



Two Bodies, One Heart: Horse Therapy

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Dixon Independent Voice

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JUNE 30, 2023

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OAKLEY DEXTER TURNS 100



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Fireworks Sales Spark Nonprofits



Lions Club members were kept busy in the Grocery Outlet parking lot last year with their fireworks stand. Clubs like this can make thousands of dollars boosting a club's services in the community.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Fireworks sales have begun this week around town that will ultimately spark more service in Dixon thanks to the several local non-profit groups making money for their various causes. Safe and Sane Fireworks stands were opened this past Wednesday and will sell from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. through 4th of July. Most groups utilize between 20 to 40 volunteers.

Living Hope Church is located at Punjabi Dhaba, 7800 Batavia Road and shares a lot of customer draw is with the Dixon Quarterback Club that is nearby at the Dixon Fruit Market, 7808 Batavia Road.

The Napa Solano Veteran Riders are in their standard spot in the Safeway Shopping Plaza as they are every year due to a long-standing agreement prior to Dixon implementing the lottery system.

Valley of the Sacred Heart, the Catholic school, is located in the Walmart Shopping center, 235 East Dorset Drive.

Dixon Soroptimist was first in line as a backup if any group pulled out,

so they are taking the place of the American Legion Auxiliary and welcome sales outside the CVS Pharmacy at 1057 North First St.

Lastly, the Dixon Action Team, the group responsible for the Grillin' & Chillin' Rib Cook-Off and Car Show, is located in the Grocery Outlet parking lot, 2400 North First St.

At the end of the sales period and no later than November 1 of any year during which a nonprofit organization received a Fireworks Sales Permit, the nonprofit organization shall submit to the City Clerk a copy of the most recent report filed by the non-profit organization with the State Board of Equalization. The filing of this statement shall be a condition precedent to the granting of any subsequent Fireworks Sales Permits.

The Fire Department gave a strong reminder that it would not send out reminders of any kind of this requirement if the documentation has not been received and emphasized it is the responsibility of the non-profit organization. To keep your organization in good standing for the future, nonprofits need to follow the requirements of the ordinance, according to the Dixon

Fire Department website.

There are three important things the Dixon Fire Department and the Office of the State Fire Marshal wants you to know:

Look for the seal of the California State Fire Marshal and the words, "Safe... Sane," on each piece of firework, as well as on the packaging. This means that they have been listed as safe for use (in accordance with all manufacturer's instructions) in the State of California where local laws permit their sale and use;

Fireworks that explode, shoot through the air, move along the ground, including skyrockets, bottle rockets, firecrackers of all types, Roman candles, etc., have always been illegal in California. Penalties for those caught storing, selling, or using these types of fireworks can include a fine of \$1,000 and/or one year in jail;

Many illegal fireworks have words such as "D.O.T. approved," etc. Don't be misled by these phrases; they do NOT make such fireworks legal in California. If the seal of the State Fire Marshal and the words, "Safe... Sane," do not appear on fireworks, they should not be used. ★

CAL FIRE Encourages Safety this Fourth of July Holiday

CAL FIRE News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - With the Fourth of July holiday around the corner, state fire officials are stressing the dangers and consequences of using illegal fireworks. This Fourth of July, remember to celebrate responsibly. Protect your community by preventing fires and injuries caused by fireworks. Before you think about buying fireworks for your celebration, make sure they are permitted where you live. Fireworks purchased out-of-state are illegal in California without a license. Why not let the experts handle the fireworks show? You can easily grab a blanket, head to local fireworks show, and find the perfect patch of lawn to kick back and enjoy.

"With fireworks causing over \$25 million dollars in property loss in 2022, preventing fires and injuries caused by fireworks begins with you" said Chief Daniel Berlant, Acting California State Fire Marshal. "Don't be the reason your Fourth of July holiday goes up in smoke".

If Safe and Sane fireworks are legal in your area and you choose to use them, it's important that you follow these safety tips:

Never use illegal fireworks; Make sure the firework has the State Fire Marshal "Safe and Sane" seal on it; Make sure the "Safe and Sane" firework is purchased from a licensed fireworks booth; Never allow young children to use or handle fireworks; Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol; Never hold a lit firework in your hands; Never light fireworks indoors; Only use them away from people, houses, and flammable materials; Never point or throw fireworks at another person or animal; Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks; Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for an extended time before discarding; Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire.

To learn more about fireworks safety, visit www.ReadyForWildfire.org/more/fireworks-safety/ ★



Ward Nominated for Civil Grand Jury

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon's City Treasurer Jim Ward has been selected as a nominee for the July 1 to June 30, 2024 term to the Solano County Solano Grand Jury. The primary function of the Civil Grand Jury is to be a watchdog over local government and to investigate citizen complaints about public agencies and officials. Dixon has not had a representative in more than 15 years.

He is one of 21 applicants where only 10 will be chosen due to "carry overs." There will be a total of 19 jurors. He will be attending the selection on June 29 in Fairfield.

The Solano County Civil Grand Jury examines all aspects of county and city government and special districts to ensure

that the best interest of the citizens is being served. They review and evaluate procedures, methods, and systems used by government for efficiency and economy.

"With my past experiences with research and report writing, I felt I could be an asset to the panel," said Ward. It has been almost a decade since a representative from Dixon participated in the Solano County Civil Grand Jury. Other Dixonites who served are Bill Evanikoff in 2000/2001, Roberta Beers and Bert Gaulke in 2002/2003, and JoAnne Johnson in 2004/2005.

Ourania Riddle served two years, 1998/1999 and 1999/2000. Wanda Kiger served 2002-2003.

"The second year, I tracked my time. They meet once a week, but you

have to serve on different committees and sometimes you meet two or three times a week or meet wherever you investigate," Riddle said. "I put in 50 to 60 hours a week...but we were a very good grand jury and it's not always that way."

The jurors are trained and ultimately Riddle became one of the trainers. During that time, she also was the Editor of the State Grand Juror's Journal and has been an outspoke person at Dixon City Hall for many years especially in regard to the Brown Act.

According to the Superior Court of California County of Solano website, there is minimal compensation for meetings, reimbursement for gas and mileage, and jury-related expenses, she said, but people usually

have a 'heart for the work.'

"I felt as a citizen, it's part of my civic duty," said Ward. "My service in the Army, CHP, American Legion, Kiwanis Club, Elected City Treasurer, and now a solano County Civil Grand Jury member helps me feel I'm doing my service to country."

Each year, their reports are compiled into the annual final Report which is distributed to public officials, libraries, and the general public through news media.

Public agencies that are named in the Civil Grand Jury report are required to respond in writing.

For more information, call (707) 435-2575 or contact the Civil Grand Jury Office, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 600 Union Avenue in Fairfield. ★



Dixon News Briefs

The Weekend Full of Trains

By Debra Dingman

When Downtown Dixon Business Association President Jill Orr set the date for our debut of Railroad Day on June 24, I knew I wouldn't make it. That was the weekend of our first family reunion with just my children and grandchildren—14 in all—that had been planned for months at the Railroad Park Resort in Dunsmuir, Calif.

Hubby and I even had made a special trip the first part of December to check it out and make sure it would be a good fit for our plans, and it was, despite that it was covered in snow at that time. Then we gave each family the reservations for Christmas gifts. They seemed excited and so then we waited for school to let out, for vacation time to be reserved and for the weather to turn nice.

In the meantime, the DDBA Board members and volunteers moved ahead with plans for Railroad Day and I did what I could to help.

In addition to Railroad Day, a craft and gift fair was planned for the Dixon fairgrounds on June 24 by the Solano Home & Garden Show people. Finally, one last celebration appeared: Dixon's World War II Veteran's birthday party in downtown honoring Oakley Dexter.

As we were heading out of town for Dunsmuir, I said a little prayer for safe travels, a great family time, and for the things I was leaving back home to be successful.

My weekend with my family could not have been more perfect, including the morning and night cold weather creating a perfect mountain experience topped with S'mores around the fire pits. There was warm and sunny

weather during the day, so everyone took a morning hike to waterfalls, and after a picnic lunch back at the box cars and cabooses, the children took to exploring bugs, rocks, and lily pads in the small stream running in the middle of the picnic tables. When it started to get "summer," we took a movie break indoors while the parents went into town to discover Dunsmuir.

Later there was swimming or sitting in the spa. The children and I enjoyed the playground, and I got great pictures of all of them on the train climbing structure. The children and I went on a kiddie train around the resort and learned the history of how it came to be. Then we all got to eat together in a railcar for a delicious dinner and afterwards, toasted ourselves with champagne while roasting more marshmallows and playing games with the children.

I got to adore little people and hug big people and laugh at the silliness the games (and wine) provided.

Sunday, on the way home, Jill sent me videos of the Train Day showing the huge displays of the model trains and all the people in downtown Dixon enjoying the detailed landscapes plus the perfectly imitated train sounds of engines, rail crossings, and horns.

Nicolas Brown got great pictures of our veteran's birthday celebrations and a friend sent me pictures of downtown fun (which I hope to publish in the next edition.) And yet another friend told me about the 'Gifts B Cause' at the fairgrounds.

Should I be surprised that I got prayers answered? I got to experience Dixon's AND Dunsmuir trains in the best ways possible! ★



Taking the stage at Pardi Plaza on Thursday, July 6, Dixon's own "More on the Floor" plays Classic Rock and Country Rock Music. Band members Eric Christiansen and Mark Youngs formed the original incarnation of the band in 1978 as "Four on the Floor" based in Davis. The current lineup includes well known musicians Richard Urbino on Bass Guitar and Kris Ayala on Drums. Pictured L-R: Ayala, Youngs, Christiansen, and Urbino. Photo courtesy of Dixon Chamber of Commerce

MPG Staff

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 6, it is More on the Floor; July 20 is Kindred Spirits; August 3 is Hey Jude; August 17 is Sazil; September 7 is Strange Brew; September 21 is Amo Jazz Orchestra; October 5 is Helios; and October 19 is Geoffrey Miller Band. There are tables but bring a blanket if you prefer to sit on the softer grass.

Council Cancelled

The next City Council Meeting is cancelled. It would have been on the 4th of July. The next meeting will be on the regular schedule for the 3rd Tuesday of the month which will be July 18. It starts at 7 p.m. and the agenda for that one should be available on the cityofixon.us website usually Thursday before the meeting. The Ad Hoc Water Rate Committee met June 22 and a report should be available soon.

More Swim Lessons

The next two sessions for swim lessons at the Pat Granucci Aquatic Center are July 3 through 13 (no class on holiday) and July 17 through 27. The classes are for ages 3-17 and are grouped by age and ability. They happen Monday through Thursday and there are eight 30-minute lessons. Call (707) 678-7000 for more information.

Half a Hog

The American Legion Post is raffling off '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.

Pool Rental

Looking for a refreshing way to beat the heat this summer? Rent out the Pat Granucci Aquatic Center for your next event! Our pool is available for private rentals for birthdays, family reunions, company picnics, and more. Contact us today to book your pool rental and make a splash with your guests! Email kschnitter@cityofdixon.us or call (707) 343-8162.

Mom Prom!

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.

Library Yoga

Busy Bee Yoga will be offering two yoga dates for tweens and teens, age 10 to 18. They will be on Wednesdays, July 19 and 26 at 4 p.m. at the Dixon Public Library. Visit solanolibrary.com or phone 1-866-572-7587. The other event is Teen Open Mic Poetry and Song Night that will be on Thursday, July 13 from 3 to 5 p.m. Show off your bold and creative side with poetry, rapping, and singing. Signups are at the event and acts are limited to five minutes. The Dixon Public Library is located at 230 North First St. in downtown Dixon.

Veterans Dinner

This week's dinner at the Veterans Memorial Hall at 1305 North First St. will be something new: Lasagna, with French bread and Caesar salad. It will start at 6 p.m. and you don't have to be a veteran and you don't have to dress up. Cost is still only \$10. The no-host bar will be open.

Grillin' & Chillin'

Northern California's one and only car show and rib cook off for the past 14 years, Dixon's Grillin' & Chillin' happens again in downtown Dixon on Saturday, July 15, all day. For information, go to dixonrib-cookoff.com. ★

Planners Hear 5-Year Plan



Janet Koster receives a plaque from Planning Commissioner Chair Jack Caldwell at the last meeting of her term. The arborist, who has provided much advice on plants and trees over the years, was honored for her contributions on the commission for the past eight years.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City Planning Commission heard only one item this past week and that was the City of Dixon 5-Year Capital Improvement Project Plan given by City of Dixon Junior Engineer Jordan Santos. The City Council will adopt it on July 18. By that time, all commissions, including transportation, will have heard the presentation. After the Council adopts it, the City will develop, execute, and construct the projects.

City Treasurer Jim Ward said that there were 108 projects totaling \$133 million, which equals \$26 million per year and expressed concern about declining city reserves.

"Which ones are those proposed for the 2021 fiscal year?" he asked. "Can we get a more specific breakdown of which ones are funded now? Looking at the 5-year plan for our budget, our reserves are going down and down. It's a cautionary flag," he explained. He gave

the example of needing some kind of covering or shade in North West Park over the children's play structure.

"If you're talking about new apparatus, this is something to consider and do the project right from the beginning. Of the projects that are proposed — and it doesn't say here — are funded now and what are the costs we are paying now?" he added.

Community activist Michael Ceremello agreed. "Out of the 70 to 100 pages, there's nothing that says what we are spending this year for 2023," he said. He had concerns about "spending money" where the city doesn't need to, and took issue, for example, with the money being allotted for climate change which includes advertising costs "to get people out of their cars."

The 22 new Projects to be added to the 5-year CIP this year, include: Climate Change Action Plan; Municipal Service Review; Sewer Flow Monitoring; SR113 Drainage Maintenance Agreement; Milk Farm

Road I-80 Sewer Crossing; Northeast Quad Trunk Sewer Line; Northeast Quad Trunk Sewer Line — Branch; Northeast Quad Trunk Sewer Line — Branch 2; Northeast Quad Trunk Sewer to Lift Station; Northeast Quad Lift Station and Force Main; Waste Water Treatment Facility, Barbed Wire Fence, PE Basin Power Gate; Industrial Way Trunk Sewer, and Water System Upgrade; Sanitary Sewer Impact Fees (Nexus Study); Chromium-6 Pilot Study; Type-One Fire Engine Replacement; Storm Drain Impact Fees; Integrated Pest Management Plan (APMP); B Street Ped/Bike Crossing Improvements; Solano Transportation Authority (STA); Countywide Climate Adaptation Plan, Pavement Rehab Projects

Santos returned to the podium to address the public's concerns.

"All of the projects in the 2024 column are in the proposed draft of fiscal year 23-24. Technically, nothing in this list to this date has been approved

yet," he said. The purpose of the document is to provide an overall summary of all the projects within the 5-year CIP (Capital Improvement Projects).

"In Exhibit B, on the bottom of the list, it shows the totals and it shows the grand total," he said. "Currently, in this \$2.5 million worth of Capital Projects, there are projects that will be receiving grant funding such as the pavement preservation project which has a \$665,000

grant, and that there are several other projects that are also grant-funded. In addition, other projects are proposed to be paid for through development agreements," he explained.

"In the 2025 year, the grand total is \$56.25 million but over \$30 million of that is proposed grant funding for the future Parkway Boulevard Overpass Project," he said. The CIP Summary is a 5-year rolling program for fiscal years 24-28

and is based on the 2040 General Plan. Detailed discussions can be reviewed on the City of Dixon website under the 'government' tab, then to the 'agenda' option.

At the end of the Planning Commission meeting, Janet Koster was recognized for her terms on the commission and her dedication to serving Dixon. She worked for the City in Public Works before retiring and serving on Planning. ★

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Two Bodies, One Heart: Horse Therapy

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - When Char Gaborko went out into the arena to meet a large brown horse and a smaller, tan one, she didn't know what to think. She'd been experiencing anxiety and sleeplessness after dealing with a loss of hearing which meant the loss of her career as a teacher.

"I was working through some very difficult issues, and I couldn't picture the power of [horse therapy] but immediately felt this was a safe place," she said, referring to an arena under the direction of Denise Wilson Freedom Equine Connection in Dixon. "Even today, it washes over me, and I feel it again."

What Gaborko may be feeling is the electromagnetic field a horse radiates which can expand to several feet in all directions. It is five times stronger than a human's, creating a sphere-shaped field that completely surrounds a person and can change one's heart rhythms and emotions.

"I didn't even know the horses' names, but it was a powerful experience that affected all my senses and my whole body," Gaborko said. "I cried for a solid week just processing words and feelings."

Wilson, who works at a hospital, grew up with horses, studied horse therapy for years and started the business with her husband to most specifically work with post-traumatic stress disorder experienced by first responders and medical staff who witnessed COVID deaths.

She explained that when our heart and body connect to a horse's energy, we feel relief inside, a sense of well-being, and our bodies begin to slow down and heal. We experience what is going on inside of us.

"I've had horses since I was a child so for 50 years, I have always instinctively and intuitively shared them with others.



Denise Wilson has shared her love of horses her whole life and knew their healing power with hurting people including Char Gaborko, right, who now serves on the nonprofit's Board of Directors.

At first, I hadn't done any research, but it got me through teenage angst. Now, I wanted to do it intentionally," Wilson said.

A horse can feel and hear a person's heartbeat from four feet away. Because their heartbeat is slower, ours slows down to match theirs. Think

of blocked energy that can now dislodge. We can feel a sense of relief and a sense of well-being. That's when we can begin to heal ourselves, Wilson explained.

According to HeartMath Institute (kindredhorsespirits.com,) "Horses are always in a

blank state. Their focus is on eating and sleeping. In a herd, there is always one standing guard and because they have an electromagnetic field, they can feel trouble and if they do, they will run. Then they will stop and be fine. They are always in the moment."

"Horses have an amazing ability to read our nonverbal communication and adapt to hidden messages and emotions we often don't know we carry. Growing evidence and research support Equine Assisted Psychotherapy's effectiveness, which Freedom Equine Connection provides through a team of certified, licensed professionals and horses," Wilson explained.

The organization's services do not include getting on a horse or riding a horse, but just being with a horse. Also, there is never one person alone with horses. The person is encouraged to think about what is keeping them up at night, she said, and then the person may be led out to the horse (or horses.)

"We are always alert to their emotional and physical safety but there is never a problem getting them out there," she said. Our emotions carry different energies and horses will feel these energies and respond to them by showing us what we are feeling, even when we are unaware of ourselves.

As Gaborko strokes the mane of the dark brown horse, the horse closes its eyes similar to a dog enjoying a petting. Gaborko was so impressed with her experience and healing that she joined the Board of the organization's non-profit. What could have been months of appointments with counselors, and why horse therapy is growing in popularity, her healing happened in less time giving her peace and a sense that "God has got me and I was OK," she said.

"There is a mental health crisis in the world right now," said Wilson. "We want to help people." The organization's mission is to now find a larger barn. For more information, go to freedomequineconnection.org or email freedomequineconnection@yahoo.com. ★

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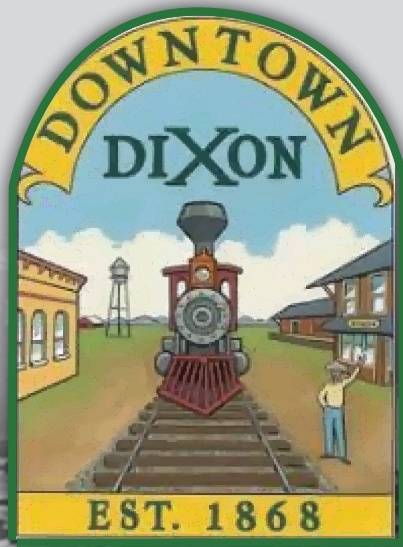


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A healthy community begins with a healthy downtown. They are the heartbeat of our communities and they are also key indicators of larger social and economical trends such as thriving businesses, engaged citizens, cultural events, and jobs.

The Downtown Dixon Business Association Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month inside local businesses.

Keep an eye on this space every month for information about all the fun and engaging events happening in Downtown Dixon.



- Upcoming Events**
- **Concerts in the Plaza**, corner of First and A Streets, every other Thursday, 6 p.m. thanks to the City of Dixon and the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. Next concert is July 6 - More on the Floor.
 - **Farmers market** continues! Next date is Thursday, July 13, 4 - 7 p.m. at the Pardi Plaza in the heart of downtown Dixon. Check the downtowndixonca.com website for current dates.
 - **Grillin' & Chillin'** is Saturday, July 15--Northern California's one and only car show and rib cook off for 12 years running. The free event starts at 10 a.m. and runs all day in Downtown Dixon with Highway 113 rerouted to North and South Adams St. Come join the fun!



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Assembly Committee OKs Sen. Dodd's Water Shutoff Protection Bill

Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Legislation advanced on June 20, 2023, from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that would expand provisions of his Water Shutoff Protection Act, ensuring more low-income Californians have uninterrupted access to essential drinking water, especially in times of skyrocketing costs.

"Today's vote is a step toward ensuring the tap does not get

turned off just because someone falls behind on their bills," Sen. Dodd said. "Access to water is a fundamental right. This bill enhances my previous legislation by covering people in smaller, rural communities who are struggling financially. It will allow them to continue using water for drinking, cooking and necessities such as washing clothes while they get caught up on missed payments."

Sen. Dodd has a long history

of water-related legislation. In response to rising water rates, he authored the Water Shutoff Protection Act of 2018, which extends due process protections to people at risk of service discontinuance because they are unable to pay their bills. Among other things, it affords those served by water systems of 200 customers or more a 60-day grace period to cover past debt and establishes a system for making payments. The bill was signed

into law by Gov. Jerry Brown.

With Senate Bill 3, Sen. Dodd is proposing to extend those same protections to more people, reducing the threshold for compliance to water systems of 15 customers or more. The change is expected to affect thousands of low-income families across California and extends an executive order from Gov. Gavin Newsom that has expired. SB 3 is sponsored by Leadership Counsel for Justice

and Accountability.

The bill cleared the Assembly Environmental Quality committee with overwhelming support. It previously was approved by the full Senate.

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Solano, Yolo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, and Sacramento counties. You can learn more about the district and Senator Dodd at www.sen.ca.gov/dodd. ★

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- *Wife's mother, e.g.
- *"___ we forget"
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- Based on two
- Colorado's neighbor
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58. Ox, pl.
59. What Pinocchio did
60. Popular walking shoe brand
61. *Basic unit of heredity
62. South American tubers
63. Web location
64. Paradise garden
67. Like Willie Winkie

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There Should Be No "Woke" In Baseball

It's not unusual for a player to play a role in sports. "Spahn, Sain, and pray for rain!" was the famous refrain of Boston Braves fans in 1948, when they wanted their exceptional pitchers Warren Spahn and Johnny Sain to start as many games as possible. A couple of years ago, the team chaplain of the Loyola Chicago men's basketball team, Sister Jean, prayed before a game against Illinois in the NCAA Tournament, "As we play the Fighting Illini, we ask for special help to overcome this team and get a great win." (Final score: Loyola Chicago 71, Illinois 58). In the long history of sports, though, it seems unlikely that anyone has ever felt compelled to pray over the spiritual hurt caused by a team – until now. Los Angeles Archbishop Jose H. Gomez dedicated a service to praying for "healing due to the harm caused by" the Los Angeles Dodgers. And he's not referring to the team's disappointing exit from the playoffs last year at the hands of the San Diego Padres or its relatively soft 38-30 start this year. No, rather its "decision to honor a group that intentionally denigrates and profanes the Christian faith." He's speaking of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, a group of

drag queens who dress up as Roman Catholic nuns and mock their faith. In the most embarrassing to-and-fro since Yankee owner George Steinbrenner fired and rehired manager Billy Martin multiple times, the Dodgers announced that they'd honor the "Sisters" on the team's "LGBTQ+ Pride Night," then backed off when people of faith were offended, then decided to honor them after all in response to LGBTQ backlash to the backlash. This shameful cowardice comes courtesy of one of baseball's most storied franchises, one that used to hold "Nun's Day" at the stadium. It's a symptom of the sheer unavoidability of "woke" cultural politics that they've come to baseball, once the most mainstream and arguably still the most traditional of major sports league. The Toronto Blue Jays just cut one of their relief pitchers, Anthony Bass, for not getting with the LGBTQ program. He thus became the first player in major league history to be DFA'ed for associating himself with traditional Biblical morality. On May 29, a day that will live in Blue Jays infamy, right up there with the collapse in the 1985 ALCS, Bass shared a video from Bible-themed Instagram page supporting the boycotts of Bud Light and Target. In response to the resulting furor, he apologized and promised to do better, but that wasn't close to being enough. The last straw came when he tried to explain himself again about two weeks into the controversy. He said, "I

stand by my personal beliefs," adding – very naively, as it turns out – "and everyone is entitled to their personal beliefs, right?" The demand of Bass wasn't that he say bland and nice things but that he repudiate part of his belief system as a Christian. Fans were booing him, and sports journalists were out for blood. The Athletic huffed, "It was clear that Bass still did not grasp how harmful his actions and words were." Preposterously, as part of his forced rehabilitation, Bass was scheduled to catch the ceremonial first pitch to open up the team's Pride Weekend, which included a drag queen performing the national anthem. Instead, he got fired. No one can accuse the Blue Jays of not fully embracing the spirit of pride ideology, including the illiberalism. Back in the early 1950s, before the Dodgers had moved from Brooklyn, the team's churchgoing first baseman Gil Hodges entered into a terrible slump. Instead of turning on him, the fans encouraged him. Father Redmond of St. Francis Church famously said one day: "It's too hot for a sermon today. Go home, keep the commandments, and say a prayer for Gil Hodges." Hodges eventually found his groove, making for a nice piece of Dodgers lore. These days, he'd presumably have to watch what he said. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★



Family Business? Keep it Professional

Dear Dave, My father isn't involved with our family-owned business anymore, but he's still a one-third owner and insists on taking a salary. This situation has begun to cause problems for other members of the family, and I was wondering what your take is. – Tracy Dear Tracy, If I understand correctly, three owners form the board, and you three direct the management and leadership of the company. That means if your dad gets outvoted on something, he must accept it because he's a minority owner. As an owner who is no longer actively involved in the company, he should be getting a distribution of the profits—not a salary.

Dave Ramsey Says

Specifically, one-third when the profits are distributed. Let me give you a visual. Draw three concentric circles so that they all overlap in the center. It should look a bit like the Olympic symbol—a Venn diagram. In each circle, write "owner," "management and leadership" and "family." This is a standard family-business diagram. Most problems in family businesses come when someone forgets which circle they're in. You could be a member of the family but not have any ownership or be in leadership. You could be in leadership but not be part of the family or be an owner. You could also be a member of the family and be an owner but not work at the company. That would be your father. I think you guys need to reset things in your business. It's time for the working owners to sit down with your father and have an adult conversation. The discussion should be professional and gentle and go something like: "Dad, we all set this up in the beginning. But we've made some mistakes. We shouldn't be paying a salary to people who don't work in the business. You've been repaid for your venture money, and from now on, you'll be getting a distribution of profits instead of a salary. We think this is fair and reasonable, but if you don't agree, we can discuss buying you out of your third of the company." It sounds like things are already strained, but you've got to have a professional setup within the business. Do your best to be respectful and reasonable with your father. But you need to get this sorted out and agreed on before it causes any more hard feelings. – Dave *Leadership and small-business expert Dave Ramsey is the CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored eight national bestselling books, including "EntreLeadership," and is a host of "The Ramsey Show" and "The EntreLeadership Podcast." ★

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

The Dixon Planning Commission will hold a hybrid PUBLIC HEARING to consider the following project:

PROJECT: **Homestead Phase 3 / Village 11 (Violet at Homestead)** - Request for Design Review approval for four model homes for Homestead Phase 3/ Village 11 with three available styles to choose from (Farmhouse, West Coast, and Craftsman). This phase of Homestead includes 70 residential lots; APN: 0114-012-070; Zoning District: Planned Multiple Residential – Planned Development (PMR-PD); JEN California 6, LLC, owner, D.R. Horton, applicant; File No: PA23-11, DR23-03

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and no environmental review will be completed. This project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption from the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines under 14 CRR Section 15303, [Class 3, New Construction]. If the Planning Commission determines that this project is in an environmentally-sensitive area, further study may be required.

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: **Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

MORE INFORMATION: Contact **Scott Greeley, Associate Planner** at (707) 678-7000 ext. 1115 or sgreeley@cityofdixon.us. You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also view the staff report 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the Planning Commission prior to making any decision on the application.

The meeting will be physically open to the public and all persons attending the meeting must abide by all State rules and public health guidelines, regarding masking and social distancing in City Council chambers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, Planning Commission, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the Planning Commission and will become part of the official record, but will not be read aloud at the meeting.

You may also attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above or participate remotely, to provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments remotely during public comment period, you may: 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand," or 2) via teleconference press *9.

At the above time and place, all letters received will be noted and all interested parties will be heard. If you challenge in court the matter described above, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the above referenced public hearing (Government Code Section 65009 (b)(2)).

Appeals of decisions by the Planning Commission to the City Council shall be made in person at Dixon City Hall by completing the appeal application and submitting the required fee, within 10 calendar days of a decision (Dixon Municipal Code Sections 17.01.050 or 18.40).

Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Dixon Independent Voice 6-30-2023

UCSF Study Unpacks Root Causes of California's Homelessness Crisis



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The timing could not have been better. A massive UC San Francisco study of California's worst-in-the-nation homelessness crisis was released Tuesday as Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders were negotiating details of a new state budget, with homelessness spending as one of the knottiest issues. The study bolsters previous research which concluded that California's chronic shortage of housing, which imposes crushing costs on low-income families, lies at the heart of the crisis. About a third of California's 40 million people live in poverty or near-poverty, United Ways of California recently reported. Sudden illness, an accident, a layoff or an unexpected car repair bill can easily lead to unpaid rent, eviction and a lack of shelter. Homelessness, the UCSF study found, often leads to – or exacerbates – alcohol or drug dependence, mental health problems and violence, indicating that its victims need more than just roofs over their heads. "Something goes wrong, and then everything else falls apart," the study's lead researcher, Dr. Margot Kushel, the director of the Benioff Homelessness and

Housing Initiative at UCSF, told the New York Times. "Everything in their life gets worse when they lose their housing: their health, their mental health, their substance use. "This is a problem of this toxic combination of deep poverty and high housing costs," Kushel added. "We're a state, like every state in this country, that has a lot of very poor people, and we just don't have the housing for them." The study recommends a wide array of services and projects to help those experiencing chronic homelessness to get off the streets and protect others from the same fate. It would seem to bolster the demands of city and county officials not only for additional billions of dollars to help homeless Californians escape their plight, but for a multi-year state commitment to provide continuity. While Newsom has been willing to provide local governments with some funds, he's been highly critical of their homelessness efforts and so far unwilling to make long-term commitments. That conflict was evident when the state seemingly had oodles of money, and has become even sharper now that Newsom and legislators must contend with deficits that could continue for the remainder of Newsom's governorship. Interestingly, the Benioff study was requested by Dr. Mark Ghaly, Newsom's secretary of health and human services, who said, in a statement, "this study reinforces the importance of comprehensive and integrated supports," which is what

local officials advocate in their demands for additional state aid. The state plays only a tangential role in providing housing and social, medical, addiction and mental health services to those in squalid encampments that have become unwanted California symbols and fodder for political and media critics. City governments are the main overseers of housing construction and joust with the state incessantly over zoning, building permits and other hurdles for projects to house low-income families and individuals – the ones most in peril of becoming homeless. Meanwhile, county officials provide welfare, medical and mental health services with local, state and federal funds and often squabble with their city counterparts over how those programs are sited and administered in urban centers. The Benioff study tells us that contrary to popular belief, those lacking shelter are overwhelmingly Californians, not migrants from other states, who largely remained in their communities after falling on hard times. California's crisis will not be resolved without the "comprehensive and integrated" approach Ghaly advocates and that means state, county and municipal officialdom must set aside fingerpointing and blame-shifting to work cooperatively. Otherwise, we'll just waste billions of more dollars and the crisis will continue to worsen. Dan Walters has been a journalist for more than 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★

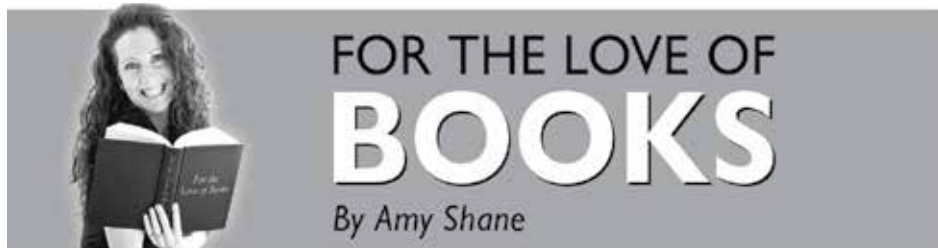
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Ruling Destiny

by Alyson Noel

Now that Natasha understands the purpose of Grey Wolf Academy, she is ready to throw herself into the mission. Well, that and spending as much time as she can with the secretive, sexy, brooding Braxton, the boy who has stolen her heart. But Gray Wolf Academy seems to have other plans for Natasha, especially when there is a wealthy benefactor at the helm, Arthur Blackstone. Arthur is a man with a mission, and his team of time travelers are molded for a specific purpose— pilfer from the rich and bring the items back to the future.

However, the more “trips” Natasha makes, the more she realizes there is more to the traveling than she once thought, and secret agendas lie at every bend. So, when bad boy, Killian unexpectedly appears on a trip with his own personal agenda and his sites on Natasha, he quickly shatters the façade that Braxton has created, filling Natasha’s head with doubt. Now, in addition to the doubt she feels about Braxton, Natasha is trying to understand the truth about her father, shattering everything she has ever been told or knew



- ◆ Publisher: Entangled Teen
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Release Date: June 6, 2023
- ◆ Rating: ★★★★★

about herself.

Now, Natasha must navigate the mission Arthur has sent her to do, while also trying to decipher which boy is telling the truth, and which one has motives built on deceit and lies. All before time runs out, and she is trapped in the fifteenth century forever.

Fall for the lush extravagant world of time traveling, art, and hidden agendas in the second book of the *Stolen Beauty Series*, *Ruling Destiny*. Alyson Noel whisks readers straight into the Renaissance Era, where lavish is an understatement, and the most notable artists and minds in history are standing

among the nobility. Readers will sit alongside Leonardo da Vinci looking at his paintings in a whole new light, while also searching for hidden meanings.

Ruling Destiny is a high-stakes adventure that combines a strong-willed main character and a love triangle that will have readers questioning hidden motives and wondering who they can trust. Filled with art appreciation that also serves as an art history lesson that will have readers googling the artwork to try follow along while also trying guess the hidden meanings for themselves.

Noel delivers a new definition to love triangles, twists, turns, and cliffhanger endings, as she blends history, tarot, ancient astrology, priceless fine art, and one man’s desire to have the power over time. Like plunging a dagger into a reader’s heart, the cliffhanger ending will leave them gasping for air, unaware of who to trust and who to turn to, while leaving them questioning everyone’s ulterior motive. A series that is taking the young adult reading world by storm and was recently optioned for TV by Valhalla Entertainment. ★



Riley Reviews

ANIMATION, DRAMA AND GAME SHOWS ON FOX FALL TV SCHEDULE

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

All new programs for the fall season on FOX network come in twos, as the content slate will add two new dramas, two new animated comedies and two new unscripted series to the lineup.

Ron Wade, CEO of FOX Entertainment, unveiled the fall season by noting the network’s “content portfolio continues to deliver balance and variety in its storytelling through the strength and stability of our returning favorites and tremendous creativity of our new series.”

Based on an acclaimed Italian series, “Doc” is a new medical drama centered on the hard-charging, brilliant Dr. Amy Elias, Chief of Internal and Family Medicine at Westside Hospital in Minneapolis.

After a brain injury erases the last eight years of her life, Amy must navigate an unfamiliar world where she has no recall of patients she’s treated, colleagues she’s crossed, the soulmate she divorced, the man she now loves and the tragedy that caused her to push everyone away.

The good doctor can rely only on her estranged 17-year-old daughter, whom she remembers as a 9-year-old child, and a handful of devoted friends, as she struggles to continue practicing medicine, despite having lost nearly a decade of knowledge and experience.

A pulse-pounding Hawaii lifeguard drama, “Rescue: Hi-Surf” follows the personal and professional lives of the heavy-water lifeguards who patrol and protect the North Shore of Oahu – the most famous and dangerous stretch of coastline in the world.

Each episode will feature the dedicated, heroic, and adrenaline-seeking first responders saving lives in the difficult and often life-threatening conditions of Hawaii’s Seven Mile Miracle.

An animated series like no other, “Krapopolis” is set in mythical Ancient Greece and centers on a flawed family of humans, gods and monsters that tries to run one of the world’s first cities without killing each other.

The series’ voice cast features Emmy Award winner Hannah Waddingham, Richard Ayoade, Matt Berry, Pam Murphy and Duncan Trussell.

In the series, Ayoade voices Tyrannis, the mortal son of a goddess. He’s the self-involved, narcissistic King of Krapopolis trying to make do in a city that lives up to its name.

Waddingham plays Deliria, Tyrannis’ mother, goddess of self-destruction and questionable choices. Within her extended Olympian family, forged in patricide and infidelity, she’s known as the trashy one.

Berry’s Shlub, Tyrannis’ father, half centaur and half mantichore, is oversexed and underemployed and claims to be an

artist and has literally never paid for anything, in any sense of that word, for his entire life.

Murphy’s Stupendous is Tyrannis’ half-sister, daughter of Deliria and a cyclops. Trussell plays Hippocampus, Tyrannis’ half-brother, offspring of Shlub and a mermaid, is a hot mess, biologically speaking.

All-new animated comedy “Grimsburg” stars Emmy Award winner Jon Hamm (“Mad Men”) as Marvin Flute, a brilliant detective with opinions as eccentric as his taste, who can’t help but prioritize his own personal problems over the crimes he’s tasked with solving.

Now that he’s back in Grimsburg, a town where everyone has a secret or three, Flute will follow every lead he’s got to redeem himself with the ex-wife he never stopped loving, even if it means hanging out with the son he never bothered to get to know.

All-new game show “Snake Oil” is hosted and produced by Emmy and Golden Globe Award-nominated comedian David Spade and executive produced by Emmy nominee Will Arnett (“Arrested Development”).

In the show’s all-new original format, contestants are pitched unique products by convincing entrepreneurs, some of whom are showcasing real business ventures, while others are snake oil salesmen whose products are fake.

With the help of guest celebrity advisors, contestants must determine which products are real and which are a sham, for a chance to win life-changing money.

In each round of “Snake Oil,” contestants choose a pair of entrepreneurs and learn about their extremely unique (and often bizarre) products through visuals, a custom-made infomercial exclusively produced for “Snake Oil,” and by quizzing the business representatives.

Celebrity advisors offer their help and the contestants must then decide who is selling an authentic product and who is hawking a sham. Will they make the right choice or be duped by snake oil?

The all-new music guessing game show “We Are Family” is hosted and executive produced by Jamie Foxx and co-hosted by his daughter, Corinne Foxx. Showcasing non-famous relatives of celebrities performing duets with their hidden famous family member, the game show will feature a studio audience entirely comprised of 100 contestants playing through multiple rounds of clues.

The objective of the gameplay for the contestants is to win up to \$100,000 each by correctly guessing which celebrity the performer is related to before they are revealed.

Celebrities appearing on “We Are Family” will range from musicians and professional athletes to actors and beyond. Premiere dates for all the new programs are yet to be announced. ★

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.



Tuesday, June 20

- 1700 - Hours - Violation of a restraining order report taken in the lobby.
- 1915 - Stolen vehicle report taken at the PD.
- 2300 - Traffic stop in the area of EB 80 and Pedrick Road resulted in the arrest of Heaven Askew (31) of San Francisco for failure to yield to a emergency vehicle. She was cited and released without incident

Monday, June 19

- 1000 - Hours - Hit and Run report in the 200 block of South First St.
- 2228 - Report of domestic violence in the 1000 block of South 1st Street.

Sunday, June 18

- 1230 - Hours- Domestic Violence investigation in the 600 block of Amesbury Dr led to the arrest of Jose Gastelum (26) of Dixon.
- 2126 - Info report taken in the 400 block of Miller Court for an ongoing neighbor dispute.

Saturday, June 17

- 1248 - Traffic Collision Stratford Ave at Commercial Way.
- 1530 - Confidential Report 700 block South Lincoln Street
- 2333 - Officers responded to the 2500 block of North First Street for a verbal altercation. Upon arrival, Officers contacted John Sanz (44) out of Daily City. After further investigation, Sanz was arrested for domestic violence. He was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail.
- 0119 - Agency assist report in the 600 block of North First Street.
- 0400 - Hit and run reported in the 900 block of Orchard Drive. Upon officers arrival, they located the driver of the vehicle down the street. The driver was identified as Ernesto Dealba (23) out of Dixon. Dealba was found to be driving while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. Dealba was placed under arrest for DUI, Hit and Run and probation violation. Dealba was transported to the police department where he was issued a promise to appear and released.

Friday, June 16

- 1320 - Hours - Illegal dumping investigation in the area of North First St and Atkinson Ct.
- 1330 - Hours - Traffic Stop led to the arrest of Jamar Welcome (38) of Sacramento for an outstanding felony warrant.
- 1430 - Hours - Welfare check
- 1509 - Hours - Angel Hernandez-Peralta (21) of Dixon was arrested at the Dixon Police Department for an outstanding bench warrant. He was cited from the station with a new court date.
- 2029 - Grand theft report in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue.
- 0500 - Information report in the 400 block of Rennert Way.

Thursday, June 15

- 0600 - Hours- Vehicle Accident Investigation in the parking lot of 1600 Pitt School Rd.
- 0830 - Hours- Welfare check at Northwest Park led to the arrest of Xerxes Paul (age 26) of San Francisco for violation of a restraining order.
- 1000 - Hours- Information report.
- 0013 - Hit and Run report in the 200 block of West Cherry Street.

Wednesday, June 14

- 1720 Hours - Stolen motorcycle recovered in the 600 block of North First St.
- 1852 - Info report taken in the 300 block of North Adams Street.
- 2047 - Petty theft report taken in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue. The theft happened in April.

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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

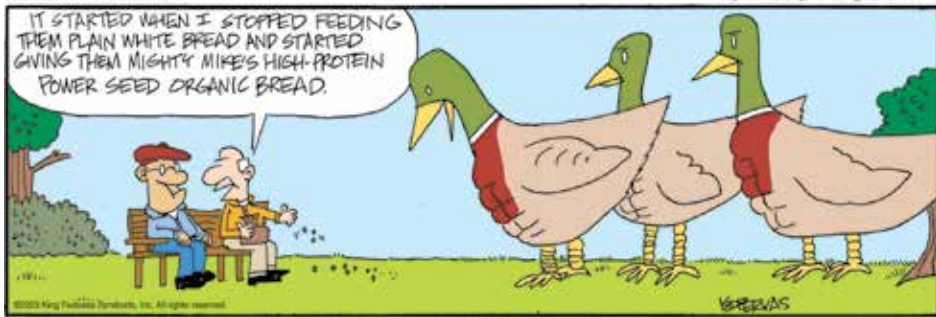


Amber Waves



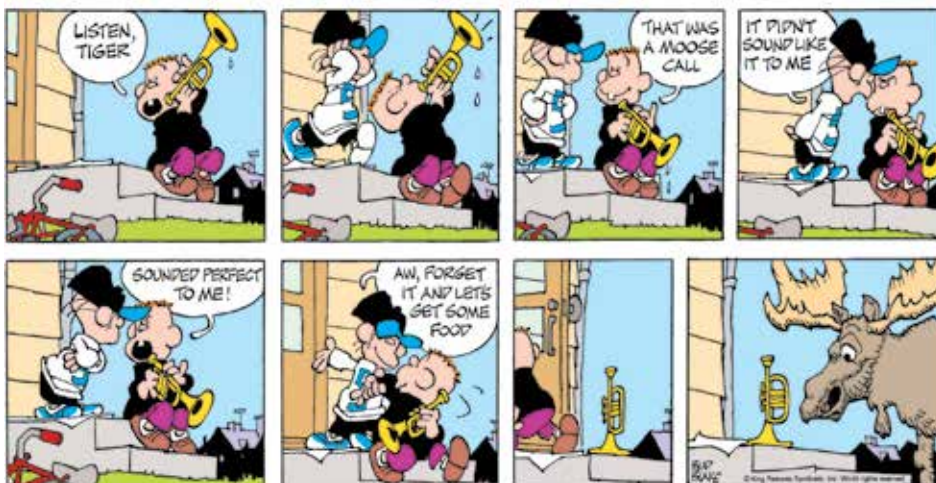
by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

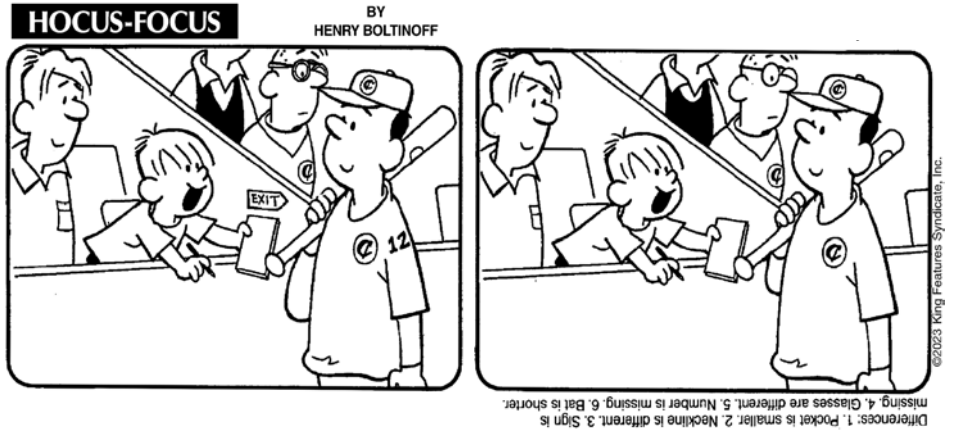


by Gary Kopervas

TIGER

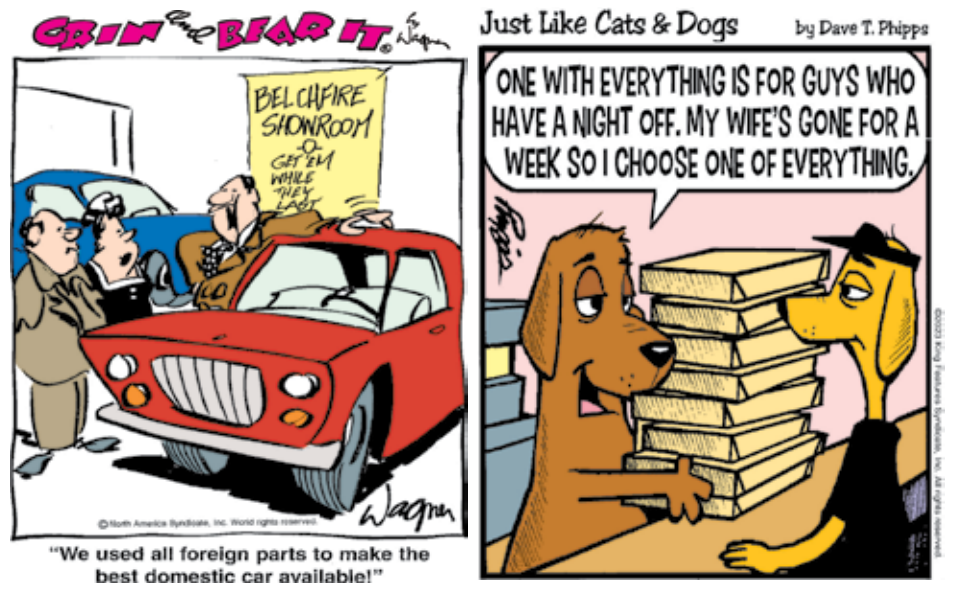


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Chasing Joy

with Jeff Myers



Trumpet Calls

Commentary by Jeff Myers

I love most types of music, but one of my favorite songs might be an odd choice to some. I served in the United States Army almost 30 years ago. I have many fond memories of my time in the service and still stay in touch with a few of my Army buddies.

One of my favorite military traditions is the daily playing of “Reveille,” “Retreat” and “Taps” on every military post. And my favorite is “Reveille.” It really bounces!

So, if you’re not familiar with this tradition, “Reveille” is played early in the morning, sometime around 0700, to signal the beginning of the workday. When you hear it over the loudspeakers you stop whatever you’re doing, turn toward the post flag and render a salute until it stops.

Then around 1700 “Retreat” is played to signal the end of the work day and you do the same. But late in the evening, around 2200 hours, “Taps” is played to indicate quiet hours have begun and, I suppose, as a reminder to get your much-needed sleep. But for “Taps,” no salute is required.

For most people, “Taps” is a song of grief and mourning often associated with funeral ceremonies for veterans. But as a soldier living daily life on a military post, I never felt that way about “Taps.” In my mind, “Taps” was the nation’s way of saluting me and saying, “Good work! Get some rest. You deserve it!” For a soldier, “Taps” is a song of peace and rest.

As a pastor, I’ve officiated many funerals that included military honors. I’ve always thought, from a spiritual perspective, it would be great if there was a brief, dramatic pause after the playing of “Taps” followed by the bugler exuberantly blowing “Reveille!” Why? Because the Christian hope is that when we reach the end of our lives, God will give us his version of “Taps” and say to each of us, as Jesus said in Matthew 25, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

But our God is also the God of new beginnings. He’s the conqueror of death and he’s the giver of resurrection life! In other words, our God is the God of “Reveille.” So if you’ve ever lost a loved one and a bugler played a solemn version of “Taps” at the cemetery, find hope in this truth. Because of Jesus Christ, “Taps” is not the final word. “Reveille” is coming!

As we celebrate Independence Day very soon, I hope a sense of gratitude for our freedoms washes over you. Join me in that spirit of gratitude and offer up this traditional prayer for

departed veterans: “O God, by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest, look kindly on your departed veterans who gave their lives in the service of their country. Grant that through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son they may share in the joy of your heavenly kingdom and rejoice in you forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

in our community...with YOU!
Jeff Myers is Lead Pastor of Living Hope Church in Dixon, CA ★

Farmers Market Sprouts at Pardi



Plenty of visitors showed up to experience Dixon’s first Farmers Market in several years. Vendors offered fresh produce, flowers, honey, mushrooms, specialized coffees, and homemade items such as jams and yogurts to name a few. The next market is slated for July 13, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Pardi Plaza. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Dixon Fetes Dexter



Oakley Dexter blowing out his birthday candles at last Saturday’s community birthday party for the World War II Dixon Veteran. Photo by Nicolas Brown

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