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# Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

JULY 14, 2023

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## Smokin' Hot Fun at Grillin' & Chillin'



Live music will be performed on stage in the Pardi Plaza throughout the day of Grillin' & Chillin'. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - According to the weather report, it's going to be a smokin' hot day with a high of 105 degrees for the summer sizzling event, the annual Grillin' & Chillin' street fair in downtown Dixon. The Dixon Action Team presents their event which includes a car show of 150 vehicles and a Rib and Chili Cook Off this Saturday, July 15, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

There will be plenty of shopping with a variety of vendors, beer booths, and children's activities in the Kids Park which includes inflatable water slides plus a small train that will cart people up and down the streets if they want. Crowds will enjoy shopping for their one-of-a-kind, homemade arts and crafts perfect for their home from local, independent entrepreneurs.



One of the more popular views at Saturday's Grillin' & Chillin' is the Car Show that includes classics and hot rods. The free event opens at 10 a.m. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Admission to this wildly hot but fun day is zero but bring your wallet for refreshing treats and drinks.

Some of this year's sponsors are PAPE Machinery, Recology, Travis Credit Union, The Discount Store, DuPratt Ford, Weber General Engineering, Murillo's Mexican Restaurant, Higby's Country Feed,

Dawson's, Solano Baking Company, Software Wild, De La Torre Trucking, First Northern Bank, Altec, Tire Pros, Kevin Johnson Group powered by RE/MAX Gold, Gone Fishin', Cool Patch Pumpkins, Grocery Outlet, the Import Master Auto Services, Bud's Pub & Grill, Holt, and Country Bear Electric.

Yes, there is still time to volunteer, and volunteers

are always appreciated. In the past, the American Legion Post 208, VFW Post 8151, various service clubs and churches including the Dixon United Methodist Church have assisted.

Proceeds from G & C are distributed throughout the community to nonprofits.

"Our mission as the Dixon Action Team doing business as Grillin'-n-Chillin', a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is to help different organizations and groups in Solano, Yolo and neighboring counties," said founder Mike Hamilton. "We sponsor family friendly events that are organized by volunteers and raise funds. We directly support 4-H, veterans, schools, FFA, churches, and sports organizations."

This year, Hamilton reported he has "stepped

*Continued on page 3*

## Maseda Resigns from DUSD School Board



Melissa Maseda. Photo Courtesy of DUSD

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - "It was bittersweet to leave Dixon," former Dixon School Board Trustee Melissa Maseda said from her new residence in Idaho where she grew up. "Dixon is a community that we loved, and I raised my kids there. They were the reason I first got on the School Board." Maseda's replacement is in the making, and she was honored at the June School Board Meeting.

"I felt like I did some good things," she said. She talked of spending "more time than anyone" combing through the budget and making sure they were financially sound right from the start.

Prior to that first appointment, Maseda was a preschool teacher for 16 years and had been heavily involved in the children's schools including organizing a District-wide art program at Gretchen Higgins and leading Parent Teacher Organizations. She was appointed in 2016 and won the elections for the next two terms.

Superintendent Brian Dolan spoke of his "affinity for the Maseda family" going way back when Dolan had Tom Maseda, Melissa's husband, as a 9th grader on his track team in Vacaville. Tom recently lost his battle with cancer.

"Some of the issues that Melissa has addressed have been extremely challenging such as cutting jobs," Dolan said. "She has been one of the hardest working Board members I've ever seen. She showed up at everything and continued to participate in school events, more meetings, financing, and facilities and you know how important her family is for her," he added and presented a glass plaque token of appreciation to her.

"I'm a better Superintendent for you working with me all this time and on behalf of every kid that came through DUSD, every family, every staff member and anyone who has benefited from your work, we give the most sincere thanks. You have made a difference and people are going to remember you at a level

*Continued on page 3*

## Grand Jury Reports Dixon Non-responsive

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - City of Dixon is listed in two 2022-2023 reports from the Solano County Civil Grand Jury, the entity that one deals with 'Solano County Wastewater Treatment Plants' and the other deals with 'Noncompliance with Required Responses' to the Grand Jury.

In the Wastewater report, Finding 1 reported that in most cases, wastewater effluent is not used to supply industrial needs or to irrigate crops and public lands. In the recommendation, the wastewater treatment facility decision-makers consider on an ongoing basis, if additional treated water can be used to replace current water supplies.

In Finding 2, both Dixon's and Benicia's water treatment plants release methane directly

into the atmosphere, which could be used as fuel for cogeneration. The recommendation was to explore options to capture methane released by wastewater treatment, such as generating electrical power.

In Finding 3, Not all wastewater treatment plants utilize renewable sources of electrical power, and the recommendation was to consider solar and wind power as alternative energy sources.

The city managers of both cities were required to respond to all Findings but only Benicia responded. The City Manager of Dixon, Jim Lindley, did not respond.

The other report Dixon was listed in was the one on noncompliance with required responses to the Grand Jury which was based on an investigation over the past ten years of reporting.

According to Penal Code

section 933(c), "Elected county officers or agency heads must respond within 60 days following issuance of the final report," and must also stipulate whether the accompanying recommendation has been implemented or not; whether it requires further analysis; and/or the recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or reasonable.

The officer at the Grand Jury office reported that they did receive confirmation of the report being received by Mr. Lindley but no further response.

In additional findings, the 2021-2022 Solano County Civil Grand Jury report "Solano County Is Not Prepared for Future Emergencies," the Dixon Mayor and City Council did not provide a response to the following finding: FINAL 230623 Compliance Report

- 4 - "There is a need for a coordinated city and countywide evacuation plan for Solano County."

In addition, the City of Dixon did not provide responses in previous terms as follows: For the 2019-2020 Solano County Civil Grand Jury report "Registry of Public Agencies Filing Process," the Dixon Mayor and City Council did not provide a response to the following findings: 'Agencies' completion and filing of the Statement of Facts Roster of Public Agencies Form in Solano County, in many instances, are inconsistent, incomplete, inaccurate and out-of-compliance with Government Code section 53051.

For a detailed list of their findings involving Dixon, go to solano.courts.ca.gov.

As of press time, a call to the City Manager was not returned. ★



## Bad News Times Two

By Debra Dingman

Two weeks ago, I wrote about City Treasurer Jim Ward being nominated for Solano County Grand Jury, and I was really excited that after 20 years, Dixon was going to have a representative on that body. But he was chosen as 3rd alternate instead. Now when folks realize how much work it is and how much time it takes, he may actually still get to serve in this capacity because there could be people who drop off. I can only hope...

If you want to see some of the examples of their work, take a look in today's issue about the new 2023 reports that just came out in regard to Dixon. Yes, we made that news, but it isn't wonderful.

Apparently, Dixon hasn't responded to the items the Civil Grand Jury said we needed to correct. City Manager Jim Lindley did respond that he got the report, though. Maybe he was too busy to read the rest of the requirements, or he expected someone else to handle it, but one thing for sure, we need to fix this situation pronto.

The Civil Grand Jury even made a whole new report thanks to us not responding. They investigated the last ten years of responses and noted any city that had not responded appropriately. Dixon's list is the most lengthy because it's been going on for several years.

\*\*\*\*\*

I have more bad news. Those overhead power lines actually do keep me from getting some calls/texts. Seriously. I have read about it and experienced it so I want you to know it isn't my fault that I didn't get your call until too late for whatever it was you wanted me to respond to.

I've been at this office for more than

three years now. I keep both my company cell phone that uses T-Mobile's service (which is also a landline) next to my desk alongside my iPhone which used to be with AT&T. I would drive home from work and hear my phone ring several times before I got there and would discover I had missed important calls throughout the day.

So, when hubby retired, we changed services to T-Mobile as I didn't seem to have any issues with my company phone. However, all the issues are there. My son says to me on his phone, "Mom, you just cut out. What happened?"

"Me: Oh, I just turned my head four inches toward my calendar." So, we'd talk some more, and I'd turn back to my computer.

"Mom, you're cutting out again. What are you doing?"

Me frustrated: "Oh, Okay, I'll just go sit in the office chair until we're done talking." The office chair is 5-feet away but when I'm there, and for some reason, I never have trouble. I suspected it was the overhead lines for some time but just today—and after missing an important meet up—I thoroughly researched. (So sorry again, Jewel!)

Here's what I read: "Power lines are another conductor of electricity that can interfere with cell signals. If you're in an area with a lot of power lines, you may have trouble getting a good signal."

If you look up as you stand at the office entry, you will see gigantic power lines going from the PG&E substation next door.

Sometimes I don't get your call until I leave the office and sometimes, I don't get those calls or messages until the next day. Please be patient because I will eventually get your message. And, I apologize in advance that this happens. ★

## Dixon News Briefs



Seven-piece band Kindred Spirits will perform at Concerts in the Plaza from 6 to 8:30 pm on Thursday, July 20, with several lead vocalists, including Gabe Lewin, Stan Johnson and the amazing Nicole Stewart. The music features beautiful violin and E-mandolin, amazing lead guitar, solid bass guitar, delightful drums, and incredible flute and saxophone, and creative rhythm guitar. The band plays a very wide variety of styles of music, including rocking dance numbers, soulful ballads, a bit of reggae, folk rock, African themed and more and more. Courtesy photo

### MPG Staff

#### Movies in the Park

The City of Dixon along with local businesses will be sponsoring Movies in the Park in the Pardi Plaza on two more nights: Wednesday, July 19, will feature Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone and Wednesday, July 26, will be Monsters, Inc. Thank those sponsors which are The Johnson Group Re/Max Team, White-Brenner and Dixon Financial & Insurance Services! The movies will start at sunset at about 8:45 p.m.

#### Book Bag Sale

The next Friendly Bookworm Bookstore Bag Sale is set for Saturday, August 5 at 230 North First St., next door to the library. You can fill a bag with books (except children's books) for only \$5. Cash or check only and all proceeds support the programs at the Dixon Public Library.

#### Downtown Concerts

The City of Dixon and the Dixon District Chamber of Commerce present 'Concerts in the Plaza' on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 6 to 8:30 p.m. On July 20, Kindred Spirits will be featured; August 3 is Hey Jude; There are tables but bring your own chairs or a blanket in case they are taken.

#### City Council

The next City Council meeting will be on the regular schedule for the 3rd Tuesday of the month which will be July 18. It also starts at 7 p.m. and the agendas for all of the city meetings are usually available on the Thursday before the meeting on the cityofdixon.us website.

#### Free Lunch

Summer has arrived. School is out. There will be lunch handed out behind the Dixon Public library at 230 North First St. in the courtyard to anyone under 18 years of age in attendance Monday - Friday starting at 11 a.m. until 12 noon until July 28. Lunch has to be eaten on site. There will also be games and activities. Come out and visit!

#### Half a Hog

The American Legion Post is raffling off a 'Half A Hog' thanks to a donation from Dixon Recology. The hog will be cut and wrapped, and funds will go to help support veterans and support the

Veterans Memorial Hall.

Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20. The drawing will be on Saturday, September 23. Purchase tickets at the hall on Friday nights.

#### Prom for Mom

Coming up on Saturday, July 29, at the Creative Space, 160 West A St. in downtown Dixon will be a Prom for Moms. The time is 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. and details can be found at [www.TheCreativeSpaceDixon.com](http://www.TheCreativeSpaceDixon.com).

#### Library Bats

The Dixon Public Library is offering NorCal Bats on Wednesday, July 19 at 10 a.m. See real bats and learn about all the ways bats help our environment. All ages welcome. Visit [solanolibrery.com](http://solanolibrery.com) or phone 1-866-572-7587. The Dixon Public Library is located at 230 North First St. in downtown Dixon.

#### Chamber Mixer

Mark your business calendars for Wednesday, July 26, for a Chamber Mixer at Lemuria Nursery, 7820 Serpa Lane, off West Dixon Avenue. It is free and open to the public so come see the wide variety of plants and enjoy some food and beverage while making new connections and maybe winning a raffle prize!

#### Dinner

This week's dinner at the Veterans Memorial Hall at 1305 North First St. will be the Fish Fry with hush puppies and coleslaw and costs \$12. It will start at 6 p.m. You don't have to be a veteran and you don't have to dress up. The no-host bar will be open.

#### Business Course

The Napa-Solano Small Business Development Center is offering a free Workshop for 'Need-to-Know HR: California Employment Law Update on Thursday, August 3 from noon to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. For more information, email [info@solanonapasbdc.org](mailto:info@solanonapasbdc.org).

#### Grand Opening

A celebration of the new ownership of Elite Fitness will be held Thursday, July 13, 4 -8 p.m. at 400 Gateway Dr. with ribbon cutting at 6 p.m. and non-members may work out free. There will be a DJ and refreshments, free body comp scans, PNF Stretching Demos, Food Trucks and Vendors plus you can meet the new owners. Call (707) 676-5833 for more info. ★

# Dixon's Independent Voice Gets City Legals Publishing Contract

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Dixon Independent Voice has come a long way since Messenger Publishing Group, owned by Paul Scholl, took over at the beginning of 2020. Three months later, the pandemic closed the world, but the little weekly newspaper went on with a hyper-local focus and sharing the good news of Dixon.

With newsstands dotting nearly four dozen locations in town, coupled with thousands of home delivery and mailed copies, its readership numbers are steadily climbing, the Dixon City Council voted 5-0 to award the paper its Legal Advertising contract for the next year.

The California Public Contract Code requires that if more than one newspaper of general circulation is located within a city, the city must give every qualified newspaper an opportunity to bid on the service of publishing the city's legal notices. The duration of the contract is for each fiscal year.

The City is authorized to weigh multiple factors against overall cost which included frequency of publication.

"This is the most wonderful time of the year," joked City Attorney Doug White, noting Publisher Paul Scholl in the audience. "This is when the Legal Contract for the City [is determined] and we had one responsive bidder, The Dixon Independent Voice, and it is staff's recommendation for them to do the City's legal notice advertising." He added that although the bid was \$1 more per column inch than last year, it is still less than what the other newspaper had offered last year.

The City Council awarded the legal notice publication services contract

for the 2022-2023 fiscal year to Dixon Independent Voice and The Dixon Tribune. The rates currently paid for legal notice publication services are \$6.50 per standard column inch for The Dixon Tribune, and \$4 per standard column inch for Dixon Independent Voice, explained White.

White also clarified that it may be necessary to publish with other papers of general circulation, from time to time, when adherence to statutory publication requirements will not be possible by publishing with the Dixon Independent Voice such as when a notice must be published two times in a one-week period since the Independent Voice only publishes once a week.

Bogue made the motion to accept, Councilman Jim Ernest seconded, and the motion passed 5-0. Ernest then congratulated the publisher and Editor Debra Dingman who were in the audience.

"We appreciate winning the new contract for the next year. We have worked with the city to earn their trust over the past few years by providing the taxpayers of Dixon the service they deserve," Paul Scholl said.

"Actually, I never thought I would live to see the day," said former newspaper owner Dave Scholl who took over The Dixon Newspaper in August of 1995 from its founder Debra Minnema. After changing the name to the Independent Voice, he published the newspaper for 25 years. He now lives in Texas.

Messenger Publishing Group consists of ten local newspapers and twenty-two news sites surrounding the Sacramento region. Eight of their publications are weekly adjudicated newspapers. ★

# Smokin' Hot Fun at Grillin' & Chillin'

Continued from page 1

back" quite a bit and has given a lot more responsibility to others to ensure a succession plan for the event to continue into the future.

"I'm not in every box," he said. "I just oversee the boxes."

Hamilton reminds to tell your friends

that there are RV spots available, first come, first serve at the Dixon May Fairgrounds and the show is located in downtown Dixon right on Highway 113. Parking is also available at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce lot and in the lots surrounding downtown. For more information, go to [dixonribcookoff.com](http://dixonribcookoff.com). ★

# Maseda Resigns from DUSD School Board

Continued from page 1

that everyone should aspire to," Dolan told her.

Julie Mustard from the audience spoke for "at least 40 parents." Mustard has known Melissa for 20 years after meeting when they had babies.

"You are the kindest and most patient person I've ever known and the most positive person anyone could ever come across," she addressed Melissa.

"I've witnessed her commitment to her family, her faith, her community, to the schools and to this Board position. She has volunteered in every class and coordinated every event and coordinated huge enrichment programs. She has been highly praised by the School Board. She has led by example. All while facing a personal crisis in her own life. We wish you all the happiness you deserve," she added.

"I didn't have involved parents when I was growing up," Melissa responded. "I was that kid that sat there and saw the other kids' parents come in and help. I am a mother of four and I knew my kids were always going to be okay, but it was for the children who didn't have that parent," she said through tears.

She reminded all present that none of those things really matter because when she leaves Dixon, what will matter is how people will feel.

"I'm hearing a lot of complaints and they are valid and important, and all are part of making the system better, but my advice is to see and tell the good as well," she said. "There is so much bad around us but there is so much good in this town. There are hardworking teachers and parents... Thank the involved parents. They don't get enough recognition for all the things they do, and it's important for the District to recognize their hard work. You can have differences and disagreements and still be kind."

She ended by thanking everyone who has supported her and teared up again saying she was grateful for her husband who watched their children while she attended meetings and events.

Melissa's term would have expired in 2024 but for personal reasons, she returned to her home roots in Idaho. A replacement for the remainder of her term will be screened on July 13, 6 p.m. and will be chosen by the Board of Trustees at the July 20 meeting in the Council Chambers at 600 East A St. ★

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# Dixon's 2023 Summer Festivities



Fireworks lit up the sky on the 4th of July in possibly one of the best Independence Day celebrations Dixon has seen thanks to the collaboration of Dixon Rotary Club and Madeline Graf, City of Dixon Public Information Officer. Photos by Debra Dingman



Just before dusk, people poured into Hall Park in eager readiness for a fireworks display. Photo by Debra Dingman




The Sheriff and his posse wound up in a gunfight right there in the middle of the park on DDBA's Railroad Day. Photo by Nic Brown



People of all ages learned about model train sizes and seemed to enjoy watching them all chug by at both Pardi Plaza and DWIC Park. Photo by Nic Brown




Young men wanted to capture the locomotives via their cell phone cameras on that perfect-weather Saturday. Photo by Nic Brown



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This little guy wanted to see the trains from underneath so he watched as one rolled across a bridge at the DWIC Park. Photo by Carla Schafer

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Railroads and trains were also set up in Pardi Plaza for the all-day DDBA-sponsored affair of train enthusiasts and local residents. Photo by Nic Brown



A Live Music Orchestra featuring singer Frank Salamone who just retired at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Dixon entertained the public until the show began. Photo by Debra Dingman

# Annual Crime Report Shows Californians' Fear Of Increasing Crime Is Justified



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Political officeholders at all levels and of all ideological stripes habitually pursue a time-dishonored practice when releasing data.

If its positive, politicians try to maximize its importance with lavish news conferences and self-congratulatory declarations.

If, on the other hand, the data have a negative cast, they will be released quietly, often late on a Friday afternoon, to minimize media coverage.

California's annual report on crime was released this year on the Friday before what for many would be a four-day, Fourth of July holiday weekend. That's a tipoff that it would not be good news – and, in fact, it received minimal media attention.

The 2022 report revealed that the state's violent crime rate increased by 6.1% since 2021, and property crime was up 6.2%. Homicides dipped very slightly, but robberies jumped by 10.2%.

Attorney General Rob Bonta issued a low-key statement with the data release, saying, "While crime rates remain significantly below their historical highs, property and violent crimes continue to have devastating consequences for communities across the state, and gun violence remains a major

threat to public safety." One can be certain that had California seen a drop in crime in 2022, Bonta would have trumpeted it as loudly as possible.

Let's be clear: Neither Bonta nor any other attorney general can have more than a marginal effect on crime rates. Nevertheless, their campaigns often depict themselves as the state's top cop and imply that they do have such authority.

Why crime rates ebb and flow is the subject of never-ending academic and political debate – and is colored by equally erratic public concerns about being victimized.

At the moment, Californians' worries about crime appear to be on the upswing, as indicated by one of the Public Policy Institute of California's periodic polls, conducted just before last fall's election.

"Californians' perception of crime spiked during the pandemic – as did certain types of crime," PPIC found, adding, "nearly two in three Californians call violence and street crime in their local community a problem. This includes 31% who call them a big problem, a noticeable increase from February 2020 (24%)."

The poll found that among racial and ethnic groups, Black Californians expressed the highest level of concern about crime, women were more concerned than men, and Republicans more than Democrats or independent voters.

The data released on June 30 imply that those concerns are rooted in fact. Crime did increase sharply last year, particularly robberies, and it has not gone

unnoticed in the media.

The proliferation of cameras in stores and in the hands of cellphone owners has produced a never-ending supply of crime video snippets, such as smash-and-grab invasions of stores, for television newscasts, which then reverberate on YouTube and other online outlets.

Just a few days after the crime report release, for example, a San Francisco TV station aired video of criminals breaking into a Bay Area visitor's rental car in broad daylight, stealing the contents and driving away.

Bonta and the man who appointed him attorney general before he won reelection in November, Gov. Gavin Newsom, have pursued somewhat ambivalent postures about crime. They lament its effects on victims and take some public crime-fighting steps while championing criminal justice reform to reduce traditional punishment of those caught breaking the law.

A day before the crime data were released, Newsom dispatched more California Highway Patrol officers to battle open air drug dealing in San Francisco, a city he once governed as mayor.

In decades past, spikes in crime have had major impacts on California's political atmosphere – helping Republicans become dominant in the 1980s, for example.

Were crime to continue its currently upward path, it could once again become a game-changing political factor.

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



## Dave Ramsey Says

mortgage to pay for the work?

– Natalie

Dear Natalie,

For starters, I'd suggest cutting expenses any way you can, living on a strict budget and saving as much cash as possible. But taking out a second mortgage? No! You don't want that hanging over your heads.

You might want to get another opinion on the kitchen remodel, too. Sure, a new kitchen would be nice, but would it be a make-or-break kind of thing if you decide to sell your home? Probably not, unless it's in really terrible shape right now. Regardless, there's no way I'd go into debt to make this happen. I mean, your house isn't even on the market yet. There's no reason to fix up a house that's not for sale, especially

when you've got just \$4,000 to your names.

My advice is to wait and see how the whole job situation plays out before making any big decisions. Then if you end up selling the house and moving, you might take \$500 or so from savings to freshen up the kitchen a little bit.

–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. ★

### No Second Mortgage!

Dear Dave,

My husband was recently told layoffs are about to happen at his company, and that it might be a good idea for him to start looking for another job. He has found a couple of good possibilities, but the jobs are located 100 miles away. In preparation for a possible move, we spoke with a real estate agent who told us we'd have to remodel our kitchen to sell the house. We've got about \$4,000 in savings, but the agent said remodeling would take between \$2,500 and \$3,000. Should we get a second

## Poor Choices Behind The Wheel Result in Tragedies

### CHP News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The results of the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) recent Independence Day Maximum Enforcement Period (MEP) are a sobering reminder of the consequences resulting from unsafe driving behaviors.

Sixty-eight people were killed in crashes throughout the state during the Independence Day MEP, which began at 6:01 p.m. on Friday, June 30, and concluded at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, July 4. Tragically, nearly half of the total number of vehicle occupants who died within CHP jurisdiction were not wearing a seat belt.

With unsafe speed being the number one contributor to crashes in California, the CHP placed a special emphasis on its enforcement during the recent MEP. CHP officers issued more than 9,700 speed citations throughout the long Independence Day weekend.

Additionally, impaired drivers were removed from California's roadways at an alarming rate during the holiday enforcement effort. CHP officers made 1,224 arrests for driving under the influence, which is an average of one DUI arrest every five minutes.

"The results of this MEP are concerning and reinforce the need for responsible behavior behind the wheel," said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. "All of these deaths were preventable, and the loved ones they leave behind will be forever impacted. Traffic safety is everyone's responsibility, and these statistics show us how much work there is still to be done. The CHP is committed to making California's roadways safer for all who use them."

To help protect those who are traveling on California's roadways during the holidays, the CHP implements six MEPs per year. The next MEP is scheduled for Labor Day weekend. Throughout the holiday weekend, all available uniformed members of the Department will be on patrol to enhance public safety, deter unsafe driving behavior, and, when necessary, take appropriate enforcement action.

Keep yourself and others who are on the road safe by buckling up, driving at a speed safe for conditions, avoid distractions behind the wheel, and always designating a sober driver.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★

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# CAL FIRE Funding Provides New Opportunities for Wood Product Innovation

## CAL FIRE News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On June 20, 2023, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Wood Products and Bioenergy Team announced that it will offer \$16 million in new grants. These projects will fund expansion in workforce and businesses involved in creating healthy, resilient forests across the State as outlined in California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.

The 14 grant offers will go to an array of non-profits, small businesses and manufacturing facilities across California.

Two grants will subsidize transporting low-value forest biomass. Dinuba Energy in Tulare

County will restart operations at their bioenergy facility with new capacity to utilize sub-merchantable and cull logs from forest-fuel reduction activities. Lignum Support LLC will utilize subsidies to recover biomass from forest health and roadside hazard reduction projects that would otherwise be left in the woods.

Three workforce development grants will provide new job training opportunities and forestry outreach. Future Fire Academy in Placer County will train veterans and justice-involved persons for careers in forestry and fire-fighting. The CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts will fund 140 individuals from across the State to pursue over 300 forestry-related certificates

that will prepare them for higher quality work. Lastly, the California Forestry Association will partner with communications experts to market forestry and provide equitable forestry education opportunities.

A total of four grants will be offered to small forest operations and milling businesses. Cascade Custom Cutting in Shasta County will receive assistance in purchasing additional in-woods equipment. Forestree Collective in Sonoma County will expand their capacity to mill lumber as will Rath Industries and Tubit Enterprises in Shasta County.

In Tuolumne County, American Wood Fibers will receive assistance in purchasing new technology to process burned and diseased logs into

animal bedding products. Kodama Systems will fund development of new software and hardware for high-speed site connectivity and telemetry at remote forest thinning sites.

Mote, Inc. will be offered a grant to further research and develop a biomass gasification facility in El Dorado County that will produce hydrogen and sequester carbon dioxide from regional wood waste. Similarly, Arbor Energy and Resources Corp will be offered a grant to support engineering design for novel gasification technology in Placer County.

Since January 2022, the Wood Products and Bioenergy Team has awarded \$67 million to business and workforce projects that align with the State's climate

mitigation and economic development goals.

"CAL FIRE's Business and Workforce Development Grants Program offers the most project support of any grant program we researched," said Eric Martin of the Northstar Community Services District. "The funding is invaluable in stimulating development of projects that support the State's ambitious goal of treating one million forest acres annually".

CAL FIRE's Business and Workforce Development grant awards are funded with State of California General Funds. The solicitation remains open to new grant applications. Please visit CAL FIRE's Wood Products and Bioenergy webpage for details. ★

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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Nebraska city on Missouri River
  - Not her
  - Earnhardt of racing fame
  - Sea near Australia
  - Slippery when cold
  - Printer cartridge contents
  - Title of this puzzle, sing.
  - Congressional title, abbr.
  - Title holder
  - \*Run around in these and not make progress
  - \*Cut these to skip steps
  - He had
  - Nicholas II, e.g.
  - Jack-in-the-Box restraint
  - Subway in U.K.
  - What washing machine does
  - Egyptian goddess of love
  - Crescent point
  - Hot rod sticker, e.g.
  - Org. in Brussels
  - Impede
  - Parks or Luxemburg
  - \_\_\_\_\_'s, once Canada's famous department store
  - \*One of these in beans lacks importance
  - Barrel-counting org.
  - Nova \_\_\_\_\_, Canada
  - Mess up
  - Bugling ungulate
  - Modeling material
  - Robinson in "The Graduate"
  - \*Resting on these stops one from trying
  - \*No use crying over this milk
  - Money in the bank, e.g.
  - Certain frat house letters
  - Little deer
  - Like a disreputable neighborhood
  - College assessment test, acr.
  - Fairy-tale oil lamp dweller
  - Hawaiian tuber
  - \*"Oui" in English
  - The Three Musketeers' swords
- DOWN**
- Ear-related
  - Skirt length
  - Gulf V.I.P.
  - Moonshine
  - Cloth armband
  - Kaa's warning
  - \*Break it to start a conversation
  - Synchronizes, for short
  - Pillow filler
  - \*"Green Gables" character
  - Suggestive look
  - Blunders
  - Full of tribulations
  - Derive
  - Dinghy propeller
  - Bear witness
  - \*Read between these for real meaning
  - Writer Asimov
  - Likewise
  - \*Don't beat around it
  - Claudius' successor
  - Breadth
  - Oil holder
  - \*Cut one some of this and don't be critical
  - Dirt on Santa's suit?
  - Gallup's inquiry
  - Like Raphael's cherubs
  - Polite social behavior
  - How many of the President's men?
  - \*Cross it when you get to it
  - Investigative report
  - Count sheep
  - Bringing up the rear, adj.
  - Between ports
  - Consumer
  - Overhaul
  - Tennis scoring term, pl.
  - Pool path
  - Great Lake
  - Henna and such
  - \*One up your sleeve gives advantage

**CROSSWORD**

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# Thompson Urges Veterans and Their Families to Apply for PACT Act Benefits

Office of Rep. Mike Thompson

**ST. HELENA, CA (MPG)** - On July 10, 2023, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04) released the following statement urging veterans who are eligible to apply for PACT Act benefits before August 9 to receive retroactive benefits.

“Our veterans answered the call to serve our country and earned VA benefits for themselves and their families,” said Thompson. “Last Congress, I proudly voted for the PACT Act to help us live up to the promise we made our vets. The PACT Act is a historic expansion of benefits for our veterans and I encourage all eligible veterans and their families in our district to apply for PACT Act benefits before August 9 and receive backdated care through August 10, 2022.”

Visit the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to learn about the PACT Act and to file a benefits claim.

The PACT Act is one of the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history. The full name of the law is The Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT)

Act. The PACT Act:

Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras; Adds 20+ more presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures; Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation; Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care; Helps improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures.

If you're a Veteran or survivor, you can file claims now to apply for PACT Act-related benefits.

Congressman Mike Thompson is proud to represent California's 4th Congressional District, which includes all or part of Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo Counties. He is a senior member of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Rep. Thompson is Chairman of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. He is also Co-Chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Wine Caucus and a member of the fiscally-conservative Blue Dog Coalition. ★

# Solano Transportation Authority and Superior Court Launch Equitable Access to Justice Pilot

Solano Transportation Authority News Release

**SUISUN CITY, CA (MPG)** - The Solano Transportation Authority (STA) is partnering with the Solano County Superior Court for the Equitable Access to Justice Pilot Program to improve mobility to the Court by providing jurors and prospective jurors who do not have access to transportation or cannot afford transportation with fully-funded transportation subsidies within Solano County. The Pilot Program also provides additional funding to support participants in specialty or collaborative courts with transportation to the court and to treatment. The Pilot Program launched on July 1, 2023.

“The Solano Transportation Authority looks forward to partnering with Judge Getty and the Solano Superior Courts on this innovative effort to make it easier for lower income Solano residents to meet their court obligations,” said STA Chair and City of Benicia Mayor Steve Young.

An estimated 20 percent of prospective jurors are excused from jury service based upon a lack of access to transportation or the inability to afford transportation. The Equitable Access to Justice Pilot Program will issue fully funded vouchers. Some restrictions apply. For more information, please call the Solano Mobility Call Center at 800-535-6883 or visit [www.solanomobility.org/program/guaranteed-ride/](http://www.solanomobility.org/program/guaranteed-ride/).

“The Equitable Access to Justice Pilot Program is the first of its kind in California. Our goal is to remove barriers for citizens in our community to participate in jury service based on lack of access to transportation,” added Presiding Judge for the Solano County Superior Court Wendy G. Getty. “We will be successful when we have zero jurors excused because they cannot afford a car, gas or to take the bus or multiple buses to timely reach court. Our specialty court participants will have a greater opportunity at success by removing transportation barriers. I am grateful to the Solano Transportation Authority and the Solano County Board of Supervisors for their willingness to pursue an innovative transportation program to promote equity in justice. A special thanks to Metropolitan Transportation Commissioner, Jim Spering who helped to shepherd the program.”

In addition to the voucher system, the Solano Transportation Authority will be assisting the court to increase mobility to court for all users, including linking the Solano Transportation Authority's mobility website to the court's website and creating pamphlets that identify routing to the court's Fairfield and Vallejo sites. Court participants who are unfamiliar with accessing public transportation to attend court can request mobility assistance from the Solano Transportation Authority's Solano Mobility Call Center. ★

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000979  
 The following persons are doing business as: Fast Eddie's Diesel Engine Performance & Repair, 439 North Jackson Street Unit 3, Dixon, CA 95620.  
 Fast Eddie's Diesel Engine Performance & Repair, 1645 Fanning Court, Dixon, CA 95620.  
 Date filed in Solano County: June 20, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: May 2, 2018.  
 This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.  
 NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 19, 2028. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)  
 Publish: July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2023  
**EDDIES 7-28-23**

**MPG**

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DIXON CONFIRMING THE ASSESSMENT FOR DELINQUENT WASTEWATER COLLECTION ACCOUNTS AND DIRECTING ASSESSMENTS TO BE PLACED ON THE NEXT PROPERTY TAX BILL

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** the City of Dixon (“City”) City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on July 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620 to discuss placing past due City of Dixon accounts on property tax bills. California Health and Safety Code Section 5473 give the City the authority to collect past due wastewater collection accounts by placing an assessment/lien in the amount of the past due balance on the annual property tax rolls. This process makes the past due amount subject to the County's property tax collection methods and late property tax fees.

The resolution to be considered will authorize the Finance Director, or her designee, to request that the Solano County Auditor enter each assessment on the tax roll against the respective property and to collect the assessment at the same time and in the same manner as ordinary municipal and county ad valorem taxes and to further subject the property to the same penalties and the same procedure of sale in case of delinquency as provided for such taxes. Upon receipt of said funds from Solano County, funds will be applied against the delinquent balances.

Notices regarding this process were mailed to all delinquent accounts prior to this hearing.

**ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:** are invited to attend the July 18, 2023 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence of why you feel the billing is in error or why you feel you should be exempted from the lien process. At the above noted time and place, testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking action or making any recommendation on the resolution. Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the special meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

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

Copies of the proposed resolution will be available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. If you have any questions, please call the City Clerk at (707) 678-7000, or stop by the office at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620.

Dixon Independent Voice 7-7, 7-14-2023

# Scout Flag Disposal Ceremony



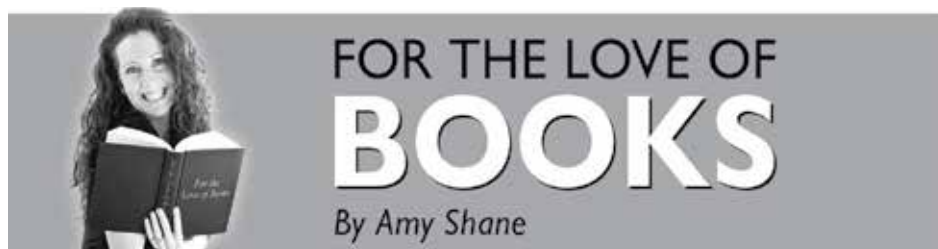
On Flag Day, the local Boy Scout Troop 152 helped with the retirement of American flags using their flag ceremony which involves burning the old or damaged flags. Wayne Holland of the American Legion Post 208 and Scoutmaster Robert Strong along with VFW member Robert Bell had the ceremony behind the Dixon Fire Station. Boy Scouts present were Jack Latham, Matt Latham, Corbin Winchester, Curtis Winchester, Xavier Decker and Noah Kincaid. Photo courtesy of Boy Scouts

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## Summer Adventures and Magic Collide



**Secret of The Moon Conch**  
by David Bowles,  
Guadalupe Garcia McCall;  
Bloomsbury

With nowhere else to turn, Sitlali has decided to make the dangerous trip across the US border in search of her father, but the night before she leaves, she discovers a beautiful conch shell.

Beautiful and luminescent, Sitlali knows the conch was special and old and her way out of Mexico; what she didn't expect what how true that thought was.

Calizto has been fighting to save his city from Spanish imperialists. As an Aztec warrior in 1521, he understands the sacrifice and horror of war. He asks the moon conch for guidance, not knowing what powerful plan it has in store. Now, connected by the magic of the moon conch, Sitlali, and Calizto have found each other, but finding a way to stay with each other through centuries of time will take magic even stronger than love.

Described as a sweeping romance fantasy, *Secret of the Moon Conch* takes readers on a love story that

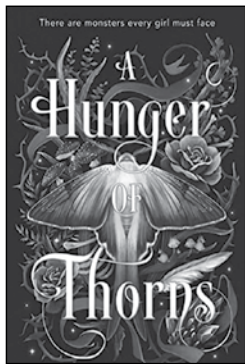


**Something Close to Magic**  
by Emma Mills, Atheneum

Aurlie doesn't dare to dream of magic and adventure. Instead, she focuses her time and energy as an apprentice at Basil's Bakery. Then one day, a strange traveler appears and gives her a set of seeking stones, an ancient and rare type of magic, and one that Aurlie possesses.

So, when the bounty hunter asks Aurlie for help, she jumps at the chance for an adventure. Yet Aurlie's life quickly becomes upended when the bounty hunter turns out to be a prince on a magical quest. As her feelings grow, so does the danger, and Aurlie must decide between life at the predictable bakery or following her heart, no matter how dangerous that might be.

A story of high-stakes adventure and love, *Something Close to Magic* is a fun, fast read that will have



**A Hunger of Thorns**  
Lili Wilkinson; Delacorte

Maude and Odette used to spend their childhood swinging from the weeping willow tree, telling stories of princesses and dragons and how they would rescue each other from towers if they were captured. But children grow up, and friendships drift apart.

But when Odette goes missing in search of dark magic, everyone thinks she is dead except Maude. Maude knows exactly where to look. Now, Maude finally has the chance to be the hero of her own story and save Odette as she always did in her stories, even if there is a monster that needs to be slayed.

Beautiful and emotional, this lyrical story will wind around its readers, lulling them back to a time when fairytales were told, and dragons were slain. A story that exemplifies the power of love and friendship while also highlighting the fierce strength and power of girls. ★



## Riley Reviews

“NO HARD FEELINGS” A COMEDY TEASER; “BILLIONS” ENDS ON TV

**A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley**

“NO HARD FEELINGS” RATED R  
Craigslist is a familiar website as a marketplace with classified advertisements where one can find jobs, services, housing, things to buy and sell, discussion forums, and you name it.

This online trading post is now the place to find an idea for a movie. Writer-director Gene Stupnitsky, the creative force behind “No Hard Feelings,” told Jennifer Lawrence that two producers for the film found a real-life Craigslist post that fit the bill.

The popular marketplace had an ad posted by parents that sought a young woman to seduce their timid, inexperienced son, and transform him from a high school nerd to a cool college kid with confidence.

That's the basic premise of “No Hard Feelings,” with Jennifer Lawrence's Maddie, a resident of tony Montauk's summer resort town, thinking she's found the answer to her financial troubles when she hears about an intriguing job listing.

Wealthy helicopter parents Laird (Matthew Broderick) and Allison Becker (Laura Benanti) are looking for someone to “date” their introverted 19-year-old son Percy (Andrew Barth Feldman), and bring him out of his shell before he leaves for Princeton.

A 32-year-old bartender/Uber driver, Maddie inherited a comfortable home from her mother in the seaside village of Montauk, but she owes property taxes and her car gets repossessed, thereby losing the ability to make money by driving tourists to pay off her debts.

Learning of the ad placed by the Beckers from her friend Sarah (Natalie Morales), Maddie is desperate enough to convince Percy's parents that she's up to the task, though having to disabuse the notion she's a sex worker.

The inducement for Maddie to undertake an assignment of robbing a college-bound nerd of his virginity is that payment will be a used Buick with low mileage that enables her to cash in on Uber lifts during the busy summer season.

Setting the stage for an introduction, Maddie feigns interest in adopting a rescue dog since this allows her to meet Percy at his volunteer job at the animal shelter.

Having borrowed a van from Sarah's surfer husband Jim (Scott MacArthur), Maddie insists on giving Percy a ride home, which gets the relationship off to a bad start when he becomes scared that she's actually trying to kidnap him.

After getting a face full of Mace from a terrified Percy, the putative kidnapping misunderstanding gets cleared up and they end up on a date, and eventually they go skinny-dipping one evening at the beach, where a naked Maddie fights off kids trying to steal their clothes. ★

“No Hard Feelings” suffers somewhat from its erratic shifts between a serenely raunchy sex comedy and the safer confines of sentimentality where the two main characters form an eventual yet improbable friendship.

An R-rated comedy, “No Hard Feelings” milks a simple premise to allow Jennifer Lawrence's goofy temptress to shine with comedic appeal, even if the humor is sometimes uneven. It might be best to wait until this movie is on a streaming service.

“BILLIONS”  
FINAL SEASON ON SHOWTIME

“Billions” returns for its seventh and final season on Showtime next month, and the best news is that Damian Lewis' hedge-fund king Bobby Axelrod is back and we can only guess that his longtime rival Mike Prince (Corey Stoll) is in for a fight.

In season six, the dust of season five cleared to reveal a world that had evolved. With Axe gone and Prince assuming his place as the new head of Axe Capital, US Attorney Chuck Rhoades (Paul Giamatti) had to develop a new strategy more sophisticated than before.

All the players, from Wags (David Costabile) to Wendy (Maggie Siff), from Taylor (Asia Kate Dillon) to Kate Sacker (Condola Rashad), and of course Chuck Rhoades, Sr. (Jeffrey DeMunn), had to sharpen their weapons and look for new alliances in order to survive.

Daniel Breaker, who stars as Scooter, the brilliant and locked-down Chief of Staff for Prince, was upped to a series regular. As always in the corrupt world of “Billions,” the ground was ever shifting and the stakes absolute with new conflict and new rules.

Season seven is described as one where “alliances are turned on their heads. Old wounds are weaponized. Loyalties are tested. Betrayal takes on epic proportions. Enemies become wary friends. And Bobby Axelrod returns, as the stakes grow from Wall Street to the world.”

As anyone who has followed “Billions” even casually would know, what's old is new again. Last season, Prince was in the crosshairs of the US Attorney. With Bobby Axelrod returning, he's probably a target not just for Chuck Rhoades.

Actions have consequences, and never more dire and momentous than just about any episode of this series. Guys like Prince, Rhoades and Axelrod, among others, are always going to be at each other's throats. But that's the tried-and-true formula.

“Billions” likely continues on with cat-and-mouse games between the government officials and Wall Street hustlers. Mike Prince's political ambitions in an expected presidential run could result in an even more epic minefield of intrigue. ★

## 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.



### Friday, July 7

0710 - Vehicle Burglary report 1600 block Austin Drive.  
1210 - Collision report 1400 block Ary Lane.  
1608 - Suspicious Person reported in the 7800 block of Batavia Road. Darius Patton (19) of Texas was arrested for providing false ID to officers. He was booked into the Solano County Jail.

### Thursday, July 6

1400 - Found Property at Dixon PD.  
1420 - Collision report 1500 block Pembroke Way.

### Wednesday, July 5

0803 - Hours - Burglary report was taken in the 300 block of Barn Owl Ln. Unknown suspect(s) forced entry into a Conex box and stole copper pieces and several tools.  
1537 - Hours - Ignition Interlock Device and probation violation arrest report was taken in the 1300 block Commercial Wy. Officer made an enforcement stop and contacted (S) Aldo Moreno (40) of Dixon. A records check revealed Moreno was on probation and he was required to only drive a vehicle with an ignition interlock device. Moreno was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department where he was cited and released.  
1616 - Hours - Vandalism report was taken in the 600 block of West D St. South. 1705 Hours - Informational report was taken at the Dixon Police Department.  
1856 - Restraining order violation in the 200 block of East C St.

### Tuesday, July 4

1522 - Hours - Information report in the 900 block of Justin Way.  
1600 - Hours - Hit and Run investigation in the 300 block of North First St.  
2051 - Firework citation issued in the 1300 block of Preston Place.  
2101 - Firework citation issued in the 900 block of Woodvale Drive.  
2106 - Firework citation issued near Dixon City Hall.  
2109 - Firework citation issued in the 700 block of Cahill Court.  
2114 - Firework citation issued in the 600 block of North Almond Street.  
2117 - Firework citation issued in the 500 block of West C Street.  
2118 - Firework citation issued in the 1500 block of Austin Drive.  
2141 - Firework citation issued in the 400 block Rennet Way.  
2157 - Firework citation issued in the 200 block of South 2nd Street.  
2201 - Firework citation issued in the 200 block of West Cherry Street.  
2210 - Firework citation issued in the 1500 block of Valley Glen Drive.  
2221 - Firework citation issued in the 500 block of East C Street.  
2224 - Firework citation issued in the 500 block of Park Drive.  
2225 - Firework citation issued in the 1800 block of Dorris Court.  
2232 - Firework citation issued in the 400 block of North Almond Street.  
2240 - Vandalism report taken in the 300 block of Coleman Drive.  
2301 - Traffic collision in the 400 block of North Washington Street resulted in a fight involving a group of bystanders and the occupants of the at fault vehicle.  
2338 - Verbal dispute in the 2500 block of Duncan Street. Neither party desired prosecution.

### Monday, July 3

0645 - Hours - Stolen plate report in the 1100 block of St. Olaf Ct. 1019 Hours - Theft from a trailer report in the area of Valley Croft Wy and Buckeye St  
1228 - Hours - Found Ammo booked for destruction.  
1258 - Hours - Warrant arrest in the area of Newgate Wy and Stratford Av. Joshua Neal (36) of Dixon was cited for a misdemeanor warrant.  
1500 - Hours - Vehicle towed for expired registration.  
1843 - Info report taken in the 1300 block of North Lincoln Street. 2106 Child custody order violation in the 600 block of North Almond Street. 2200 Confidential report taken at Northwest Park.  
0630 - Hours - Burglary to a business in the 900 block of North Adams Street.

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# COMICS & PUZZLES

**The Spats**



by Jeff Pickering



**Amber Waves**

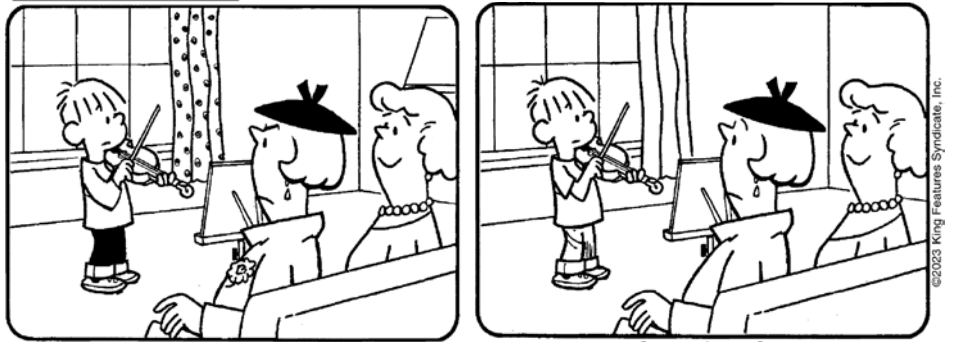


by Dave T. Phipps



**HOCUS-FOCUS**

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Sleeve is shorter. 2. Pants are different. 3. Drapes is different. 4. Flower is missing. 5. Lamp is missing. 6. Neckline is lower.

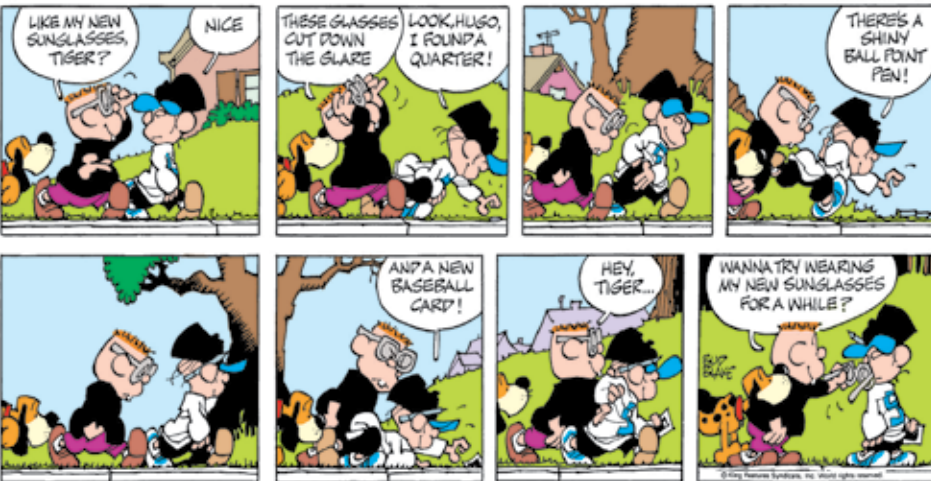
**Out on a Limb**

by Gary Kopervas



**TIGER**

by BUD BLAKE



**GRIN and BEAR IT**



**Just Like Cats & Dogs**

by Dave T. Phipps



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# Improved Passage Lets Threatened Sturgeon, Salmon and Other Species Return to Spawn



This is the second year the Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage has operated. Due to drought conditions, the facility was last operated in the winter of 2019. Photo courtesy of DWR.

## DWR News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Dozens of adult sturgeon and hundreds of other large fish including threatened Chinook salmon have moved safely from receding floodwaters within the Yolo Bypass back to the Sacramento River thanks to the coordinated operation of the Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage among the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), NOAA Fisheries and Yolo County.

Over one 48-hour period when the Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage was opened on April 28 and 29, the facility's fish-counting sonar counted 55 sturgeon passing through the facility to the Sacramento River to migrate upstream and spawn. Sturgeon are large fish that often measure 6 to 7 feet long and certain species can live over a century. They must reach the river to spawn, which they do only every few years.

In another 24-hour window between May 3 and 4, seven more sturgeon passed through the facility. Hundreds of other large fish and Pacific lamprey were also counted moving back to the Sacramento River during the two operational windows in April and May.

Before the passage was modified and greatly expanded in 2018, biologists rescued trapped sturgeon and other fish species in the Yolo Bypass by hand. Stress from handling could cause the fish to stop their upstream migration and not spawn. Finding ways for fish to swim through on their own – as they can do now – is highly preferable for the fish and for the safety of biologists working in the flooded conditions.

### Protected Sturgeon Benefited

Given the time of year, scientists believe many of those sturgeon passing through the Fremont Weir were federally threatened green sturgeon in addition to white sturgeon. The sonar images don't provide enough clarity to distinguish one species of sturgeon from the other. The southern population of green sturgeon in California is believed to number only around 1,000 fish.

"Green sturgeon are a threatened species that are so long-lived and with such a small population that every fish is crucial in supporting their recovery, especially when they are of spawning age," said Garwin Yip, Branch Chief for Water Operations in NOAA Fisheries' West Coast Region.

White sturgeon in the Sacramento-San Joaquin system represent the southernmost spawning population of the species and support a popular recreational fishery.

"This is a huge success for these iconic fish species and for our agencies working together to support these species," said Colin

Purdy, Environmental Program Manager for CDFW's North Central Region. "Those 62 total sturgeon could very well represent the majority of California's spawning population for the season, so to get these fish to their spawning grounds is critical for recruitment and recovery."

California's sturgeon populations are particularly vulnerable after consecutive years of drought and due to an algal bloom that occurred in San Francisco Bay last summer that killed many sturgeon.

### Passage Allows Sturgeon Spawning

Sturgeon are slow to mature. They spawn just once every two to four years. Like salmon and steelhead, they are anadromous, meaning they migrate up freshwater rivers to spawn. Sturgeon and other fish species enter the Yolo Bypass floodplain from the Sacramento River in high water years and can become stranded when the waters recede.

"Seeing so many fish utilize the Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage in such a short period of time shows the success that can happen when state, federal and local entities work in partnership to develop a plan to provide immediate relief to threatened and endangered fish species," said Josh Martinez, DWR's Restoration Ecology Unit Manager. "We're especially grateful to Yolo County, which quickly communicated with surrounding communities that the adult fish passage would operate outside its normal winter season. This is a win for fish and the communities that depend on them."

Oscar E. Villegas, Chair of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors, said, "We appreciate our state and federal partners' early engagement on this effort and look forward to future collaboration in protecting and enhancing our mosaic landscape of agriculture and wetlands."

Since 1965, a small fish ladder was in place in the northern end of the Yolo Bypass within Yolo County. That passage through the Fremont Weir back to the Sacramento River proved far too small and difficult for large fish to navigate. White sturgeon can exceed 12 feet in length.

In 2018, DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation modified, modernized and greatly expanded the fish passage structure to accommodate sturgeon, adult salmon, large striped bass and other adult fish species. The upgraded structure includes a fish-counting sonar station, a large stream channel leading to and from the Sacramento River and a control gate that can be opened and closed remotely as needed to accommodate fish passage and water flows.

This is the second year the Fremont Weir Adult Fish Passage has operated. Due to drought conditions, the facility was last operated in the winter of 2019. ★

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