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Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

JANUARY 27, 2023

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May Fair Exhibit Book Released



Livestock is a significant part of the annual Dixon May Fair and entering early ensures proper forms and fees are taken care of. The rules are laid out completely in the newly released guidebook. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Talented artists, photographers, crafters, bakers and more will once again be able to show off their skills to May Fair visitors and may even be taking home ribbons as well as cash awards. The Dixon May Fair Exhibit Guidebooks are now available for people to choose one or many places of competition for blue ribbons.

Entry forms and more information on entry fees are available at dixonmayfair.com and separate entry forms are required for each category one plans to enter. The Dixon May Fair mailing address is PO Box 459,



Domestic animals truly give the Dixon May Fair its earthy quality reminding community members of their farming days. Photo by David Dingman

Dixon, CA 95620 and the delivery address is 655 South First Street.

For the record, the Dixon May Fair began in 1876 and is the oldest district fair in the state of

California. The 4-day event will be Thursday, May 11 through Sunday, May 14.

Most consider us lucky to have a local fairgrounds that brings thousands of visitors every year and

takes in plenty of entries from the communities of Vacaville, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Elmira, Woodland and Davis. In addition to the many areas of talent that will be on exhibit, there will also be livestock and classic cars.

Livestock - Market Animal Exhibitors and Small Animal Exhibitors must enter online only and pay fees February 6 through March 3. For small market animals and non-market class entries, that date is on April 14. Make checks payable to: Dixon May Fair All livestock - Proof of Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA)
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SCOE Earns Grant for Mental Health and Wellness Supports

Special SCOE Releaser

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Solano County Office of Education was recently awarded a \$4,000,000 federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The grant's focus is to advance healing and improve social determinants of health among youth and families in communities that have experienced community violence, disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and other significant collective trauma over the past 24 months.

"SCOE is honored and well-positioned to be entrusted with such an important grant that will support building capacity for increased mental health supports in our school communities. Schools across Solano County have seen an increase in student mental health and wellness needs, and we will use this grant to continue to be a conduit and leader in this work for students and families," commented Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

As part of the grant work, SCOE will engage the community to plan and deploy culturally relevant, trauma informed prevention, intervention, and post-vention strategies that build school and community capacity, expand service access, and promote healing and healthy development. SCOE will place particular focus on those disproportionately impacted in the past two years including Black, Latino/a, LGBTQ students and families who are more likely to experience mental health symptoms and crises. Prevention activities will be targeted to the whole community.

The goals of the project are to decrease incidents of community violence and the impact of collective trauma, while increasing the knowledge and capacity of schools and other youth-serving entities. The grant will also help increase the knowledge and development of mental health interns at both the graduate and paraprofessional level. SCOE is excited to utilize this grant to further mental health and wellness supports for Solano students, families and educators. ★

Rotary Getting Crabby

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It's that time again for the 19th Annual Rotary Crab Feed on Saturday, February 25. The May Fair's Madden Hall will fill up with rows of tables and hundreds of crab lovers. You may even feel a little cramped but you won't mind as the students from Ramtown Karate begin bombarding you with servings of fresh salad, tasty pasta, then fluffy French bread before finally getting to the main course: Crab!

Hopefully a bit of drink from the no-host bar that opens at 6 p.m. will have you relaxed enough to have waited it out and can thoroughly enjoy the crustacean served at 7 p.m.

"It is our largest fundraiser," explained Club Treasurer Janice Beaman, who chaired somewhere around ten years of these Rotary dinners. "We get penne pasta made by Anderson Catering and we



The main course is naturally-Crabs! Photo courtesy Anekoho | Dreamstime.com

get fresh, wonderful crab. It's delicious. It has never been frozen, and it comes anywhere from northern California to the Canada coast." She said there are other crab feeds, but they don't have a band.

"We have the Time Bandits, and they are

especially good and they are from Solano County - that in itself is a draw for our crab feed," she said. The premier dance band is a family of talented musicians that play rock, R&B, Swing, or Jazz and all styles at corporate events, concerts, festivals, weddings,

etc. Another draw is the fact that everyone knows where the money goes.

"We prioritize what we donate to and the first and foremost is the scholarships program. We give out between \$12,000 to \$15,000 for scholarships every year.

Continued on page 3





Life's too SHORT

Good Week but Need Sports Covered

By Debra Dingman

I could tell this was going to be a great week when I opened our post office mailbox and found it stuffed with subscription renewals. I like that the Publisher includes a random survey which will give us a sampling of what our readers want or don't like.

I think of it as our report card. Like all entrepreneurs, the newspaper owner is innovative and seems to be always thinking of ways to improve and I like that. Those comments mean a lot to us but particularly to me because I'm on the front lines and according to the surveys, local news is the super draw. Thank you everyone for your comments and suggestions!

On the website for Dixon High School, and as I was thumbing through the high school calendar, I was jolted into the spring sport season as there were promotions for basketball and soccer. Boy, am I behind! Just because I was watching snow football on Sunday with hubby, didn't mean I thought on the local level that practices and games are going on. Anybody wanting to cover Dixon sports, call me and I'm not talking about just young people looking for a side gig. If there is a retired gentleman who can still climb bleachers, you could still be our guy.

I've known this about Dixon ever since I moved here 30 years ago when I realized there wasn't a movie theater, skating rink, or bowling alley for youth but that was okay because there were tons of teams for every age and Scouts, and 4-H. No child ever complained (at least not in my earshot) that there was nothing to

do. If anything, my children slept really sound because they had been busy with some kind of youth sports or extracurricular activity.

There are lots of games and teams to cover. It was a reminder that sports go on year-round in any weather, even on the local level. I was excited to read that a certain valuable football coach with a long last name that begins with the letter B is even adding to that plethora. He's got plans for Co-ed Flag Football. You didn't hear that from me here in the newspaper. I know he has a few more details to work out but I really got excited about this and look forward to more in the near future. In my defense, he has announced it to students.

I would be worried about watching games while out in the cold but this morning when the sun was warming everything up, I wondered about how unpredictable weather is, and how I just need to go visit KUIU. I considered the possibility of having a sudden and very warm spring since we might have just had winter all at once.

A few weeks back, the company rearranged my computer life and where my workstation is. Now, there are no extra plugs for my feet-warming heater. Even with two pairs of socks and boots, my feet are like ice by 10 a.m. every day. I'm going to have to fix this situation soon because I'm too sensitive and find it hard to concentrate on anything but my feet. But for now, a possible sudden warm wave sounds really, really good. Maybe it's being surrounded by farmland, I don't know, but I always wonder what our Dixon farmers are wanting weather-wise. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Indoor Pickleball is played on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon until March 4 at John Knight Middle School, 455 East A Street – so there is no excuse, despite the cold, to not get your exercise in. See Dixon Pickleball on Facebook for more information or call Dixon Recreation Manager at (707) 678-7441. Photo courtesy of Valerie Miner

MPG Staff

Crab Feed

The Dixon Game Conservation Club Crab Feed is reserved on Saturday, February 4, from 6 to 10 pm at the Dixon May Fairgrounds. The mission of this organization is to promote education and information regarding conservation. They usually host a Hunter's safety program for all ages and a junior pheasant hunt for youth up to 16 years old. Call (707) 678-9155.

Valentine's Workshop

A delicious kind of workshop will be hosted by 'Over the Moon Grazing Company' owned by Christina Carrasco a Dixon caterer on Sunday, February 5, at 1 p.m. at The Creative Space in downtown Dixon. Cost is \$80 single/\$105 a couple and students will learn how to make a charcuterie board – even in the shape of a heart. Charcuterie boards are a selection of colorful cheeses and fruits arranged beautifully on a platter. Call (530) 723-0929 or go to overthemoongrazingco.com. The class will be at 160 West A Street across from the Dixon History Museum.

Empower Solano

Solano County Public Health and Empower Solano want to assist small businesses with economic resilience, stability, and overall fiscal health. Complete a brief survey to tell them how they can support you in the future. One can also join the free business directory at www.ShopSolano.org to spread the word about your amazing events, sales, and more. Go to [empowersolano.org/SBC_Survey](http://www.empowersolano.org/SBC_Survey).

DDBA Workshop

If you own a business in Dixon, you'll want to attend the free workshop on preventing crime on Thursday, February 2 at 8:30 a.m. held at The Creative Space, 160 West A Street in downtown Dixon. It is hosted by the Downtown Dixon Business Association and will feature Matthew Olsen, Solano County Lead Deputy District Attorney and a representative from the Dixon Police Department. Reserve your spot by calling and leaving your name/business at (707) 678-8400.

City Meeting

The next official City meeting is a Joint Study Session (#1) and will be on Tuesday, January 31 at 6:30 p.m. inside the Council Chambers at City Hall, 600 East A Street in Dixon. The purpose of the

meeting is to review the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update. It is the first of three of these sessions that combine the City Council with the City Planning Commission to review the initial draft of the Zoning Ordinance update. This first one will cover regulations for use and development standards, Overly Zoning Districts, Standards for specific uses, and Use classifications plus the Draft Zoning Map, which includes changes to reclassify and rezone property.

Fundraising Dinner

Mark your calendars for Monday, February 13, 2023, for the annual Dixon Women's Improvement Club Scholarships and Grants Fundraising Dinner. At Bud's Pub & Grill, 100 South First Street in downtown Dixon. Tickets are now on sale and are \$30 per person. Dinners can be eaten inside or taken home from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Call to pre-order at (707) 678-4745 after 4 p.m. on Monday, February 13, if you want to pick up.

Entrée choices are Prime Rib or Tri-tip, Chicken, Salmon, Pasta, or Vegetarian dish. They also will include dinner salad, garlic roasted red potatoes, and bread. There will be a huge raffle drawing of all kinds of goods and services during the evening. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased by any of the DWIC members or call the newspaper office at (707) 678-8917.

Retirement Planning

On Tuesdays, January 31 and February 7, Dixonites are invited to attend a Retirement Planning Course offered at Solano Community College Vacaville Center from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. It is an educational course for adults ages 50 to 70 and a variety of topics will be covered to help people avoid retirement roadblocks and plan their futures with confidence. The college is at 2001 North Village Parkway in Vacaville and there will be an online class offered on Thursdays, February 2 and 9. For more information, call (530) 231-0380 or register online at www.rsvp.courses. There is a \$49 registration fee.


Mobile Diabetes Education Center

The Mobile Diabetes Education Center (MOBEC) will offer a free diabetes screening at the Dixon Senior Multi-use Center, 201 South 5th Street, on Wednesday, February 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ★

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS 

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.



Monday, January 23, 2023
 2100 Hours - Report for missing passport taken in the 1000 Block of Merrill Dr. Ibarra
 1102 - Traffic stop in the 500 block of Sierra Drive resulted in the arrest of Albert Avalos (37) of Vacaville for possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting arrest. He was taken to county jail.
 1158 - Injury accident reported in the area of Pitt School Road and Sunflower Way.

Sunday, January 22
 1930 Hours - Theft of two Bicycles in the 200 Block of West D Street. The bicycles were later recovered. 2000 Hours - Threats report in the 200 Block of West D Street between juveniles.
 2110 Hours - Hit and Run Investigation in the area of Newgate and West H Street involving four vehicles.
 1525 - Stolen vehicle hit in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive resulted in the arrest of Jorge Barrera (36) of Arbutle for possession of a stolen truck. He went to county jail.

Saturday, January 21
 1842 - Coroners report was taken in the 600 block of West C St.
 2238 - An abandoned 6' foot trailer with no tires was towed the 600 block of South 1st St.
 1316 - A previously reported missing person responded to the DPD Lobby to state she was not in fact missing. She was removed from MUPS.
 1332 - A traffic collision with minor injuries was reported in the intersection of Stratford Avenue and North 1st Street.
 1343 - Officers responded to the Dixon Corp Yard located in the 200 block of East Chestnut Street for a report of a subject who jumped the fence and was trespassing on city property. Officers arrived and cleared the yard. While doing so, they contacted Tyler Wanderstadt (21) of Dixon, whom they knew from prior contacts. Wanderstadt was known to be on both felony and misdemeanor probation for 14 separate counts of theft in different cases. He was arrested for Prowling, and for violating the terms of his felony and misdemeanor probation. He was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail without incident.

Friday, January 20
 1806 - Traffic collision report was taken at West Chestnut St. at South Adams St.
 1819 - Possession of a stolen vehicle and burglary tools arrest was taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr. Officers arrested a person whose name will not be released due to being a juvenile.
 0656 - Report of vehicle theft in the 1300 block of Bello Drive.
 0753 - Report of theft from a locked vehicle in the 1100 block of Arizona Court.
 0828 - Report of vehicle theft in the 600 block of West Cherry Street.
 1519 - Report of a catalytic converter theft in the 2100 block of Mariposa Drive.

Thursday, January 19
 No reports were taken

Wednesday, January 18
 2241 - Stolen vehicle recovery report was taken at the intersection of Pitt School Rd. at Stratford Av.
 0018 - Warrant and providing a false name to police arrest report was taken in the 1800 block of North 1st St officers contacted (S) Joseph Ortega (38) out of Vacaville or Woodland. A records check revealed Ortega had an outstanding felony warrant out of Solano County. Ortega was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.

Tuesday, January 17
 1940 Hours - Attempted Burglary to a residence in the 500 Block of North Washington.
 2000 Hours - Found Property at City Hall.
 2030 Hours - Death Investigation in the 700 Block of Wiegand Way.
 0821 - Report of a catalytic convertor theft in the 900 block of Justin Way.
 1116 - Traffic stop in the 500 block of West A Street resulted in the arrest of Johnathan Lamont (47) of Dixon for keeping false registration on his truck. He was arrested and released from the PD with a promise to appear citation.

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Railroad Resort Worth the Drive

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) -Thumbing through the California Magazine that I picked up in the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, I noticed a small advertisement in the back with the word, 'Dunsmuir' in red letters. I would not even know where Dunsmuir is except that it is where our City Manager was prior to being hired in Dixon. If I had not researched his history for my article, I would have probably flipped to the next page; So, thank you, Mr. Lindley!

Then I see the subhead of 'Spend the Night in a Caboose.' Now, it really had my attention. I've always been a fan of trains since my mom and young son took a trip to Colorado on one. Since, I've purchased a membership to the Sacramento Railroad Museum and enjoy trips with the grandchildren there. Recently, I had been looking for a site for a small family reunion and the more I read about this place, the more I was intrigued. To make sure this would work for the families and young children involved, hubby and I made a reservation and hit the road.

Less than three hours on straight I-5 freeway and driving through peaceful wheatfields and eventually through tall trees and snow-capped mountains, we arrived at the small town of Dunsmuir, California and home of the Railroad Park Resor since 1968.

It was then that Bill and Delberta Murphy, local descendants of pioneering railroaders, decided to collect and preserve the old rail era and began collecting cabooses, flat cars, and boxcars, transforming them into beautifully renovated units. Now, this resort offers 12 cupola-topped cabooses big enough for families, sleeping up to five and a separate area of cabooses and converted boxcars for adults only.

I knew it would be cold, but I was pleasantly surprised at the beautiful snow-white drifts everywhere and the numerous brightly colored red, yellow, and blue train cars awaiting guests.

Inside our red Southern Pacific Caboose #2 was a knotty pine interior decorated with antique train pictures and railroad paraphernalia; even the nightstands were old train lanterns with small



The Railroad Park Resort holds numerous cabooses and railroad cars awaiting guests staying in Dunsmuir, California. Photo by Debra Dingman



Dunsmuir, California is located just south of Mount Shasta on Interstate 5. Photo by Debra Dingman



Dunsmuir is loaded with wonderful sites and restaurants and only a 3-hour drive north on Interstate 5 from the greater Sacramento region. Photo by Debra Dingman

flickering lights in the center. It had a super comfortable queen bed, small table with two chairs in the seating area across from a refrigerator, microwave, and coffee bar. There were windows with blinds everywhere and a large television screen across from a coat hanging and suitcase storage area. At the end of the room was a private bathroom complete with a full-size shower and bath combination, and a huge train engine pictured on the shower curtain.

We explored the children's playground area, checked out the snow-covered swimming pool, the barbecue pits for roasting marshmallows, and checked out the trail leading to tent and RV camping sites. We snapped pictures of the huge black engine called the Willamette Steam Driven Locomotive and the rustic water tower but really enjoyed the center attraction waterfall that had a small moving locomotive winding through its tunnels.

I went shopping in the little store that had all kinds of puzzles, metal trains, train whistles, sweatshirts, jewelry, and all things trains. Besides this place being basically all-inclusive – meaning you can hike, play, swim or hot tub, there is a complete restaurant on site that offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner. There is a full bar and even a place for special gatherings in the old but refurbished railcar. We did enjoy a delicious breakfast while we watched birds tango over berries through the many large viewing windows.

We took a day trip into town where there are a few small shops and restaurants to browse but catching the beauty of the Castle Crags (mountains) and the rambling river through town was refreshing.

The trip was very much worth the affordable price, and we found staff friendly and helpful. It is located at 100 Railroad Park Road in Dunsmuir and there are two contact numbers: For Lodging/Reservations, call (530) 235-4440 or for the RV/Campground, call (530) 235-0420. Their website is rrpark.com. If it was that pleasant during the freezing weather, I happily anticipate our family reunion there in the warmer month. ★

Rotary Getting Crabby

Continued from page 1

We send six youth to Camp Royal at about \$1,000 each. Also, Bids for Kids, the Teen Center, and Dixon Family Services. Those are the core ones," she said before listing off teachers, veterans, and more. Their members are more than supportive.

"It's an all-member event so we're expected to participate, and we love to have members' spouses and often times, their older adult children," she added. They also have the support of Ramtown parents who bring their children to help serve.

"They really enjoy [serving] and they make quite a bit in tips," Beaman said. "We pay them, but they also get to keep their

tips." On that note, reliable sources report you should always bring change (and hang onto it) because you'll want to tip those youth who are fundraising for out of the area competitions.

The evening is filled with opportunities to bid on silent auction prizes, win raffle baskets, and more.

Since the public is invited, the tickets usually sell out. They are \$70 and are sold online only. The Time Bandits are performing from 8:30 till 11:30 p.m. If you just want to dance, there is an admission price of \$20. For more information, call Beaman at (916) 240-0147 or for tickets, go to <https://2023-dixoin-rotary-crabfeed.eventbrite.com>. ★

May Fair Exhibit Book Released

Continued from page 1

Certification must be received by March 10 for market animals and April 14 for breeding to be eligible for the 2023 Fair.

Cars - Pre-registration is required for the 9th annual Classic Car Show at this year's Dixon May Fair May 11-14. All entries and entry fees must be received by no later than Friday, April 28. Entries may close prior to closing date if space fills so act quick if you're planning to participate. There will be music by 'Hey Jude'. Set up is from 6 to 9:30 a.m. Show is open to cars 1972 and older and there is a limit of only 60 vehicles. Entry fee is \$25 and that includes fair admission for two people

(driver and passenger) arriving in the car and a commemorative Dash Plaque.

May Fair Board Members are Lloyd McCabe, President, Richard Hamilton, Tom Raycraft, Dana Martin, Roy Gill, Jill Bors-Turner, Fermin Rubio, and Greg Pryor. At their last meeting, they approved the West Coast Rodeo for a Bronc and Bull Riding Show on Friday, May 12, and a contract with an entertainment company for a Latin music festival on Sunday, May 14. It's going to be a great year.

May Fair sponsors are the Bank of Stockton, 95.3 KUIC, KUIU Ultralight Hunting, the Reporter, Archer & Ficklin, and AG Farmers Best Feed. ★



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Message from Dixon High School

By Principal Stephanie Marquez

Winter Ball is coming up! The 2023 Winter Ball is scheduled for Saturday, February 4, from 8:00-11:00 pm at the Woodland Hotel. Our senior class and their advisors have been working very hard to plan a fun event! Student ticket sales will begin the week of January 23 and seniors will have the first sale day, followed by open sales. Tickets are still selling and will be available until we reach the venue's capacity (300 beautiful people).

It is Time to Start Celebrating the Graduating Class of 2023!

One of the bittersweet things about high school is celebrating our seniors. We simultaneously celebrate and say goodbye to this awesome class of young people. If you're a parent of a senior, prepare to bounce between these extremes over the next months. It is a wonderful, bumpy ride!

Here are some traditional senior celebrations and activities to be aware of. Remember, we look forward to this every year and can't wait to honor your students!

In accordance with California Legislative Policy, all seniors must complete a FAFSA to earn a diploma this year. You can start this at home, but we will have more opportunities for support soon; In late February/Early March, students will have the opportunity to apply for Community Scholarships; Our staff will be delivering a special surprise for your graduate's home... as soon as it stops raining; Our athletic teams will continue to celebrate senior athletes at home contests; Award Ceremonies and Senior Nights (beyond athletics) begin in May; Paint the Town Green and other events will take place in May as well; Graduation for the Class of 2023 is on Saturday, June 3, at 9 a.m. in the stadium.



DHS Principal Stephanie Marquez

Purchase the 2023 Dixon High Yearbook

Yearbooks can be purchased online throughout the school year. Purchase the 2023 Dixon High Yearbook online throughout the school year! Order one by credit card or eCheck at www.yearbookordercenter.com (Order# 7317) or by mail-in-check by calling 1-866-287-3096.

College Advising on Wednesdays for All Students

Our counseling office is hosting College Wednesdays at lunch in the College and Career Center. All students are welcome to stop in and get their college and career questions answered. This is a great opportunity for our seniors to get help with finalizing applications, completing the FAFSA, making career decisions, etc. It is also a fantastic opportunity for our younger students who are exploring post-secondary opportunities. For more information, call Dixon High School at (707) 693-6330 or go to dixonusd.org and click on Dixon High School. ★

CLG NEWS UPDATES

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

DOJ seizes more classified docs from Biden's Wilmington home after 12-hour FBI search

21 Jan 2023 | The Justice Department seized additional classified records from Joe Biden's Wilmington, Delaware, home after an FBI search on Friday, Fox News has learned. "On Jan. 20, 2023, the FBI executed a planned, consensual search of the President's residence in Wilmington, Delaware," Joseph D. Fitzpatrick, an assistant U.S. attorney to U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois John Lausch, told Fox News Saturday. Lausch was the DOJ official running the investigation into Biden's improper retention of classified records ahead of the appointment of Special Counsel Robert Hur... The FBI search began Friday morning at 9:45 a.m. and concluded Friday night around 10:30 p.m.

Customs officials are seizing eggs [instead of fentanyl] at the U.S.-Mexico border

20 Jan 2023 | U.S. customs officials are cracking down on egg smugglers. With egg prices soaring in the U.S. over the last year, more Americans are crossing into Mexico to buy the food item and trying to sneak cartons of raw eggs along some areas of the southern border, including California and Texas. "We are seeing an increase in people attempting to cross eggs from Juarez to El Paso because they are significantly less expensive in Mexico than the U.S.," U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Roger Maier told CBS MoneyWatch. "This is also occurring with added frequency at other Southwest border locations."

Border agents confirm 1.2 million 'gotaway' migrants under Biden administration – Illegal immigration continues to skyrocket under Biden

22 Jan 2023 | U.S. border agents have confirmed that 1.2 million illegal migrants "got away" from authorities while crossing the border under Joe Biden's administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) sources told Fox News on Sunday. CBP tracks hundreds of thousands of migrant encounters at the U.S.-Mexico Border every month, but that stat does not include the number of known "gotaways," or migrants who were detected by authorities but not apprehended. Since Biden entered office in January 2021, border crossings have exploded, and at least 1.2 million migrants successfully evaded authorities. The first half of Biden's four-year term saw monthly border encounters rise from 101,000 in February 2021 to 251,000 in December 2022, according to CBP stats.

Border Patrol nabbed 17 people on FBI terror watch list at southern border in December

21 Jan 2023 | Border Patrol agents stopped 17 people on the FBI's terror watch list at the southern border in December, bringing the total of individuals arrested at the southern border to 38 already for the current fiscal year. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) latest numbers for December, released on Friday, revealed Border Patrol has arrested 17 people at the southern border whose names match on the FBI's Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) – which contains information about the identities of those who are known or "reasonably suspected" of being involved in terrorist activities. December's numbers bring the total number of terror watch list arrests between the ports of entry to 38 since FY 2023 began on Oct 1. There were 98 terror watch list arrests in FY22, 15 in FY21 and just three in FY 20 at the southern border caught between ports of entry.

Where Did All the Workers Go?

20 Jan 2023 | In a November 30, 2022, speech on "Inflation and the Labor Market," Federal Reserve chairman Jerome Powell blamed most of the 3.5 million estimated shortfall in the U.S. labor force on premature retirements. He also blamed a large portion – between 280,000 and 680,000 – on "long Covid." **In a footnote, however, Powell acknowledged a far more somber factor: an estimated 400,000 unexpected deaths among working age people...** In 2020, Covid did not take very many lives of healthy young and middle-age people – for example, the types of people who are employed at large and mid-size companies and who have group life insurance. ...[G]roup life insurance benefit payments in 2020 were barely higher than in 2018... In 2021, however, group life payments exploded by 20.7 percent over the five year average and by 15 percent over the acute pandemic year of 2020. Why would healthy young and middle-age people suddenly begin dying in large numbers in 2021 when they'd navigated 2020 with relative success? Especially when we consider that in 2021, the US administered 520 million Covid-19 vaccine doses. Shouldn't healthy people employed in good jobs with good benefits, now protected with vaccines, have fared better in 2021 than in 2020?

Federal agencies withholding data behind pilot heart condition change, COVID vax stroke reversal

20 Jan 2023 | Federal agencies are withholding the data behind recent decisions that relate or may relate to COVID-19 vaccines and severe adverse events, fueling speculation that they are putting both vaccinated and unvaccinated lives at risk. The Federal Aviation Administration told Just the News it widened the acceptable range of heart rhythms for commercial pilots, who were initially subject to industry-wide vaccine mandates, in light of "[n]ew scientific evidence" that it has yet to specify. The Oct. 26 update to the heart arrhythmias section of the FAA Guide for Aviation Medical Examiners made two key changes. The agency raised the maximum so-called PR interval for first-degree atrioventricular block to 300 milliseconds, with no regard to age, on the list of "normal variants" that don't require deferment in the absence of "symptoms or AME concerns." FAA spokesperson Ian Gregor provided a modified version of the statement the agency released last spring after American Airlines pilot Robert Snow blamed his in-flight cardiac arrest on coerced vaccination.

'Bombshell' Emails Reveal Fauci Was Part of NIH and Who Conspiracy to Silence Wuhan Lab Leak Theory

21 Jan 2023 | Dr. Anthony Fauci, once considered America's top Covid doctor, conspired with influential scientists around the world, including at the World Health Organization, to quell concerns that SARS-CoV-2 may have leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology, newly un-redacted emails show. The newly released emails raise questions about Dr. Fauci's motives in dispelling public scrutiny over the potential the novel coronavirus had escaped from the Wuhan laboratory. Fauci had misled Congress over the extent that the National Institutes of Health had funded the Wuhan lab as a subcontractor of EcoHealth Alliance. The Wuhan laboratory was also funded by the Pentagon, contract awards show. The un-redacted NIH emails show how public questioning that SARS-CoV-2 may have escaped from a laboratory was a concern for the group's scientists lest it become a "conspiracy theory."

FDA assigned Pfizer's COVID vaccine a license number months prior to actually licensing it

6 Jan 2023 | Back in July 2020, when the U.S. Government committed to purchasing millions of doses of Pfizer's Covid vaccines prior to the vaccines actually being authorized for use in the American public, some wondered whether the FDA's "review" process for granting Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) was just a mere formality... Based on an FDA document that ICAN's (Informed Consent Action Network) attorneys recently obtained, it appears we can now say that the FDA's post-EUA procedure for determining whether to formally license Pfizer's Covid vaccine was indeed just that - a mere formality. On June 17, 2021, the FDA drafted a memo announcing that it was issuing a license number for Pfizer's Covid vaccine. But the FDA didn't actually license the Pfizer's Covid vaccine until several months later on August 23, 2021. In the document, the FDA makes the stunning admission that, while granting a BLA license number prior to actual licensing was a "deviation from [the FDA's] normal practice," it was doing so to "facilitate product labeling and distribution" because it had reviewed "much" of the information in Pfizer's licensing application. ★

National Anthem Auditions to be held at Sutter Health Park

Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The national anthem is open to all soloists, groups, and instrumentalists. Those interested in performing the national anthem at a 2023 River Cats game must submit an audition demo by Friday, Feb. 10.

Audition Demo Guidelines: A cappella version; The Star-Spangled Banner in full; Clear, consistent, and correct lyrical performance; And, full performance must be under 90 seconds.

Audition demos must be emailed as an mp3 file or YouTube link to marketing@rivercats.com with the following information: Subject: 2023 National Anthem Demo; Include: Name, Phone Number, and Email.

Submissions that do not meet the above



To perform the national anthem at a 2023 River Cats game, you must submit an audition demo. Photos courtesy of Sacramento River Cats

guidelines will not be considered for a call back. Demos received past the due date will not be considered.

The River Cats will invite the top-50 submissions to a live audition at

Sutter Health Park. Due to the number of demos received, performers will only be contacted if selected. Selected parties will be contacted with further instructions the week of February 13. ★

Solano County Genealogical Society

Solano County Press Release

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - Popular genealogical speaker Lisa Gorrell will present "Researching Religious and Church Records" at the next meeting of the Solano County Genealogical Society. The virtual presentation begins 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 4.

Census and court records are great places to look when researching your family, but don't forget to check church records, too, even if you think your ancestor did not attend church. Church records can be a rich source of information about family members, providing names, dates, and relationships, and many records from churches and religious organizations pre-date civil records.

Lisa Gorrell has been researching family histories for over 30 years. She is a Certified Genealogist®, a graduate of the ProGen program, and an alumna of many genealogical institutes. Her areas of expertise include southern states and Texas,

California, Montana, and Oregon; 18th & 19th-century German research; and 18th & 19th-century.

Swedish research. Lisa has served on boards of several genealogical societies and is currently the recording secretary with the Contra Costa County Historical Society, where she volunteers at their archives in Martinez. She is also a founding member and instructor of the new online Applied Genealogy Institute (<https://appliedgen.institute>). She writes about her family on two blogs: "Mam-ma's Southern Family" <http://mam-massouthernfamily.blogspot.com/> and "My Trails into the Past" <http://mytrailsintothepast.blogspot.com/>.

Guests are welcome to attend this free event. If interested, email the society at scgs@scgsca.org no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, February 3, and request an invitation. More information on society activities can be found on the society's webpage at scgsca.org and on its Facebook page. ★

California Loses Population Again

Commentary by Ted Gaines

California reigned for decades as the unmatched destination for people around the country. Now people can't leave fast enough. Recently released numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that between July 2021 and July 2022, California lost roughly 343,000 residents to other states. This number is a "domestic net migration" figure, meaning that 343,000 more Americans moved out of California over those 12 months than moved here from other states.

Where are they going? The number-one net migration winner over that period was Florida, which gained around 319,000 residents from other states.

It's too easy to say exclusively that Newsom is driving people out of state and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is attracting them, but to the extent the two governors symbolize different approaches to taxation, regulation, and liberty, it holds true. People are leaving Newsom-like states and flocking to DeSantis-like states. If you want to handicap the 2024 presidential election, this is a good place to start.

The states shedding domestic population are progressive strongholds, with extensive regulatory regimens, strong public employee unions and other Democrat policy priorities. They are, simply, big government states. High tax, high cost of living states. Joining California in the top five net losers are New York, Illinois, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.

States attracting Americans are lower-cost, lower-tax, Republican strongholds. Trailing Florida in the top five net gainers are Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

And even if your individual tax burden is not too bad in California, big government, supported by high taxes (regardless of who pays them) indicates a mindset that the state should always be doing more and additional money for government is inherently good.

This bigger-is-better approach leads to government solutions in search of problems.

It's why California government seeps into every crack of your life, blocking the exercise of what you can eat, what house you build, what car you drive, how much you keep of the money you earn, down to such trivialities as what drinking straws you can get in a restaurant. Do you feel as though you personally need government monitoring your straw usage, or is that a decision you are competent to make as an adult? Florida trusts you to choose your own straw, California does not.

The California government mindset drives up costs in every area of living. Looking at taxes alone doesn't tell a complete story of government-imposed costs. How many taxes would have to move lower to make up for policy-driven expenses in California? Would a one-percent decrease make up for gas that's two-dollars-a-gallon higher than the national average? Would slightly lower sales taxes offset electricity costs 80-percent higher than the national average? Exactly what tax would offset the cost of an \$800,000 starter home, driven in part by extraordinary regulatory costs in our state?

California will always be desirable for the wealthy. I defy another state to produce a Yosemite, a Golden Gate, giant redwoods, Lake Tahoe, Big Sur, Santa Monica beach...the list of our wonders is long, if you can afford to enjoy them. But our unmatched beauty is apparently overwhelmed by policy failures of colossal dimension. People are voting with their feet and moving.

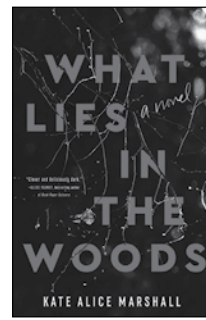
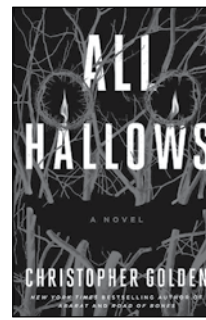
It says so much about our government's misguided agenda that hundreds of thousands of people last year abandoned everything this state has to offer because of everything this state takes away. It's time for an affordability revolution in California to turn us once again into a destination state.

Senator Ted Gaines (Ret.) was elected to represent the Board of Equalization's First District. He is a leading taxpayer advocate, defender of Prop. 13, and is committed to providing trustworthy and transparent representation for nearly ten million constituents in 34 counties of northern, eastern, and southern California. For more information, visit www.boe.ca.gov/Gaines. ★



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

January's Thrills and Chills



No One Knows Us Here by Rebecca Kelley

When Rosemary Rabourne's half-sister arrives unexpectedly, her life becomes completely unhinged. Rosemary was already having a problem making ends meet, but now having to provide for a teenager adds an insufferable amount of pressure. The only solution seems to become a high-end escort.

A billionaire searching for the perfect girlfriend, Leo Glass is willing to pay for precisely what he wants, and Rosemary is his answer. Luckily for Rosemary, Leo's proposition comes with financial security and a place for her and her sister to live. Then, Rosemary meets Sam, who opens the door to the possibility of love. But once Leo puts his mind to something, he won't let anything get in his way. Now, bound by control, Rosemary is desperate to free herself at any cost.

What happens when the life you created is not what you expected it to be? *No One Knows Us Here* takes readers on a shocking exploration of the lengths one man will go for obsessive control and what one woman will do to break free.

All Hallows by Christopher Golden; St Martins Press

Halloween, 1984 a time when neighborhoods were seemly safe and trick-or-treaters were seen in homemade costumes carrying plastic pumpkins. But this year, the quiet little neighborhood of Parmenter Road is about to be visited by four odd little children terrified of the Cunning Man asking to be hidden away.

But something is off about these children, and the residents of Parmenter Road are about to have their secrets exposed and their lives shaken to the very core.

Known for his ability to throw terror at every turn, Christopher Golden unmasks a new reason to fear Halloween. Told from numerous perspectives, *All Hallows* will whisk readers back into the 1980s, where everything is just a little scarier when the lights go out. With the premise of haunted woods and children donned in vintage masks, readers will be captivated by the drama and too scared to turn out the lights.

What Lies in the Woods by Kate Alice Marshall; Flatiron Books

Naomi Shaw and her friends used to believe in magic until the night Naomi was brutally attacked, as her two friends fled for their lives. After miraculously surviving seventeen stab wounds Naomi and her friends became town heroes, as a serial killer finally went to prison. But the scars left behind are something that couldn't be healed.

Twenty-two years later, Naomi still struggles with the trauma and the weight of carrying a horrible secret. Riddled with guilt, the girls believe it's time to finally tell the truth, even if it means unearthing memories that want to remain buried.

Kate Alice Marshall knows how to deliver fast-paced twists and turns as she takes readers into the dark recesses of the imagination. *What Lies In The Woods* takes readers on a psychologically thrilling ride where nothing is black and white, and some secrets might be worth killing to keep hidden. ★

Communicating effectively is essential for getting your ideas across, being understood, and being able to convey what you need or want. Effective communicators enjoy many benefits. They build trust, prevent or resolve problems, are clearly understood, have better interpersonal relationships, and have less frustration and stress. Poor communications result in distrust, misunderstandings, stress, people doing the wrong thing, anger, and bitterness.

Communication can take place in-person, over the phone, in a memo or letter, or via email or text. Communication is most effective in-person because both verbal and non-verbal cues are at work. When you are communicating face to face the other person hears what is being said, how it's being said, and can see the body language which accompanies the message.

For your message to be best understood, what you say should match how you say it. Your words, tone, attitude, and body language should all be consistent and reinforce each other. When your verbal and non-verbal messages conflict, people tend to believe the non-verbal over the verbal.

Effective in-person communication requires you to be a good listener as well as being perceptive. Watch and listen to verify whether or not your message is being accurately received. Ask questions to make sure you are understood.

The next most effective form of communication is verbal only, such as a phone call. Although you don't

have the visual component, you do have verbal cues such as tone of voice and intonation. When on the phone, listen carefully without being distracted. Ask questions to verify that you have been understood.

The least effective form of communications is written. There is no immediate feedback as to how your message was received, if it was read in its entirety, or if it was accurately understood. Written communication should be your last choice, used only if in-person, or verbal communication is not an option.

Never communicate, in any form, when angry or upset. Your thinking is not clear or rational. You will say things you'll later regret. When you are upset, always allow time to calm down before communicating.

Regardless of the communication form there are several tenets you should follow to maximize the effectiveness of your message. First and foremost is think before you speak or write. Have a specific objective in mind. Avoid saying or writing anything which does not work toward your objective. Being polite, kind, and courteous typically gets the best results.

Choose your words wisely. Never be flippant. Your message once delivered, especially in writing, cannot be retracted. Any type of electronic communication should be considered permanent, and public.

Before speaking in-person or over the phone, make an outline of what you want to say. Go over it several times

before communicating. Read, and reread, all written communication before sending. Whenever possible, allow time between your first and final drafts.

Clarity and brevity enhance effective communication. Be direct and to the point. Make your message as short as possible. Less is more when communicating. Long messages tend to be rambling and don't keep the recipient's attention. If you have a lot to communicate, consider using several, shorter communications. When writing, use short paragraphs or bullet points to convey your message.

Before responding to what someone has said or written make sure your understanding is accurate. If you are not sure about what's being conveyed, ask questions for clarification. Problems are created or worsened when each person has a different understanding about what is being said or written.

Effective communication is always an ongoing pursuit. Following the guidelines mentioned above will help ensure your communication goals are achieved. Try for in-person communication whenever possible and use written communication only when there are no other options.

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 ★



No, You Can't Believe 'The Science'

Copernicus surely had no idea when he got the Scientific Revolution underway in the 16th century that an unintended effect would be empowering agenda-driven bullies and fanatics.

Of course, science is a pillar of modern life for which we should be deeply grateful. It has given us longer and healthier lives, incredible material abundance, and abilities that were unfathomable a few generations ago.

It is "science" -- science used as a rhetorical tactic and ideological weapon -- that is a blight on 21st-century American life.

This faux science is not dispassionate but fired by a great moral certainty. It is not open to counter arguments and different interpretations but insists on only one answer to complicated or ambiguous questions. It is not rigorously neutral but aims to achieve cherished political goals.

The debate over gas stoves illustrates perfectly the faux scientific method.

First, researchers conduct flawed studies reaching alarming conclusions. Second, the media generates headlines about the findings that don't note the methodological inadequacies. Third, advocates agitate for changes to public policy based on what has magically become "the science."

A new study, for instance, concluded that a suspiciously

precise 12.7% of childhood asthma cases are attributable to gas stoves.

The study relied on findings from other papers that, as economist Emily Oster points out, arrived at widely divergent outcomes, didn't account for other factors in households using gas stoves that might contribute to respiratory problems, and sometimes produced results that weren't even internally consistent.

All of this would have counseled caution that was notably missing in the media coverage. A headline in The Washington Post read, "Gas stove pollution causes 12.7% of childhood asthma, study finds." Yahoo News: "Gas stoves have given 650,000 U.S. children asthma, study finds." And so on.

Yes, the headlines include the caveat of "study finds," but the phrase brings with it the presumed authority of scientific rigor and detachment.

It is similar to the phrase "scientists say" so often used in stories about climate change and its potential harms.

A report in The Washington Post on the gas stove controversy was a classic in this genre. It related, "Scientists say the world needs to rapidly transition away from fossil fuels, including replacing gas appliances with cleaner versions that emit no pollution, such as electric and induction cooktops." And then added, "Scientists say a growing body of research shows that gas stoves pose a threat to the planet and public health."

That's a lot of sayin' by a mass of mostly unidentified scientists.

A more strictly accurate phrase in stories like this would be "some scientists contend," and a less ten-

dentious formulation would be "some scientists say, but others aren't so sure." This would ruin the point, though, which is to imply that research -- and facts and rationality -- all point one way.

If it can be asserted that "science" has arrived at a conclusion -- that gas stoves are a major health hazard, that climate change is responsible for extreme weather, that young kids must wear masks during the pandemic -- then any dissenters or doubters can be marginalized for not "believing the science."

This means that they aren't just wrong or misguided, but dangerous and contemptible. As such, they can be belittled, intimidated, or even -- as we've seen in the debate over COVID-19 policy -- actively suppressed.

It's hard to imagine an enterprise less in keeping with the scientific spirit. The motto of the Royal Society, the storied British academy of sciences, is nullius in verba, or "Take nobody's word for it." As the Society's website explains, "It is an expression of the determination of Fellows to withstand the domination of authority and to verify all statements by an appeal to facts determined by experiment."

For today's self-styled champions of so-called science, that sentiment badly misses the mark. Why bother with the facts as carefully and rigorously established over time, when you can misuse the authority of science to try to dominate instead?

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

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 - Full of coral
 - *2023 Super Bowl stadium sponsor
 - Research facil.
 - Egg cell
 - King Charles to Prince Harry
 - Thief's target
 - *2023 Super Bowl Halftime Show star
 - Mozart's "L___ del Cairo"
 - Bob Marley's music
 - Yarn spinner
 - "The Poky Little ___"
 - Skedaddle
 - 18-wheelers
 - "Guilty," e.g.
 - Fabric inset
 - One of the sibs
 - *Super Bowl advertiser's purchase
 - Anatolian language
 - Decay
 - "There it is," à Paris
 - "Hold on!"
 - *Home of the Ravens, for both Super Bowl appearances
 - Cuckoo for these puffs!
 - Curved molding
 - Medicinal plant
 - Court orders, e.g.
 - Sonny & Cher and Abbott & Costello
 - Talk like a drunk
 - Actor Danson and character Lasso
 - *"Owner of a Lonely Heart" band
 - *Star of the most-watched Super Bowl Halftime Show
- DOWN**
- Paddleboarding acronym
 - Court order
 - Between ports
 - Hungarian composer Bela ___
 - *Either one of the opposing Super Bowl teams
 - Flambé
 - Position of leadership
 - *2023 Super Bowl AZ location
 - Frosts, as a cake
 - Hit the road
 - Like certain humor
 - Disprove
 - Dickens's Heep
 - Each and all
 - One of a set of dice
 - Father, colloquially
 - Round openings
 - Pickled garnish
 - *Last year's Super Bowl winners
 - Nimbus, pl.
 - Nigerian money
 - Torcher's crime
 - Elmer's, e.g.
 - Found at the pump
 - *Team with most Super Bowl appearances
 - Signing tool at the cash register
 - Greenwich-related acronym
 - Superior ones
 - Itsy-bitsy bits
 - Patterned table linen
 - Lacking clarity
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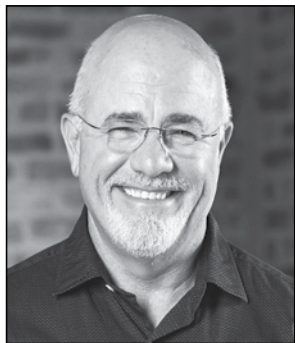
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Dave Ramsey Says

finances are concerned. Do you have any advice?

– Brooke
Dear Brooke,

Way to go! It makes me to happy to hear folks so charged up and on fire to get control of their finances. You won't regret the decision.

I'm going to be straightforward with you, ok? You and your husband need do the right thing, no matter how dad reacts to this. And the right thing, right now, is taking care of your family first and not putting your finances in jeopardy. If I were in your situation, my answer to dad would be no.

I understand there's a feeling of obligation to help your father. But it sounds like dad needs to learn a lesson or two about life and money. When you say your dad is irresponsible with money, handing him more of it won't help. It would be like giving a drunk a drink. On top of that, it will reinforce the idea he can continue being dumb with money and there will

be no consequences. Trust me, I understand the emotions involved in helping out a parent. If you feel this is a situation where there is literally no alternative, I'd suggest making the \$400 contingent on your dad beginning – and successfully completing – a good financial counseling course. Whatever you do, be gentle and respectful when you talk to him. And make sure he understands it hurts when you see him struggling.

But let him know, too, it's his responsibility to work through his bills and take care of his finances.

– 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. ★

I Know He's Your Dad, But It's His Responsibility – Not Yours

Dear Dave,

My husband and I just heard of your plan. We are excited to learn more about money, and we have already saved up \$1,000 for our beginner emergency fund. Right now, we have a problem. My father has never taken his finances seriously, and the other day he asked us for \$400 to pay his cell phone bill and overdraft fees at his bank. Even as an adult, he would go to his parents regularly before they died asking for money when he always had a good job. Giving him the money right now would make things really tight for our family, and we don't want to lose the ground we have gained where our



Riley Reviews

PROCEDURAL "WILL TRENT" DEBUT, "ACCUSED" TV CRIME THRILLER

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"WILL TRENT" ON ABC

After a three-year hiatus, the biannual press tour that brings members of the Television Critics Association as well as unaffiliated critics together for panel discussions has finally returned to an in-person affair.

The gathering of critics afforded ABC the opportunity to present its newest crime drama "Will Trent," which is based on the New York Times best-selling book series by Karin Slaughter.

In the role of the titular character, Ramon Rodriguez shared his thoughts that his role as a special agent allowed him to be a "resilient human being that had a complicated past" who has figured how to navigate in a unique way that "actually helps him with cases."

Indeed, Special Agent Will Trent of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation has an intuitive approach to his police work that would remind some viewers of Tony Shaloub's Adrian Monk solving crimes in the "Monk" series.

While Monk's obsessive-compulsive disorder caused his departure from the police department to private sleuthing, Agent Trent has his own cross to bear for being a straight-arrow who made enemies in the Atlanta Police Department for uncovering corruption in the ranks.

The first two episodes, which are now streaming on Hulu, involve Trent investigating two deaths and the kidnapping of a college girl at the home of wealthy car dealer Paul Campano (Mark-Paul Gosselaar).

What looks to be a rather settled crime scene turns out to be something quite different after Trent is summoned by his boss at the Bureau, Amanda Wagner (Sonja Sohn), to apply his set of skills to the investigation.

Trent's background is important to the series. He grew up in Atlanta's foster care system. He suffers from dyslexia and records his observation with a tape recorder. An inability to read does not hinder his matchless ability to read a crime scene.

Though loathe to partner with anyone, Trent finds himself reluctantly having to work with Atlanta PD detective Faith Mitchell (Iantha Richardson) who's smart enough to appreciate his brilliance as well as to call him out when necessary.

In his private life, the fastidious Trent, who wears three-piece suits, has a curious cyclical romantic relationship with Atlanta PD detective Angie Polaski (Erika Christensen) as they share the common bond of growing up in the same foster home.

One unlikely four-legged star is a chihuahua named Betty that Trent reluctantly adopts after the animal shelter claims they don't have a no-kill policy.

"Will Trent" presents itself as an interesting drama with some compelling

characters, who may be flawed but are agreeable and easy to root for as they deal with work-related and personal issues.

"ACCUSED" ON FOX

FOX television's new crime thriller "Accused" is akin to an anthology rather than a traditional series in that it is a collection of 15 intense and exquisitely human stories of crime and punishment.

Each episode is a fast-paced provocative thriller, exploring a different crime, in a different city, with an entirely original cast.

"Accused" is based on the British series of the same title that first aired a dozen years. The BBC drama series followed a different character in each episode as they await their verdict in court, including well-known actors such as Olivia Colman, Sean Bean and Naomie Harris.

The American version opens in a courtroom with a defendant that the viewers know nothing about their crime or how they ended up on trial.

Told from the defendant's point of view through flashbacks, the show holds up a mirror to current times with evocative and emotional stories.

In the end, the idea is for audiences to discover how an ordinary person gets caught up in extraordinary circumstances, and how one impulsive decision can impact the course of that life and the lives of others forever.

Emmy Award winner Margo Martindale ("The Americans") and Emmy Award nominee Molly Parker ("House of Cards") are slated for a gripping episode tackling conspiracy theories.

Rachel Bilson ("The O.C.") and Jack Davenport ("The Morning Show") star in a thrilling episode with a family caught in a troubling situation.

Acclaimed Broadway star J. Harrison Ghee ("Kinky Boots") will appear in a Billy Porter-directed episode about a drag queen's affair and its aftermath.

Ian Anthony Dale ("Hawaii Five-O") has been cast in an episode about a brother striving to protect his sibling who was injured in a devastating car accident as a child.

The director and writer of FX's "Reservation Dogs" has been set to write and direct an episode about Native American activists protesting a uranium mine that been polluting tribal lands for decades.

"Accused" will draw a wide range of actors to its ranks, including familiar faces such as Michael Chiklis, Jill Hennessy, Abigail Breslin, Wendell Pierce, Mary Lynn Rajsckub, Rhea Pearlman and Malcolm Jamal Warner.

As an aside, "Fantasy Island" returns for its second season just in time as a way to forget the winter cold. Wouldn't it be swell to vacation at a luxury tropical island resort? Unfortunately, there's always a catch. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000068	FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000102
<p>The following persons are doing business as: Legal Docs4U, RW Doc Prep, RW Docs, All Doc Prep, All Legal Docs, 360 Arlington Circle, Fairfield, CA 94533.</p> <p>Regina Whitaker, 360 Arlington Circle, Fairfield, CA 94533. Date Filed in Solano County: January 11, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A</p> <p>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 January 12, 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: Jan 20, 27, Feb 3, 10, 2023 LEGAL 2-10-23</p>	<p>The following persons are doing business as: Parallax Dragonz, 5079 Staghorn Drive, Vallejo, CA 94591.</p> <p>Henry Boncato, 5079 Staghorn Drive, Vallejo, CA 94591. Date Filed in Solano County: January 13, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/1/2023</p> <p>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 January 12, 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: Jan 27, Feb 3, 10 & 17, 2023 PARALLAX 2-17-23</p>	<p>The following persons are doing business as: Pleasants Valley Fire Safe Council – Vacaville, 3876 Putah Ridge Trail, Winters, CA 95694.</p> <p>Pleasants Valley Fire Safe Council – Vacaville, 3876 Putah Ridge Trail, Winters, CA 95694. Date Filed in Solano County: January 19, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A</p> <p>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 January 18, 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: Jan 27, Feb 3, 10 & 17, 2023 PLEASANTS 2-17-23</p>
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Storms Bring Hope for Agriculture, but Inflict Damage on Crops
Historic storms over the past two weeks piled deep snow in the Sierra Nevada, provided some relief for depleted reservoirs and brightened water-supply prospects for agriculture. But they also inflicted a harsh toll, with showers, mudslides and fierce winds combining to ruin thousands of acres of crops with filthy water while wreaking havoc on orchards. Crops from strawberries to broccoli suffered damage in the Salinas Valley. Wheat and alfalfa took a beating elsewhere. And farmers fretted as uncaptured stormwater poured into the ocean.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary: Prosperity Remains Elusive for too Many Farmers
U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says record U.S. agricultural production isn't translating to increased earnings for the average family farm or ranch. In an address to the American Farm Bureau Federation convention in Puerto Rico, Vilsack noted that 50% or more of American farm families had negative income, even as U.S. agriculture recorded overall record profits over the past two years. "We need to create more opportunities, more revenue streams, more markets, more help," Vilsack told the AFBF gathering.

Farmers Share Expertise on Planting Cover Crops in New Database
California orchard and vineyard growers have partnered with University of California agricultural researchers to create a searchable database to share information on planting cover crops. The database includes a compilation of experiences of farmers who planted cover crops in hopes of reaping benefits for soil health and water retention. The project is being undertaken by the UC Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, UC Cooperative Extension, the Napa Resource Conservation District and the Community Alliance with Family Farmers. ★

CSLB Urges Homeowners to Hire Licensed Contractors



The Contractors State License Board (CSLB) is reminding homeowners to use licensed contractors for any construction repairs above \$500. Photo courtesy Monkey Business Images | Dreamstime.com

CSLB News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - After a series of severe damaging storms and with more wind and rain expected to impact California, the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) is reminding homeowners to use licensed contractors for any construction repairs above \$500.

After a disaster, CSLB's mission is to help ensure unlicensed or unscrupulous contractors do not take advantage of consumers.

Homeowners should use CSLB's Find My Licensed Contractor feature to build personalized lists of licensed contractors

in their area. They should always check all contractors' license numbers on the CSLB website and check each contractor's pocket license to confirm the person representing the construction business is listed as personnel of record on the license. A CSLB-issued state license is required for any construction job of \$500 or more (labor and/or materials).

"Disaster survivors take a huge risk when they hire unlicensed contractors," said CSLB Registrar David Fogt. "Most are not properly insured and likely don't have the skills or knowledge to perform the work."

Homeowners should be aware that CSLB offers a designated Disaster Help Center section online, which provides publications that can be downloaded or ordered. These include "Debris Removal and Construction Scams," "After a Disaster, Don't Get Scammed," and "What You Should Know Before Hiring a Contractor." In addition, information can be requested by calling CSLB's Disaster Hotline, 800-962-1125, staffed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or via the automated assistance line, 800-321-CSLB (2752).

Californians seeking information about the state's response and recovery efforts should visit the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) website.

About CSLB: CSLB operates under the umbrella of the Department of Consumer Affairs and licenses and regulates nearly 285,000 contractors in California. In 2022, CSLB helped consumers recover more than \$40 million in ordered restitution. ★

Assembly Republicans Call on Newsom to Make Water a Priority

Assembly Republicans Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Assembly Republicans are calling on Governor Gavin Newsom to prioritize water storage, conveyance, and flood protection in the state budget. California has not built significant new water storage since the 1970s, despite its population nearly doubling during that time.

"Providing water is a core function of government, and it's time to make that a priority," said Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher (Yuba City). "We need Sites Reservoir, policy reforms and better water management so our residents and farmers don't face even more water rationing during the next dry spell."

"We need more water storage in California," said Assemblymember Juan Alanis (R-Modesto). "That's why on my first day in the legislature I proposed Assembly Constitutional Amendment 2 to put water storage goals into California's Constitution and provide guaranteed funding for water infrastructure. It will bring California better flood control and more relief during periods of drought. It's just common sense to get this done."

"Conservation alone is not going to solve this crisis. Storage alone is not going to solve

this crisis," said Assemblyman Heath Flora (R-Ripon). "We need an all-of-the-above approach to water: desalinization, storage, conservation. Those are all part of the solution and something that we are all very, very committed to."

"The Governor announced this week that he is protecting the state's budget reserves. I implore the Governor to protect our State's greatest natural resource, water, and move forward aggressively to build the reservoirs that the voters approved nearly ten years ago in 2014," said Assemblymember Diane Dixon (R-Newport Beach). "This water reserve will protect our state against future droughts, which are certain to occur again - just as the floods will return as well. This is not rocket science, save our water that falls free on a rainy day!"

Decades of neglect and underfunding have allowed the state's infrastructure to crumble, resulting in difficulty transporting water across the state and causing the levee failures that have flooded communities in recent days.

The Assembly Republicans are urging Governor Newsom to prioritize these investments in the state budget to address current and future water challenges and protect the economic and social well-being of California. ★

Farm Bureau President Re-Elected to National Leadership Post

California Farm Bureau Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson has been re-elected to a two-year term as one of six executive board members for the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Johansson, who will represent 13 western U.S. states on the executive board for the national agricultural organization, was elected during the AFBF's 104th Convention in Puerto Rico this month.

"It is an honor to continue to serve during this critical chapter for America's farmers and ranchers," Johansson said. "We are working to pass a new Farm Bill in Congress to secure our food supply and to help our

family farmers at a time when more than 50% are reporting negative earnings. I am also committed to ensuring that construction begins on long-overdue federal and state water storage and conveyance projects.

"For too long, our farmers have endured devastating water supply cuts during dry years. And now, after historic storms in California, we are watching uncaptured water simply flow into the ocean due to our state's lack of resolve for completing projects voters approved years ago. We can no longer accept inaction."

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 29,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.3 million Farm Bureau members. ★

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NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

This notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Dixon and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about February 13, 2023, the City of Dixon (City) will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Project Based Section 8 Vouchers under Section 8(o)(13) of the Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. § 1437f(o)(13)), as amended, to undertake a project known as the Silvey Villas at Homestead Project (proposed project) in the City of Dixon.

The project site is located southeast of the intersection of West A Street and Gateway Drive, in the City of Dixon, California. The approximately 10.5-acre project site is located within the Southwest Dixon Specific Plan (SDSP) and the Homestead Master Development area. The project site is currently undeveloped. Surrounding existing land uses include vacant land planned for commercial uses immediately to the north, with single-family residences further north, across West A Street, vacant land planned for residential development to the east and south, and undeveloped grassland and small commercial shops to the west. The Dixon General Plan designates the project site as Medium Density Residential, and the site is zoned Multi Family Residential (RM-4).

The proposed project would include the development of the project site with a 180-unit affordable housing community. The project would include two components: one 5.3-acre parcel for 108 units set aside for families earning 60 percent or less of the area median income (AMI), hereafter referred to as the "family component", and the other 5.2-acre parcel for 72 units set aside for seniors ages 55 and older earning 60 percent AMI or less, hereafter referred to as the "senior component."

The family component would occupy the western portion of the project site, and would consist of 54 two-bedroom and 54 three-bedroom units ranging from 892 to 1,087 square feet (sf) distributed through six buildings. One of the two-bedroom units would be reserved for the property manager. The ground floor units would be adaptable to allow for accessibility. The senior component would occupy the eastern portion of the project site, and would consist of 54 one-bedroom and 18 two-bedroom units ranging from 644 to 855 sf distributed through nine buildings. One of the two-bedroom units would be reserved for the property manager. All ground floor units would be adaptable to allow for accessibility.

The proposed project would be organized around a communal, landscaped amenity space, anchored by a one-story community clubhouse complex. Laundry facilities would be centrally located within the community building. The community clubhouse complex would be connected through the entire project with a network of interconnected paseos and courtyards formed within and between building groups. The courtyards would create an outdoor social gathering and activity space for each building cluster. The outdoor community area would include a shade structure, lounge seating, and outdoor barbecue.

The proposed project would provide a total of approximately 117 parking spaces with six spaces dedicated to accessible parking and six spaces electric vehicle (EV) compatible. Parking stalls would be provided along the perimeter of the project site. Site grading is already underway as part of the larger Homestead Master Development project. Ground disturbance associated with the project would otherwise include trenching for utilities, paving, and building construction.

The total development cost is projected to be \$61,278,341. The Solano County Housing Authority will administer assistance to the project in the form of 16 Project Based Vouchers, totaling a commitment of approximately \$6,891,840 over the 20-year contract period.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Dixon has determined that, with the implementation of all mitigation measures included in Environmental Assessment, the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required. The Environmental Assessment (EA) and additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR), available on the City's website at: <https://www.cityofdixon.us/EnvironmentalReviewDocuments>

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to Raffi Boloyan, Certifying Officer, Community Development Director, at the City of Dixon. All comments received by February 10, 2023 will be considered by the City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Dixon certifies to HUD that Raffi Boloyan, Community Development Director at the City of Dixon, in his capacity as Certifying Officer, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Dixon to use program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to the Responsible Entity's (RE) Request of Release of Funds and Environment Certification for a period of 15 days following the submission date specified above or the actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the certifying officer of the RE; (b) the RE has omitted a step or fail to make a determination or finding required by HUD regulation at 24 CFR Part 58 or by CEQ regulation 40 CFR 1500-1508, as applicable; (c) the RE has omitted one or more steps in the preparation, completion or publication of the Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement per 24 CFR subparts E, F or G of Part 58, as applicable; (d) the grant recipient or other participant in the development process has committed funds for undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before release of funds and approval of the environmental certification; (e) another Federal, State or local agency has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be emailed to the HUD grant administration office at todd.r.greene@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the HUD via email at todd.r.greene@hud.gov to verify the last actual day of the objection period.

Raffi Boloyan
Community Development Director
City of Dixon
NEPA Certifying Officer

Dixon Independent Voice 1-27-2023

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS TO PROVIDE PLANNING, ENGINEERING, AND DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY EXPANSION

January 27, 2023

The City of Dixon (City) is seeking planning, engineering, architectural, and design services to plan, develop, and assist in the delivery of the Wastewater Treatment Facility expansion (WWTF expansion).

The qualifications shall be submitted by firms that are capable and experienced in the type of work described in Section III, "SCOPE OF SERVICES," of this Request for Qualifications (RFQ). In addition, all interested firms shall have sufficient, readily available resources in the form of trained personnel, support services, specialized consultants, and financial resources to carry out the work without delay or shortcomings. The qualifications shall be submitted **NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM (PST) on Thursday March 2nd, 2023**, to:

City of Dixon
600 East A Street
Dixon, CA 95620
Attn: Jordan Santos, Junior Engineer
707 678-7030
jsantos@cityofdixon.us

Each proposer shall submit five (5) bound copies, and an electronic version (Adobe Acrobat PDF) of the qualification in accordance with Section V, "QUALIFICATION FORMAT," of the RFQ. This RFQ and related documents are available on the City website at <http://www.dixonplanroom.com>. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS TO CHECK THE CITY WEBSITE FOR ANY FUTURE ADDENDUMS TO THIS RFQ.**

All questions regarding this RFQ should be directed to Jordan Santos, Junior Engineer, via electronic mail at jsantos@cityofdixon.us

Dixon Independent Voice 1-27-2023 and 2-10-2023

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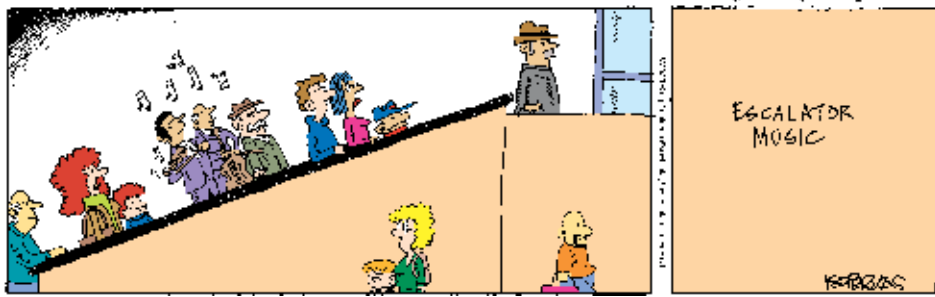
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The Spats



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How We Can Prepare for Future Floods before a Megastorm Hits

Commentary
by **Gerald Meral,**
CALMatters.org

Californians have suddenly turned their attention from drought to flooding.

The future likelihood of a series of huge atmospheric rivers in California, a so-called ARk storm scenario, seems to be a certainty. Atmospheric rivers channel moist tropical air towards the West Coast, where mountains condense it to rain and snow. Over the last few weeks, California has suffered through a sneak peak of its devastating potential.

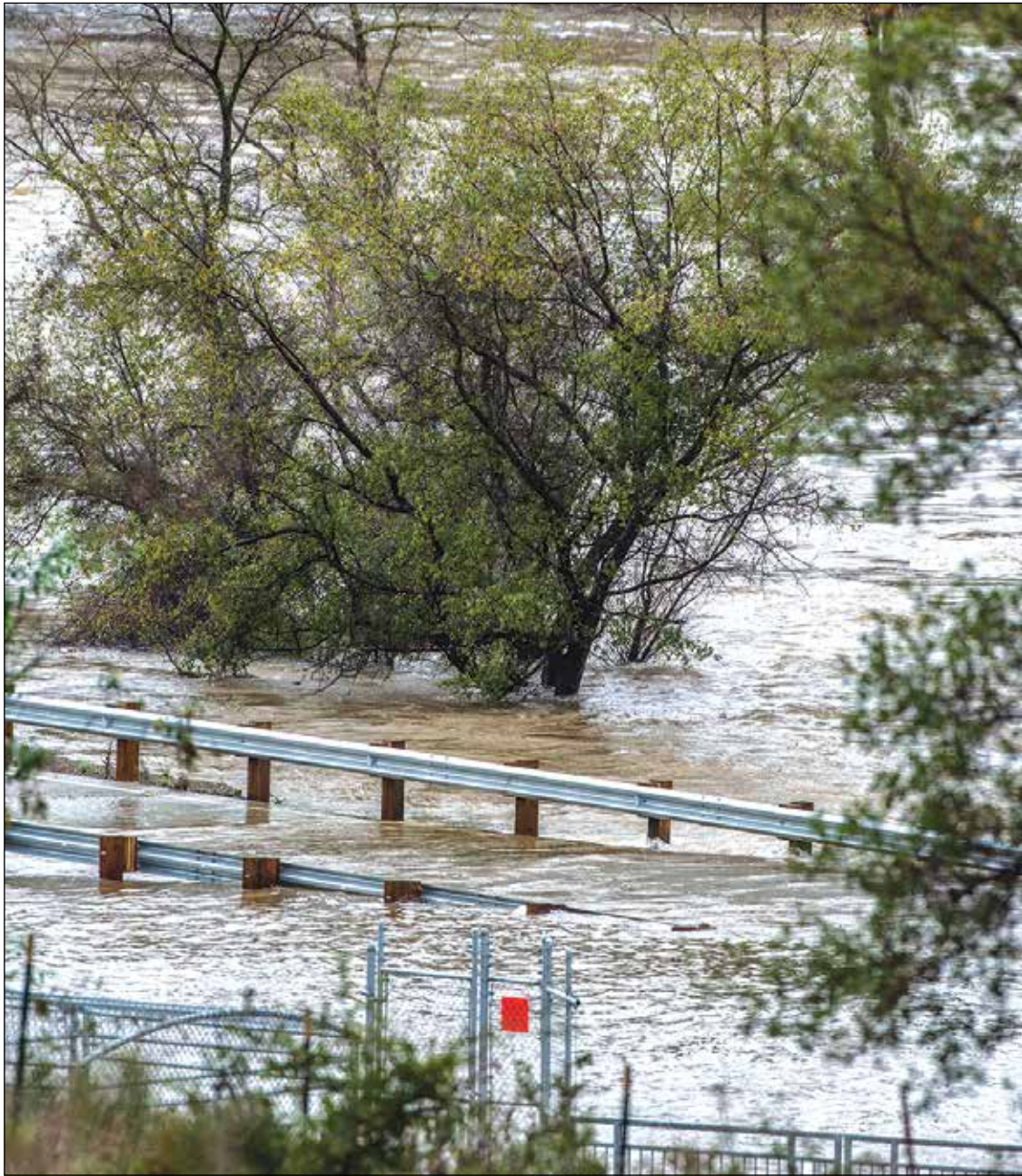
In late December of 1861, weeks of snow and rain from a huge ARk storm caused flooding from Oregon and Idaho to Mexico. The new settlers did not listen to the Indigenous peoples of California who knew that winter meant moving away from the river.

State government had to be temporarily relocated from Sacramento to San Francisco. The California Supreme Court made the move permanent. The Central Valley became an inland sea, and flooding was severe in Southern California. One percent of the state's population died.

These megastorms occur about once every 150 years. Climate change will intensify them.

Flood control reservoirs already line the Sierra Nevada foothills, including Shasta, Oroville, Folsom, New Melones and others. Some reservoir space is emptied each fall to make way for potential oncoming floods, reducing the value of the reservoir for hydroelectric generation, water supply, recreation and cold water storage for fish. Reservoir operators can minimize (but not eliminate) dumping valuable water if no major storm is predicted.

But Sierra Nevada and similar Southern California flood control reservoirs like Prado and Seven Oaks cannot store



Californians have largely forgotten the death tolls and huge property losses of previous deadly floods, and even larger floods are likely to come. Photo courtesy DWR

enough floodwater to sufficiently reduce the effects of atmospheric river megastorms. The reservoirs will fill, but continuous flood flows will pass through as if the reservoirs were not there.

Gigantic new flood control reservoirs could theoretically be built. But the costs would be in the tens of billions of dollars, and the reservoirs would serve little purpose for decades since they would have to be emptied

at the start of each flood season. It's unlikely that the Legislature or Congress would invest in such a flood control system.

Indeed, at least \$3 billion in levees and floodwater bypasses are needed just to prevent major flood damage in the Central Valley from storms that are expected to occur much more often than megastorms.

Can flood waters be diverted into "off-stream" storage reservoirs for later use? Not really.

The proposed giant Sites Reservoir could divert only a small percentage of the water expected in the Sacramento River in even moderate flood events. The value of such reservoirs is largely in their water supply benefits.

Still, much can be done to prepare.

First, California needs to increase investment in flood plain acquisition and expansion, and prevent the urbanization of

flood-prone areas. Staying out of harm's way is the best idea.

Flood water bypasses help protect the Sacramento Valley and can recharge groundwater. The San Joaquin Valley urgently needs a similar system. It's likely too late to build them in highly urbanized parts of Southern California.

Second, property owners who are at risk only from a megaflood should be encouraged to purchase flood insurance. For property outside the "100 year" flood zone, it would be a small annual investment to cover the damage that is bound to occur.

Third, locally managed evacuation drills should be held in areas where the flood risk is highest, such as Sacramento and areas near the Los Angeles and Santa Ana Rivers. A megastorm will require evacuation of millions of people in the Central Valley and parts of the Bay Area and Southern California. The public needs to be prepared.

Californians have spent billions of dollars to prepare for earthquakes and catastrophic wildfires. Recent quakes and fires are often on our mind, and leaders are reacting appropriately.

But Californians have largely forgotten the death tolls and huge property losses of previous deadly floods, and even larger floods are likely to come. They will affect all Californians, and require greater investment in flood preparation, insurance and evacuation planning.

Gerald Meral is the director of the California Water Program at the Natural Heritage Institute. He has previously served as deputy director of the California Department of Water Resources, deputy secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency, and a staff scientist at the Environmental Defense Fund. ★

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