



Happy
Mother's Day!



Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

MAY 12, 2023

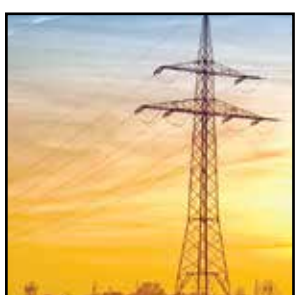
**SEE
INSIDE**

**NINE NEW
GRADUATING
CANINE TEAMS**



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**SAVING
POWER AND
PAYING MORE**



PAGE 10

**BRADDOCK
HONORED AS
CLIMATE CRISIS
CHAMPION**



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The Amazing Audrey!



"Audrey is someone who goes above and beyond her duties to ensure that students and staff have the resources they need to be successful," McCammon said. "She was organized, efficient, and effective in her role, and always had a positive attitude that helped to create a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone in the school community. She is a hardworking ray of sunshine."

*Dtory and photo
by Debra Dingman*

DIXON, CA (MPG) - When her own three children were young, Audrey Madden started working at the elementary schools in Dixon. After several years at Gretchen Higgins Elementary School, she started at Dixon High School where she is Office Coordinator and has worked for the past five years with people who laugh a lot.

"I've worked in the District for more than 16 years now and I really enjoy the people," Madden said. "It is different every day. It is challenging; there is always something

to learn, and it's just fun being with the kids." Her attitude may be one of the many reasons she was selected as Solano County Office of Education's Classified Employee of the Year, an effort to pay tribute to the tireless efforts of outstanding school employees who play key roles in creating a school environment that promotes student achievement, safety, and health.

"Everybody here would or did nominate her," said Principal Stephanie Marquez with excitement. "Audrey takes care of everything really well and handles everything with a sense of grace. Plus, she is super funny."

It was in 1978, that the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) began recognizing exemplary teachers and that endeavor expanded to recognize outstanding classified school employees in the annual Solano County Educators of the Year (EOY) Celebration. The Solano County EOY Program recognizes two groups of educators in one celebration; the Classified School Employees of the Year (CSEY) and the Teachers of the Year (TOY).

The program is designed to reflect the rich diversity of Solano County's educators and school staff while paying tribute to Solano's teaching force,
Continued on page 2

Readi-Ride Marks 40 Years

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Those large, white vans that Dixonites see driven around town regularly—but especially before and after school, is Dixon's own bus system that is now marking its 40th birthday. The City of Dixon Readi-Ride Transit Service proudly announced they are celebrating 40 years of providing safe and reliable transportation to our local residents.

In April 1983, the City established Readi-Ride to provide dial-a-ride transit service with one nine-passenger van.

In the first year, Readi-Ride completed 2,960 rides. In 2010, through grant funds from proposition 1B Public Transportation Modernization

Improvements and Service Enhancement Account, Dixon Readi-Ride purchased two new wheelchair accessible mini vans designed for a Paratransit Intercity Service.

Over the past 40 years, Readi-Ride has grown to a fleet of eight 20-passenger buses, two mini vans and an 8-passenger bus for paratransit. At its peak in 2019, the system provided 61,726 rides a year, averaging 246 rides per day. "We would like to take this opportunity to thank our passengers, staff, and City Council for their support over the years," said Transit Supervisor Vicki Jacobs, "We look forward to serving our community for many years to come."

Staying up with the times, there is a new travel training video available for residents to learn how to use Readi-Ride and trip planning beyond the City of Dixon which is accessible through the city website under 'Transit.'

For additional information regarding intercity trip planning assistance, contact the Solano Mobility Call Center at www.solanomobility.org or 800-535-6883. Information is also available in Spanish.

Readi-Ride currently provides door-to-door transit service within Dixon city limits between the hours of 7:00am-12:00pm and 1:00pm-4:00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and Wednesday between 7:00am-11:00am and 12:00pm-4:00pm. Readi-Ride also provides paratransit services to Davis and Vacaville to eligible individuals. Residents can call (707) 678- 5020 to request a ride. ★

Mother's Day and The Fair

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Only local mothers can be feted with a colorful parade and a lively fair without ever leaving Dixon on Mother's Day!

The 146th annual parade is hosted by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce and the City of Dixon on Saturday, May 13, beginning at 10 a.m. The Dixon May Fair Parade is the oldest state affiliated parade in California and is one of the most colorful of its kind. The parade route will be along First St. (Highway 113) starting at C St. and traveling to Chestnut St.

For all downtown streets that connect to Highway 113, those will be closed at 4 a.m. and the rest of the streets in the area will start closing at 7 a.m. Only parade entries will be allowed into the area so plan on good walking shoes.

There are about 120 entries in this year's parade including 19 auto entries, a plethora of business entries, horses, many sports, and dance groups too. There will also be the Dixon High School



Look for the purple ribbons like this one on this floral display at the May Fair as those entries are considered 'Best of Show.' Photo by Karen Spencer

band and color guard, the Band of the Golden West, three Scottish groups with at least one on bagpipes, and a contingent of active military.

Big trucks from Valley

Farm Transport celebrating their 60th anniversary will be there and a host of floats including ones from the Downtown Dixon Business Association and First Northern Bank. The

dignitaries from the city, the county, the state, and even the U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson will show.

When the parade is over, there are plenty of local options for delicious meals by just standing up and going into one of the downtown restaurants. There are ethnic choices like Sushi from The Frying Pan or Thai from Bangkok Gardens. For those moms who just want fresh American dishes, there is Dawson's, Bud's Pub & Grill or experience a unique choice of organic flair from Rosemary's Farm to Fork.

Don't forget on the rim of Dixon, there is a life-size horse as part of Pedro's Cocina's Mexican decor on Market Lane, Punjabi Dhaba serving traditional North Indian cuisine at 7800 Batavia Road, S & S Deli Mediterranean Grill in the shopping plaza by Walmart with La Cocina Mexican Restaurant across from that, and nothing beats a special day like an old-fashioned American steak served at Cattlemen's. But, of course, there are amazing choices at the
Continued on page 3





Mother's Day Wishes

By Debra Dingman

Some mothers want to stay home and do absolutely nothing – no cooking, cleaning, or caring. Others want to be feted and taken out to lunch or dinner. Some are hoping to receive flowers and cards. Some want a hot bath and to be left completely alone. For Mother's Day, I just want to spend time with my children.

A few weeks ago, I got my hopes up when I called each of them and invited them down to watch the parade and then I'd take them out to lunch afterwards. The older two didn't answer at all. Still haven't. I then realized this past Saturday that the two grandsons in one family have baseball and soccer games on Saturday while the other has football on Sunday. Oh right, they have their busy lives. I'll be lucky to get a card or a text like last year. I'm disappointed but not devastated. I think I've grown incredibly more mature about all this Mother's Day stuff because they forced me to. We absolutely have to be more flexible when our children marry – because there is another mother involved!

But, the youngest arranged to come down with his wife and spend Thursday afternoon at our home and visit since he has half a day off and then go to the May Fair and eat everything delicious but unhealthy. This sounded like a great way to celebrate Mother's Day.

I have enjoyed watching my daughter and daughter-in laws set up their homes

and cook and decorate and manage the needs of their families with amazing patience and love. I like that we have a day set aside to honor mothers because we all have one, sometimes two, or at least one woman like a mom in our life.

As I tidied up our bathroom this morning, hung the towels from our showers, put on a new roll of toilet paper, and noted we need to put toothpaste on the grocery list, I thought of how sweet it is for Mother's to be recognized. Mothers will see and do a hundred little things for their home and their family in just a day and if they don't, life gets messy.

For many years, my hubby would get up and leave the table and go sit and watch the news. I not only prepared the dinner after coming home from my shop, I also set the table, thought of what to cook for dinner, and prepared the meal. Occasionally, I thought it was unfair, but I brought in so little income compared with his that I just usually felt grateful.

Back then, who would have ever thought I would experience longing for children to be around us? Whoever thought I'd be served a terrific meal as soon as I walked in the door – in a kitchen already cleaned up by my retired husband? I honestly thought he was the worst cook but now I see that one learns from experience. You just never know what the future holds. Hang on to what you love with kindness and grace. Here's my wishes to all the mothers out there to have a memorable Mother's Day! ★

The Amazing Audrey!

Continued from page 1

the growing complexity of challenges that confront our schools, and the need to promote collaboration and teamwork among educators to meet those challenges.

Former Principal of Gretchen Higgins, Shawntel McCammon knows Audrey well and called her "Amazing Audrey."

"Audrey is someone who goes above and beyond her duties to ensure that students and staff have the resources they need to be successful," McCammon said. "She was organized, efficient, and effective in her role, and always had a positive attitude that helped to create a welcoming and supportive environment for everyone in the school community. She is a hard-working ray of sunshine."

"Audrey is professional, kind, and informed," said Marquez. "If it is something new, she researches and learns about it. She takes the time to learn and does the job well." For Madden, her heart almost visibly swells when she talks about

watching the students grow up.

"Because I started [in the District] in the elementary schools, I saw them when they were little and cute and now I get to see them as grown young adults," she said. Surrounded by stuffed animals, plants, and lots of mementos, it appears she is appreciated by the students just as much as the office staff appreciates her. Madden was chosen among four other nominees from various schools.

At Tremont Elementary School, teacher Stephanie Roupp was nominated for Teacher of the Year—an honor in itself but at the annual Educator of the Year celebration held at the Sunrise Event Center in Vacaville, Maria Williams of Grange Middle School in Fairfield was chosen Teacher of the Year. Both Williams and Madden will now represent Solano County for the State-level honor.

Madden was awarded her name engraved on a perpetual trophy and a \$1,000 check. ★

Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

School Half Day

In recognition of the many anxious youth wanting to enjoy our annual May Fair, Dixon Unified School District is only in school for a half day on Friday, May 12. Children are expected to be heard and seen.

Kids Yoga

The Solano County Library is offering a 'Kids Yoga' class with Busy Bee Yoga instructor Katrina Marsh on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. through the month of May at the Dixon Public Library, 230 North First St. in downtown Dixon. For more information, visit solanocountylibrary.com/events.

Better Sales

The Solano-Napa Small Business Development Center is offering a no-cost, online course called: Getting the Yes, Communicating for Better Sales on Wednesday, May 17 from noon to 1:30 p.m. If you don't like sales or think you are terrible at sales, take this workshop. Many entrepreneurs get a knot in their stomach when they think about sales. It's not your fault, sales have gotten a bad reputation. You may have even been "sold" to in the past in a way that feels uncomfortable. You think that's the way to do it. It's not!

Join business advisor, Laurie Zerga for a new approach to sales. She will teach an alternative to the stereo-typed method to sales. You will learn to build a sales system that meets your personal style. Register online at solanonapasbdc.org.

Children History Tours

Be on the lookout for some extra feet around downtown and drive cautiously while children from Dixon Montessori and Anderson Elementary schools share a Dixon history tour that will end at the Dixon History Museum, 125 West A Street on Friday May 19. For more information or to schedule a tour, call (707) 693-3044.

And don't forget their Uno Card Game featured at their monthly Coffee House with volunteer Denise McBride in charge of the fun. It will be on Wednesday, May 17, from 3 to 5 p.m. also at the museum.

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.



Several people learned stretches with Yoga instructor Katrina Marsh who provided a free class at the Pardi Plaza last Friday to celebrate a business anniversary of Busy Bee Yoga located in downtown Dixon. Photo by James Young

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.

Women's Club

Mark your calendars for the next Dixon Women's Improvement Club on Wednesday, May 17, at noon at the Dixon United Methodist Church Social Hall, 209 North Jefferson St. Members and their guests will enjoy a luncheon at \$25 as new officers and committee chairs are installed for the new year. For more information, message them through their Facebook page.

New Store!

On Saturday, May 13, which is parade day, Bobtail Apparel will take advantage of the downtown crowd and host their grand opening of their new retail store at 106 North First St. They plan to open at 10 a.m. as the parade is starting and will feature a 'sip and shop' along with Rowdy J Co women's clothing and accessories in the courtyard. They sell shirts, hats, and vibes. ★

Popeye's Coming to Town



Dixon, CA (MPG) - If you like chicken and biscuits, you'll be happy to hear Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen is expanding in Dixon and will have its new facility open sometime this month according to Jeff Schafer, Commercial Superintendent who is overseeing the building on Dorset Drive. Schafer has been working on the project for five months with the company All-Around Renovations out of San Diego. "I haven't been to Dixon in about 25 years when all of it was farmland," he said. "This town is really blowing up." He's worked side by side with the contractors on the restaurant that will have a drive-thru as well as dine-in and was happy to share they should be open in May. Photo by Debra Dingman

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Help Make Fair Safer and Lines Smoother

By Karen Spencer

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Once you get to the Dixon May Fair, getting inside to enjoy the carnival rides and Fair Food is on the top of your mind. To help you get into all the action, the Fair has some tips to help lines go smoothly.

The Dixon May Fair has put several safety precautions in place to create a safer and more pleasurable experience for all fairgoers. For example, every patron goes through a metal detector at each entrance and this means all your bags and strollers must be checked. Your wallet, keys, and pocket change must be placed in a container as well.

If possible do not bring backpacks or large handbags and carry essentials in a clear bag or pouch so that you don't have to stand in a ticket line, then move to the admission line where you will go through the metal detector. Save time by buying your tickets online before you come. Have them easily available on your mobile

device or your printed tickets in your hand ready to present them.

Items that cannot be brought into the Fair include any type of weapon – no guns, knives (including pocket knives), pepper spray or other objects that may be a threat to the safety of other fairgoers.

No personal water containers are allowed. One unopened, sealed water bottle per person is allowed, as well as baby food and special dietetic foods.

No chairs, bicycles, hoverboards, skateboards, scooters, squirt guns, or balloons are allowed inside the Fairgrounds.

No pets are allowed on the fairgrounds. Qualified service dogs that meet the State of California definition (available at DixonMayFair.com) and dogs participating in various shows will be allowed.

By simply being aware of these precautions before you arrive, you can look forward to a great time at the Dixon May Fair! For ticket information visit www.DixonMayFair.com and click on Fair Information. ★

Mother's Day and The Fair



Handcrafted, brightly colored quilts are enjoyed by many mothers and grandmothers and can be a great place to get cool and enjoy a bit of quiet at the May Fair. Photo by Karen Spencer

Continued from page 1

May Fair, too, like those extra-large corn dogs.

The Dixon May Fair begins Thursday, May 11 at 4 p.m. and runs through Sunday, May 14, 10 p.m. It has been the place for neighbors, friends, and family to gather for 148 years with entertainment, food, and activities for all ages and interests. Thursday is Thrifty Thursday with just \$5 admission and Friday is Kids Day with free fair admission for youth 12 and under. Mother's Day will be celebrated with the long tradition of 500 roses being given away at the main entry on South First Street. ★

Thinking of entertainment at the May Fair for Mom? At the Leber Garden Stage at 1 p.m., The Latin Touch Band will perform from 1 to 5 p.m. and if she's still energetic, she can dance at the Picnic Lawn.

Of course, there are a lot of moms who really like the Demolition Derby. It's loud with crashing and cheering and starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Grandstand. No worries, mom can escape to see the beautiful quilts, have a glass of wine, smell the gorgeous roses, or stroll through the peaceful gardens to see who got the 'Best of Show.' The Fair admission gates close at 9 p.m. Sunday and "until 2024" closes at 10 p.m. ★

New Music at the May Fair



The band 'Long Time' will perform at the Dixon May Fair on Saturday evening with a tribute to the band, Boston. Photo courtesy KE Spencer Event Marketing



Robby James and The Streets of Bakersfield are back by popular demand to the May Fair and will perform on Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m. on the Leber Garden Stage. Photo courtesy KE Spencer Event Marketing

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 MAY 11-14, 2023


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In the Grandstands
Friday: Pro Broncs & Bulls \$30 all ages*
Saturday: Truck & Tractor Pulls \$30 all ages*
Sunday: Demolition Derby \$30 all ages*
 (Includes Fair admission when you buy in advance)

Friday Kid's Day: Open at Noon
 Kids 12 and under Free admission all day

Family Entertainment
 Free Train Rides • Kids Town America • Kids AGtivity Area
 Jack Spareribs Pirate Show • Livestock Shows

Live Bands Daily on Leber Stage
Friday: Crossman Connection, Outlaw Mariachi
Saturday: Robbie James & the Streets of Bakersfield, Long Time – Tribute to the Band Boston
Sunday: The Latin Touch, Rhythm Method Trio, Los Dinno's, Banda La 8va Marabella

DixonMayFair.com

Schedule Subject to Change without Notice

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DIXON MAY FAIR

Grandstand

Friday, May 12th
7 pm

Bull & Bronc Riding Event
West Coast Rodeo Company
CCPRA Bull and Bronc Riding
Event

Saturday, May 13th
7 pm

Maxx Kaki Powersports
Tractor Pull Competition

Sunday, May 14th
5:30 pm

Demolition Derby

Tickets \$30 (all ages) + fair admission.
Tickets available online and at the fair box office (M-F 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

Leber Garden Stage

Thursday, May 11th

One of These Nights –
Songs of the Eagles
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



Friday, May 12th

Crossman Connection
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The Outlaw Mariachi
7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 13th

Dixon Dance Studio
Noon

Robby James & The
Streets of Bakersfield
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Long Time: A Tribute
To The Band Boston
7:00 p.m. – 10:10 p.m.

Sunday, May 14th

The Latin Touch Band
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

The Rhythm Method
Trio
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Kids Area

Jack Spareribs – Pirate 4 Hire

Thursday, May 11th:
4:30 pm & 6:30 pm

Friday, May 12th: 2:00 pm;
4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Saturday, May 13th: 2:00 pm;
4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Sunday, May 14th: 2:00 pm;
4:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Kids Town America

Kid Activity Area

Open daily until dusk



Dixon Fire Department's
Sparky the Fire Dog

Kids Zone

Friday, May 12th
Noon to 5 p.m.



Grounds/Strolling Around

Western Express Railroad
Trackless Train
Daily until Dusk

The Throw Zone –
Jeremiah Johnston
Daily – Strolling Friday – Sunday

Flo the Clown
Daily Thursday – Sunday



Patrick Contreras –
Violin on Fire
Strolling Friday – Sunday

Magic of Frank Thurston
Today's Youth Stage
Friday, May 12th: 12:30 pm;
3:00 pm & 6:00 pm

Saturday, May 13th: 12:30 pm;
3:00pm & 5:30 pm

Sunday, May 14th: 12:30 pm;
3:00 pm & 5:30 pm

Vacaville High School
Drumline

Main Gate Courtyard

Saturday, May 13th – 1 p.m.



Picnic Stage

Saturday, May 13th

9th Annual Dixon May Fair
Classic Car Show
11 am – 3:30 pm

Chamber of Commerce
Parade Awards
2:00 pm

Hey Jude
Beetles Tribute Band
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm,
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Car Show Awards
3:30 pm

Sunday, May 14th

Mariachi America –
Main Gate Courtyard
Noon – 2 p.m.

Los Invenziblez
2 p.m. – 2:55 p.m.

Tony Y Su Terremoto
3:10 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Alerta Maxima
4:10 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Banda Tierra De Oro
5:10 p.m. – 5:50 p.m.

Principes Del Pacifico
6:10 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

Los Dinnos
7:05 p.m. to 7:55 p.m.

Banda La 8va Maravilla
8:10 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Exhibit Buildings &
Admission Gates Close
9 p.m.

Fair Closes until 2024
10 p.m.

No video equipment or audio recorders are allowed in the Grandstand, Picnic Stage or the Leber Garden Stage areas. Cameras are permitted for personal use only; images should not be distributed or sold. No chairs can be brought on to the fairgrounds for these areas.

Join Us For The May Fair Weekend • May 11 - 14

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ENTERTAINMENT

FRIDAY, MAY 12TH • 7 PM
WEST COAST RODEO COMPANY
CCPRA BULL AND BRONC RIDING EVENT

SATURDAY, MAY 13TH • 7 PM
MAXX KAKL POWERSPORTS
TRACTOR PULL COMPETITION

SUNDAY, MAY 14TH • 5:30 PM
DEMOLITION DERBY

For A Complete List Of Events And Activities For This Year's Dixon May Fair, Please Visit:

dixonmayfair.com

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Thompson Honors Nicole Braddock as Climate Crisis Champion

Office of Congressman Mike Thompson

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04) announced Nicole Braddock as the 2023 Solano County Climate Crisis Champion for California's Fourth District. Rep. Thompson's Climate Crisis Champions demonstrate significant efforts to protect the environment in our community and combat the ongoing climate crisis. They advocate for the urgent need for action on climate change and inspire others to get

involved. Through their work, they are helping to build a more sustainable future for all. "Conserving lands for future generations is an essential part of taking on the climate crisis, and Nicole's work with the Solano Land Trust is a key part of these efforts," said Thompson. "Bringing communities together and building a common ground for conservation will help us protect our environment. Nicole's persistent dedication to our community is clear as she advocates for the development of



4th Congressional District Representative Mike Thompson presents the 2023 Solano County Climate Crisis Champion award to Nicole Braddock. Photo courtesy of the Office of Congressman Mike Thompson

accessible trails and picnic areas, with the ultimate goal of allowing all of Solano County to benefit

from the natural resources in our region. It's because of people like Nicole that I am optimistic about our future, and I am proud to recognize her work on behalf of our community." Nicole was born in Cedarville, California. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from UC Davis, and a Masters of Business Administration from Capella University. As the Executive Director of the Solano Land Trust, Nicole has upheld the protection of over 8,000 acres of working farms

and natural areas as well as the restoration of miles of creeks and streams. Nicole's work for our district also includes many volunteer hours serving numerous nonprofit organizations and as a coach for local leaders working in land conservation. *Congressman Mike Thompson is proud to represent California's 4th Congressional District, which includes all or part of Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo Counties. He is a senior member of the House Committee on Ways and Means.* ★

Local Classified

<p>Announcement</p> <p>Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing, Trusted by Authors since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for your Free Author's Guide 1-877-538-9554 or visit http://dorranceinfo.com/Cal (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote -Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-439-5645 (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>NEW AUTHORS WANTED! Page Publishing will help you self-publish your own book. FREE author submission kit! Limited offer! Why wait? Call now: 1-855-667-0380 (Cal-SCAN)</p>	<p>Autos Wanted</p> <p>DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - Maximum Tax Donation - Help Find Missing Kids! Call 1-888-491-1453. (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>Donating your vehicle? Get more! Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Plus a \$200 restaurant voucher and a 2-night/3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations. Call Heritage for the Blind to donate your vehicle today. CALL 1-844-491-2884 (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>GOT AN UNWANTED CAR?? Your car donation to Patriotic Hearts helps veterans find work or start their own business. Fast free pick. Running or not! Call 24/7: 1-877-529-0495. (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>Tiene un vehiculo no deseado? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-844-244-5441 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>WANTED OLD PORSCHE/MERCEDES Sports cars! Any Porsche 356, 911. Any Mercedes 190, 250, 280SL. ANY condition! Call/Text Mike: 1-520-977-1110. Ibring trailer & cash! 5/12(Cal-SCAN) Cable/Satellite TV 5/13/2023</p> <p>Cash4R.Vs. Top price paid for Motorhomes, 5th wheels, travel trailers, and camper vans. Sell your R.V today. 1-916-844-cash (2274) (Cal-SCAN) (5/13)</p>	<p>Cable/Satellite TV</p> <p>DIRECTV for \$79.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! DirecTV is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-888-641-5762. (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>Cellular Plans</p> <p>Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. Limited time offer get \$50 off on any new account. Use code GIFT50. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605 (Cal-SCAN)</p>	<p>Financial Services</p> <p>Over \$10K in Debt? Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 1-888-231-4274. (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>Health/Wellness</p> <p>JOIN FOR FREE - NO KITS OR QUOTES & FREE WEBSITE. CTFO (Changing The Future Outcome) has the best CBD oil available. Products for health, beauty, weight or hair loss and even for your pets. Check out these products: canderson.mycfto.com TFN</p> <p>Insurance/Health</p> <p>SAVE BIG on HOME INSURANCE! Compare 20 A-rated insurance companies. Get a quote within minutes. Average savings of \$444/year! Call 1-844-410-9609! (M-F 8am-8pm Central) (Cal-SCAN)</p>	<p>Internet</p> <p>FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-480-0769 (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>Miscellaneous</p> <p>DID YOU KNOW Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecilia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>The difference in winning and losing market share is how businesses use their advertising dollars. CNPA's Advertising Services' power to connect to nearly 13 million of the state's readers who are an engaged audience, makes our services an indispensable marketing solution. For more info call Cecilia @ (916) 288-6011 or cecilia@cnpa.com</p>	<p>Real Estate</p> <p>RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073. No consumer loans. (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>Rental</p> <p>Property is under construction and will soon have 1,2,3, & 4 bedroom units for rent!</p> <p>The Housing Authority of the County of Butte is currently accepting applications for its Farm Labor Housing property in Gridley, CA. We have 2 Bd. units available at this time. Rental assistance is available and provided by USDA Rural Development for those that meet USDA Rural Development guidelines. For more information contact our office at (530) 895-4474 or TDD 1-800-735-2929.</p> <p>"The Housing Authority of the County of Butte is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Housing Provider"</p>	<p>Work Wanted</p> <p>Is it time to declutter and clean your garage and house? I can help! And I prune and weed and wash windows. References, College grad. Call Tim, 916-370-0858. 63023</p> <p>NOTICE TO READERS</p> <p>California law requires that contractors taking jobs that total \$500 or more (labor and/or materials) be licensed by the Contractors State License Board. State law also requires that contractors include their license numbers on all advertising. Check your contractor's status at www.cslb.ca.gov or 800-321-CSLB (2752). Unlicensed persons taking jobs that total less than \$500 must state in their advertisements that they are not licensed by the Contractors State License Board.</p> <p>DISCLAIMER</p> <p>Be wary of out of area companies. Check with the local Better Business Bureau before you send any money for fees or services. Read and understand any contracts before you sign. Shop around for rates.</p>
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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Foundation
 - Dashboard acronym
 - Bonny one
 - Pleasant smell
 - Metal-bearing mineral
 - Salk's nemesis
 - Kidney-related
 - Christopher Lloyd's Brown
 - Investigative report
 - "Something to claim
 - "Declaration station
 - Argonaut's propeller
 - C in TLC
 - Scott's woolen cap
 - Sushi restaurant soup
 - *Exclusive accommodation
 - Was in the hole
 - Highest volcano in Europe
 - Angry growl
 - Dry riverbed
 - "... go!"
 - Adored one
 - "Jong of 'Fear of Flying' fame
 - Lowly laborer
 - Cone-shaped quarters
 - Time between classes
 - Dirty air
 - Hi-...
 - Skiers' ride
 - Scheduled to arrive
 - *... for takeoff
 - *Frost removal
 - Luxurious sheet fabric
 - It would
 - Synagogue scroll
 - Barely sufficient
 - General Services Administration
 - Movie "Home ..."
 - Reason to cram
 - Negative vote
 - Washer setting
- DOWN**
- Prickle on a fence
 - Equal to pi times r squared
 - Cheap form of payment?
 - Insect in adult stage
 - Dar es ... Tanzania
 - Traveled on a horse
 - Not amateur
 - Haji destination
 - Like kittens' mittens
 - "The Sun ... Rises" by Hemingway
 - Thailand, once
 - Tofu bean, pl.
 - Walkways
 - "Peer Gynt" composer Edvard
 - Dot-com address
 - Wrestling match, e.g.
 - "Air traffic control feature
 - Fully informed
 - Army doctor
 - Traffic sign
 - ... of measurement
 - Rock bottom
 - Search blindly
 - Island off Manhattan
 - Vegas cube
 - H or O in H2O, e.g.
 - Opposite of cathode
 - Obliquely
 - Knighly title

CROSSWORD

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

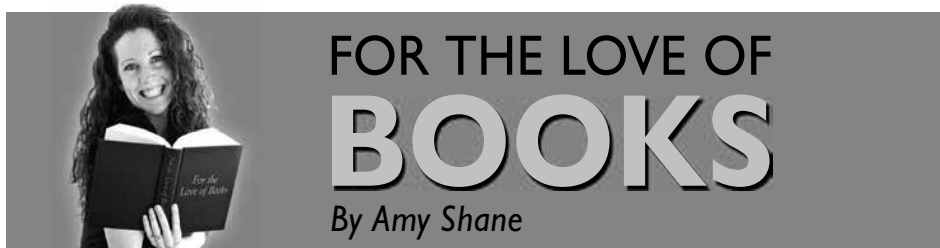
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000620
 The following persons are doing business as: HKM Sweets, 335 West C Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Hollie Martin, 335 West C Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: April 7, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is conducted by: 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 6, 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: April 21, 29, May 5, 12, 2023
 HKM 5-12-23

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:

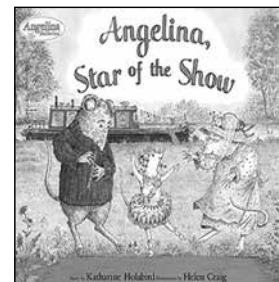
April 10, 2022.
 This Business is conducted by: an individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) 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



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

Celebrate the Sweet Moments This Mother's Day

This Mother's Day celebrates the tender little moments, the preciousness of childhood, and sweet stories that are perfect for any reading audience.



What's Sweeter
 by June Tate, Katherine Tegen Books

Celebrate all the sweet things in life, whether it be a patch of sunlight coming in from the window. Your favorite spot under a shade tree or even cuddling up with a cat. What's sweeter than cracking open a new book or receiving a hug from someone you haven't seen in a long time? So many little things in life are worth noting and celebrating, especially you.

June Tate puts simple everyday things in the spotlight. Reminding readers to take a moment to breathe, look around and notice all the lovely things that come with celebrating. *What's Sweeter* highlights all the little moments in life, the joy of giving and receiving and taking life slowly. A perfect book for anyone to read to any age group.

Angelina Star of The Show
 by Katharine Holabird and Helen Craig, Little Simon
 Angelina never misses

the opportunity to be the star of the show, even when she is on her grandparents' boat. Angelina danced and twirled over the boat, and nothing stopped her. She danced around her grandmother as the soup boiled over and on the deck, as her grandfather tangled up his fishing line, but nothing stopped Angelina. That night she promised her grandparents, she would stop dancing, but the very next morning, Angelina was dancing away until she tumbled into a can of oil. Now, with a ruined costume, Angelina will never be able to dance at the festival. Will Angelina and her grandmother be able to save the day, or will Angelina miss her opportunity to be the star of the show?

A beautiful celebration of grandparents within the timeless tales of the Angelina Ballerina books. Angelina finds a way to dance into her reader's hearts with a

story that explores listening, problem-solving, and how things can turn out to be even more beautiful than planned.

Angelina and the Royal Wedding
 by Katharine Holabird and Helen Craig, Little Simon

Angelina is overjoyed when she's invited to be a bridesmaid at the Royal Wedding. Angelina is so excited when the wedding day finally arrives. After weeks of practicing, she could not wait to wear the beautiful dress and dance in front of so many people. But when Angelina and Sophia get locked in a tower while exploring the castle grounds, they believe that they have ruined everything and will miss the wedding. Will anyone come to Angelina and Sophia's rescue?

Angelina and the Royal Wedding is another perfectly suited Angelina story combining beautiful illustrations, tiny dresses, and an important lesson. ★

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=Nm5tT0FvVGRBbDZqNzQzZEtBK09hZz09>
 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



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.



Sunday, May 7

- 1925 - CInformation report taken in the 1000 block of Sunset Drive.
- 2136 - CVandalism report taken in the 1000 block of Sunset Drive.

Saturday, May 6

- 0930 - CAgency assist for fire 1000 Found property at Northwest Park
- 1200 - CTheft report 400 block W. Chestnut St.
- 2237 - CTraffic crash in the area of Stratford Avenue and North Lincoln Street.

0025 - COfficers conducted a suspicious vehicle check in the 2600 block of West A Street. Michael Glenn (52) out of Dixon was contacted and found to have two misdemeanor warrants for his arrest. Glenn was placed under arrest and transported to the Solano County Jail where he was booked.

Friday, May 5

- 0649 - Welfare check in the 1000 block of N 1st St.
- 1305 Information report in the 200 block of E D St. 1508 Officers located a vehicle in the 400 block of Ellesmere Dr known to be involved in a robbery in another city. Fikret Sabanovic (28), was arrested for an outstanding felony arrest warrant from Sacramento, felony evading and probation violation.
- 1624 - Information report at the Dixon PD lobby
- 1908 - Found property report in the area of North Adams Street and West E Street.
- 0030 - Information report in the 500 block of East Creekside Circle

Thursday, May 4

- 0700 - Traffic collision on North Adams Street at West E Street.
- 0753 - Welfare check 2000 block N. 1st St. resulted in locating a reported missing person.
- 1934 - Stolen vehicle recovered in the 1400 block of Ary Lane. James Brennan (31) out of Shingletown was contacted in the driver's seat. Brennan was placed under arrest for stolen vehicle, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Wednesday, May 3

- 1016 - Information report taken at Dixon High School.
- 2138 - Missing person reported in the 700 block of Devonshire Court

Tuesday, May 2

- 1106 Vehicle towed for a 72-hour violation in the 100 block of South 7th Street.
- 1346 Information report taken in the 100 block of Dorset Drive.
- 2231 Missing person reported in the 1100 block of Afton Way.

Monday, May 1

- 1806 - Suspicious circumstance in the area of Newgate Way and Stratford Avenue.
- 1822 - Theft reported in the 2000 block of North 1st Street. During the incident Kyle Franks (37) of Felton, was arrested on three warrants out of Santa Cruz and 466 PC – Possession of Burglary Tools. Morgan Yodz (37), of Felton, was also arrested for 459.5 PC – Shoplifting, 11377 H&S – Possession of Methamphetamine, and 11350 H&S – Possession of a Controlled Substance. They were transported to the Solano County Jail.
- 1052 - Expired vehicle towed in the area of Hillhouse Street and West B Street.
- 1052 - Restraining order violation taken in the PD lobby.
- 1231 - Expired vehicle towed in the area of Honeybee Drive and Sweetpea Court.
- 1703 - Domestic dispute reported in the 100 block of South 3rd Street.
- 1646 - Theft by false pretenses report taken in the PD lobby.



An Inconvenient Test

The long era of the dominance of the SAT in college admissions is coming to an end.

The test is increasingly being shelved not because it failed but because it succeeded in all the wrong ways.

According to a survey from an anti-testing outfit, more than 80% of four-year colleges won't require standardized tests for admissions this coming fall. Many have made the tests optional, and some won't consider them at all. In a swath of academia, the pandemic expedient of dropping the tests has seamlessly transitioned to a permanent change.

If this isn't a leap forward for fairness or rationality, it is another ringing victory for the equity of "diversity, equity, and inclusion" fame. With homework now on the chopping block for not being equitable enough – kids with involved parents tend to actually do their homework – it shouldn't be a surprise that the SAT is being shown the door.

(If only there were some time-honored arrangement to have two adults wholly devoted to the well-being of one or more children regardless of their race or income and providing support, discipline, and moral instruction.)

The SAT, with its signature four-option multiple-choice answers, isn't perfect. As a mass-administered, easy-to-grade, objective test, though, it's hard to beat.

Despite progressive

denialism, it has been established that the SAT and ACT predict academic performance.

As the renegade academic Freddie deBoer points out, there is a correlation between family income and SAT scores, but it doesn't account for most of the divergence in scores.

TITLE: Nonetheless, other metrics that schools consider in the admissions process are just as susceptible, if not more, to socioeconomic factors.

As the writer and scientist Erik Hoel puts it, "On the one side there is the litany of activities, academic successes, and school pedigrees that make up the bulk of a good college application, and the massive amounts of wealth and parental involvement that implies from essentially diapers onwards, and, on the other side, there's a \$20 Kaplan SAT prep book and getting your butt in a chair to go through example problems."

MIT, which can't fool around thanks to its demanding math requirements, has bucked the trend toward minimizing or dumping the SAT. The dean of admissions explained in 2022 why the school was bringing back the SAT requirement after the pandemic: "Our ability to accurately predict student academic success at MIT is significantly improved by considering standardized testing – especially in mathematics – alongside other factors."

The deeper problem with the SAT, of course, is that it doesn't produce the racial outcomes that the people who run institutions of higher education, especially elite ones, want.

The test that has been smeared as a tool of

white supremacy is a conveyor belt for Asian Americans into top colleges in numbers that college administrators find embarrassing and inconvenient. So, they have an affirmation-action regime designed to keep those numbers down, and fine-tune the racial balance of their student bodies to their liking.

This is where the SAT is unwelcome in another way. As a measure of preparedness with hard numbers attached, it provides incontrovertible evidence of the racial bias against Asian Americans.

With a potential loss in the Supreme Court's big affirmative action case looming, colleges and universities are already finding a way to finagle out of the decision. Without the SAT, they can continue to get the racial results they want without as obvious a paper trail.

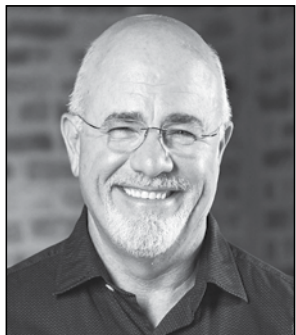
In Agatha Christie terms, the crime will no longer be carried out with a candlestick but small, untraceable doses of arsenic.

If it's harder to find the best future students, or at least the best future students who haven't been building their resumes toward an impressive college application from a very young age, so be it.

You can have the twisted notion of equity that now prevails throughout our elite culture, or you can have a test that demonstrates academic talent regardless of race, but you can't have both. Academia is making its choice.

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

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Dave Ramsey Says

Never Have Just One

Dear Dave,

As a small-business owner, should I work with multiple banks to avoid what happened with Silicon Valley Bank?

– Matt

Dear Matt,

You should work with multiple banks, but that has nothing to do with Silicon Valley Bank. SVB shouldn't be a business model anyone follows. It was a crash of high-tech, start-up and venture-capital players. It was a "players" bank. In other words, it was a bunch of Silicon Valley posers misbehaving under the heading of a bank – and it all came crashing down on their heads. But it didn't have anything to do with the kinds of banks you or I do business with.

Believe it or not, a bank is just another vendor. They are helping you, and they are a supplier to you – whether it's a checking account, debit card or anything

else. Anytime you're doing business, especially when it comes to key areas of your company, it's always good to have more than one vendor in that category. That way, you're not stuck if they decide to raise their prices or their quality of service declines.

Don't get me wrong: I'm not talking about jumping from vendor to vendor every time the wind blows. We have vendors we've worked with for 20 years at Ramsey Solutions. But I'm also not going to let myself or my business become a prisoner of one provider. Currently, we have three banking relationships. We have a primary bank, and we've been with them for 35 years. We also have two other minor banking relationships. Do you see what I'm saying, Matt? If you've only got one supplier for one of the key elements of your business and they suddenly go sideways, so do you! We deal with smaller, regional and local banks at my company too. That way, we get to talk with actual

human beings who make reasonable decisions. The big banks? No, thank you. Small businesses, especially, are just numbers to them. You get no respect, no mercy and no real help.

Develop banking relationships with people in your own town and area. I'm talking about the kind of folks you could sit down with, have a cup of coffee, and engage in a real discussion about your needs and what's going on in your business. A bank is a key vendor relationship for a small business, but make sure you protect yourself and diversify. Never have just one!

– 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. ★



Snowmelt Renews Flooding Fears as Tulare Lake Rises

The onset of warm temperatures is accelerating snowmelt and triggering worries about continued flooding in the Central Valley from a record-breaking snowpack accumulated during winter and spring storms. In Tulare County, farm fields have been inundated as floodwaters and now snowmelt fill lowlands of the former Tulare Lake. Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner Jimmy Hook said flooding impacts in the county have affected 64,000 acres, causing \$131 million in financial losses. He said he expects damages to extend to 115,000 acres and losses to grow to \$300 million.

Bill Introduced to Restrict Foreign Purchases of California Farmland

California's farmland attracts investment from all over the world. But as drought and climate change provoke anxiety over water and natural resources, state legislators are proposing new restrictions. State Sen. Melissa Hurtado has introduced a bill to bar foreign governments and government-controlled enterprises from purchasing agricultural land in California beginning next year. Hurtado said the bill is needed to keep too many California farms from falling into the hands of foreign governments, which then control the water and energy resources that come with the land.

Increased Vegetation from Rains Could Add to Destructive Fire Fuels

Generous rainfall may have erased drought conditions for most of the state, but it has not necessarily eased concerns for a potentially aggressive fire season. Todd Lando, wildfire hazard mitigation specialist for the Central Marin Fire Department, said he expects the extra rainfall and snowpack will promote additional vegetation growth. While the ground may be moist, heavy firestorms have followed rainy years before. As grasses dry, they become easy to ignite and can spread to heavier vegetation. In 2017, a then-record 1.5 million acres burned in California after a wet winter in 2016.

Asparagus Acreage Shrinks Dramatically in State, but Growers Stand by Crop

With high labor costs and intense competition from Mexico, California asparagus production has been dropping for years. California had a peak of 36,000 acres of asparagus in 1999, and acreage dropped from 22,500 in 2006 to 2,800 in 2022. Still, growers such as Jim Durst of Durst Organic Growers in Esparto stand by the crop's place in California. He may farm half the acreage he used to, but Durst said he markets his asparagus as California-grown, appealing to consumers seeking high-quality local produce over imports. ★



Riley Reviews

"THE COVENANT" FORGES A RESOLUTE BOND OF WARTIME LOYALTY

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"GUY RITCHIE'S THE COVENANT" Rated R

Set in war-torn Afghanistan in 2018, "Guy Ritchie's The Covenant" is more than a war story, and most likely not something you would expect from the director of films such as "Snatch," "Sherlock Holmes," and "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels."

Danger lurks in the Taliban-occupied portion of a landlocked country located at the crossroads of Central Asia and South Asia. US Army Sergeant John Kinley (Jake Gyllenhaal) heads up a special unit with an unenviable mission.

Bagram Air Base in the Parwan Province looks like a vacation spot compared to Kinley's posting to an area under Taliban control, as his team is tasked with finding enemy munitions and explosive storage sites.

During a routine search at a vehicle checkpoint, two of Kinley's unit are killed by a truck bomb, including his Afghan interpreter, who is replaced with Ahmed (Dar Salim), a man who speaks four languages and candidly admits he's in it for the money.

More than finances are at stake for the new interpreter. Ahmed's son was killed by the Taliban, and his allegiance is to those countrymen who harbor bitterness or distaste for the terrorist thugs.

The relationship between Kinley and Ahmed is a little tricky. At first, Kinley harbors suspicions about his new interpreter, who makes it clear that he is not a verbatim translator because his skill is to interpret every situation.

When approaching a suspect building, Ahmed informs Kinley they won't find any weapons inside, claiming to know what goes on behind the closed doors. They search anyway, only to find an opium den.

More searches prove unfruitful, and Kinley becomes frustrated on his last tour of duty and takes his concerns to his superior, Colonel Vokes (Jonny Lee Miller), who basically tells him to follow his gut instincts.

Things get more serious when Ahmed proves his worth by steering Kinley and his unit away from a trap that another interpreter has set just as they are about to travel into the middle of a Taliban ambush.

After returning to the base for a break, Kinley and his team head out on a grueling journey to arrive at a mine that is suspected to be a large weapons cache. Kinley and his men are overwhelmed by a Taliban assault.

Only Kinley and Ahmed survive the attack and manage to escape in a

Taliban truck. After a breakdown, they are forced to flee on foot into the forest. In a hide-and-seek deadly game with the enemy, Kinley and Ahmed manage to kill some of their pursuers.

With the odds against them, Kinley and Ahmed are spotted after resting for the night in an abandoned home. Kinley is shot in the arm and leg, and then gets rescued by Ahmed.

At this point, Ahmed has already proved his skill at killing the enemy, and turns his attention to fashioning a makeshift sled to drag the wounded Kinley through treacherous terrain.

A series of circumstances put both Kinley and Ahmed in mortal danger, but the Afghan native is determined to get the American sergeant back to the Bagram Air Base.

Once back in the United States and reunited with his family, Kinley can think of nothing else than repaying a debt to Ahmed and his family who had been promised safe passage to America.

Returning as a private citizen to Afghanistan, Kinley seeks the help of military contractor Parker (Antony Starr) to extricate Ahmed and his family. The extraction turns out to be the biggest firefight of the journey for the former sergeant and his interpreter.

Watching "The Covenant" may stir uncomfortable memories of how the subsequent ill-fated withdrawal from Afghanistan proved to be a disaster not only for the United States but even more so for those left behind.

In case one is not thinking about the ramifications of a 20-year slog in hostile territory, the film's end credits note how thousands of interpreters were abandoned to a dire fate, especially when the Taliban took full control of the country.

More than just a war movie, Ritchie's foray into new territory focuses in an admirable way on the lives of two disparate war-weary men who stand for honor, valor, and loyalty, which are noble character traits seemingly in short supply today.

Though the brutality and inhumanity of war is not absent, the director is far more interested in telling the story of complex, fascinating human beings that are placed in trying circumstances.

Guy Ritchie has taken a gamble on a war film that he has acknowledged is his favorite genre and how he had tried for a long time to find a story that appealed to him.

Whatever one's feelings about the subject of war, "Guy Ritchie's The Covenant" is a film worth seeing for the humanity of multifaceted characters grappling with the emotions of duty, honor, and service in challenging situations. ★

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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



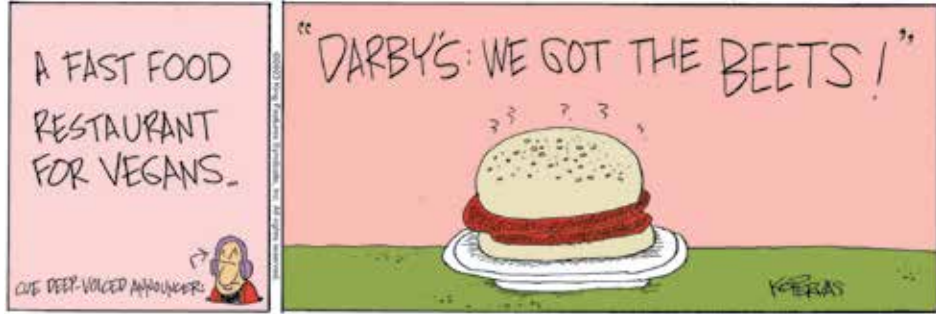
Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

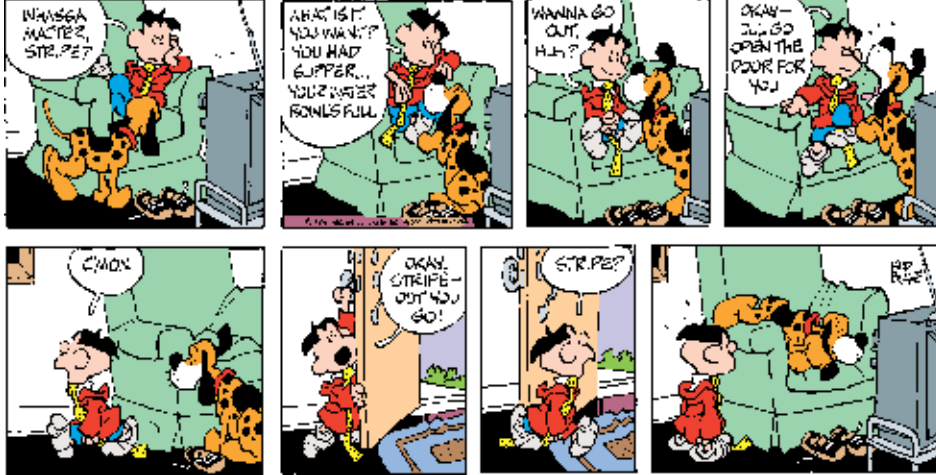


BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

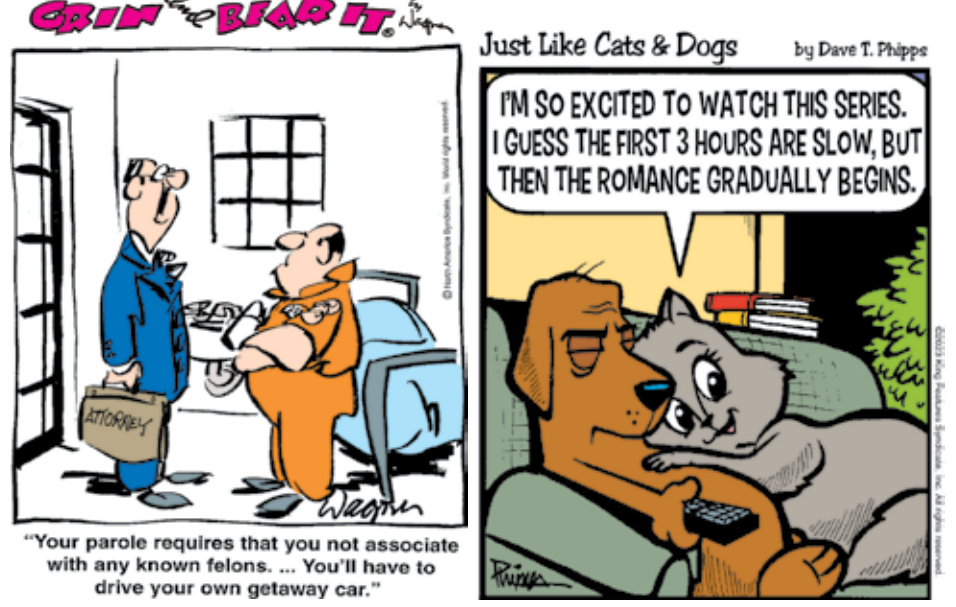
Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Shade is missing. 2. Tire is different. 3. Lamp is moved. 4. Flower is missing. 5. Switch is missing. 6. Pictures are different.

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

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CHP Welcomes Nine New Canine Teams Graduating



Canine team officers represent six of the CHP's eight geographic regions, including: Valley, Golden Gate, Southern, Border, Coastal, and Inland Division. Photo courtesy of CHP

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) announced on April 28, 2023, the graduation and deployment of nine new canine teams. After months of intensive training, the teams were certified during a ceremony at the Canine Training Facility on the CHP Academy grounds.

"These loyal and brave public servants play a critical role in supporting the mission of the Department," said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. "Canines have a keen sense of smell that helps them detect items that a human officer cannot, such as narcotics and explosives. Both the canine and their handler's skills are refined during the hundreds of hours of intense training, ensuring the teams are prepared to serve throughout the state."

The graduates consist of six Patrol and Narcotics Detection Canine teams and three Explosives Detection Canine teams, all of which meet the guidelines set by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. The newest team members include four Belgian Malinois, two Dutch Shepherds, and three German Shepherd dogs. Once graduated, the CHP will have a total of 51 teams deployed throughout the state.

Each canine's partner, or handler, is an experienced CHP officer with experience ranging from five to 22 years. The officers represent six of the CHP's eight geographic regions, including: Valley, Golden Gate, Southern, Border, Coastal, and Inland Division. Once deployed, the handlers will spend a minimum of eight hours every week completing scenario-based training with their canines to ensure the highest level of peak performance in the field.

The CHP uses canines to perform a variety of tasks, including detecting human scent, contraband, and explosives. The CHP canines are also used to assist allied agencies in apprehending criminals, detecting explosives or drugs, and in locating at-risk missing persons.

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



Officer Alexander Frazer demonstrates the training and obedience involved for certification during a ceremony at the Canine Training Facility on the CHP Academy grounds. Photo courtesy CHP



The new K9 CHP graduates consist of dogs which will be part of six Patrol and Narcotics Detection Canine teams and three Explosives Detection Canine teams. Photo courtesy CHP



Blue Officer K9 standing on 2. Photo courtesy CHP



Officer Jeff Bosnich with one of this year's CHP canine graduates. Photo courtesy of CHP

Saving Power and Paying More

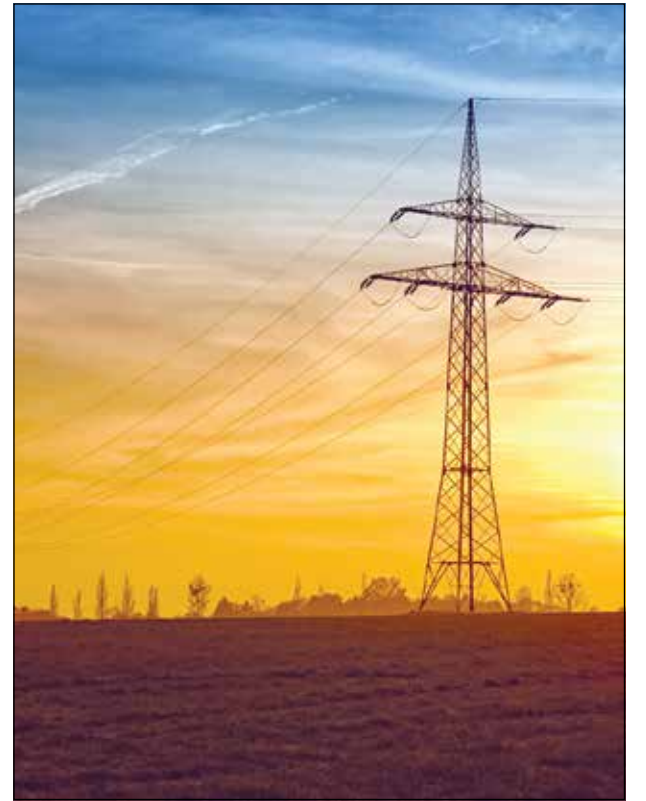
By Lynn La.
Calmatters.org

California utility companies are working on a controversial pricing structure that would bill households a different fixed charge depending on their income — but the idea is catching heat from Republicans who argue it will hurt low-income families.

As you may have already noticed on your own bill, monthly electric bills come with a few fixed fees that are added on top of the charges proportional to your usage rate. These charges go toward operating costs for the state's electric grid, including maintenance.

Earlier in April, three companies — Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric — submitted a proposal to the California Public Utilities Commission that includes an income-based pricing system for these fixed charges, as called for in a 2022 state law. According to KTLA 5, the monthly charge would vary between the companies, and range from: Households making less than \$69,000 a year: \$20 to \$34; Households making \$69,000 to \$180,000 a year: \$51 to \$73; Households making more than \$180,000 a year: \$85 to \$128.

The companies say the rate of kilowatt-hour usage will also lower for all customers, but low-income households will benefit the most. PG&E and Southern California Edison estimate



Charging you more because you earn more? What's next, higher prices on food, water and the air you breathe? Photo courtesy of Pixabay

its lowest-income customers would, on average, save as much as a 21% on their bill.

But Republican legislators are skeptical that a plan from "a government sanctioned monopoly" will save customers money. On Friday, the Senate Republican caucus fired off a letter to the utilities commission arguing that the pricing proposal would "unfairly burden" low-income residents:

Senate GOP leader Brian Jones of El Cajon and other Republican senators, in the letter: "The goal of trying to stabilize the grid and lower electricity rates is something we support; however, the tactic of implementing a

structured fixed-charge system that diminishes individual responsibility and usage in favor of an 'identity' subsidization is not, in our opinion, an answer. More fees are not a solution to already ridiculously high utility bills."

The rising cost of natural gas has caused utility bills to surge, frustrating Californians across all economic levels. But lower-income residents end up paying a disproportionate share of utility expenses.

In the meantime, the first round of comments for the proposal will be due by June 2 and the Public Utilities Commission will be expected to make a final decision on the pricing structure by July 2024. ★



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