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Dixon Independent Voice

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MARCH 3, 2023

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Maine Prairie Moves



Art teacher Regina Peterson with school Principal Yvette Ramos.

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Walking inside the new Maine Prairie High School, and just past the large shining silver bulldog emblem, the sound of constant thumping seeped through the walls. It was the sound of a couple of students playing basketball.

"They came to school early - and they stayed after school yesterday, too," said science teacher Dina Flamik who was providing supervision in the newly renovated gymnasium. Both she and this former teacher share a knowing look. Having



Left to right: Gabriel Garcia, Brandon Avalos and Randy Aguirre were hanging out in the new cafeteria at Maine Prairie High School waiting for classes to start.

students who want to be at this high school speaks volumes.

"It's such a nice facility and it's a safe place," she said beaming.

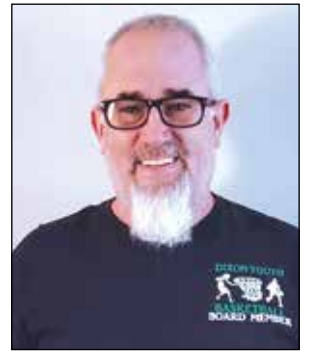
This school is a continuation high school where the mission is to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. Students are given a supportive,

caring, and alternative learning environment. Not all of them start out looking forward to the experience but almost always, they come to love the staff and feel grateful for the opportunity to graduate.

"The Maine Prairie kids deserved a much better campus," said Principal Yvette Ramos who started at the school 24 years ago and until last week, was housed in portables just past the Anderson Elementary playground area on C Street. "I've been asking for this for years. There are lots of big changes like new (heating

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DYB Organizer Dies Suddenly



Brian Jensen. Photo courtesy of Brenda Jensen

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Brian Jensen, the man who just got the ball rolling for Dixon Youth Basketball, died suddenly February 21 after a brief illness.

Jensen and his wife Brenda set out to re-establish Dixon Youth Basketball after the pandemic because they saw a void in youth sports. The couple first started talking with parents involved in youth sports to determine the interest level and were met with enthusiasm. They then met with the Parks and Recreation supervisor to see if plans were in the making to restore the old program through the City of Dixon but were put on hold for months. The couple continued to garner interest with parents and Brian persevered until finally the City of Dixon gave them the right to use the logo and start their own program.

They formed a Board of Directors with parents and established DYB as an official nonprofit. Under Brian's leadership and with great diligence and patience with not only the City of Dixon but also with the Dixon Unified School District, DYB was able to start the 2023 season practices and skill development at the beginning of this year with all league play held on Sundays at John Knight Middle School. In addition, practices are held Gretchen Higgins Elementary, Tremont Elementary and Dixon Montessori Charter School offering Kindergarten through 8th grade levels of play.

"The league wouldn't exist without his hard work and dedication. Brian cared deeply about this league and the Dixon community, and he will be greatly missed," said Misty Dalton who serves on the Board and who has organized a fundraiser for the Jensens.

"If only you knew how good of a guy he was. It was more than just basketball for him, he cared about every single player he coached and was one of the most caring persons I ever met," shared Leo Iglesias in a Facebook post.

Jensen was from Williams, California and was a U.S. Air Force retiree and A&P Mechanic. As a lab tech, he helped teach community college to be mechanics.

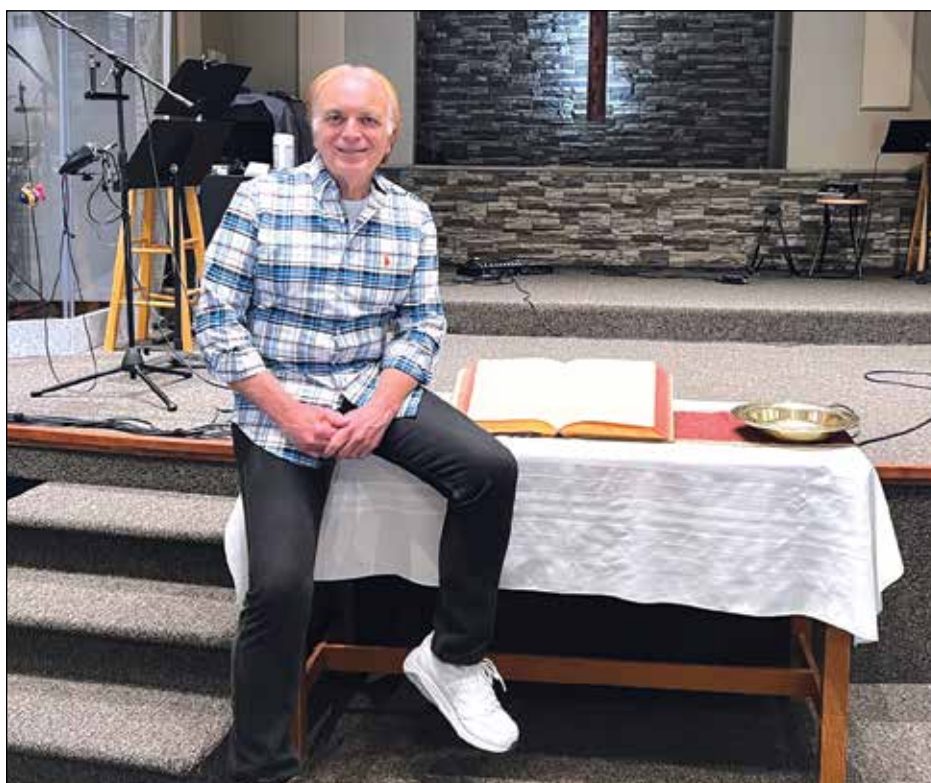
Continued on page 2

Cornerstone Church Pastor Retires

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - "Being a pastor is not what I do; it's who I am. Retiring is bittersweet because I love what I do," said Frank Salamone who has pastored Cornerstone Church in Dixon, 'the little church with a big heart,' for 21 years. He actually was an Associate Pastor in Vacaville for 15 years before that and had been 'pastoring around' for various churches when Cornerstone elders asked him to come preach one Sunday. He did. The next day, the three elders at Cornerstone asked him to stay.

Originally from the Los Angeles area, he found himself with plenty of options. He was in the middle of plans to co-preach at a new church of his own. Plus, he had a commitment to preach for two months at a different church. So,



Pastor Frank Salamone inside the newly remodeled Cornerstone Church Sanctuary.

after great prayer, he told the three wise men at the cornerstone that he'd serve for six months and help them find their new pastor.

The first Sunday, there

were 15 people as the church had nearly closed down. Within weeks, though, the church congregation quadrupled in size, and he was baptizing and

doing visits every week.

"It was crazy what was going on," he said, reliving the awe. "I spoke with the church elders and

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Where Did All the Years Go?

By Debra Dingman

In preparing for our 25th wedding anniversary celebration, I noticed an invite that broke down how many years, months, days, hours, minutes, and seconds were in 25 years. Hubby said out loud, "Where did all the time go?" We agreed it was hardly believable.

So, I decided to find out what happened.... I started with our wedding date.

For the next month and in whatever spare time I could honor, I went through first the photo albums and then my computer pics taking notes of different events and occurrences in our lives and pulling photos out. Then I spread them out on my dining table and started noticing patterns: Children, homes, pets, careers, campaigns, vacations, grandchildren, and extended family. I started organizing them and building large photo boards.

I anticipated coming home from work. I did not watch television. And, I felt happy constantly. Think about it; we take photos of happy times, not of sad ones. This is what I discovered:

We had all the frills and joys of three children's weddings so got three new grownups in our family (their spouses.) We are blessed with six grandchildren (so far.)

We Lived in Dixon, Phoenix, AZ (David), Djibouti, Africa (David,) and for two "extended vacations" in Dallas, TX, and El Segundo, CA. We owned six houses (each had one when we married) and ultimately found Alderglen to raise our family and now that we're older, Magnolia Court.

I only mentioned six rentals because that was a big time-consumer even though we only had one at a time. There

was always something... Lots of weekends were spent cleaning or fixing them. Crazy to think, but we hosted at least 25 Japanese Exchange Students over ten of those years and bred Beagles with two different litters over another five years.

We experienced five Presidents: Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump, and Biden and we ran ten local campaigns where David or I or either one of my sons were running.

We loved five pets (only one of each at a time.) There were three cats and two dogs (not counting several Beagle puppies and grand dogs.)

I'm not bragging because I shopped at discount stores or consignment shops and cooked a lot of chicken in those early years but have always been frugal and watch for sales so we could go on trips, but we did go on many which included two Cruises to Mexico, two to Alaska and two to the Caribbean. Plus, we visited friends and family across several states and certainly all over California.

Near the end of my tally, I found that we drove three small trucks, a van, a sedan, an SUV, and a Prius, owning two vehicles at a time.

Significant events over the years included Debra's purchase/opening four children's clothing & toy stores; serving as Children's Ministry Director; owning her PR company; helping start Dixon Kiwanis, publishing a book, and becoming an Editor (again.) David was elected Dixon City Treasurer serving three terms; Major Dingman's USAF Retirement, and ultimately his AT&T Retirement.

"That" is where the years went! I challenge you to look at your life, realize how much you've lived, and be excited for what will happen next. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Rain or shine or super cold, these Dixon postal carriers get our mail to us. Some extra appreciation was given for their service by Kiwanis Club of Dixon recently with sweet gift bags. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Museum Hours

The caption that should have been under last week's News Briefs was about volunteers Darla Wear and Dan Rott standing by one of the new displays featuring kitchen tools at the Dixon Historical Museum. We apologize for the mistake. The museum at 125 West A St. has new hours which are Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. They will also be open on the 4th Thursday evening of the month 5:30-7:30 p.m. and the 4th Sunday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. They are looking for volunteer docents. Go to dixonhistoricalmuseum.org or call (707) 693-3044.

Sound Bath

A unique fundraiser for the Dixon Women's Improvement Club is happening on Sunday, March 26, at the Busy Bee Yoga studio, 175 North First St. in downtown Dixon. A Lotus Sound Bath will be demonstrated by Lois Pengilly, Sound Bath Healing Practitioner. These "baths" often relieve insomnia, decrease depression, relieve anxiety and stress, and improve one's ability to concentrate, according to Pengilly. There are two times to participate: 1 - 3 p.m. or 4 - 6 p.m. Donations are \$30 each and checks made payable to DWIC. For more information, call Teri Brown at (916) 601-3371. Proceeds will go toward scholarships and community grants.

City Council

The next City Council meeting will be held on March 7 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street. Although you can watch the meeting from afar via the Zoom link they provide, there's nothing like being there.

Lady Rams

Dixon High School Girls Softball is offering its first clinic of the season on Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost is \$35 and that covers donation to DHS Lady Rams, a t-shirt and hotdog lunch for players. The link to sign up is <https://forms.gle/jueBNmFSE9nxaZB7>. There will be a clinic from 9-11:30 and then a break for lunch. Those who want to stay will start again at noon and practice till 2 p.m.

Travel Event

Explore the world but first attend the Travel Planning Event of the season at The Creative Space, 160 West A Street in downtown Dixon on Saturday, March 4, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come out and mingle with some of the top travel suppliers in the world and don't let your travel plans pass you by. People who pre-register will receive an extra entry to the grand prize 3-night resort stay. For contact info, call (707) 685-8080 or email Alison. Roderick@Cruiseplanners.com.

Wine Basics

On Sunday, March 5, 5 to 6:30 p.m. there will be a "back to basics" class at Pip Wine Bar, 116 North First Street. They'll go over the process of tasting wine - from looking, smelling, swirling & tasting then introduce some common wine terms to describe the different properties (dry, sweet, acidic, etc). Cost is \$60 per person. Call (707) 693-3069.

Veterans Dinner

This Friday's menu is succulent pork loin roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, and green beans and roll. Only \$10 at the door and monies help the veterans keep the facility open at 1305 North First St.

Home & Garden

The annual Solano County Home and Garden Show will be the weekend of March 25 and 26 at the Dixon May fairgrounds. Join the crowd for the show with local businesses, unique crafters, music, food, and more. For vendor information, go to www.schg.show or call Shawna Arzadon at (707) 655-8439.

Import Master

A new car care business is in town. Import Master is finally open and ready to provide car services for Porsche, Nissan, Infiniti, Acura, Lexus, Honda, and Toyota. Ralph Perkins opened his first shop in 1989 in Richmond after working for Midas Muffler for several years and he still owns the Import Master shop serving Vacaville since 1997. It is a family run business, and they believe in providing honest and straightforward service to all their customers. Call (707) 678-7676 or stop by 1500 North First St. ★

Soroptimist Recognizes Juliana Ramirez



Dixon High teacher Nick Stidham stands with Juliana Ramirez and Dixon Soroptimist President Linda Green. Juliana was honored as Young Woman of the Month. Courtesy photo

Soroptimist International News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Juliana Ramirez is Soroptimist International of Dixon's Young Woman of the Month for February. She is the daughter of Jose Ramirez and has a sister, Alejandra Ramirez, who attends Fortis College in Utah. Juliana is a senior at Dixon High School and was nominated by Nick Stidham, her Visual and Performing Arts teacher.

Juliana grew up in Dixon. She attended Dixon Montessori Charter School and then DHS. She loved going to Dixon Montessori School and still communicates with her first-grade teacher, Ms. Guadalupe. Juliana is very hard working in her classes. Nick Stidham recognized earlier that Juliana was dedicated to her education. She has maintained a successful high school career, excelling in tech-based art classes and graphic design.

Juliana has earned the position of Chief Editor of the Dixon High School yearbook. She supervises the art and design as well as the other editors. Being the Chief Editor is a coveted position that Juliana is

proud of.

As well as being an excellent student, she is also a strong athlete. After never playing tennis, Juliana started playing on the Dixon High Tennis Team her freshman year. Juliana improved every year while her love of tennis grew. As a senior, Juliana is now Captain of the Tennis Team and the #1 Women's Tennis Player. She also played well enough to move on to play in the regionals this year.

Juliana is proud to be fluent in English and Spanish which makes her an asset in any workplace.

She works at Solano Baking Company, a favorite of many in Dixon. In her spare time, she enjoys art, drawing, painting, computer art and tennis. She plans to attend Solano Community College to complete her GED. Then, she will transfer to Sacramento State to major in graphic design creating animation.

Dixon Soroptimist congratulates Juliana.

"You are an inspiration, proving that hard work and dedication will help you succeed. We can't wait to watch you soar in the future," said Amy Pretti. ★

DYB Organizer Dies Suddenly

Continued from page 1

"I worked with Brian in Iceland with the 85th OS. Such a beautiful soul this man was. NEVER did this professional work attitude falter, He was

one of my best! I will miss his smile and always happy attitude towards life," wrote John Lauer, in one of at least 500 social media posts or responses sending condolences.

A Celebration of Life has been set for Saturday, March 11, at 1:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First St. across from DuPratt Ford. ★

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Dixon Police Launch Public Transparency Portal

Dixon PD News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Police Department is pleased to announce the launch of a new public transparency portal on its website. This portal provides access to important information that members of the community have been requesting, including department policies, annual reports, results of public satisfaction surveys, use of force statistics, SB1421 information, crime statistics, ways to make a complaint or provide a compliment about police staff, Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) information, AB481 military equipment use disclosures, and links to information about the California Public Records Act.

The Department is committed to fostering transparency and building trust with the community it serves. The portal offers a wealth of information that will help residents understand how the Department operates and make informed decisions about public safety.

"We understand the importance of transparency in policing and believe that



the portal will provide members of the public with a clear understanding of our policies, practices, and performance," said Chief Robert Thompson. "By making this information available, we hope to strengthen our relationship with the community and promote accountability and trust."

The portal is easy to use and accessible to anyone with an internet connection. Visitors can browse the different sections and download any of the available documents. They can also access a section that provides details on how to make a public records request if they cannot find the information they need on the portal.

"We are committed to serving the community with integrity, professionalism, and transparency," added Thompson. "The portal is just one way we are working to build trust and strengthen our relationship with the people we serve."

To access the public transparency portal, please visit <https://www.dixonpolice.org/transparency>. For more information about the Dixon Police Department, please contact us at 707-678-7070. ★

Congressman Introduces Staff



Congressman Mike Thompson wanted Dixonites to put a face to the names who will be serving them. He brought his staff and introduced them at a downtown Dixon meeting.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - When Congressman Mike Thompson D-Solano introduced his staff to a group of people in downtown Dixon recently, one may have been surprised at how many things his staff can help with.

The Congressman, who has been the Napa representative for ten years, went on a meet-and-greet tour of the towns added to his representation through the newly redrawn districts. They are Vacaville, Dixon, and Rio Vista. He wanted people to put a face to the name, he said.

"We're here to work for you," he said before beginning introductions. "We are the bridge between an agency and the constituent. Agencies are required by law to respond to a Congressman. We are here for you guys." Many of the staff were born and raised in Northern California including his Chief of Staff, Melanie Rhinehart Van Tassell who has been with him for 12 years now. She is a legislator correspondent and grew up in Napa. Emma Tomaszewski, who schedules the Congressman's time, is from Marin and went to college in DC. Karina Giudice is from Santa Rosa and handles the military service academy recommendations.

There are at least six specific areas his staff can help with although other areas of concern may also be addressed.

As a Vietnam combat veteran, Congressman Thompson's office can help with recovering benefits and pension payments, assist with claims, and survivor benefits. He can help with requests for burials and give assistance to active service members. The office can also help secure appointments with their VA doctors.

In talking about youth programs, the Congressman spoke of a "prestigious program" that students can apply for, and Herb Cross from the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Business Education Committee inquired about getting students more involved in the Congressional Student Leadership Council. After touting another

"worthwhile program," he encouraged Cross to connect with Field Representative Brendan Sweeney.

"We want people to learn about public service and have outstanding opportunities for students. I think it really helps to understand the issues in public and the private sector," the Congressman said.

Immigration and naturalization assistance flag requests, academy nominations, as well as social security and Medicare benefits are also concerns that his staff can usually help with.

The Congressman then fielded a variety of questions including the manufacturing of computer chips and bipartisanship.

"I go to Washington to get things done," responded Thompson. "I'm as bipartisan as I can be. I will work with anybody. But I'm not a compromiser on social security. It is the most successful system America's ever had and kept millions out of poverty. It is a lifesaver and to take it away would take one leg of a stool. It would be devastating," he said. He reported that social security checks are spent at home and "serves as an incredible economic driver in the community." When Cross asked if there was anything the democratic party could do to get a healthy conversation going with republicans, the Congressman said, "There are extremists in both parties. We don't need extreme. We need people who will get the job done."

After the meeting, the Congressman posted on social media, "Dixon is a new part of our district after redistricting, and community gatherings like these help my staff better connect with the new constituents and communities for which they are working. We enjoyed hearing about their issues and look forward to continuing our work on their behalf."

The nearest office is the Woodland District Office at 622 Main St., Suite 106, Woodland 95695 and phone is (530) 753-5301. He also has offices in Napa, Santa Rosa, and Washington, DC. ★

Maine Prairie Moves

Continued from page 1

and air), projectors, six large classrooms, and having a school gym. You can put all the students in one room and have an assembly."

The gym that used to house about 600 CA Jacobs Middle School students, has a gleaming hardwood floor, and easily spits the sound of fresh squeaks of rubber-soled tennis shoes. Ramos talked about how great it is to have a space covered from rain.

"It will take a couple of weeks to work out the bugs, but we're excited and hopeful," Ramos said. "We can grow."

Art teacher Regina Peterson organized large tubes of paint and was getting ready for her art classes. She has all the students throughout her day and said most students seemed happy about being at the new facility. One had even commented about it feeling like it was a "real" school. Another teacher said it felt like Christmas.

Brandon Avalos, 15, said something similar. He and several students were waiting for class while inside the spacious cafeteria where fresh fruits and packaged breakfast foods were offered. In comparison with the previous MPHS location that was all portables, he said this feels like an actual school. "I'll miss the simplicity [of the old campus,] though. I like that this school is more laid back and people are willing to help you so it's easier to stay on top of things," he added.

Gabriel Garcia, another junior, lives in a family of seven children.

"It felt weird coming back to my middle school," he said. Last year, Garcia got suspended but now at MPHS, he's got a 4.0 GPA. Another junior, Randy Aguirre, only had one complaint about the school.

"There aren't any sports opportunities here," he said. He played football at Dixon

High School and wants to play again this coming fall. "I plan to go back," he said. With the new gym, however, the possibility of a basketball team could become a reality.

Denise Diaz, MPHS Office Coordinator, greets visitors in the spacious school office which has one board decorated so far and is filled with Student of the Month Certificates for "noticeable dedication and achievement" from various classes such as English, math, social science, science, and art.

"The movers were phenomenal, and the staff was great," she said with enthusiasm.

At the recent Dixon Unified School District Board of Trustees meeting, more improvements were discussed although those will proceed more slowly "while we deal with higher priorities," said Dixon Unified School District Superintendent Brian Dolan who announced that "the core of the campus has been moderately renovated."

"There are six classrooms, an office, a gymnasium, a cafeteria, and all other core facilities plus outdoor spaces," he said. There were several comments from the audience.

"I want to thank you for helping kids have equity in our community," said Phil Lockwood, a pastor who worked with students for years through Living Hope Church and especially after a student was shot and killed in Northwest Park. "It's a huge, huge step for these kids who are just as valuable as anyone."

An Open House is planned for the new school location at 200 North Lincoln on Wednesday, March 22, 6 to 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact the school at (707) 693-6340 or at <https://www.dixonusd.org/mphs/contact-us/>. ★

City Currently Accepting Applications for Water Rate Committee

City of Dixon Press Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Water Rate Committee's goal is to provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding appropriate new water rates. The ad hoc Committee shall deliver a recommendation no later than April of 2024, at which point the committee will expire. The Committee will consist of 7 members

total, 2 members of the City Council and 5 members from the community. Meeting dates and frequency will be determined by the Committee.

Interested Dixon residents may obtain an application at City Hall, 600 East A Street, by calling 678-7000, or by visiting the City's website at www.cityofdixon.us. The deadline for filing applications is 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 20, 2023. ★

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Restoring Rugby

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Last Saturday in Hall Park, Solo Rugby hosted a youth rugby tournament involving games played by middle school students, U12 and U10.

"The kids started the game rusty but by the end, they were playing much better and more cohesively," said Coach Kelly Evans, who added that it was "perfect rugby weather." Evans explained that when it's muddy, the ground is soft so when one gets tackled, it's easier to take.

"If it's hot, it's too exhausting because in rugby, there is continuous running, unlike football quarters and half times," he said. Evans grew up playing rugby and was the Assistant Coach for UC Davis for many years while they won the national Championship in 2015.

Solo Rugby, officially known as the Solano-Yolo Rugby Club, was officially founded in 2015 by the merger of Dixon High School Rugby and Davis High School Rugby, and thus Solo Rugby has a rich tradition, reported Evans. Dixon High School Rugby was



A first meetup for the Solo Rugby happened at Hall Park last Saturday. The youth carrying the ball is Dixon Middle School student Tyler Martinez. Photo by Nicolas Brown

established by the late Rob Salaber in 2006 and achieved the pinnacle of youth rugby by winning the National Rugby High School Championship in Utah in 2012.

Davis High School Rugby

in turn was one of the founder members of the Sacramento Valley Youth Rugby League in 1983, and one of its players, Thretton Palamo, played nineteen times for the U.S. National

Team (the "U.S. Eagles"), making history in his first appearance in 2007 as the youngest player in a Rugby World Cup tournament.

Vacaville was another founding member in 1983, but

unfortunately no longer exists.

Rugby in fact is so ingrained in this region that it can trace roots back to Babe Slater, a Woodland resident and UC Davis Graduate, who captained the U.S. Olympic Team to the Gold Medal in the 1924 Olympics, according to Evans.

After the COVID hiatus, Solo Rugby is being restored in honor of Rob Salaber by eager youth from Dixon, Vacaville, Davis, and Winters, coached by Evans, Gary Gordon, Rick Flynn, and Cody Westergaard. Martin Mercado also serves on the Board.

"It's been a joy to be involved again," said Evans. Currently, Solo Rugby is playing jointly with Elk Grove Rugby as they each strive to increase our numbers to be able to field our own respective teams.

This season, Solo Rugby also welcomes any young lads, 3rd through 8th grades to join the team. Currently, there is not a high school or girls' team, but they're intending to grow. For more information, please contact Evans at ckdpe64@hotmail.com. ★

Co-Ed Flag Football Starting

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Maybe coaches all across America were getting the same drift that Dixon High School Football Coach Wes Besseghini was getting: With football injuries splashed on television and social media, 9-year-old children tackling each other had parents losing interest in the sport.

Enter a flag football idea and add "co-ed," and you'll have the new sport championed by Besseghini. Interestingly, just this last week California's newest CIF sanctioned high school sport is Girls Flag Football and was voted 146-0 with play able to start this coming fall for those high schools ready. Starting play now for both girls or boys can really help garner skills before they reach high school teams.

Besseghini, who is a father of three, thought of co-ed flag football a couple years ago as his own children began to play football in youth sports. He and his wife, Jessi, have two sons and a daughter. They have successfully garnered an NFL sponsorship that is providing all the marketing materials for 1st through 8th grade.

"I am purely [motivated] as a Dad and as a varsity football coach," the father of three

admitted why he volunteers to put it all together. Flag football can help minimize child injuries but also helps feed skilled players into the high school teams.

"Even the Dixon Youth Football is supportive. We are partnering with them," Wes said. "They see the parent fear of tackle football and I see it, too." But there are a lot of skills in playing the game like throwing and kicking that need to be learned to ever make it to high school level or professional play, he explained.

"With the NFL support, there will be no overhead. There will be uniform packages for \$75 per youth and the children will be able to keep their uniforms," he added.

There will be Sunday games only with the season starting April 12 and running through May 20. In addition, there will be practice games only once a week.

"We don't want it to be conflicting and interrupting other spring sports," the Coach said. "We want this to be an 'additional' sport. We just need to get kids out there playing." So far, there are 40 youth signed up.

For more information, go to DixonYFC.com (Dixon Youth Football and Cheer) or plan on registering on Tuesday, March 14 at Pizza Guys, 1455 Ary Lane in Dixon from 5 to 7 p.m. ★

Zack Bayrouy Named Voice of the River Cats

Sacramento River Cats Communications

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - After receiving interest from across the country, the Sacramento River Cats, proud Triple-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, are thrilled to announce Zack Bayrouy as the new voice of the franchise.

Bayrouy replaces longtime River Cats announcer Johnny Doskow, who accepted a position with the Oakland Athletics in January. The Worcester, Massachusetts native Bayrouy becomes the fourth voice of the River Cats, following Jeff Walker (2000), Doskow (2001-2022), and Spanish-broadcaster Jose Reynoso (2000-2008).

"We received an overwhelming amount of interest in the position and Zack quickly

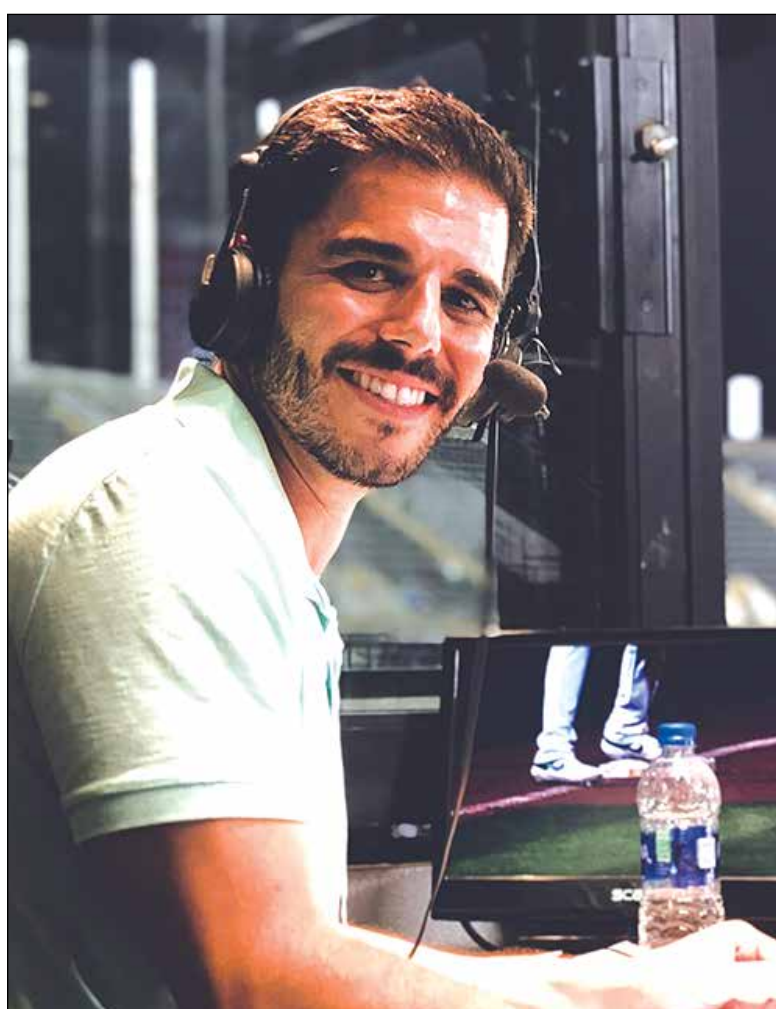
separated himself from the pack with his mixture of on-air talent and multimedia experience," said Chip Maxson, President and COO of the River Cats. "Johnny Doskow was synonymous with Sacramento sports for over two decades and we feel Zack is the perfect heir to usher the franchise and fans into a new era."

Although from the east coast, Bayrouy is familiar with Northern California, calling games for the Oakland-affiliated Single-A Stockton Ports for 14 seasons, as well as serving as the play-by-play of University of the Pacific (Stockton) men's basketball since 2010 (13 seasons). He has spent the last three seasons broadcasting for the PCL-rival Reno Aces (Triple-A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks), which included a 2022 PCL Championship.

"I'm beyond grateful for the opportunity to join the River Cats family and be part of an amazing team," said Bayrouy. "To have the microphone passed to me from Johnny Doskow is one of the great honors of my life. I know what his voice meant to the fans and what his presence meant to the community, and it's my privilege to continue to build on that legacy in Sacramento."

Bayrouy made his Major League debut in Oakland on Sept. 3, 2019, calling the game between the A's and Los Angeles Angels.

Listen to Bayrouy's River Cats debut on Opening Day, March 31, at the Salt Lake Bees. Catch his home debut on rivercats.com as the River Cats host the El Paso Chihuahuas for Opening Night on April 5 at 6:45 p.m. (PT). ★



Zack Bayrouy is the new voice of the Sacramento River Cats franchise. Photo courtesy of Sacramento River Cats



FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS
By Amy Shane
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📧 amy_fortheloveofbooks

Where Darkness Blooms

by Andrea Hannah

The quiet town of Bishop is known for its landscape of sunflowers, stretching as far as the eye can see. But nestled below the beauty are deep roots harboring a secret that only the town's origins know. Bishop is not only known for the picturesque landscape of sunflowers; it's known for their bounty of missing women. So, when three more women disappear in the middle of a storm, no one is surprised. Everyone turns a blind eye, except for their daughters, who now all share a crumbling house with the fractured pieces of their lives.



◆ Publisher: Wednesday Books
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
◆ Rating: ♥♥♥
◆ Release Date: Feb. 21, 2023

on the horizon as everything begins to change. Delilah, who wants to move on, feels unrelenting pain every time her boyfriend touches her. Whitney has lost more than anyone young girl should have to bear with, and now that her girlfriend and mother are gone, her only comfort is an old weathervane in the ground that gently whispers to her. Bo, more determined than ever, wants answers, justice, and the truth, stopping at nothing to uncover it. However, the truth is more than the girls could ever have imagined, for when a city is bound by blood, it will stop at nothing to

have what it seeks. Like a tempting beautiful flower, Where Darkness Blooms lures in its readers, daring them to pluck it from its stalk, leaving them unaware of the darkness it has nestled within. The dark roots of this story will wrap around its readers and threaten to pull them under. In a town that thrives on blood and past secrets, it's up to a group of teen girls to uncover the truth. Remarkable in its synopsis, this story can leave readers questioning a few plot holes and the ending, while others might find it all summed up just fine. While this story is unique and very well thought out, the premise of a corrupt city and sunflowers that whisper delivers its haunting vibe, is well suited for those who want to dive deep into past horrors that spring forth truth and are comfortable filling in some of their own narratives. Andrea Hannah delivers creative storytelling and vivid imagery that truly unfold before the readers' eyes, allowing them to fall right into the middle of the dirt-lined fields and billowing sunflowers. The question is will you listen to their whisperings? ★



Dare to Live Without Limits
by Bryan Golden
Don't Become a Failure Expert

Excuses for failure are far more prevalent than affirmations to succeed. It takes less effort to be a naysayer than a discoverer of solutions. Too many people become experts at what won't work. They have incontrovertible justifications to explain why success is not within their grasp. Any subsequent failure is used to prove their logic correct.

Let's look at some commonly used rationale adopted by failure experts and why they don't have to apply to you.

It's not so easy
Failure experts apply some arbitrary standard of effortlessness. If more than a modicum of exertion is required then a goal isn't worth it. Since anything worthwhile takes effort, failure experts effectively rule out accomplishing anything more than the mundane.

Life is not a passive activity. Greater rewards require greater effort. Results are linked to the energy expended to achieve them. Often, a little more effort produces a lot more results. Seek objectives that are difficult to achieve as they offer the greatest rewards.

It's too risky
Nothing is risk free. Usually someone who says they won't attempt something because it is too risky, really means they are afraid of failure. Most endeavors do not require unwarranted risk. Success requires more than one attempt. A failure expert won't even risk that.

Those willing to take calculated risks pass by others who are sitting on the sidelines playing it safe. Babe Ruth achieved his outstanding accomplishments because he kept swinging. In addition to holding the record for home runs he also held a record for strikeouts. If you don't swing, you have no chance of making a hit.

I've had bad experiences
Failure experts allow their past to pollute their future. One bad experience becomes grounds to never make another attempt. If as an infant, they applied this reasoning, they never would have learned to walk.

Bad experiences are simply educational seminars. Dissect events to learn what you did wrong and what went right. If you had it to do over again, what would you do differently? Bad experiences are packed full

of information that can make you stronger and more successful next time.

I've been advised against it
Advised by whom? Failure experts will seek and take advice from anyone. It doesn't matter if their supposed advisors have no pertinent qualifications to back up their opinions. Just one negative comment is enough to abandon all plans.

If you want advice, seek out people who have already accomplished your objective. They are the ones who can impart the most meaningful guidance. Seek out examples of people who have conquered obstacles you may encounter. Emulate success, not failure.

The odds are not in my favor
People will play the lottery where they have no control over the outcome and the chances of winning are millions to one. Yet these same people will avoid attempting anything else that is less than a sure bet.

In your life, your persistence, drive, and determination enhance your odds of success. There are people with far less ability, talent, education, or money than you that succeed because they won't give up. Each time you pick yourself up after stumbling, you improve the odds. Some of the most outstanding accomplishments are attained if the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

I don't know how
Failure experts turn limited knowledge into a brick wall that stops their progress. Anything they don't know how to do is automatically labeled as impossible. They believe their stagnation is due to a lack of education.

Knowledge on any subject is more readily available today than at any other time in history. If you don't want to educate yourself, hire an expert to guide you. A lack of knowledge is neither a permanent condition nor a limitation.

The next column will dispel some more delusions held by failure experts.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2023 Bryan Golden ★

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

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

PROJECT: General Plan Amendment for 2023-2031 Housing Element and 2023 Natural Environment Element Update

The City is processing amendments to the Dixon General Plan 2040, as follows, and the Planning Commission will review and consider its recommendation to the City Council on the following:

2023-2031 Housing Element Update - A Housing Element is a state required element of a City's General Plan. The Housing Element must be updated every eight (8) years and includes goals, objectives, policies, and implementation programs that address the maintenance, preservation, improvement, and development of housing in city limits. This project would update the Dixon General Plan 2040's Housing Element for the 6th housing cycle (2023-2031 planning period) pursuant to State Housing Element law. The Housing Element must identify how the City will accommodate its share of the regional housing need for all economic segments of the community, commonly referred to as RHNA (Regional Housing Needs Allocation). For the 2023-2031 planning period, the City must provide zoning capacity for 416 dwelling units across all income levels. The update proposes to accommodate the RHNA through approved but not yet built projects, vacant sites, and accessory dwelling units.

Suspension of Measure B - Recently adopted State law (SB330 - *The Housing Crisis Act* - Gov. Code, § 66300) prohibits a city/county from adopting new limits or enforcing existing limits on the number of land-use approvals or permits for new housing units. HCD's review of the City's draft Housing Element identified that the City's existing local growth control initiative, Measure B, may conflict with State law and require suspension or termination. The City will consider suspension of Measure B through the term of this Housing Element cycle.

Natural Environment Element Update - Recent State law requires the Safety Element to be updated at the time a Housing Element is updated. The project therefore proposes the necessary amendments to the City's Natural Environment Element, which includes the required Safety Element.

Copies of the Draft 2023-2031 Dixon Housing Element and 2023 Natural Environment Element can be viewed at www.cityofdixon.us/housingelementupdate.

These items were reviewed at a public hearing before the Planning Commission on February 14, 2023 and the matter was continued to the March 14, 2023 Planning Commission meeting for action. The Planning Commission will review and provide their recommendation to the City Council on this project. The City Council hearing to consider adoption of this project is scheduled for March 21, 2023.

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed for significant environmental impacts. An Addendum to the to the City of Dixon's General Plan 2040 Environmental Impact Report (certified in May 2021; State Clearinghouse Number 2018112035) was prepared for the project. The Addendum demonstrates that the updates to the Housing Element and Natural Environment Element would not result in new significant environmental impacts not analyzed in the General Plan 2040 Environmental Impact Report. A copy of the Addendum to the General Plan 2040 can be viewed at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/EnvironmentalReviewDocuments>

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: **Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

MORE INFORMATION Contact Raffi Boloyan, Community Development Director at (707) 678-7000 x1114 or rboloyan@cityofdixon.us. A hardcopy of the Draft 2023-2031 Dixon Housing Element and Draft 2023 Dixon Natural Environment Element are currently available for review at: 1) Dixon City Hall (public lobby), 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620, or 2) Dixon Public Library 230 N. 1st St, Dixon, CA 95620. Documents are also available on City's website at www.cityofdixon.us/housingelementupdate under "Project Documents." See Adoption Draft of the Housing Element and Natural Environment Element.

A staff report for this item will be prepared and be available for review 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed project. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the Planning Commission prior to making their recommendation to the City Council. A separate City Council will be publicly noticed and conducted to accept the Planning Commission recommendation and take final action on the project.

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

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

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

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

Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Adam and Eve's son
- Blink of an eye, for short
- Tricep location
- Laughing on the inside, in text
- ___ bowl, frozen dish
- Bid on a house, e.g.
- Show off
- Actor's role
- Nostrils
- "Everything Everywhere All At Once" or "The Fablemans" nominee
- Trampled
- Humpty without t
- *Cate Blanchett's 6-time nominated movie
- Store in a silo
- Tiny crustacean
- Chop off
- Not digital
- Cut with a beam
- Empty spaces
- Not good
- Relating to pond scum
- Capri or Catalina
- Lament
- ___ Khan
- Full event
- *He's won the most academy awards
- Jump key
- Not yes, nor no
- Male sibs
- *"The Fablemans" composer John ___
- 3-time nominee
- Resin-producing tree
- Call to Mary
- Get-out-of-jail money
- Bye, in Castile
- Ages and ages
- Competitive advantage
- Appetite
- Farm female
- Fender-bender damage

DOWN

- Key often used with ctrl
- Gold rush, e.g.
- Purse with notions
- Leechee, alt. sp.
- Dandruff locale
- This bird gets the worm?
- Give a traffic ticket
- Big do
- Cattail, e.g.
- *___ Harris Goes to Paris, "Best Costume Design" nominee
- Tarzan and such
- Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
- *"The Banshees of Inisherin" nominee
- Polynesian dance, pl.
- Dress like Ancient Greeks
- *Austin Butler's gyrating character
- Gallows loop
- Oil crisis
- *Last year's Best Picture winner
- Like a Druid, e.g.
- Missouri River tributary
- Flying nuisance
- Lend a hand in crime
- Order's partner
- *Guillermo ___'s Pinocchio
- "My wife can vouch for me," e.g.
- Address to a boy, slangily

CROSSWORD

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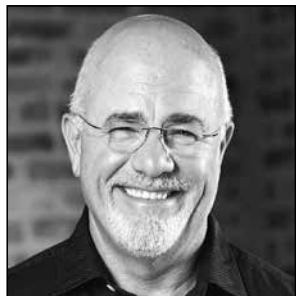
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Dave Ramsey Says

Are You Willing To Do What It Takes?

Dear Dave,

I'm an anesthesiologist, and I make between \$260,000 and \$270,000 a year. My wife is a stay-at-home mom who takes care of our preschool-age kids. We have about \$50,000 in a retirement fund, \$50,000 in consumer debt, \$220,000 in student loan debt, and we owe \$280,000 on our house, which is worth around \$500,000. We're thinking about using our retirement fund to pay off credit cards and such, then selling the house and using the money to pay off the student loans. After that, we'd live in an apartment for a while, save up 20% or more for a down payment on the next home, and do things right financially moving forward. What do you think about this game plan?

- Jake

Dear Jake,

Wow, I really appreciate your motivation, man. You're willing to do whatever it takes, and that's pretty cool. Not many people have the determination to do the kinds of things you're talking about.

I almost never tell people to sell their homes. If you actually can't afford it, that's one thing—and in that case, we'd sell the house. If it's the only way to avoid bankruptcy, we'd get rid of it in a heartbeat. But in your case, things are a little different. You're in a pretty deep hole, but your income as an anesthesiologist gives you a really big shovel you can use to carve out some steps, get up out of that hole, and fill it in so you never fall in again.

Now, this is going to mean some real lifestyle changes for a few years. I'm talking about beans and rice, and no vacations. There's no more living like a rich doctor, because you're not a rich doctor—you're a broke doctor. We're going to temporarily stop adding to your

retirement fund, not cash it out, and we're going to start living on a written, monthly budget where every single dollar is given a name and a purpose.

Cleaning up \$270,000 of debt sounds scary. But with a \$260,000 income and the other changes we talked about, you could put \$90,000 a year toward all this and have it completely cleaned up in just three years. That's what I'd do if I woke up in your shoes. It will set you free for the rest of your lives to invest and save.

Get on it, doc. You can do this!

- 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. ★



The Ignorant and Racially Charged Attacks on Nikki Haley

Only in 21st-century America can you call yourself the "proud daughter of Indian immigrants" and get accused of whitewashing your background.

For the left, the verdict is in and has been for a long time - Nikki Haley is not Indian American enough.

The offenses of the former South Carolina governor are myriad, from using an easily pronounceable name to converting to Christianity, to once checking "white" on a voter registration card, to touting the value of hard work in getting ahead, to defending America against charges of racism.

This has subjected her to ignorant, highly personal, racially charged attacks.

The NAACP activist (and pastor!) Talbert Swan tweeted that she said say her "real" name and asked if she's too afraid of "white folks" to do it.

This is long-running criticism. When Haley came on an episode of "The View" last year, Sunny Hostin asked derisively, "What is her real name again?" Hostin, whose given name is Asuncion, called her a "chameleon" and remarked that it might be different "if she leaned into being someone of color."

This is dumb and ill-informed. As a USA Today fact-check noted, Haley's

name at birth was Nimrata Nikki Randhawa. Rather than being a westernization, "Nikki" is a common nickname in Punjab, where her parents are from. She used the name Nikki since she was young, and then took the last name of her husband Michael Haley, in what is still the common practice in the U.S.

All that aside, the Hostin critique gets to the bottom of the real indictment of Haley from the race obsessives - she's not obsessed with race enough. Or, as "South Asian American experts" cited by NBC News put it, she has "an on-and-off relationship with their Indian identity."

What does "on-and-off" mean except that, while expressing pride in her background, she doesn't let it wholly define her? In what world is this not a healthy, well-adjusted attitude?

Was her announcement video, which did acknowledge the difficulties of growing up as an Indian American in the South Carolina of that time, supposed to be a screed about all the terrible things that have been done to her by the country her parents chose to come to?

The answer for her woke critics is basically "yes." Again and again, critiques of Haley mention that she's perpetuating the "model minority myth," by which they mean she extols up-from-the-bootstraps hard work instead of painting a picture of immigrant futility in a fundamentally racist country.

The other charges against Haley are as meritless. She reportedly checked "white" on a voter registration card

more than 20 years ago. Apparently, the card only offered the options of white, Black/African American, Asian, Hispanic, Native American or other. These categories, an unavoidable aspect of American life, are insanely reductive and imprecise. Asian is often taken to mean East Asian, not South Asian, and if Haley didn't want to "otherize" herself, she might have checked white as one of a number of not-accurate options.

Regardless, what's the allegation here? That she thought no one would find out about her Indian heritage if she checked a certain box on a card no one knew about?

Haley also converted to Christianity, which she has explained thoughtfully and sensitively. It's a feature of Christianity, not a bug, that it is open to all, from every nation and every background. And she's not the first person to convert to Methodism.

At the end of the day, the left is willing only to accept the legitimacy of minorities who toe the party line and are adherents of the worst sort of identity politics and of "The 1619 Project" version of America.

This is why Justice Clarence Thomas is never considered truly Black and why it doesn't matter how often Haley says she is proud of her heritage. She'll still be assailed as a false Indian American working to support white supremacy.

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

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Riley Reviews

"MARLOWE" STRIVES FOR FILM NOIR; MOLESTERS EXPOSED ON ID TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"MARLOWE" Rated R

A writer of detective pulp fiction, Raymond Chandler made his literary mark with fictional private eye Philip Marlowe in a series of novels, several of which were adapted into films starring Humphrey Bogart, Robert Montgomery, and Robert Mitchum, among others.

The spirit of the hard-boiled detective lives on with Irish novelist John Banville who chooses to publish under the pen name of Benjamin Black, at least for crime fiction, including "The Black-Eyed Blonde," subtitled "A Philip Marlowe Novel."

If film noir is defined by stylish crime dramas featuring characters with cynical attitudes, then any movie with gumshoe Philip Marlowe qualifies for the genre. Just take a look at Bogart in "The Big Sleep" or Mitchum in 1975's "Farewell, My Lovely."

A dedicated cinephile of the film noir genre would most likely choose Humphrey Bogart's 1946 "The Big Sleep" as the definitive Philip Marlowe film, with no small measure of help from a starring role for Lauren Bacall.

Liam Neeson, the man with a "special set of skills" in recent action films, is now the brooding, down on his luck detective, the titular character in "Marlowe" and not to be confused with the 1969 film of the same title starring James Garner.

This new "Marlowe" is not based on a Raymond Chandler novel, but rather the contemporary work of Benjamin Black's first foray into imagining the private eye's involvement with a wealthy heiress' search for a missing lover.

While Black's story is set in the early 1950s, "Marlowe" hews to a fitting time of 1939, where the fedora-wearing sleuth seems to be more appropriately situated in the milieu of a film noir environment.

Peering out his office window on to a street that's probably in Hollywood, notwithstanding the fictional Bay City setting, Marlowe spots a leggy beauty making her way in the direction of his building.

Of course, this beautiful woman, Clare Cavendish (Diane Kruger), is the type of femme fatale that's bound to need the services of a detective, in this case to locate Nico Peterson (Francois Arnaud), an ex-lover gone astray.

Initially, the case appears to be solved as a death after a hit-and-run outside the Corbata Club, but then there's been an apparent sighting of Nico very much alive, maybe in Mexico.

The search for the truth results in Marlowe tangling with an assortment of sinister characters, from the slimy owner (Danny Huston) of the Corbata Club, to a drug smuggler (Alan Cumming) and the

usual thugs hired as muscle.

Figuring into the mix of other players are Clare's mother (Jessica Lange), a film star with an unhealthy interest in her daughter's personal life, and a couple of Marlowe's pals from the police force (Colm Meaney and Ian Hart).

The storyline gets convoluted enough that it's easy to lose track of how sex, drugs, a corrupt studio system and some Mexican gangsters figure into a bigger picture that looks conceivably conspiratorial.

One can't help but think that Liam Neeson, fittingly world-weary here, may have aged too much for the physical necessities of the role, which he confirms by saying "I'm getting too old for this" after dispatching a bad guy.

The one compensation for Neeson's senior status is being taller than most of the others, even though we must suspend disbelief that his Marlowe would get the best of thugs half his age.

The saving grace to "Marlowe," if there actually is one, is that the production's aesthetic style captures the essence of film noir and the period look of the shady underbelly of Los Angeles as well as the glitzy Golden Age of Hollywood.

"JARED FROM SUBWAY:

CATCHING A MONSTER" ON ID TV

Remember when Jared Fogle became recognizable as the pitchman for Subway due to his story of overcoming obesity through a diet of the chain's sandwiches? He was a model of inspiration for people struggling with weight problems.

But in 2015, Americans were stunned when authorities brought multiple charges of child endangerment against Jared Fogle and his business partner Russell Taylor.

ID TV's new three-part series, "Jared from Subway: Catching a Monster," reveals the shocking, previously untold story of the investigation that exposed the monster insidiously lurking behind Fogle's charming persona and how his true nature as child sex predator was finally revealed.

Charting Fogle's rise from morbidly obese teenage outcast to beloved Subway spokesman, "Jared from Subway" offers exclusive access into the rise and fall of the disgraced weight loss sensation and the investigation that brought him down.

Over the course of three parts, the docu-series provides key insight from local Florida journalist Rochelle Herman, a single mother of two who later worked with the FBI to investigate Fogle, revealing her secret recordings of his disgusting and disturbing confessions.

The series also explores the charges against Russell Taylor that ultimately led to the raid on Fogle's home that uncovered child pornography. Emotional interviews with Russell's stepdaughters reveal how they were victimized by Fogle and their stepfather. ★

Cornerstone Church Pastor Retires

Continued from page 1

told them I'd stay." Together with his wife, Danielle, who is head of Human Resources for Vacaville Christian School, they bought their home in Dixon and became part of the community 20 years ago. Frank believes that every Pastor should be involved in his community.

They've raised their three daughters and a special needs son here. Cornerstone Church has thrived since they got here, establishing a vibrant children's program run by Sheila Dybdahl, a healthy men's Bible study on Wednesdays, and a huge food pantry program run by Monica Sepulveda who also serves as office manager. The congregation's charity extends beyond Dixon with missionary support and regular donations to Operation Shoebox. The church is a very large family, the Pastor explained.

"He's very humble and he really listens. He is so supportive and so compassionate," Sepulveda said. She's been working at the church for at least eight years. "He's busy all the time, working hard. He does baptisms, weddings, funerals, hospital visits... he's really going to be missed." She also said that he was a great Bible teacher and a great boss.


Although his talents include singing and he has been in a band almost his entire life, he had to learn how to get the sermons up online during COVID.


"It felt weird to stand up there preaching to a camera," he said, but he persevered and still offers sermons online each week for the homebound. When Frank celebrated his 70th birthday last year, that's when the couple started talking and praying about retirement. But COVID was still lingering.

"I didn't feel like God was releasing me. He was using me to hold the church together," he said. Now the church has hired a new pastor and there has been time for that family to get immersed with the church family. "They love God, and they love each other," he added.

"Retirement is bittersweet. I'll miss most Sunday mornings with the church," he said. "God gave me a heart for children and my 11th grandchild will be born [soon.] I love being a grandparent. We have talks about God all the time. I had the blessing of being able to baptize all of them." He gets to spend a lot of time with the ones who live nearby but misses the ones down south. Being retired will give the time to build those relationships, he explained.

"I love what I do, and I'll be serving till my last breath. I'm looking forward to seeing what God has in store for me," he said. Pastor Frank's last day will be Sunday, March 5. Cornerstone Church is located at 185 Cherry St. The new pastor is Mike Bates and his wife is Stephanie. ★





Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993




It is the intent of the *Dixon Independent Voice* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

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WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS




River Cats' Annual Preseason Party

Sacramento River Cats Communications

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento River Cats, Triple-A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, are celebrating the return of baseball with their annual Preseason Party on Sunday, March 5.

The Preseason Party, which opens the Sutter Health Park ticket office, is open from 12 to 3 p.m. (PT), with early entry for season ticket members starting at 11 a.m. (PT).

Those attending the Preseason Party will receive free hot dogs, soda, and Merlino's Freeze samples. Fans can also enjoy a self-guided ballpark and clubhouse tour, a scavenger hunt, kid-friendly games and activities, and also take a first look at the brand-new merchandise available at the On Deck Shop.

Most notably, the event offers the public their first opportunity to purchase single game tickets and/or select from a variety of membership seat locations.

Fans can also snag tickets to the 10th annual Fourth on the Field celebration, a yearly sold-out event where attendees can enjoy live music, food trucks, and the biggest fireworks show in Sacramento while sitting on

the Sutter Health Park field.

The River Cats will play 75 regular season games at Sutter Health Park in 2023, starting with Opening Night on Tuesday, April 4 against the El Paso Chihuahuas (San Diego Padres) at 6:45 p.m. (PT). The full schedule is available online at rivercats.com. Game dates and times may be subject to change. Memberships, select ticket packs, and hospitality rentals are currently available by calling the River Cats ticket hotline at (916) 371-HITS (4487).

Sutter Health Park is the West Sacramento home of the three-time Triple-A Champion Sacramento River Cats, and a proud affiliate of the three-time World Series Champion San Francisco Giants. Sutter Health Park is consistently voted one of the top ballparks in America.

Memberships, Mini-Plans, hospitality rentals, and other ways to join the fun for the 2023 season may be purchased now by calling the River Cats Ticket Hotline at (916) 371-HITS (4487) or visiting www.rivercats.com. For information on other events at Sutter Health Park, visit www.sutterhealthpark.com. ★

Kings Announce Next Step for Top 8 Capitalize: Technology

Sacramento Kings Communications News

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On January 23, the Sacramento Kings announced plans to expand the annual Capitalize competition, extending the platform to two new sectors. The 2023 Capitalize contests will provide support in capacity building, connections and pilot opportunities to innovators including:

Capitalize: Technology - showcasing local technology entrepreneurs and innovators; Capitalize: Food - showcasing innovative food entrepreneurs and concepts; and, Capitalize: Innovation - showcasing game-changing solutions from entrepreneurs worldwide to advance key strategic priorities identified by the Kings.

The first contest, Capitalize: Technology presented by Dialpad, applications closed on February 2 and saw a record number of applicants.

The Top 8 were announced on February

10 and received additional coaching as they prepare for Pitch Day on March 1. At Pitch Day, a panel of successful entrepreneurs, executives and investors will judge the Top 8 pitches and select the 4 Finalists.

The 4 Finalists will create pitch videos used for fan voting which will debut on Kings.com/Capitalize. Fans will have the opportunity to cast a vote starting March 2 until halftime of Kings game on March 24. Judges and fan votes will be tallied, and the Capitalize winner will be announced during the game and awarded a \$10,000 cash prize towards the development of their startup and three years of access to Dialpad communication services.

The 2023 Top 8 Capitalize: Technology contestants are:

3D Organic Polymer Silk (3D-OPS); Adload Technologies Inc.; AppOrchid; Bekonix, Inc.; Ferret; HuLoop Automation, Inc.; Ravata Solutions; Shared Vision.

To learn more about Capitalize 2023, visit Kings.com/Capitalize. ★

LEGAL ADVERTISING

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 Legal Advertising Hotline 916-483-2299 Adjudication No. FCS030046—November 24, 2008
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000200
 The following persons are doing business as: Tourist To Local, 285 W Broadway Street, Dixon, CA 95620.
 Juliana Wynkoop, 285 W Broadway Street, Dixon, CA 95620.
 Date filed in Solano County: January 31, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/1/2023

This Business is conducted by: Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration January 30, 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: Feb 17, 24, March 3, 10, 2023
 BREES 3-10-23
 TOURIST 3-3-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000150
 The following persons are doing business as: Tasty Bites Pizzeria, 526 Tuolumne Street, Vallejo, CA 94590.
 Pep Guys, Inc., 526 Tuolumne Street, Vallejo, CA 94590.
 Date filed in Solano County: January 25, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/25/2023

This Business is conducted by: 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 January 24, 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: Feb 10, 17, 24, Mar 3, 2023
 TASTY 3-3-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000237
 The following persons are doing business as: Brees Creations, 1403 Clementine Lane, Fairfield, CA 94533.
 Brenda Lopez, 1403 Clementine Lane, Fairfield, CA 94533.
 Date filed in Solano County: February 7, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/1/23

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 6, 2028. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
 Publish: Feb 17, 24, March 3, 10, 2023
 BREES 3-10-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000281
 The following persons are doing business as: JUSTSAYUWANT2GOTRAVEL, 1202 Hickory Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533.
 Sonia L. Spears, 1202 Hickory Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533.
 Date filed in Solano County: February 14, 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 February 13, 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: Feb 24, Mar 3, 10, 17, 2023
 JUST 3-17-23

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 2, 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 2, 10, 17 & 24, 2023
 SOCCER 3-24-23

Call to place your legal advertising **916-773-1111**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

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

PROJECT: **End of Dorset Court (Dual Brand Hotel)** - Request for Design Review (21-01) and Planned Development (21-01) approval for the construction of a 4 story, 83,000 square foot, 150 room, dual brand hotel (Hampton Inn and a Home 2 Suites by Hilton) that peaks at 55 ft tall. Design Review is required for any new construction and physical improvements (DMC Sections 18.11.120 18.07.110). As part of this Design Review, proposed signage is also being considered for the hotel and will include wall signage, directional signage, freeway signage on an existing multi-tenant freeway sign, and an 8-foot tall monument sign at the front of the property. The monument sign will also include room on it for the future restaurant to place signage upon. A Planned Development creates specific design standards or identifies future uses, approved by the City Council as an ordinance, that extend beyond those specifically called for as part of the base zoning. This Planned Development creates specific development standards (up to 55 ft) that pertain to height of the hotel which exceed that which is permitted by the base zoning (40 feet) and allows for a future drive-thru restaurant. As elevations for the restaurant were not part of this application, a future Design Review will be needed to allow for its construction. APNs: 0108-340-010, -020, and -030; Zoning District: Highway Commercial – Professional and Administrative Office – Planned Development (CH-PAO-PD); Dixon Hospitality, LLC, owner, Lenity Architecture, applicant; File No: PA21-01, DR21-01/PD21-01

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

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: **Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing a <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

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

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the Planning Commission prior to making any recommendation on the application. The Planning Commission will serve as a recommending body on this application and the City Council will hold a separate public hearing following Planning Commission review, for which separate public notice will be provided, to take action on the application.

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

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

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

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

Appeals of decisions by the Planning Commission to the City Council shall be made in person at Dixon City Hall by completing the appeal application and submitting the required fee, within 10 calendar days of a decision (Dixon Municipal Code Sections 17.01.050 or 18.40).

Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Dixon Independent Voice March 3, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

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

PROJECT: **178 North First Street (Whiskey Barrel)** - Request for a time extension (EXT 23-01) to the original Conditional Use Permit (CUP) approval (PA 21-36) that was approved by the City Council, following an appeal, on April 19, 2022 to operate a pub/lounge with permanent outdoor seating in a vacant building formerly used as Bank of America. In addition, due to a revised determination by the California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC) that a Public Convenience or Necessity (PCN) determination is required due the census tract being considered to have an over-concentration of this type of license (Type 48 – On-Sale General – Public Premises), a new Conditional Use Permit (23-01) is also required for the City to consider a PCN. Previously, ABC had determined that the area was not over-concentrated and no PCN was required, but has now reversed its initial determination and now indicates that the census tract is over-concentrated. Per city policy, when a determination by ABC finds that a census tract area is over-concentrated with a particular alcohol license type, then a PCN is required and this is administered through the city's CUP findings and process. An extension is required for a CUP when an approved use is not initiated, nor has a building permit been issued that pertains to that use within one year of the project having been approved. No changes are proposed to the previously approved site plan or floor plan; APN: 0115-082-090; Zoning District: Downtown Commercial (CD); 178 N First, LLC, owner, Edward "Mickey" Renger and Tiffany Fabiani, applicants; File No: PA23-03, EXT23-01/UP23-01

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and no environmental review will be completed. This project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption from the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines under 14 CRR Section 15301, Class 1. Existing Facilities. If the Planning Commission determines that this project is in an environmentally-sensitive area, further study may be required.

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: **Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

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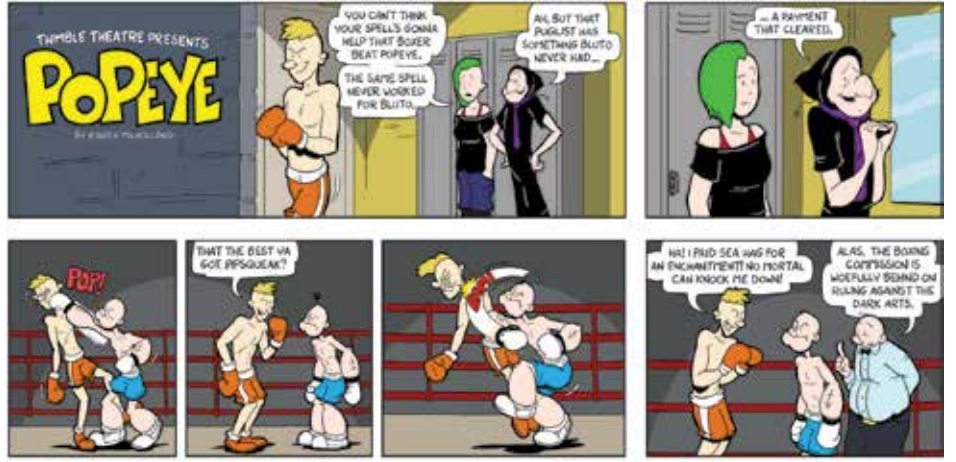
Dixon Independent Voice March 3, 2023

WEEKLY COMICS

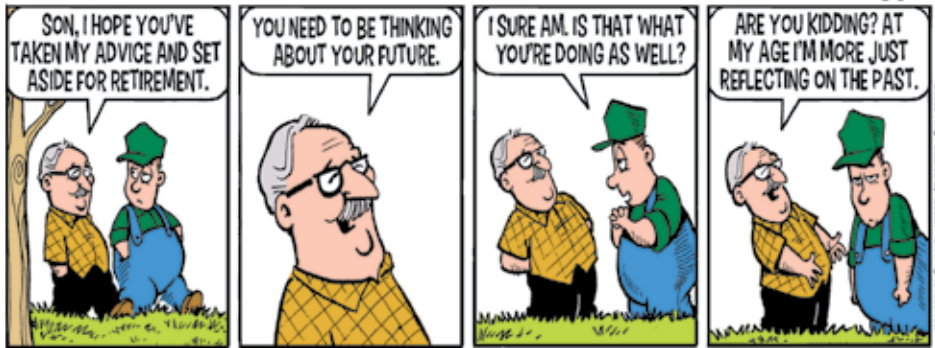
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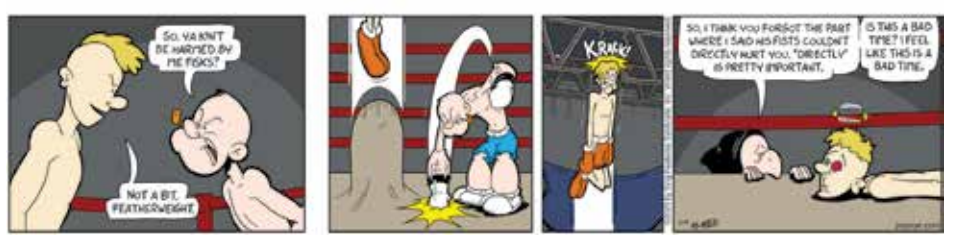
by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



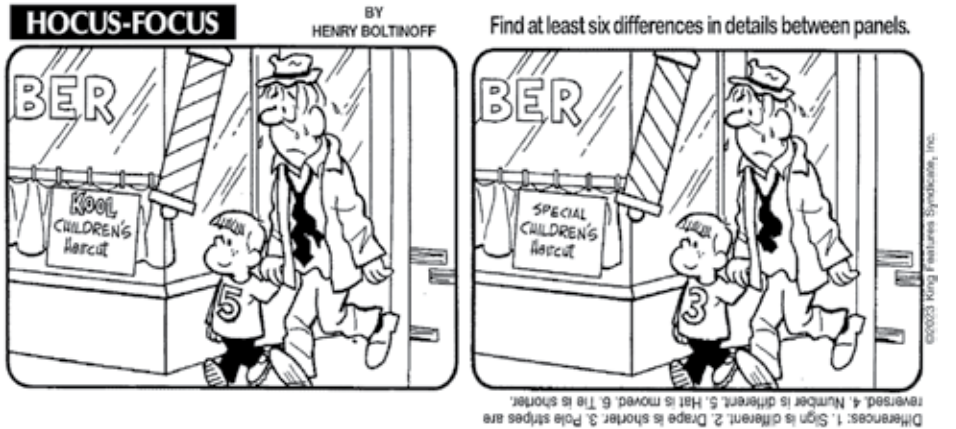
by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb



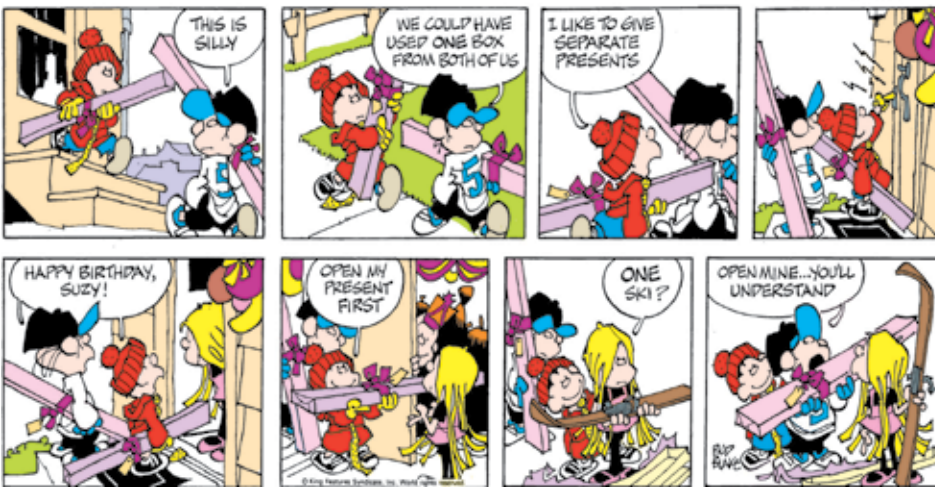
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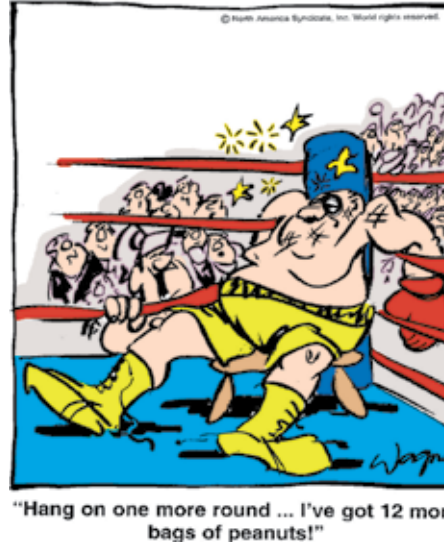
CRIM AND BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

TIGER



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Tuleyome Tale Bullfrog Blight

By Callum Wyeth

Did you know that one of California's top 10 invasive species lives right outside your door? In fact, you can hear its distinctive call in the early evenings. It sounds a bit like a humming cow which is maybe why it has "bull" in its name. It is the American Bullfrog or *Lithobates catesbeianus*.

The native habitat of the American Bullfrog is eastern North America. However, the American Bullfrog is invasive in the West. Here in California, it was introduced by the gold miners in the late 1800s and early 1900s as a food source, but it quickly spread to aquatic and semi aquatic biomes throughout California. The bullfrog is a carnivore, or a secondary consumer. It eats mainly primary consumers like small fish, baby birds, small mammals, other amphibians, tadpoles, and lots of insects; basically, whatever it can fit in its very large mouth. It can grow up to 8 inches long and can weigh up to one pound. It has large and powerful legs and in the winter months can travel up to a mile per day looking for food.

This massive frog is a dangerous predator here in California and has been decimating our native amphibian populations since it arrived, most specifically the vulnerable red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) and the endangered foothill yellow legged frog (*Rana boylei*) who lives here in our local watershed. In fact, red-legged frogs were the basis for Mark Twain's famed short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County", but they are now so scarce that bullfrogs are used for the competition instead.

There are three main reasons why the bullfrog is threatening our native ecosystems. First, at several stages in its life cycle the American Bullfrog preys



The American Bullfrog *Lithobates catesbeianus* is an invasive species which reproduces at a rate 10 times higher than the native frog population. Photo courtesy of Tuleyome

upon our native frogs. Although the bullfrog tadpoles are mostly herbivorous, they will occasionally eat smaller, native frog tadpoles and insect larvae.

Further, as adults the American Bullfrog both competes with and eats native amphibians in such high amounts that one study done by a UC Davis ecologist in San Joaquin County showed a survival rate of just 5% of native red legged frogs in areas with bullfrogs compared to areas without.

Second, the bullfrog reproduces at a rate 10 times higher than the native frog population and can lay 20,000 eggs per clutch and two clutches per year compared to the native frogs which average 2,000 to 3,000 eggs per year. This high reproduction rate combined with its ability to travel and

quickly invade new water systems makes the bullfrog hard to eradicate completely and a dangerous competitor.

Finally, the bullfrog carries the chytrid fungus (*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*) but is not affected by it. The chytrid fungus is a severe skin disease that causes death in susceptible native species. It disrupts the function of the skin in both the tadpole and adult frogs and specifically affects the native Californian mountain yellow legged frog. This fungus has caused the extinction of 100 amphibian species worldwide since 1970.

So, what can we do about this voracious, opportunistic predator? California allows the importation of bullfrog tadpoles as pets and adults for food. Approximately 2 million are brought here annually and many

of them are released or escaped to wreak havoc on native ecosystems. Banning importation or increasing permit fees can help limit the negative impacts. Also, we as residents can help! We can report bullfrogs when we see them and not keep them as pets.

If you are on a hike or see a bullfrog in your neighborhood you can report it to the CDFW Invasive Species Program or email to Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov, or by calling (866) 440-9530. ★

Below: Callum is a 13 year old student in Davis, CA. Photo courtesy of Tuleyome



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