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# Dixon **Independent Voice**

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## Dixon Centenarian Celebrates



Celebrating her 100th birthday is Dixonite Mary Weyand surrounded by her niece Paty Lopez, nephew Mike Perez and granddaughter Lindsay Porten.

**Story and photo  
by Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Mary Weyand has lived by simple rules that have brought her through 100 years of a fulfilling life.

“Be good to everybody you find,” she said. “Be sure to be truthful. Don’t give anybody a bum steer.” She also prefers ice cream over alcohol.

Weyand was sitting with a gold-lettered birthday sash and seemed to wonder why there were so many folks there to visit her in her Dixon home. Family members, including

nephew Mike Perez and niece Paty Lopez, planned the celebration and there was a lot of reminiscing and chatting about the earlier years with her only daughter who has passed and her life with her late husband, Ernie Weyand.

“The couple got married on July 4, 1981, and the joke was that they lost their independence,” said Mary’s granddaughter Lindsay Porten.

“Up until I was 8 years old, we lived a couple of blocks away from where she worked so she would come over and have lunch with us,” said Porten, who now lives in Sacramento. “She worked constantly

and loved her job.” For 52 years, Mary worked at Basic Vegetable Products in Vacaville. She proudly tells of having the key to the front gate of the plant.

“I did it all,” recalled Mary about the only job she ever had. But she was a lively woman when not working and was always going to military galas or parties with her Sorority sisters.

“She has always enjoyed entertaining in her home,” said Porten. “She would do the extra things to make people feel special.” She reported her grandmother also loved to travel and took her several times to Hawaii. When Mary married  
*Continued on page 10*

## Failed Silicon Valley Bank, the Newsoms, and Connected Friends

**By Katy Grimes,  
CaliforniaGlobe.com**

The Silicon Valley Bank failure and shut-down is because of “idiot bank management under an incompetent board,” according to Shark Tank star Kevin O’Leary.

“O’Leary joined Fox News hosts Bill Hemmer and Dana Perino on Tuesday to discuss the Silicon Valley Bank failure and the announcement that deposits would be protected,” Mediaite reported. “President Joe Biden announced this week that people’s ‘deposits are safe.’”

“O’Leary blasted the plan, arguing it will simply provide a safety net for mismanagement. The *Shark Tank* star argued Silicon Valley Bank collapsed because of ‘idiot management,’ as opposed to a regulatory issue. ‘Idiot’ managers, he said, are now free to behave more irresponsibly.”

It appears there are plenty of idiots and incompetents involved in the bank, focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion loan and investment goals, rather than responsible financial outcomes.

But the bailout/cover up may be more of the story in the long run – as in *Why did Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury in the the Biden administration state last Friday that there would be no bailouts*, and by Sunday, the President effectively said there would in fact be a bailout and depositors would be made whole.

What changed in 48 hours?

For one thing, pure panic in the Silicon Valley Democrat donor base. And as likely is pure panic from California’s governor and the “First Partner.”

As the Globe reported Sunday:

“California Governor Gavin Newsom issued a statement Saturday morning in response to the appointment of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) as receiver of Silicon Valley Bank:

“Over the last 48 hours, I have been in touch with the highest levels of leadership at the White House and Treasury. Everyone is working with FDIC to stabilize the situation as quickly as possible, to protect jobs, people’s livelihoods, and the entire innovation ecosystem that has served as a tent pole for our economy.”

The Intercept just reported Tuesday Gov. Gavin Newsom failed to mention that President  
*Continued on page 2*

## It’s Good to be Queen

**By Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Out of seven beautiful girls vying for the 2023 Almond Queen, a dimpled-cheek brown haired beauty Rubi Luna Avina from Madison was crowned by the three judges, one of them, Dixon’s own Toni Echarte, who wore the crown herself in 1968 as Antoinette Rubio Perez. This year was the first time she had been asked to judge.

“A lot of things have changed,” Echarte said. “When I was running, there were four of us and the prerequisite was you had to be a Homecoming Queen so the girls were selected by the student body based on friendships,” she explained. “In those days it was all about good character, having a good heart, being a hard worker, the GPA was high, but the student body based it on their relationships. It was important because those were the people who were around every day.” She was from Guinda,



Toni Echarte, long-time Dixonite, looking over an album of her reign as Almond Queen which she was honored to judge at this year’s pageant, 55 years later. Photo by Ramona Todd

a small community near Esparto and competed against three others.

Echarte was born in Spain and came to California as a toddler with

her parents, who helped work at a Dixon dairy with  
*Continued on page 3*





# This and That

By Debra Dingman

This is a catchup column where there are a bunch of small topics I want to deal with.

For example, the North Bay Urgent care Center located in the Safeway Shopping Plaza is mostly finished – you can tell by just looking – but now the process begins to find its staff – particularly a physician. That process could take as little as a few months but could also take several months so I’m just letting those who were wondering know, the process is underway and hopefully by the end of this year, it will be open.

\*\*\*Speaking of underway, you might have noticed contractors back at the Murillos Mexican Restaurant site but I have been unsuccessful at tracking Frances Murillo down. I did learn that she purchased the property next to Busy Bee Yoga Studio that used to be Taqueria Adelina but that also has not been touched for a year. Hopefully soon, someone will return my call, or I’ll catch someone over there and we’ll know what the future might hold for that place.

\*\*\*I’ve never seen so many Dixon deaths in a close amount of time as I have in the past couple months. It is alarming to me but then again, I’ve never been this old before. Sadly, though, the deaths have not been just older people. We’ve lost several that were in their 50s.

North Bay Health is offering a free grief support session online for Solano County residents beginning March 28. It is a 10-session ZOOM commitment and I plan on attending. I thought I was dealing with the grief of my brother dying, an Aunt committing suicide, and a couple good Dixon friends fatal heart

attacks but a couple times I have felt pushed over the edge. I will join others in focus on healing and learning more about grief. Sessions start at 6 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday nights and they are facilitated by a therapist.

If you are interested or want more information, call Brenda Boyd at (707) 646-4517.

There is also a ‘GriefShare’ program offered at New Hope Church in Vacaville, 4910 Allison Parkway. For more information, go to www.GriefShare.org. It is a support group and is facilitated by Diane Geisler.

\*\*\*District 3 Council Rep Kevin Johnson responded to my column last week about the City Attorney’s \$700,000 budget. This is what he wrote: Fees are made up of basically three categories: 1) Required City business; 2) Defending the City when Council directs Legal; and 3) Development/Developer business that while yes, these are Legal Fees, they pass through expenses reimbursed by Developers.” He said that item 1 is about \$250 to \$400 thousand per year based on activities and labor negotiations.

For item 2, he said that “elected officials would not approve Legal Expenses unless they collectively believed that the expense was necessary to protect the City/Public’s interests.”

Lastly, item 3 “is related to Development activity and is 100% no cost to our public funds. Do not think for a moment that your Council is not sensitive and aware of overall legal costs.”

I appreciated his response and hope readers will attend meetings to gather their own opinion of how the City Attorney conducts business. ★

## Dixon May Fair Garners Industry Awards

KE Spencer Event Marketing  
Special News Release

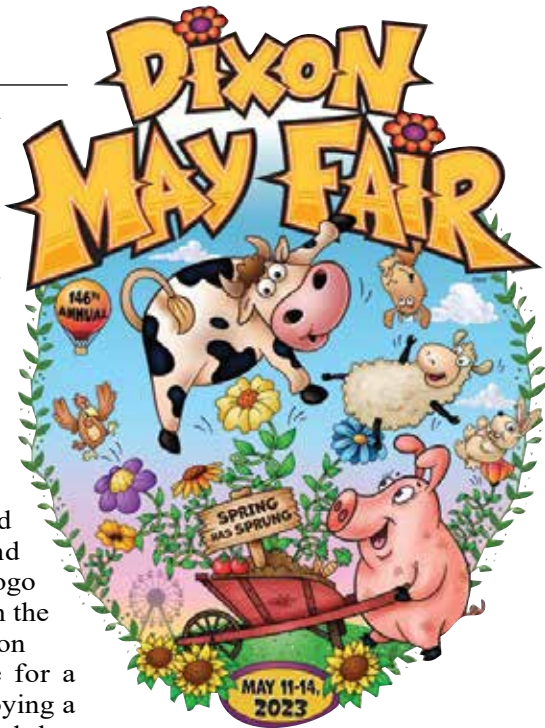
DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon May Fair was recently awarded several honors in the Western Fair Association’s annual industry Achievement Awards program. WFA represents Fairs and associated industry providers from the Western United States and Canada. The Fair competed with other medium-sized Fairs with attendance of 50-150,000.

Dixon May Fair received the First Place award for their pocket schedule brochure designed by Suzanne Wright and Second Place for their annual fair time logo designed by artist Steve Dana. In the Give It Your Best Shot competition the Fair received a First Place for a photo of young Ethan Cook enjoying a fresh soft pretzel and for a skyward shot of a carnival ride. Second Place awards were for Exhibits, Competitive or Education, Entertainment and Grounds acts, and People at the Fair. The photos were taken by marketing director Karen Spencer.

The goal of the Achievement Awards Program is to recognize excellence and share successful ideas and programs amongst members. Achievement Award winners serve as inspiration to the industry, demonstrating innovation worthy of replication. More than 50 Fairs participated in the program.

The 2023 Dixon May Fair will be held May 11-14. The theme for 2023 is Spring Has Sprung! as they celebrate their 146th Fair and the importance agriculture to our community. ★

Right: Dixon May Fair attendee Ethan Cook enjoys a pretzel at last year’s grand event. Photo courtesy of KE Spencer Event Marketing



## Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

### Incoming Kindergarteners

Come meet the Gretchen Higgins Elementary School Principal and teachers on Monday, April 17, from 6 to 7 p.m. and learn more about the TWBI Program. That stands for Two-Way Bilingual Immersion Program, a formal program for early elementary students where Spanish students learn English and English-speakers learn Spanish. It is an innovative, new program that was started last year in the Dixon Unified School District. You can also tour the school and visit the kindergarten classrooms at 1525 Pembroke Way. Call (707) 693-6380 for more information.

### Home & Garden

This weekend is the Solano County Home and Garden Show at the Dixon May Fairgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, March 25 and 26. (There was a \$3 off coupon in last week’s Dixon Independent Voice edition.)

### Bunny Breakfast

The Kiwanis Club of Dixon and the Dixon Moose Lodge invite families to hop on over for their annual breakfast with the Bunny on Saturday, April 9, from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Moose Lodge, 180 West B St. Tickets are \$6 for six-years-old and older or \$10 for all you can eat of pancakes, sausage links, and a beverage of choice. There will be a free gift for the first 300 children, they reported. You can pay cash at the door or use their QR code.

### Senior Fun

Line dancing on Tuesdays and Thursdays is a fun way to get in your steps and exercise. For those seniors wishing a more gentle exercise, there is also Chair Yoga. The Dixon/Senior Multi-Use Center is located at



Brandi Proffitt was selected by her Dixon Chamber of Commerce Ambassador peers for the honor of Ambassador of the Year. She is the educational coordinator for Dixon Wellness since 2020 and has volunteered with the Chamber at every mixer, parade, at awards and Halloween events. She also guides new ambassadors when they are new to the program. Photo by Debra Dingman

201 South 5th St. Phone is (707) 678-7022 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Mark your calendar for the 21st Senior Resource Fair, Saturday April 29, 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

### Parade Entries

The 146th Annual Dixon May Fair Parade is an important part of Dixon’s history and cultural heritage. It is the oldest state affiliated parade in California and is one of the most colorful of its kind. With everything from school bands, to floats, to horse mounted units, to classic cars, the Parade symbolizes all that is great about our community.

Parade Packets and Applications are now available at www.dixonchamber.org or send an email to info@dixonchamber.org or call 707-678-2650. For those interested in being Banner Carriers or EP Patrollers, please send an email or call.

### Lifeguard Course

The City of Dixon is holding a Lifeguard Certification Course beginning in March with session 2 during spring break and session 3 in April. The cost is \$230 and there are

scholarships available for those who qualify. Times are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and you have to be at least 15 years old. Upon successful completion of course requirements, participants will receive a 2-year certification in Lifeguarding, CPR, AED and Title 22 First Aid. For more information call (707) 678-7000, ext. 5422 or email kschnitter@cityof-dixon.us.

### Easter Crafts

Come meet the Easter Bunny and enjoy crafts, music and more at The Creative Space, 160 West A St. on Saturday, April 8, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Busy Bee Yoga

Katrina Marsh 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 busy-beeyoga.com or call or text (707) 295-1855. ★

## Failed Silicon Valley Bank, the Newsoms, and Connected Friends

Continued from page 1

Biden’s announcement also protected his own businesses in Silicon Valley Bank.”CADE, Odette, and PlumpJack, three wineries owned by Newsom, are listed as clients of SVB on the bank’s website. Newsom also maintained personal accounts at SVB for years, according to a longtime former employee of Newsom’s who handled his finances, and who requested anonymity to avoid professional reprisal.”

Newsom also neglected to say that he and the First Partner have even deeper ties with Silicon Valley Bank – Silicon Valley

Bank President of Capital John China gave \$100,000 “Behested” gift to the Newsom’s nonprofit, California Partners Project, Open the Books discovered, the Globe reported.

Notably, a 2019 IRS Form 990 for Newsom’s California Partner Project reports only \$50k in total gross receipts. This seems inaccurate given the new information of Newsom’s behested payments. The Globe did not find any record of 2020-2021 IRS Form 990 filings on the IRS website, but did find IRS Form 990 filings with the California Office of the Attorney General Charities registry. ★

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# It's Good to be Queen



Toni being crowned as Almond Festival Queen in 1968. Image courtesy of Toni Echarte

Continued from page 1

her uncle. Local Dixonite Liz Robben is her cousin and it was their connected dads who later bought the dairy together.

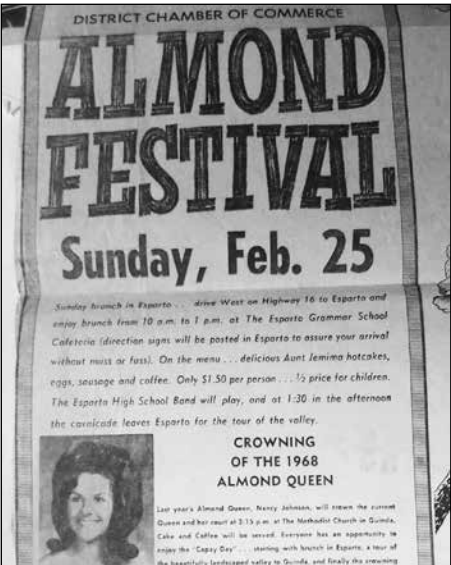
Echarte is a familiar face to many around town after residing here 52 years and working in the Dixon Unified School District for 44 of those. She's raised two sons and a daughter and is now a paraprofessional and a bilingual assistant in the Special Ed Department, working at John Knight Middle School.

Getting asked to judge the Almond Queen Pageant Contest is another life's highlight and brought her "back home" where she grew up with five siblings and many memories. She gets to share those stories with her grandchildren now.

"I really didn't think I was being chosen because we had really humble beginnings like milking cows, laying pipes...Any vacation time we had, the kids worked and I was the person up at one in the morning." She explained, "But being chosen Queen, even up to this day, impacts me with having self-worth. I've always had a relationship with God, and I've always felt blessed and highly favored but that was a reminder." Echarte showed pictures and newspaper clippings along with the pink sash with '1968' written on it with silver glitter. She still has her crown.

The event is a popular annual event put on by the Esparto Chamber of commerce. The seven contestants vying were from the Capay Valley and there were two other judges.

"Rubi stood out like a shining star. The three judges – hands down – all chose the same one," Echarte said. "She was poised, and her presentation was flawless. The questions were answered calmly, cool, and collected even under that kind of pressure.



A newspaper clipping of 1968 Almond Queen Pageant winner Antoniette (Rubio-Perez) Echarte. Image courtesy of Toni Echarte

And her beauty – not that the other ones weren't beautiful – but she stood out. We also based on her personality and her involvement in the community."

"It was great doing it again. I felt so good about it," she said, but it wasn't without a huge effort. At 10 p.m. the night before the event, she sprained her ankle.

"I thought to myself, somehow, some way, I'm getting through this and do what I said I was going to do," she said. She showed up at Guinda Grange Hall facing 25 stairs.

"It was packed, and I showed up in crutches. A soccer coach carried me up the stairs. My escort was Bryan Kelly of John Knight Middle School and is such a humble young man. He got my dinner for me and was right there and was an impeccable escort," she said while flashing that happy smile that got her crowned. ★

# Whiskey Barrel Wins Local Appeal

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - After a year and a half of ABC as well as City approvals, appeals on both sides, and now changes in the Alcoholic Beverage Control's original findings about downtown Dixon having "overconcentration" with liquor licenses, Tiffany & Edward Renger have won another round for their plans to bring an upscale whiskey bar to downtown.

Due to a revised determination by the California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) that a Public Convenience or Necessity (PCN) determination was required, their Whiskey Bar project was on the agenda for the Dixon City Planning Commission last week.

In March of 2022, the Planning Commission voted 6-1 to approve a use permit for Whiskey Barrel to go into the former Bank of America building that had been sitting empty for five years. But an appeal was filed by Ginger Emerson, a senior downtown resident who has also fought other projects in the downtown

area. In April of 2022, Emerson, along with Deborah Allen and the pastors of Calvary Church were heard but the City Council voted unanimously to deny their appeal and move the project forward.

Emerson and Greg and Donna Brock were among the speakers at the meeting.

"We continue down a very arduous road trying to mitigate protests from a very small few in this community," said Fabiani-Renger. "We will do our part to continue down that road in pursuit of the success of the development of this project and for the benefit of the downtown community. We ask for the approval of the extension and the PCN tonight to allow us to continue to do that. If you don't, I believe that you set precedence to allow very select few interested parties in dictating how we continue as a community to further develop our downtown."

Fabiani-Renger expects Emerson to appeal again. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on April 11, at 7 p.m. in Dixon's City Council Chamber. ★

# Chaplain Chosen Veteran of the Year



Roger Schaller was awarded Veteran of the Year at the recent Celebrate Dixon event. He is pictured with his wife, Lynne. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Faithfully, Roger Schaller, the Veteran of the Year, sets up his music and plays guitar at almost every veteran dinner on Friday nights. He also performs at his church, for other veteran events, and at local charities like Grillin' & Chillin,' and the Scottish Game. He has gifted Dixon with his talent over the past many years and has used his musical prose since he was drafted in 1969 for the Vietnam War when he was just 18.

He had several assignments in the military beginning at Ft. Dixon in New Jersey. In 1970, he went to Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Eustis, Virginia and was

an Honor Graduate at Cobra Crew Chief School and was later stationed at Camp Stanton in Korea with Company B in the 2nd Aviation Battalion.

He was assigned to two new Bell 206 helicopters and "flew observer every chance I could," he said. He earned the IMJIM Scout Award and in 1971 was transferred to Delta Troop, 4/7 Air Crew. He and his wife, Lynne, moved to Dixon in 1990 and he has been a member of the American Legion Post 208 for more than 20 years as an officer and also as Chaplain. Lynne is in the Women's Auxiliary.

He also served as a Little League Coach and Manager for several years while his two sons, Eric and Patrick, were young. ★

# Native Daughters Support Museum



Rena Wood of the Native Daughters of the Golden West hands over a giant check for \$1,000 to Dixon Historical Society President Kim Schroeder-Evans. Standing behind are (L-R) Bill Schroeder, Diane Schroeder, Maria Lopez, Lori McGrath (NDGW,) Wendy Reidel, and Julie Mustard (NDGW.) Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Historical Society Board got a special surprise from the Native Daughters of the Golden West when they received a \$1,000 donation from the organization.

"We raise money so we can give it out," said Dixonite and NDGW member Rena Wood. The group supports children's hospitals, scholarships, California mission restorations, California lighthouse preservations, Americanism and civic participation as well as environmental issues and welfare through its Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Wood has been a member for nine years after transferring from a Sacramento group and knew the Dixon Historical Society could use funds to further California

history, especially with students that learn from school field trips there.

"We are so grateful and appreciative of their generosity and support," said DHS President Kim Schroeder-Evans.

The requirements are that you have to be born in California with some military exceptions and this group normally meets in Woodland. For more information on the NDGW, see their website at www.NDGW.org or call (415) 563-9091.

The Dixon History Museum is located at 125 West A St. in downtown Dixon. Phone is (707) 693-3044. They are open on Fridays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on 4th Thursday evenings and 4th Sunday afternoons but special openings can be arranged. The museum needs docents and volunteers are appreciated. ★

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# A Message from DUSD Superintendent’s Office



Superintendent Brian Dolan

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Today, we want to address what to do if you have a student who has poor attendance.

There is not any surefire way to improve a student’s attendance, as the reasons for not attending regularly can vary so much between them. There are several steps that families can take that are generally helpful, and can act as starting points, at a minimum.

Be sure to talk with the teacher and school. Attendance virtually never improves if the family and school are not collaborating with each other;

Consider and address any health issues that the student may have. Mental health and social-emotional wellness are areas where students are struggling more today than ever, as we have highlighted in prior updates. While the District does not have the ability to address physical

health issues, we do have supports in place for mental health. Talk to school staff about how to access these supports if needed;

Prioritize attendance as a family. In the post-Covid period, we have observed relaxed attitudes among some families about the importance of being in school every day. The daily expectation in every household should be that kids are going to school unless ill or a serious family matter is occurring;

Recognize improvement in attendance and maintaining good attendance. Students deserve positive feedback when they show improvement in any area of their school responsibilities, and certainly should be recognized when already meeting expectations.

**Brief News Items**

The Fentanyl Information Night/Forum previously mentioned here has been scheduled for April 11th at 6:00 P.M. The location is the Performing Arts Center at Dixon High. We will have medical and law enforcement partners with us to provide a community update on this dangerous drug and issues related to its use;

Maine Prairie High School will be holding its Open House on Wednesday,

March 22nd at 6:00 in the evening. This event will also serve as a celebration of the school’s move into the former C.A. Jacobs campus on North Lincoln Street. All members of the community are invited to join in this event;

We are often asked for resources on Social Media Education for families as our youth has far more access at their fingertips. We have found that Common Sense Media, a non-profit out of San Francisco, provides helpful information for parents and guardians related to media (movies, apps, games, tv shows, books, etc). It’s a great resource to use for assistance with talking points and can assist you with setting rules for your student! Here is the link to their website: <https://www.common sense media.org/>

TK-Kindergarten Enrollment remains open. Each school site has the necessary forms and helpful information. The eligibility window for students to enroll in Transitional Kindergarten now runs until April 2nd. This opens TK up to younger students than have been eligible in the past. School sites have more information to assist you in the enrollment process. ★

# \$476,725 Available in Clean Air Fund Grants

## Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District News Release

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** - The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District has opened the application period for the 2023 Clean Air Funds program. This annual grant program has \$476,725 available in funding for local projects that will reduce emissions from mobile sources of air pollution within the district. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis by the District’s Board of Directors.

The deadline to apply is April 21, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. Applications are available at <https://www.ysaqmd.org/Apply2023CAF>.

District staff will be hosting a virtual workshop on March 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the program, application process, and answer questions. If you would like to participate, please register at <https://www.ysaqmd.org/2023CAFWorkshop>.

The Clean Air Funds program seeks to encourage private businesses, non-profit organizations, and public agencies to pursue cost-effective, impactful projects designed to reduce pollution emissions from mobile sources within the district through grant funding. There are four qualifying project categories: Clean Vehicle Technology, Alternative Transportation, Transit Services, and Public Education. Previous projects include pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, EV charging installation, clean vehicle fleet purchases, and alternative transportation public outreach programs for District residents, students, and commuters.

For more information about the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, including signing up for air quality alerts and the quarterly newsletter, visit: [www.ysaqmd.org](http://www.ysaqmd.org). Connect with the District on Facebook and Twitter @YoloSolanoAir and on Nextdoor. ★

# Thompson, Hern, Shaheen, Capito Reintroduce Prescription Digital Therapeutics Act

## From the Office of Congressman Mike Thompson

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)** - On March 8, 2023, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04), Rep. Kevin Hern (OK-01), Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) reintroduced bipartisan, bicameral legislation to increase access to Prescription Digital Therapeutics (PDTs).

The Access to Prescription Digital Therapeutics Act of 2023 would expand Medicare coverage to include PDTs, which are software-based disease treatments designed to directly treat disease. PDTs are designed and tested much like traditional prescription drugs but rather than swallowing a pill or taking an injection, patients receive cognitive therapy through software. The treatments are tested for safety and efficacy in randomized clinical trials, evaluated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and prescribed by health care providers.

“Prescription digital therapeutics, software-based health care treatments, present significant benefits to patients and provide a new tool to help improve peoples’ lives,” said Thompson. “PDTs have been shown to benefit those with mental health issues like depression and substance abuse, providing an alternative to traditional medicine. I am proud to introduce this bipartisan bill alongside Senators Shaheen and Capito and Congressman Hern to ensure that seniors on Medicare have access to these innovative treatments.”

“Technology has tremendously improved our lives in so many ways, it’s time we apply that to our medical care. Prescription digital therapeutics will provide important benefits to patients, such as mental health resources for veterans, while unlocking untold potential in new technologies. I’m proud to introduce this legislation in the House to ensure Americans have access to cutting-edge

care,” said Hern.

“Prescription Digital Therapeutics are tested and regulated like traditional prescription medication, so it’s commonsense that we remove barriers to care for those who respond positively to this kind of treatment,” said Shaheen. “Prescription digital therapeutics can help treat a range of diseases, including substance use disorders and mental health challenges, but many who need this treatment currently lack access. Our bipartisan, bicameral bill would remedy that issue by bringing this innovative care in line with traditional treatment, so Medicare patients have control over their access to the therapies that work best for them.”

“The Access to Prescription Digital Therapeutics Act would allow more patients living with a broad variety of diseases and conditions, from Substance and Opioid Use Disorders and mental and behavioral health issues to diabetes and Parkinson’s disease, to more efficiently access the care and support they need and deserve,” Capito said. “Prescription Digital Therapeutics are an excellent example of how innovative technology can address some of the health challenges providers and patients continue to face. I’m proud to join my colleagues and reintroduce this important legislation.”

“Healthcare access is one of the hardest pain points to overcome, but innovation cannot be stifled simply because of how complex our healthcare system is to navigate. Patients covered by Medicare and Medicaid deserve equitable access to DTx therapies,” shares Andy Molnar, Digital Therapeutics Alliance Chief Executive Officer. “Additionally, commercial insurers look to federal leadership for coding and reimbursement, so it is of utmost importance that our government leadership does everything possible to pass the Access to Prescription Digital Therapeutics Act this year.” ★

# How Does Wildfire Smoke Impact Pregnancy and Children?

## UC Davis Health Press Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - How does exposure to wildfire smoke affect pregnant people and their developing babies? UC Davis Health researchers hope to answer that question, thanks to a new two-year, \$1.35 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The study is led by molecular epidemiologist Rebecca J. Schmidt, an associate professor in Public Health Sciences, and Miriam Nuño, a professor in the Division of Biostatistics.

The researchers are gathering birth and health records as well as data about wildfire smoke exposure in California. They’ll look for links between pollution from wildfire smoke and low birth weight, developmental delays, and autism.

The team is also partnering with regional organizations to educate underserved communities about the impact of smoke and provide strategies to reduce exposure.

“This is a California study, but the whole country is being exposed to wildfire smoke,” explained Schmidt, who is also a faculty member at the UC Davis MIND Institute, the Perinatal Origins of Disparities (POD) Center, and the Environmental Health Sciences Center. “It’s important to find out what the real concerns during pregnancy may be, including perhaps at what times during pregnancy we need to have moms be the most careful about their exposure.”

Schmidt has a history of studying the impacts of wildfire smoke on pregnancy and children. Her previous research involved collecting hair, blood and other samples from pregnant people and newborns. Her findings from that study will complement this new work.

Collecting data on smoke exposure, births, and health

Wildfire seasons are becoming longer and more severe. It is estimated that wildfire smoke is linked to 339,000 premature deaths each year worldwide.

In California, where massive wildfires such as the Camp, Caldor and Dixie fires have affected both urban and rural areas, hundreds of thousands of pregnant people have been exposed to wildfire smoke.

“Studies have shown associations between wildfire smoke and lower birth weight or preterm birth, which are linked to later health outcomes,” Schmidt said.

The study has four areas of focus:

Find out which areas of California were exposed to the most wildfire air pollution; Study wildfire smoke exposures before pregnancy and during each trimester of pregnancy; Researchers will look at these in relation to birth weight and gestational age as well as factors like neighborhood and local environment; Explore associations between wildfire smoke exposure and autism and developmental delays; Work with community

partners to share research results and tools to help reduce smoke exposure in vulnerable populations.

“Our first step is to see who has the greatest exposures to these repeated wildfire events,” Schmidt explained. “Then we’ll look at how that varies by factors such as race, ethnicity, rural versus urban location, poverty level and exposure to other pollutants.”

The study will include all people born in California between Jan. 1, 2000, and Dec. 31, 2021, roughly 11 million births. However, when looking at autism and developmental delays, researchers will only include people over 3 years of age by the end of 2021. Autism diagnosis is typically more reliable after this age.

Researchers will use state birth records, historical air monitor readings and health records from the California Department of Developmental Services.

Empowering vulnerable populations

The study aims to identify vulnerable populations where people are exposed not only to wildfire smoke but also to other pollution and pesticides and have less access to health care.

“Even though we are all exposed to wildfire smoke, we all have different risks,” explained Nuño. “If you have can work from home versus having an outdoor job, this is where these differences really manifest.”

The researchers are partnering with the March of Dimes, Empower Yolo and the Knights Landing One Health Center, which provides health care in the rural Central Valley community.

Together, they’ll deliver their findings and strategies for reducing exposure to wildfire smoke to underserved communities. This will include providing the materials and training to help people make Corsi-Rosenthal Air Boxes. This is a low-cost filtration system that’s been shown to be effective at removing particulates from indoor air. Creator Richard L. Corsi, dean of the UC Davis College of Engineering, is a partner on the project.

“This project will advance solutions to challenges lying at the intersection of climate change and environmental justice, both here in California and in communities around the country,” said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Martha Guzman. “Advancing scientific research that helps protect public health and the environment is central to EPA’s mission and this project will have lasting results for years to come.”

Environmental justice is a major focus, notes Nuño, who is also the interim director of the Center for Healthcare Policy and Research.

“Pregnant women are stressed about the impact of wildfires, especially those who are more vulnerable. Justice calls for empowering these women with this information,” she said. ★

# Sen. Dodd Introduces Annuity and Life Insurance Consumer Protection Bill

## From the Office of Senator Bill Dodd

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, announced legislation in partnership with California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara that would add consumer protections for people investing in annuities and life insurance policies, including many vulnerable seniors, to ensure they are not misled or steered into inappropriate products by unscrupulous insurance agents.

“Annuities and life insurance can be important investment tools but too often, there is incentive for abuse or exploitation,” Sen. Dodd said. “That’s why I’m glad to partner with Commissioner Ricardo Lara on my latest consumer protection bill, which requires insurance agents to put the best interests of their clients first, ahead of any sales incentives they might make. If they know an annuity or life insurance policy is a bad fit, they will not be able to sell it. My bill is about doing what’s right for people who can least afford to be ripped off.”

Senate Bill 263 is the latest consumer protection proposal from Sen. Dodd. Earlier this year, he introduced SB 278, which would hold financial institutions accountable for defrauding seniors. Also, this year, he introduced SB 478, which

would outlaw hidden fees in an array of transactions, including banking.

In his continuing effort to protect our state’s most vulnerable, Sen. Dodd introduced SB 263, which would require insurance producers and insurance companies to strengthen suitability standards for the sale of annuities and life insurance policies. The bill would ensure California meets federal and national model standards, while providing additional consumer protections. The goal is to prevent the sale of these financial products to people who do not understand them or would not benefit from them.

SB 263 is eligible to be heard in committee for its first vote later this month. The bill is sponsored by Insurance Commissioner Lara and supported by consumer advocates.

“Consumers’ best interests must always come ahead of insurance company sales,” said Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara, who is sponsoring SB 263. “SB 263 will protect consumers, especially vulnerable populations like our seniors, by requiring all sales of annuities and life insurance policies be based first and foremost on the facts of their individual insurance needs, financial situation, and goals. I commend Sen. Dodd for authoring this common-sense consumer protection bill.” ★





# Riley Reviews

TCM CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL  
CELEBRATES CENTURY OF WARNER BROS

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

## TCM CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL PREVIEW

The TCM Classic Film Festival will be even better this year than last, as it finally returns to a pre-pandemic experience with no longer having last year’s requirement that attendees must wear irritating masks during the screenings.

Expressing a sense of optimism, the festival theme is “You Ain’t Seen Nothing Yet” and the fun begins on April 13th for a four-day indulgence that celebrates film legacies of the stories told and retold over generations.

Though rapidly dwindling, time remains to make plans for a trip to Los Angeles to hang out at the famous Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, the central gathering point for the TCM Classic Film Festival.

The ability to purchase one of the four levels of festival passes may become very limited nearer to the start of the event, and one contemplating a trip would be well-advised to make haste and carefully consider what each type of pass offers.

Anticipation of good times launches on Thursday the 13th and concludes on Sunday, April 16th, and in-between there will be more great movies, appearances by legendary stars and filmmakers, presentations and panel discussions, and special events than one could possibly take in.

Kick-off to the 14th annual TCM Classic Film Festival will be a red carpet opening night screening of the classic Western “Rio Bravo” starring John Wayne as a sheriff fending off a gang of armed attackers intent on breaking out a prisoner.

Wayne’s sheriff has a group of unlikely allies in Dean Martin and Ricky Nelson helping to defend the jail, along with help from Angie Dickinson, who by the way will be in attendance to have a conversation with TCM host Ben Mankiewicz about this 1959 film.

Richly filmed in Technicolor, “Rio Bravo” will look better than ever in a world premiere 4k restoration. In 2014, this film was deemed “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant” by the Library of Congress and selected for preservation in the National Film Registry.

A bonus to opening night is that the screening takes place in the crown jewel of theatres built by showman Sid Grauman, the world-famous Chinese Theatre that continues after nearly a century to be a coveted venue for Hollywood premieres.

No trip to Hollywood would be complete without taking in the sidewalk of the Chinese Theatre’s forecourt and the famous footprints, handprints and signatures that dot the cement with a veritable catalog of movie history.

TCM has a fondness for commemorating anniversaries and the spotlight

this year is on the 100th anniversary of Warner Bros., which explains the screening of “Casablanca,” one of the most beloved films of all time.

The Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman romantic World War II drama is one of the high points of the Hollywood studio system. What’s not to love about these two stars and a cast of European emigrants populating a restless Moroccan café, with refugees desperate to escape the war?

A festival may not be whole without an Alfred Hitchcock film. Personal favorites include “Rear Window,” “North by Northwest,” “Vertigo,” “To Catch a Thief,” and “Psycho.” And yet, there are so many more to add to this list.

The small-town psychological thriller “Shadow of a Doubt” is one of Hitchcock’s personal favorites, and it is being screened for its 80th anniversary in a new 4k restoration.

Better-known now as a popular film director, Ron Howard was once a child actor, probably most recognizable as Opie on “The Andy Griffith Show.” As a young actor, Howard was a lead in the coming-of-age film “American Graffiti,” which is being screened in its 50th anniversary.

Richard Dreyfuss and Howard are part of a group of teenagers spending the last night of the summer of 1962 in their small California town. Writer-director George Lucas followed his cast from the diner to the sock hop, cruising in vintage hot rods to a soundtrack of rock ‘n roll hits.

Each year the Festival pays tribute to a select group of individuals whose work in Hollywood has left a lasting impact on film. Academy Award-winning production designer Patrizia von Brandenstein and actor, dancer, director, artist, and choreographer Russ Tamblyn will be honored.

Von Brandenstein earned critical acclaim for her work on “Six Degrees of Separation” (1993) and the Academy Award for Best Art Direction in “Amadeus” (1984).

Tamblyn’s early training as a gymnast prepared him for one of his earliest roles in “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers” (1954), and subsequently earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Supporting Actor in “Peyton Place” (1957).

All four of these films will be screened at the Festival with introductions from von Brandenstein and Tamblyn. Both will sit down with TCM hosts in Club TCM at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel for extended conversations about their lives and work.

Thinking of the TCM Classic Film Festival as the Super Bowl for movie buffs may not be an exaggeration. A high level of talent is on display and cinephiles should not be disappointed. ★



## In Defense of Reagan

Presumably, Donald Trump will never produce the dark secrets promised about Ron DeSantis’ past. But his team thinks it already has one – the Florida governor once was a Reagan Republican. “There’s a pre-Trump Ron and there’s a post-Trump Ron,” someone in the Trump camp told Axios. “He used to be a Reagan Republican. That’s where he comes from. He’s now awkwardly trying to square his views up with the populist nationalist feeling of that party.”

In his CPAC speech doubling down on “MAGA,” Trump said, “We are never going back to the party of Paul Ryan, Karl Rove and Jeb Bush.” He didn’t mention Reagan, but the inclusion of the Gipper in the hall of shame was heavily implied.

This way of thinking in a Republican primary is something new. Once, pretty much every Republican wanted to be a Reagan Republican. If the Trump camp gets its way, Reaganism will have gone from pass(c) in 2016 to an affirmative vulnerability in 2024.

There are layers to this intra-Republican debate. It is certainly true that conservatives became overly obsessed with identifying themselves with Ronald Reagan and when something becomes an -ism, it is likely to be simplified and ossified.

Then, there’s the sheer

passage of time. Reagan left office 34 years ago. As of 2020, more than half of Americans were under age 40, meaning they have no real memory of Reagan.

Neither the pro- nor anti-Reagan side tends to do justice to the real, historical political figure.

Reagan was a free marketer but wasn’t doctrinaire. He accepted the fact of the New Deal.

He was a free trader, yet acted to protect American automakers and Harley-Davidson from Japanese imports.

If he was hawkish on foreign policy, he was always prudent. He was cautious about deploying U.S. troops overseas and contemplated eliminating nuclear weapons at a summit with Mikhail Gorbachev in Reykjavik.

Although Reagan eventually came to define conventional Republicanism, he took on his party’s liberal establishment and brought a populist voice to issues like the Panama Canal and crime.

At the end of the day, Reagan’s achievements are momentous and should be acknowledged as such by all Republican factions. He set the predicate for winning the Cold War. He slayed inflation. He ended the energy crisis. He forced a turn to the center by the Democratic Party under Bill Clinton. He changed the mood of the country.

The thoughtless version of Reaganism doesn’t take sufficient account of how circumstances in the country have changed in the last 30 years. Take taxes. The burden of federal income taxes isn’t nearly as heavy on

middle-class families as it was in the 1970s and 1980s, when inflation pushed them into ever-higher tax brackets. And Republicans have cut taxes so many times, any positive economic effect of further reductions is limited.

TITLE: Nonetheless, for the longest time, the standard Republican approach to domestic policy, with some differences in emphasis, was to cut taxes and reduce the debt, with everything else fading to the background. As it happens, Trump also ran on these two priorities in 2016, but also plowed new ground – as other Republicans should – on a host of issues.


The example of Reagan, like that of all accomplished statesmen, offers broad lessons that can be continually drawn on – about how to balance prudence and principle, how to affect a large-scale political vision, how to deplore what ails the country without giving in to despair, and how to build coalitions.

The last may be most useful to DeSantis once he enters the nomination battle. To win, he is going to need to get a segment of Trump populists at the same time he locks down Republican voters who like Reagan more than Trump.

The Trump forces are going to try to make DeSantis’ roots in the party of Reagan disqualifying. Instead, played correctly, it can be a strength.

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

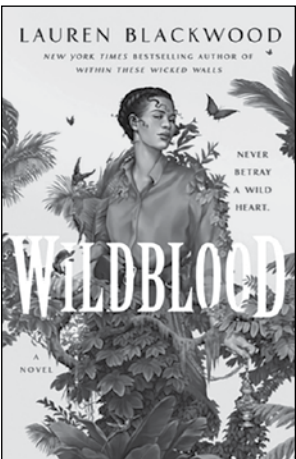
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FOR THE LOVE OF  
**BOOKS**  
By Amy Shane

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

## March Showers Bring New Reads

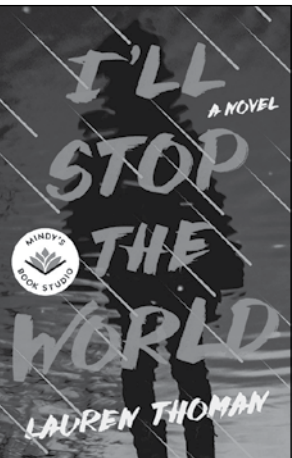


WildBlood  
by Lauren Blackwood;  
Wednesday Books

Victoria is a Wildblood working for the Exotic Lands Touring Company. As a tour guide since the age of six, Victoria protects those visiting the Jamaican jungle, using her magic to protect them from ghostly monsters. After being kidnapped at the age of six, this is the only life Victoria has known. So, when she is passed over for the promotion to team lead, Victoria decides it’s time to prove herself. And when a new client, Thorn, arrives, she knows this is the time. Thorn is more than a wealthy client on the hunt for gold. He is confident and handsome and leaves her wanting more. And when she lands the job to accompany him, everything changes. However, the jungle is treacherous, filled with its own agenda, and now with her heart at stake, she

will have to weigh what is truly important.

Once again, Lauren Blackwood creates a timeless story filled with deep emotion and imaginative description, elevating her characters to rise above the story with their own deep, complex emotions. *Wildblood* explores desire, acceptance, and adaptation to the circumstances while blending in earthy supernatural elements, all coming together for an impactful storyline.



I’ll Stop the World  
by Lauren Thoman;  
Mindy’s Book Studio  
Amazon

Feeling defined by his grandparent’s death in 1985, Justin Warren feels trapped, unable to move past the unsettling feeling behind how they died. Then, by chance, he meets Rosie, and everything begins to change. Even though they attend the same high school and live in the same town,

they have never met, but there is a good reason for that. Rosie is from 1985, and Justin’s life is about to take a drastic turn. The eternal optimist Rosie is giving Justin his life’s dream. An opportunity to go back to 1985 to try and stop the deadly school fire that killed his grandparents before it happened.

But once you change the past, you inevitability will change the future, leading to unexpected consequences. Will Justin be able to change the past in time, and will the consequences be too devastating and shocking to handle?

Lauren Thoman delivers the dream of second chances and the power of friendship in her debut novel; *I’ll Stop the World*. Blending time travel with a thrilling mystery, *I’ll Stop the World* rushes readers back to 1985, where time is of the essence, and solving a murder before it happens can change the future.

With the thrilling idea of being able to change one past and ultimately their future, readers mark this book as a unique high-tempo thriller with an unexpended ending. A story that echoes a sweet nod to the 80s, complete with its title and *Back to The Future* feel, but keeps the story unique. Told in many perspectives, this book might take a little bit to get used to, but ultimately takes off to be its powerhouse. ★

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### CLUES

ACROSS  
1. Blood-related problem  
5. Econ. measure  
8. Blue  
11. A perch for Christmas partridge?  
12. Domain  
13. Fill college entrance form  
15. Archaic preposition  
16. Chili seed  
17. Ski run  
18. \*Swedish environmental activist  
20. Makes lace  
21. Pi meson, pl.  
22. Digital map marker  
23. \*Rachel Carson's "Spring"  
26. Heater  
30. \*"Wheel of Fortune" vowel request  
31. Trouble, in Yiddish  
34. Epochs  
35. Type of single-story house  
37. Noble title  
38. Sandler and Driver  
39. Not "out of"  
40. Advice on shampoo bottle  
42. \*Pollinator of plants  
43. \_\_\_\_ Cray, a.k.a. the father of supercomputing  
45. \*Earth Day founder  
47. Benatar or Boone  
48. Lacking clarity  
50. Singer-songwriter Tori  
52. \*1969 Santa Barbara disaster  
55. To some degree  
56. Dig like a pig  
57. Honoree's spot  
59. Apartments, e.g.  
60. Swine and avian diseases  
61. Primary source for Nordic mythology  
62. Cash machine  
63. It's all the rage  
64. Swallow's house

DOWN  
1. PC "brain"  
2. Christian fast  
3. The Hippocratic one  
4. Group of minstrels, e.g.  
5. \*Environmentally-friendly  
6. Draws close  
7. Spasm of pain  
8. See him run?  
9. "The Sound of Music" backdrop  
10. Yellow #5 in list of ingredients  
12. Highly-ranked ecclesiasts  
13. On the move  
14. Arranged in advance  
19. Usually the last inning  
22. Wound fluid  
23. Delhi dresses  
24. Absurd  
25. Like a dryer trap  
26. \*Cuyahoga River disaster, Clean Water Act precursor  
27. Omani and Yemeni  
28. Tarantino in his own movie, e.g.  
29. Ruhr's industrial center  
32. \_\_\_\_-friendly  
33. Mourner's wish  
36. \*Refuse turned fertilizer  
38. Consumed (2 words)

40. Monotonous routine  
41. Teenagers' emotions  
44. A mirage?  
46. City in Netherlands  
48. Between violin and cello  
49. Not silently  
50. Polly to Tom Sawyer  
51. Disfigure  
52. \_\_\_\_ Approach, music education  
53. Serve soup  
54. \*Plastic tops of coffee cups  
55. Sine \_\_\_\_ non  
58. College entrance exam, acr.



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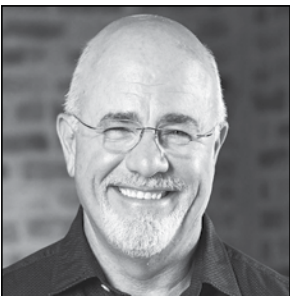
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It May Take A Little Time

Dear Dave,

I’ve having some problems with my parents, and I’m hoping you can help. Last summer I borrowed \$2,500 from them, and it is taking me longer to pay them back than we agreed. Since the pay back date passed, they have made several comments about money when we’re together, and our relationship seems strained. I have taken steps in the last couple of months to become more financially responsible. I am now doing things like living on a budget, and putting something from each paycheck into a savings account. How should I approach this issue with them?

– Remi

Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Remi,

Loaning money to, or borrowing money from, relatives or friends often leads to bruised feelings. I’m sorry you’re going through this, but I hope it will teach you and your folks a valuable lesson going forward. There’s nothing wrong with giving money in a situation like this, as long as you’re not enabling bad behavior by doing so. But a loan between friends or family is something I never recommend.

If they choose to hold a grudge there’s really not a lot you can do, especially if you took longer than agreed upon to pay them back. It just takes more time with some people—and in some cases even parents—for those kinds of things to heal. You have to remember, in their minds there’s an element of responsibility and trust involved here. But considering it’s your mom and dad we’re talking about, I’d say they’ll lighten up and become a little easier to be

around with time.

Until that happens, though, maybe you could look for chances to mention your new approach to finances during conversations with them. Even something as simple as an off-hand remark about how much you were able to put into savings from your recent paychecks may encourage them to see things in a different light. Letting them know you’re actively working to change your ways and gain control of your finances could mean a lot to them. Give it a try!

– 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.



Depleted Colorado River Threatens Farming In The Imperial Valley

The Colorado River crisis is challenging farmers in California’s Imperial Valley, the irrigated desert region that produces the lion’s share of America’s winter vegetables. As described in a special report in the Ag Alert newspaper, the valley is wholly dependent on water from the depleted river. California is offering to markedly curtail the amount it takes from the Colorado, which would significantly impact agriculture. Meanwhile, as multiple states battle over meager river supplies, the federal government threatens to intervene.

Growers Step Up Conservation Efforts to Protect River and Their Way of Life

Over the past two decades, Imperial Valley farmers and the region’s Imperial Irrigation District have spent over \$500 million in on-farm conservation projects as growers steadily added water-efficient infrastructure. Now those efforts are accelerating in hopes of reducing stress on the Colorado River while keeping farmland in production. The federal Inflation Reduction Act includes \$4 billion for drought relief, including water conservation infrastructure as well as paying farmers to fallow fields due to water shortages.

California Producers Continuing to Produce Seeds for Farmers in Ukraine, Russia

Despite continuing war between Russia and Ukraine, major seed producers in California are not turning their backs on farmers in the Black Sea region. Both countries remain destinations for California-grown seeds, even as Ukrainian growers face considerable difficulty amid the conflict. That means state farmers are continuing to produce seeds for growers there, including sunflowers, which remain a major crop in both Ukraine and Russia. Nearly all sunflowers grown commercially in California are harvested as certified seed used by other farmers.

California Senate Panel Calls Attention to State’s Needs for 2023 Farm Bill

California farmers and government leaders are weighing in on how members of Congress should shape the 2023 Farm Bill. At a recent California Senate Agriculture Committee session, agricultural groups highlighted challenges facing America’s largest agricultural economy. California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson called for strengthening crop insurance and disaster programs in the farm bill. He said less than one-quarter of California’s 400 commodities are covered by crop insurance programs.





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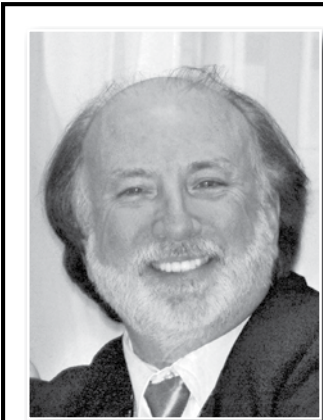
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Sky River Casino and River Cats Partner For 2023 Season

River Cats News Release

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento River Cats and Sky River Casino are excited to jointly announce their multi-year partnership for the naming rights of Sutter Health Park’s Solon Club, the semi exclusive club area along the right-field line.

“Sky River Casino is an organization much like the River Cats who prides itself on community outreach, its members, and supporting the greater Sacramento region”, said Sacramento River Cats President and COO, Chip Maxson. “We are very excited about our new partnership with Sky River Casino as we team up to support our community and bring fun and excitement to River Cats fans.”

The Solon Club, a name inspired by the former club that played in

Sacramento until 1976, is the perfect place to enjoy a baseball game, the beautiful city skyline, and intimate cocktail parties.

“We’re thrilled to partner with the Sacramento River Cats and join the community in celebrating America’s love for baseball,” said Sky River Casino’s President and Chief Operating Officer Chris Gibase. “It is especially fitting for Sky River to align with the Solon Club that showcases the rich history of baseball that brings so many Northern Californians together to enjoy our national pastime.”

Aside from branding the Sky River Casino Solon Club, the River Cats and Sky River Casino will also focus on a handful of prize opportunities through Fan Compass, an enter-to-win sweepstakes platform.



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**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, March 17**

**1337** - Information report in the 700 block of Evans Road.

**1600** - Traffic stop in the 100 block of South First Street resulted in a subject being cited and released for driving on a suspended license and not having an ignition interlock device. His vehicle was towed to All About Towing.

**1957** - Officers conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of West B Street and North Lincoln Street. Julie Johnson (42) out of Richmond was contacted as the driver of the vehicle. After further investigation, Johnson was found to be driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. Johnson was placed under arrest, where she was cited and released from the police department.

**2001** - Shoplifting in the 2000 block of North First Street.

**2104** - Hit and run reported in the 100 block of South First Street.

**2243** - Officers conducted a traffic stop near the 100 block of Dorset Drive. Lena Johnson (29) out of North Highlands was contacted as the driver of the vehicle. Johnson was found to be driving on a suspended driver’s license. Johnson was placed under arrest, where she was cited and released from the scene. Her vehicle was left legally parked.

**0104** - Confidential report in the 1100 block of Pitt School Road.

**0104** - Officers were dispatched to a report of a verbal argument in the 1400 block of Ary Lane. Upon officers arrival, Janette Ariola (29) out of Fairfield was contacted in the driver seat of a vehicle. After further investigation it was determined Ariola was driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage. Ariola was placed under arrest, where she was cited and released from the police department.

**Thursday, March 16**

**0822** - Report of court order violation taken in the DPD lobby.

**1052** - Information report taken in the DPD Lobby.

**1444** - A suspicious vehicle check in the 1400 block of Ary Lane resulted in the arrest of Sarah Yablon (30) of Woodland for an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for failing to appear to court. She was transported to DPD, where she was fingerprinted, cited and released without incident.

**1503** - A report regarding a violation of a court order was taken after a call for service in the 1300 block of North Lincoln Street. No arrests were made.

**2113** - Child endangerment report was taken in the 1300 block of West H St.

**0129** - Driving unlicensed and possession of drug paraphernalia arrest report was taken at the intersection of East Dorset Dr. at North 1st St. Officers contacted (S) Deandre Duckett (24) of Dixon. Duckett was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department. Duckett was cited and released and his vehicle was towed.

**0158** - Vehicle burglary report was taken in the 1300 block of West H St.

**Wednesday, March 15**

**0844** - Report of vandalism in the area of West H Street and North Almond Street.

**1142** - Information report in the 1100 block of North First Street.

**1336** - During a proactive enforcement stop, Officers located a voluntarily missing adult. He determined that the subject was safe and removed him from MUPS.

**1549** - Report of vandalism in the 1500 block of Valley Glen Drive.

**1912** - Informational report was taken in the 400 block of Heritage Ln.

**2008** - Welfare check in the 300 block of South Jefferson St.

**0224** - Enforcement stop in the 1000 block of North First St. Officer contacted (S) Fred Rollin (62) of Dixon. Drug paraphernalia was seen in plain view and a probable cause was conducted. Suspected methamphetamine was found and Rollin was arrested.

**Tuesday, March 14**

**1056** - Information report taken at John Knight Middle School.

**1207** - Theft report taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.

**1356** - Late report of a hit and run accident in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

**1424** - Traffic stop in the 2200 block of Rehrmann Drive resulted in the arrest of Judith Jaimes (37) of Woodland for two misdemeanor warrants. She was later cited and released from the PD with a new court date.



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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000316  
The following persons are doing business as: Homewise Capital Advisors, 318 Cernon Street, Vacaville, CA 95688.  
Norcal Home Loans, Inc., 318 Cernon Street, Vacaville, CA 95688.  
Date filed in Solano County: February 21, 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 February 20, 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: March 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2023  
HOMEWISE 3-24-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000322  
The following persons are doing business as: Socceros Soccer, 1460 Goldfield Lane, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Carlos Schulze, 1460 Goldfield Lane, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Date filed in Solano County: February 21, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 2/4/2023  
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement

must be filed before the expiration February 20, 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: March 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2023  
SOCCER 3-24-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000437  
The following persons are doing business as: Auspicious Live Scan and Notary, 221 West A Street, #714, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Anthony Hill, 1610 Winfield Street, Dixon, CA 95620.  
Date filed in Solano County: March 9, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration March 8, 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: March 17, 24, 31 & April 7, 2023  
AUSPICIOUS 4-7-23

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF LAURIE ANN AVIST-WOLF AKA LAURIE A. AVIST-WOLF, LAURIE A. HULL CASE NO. P051865  
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Laurie Ann Avist-Wolf, aka Laurie A. Avist-Wolf, Laurie Ann Avist, Laurie A. Avist, Laurie A. Hull, deceased.  
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Jennifer Morgan, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting

Jennifer Morgan 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: April 25, 2023, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 22; Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 600 Union Avenue, 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: Elton R. Garner, Garner & Associates LLP, 109 N. Marshall Avenue, Willows, CA 95988; 530/934-3324  
Publish: Mar 10, 17 & 24, 2023  
LAURIE 3-24-23

# CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See legitgov.org

## Minnesota Nuclear Power Plant Leaked 400,000 Gallons of Radioactive Water in November and Only Now Reveals it to the Public

17 March 2023 | Americans are in an uproar after learning Thursday about radioactive water leak at a Minnesota nuclear power plant that happened in November 2022. At least 400,000 gallons of radioactive water spilled from Xcel Energy’s Monticello facility on November 22, which came from a pipe between two buildings. The public is outraged by the silence on the matter, as it occurred months before the devastating East Palestine train derailment that released 1.6 million pounds of hazardous chemicals in Ohio. Regulators said Thursday they are monitoring clean up and there is no danger to the public. [Yeah, right!] The water contained tritium, which is a rare and radioactive isotope of hydrogen with half-life about 12 years.

## CDC Bought Phone Data to Monitor Americans’ Compliance With Lockdowns, Contracts Show

16 March 2023 | The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) purchased data from tracking companies to monitor compliance with lockdowns, according to contracts with the firms. The CDC paid one firm 420,000 and another 208,000. That bought access to location data from at least 55 million cellphone users. The contracts, approved under emergency review due to the COVID-19 pandemic, were aimed at providing the CDC “with the necessary data to continue critical emergency response functions related to evaluating the impact of visits to key points of interest, stay at home orders, closures, re-openings and other public health communications related to mask mandate, and other merging research areas on community transmission of SARS-CoV-2,” the contracts, obtained by The Epoch Times, state.

## He Has the Proof: DC Gulag Political Prisoner and Decorated Army Special Forces Soldier Jeffrey McKellop Reveals Extent of Government Agents at J6 Capitol Protest - It Was a Complete Set-Up

17 March 2023 | For weeks, The Gateway Pundit was informed about Jeffrey McKellop a decorated former 3rd Special Forces Group soldier and U.S. government contractor. Jeffrey is currently being held in the DC Gulag in Washington, D.C., as a political prisoner after he served his country for 22 years of military service. Jeffrey has been silenced by his government. After his arrest in March 2021, Jeffrey delved into video footage and documented evidence from January 6. Jeffrey was able to identify numerous government informants and agitators in the massive Trump crowd that day. After he put together his evidence he sent it out to numerous contacts. That was when the FBI came into his prison cell and took his research. They then attempted to silence him and banned him from phone and mail privileges. Jeffrey’s trial is scheduled to start in April 2023. He has been in prison for two years TODAY without a trial. He was arrested on March 17, 2021.

## EPA Orders States to Accept Waste from Ohio Train Derailment Site

17 March 2023 | The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered states with approved and available toxic waste facilities to accept materials transported from the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. The move, announced by EPA director Michael Regan at a news conference Friday morning, comes after governors in Oklahoma, Michigan and other states have recently turned away shipments. The EPA also ordered Norfolk Southern to move faster to get the toxic waste out of the area. The two new EPA orders requires Norfolk Southern to speed up the removal process and requires contractors to take legal action against EPA-licensed disposal facilities that refuse to honor their contracts. Every state has been notified that states cannot stop shipments of out-of-state waste from East Palestine, Regan said.

## FDA Approves COVID Boosters for 6-Month-Olds, Citing Trial with just 24 Patients

17 March 2023 | The U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) is approving booster doses of Pfizer’s COVID-19 shot for children as young as six months based on a trial of just 24 patients. The FDA announced March 14 that it is amending its emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, Bivalent, to allow a single booster dose for children between six months and four years, at least two months after being initially vaccinated... Buried in the press release, however, was the revelation that “among individuals 6 months of age and older, safety was assessed in participants in two clinical studies,” and that for the 6-23 months age group there were only 24 participants. The 2-4 year age group had 36. Medical freedom attorney and COVID vaccine critic Aaron Siri called it a “new low” for the FDA to make its decision based on such limited data.

## DOD Spends Nearly \$50 million a Year ‘To Do Nothing’ with Trump’s Border Wall Materials, Drawing GOP Backlash

16 March 2023 | The Biden administration spends about 130,000 per day to store and maintain unused border wall panels at the southern border, and Senate Republicans are demanding answers. Republican members of the Senate Armed Forces Committee -- using details provided to them in a request for information to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) -- sent a letter Wednesday evening to the Defense Department asking why nearly 50 million is being spent each year to store the Trump-era border materials. Led by ranking member Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and signed by Texas Sens. Ted Cruz and John Cornyn, along with nearly every other Republican on the committee, the senators wrote that they “are disturbed to learn the Department of Defense is paying private landowners to store border wall materials procured under the Trump Administration instead of fortifying the southern border with those materials.”

## Federal Reserve to Raise Interest Rates 25 Basis Points Amid Banking Crisis

17 March 2023 | The Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates another 25 basis points – or 0.25% next week amid the banking crisis. Two U.S. banks failed in the last week after they were unable to produce enough cash for depositors. Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank collapsed within the last week. Moody’s cut the outlook for the entire U.S. banking sector after the banks failed. The banking crisis stems from the Federal Reserve’s decision to hike interest rates seven times in 2022.

## Stanford Law School Descends into Orwellian Nightmare as Woke Students Dressed in Black Masks Line Halls Demanding Their ‘Counter Speech’ be Protected After Dean Apologized to Conservative Judge for being Heckled

On Monday, the dean found her classroom whiteboard covered in fliers saying ‘Where was his apology?’ and she was herself confronted by masked students | 14 March 2023 | Stanford Law School’s dean had her classroom whiteboard pasted over with protest posters and found herself confronted by silent masked students on Monday, after she apologized to a conservative judge who was invited to speak at the university, and then heckled into silence. Jenny Martinez, the dean, apologized to Judge Kyle Duncan for the March 9 incident on campus. Duncan, appointed by Donald Trump, demanded an apology after he was invited to speak, only to be berated by a pious dean while students shouted abuse at him. On Monday, students made their displeasure at her apology clear, papering over her whiteboard with printed signs that read: “We have free speech rights too,” “Where is our apology?” and “Counter-speech is free speech.” At the end of the class, Martinez left the room to be confronted with a corridor lined with law students wearing black masks that read: “Counter-speech is free speech.”

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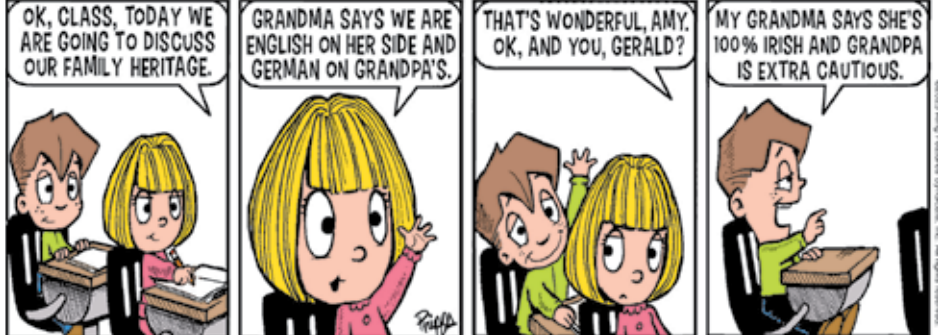


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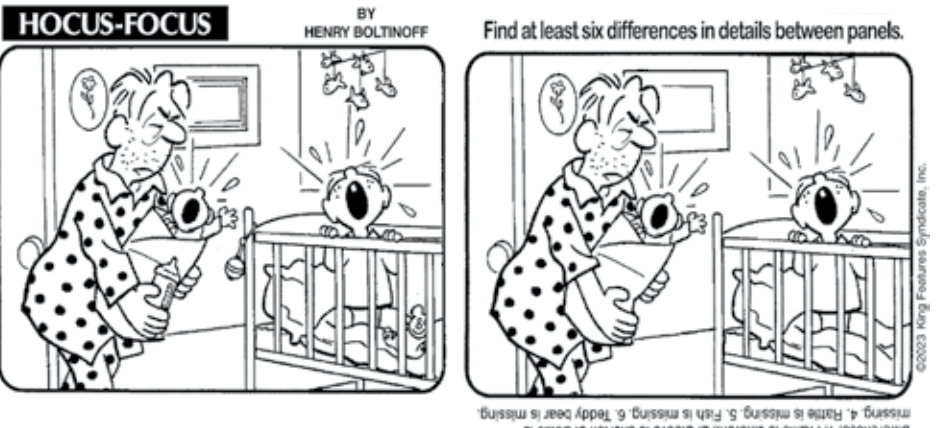
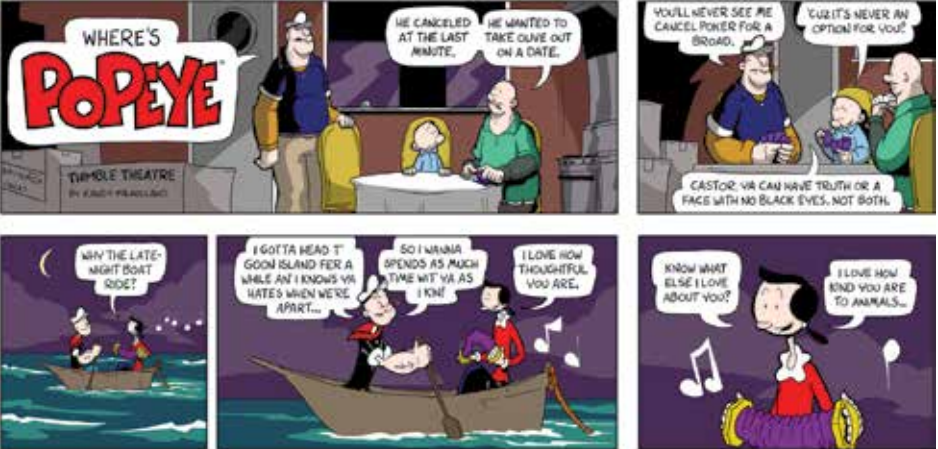
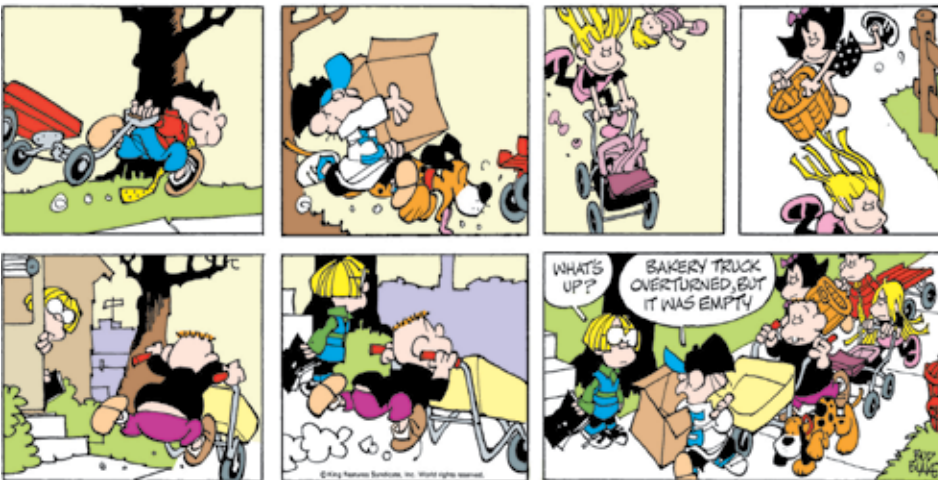
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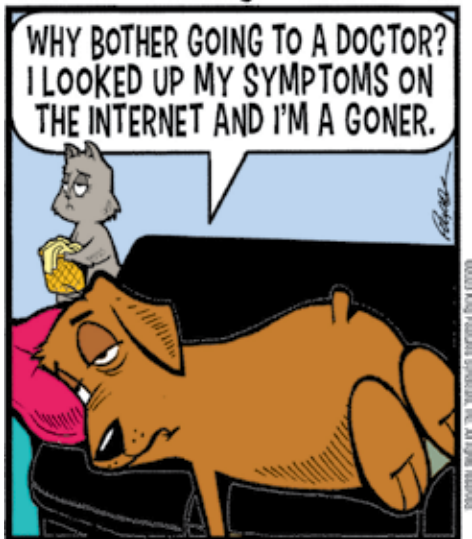
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# Dixon Centenarian Celebrates

*Continued from page 1*

Ernie in her late fifties, the couple went on about 25 different cruises.

“They were world travelers,” said Porten who remembers them going to the Fjords, too. But all knew about the flight on the Concorde Passenger Jet years ago that Mary and Ernie flew on from Sacramento to Paris.

“We got the last tickets,” Mary said.

On one of their cruises to Alaska, they were surprised to run into their Dixon neighbors, Martha and Chuck Dukes.

“They would sit, and he would hold her hand and say, ‘I love you’ to her,” Martha said. He’d squeeze her hand three times in a row when he said it.

When asked if Mary attributed her longevity to a good glass of wine, she answered emphatically, “I never drank alcohol. I never liked the smell or the taste. I’m not a drinking woman.”

The family said it helped that Mary had the same caretaker for many years. Dee Bernhardt took care of Mary’s sister first then Mary till five years ago when Bernhardt developed her own health issues. She was seen giving Mary a long hug at the birthday party.

“I did it because I loved them both,” Bernhardt said. “They’re like my family.”

Chad Goodsen, also grew close to Mary and Ernie over decades, helping the couple with everything on the Dixon house and in the yards.

“I worked here all the time. They took a lot of pride and made sure everything looked beautiful. Ernie was very particular,” he said.

“They were my boys,” quipped Mary. She would fix their lunch and make them come in for a break.

“She had a little bell she’d ring and after lunch, she’d always insist on feeding me ice cream: Neapolitan,” Goodsen said, adding that he wasn’t an ice cream kind-of-guy. “She’d serve it whether I wanted it or not, so I learned to like it,” he laughed.

Up until her nineties, Mary drove her classic 1966 Oldsmobile Toronado every Friday, rain or shine, to get her hair done in downtown Dixon. She doesn’t drive now but caretaker Elvia Chavez gets her there without fail.

“She’s happy when I take her out,” Chavez said. They also go out for lunch and for ice cream. ★

# Ramtown Roundup

MPG Staff

## CROSS COUNTRY

Students have more choices this spring for sports with the introduction of an elementary school-wide Cross Country Team. Boys and girls in TK-K through 5th grade can participate. Contact Joanne Garcia, the Anderson Coach at [JGarcia@dixonusd.org](mailto:JGarcia@dixonusd.org).

Practices will be after school and meets start at 3:30 p.m., but your children will need to warm up with their coach for 15 minutes prior.

Races are divided by grade level and by gender. All students will receive a ribbon for finishing the race and the top 10 runners will be awarded with their placement ribbon. Others will receive a participation ribbon. Shorts and tennis shoes are suggested. Parents are responsible for transporting and supervising their child at the meets.

Water bottles and wearing their school’s shirt are recommended. TK/K and first grade races are one-fourth mile; second through fourth graders will run a half mile and fifth grade students will run three-fourths of a mile.

The meets are March 21 at Tremont; March 28 at Gretchen Higgins; and April 18 at Anderson Elementary. All start at 3:30 p.m.

## DHS SPRING SPORTS

On Saturday, March 25, the DHS Cross Country Team will participate in the Thunder Invitational at Rocklin High School beginning at 9 a.m.

Senior Night for the Dixon High School Swim Team will be on Thursday, March 30 at 4 p.m. We’ll



The Running Club at Neighborhood Christian School is planning a Jog-A-Thon fundraiser to help with repairs of their portable buildings. Please make some pledges and keep these students on their toes! Call (707) 678-9336 for more info. NCS courtesy photo

be swimming against the Pioneer team at the Pat Grannuci Aquatic Center in Hall Park.

DHS Baseball Team will be playing against Rio Linda at the Friday, March 24 home game in Rio Linda at 4:15 p.m. and will also play on Tuesday, March 28 against Woodland but in Dixon also at 4:15 p.m.

The Softball Team will play on Monday, March 27, against Rio Linda on our home turf at 4:30 p.m.

Also, on Monday there will be a Boys Volleyball Home Game against Mira Loma at 6 p.m.

The DHS Boys Golf Team will compete against Mira Loma at Wild Wings Golf Club in Woodland on Tuesday, March 28.

## JOG-A-THON

Neighborhood Christian School is hosting a ‘Jog-a-thon’ fundraiser to help raise funds for needed flooring and electrical improvements on their portable buildings. They are hoping to raise thousands and are looking for sponsors for the event to be held at the school on

Thursday, April 20.

NCS has been serving the families of Dixon and the surrounding communities since 1979 and their mission is ‘Educating Students for Life.’ They will help even the youngest students participate by having a small track for them.

“We expect to have 100 students participate and will welcome all grades,” said Organizer Erika Figueroa. There are three tiers of sponsorship, Bronze for \$300, Silver for \$500, and Gold for \$1,000 with Gold having benefits of the name on the back of the t-shirt, logo/name on jog-a-thon banner, individual company banner displayed on NCS campus and a link to company website on the NCS website, Facebook, and Instagram. Donations are tax-deductible and can be made via cash, check, through PayPal at [neighborhoodchristian.org](http://neighborhoodchristian.org) by clicking “Support NCS” and Venmo @ NCS\_Dixon. Or you can email [ncsjogathon2023@gmail.com](mailto:ncsjogathon2023@gmail.com) or call the school at (707) 678-9336. ★

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