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# Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 31 • ISSUE 15

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

APRIL 14, 2023

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## What's Available and Whom to Call



Past President Jewel Fink and current President Carol Marshall of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club just announced the release of a major project, the Dixon Community Resource Guide, now available free to local residents.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Each year, the new President of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club, an organization dedicated to enhancing the Dixon Community, gets to choose a project but this last one was so extensive, it spanned three Presidents. It is the DWIC Community Resource Guide.

Think: the Motley Fool of places one needs to know when just moving into town. Or, maybe someone

who just had a new baby, maybe a parent whose children just got old enough to do sports or karate or start school or a parent whose mother is in need of a home health aide. All the resources one might need are in the 'Flip-Book,' the brain child of the late Loran Hoffmann, then passed onto Jewel Fink, then passed on to Carol Marshall.

Each President took the plan to a new level with the help of about a dozen women in the club or in leadership. Hoffmann, for example, was

thinking along the lines of a full-size welcome magazine. Fink, who is serving her second term on the Dixon Unified School Board, utilized her sources with the City of Dixon and involved Madeline Graf, Public Information Officer. Enter Marshall who learned quickly the information would have to be updated annually as many community volunteers, including Cubmasters, service club Presidents, 4-H Club leaders, etc. would change. With the help of

Continued on page 3

## Free Fair Tickets for EP Patrol

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Every Dixon May Fair Parade, we get to see the majestic horses prance through with handsome men wearing sombreros and beautifully adorned girls with long, colorful dresses sitting side-saddle and waving at the crowds. But EP Patrollers are just as appreciated as a horse has no regard for restroom decorum.

To prove that the spectators know how important the job of the EP (Equine Patrol) Patrols is, they usually give a grateful applause as the youth pass down the streets with their wheelbarrows and shovels. EP Patrollers follow behind horse units with their own shovels and wheelbarrows or wagons to scoop any messes as needed and the spots for the jobs usually fill up fast due to the "pay."

The Dixon Chamber does a great job with costume contests with the Fair's theme, 'Spring has Sprung!' raffles, and rewards for these folks to sweeten the job including entry into the fair free which includes a wristband good for all day free rides on Saturday. With costumes, the EP Patrollers can also compete for ribbons and cash prizes, too. First place is \$50; 2nd place is \$40; 3rd place is \$30 and 4th place is \$20.

The Chamber is also needing Banner Carriers. They will carry banners for the Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, Veteran of the Year and City of Dixon. Entrants and their parents must attend a short mandatory meeting prior to parade day.

If your children are interested or you know someone whose children or teens might be, please pass this info on as applications are taken on a first-come, first-serve and there is a deadline of May 1. The Chamber is located at 220 North Jefferson Street or call (707) 678-2650. The parade is Saturday, May 13, the day before Mother's Day. ★

## DHS Presents Peña and Perez, Part 3

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The story of Solano's early settlers through the history of Cecelia Peña and Armando Perez will be presented as Part 3 of 3 by the Dixon Historical Society on Sunday, April 16, 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Dixon United Methodist Church, 209 North Jefferson. The presentation will also be available via Zoom. The public is invited to join in for the final installment of a 3-part series where Cecelia Peña and Armando Pérez continue the stories of their family histories. The talk will cover more detail about family life from 1841 to now and how indigenous people were a part of the settlers' lives.

Please make reservations at: dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com or call (707) 693-3044. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81087321090#success>

"In part one, we traced California's Indigenous past and in Part II, we followed our state's settlement during Spanish and Mexican rule," said Kim Schroeder-Evans, DHS President. "In this presentation, fifth generation Cecelia Peña, and Chiricahua Apache



The Dixon Historical Society invites you to Part 3 of 3 of the early Solano settlers lectures on Sunday, April 16. Photo courtesy of Kim Schroeder-Evans/DHS

Armando Perez, will share their family histories and paths to the Peña Adobe."

Recorded sessions will be available soon at the Dixon Historical Society website.

Additionally, the DHS announced there is a guided tour at the Tending and Gathering Garden, 34199 Co. Rd. 20 in Woodland on April 30, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Participants will learn about the native peoples

of our area. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy at the barn. If you would like to carpool, please let leaders know at the April 16 Quarterly Meeting.

For more information: <http://restorerestory.org/place-mural/tending-and-gathering-gardens>.

The Dixon Historical Society operates the Dixon History Museum and is dependent on memberships, donations and fundraising. It is located

at 125 West A Street in downtown Dixon. New museum hours are Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and now on the 4th Thursdays, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and 4th Sundays 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. Docents are needed and training will be provided. For more information or to become a member of the museum, contact [dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or call (707) 693-3044. ★





## May Fair Entries; A New Perspective

By Debra Dingman

Friday, April 14, is the last day to turn in Dixon May Fair Entry Forms. Every year this day springs on me like I saw it for the first time. And, all my good intentions to enter my creations go past. But if you took up a new hobby, craft, or practiced your baking this year, it will be fun to participate in the annual competition May 11-14.

The Fair is looking for your knitting, bread baking, photos, and flower arrangements, along with all the traditional quilts, preserves, art and more. In the Dixon May Fair's competition, which might earn them a prized blue ribbon or a little cash, there are hundreds of categories for the creative person.

Entering the fair is easy and can be done online at [www.dixonmayfair.com](http://www.dixonmayfair.com). The Guidebook can be picked up at the Fair Office and can also be viewed online and entry forms downloaded. (Click on Fair Information, then Entries.) While entry forms are due April 14, the actual exhibits are not due until closer to the Fair as outlined in the Guidebook.

The 'Spring Has Sprung' Fair starts Thursday, May 11, and continues through Sunday, May 14, with Special Day discounts for children and seniors. For information on how to participate, visit [DixonMayFair.com](http://DixonMayFair.com) and follow their Facebook page for up-to-date information.

On a completely different note, I truly appreciate that my boss wants to know how we're doing. When you receive the

subscription renewal notices, you also receive a brief survey asking for your opinions about what we can do to improve the newspaper.

With the last one turned in, a subscriber hit the nail on the head. I am going to write from a woman's perspective, plus I'm involved in local activities that are largely for women. But we would love to add some new voices to the publication.

My husband is not interested otherwise he'd be the perfect guy to talk about what crops he bicycles by; how he restored our sitting bench, the current sports games, the hikes he's found, best investments, his workout regimen he created, how to make beef jerky at home, or the secrets of waxing our car.

We are looking for someone with a different perspective who is active in the community and can write about broader local interests. I'm also looking for an agriculture person—maybe a retired farmer. There is a huge amount of agriculture – and all that comes with that – surrounding Dixon.

I miss Ed Heeney. He was not only a great storyteller about a lot of Ag topics but also had a way to learn from the past and add contemporary thinking. He had that special perspective... (sigh)

The newspaper is growing and it's time to get a new team member. I hope someone is reading this who knows someone, or who is that person, to help the Independent Voice grow even more. Please email me at [debra@independent-voice.com](mailto:debra@independent-voice.com) if you are interested. ★

## Dixon News Briefs



Solano County's Mobile Vaccine Unit, "Medic Ambulance" was on hand at last year's Senior Resource Fair to give free Covid shots and boosters. This year's event is Saturday, April 29. Photo by Cookie Powell

MPG Staff

### YLI Luncheon

St. Peter's Church Young Ladies Institute (YLI) will host their annual Spring Luncheon on Friday, April 21 from 11:30 to 1 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person and it is all-you-can-eat. It will be in St. Peter's Parish Hall, 105 South Second Street. There will be gift baskets, too.

### City Council

Tuesday, April 18, will be the next City Council Meeting at 600 East A Street at 7 p.m. and will also be available by watching it on the City of Dixon website or by participating – you can use Zoom.

### Joyful Painting

The Dixon Women's Improvement Club will meet on Wednesday, April 19, at noon this month for a session of creating sign painting. The meeting will start with a light lunch followed by instructions from Cristie Baron, owner of Joyful Art Studio in Vacaville. Supplies need to be ordered in advance but members may still come to enjoy the meeting regardless at 209 North Jefferson. For information on DWIC, call (707) 301-0795.

### 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.

### Senior Resource Fair

The 21st annual Senior Resource Fair will be happening on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dixon Senior Multi-Use Center, 201 South Fifth St. Information and resources from a variety

of participants including recreation, benefits, utilities, transportation, fitness nutrition, health care, safety, and elderly law to name a few. Participants are usually treated to free blood pressure and diabetes checks, eye exams, and hearing checks. For more information call (707) 678-7022.

### Youth Rummage Sale

You might want to get up early to catch the best bargains at the rummage sale fundraiser at Grace Fellowship Church starting at 7 a.m. on Saturday, April 15. Proceeds benefit the youth ministries from several local churches, called Inner State Student Ministries. For more information, call (707) 678-5700.

### Last Session

The City of Dixon has been getting the word out about Zoning Ordinance through a Joint Study Session, a process that shapes Dixon's future growth and helps realize the community's vision for Dixon as a safe, vibrant community with a robust local economy. The last session is slated for Monday, April 24, 6:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street. To catch up on what you've missed, go to [www.cityofdixon.us/zoningupdate](http://www.cityofdixon.us/zoningupdate).

### Ribbon Cutting

Katrina Marsh, owner of Busy Bee Yoga, knows her yoga moves and is inviting the public to her Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting on Friday, April 28, 5 to 7 p.m. at 175 North First St. in downtown Dixon. She is celebrating her first year anniversary and will have music and light refreshments. For a schedule of the variety of classes offered, check out [busybeeyoga.com](http://busybeeyoga.com) or call or text (707) 295-1855.

### Parade Breakfast

The 56th annual Ron DuPratt Pancake Breakfast is an all-time local favorite before the Dixon May Fair Parade starts. The breakfast opens at 7 a.m. and goes to 10 a.m. and is only \$5 per plate. It will be offered at the Olde Vet's Hall, 231 North First Street across from the Dixon Public Library. ★



### Storms, Flood Waters Wreak Havoc in Key Farming Regions

Months of heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding have dealt a new financial blow to California farmers. After a multi-year drought that had them following land and plowing under crops, they now face flooded fields, property damage and crop delays. The damage has extended from dairies and orchards in the San Joaquin Valley to strawberry and vegetable fields along the Central Coast, with potential longer-term fallout impacting some of the most productive agricultural regions in the world.

### Court Rejects Challenges to Water Quality Rules for Farm Irrigation

A Sacramento appeals court has sided with California farmers on three cases related to water quality regulations, which environmental groups had challenged for years. In deciding cases in favor of the California Farm Bureau and the California State Water Resources Control Board, the Third District Court of Appeal upheld the Central Valley's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Environmental groups had challenged the program as insufficient under the law. The program is intended to protect water quality in the Eastern San Joaquin watershed.

### Farm Bureau Members Engage with Lawmakers During Capitol Ag Conference

Farmers and ranchers from across California went to work this month on the legislative agenda for the California Farm Bureau – with Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, state lawmakers and agency officials present for direct conversations. Water supply issues and recent flood impacts for agriculture fueled discussions at the March 27-29 Capitol Ag Conference in Sacramento. The Farm Bureau's March 28 Legislative Day also featured meetings at the state Capitol with numerous legislators and staff.

### Desert Farming Region is at a Crossroads Amid Colorado River Crisis

Every year, as many as 15,000 people with U.S. citizenship or legal status cross the border at the Mexicali-Calexico port of entry. They join the local farm workforce in the sprawling Imperial Valley region, which produces as much as 90% of America's winter vegetables. As Ag Alert reports in the final installment of its series on Imperial Valley farming, the Colorado River crisis may threaten agricultural employment in the region, where the \$2.9 billion agriculture sector accounts for one-fourth of the regional economy and one of every six jobs. ★

## Ramtown Sports Roundup



Ramtown Karate's Angela Vega took Golds in two international events. Photo by Jim Ernest

MPG Staff

### Karate Champions

Several students of Dixon's Ramtown Karate competed in Las Vegas in the U.S.A. Karate and all came home with medals.

"This is the biggest international tournament in the U.S. and there were 10 to 12 competitors in every division and our people came in the top three every time. We had five people in two divisions each and we medaled in every single division," said Sensei Jim Ernest.

"They just did amazingly well. I've never had it happen where every single athlete came home with medals," he added. "Kiera MacKenzie fought the Canadian champion and another girl from the United States, and she still got a Bronze. She started when she was 8 years old and now she's 23. She's going to start a horse training business in Dixon and is getting married, so she's starting the next chapter of her life."

### Free Tennis Clinic

Solano Community Tennis Association along with Tennis Coach Daryl Lee is offering a free tennis clinic on Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to noon at Dixon's Hall Park, 450 Hall Park Drive Mayes and South Fifth St. All levels are welcome as well as all those interested in SCTA membership and league play. Bring your racquet or use one of ours. It will be a fun event for families. Email questions to [teniscoach09@gmail.com](mailto:teniscoach09@gmail.com).

### DHS Girls Win

Dixon High School Athletics reported there was a win for Lady Rams Girls Softball against Vanden this past week. Final score was 4 to 3.

### Busy Friday

Girls Varsity Swimming will be on Friday and Saturday at the NorCal Invitational. On Friday, April 14, Boys JV Baseball vs. Woodland Christian will be at 4 p.m. on our home fields. Boys Varsity

Baseball, however, will be at Mesa Verde High School at 4:15 p.m. On Saturday, April 15, Boys & Girls Track will be participating in the Halden Invitational starting at 9 a.m.

### Open Gym

The organizers of the Dixon Teen Center have announced Open Gym plus games and snacks will resume on Fridays beginning April 14 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Higgins Elementary Gymnasium. Parents and adults can sign up to volunteer and the organization is looking to hire a paid center director. Please double-check social media postings to confirm with President Jerry Castanon as attempts were unsuccessful at reaching him.

### Girls Softball Raffle

Wouldn't it be great to win two Disneyland 2-day (one park per day) tickets plus a \$500 Disney Gift Card?! The Dixon Girls Softball Teams are doing their 2nd annual Softball Raffle and have tickets now available for \$10 each. The drawing is to be held on Saturday, May 20, at their closing ceremonies barbecue and you don't have to be present to win. There is also a 2nd Grand Prize which is a \$250 Visa Gift Card and over 30 other donation prizes. They have incentivized the players to sell tickets offering the top seller a \$200 Gift Card to Great Wolf Lodge in Manteca. Email [Dixonsoftball#1@gmail.com](mailto:Dixonsoftball#1@gmail.com) for more information.

### Cheerleading Signups

For the 2023 Dixon Youth Cheerleading Team, signups are now underway, and registration ends May 5. Visit online at [dixonycf.com](http://dixonycf.com). Registration forms are available under the registration tab. Cheer is \$200 plus uniform. May 6 will be cheer fittings at 11 a.m., a clinic will be held at Hall Park at 9 a.m. on April 22 and another on April 29, same time. For more information, contact Misty Dalton at (707) 635-3041. ★



# What's Available and Whom to Call

*Continued from page 1*

Ashley Alvarez, Marshall was able to get all the information up on Flip-Book.

A flipbook is an interactive, HTML5 online publication that has the look and feel of a real, page-turning publication (complete with page-turning sound effects, page shadows and more). Flipbooks are currently used to replace conventional digital PDFs and paper-based documents such as reports, presentations, magazines, and more. It looks and feels exactly like a printed publication with pages that can be flipped and turned – without the cost of printing.

“Right now, we’re in the marketing phase with a mission to have the message sent to everyone in Dixon that this is a valuable resource. We want people to get connected to our community and here is how,” said Fink. The group ranging from 5 to 15 participants met monthly or quarterly and took on categories to find names, websites,

phone numbers, and/or emails of local contacts – which some changed even before the final version was ready. Because people move in and out of leadership, the DWIC members knew this would not be a one-year effort and have committed to annually updating.

“I was happy to be able to use the pictures that I’ve taken of Dixon that also present not only the visual beauty but also the generosity of spirits that make up the resources of our town,” said Marshall. There were dozens of hours spent on this project and all were volunteers for which the officers and past presidents are extremely grateful, she added.

If unable to access the flipbook by the QR code, one can just use any search engine to look up Dixon Women’s Improvement Club, she reminded. For more information, message via Facebook, DixonDWIC, or call (707) 301-0795. ★

# Velasquez Chosen Young Woman of the Month



**Pictured left to right: Maine Prairie Principal Yvette Ramos, Nelsy Velasquez Cabrera, Soroptimist International Dixon President Linda Green, and Jewel Fink.** Photo courtesy of Dixon Soroptimist

### Press Release By Dixon Soroptimist

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Nelsy Sofia Velasquez is the daughter of Juan Carlos Velasquez and Maria Cabrera. Nelsy has a brother, Carlos, who is a 10-year-old and attends Anderson Elementary School. Nelsy attended Anderson Elementary School, Dixon High School, and graduated from Maine Prairie High School.

While Dixon High School offered some challenges for Nelsy, she absolutely thrived at Maine Prairie High School. She found her stride and showed great focus, strength, and perseverance in her classes and in completing her credits.

She graduated at the beginning of 2023, 6 months early!

Nelsy has been a Teacher’s Assistant at Anderson Elementary School and participated in Leadership at Maine Prairie. She also works in customer service at Wendy’s.

She plans to attend Woodland Community College in Fall 2023 and then transfer to UC Davis. She would like to work in Criminal Justice, focusing on Sociology.

Dixon Soroptimist congratulates Nelsy! We can’t wait to watch where her hard work and determination take her in the future! ★

# Council Hears Library Reports Update After Man’s Arrest



**Children’s Librarian Corinne McCoy and Supervising Librarian Rhea Gardner are pleased with the rearrangement of the children’s reading area at Dixon Public Library that provides better supervision and safety.** Photo by Debra Dingman

*By Debra Dingman*

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The last City Council meeting was more brief than usual. It opened with Supervising Librarian Rhea Gardner sharing the steps the library has taken to ensure its patrons’ safety after a man was allegedly engaging in inappropriate behavior in the children’s section of the library on March 20.

An alert parent confronted the man, went to the library counter and asked them to call the police but they did not. The mother followed the man out of the library, took a cell phone picture of him and his car and reported the incident to police herself. She also posted it on social media where there was public outcry. Thanks to the woman’s efforts, Dixon Police were able to arrest the individual within an hour of the incident.

In the update to improve library security, the children’s section has been moved to the front of the building and the children’s section will receive priority staffing, Gardner reported. They have installed a convex mirror facing the hallway to provide a sight line into the area

and are considering the feasibility of adding one or two more cameras there as well.

“All staff have recently received updated training on the library’s policies with calling the authorities or emergency services at any customer’s request and to cooperate with police in providing information, including handing over any footage the library may have,” she said. “We are fully committed to ensuring the safety of the library to our users and especially to families and children.”

In other news, a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is going out for a contractor to perform reconstruction of the tennis court complex at Hall Park. The City also adopted a resolution authorizing the City Manager to extend the lease agreement for the office trailer on Fitzgerald Drive for \$863.50 per month not to exceed \$10,362 for the term.

Another issue for the City was in regard to issuing 2023 Tax Bonds which are for improving the infrastructure in Homestead similar to a Mello-Roos in other developments. The entire council meeting is recorded and can be watched online at cityofdixon.us under the government tab. ★

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**MEMORIAL**  
**VICTOR MARK UHLIK • 12/23/1932 – 3/18/2023**

Correction Victor will be laid to rest at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, CA, on **Monday, May 1, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.** Friends and family attending the service are asked to arrive 20 minutes prior to the commencement of the service. There will be a gathering after the service to remember his time with us in this life.



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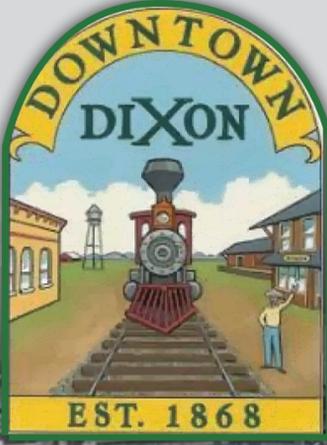


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# Discover Downtown Dixon - Shop, Dine, Explore!

A healthy community begins with a healthy downtown. They are the heartbeat of our communities and they are also key indicators of larger social and economical trends such as thriving businesses, engaged citizens, cultural events, and jobs.

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



Keep an eye on this space every month for information about all the fun and engaging events happening in Downtown Dixon.

### Upcoming Events

- April 28 - Yoga in the Park, a free class at the Pardi Plaza, 4 p.m. Visit [busybeeyoga.com](http://busybeeyoga.com). Ribbon Cutting afterward at 5 p.m. at 175 North First St.
- May 13 - Dixon May Fair Parade 10 a.m. and the Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast at Ye Olde Vet's Hall, 7 - 10 a.m.
- June 24 - Railroad Days! Explore Dixon's historic past at the Dixon History Museum and throughout downtown.

Call (707) 678-8400 for more information.

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## Celebrating Easter

The citizens of Dixon came out like the sun for the many celebrations offered last weekend. From Friday night's community-wide Good Friday celebration held at Pardi Plaza to the Saturday morning Kiwanis Breakfast with the Bunny to church services city-wide, happiness seemed to match the great weather. Photos by Debra Dingman



Mr. Bunny was happy to greet babies and visit with children at the bunny breakfast downtown.



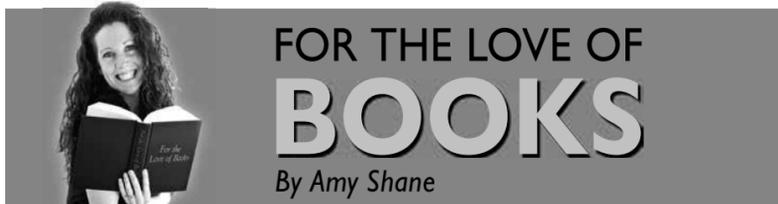
Members of the Dixon High School Key Club shared their Saturday morning helping to serve up fun at the Breakfast with the Bunny.



Children of all ages enjoyed photo shoots with Mr. Bunny including these from the John Curry family.



Volunteers from Walmart, Rohwer Insurance, and Dixon High Key Club joined the Dixon Kiwanis Club to serve up pancakes three hours straight to families of Dixon Saturday morning at the Dixon Moose Lodge.



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

## Celebrate Earth Day with These New Children's Books

**This Is the Planet Where I Live**  
by K.L. Going  
and Debra Fraiser,  
Beach Lane Books

From the people to their homes, to the fields and the insects, this is a place we all call home. From the animals to the birds to the ocean below, this is all we all share in the planet where we live.

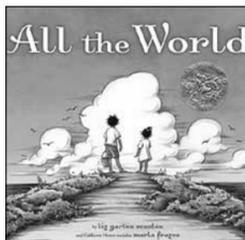
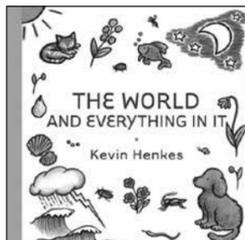
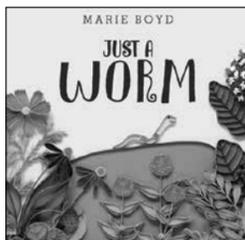
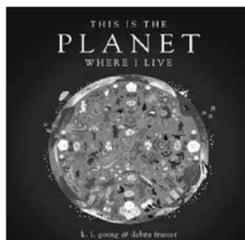
*This is the Planet Where I Live* is a beautiful celebration of the planet which we all share. A visual explosion of colors and picture photography captures the smallest insect to the vast size of our planet. The perfect celebration book for Earth Day and every day.

**Just A Worm**

by Marie Boyd;  
Greenwillow Books

A little worm sets off to see the world. With a slop, a wiggle, and a twirl, he is off. As Worm sets off on his journey, he meets many creatures who can do wonderful things. Worm realizes he can't fly, spin a web, change into a beautiful butterfly, or eat pests; he is just a worm. Then Worm thinks about all the things he can do. Worm can dig, crawl, keep the garden clean, feed plants, and help them stay healthy. Earthworms are essential, and he is more than just a worm.

*Just a Worm* celebrates the importance of an often overlooked little creature.



From Worm's wiggling and digging down deep into the earth and all of the benefits he brings to the plants and soil. The colorful paper-crafted artwork combined with the story is the perfect book to accompany any school day lesson or for that budding gardener. Directions to make a quilled butterfly are also included, encouraging little crafters to create a beautifully crafted creature of their own.

**The World and Everything In It**  
by Kevin Henkes;  
Greenwillow Books

The world is full of big things and little things. You can hold little things like a pebble or a flower in your hand. But you can also have big things, like water from the ocean, and feel the sun on your face. However, this world is made up

mainly of the things in-between things, like all of us.

Celebrate the beauty of everything in this world, whether big, small, or in-between.

**All The World**

by Liz Garton Scanlon  
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All the world is here and there and everywhere. All the world is wherever you are right now.

In a celebration of daily life around the world, *All the World* will take readers throughout the day in all the world. Celebrating old and new, cold and hot, wide and deep, quiet and still, and most of all, you and me. With beautiful illustrations capturing everyday moments, the book is a lovely story full of deeper meaning and heart. ★



### Don't valorize January 6

The philosopher Eric Hoffer famously wrote, "Every great cause begins as a movement, becomes a business, and eventually degenerates into a racket."

What he evidently didn't count on was great outrages becoming causes.

From the perspective of the immediate aftermath of Jan. 6, it was hard enough to believe that Donald Trump would survive the event, let alone make it a plank in a powerful comeback bid just a few years later.

But there was Trump in Waco, Texas, opening his inaugural rally of the 2024 campaign with a recording of the song "Justice for All" that he performed with the J6 Prison Choir, with some scenes of Jan. 6 playing on the jumbotrons.

Among those favorably inclined toward it, the riot at the Capitol has progressed from something to be minimized closer to something to be celebrated, almost, if not quite, "Stop the Steal's" Bastille Day.

For Trump, a master at appropriating the catch lines and attacks of the other side, reversing the meaning of Jan. 6 would be his most audacious move yet. How long is it before that day becomes "the perfect protest?"

Trump still hews to the two premises of the Jan. 6 riot—that, as a

general proposition, the 2020 election was stolen and, more particularly, that Vice President Mike Pence could have stopped the counting of the electoral votes if he weren't so weak.

Trump has talked about pardoning the rioters, who are "great patriots," and floated the idea of the government apologizing to many of them.

Now, it is true that the Justice Department has gone out of its way to run up the number of prosecutions to make a political point about the seriousness of the event, and defendants have been denied bail in a highly unusual manner.

That said, making excuses for or valorizing Jan. 6 is deeply wrong.

First, there's the matter of principle. Riots are bad and never justified. They hurt people and destroy property, while achieving nothing or setting back the cause they were supposed to advance. Disorder at the heart of the U.S. government, disrupting a longstanding ritual connected to the peaceful transfer of power, is particularly egregious.

Second, justifying or excusing political violence has a deranging influence on the republic. The more reasons both sides have to physically fear each other, the easier it is to justify extreme measures in response.

Third, it's simply terrible politics. If the other side is desperate to portray you as in bed with fanatics and rioters, it's best not to go out of your way to prove them right. It's perverse that just as the Jan. 6 Committee is no longer in a position

to constantly remind the public of Jan. 6, here comes Donald Trump to remind people.

It'd be a little like Richard Nixon running for the 1976 Republican presidential nomination, and campaigning with a barbershop quartet made up of Watergate burglars.

Or Ulysses S. Grant running for a third term while extolling the unappreciated virtues of the organizers of the Whiskey Ring scandal.

What Trump is doing flies in the face of the lessons of the midterms. Jan. 6 lent emotional power to the Democratic argument that democracy was under threat, and Stop the Steal candidates proved radioactive. Trump wants, in effect, to repeat November 2022's failed political experiment on a larger scale in 2024.

On top of his natural inclinations, Trump may be making a calculation that in a primary race with Ron DeSantis to be the most "MAGA" Republican candidate, he can't lose by staking out a pro-Jan. 6 position. That's not a crazy bet, but if Trump is going to be beaten it will probably be, in part, on grounds that he carries too much baggage and is an electability risk. By embracing rather than skirting one of his major vulnerabilities, he gives his adversaries more ammunition on both counts.

Jan. 6 is an outrage that shouldn't become a cause.

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

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# California Lifts Target for 15% Water Conservation



California ended its voluntary statewide target, triggering concerns from experts that many water supplies remain depleted. Other drought measures remain in place. Photo courtesy of Marysmn Dreamstime.com

By Alastair Bland,  
CALMatters.org

With the Sierra Nevada smothered in snow, large swaths of the Central Valley underwater and many Californians weary of water, state officials announced today that they are lifting some drought-related provisions on water use.

"Our water supply conditions have improved markedly," said Secretary of Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot.

The state is rescinding its request for voluntary 15% water conservation statewide, which was issued in July 2021, and instead, Crowfoot said, shifting to an approach of making conservation a "way of life."

"We need to maintain our vigilance," he said. "It's not about going back to normal anymore. It's really adjusting to a new normal."

Some of the state's emergency provisions were ended and some were left in place. Wasteful uses of water, such as hosing down sidewalks and watering ornamental grass on commercial property, remain banned, according to state officials.

The state, however, is ending its requirement that local water agencies implement Level 2 drought contingency plans, which are locally written water use regulations—such as limits on watering lawns—that are invoked during water shortages.

In total, 81 drought-related provisions were enacted since April 2021. Just 33 remain in place, said Gov. Gavin Newsom at a press briefing today.

State officials also announced today a large increase in the amounts of water that local suppliers will get from the State Water Project, increasing from 35% announced last month to 75% of requested supplies. The water is provided to 750,000 acres of farmland and 27 million people, mostly in Southern California.

The announcements come as some of the state's reservoirs near capacity, with some of the state's largest expected to fill by late spring. And the snowpack of the Sierra Nevada, nearing record levels in the southern portion of the range, continues to grow.

When Newsom issued his voluntary conservation target almost two years ago, many water experts said Newsom should have made it mandatory, as former Gov. Jerry Brown did during the previous drought. They also criticized him for failing to reduce use by farmers, who consume 80% of the state's delivered water supply.

State officials say even though the 15% target was voluntary, it worked. However, the data does not back that up: Californians used 6% less water from July 2021 through December 2022 compared to 2020 — falling far short of Newsom's 15% goal.

Heather Cooley, director of research at the Pacific Institute, an Oakland water supply thinktank, said California must relax its ethos of water conservation.

In spite of wet weather, the state's largest water supply — its groundwater basins — remain depleted.

"Even though reservoirs are recovering, groundwater aquifers remain depleted. The Colorado River — a major water source for Southern California — is also facing a massive deficit," Cooley said. "The reality is we don't have water to waste in California. We need to continue investing in water efficiency to prepare for a hotter, drier future and more intense droughts."

Californians did cut their average water use by 600,000 acre-feet in almost two years. That's almost two-thirds the volume of Folsom Reservoir and enough water to serve 1.2 million households in a year.

Crowfoot stressed that the drought is not over, noting that drought status "is not a completely binary situation." In some parts of the state, drought conditions have dramatically eased, but not in others. Crowfoot said the Klamath River basin and the region of Southern California that relies on Colorado River water continue to face "acute water shortages."

Thousands of households lack drinking water due to depleted groundwater basins, which have been overdrafted for decades and experts agree they will not rebound in a single rainy winter.

Joaquin Esquivel, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, said the hope is that cities "are not just rebounding" to old ways of water use.

"Conservation remains a priority," Crowfoot added.

Michael Anderson, a climatologist with the California Department of Water Resources, said snowpack is at 278% of normal, with another storm system expected to hit the North Coast and move inland and south from there, starting Monday. The system, he said, will deliver a relatively cold storm originating in the Gulf of Alaska, unlike some recent blasts of tropical moisture. This means it will drop more snow in the mountains.

"Not massive accumulations, but could be locally heavy," he said. ★

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# Sen. Dodd's Juice Bottle Recycling Bill Advances

**From the Office of Senator Bill Dodd**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Legislation from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that would add large juice bottles to California's recycling program, reducing the amount of plastic and glass going into landfills and helping to stabilize the recycling market, passed a key committee today.

"Today we take a big step toward reducing our waste stream and uplifting our recycling program," Sen. Dodd said. "Not only does this bill cut the amount of garbage we put into the ground, but it provides a

financial lifeline to recyclers and processors by maximizing their options for redeeming deposits on beverage containers. Ultimately, this bill will help us meet our recycling goals."

The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act, established in 1986, encourages consumers to recycle beverage containers by requiring them to pay a deposit for eligible bottles. Over the years, the program has been expanded to include soda, beer, and wine bottles. However, it does not include 46-ounce or larger juice bottles, contributing to a drop in the annual scrap

valuations that threaten the state program and many smaller recyclers, especially in underserved communities.

Sen. Dodd's proposal, Senate Bill 353, would add containers of 100% fruit juice to the state's bottle recycling law. It would also authorize the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to adjust its processing of payments to recyclers to a quarterly schedule rather than yearly, helping to stabilize the market.

SB 353 follows the Legislature's passage of a bill authored last year by Senate President pro Tem Toni Atkins

and Sen. Dodd to add wine and spirits containers to the program and make significant investments in recycling. SB 353, which is supported by recyclers and manufacturers, cleared the Senate's Environmental Quality committee with overwhelming support.

"This measure will increase consumer opportunities to recycle and get cash back on empty containers, by making common sense updates to the CRV program, said Mark Murray, executive director of Californians Against Waste. "All juice beverages, regardless of container size, will now

have a refund, and recycling payments for new and existing recycling centers will be stabilized against scrap market fluctuations."

"As the stewardship organization for plastic containers in California's Bottle bill, we commend the senator expanding the bottle bill to include all juice bottles and to make the system more responsive to market forces," said Sally Houghton, executive director of Plastic Recycling Corporation of California. "This will help get more containers recycled and turned back into bottles in a cost-effective manner." ★

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**CLUES**

**ACROSS**

- Unsuitable
- Agency behind food labels, acr.
- Pastoral sounds
- More painful
- "Maggie May" singer
- Secret storage
- Hajj destination
- Inflated feeling
- One in a quiver
- "Scooby-Doo's best friend"
- "Stone Age Fred's best friend"
- Zip
- Type of wave
- "Mangial"
- Apple leftover
- Unlike Pinocchio
- Law school test acronym
- Tiger's forte
- Jack Black's Libre
- For \_\_\_ kitchen counter
- Jewish folklore creature
- Singer Whitman of "Secret Love" fame
- Formerly known as dropsy
- Spanish Surrealist
- Stay out of its way!
- Make a remake
- Shawm
- Yoda: "Do or do not. There is no \_\_\_"
- Like hard times
- Tube in old TV, acr.
- Jessica or Peter
- "Anthropomorphic squirrel's last name"
- Small and elegant
- Mozart's "L \_\_\_ del Cairo"
- Like a whistle?
- Optical illusion creation (2 words)
- "Time," e.g., colloquially
- Hint of color
- "The Way We \_\_\_"
- Farm pen
- Skedaddle

**DOWN**

- What hedonism and idealism have in common
- Rejections
- Flatfoot's lack
- Pie option
- Calamitous
- One of the Eagles
- \*Pluto or Snoopy
- Acrobat maker
- Rural building
- Homesteader's purchase, sing.
- Nabisco's "Chips \_\_\_"
- To use a Singer
- Dairy industry missing person-seeking prop
- Nordic glühwein
- Ooh and \_\_\_
- Troublemaker
- \*Fudd's first name
- Line to the audience
- "It is silent," in sheet music
- Living space
- Don Johnson's Bridges
- Plaudit and pomp
- Bake an egg
- \*One of the Pickles
- Like a broken horse
- \*Phineas' stepbrother
- Be a parasite
- Just about (2 words)
- Hula necklace
- Builds a tower, e.g.
- Very small particles
- Opposite of ecstacy
- Ready for picking
- A bit cracked
- Not the life of the party
- Same as cagey
- Lotto variant
- Palm starch
- Gift topper
- \*Garfield or Tom
- Butterfly catcher

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# DWR Announces Interagency Drought Task Force Members, Planning Resources

## DWR News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - With swings between extreme weather patterns becoming more intense, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is proactively collaborating with local communities and interagency partners to strengthen drought resilience and better prepare for future dry conditions.

In accordance with Senate Bill 552 of 2021, DWR has released a suite of resources to assist counties in planning for future water shortage events. It has also launched a 26-member interagency drought task force that will help address drought planning and emergency response.

“The recent storms have provided a huge improvement to the state’s surface water supplies. But our state’s ground-water basins are still recovering, and if these shifts between extreme weather patterns have taught us anything, it’s to be prepared for an eventual return to dry conditions,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. “We’re prioritizing collaboration among local county governments and diverse water users to help empower communities with the tools and resources they need to plan for future drought events and response.”

The new interagency drought task force, formally known as the Drought Resilience Interagency and Partners (DRIP) Collaborative, includes members representing all water users from local governments, community-based organizations, Tribes, nonprofit technical assistance providers, the general public, agriculture, environmental representatives, public water systems, small water suppliers or urban water agencies, and experts in land use planning, water resilience, or water infrastructure. A full list of the selected members is available on

DWR’s DRIP Collaborative webpage.

The selected members will lead the DRIP Collaborative in discussions to address drought-related issues and solutions including current and projected drought conditions, potential impacts in



small water supplier and rural communities, challenges on-the-ground based on water community expertise, and align state programs, funding, and strategies to anticipate and proactively address climate-driven impacts. The first DRIP Collaborative meeting is scheduled for April 6 and interested parties or members of the public can stay up to date with the latest DRIP Collaborative announcements and meetings through DWR’s email subscription list.

Additional resources include tools, direct assistance, and long-term support to help counties throughout the planning process. Counties can now access a County Drought Resilience Planning Guidebook, updated Drought and Water Shortage Risk Tool, and a portal from DWR to foster learning. These materials were created using feedback gathered by counties and small water suppliers over the past year through workshops led by DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board.

For counties that require additional assistance, DWR is offering direct financial or technical support for planning activities. Interested counties can choose to receive up to \$125,000 in reimbursement funds for eligible planning expenses or solicit direct technical experience when preparing their plans. All counties are eligible to apply for one form of assistance and can apply now on DWR’s County Drought Resilience Planning webpage.

For more information about SB 552 and the Drought Resilience Interagency and Partners Collaborative, visit DWR’s SB 552 webpage. ★

## 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.



### Wednesday, April 05

- 1204 - Fraud report taken in the PD lobby.
- 1438 - Traffic stop in the 1300 block of Bello Drive resulted in the arrest of Patrick Schaller (32) of Dixon for driving under the influence of alcohol and child endangerment. Patrick was taken to county jail.
- 1444 - Confidential report taken in the 300 block of South Jefferson Street.
- 0300 - Hours- Incident report in the 300 Block of Grove Court.

### Tuesday, April 04

- 1105 - Non injury traffic accident in the 1100 block of Pitt School Road.
- 1139 - Vehicle burglary reported in the 7600 block of Porter Road.
- 0100 - Hours- AP5 investigation in the 300 Block of South Jefferson Street

### Monday, April 03

- 0936 - Catalytic convertor thefts reported in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive. Two were stolen from different trucks in the area overnight.
- 1432 - Domestic violence reported in the 2200 block of Duncan Street.
- 1541 - Non injury accident in the 1200 Stratford Avenue.
- 1840 - Hours- Theft investigation at a retail business in the 2000 Block of North First Street.
- 2030 - Hours- Male placed on a mental health hold in the 400 Block of North Lincoln.

### Sunday, April 02

- 1920 - Hours- Matthew Kamerzell age 38 of Pittsburg was arrested for DUI in the area of Westbound Interstate 80 at Meridian Road after he was observed almost colliding with Several vehicles in the city.
- 2130 - Hours- Jose Alvarez age 18 of Dixon was arrested for a misdemeanor warrant in the 400 Block of West C Street.
- 0400 - Hours- Trespassing Investigation in the 1200 Block of Rutgers Way.

### Saturday, April 01

- 0614 - Burglary report taken in the 200 block of East D Street.
- 1854 - Shoplifting report was taken in the 200 block of Dorset Dr. (S) Angel BuesoFlores (32) from Davis was arrested for shoplifting.
- 2239 - Informational report was taken in the 500 block of Schooner Ridge Dr.

### Friday, March 31

- 1050 - Report of hit and run in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.
- 1115 - Lost Property Report in the DPD lobby.
- 1124 - Report of fraud in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.
- 1214 - Information report in the 500 block of College Way. 1418 Officers conducted a proactive enforcement stop in the area of North 1st Street and Regency Parkway for a vehicle code violation. As a result of the stop, officers arrested Malcolm Clark (51) of Richmond was arrested for being a sex registrant out of compliance, for providing a false name to police, and for having a warrant for his arrest for violating the terms of his parole. He was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail without incident.
- 0138 - Burglary report was taken in the 100 block of East Dorset Dr. Officers arrived and observed the lower window on the south side of the building was shattered. Officers cleared the building, but nothing appeared to be disturbed. The responder arrived and stated nothing appeared to be taken.

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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 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  
**NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE**  
 NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF ERVINE 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 decedent.  
 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

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

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# Pursuing Happiness in the Age of Reason



Professor Caroline Winterer, photo courtesy AHP

## American Heritage Special Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - American Heritage Partners, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Nevada, is proud to sponsor a luncheon featuring Professor Caroline Winterer, Chair of the History Department at

Stanford University, who will speak about her book "American Enlightenments: Pursuing Happiness in the Age of Reason". In her book, Professor Winterer provides a thought-provoking account of how Americans in the 18th Century came to be "enlightened" - not as the European Enlightenment

envisioned it, but in our own American way, with a powerful emphasis on the "pursuit of happiness" - a concept literally written into our Declaration of Independence. What did that mean to Americans? Why did we fight a war against the greatest army in the world to gain it? How did our first settlers in the 17th and 18th centuries think about freedom? How is the "pursuit of happiness" relevant to today's American experience? Professor Winterer will offer her unique perspectives on these critical questions.

This event is co-sponsored by The Sons of the American Revolution, The Mayflower Society, the Jamestown Society, and the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, among others. The luncheon is being held at the Sheraton Grand Sacramento on April 22, starting at 11 am. The three-course plated lunch is priced at \$45 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit [americanheritagepartners.org](http://americanheritagepartners.org). ★

# Important, Costly Lessons for California Taxpayers from the COVID Pandemic



## Commentary by Jon Coupal

As it did with citizens throughout America, the pandemic caused massive disruption to the lives of virtually every Californian.

Tens of thousands lost their lives, many now have long-term health problems, and countless others lost their jobs or businesses. Moreover, the disastrous handling of the pandemic for school-aged children will likely leave a scar on an entire generation that may never heal.

More unique to California, however, is the extent of government waste associated with the pandemic. Outright fraud, mismanagement, opportunistic consultants, ineffective media campaigns, and simple incompetence put California way ahead of all other states in felony-level stupidity with the spending of taxpayer dollars.

Because this is a column, not a book, we can only review a few of the most egregious examples.

Of course, the big Kahuna is the jaw-dropping amount of fraud in the Employment Development Department

(EDD). Originally thought to be "only" \$11 billion in "improper" payments, we now know that the fraud exceeded \$31 billion. To put that in perspective, that is 10% of the entire budget for the state of California. More insulting is where the money went. Transnational organized criminal groups from China and Africa have made off with billions of dollars, with who knows how much of it used for child trafficking, drugs, and terrorism.

A close second, the waste and incompetence of California's public education establishment probably engendered more anger, especially among parents, than even the EDD debacle. Taxpayers were obligated to continue paying their full taxes as though our public schools were fully open with students attending in person. The public employee unions were running the show during the pandemic, and that was bad news for both taxpayers and students.

According to a report last July, California school districts had spent \$40 billion in COVID-related funds, but very little went to addressing learning loss. That may be due in part to the failure of the federal government to specify with more particularity how the money should be spent.

According to EdSource, "Most districts appear to have listed most of the money they spent in [an] all-but-the-kitchen-sink category, which could include raises and bonuses to retain staff." Finally,

there remain billions more in unspent funds at the same time public school enrollment has plummeted in the state.

Not all of the waste was the result of fraud or negligence but rather a simple miscalculation of the severity of the pandemic.

One example of COVID spending "overkill," was the conversion of Sacramento's professional basketball facility, then called Sleep Train Arena, into a COVID hospital in April 2020. According to the L.A. Times, the conversion cost millions of dollars and yet only nine patients were treated there.

Far less justifiable than an arguably good-faith response by sending a massive hospital ship to L.A. "just in case," was Gov. Gavin Newsom's decision to spend almost \$1 billion in taxpayer funds to purchase masks from a sketchy Chinese company known for building electric cars. Two years after the fact, there remain many unanswered questions.

Finally, California had a golden opportunity to use some of the billions in federal COVID relief to pay down its debt to the federal Unemployment Insurance Fund. That is precisely what virtually all other states did. But California's failure means much higher costs to the state's business community.

Taxpayers would like to hope that government agencies learned much from the pandemic. So far, there's no indication of it.

*Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.* ★



# Riley Reviews

"AIR" SCORES ON AND OFF THE COURT; NEW PEACOCK VENTURE

## A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

### "AIR" Rated R

There was a time when Adidas and Converse were all the rage for their sneakers, and Nike did not have the cachet of being cool or hip, given that athletes did not flock to the brand established by Nike founder and CEO Phil Knight.

Then along came 1984 and a rookie by the name of Michael Jordan, destined to become the greatest of all time star of the basketball court, became, albeit unknowingly, the catalyst for transforming sports marketing.

"Air," based on the players behind the scenes from Jordan's parents to the sports agent and the Nike executives, is a fable about capitalism, publicity, and marketing, with the rise of a superstar player more incidental to the overall picture.

Going into the movie theater, no surprise is in store for the outcome of determined Nike's basketball expert Sonny Vaccaro (Matt Damon) putting his career and even the fortunes of his company on the line in a bold move to sign a deal with a player who was sold on Adidas.

How do you go about creating tension, let alone any suspense, in behind-the-scenes plotting and negotiations with the ultimate result already known? Leave it to Ben Affleck's dual role as director and playing the Zen-like corporate honcho Phil Knight.

Early scenes depict Sonny as an inveterate gambler at the craps tables in Las Vegas, acting with reckless abandon in high-stakes play. Sonny takes the same rash attitude with his conviction that he can recruit an untested rookie into a lucrative deal.

Obstacles are in Sonny's path as his colleagues, Rob Strasser (Jason Bateman), the VP of Marketing, and Howard White (Chris Tucker), a former college player and NBA draft pick, are somewhat dubious of securing Jordan, even though they recognize his potential greatness.

With absolute confidence, Sonny confronts his boss with a daring call to take a huge financial risk on Jordan. Phil Knight apparently needed some reminding of the 10 principles from a wild Nike memo, most of which get flashed at one point or another during the film.

Sonny also flagrantly ignores the protocol of dealing directly with a player's agent when he jets off to North Carolina to make a direct pitch to Jordan's mother Deloris (Viola Davis).

The upshot of that breach of professional decorum is when Sonny becomes the target of a barrage of profane abuse from fast-talking agent David Falk (Chris Messina). This scene alone earns an R rating, but it is brutally and

outrageously hilarious.

Sonny is fully on his game when in a meeting with the Jordan family at the Nike offices he delivers an eloquent, if somewhat maudlin, extemporaneous pitch that seals the deal that results in a shoe designed around a single player.

Sports is mostly a backdrop for "Air" as most of the action takes place in boardrooms and meetings. It succeeds as a fascinating tale, which may "grow on you" as Phil Knight might say.

### "APPLES NEVER FALL" COMING TO PEACOCK

Australian author Liane Moriarty has already seen two of her New York Times bestseller list books, "Big Little Lies" and "Nine Perfect Strangers" turned into limited drama series on streamers HBO and Hulu, respectively.

"Big Little Lies" was snapped up by Nicole Kidman and Reese Witherspoon for the film and television rights, and they proceeded to star in a series that went on to win multiple Emmy Awards.

Nicole Kidman returned to a star-studded cast for the series adaptation of "Nine Perfect Strangers," which included Melissa McCarthy, Bobby Cannavale, and Michael Shannon.

Her latest novel "Apples Never Fall," another bestseller on the New York Times list, has been picked up by Peacock for a drama series now in the works.

Annette Bening and Sam Neill star as Joy and Stan Delaney, former tennis coaches that are still winning tournaments with an enviably contented family by all appearances.

Now that they have sold the family business, Joy and Stan have all the time in the world to relax, as their four adult children are busy living their own lives.

However, Joy Delaney has disappeared and her children are re-examining their parents' marriage and their family history with fresh eyes.

Is her disappearance related to their mysterious house guest from last year? Or were things never as rosy as they seemed in the Delaney household.

Alison Brie (AMC's "Mad Men") plays the role of Amy, the oldest Delaney child and the black sheep of the family. Still renting a room in student housing and jumping from one career path to another, Amy is a mess.

Jake Lacy (HBO's "The White Lotus") plays the role of Troy, the second-oldest offspring whose competitive edge he developed as a young tennis player is now his greatest asset as a venture capitalist.

Set against the milieu of competitive tennis, "Apples Never Fall" takes us into a family's darkest secrets and asks, "Can we ever really know the people closest to us?" With the author's track record, this adaptation could turn out to be interesting. ★

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# COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



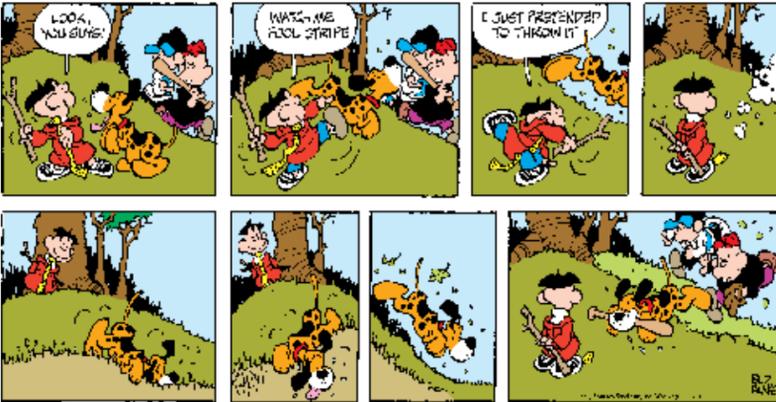
Differences: 1. Light is missing 2. Glasses are missing 3. Cap is reversed 4. Plant is missing 5. Cooler is different 6. Curt is added

Out on a Limb



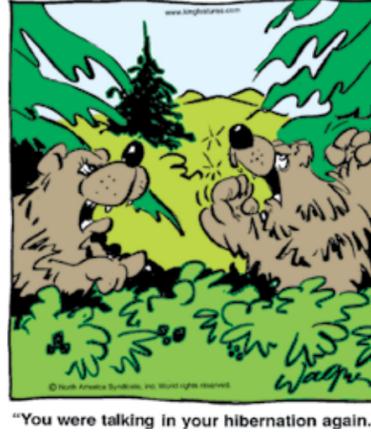
by Gary Kopervas

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN AND BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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# EDD Deemed 'Non-Responsive' by Congressional Committee

By Thomas Buckley, CaliforniaGlobe.com

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A person in a coma is considered to be non-responsive.

Ironically, also considered to be non-responsive is California's Employment Development Department (EDD) when it comes to answering Congressional questions.

The House Committee on Oversight and Accountability – which is looking into various aspects of the pandemic response, including its financial impacts – has deemed the EDD's answer to a January information request as not nearly good enough.

"The EDD has not provided documents requested by Chairman (Kentucky Republican James) Comer," said a committee spokeswoman. "We intend to have additional follow up on the document request."

When asked by the Globe for a comment, the EDD provided a copy of a letter it sent to Comer's committee in late January and did not address the current issue of their failure to provide the requested documentation.

Non-responsive, indeed.

The committee is attempting to get to the bottom of the massive fraud perpetrated against the EDD during the pandemic. The current estimate is that the EDD lost about \$40 billion to illegitimate claimants, including prisoners (and not just from California prisons,) garden variety local scammers, and international fraud rings, all of whom simply walked right in to the department's completely unprotected system.

While the EDD has claimed it did the best it could, it should be noted that the EDD – even though it could have purchased basic fraud protection software that would even work with its antiquated IT systems for about \$5 million- had no way to prove if an applicant was who they said they were until the end of 2020, months after the pandemic began.



California has 12% of the nation's workforce, but had more than 20% of the country's unemployment benefit fraud. MPG file photo

The EDD also had no system to check to see if people in prison, people from out-of-state, and people from overseas – all ineligible for benefits – were getting benefits in the form of a chipless debit card pre-loaded with up to about \$15,000 – each.

The EDD did not even cross-reference addresses to notice and potentially flag as fraudulent when a single home received dozens, if not hundreds, of cards (they used to have one but stopped paying for it when a federal grant ran out a few years ago.)

Particularly telling is that California has about 12% of the nation's workforce, it saw more than 20% of the unemployment benefit fraud in the country, meaning that word spread very quickly in the fraud world that the state was an especially easy mark.

In January, the committee requested the following:

1. All processes and procedures related to the disbursement of

unemployment insurance benefits during the pandemic, including policies and procedures intended to ensure payments are made to the proper individual, and to ensure that the individual is a qualified recipient of unemployment insurance;

2. All documents and communications between employees of the California EDD and employees of the U.S. Department of Labor regarding the state's UI benefit program;

3. All documents and communications related to efforts to prevent payment of fraudulent UI claims;

4. All documents and communications related to efforts to recoup UI claims paid improperly;

5. All documents and communications related to identifying the total number of improperly paid UI benefits and documents sufficient to show whether those funds remain in the United States or were transferred to entities

outside the United States.

The committee spokeswoman would not specify exactly how the EDD was "non-responsive" – for example, was the information missing or unrelated or gibberish – but stressed the agency remains very prominently on Congress' radar.

In the January letter to the committee – the one that was re-provided to the Globe – department chief Nancy Farias blamed the Trump administration for the massive fraud, stating, in part, "... we object to the Chair's mischaracterization of California's response to the UI fraud attacks and the Chair's failure to acknowledge the inadequate response by the Trump Administration, which left neglected state UI systems fighting domestic and international criminal enterprises effectively on their own."

In other words, the feds didn't hold their hand tight enough.

Either way, this claim flies

in the face of a California State Auditor's report that states flatly that the feds "warned the state at least three times in the early months of the pandemic to beef up its fraud protections."

The date for the next response deadline is not yet clear nor is exactly when Farias and other EDD employees will have to testify in front of Congress.

As of midnight Wednesday, the EDD – which, again, suffered a very preventable loss of \$40 billion – still owed the federal government a principal amount of \$18,735,210,647.41 in addition to interest of \$142,361,804.80.

Finally, the state has increased unemployment insurance taxes on California businesses to make up the shortfall and it is not clear if anyone at the EDD has been fired for the failure; in fact, the person in charge at the time, Julie Su, could become, the next Secretary of Labor in the Biden administration. ★

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