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# Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

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By Dave Ramsey



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# New Park Structures Abound



City of Dixon Maintenance Workers Lino Castro, Randy Baptiste, and Zack Delgado install a heavy 4-spigot drinking fountain in Patwin Park. It was one of nine new fountains installed in various Dixon parks.

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Due to budget amendments made when the proposed tax increase did not pass, the focus for this year's City of Dixon Parks and Recreation Department is "Health, Safety, and Repairs," but new hires and improvements already in the pipeline will serve Dixon, according to Public Works Director Louren Kotow. She made it clear to Parks and Rec Commissioners that the presentation was for information only for the year 2022-2023.

"We are excited about



If signs are looking a little brighter around our city parks, it's because they have recently been repainted and returned to their earlier glory thanks to the City of Dixon Parks and Recreation Department.

what we accomplished being short 10 staff members the majority of the year," said Kotow. They have hired eight of the ten

positions now and "hope to fill soon" a Senior Maintenance Worker and another Maintenance Worker, she said, adding

that most of the department's positions are maintenance.

Already out installing one of nine new water fountains at Patwin Park Wednesday morning were city maintenance workers Lino Castro, Randy Baptiste, and Zack Delgado. There will be two installed at Hall Park, three at Veterans Park, one at Conejo Park, and two at Northwest. These fountains look like the shape of a small letter 'T' and offer adult and child spickets, a bottle filler, and even a dog drinking area.

Other park improvements will be four new  
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## Teen Center is Ready to Reopen

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A little too late for the 21 days students were off for the holidays and the Dixon Teen Center was closed but it's never too late for it to be open all the rest of the year. The Dixon Teen Center is planning its reopening with a Meet and Greet on Friday, February 24, 6 p.m. at Gretchen Higgins Elementary, 1525 Pembroke Way.

"We endeavor to provide teens with positive experiences and opportunities that promote healthy development and success in teens' lives," states their mission statement on a poster announcing the event.

Some of the activities that will be available at the Open House are signups for an open gym, volunteering, and meeting the team behind the organization running it.

They may be all new.

Since the pandemic, the small group of students that met in one of the classrooms at Dixon High School dissipated and, for the past two years, it was rumored that some students were playing basketball at one of the schools as part of the Dixon Teen Center organization but that could not be confirmed.

The Dixon Teen Center originally started with a group of like-minded individuals in the spring of 2011 when Pastor Cathy Morris ensured volunteers received CPR and first aid training and a strong base of volunteers was developed. It was run under the non-profit umbrella of Dixon Family Services and opened with fanfare in the old Dixon High School drama room.

Back then, the use of the teen center was limited to Dixon students attending grades seven through 12, and students needed to display student identification cards to get in free but over time, the teen center was mostly inhabited by middle schoolers.

A number of computers were obtained along with two pool tables, two ping pong tables, a foosball table, an Xbox and other computer games plus two big-screen TVs.

Numerous volunteers helped run it for years while some paid staff supervised until a few years ago when the group worked with the school board and was removed from the old Dixon High School building so it could be renovated as John Knight Middle School. The non-profit was given permission to use a Dixon High classroom.

However, during the pandemic, that space was

*Continued on page 4*

# Choosing Better through DHS 'Course Expo'

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon High School sophomore Nina Santini handed a welding helmet to another student wanting to see the welding demonstration just outside the school auditorium doors. The sparks were extra bright out in the dark catching the student's attention. Santini is a first-year welding student who said she wanted to work on cars in her future so took welding and "really loves it."

Hundreds of students and their parents and even siblings and grandparents showed up to Dixon High School's Course Expo held in the auditorium last week. Tables were lined up around the edges of the huge building with displays from the various departments. Teachers and students explained what students will learn - and how they will learn - from math to animal sciences.

"There are ways to be



A student and his mother listen at an Ag course table featuring food sciences at the DHS Course Expo.

and then there are ways to live," said Principal Stephanie Marquez who got the idea to veer away from the traditional 'Open House' when she attended a Sports Expo in Sacramento with her husband.

"It was fun. It was social. There were booths (with vendors.) You could get a snack or look at RVs. You'd look at adventures. And I thought of our school and said, 'We should do that!'" Marquez explained.

The School Office Coordinator Audrey Madden reported that 8th graders were invited, too.

"It is an opportunity to see what the course is offering so they can be ready for course selections

*Continued on page 3*





# Suspending Measure B?

By Debra Dingman

I'm part of the Facebook site, 'You know you're from Tracy if...' One day in the first part of January, I was feeling forlorn about missing my brother and reminiscing about our years growing up in Tracy. Purely spontaneous, I went on that site, and I wrote, "If you are retired and could move 'back home,' (Tracy) to be closer to your siblings, would you? (Note that leaving Tracy was somewhere around population 20,000.)"

The responses have been incessant with not a week going by without more insight. I am now at nearly 100 comments and 20 hearts or thumbs up.

Most of the people say no, don't do it. They say Tracy is an extension of the Bay Area now and some people expressed very passionately their sentiments about the fact that the city has changed a lot and/or that "Tracy is unrecognizable" to the town I grew up in. Some of the responses were from people who seemed angry like "Hell no!"

What I found most interesting is that people willingly offered their feelings of when they grew up there and appeared to enjoy reminiscing about those days but still would not move back. Overwhelmingly, the comments were about the city having grown too large. Many people even went so far as to say what small towns they moved to because it reminded them of Tracy when they were growing up.

Lots of people had moved out of California and once again, the state of Idaho was popular. In fact, there were a lot who no longer even lived in California and were glad to be gone. The consensus was "Keep your memories of the good old days. Don't move back."

Also interesting, was that I don't recall reading any comment about crime, gangs, or freeway/road congestion. No one said the schools are awful or there's not enough

entertainment.

On the agenda for the Tuesday, Feb. 14, City Planning meeting, I noticed this in the City of Dixon meeting General Plan Amendment for 2023-2031 Housing Element:

Suspension of Measure B – Recently adopted State law (SB330 - The Housing Crisis Act - Gov. Code, § 66300) prohibits a city/county from enacting or enforcing a development policy, standard or condition that reduces intensity, imposes moratoriums, enforces subjective design standards or implements any provision that limits approvals or caps population. These provisions remain in effect until January 1, 2030. Specifically, Government Code section 66300, subdivision (b)(1)(D), with limited exception, does not allow affected jurisdictions to adopt new, or enforce existing, limits on the number of land-use approvals or permits. HCD's review of the City's draft Housing Element identified that the City's existing local growth control initiative, Measure B, is in conflict with State law and must be suspended or terminated. The City will consider suspension of the Measure B through the term of this Housing Element cycle."

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 in Dixon or 2) Dixon Public Library 230 N. 1st St. Documents are also available on City's website at [www.cityofdixon.us/housingelementupdate](http://www.cityofdixon.us/housingelementupdate) under Project Documents. See Adoption Draft of the Housing Element and Natural Environment Element.

Anybody who has lived here for at least ten years knows about Measure B, voted in by citizens concerned that Dixon might grow too fast and wanted to limit our growth. I was one of them. If you were too, you might want to attend this meeting. ★

# Dixon News Briefs



Parks and Recreation Commissioner Rudy Baltazar hands Commissioner Secretary Itzie Serrano the sign for the new City of Dixon Recreation Supervisor Kyla Schnitter, on the right. She is from the Livermore area and thanked everyone for the experience of her first Parks and Rec meeting last Tuesday. Photo by Debra Dingman

## MPG Staff

### Veterans Dinner

The Veterans Dinner this Friday at 6 p.m. will be baked ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, and a roll. Bar opens at 4 p.m. for those who want to really relax before dinner. It will be cooked by Carla Schafer of American Legion Post 208 Women's Auxiliary. The meal is \$10 payable at the door 1305 North First St. and monies help maintain the facility. Tips are welcome.

### 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 couple and students will learn how to do 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](http://overthemoongrazingco.com). The class will at 160 West A Street across from the Dixon History Museum.

### City Meeting

The next Dixon City Council meeting is on Tuesday, February 7, at 7 p.m. inside the Council Chambers at City Hall, 600 East A Street in Dixon. There are opportunities to know what is going on in your community without leaving your home or if you are out of town, too. Meetings are available via the Zoom online meeting option. See that info on the agenda that is typically out the Thursday before the meetings on the [cityofdixon.us](http://cityofdixon.us) website.

### Retirement Planning

On Tuesday, 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 Thursday, February 9. For more information, call (530) 231-0380 or register online at [www.rsvp.courses](http://www.rsvp.courses). There is a \$49 registration fee.

### Crab Feed

Rotary Crab Feed is Saturday, February 25, at the Dixon May fairgrounds. For the details, see last week's newspaper. You can go online to [independentvoice.com](http://independentvoice.com) and click on back issues.

### Safequest Solano

Safequest Solano is an organization in Fairfield but serving Dixon as well with domestic violence situations. They are holding a fundraising dinner and dance called Cheers & Beers on Friday, March 17, 6 – 9 p.m. at the Joseph Nelson Center, 611 Village Drive in Suisun. For more info, go to [safequestcheersandbeers2023.eventbrite.com](http://safequestcheersandbeers2023.eventbrite.com).

### Girls Softball

Opening ceremonies for Dixon Girls Softball will be on Saturday, March 11. If you are interested in being a vendor at the event, please contact Tara Caldwell via Facebook.

### Senior Club Pizza

A Pizza Party is set for the Senior Club on Friday, February 10, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The party is free but please call to sign up at (707) 678-7022 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be at the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 South Fifth St. As always, you do not have to be a member of the Dixon Senior Club to participate in activities. But, if you do become a member, your money helps pay for refreshments, special activities like this one, potluck supplies and more. Being a member of the Club is a great way to meet new friends and take part in all the activities offered at the Senior Center, 201 South Fifth Street. ★

## 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.



### Sunday, January 29

- 0837 - Theft of tools from a vehicle in the 400 block of Heritage Lane
- 0944 - Vandalism reported in the 900 block of North Lincoln Street.
- 1153 - Traffic collision reported in the 1000 block of West F Street.
- 1605 - Threats reported in the 500 block of South Jackson Street.

### Saturday, January 28

- 2004 - Assault and vandalism report was taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr.
- 0135 - D.U.I arrest report was taken at the intersection of East Dorset Dr. at North 1st St. Officer made an enforcement stop and contacted (S) Jennifer King (41) of Wheatland. King was arrested and later cited and released to a sober adult.
- 0931 - A proactive enforcement stop in the area of West A Street and Evans Road resulted in the arrest of Daniel William Cannon (18) of Vacaville for the misdemeanor charges of being in possession of marijuana and alcohol underage. He was transported to the Dixon Police Department, where he was cited, fingerprinted and released without incident.
- 1140 - Officers responded to the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue for a report of a verbal altercation between an employee and a customer. Dispatch provided further information that the customer may have brandished a knife. Officers arrived and safely detained the customer, who was later identified as Quishad Vanliew (26) of Fairfield. Through their investigation, they determined that no crime had been committed, however Vanliew was in possession of methamphetamine and a methamphetamine smoking pipe. He was transported to the DPD where he was cited, printed and released without incident.
- 1223 - Missing person report taken via telephone at the DPD.

### Friday, January 27

- 2225 - Hit and Run (property damage) only report was taken in the 700 block of North Lincoln St.
- 0328 - Vandalism report was taken in the 200 block of North Jefferson St.
- 0412 - A warrant arrest report was taken in the 100 block of Heritage Ln. Officers arrived and contacted (S) Rashaun Moore (42) of Fairfield. A records check revealed he had three no cite misdemeanor warrants out of Solano County. Moore was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.

### Thursday, January 26

- 1902 - Domestic violence arrest report was taken in the 1100 Dawson Dr. Officers arrived and contacted (S) Maricela Zamudio (36) of Dixon. It was determined that Zamudio was the dominant aggressor. Zamudio was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.
- 1957 - Missing Person locate report was taken at the Dixon Police Department.
- 2222 - Assist outside agency report was taken in the 800 block of Woodvale Dr.
- 0140 - Theft from a vehicle report was taken in the 800 block of Woodvale Dr.
- 1102 - Information report taken in the 400 block of East A Street.
- 1138 - Report of stolen property taken by telephone at DPD.
- 1212 - Report of vandalism to a vehicle in the 200 block of Fuller Lane.
- 1430 - Report of fraud taken in the 600 block of Schooner Ridge Drive.
- 1503 - The theft of a trailer was reported in the 2000 block of North First Street.
- 1536 - Report of Fraud in the 400 block of West Chestnut Street.
- 1736 - Suspicious circumstance reported in the 1700 block of Wilson Court.

### Wednesday, January 25

- 1845 - Hours- Burglary report in the 1000 Block of Davidson Court of an electric scooter. Dax Moore (Age 34) of Fairfield and Quishad Vanliew (Age 27) of Fairfield were later located. Moore was arrested for burglary, conspiracy, possession of a prohibited weapon, possession of pepper spray by a felon, and possession of burglary tools. Vanliew was arrested for burglary, conspiracy, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of burglary tools
- 2200 - Hours- Found Property in the 100 Block of South First Street.
- 1441 - Hit and run accident reported in the 1700 block of North 1st Street.

### Tuesday, January 24

- 1948 - Hours- Hit and Run investigation in the area of South Jackson St and West Walnut St.

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# Chamber to Celebrate Citizen and Business of the Year



Last year's Citizen of the Year Barbara Bulkley was all smiles when she was escorted by Cameron Hickerson. This year's event will be held March 11 and tickets are now available at the Dixon Chamber. Photo by Debra Dingman

### Dixon Chamber of Commerce

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Celebrate Dixon this year by attending the 60th annual Citizen of the Year and the 27th annual Business of the Year dinner on Saturday, March 11. It will be catered by Bud's Pub & Grill at the Olde Vets Hall, 321 North First Street in downtown Dixon across from the public library.

Tickets are \$75 and are payable in advance and must be purchased by March 1 as no tickets will be sold at the door, according to Chamber CEO Shauna Manina.

At the ceremonies, the Chamber Ambassador of the Year will also be announced along with the Veteran of the Year.

The no host bar opens at 5 p.m. and will be over by 10 p.m.

All nominations must be submitted in writing via either postal mail

to Dixon Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 159, Dixon, CA 95620, or hand delivered to the Chamber office at 220 N. Jefferson St. in Dixon. They may also be submitted via email to [info@dixonchamber.org](mailto:info@dixonchamber.org).

All nominations must be received at the Chamber no later than 3 pm on Thursday, February 9, 2023. The nominator's name and phone number must be included.

#### Criteria for the Business of the Year

1. Nominee business must be a Member of the Chamber of Commerce;
2. Nominee business must be located in Dixon;
3. Monetary giving or volunteerism in the community;
4. Outstanding Customer Service;
5. Involvement in Community Events;
6. Nominees cannot be a prior Business of the Year winner;
7. Businesses cannot nominate themselves.

Please note that nonprofit clubs and

organizations are ineligible for this award.

Nominations for the Business of the Year will be evaluated by a panel composed of prior winners of the Business of the Year awards.

#### Criteria for Citizen of the Year

1. Nominee must live in Dixon;
2. Participation in all-around community activities and civic enterprise;
3. Evidence of lasting contribution to community welfare;
4. Evidence of leadership ability;
5. Cooperation with individuals and civic organizations;
6. Unselfish devotion and contribution without thought to personal gain;
7. Nominees cannot be prior Citizen of the Year winners;
8. Contributions and community activities must have taken place in the City of Dixon.

Please list, as completely as possible, the nominee's past activities, as the award is based on an individual's cumulative service to the community. Include the nominee's involvement with business, professional, civic, and/or religious committees and any offices held.

All nominations must include the following information, or they will not be considered:

Nominee's name, address, phone number, spouse's name, years of residency and occupation, and nominator's name, address, and phone number.

Nominations for Citizen of the Year will be evaluated by a panel of representatives from the nonprofit groups that are members of the Dixon Chamber. This award is traditionally a surprise to the recipient. Therefore, nominees should not be aware that their name has been submitted.

For further information on either Business of the Year or Citizen of the Year, please contact Shauna Manina at the Chamber office at 707-678-2650 or [info@dixonchamber.org](mailto:info@dixonchamber.org). ★

# Choosing Better through DHS



Exchanging the traditional Open House format for a livelier, interactive version, Dixon High School's Course Expo offered teachers - as well as students - sharing course information.

Continued from page 1

which are coming soon for them," she said. Also freshmen and sophomores may be interested in a Public Service Academy that they can choose when they are a junior or senior but aren't really sure what it's about.

"Our core expectations are to engage, seek support, and be present but that goes for our teachers, too. Teachers don't get the opportunity to get together very often," Marquez explained, "So they get to see what some of the other teachers are doing. For everyone else, they get to see what the school is about."

In the previous 'Open House' style, people were isolated in the classroom and probably didn't remember things after they left but with this style, they don't have to remember anything, she explained, because they can just look and experience it.

Not only did the Ag tables have the welding demonstration, but another table had a model of an animal's stomach and intestines. Yet another had floral bouquets for the floral design course.

Julian Villegas and Ethan Escobar are juniors and both in Future Farmers of America. They were offering information to students during the expo.

"I've been involved with FFA and Ag all throughout," Villegas said. "Tanaka is a great teacher and finds a way to make it stick. I tell students it's a really fun class and you'll learn things you'll always use like meats, for example, and

the better cut to buy."

Junior Audra Lacey was interested in learning life skills which was advertised in the course promotion a couple years ago.

"It seemed really, really fun," she said and now has been in Ag classes all three years and is a Teacher's Aid for Mr. Tanaka.

Both math teachers Elizabeth Veldsman and Kathy Michals favor the new format.

"This is much better," said Veldsman. "It creates a real sense of community to all be out here," said Michals. Although the math table was a bit quiet, several parents and students had questions for Heidi Roberson, the Health Science Educator who has been teaching in Dixon for 12 years.

"I get a lot of questions," said Roberson. "Parents want to know what I'm telling their students. I teach mental, emotional, and social health, disease prevention, even first aid." Her course outline also includes alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; communication skills; and growth, development, and sexual health. She enjoys talking with parents and saw the Course Expo as a great way to build trust from them. Instruction is aligned with the Health Education Content Standards for California Public Schools K-12.

Students also got a chance to talk to sports leaders like Michael Vlach who is a computer science teacher but also leads the Water Polo Team. The Course Expo was hosted from 6 to 7:30 p.m. last Wednesday. ★

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The Dixon District Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome the following new members

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**Elite Carpet Cleaning and Upholstery**  
**Marian Hartsough Associates**

*Chairman's Circle - Ruby Level*  
**Discovery Land Care and Commercial Cleaning**

For information on how the Dixon Chamber can help your business be more successful, call 707-678-2650 or email [info@dixonchamber.org](mailto:info@dixonchamber.org).

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# Teen Center Ready to Reopen



Members of the Dixon Teen Center board were on hand December 20 to accept a check for \$10,157 from Don Highley (wearing hat) and wife Ellen (with sunglasses). The money was earned by Teen Center volunteers during the annual Pin-a-Go-Go pinball show at the fairgrounds in October – and also included donations and proceeds from T-shirt sales (such as those worn by the Highleys, which were designed by Dixon artist Steven Oerding). Others present (l-r) were board member Jack Caldwell, board vice president Kay Cayler, board president Jerry Castanon, Sr., and board treasurer bil paul. Helping boost attendance at the event was publicity provided by KCRA TV in Sacramento. DTC Courtesy Photo

Continued from page 1

closed and has remained so until now. During this time, two significant contributions from the Pin-a-go-go pinball event were made last year to help bolster future plans: one last

January for \$7,373 and one in December for \$10,157 for the DTC volunteers.

Numerous attempts were made to reach Chairman Jerry Castanon and Board members to no avail. ★

# Heeney's History

## Hats and Caps

Commentary by Ed Heeney

On a cold Saturday morning, I was watching the Hefty Bros. plant corn in South Dakota and the commentator brought up the subject of Cowboy hats and Farmers caps. You can see that these subjects are pretty exciting for TV programing, but I had nothing better to do. I thought about it for awhile, and realized that I had about two dozen hats of various styles in the top shelf in my closets.

The largest is a BIG cowboy hat that my grandsons gave me for Christmas. I felt really in style as I boarded the airplane for a flight to Little Rock, Arkansas, to attend a Cattleman symposium featuring Santa Gertrudis (purebred herd.) I walked pretty tall in my cowboy hat from California.

Next hat on the lineup is a Panama style straw from Taos, New Mexico, The sun shone bright that day of shopping and it was hot on my head. A couple of dollars later plus a half bottle water poured into the crown and all was well.

You would think I would remember to take a hat along when sojourning vacation land but again, in Jerome, Arizona, I was caught in need of a hat. Now this is not just any hat ..... it's a Jozy the Great Aussie hat made in Australia, called a Kangaroo Foldup, and it cost a whole \$100 bill! Still in good shape, still keeps the sun off, and still folds in your pocket.

So far, I have talked about larger hats, but

I found a half dozen on another shelf. One, a washable Little topper purchased in Naval Station, Seattle, about 50 years ago. I think my wife will toss this one since it is truly worn out. But I will wear it again if I can find it. Another small one purchased at an automobile museum in Tacoma, Washington, was good for running to the store and getting a jug of milk. And, a third small one is of tweed and goes great with Liederhosen.

Then there are the farmers caps; built like baseball caps and ever so colorful. Any self-respecting farmer has at least two dozen and perhaps a whole wall full displayed in all their glory. Just check downtown main street at lunchtime any day and you will get a glimpse of "agriculture on the move." Purchase a million-dollar tractor and get a \$5 hat.

A few years ago, the Davis Goodyear owner and I were good bantering buddies and I frequently drove in to check tires or not. I collected farmer hats at the time but couldn't talk him out of a GOODYEAR hat at the time. I decided to fix him so I put on a Ron DuPratt FORD hat and walked into his store. He took one look, yanked the GOODYEAR hat off his head, flung it across the counter, landing it in my lap. I looked pretty good in my new cap, Cowboy hats and Farmers caps will always be popular and so be it. It is great fun and all enjoy it. Would make a great May Fair display, but probably couldn't find a building large enough to hold 'em. ★

# Soroptimist International Donates to YoloCares



The Soroptimist women in Dixon were proud to donate \$1000 to YoloCares after hearing a presentation from Director Louise Joyce at a recent meeting. Joyce shared the mission of YoloCares which is to serve the community by providing the highest quality of care to every patient, every family, every time. YoloCares is a group of like-minded non-profit hospice agencies dedicated to improving the quality of, and expanding access to, end-of-life services for individuals and families of all backgrounds. For more information visit YoloCares.org or call (530) 758-5566. In the image: YoloCares Director Louise Joyce with Soroptimist International President Linda Green. Photo by Amy Pretti

# New Park Structures Abound

Continued from page 1

heavy duty concrete coal barbecues along with a coal bin for disposal. Two are already installed at Northwest Park along with a new patio cover and new concrete tables with in-laid board games. One barbecue will be installed at Northwest and the other at Veterans Park soon with coal bins as well.

Numerous waste receptacles with dome covers will be distributed. Five gray-colored ones will be in Hall Park and six red-colored ones will go to Northwest.

Finally, heavy concrete ping-pong tables will make their way to Northwest and Hall Parks.

"These are ready to be used like the tennis courts," said Kotow. "Just bring your own paddles and balls and no rental is necessary."

In other news, the Homestead park is open for reservation as the city has accepted full responsibility. It is located at the corner of Pitt School Road and Sunflower Way. This park has a large covered patio with several barbecues, a children's play area,

a basketball court, meandering paths and a large grass area.

There was a discussion about signs for loose dogs by the commissioners and Kotow reported that there are newly painted signs but that not all the signs were up yet. The signs state that dogs must be on a leash.

"But if there is a loose dog, you can call the police whether there is a sign posted or not. It is an enforceable ordinance," she said.

Kotow also reported that there was a complete overhaul of the alarm system and some kitchen improvements including hot water on demand in the Senior/Multi-Use Center. They created a conference room out of an unused office in the corporation yard and are saving money due to LED upgrades.

"Switching to LED lights will make it brighter and we will see a return on our investment in five to seven years," she said. They have also had to deal with a sparrow invasion at the new Pardi Plaza which needed custom metal pieces on the stage but are hoping the birds do not move to the parking covers now. ★



## Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

### Burning Bridges



You have probably heard that you shouldn't burn your bridges behind you. This is true in some situations, but not all. When you burn your bridges, you limit your options. What situations warrant this action and which ones do not?

In your relationships with others, you don't want to burn your bridges. Life takes many unexpected and unpredictable twists and turns. You never know whom you will need to interact with in the future.

Although there are some individuals you want nothing to do with, hopefully they are few and far between. For the others, it's not in your best interest to permanently sever a relationship. Although you may not like someone or you may have different philosophical beliefs, you can still maintain a cordial relationship that doesn't cause any bitterness.

You can be pleasant, polite, and congenial. You do not have to give someone a piece of your mind. Your paths could cross again at any time. A person from your past could wind up as a neighbor, coworker, boss, employee, or friend of a friend. People may forget a lot of events but a distasteful experience tends to be burned into one's mind.

Since you never know who you will run into in the future, or in what capacity, it behooves you to leave off with people on good terms. Always be courteous and speak with a smile. A mean and insulting attitude never works in your favor.

When should you limit your options by burning your bridges? For an example, consider the story of a general and his army, who some hundreds of years ago, arrived by ship at the coast of the enemy.

Once his men had all come ashore, he had their empty vessels burned. With the fleet engulfed in flames, he told his men that if they wanted to return home, they would have to be victorious because retreat was no longer an option.

To attain goals, you have to limit your lines of retreat. People who succeed incorporate a mindset that giving up and turning back is not acceptable. Forward is the only direction offering possibilities. You can change course if something doesn't work as planned, but always want to move towards your objective.

When someone says they will give something a try, the implication is that they can always turn back. Success requires laser like focus. A goal is reached because the bridges of retreat have been eliminated.

Determination shouldn't be confused with recklessness. People who are reckless will act on a whim without thought or planning. They demolish bridges because of

carelessness, not as part of an intentional strategy. They will abandon a journey at the first obstacle. They are flippant and quick to blame others for their failures.

Giving something your all is more than an all or nothing attitude. A person, who gambles his or her life savings at a casino, hoping for a big win, is behaving destructively. If all of the money is lost, there isn't much room to adjust investment strategy and move forward.

When you burn a bridge, it must be for motivation, to help propel you toward a positive goal. It can be destroyed only after a lot of thought and as part of an intentional design. Burn a bridge that is a pathway to defeat. Don't burn a bridge that will provide you with options going forward.

Identify your bridges carefully. Separate those you want to preserve from those you should burn. Don't burn any bridges that may be needed in the future. Get rid of bridges that will serve as an excuse to abandon your dreams.

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

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# CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See [legitgov.org](http://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. ★

# New Referendum Qualified for California's November 2024 Ballot

## California Secretary of State Press Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. announced today that a referendum has qualified for the November 5, 2024, General Election ballot.

In order to qualify for the ballot, the referendum needed 623,212 valid petition signatures, which is equal to five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2018 General Election.

The Attorney General's official title and summary of the referendum is as follows:

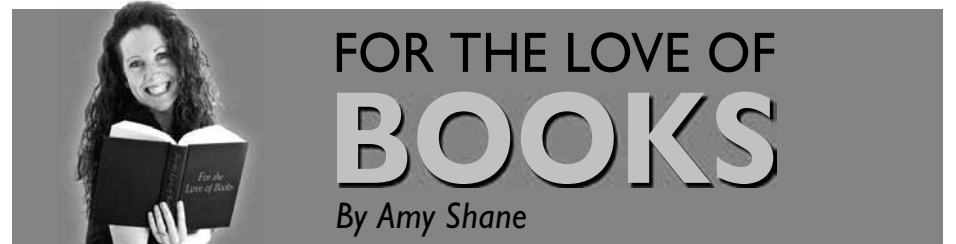
Referendum challenging 2022 law authorizing creation of council to set minimum wage and working standards for fast-food workers.

If the required number of registered voters sign this petition and it is timely filed, a 2022 law will not take effect unless approved at the next statewide general or special election after November 8, 2022. The challenged law:

Authorizes creation of Fast-Food Council (upon submission of 10,000 fast-food worker signatures) to set working standards and minimum wage (up to \$22/hour in 2023, with capped annual increases) at fast-food restaurants with 100+ nationwide locations.

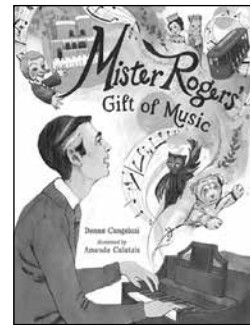
Prohibits retaliation against fast-food workers for making certain workplace complaints.

For more information about how a referendum qualifies for the ballot in California, visit <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-measures/referendum/> ★



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## Spread Love, Joy and Friendship with These Inspiring New Children's Books



**Mister Rogers' Gift of Music**  
by Donna Cangelosi and Amanda Calatzis;  
Page Street Kids

"It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood..." Thousands of children have tuned into their television sets to sing along with Mister Rogers. But how did Mister Rogers discover his love for music? As a young child, Fred found the joy of music, using the piano's keys to chase away the loneliness, the blues, and even feelings of being sad or mad. As Fred grew into an adult, he knew what he wanted to do with his gift of music, share it with children everywhere.

Mister Rogers' gift of love, acceptance, and happiness lives on through the many generations who tuned into his show and continue to spread his message. The dynamic duo between the author and illustrator on Mister Rogers' *Gift of Music* encapsulates the sheer magic and joy that fans of Mr. Rogers have come to know and love.

## Courage In Her Cleats – The Story of Soccer Star Abby Wambach

by Kim Chaffee and Alexandra Badiu;  
Page Street Kids

With a "Thump ...whizz...whoosh," Abby Wambach always knew exactly what she wanted shw wanted from life. Pouring every bit of her heart into the game of soccer and bettering herself. Soon, Abby became a force to be reckoned with, taking herself from high school soccer to college soccer and all the way up to representing her country in the U.S. Women's National Soccer team. But things weren't always

easy. Abby didn't always win, and along the way, she had some huge setbacks. Yet, Abby persevered, knowing the power of determination, teamwork, and leadership would give her the tools to be tougher than any challenge ser before her.

The inspiring story, *Courage in her Cleats*, will have anyone standing up and cheering for one woman's exemplary demonstration of hard work, showing everyone that power can rise from struggle and determination and that never giving up is truly life's victory.

## This Book Is My Best Friend

by Robin Robinson,  
Simon and Schuster Children's

Sunny and Aarush can't wait to pick up their favorite book best friend at the library. The only thing is both of them have the same best friend. Who will end up taking home their favorite book?

Sometimes inspiration and joy can be found nestled within your favorite book.

Books can be many things, a comfort, a friend, or a safe haven. When Sunny and Aarush both gravitate to the same book at the library, they are at a loss for what to do. Without their book best friend to take home how are they to cope? As each one shares the many reasons why they should be the one to take it home, they quickly realize that they need a solution. Will Sunny and Aarush be able to compromise, or will they discover what is in front of them all along? Readers will fall for Sunny and Aarush as they root for the obvious solution all the way through. ★



## The Trump-Biden Embrace

America may not want a Trump-Biden rematch, but Donald Trump and Joe Biden sure do.

A CNN poll late last year showed that 6 in 10 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents want a different GOP nominee in 2024, and a roughly similar proportion of Democrats hope for a nominee other than Biden.

Not that either man is inclined to pay any attention.

Trump wants revenge against a president who humiliated him in 2020 and who, with an approval rating in the mid-40s, would seem ripe for the picking.

Biden wants to run against a persistently unpopular, controversy-plagued former president whom he beat once before and used to great effect as a foil in the 2022 mid-terms.

Trump's best argument is that his policies were better than Biden's.

Biden's best argument is that he's not Trump.

It's the weirdest, and most dispiriting, symbiotic relationship in politics. It's the career politician soaked in conventional politics versus the upstart developer with zero respect for rules. The establishmentarian versus the populist. Boring versus erratic. And ... unpopular versus unpopular, as well as, now that you mention it, old versus old.

If Biden stepped aside,

Trump might feel a little less driven to run, whereas if Trump declined to run, Democrats would have to be much more nervous about how Biden would match up against a younger, less toxic opponent.

As it is, the weakness of each is a motivator and prop for the other.

Just consider: It's probably a good rule of thumb not to run a presidential candidate who's under federal investigation for mishandling classified documents. But does that rule hold when your candidate could well be running against another candidate also under federal investigation for mishandling classified documents?

Such are the imponderables that a potential Biden-Trump rematch presents. Both can point at the other and try to argue, in effect, "Hey, your special counsel investigation is much worse than my special counsel investigation."

Trump tucked into this debate in his characteristic fashion. In a Truth Social post, he mocked Biden for having classified documents "on the damp floor" of his "flimsy, unlocked, and unsecured" garage, whereas Mar-a-Lago is "a highly secured facility." (Of course, Biden famously insisted that his garage was locked -- he has a classic Corvette to protect, after all).

Biden's team and allies have made the opposite case that, in contrast to Trump, his mistakes were inadvertent and immediately reported to authorities. Regardless of the merits, there's no doubt that Biden's possession of classified documents materially assists Trump in his case; it might save him from indictment.

By the same token, Trump's possession of classified documents materially assists Biden in his case; the discovery of the documents in Biden's various unsecure locations may be a fiasco, but not one as drawn out and legally fraught as the Mar-a-Lago drama.

It's a little like both parties running candidates in the 1972 campaign who had authorized break-ins, or in a 1980 campaign who had presided over double-digit inflation.

Now, it's entirely possible that the second season of Trump versus Biden never makes it to production. Despite all signs indicating that he wants to run again, Biden might pull up short because he doesn't feel up for it. For his part, Trump has a significant chance of winning the Republican nomination, yet it isn't a gimme, and it shouldn't help him that Biden and the Democrats so obviously want to run against him, just as they wanted to run against so many of his acolytes last November.

If the prospect of returning to 2020 is unappealing, look on the bright side: We never really left.

Trump has never let us forget that he lost to Biden (although he prefers to refer to it as getting the election stolen from him), while Biden has never let us forget that Trump is waiting in the wings.

Despite their enmity, both men want and need each other politically, whether that's what the country is interested in or deserves, or not.

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

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- ACROSS**
- "Without further \_\_\_\_," pl.
  - Sweet 16 gift
  - Steps to the river, in India
  - \*Michael Bublé's "\_\_\_\_ the Last Dance for Me"
  - Bigger than big
  - Nonkosher
  - Big-ticket one
  - October birthstone
  - \*#5 Down's target
  - \*Reason to celebrate Luperclia, Valentine's Day predecessor
  - Make over
  - Omit
  - Hexagonal fastener
  - December birthstone, pl.
  - Most gemütlich
  - Ed.'s request
  - Two dots above a letter
  - Brussels org.
  - Church recesses
  - \_\_\_\_ or chicken?
  - Encourage (2 words)
  - What hoarders do
  - He crossed the Rubicon
  - Jet follower
  - English county courts, in the olden days
  - Gentlemen's gentlemen
  - Chop off
  - Paparazzo's quest
  - Port in Yemen
  - \*Heart-shaped box content
  - Range
  - Top notch
  - Baron Munchhausen, e.g.
  - Journalists and reporters
  - Speed unit
  - All is well that does this well
  - Bald eagle's nest
  - Ever, to a poet
  - Tinkerbell's powder
- DOWN**
- "Clueless" catch phrase
  - \*Get-together
  - End of a break-up phrase
  - Explosive of Czechoslovakian origin
  - \*Winged one
  - September stone
  - Bank on
  - \* \_\_\_\_ card
  - Not tails
  - '70s hairdo
  - Sylvester, to Tweety
  - Wholism, alt. sp.
  - Monotonous hum
  - Intestinal obstruction
  - "Wayne's World" catchphrase
  - Japanese port
  - Necklace clasp location, pl.
  - Affirmatives
  - \*Kisses' partners
  - National emblem
  - Type of weasel
  - BBQ tool
  - Pasturelands
  - Accompanies wisdom?
  - \*a.k.a. St. Valentine's Malady
  - \*Muse of love poetry
  - Large edible mushroom
  - Long-legged shore bird
  - Regions
  - Bummed about
  - Bell's invention
  - Laurels
  - Homesteader's measure
  - Active one
  - Soap block
  - Hokkaido language
  - Small amounts
  - Formerly, formerly
  - \*Romantic destination

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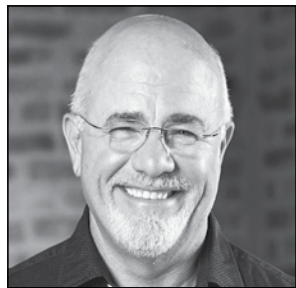
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## Dave Ramsey Says

### Remember, You're a Team

Dear Dave,

Earlier this month, my husband and I both were laid off from our jobs within a few days of each other. The layoffs were not our fault. The company is letting several people go as a cost-cutting measure. We cashed in an annuity because our finances have been tight, but the good news is he began training for a new job last week. We don't have children, so I am interviewing or filling out applications every day. Should we use the cash from the annuity to live on until things are stable again, or should we use it to pay off debt?

— Anjanette  
Dear Anjanette,

If you haven't done so already, contact your creditors and explain what happened. Let them know the layoffs weren't because either of you did anything wrong, and that you'll get current with them as soon as possible. This is a scary situation you're facing, so make sure you two keep the lines of communication wide open and encourage each other while you're solving this problem.

The good news, though, is it sounds like things may be looking up. Support your husband all you can as he takes on his new job, and make sure you continue looking for work, too. A little extra money never hurts, so temporarily taking on a part-time gig while you're looking for a permanent position isn't a bad idea, either.

Of course, you need to

be honorable and pay your debts if possible. But that may have to be put on hold for a while. Right now, the important thing is keeping food in the house and the lights and heat on. Hug on each other, stay determined and keep each other's spirits up. You're a team, and you'll get through this.

Always remember, too, that prayer's a good thing.

— 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.* ★



## Riley Reviews

### 'A MAN CALLED OTTO' MELODRAMA PORTRAIT; DATING SHOW ON FOX

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

#### "A MAN CALLED OTTO" RATED PG-13

Would it surprise you that Tom Hanks playing a cranky curmudgeon who no longer sees purpose in his life following the loss of his wife would eventually transform into a modern-day version of an essentially warm Jimmy Stewart?

On two fronts, the answer is probably not. For one, Hanks is usually the nice guy in films. The other reason is his titular role in "A Man Called Otto" is based on the best-selling novel "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman, which became a Swedish film of the same title.

True to its Scandinavian roots, "A Man Called Otto" tells the story of Hanks' Otto Anderson who lives in a townhome development where his daily routine is acting as the enforcer of homeowner rules even though no one asked him to do so.

Recently widowed and having no other relatives, Otto lives alone in his gated neighborhood where he spends most of his time muttering that anybody he comes across is an idiot and confronting those who offend his sensibilities.

True to his "get off my lawn" persona, Otto yells at a young woman who has the temerity of not curbing her small dog. He chastises the UPS driver for parking on his street that is closed to anyone without a residential permit.

Forced to retire from his engineering job at an automotive plant certainly doesn't help his disposition. Buying rope at a hardware store turns into an ordeal when he argues with the clerk about being overcharged by mere pocket change.

What troubles Otto the most are the wistful flashbacks to his younger self (Truman Hanks) when he meets his future wife Sonya (Rachel Keller) after chasing her down on a train to return a book she dropped.

In the course of these flashbacks, Otto and Sonya become a loving couple who move into the townhome which they made home for their entire adult life together. A fateful bus trip to Niagara Falls has another lasting impact.

Depressed by the death of his beloved Sonya has caused Otto to lose the will to live to the point that he not only contemplates suicide but makes some attempts that are foiled by unforeseen circumstances or ineptness.

He can only rant so much at the other residents who fail to properly recycle their garbage. Harboring grudges against neighbors who were once friends makes him even more cantankerous and unpleasant. Even the sight of a stray cat on his porch is an irritating annoyance to him.

What could possibly happen that

would give Otto a reason to live? The arrival of a Hispanic immigrant couple with two young daughters only seems to make him grouchier when the clumsy husband Tommy (Manuel Garcia-Rulfo) can't parallel park a small U-Haul trailer.

Yet, it's the pregnant Marisol (Mariana Trevino), possessing an ebullient good nature that eventually proves irresistible, who chips away at Otto's resistance to her neighborly friendliness.

Impervious to Otto's less-than-welcoming attitude, the charm offensive begins when Marisol drops off the gift of a homemade meal. The unassuming housewife is so spirited and feisty that rebuffs from Otto just don't register in a lasting manner.

Soon enough, Otto is babysitting Marisol's winsome daughters and teaching her how to drive. He reaches out to estranged friends and helps neighbors make household repairs. He befriends a teenage transgender who gets kicked out of the house.

A nice touch is when Otto takes up a fight against a predatory developer (Mike Birbiglia) trying to evict long-term residents who have become incapacitated and tricked into handing over power of attorney of their affairs.

"A Man Called Otto" has the comfortable ring of familiarity in its sentimental, heartwarming story, which has also its share of occasional humor with Otto's biting wit when he's most irascible.

Despite its PG-13 rating, "A Man Called Otto" is clearly made for an adult audience that welcomes a change of pace with moving performances and an inspirational story.

#### "FARMER WANTS A WIFE" ON FOX

That a dating series called "Farmer Wants a Wife" was an international sensation comes as a surprise. Until FOX announced its own version would come to the network in early March, I had no idea of its existence.

If you can have hit shows about baking cakes, I guess anything is possible. After all, a series that aired in 32 countries and resulted in 180 marriages and 140 children can't be a fluke.

"Farmer Wants a Wife" seeks to exploit the migration from city-centers to suburban and rural locales, and the romance that follows. Four farmers will embark on an adventure of a lifetime in the hopes of finding their future spouse.

Superstar entertainer and Grammy Award winner Jennifer Nettles, who has also performed in Broadway musicals, will host the "Farmer Wants a Wife" series. We'll see if this American series lives up to the claim of the international version being the most successful dating show in the world. ★

## The Travis Credit Union Foundation Matches \$10,000 in Donations

#### Travis Credit Union Press Release

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Travis Credit Union Foundation will make a \$20,000 donation to Children's Miracle Network Hospitals; UC Davis Children's Hospital, Merced Valley Children's Hospital, and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital this year.

"I want to send a sincere thanks to more than 1,000 donors who helped raise \$10,000 in donations that the Travis Credit Union Foundation will match to support the work of the Children's Miracle Network," said Kevin Miller, Board Chairman of the Travis Credit Union Foundation and CEO and President of the Travis Credit Union.

Donor support for this campaign promotes the Travis Credit Union Foundation's commitment to building financially empowered communities by empowering our local hospitals to support families with best-in-class healthcare.

The Travis Credit Union Foundation expresses gratitude to all the Travis Credit Union members and donors who helped make this campaign a success, and for supporting the foundation's mission to take leadership on critically important areas of financial need; in this case the financial insecurity that can come with navigating today's healthcare systems.

Travis Credit Union Foundation was founded in 2018 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit

corporation dedicated solely to charitable and educational causes. The Foundation supports financial education, literacy, and wellness initiatives and is the philanthropic arm of Travis Credit Union (traviscu.org). The Travis Credit Union Foundation's mission is to build financially empowered communities and its vision is to create philanthropic solutions for building sustainable financial wellness in communities for generations to come. One hundred percent of the funds raised go back to the community. Donations can be made at [tcufund.org](http://tcufund.org).

Credit Unions for Kids is a nonprofit collaboration of credit unions, chapters, leagues/associations, and business partners from across the country, engaged in fundraising activities to benefit 170 Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Adopted as our movement's charity of choice, credit unions are the 3rd largest sponsor of CMN Hospitals. Since 2006, CU4Kids has raised \$150 million for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Children's Miracle Network Hospitals® raises funds and awareness for 170 member hospitals that provide 32 million treatments each year to kids across the U.S. and Canada. Donations stay local to fund critical treatments and healthcare services, pediatric medical equipment, and charitable care. Since 1983, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals has raised more than \$5 billion. ★

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#### Salinas Valley Farmers Recovering from Flooding, Assessing Toll

Farmers in the Salinas Valley are still calculating crop damages from a series of atmospheric storms that caused the Salinas River to overflow its banks, flooding 20,000 acres of agricultural land. The Monterey County Farm Bureau estimated that farmers suffered \$40 million to \$50 million in losses. Total damages were difficult to access with storm waters slow to recede. While much of the flooded acreage was dormant, thousands of acres contained newly planted vegetables and strawberries. Farmers say there may be production shortages in April and May.

#### Processing Tomato Growers Expecting Improved Contract Prices Amid Rising Costs

Canneries are expected to offer processing tomato growers higher contract prices this year to encourage increased plantings. However, the two sides have yet to agree on a final price. That could impact planting decisions as farmers weigh crop options and water budgets. Merced County farmer Aaron Barcellos, first vice chairman of the California Tomato Growers Association, said he is hoping contract prices compensate for soaring production costs that have made processing tomatoes less profitable to grow.

#### After Deluge, Hopes Rise for Agricultural Water Supply

While many farmers suffered crop losses, the deluge of storms has stirred hopes for a better water-supply year for agriculture after three years of severe drought and water delivery cuts. In the Sacramento Valley, David Guy, president of the Northern California Water Association, says growers are feeling encouraged with snow piled high in the Sierra Nevada and long-depleted reservoirs recovering. Agricultural income plummeted in the Sacramento Valley last year as vast acreage of rice fields was fallowed due to a lack of water.

#### Agricultural, Business Groups Sue Over New 'Waters of U.S.' Rule

The American Farm Bureau Federation and other agricultural and business groups are suing federal agencies over the new "waters of the United States" rule. The lawsuit argues that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers overreached in finalizing the rule in December. Plaintiffs say the new rule could subject farmers to onerous requirements under the Clean Water Act. AFBF President Zippy Duvall said, "Farmers and ranchers should not have to hire a team of lawyers and consultants to determine how we can farm our land." ★

**Dixon Independent Voice**

*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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# Senator Dodd: Bill Lifts Barriers for Wheelchair Users

Office of Senator Bill Dodd

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, introduced legislation on Jan. 31, 2023, that would grant wheelchair users the right to have their own equipment repaired, eliminating manufacturer delays that could leave them immobilized while reducing costs to one of California's most vulnerable populations.

"Wheelchairs are a critical lifeline for people with mobility issues," said Sen. Dodd. "Unfortunately, they have been prevented from getting their wheelchairs fixed in an efficient way when things go wrong. This bill would forbid manufacturers from imposing onerous repair restrictions, ensuring those who rely on wheelchairs are back up and running as soon as possible."

The \$70 billion power wheelchair industry has historically profited by limiting what it spends on technicians and repairs, frustrating wheelchair users as they try to maintain their equipment. Last year, Colorado became the first state in the nation to address the issue, adopting a right-to-repair law that granted wheelchair owners and independent shops access to parts, manufacturer software,

specialized tools and other items needed to ensure timely and affordable wheelchair repair. Manufacturers could be cited for failing to comply.

Sen. Dodd's Senate Bill 271 would ensure the same right to repair for California wheelchair users. His proposal is supported by advocates including Sacramento disability rights activist and wheelchair user Russell Rawlings.

"If you have a power chair and are using it daily, it needs regular maintenance," Rawlings said. "But the industry as it stands has very little interest in making repairs. There can be months if not longer of wait time. This bill seeks to change that by making it easier for owners and smaller shops to fill the repair need. Also, power chairs are increasingly controlled by software that is currently restricted to a small number of vendors. Owners having access to these tools would enable more freedom and ability to control their driving experiences."

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Yolo, Sonoma, Solano, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties. More information on Senator Bill Dodd can be found at [www.senate.ca.gov/dodd](http://www.senate.ca.gov/dodd). ★

# County Requests Information to Support Federal Assistance

Solano County Sheriff's Office

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The Solano County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is requesting County residents and businesses that sustained property damage from the recent storms to fill out a short survey. The data received from the survey will assist OES in assessing and reporting the full extent of the storm damage in our community and in requesting relief funds. Residents and businesses can find the

survey at: [www.SolanoCounty.com/StormReady](http://www.SolanoCounty.com/StormReady)

This survey is not a report for insurance and does not guarantee financial assistance. Residents and businesses should still report damages to their insurance provider. No personal data will be collected or stored as a result of this survey.

To stay informed, follow Solano OES on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SolanoOES](http://www.facebook.com/SolanoOES) and sign up for emergency alerts at [www.alertsolano.com](http://www.alertsolano.com) ★

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000053**  
 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.

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

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 10, 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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000128**  
 The following persons are doing business as: Dixon Smog, 790 N Adams Street, Suite A, Dixon, CA 95620.

Dixon Smog, LLC, 790 N Adams Street, Suite A, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: January 23, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. 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 10, 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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000068**  
 The following persons are doing business as: Parallax Dragonz, 5079 Staghorn Drive, Vallejo, CA 94591.

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

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000102**  
 The following persons are doing business as: Pleasants Valley Fire Safe Council – Vacaville, 3876 Putah Ridge Trail, Winters, CA 95694.

Pleasants Valley Fire Safe Council – Vacaville, 3876 Putah Ridge Trail, Winters, CA 95694. Date Filed in Solano County: January 12, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

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

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

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000128**  
 The following persons are doing business as: Dixon Smog, 790 N Adams Street, Suite A, Dixon, CA 95620.

Dixon Smog, LLC, 790 N Adams Street, Suite A, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: January 23, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. 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 22, 2028. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)

Publish: Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, 2023  
**DIXON** 2-24-23

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-000127**  
 The following persons are doing business as: Dixon Suspension, 790 N Adams Street, Suite B, Dixon, CA 95620.

Dixon Suspension & Smog, LLC, 790 N Adams Street, Suite A, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: January 23, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. 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 22, 2028. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)

business, and professions code.)  
 Publish: Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, 2023  
**DIXON** 2-24-23

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME**

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME FILE # 2022001261**

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name: Dixon Suspension & Smog, at 790 N Adams Street, Dixon, CA 95620. The Fictitious Business Name referred to above was filed in Solano County on July 22, 2022, File Number: 2022001261

Dixon Suspension & Smog LLC, 136 Peridot Court, Hercules, CA, 94547. This business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company Filed with the Clerk of Solano County on January 23, 2023. Publish: Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, 2023  
**SUSPENSION** 2-24-23

**ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE #FCS059046**

Ngan Kim Pham and Viet Hung Nguyen on behalf of Minor Children filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Nathaniel Hung Minh Pham Nguyen to Nathaniel Pham-Nguyen and Catherine Ngan Khanh Pham Nguyen to Catherine Ngan Khanh Pham-Nguyen.

**THE COURT ORDERS** that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. March 8, 2023, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room 2, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533  
 Judge of the Superior Court: Stephen Gizzi  
 Dated: January 23, 2023  
 Publish: Feb. 3, 10, 17 & 24, 2023  
**NGAN** 2-24-23

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE #FCS059445**

Mark Dale Watson filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Mark Dale Watson to Farid Mark Dale Watson.

**THE COURT ORDERS** that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. March 10, 2023, 9:30 a.m. Department 22, Room III, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533  
 Judge of the Superior Court: Alesia Jones  
 Dated: January 26, 2023  
 Publish: Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, 2023  
**DIXON** 2-24-23

**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 is one of the State-mandated elements of a City's General Plan and 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 and 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 enacting or enforcing a development policy, standard or condition that reduces intensity, imposes moratoriums, enforces subjective design standards or implements any provision that limits approvals or caps population. These provisions remain in effect until January 1, 2030. Specifically, Government Code section 66300, subdivision (b)(1) (D), with limited exception, does not allow affected jurisdictions to adopt new, or enforce existing, limits on the number of land-use approvals or permits. HCD's review of the City's draft Housing Element identified that the City's existing local growth control initiative, Measure B, is in conflict with State law and must be suspended or terminated. The City will consider suspension of the 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 proposes amendments to the Natural Environment Element, which incorporates the State required Safety Element, to assess Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.

Copies of the Draft 2023-2031 Dixon Housing Element and 2023 Natural Environment Element can be viewed at [www.cityofdixon.us/housingelementupdate](http://www.cityofdixon.us/housingelementupdate).

The Planning Commission will review and provide their recommendation to the City Council on this project. A separate publicly-noticed City Council hearing to consider adoption of this project will be scheduled at a future date.

*The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. 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. Both the 2023-2031 Housing Element and amendments to the Natural Environment are policy level documents and do not have the potential for resulting in either direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15164. A copy of the addendum to the General Plan 2040 can be viewed at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/EnvironmentalReviewDocuments>*

**HEARING DATE & LOCATION:** Tuesday, February 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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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# WEEKLY COMICS

**Amber Waves** by Dave T. Phipps

HEY DAD, I HAVE A MUCH BETTER IDEA.  
 WE COULD GO BUILD A SNOWMAN AND THEN DO SOME SLEDDING.  
 THEN PIZZA AND MALTS AND IF THERE'S TIME THEN WE DO CHORES?  
 NEVER MIND IT. SOUNDED BETTER IN MY HEAD.

**The Spats** by Jeff Pickering

I STARTED OUT WITH 'NOTHING'  
 ...AND JUST LOOK AT ME NOW!!  
 LOOKS LIKE YOU STILL HAVE MOST OF IT LEFT.

**Out on a Limb** by Gary Kopervas

POPULAR SAYINGS DOWN AT THE LOCAL HEALTH CLUB.  
 NO CHALLENGE, NO CHANGE!  
 YOU DIDN'T COME HERE TO WORK OUT. YOU CAME TO OUT WORK!  
 WHO DIDN'T WIPE DOWN THE MACHINE ONCE THEY WERE DONE?!!

**Flash Gordon** by Jim Koppie

COMMANDER, WE'RE APPROACHING THE LAST COORDINATES SENT FROM GORDON'S SHIP.  
 FLASH!  
 OH, FLASH. YOU HAVE TO BE ALL RIGHT. I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D DO WITHOUT YOU.  
 GASP...NO!  
 HIDING BEHIND YOUR COMRADE? YOU'RE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO YOUR RACE!  
 NOT HIDING...  
 FLASH!  
 THORNE! GRAB A BLASTER AND JOIN THE PARTY!  
 WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!  
 NEXT: ESCAPE IMPOSSIBLE!

**R.F.D.** by Mike Marland

WOULD SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME...  
 THESE GUYS WHO, IN THE DEPTHS OF WINTER, BUNDLE THEMSELVES UP TO THE MAX...  
 YET STILL WEAR SHORTS!!!

**GRIN AND BEAR IT** by Dave T. Phipps

"We've lost communication until after the Super Bowl."

**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps

"WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU MAKES YOU STRONGER" SHOULD BE THE CAMPAIGN SLOGAN FOR THIS HEALTH CEREAL.

**Valiant** by Mike Marland

THE NAMELESS STRANGER IS ALETA'S LATEST PROJECT. HE IS A MYSTERY OF GREAT CHARM - A MESSIAH-STROKEN CATNIP TO THE MANY FEMALES OF CAMELOT.  
 VAL AND GAWFAN ARE LESS IMPRESSED...  
 ...ALTHOUGH THEY MUST ADMIT THAT HIS WAYS IN THE ART OF COMBAT ARE EFFECTIVE...  
 ...AND THEY CANNOT HELP BUT ADMIRE HIS EQUESTRIAN SKILLS. HE EVEN INTRODUCES A NEW RIDING COMPETITION, INVOLVING THE STRIKING OF A SMALL SPHERE WITH A POLE.  
 MEANWHILE, ANOTHER MYSTERY APPROACHES. IN THE FORM OF A HUGGED LITTLE MAN, CASTING FEARFUL GLANCES OVER HIS SHOULDERS.  
 FOR ALL THE ATTENTION, HE IS OUT OF PLACE, AND KNOWS NOT HOW TO RETURN HOME.  
 NEXT: Knight

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# What Are 'Red Flag' Laws and How Can They Prevent Gun Violence?

By Lisa Howard,  
UC Davis Health Public Affairs

California's red flag law, which allows people to obtain gun violence restraining orders (GVROs), went into effect seven years ago. Since then, GVROs have been credited with deterring at least 58 potential mass shootings and other types of gun violence in California, including suicides. Currently, 19 states and the District of Columbia have red flag laws, also known as extreme risk protection order laws.

But what are they, and how do they work?

"Red flag laws are a tool law enforcement and others can use when somebody is clearly at high risk of doing something with a firearm, but they can't be arrested because no crime has been committed and they don't appear to need a mental health hold or qualify for one," Amy Barnhorst said.

Barnhorst is a psychiatrist at UC Davis Health and an expert on violence prevention. She is vice chair of Community Mental Health and the director of the BulletPoints Project, which teaches clinicians how to prevent firearm violence. She remembers the days before California's red flag law. "When somebody was making threats about hurting people at their school or even threats of suicide, there wasn't much that could be done," Barnhorst said. "Red flag laws have changed that. With the law, there is something that can be done about people who are making threats or have concerning behaviors."

Obtaining a gun violence restraining order

Gun-related deaths remain high in the U.S. The Gun Violence Archive, which tracks firearm violence in the U.S., reports 648 mass shootings, 20,176 homicides, and 24,090 suicides in 2022.

Research has found that in



Currently, 19 states and the District of Columbia have red flag laws, also known as extreme risk protection order laws. Photo courtesy Nightunter | Dreamstime.com

about 80% of cases, people who commit mass shootings or suicide make their intentions known in advance to family members or friends or via social media. "It's really important that if you are concerned about a student in your school, or you're a concerned parent, teacher, employer, or somebody who's worried about someone, know there is a way to intervene and reduce the risk. But you need to tell someone, such as law enforcement, who can act," Barnhorst said.

"If you're in California, and there is someone you're concerned about who may be at risk of firearm injury, and they have access to guns, you can go

**"Red flag laws are a tool law enforcement and others can use when somebody is clearly at high risk of doing something with a firearm, but they can't be arrested because no crime has been committed and they don't appear to need a mental health hold or qualify for one."**

Amy Barnhorst is a psychiatrist at UC Davis Health and an expert on violence prevention.

to the Speak for Safety website. It can help walk you through how to pursue a gun violence restraining order," Barnhorst said. The website has different tabs you can select for your relationship to the person at risk, such as employer or co-worker, family or household member, law enforcement or teacher or school employee.

The California Courts website also has information in English and Spanish about how to obtain a GVRO.

"In many cases, law enforcement can get an emergency GVRO on the scene, and they can remove any firearms from the person at risk at that time," Barnhorst said. "If the judge

determines that the person is at risk, the judge can continue the prohibition. The guns will continue to be kept away for the duration of the order, which can be renewed after a year or longer in some cases."

Barnhorst explains there is due process during all stages of the legal procedures. "People who have had their firearms removed can appear in court to give their side. If the judge determines they are not a danger, the prohibition can be lifted, and the firearms returned," Barnhorst said. She notes GVROs are civil court actions. They don't involve the criminal courts, and they don't become part of a person's criminal record.

Most people don't know about GVROs

Despite the potential to reduce mass shootings and suicides, the use of GVROs in California has been limited. One of the biggest barriers appears to be the lack of awareness about them. A recent survey found that nearly two-thirds of the respondents did not know about GVROs, although 70% said they would consider using one in a high-risk situation.

"The GVRO law empowers people to play a role in preventing firearm violence among friends, family members, co-workers and classmates by providing a tool to remove firearms from crisis situations," said Veronica Pear, an assistant professor at the Violence Prevention Research Program at UC Davis. Pear studies violence prevention and has published numerous studies about the efficacy of red flag laws. "However, the law can only save lives if it is used, and for that reason, education is key," Pear said.

For more information about how to obtain a gun violence restraining order in California, visit the Speak for Safety website or the California Courts webpage. ★

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