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is Firefighter  
of The Year**

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# Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

APRIL 21, 2023

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## Valley Farm Transport: Celebrating 60 Years!



David Nickum showing some of his father's memorabilia. The late Bob Nickum worked at the Dixon Shell station when he was a young man. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - When Dixon's population was a mere 3,000 in 1963, Bob Nickum bought some trucks from Cargill Grain Company and started Valley Farm Transport. That was 60 years ago and today as you drive along Interstate 80, you can see part of the fleet of 243 trucks and more than a thousand trailers that has grown into the premier bulk agriculture hauler in California, employing 275 employees in the



In off season, rows and rows of green and white trucks line the property of the Dixon terminal for Valley Farm Transport off Sparling Lane. VFT courtesy photo

summertime.

They transport tomatoes, rice, walnuts, almonds, sunflower, corn, wheat, garlic, onions, pistachios,

finished goods, prunes, carrots, and more.

With the recent opening of a new truck terminal in Orland, California, there

are now six fully-operational terminals – Dixon, Arbuckle, Stockton, Bakersfield, and Firebaugh.

### Growing Up with Trucks

The Nickum children, David, Amy, and Matt grew up in Dixon, went to Dixon schools and graduated from Dixon High School. While Amy's interest might have been fashion, the brothers were into playing with trucks and sports when they weren't working with their Dad. They grew up in

*Continued on page 3*

## Cornerstone Church Catches Fire

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Mike Bates, the new Pastor at Cornerstone Church got an alarming wake up when a parishioner pounded on the family's door about 1 a.m. last Thursday, April 13, with news that his church was on fire.

"It scared us half to death because who is knocking at your door at 1 a.m. but I turn my phone off at night so that was the only way they could reach me," Bates said. According to the City, the call came into the Dixon Fire Department at 12:28 a.m. by alerted neighbors.

The fire started as an exterior fire in 11 Italian Cypress trees which have long lined the back wall of the church facing the May Fair parking lot. The fire extended into the church through vents and windows that failed. A member of the church, Deb Dillahunt, took a video and posted on social media showing the flames lighting up the dark sky and



Above: In a social media video, flames could be seen reaching higher than the roof of Cornerstone Church on Cherry Street in a fire last week. Photo by Deb Dillahunt

leaping past the roof of the church.

The Dixon Fire Department responded to the scene and the City of Vacaville Fire

*Continued on page 3*



Above: Due to last week's fire destroying the back part of Cornerstone Church on Cherry Street, Sunday morning church services will be held outdoors right now due to the church being 'Red Flagged' by the City which means no one can go inside. Photo by Stephanie Bates

## Annual Senior Resource Fair Coming Soon

By Cookie Powell,  
Dixon Family Services

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Annual Dixon Senior Resource Fair, organized by the Advocates for Dixon Seniors, is in its planning stages and will provide a day of fun, food, socialization, entertainment, raffles, and lots of resources that senior citizens and caregivers will be happy to learn about.

The free event is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dixon Senior Multi-Use Center, 201 South 5th Street in Dixon.

There may still be room for a business or organization that offers a service pertinent to senior citizens in Dixon. All vendors must complete an application for approval and confirmation or will not be able to participate the day of the event.

The list of confirmed vendors at this time include Advanced Hearing Aid Center; Aetna Medicare Solutions; California Water Services; CTAP/CA Phones; Curves/Jenny Craig; Dixon Family Services; Dixon Fire Department; Dixon Library; Dixon Police Department; Dixon Redi-Ride; Dixon Senior Citizens Club; Faith In Action; Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano; Heritage Commons; Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage; Solano County Library Literacy Program; and Solano Symphony.

Vendors of the Fair provide all the wonderful prizes that fair attendees can win for FREE! There is no exchange of money for anything at the Senior Resource Fair, so you can leave your purses and wallets at home. This event is an excellent opportunity for seniors and caregivers to learn about local resources and to socialize.

The Advocates encourage everyone to think about a senior relative, friend, or neighbor that could benefit from the Senior Resource Fair and invite them to join you at the Senior Multi-Use Center on Saturday, April 29.

For more information about the Senior Resource Fair, you can contact Mary Lou Batchelor at 678-9317 or email her at jr0904@sbcglobal.net. ★





# Dixon News Briefs

## While We Were Gone, Another Fire

By Debra Dingman

Hubby and I headed out of town so we could explore Lake Oroville this past weekend, to check it out after the many rains. We weren't disappointed as the lake seemed at least halfway full.

It was Sunday evening when I finally got onto my email and read an email from Pastor Jeff Myers telling about a fire at Cornerstone Church and asking everyone to help out if they can. I immediately made calls to my church contact, Monica Sepulveda, and was even more surprised to learn that the fire was actually Thursday 1 a.m.-ish. We were home and I never heard any sirens. (She filled me in, which you can read in my news story.) I rarely sleep through fire trucks, but it did bring to mind another time we left town for a week-long vacation and came back to a fire that happened.

We were driving down A Street when I suddenly noticed something very wrong in the landscape. I made hubby put on the brakes and pull over. My God, the entire Ace Hardware building was gone! Anyone who had gone to the hardware store in Dixon could have traversed there blind. It was directly across from the police department/Post Office and was a rickety old building and lumber yard that backed up to the train tracks.

The aisles were incredibly narrow and things were stacked high, but believe me, everything you ever needed for house or yard was somehow squeezed in there.

The floors were kind of like small waves of tile. Everyone knew the Bock family and I'd say "brothers" except Shizuko, Joe's wife, and Bryan's wife, worked there as well. Craig Bock was the tall one. The women knew everything in the store as

much as any of the men. I recently learned that Steve Dutra paid the couple a visit in Texas where they now live.

Back to the fire, we were told cans of paint exploded and were found around downtown and as far away as Dixon High School (now where John Knight Middle School is.)

It was a terrible loss to the community. I felt so sad that I could not have had one last run in the old place. Lot of people thought the Bocks would retire and that would just plain be the end of the hardware store.

But out of the ashes came this very large and contemporary-looking Ace Hardware! (The one you see on Highway 113 now.) The locals speculated that they'd never make it because it was "too big" for Dixon. I think their success had a lot to do with the Bocks helping to make the transition smooth by still working there a while.

Cornerstone Church was damaged but the sanctuary was left intact and only the very back wall, food pantry area, some of the upstairs, and the roof are heavily damaged but it will take time to get through insurance and fire inspections, etc. for it to rise up "out of the ashes." But, I don't doubt that it will. There is nothing so heartwarming than to see the church members still offering their food pantry to the needy last Friday (pictures were posted on social media) and to see the congregation in their lawn chairs attending last Sunday's service on the front lawn.

You can donate to the Fire Restoration Fund at [www.cornerstoneindixon.com/giving/](http://www.cornerstoneindixon.com/giving/) I'm anxious to see how God's hand will bless this little church with a big heart. ★



A dozen members in the Downtown Dixon Business Association heard from Uptown Collective business owner Rebeca Robinson about hand-held fans that can be distributed to attendees at the summer Farmers Market. On the back of them, there will be a list of downtown merchants. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

### Prescription Take Back

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be Saturday, April 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Dixon Police Department, 201 West A Street in downtown Dixon. Please turn in unneeded medication for safe disposal. Visit [DEATakeBack.com](http://DEATakeBack.com) for a collection site near you.

### Yoga in the Pardi

Have you been interested in getting to know some Yoga moves? The first 25 people who RSVP get free Busy Bee Yoga merchandise at a special event on Friday, April 28. The company's 1-year anniversary at this location is coming up and they are celebrating it with Yoga in the Park at 4 pm in the Pardi Plaza and a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Dixon Chamber of Commerce afterwards from 5 to 7 pm at their permanent studio, 175 North First Street. This double event is free and will be lots of fun with drinks available by @buzzbarmobile on their back patio, along with snacks, lounging, music, and shopping.

### Migrant Center Open House

The Dixon Migrant Center, located way out in the rural edges of Dixon, is inviting the public to an Open House where you can grab some fresh fruits and vegetables from locally grown 'Park-It-Market' on Wednesday, April 19 from noon to 2 p.m. There will also be vaccinations and community resource information all day. The event is sponsored by Solano Public Health, Aliados Health, Food is Free Solano, Touro Cares, Drug Free Solano, Touro University California and Solano Connex.

### Lions Barbecue

On Saturday, April 22, Dixon Lions Club will offer another of their popular Drive-Thru BBQ Fundraiser from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Tractor Supply parking lot. The dinner includes barbecue Tri-tip, potato salad, beans, and a dinner roll. All

proceeds help fund Dixon High School scholarships, and the donation is only \$15 per meal. Each ticket purchased qualifies for a \$500 prize. Call Scott Smith at (916) 806-7451 or contact any Dixon Lions Club member.

### Financial Literacy

A special class for tweens and teens to learn Financial Literacy will be held on Thursday, April 27 after school from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. It will be held at the Dixon Public Library and is for tweens and teens ages 10 – 18. It is sponsored by Valley Strong Credit Union. For more information, call 1-866-573-7587.

### Shredding Event

Atkinson Self Storage is offering a shredding event on Saturday, June 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This will be after Tax Day so this is an opportunity to get rid of unnecessary files that you've stored for years. Payment preferred is cash, but cards will also be accepted. Cost is still being determined. It is located at 1800 North First St.

### Parade Morning

Plan your morning of the Dixon May Fair Parade to have breakfast at the 56th Annual Ron DuPratt Pancake Breakfast. It's on Saturday, May 13, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. inside Ye Olde Vet's Hall, 231 North First Street in downtown Dixon. It will be \$5 per plate.

### Veterans Dinner

Meat loaf, mashed potatoes and gravy plus green beans are on the dinner menu at the Veterans Hall, 1305 North First Street. 6 – 8 p.m. on Friday, April 21. It is \$10 per plate and they offer to-go meals.

### DDBA Meetup

The next Downtown Dixon Business Association Meeting is set for Thursday, May 14, at Olimpia Campos Garner's State Farm Office at 121 South First Street. It will start at 8 a.m. and members, as well as new folks, in town who want to help keep Downtown Dixon as the cultural center of our town are welcome to attend. ★

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# Walmart Awards Grant to DHS



Walmart Manager Zobair Hassan, right of check, along with his Dixon Walmart crew, hand a giant check for \$2,500 to the Dixon Historical Society. Receiving it for DHS were Bill Schoeder, President Kim Schroeder-Evans and Diane Schroeder. "It is such a gift and so appreciated," said Kim, sounding thrilled. "It will go toward our work creating a historical timeline and a historical mural for the community." The DHS is the non-profit organization that established the Dixon History Museum at 125 West A Street in downtown Dixon. Photo by Debra Dingman

# Cornerstone Church Catches Fire



A fire erupted at the base of one of the trees behind the Cornerstone Church at 185 West Cherry Street and appeared to be set, according to Pastor Mike Bates, who reported there is a fire investigative unit involved and much more work to happen before an official Fire Department report will be released. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1  
Department, Vacaville Fire Protection District, City of Fairfield Fire Department, Montezuma Fire Protection District, City of Davis Fire Department, UC Davis Fire Department and Solano County Sheriff's Office provided mutual aid. There were approximately 20-25 firefighters working.

"When I arrived, it was truly an amazing scene," said Bates, who was overwhelmed with gratitude. "What a beautiful thing to see Vacaville, Davis, and Dixon all here and people caring to work together

to put the fire out. [Acting Battalion Chief] Josh Smotherman was wonderful, very professional, and very caring. Seriously, I cannot fathom a better place or a better fire department to take care of us. He even called the next day to check on me."

The work to help clean up started right away and the food pantry went on as normally scheduled on Friday, although it had to be moved outside. The fire did not melt any refrigerators and was confined to the back wall and roof, but the City has "Red Tagged"

the building so no one can be inside right now.

"The weather is working for us," said Food Pantry Coordinator Monica Sepulveda, who also worked with other volunteers to get ready for church outdoors this past Sunday. Both days were warm and sunny.

"There is plenty of damage that will be costly to repair and terrible smoke damage but we believe the Lord really protected us because the wind was blowing that night, but it was blowing away from the church building," Bates said. The damage is estimated at \$250,000.

The Pastor reported that "random people" were already driving by and handing them checks to help.

"Multiple churches reached out and offered to share their facilities," said Bates, who seemed shocked at such huge generosity and community support. "These are the kinds of things people need to know about. It's beautiful." Donations can go to the Fire Restoration Fund at <https://www.cornerstoneindixon.com/giving/> ★

# Celebrating 60 Years!



Valley Farm Transport President and CEO David Nickum stands with one of the iconic green and white Peterbilt trucks used for the company. The brands Peterbilt and Kenworth – both used by VFT – have exceptional reputations for being dependable, high-quality trucks. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1

the business and never doubted that they wouldn't work there as adults.

There was a job "culture," or plan, to start at the bottom and learn while you grew up, David explained. Matt, who is eight years younger, remembers hoeing weeds in the truck yard.

"That was what we were supposed to do," Matt explained. "Then you went up to airing tires, then taking care of trailers, then welding on trailers, then trucks. I enjoyed growing up there and got a lot of knowledge, heard a lot of funny jokes, and gained a lot of wisdom. It was great to help and a neat experience." Both men said that training was invaluable to know every job in the company. They even hauled at night and still don't hesitate to drive trucks in the summer if needed.

Inside the VFT office, there are shelves of children's miniature trucks and pedal cars along with photos and two restored Shell Station gas pumps, memorabilia from Bob's days. The office – as well as the yard and all the green and white Kenworth trucks and equipment are organized and spotless clean.

### Culture of Caring

In Stockton, Matt mentors the younger guys and teaches them to be strong managers.

"We look for employees who are not just mechanically inclined but also who take pride in their work," he said. "I like managing the mechanics, but I like to jump in a truck and help out. It's such a peaceful environment. I enjoy seeing the beautiful fields." Matt talked about his Dad coming to work for many years and after dropping off things in the office in the morning, he'd come by the shop to say hello to the guys.

"He really cared for them, and they wanted to work for him," he added. "They can tell we treat people with respect and they end up caring for one another."

"It's a culture Bob established from the beginning," said Craig Gnos, a 3rd generation farmer who uses VFT for his farming like his own father did. "I have no trouble calling David anytime. He's demonstrated strong leadership and he's done a good job. Trucking is not easy in California, and it's been a very good family and business to work with." ★

### Family Pride

"I always admired my Dad," said David about stepping into his father's shoes in 1988. "His handshake was the contract, his word was his bond, and he built trust with growers and processors."

When David graduated from college, he had skills and interests more on the business side and Matt was more hands on out in the shop.

"He allowed me to grow," David said. "I miss most the conversations we used to have. He lived just down the street and I'd go there after work."

Matt runs the Stockton terminal commuting from Dixon a few times a week. Amy's son, Dylan Pretti, runs the Bakersfield terminal.

"All of us including my wife, Lisa, my brother, sister, my nieces and nephews all worked here. When family earns their own keep, they are very effective employees. We survived the pandemic," he added. "We've never forgotten our roots and give back to the community." They also serve on Boards and participate in fundraisers or sponsor teams.

"He'd be proud of the company and even more proud that we kept the same values," David said.

### Future Trucks

On March 31, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency allowed California to be the world's first government to require zero-emission trucks. California Governor Gavin Newsom's office announced the state will require truck manufacturers to accelerate their sales of zero emission vehicles (ZEV) setting increasing ZEV manufacturing standards starting from 2024 through 2035.

"We're bullish about the future of where agriculture is going," said David. "The mandated electric truck is a major concern and will give balance sheet stress. It will double the price of business, trucks cannot go the range needed to haul and charging stations are non-existent." But even with that, David knows they will find a way to adapt. "To start a business in a Quonset Hut in downtown Dixon and become one of the largest trucking companies – and do it the right way – says something," he said. ★

# City Offers Session on Zoning Ordinance Update

### City of Dixon Press Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City Council and Planning Commission will hold their 3rd Joint Study Session on Monday, April 24, at 6:30pm in the City Council Chambers. The meeting will revisit the Mixed Use discussion from the first study session, and also introduce the Draft Administrative Provisions section.

The Administrative Provisions for the Zoning Code would be located in Division IV, Administration and Permits, of the new Zoning Code and would include Planning Authorities, Common Procedures, Zoning Clearance, Design Review, Use Permit, Temporary Use Permit, Modifications, Variance, Amendment, Prezoning, Planned Development and Enforcement.

The purpose of the Administrative Provisions is to explain who is responsible for making decisions on project applications, what criteria will be used to approve permits, and the process for securing approvals. It is important that this part

be understandable to both users and City staff, and that it be "findings-based" and tied to the legal requirement that zoning and project approvals must be found to be consistent with the General Plan.

Draft materials for this third session are now available for public review at [www.cityofdixon.us/zoningupdate](http://www.cityofdixon.us/zoningupdate) or can be viewed directly from this email. Materials from the first and second study sessions, as well as all documents and materials related to this project, can also be reviewed on the aforementioned website.

You are welcome to attend the study session in person or participate via zoom or teleconference at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and if needed Passcode: 604754)

The City will also be hosting "drop in" office hours with staff and the consultant to answer any questions, from 5 to 6 p.m. on Monday, April 24, in Dixon City Hall, 600 East A Street. ★

# Chowing Down!



The organic way to get rid of an entire parcel of land is to rent goats. The goat herder parked his RV near the Homestead and Azevedo land at the corner of Pitt School and A Street to keep his watchful eye on his little fur friends and boy did they eat! It only took about a week to chow it all down. Photo by Debra Dingman

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# State Park Peace Officer Cadet Exam Period Opens

**California State Parks News Release**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - California State Parks invites individuals to “Live the Parks Life” as rangers or lifeguards in the nation’s largest state park system. Starting March 24 and through June 10, 2023, individuals can apply for the State Park Peace Officer Cadet exams. Cadet academy graduates can serve the state as rangers and lifeguards to safeguard both visitors and the historical, cultural and natural resources found in 280 state park units. Offices are located near beaches or waterways, or in deserts, parks, museums, historic parks and state vehicular recreation areas.

“Serving as a ranger or lifeguard in California’s State Park System is a unique opportunity to make an everlasting impact on the state’s natural landscapes and the millions of people who visit them,” said California State Parks Director Armando Quintero. “I know firsthand how rewarding it is to provide natural and cultural resource protection and ensure public safety.”

The minimum age to be a peace officer is 21 years old. Candidates are required to have a valid California driver’s license and have 60 units of college credits, with 21 units being general education.

The entire selection process for becoming a ranger or lifeguard takes approximately 15 months. The first step in the selection/examination process is to mail, email or hand deliver an application during the open application period. The application is used to determine if the candidate meets the minimum qualifications for admission into the examination, which consists of the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Entry Level Law Enforcement Test Battery written exam. This exam is used to admit the candidate into the next phases of the selection



Serving as a ranger or lifeguard in California’s State Park System is a unique opportunity to make an everlasting impact on the state’s natural landscapes and the millions of people who visit them. Photo courtesy of California State Parks

process, which include the physical agility test, background investigation, oral interview, and medical and psychological evaluations. Successful applicants will be sent a notification to attend the eight-month-long POST-certified law enforcement academy.

The academy instruction prepares cadets physically, mentally and emotionally to enter the workforce as a state park peace officer ranger or lifeguard. Rangers and lifeguards are sworn officers equipped with a firearm and badge. Cadets will learn how to conduct investigations, make

physical arrests, use firearms and perform emergency responses. Training also includes how to actively protect park resources, assist visitors and run interpretive programs.

Below are some frequently asked questions regarding the State Park Peace Officer Cadet Academy:

**Do I have to carry a firearm to serve as a ranger or lifeguard?**

Yes. Cadet training includes how to conduct investigations, make physical arrests, use firearms and perform emergency responses.

**What is the age minimum and age maximum to apply?**

Candidates must be at least 21 years of age to become a peace officer. State Park Peace Officer’s mandatory retirement age is 65 years, but there is no maximum application age.

**I have not completed two years of college yet. Can I still apply while I am still taking classes?**

Candidates may be enrolled in college at the time of application but must have at least 21 units of general education credits satisfying general education curriculum standards with courses

(which may include courses in natural science, social science, mathematics, language and humanities). By the time of appointment, a candidate must have completed 60 semester units of study at a state-accredited college or university. A degree in park administration, natural sciences, social sciences, law enforcement or a related field is desirable.

**Where is the Cadet Academy located?**

Most cadets attend training at Butte College Law Enforcement Academy (Butte County). However, the department may utilize several academy sites, including Mott Training Center at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, South Bay Regional Public Safety Academy at Fort Ord in Monterey, and the Ben Clark Law Enforcement Training facility in Riverside. It is at the department’s discretion to determine an academy location for each class.

**Do I get paid while at the academy?**

Yes. Cadets earn a salary; currently, the monthly salary range is \$3,930 to \$5,300. Most cadets start at the low end of the range unless they are a current state employee with a salary within the range.

To hire a workforce reflective of California’s diverse population, California State Parks is committed to ensuring equal access and connecting all job seekers to opportunities through fair hiring and employment practices. For more information on the cadet exams, minimum qualifications, additional frequently asked questions and a timeline of the recruitment cycle, please visit [LiveTheParksLife.com](http://LiveTheParksLife.com).

Please send questions regarding other employment opportunities at California State Parks to the Workforce Planning and Recruitment Office at [recruiting@parks.ca.gov](mailto:recruiting@parks.ca.gov) ★

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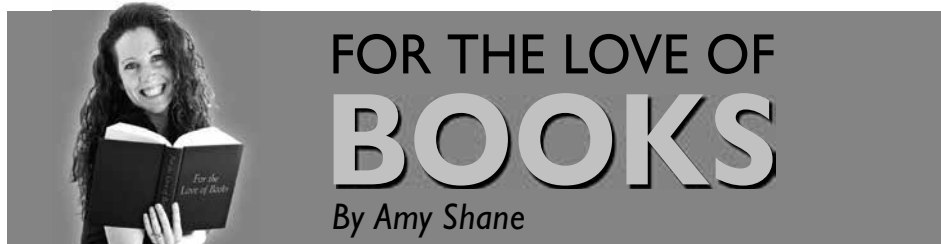
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## New Unstoppable Fantasies

### Night Birds

by Kate J Armstrong;  
Nancy Paulsen Books

Nightbirds are the city's best-kept secret. As girls born from members of the Great Houses, they all possess the unique gifts of magic, which they can bestow upon others with a single kiss. While the city's religious groups outlaw the magic, the Great Houses protect, guard, and even revere them. The young teenage girls are viewed as gifts and treasures and molded to follow the paths of the leaders before them. At the end of their season, each Nightbird is meant to marry within the Great House families in order to carry on the magical tradition. However, this year Matilde, Aesa, and Sayer have different plans. They are tired of being told what to do and who to marry while being put in the gilded cage everyone calls the Great Houses. As they break out from expectations, Matilde, Aesa, and Sayer learn there is more to their magic and other girls like them, crashing the illusion of the Great Houses. Now, armed with the new knowledge, it is up to the girls to decide how they want to define their own futures and how far they are willing to go.

*Nightbirds* takes hold of its readers with a story filled with masked balls, magic systems, political intrigue, hidden agendas, and adventure. Kate Armstrong takes



### Night Birds

by Kate J Armstrong;  
Nancy Paulsen Books



### Swift the Storm Fierce the Flame

by Meg Long,  
Wednesday Books

readers on a magical journey, exploring a society set around expectations, rules, and guidelines and three girls who are

choosing to stand against the city that wants to abolish them, the houses that want to control them, and the clients who pay for their magic. ★

### Swift the Storm Fierce the Flame

by Meg Long,  
Wednesday Books

Remy Castell thought she lost it all two years ago when her mission failed, resulting in losing her friends. Now, as she chases leads and explores every planet, her only hope lies within the one who betrayed her and left her for dead, Kiran Lore. So, when Remy finally locates Kiran on the jungle planet Maraas, she is shocked when he offers her a deal. Help him with the upcoming war, and he will lead her to her friend. But Remy is not sure she can trust him again, and with a war at stake and a dangerous storm, she is not sure it is worth the risk. Will Remy let go of the hatred she feels for Kiran to find her friend, or will she allow it to consume her?

A sci-fi fantasy world that dangles on the edge of destruction and a girl who is willing to risk it all, even if that means trusting the one who betrayed her. *Swift the Storm Fierce the Flame* will take readers deep into the jungle at the edge of two storms, both of which have the power to destroy her. A story of friends, betrayal, and rediscovery, Meg Long takes readers into a world that stretches the boundaries and the lengths one girl will take to save her friend. ★



### Bragg is Already Losing

You don't know what's in the indictment.

That was the line that progressives repeatedly threw at conservatives dubious about Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's case over the last couple of weeks.

Well, we've seen the unsealed indictment, and we still don't know the other crime besides falsifying business records that's being alleged, because Bragg didn't specify it in a shocking prosecutorial failure and abuse of the process.

What will be the new talking point? You don't know what Bragg might come up with between now and the next hearing on Dec. 4?

To review, Donald Trump paid off porn star Stormy Daniels, with whom he had an alleged affair, prior to the 2016 election. Such hush payments may be sleazy, but they aren't illegal.

Still, the reimbursements from the Trump Organization to Trump fixer Michael Cohen, who paid off Daniels, were logged as legal expenses. This was deceptive and potentially a misdemeanor. Dragging a former president through the criminal justice process just to get him on such a minor offense, though, was unappealing even to Bragg.

How to make the misdemeanors into felonies? Well, if the misleading bookkeeping entries were in the service of another crime, then,

presto, they become alleged felonies. Bragg, through the process known as stacking, or amassing counts through sheer repetition, claims to have 34 of them.

That's a lot. But the linchpin of the whole endeavor is the other crime, and Bragg still won't tell us, or the accused, what it is.

He's writing an Agatha Christie mystery, except the unknown isn't who committed the crime but what law he or she might have violated. It's "Something or Other, We'll Let You Know as Soon as We Figure It Out, on the Orient Express."

This is a flaw, not in the handling of some low stakes case no one will ever know about, but an unprecedented, historic case. This prosecution has drawn massive media attention, has rocketed Trump back to a large lead in the polls for the Republican nomination, and will surely further derange our politics, with unforeseeable consequences.

And Bragg couldn't even dot his i's. Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of this sorry episode so far is that Bragg has demonstrated that it's possible to behave so egregiously in the pursuit of Donald Trump that even left-of-center pundits won't line up in support.

This might not be enormously confidence-inducing, but at a time of deep divisions, it shows that a disgracefully weak and contrived prosecution is a source of at least a measure of agreement among commentators usually wholly opposed to one another.

Who knew that Alvin Bragg would become a unifying force in the

nation's political debate?

The online publication Slate, a reliable source of some of the worst legal analysis on the internet, has run two doubtful pieces about the indictment. Mark Joseph Stern notes that "Bragg's legal theory is, if not convoluted, a fairly confusing effort to patch together disparate offenses into one alleged crime, carried out over 34 illegal payments."

Over at Vox, Ian Millhiser, usually a taker on any adventurous progressive legal theory, can't get on board the Bragg Train on this one: "It is unclear that the felony statute that Trump is accused of violating actually applies to him."

Ruth Marcus of The Washington Post warned about the potential weakness of the case prior to the unsealing of the indictment and is now decidedly unimpressed. She calls it "disturbingly unilluminating, and the theory on which it rests is debatable at best, unnervingly flimsy at worst."

Former FBI deputy director Andrew McCabe, a top Trump villain, said the indictment "landed like a dud ... an unimpressive document."

Pundits won't determine the course of the Bragg prosecution, but the climate around it matters, if nothing else, as a barometer of its strength and merits. It is telling that Bragg has managed to create a loose right-left consensus about the shoddiness of his handiwork.

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

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## Kings and Kaiser Permanente Present Sabonis with Community Crossover Award

### Sacramento Kings News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Friday, April 7, 2023, the Sacramento Kings recognized center Domantas Sabonis with the 2023 Community Crossover Award presented by Kaiser Permanente. The award, formerly known as the Oscar Robertson Triple Double Award, is given to a Kings player each year who excels both on and off the court while also making significant contributions to the community.

"I am honored to be the recipient of this year's Community Crossover Award," said Sacramento Kings center Domantas Sabonis. "My family and I love Sacramento and this community and it means a great deal to us to be able to give back and support, especially our youth."

This season, Sabonis and his wife, Shashana, launched the Sabonis Squad, adopting Caroline Wenzel Elementary school and providing support and supplies. As part of the Sacramento Kings 21st Annual Season of Doing Good presented by Raley's, the Sabonis' surprised students from the elementary after-school program and provided food courtesy of Dos Coyotes, coats courtesy of Old Navy and books to read over the holiday break. Students who finished their book were given a chance to win Kings swag and game tickets. In addition, the Sabonis family has provided PE equipment to the school.

To show his appreciation to the Sacramento



On Friday, April 7, 2023, Sacramento Kings player Domantas Sabonis was recognized with this year's Community Crossover Award presented by Kaiser Permanente. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Kings

community and Kings fans, Sabonis surprised individuals at a local barber shop (The 916 Cuts) and a community park (Franklin D. Roosevelt Park) with tickets to a Kings game.

In addition, Sabonis has excelled as a leader on the court, averaging 19.2 points and team-highs of 12.4 rebounds and 7.3 assists per game. Along with leading the Kings, Sabonis is the NBA's league-leader in rebounding, total rebounds (964) and double-doubles (65) while ranking second in triple-doubles (14) and fifth in total assists (568). He has helped guide Sacramento to a postseason berth with a 12.5 win shares rating and 9.5 offensive win shares rating,

which both rank second in the NBA.

Sabonis will be presented the award by Sacramento Kings Chief Operating Officer Matina Kolokotronis and General Manager Monte McNair tonight before the Kings take on the Golden State Warriors at Golden 1 Center.

Inaugurated in 2003, prior award winners include some of the most recognizable figures in Kings team history, such as Chris Webber (2003), Vlade Divac (2004), Peja Stojakovic (2005), De'Aaron Fox (2019) in addition to back-to-back honors for Corliss Williamson (2006 and 2007), Garrett Temple (2017 and 2018) and Harrison Barnes (2021 and 2022). ★

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# Brady Hartinger is Firefighter of The Year

## Dixon Fire Department News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The members of the Dixon Fire Department have selected Firefighter/Paramedic Brady Hartinger as the 2022 Firefighter of the Year.

In Dixon, this honor is bestowed upon a member who is nominated and then selected by a cross section of the department who make up the awards committee. There were multiple submissions that recognized Brady for his attitude, passion, pride, dedication, and willingness to learn.

Brady has been with the Dixon Fire Department for 5 years. He began his career with the Department in 2018 as a Reserve Firefighter, and in 2020 was hired

in a permanent Firefighter position while he was completing Paramedic School. In 2021, Brady obtained his Paramedic license and became a Firefighter/Paramedic for Dixon Fire. Brady resides in Benicia with his wife Brittany. They are expecting their first child this Spring.

Brady's passion for his job, the Department, and his fellow firefighters shows in everything he does. He is respected and well-liked, and always a team player. It is an honor to have a dedicated, motivated, passionate and professional Firefighter/Paramedic like Brady Hartinger serving as a member of the Dixon Fire Department. Hartinger supports IT related projects at the Fire Department and is constantly

working to bring emerging technologies to our department. He is the current President of the Dixon Professional Firefighter's Association. In this capacity, he has worked collaboratively with management to build a strong labor/ management relationship.

In addition to Firefighter of the Year, the following individuals were recognized:

**Reserve Firefighter Chris Wilson** received the Allan Benefield Award for the most participation by a volunteer; Commendations of Superior Effort were presented to: **Captain John Jurado, Engineer Markus Lincoln, Firefighter/Paramedic James Perry, and Firefighter/Paramedic Wolfgang Riedel;**

A Commendation of Outstanding Effort was presented to **Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Murphy;**

Field Save recognition was presented to: **Captain/Paramedic Fields,**

**Captain/Paramedic Glinkler, Firefighter/Paramedic Hartinger, Engineer/Paramedic Hemje, Engineer Lincoln, Firefighter Norberg, Engineer Raycraft, Firefighter/Paramedic Riedel, Firefighter/Paramedic Rodarte, Captain Smotherman, and Engineer/Paramedic Tomellosa**

Fire Department employees were also honored for reaching years of service milestones. Reaching 25 years of service: **Andi Horgan.**

Reaching 15 years of service: **Matt Fields.**

Reaching 5 years of service: **Grant Haynie, Taylor McAbee, Wolfgang Riedel.**

Established in 1871, the Dixon Fire Department provides fire protection for the City of Dixon and the Dixon Fire Protection District. The Department serves a combined population of nearly 25,000, covering an area of 320 square miles. Seven square miles of service area are within the city limits and 313 square miles are in the Dixon Fire Protection District through a protection contract. The Department provides fire protection, paramedic level emergency medical response, fire prevention services, public fire safety education, fire investigations, and emergency management. ★

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  - Stay clear of
  - Vegetative state
  - Olden day "your"
  53. Olden day "you"
  - Sib
  - Park bench friend?
  - \*Rose \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ variety
  - LDS missionary
  - Cacophony
  - Goodbye, to amiga
  - Gaelic-speaking Celts
  - Mozart's "L \_\_\_\_ del Cairo"
  - Courage to go on
  - Fitness centers
  - Drenched
  - Not a trick
- DOWN**
- On behalf of
  - "Fine by me"
  - \*Basket \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ study
  - \*Adam's \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ pie
  - Finely-spun cotton threads
  - Eagle's foot
  - Workout unit
  - Slightly drunk
  - "Doggone it!"
  - College drilling org.
  - 1/36th of a yard
  - " \_\_\_\_ , humbug!"
  - #15 Down, pl.
  - Come to pass
  - Feline
  - Fissure
  - \*Silly \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ down
  - Church part, pl.
  - Antiquity of the past
  - \*Southwest \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ Minor
  - Lou of The Velvet Underground
  - Rainbow swimmer
  - \*Free \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ hour
  - Glorify
  - Weighted weapon
  - Nevada Wolf Pack's home
  - Cuban dance
  - 1.094 of a yard, pl.
  - \*Doctor \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ knows?
  - Description of a fool
  - Give qualities or money
  - More eccentric
  - Theatrical performance
  - Previously mentioned, acr.
  - Hair styling products
  - Annoying biter
  - Irish name of Ireland
  - Very bright star
  - \*Easter \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ salad
  - \*Dry \_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_ cream
  - Part of tennis match

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000342**  
 The following persons are doing business as: L & L Hawaii BBQ, 1631 E Monte Avenue, #107, Vacaville, CA 95688. Meifang He, 1631 E Monte Avenue, #107, Vacaville, CA 95688.  
 Date filed in Solano County: February 23, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
 This Business is conducted by: A 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 February 22, 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 7, 14, 21 & 28, 2023  
 L&L 4-28-23

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000578**  
 The following persons are doing business as: Twin Oaks Realty, 231 First Street, Benicia, CA 94510.  
 Twin Oaks Real Estate Inc., 231 First Street, Benicia, CA 94510.  
 Date filed in Solano County: April 3, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
 This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. 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 2, 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 14, 21, 28, May 5, 2023  
 TWIN 5-5-23

**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

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ERVINE E. VASSAR CASE NO. SP024146**  
 To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Ervin E. Vassar.  
 A Petition for Probate has been filed by Virginia Ann Vassar, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Virginia Ann Vassar be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the dece-

dent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.  
 A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: May 5, 2023, 8:30 a.m. in Dept 4; Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 600 Union Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.  
 IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.  
 IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.  
 YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Silvio Reggiardo III, 621 Capitol Mall, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814; 916/444-1000  
 Publish: April 14, 21 & 28, 2023  
 VASSAR 4-28-23

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DIXON, AMENDING SECTIONS 6.12.030 AND 6.12.080 OF CHAPTER 6.12 CANNABIS BUSINESS PILOT PROGRAM, AND REPEALING SECTION 6.02.130 OF CHAPTER 6.02, BUSINESS LICENSE REQUIRED, OF THE DIXON MUNICIPAL CODE, TO LIMIT RETAIL CANNABIS DELIVERY IN THE CITY OF DIXON TO FULLY LICENSED CANNABIS RETAILERS LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Dixon ("City") City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 7:00 p.m., at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620, in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code section 54950 et seq.) and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, to consider the adoption of:

An ordinance to limit retail cannabis delivery within the City to fully licensed retailers located within the City ("Ordinance"). The Ordinance would eliminate the current ambiguity in regulations between Type 9 and Type 10 businesses, limit cannabis deliveries within the City only to licensed Cannabis businesses pursuant to a State-issued Type 10 license, and prohibit all "delivery only" cannabis businesses from operating within City limits, regardless of whether those businesses are located within or outside of the City.

**ALL INTERESTED PARTIES** are invited to attend the Tuesday, May 2, 2023 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against approval of the Ordinance. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking any action or making any recommendation related to the Ordinance. Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Any person requiring language interpretation services should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting.

Interested individuals will be given an opportunity to speak in favor of or opposition to the above proposed action. Written comments are also accepted prior to the meeting by mail at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or electronically by emailing [lrui@cityofdixon.us](mailto:lrui@cityofdixon.us). Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be provided to interested individuals upon request. If a challenge to the above proposed action is made in court, persons may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City before the meeting.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance will be available, upon request. If you have any questions, please call the City at (707) 678-7000.

Dixon Independent Voice 4-21-2023

**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.



**Friday, April 14**

- 1054** - Theft of gas from a vehicle reported in the 100 block of Bloom Drive.
- 1314** - Agency assist with Medic Ambulance
- 1341** - A non-injury traffic collision was reported in the area of Stratford Avenue and Weyand Way.
- 1426** - Theft reported in the 1100 block of North 1st Street.
- 1800** - Batter report was taken in the 900 block of Alexander Ct.
- 1826** - Warrant arrest report was taken at the intersection of North Almond St. at West D St. Officers contacted (S) Nathan Moreno (40) of Dixon. A records check revealed Moreno had a misdemeanor warrant out of Yolo County. Moreno was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department. Moreno was cited and released.

**Thursday, April 13**

- 0755** - A proactive enforcement stop in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue resulted in the arrest of Monae Le Bleu Spencer (38) of Fairfield for an outstanding no-bail misdemeanor warrant for violating the terms of their probation. They were transported to the Solano County Jail without incident.
- 0822** - Officers responded to Safeway in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue for a report of a shoplifter who just fled the area after taking miscellaneous items under \$100 in value. Officers located the vehicle, and subsequently arrested Tiffany Deal (39) of Placerville for misdemeanor theft and for violating the terms of her probation. She was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail without incident.
- 1313** - Officers responded to the 1900 block of North Lincoln Street to assist CHP with a suspicious object, which appeared to be explosive. CHP EOD responded to the scene and rendered the object safe.

**Wednesday, April 12**

- 0731** - Officers contacted Brett Butler (44) of Sacramento consensually in the 1400 block of Ary Lane. A records check revealed that Butler was on Parole for homicide in Sacramento County. A Parole search resulted in his arrest for misdemeanor possession of medication without a prescription.
- 0903** - Information report in the 800 block of Stratford Avenue.
- 2244** - Theft arrest report was taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr. Officers arrived and contacted (S) Christopher Funnie (55) of Elk Grove. Funnie was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department. Funnie was cited and released.
- 0027** - Arson report was taken in the 100 block of West Cherry St.

**Tuesday, April 11**

- 0829** - Confidential report was taken at the PD.
- 0949** - Confidential report was taken at the PD.
- 1017** - Theft report taken in the 1400 block of Ary Lane
- 1900** - Hours- Threats report taken in the PD Lobby.
- 0130** - Hours- Armed Robbery Vehicle from AMPM located and towed back to the Police Department.

**Monday, April 10**

- 0836** - Fraud report taken in the 900 block of West B Street. An unknown suspect opened a Verizon account in her name.
- 1208** - Battery reported in the 1500 block of North 1st Street. The victim reported that during an argument with an Amazon delivery driver, the driver kicked the victim. It was later learned that the suspect kicked the victim because the victim called the driver a racial slur.
- 1430** - Confidential report taken at Dixon High School.
- 1447** - Non injury traffic accident in the 8300 block of Pedrick Road.
- 1801** - Informational report taken at the Dixon Police Department.
- 1901** - Missing person reported in the 500 block of Sierra Drive. Female (22) was reported missing by her mother, who has not heard from her daughter since 3-3-23.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL**

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

**PROJECT:** **End of Dorset Court (Dual Brand Hotel)** - Request for Design Review (DR21-01), Conditional Use Permit (UP21-04), Lot Merger (MGR21-01) and Planned Development Rezoning (PD21-01) approval for the construction of a 4 story, 83,000 sq. ft., 150 room, dual brand hotel (Hampton Inn and a Home 2 Suites by Hilton) that peaks at 55 ft tall. Design Review is required for any new construction and physical improvements (DMC Sections 18.11.120 18.07.110). As part of this Design Review, proposed signage is also being considered for the hotel and will include wall signage, directional signage, freeway signage on an existing multi-tenant freeway sign, and an 8-foot tall monument sign at the front of the property. The monument sign will also include room on it for the future restaurant to place signage upon. Conditional Use Permit approval is required to justify a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of less than 50% for a single use project (DGP, Land Use and Community Character Element, Action LCC-5.F) based on clear economic findings that are done on a case-by-case basis. The applicant has proposed a combined FAR of 56%, whereas the General Plan identifies an allowable range of between 80% and 200%. A Planned Development creates specific design standards or identifies future uses, approved by the City Council as an ordinance, that extend beyond those specifically called for as part of the base zoning. This Planned Development creates specific development standards (up to 55 ft) that pertain to height of the hotel which exceed that which is permitted by the base zoning (40 feet) and allows for a future drive-thru restaurant. As elevations for the restaurant were not part of this application, a future Design Review will be needed to allow for its construction. APNs: 0108-340-010, -020, and -030; Zoning District: Highway Commercial – Professional and Administrative Office – Planned Development (CH-PAO-PD); Dixon Hospitality, LLC, owner, Lenity Architecture, applicant; File No: PA21-01, DR21-01/MGR21-01/PD21-01

*The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and no environmental review will be completed. This project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption from the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines under 14 CRR Section 15332, [Class 32, In-fill Development]. If the City Council determines that this project is in an environmentally-sensitive area, further study may be required.*

**HEARING DATE & LOCATION:** **Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm** at Dixon City Hall, City Council Chambers, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

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

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN:** The Planning Commission previously reviewed and recommended approval of the project to the City Council. All interested parties are invited to attend this public hearing, in person or remotely, to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to making any decision on the application.

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

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

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

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

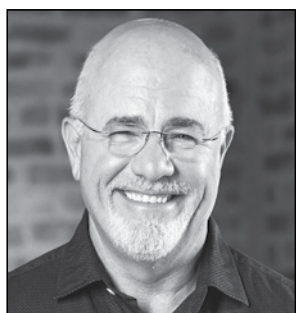
*Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special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

Dixon Independent Voice 4-21-2023

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## Dave Ramsey Says

they believe in.

But that means you have to provide meaning in the work they do. They want to see that their work connects to something that matters. They want to be treated with dignity, not like units of production. And they have inquiring minds. Most of them want to know why you do things the way you do them. All that is perfectly okay with me and always has been.

Now, they're the worst two generations to work for someone who's just a boss. That's because bosses push while leaders pull. If you're going to pull, you have to inform, communicate and share a vision that draws people into your mission. Bosses, for the most part, have a "do it this way because I said so" attitude. That's not going to last long with Gen Zers and millennials.

I get where you're coming from though, Sarah. I've still got friends and business associates who tell me we're going to lose everyone from these generations if we don't cave in and give them things like "the flexibility to work from home" – which really means, "I don't want to work much" or "I want to work

all the time." Listen, I understand not everyone who works from home falls into one of those two categories, but some of them do. There are folks who put in 80 hours a week because they can't put their screens down and live a life. Or they work three hours a day and call it "working from home." That's not working from home – that's working part-time hours for full-time pay. And that's called stealing.

But millennials and Gen Zers? I'm a huge fan of these generations. I truly, personally like them. They are, for the most part, genuine, real people and hard workers. If you give them what you should as a leader, they'll blow you away with their smarts and what they're capable of achieving!

– Dave

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

### Gen Zers and Millennials? I Love 'Em!

Dear Dave,

I am the managing partner of a family business. We would like to add to our team, but I'm worried we can't try to hold millennials and Gen Zers to the same standards as other generations without losing them. How do you feel about this?

– Sarah

Dear Sarah,

Listen, I've got a building full of Gen Zers and millennials – and I love them. If you hire the rights ones, you're getting people who love calluses on their hands and on their brains. They make the interview process easy too, because there are just two types from these generations: the ones who are unbelievably awesome and the ones who aren't. But the great ones are not afraid of hard work. They're passionate, intelligent and mission driven. I mean, they'll charge the gates of hell with water pistols for something



## Riley Reviews

### TCM CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL 2023 DELIVERS FOR CINEMA FANS

#### A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

Turner Classic Movies is part of the Warner Bros. media empire, which includes HBO, Discovery, TNT, Cinemax, and several other brands. No wonder this year's TCM Classic Film Festival celebrated the 100th anniversary of Warner Bros. movie production.

This year was more than just about classic Warner Bros. films. Eddie Muller, while he hosts "Noir Alley" on TCM and writes extensively about the genre, introduced "The Killers," a 1946 Universal Pictures production that marked the debut of Burt Lancaster.

Told in flashbacks after ten minutes, "The Killers" had one of its major characters shot dead in the early going. Muller called the film the "Citizen Kane" of Noir, which may be a compliment to the source material of a 1927 short story written by Ernest Hemingway.

Edmond O'Brien's investigator tries to make sense of the murder, uncovering in the process the involvement of Ava Gardner as the femme fatale, who according to Muller had already been in the movies but this film was her breakout role.

An interesting sidebar is that "The Killers" was remade in 1964 and told from the point of view of the hitmen who wanted to figure why the victim offered no resistance.

The 1964 version had a fine cast of Lee Marvin and Angie Dickinson, along with Ronald Reagan in his last film role, this time as the villain in contrast to his usual good guy roles.

Back to the 1946 version, "The Killers" turned out to be a colossal hit, according to Muller, because of a great cast. The expert on Film Noir opined that the most perfectly cast films of the genre are "The Maltese Falcon," "The Asphalt Jungle," and "The Killers."

The joy of the TCM festival is to discover gems that may have been forgotten, except by hardcore cinephiles. One such example is 1941's "Ball of Fire," weirdly inspired it seems by "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

Directed by Howard Hawks, "Ball of Fire" is one of the last screwball comedies released before the U.S. entered World War II. Nothing could be screwier than the odd notion of the "Snow White" character being a night club singer and a gangster's moll (Barbara Stanwyck).

Stranger still, perhaps, is the role of Gary Cooper, a gunfighter in the old West, as a nerdy English professor and the Prince Charming to Stanwyck's Sugarpuss O'Shea, who seeks refuge from police with Cooper's Bertram Potts and a group of educators working on a new encyclopedia.

Not to discount the many gems that TCM brings to the festival, but 1942's

"Larceny, Inc.," a caper film starring Edward G. Robinson spoofing the roles that made him a legend, is a comedic jewel.

The film was introduced by classic film distributor Michael Schlesinger, who observed that Robinson's career was variations of his character from "Little Caesar," and here he proves as adept at comedy as his usual heavy drama.

Robinson's 'Pressure' Maxwell and Broderick Crawford's Jug Martin, just released from prison, want to go straight but end buying a luggage story next to a bank to tunnel into the vault. However, the store becomes a lucrative legitimate business.

Crawford is like you've never seen him before – a real lunkhead so clueless and dopey that he proves hilarious. At one point, when Maxwell wants to get a loan, Jug says he doesn't "like the idea of going into a bank through the front door."

If the plot of "Larceny, Inc." seems familiar, Schlesinger said to look no further than to Woody Allen's "Small Time Crooks," which ripped off the concept of a botched bank job's cover business becoming a spectacular success.

Film historian and archivist Randy Haberkamp hosted the "You Gotta Have a Gimmick: The Warner Bros. Trailers Show," an inside look at how movie trailers are "windows into the time they are made."

The purpose of trailers, as Haberkamp noted, are to "draw you into the theater." As fascinating marketing tools, trailers are one of the very best reasons to see a movie in a theater.

A studio's marketing team gets the blame when a film fails, and Haberkamp observed that the marketing department never gets the credit for success. Nobody ever said the movie business is fair.

The trailer for "Dodge City," starring Errol Flynn, was unique in that, other than a couple of quick glimpses of scenes, it touted the rousing reception of its world premiere in Dodge City, Kansas, a city of 10,000 population that swelled to fifteen times in size.

The trailer for one of Humphrey Bogart's most popular films was especially perceptive, with its tagline of "If you are looking for adventure, you will find it in 'Casablanca.'"

The trailer also described Bogart's cynical American café owner Rick Blaine "the most dangerous man in the most dangerous city." After all, the Vichy French and German Nazis had free rein in French Morocco.

While every year brings new treasures to the big screen, one constant of the TCM festival is the difficulty choosing from about eighty films in a four-day period. ★



#### California's Top Citrus Region Digs Out of Muck After Storms

Growers in Tulare County normally enjoy harvest and fragrant orange blossoms this time of year. But last month's flooding requires an extensive cleanup operation and is a major challenge for the state's top citrus-growing region. The county produces California's largest share of navel and Valencia oranges and mandarins. Now farmers are dealing with standing water in groves, mucky sediment and driftwood strewn across their ranches. More than 60% of the citrus crop has been picked, but the wet weather has resulted in export windows being missed.

#### EPA Gives Go-ahead to California's Zero-Emissions Truck Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has approved California's plan to phase out the sale of diesel-fueled heavy-duty trucks. The plan covers big rigs that transport much of the state's agricultural goods, as California seeks to reduce pollution and carbon emissions. Agricultural groups, including the California Farm Bureau, have expressed concerns that the California Air Resources Board's zero-emissions plan could disrupt transportation of livestock and fresh produce across the state due to a shortage of electric vehicles, charging stations and drivers.

#### Six Groundwater Subbasins Working to Improve Sustainability Plans

California water officials have signaled a willingness to allow six San Joaquin Valley groundwater subbasins to bring aquifer plans into compliance with state sustainability mandates. Officials have ruled that plans for the six subbasins fail to meet requirements of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which could trigger state intervention. However, the State Water Resources Board is so far allowing the subbasins – Chowchilla, Delta-Mendota, Kaweah, Kern County, Tulare Lake and Tule – to improve plans to bring aquifers into balance.

#### Rice, Corn and Dry Bean Plantings Expected to Increase, as Wheat Acreage Declines

Having more water this year has not necessarily boosted state plantings of field crops. Of crops tracked by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, only three – corn, rice and dry beans – are projected to increase in acreage. Rice, in particular, is expected to make a major comeback. Last year, the Sacramento Valley rice region followed vast acreage. This year, California's rice plantings are expected to reach 404,000 acres – compared to 256,000 acres in 2022. But total wheat acreage this year is expected to be among the lowest in state history. ★

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# A Failure to Communicate

## Newsom, California government cuts back press access



Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses the media after a meeting with local leaders on homelessness in Sacramento on Nov. 18, 2022. Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

By Alexei Koseff, CALMatters.org

Like so much else about California, its state government is large: A \$300 billion budget. More than 230 departments and agencies. More than 234,000 employees.

Keeping the public apprised of everything that’s happening in that massive bureaucracy requires its own small army of communications staff, who craft messages, write press releases and answer questions from journalists covering everything from the governor to welfare programs, prisons to water policy.

Lately, however, the information isn’t flowing as freely — raising transparency concerns among the press corps that acts as a watchdog for Californians.

Last month, the Capitol Correspondents Association of California, which represents journalists who cover the state Capitol and advocates for improved press access, distributed guidelines to its members about how to handle some of the increasingly common hurdles they encounter, including government agencies asking for questions in advance and refusing to attribute information to their spokespersons.

Ashley Zavala, president of the correspondents association who covers state government and politics for Sacramento television station KPRA, said the extraordinary step was prompted by years of complaints from Capitol press about problems reporting on Gov. Gavin Newsom, his administration and the Legislature. These have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, which accelerated a shift to digital communication that has transformed how the state government discloses its work.

“The pandemic did cause some

bad behavior,” Zavala said. “It let some of these agencies and some of these offices get lackadaisical in how they handled the media.”

Many of the standard features of government beat reporting — including in-person press conferences, with an opportunity for follow-up questions, and media phone lines where journalists could talk to a live staffer — disappeared three years ago with the shut-down orders and have been slow to return, if at all.

Changes that reporters and public information officers adopted to do their jobs virtually in a strange new stay-at-home world became ingrained, encouraging practices, such as written statements instead of interviews, that offer less clarity and greater distance between state government and the people it serves.

This tension — between journalists seeking accountability and a bureaucracy that does not always welcome scrutiny — is not new. Covering state government has grown more difficult in recent years with fewer reporters covering the Capitol and social media offering politicians new ways to reach constituents and voters without speaking to the press. Those trends were exacerbated by restrictions applied during the pandemic.

The risk is a decline of “open, honest and transparent communication” essential to the functioning of democracy, said David Loy, legal director of the First Amendment Coalition, a nonprofit that advocates for a free press and government disclosure.

Media outlets across the state note rejected interview requests, challenges obtaining public records or the lack of any official response in their stories (see this story online at CalMatters.org for specific details).

“These message control practices

do real harm to the public interest,” Loy said. “Because the people need to know the full story, not just the official story.”

No standard communications policy

There is no shortage of people responsible for the state government’s communication of public information: 435 employees in the executive branch, to be exact, according to a count conducted for CalMatters by the Department of Human Resources. An analysis of salary ranges based on job titles found that the annual cost to taxpayers is between \$36.5 million and \$44.8 million.

There are even more press aides working for other branches, such as the Legislature, the judiciary and public universities. The jobs of these communications officials extend beyond answering reporters’ questions and can include duties such as developing public relations strategies, writing speeches and managing social media accounts.

Yet, besides laws mandating open meetings and the release of public records, California does not have standards for appropriate public communications. Policies are at the discretion of those hundreds of individual agencies and departments.

Emails, not interviews  
The obstacles and troubling behavior highlighted by the Capitol Correspondents Association of California are broader and more pervasive.

Many offices have moved nearly entirely toward written communications, directing a reporter who does reach someone by phone to instead send their questions by email.

During the pandemic, Julie Watts of television station CBS Sacramento spent two years investigating health and safety failures

at a state-funded COVID-19 testing lab. She was never allowed to speak with Health and Human Services Secretary Mark Ghaly, who oversaw the state’s coronavirus response, or Department of Public Health officials about her findings, even after Newsom directed her questions to Ghaly.

Watts said she was forced to rely on written statements, which documents and reports often later revealed to be inaccurate or untrue. Was California getting false information about the effectiveness of the lab, or covering up negligence?

“The answers they were sending us in writing were disingenuous,” Watts said, adding that it made her question whether the state had something to hide. “We were talking about complex, scientific issues. And it’s difficult to convey that to the public when it’s hundreds of back-and-forth emails.”

The written responses crafted by communications staff are often sent anonymously from a general email account, as though coming from the entire faceless bureaucracy rather than a particular spokesperson. For example, media inquiries fulfilled by the state Department of Justice, which is overseen by Attorney General Rob Bonta, are generally signed only “Press Office.”

Demanding better practices  
In the guidelines it shared with reporters last month, the correspondents association recommended that media describe the rejection of an interview request in the story, alongside the written statement that an agency provides instead.

The association urged journalists not to provide questions in advance of an interview, other than a general description of the information they are seeking, writing: “Journalism ethics requires us to maintain our objectivity, and by giving these questions in advance you would be

providing the office or agency an opportunity to rehearse for a basic function of their job and take control of the messaging.”

Speed vs. accuracy  
State communications officials said they aim to provide timely and accurate information to the media and the public, but those values are not always aligned.

Complex inquiries from reporters can require consulting multiple subject-matter experts for thorough answers and obtaining many layers of approval, sometimes in conjunction with other agencies.

Officials said they generally ask for questions in advance because it helps them determine who is best equipped to handle the inquiry. Providing interviews with agency staff can require a lot of preparation and coordinating schedules, so they often prefer to send written responses instead.

Because many state employees are still primarily working from home, some large communications offices do everything by email so that their staff can collectively track and respond to the media inquiries they receive throughout the day.

These policies are generally not unlawful, noted Loy of the First Amendment Coalition, because public officials and state agencies are not legally obligated to speak to the press.

But many of them are nevertheless antithetical to the spirit of open government, he said, preventing journalists from obtaining the public information that they need to hold the government to account.

“Is the government there to serve the people or is the government there to be a spin machine?” Loy said. “It may seem inconvenient to the government, but at the end of the day, a government that is most accountable to the people is the best government.” ★

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