



**Volunteers  
Celebrate World  
Environment Day**  
PAGE 3

**Young Dixon  
Performers  
Included in Show**  
PAGE 10



# Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

JUNE 9, 2023

**SEE  
INSIDE**

**'GIFTS B CAUSE'  
COMING TO  
MAY FAIR**



PAGE 10

**RETIRING MPHS  
PRINCIPAL  
YVETTE RAMOS**



PAGE 2

**THOMPSON  
HOLDS FORUM ON  
GUN VIOLENCE**



PAGE 2



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## Graduation Traditions Repeat



The tossing of the graduation cap or "mortarboard" began with the 1912 graduates from the US Naval Academy. For the Dixon grads, this symbolizes the end of a chapter in their academic life. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Other than a brief series of the sound system cutting in and out at the beginning of the Dixon High School graduation, Sir Edward Elgar would be proud.

The students paraded into the tune of Pomp and Circumstance – also known as The Graduation March – written in 1901 by Elgar but proudly orchestrated by retiring Music Director Adrian Coulson for his last DHS graduation after 32 years.

Wearing looks of raw glee on a perfectly sunny morning, the grads were dressed in their green gowns and mortarboards,



Dixon Unified School District Superintendent Brian Dolan personally congratulated and shook hands with each graduate at last Saturday's graduation. Photo by Nicolas Brown

traditional academic attire since the 1800s. For those who wonder, the distinctive square shape of the cap is believed to signify a book, chosen in recognition of scholarly

achievements. For the 44 students who earned the title of 'Distinguished Scholars' by earning a 4.0 GPA or above, the outfit was fitting despite tennis shoes,

sandals, chunky black platforms, or pointy heels peeking from beneath.

"Twenty percent of our 231 students got straight A's" beamed Principal Stephanie Marquez as she welcomed administrators, teachers, students, and their family and friends to the Class of 2023 graduation ceremonies at Finney Field Saturday morning.

"Thank you for joining us to say goodbye to these kind people who grace our homes and our school," she said, then addressed the students. "From someone who almost obsessively looks forward to everyday with you, know that we are better for knowing you."

*Continued on page 3*

## Dixon Police Department Announces Employment Opportunities

City of Dixon News

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - First up on the City news front is the new, all-way stop implemented at West A Street and Gateway Drive just as one is exiting I-80 on the West A Street exit or for drivers coming over the freeway overpass. Please use caution in the area as drivers adjust to this change.

Secondly, the City of Dixon Police Department has announced it is hiring for Academy Bound and Lateral Police Officers. Lateral Officers are eligible for a recruitment signing bonus up to \$30,000.

For real opportunities, real challenges, real service, and real commitment, join the Dixon Police Department.

The City is recruiting qualified lateral police officer candidates who are eligible for a \$30,000 hiring incentive. Qualified applicants must not have worked for the City of Dixon in the last three years, be currently employed full-time as a peace officer, and possess at least an intermediate POST Certificate (Advanced preferred.)

The Department is a progressive law enforcement agency committed to the core values of service, honesty and integrity, accountability, and respect. If you're ready to become part of something bigger, we're ready to provide you with the challenge of making a difference! Learn more: [www.join Dixon pd.info](http://www.join Dixon pd.info).

Lastly, the deadline for filing applications for the City of Dixon Transportation Advisory Commission is 5 p.m., Friday, June 16. TAC is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to traffic, transportation, and parking issues. This is your chance to learn about issues and have a say, folks! Really, it is all very interesting how these things work in our community, and you'll be better for the experience!

All vacancies are for four-year terms expiring on June 30, 2027. They meet at 7 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of even-numbered months. City residency is required. A stipend of \$75.00 per meeting attended is paid to each Commissioner. Interested Dixon residents may obtain an application at City Hall, 600 East A Street, by calling (707) 678-7000, or by visiting the City's website at <https://twistcms-shared.s3.us-west2.amazonaws.com/104/media/30216.pdf>. ★

## Children Walk Through History

Story and photos by Kim Schroeder Evans, Dixon Historical Society President

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Recently, the Dixon Historical Society gave three downtown walking tours to two 5th-grade classes from the Dixon Montessori School and to a 5th-grade class from Valley of the Sacred Heart private school. The tours included information and pictures about Dixon's pre-history, along with stops at various historical buildings along North First, West A, North Jackson and West B Streets. One group also learned about some of the historical homes on East A, East Mayes and South First Streets.

The Dixon Historical Society welcomed another six groups of students, grades 2nd-4th, to the Museum. Four groups visited from the Dixon Montessori School, and two groups visited from Anderson Elementary



Two 4th-grade classes from the Dixon Montessori School took a tour of old Dixon via a personalized tour at Dixon History Museum downtown. Photo by Kim Evans

School. Each group of students rotated to a different section of the Museum. We shared Dixon's pre-history, to include the Wintun/Patwin native peoples, Los Californios who owned land grants during Mexico's rule of California

from 1821 to 1850 and the Pioneers who came and established the townships of Silveyville, Tremont and Maine Prairie in the early 1850s, all of which merged to become Dixon when the California Pacific Railroad laid ground in

1868. The Dickson family donated 10 acres of their land to the California Pacific Railroad, and it was a misspelling of a package addressed to William Ferguson, "Dixon, Calif." that forever changed the

*Continued on page 2*



## Life's too SHORT

### Preparing for Living Long

By Debra Dingman

Since aging isn't on the mind of high school or even college students, we cannot expect any wide-reaching institution to teach the general public about aging issues. The AARP (American Association of Retired People) does what it can for 38 million members to help them choose how they live as they age but we need more education and understanding of aging so I'm reaching out to our readers.

According to 2021 data by the United Health Foundation, "The age distribution of the United States is changing. More than 55.8 million adults ages 65 and older live in the U.S., accounting for about 16.8% of the nation's population. By 2040, that proportion is projected to grow to 22 percent."

Knowing these numbers, that means millions of older Americans are not necessarily learning about how their bodies are growing old, how to decide about their homes, aren't planning how to take care of their yards when they are unable, and may not know a thing about care providers or their options for when and if they become disabled.

This is a concern because I've cared for two aging parents now and know that although I considered both rewarding experiences, it was extremely difficult. It's a concern of mine because I know way too many people who are older than me who have not considered these things and their grown children are happily oblivious of what the future may hold. That future can be pretty darn rough.

"I will be happy, healthy, until I die quickly of a heart attack," said one friend.

"They are busy with their families; they don't need me needing them," said another. But one-third of us are going to need to have someone take care of our house, someone to take care of our yards and frankly, someone to help take care of us. Most of my friends my age or older openly admit they can only hope to draw their last breath while they sleep.

And, that's fine to hope for, but really, we should be more realistic than that. We should have at least a general plan and move into a one-story house that has no steps up to the front door. Age is a progression. Years zoom by and a decade will be over with you needing a device to help you open cans or mayonnaise jars, a magnifying glass with a built-in flashlight to read labels, support bars to help you get in and out of the shower, and triple-pane windows so your neighbors won't hear you blasting the television sound.

I recently saw a long-time friend's son out in the yard pulling weeds and trimming bushes on a hot day. The son is nearly bald. He is 70. Your 70-year-old son should not be taking care of your yard. Maybe the son's son—who might be 40 or better, the great grandson.

People should think about getting help in their old age. Pass on what you learn to grown children or family members. Start learning now what resources there might be for you (and spouse) and that plan should include your yard or develop one that doesn't need care. Get smart now and start investing with a reputable company and make plans for your future that might not include your children. They could live very far away or pass before you. ★

## Dixon News Briefs



The Dixon Rotary Club awarded \$15,000 of scholarships this year to Dixon High School graduates at the recent Community Scholarship Awards Ceremony. From left to right, they are Uriel Aguirre Robledo, Emily Ventura Yantas, Abigail Ayala, Dalin Kersey, Grace Gabby, Reilly Crain, Raegen Aslett, Bella Wilson, Luis Torres, and Austin Lau. Photo by Marianne MacDonald

MPG Staff

### Lavender Farm

Araceli Farms is now in bloom with rows of delicate lavender flowers for picking, purchasing, or photographing. The company has been carefully crafting a summer experience for visitors to enjoy. Reservations for admission are done online and ticket options list what is included in the different prices. Go to [www.araceli-farms.com](http://www.araceli-farms.com) for more information.

The field looks different almost every day with seven different varieties of lavender, bloom times also look different. They remind visitors to look at their Instagram stories to determine what the fields look like before you purchase your tickets. Guests are reminded that mother nature is not on a busy time schedule and will bloom according to the sun, temperature, and water. Children 10 and under have free entry. They are located at 7389 Pitt School Road but you must have reservations to enjoy the fields.

### 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. For June 15, the music will be by Live Music Center Rock Band; July 6 is Four 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.

### Vacation Bible School

Dixon United Methodist Church will host their annual Vacation Bible School with a Super Heroes theme June 26 through 29. The church is located at 209 North Jefferson. Call (707) 678-2191 for more information.

### Summer Sports

Want to keep your kids active and engaged this summer? The city's summer sport camps are the perfect solution. They offer a safe and supportive environment for kids to learn new skills, make friends, and have fun.

Some of the activities are Basketball Camp, Flag Football Camp, All Sports

Camp, All Sports Jr. Academy, Soccer Camp, and Soccer Jr. Academy. Camps are for children ages 7 to 12 and Junior Academies are for children ages 4 to 6 years old. Tuition is \$159 to \$199 per week. Don't miss out; register today at <https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/cityofdixon/> or call (707) 678-7000.

For registering for the various activities, one can go one the City of Dixon's Online Recreation Activity Registration Site. They are excited to provide the convenience of online registration to the Dixon community. Information on recreation programs and activities are now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please Note: Only payments by credit card will be accepted by this system and service charges will apply to all internet transactions.

### Girls Softball

An amateur sports team, Dixon Girls Softball registration is now open for Fall Ball. Registration for the fall season can be completed online with a couple of payment options. A fee of \$200 covers uniform, registration, and tournament fees. If you have difficulty registering, contact Lisa Peters through this email: [Lisapeters930@gmail.com](mailto:Lisapeters930@gmail.com).

### Upcoming Teen Events

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 [solanalibrary.com](http://solanalibrary.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.

### Social Security Workshop

The Society for Financial Awareness, an IRS approved 501c3 non-profit organization, is offering a free educational workshop, 'Understanding Social Security.' It will be held at American Lutheran Church at 1114 College St., Woodland on Tuesday, June 13, 6:30 to 8 p.m. or Wednesday, June 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Register online at [www.coursersvp.org/dwm](http://www.coursersvp.org/dwm). ★

## Children Walk Through History



A group of seniors visiting from the Magnolia Court Senior Assisted Living & Memory Care Community from Vacaville enjoyed watching the students learn about Dixon's history.

Continued from page 1

name of our town from "Dicksonville" to "Dixon." Dan Rott explained to the students the history of the wagon that is located in front of the Museum, along with, "King" the famous sheep dog, the ice boxes used before refrigeration and the telephone switchboard that Mrs. Fanning controlled.

Melissa Glide set up a model of the Methodist Church in the back area of the Museum to explain to the students the way in which the church had been rolled into town in 1870 from Silveyville on wooden logs. She explained that the reason people moved was to be closer to the Railroad.

Please join us at the Dixon History

Museum at 125 West A St. to learn more about Dixon's past. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays. There are special evening hours as well, please check our website [dixonhistoricalsociety.org](http://dixonhistoricalsociety.org) or email [dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or call (707) 693-3044. We will be open on June 24th for the Dixon Railroad Days event that will be hosted by the Dixon Downtown Business Association. The event will take place from 10 am – 8 pm and will take place in downtown Dixon. In collaboration with the DDBA, The Dixon History Museum will feature a 20-panel timeline of Dixon, along with a Railroad Display. ★

## Retiring MPHS Principal Yvette Ramos



Congratulations to Yvette Ramos, Principal of Maine Prairie High School, who is retiring after 24 years in Dixon Unified School District with most of those at Maine Prairie. She earned her Bachelor of Science from San Diego State and a Master of Arts in Education from California State University Sacramento. She has spent nearly two decades at Maine Prairie dedicated to working hard for students. She has no plans at this time to do anything, she said. Mrs. Angelina Arias is the new appointment as MPHS Principal. Staff reported that they know they will have a smooth transition because these leaders have worked so closely the past six years. Photo by Debra Dingman

## Congressman Mike Thompson Holds Forum on Gun Violence

By MPG Staff

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - On Monday, House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force Chairman Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04) held a forum to engage on a wide range of gun violence prevention issues facing our country.

The witnesses highlighted a diverse range of voices that are calling for action on gun violence prevention legislation. They also discussed some of the best research and polling support for the effectiveness and popularity of gun violence prevention policies.

The group also involved members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, Gun violence survivor, School psychologist, Education stakeholder, Law enforcement officer, Responsible gun owner, a gun violence researcher, a gun violence pollster and a local gun violence prevention advocate.

The discussion was live streamed on Rep. Thompson's Facebook page.

In other news, Thompson announced that long-time Vacaville Reporter journalist, Kim Fu will be joining his office to serve as a Field Representative for Solano County.

"I am excited to have Kim joining our team to serve the people of Solano County," said Thompson. "Kim has been working in our community for over 20 years and her knowledge and expertise of the people, places, and issues facing Solano County will

be invaluable. She will be a terrific addition to our team."

Fu was born and raised on Oahu, Hawaii. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She later earned certificates in Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice-Corrections from Solano Community College. Fu began her career with the former Honolulu Star-Bulletin, now the Honolulu Star-Advertiser. In 1999, she joined The Reporter in Vacaville.

She covered features, education, the city beats of Vacaville and Dixon, the Solano County beat, public safety, Travis Air Force Base and general assignments. She served as The Reporter's assistant editor from 2018-2023. Fu will serve California's Fourth District as a Field Representative for Solano County.

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. For more information, phone (202) 225-3311. ★

# First Class from New Campus



Do the T-shirts spell proud family? They posed with their MPHS grad for photos.

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Maine Prairie High School students had a special year with the move over to a near-brand new school. Much of the old CA Jacobs campus was renovated and modernized at a huge savings to the school district just this past February, and MPHS students walked in on new floors, experienced freshly painted walls, new desks, tables, chairs, and equipment. The only thing that wasn't new was the care the teachers take to see their students through to graduation, which happened this past week at the Dixon High School Community Theater – only because the air conditioning at their new school isn't up to par...yet.

Parents, family, and friends filled the auditorium with balloons and floral bouquets, and signs all congratulating the students who persevered through a variety of personal struggles.

"It is an honor to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the graduates of Maine Prairie High School," said long-time Principal Yvette Ramos. "As the principal of this unique and resilient group of individuals, I stand before you with immense pride and admiration." Her teary eyes bespoke of her retirement plans after 24 years in the District with most of those at Maine Prairie.

Each of the 16 students dressed in maroon caps and gowns had the benefit of a teacher talking about that student with stories or sharing special moments and warm wishes. Some were funny and some were serious, but each ended with affirmations of success and encouragement to continue



Many graduates wore leis and were given flowers as they exited the theater.

toward achieving goals albeit becoming a member of the military, an auto body technician, a tattoo artist or a welder. Or for a few, they will pursue a college degree.

Students participating in the program were also congratulated by School Superintendent Brian Dolan and the members of the school's governing board. Forty students were originally intended to be eligible to participate but only 16 students did. Ramos explained that some chose not to, and others still need to attend summer school.

At the end of the program, Ramos congratulated the graduates.

"You have defied the odds. Your futures hold boundless possibilities. May your journey be filled with purpose and realization of your dreams." As students and their families excited, a musical score accompanied a large photo collage of the students through childhood that rolled on a large screen. ★

# Volunteers Celebrate World Environment Day



Volunteers and event organizers pose with 'Bilgee: The Protector of Clean Waterways' at the 2023 Solano County World Environment Day Cleanup. Photo courtesy of Solano Resource Conservation District

Solano Resource Conservation District News Release

WINTERS, CA (MPG) - 100 volunteers assembled at Lake Berryessa Saturday, June 3 to take part in the 50th observance of World Environment Day. Participants worked hard to clean trash, plastics and recyclables from the shores of Lake Berryessa. Teams of volunteers from Anheuser-Busch joined with individuals and families of volunteers to remove debris from the areas surrounding Markley Cove to the Monticello dam. The haul this year involved more than 100 pounds of cigarette butts, bottle caps, food wrappers, glass and plastic bottles and other plastic items that eventually degrade into microplastics, including fishing line and other discards.

Plastic debris can entangle and kill fish, birds and wildlife when it is in its original form. When it breaks down with time and environmental exposure, the resulting microplastic tiny particles travel through waterways and end up in the ecosystems that serve as homes to aquatic and marine life. Microplastics are easily ingested by living things, often causing great harm. Microplastics also tend to collect other pollutants on their surfaces; further endangering the animals that eat them and everything that eats those animals as the substances accumulate in their bodies and slowly make their way up the food chain, including into the bodies of the humans who consume them. Removing plastic from our waterways is a major component of good water stewardship.

Some participants had the opportunity to plant yarrow and creeping wild rye plugs along Lake Solano and take guided kayak tours with docents from the Solano Resource Conservation District and Putah Creek Council. Genentech Green Team Lead, Emma Mendiola, helped volunteers create their own wildflower pollinator seed packets and all registered volunteers received a commemorative T-shirt. The day ended with a picnic lunch from the Upper Crust Bakery in Winters, and a meet and greet with locally famous, Bilgee, the Protector of Clean Waterways, who posed for photos. Everyone gathered for a group photo to cap the day.

"The Lake Berryessa World Environment Day Cleanup is our largest employee volunteer effort of the year," said Christopher Garcia, Environmental Manager at the Anheuser-Busch Fairfield Brewery. "This event helps us both protect the environment we work and live in and, since Lake Berryessa is our primary water source, helps us to make a product we're proud of." ★



Volunteer Emma Mendiola, lead for the Genentech Green Team, poses with the Wildflower Pollinator Seed Bar, where participants assembled take-home mixes of wildflower seeds. Photo courtesy of Solano Resource Conservation District

World Environment Day is an annual international event building global and political awareness of environmental issues while supporting individual and community projects. Lake Solano is part of a constructed watershed delivering high quality drinking water from Lake Berryessa, the seventh largest reservoir in California, to around 500,000 Solano County residents each year. This water is also the primary source of irrigation water for growers in the region and is used by companies like Anheuser-Busch for brewing its beer.

The Solano Resource Conservation District coordinates the annual World Environment Day event in partnership with Solano County Water Agency, Anheuser-Busch Fairfield Brewery, Solano County Department of Resource Management, Center for Volunteer and Non-profit Leadership and MCE Clean Energy. Additional support for this year's event was provided by Solano County Parks, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Putah Creek Council. More information about future Solano County cleanup activities can be found at [cleanupsolano.org](http://cleanupsolano.org).

The next big cleanup is also a worldwide event: Coastal Cleanup Day. It's scheduled for Saturday, September 23. To learn more, go to [cleanupsolano.org](http://cleanupsolano.org), where you can find information, maps and registration forms. ★

# Graduation Traditions Repeat



Crowds cheer and families wave as the Dixon High graduating Class of 2023 paraded into the ceremony to the high school band performing the traditional graduation march *Pomp and Circumstance* led by Band Director Adrian Coulson. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Continued from page 1

She gave her own words of wisdom and cautioned them to be flexible in their plans for the future and to hold positive.

"Whether you love this town or you can't wait to leave it, whether you know exactly what you want to do next or have no idea what's in store for you, your path beyond your hometown is not set," she reminded.

There were recognitions to 18 students who received official California seals of proficiency in two or more languages along with Athletes of the Year Sean Ward and Jillian Obelleiro.

Class President Arriana Okhominina gave the first speech on 'Time, Please Be Kind' remembering how in the first years of school, students ended school quickly like they signed yearbooks—with knowing

they'd be back next year. This year, she reported, friends took entire pages and wrote from their heart, afraid they might not ever see each other again. She acknowledged her father as an angel looking down on her from Heaven.

Throughout the names of the approximately 232 graduates, the proverbial beach ball was launched and provided entertainment among students heating under the sun. The students received their diplomas and had pictures with Dixon Unified School District Superintendent Brian Dolan while confetti bombs exploded, families hollered, and bullhorns split eardrums intermittently.

Abigail Ayala spoke to visitors on both sides of the stadium telling them that for her, "a campus full of people turned into families" and admitted life

had turned into a "cycle of ongoing countdowns" to get to the next thing. She told her classmates that the real challenge was to take every moment in.

"Take time. You're going to miss this," she said.

The final speech was provided by Melany Menezes.

"We're the only ones who can stop us," she said. "And the only one who can keep us going. We shouldn't be fearful of the future."

After the last student, Marquez instructed the students to stand and take part in the tradition of moving their tassels to the opposite side of their mortar boards and declared the Class of 2023 certified.

Families and friends greeted their grads on the blacktop area nearby where more congratulations, hugs, and photos took place. Great pride swelled. ★

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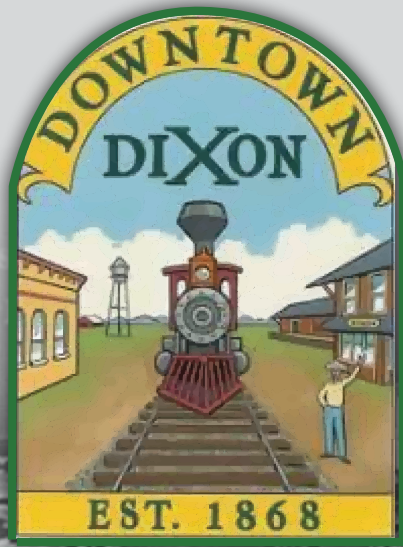
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The Downtown Dixon Business Association Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month inside local businesses.

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. Featured on June 15 will be The Live Music Center.
- **FARMERS MARKET** Starts Thursday, June 22, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Pardi Plaza in the heart of downtown Dixon. Check the [downtowndixonca.com](http://downtowndixonca.com) website for current dates.
- Come down for our first downtown **RAILROAD DAY!** It's Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Model trains will be set up in Pardi Plaza and in the Dixon Women's Improvement Club Park. Dixon History Museum docents will be in Gold Rush attire. Children's activities under canopies at Pardi Plaza. Plus, specialty train gifts sold in the Uptown Collective. Entertainment, history, reenactments, and presentations of how Dixon was started by the railroad.



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# Newsom's Expansive Health Care Promises to Californians Remain Elusive



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Five years ago, while running for governor, Gavin Newsom pledged to transform California's medical care to a single-payer system similar to those in Canada and western Europe.

Newsom backed single-payer legislation, which had passed the state Senate, saying there was "no reason to wait around."

"I'm tired of politicians saying they support single-payer but that it's too soon, too expensive or someone else's problem," Newsom said.

His position helped solidify support for Newsom among the proposal's progressive advocates as he duelled with a fellow Democrat, Antonio Villaraigosa.

The bill stalled in the Assembly, and after winning the election, Newsom began edging away from the single-payer concept, citing difficult barriers. One is persuading the federal government to give California the \$200-plus billion it spends on Californians' health care – about half the state's total medical expenditures.

Newsom segued into pursuing universal health care, meaning all of the nearly 40 million Californians would have some sort of coverage, and came close last year.

At the time, "About 3 million Californians reported

being uninsured in spring 2022," a report from the Public Policy Institute of California notes, citing census data. "Nearly seven in 10 (68%) are Latino, about 38% are noncitizens and 80% have low or moderate incomes (below 400% of the federal poverty line)."

Some of the gap was closed in the 2022-23 budget, drawing on what seemed to be a nearly \$100 billion budget surplus, by extending Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented immigrants otherwise ineligible for federally subsidized insurance.

"Beginning no later than January 1, 2024, Medi-Cal will be available to all income-eligible Californians," the final 2022-23 budget declared.

The expansion of Medi-Cal – California's version of the federal Medicaid program – was made easier during the COVID-19 pandemic when federal authorities relaxed eligibility requirements. This year, enrollment topped 15 million, or nearly 40% of the state's population.

Under his "California Blueprint," universal health care is still Newsom's professed goal. However, at the moment, coverage appears to be shrinking, and with the state facing chronic budget deficits, reaching it before Newsom's governorship ends would be difficult, if not impossible.

The federal government's "continuous enrollment" pandemic policy is expiring and hundreds of thousands of Californians who benefited from it will once again have to prove their eligibility.

Newsom's revised 2023-24 budget, unveiled last month, projects that Medi-Cal enrollment will decline by more

than a million people, still more than a third of the state's population but moving away from the universal coverage Newsom has sought as a single-payer substitute.

Single-payer advocates are, unsurprisingly, annoyed by Newsom's failure to deliver on his 2018 promise. They gave him some heat when he appeared at last month's state Democratic Party convention.

Covering all Californians would be expensive. Medi-Cal coverage costs federal and state governments about \$10,000 per enrollee. No one knows precisely how many Californians still lack coverage today but 2 million is as good a number as any, and including that many more in Medi-Cal could potentially cost another \$20 billion a year.

Meanwhile, single-payer advocates haven't given up. Last week, the California Senate passed Senate Bill 770, aimed at implementing a plan for single-payer coverage developed by the Healthy California for All Commission, which Newsom created in 2019.

The bill would direct state agencies to begin talks with federal officials about participating in a California single-payer system.

"It's time we made real progress toward eliminating the inequities and injustices of our fractured healthcare system," a co-author of the bill, state Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat, said.

As Newsom finally learned, it's much easier said than done.

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

land mines and unexploded ordnance," most of us pay attention.

The NAACP wants people to think of Florida as a hellhole where the peril isn't physical but ideological – DeSantis is pursuing an agenda that, ipso facto, is hostile to certain minority groups.

The group makes it clear that it is thinking of the governor's fight against diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, critical race theory, and gender ideology in the schools, as well as his rejection of an Advanced Placement African American studies course.

This is a classic instance of progressive goalpost shifting. DEI is a relatively recent fad, but now if someone wants to keep it out of education, it's the equivalent of George Wallace standing at the schoolhouse door. It's the same thing with gender ideology – no one thought that LGBTQ rights depended on teaching young children about gender fluidity until the day before yesterday.

As for the fight over the African American studies course, it's false to suggest the state's stance against overly politicized material in the course makes it opposed to the teaching of African American history as such.

In fact, the state's curriculum requires the teaching of key aspects of African American history, and these provisions have been made more robust under DeSantis.

Again, none of this has anything to do with travel – if someone wants to read Ibram X. Kendi while standing in line at Universal Studios or brush up on their DEI training on an airboat in the Everglades, there's nothing stopping them.

Even if you come down in a different place than DeSantis on these various controversies, to suggest that his positions constitute some kind of malice toward African Americans or other groups is a stupid libel.

Florida is a vibrant, diverse state, where people from all backgrounds stand to benefit from good government. The state has an unemployment rate under 3%, and the earnings of African Americans have been increasing smartly. The schools are excellent and minority test scores are strong. Crime is at a half-century low.

Of course, if Florida were really a hotbed of antagonism toward minorities, Americans would have noticed and wouldn't be moving there en masse. The state has gained some 700,000 people since the 2020 census. The U-Hauls are coming because Florida has a well-earned reputation as an open place full of opportunity.

If the NAACP were truly concerned about the welfare of African Americans instead of trying to score points against a Republican potentially on the rise in national politics, it would issue travel advisories about going to Chicago or Baltimore, poorly governed cities where it is affirmatively dangerous for young Black men to live.

Such places could learn from Florida. If the NAACP were thinking clearly and didn't have an agenda, it wouldn't be denouncing the state but considering moving its headquarters there.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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It's Not A Joint Venture, It's A Marriage

Dear Dave,

When my wife and I got married, she had about \$70,000 in savings and I had a lot of debt. We bought some property from her parents to build a home on, and she made a 20% down payment on the land from her savings. We've paid off some debt, and she has more in savings now. But I feel guilty and it seems unfair to ask her to pay on our debt with her savings since most of it is debt I brought into the marriage. How do you feel about this?

– Sonny

Dear Sonny,

This question tells me you're a good guy with a good heart. But let me ask you a thing or two. When your wife gets sick, is it

# Dave Ramsey Says

unfair for you to take care of her? You didn't cause it. It's not your fault. Of course, it's not unfair. I'm not mad at you, buddy. I'm just throwing your own logic right back at you.

Maybe these next lines will sound familiar: for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health. The old "Book of Common Prayer" continues the vows and says, "Unto thee, all my worldly goods I pledge." This is called oneness. It's called unity. And it's what a good marriage should be about.

Do you get what I'm saying, Sonny? The two of you are in this together. This is not a business partnership or joint venture. It's a man and a woman pledging themselves, and all they have and are, to each other. I understand your feelings, but if you're not careful, that kind of guilt will stand in the way of you two creating a successful marriage—both financially and emotionally.

When you got married, the "me" and "mine" became "we" and "ours." You got all her stuff, the

good and bad, and she got all of yours. Now it's time for you to work as a team to make the bad stuff go away and the good things even better. What's fair (and what's right) is to combine all of your income, all of your assets and all of your liabilities.

I know it's uncomfortable, but you've got to choose courage. Ask her to go all in on this with you and attack your debt together. Work toward making your dreams come true together as one.

That's what's fair, and that's what's best when you're married.

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show," heard by more than 18 million listeners. He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions. ★



## Farm Bureau President Urges Congress to Address Fire Risks

California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson is calling for increasing the pace and scale of forest management, including employing livestock grazing and prescribed burns to reduce dangerous fuels and protect communities and the environment. On May 23, Johansson testified in Washington, D.C., before a federal lands subcommittee of the House Committee on Natural Resources. He told the panel, "Given the extensive number of wildfire related impacts in California, California Farm Bureau has a vested interest in quality and quantity of forest management activities."

## Winter Storms May Have Increased Risks of Tree Pathogens

Atmospheric rivers that swept across the state this year have created conditions for plant pathogens that haven't been seen for decades in California. Florent Trouillas, a plant pathologist at the University of California, Davis, said he is getting more calls from growers and farm advisors concerned about potential crop damage. Recent tests in an orchard showed the presence of Phytophthora syringae, a pathogen that can affect almond crops but is rarely seen in California. Researchers are working to diagnose fruit and nut crop ailments that could be enhanced by wet weather.

## Farm Bureau: Small Farmer Need Help After Storms

The California Farm Bureau is calling on the state to improve mechanisms for disbursing disaster relief payments for damages suffered in devastating 2023 storms. Testifying before a joint informational hearing of the California Assembly Agriculture Committee and the Assembly Emergency Management Committee, Farm Bureau Administrator Jim Houston said the storm impacts have been especially hard on small farmers, including many that may lack insurance. "There is no good mechanism for people to recover their losses," Houston said at the May 23 hearing.

## Researchers: Lab-Grown Meat May Be Worse For Environment Than Retail Beef

Researchers at the University of California, Davis, have found that lab-grown or "cultivated" meat's environmental impact is likely to be significantly higher than retail beef. Researchers conducted a life-cycle assessment of energy needed and greenhouse gases emitted in all stages of production compared with beef. Based on current and near-term production methods, they concluded that lab-grown meat will be worse for the environment and more expensive than conventional beef production. ★



## The NAACP's Stupid Anti-Florida Smear

The NAACP is on high alert – a Republican governor, with an unabashedly conservative agenda and some chance of winning, is running for president.

It has duly sprung into action with a travel advisory warning people what they're getting into if they take the risk of visiting Florida's sunny beaches or world-class attractions.

"Florida is openly hostile toward African Americans, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals," the statement says. "Before traveling to Florida, please understand that the state of Florida devalues and marginalizes the contributions of, and the challenges faced by African Americans and other communities of color."

This is a shameful lie even by the standards of the NAACP.

The political play is obvious – use "travel advisory" to get attention and credibility that a mere harsh statement about Gov. Ron DeSantis wouldn't garner, and hope the resulting media coverage helps drive negative associations with the state.

We are used to taking travel advisories seriously, since the State Department often issues them and for non-frivolous reasons. When it says we shouldn't travel to Burma "due to civil unrest and armed conflict" and urges "increased caution due to wrongful detentions and areas with

# Assembly Approves Bill to Boost State Parks' Partnership with Nonprofits

Office of Sen. Bill Dodd

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Legislation advanced June 6, 2023, from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that would extend the ability of the state Department of Parks and Recreation to enter into agreements with nonprofits to help operate and maintain park facilities, improving parks and saving money.

"Hundreds of volunteers and non-profit groups devote their time and effort into making California parks the truly remarkable places they are," Sen. Dodd said. "My proposal would allow these vital partnership to continue, ensuring our parks are sustainable and the best they can be

for generations to come." Existing law allows the state to partner with nonprofits for the improvement, restoration, maintenance and operation of state parks. That authorization is set to end on Jan. 1, 2025. Under Sen. Dodd's proposal, Senate Bill 668, operating or co-management agreements with nonprofits would be allowed to be extended. Among other things, the agreements allow qualified nonprofit organizations to operate or co-manage a park unit, taking on functional and financial responsibilities for the park unit with the department. These partnerships have been vital to over a dozen state parks across the state, preventing closures during the

recession in 2011, and making critical capital investments in preserving and enhancing parks.

SB 668 passed the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife committee today. It previously was approved by the full Senate.

"Nonprofit partners have provided important, stable funding to California's state parks that allows them to remain open and allow continued public access," said Rachel Norton, executive director of California State Parks Foundation, which is sponsoring the bill. "But these partnerships are a two-way street. Partners need support and a measure of autonomy to thrive while they help parks thrive. That

support and limited autonomy depends on the authority the park agency is granted through legislation like SB 668. We envision a future where every state park has a dedicated partner that helps with financial support, programming, staffing and community engagement, and SB 668 is a crucial step in reaching that future."

"This forward-thinking legislation allows for the continuation of proven, successful nonprofit partnerships that provide essential support to parks like Jack London State Historic Park, to keep them thriving," said Matt Leffert, Jack London Park Partners' executive director. "Our state parks are California's

most precious resources and Jack London Park Partners is grateful for Sen. Dodd's leadership to ensure we have the tools necessary to care for California's most precious resource, the California state park system."

"With a simple approach, SB 668 allows partnerships to continue to support our vital public trust resources," Richard Dale, executive director of Sonoma Ecology Center. "These partnerships have brought thousands of new faces, tens of thousands of volunteer hours, and millions of dollars to our state parks, including several threatened with closure, while deepening relationships between the state and local communities." ★

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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Necklace lock
- Blue
- \*Mr. Micelli in "Who's the Boss"
- "The Tortoise and the Hare," e.g.
- Beer acronym
- Check recipient
- Angler's basket
- Circle part
- "Orange" warning
- \*Mr. Keaton in "Family Ties"
- \*Mr. Cunningham in "Happy Days"
- Dad's offspring
- "Jack and the Beanstalk" instrument
- General Post Office
- Plural of cumecum
- Pompous windbag
- Not written
- Scotch ingredient
- Complain
- Spanish surrealist
- Joan
- Formed #17 Across
- Press back arrow key
- Not odds
- "Musical" constellation
- Backgammon predecessor
- Louisiana music genre
- Aware of
- Jeans brand
- In a little while, old-fashioned
- Old age, old-fashioned
- \*Mr. White "Breaking Bad"
- \*Mr. Stark "Game of Thrones"
- Ruffle on a blouse
- Determine the sum
- Feline sound
- Bronze, e.g.
- Chasing game
- "All joking \_\_\_\_"
- Big Bang's original matter
- Compass bearing
- Type of stocking

**DOWN**

- Olden-day aerosol can propellant, acr.
- Lawrence, for short
- Aid and \_\_\_\_
- Like gelled hair
- Relating to pelvis
- a.k.a. Xi'an
- Credit card rate, acr.
- Putin's country house, e.g.
- Samoan money
- Deed hearing
- Egghead
- Up to the present time
- a.k.a. melon tree
- Organ swelling
- What organza and forgiveness have in common
- Calm and peaceful
- \*Mr. Addams "The Addams Family"
- Outhouse
- Propelled like Argo
- \*Mr. Winslow in "Family Matters"
- Give the cold shoulder
- Twofold
- \*Mr. Johnson in "Black-

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# 'Sanctuary State' Governor Upset Migrants Were Sent Here for Sanctuary

By Katy Grimes, California Globe

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California's sanctuary state Governor Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Rob Bonta were quick to blame Florida Governor Ron DeSantis for Friday's migrant flight into Sacramento, and then accused Florida of "state-sanctioned kidnapping" for transporting migrants from the Texas border to a Sacramento church.

However, when he was still Lieutenant Governor, Newsom proudly declared and reaffirmed California's sanctuary state status after the Trump Justice Department threatened to charge state or local officials who enforced sanctuary policies protecting illegal immigrants.

As California Lieutenant Governor, Newsom issued a warning to the Trump administration a Tweet. "Let me be clear, @realDonaldTrump: California is a sanctuary state. We believe in the power of diversity. We have defied and resisted the xenophobic, hateful policies of your administration at every turn. We will do it again."

And he posted a video on Facebook saying, "California will remain a sanctuary state, and your attempt to intimidate will not stop us."

So which is it Gov. Newsom - is California a Sanctuary State which welcomes illegal immigrants and releases them from custody? Or are you sending them back in disgust?

Is all of this bravado and bluster grandstanding for future Democrat voters? Newsom is clearly running for President, and Bonta has announced he wants to be the next California Governor.

As for the two flights into Sacramento, there still is uncertainty if Gov. Ron DeSantis is actually behind the flights. Thus far, all reports about the illegal immigrant planes appear to be speculation, and DeSantis is mum.

Governors DeSantis and Greg Abbott (Texas)



So which is it Gov. Newsom - is California a Sanctuary State which welcomes illegal immigrants and releases them from custody? Or are you sending them back in disgust? MPG file photo

have sent planes with illegal immigrants to sanctuary cities Chicago, New York, and Martha's Vineyard to share in the housing and care of the migrants they claim to want sanctuary for.

Democrat President Joe Biden has called this movement of mostly Latin American migrants "playing politics with people's lives" and said it is inhumane, especially in areas such as New York City, which have services brought to the brink already because of the migrant influx, the Globe reported Monday.

However, officials from Texas and Florida, including DeSantis, have fired back that "every community in America should be sharing in the burdens."

The federal government has also sent secret flights full of illegal immigrants into Westchester, New York in the middle of the night, stirring controversy of their own:

Leaked video shows migrants being transported on secret charter flights under the cover of night from southern border states to Westchester, New York. "The government is betraying the American people," a federal contractor told a Westchester County police officer in a conversation recorded on the officer's body camera on the tarmac of a Westchester airport on Aug. 13, 2021.

Westchester Police Sgt. Michael Hamborsky asked the contractor hired to transport migrants around the country why: "You know why. Because if this gets out, the government is betraying the American people," the contractor said.

Gov. Newsom and Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg turned on the rhetoric claiming, "Human trafficking is not only despicable; it's a felony. I urge authorities to investigate how 16 vulnerable people were lured from El Paso, to Sacramento." "Is there anything more cruel than using scared human beings to score cheap political points?"

Both Steinberg and Newsom support open borders, and illegal immigration.

And it isn't human trafficking or kidnapping to take illegals from a non-sanctuary state to a sanctuary state that claims to welcome them.

Rich with irony, Gov. Newsom has been releasing dangerous felons from state prisons, most of whom reoffend or end up living on the streets, addicted to meth and/or heroin.

Perhaps the most ironic Tweet summed up their hypocrisy best: "Lol yes you are not worried about them coming across the dessert and risking their lives but put them on a private jet and send them to your cities, now that's a travesty." ★

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

On Feb. 2 of this year, and after several phone calls to track down where I could report a problem, I submitted a report online to the City of Dixon Maintenance Department on a page that read:

"To post a comment reply above this line. Kindly note that only text comments are supported and any attachments will not come through to us." I filled out the following report due to the danger I experienced on Pedrick Road. This was the information:

City of Dixon; New Report Submitted - #1373931; Status:New; Work Order #1373931; Issue Type: Street Cracking; Notes: Needs Fog lines and yellow repainted and potholes filled. Pedrick Road between Railroad crossing and the I-80 freeway. Especially in front of Campbell's!!! On foggy days, it is so scary to drive! County says it's the city's job to fix this road. They notified you already. This is my second time posting!"

On June 2, I sent a new message to the Maintenance Department: "For two days, I saw a flag stating patch work. There was no one there for those two days. I sure hope you are not going to just patch this road. It is dangerous now. Everyone is driving down the center of the road because of the holes and sort of old patchwork, especially the big trucks. Please don't insult us! This road needs to be completely fixed. New LINES! The cannery doesn't open until July. You have time."

I'm hoping that others who travel this road to work daily as I do so that they will also express their concerns to the City of Dixon.

Sincerely,  
Carla Schafer, Dixon

# Vallejo Man Pleads Guilty to Stealing Money from U.S. Postal Service Truck

FBI News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Former U.S. Postal Service employee Edison Small, 42, of Vallejo, pleaded guilty on June 1, 2023, to theft of government property, U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced.

According to court documents, on May 24, 2022, Small climbed inside a trailer that a USPS truck was towing in Vallejo while the truck was stopped at a red light. The trailer is used to transport money and mail. Once inside, Small grabbed a bag and hid it under his shirt. When the truck drove down the street, Small hopped out of the trailer. The bag contained \$17,460 in cash, \$1,300 in money orders, and \$504

in checks. During a search of Small's apartment, \$15,240 was found.

This case is the product of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service with assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicholas M. Fogg is prosecuting the case.

Small is scheduled to be sentenced by U.S. District Judge Daniel J. Calabretta on Sept. 7, 2023. Small faces a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. ★

## Request for Proposal and Qualification To Replace and Remodel the Tennis Courts located in Hall Park in the City of Dixon Project No. #2023-142

June 9, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the City of Dixon that sealed bids will be received online via Blueprint Express only (no in person bids will be accepted) on June 20, 2023 until 3:00 p.m. at which time all bids will be publicly opened online and read by the City Clerk.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84491309297?pwd=ZERXaHVYbkNldFBvTUMvTzhKbkM2Zz09>

Phone: (669) 900-9128  
Meeting ID: 44 9130 9297  
Passcode: 06202023

All bids will be considered for award by the City of Dixon City Council on their regular meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. For the following project:

**Replace and Remodel the Tennis Courts located in Hall Park in the City of Dixon Project No. #2023-142**

**LOCATION OF WORK:** Hall Park Tennis courts, located in Hall Park, City of Dixon.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** Replacement and remodel services to the tennis courts located in Hall Park in the City of Dixon. Services will include the replacement of the tennis court surfacing and the underlying asphalt base layer. Additional services will include the installation of new tennis court LED lighting, the upgrade of existing lighting to LED fixtures, installation of new fencing between the tennis courts, and the replacement of tennis/pickleball court nets and posts.

Submitted proposals shall demonstrate the submitter's background and experience in the type of work described in Section IV, "SCOPE OF SERVICES", (Full scope can be obtained and RFQ/P, along with attachments, are available on the City website at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/bids>). **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS TO CHECK THE CITY WEBSITE FOR ANY FUTURE ADDENDUMS TO THIS RFQ/P.**

All bidders must submit bids online through the bid portal at BPXpress in order to be considered responsive. Additional explanation regarding the procedures for submitting bids is available at <https://www.dixonplanroom.com/> **No hard copy paper bids will be accepted.**

All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to **Linda Babb** via electronic mail at [lbabb@cityofdixon.us](mailto:lbabb@cityofdixon.us).

Dixon Independent Voice 6-9-2023

# Torres Joins First Northern Bank as Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer

First Northern Bank News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Carol Landry, Senior Vice President/Business & Industrial Loan Team Manager is pleased to announce that Jason Torres has joined First Northern Bank as Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer.

Jason's nine years of experience in the financial services industry includes underwriting, risk management, credit analysis, and business development. Prior to joining First Northern Bank, Jason served as Senior Credit Analyst-Business & Tech Banking for First Republic Bank in Walnut Creek.

Jason holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of the Pacific, Eberhardt School of Business in Stockton. He has enjoyed volunteering with



Jason Torres First Northern Bank as Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer. Photo courtesy of First Northern Bank

Opportunity Junction, Habitat for Humanity, packing gift bags for young women in the foster system with Project Glimmer, and serving at local food banks.

Jason is a native of Fairfield, CA and currently resides there with his wife and two sons. In his spare time, he enjoys

cross-country cycling, and spending time with his family outdoors.

Jason's office is located at 508 Second Street, Suite 104, Davis, CA 95616. Jason is available by appointment and can be reached at 530-297-3920, 707.688.0609 (cell), or [jtorres@thatsmybank.com](mailto:jtorres@thatsmybank.com). ★

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# Riley Reviews

“THE MACHINE” DELVES INTO HIJINKS;  
“GHOSTS OF BEIRUT” ON TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“THE MACHINE” RATED R

Unless you are already a fan of stand-up comedian Bert Kreischer, you might want to watch his Netflix special before attempting to fully grasp what is in store with “The Machine.”

For one thing, you will become frighteningly aware that his schtick requires him to perform shirtless in full pot-bellied glory, a routine that seemingly dates back to his college days before he embarked on his entertainment career.

Kreischer’s love of booze (apparently vodka) and hard-partying occupied his seven years (shades of “Animal House”) of fraternity living at Florida State University, once deemed the top party school in the country.

Heavy drinking and wild antics during college gained the comedian a large measure of notoriety with an article in “Rolling Stone” that resulted in Oliver Stone buying the film rights to the story.

The intended cinematic project of Kreischer’s story failed to materialize, but it did inspire, without the comedian’s involvement, “National Lampoon’s Van Wilder” in which Ryan Reynolds as the titular character engaged in a party lifestyle.

During his collegiate years, Kreischer enrolled in a Russian language course and admits never learning much of anything after two full years. Somehow, he ended up in a summer program in Russia.

Assisted in flashbacks to his younger self (portrayed by Jimmy Tatro), Kreischer inadvertently got mixed up with the Russian mob during a train trip to Moscow with his fellow students.

The booze-soaked ride on the rails resulted in Kreischer helping the mobsters to rob everyone on the train, and now this youthful indiscretion is coming back to haunt him.

Apparently, there may be truth to this story of the train robbery, but here the comedian is playing a fictionalized version of himself and one has to wonder where the line crosses into fiction.

As the film begins, Kreischer is in therapy sessions with his wife (Stephanie Kurtzuba) and two daughters, with the oldest one (Jess Gabor) holding a prototypical teenage grudge against her father’s antics.

Things only get worse when Kreischer manages to embarrass his oldest child at her sweet sixteen party, and his estranged father Albert (Mark Hamill) unexpectedly arrives from Florida.

The birthday party goes downhill even more when Russian mobster Irina (Iva Babic) turns up and kidnaps Kreischer and his father at gunpoint because the comedian stole a treasured pocket watch that belongs to her father.

Irina expects Kreischer to retrace his steps from his Russia trip more than two

decades earlier, and if he fails to find the family heirloom, his teen daughter will be expendable.

A fair question to ask is how did Irina and her thugs manage to extract Kreischer and his father from our soil and end up in Russia. In the blink of an eye, they are on a train ride through Russia to relive a decades-old experience.

All that matters is the core of the story is the action in Russia, which alternates between the 1998 college version of Kreischer and the middle-aged man forced to endure a dark period of conflict with unforgiving mobsters.

At least, the drunken student Bert looked to party with the Russians and called himself “The Machine” as proof that his hard-partying lifestyle would make him a legend, which explains not only this movie but the image he carries into his stand-up routines.

“The Machine” straddles the line between comedy and action, and in the end doesn’t really bring it together in a cohesive manner. The transition from stand-up to supposed action comedy doesn’t land the jokes very well.

Die-hard fans of Kreischer may be more forgiving or understanding. After all, they are the target audience, even if this film proves not to be as memorable as the comedian’s streaming stand-up routines.

“GHOSTS OF BEIRUT” ON SHOWTIME

A four-part spy drama based on one of the greatest espionage stories of modern times, “Ghosts of Beirut” is the story of the manhunt for Imad Mughniyeh, the elusive Lebanese terrorist who outwitted his adversaries in the CIA and Mossad for over two decades.

The limited series reveals the origins of 21-year-old Mughniyeh (also known as “The Ghost”) who emerged from obscurity and was responsible for more American deaths than any other individual event prior to 9/11.

Told from American, Israeli and Lebanese perspectives, the series traces Mughniyeh’s origins from the Shiite slums of South Beirut to his masterminding of the concept of suicide bombers, a deadly tactic that led to his swift rise as the world’s most dangerous terrorist.

Based on extensive research of still-classified events, the drama spans decades and weaves in first-hand, real-life interviews with prominent officials from the CIA and Mossad, connecting the turmoil of 1980s Beirut with the spy games of the modern Middle East.

“Ghosts of Beirut,” which is streaming on Showtime, features an innovative narrative approach augmented by deep journalistic research and documentary elements. True spy stories are always fascinating. ★

## Revisiting A Book for the Generations “Are You There God? It’s Me, Margaret”

by Judy Blume

If you were a young child in the ‘70s, ‘80s, or even the ‘90s, chances are you have heard of Judy Blume and most likely read a few of her coming-of-age books. *Are You There, God? It’s me, Margaret* has spanned decades and generations, giving a voice to young girls’ inner thoughts, fears, and wishes as they enter the scary new stages of life and their changing bodies. Now a major motion film, this book is the perfect summer reading book to bond readers of the past with a new generation.

Margaret Simon will proudly tell you she is almost twelve, but just before her 6th-grade year, her parents suddenly moved from New York City to the suburbs of New Jersey. Before she can unpack one box, the neighbor girl Nancy Wheeler knocks on her door, instantly letting her know that they will be friends. The presumptuous Nancy immediately takes Margaret by the reins, letting her know she must wear loafers and no socks to school (it’s the cool thing to do), and even invites her to join a secret club.

With her newfound friends Gretchen, Nancy, and Janie, Margaret can finally talk about boys, kissing, bras, periods, and even their teacher Mr. Benedict. But even they can’t help her with everything, especially her secret crush. As Margaret navi-



gates the world of religion, her changing body, and new emotions, she knows there is always one person she can talk to, God. A coming-of-age story that sparks true feelings of angst, fear, questions, honesty, and candor in a way that only Judy Blume can do.

Whether you are 9 or 90, *Are You There God? It’s me, Margaret* speaks

to a young girl’s heart; opening the door to honest thoughts, feelings, and emotions of young girls on the cusp of change. Judy Blume skillfully displays four young girls as they are flooded with questions about their changing bodies and new emotions and delivers a book that is an instant safe space. Follow along as Margaret gets her first bra, learns the value of not judging someone by their rumors, and even the fear of buying personal products at a store. Older generations will only be able to laugh and smile at the awkwardness of our youth, while newer generations will find solace in a young girl going through the same emotions. Left in its almost original form, new readers will be able to see how life at twelve in the late 60s was a little different, but the feelings are still the same.

The major motion film, *Are You There God? It’s me, Margaret*, keeps the essence of the era it was written in but breathes a new depth and life into the characters. The perfect summer book club pairing, buddy read, or just for Nostalgia. ★

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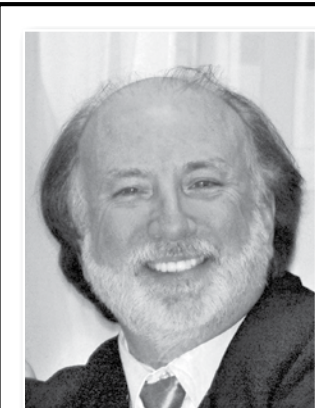
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**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

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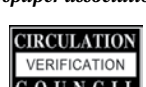
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# COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



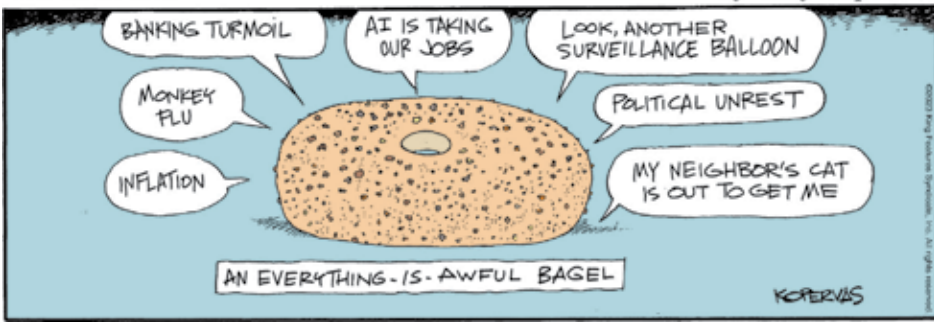
Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb



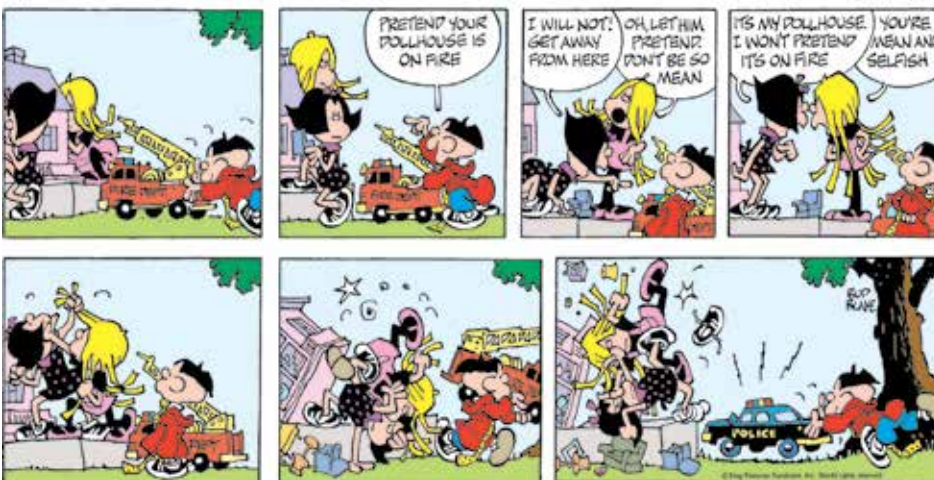
by Gary Kopervas



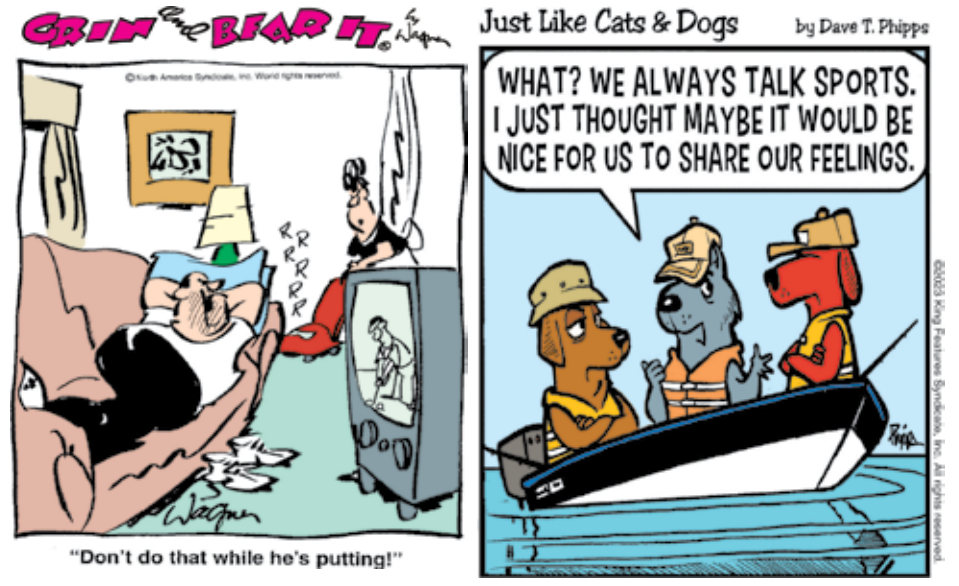
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

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# Young Dixon Performers 'Gifts B Cause' Coming to May Fair Included in Show



Left to right: Emily Haws, Cameron St Andre, Em Baltz, Lisa Applegate-Zimanyi, Mayah Moore. Photo by Tony Nguyen

**Press Release by Applegate Dance**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Applegate Dance Company's 30th Anniversary Celebration Performance presents nine dances of varying lengths and dance styles creating a spectacular moving display. Some of the highlights of the show are Applegate's signature pieces "Peter Pan" and "The Penumbra Fire Dance," a cutting edge Contemporary piece "Oblivion" by guest Choreographer Tony Nguyen, and a moving and emotional piece called "Scars to your Beautiful" directed and choreographed by Davis High School Senior, Emily Haws. The show will open with the debut of our newest mini ballet; "A Morning in Paris," choreography adapted by Stephanie Baltz, and featuring Applegate Dance Studio's youngest performers as well as Company dancers. The evening will culminate in a time travel steampunk dance choreographed by Lisa Applegate-Zimanyi and dancers to fly the audience through the 30 years of Applegate Dance Company.

Over 50 local dancers from Davis, Woodland, and Dixon bring their talents to the stage in this fast-moving production. Over 50 local dancers from Davis, Woodland, and Dixon bring their talents to the stage in this fast-moving production. Our very own Emily Baltz, a Dixon High graduating senior, is performing in almost every piece, including starring as Peter Pan (Th, F, Sun shows) in the signature Applegate "Peter Pan" piece,

and a solo in the debut of our "A Morning in Paris" mini ballet. Baltz began dancing with Applegate Dance Studio when she was 4 and has performed yearly with Applegate since turning 6. Her favorite roles have included Little Mermaid, Newsies, a chimney sweep in A Step in Time (Mary Poppins vignette), Bach, Enchanted Forest and Peter Pan. She will be attending Chapman University this fall, so this anniversary show will be a celebratory way to close her time with the dance family that has been such a big part of her life. Joining her on stage are other Dixon residents Robin Sorenson, Garrett Baltz (DHS '20) and Stephanie Baltz.

The performance promises spectacular costuming by Stephanie Baltz and Rebecca Wendlandt, colorful lighting by the color-whisperer Cassie Barnes, and a Mermaid Lagoon brought to life by builder extraordinaire Scott Hersch. Saturday will include a special 45-minute pre-show slide show featuring our honored ADC alumni from the past 30 seasons!

All shows take place at the Richard Brunelle Performance Hall located at Davis Senior High School. The show is just over two hours including one 15-minute intermission. Tickets are available for \$20 in advance at <https://www.applegatedance.com/performances>

Thursday, June 22 at 7:00 pm; Friday, June 23 at 7:00 pm; Saturday, June 24 at 6:30 pm and Sunday, June 25 at 2:00 pm. ★



Shawna Arzadon-Zambrano and Juan Zambrano with their children Melina and Zack. Courtesy photo

**By Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - A new one-day event, a huge arts and crafts show, will be happening at the Dixon May Fair on Saturday, June 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is the endeavor of Shawna Arzadon-Zambrano, the woman who rocks the popular Solano County Home and Garden Show. This one is called 'Gifts B Cause' and vendor applications are now being accepted.

Some of the vendors already participating are: Ruby Skies Studio and Design, D.Raynged Art, EEzan Pak Inc., Vanderhoof Creations, Way of Denise, Marshall's Art Work and Hana Soapery.

Dixon residents are invited to come enjoy a unique shopping experience with local artisans who design and make unique gifts and home décor items in time for summer birthdays, weddings, and graduations. They will also host a second Gifts B

Cause Arts and Craft Show on December 2 at the Dixon fairgrounds in time for the gift-giving holiday season.

The home and garden show has been a tradition since 2015 but was passed onto the Arzadon-Zambrano family in 2019 by Nicole and John Arabia who started the event. Their endorsement was: "New owners but same great show." The Arabias worked with the new owners a couple of years to ensure the smooth transition of ownership and success which appears to have worked well.

The Zambranos also plan a second Home and Garden Show this year, but it will be at the Vacaville Nut Tree, behind Fenton's Ice Creamery end of Nut Tree Road. Vendors interested in either of the shows may learn more at [www.solanohomeshow.com](http://www.solanohomeshow.com) or [www.schg.show](http://www.schg.show), email [shawna@schg.show](mailto:shawna@schg.show) or call (707) 655-8439. ★

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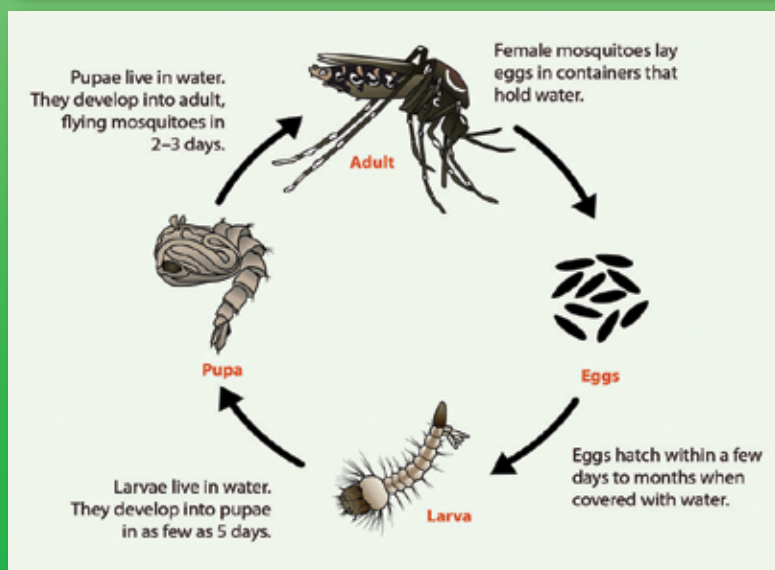
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