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Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 31 • ISSUE 20

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

MAY 19, 2023

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OF THE YEAR
CHOSEN**



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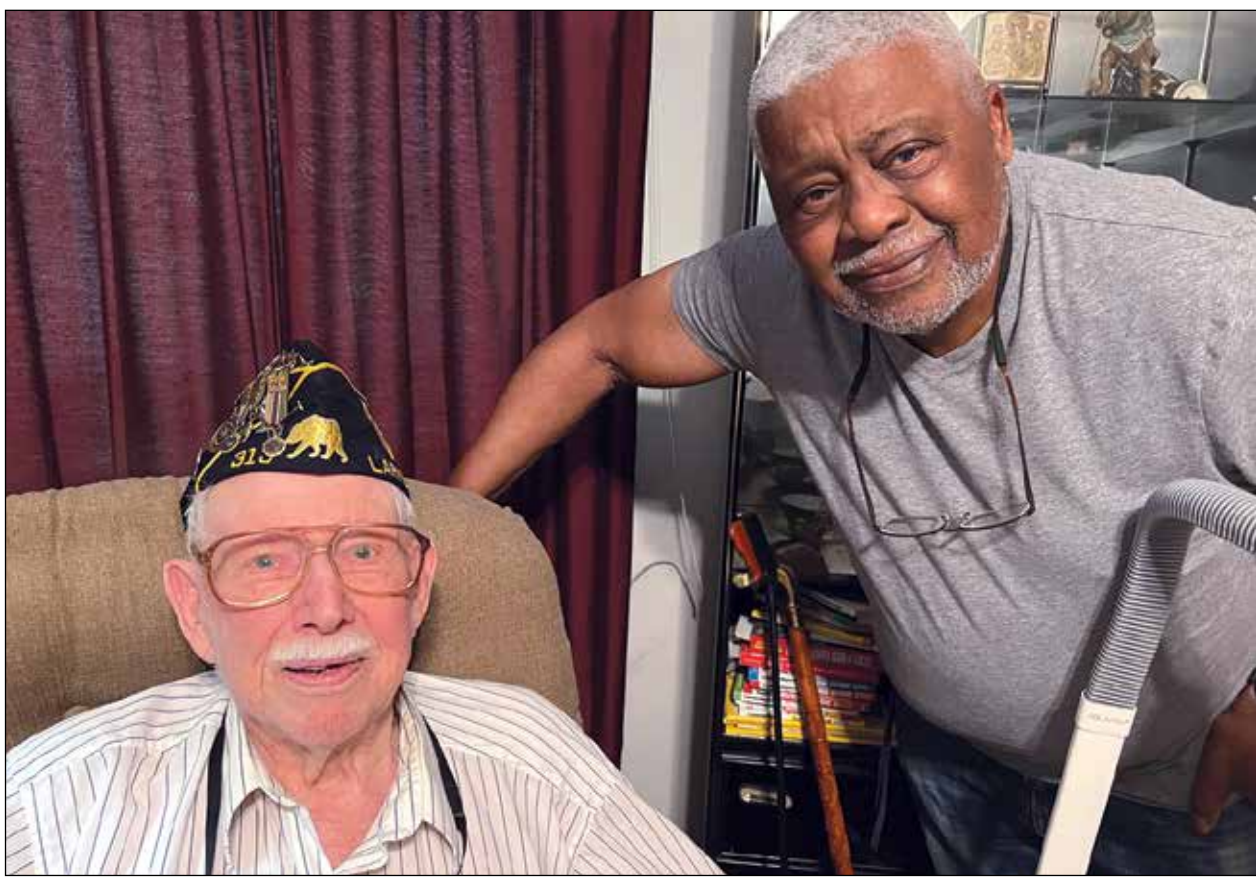
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It's Time to Show Up

An Unusual 100th Birthday Party Planned



Oakley Dexter is turning 100 and Gerald Gordon of The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) arranged a community service project to honor the WWII Army Corps veteran.

**Story and photo
by Debra Dingman**

DIXON, CA (MPG) - World War II veteran Oakley Dexter is getting a very unusual 100th birthday party. A host of volunteers from the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 84, Living Hope Church, and the local community are going to clean up his yard at 615 Creekside Circle in Dixon this coming Saturday, May 20.

Dexter is certainly not the first older American needing help with yards since most of their resources go to taking care of the person who lives inside. It started with the City

of Dixon issuing a citation for an unkept yard with an unregistered vehicle, reported Gerald Gordon of DAV Chapter 84 where Dexter has been a lifelong member.

"He's one of our oldest members of Larkspur and is probably the oldest World War II Veteran in Dixon," said Gordon, who was tasked with going through a list of 1,100 veterans in the area to determine if they were still alive. When he came across Dexter's birth date showing he'd be 100 next month, he knew he had to personally check. So he came and met Dexter in person. That meant finding the home first.

When one comes across the corner-lot house, it is easy to see the need for help as the house is hidden completely behind overgrown trees and shrubs in the middle of a neat neighborhood tucked behind Anderson Elementary School.

"We're here to help veterans. We'll cut down a lot of vegetation and we'll get rid of his old car for him," Gordon said. He arranges veteran support activity and encourages anyone who can come out and help to do so. Volunteers will start at 8 a.m. unloading equipment. Then, at 8:30 they will set up folding chairs, tables,

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Six Nonprofits Chosen for Fireworks Booths

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Six local nonprofits have been selected in the City of Dixon Fire Department's Lottery for operating fireworks booths this year. They will be able to sell fireworks for the 4th of July at various locations around town.

The endeavor to simply get into the fireworks lottery is neither simple nor free. Applicants have to pay \$150 just to get a license to man the booth. Then, they have to supply documentation that they are a nonprofit to the Fire Chief and then there is an application fee of an additional \$25.

The system Dixon created a dozen years ago to determine which six nonprofits would be selected to man a fireworks booth was improved this past season to ensure these groups are vetted and have enough volunteers to keep the booth open during those ten days. Now, these groups will have the potential to make between \$20,000 and \$50,000 for their organization.

Under the category of Youth/Sports/Education which allows two participants, the Dixon Quarterback Club and the Valley of the Sacred Heart Catholic School were chosen. Alternates are Dixon Montessori and Dixon Montessori Parent Teacher Organization.

In the Service Club category, the Dixon Action Team (Grillin' & Chillin') was selected, and the alternates are the Dixon Moose Lodge, the Dixon Historical Society, Soroptimist International and the Downtown Dixon Business Association.

Under the Faith-based admissions, Living Hope Church was the only entry and there are no alternates.

The Veterans category had three entries and the Napa Solano Veteran Riders got selected with American Legion Post 208 Women's Auxiliary being alternate with the American Legion Post 208 chosen for a second alternate.

There is a 'Last Chance' category and the Women's Auxiliary got selected with alternates in this order: Soroptimist, Dixon Montessori Charter School, American Legion Post 208, Downtown Dixon Business Association, the Moose Lodge, the Dixon Montessori Charter School and lastly, the Dixon Historical Society.

The profit from the hard work of volunteers is to go back into serving the community, said Assistant Fire

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Pizza Parlor Gets Refreshed

**Story and photo by
Debra Dingman**

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Raj Pooni, the new owner of the Round Table Pizza at 835 North Adams Street considers himself a "store resuscitator," he said with a laugh. He started in the fast-food industry 30 years ago with Subway and buys stores that need a "fresh attitude" but it's his sense of humor and dedication to customer service that make him a great win for pizza lovers in Dixon.

"There is an old saying: You can have great food and bad service and people won't be back, but if you have mediocre food and great service, they'll be back," he said, offering one of a dozen "Golden Rules" he applies when he buys a store. "We have great food and great service. I bring a deeper appreciation for the customers," he added. He emphasized that customer service is the most important aspect of business because in the franchise world, every single customer is your boss. The first thing he does is come



Round Table Pizza staff (L-R) Matt Neidiffer, Jerry Singh, Neha Sharma, with owner Raj Pooni.

through the door as if he is a customer.

"I see the whole thing from a customer viewpoint. When there is good service, things look normal, but when there is bad service, it sticks out. People eat with their eyes," he explained while showing off the salad bar. "Round table is a better franchise because they hold

owners accountable. Our dough is made fresh every day. All the ingredients are fresh. They are stringent on quality control," he added.

The salad bar is completely refurbished with 24 different toppings offered daily. The spotless clean restaurant opened their doors at 11 a.m. and the lunch crowd soon began

flowing in including a large office staff from a local dentist. The salad customers expressed pleasure at the large variety of colorful greens and lettuce.

"I love salads and I come in here just for the salad," said Juanita Luna who was enjoying lunch with a friend.

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Life's too SHORT

Glad I Stayed

By Debra Dingman

Was it because we were so long with cold weather that the parade and the May Fair seemed especially wonderful?

The Rotary pancakes with tasty sausage and cold orange juice were a perfect start. I was visiting with a Dixon born-and-raised guy, and we shared that there have been 'seasons' of loving all of this. I admitted that there had been years I purposely left town and he did, too, and then there were years that I was actually in the parade (or not) and was crazy with happiness.

We were joined by another friend for the parade and had a wonderful watch of it all. It was one of the shortest ones I can remember but it was a steady hour of kids, cars, floats, and horses.

I volunteered with a host of Dixon Women's Improvement Club ladies at the May Fair being 'docents' for Denverton Hall and the Fine Arts building.

We were the ones with lanyards and making sure no one messed with the displays or hijacked a jelly jar. It was my second year doing the job and the club benefits with a nice donation. The job comes with an opportunity to spend two hours at a time really looking at all the entries.

Denverton was full of youth exhibits so it's cool to see how talented and creative young people can be and the other building was photographs, paintings and other artwork.

We all got to see old friends coming through and enjoyed visiting in between putting pictures back up that had fallen off the wall or guiding a person with an over-filled cup of beer back out the door since there was supposed to be no food or drink

inside. But in their defense, it was getting really hot over the weekend, and I know people were seeking relief. We don't make the rules, though, we just guide people into respecting them.

I went into Nana mode when one of the young men was emotional because he didn't get 'Best of Show.' His pretty cake did get a blue ribbon, though, but his parents already tried that consolation and it wasn't working. I went over to see the cake in question and thought it was lovely but then I caught his name on the tag and it was the same first and last as my son-in-law's!

"Is your name such and such?" I asked him incredulously? He said "yes" through snuffles, and I burst into excitement. "That is not only a GREAT name," I said, "but I now know you're a great guy because it's exactly the same name as my son-in-law's and only guys with that name are great!" I put my arm around his shoulder and asked if I could take a photo of him with his cake.

Okay, so maybe the docents are NOT really supposed to do all that, but I couldn't help myself.

The second day, I was in fine arts where the photographs were not staying up and wouldn't you know one of the largest ones was of a black widow surrounded by ladybugs. I tried not looking at it. I hate spiders; especially black ones with little red hour glasses. Was this picture supposed to show a dichotomy of life?

We finally managed to get some tape. "You can tell we're the old people now," my hubby said when we got back home one night. We had a good laugh. This goes down as one of the years I'm glad I stayed in town. ★

Dixon News Briefs



A special musical program featuring Gracie Gabby with special guests will be held on Sunday, May 21, at 6 p.m. at the Dixon United Methodist Church, 209 North Jefferson St. across from the Chamber of Commerce. The event is free, but all donations will support Gracie's College Fund. A dessert reception will follow. Photo by Stephanie Riedel

MPG Staff

New Store!

Bobtail Apparel is a new clothing and accessories retail store for men and women that just opened at 106 North First St. Owners Maddie Lowrie and Sara MacLachlan hosted a huge truck show at the May Fair last year that went over very well so they are planning a repeat! The 2nd show will be October 20 and 21 at the fairgrounds. In the meantime, check their new store out. They sell shirts, hats, and vibes.

Children Downtown

Be aware that more 3rd and 4th grade elementary school children will be out and about with Dixon Historical Society docents Dan Rott and Kim Schroeder-Evans guiding them through seeing important buildings and learning about Dixon's past all day Friday, May 19.

KUIU MTN Academy

Saturday, May 20 beginning at 10 a.m. KUIU, ultralight hunting and outdoor gear, will be hosting a Mountain Academy with speakers Kevin Wiley, Brenden Burns, and Greg McHale throughout the day and multiple vendors on sight including Grand Slam Club, Rent Gear, Outdoor Edge, and Wild Society to name a few. There will be prizes and store discounts as well. KUIU is located at 1920 North Lincoln. For more information, call (855) 367-5848 or visit their website www.KUIK.com.

Deadline Extended

The deadline to enter the Grillin' and Chillin' Rib and Chili Cook-off applications is extended to June 15 for all those interested in cooking up fun or participating as a vendor. The event is actually Saturday, July 15 downtown and also features a car and truck show, children's activities, and a vendor fair.

Loud Voice?

The Dixon Senior Club needs Bingo callers. If you or someone you know is interested and is available on Mondays from noon to 2 p.m., please let the Senior Center office staff know. The Senior/

Multi-Use Center is located next to the public pool at 201 South Fifth St. and the parking area is behind City Hall, 600 South A St.

Dance Camp

Dixon Dance Studio is now taking reservations for their annual summer dance camp from July 10 through August 4. This year's theme is 'Dancing Through History' and will be 9 a.m. to noon for ages 9 and up. Each day will be about a different dance style and can be purchased by day or by the week. There is also a camp for ages 4 through 8-years-old from 9 to 11 a.m. from July 24 through 28. Register by Friday, June 9, for either camp at dixon-dancestudio.com.

Children's Yoga

On Wednesdays, May 24 and May 31, the Solano County Library is offering a 'Kids Yoga' class with Busy Bee Yoga instructor Katrina Marsh at 10 a.m. at the Dixon Public Library, 230 North First St. in downtown Dixon. For more information, visit solano.library.com/events.

8th Grade Awards

John Knight Middle School holds an 8th-grade awards ceremony which is similar to a graduation ceremony. All 8th-grade students who achieve at least a 2.0 GPA or higher or achieve significant academic growth throughout the year are invited to participate. The ceremony is Tuesday, May 30, from 6 to 7 p.m. on the football field at the school.

Gifts B Cause

Mark your calendars: An art and crafts show is slated for the Dixon Fairgrounds, 655 South 1st St. on Saturday, June 24. For more information, contact Shawna Arzadon at shawna@schg.shows.

Chamber Mixer

The May Chamber Mixer will be hosted by Coldwell Banker, Kappel Gateway Realty on Wednesday, May 24, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at 1140 Pitt School Road, Suite A. It is free and open to the public. There will be food, beverages, a raffle, and networking. ★

Six Nonprofits Chosen for Fireworks Booths

Continued from page 1
Chief John Malone.

Permit applications had to include the following: (1) Proof of adult members that reside, are employed or own a business in the City of Dixon and as of date of application, must number more than 25 or 100-percent of the membership; (2) The Exempt Taxpayer ID Number; and, (3) Proof of current Non-Profit Status, Letter of Determination, FTB 199 N or FTB 199.

The applicants are given written instructions as early as mid-March when they are notified from the Fire Department, and they are given until early May to return all required documents.

"By November 1, the groups are supposed to



Soroptimists International got the lucky draw and will be able to host a fireworks stand this year. Pictured are Brenda Walker, Barbara Rigdon, and Sue Avery of Soroptimist manning a booth a couple years ago. Photo by Debra Dingman

give us a financial report," said Andi Horigan, Administrative Manager at City of Dixon Fire Department in a news article last year. "The Franchise Tax Board shows what sales were and

how much tax, but we want to see what was sold, their expenses, and their profit." Most groups utilize 20 to 40 volunteers. Booths are open 10 days 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. including 4th of July until 9 p.m. ★

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Campaign Supports Horses Therapy

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixonite Denise Williams, President of the Dixon nonprofit, Freedom Equine Connection, 501(c)3, is elated to announce the involvement and support of esteemed equestrians and horse lovers in the Seen Through Horses Campaign 2023.

Supporters include two-time Grammy Winner & Country Music Hall of Fame Inductee, Tanya Tucker, Oscar, Emmy and Golden Globe Award winning songwriter, Diane Warren, journalist and award-winning animal advocate, Jill Rappaport, Chilean Pro Show Jumper & Bronze Medalist South American Games 2022, Gabriela Reutter, Emmy winning actor Sophie Grace, age 16 (Kristy Thomas in "The Baby-Sitters Club"), Special Olympics Athlete & 62-time Gold Medalist, Shawn Hinz, country music artists Clayton Smalley, and Lucas Hoge the host of Hoge Wild TV Show, Fashion Designer to humans and horses, Dalia MacPhee, and actor and lifelong horseman, Bourke Floyd.

Supporting again are country music artists, the legendary Randy Travis and recording artist/songwriter Mikayla Lane, 18, a special ambassador to May's campaign. You can read their stories & more <https://horsesformental-health.org/stories/>. Others sharing personal stories to bring awareness to the healing power of horses will be announced soon.

Seen Through Horses Campaign is excited to launch their second fundraising campaign focusing



Denise Wilson, BS President/Founder of Freedom Equine Connection with her horses. Photo by Jim Wilson

on mental health through horses. The goal is to increase awareness, public engagement, and funds for 55+ nonprofits, including Freedom Equine Connection, to improve access to programs incorporating horses for mental health, personal growth, anxiety, depression, addiction, PTSD, and overall well-being.

No other animals have been as influential on human evolution as horses. Horses are highly intuitive to nonverbal messages and intentions, and as such can reflect aspects of ourselves that can lead to deep healing and connection.

"When you bond with a horse, the relationship is indescribable. You can sense the horse understanding the bond. They get it. They feel it. Just being in their presence can make your woes and worries go away. When I go up to my horse's side and cradle their heads, I am in heaven, it's immediate therapy." - Jill Rappaport, Author of People We Know, Horses They Love.

Launching for May 1-31, 2023, anyone can

choose Freedom Equine Connection to fundraise for or make a one-time donation by visiting our fundraising profile, at www.classy.org/team/490745. Join NOW as we unify and raise funds to continue this trailblazing work.

"We are in a devastating mental health crisis globally, and horses and humans can impact each other to heal and thrive in incredible ways. We are excited to work together with industry leaders, practitioners, and advocates to amplify awareness and expand resources so all mental health needs can be met." - Lynn Thomas, LCSW, President, Horses for Mental Health.

Connect to support from May 1-31, 2023 by visiting the fundraising profile, at www.classy.org/team/490745.

If horses have impacted your life, mental health or personal journey, please share your story and tag us! To help engage the equestrian community around the world, we encourage you to follow and share posts from @horsesformentalhealth! ★

Senior Citizen of the Year Chosen

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Barbara Long may have never been President of the Dixon Senior Club, but she has carried almost all of the duties through the pandemic and through getting the new Board up and running. This gray-haired mover and shaker is one of those personalities that every nonprofit would gladly welcome. She keeps calendars and to-do lists to make sure she remembers things.

"I have a calendar on my phone and at my home, but I also write myself notes," she said about keeping organized. "They are all around my house." She feels good about staying active and considers quilting a form of self-care.

Those are some of the reasons she was chosen Senior Citizen of the Year and was honored at the annual Senior Resource Fair. Long moved to Dixon with her late husband in 2011 after determining their 5-acre ranch in Jackson was too much for them. She literally got out a map and drew lines to connect her children's cities. They found Dixon to be the town closest to the majority of her three children, ten grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

"It was a good move," she said. "I've always volunteered, and I was fortunate to not have



Senior Citizen of the Year, Barbara Long, is congratulated by Senior Club President Dan Ferrick. Courtesy photo

to work," she said. "Volunteering is very important to me." When she joined the Senior Club, she volunteered a few years as Membership Chair and after the pandemic, she stepped in to fill the gap until the group held their elections and President Phyllis Nixon, would lead. This year, the new President is Dan Ferrick, a retired Sutter Medical Group physician.

Long was quick to point to the needs of senior citizens.

"We need other people," she said sternly. "People are a big part of our lives and they got used to being

without them during the pandemic." She pointed to the Senior Club newsletter and talked about how much fun their line dancing classes are and the Bingo games. There are also monthly lunches at different restaurants, birthday celebrations, and now field trips are being reintroduced.

"Now they are starting to see what they are missing," she added.

The Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center is located at 201 South Fifth St. and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The phone is (707) 678-7022. ★



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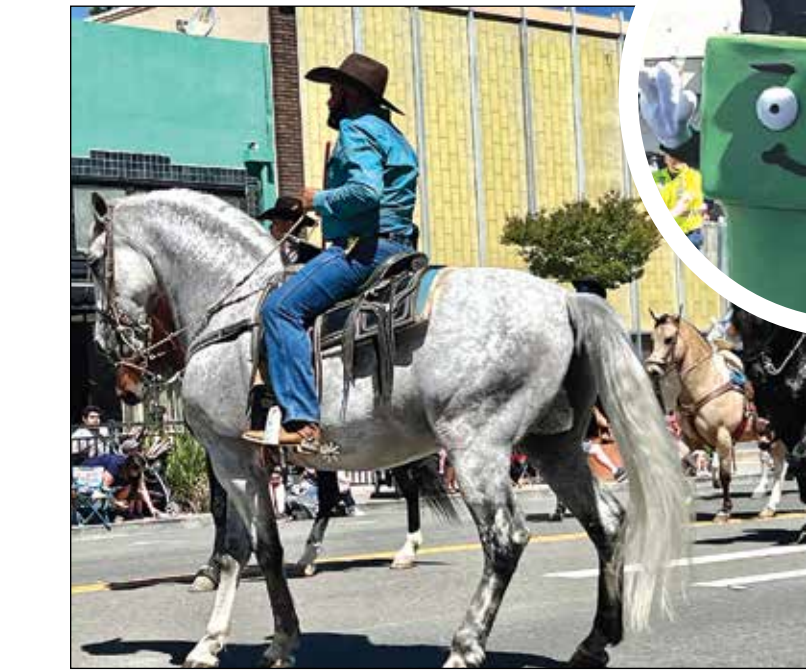
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May Fair Parade Highlights 2023



Photos by Debra Dingman



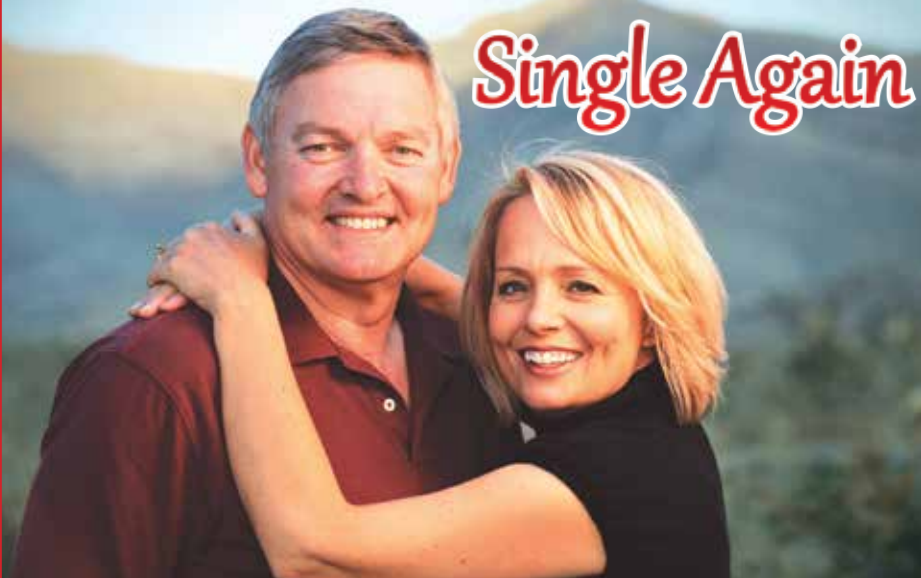
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SCOE's Work-Ready! Certification Program Completed by 100 Solano High School Students

SCOE News Release

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) - On May 11, 2023, Solano County Office of Education celebrated the 100-plus students who completed the Work-Ready! Certification program this school year. The recognition celebration was held at Jelly Belly Candy Company in Fairfield, with hundreds of friends and family members coming out to support the students' accomplishments.

Each year, students attending Solano County high schools are offered the opportunity to

participate in the Work-Ready! Certification program. Students participate in workshops addressing work readiness skills such as problem solving, interviewing, teamwork, work ethic and the responsible use of social media. Students who finished the program completed a portfolio with a resume, cover letter, references, and master application. They also participated in mock interviews with members of the local Chambers of Commerce.

Solano County Superintendent of Schools

Lisette Estrella-Henderson remarked, "Completing the Work-Ready! course is just the beginning for these young people. Their preparedness for the workplace, knowledge, skills, and hard work will come together to create significant opportunities to earn and maintain jobs, gain experience and explore careers."

The Work-Ready! program is offered through Solano County Office of Education's college and career readiness department and is supported by the Vacaville, Fairfield, Vallejo,

Dixon, Black and Hispanic Chambers of Commerce as well as the Solano County Workforce Development Board. Travis Credit Union has also been a long-standing financial supporter of the program and contributes educational experiences and curriculum around financial literacy.

For more information about the Work-Ready! Certification program please visit our website at www.solanocoe.net/ccreadiness.

Solano County Office of

Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 60,500 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state. ★



LOCAL CRIME REPORTS



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ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

It's Time to Show Up

Continued from page 1

canopies, and a refreshment stand. Work will start at 9 a.m. and one can spot the house because it will have a huge dumpster in front of it.

Dexter's daughter, Dixonite Holly Bleasdale, is a single parent who is delighted with the plans. Bleasdale works full time at a Sacramento hospital and does side jobs to supplement her three children in college and helps her dad. Although Dexter is amazingly able to fix his own meals and gets around in his house with the aid of a walker, he is getting more frail. Bleasdale and her sister from Folsom take turns caring for him.

"He has things that help him stay relevant like reading, watching the news and playing cyber solitaire daily. He goes to the men's group at the church and is well connected," Bleasdale said. "I think it's all of that that keeps him good," she said. She takes him shopping, to appointments, and comes over every week to do laundry and visit.

Oakley was born in San Francisco in 1923 and joined the Army Air Corps in 1942 where he was trained in radio and radar operations and repair. Later he

became an instructor, a volunteer firefighter for 60 years, a radio and television repair shop owner with 16 employees and six trucks, and swears the learning came easy because he "watched."

"Radios have been a hobby of mine since I was 7 years old," he said. He attributes an educated father who was a hardworking man to his love of learning. He even went back to school when he was 40 and earned an Associate's Degree and is just a few courses short of a Bachelor's now.

"But, I'm not going back to earn it now," he said with a laugh.

"I think he's happy with his life and I'm glad we didn't move him. It's his space," his daughter said. When asked about his longevity, she wondered if it was the BeefEater Gin since he's had a glass of that daily for 80 years. "His world has gotten smaller, but he's adapted to it. He's adapted to the world. My Dad is not stubborn. He uses a walker all the time in the house and uses a cane outside." The two have a "call-in, check-in" system in the morning and in the evening. If she doesn't hear from him, she drives across town and checks. ★

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Michelle Machado Promoted to Senior Vice President Real Estate Commercial Loan Manager



Michelle Machado. Photo courtesy of First Northern Bank

First Northern Bank News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Jeff Adamski, Executive Vice President/Senior Loan Officer of First Northern Bank, is pleased to announce that Michelle Machado has been promoted to Senior Vice President/Real Estate Industries Commercial Loan Team Manager. Michelle replaces Steve McCurley, who retired

on March 15, 2023, after 25 years with the Bank. Michelle joined First Northern Bank's Real Estate Industries Loan Team in 2018 and in those five years, she has been successful in growing the Bank's commercial relationships. In her new position, she will be responsible for managing the Bank's Real Estate Commercial Loan Team, deepening current

client relationships, and continued expansion of the commercial loan portfolio. Michelle has more than 23 years' experience in banking and portfolio management, business development, underwriting, and risk analysis in the areas of commercial real estate and commercial lending. Michelle holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance

from California State University, Sacramento and is a graduate of Pacific Coast Banking School at the University of Washington in Seattle. She is also the Board President for the Society for the Blind in Sacramento. Michelle is a native of Twin Falls, Idaho and currently resides in Herald, CA with her husband and two sons. In her spare time, she

enjoys reading, waterskiing and camping on the Delta, and spending time with her family. The Real Estate Industries Commercial Lending Team of First Northern Bank is located at 1375 Exposition Blvd. Suite #101, Sacramento, CA 95815. The office is open Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Michelle may be reached at (916) 246-7664, or mmachado@thatsmybank.com. ★

Local Classified

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Deep cavity
- Weasel-related onomatopoeia
- Supernatural life force
- French treat
- Snake-like fish
- Major Italian city
- Ring around the sun, pl.
- Pitcher's stat
- Donated part
- "Russian President
- "Nevermind" band
- "Walkin' on the _____" by Smash Mouth
- Google search tool
- Took the bait
- Between larva and adult
- Data input device
- U in I.C.U.
- Dems' opponents
- One of Florida Keys
- Be furious
- "Canada/Mexico/U.S. trade agreement acronym
- Agitate
- Between free and freest
- Molokai party
- "Telephone Tammy or Sky Dancer
- Unquestioning ones
- Greek muse's strings
- Slightly insane
- Messy substances
- Santa _____ winds, CA
- "TV show with Central Perk
- "Popular Disney movie with a genie
- Caterpillar precursor
- Accompanies wisdom?
- "Pinky or The Brain
- Architectural projection
- Crème de cassis plus wine
- Un-written exams
- _____pool or _____pit
- One or some or all
- Find new tenant

DOWN

- "_____ Breaky Heart" by Billy Ray Cyrus
- Highlands hillside
- Raise the roof
- Leopard marks
- Bungle (2 words)
- Part of a hammer
- "_____ the land of the free..."
- Heathrow craft
- Type of missile, accr.
- Aquarium organism
- Indian bread
- "_____ Kerenina" by Tolstoy
- Breadcrumbs, e.g.
- Contain the ashes
- Pen juice
- Amount in one's lap, pl.
- "The Vampire Slayer
- Accustom
- "A _____ to Kill" and "Nick of _____"
- Bell sound
- Front or back one
- Factual evidence
- Quick and nimble
- "First cloned mammal's

CROSSWORD

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Court Seeks Applicants for The Civil Grand Jury

Superior Court of Solano County News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Honorable Wendy Getty, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Solano County, announces the Court is seeking volunteers to serve as jurors on the 2023-2024 Civil Grand Jury. Residents who have lived in the county for one year, are a United States citizen and are 18 years of age or older, may apply for service.

The grand jury is an historic institution and serves an important role in our society. It is sometimes referred to as the "watchdog" of the community. It functions as an arm of the judicial branch of government and operates under the authority of the Solano Superior Court.

The grand jury investigates and reports

on the operations, accounts, and records of local government and has the power to investigate citizen complaints about local government. Empowered by the judicial branch, the grand jury is a fact-finding body that develops meaningful solutions to a wide range of governmental issues, thereby facilitating positive change in the community.

Although this is primarily a civic responsibility, grand jurors are paid a \$20 per diem and are paid mileage reimbursement for each authorized meeting. Persons interested in applying may contact Cheryl Clower at the Office of the Grand Jury at (707) 435-2575 or visit the Court's website at www.solano.courts.ca.gov and obtain an application online. The application deadline for submission is May 31, 2023. ★



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000625
 The following persons are doing business as: Calad Advertising and Marketing Supplies, 811 Northampton Court, Vacaville, CA 95687.
 Abeer A Soliman, 811 Northampton Court, Vacaville, CA 95687.
 Date filed in Solano County: April 10, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: April 10, 2022.

This Business is conducted by: an individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant

to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration April 10, 2028. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
 Publish: May 5, 12, 19 and 26, 2023
 CALAB 5-26-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000786
 The following persons are doing business as: Norcal Contract Solutions/The Cleaning Crew Janitorial, 2915 N Texas Street #230, Fairfield, CA 94533.
 Norcal Contract Solutions LLC, 2915 N Texas Street #230, Fairfield, CA 94533.
 Date filed in Solano County: May 10, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration May 10, 2028. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
 Publish: May 19, 26, June 2, 9, 2023
 NORCAL 6-9-23



Request for Proposals to Provide Construction Services for the 27-Inch Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project Phase 1 – Project No. #315-109

May 12, 2023

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the City of Dixon that sealed bids will be received online via Blueprint Express on Friday, June 2, 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/89890914813?pwd=Nm5tT0FvRGRBbDZqNzQzZEtBK09hZz09>
 Meeting ID: 898 9091 4813 Passcode: 06022023

All bids will be considered for award by the City of Dixon City Council on their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. For the following project:

27-INCH SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION, PHASE 1 PROJECT NO. 315-109

LOCATION OF WORK: Various locations along existing 27-inch main sanitary sewer main alignment; starting from Hall Park to South 1st Street down (Highway 113) to Midway Road and across private property to the Dixon Waster Treatment Facility (WWTF), in the City of Dixon, Solano County.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The project includes work at varying locations along the City's 27" Sewer Main. Work includes construction of new manholes, removal and replacement of existing manholes, rehabilitation of existing manholes, construction of slide gate structures in existing manholes, and two sections of pipe repair. The Engineer's Estimate for this project is \$1,221,330.00.

All work is to be done in accordance with said Plans and Specifications. A copy of the Plans and Specifications, including the Contract Documents, may be obtained by logging on www.blueprintexpress.com/dixon or by calling BPXpress Reprographics at (707) 745-3293. All bidders must purchase a complete bid set from BPXpress Reprographics in order to be considered responsive and to receive addenda notifications.

All bidders must submit bids online through the bid portal at BPXpress in order to be considered responsive.

All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to William Garcia, P.E., via electronic mail at wgarcia@cityofdixon.us.

Dixon Independent Voice 5-12 and 5-19-2023

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

May 19, 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 May 31, 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/86189898366?pwd=WmptINTFib1crMG41b1VUbXk0M0NzZ09>

Phone: (669) 900-9128
 Meeting ID: 861 8989 8366
 Passcode: 05312023

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 **Dave Horigan** via electronic mail at dhorigan@cityofdixon.us.

Dixon Independent Voice 5-19-2023



BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📱 @amy_fortheloveofbooks

May's Stand-Out Reads

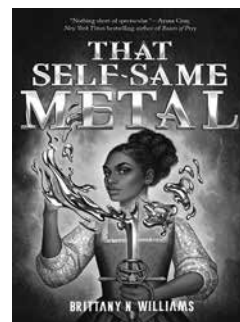
With temperatures on the rise, it is the perfect time to curl up with a great book. From young- adults to adult readers, these stories have something for everyone.



Hotel 21
 by Senta Rich (Adult),
 Union Square

Noelle is a model employee. As a hotel cleaner, she is swift, efficient, and thorough. So thorough that she has a habit of swiping small items. Nothing that hotel guests would expect, just random small items like Chapstick or a small barrette, and before anyone catches on, she is off to the next hotel. That is, until hotel number 21. Determined to make this job last, Noelle meets her new colleagues, authentic women with actual life experiences, opening the door to the possibility of true friendship. Now, Noelle is struck with the notion of staying around long enough to form a real connection. But just as Noelle begins to let go, her past starts to haunt her. Is Noelle strong enough to resist her old habits in order to give herself a chance at the life she deserves, or will she let it all crumble?

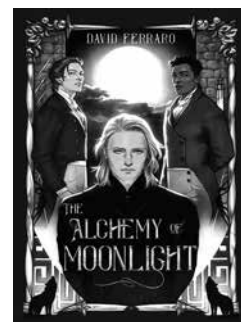
Warm-hearted and full of life, *Hotel 21* will have



That Self Same Metal
 by Brittany N. Williams,
 (young-adult)
 Amulet Publishing

Even at the age of Sixteen, Joan Sands is a gifted craftswoman in charge of creating and upkeeping the swords for William Shakespeare's acting company. As Orishablessed, Joan also has the magical power to control metal while also being able to distinguish Fae's presence amongst local commoners. However, times in London are about to change, and when she wounds a powerful Fae to save a human, she is cast between the two worlds. Now thrown in the middle of a Fae uprising, it is up to Joan to stand tall and wield her own blade of magic.

For fans of Shakespearean times, magic and Fae *That Self Same Metal* wields a mighty sword of strong characters and powerful storytelling. Brittany Williams whistles her readers back to Shakespearean



The Alchemy of Moonlight
 by David Ferraro,
 (young-adult) Page Street Publishing

Emile knows he must marry and produce an heir in order to gain his aunt's inheritance, but marrying is the furthest thing from his mind. To preserve his dignity and independence, Emile does the only thing he can think of, run away. Now working as a servant for Count Montoni, Emile is free of his aunt's expectations and can love as he pleases, but before he knows it, he stumbles into a dark mystery. Count Montoni's family suffers from an affliction that presents itself upon every full moon. Now, Emile is thrust into the middle of a family secret that someone might be willing to kill for, and more than his future title could be at risk.

A story of love, freedom, and a family curse; one man has to unravel the secrets of the heart and who he is to be truly free. ★



The Absurd 14th Amendment Option on the Debt

The position of the White House on the debt limit may be shifting from, "President Joe Biden doesn't want to compromise," to "President Joe Biden doesn't have to compromise under the U.S. Constitution."

The heretofore fringe idea that Section 4 of the 14th Amendment empowers the president to keep borrowing and spending as usual even if the debt limit isn't extended is getting a respectful hearing.

Back in January, the U.S. reached the current debt limit of \$31.4 trillion, which – surprise, surprise – wasn't nearly enough. The Treasury Department has been using "extraordinary measures" to this point to avoid hitting the wall but will exhaust its running room around the beginning of June.

The looming deadline has concentrated the minds of the White House and its allies – not on how to cut a deal, but how to find a fig leaf of legitimacy for Biden engaging in his most flagrant abuse of his authority to date. He'd simply ignore the debt limit as a supposedly unconstitutional infringement on his obligation to honor our debts.

"Is the Debt Limit Constitutional?" read a New York Times headline last week. "Biden Aides Are Debating It."

A sign of the shifting ground is that left-wing

legal scholar Laurence Tribe wrote an op-ed in The Times during the last big debt-limit showdown in 2011 saying that the 14th Amendment couldn't be used to ignore the debt limit ("A Ceiling We Can't Wish Away") and now has written another op-ed in The Times saying he's changed his mind.

Desperate times call for desperately motivated reasoning.

In an interview on "This Week with George Stephanopoulos," Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen repeatedly refused to say that Section 4 of the 14th Amendment is off the table; at the same time, she said invoking it would cause a "constitutional crisis."

She's right about that, at least.

It's a dead giveaway that the 14th Amendment option is a ridiculous contrivance that pretty much everyone in authority dismissed the idea until now.

Although the 14th Amendment as escape hatch was bandied about during the debt limit confrontation in 2011, the Obama administration ultimately dismissed it. "Like every previous secretary of the Treasury who has confronted the question," the Treasury Department general counsel wrote of his boss, Timothy Geithner, at the time. "Secretary Geithner has always viewed the debt limit as a binding legal constraint that can only be raised by Congress."

Indeed, the debt limit is not some innovation dreamed up by the House Freedom Caucus. It was first passed in 1917 as part of the Second Liberty Bond Act. This was hardly a congressional power grab. Before the advent of the

debt limit, as Georgetown law professor Anita S. Krishnakumar points out, Congress authorized each bond issue, generally to fight wars and bolster the economy during recessions. The debt limit is the logical extension of Congress' power to tax and spend.

The 14th Amendment does say that "the validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned."

It's absurd to pretend that this provision somehow authorizes the president to arrogate to himself the fiscal powers of Congress if the debt limit isn't raised or – more to the point – isn't raised in a manner to his liking.

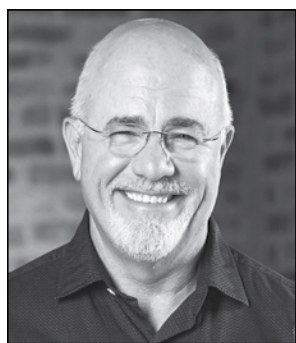
The House isn't saying that the debt ceiling shouldn't be extended, only that it should happen with accompanying spending reductions that make it more likely that our debts will be honored in the future.

Even if the debt limit is breached, it doesn't mean our debts will be written off. Under a 2011 Treasury contingency plan, other payments would have been delayed. This makes the 14th Amendment argument even more attenuated.

The Biden administration could save itself the trouble of trying to twist the Constitution to suit its narrow political purposes if it simply sat down with Congress and negotiated in good faith.

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

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Dave Ramsey Says

of international trade—all three have their own currency, and there's a conversion rate between all those currencies and the U.S. dollar. Those three countries, along with some of the oil-producing countries from the Middle East they're trying to get on board with the idea, are talking about developing one currency they all use. In international trade, that currency would be converted back and forth to dollars—much like what Europe did with the euro. Which, by the way, really hasn't worked out so well.

Are those countries going to be able to devalue the dollar by doing that? No. Why? Because while those countries take up a lot of land mass, they don't take up a lot of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the world. The United States still represents the vast majority of the world's GDP. Sure, China's big in that regard. But Russia doesn't bring much to the table, and Brazil is barely scraping by in a failed economy. Plus, they're tiny as far as economics are concerned.

I mean, Texas probably has a larger GDP than Brazil.

In other words, they just don't have the muscle to take down the dollar mathematically speaking. Now, if they do manage to put this idea together, it still won't end in "de-dollarization." The dollar will not be done away with. Even if they create their own currency, they're still going to have to trade with the 800-pound gorilla, which is America. And they're going to have to trade with us in dollars.

Am I worried about this, Zack? Not one bit. And you shouldn't be either.

— 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. ★

Never Have Just One

Dear Dave,

I'm hearing more and more about "de-dollarization" and how several countries are moving away from the U.S. dollar as their basis of international trade. Will this affect the strength of the dollar, and should I be concerned about how I'm saving and investing because of this?

— Zack

Dear Zack,

First and foremost, I care enough about you to say you may be spending way too much time on the internet, buddy. You're drifting into the realm of conspiracy theories here, so let's slow down and take a look at some facts.

China, Brazil and Russia are the three main players in all this. They already don't use the U.S. dollar as their basis



Riley Reviews

"GUARDIANS" END WITH A BANG; "A SMALL LIGHT" SHINES ON TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOLUME 3" RATED PG-13

Maybe it's just me, but the Marvel superhero movies have become more tiresome and repetitive. At least the "Guardians of the Galaxy" franchise has more heart and humor with its band of misfits.

Now is the time to catch the Guardians in action as "Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 3" is the final film in writer-director James Gunn's wildly popular trilogy. We are not even sure the gang will survive to the end of this installment.

Gunn makes sure that this last chapter will not go out without a huge bang, namely delivering enough action driven by fights, aerial battles, pyrotechnics, and computer-generated creatures ranging from adorable to the grotesque.

Settling in a place called Knowhere, the Guardians are set on repairing the damage done by Thanos and are determined to make their new home a haven, not only for themselves, but for all refugees displaced by the harsh universe.

Meanwhile, Peter Quill (Chris Pratt) aka Star-Lord, the leader of the group, is drowning his sorrows over the death of his girlfriend Gamora (Zoe Saldana), who returns here as an alternate version of herself.

Because she's come back as a different person, Gamora's relationship to the Guardians is really estranged. She's spunky and wild, but the romantic sparks are not going to fly with the Star-Lord this time.

While the Guardians would love for life to return to normal, they are soon under attack from a new enemy, the mad scientist known as the High Evolutionary (Chukwudi Iwujii), who has a direct connection to Rocket's past.

"Volume 3" is basically the story of the lovable raccoon Rocket (voiced by Bradley Cooper), who was one of the mad scientist's creations. Now in great jeopardy, he must be saved by the Guardians, a tricky task if they can't deactivate the implanted kill switch.

All the favorite characters are still in the gang. Groot (Vin Diesel) has not expanded his vocabulary. Drax (Dave Bautista) is a lot more mellow, but still not very bright. Nebula (Karen Gillan) remains in need of anger management.

Anyone not familiar with the first two films may not find "Guardians of the Galaxy Volume 3" to be easy to follow or appreciate. Fans of the series are not likely to be disappointed.

"A SMALL LIGHT" ON NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The unimaginable terror of German Nazis during World War II resulted in most of Europe being conquered in a relatively short span of time, from Norway

to Poland to France to Yugoslavia, and points in between.

The Netherlands was no exception, and this is where Anne Frank, a German-born Jewish girl, documented life in hiding from Nazi persecution in a diary that described everyday life in an Amsterdam attic.

An eight-episode limited series on National Geographic, "A Small Light" tells the remarkable story of secretary Miep Gies (Bel Powley), who didn't hesitate when her boss Otto Frannk (Live Schreiber) asked her to hide him and his family from the Nazis during World War II.

For the next two years, Miep, her husband Jan (Joe Cole) and several other everyday heroes watched over the eight souls hiding in a secret annex. It was Miep who found Anne's diary and preserved it so that she and Otto could later share it with the world.

The series title comes from something Miep said late in her life: "I don't like being called a hero because no one should ever think you have to be special to help others. Even an ordinary secretary or a housewife or a teenager can turn on a small light in a dark room."

Bel Powley turns in a powerful performance as Miep Gies, observing during the winter press tour that in researching for her role she found the main source was Miep's own book called "Anne Frank Remembered," which allowed her to "get a sense of her voice."

As there are few remaining Holocaust survivors with us to tell their stories, "A Small Light" demonstrates that keeping the accounts of what Jewish people had to endure under the horrific thumb of Nazi persecution is so important.

A special exhibit of the horrors of the Holocaust is now underway at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. "Auschwitz. Not long ago. Not far away" brings together more than 700 original objects of the horrors of the Nazi concentration camp.

Selection of objects from the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum as well as more than 20 institutions and museums all over the world portray the reality of the notorious camp and human tragedies that resulted from Nazi ideology.

Southern California is also home to the Holocaust Museum LA, the oldest of its kind in the United States, which was founded in 1961 when a group of survivors met and had artifacts from before the war that should be preserved.

The mission of Holocaust Museum LA is to commemorate those who perished, honor those who survived, educate about the Holocaust, and inspire a more dignified and humane world. ★



California Rice Farmers Planting Large Acreage Again Thanks to Wet Year

Only a year ago, amid a severe drought, California rice farmers planted their smallest acreage since 1958. Now, thanks to an exceptionally wet winter and spring, California rice country is humming with activity again. Planes are dropping seed on flooded fields and equipment is working the ground as planting ramps up in the Sacramento Valley. Rice farmers are expected to plant 470,000 acres this year. In contrast, rice growers planted just 256,000 acres in 2022. Farms in the valley's Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District planted just 1,000 acres last year. They typically grow about 100,000 acres.

California Flower Inventory Impacted by a Gloomy Spring

April showers may bring May flowers. But historic storms and flooding in January and March have left California flower growers with diminished inventory as they prepare for Mother's Day, the cut-flower sector's busiest time of year. Cut-flower farmers and wholesalers in the state say standing water from heavy rainfall destroyed some flowers while the lack of sunshine stunted the growth of others, making the stems too short for Mother's Day bouquets. However, the majority of cut flowers sold in the U.S. are imported, primarily from Colombia and Ecuador.

Almond Bearing Acreage Increases Slightly Despite Orchards Cut Down Due to Drought

California's total almond acreage decreased in 2022 for the first time in more than 25 years, despite a slight increase in bearing acres. According to Land IQ and the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, total almond acreage in 2022, which includes nonbearing trees, was estimated at 1.63 million. That is a 1.2% drop from the previous year. The report also estimates 77,700 acres of orchards will be removed by late August this year. However, actual bearing acreage is expected to increase by 24,000 acres from 2022.

New California Rule to Phase Out Most Diesel Trucks in State





California is set to phase out nearly all diesel trucks in the state over the next two decades. The California Air Resources Board has voted unanimously to approve a ban on medium- and heavy-duty diesel trucks, including the big rigs that transport fresh agricultural products throughout the state. The state rule will ban the sale of new diesel trucks and buses by 2036 and require that most diesel trucks operating in the state are phased out by 2042. Diesel trucks and buses represent around 3% of vehicles registered in California. ★

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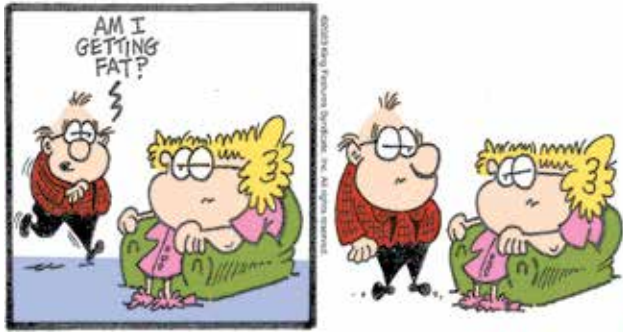

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The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

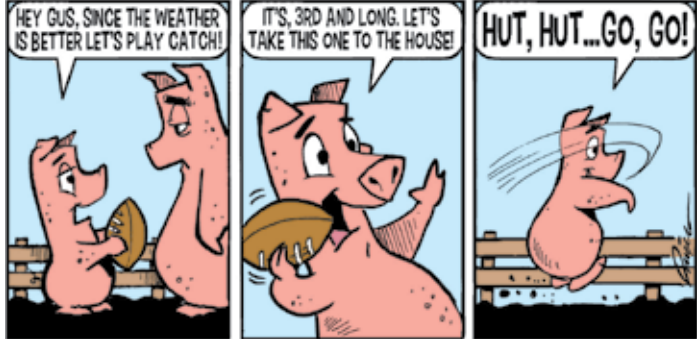


HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Nose is different. 2. The is different. 3. Picture is moved. 4. Hand is different. 5. Shaper is broken. 6. Chair back is lower.

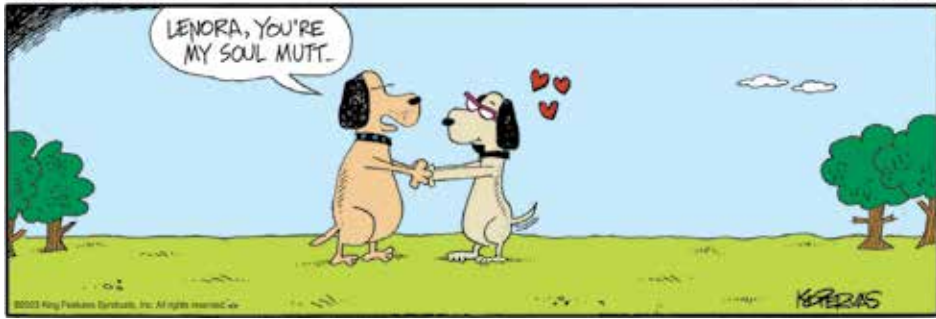
Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

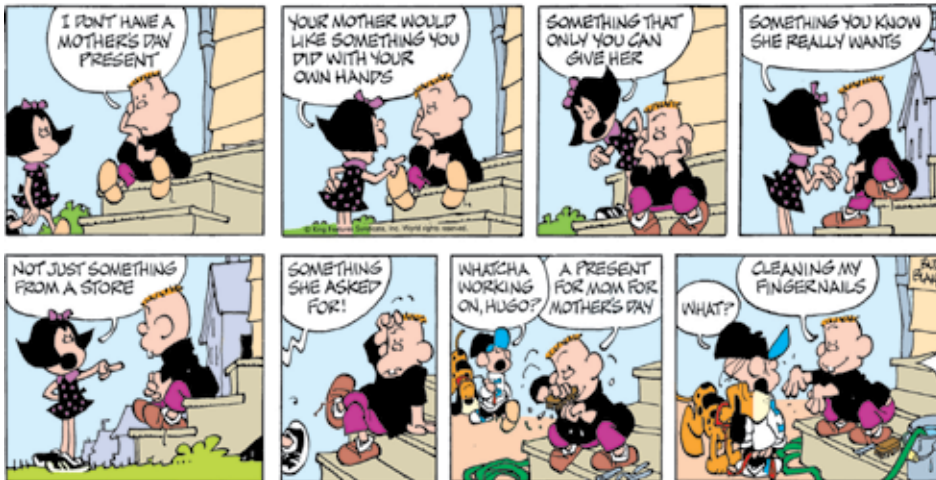


Out on a Limb



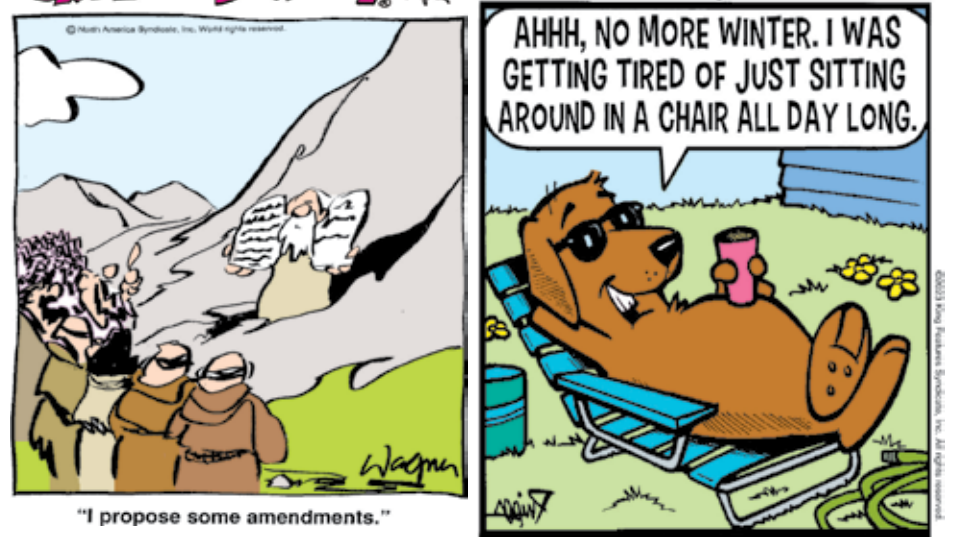
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Can You Spot the Fentanyl Fake? Pizza Parlor Gets Refreshed

Vibe Solano News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - At least 100 Solano County residents – and more than 100,000 Americans – died last year of an overdose. Nearly two-thirds of those fatalities were likely due to fentanyl. To warn youth and their families about the profound dangers of fentanyl and counterfeit prescription drugs, Solano Public Health is expanding its “Fentanyl Kills” opioid prevention campaign in local schools and throughout the community.

“Teens take street pills thinking they’re Oxycodone, Adderall or Xanax,” says Robin Cox, MPH, CPH, Solano County’s Health Promotion & Community Wellness (VibeSolano) Bureau Chief. “They don’t realize they’re fakes until it’s too late.”

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid drug 100 times stronger than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin. One in four counterfeit pills contain fentanyl and nearly half of those contain a high enough dose to kill. In recent years, there has been an uptick in fentanyl-related deaths, especially among teens, in Solano County. Some youths take pills given to them by friends or purchase them from local dealers, assuming they are legitimate prescription medications. In other cases, youth are sold “rainbow fentanyl,” a new kid-friendly, multi-colored variant recently marketed to youth.

“It’s sobering to know that it takes just 2 mg of fentanyl, equal to four grains of sand, to kill a person,” said David Gao Chan, MPH, who coordinates the county’s opioid prevention efforts. “No one wants to lose a loved one to an overdose, so it’s important to talk to kids about the risk of street pills.”

The latest phase of VibeSolano’s opioid prevention campaign includes an interactive, multi-lingual micro-website (fentanyllkillssolano.org), greater multilingual reach with advertising and educational material in Spanish and Tagalog, and additional digital, print, and transit advertising. Solano County is also joining with Touro University’s Drug Safe Solano and other partners to promote and distribute “Fentanyl Kills” fact sheets, bookmarks and postcards in the community. This expanded effort builds on the first phase of the campaign, previewed in June 2022, that



Image courtesy of Vibe Solano

included the distribution of print materials to libraries and county human services locations and advertising with social media, digital radio and video, broadcast radio, transit, digital display and print.

In the campaign, health officials offer three ways to protect families:

Only take pills prescribed to you; Talk to your kids about the risk of street pills, like Oxy or Adderall. Many fatal counterfeits have been sold to youth on social media; If you or someone you know shows signs of overdose, call 911 immediately or administer lifesaving Naloxone (Narcan®) as soon as possible.

“It comes down to this: If a pill isn’t prescribed to you, or your kids, it’s not safe,” says Gao Chan. “Fentanyl kills.”

Learn more about the dangers of fentanyl and counterfeit prescription drugs or download educational tools at fentanyllkillssolano.org.

VibeSolano is the branding for the Health Promotion & Community Wellness Bureau of the Solano County Public Health Division, Health and Social Services Department. ★

Continued from page 1

“I come in here twice a month and there has been a dramatic improvement,” said Jill Davis. “He’s very generous to the schools and sports, too.” That could be because Pooni, a former soccer player and avid soccer fan, and his wife of 27 years are a “soccer playing family.” They have raised three daughters. Pavan, 19, is the youngest and plays soccer for Sac State. Kiran, 22, went to Menlo College to play soccer and Preet, 25, is an accomplished soccer player.

Pooni, who is originally from England, most recently owned two pizza franchises in Sacramento. He bought the Dixon Round Table Pizza parlor last October and immediately started working with staff to be more positive.

“We have 10 or 11 brilliant coworkers. As an owner, you learn that you have to be positive and don’t allow negative energy. I tell employees they work ‘with’ me, not ‘for’ me,” he said. “Nobody wants to work so let’s make it fun, I tell them. It’s a challenge sometimes but you can see the reward,” he said, but he also

admits he can be tough when he has to be. There is a reason the company is a success, and he is accountable to those guidelines as well.

“But, sincere praise goes a long way,” he added.

That kind of praise trickled from the top for Pooni, too.

“We met in 2019 when he was buying the Sacramento restaurants and we talked every day,” said FBC Franchise Business Consultant Mike Colenzo, who added that then the pandemic hit. “He remained positive. He is the perfect person who carries that positive philosophy – and it guides him wherever he’s going and whatever he’s doing. He thrives on turning struggles around and he [makes] happy staff.” There are no corporate locations, Colenzo added. Each unit stands on its own.

“He was there for me every step of the way,” said Pooni with mutual admiration. Round Table Pizza is a chain and franchise of pizza parlors in the Western United States. The first Round Table Pizza restaurant was opened in 1959, and the company has over 400 restaurants. ★

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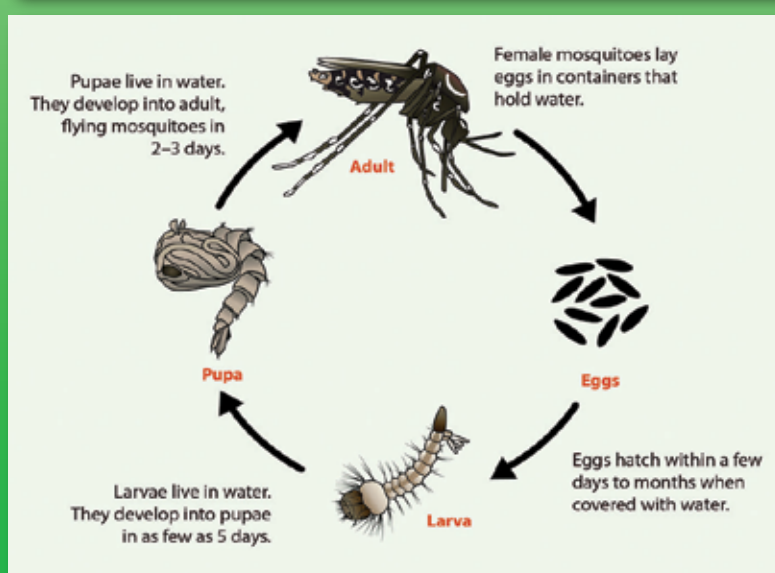
of Becoming Infected with West Nile Virus

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



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