerner expressed his enthusiasm for his new role. Chief Robert Thompson said, “We are excited to have someone of Chris's caliber in our department and in our schools. He is proud to begin his assignment in Dixon as our new School Resource Officer. This role offers a unique opportunity to interact with our young people, providing support and guidance as they grow. We are excited to see Chris continue to build and develop this important program.”

The City of Dixon, along with DUSD, welcomes Officer Kerner to his new assignment with great anticipation. His dedication to duty, coupled with his passion for community engagement, ensures that the tradition of success within our schools will continue to flourish.

For more information about Officer Kerner's appointment or the School Resource Officer program, please contact Madeline Graf at (707) 678-7000 x 1125. ★

 WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

DIXON POLICE LOG

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



Wednesday, August 2, 2023

0849 - Child Welfare Services informational report was taken at the Dixon Police Department.
1227 - Vandalism report was taken in the 1100 block of Valley Glen Dr.
1610 - Found license plate report was taken in the 100 block of E. Dorset Dr.

Tuesday, August 1

1930 - Hours - Stolen license plate located on vehicle.
0741 - Hit and run accident reported in the 700 block of West D Street South.
0928 - Vandalism reported in the 300 block of South Jackson Street.
1107 - Civil issue reported in the 600 block of North 1st Street. 1230 Confidential report taken by investigations.
1514 - Vehicle burglary reported in the 1300 block of West H Street.
1555 - Battery report taken at the PD.
1930 - Hours - Stolen license plate located on vehicle.

Monday, July 31

0150 - Hours - Suspicious Circumstances report in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
0225 - Hours - Welfare check on Augusta Court.
0450 - Hours - Traffic enforcement stop on Pitt School Rd near Homestead Way. Jose Lopez Valdivia of Dixon was contacted and cited for outstanding San Bernardino County misdemeanor warrant.
1031 - Vehicle removed for parking in excess of 72 hours in the 400 block of West Chestnut Street.
1411 - Vehicle burglary reported in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue. An unknown subject broke the RP's car window and stole a diaper bag.
1618 - Hit and run accident reported in the 1100 block of Pitt School Road.
2320 - Hours - Theft of a bicycle report in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

Sunday, July 30

0646 - Theft of lawn mowing equipment in the 400 block of Gateway Drive.

Saturday, July 29

0540 - Domestic violence arrest report was taken at 1340 West H St # M. Officers arrived and contacted (S) Brianna Munoz-Gomez and (V) Yesenia Ramirez. It was determined that Munoz-Gomez was the dominant aggressor and she was arrested. Munoz-Gomez was transported to the Solano County Jail. 1227 Vandalism report was taken in the 100 block of Dorset Dr.
1533 - Traffic collision report was taken at the intersection of North 1st St. at Auction Ln.
1715 - Information report in the 400 block of Ellesmere Dr.
1809 - Grand theft in the 200 block of South Almond Street.
2151 - Shoplifting report in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive. Officers contacted Arturo PazBarrera (38) out of Sacramento. Further investigation showed Arturo was in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. Arturo was placed under arrest where he was later issued a promise to appear and released.
0147 - Vehicle burglary reported in the 1200 block of Rose Way.

Friday, July 28

1241 - Possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia arrest report was taken in the 1300 block of Commercial Way. Officer made an enforcement stop and contacted the (S) Robert Reed (54) of Dixon. While speaking with Reed he admitted to drugs being in the vehicle. The vehicle was searched and suspected methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia were located. Reed was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department where he was cited and released.
1619 - Recovery a stolen vehicle report was taken at the intersection of Greenwood Dr. at Magnolia Ct.
1725 - Domestic violence arrest report was taken at 1325 Baylor Wy. Officers arrived and contacted (S) John Holyfield (boyfriend) and (V) Jennifer Cristodoro. It was determined that Holyfield was the dominant aggressor, and he was arrested. Holyfield was transported to the Solano County Jail.

Thursday, July 27

1039 - Hours - Vehicle theft report was taken in the 1300 block of North 1st St.

Wednesday, July 26

0824 - Confidential report 1100 block Newgate Way.
1055 - Vandalism report 2100 block Prairie Way.
1245 - Domestic disturbance 1200 block Hillview Drive.

Sites Reservoir on Regulatory Fast Track

Sites Project Authority News Release

MAXWELL, CA (MPG) - The Sites Project Authority would like to commend and thank Governor Gavin Newsom and the California State Legislature for working together to pass a critically important infrastructure streamlining package that will allow eligible projects certified by the Governor to use a streamlined approval process to get essential infrastructure into construction and operation for the benefit of all Californians. All seven of the Proposition 1 water storage projects are eligible, including the Sites Reservoir Project.

In May, Governor Newsom introduced proposals to streamline permitting and project review for critical infrastructure projects, like Sites Reservoir, that would help meet the state's needs to provide new, climate-resilient water supplies.

“We are grateful to Governor Newsom and the State Legislature for their leadership on such a challenging aspect of our regulatory process,” said Jerry Brown, Executive Director of the Sites Project

Authority. “Their actions to incorporate these policy changes will expedite securing our water supplies to become more resilient to a changing climate. These actions strike the right balance—time saved and costs reduced for delivery of critically important water projects like Sites, while still providing our communities and environments proper safeguards.”

The passage of these critical legislative proposals adds even more momentum to the Sites Reservoir project, which is nearing key milestones, including a consideration of a water right permit by the State Water Resources Control Board and the certification of its Final Environmental Impact Report/Statement.

Sites is an off-stream reservoir proposed north of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, where it would provide unique water supply and environmental benefits during dry periods, especially during extended drought.

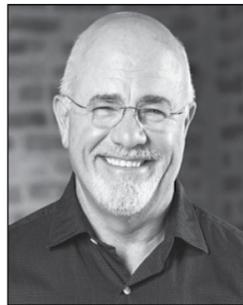
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Dave Ramsey Says

You Need a Better Plan

Dear Dave,

My husband recently opened his own commercial painting company. We know he will have three months or so every year when he's making very little, if any, income. We also started following your plan recently, too, and have \$1,000 set aside for our starter emergency fund. We were ready to begin paying off all our debt except our home in Baby Step 2, but now he wants to skip that, and move to Baby Step 3 to build a fully funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. I think I know why he feels this way, but would you give me your thoughts?

– Crystal

Dear Crystal,

Your husband's excited about the new business. I get that. And in his own

way, it sounds like he's trying to make sure there's extra money on hand for the down months he may experience as a commercial painter. But I wouldn't advise this approach, not for his business, and not for your family's finances.

Baby Step 3 is an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. The scenario he wants to plan for, however, isn't an emergency. He knows it's coming. It's the same with things like Christmas, birthdays and stuff like that. You know they're coming, and you even know which months and days. Things like that aren't emergencies, and they don't catch anyone by surprise. They're things you plan for—and budget for—ahead of time.

But the first thing your husband needs to do is re-work his business model. He needs something to do during the down months, so that his income doesn't dry up completely. Setting money aside in a business for an expected down time is smart, but it's not a Baby Step 3 issue. It would

be a line in the budget where you set money aside because you know something's coming.

Again, if it's something predictable, something that happens at the same time every year, it is not an emergency. If you want to budget some household money for the down time, that's fine. But do you know what would be even smarter? Figuring out a plan for this time, based on his skill set, which will allow him to keep earning money!

– Dave

**Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show." He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company Ramsey Solutions.* ★

Despite Summer Heat, A Cooler Season Delays Winegrape Harvest

North Coast vineyards are preparing for a late winegrape harvest after a cold and overcast spring slowed fruit growth in the prized wine region. Local growers say this could be the coolest start to a Napa Valley winegrape season in many years, with harvest by at least three weeks. "I don't think we'll get busy until mid-September," said Jim Pratt, owner of Cornerstone Certified Vineyard in Sonoma County. With a late harvest, growers must manage their grapes through fall months that bring the potential for damaging rains and devastating wildfires.

Farmers Get A Chance To Weigh In On Milk Pricing At Aug. 23 Federal Hearing

Nearly five years after joining the federal milk marketing order, California dairy farmers will have a chance later this month to weigh in on proposed changes to how milk should be priced, with potential impacts to their take-home pay. An Aug. 23 hearing was scheduled after the U.S. Department of Agriculture received an initial proposal from the National Milk Producers Federation. The organization contends that the dairy marketplace has changed substantially since the federal milk pricing system saw its last comprehensive revision in 2000.

California Lawmakers Introduce Bill To Improve Federal Disaster Aid For Farmers

Federal lawmakers from California have introduced legislation to create permanent disaster relief for U.S. farmers who lose crop revenue due to unprecedented climate events, including severe drought, massive wildfires and flooding. The Agricultural Emergency Relief Act was announced last week by U.S. Sens. Alex Padilla and Dianne Feinstein and Democratic Rep. Mike Thompson of Napa and Republican Rep. Doug LaMalfa of Richvale. The Act would fortify emergency relief programs and enable Congress to appropriate supplemental disaster funds.

Edward Spang Takes Over At Mondavi Institute At Uc Davis

The acclaimed Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science at University of California, Davis, has a new director. Edward "Ned" Spang took over the post Aug. 1, replacing Andrew Waterhouse, who retired in June after five years as director. Spang joined UC Davis 12 years ago as associate director of the Center for Water-Energy Efficiency. He's been a faculty member with the Department of Food Science and Technology since 2015. The Mondavi Institute is home to the university's winemaking, brewing and food science programs. ★



The Fear Factor

Donald Trump has gotten indicted yet again, and, as usual, most of the other Republican candidates have been sympathetic, if not outright deferential, to him.

It's another episode that raises the question: Can someone who is afraid of Trump defeat him?

Of all the advantages that Trump has in the competition for the 2024 Republican nomination – immediate past president, ability to generate enormous media attention, etc. – perhaps foremost among them is the fact that the other Republican candidates are afraid.

It's hard to think of anyone who has ever won a major-party nomination while showing fear, especially of someone else in the field.

A successful candidate might be careful around certain issues or constituencies, or back off of an unpopular position. But being clearly scared by an opponent is something else, entirely. George W. Bush and John McCain might have hated or disdained each other in 2000, same with McCain and Mitt Romney in 2008, or Romney and Newt Gingrich in 2012. But no one was ever clearly, demonstrably afraid.

Until now.

When asked about Trump, most of the candidates might not actually lick their lips, or swallow hard or begin to blink

faster, but you wouldn't be surprised if they did. Generally, they'll evade questions, reject the premise or revert to an answer that has been as carefully crafted as an official statement by one of the parties negotiating the Paris Peace Accords.

You can almost see them thinking:

Maybe he'll leave me alone.

Maybe he'll make me his veep.

Maybe there will be a better time to attack him later.

If they can help it, his opponents will never say Trump's name – he's the most unnamed major politician in American history. Mike Pence has tended to call him "my former running mate."

This means that Donald Trump's political dominance of the rest of the field extends to a kind of personal and psychological dominance.

A key aspect of the Trump phenomenon from the beginning has been how he's brought the sub-rational element of politics that's always been there, but usually relatively submerged, to the fore – more Frans de Waal, author of "Chimpanzee Politics," than Richard Hofstadter; more Dana White than Lee Atwater.

This raises the possibility that not taking Trump head-on means more than simply missing the opportunity to make the case against him. It also means implicitly acknowledging his status as the Big Man of Republican politics, and the rival's status as a subordinate player in the world Trump created and rules.

The only one who's

really not playing this game is Chris Christie, who gives as good as he gets and also needles Trump and initiates fights against him. If Christie can achieve a breakout in New Hampshire, it will be based, in part, on winning points on strength and courage while doing and saying what no one else dares. (Also-rans Will Hurd and Asa Hutchinson criticize Trump, too, but more politely and conventionally.)

All that said, the other candidates are reacting to a genuine conundrum – Republican voters might be open to an alternative to Trump in theory, but they don't want anyone to criticize him. How to square that circle is the biggest challenge for the rest of the field, at least those members of it genuinely running to win.

To be fair, Governor Ron DeSantis, as Trump's main target, has been willing to push back as necessary, and he makes a constant, implicit critique of Trump's electoral prospects and governing abilities. But the Florida governor is always careful to stay on the right side of the line, biding his time for later or hoping that his message catches on without having to grasp the nettle. This isn't unreasonable, but, again, it exposes a disparity – he has a strategy, while Trump has a sledgehammer.

So long as everyone believes that Trump has one and they don't – and acts accordingly – the fear factor will continue to work in Trump's favor.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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While Us Economic Outlook Improves, California's Remains Muddy And Mediocre



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Late last month, the Federal Reserve announced the latest incremental raise in its key interest rate, pushing it to the highest level in 22 years, as it continues to battle what it calls persistent inflation.

The increase, a quarter of 1%, renewed the debate among economists and politicians over whether the Federal Reserve's anti-inflation actions will slow the economy into what's termed a "soft landing," or ignite a recession.

The recession that many economists thought would have happened by now hasn't raised its ugly head, leading to I-Told-You-So's from the ones who hadn't seen a downturn on the horizon.

"Much to the chagrin of those who have been predicting otherwise, the U.S. economy has stubbornly continued to grow and 2023 is shaping up to be a better year than 2022," one of the optimists, California economist Christopher Thornberg wrote recently.

"This isn't to say that we don't recognize signs of stress in the economy driven by higher interest rates and the recent bout of inflation," Thornberg continued. "Rather, we've never viewed these issues as rising to the level of

being systemic given that they were caused by the same thing that has kept consumer spending supercharged – the excessive stimulus thrown at the economy during the pandemic.

"The greatest risk, as we have seen it, was always the undue tightening by the Federal Reserve, which was implemented in response to their original sin of excessive loosening."

There are, however, two sides to the economic coin – one steeped in the numbers economists love and the other the admittedly unscientific concerns of ordinary citizens.

A recent Public Policy Institute of California poll found that Californians overwhelmingly believe that bad economic times lie ahead, based in part on experiences with inflation in housing, food, fuel and other living expenses.

Those sour expectations may be more than just emotion. While the nation as a whole seems to be doing fairly well, as President Joe Biden reminds us almost daily in anticipation of a re-election campaign next year, California's economy is just so-so.

California's unemployment rate in June was 4.6%, which doesn't sound bad – certainly much lower than it was when the state's economy shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic, pushing the jobless rate to over 16%.

However, it was higher than it had been a year earlier and – this is rather sobering – was the second-highest of any state to Nevada's 5.4%, and more than twice as high as New

Hampshire's nation-lowest 1.8%.

California's other economic indices are similarly weak.

The Federal Bureau of Economic Analysis reported in June that California's gross domestic product – the total of goods and services – in the first quarter was one of the nation's slowest growing at 1.2%, roughly a third of the growth seen in rival states Texas (3%) and Florida (3.5%). Other states ranged to as high 12.4% in North Dakota.

The BEA's quarterly report on personal income growth was similarly mediocre. Nationally, it grew by 5.1%, but in California it was scarcely a blip at .7%, very near the bottom. Texas saw 6.7% personal income growth and Florida 7.9%.

Anemic personal income growth has a real-world impact when it attempts to cope with inflation that's still plaguing California's families and it also is one of the underlying reasons the state is experiencing declines in personal income taxes and the resultant multi-billion-dollar budget deficits.

Citing a "particularly muddy" economic outlook, the Legislature's budget analyst, Gabe Petek, believes that the state faces bigger budget deficits than Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders have baked into their new budget.

It's just as muddy for the family budgets of nearly 40 million Californians.

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

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- ACROSS**
- *Medical school entry requirement, acr.
 - *Atlas image
 - Hula dancer's necklace
 - German money
 - Ready for picking
 - Nerd
 - Like many Brothers Grimm stories
 - Month of Purim
 - *Some exams
 - *Laptop and books container
 - Fastens a fly
 - Licorice-like herb
 - *Teacher's favorite
 - Like hot lava
 - Cassava, pl.
 - Chapter in history
 - Deadly
 - DEA agent
 - Second person singular past of "do," archaic
 - Greet, to a dog
 - Be in harmony
 - Inwardly
 - Opposite of pluralism
 - Even, to a poet
 - *Academic planners
 - *High predecessor
 - Passé
 - Barnyard honker
 - Rooftop contraption
 - *Meal container
 - Emerald or aquamarine, chemically speaking
 - Trans-Siberian Railroad city
 - Venus de Milo's are missing
 - *Plural of #51 Down
 - Comments from prompt box
 - Do like Ella Fitzgerald
 - *PE in school
 - Make a choice
 - Piece of cake
- DOWN**
- Actress Ryan
 - Larry David's "___ Your Enthusiasm"
 - Bizet's "Habanera," e.g.
 - Tabby's mate
 - King with a golden touch
 - Rapidly
 - ___ up, to become more cheerful
 - Spring
 - Morays
 - Abdominal pain cause, acr.
 - Plunder
 - Dirty one
 - *One of 3 Rs in grade school
 - Genuflected
 - Letter-writing friend
 - *M in LMC, educationally speaking
 - Circular gasket
 - Big Dipper's visible shape
 - Biblical gift-givers
 - Propelled a boat
 - Angler's basket
 - Part of an act
 - Rare bills
 - Chewbacca's sidekick
 - *Word in thesaurus, e.g.
 - Mennonite's cousin
 - *Gym class prop

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50. Exceedingly

51. Bob of boxing world

52. Bonkers

53. Shamu, e.g.

54. Dec. holiday

55. Capture

58. Porky's or Petunia's home

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Traumatic Brain Injury Research Could Lead to Therapeutic Treatment

**Kathy Keatley Garvey,
UC Davis**

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Most studies of traumatic brain injuries (TBI) focus on the pathology of the injured brain, but newly published research indicates that the liver plays an important role in TBI, and a soluble epoxide hydrolase (sEH) inhibitor discovered by UC Davis distinguished professor Bruce Hammock could lead to therapeutic treatment.

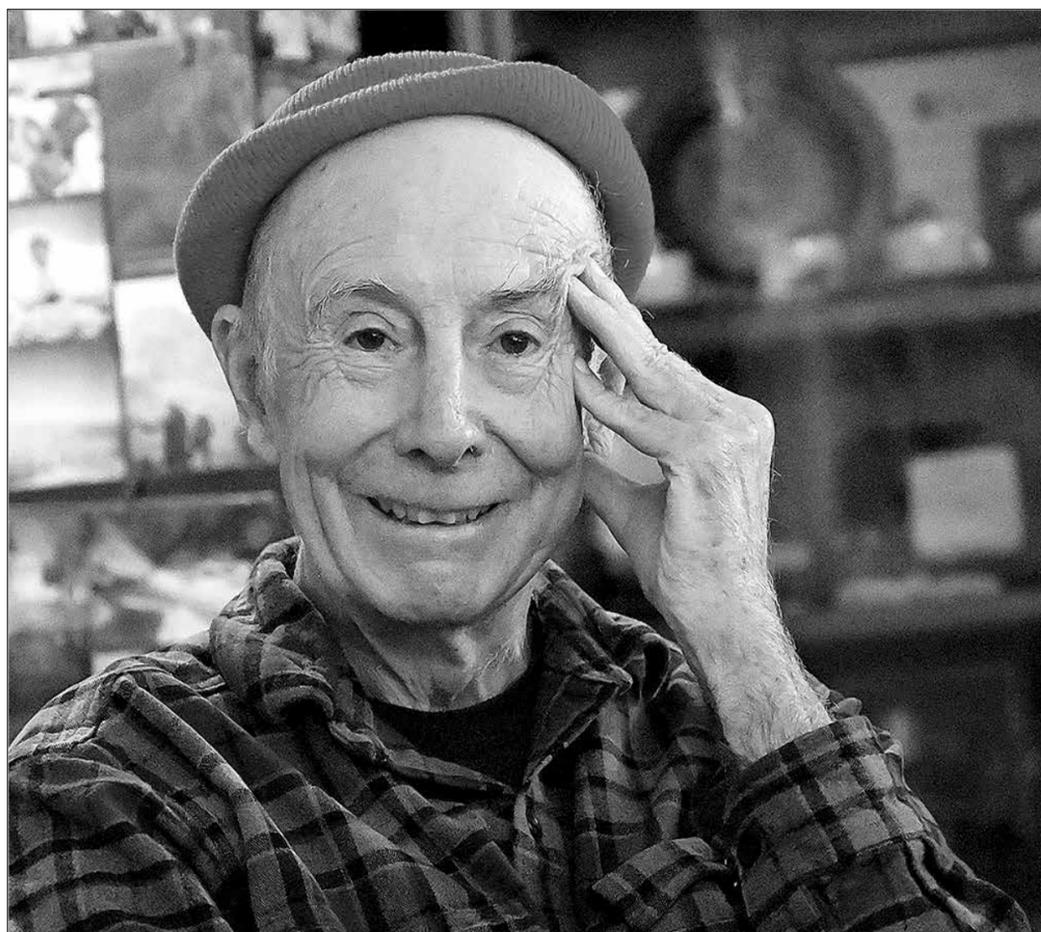
The research, led by Professor Xinhong Zhu of the School of Biology and Biological Engineering, South China University of Technology, Guangzhou, and tested in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). Youngfeng Dai, PhD., is the first author.

“Using animal models, we found that the liver has a neuroprotective effect in the pathophysiology of TBI, although its role was very weak,” Zhu said. “Our data suggest that enhancement of this neuroprotective role of the liver could provide novel strategies for developing treatment of TBI.” Plans call for “moving toward a clinical study to detect whether hepatic sEH manipulation benefits patients with TBI.”

Their results highlight the neuroprotective role of the liver in TBI and suggest that targeting this neuroprotective role may represent a promising therapeutic strategy for TBI. Earlier clinical studies report that the overall mortality in patients with TBI and cirrhosis is nearly twice that in patients without cirrhosis.

In the paper, “Enhancement of the Liver’s Neuroprotective Role Ameliorates Traumatic Brain Injury Pathology,” the authors describes TBI as a “pervasive problem worldwide, for which no effective treatment is currently available,” and “as a devastating injury that often results in long-term neurological deficits, including locomotor function and memory impairments.”

“Blood-brain barrier (BBB) disruption is a hallmark feature of TBI and is associated with brain edema and neuronal death,” the



UC Davis Distinguished Professor Bruce Hammock. Photo courtesy of UC Davis

authors wrote. “Studies have shown that sEH inhibitors protect the BBB from brain injury. Therefore, we investigated whether deletion of hepatic Ephx2 protected the BBB following controlled cortical injury (CCI).”

In the United States alone, annual statistics show that 1.5 million people a year are diagnosed with TBI; 230,000 are hospitalized; and 52,000 die. Heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali estimated that he received 290,000 blows to the head during his 21-year professional boxing career. But more commonly, TBI results from falls, statistics show. The National Institutes of Health defines TBI as being “caused by forceful bump, blow or jolt to the head or body, or from an object that pieces the skull and enters the brain.”

“TBI leads to a breakdown of the blood brain barrier,” said co-author Hammock, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Inventors and whose pioneering work on sEH inhibitors spans 50 years.

“We see from cases like Muhammad Ali that repeated TBI can lead to chronic central nervous system injury, dementia and other issues.”

“In the study from the Zhu laboratory, one of the exciting basic discoveries is that mammals have a natural mechanism to partially address traumatic brain injury,” said Hammock, who holds a joint appointment with the Department of Entomology and Nematology and the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center. “By a mechanism under investigation, the injured brain communicates to the liver to down-regulate the production of an enzyme called the soluble epoxide hydrolase (sEH) that degrades natural inflammation resolving mediators. Thus, the concentration of these injury-resolving mediators also produced in the liver go up reducing deleterious inflammation throughout the injured animal. This soluble epoxide hydrolase inhibitor used as a tool in these studies is building on this natural mechanism to



Professor Xinhong Zhu of South China University of Technology and first author Yongfeng Dai. Photo courtesy of UC Davis

minimize the harmful effects of TBI.”

“Importantly, the soluble epoxide hydrolase inhibitor that the authors used here is also currently in human clinical safety trials for treating pain and inflammation,” said psychiatrist and neuroscientist Dr. Andrew Pieper, the Rebecca A. Barchas Professor in Translational Psychiatry, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland. “The results shown here indicate that this agent, or related materials altering this same pathway, might mitigate the acute and long-term complications of TBI, or of neuroinflammatory conditions of the brain in general. Pieper, who holds both a Ph.D. and a M.D. is the Morley-Mather Chair in Neuropsychiatry, University Hospitals of Cleveland Medical Center; director of the Brain Health Medicines Center, Harrington Discovery Institute; and psychiatrist at Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, Cleveland.

Neuroscience researcher Daniela Kaufer, associate dean of biological sciences at UC Berkeley and a professor with the Department of Integrative Biology and Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, praised the research possibilities. “The brain has a barrier which helps protect it from harmful materials in the blood,” said Kaufer, who was not involved in the research. “TBI reduces this barrier and its reduction is associated with aging. Possibly the pathway described in this PNAS paper could be manipulated to protect the blood brain barrier and reduce the

apparent aging of the brain caused by repeated TBI.”

“The reality is that we know moderate and severe TBI leads to significant disability in a high percentage of patients,” said neuroscience researcher Gene Gurkoff, an associate professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery, UC Davis Health, who specializes in traumatic brain injury and epilepsy.

“My understanding of how we classify milds at UC Davis right now is that these are patients that behaviorally are mild injuries, but that they have something on a CT or MRI scan that indicates that the injury is more than a concussion, said Gurkoff, who was not involved in the research. “These patients are more likely to have long-term effects than concussion alone, but a lot less likely than moderate-severe. They also don’t usually end up in the ICU. Then there are the concussions. Head injuries but no evidence of a radiological finding.”

“Add on top of that, repeat mild or repeat concussion,” Gurkoff said. “While some investigators will suggest that we have a good handle on repeat TBI – I still think it is the Wild West. It is clear that in a subset of humans, repeat TBI, even concussive, is catastrophic. Others seem to be fine. We also haven’t dissected whether repeat TBI on its own is causal – or because many of the patients are in high risk/high stress situations – and it is the combination of TBI/repeat TBI with something else.”

“What gets me excited about certain compounds – Bruce’s would be an

example – is that if you have a low-risk compound, is it feasible that you give it to patients who might not develop long-term consequences?” Gurkoff asked. “For example, let’s say a patient comes in and based on his injury and history, we might estimate there is a 10 percent chance he has a problem. You aren’t going to schedule these patients for surgery – on the extreme – because the risk is too high given they most likely will recover. Having a low-risk compound that can be given to soldiers, athletes, etc, with mild or repeat mild – or concussion/repeat concussion – would be fantastic!”

The research drew financial support from the National Natural Science Foundation of China, Scientific and Technological Innovation, and partial support from Hammock’s grants from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences’ RIVER Award (Revolutionizing Innovative, Visionary Environmental Health Research) and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

Hammock, who co-founded the Davis-based EicOsis LLC in 2011 to develop a drug candidate to treat chronic inflammation, sees similarities between the sEH inhibitor cited in the newly published research and the drug candidate in EicOsis that is moving through human safety clinical trials. “In fact,” Hammock said, “the same compound was selected by the National Institute of Aging for a long-term aging study in mice, in part because TBI and loss of the blood brain barrier function may lead to apparent aging of the brain.”

“This pioneering study provides clear evidence of the importance of liver-derived epoxy fatty acids (EpFAs) and reactive astrocytes from the immune system in protecting the brain from significant damage and post-traumatic dysfunction following perussive injury,” said William Schmidt, EicOsis vice president of clinical development. “As of now, there are no proven drug therapies that provide protective effects to the brain following single or repeated blows to the head from falls, auto accidents, or sports injuries.”

“The data from this study,” Schmidt said, “provides a pathway for developing inhibitors of sEH that, in turn, will enhance the availability of EpFAs circulating in blood to protect and restore the blood-brain barrier following TBI. I am hopeful that further pre-clinical studies will confirm these data and lead to a new type of drug therapy based on inhibitors of the sEH enzyme.”

“Clinical studies for TBI may still be a year or so away,” Schmidt added, “but EicOsis has an sEH inhibitor in early clinical development that may be suitable in the future for evaluation in patients with TBI.”

Hammock and colleague Sarjeet Gill co-discovered sEH in 1969 when they were researching insect developmental biology and green insecticides in the UC Berkeley lab of John Casida (1929-2018)

The enzyme is a key regulatory enzyme involved in the metabolism of fatty acids. It regulates a new class of natural chemical mediators, which in turn regulates inflammation, blood pressure and pain. The epoxy fatty acids control blood pressure, fibrosis, immunity, tissue growth, depression, pain, and inflammation, to name a few processes, Hammock said. ★

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FOR THE LOVE OF
BOOKS
By Amy Shane
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy_fortheloveofbooks

American Royals

by Katharine McGee

It's been two and a half centuries since General George Washington was crowned King, giving America their own royal family. The Washingtons still sit on the throne today, but things are about to change as Princess Beatrice prepares to be America's first Queen Regent. For Beatrice, the pressure of the throne is a weight she knows she must bear alone, even though the King and Queen have a list of acceptable suitors that would happily rule by her side. However, Beatrice secretly knows that there is one person she trusts to help her carry the weight: the one man who has captured her heart and the one she can never have.

Princess Samantha, labeled the Royal Spare, has jaded Samantha towards the throne and her sister, allowing her to spend her time breaking the rules. Then she meets Teddy, one of Beatrice's worthy suitors, and suddenly the duty of the crown, and breaking the rules takes on a whole new meaning.

Daphne Deighton will do anything to have the crown, and Prince Jefferson is the only person who can get there.



◆ Publisher: Random House Children's Book
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥

Now that her and the price are no longer an item, Daphne knows she has her work cut out, but Daphne has a plan, and nothing will stop her from making Jefferson hers.

As Princess Samantha's best friend, Nina Gonzalez has always been under the radar. No one has ever noticed her, but that is about to change. Nina has accidentally caught the eye of the Prince, and the whole world is about to know, but is she ready for everything that might bring?

Get caught up in the emotions, the romance, and the deceit in the story that started it all, American Royals.

"What if America had a royal family?" With the fourth book in the *American Royals* series releasing later this month, now is the perfect time to get caught up on this drama, the deceit, the desire, and the sabotage from the beginning. Katharine McGee knows how to capture the dynamic complexity of multiple characters as she thrusts readers quickly through the storyline, individually building each character's story as they twist and fall into one another. All with personal agendas and motives, there is one thing they all have in common, the chase for love.

With backstabbing lies, secrets, betrayal, and love, this series reads like a perfect formula for a television series. Continuously building up the tempo until the last line, the dramatic ending will leave readers scrambling for the second book in the series. Like a true guilty pleasure, *American Royals* delivers an inside look at what it means to be royal, even if you are just an heir apparent. Readers can now catch the entire series with *American Royal, Majesty, Rivals, Reign*, and the prequel, *Inheritance*. ★



Riley Reviews

"MEG 2: THE TRENCH" ADRENALINE RUSH ACTION B-MOVIE

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"MEG 2: THE TRENCH" RATED PG-13

Consistent with its predecessor, "Meg 2: The Trench" is a cheesy action thriller that no one, particularly the filmmakers, can take seriously. Like "The Meg," this sequel brings back favorite characters as well as the inherent silliness of mindless diversion.

Popcorn entertainment is not a totally bad thing when you can leave your brain at home and sit for just short of two hours in a theater because the megalodons and other prehistoric creatures look so much more impressive on the big screen.

To anyone who has seen "Jaws" or any number of Godzilla movies, what happens in "Meg 2" is as predictable as guessing what the weather will be like on a summer day in Death Valley. But that doesn't really matter unless you are a cynic.

After a brief opening scene to demonstrate how prehistoric creatures ruled the earth for 65 million years, patience will be required until we get to the meat of the story, or the reason we showed up, namely to witness the battle of man versus monsters.

However, even the brief interlude of the Cretaceous period offers a lesson on the food chain of prehistoric times, as a dragonfly is scarfed by a giant lizard, which is in turn devoured by a T-Rex, who ventures too close to the ocean's edge and meets his fate with a megalodon.

Having Jason Statham return as deep-sea diver and environmental activist Jonas Taylor is a nod to his status as a fan favorite. Now he's teamed up with Chinese megastar Wu Jing's Jiuming Zhang for a submersible dive into the trench 25,000 feet below.

The human action gets a kick-start when Jonas stows away on a cargo ship to stop the dumping of radioactive waste into the Philippine Sea, a task that requires his martial arts skills before taking a dangerous leap into the ocean for a daring airborne rescue.

There's a swanky celebratory event at the oceanographic Zhang Institute, where any number of corporate types might plant the inevitable seed of some sort of malfeasance or treachery looming on the horizon.

Spoiler alert! There is a corporate villain by the name of Driscoll (Sienna Guillory), who has her eye on massive profits that have nothing at all to do with preserving the ocean's ecosystem.

The institute holds a megalodon in captivity that is name Haiqi and has

been trained by Jiuming to respond in Pavlovian fashion to a clicker. The big fish swims about in a large tank where it can be seen through a supposedly impenetrable glass wall.

Jonas and Jiuming, along with their crew, make a deep dive into the trench, only to find that a stowaway on board is teenager Meiyang (Sophia Cai), the niece of Jiuming who also counts Jason as a father figure.

Treachery is afoot when the Zhang Institute crew are betrayed by Jess (Skyler Samuels) who is in league with a bunch of mercenaries engaged in a rogue mining operation of the ocean floor without regard for how this unleashes megalodons from their natural habitat.

With a sabotage of the submersible, the Zhang crew are forced into a dangerous trek on the ocean floor to find another means to return to base. This is probably the least interesting part of the movie.

After a fight with mercenaries on the research platform in the ocean, the action gets into serious gear on the curiously-named Fun Island, a resort where the tourists will soon be in danger when megalodons and a humungous octopus arrive near the shore with a vengeance.

We get to marvel at Jonas riding a yellow jet ski, armed with chemical harpoons, in a high-speed chase of megalodons, while a helicopter ends up in a battle with the giant reach of an octopus tentacle.

While some hapless tourists never reach safety, it is satisfying to see some of the bad guys chomped by the megalodons having the incredible ability to leap out of the ocean.

While the megalodons have a healthy appetite for human flesh, the action remains pretty much free of bloody gore, resulting in the death toll being handled in a restrained manner, which allows the film to retain a more family friendly rating.

"Meg 2: The Trench" may disappoint some for the perception of a cautious entertainment that could have either taken the more serious manner of the first "Jaws" movie or the overblown comedic tone of the "Sharknado" franchise.

The possibility of another sequel is left open, and whether it comes to fruition may depend on how well the film performs in China. Having cast Wu Jing in a starring role, the studio may be banking on that outcome.

If there is a sequel, let us hope that Jason Statham's character becomes more than a stoic action figure with a muscular physique. His trademark cutting wit is central to his appeal, which is largely missing here with a few exceptions. ★

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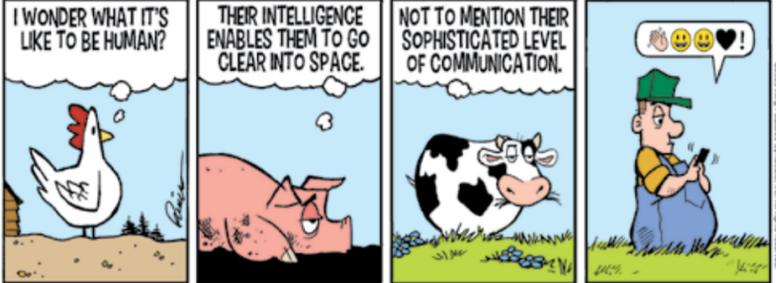
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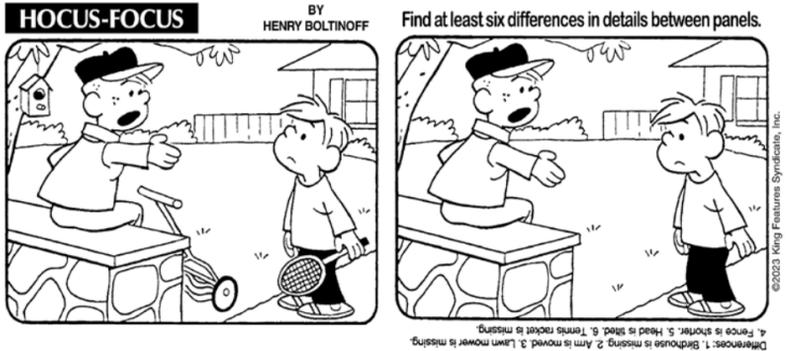
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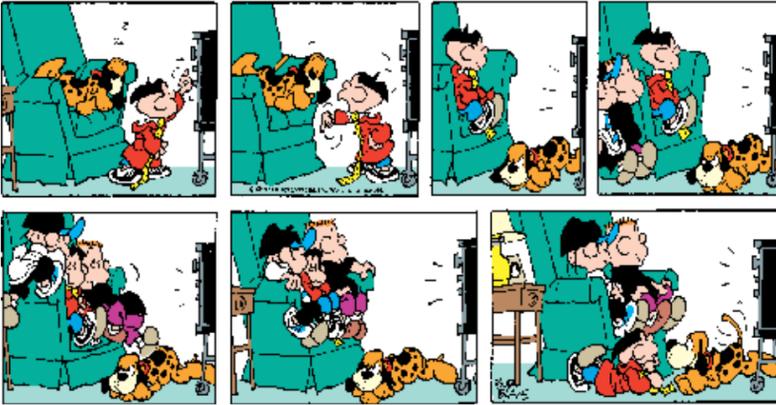
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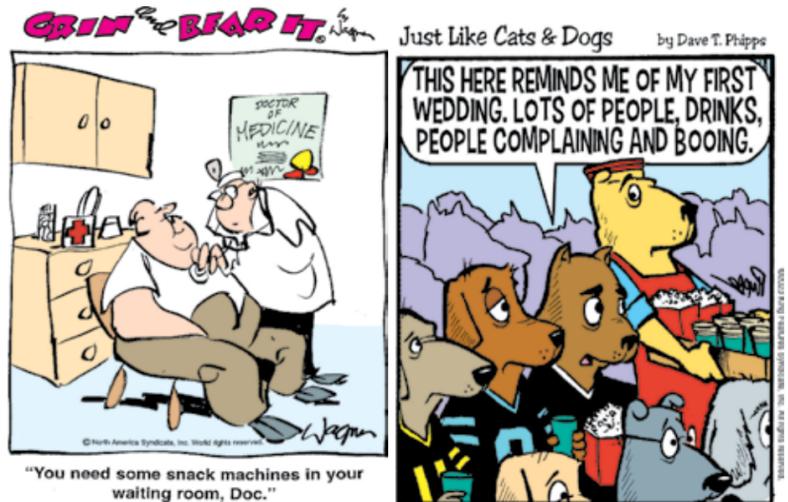
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The Real Fix for State Pension Woes: Ditch Defined Benefit Pensions

Commentary
by Jon Coupal

Last week, this column addressed the dilemma facing the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) and the California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS), California's biggest public pension retirement funds, involving "Environmental, Social, and Governance" principles.

Depending on how it is interpreted, "ESG investing" can simply mean evaluating investments in a broad manner "to assess potential risks."

Where ESG principles get problematic is when they are used to push a progressive political agenda at the expense of maximizing returns. This occurs when activists seek prohibitions against investing in fossil fuels, firearms, or in companies located in nations that have met with their disfavor for political or policy reasons, irrespective of the positive performance of the companies.

For current retirees and employees, there is little opportunity to influence the investment decisions of CalPERS and STRS. Some of the board members are elected by participants in the system but most are subject to the political pressures of the day.

What politicians in California and elsewhere

ignore is a simple way to avoid the entire ESG quagmire as well as many other problems inherent in California's "defined benefit" retirement plans. That is to begin shifting to "defined contribution" plans that reduce the risks to the state and taxpayers and which frequently produce better returns for the employees. In defined contribution plans, the employee's benefit is equal to his or her own contributions, plus those of the employer, plus whatever earnings the investments accrue.

Defined contribution plans come in many flavors, but they have one common element important to taxpayers. That is, the financial obligation of the employer (paid for with taxpayer dollars) is complete at the end of each pay period.

Another big advantage to defined contribution plans is their portability, especially in a changing workforce where employees change jobs frequently.

In a comprehensive policy paper published in 2020 by the Reason Foundation, "Defined Contribution Plans: Best Practices in Design and Utilization," the authors contend that, "When structured properly, [defined contribution] retirement plans—plans with individually controlled investment accounts with contributions made by both employers and employees—can offer governments an

approach to retirement plan design that garners retirement security for employees while actively working. Defined contribution plans accomplish this by modernizing the retirement option set and managing employers' financial risks that are inherent in traditional pension plans."

In California, the political power of public-sector labor renders the full adoption of defined contribution plans to replace CalPERS and CalSTRS extremely unlikely. In 2005, progressive outrage at then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger forced him to drop his proposal before it even got started. But now, with economic realities setting in, it might stand a better chance, especially if offered only to new hires or as part of a "hybrid" system of combined defined benefit and defined contribution elements.

Defined contribution plans are becoming increasingly popular in other jurisdictions. Both Michigan and Alaska offer state employees defined contribution plans only. For the sake of the state's financial health, and to limit the risks to taxpayers, the shift to a defined contribution plan should be the cornerstone of California's public employee retirement systems. It's time to take the off-ramp from defined benefit pension plans. ★

Life Stories



By Kathy Craig Harteis

We all have a story. It's a book that takes a lifetime to write. Chapter by chapter it changes and evolves.

Recently I've been re-reading a few chapters of my life. Some I would like to read again and again while others I'd

rather rip from the book.

Our choices remain as we continue to write.

I tend to hang on to the people I've met along the way. The ones that captured my heart in any way I want keep in touch with. I want to make the effort.

I've been told by at least one friend that I make an effort while they just don't.

I've been blessed with a life I love living. Counted among the blessings are relationships.

I don't want to walk away and forget anyone who has impacted my life.

If I'm nearby and have the opportunity to visit someone who might need a visit, I'm going to make

an effort.

A friend once told me that he didn't want to end up with any would haves, should haves, or could haves at the end of the day.

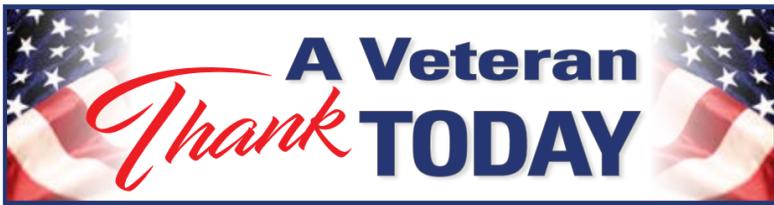
That's a good mantra by which to live.

Sadly we lose people we thought would always be there.

In recent years I've lost far too many loved ones. I don't want to take anyone for granted.

We need to appreciate one another. It's not always easy to do, but if we want our book to be a good read, we best try.

At the end of the day we can say; Life is good today. ★





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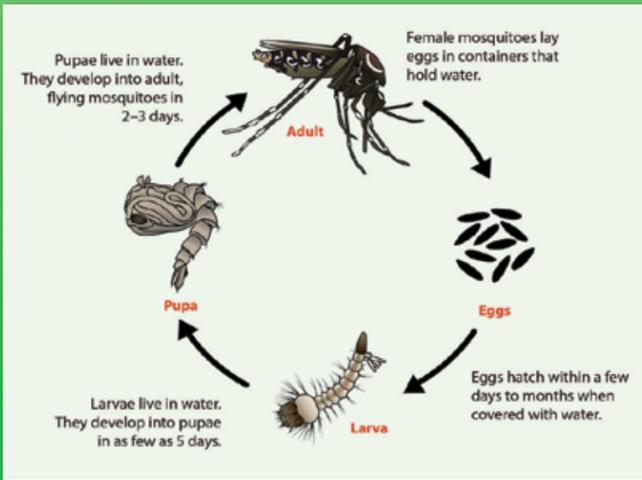
A number of types of sources found within residential neighborhoods are capable of producing enough adult mosquitoes to bother not only the residents of one home but a number of homes in the area. These mosquitoes are also capable of transmitting West Nile virus! Water left standing for seven to ten days can produce mosquitoes during warmer weather. There are a number of simple precautions that can be taken to prevent this from happening...







HELP US FIGHT THE BITE this season by reporting dead birds to the [West Nile Virus Call Center](http://WestNileVirusCallCenter.com) at 1-800-WNV-BIRD or go online to westnile.ca.gov to report electronically. Dead birds are an important tool for early virus detection. Birds act as a reservoir for West Nile virus, infecting the mosquitoes that feed on them. Dead birds are often the first indicator that West Nile virus may be present in an area.



Pupae live in water. They develop into adult, flying mosquitoes in 2-3 days.

Female mosquitoes lay eggs in containers that hold water.

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Larvae live in water. They develop into pupae in as few as 5 days.



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