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Dixon Independent Voice

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JUNE 23, 2023

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Gnos Commissioned for Museum Mural



Inside the Dixon History Museum in downtown Dixon, Board Members Maria Cornejo, Bill Schroeder, Kim Schroder-Evans with her mom Diane Schroeder, and Wendy Riedel surround Herman and Lucy Gnos with grateful hearts for their \$10,000 contribution to the museum. The money will be used for a mural on the outside of the building depicting significant events in the growth of the City of Dixon created by Colleen Gnos.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Most of us who live in Dixon know Colleen Gnos' work whether or not they realize it. She's the Dixon native who created a 20-foot mural of a Solano County farmer and his dog, which can be seen from hundreds of feet away by Dixonites coming home on Interstate 80.

Many others are familiar with the beautiful painting inside St. Peter's Catholic Church as it is the first thing you see when you enter the sanctuary, or the 3-foot by 60-foot mural at Dixon High School that memorializes three DHS students who lost their lives in accidents or disease. That mural also honored a long-time teacher who died in a car accident. The parents of the deceased student,

Jacob Schneider, commissioned Gnos in hopes it would give students healing from the tragedies.

Now, her beautiful depictions of the beginnings of her hometown of Dixon will grace a downtown Dixon wall of the Community Medical Center that is also the entry for the Dixon History Museum, 125 West A Street thanks to a generous donation of \$10,000 to the museum by her parents, Herman and Lucy Gnos, long-time Dixon farmers.

"Bill kept mentioning the idea to us," said Lucy. "We decided to help them out. I know it is a very good cause and [our daughter] is proud of our town."

Colleen is a San Luis Obispo-based artist who wanted to pay homage to the town she calls home when she created the farmer and was touched

by the tragic stories of the high school students and teacher. She graduated from Dixon High in 1993 and has two brothers, one of which, Craig, has stayed in Dixon to continue the family farm here owned by her parents.

"The new mural will have four panels showing the history of the area pre-Dixon, beginning with the Dixon's Wintun (Patwin) Native Peoples, and there may be the Methodist Church rolling in on logs, a steam train, and some agricultural scenes," said Dixon Historical Society President Kim Schroeder-Evans about the 14-foot space reserved on the Community Medical Center's wall facing the museum.

She met up with the Gnos's and the museum board recently to receive the donation and shared that she was in

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City Plans 4th of July Celebration

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City of Dixon is getting more involved with the annual 4th of July celebration to be held in Hall Park.

There will be a concert from 6 to 9 p.m. which will be a live music orchestra sponsored by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce with the fireworks show after sunset.

"Madeline Graf has done a very good job organizing things for the 4th of July," said City Manager Jim Lindley at a recent City Council Meeting. "We're doing more than we ever have. Not only are we having fireworks, but also a pickleball competition. We're having open swim at the pool. We're having food trucks come. It's going to be quite [the event.]"

Other activities planned include a free recreation swim in the Pat Granucci Aquatic Center, hosted by the City of Dixon, from 4 to 8 p.m. at 450 East Mayes St.

Pickleball will be at Hall Park with all of the pickleball events free and open to players of all skill levels, including beginners. The group will start at 4:30 to 5:30 with open play and instruction. There will then be a Round Robin pickleball play for an hour and then from 7:30 to 8:30 open play and instruction again.

If you don't want to picnic, there will be food trucks in the aquatic center's parking center at 6 until 9:30 p.m. The show will begin shortly after sunset. This free event is open to all members of the public.

Dixon Police Department reminds all that Safe and Sane fireworks will not be permitted in Hall Park. Fireworks that explode, shoot through the air, move along the ground, including sky-rockets, bottle rockets and firecrackers of all types are never permitted. A violation of the Fireworks Ordinance is punishable by the issuance of an administrative citation with an accompanying administrative fine up to \$1,000. ★

Happy 100th Birthday, Oakley!

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It will be a once-in-a-lifetime affair for World War II Veteran Oakley Dexter who just turned 100 and the whole town of Dixon is invited to his birthday party thanks to four active-duty military members who were impressed by the elderly gentlemen when they were part of a volunteer crew to clean up Dexter's from yard last month. The birthday party will be held on Saturday, June 24, at 12 noon at Ye Olde Vet's Hall, 231 North First St. across from the public library.

The plans started forming soon after Gabriel Perez and his wife Francis, both active-duty military, roped in their active-duty friends, Nicholas and Liz Jaeger to come help that day in May at Oakley's house in Dixon. Gerald Gordon of The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) arranged a community service project to honor the WWII Army Corps veteran and along with fellow



Volunteers came to help clean up World War II Veteran Oakley Dexter's yard as an early birthday present, but they couldn't complete the backyard. Now, a group of young military people are asking the community to join them not only at Oakley's birthday party but also to help clean up his backyard.

Veterans, Soldiers, Airmen, members of the community, a church, Kiwanis, and a Boy Scout troop, the volunteers gathered to clean up Oakley's front yard.

"While our efforts allowed one to now be able to see his front door, we

understand we need more hands, more funds (to rent out a large dumpster) and more visits to carry out this project!" Francis wrote on social media.

"It's still a jungle out there," said Gabriel. "That first dumpster was completely full in the first two

hours." The couple started a GoFundMe page to help raise money for the \$800 Recology dumpsters but then realized they really want to celebrate Dexter's birthday, too. As of press time, they have raised more than \$2,000.

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Life's too SHORT

Killed by a Cockroach

By Debra Dingman

There have been many years in my life that I forced myself to be more accepting of sharing our world with various creatures like when my entomologist friend explained that they were here first or that bugs have a right to live as well. But, I'm out of that phase now.

If they are in my house, they are trespassing.

When hubby went on his military treks, I hired a pest control company and when he was home, I could call on him. However, we're getting older and both of us are experiencing a new phase in life where we have to speak up so we can be heard...

That is why I used my best whistle and banged on the garage wall when I saw a cockroach.

I was up on a step ladder, organizing a few odds and ends boxes, car seat, folding chairs and a small ice chest into a neat row on top of the cabinets because I had asked him to do that but his idea of "neat row" is very different from mine.

Besides, I'm the picky one so I don't mind going the extra mile to clean and vacuum his garage.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw movement on the garage floor. There was a 2-inch long, brown cockroach staring at me. I knew not to move fast because he might disappear and I would be scared for days but nothing was in reach that would kill it. Never taking my eyes off the bug, I reached for a long pole near hubby's tools and used it to make several bangs onto the wall hoping the vibrations would be picked up from his living room seat inside. I waited. The

bug stared at me and wiggled its feelers. I felt nauseous.

I knew after the third scream for hubby, I was going to have to make a run for it. Nearly rolling across the hood of the car like 007 so the bug wouldn't notice, I flew to the door, swung it open and screamed "DAVID!" Did he gasp and run toward me? Did he not hear the hysteria in my voice? No. He yelled back, "What?" (This is married life at 25 years...)

I screamed for him to come quick and jumped back across the hood of the car but almost missed landing on the small step stool. I stared down at the bug that for some reason did not move other than those eerie feelers.

First, hubby grabs the broom. No, I tell him, he'll get tangled in the bottom of it and you'll possibly just relocate him to another spot. I told him to grab the bug spray which made the bug scurry under the car.

Me from the kitchen door, (and I'm not proud of this:) "MOVE THE CAR!" I didn't say please and I wasn't polite. I just didn't want to suddenly be alarmed by this bug tomorrow getting into the car for work and kill myself trying to climb the nearby garbage totes to get away from it. Things happen. People die. I could see the headline: Woman Killed by Cockroach.

Hubby starts the car and then lets the engine warm up...

Me exasperated: "JUST GO!" He's mad at me for yelling and tells me to settle down, that it's only a bug. He backs the car up. It ran over half the bug so the other part is still squirming. I then fainted into the kitchen. ★



Dixon News Briefs



The Dixon Senior Center at 201 South Fifth St. offers Chair Yoga Classes on Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. First class is free. A 10-Class Pass is \$75 or a 5-Class Pass is \$40. Passes do not expire and can be purchased at class. Instructor is Yae Kuroda. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Pickleball Time Change

Due to the season changing, Pickleball at Hall Park is now 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday and Wednesday evenings through August at least. There are new people every week joining in on the fun! It is free.

Seeking DHS Sports Boosters

Are you a student at Dixon High or a parent of one who likes sports? Dixon Athletics is looking to restart their Dixon Sports Athletic Boosters for next year. Dixon High School has not had an active booster club in over a decade. Boosters play a role in providing student-athletes with a positive experience through their enthusiastic efforts. They can support teams and athletics departments through donations of time and financial resources which help student-athletes succeed on and off the playing field. Please email Brett. Peterson@dixonusd.org if you are interested. They will have their first official meeting in June.

Store Moves

Tony and Helen Sweitzer, owners of Dixon's House of Floors, are proud to announce that they outgrew their space and moved to a bigger, better location just a couple blocks down the street at 1690 N Lincoln Street. Tony has been doing floors for more than 25 years and the Editor of this newspaper is one of many who can vouch for the great service and expert job done. For more information, check out social media or call (707) 676-5385.

Farmers Market

This coming Thursday, June 29, will be another Farmers Market at the Pardi Plaza from 4 to 7 p.m. There are lots of fresh vegetables, Dawson's Pizza, La Familia Food Truck and other vendors as well. Make it a date night opposite of the Chamber and City hosted free concerts! The next Concert is July 6 and features 'More on the Floor'.

Railroad Day

The Downtown Dixon Business Association is putting on its 1st Annual

Railroad Day in honor of how Dixon became a town. In 1868 it became an official stop for people and goods to be transported to the State of California. Reason for the building of this railroad was that early Forty-Niners of the California Gold Rush wishing to come to California were faced with limited options.

A wonderful family event DDBA encourages young and old to attend with displays of train enthusiast's extensive modules of cities and rolling hills for the masses to enjoy. Live encasements of train robberies are scheduled throughout the day in the Women's Improvement Park and displays of historic photos of Dixon courtesy of the Dixon Library, at the Dixon History Museum will be docents sharing how Dixon became the central hub in California for farmers to transport their goods across the world. Children's activities, antique vendors to name a few. Live music throughout the day on the stage at the Pardi Plaza featuring Dixon's Veteran of the Year Roger Schaller and closing out the evening rocking the park with Fair Warning Band. It runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. for vendors, Music until 8 p.m.

Swimming!

The Pat Granucci Aquatics Center at 450 West Mayes St. is open for recreational swimming Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Seniors 55+ are \$ entry, 18+ is \$5.75 and ages 3-17 are \$4. Tots 2-years-old and younger are free with paying adult.

Meatloaf Dinner

The Veterans Memorial Hall will feature their weekly dinner for \$10 and will be a family favorite: meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, and a roll. The hall is at 1305 North First St. You do not have to be a veteran to attend.

Festival of Trees

The Kiwanis Club of Dixon wants Christmas Tree Decorators to know that this year's event will be held on Saturday, December 9 at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First St. If you are interested in participating with decorating a tree, email dixonkiwanis@hotmail.com. ★

MEMORIAL

CHARLES "WES" KYTE • 2/8/1942 – 5/16/2023

Charles Wesley Kyte began his treasure hunt on Feb 8, 1942 and left his treasures behind on May 16, 2023. Wes, as he was called by everyone who knew him, was the first of 5 children born to Ord and Dorothy Kyte and lived his entire life in Solano County. He was welcomed into a large family with 23 first cousins. Wes drove semi-trucks delivering produce up and down California for over 50 years, and was always on the look out for unique items which he would store away or share with friends and family. His collection included everything ranging from Japanese pachinko machines and common marbles to unusual tools, and gadgets. As he was a fan of the Oakland A's, he also collected the occasional hat or shirt. Like any true treasure hunter, he enjoyed the hunt as much as the prize with most of his finds passed on

Dixon Moose Lodge and many other tucked away restaurants. He had a quick mind and a quick wit, enjoyed game shows and crossword puzzles and when consulted about a complex problem, would often offer a solution. He was also known for his independence and tenacity, not accepting temporary fixes, preferring to keep looking for the perfect solution.

In keeping with his unique personality and style, a celebration of the wonderfulness that was Wes will happen later this summer or early fall. His friends and family need time to plan the perfect service. All who knew and loved him are invited to come and share stories, good food and treasures—all things that Wes loved. If you would like to join us, please send your name and email address to kcmurcia@gmail.com or text the information to 704-448-3846.

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Banking Fraud Strikes Downtown Happy 100th Birthday, Oakley!

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Two local merchants have had fraud and their merchant accounts hacked and want others to be warned.

"I'm shocked and disappointed that this is the world that we've come to," said a merchant who wishes to remain anonymous. "It takes all the time, and you can't run your business." This merchant discovered last Thursday when looking at her account that two checks were coming through that were for \$1,000 each and she knew she had written checks for that amount before, so she tried to figure out what they were but quickly learned there was something wrong and called the bank immediately.

"I panicked. I work hard for my money and I was appalled. I couldn't believe that people could do this, and I wasn't prepared to think that this could happen. It is a horrible situation," she said.

There was a total of \$6,500 dollars' worth of checks but the bank could not see them because they were using mobile banking. But, because they were alerted, they watched the account.

When the checks hit her account the next day, it cleaned out her account, but First Northern Bank was watching and stopped them. They are now hand-clearing every transaction and the merchant will be signing up for safety features. She had to get copies from the bank and took a trip to the Dixon Police Department to report the fraud.

The second person was a realtor and had \$30,000 taken out of his merchant account. It happened over a weekend so phone calls to the bank were not easy, and he had to track down emergency numbers.

"The stress was incredible," he said. "I couldn't figure out how that happened." For privacy, he has asked not to be identified.

Shaun Farrell, VP/Treasury Management Relationship Manager at First Northern Bank reported that considering there are 14 branches, it's not unusual for this to happen daily.

"Every check you write, you are providing a routing number and a check number. You can buy blank checks at any [office supply store] and criminals print them out and use different ways to cash them," said Farrell. Criminals can pass them using counterfeit identification. According to Dixon Police, banks do not guarantee forged documents, so the business that accepts the check suffers the loss, although Farrell encourages merchants to get 'Positive Pay,' a service that First Northern Bank offers that helps protect merchants. He also said they need to always call the bank immediately.

Then call the Dixon Police Department. The function of the Investigations unit is the follow-up investigation of cases of check forgery, counterfeiting, and credit card theft, according to Dixon Police Department website. Patrol officers take the initial reports on all these crimes and are able to close most cases. They also assist in educating Dixon businesses and residents in fraud prevention.

In regard to forgery, that is often part of other crimes, it is a huge problem, according to the Dixon Police Department's website. Criminals will steal checks or counterfeit checks by using easily obtained commercial software.

"When it happens to you, it is very upsetting and you feel violated," Farrell said. First Northern Bank will be providing more information on this at the August Downtown Dixon Business Association meeting on Thursday, August 3, at 8:30 a.m. tentatively in the Palace Hotel Courtyard behind the Uptown Collective but depending on number of reservations, may be moved. Watch this newspaper for updates or call (707) 678-8400. ★

Continued from page 1

"A big element is being grateful for everything Oakley has done in his life. He is an example of what it looks like to be a public servant," said Francis. "He's been a Superintendent of Children's Ministry at a church, a successful business owner, and a volunteer firefighter for 60 years. I think that he is very inspirational. There's a lot of life he's lived."

Gabriel met with Bud's Pub and Grill owners who knew "the Oak" personally and gave them a discount on the venue. That's good because they think they are going to need three of those \$800 dumpsters when they do Oakley's backyard.

"Cherie told me that the building was turning 100 also and that she had been looking for a way to celebrate that. She said it was a perfect event," said Gabriel. So far, they have garnered donations from Costco, Sam's Club, Dunkin' Donuts, Chick fil-A gift cards for Oakley's dinners, Noah's Bagels in Vacaville.



More hands are needed, as well as more funds, to finish veteran Oakley Dexter's backyard project to the end.

Some recognitions will be by the Dixon Mayor, Congressman Thompson's office, the Dixon Police Department, and a special presentation by the Fire Chief from Central Fire Department (formerly Larkspur) Ruben Martin where Oakley was a volunteer fireman for many years.

"After the birthday, the next step will be to plan a service day," Gabriel said. "Brandon Cody owns a

small business and he'll donate a trailer and park it in the front yard and will take it to the dump, too. We're hoping to get Oakley's yard first clean, then secondly where it requires minimal work [to maintain.]"

The date for the backyard cleanup will be posted in this newspaper and also on social media. If you can or want to help, email Liz Dexters100@gmail.com. ★

Gnos Commissioned for Museum Mural

Continued from page 1

the same class as Colleen's brother, Mike, and more interesting was the fact that Bill Schroeder and Herman Gnos were college roommates together.

"The mural benefits will be three-fold," said Evans-Schroeder. "It will add beauty to Dixon. It will educate the community on Dixon's prehistory before the train was established in 1868 when we had the three townships. Tremont and Maine Prairie needed to be closer to the railroad and in 1870 the church was rolled over

from Silveyville. And, it will preserve our history."

The historical society signed a contract for the mural and, with the Gnos donation, will be half paid for.

"Murals are expensive," said Evans-Schroeder. "This is truly a gift by this family. Because the parents are giving a significant portion and an additional gift from Colleen. She will come up with four depictions, then she'll bring them to the Board, and then she'll start working on them. The work will start Dec. 2023 or Jan. 2024." ★



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SMF Receives FAA Funding for Relocation of Air Traffic Control Tower



the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will provide funding for the Sacramento International Airport's (SMF) control tower replacement project. MPG file photo

Sacramento International Airport News Releases

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Department of Airports is excited to announce the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will provide funding for the Sacramento International Airport's (SMF) control tower replacement project.

The tower's replacement will be funded through the FAA's \$5 billion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which was signed into law by President Biden on November 15, 2021. The law authorizes \$1.2 trillion for transportation and infrastructure spending with \$550 billion of that figure going toward "new" investments and programs.

The FAA has started investing the first \$1 billion of \$5 billion into the country's air traffic control system. The funding will sustain, repair, or replace hundreds of buildings and pieces of equipment that make flying in the United States the safest in the world.

"We are thrilled, and greatly appreciate the support we've received from everyone involved in this effort," said Cindy Nichol, Sacramento County Department of Airports Director. "This new state-of-the-art tower will be a significant upgrade to the current facility that will enhance working conditions for air traffic controllers at SMF and ensure the continued safe and efficient management of aircraft operations at the Airport."

"Today's announcement has taken over a decade of dedication and collaboration – and I am proud that we have secured this funding to build our new air traffic control tower at SMF,"

said Congresswoman Doris Matsui. "From the initial planning and design all the way to today's announcement, I have fought to ensure that decisionmakers at the highest levels understood the importance of getting this project to the finish line. Cindy and her team are always looking at new ways to improve the travel experience and safety of our airport. That's why I have been such a strong, long-time advocate for robust federal investments in their work. This new tower will continue to build on that progress and ensure our airport remains the gold standard for the nation."

Congresswoman Matsui is a champion of the Sacramento County Airport System and has long advocated for a new SMF tower – dating back to 2006. She has made numerous requests to secure funding through the annual federal budget, repeatedly urging senior FAA officials to take action and making personal appeals to three different Department of Transportation secretaries. Her unrelenting advocacy has been critical to securing funding for a new tower.

The current tower at SMF is owned and operated by the FAA. It was built in 1967, is 130 feet in height, and is located just south of Terminal B at the Airport. Given that tower is one of the oldest towers in the country, the FAA is prioritizing replacing it with a new, 192-foot tower in a new location on the north side of the Airport.

The new tower will be 100 percent funded with BIL funds, which are fully appropriated. The expected timeframe to complete construction is 2026.

"As we invest in the future of our nation's infrastructure, it is crucial that we prioritize the safety and efficiency of our airports," said Representative Ami Bera. "The building of a new air traffic control tower

at Sacramento International Airport is a significant step towards modernizing our aviation infrastructure and ensuring a seamless and secure travel experience for all passengers. This investment not only enhances the safety measures at SMF but also creates job opportunities and strengthens our regional economy. I'm proud to help secure this critical funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which will support a safe and resilient transportation system for generations to come."

The new tower will be constructed at a site located on the north side of the Airport. It will stand 192-feet in height and the current cost estimate is between \$60 to \$80 million.

"SMF remains a point of pride for Sacramento County, and with the recent news of available FAA funding for a new control tower, we can expect that our international airport will continue as the best of its size anywhere in the nation" said Supervisor Phil Serna whose district includes SMF. He continued by emphasizing that "safety and convenience at SMF are our top priorities, and a new state-of-the-art air traffic control tower will further enhance our ability to maximize both for the traveling public."

The Sacramento County Department of Airports is responsible for planning, developing, operating and maintaining the county's four airports: Sacramento International Airport, Executive Airport, Mather Airport and Franklin Field. Sacramento International Airport offers more than 155 daily nonstop flights on 12 domestic and international carriers to 36 destinations. The regional economic impact of the Sacramento County Department of Airports is more than \$4 billion annually. For more information, visit sacramento.aero. ★

Feeding the Hungry



No one should go hungry in Dixon. There are two well-stocked food pantries: one is pictured above and is weekly at Cornerstone Church, 185 West Cherry St. or call (707) 678-5234. According to Pantry Director Monica Sepulveda, their mission is to give a helping hand to Dixon community members who are in need of food assistance in addition to showing them the love of Christ. The other pantry is through Dixon Family Services at 155 North Second St. or call (707) 678-0442. Photo by Debra Dingman

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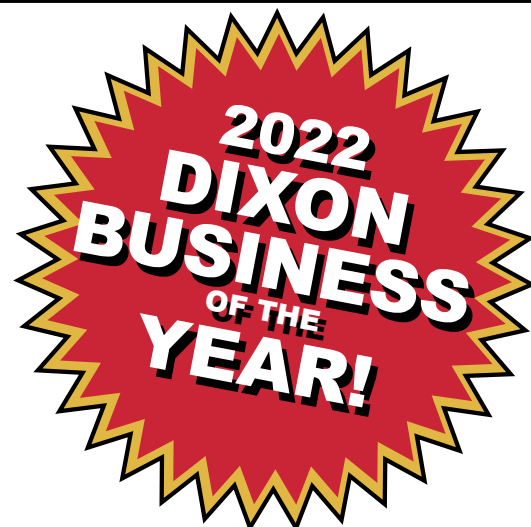
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Against The Pride Flag

It's June, when one can be forgiven for thinking we live in the United States of LGBTQIA2S+.

Old Glory is, at best, supplemented with, and sometimes supplanted by, the pride flag in all its varieties.

The flag, which has become more and more unsightly, is ubiquitous. Its increasingly elaborate jumble of clashing stripes – whether seen shopping, at a ballgame or on U.S. government buildings – is a reminder to get with the program, and that the program is always changing.

Team Biden draped what is known as the Progress Pride flag, with no fewer than 11 different colors, on the White House in between two American flags, giving it – no pun intended – pride of place.

Flags aren't trifling matters. People rally to them and live and die for them. The firing on the flag at Fort Sumter at the outset of the Civil War, for instance, had a galvanizing effect on the North. "On forts and ships, from church-spires and flag-staffs, from colleges, hotels, storefronts and private balconies, from public edifices, everywhere the old flag was flung out," historian George Preble writes in a passage that could almost as accurately describe the unavoidable June displays of the pride flag.

Whereas the power of

the Star-Spangled Banner is its extraordinary history, its relatively simple design, its easily understood symbolism, and its call to unify all Americans – not to mention the sacrifices made to defend it – the pride flag is the opposite.

It's always being refashioned (the version displayed on the White House dates all the way back to 2018), it's an aesthetic disaster, it's inscrutable, and it's a banner concerned with the recognition of splinter groups.

If you wanted to create a visual representation of "intersectionality," the latest iterations of the flag would be it.

The old, quaint rainbow flag had the virtue of being simpler than its subsequent renditions and of representing broad categories of things (life, sunlight, etc.), rather than specific groups of people. The flag started as eight stripes and got dropped to six for pragmatic reasons before additional stripes started getting layered in.

As it happens, there are dozens of separate flags out there for every gender identity and sexual orientation – pansexual, non-binary, gender fluid, asexual, you name it. How could they be left out?

First, the City of Philadelphia added black and brown stripes to the top of the flag in 2017 to recognize people of color. The next year, a designer took the black and brown stripes – along with light blue, pink, and white stripes incorporated from the transgender flag – and put them in a horizontal chevron to make the Progress Pride flag.

Yet another update added a yellow triangle

with a purple circle from the intersex flag.

The resulting banner has all the visual appeal of a TV test pattern. It's hard to see any principle by which other groups should be excluded. By the time it's all said and done, the thing could look like a Sherwin-Williams fan deck, if it doesn't already.

Like the LBGQT+ cause generally, the flag has become increasingly esoteric and obsessed with identity politics – there's always another letter or another stripe. But what better representation of a movement that has gone down the rabbit holes of such bizarre causes as insisting that males compete in women's sports and minors get life-altering "gender-affirming care" that other advanced countries are turning away from as a terrible mistake?

Yet, it flies everywhere as though it were a quasi-national flag with universal popular assent. Even U.S. government buildings here at home and U.S. embassies abroad are bedecked with the flag. If Republicans ever get unified control of government, they should ban this practice. The government shouldn't be promoting boutique causes, and we already have a flag that includes everyone, that doesn't require constant ideological makeover, and that isn't an eyesore.

The Stars and Stripes should be sufficient for this and every month.

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

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Your Financial Life Depends on It

Dear Dave,

I've been struggling for about a year, ever since I made a stupid new-college-graduate decision to finance a car. It's a 2018 Jeep Compass, and I owe \$21,000 on it. The trade-in value is about \$11,000, so I really got stung on the sticker price and everything else. I also have \$85,000 in student loan debt and around \$7,500 on credit cards. The good news is, I make \$63,000 at my job, and that should increase to \$75,000 by January of next year. My girlfriend and I are renting an apartment and engaged to be married in 2025. How do I clean all this up before then?

– Austin

Dear Austin,

Well, the good news is,

Dave Ramsey Says

you have the rest of your life to never make this kind of mistake again. I'm really sorry you're going through all this, son. What a horrible thing to experience right after college.

So, you're \$10,000 upside down on a vehicle you owe \$21,000 on, right? The truth is, you're kind of stuck. If you're serious about getting out of this mess and not repeating the same mistakes twice, you're going to be working like a dog for the next year or two. Right now, you need a serious side job nights and weekends—maybe two. And I'm talking bare-bones living. No vacations, and no eating out for a while. You don't need to see the inside of a restaurant unless you're working there. Get what I'm saying? No unnecessary spending. Period. On top of all this, you've got to start living on a strict, written monthly budget.

Now, about your fiancée. I get the desire to fix things before you get married. But married people work together on this kind

of stuff all the time. Believe it or not, there's no perfect time to get married. I mean, it sounds like you two have already decided to go there and figured out neither one of you are perfect. That's just called being human. So, there's really no reason to wait on tying the knot at this point. And the truth is, the two of you can whip your finances into shape faster and much more efficiently working on it together—as a married couple.

Austin, I want you tear into this debt like your life depends on it. Because guess what, dude? It does!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling 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. ★



Imperial Valley Farmers Await Water Deal, Weigh Planting Decisions

California, Arizona and Nevada reached a long-sought consensus last month on how to conserve water and prevent the Colorado River from running dry. Farmers in the Imperial Valley, who are expected to shoulder much of the burden, had been readying to fallow some acreage to save water as early as this year. But many will plant as normal this year and look to reduce acreage next year. That's because a \$1.2 billion federal compensation plan is yet to be worked out for those curbing water use, including details on how much each water user will be paid to leave water in the river.

California Ranchers Have Ample Pastures, but High Costs for Rebuilding Herds

Short supplies of cattle nationwide have sent prices soaring at a time when California ranchers have less to sell after years of drought forced them to shrink their herds. With more rain and an explosion of feed on pastures this year, ranchers are eager to rebuild their numbers while the market is hot. But buying cattle at current prices may not be palatable for some. In its May forecast, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said it anticipates beef production in 2024 to decline 8%, resulting in the lowest per capita beef available domestically since records began in 1970.

Storms improved outlook for California farming, agricultural summit is told

The outlook for California's agricultural economy shows some signs of improvement after several years of supply-chain constraints, high input costs and a multi-year drought that forced farmers to fallow acres and remove orchards. Drenching storms that hit the state early this year turned the tide, contributing to a more positive outlook for agriculture this year, economic analyst David Magaña of Rabobank told attendees during a food and agriculture issues summit in Sacramento. The event featured discussions on topics including water, labor and farm policy.

Officials Hail Farm Grant Program to Safeguard Food Protection

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is partnering with states to offer a grant program to build resilience across the food-supply system, responding to lessons learned from supply-chain disruptions and food shortages that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. The USDA Resilient Food System Infrastructure Program is meant to create new revenue streams for producers and to strengthen local and regional food systems. The program was discussed during a recent California State Board of Food and Agriculture session on safeguards to protect America's food supply. ★

Workplace Angst Helping 'Job Killer' Bills Survive In California Legislature



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

In the 27 years of the California Chamber of Commerce's "job killer" project, it has followed a fairly predictable pattern.

The chamber would annually designate several dozen legislative bills that business and employer groups considered to be particularly onerous – usually the highest priority measures of labor unions, environmental groups, consumer advocates and personal injury attorneys.

One-by-one, most of the targeted bills would fall by the wayside and only a few, if any, would reach the governor's desk and be signed into law. Overall, the chamber and its allied business groups have achieved about a 90% kill ratio.

This pattern continued even after Gavin Newsom, arguably the most liberal governor in California history, took office in 2019. In the first four years of his governorship, the chamber tagged 94 bills as "job killers." Just eight of them landed on Newsom's desk and he signed six.

So far, 17 bills have made this year's list – an unusually small number – and more than half have already faltered, mostly failing to clear committees.

One has reached Newsom and been signed, but it's a faint shadow of its original thrust. Newsom wanted to either tax or penalize oil companies for what he characterized as price-gouging, but settled for giving the California Energy Commission the power to investigate gas prices, set allowable profit margins and levy fines on those which exceed them.

There are two tax increases on the chamber list, one imposing a wealth tax and another increasing corporate income taxes. Both, however, are nonstarters.

The unusual aspect of this year's "job killer" battle is that the eight bills still viable, having cleared their first legislative houses, all relate to one topic – wages and workplace conditions – and are sponsored by unions or personal injury attorneys.

They are the political manifestation of what has become a very contentious labor relations atmosphere this year, not only in California but across the nation, due to high inflation and an overall shortage of workers.

In the main, the employment bills' sponsors contend they are needed to bring more equity to workers while the chamber and other opponents say they will raise costs and thus reduce the financial ability of employers to expand payrolls.

The eight, in brief:

•Assembly Bill 524, which would outlaw discrimination against a personal caregiver in employment, similar to the protection granted to persons on the basis of gender, age and other personal characteristics;

•Assembly Bill 647, which would enhance the job protections of grocery industry workers who are displaced by mergers, sparked by the pending merger of the Kroger and Albertsons grocery chains;

•Senate Bill 365, which would make arbitration of employment disputes, which employers generally favor, less viable by allowing lawsuits to continue while employers seek judicial approval of arbitration proceedings;

•Senate Bill 399, which would prohibit employers from disciplining any worker who refuses to listen to employer presentations on political or religious issues;

•Senate Bill 525, which would increase minimum wages in the health care industry to \$21 an hour in 2024 and then \$25 in 2025, with cost-of-living increases thereafter;

•Senate Bill 616, which would increase the amount of paid sick leave employers must offer from a minimum of three days a year to seven days;

•Senate Bill 627, which would require retail and service chains, such as restaurants, to use seniority when deciding which workers to retain or transfer when closing outlets;

•Senate Bill 723, which would make permanent a temporary law passed during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect return rights of workers in the hospitality industry who are laid off.

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

Sen. Dodd's City Council Pay Cap Bill Approved by Legislature

Office of Sen. Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Legislature has approved a bill from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that would boost participation and diversity on California city councils by allowing the first council pay cap increases in nearly four decades, bringing salaries more in line with the cost of living.

"No one runs for city council to get rich. But the low levels of pay make it much harder to balance careers and personal obligations with the calling to serve their community," Sen. Dodd said. "It's especially hard for working people and those from diverse or disadvantaged backgrounds. By allowing councils to adjust their maximum pay to reflect inflation, my bill will remove barriers to achieving more equitable representation in local government."

Now, in general law cities, city councils may vote to receive a limited salary, not to exceed caps based on population size provided in state law. However, the maximum amounts set by state law have not been increased since 1984,

despite inflation of more than 300% during that time. Because of the disparity, people from diverse communities are discouraged to run for office. Others with full-time jobs have been forced to resign their posts before their terms expire because they can't devote time to council service and supporting their families. A majority of cities in California are under 35,000 in population and presently capped at \$300 per month with minimal allowances for adjustment.

Sen. Dodd's proposal, Senate Bill 329, would address the inequity by allowing councils to adjust their maximum pay to reflect inflation as measured by the California Consumer Price Index. Any increases would require a majority vote of the city councils.

SB 329 is supported by the California branch of the NAACP and the League of California Cities, among other groups. It passed the Assembly Monday with bipartisan support after previously being approved by the full Senate. It heads next to Gov. Gavin Newsom for his signature.

More information on Senator Bill Dodd can be found at www.senate.ca.gov/dodd ★

African Lion Kamau Passes Away at Sacramento Zoo

Sacramento Zoo News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Zoo is mourning the loss of one of our most charismatic and iconic animals, an African lion named Kamau. At nearly 17-years-old, Kamau was considered elderly. His longevity here at the Zoo is a testament to the care he received from his dedicated animal care professionals and veterinary team including specialists from UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

Our staff did everything possible to make Kamau comfortable and gave him the best quality of life in his golden years. Over the last few weeks, Kamau had developed worsening gastrointestinal problems with decreased interest in food, and the difficult decision to proceed with humane euthanasia was made when medical treatment options

failed to provide sufficient relief from his condition.

Kamau came to Sacramento Zoo from the San Diego Zoo in 2008. For the 14 years that he called the Zoo home, visitors (and many Land Park neighbors) enjoyed his impressive roar. He would draw crowds from every corner of the Zoo. In 2014, Kamau sired a litter of cubs and in 2019, his habitat doubled in size and a glass viewing wall allowed our guests to get "nose-to-nose" with both Kamau and his mate, Cleo.

Cleo, our nearly 18-year-old lioness is doing well. Our carnivore care team will be monitoring Cleo closely to ensure her wellbeing. She enjoys her regular training sessions and one-on-one time with her care team.

Kamau was adored by many over the years, and we appreciate the love and support of our Zoo family. ★



★ **Kamau.** Photo courtesy of Sacramento Zoo

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CLUES

- ACROSS**
1. Kind of illusion
6. Perched
9. Island near Java
13. Old West pack animal
14. False statement
15. Opposite of atonal
16. Hailing from the East
17. Supply with weapons
18. ___ death do us part"
19. "Frank
21. "Popular celebratory get-together
23. Many, many years
24. Scott Hamilton's "court"
25. Gross National Product
28. Abundant
30. Bantoid language
35. Bakery unit
37. Cutlass maker
39. Two in eighteen
40. Milk's favorite cookie
41. Muslim ruler honorific
43. Hyperbolic sine
44. Iranian money, pl.
46. Nancy Sinatra's boots
47. Fill to satisfaction
48. "Certain Doodle
50. Argo's propellers
52. Feather glue
53. Give temporarily
55. Porridge grain
57. "Roman firework
60. "The Star-Spangled Banner"
63. Opposite of neo-
64. Glass margin
66. Continental money, pl.
68. Opposite of #17 Across
69. Go for the gold
70. "Silas Marner" author
71. Mexican money
72. Not yang
73. Down and out

CROSSWORD

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6	3	8	5	7	4	1	9	2
2	9	5	6	1	3	4	8	7

- DOWN**
1. ___ constrictor, anagram
2. Word on a door
3. Duet plus one
4. Angry
5. Large California bird
6. Smelling waste
7. Stuff of inflation
8. Adagio and allegro, e.g.
9. German city on Rhine river
10. Con
11. Not of the cloth
12. Down with a bug
15. ___ someone ___ bed
20. Satirical publication, with The
22. Calligrapher's purchase
24. "From the ___ forest to the Gulf Stream waters"
25. "Old ___
26. Waterwheel
27. Hymn of praise
29. "Popular decoration
31. "Rockin' in the USA" band
32. Certain church member
33. Yiddish busybody
34. Theater guide
36. Kind of rock
38. Heroic tale
42. B on Mendeleev's table
45. "Where ___ is heard a discouraging word..."
49. Sushi restaurant staple
51. Shiny cotton
54. High-strung
56. Car rack manufacturer
57. Charlie Chaplin's prop
58. "Oh, my!"
59. Agrippina's slayer
60. "I'll second that"
61. Great Lake
62. State of mind
63. One in a litter
65. *King George ___
67. Farm structure

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Not Burning Down the House

Four things California can do as home insurers retreat

By Grace Gedye, CALMatters.org

After State Farm declared in late May that it wouldn't sell any new home insurance policies in California, people shopping around for new insurance had one fewer option. When days later it was revealed that Allstate had quietly made the same decision last year, Californians are now left wondering: How bad is this? And how should the state respond?

The "crisis" in California's insurance market was caused by "a laser focus only on affordability," said Nancy Watkins, a principal at Milliman, an actuarial firm, at a legislative hearing on Wednesday. The companies are operating with "very crude tools" at the expense of availability and reliability, she said.

She said the current regulatory system is too rigid. "It's like you've got your steering wheel locked straight ahead, you've got your speed set on cruise control, and now you find yourself on the Pacific Coast Highway," she said. "What insurance company would agree to that?"

Home insurance premiums in California are a little cheaper than the national average — and much lower than premiums in other disaster-prone states like Florida and Louisiana. That's without accounting for the fact that California has some of the most expensive housing in the country.

California still has about 115 companies offering home insurance, said Michael Soller, a deputy commissioner for the state's insurance department. As for whether more companies are likely to follow State Farm and Allstate, "we don't think that will happen," he said.

Consumer and insurance industry groups and other experts have ideas for what they'd like to see California do in the wake of the news — few of which they agree upon. Here's the debate over four of those ideas.

Require State Farm to Keep Issuing New Policies

There's disagreement whether this idea, backed by the group Consumer Watchdog, is legal.

The idea hinges on how insurance prices are regulated in California. Under current laws, insurance companies can't just charge whatever they want: They have to submit their proposed rates to the insurance department, which they back up by explaining their projected costs, losses, revenue and more. State regulators can approve a company's proposed rates, or deny them, if they think, for example, the rates are unjustifiably high, or so low that they could put the company's finances at risk.

Harvey Rosenfield, founder of Consumer Watchdog, said if a company suddenly says that



The underlying problem is that disasters happen in California — at an increasing rate thanks to climate change — and that homes are at risk. They're in the middle of the woods, or surrounded by flammable grasslands, or on the edge of bluffs that are expected to erode. Making homes less likely to burn, flood or collapse would be good for homeowners and would also make California feel less risky to insurers. Photo courtesy of Joe Sohm | Dreamstime.com

it's not going to take the same number of customers that it had projected when it got the department's approval, then it has changed the assumptions on which the approval was based.

"They granted themselves a de facto rate increase by reducing the risk" in a state where that's illegal, said Rosenfield. The department could issue a notice to State Farm, he said, and tell the company it needs to keep selling new home insurance policies until it submits new rates and those rates are approved.

The insurance department disputes that it has the power to do this. "Their claims are not supported by law," said Soller, the deputy commissioner. "There's a reason why it hasn't been done by any insurance commissioner before."

Let Insurance Companies Use Forward-Looking Catastrophe Models

The kinds of data and statistical models insurance companies can use to set prices may sound like a nighttime sleep aid, but it's a matter of lively discussion in insurance circles.

When a company tries to justify rate changes, it is required to rely on past losses to project future losses. It can't use factors like the locations of new homes it is covering — whether they're in downtown San Francisco or rural wine country — or the increased risk of wildfires due to climate change.

"We do it in a very old-fashioned way, and it needs to be updated," said Rex Frazier, president of the Personal Insurance Federation of California, an insurance industry group that

counts State Farm as a member. He supports the use of forward-looking models, which are generally provided by other private companies. California already permits insurers to use models for earthquake insurance.

If a company is trying to figure out how much it should charge for earthquake coverage, it would look at proximity to fault lines, Frazier said, but for wildfire insurance, California doesn't do that.

"For wildfire it just says 'Well, looking backward, what have you paid over the last 20 years for wildfire clients?'" he said.

Consumer groups generally oppose letting insurance companies use models, fearing that companies will use them to justify extreme price hikes, and that complex math will make scrutiny a challenge.

"They're just very sophisticated crystal balls," said Amy Bach, executive director for United Policyholders, a consumer group. Modeling companies generally see their models as intellectual property, which can pose a challenge for transparency. "Our fear is that they overstate risk," said Bach.

About a week and a half after State Farm's announcement, the insurance department said it would host a public workshop on use of models in insurance pricing, ahead of considering regulations. The workshop will take place on July 13.

On Wednesday, the Assembly's insurance committee held a hearing on models. When asked by a legislator whether the department was

moving toward incorporating catastrophe models, a department representative confirmed that it was.

"Historic losses do not fully account for growing wildfire risks, or risk mitigation measures taken by communities," said Michael Peterson, a deputy commissioner at the insurance department, during the hearing.

Address The Increasing Cost of Insurance – For Insurance Companies

Insurance companies are just like us: They buy insurance! When insurance companies buy it, it's called "reinsurance."

The cost of reinsurance has risen dramatically, and State Farm cited "a challenging reinsurance market" as one of the reasons it decided to stop selling new home insurance policies in California.

When insurance companies explain their costs to the insurance department as part of the process for justifying their prices, they aren't allowed to include the cost of reinsurance. The department hasn't historically permitted it, Soller said, because it doesn't regulate reinsurance.

"What are insurers supposed to do when, on the one hand, the Department of Insurance is telling them 'maintain your solvency' and then, on the other hand, when their costs go up, you can't charge for it," said Frazier.

Insurance industry groups say it would help if they could incorporate the cost of reinsurance into their prices. But consumer groups say that the move would cause

premiums to spike.

"Californians would see immediate massive rate hikes — both as soon as that went into effect and ongoing," said Carmen Balber executive director of Consumer Watchdog. A reinsurance provider regulated by California would address problems she sees with the reinsurance market, Balber said, but that doesn't exist currently.

Reduce the Risk of Disasters

The underlying problem is that disasters happen in California — at an increasing rate thanks to climate change — and that homes are at risk. They're in the middle of the woods, or surrounded by flammable grasslands, or on the edge of bluffs that are expected to erode. Making homes less likely to burn, flood or collapse would be good for homeowners and would also make California feel less risky to insurers.

There's no shortage of ideas for how to reduce risk, and there's been action on this front in recent years. The insurance department, for example, has required insurance companies to consider whether homeowners take certain steps to protect their homes — like installing fire-resistant vents and clearing out vegetation under decks — in their prices.


California has set aside \$2.7 billion for wildfire resilience over the past three years, according to the insurance department. When the department convened a group of environmental advocates, researchers, and public policy and insurance experts to make recommendations on how to reduce the risks of climate change, they came up with a long list. Among the recommendations:


- Create state-wide hazard maps so that future risks are more clear to the public
- Increase funding to retrofit homes
- And apply fire-resistant building codes in areas with moderate to higher fire risk.

Cutting greenhouse gas emissions would ultimately be the best way to reduce the risk, said Alice Hill, chair of the group convened by the department and a senior fellow for energy and the environment at the Council on Foreign Relations. But the world will get warmer even if we reduce emissions, she said, so focusing on where and how homes are built remains important.

"That could mean not building in areas that are just becoming too risky," Hill said.

Grace covers California's economy for CalMatters. Previously, she was an editor at the Washington Monthly. ★

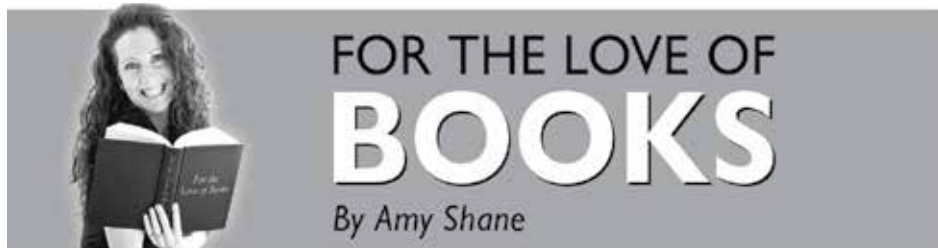


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Kick off the Summer with These New Children's Books



Daniel Learns to Swim

A Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Book, Simon Spotlight

Daniel Tiger is all ready for his day at the neighborhood pool. Daniel can't wait for his very first swim lesson and is eager to learn all the pool rules. But when it's time to get in the water, he realizes the pool is a little scary. With some help from his friends and swim instructor, Daniel learns that trying something new can be fun and rewarding.

A wonderful summer kick-off adventure. Daniel Tiger helps any young reader navigate their feelings about learning to swim.

Cocomelon Good Night, JJ

adapted by Maria Le, Simon Spotlight

It's been a long day, and now it's time for JJ to go to bed.

Little readers will follow along as JJ takes them through his nighttime routine. From brushing his teeth, taking a bath, and even getting dressed for Bed, JJ has a song for each of them. This sturdy board book design with picture tabs on the top will keep young readers engaged and excited to get ready for bed.

Cocomelon's 123's adapted by Patty Michaels, Simon Spotlight

The counting adventure begins in this charming new Cocomelon board book.

Young readers will eagerly count along with JJ and all his friends as they get readers excited to learn their 123s. Readers will count one lunch box, ten fuzzy chicks, in this compact board book design, and bright vivid pictures straight from the show.

Pirate and Penguin

by Mike Allegra and Jenn Harney, Page Street Kids

What happens when a lonely old pirate finally gets his dream? In this swashbuckling adventure of mistaken identity and the pursuit of friendship, one lonely old pirate is about to hit the last straw. All this old, lonely pirate wanted was a parrot pal to accompany him as he sailed the Seven Seas. But this parrot is unlike any parrot this has ever seen before. He doesn't have his bright red parrot plumage, he won't eat crackers, and he won't even talk. Snoggers!

But when the pirate loses his temper, his new friend makes a drastic leap. And suddenly, the pirate realizes he's lost a seafaring friend. Will he get a second chance to make things right?

Ahoy Mateys! Pirate fans will delight in the new hilarious book *Pirate and Penguin*. Readers will fall into fits of giggles as this lonely pirate utters every pirate word imaginable. Jenn Harney elevates this story to a whole new height by delivering a lead character you can help but love and an adorable penguin who is the best new sidekick. With splashes of color and strong, bold lines, every inch of the page is filled with delightful and engaging illustrations. This book is begging to be read in the best pirate voice, but beware, with exclamations like "A scurvy scallywag" and "pirate-y poopie-head," readers will not be able to resist laughing out loud. This book is the perfect summer read or gift for landlubber in your life. ★



Riley Reviews

FOOTBALL TO COMEDY AND DRAMA TO UNSCRIPTED ON NBC FALL TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

Football will occupy two nights of the week on NBC when the fall season gets underway. "Big Ten Saturday Night" arrives in primetime as some of the most storied programs in college football battle for conference supremacy.

For a record twelve consecutive years, "NBC Sunday Night Football" has held the title of the number one primetime television show, and of course, it's back again to broadcast 20 regular-season games throughout the NFL season.

Three new series are set to premiere in the fall, two dramas and one multi-cam comedy, all of which will stream next day on Peacock along with the rest of NBC's entertainment lineup.

In any given year, more than 600,000 people are reported missing in the U.S., and more than half that number are people of color, and the title "Found" suggests the objective of the series.

A public relations specialist, who was once herself one of those forgotten ones, and her crisis management team now make sure there is always someone looking out for the overlooked missing persons.

But unbeknownst to anyone, this everyday hero is hiding a chilling secret of her own. The cast of "Found" includes Shanola Hampton, Mark-Paul Gosselaar, Kelli Williams and Brett Dalton.

Based on the bestselling author Dan Ariely's "Predictably Irrational," the new drama series "The Irrational" involves Jesse L. Martin as a world-renowned leader in behavioral science.

Martin lends his expertise to an array of high-stakes cases involving governments, law enforcement and corporations with his unique and unexpected approach to understanding human behavior.

Starring Jon Cryer, "Extended Family" is a new comedy series about an amicable divorce where the couple, Jim and Julia, decide to continue to raise their kids at the family home while taking turns on who gets to stay with them.

Navigating the waters of divorce and child-sharing gets more complicated for Cryer's Jim when Trey, the owner of his favorite sports team, enters the picture and wins Julia's heart.

When you think about it, "Extended Family" has echoes of "Two and a Half Men" for Jon Cryer, in which he was an uptight divorced chiropractor, sharing custody of his son, and living at his brother's beachfront Malibu house.

It will be interesting to see if Cryer proves to be as neurotic and anxious as he was in his role of Alan Harper living with his hedonistic brother Charlie (Charlie Sheen).

Tom Hanks will narrate an unscripted entertainment series, "The Americas,"

which will also feature music by two-time Oscar winner Hans Zimmer, the German composer who scored films that include "The Lion King" and the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series.

"The Americas" is an incomparable project that will employ revolutionary filmmaking technology to showcase the wonders, secrets and fragilities of the Americas, Earth's largest landmass and the only one to stretch between the North and South poles.

Building off the success of "America's Got Talent: The Champions" and "America's Got Talent: All-Stars" comes the next special edition of the world's most successful TV franchise.

Last year, "All-Stars" was the number one new alternative series of the season in both the 18-49 demographic and total viewers. The new series is so far is referred to as "Untitled America's Got Talent Series."

The iconic game of "Deal or No Deal" returns and unlike anything you have ever seen before. The new format transports audiences to the Banker's private island where he makes the rules and there are twists behind every palm tree.

Hidden on the island are over 100 cases with millions of dollars split between them, which teams must retrieve so that they can play a game of Deal or No Deal against the Banker. The island setting results in the new version to be titled "Deal or No Deal Island."

Only one team will survive until the very last episode, where they'll compete to beat the Banker for the biggest prize in "Deal or No Deal" history. Howie Mandel serves as an executive producer, but the host is as now unknown.

While CBS was bestowed the title of "America's Most-Watched Network" for the fifteen consecutive season, NBC claims to have more shows in the top 20 than any other network in the key 18-49 demographic.

NBC asserts that it is home to the number one unscripted program "The Voice," the number one broadcast drama "Chicago P.D.," the top entertainment program with "Saturday Night Live," and top new comedy with "Night Court."


As part of NBC's rolling development cycle, the following projects have been picked-up to pilot with decisions yet to be made on series greenlights - comedies "Non-Evil Twin" and "St. Denis Medical," and the drama "Wolf."

You won't have to wait until the fall for new programs. "Chicago Fire" is on hiatus during the summer, but "LA Fire & Rescue" will fill the void as a docuseries about the frontlines of Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Another summer show is "Hot Wheels: Ultimate Challenge," a car makeover competition based on one of the world's most popular toys. ★

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 13, 2023
0343 - Traffic stop in the 7800 block of Schroeder Road resulted in the arrest of Oleksandr Vyshnevskyy (38) of Rio Linda for possession of methamphetamine and a billy club. He was cited and released.

Monday, June 12
 No case numbers.

Sunday, June 11
1721 - Court order violation report in the 200 block of West A Street.
1818 - Court order violation report in the 200 block of West A Street.
1928 - Traffic enforcement stop in the 1300 block of Weyand Way. Richard Williams (43), of Dixon, was arrested for 2 warrants out of Solano County for Failure to Appear and Court Order Violation. He was placed under arrest and transported to the Solano County Jail.
2209 - Welfare check in the 800 block of Sommer Drive resulted in the arrest of Julian Castro (36) of Dixon for obstructing a peace officer. He went to jail.

Saturday, June 10
1305 - D.U.I arrest report was taken at the intersection of Pitt School Rd. at Sun Flower Rd. Officers contacted Samuel Pantoja-Guzman (30) of Fairfield. Samuel displayed signs of intoxication and consented to FST's. Samuel failed the FST's and was arrested. Samuel consented to a blood test and was later cited and released to a sober adult.

Friday, June 09
1649 - Welfare check in the 1200 block of Watson Ranch Way.
2226 - Agency assist report in the 1300 block of West F Street.

Thursday, June 08
0916 - Late domestic violence report was taken by telephone. This report will be sent to the Solano County DA's Office for review.
1232 - Informational report was taken in the 900 block of North Adams St.
1415 - Vandalism report was taken in the 600 block of Sierra Dr.

Wednesday, June 07
0851 - Hours- Traffic Accident Investigation in the area of North First St and East C St.
1400 - Hours- Theft investigation from a business in the 1200 block of Stratford Av.
1430 - Hours- Hit and Run investigation in the area of Ary Ln and Stratford Av.
1700 - Hours- CWS investigation in the 200 block of South 7th St.
1720 - Hours- Theft from a business in the 1200 block of Stratford Av.
1745 - Hours- Welfare check in the 1000 block of Newgate Wy.

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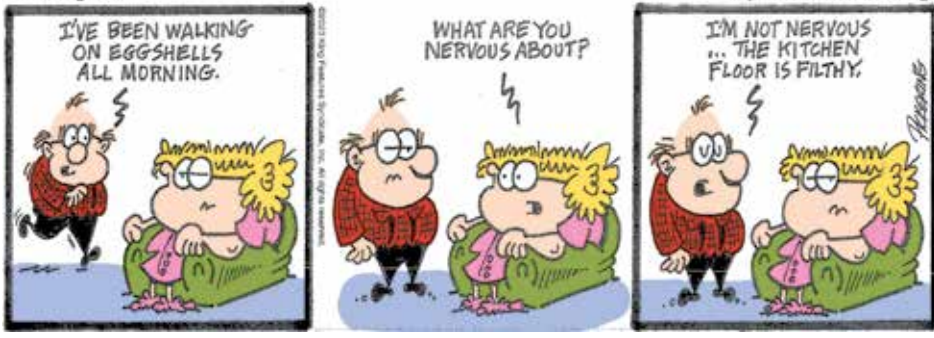
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COMICS & PUZZLES

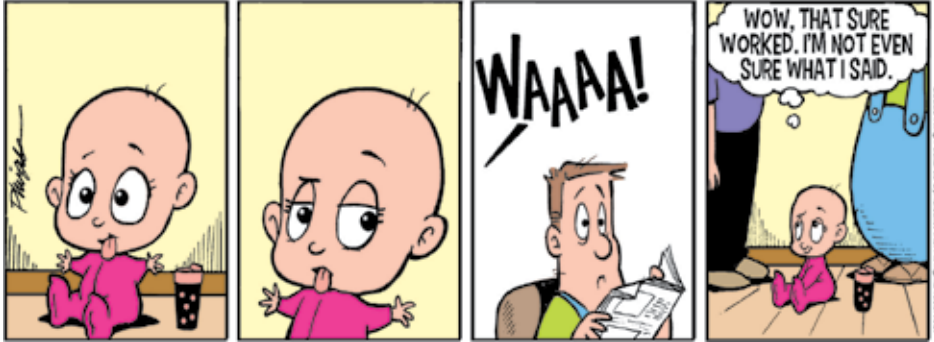
The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Out on a Limb



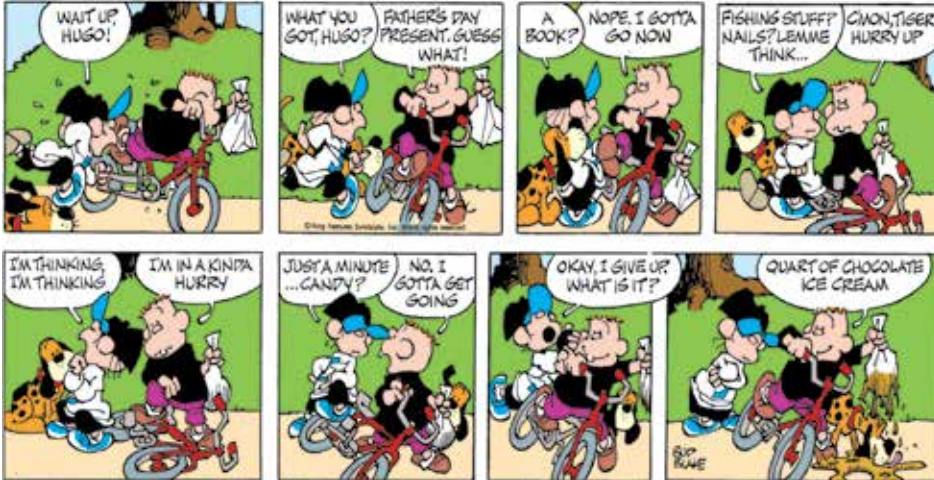
by Gary Kopervas



CRIM the BEAR IT

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"Son, it's time we had that talk. ... There's nothing on TV."

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Lambtown Festival Loses Major Sponsor



A northern California favorite for wool, Dixon's Lambtown Festival, is hoping to grow this year despite losing a major supporter that fell to bankruptcy. People from all over northern and central California came to last year's Lambtown at the Dixon May Fair like these shoppers in Denver Hall.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The 37th annual Lambtown Festival, that is set this year for October 7 and 8 at the Dixon May Fair, has received a notice that a major sponsor has filed for bankruptcy, but the event in Dixon is still on.

"We were saddened and disappointed to hear the news of the abrupt closure of XRX, Inc., the parent company of Stitches Events," said LT organizer Roy Clemes, who empathized with the vendors who have already paid for future events that will not happen, and with instructors who will not be paid for their work. In conversations as recent as March, XRX had promised to sponsor Lambtown Festival to the tune of several thousand dollars.

"This mostly affected the larger shows in northern California and was mostly the knitting and crocheting side of things but was, in a minor way, some financial support," explained Clemes. "We want to encourage our vendors to be realistic in their expectations about attendance." He said the show in the Bay Area drew 10,000 but the Sacramento (Dixon) show is about 3,000.

"We know that the loss of Stitches West has already and will continue to impact the Lambtown Festival community, namely the instructors, vendors, and attendees in Northern California and beyond," he said. While they are already deep into planning for this year's festival, they are expanding this year's offering of workshops and increasing their number of vendors to help mitigate the negative impacts of the XRX bankruptcy.

"By making our Lambtown Festival an even larger and more vibrant event, our returning vendors will see a benefit from this growth as well. People are asking me how

can we help those affected by the XRX debacle? Of course, sales always help, and will begin to replace some of the lost funds and future income."

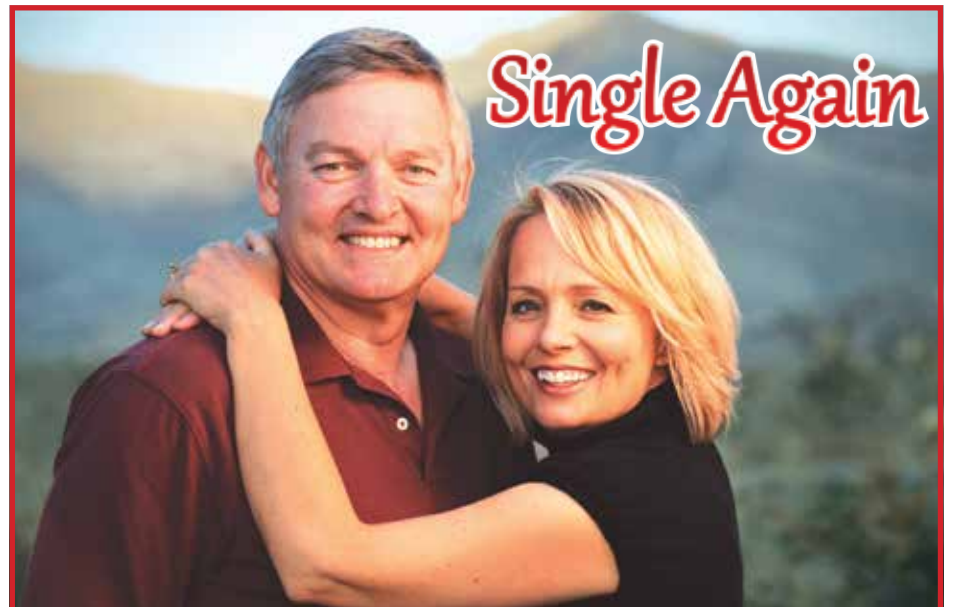
Below is a list of those vendors who attended both Lambtown Festival and Stitches West last year. There are also non-monetary methods of support such as liking, following, and subscribing on social media, and signing up for newsletters.

"Make sure you have October 7 and 8 circled on your calendar with workshops starting October 5, and make sure all of your fiber friends and family have it circled on theirs, too," he reminded. "In the long run, it will make us a better show because we opened up 20 new spots after they closed and have drawn vendors who actually have a broader reach."

The list of Lambtown Festival vendors impacted by Stitches/XRX Inc. bankruptcy are: A hundred Ravens, A Needle Runs Through It, Bead Biz, Busy Stix, Carpool, Clemes and Clemes, Greenwood Fiberworks, Invictus Yarns, Kimonomomo, Kira K Designs, Knit This, Purl That, Lickin' Flames, Lisa Souza, Seismic Yarn & Dyeworks, Sincere Sheep, Stitch Sisterz, The Royal Bee Yan Company, and Wonderland Dyeworks.

Make new fiber friends and help Lambtown Festival thrive! Dixon's home-grown, non-profit fiber festival is California's largest sheep and wool event, but it wouldn't happen without a legion of volunteers.

Volunteers at Lambtown are needed at the event as well as throughout the year and there is a form online to complete if you can help. For more information, contact Lambtown Festival, 650 San Pablo Ave., Pinole, CA 94564 or email Clemes: info@lambtown.org. ★



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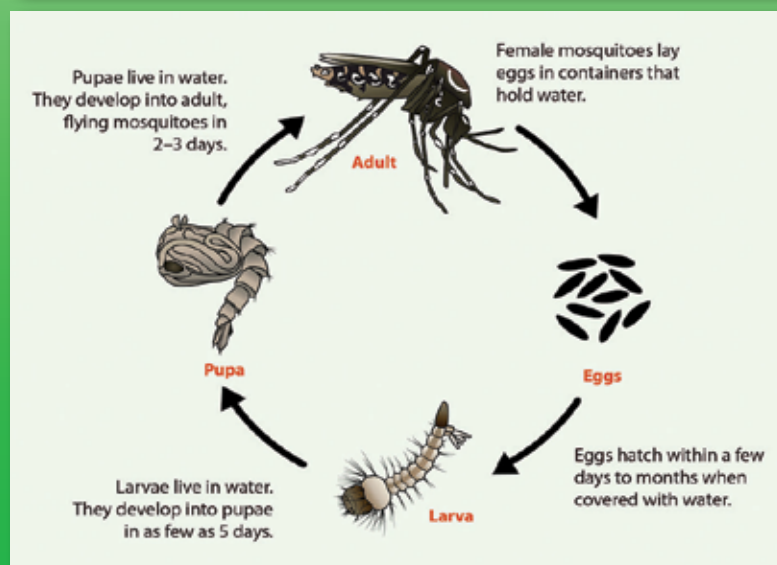
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