

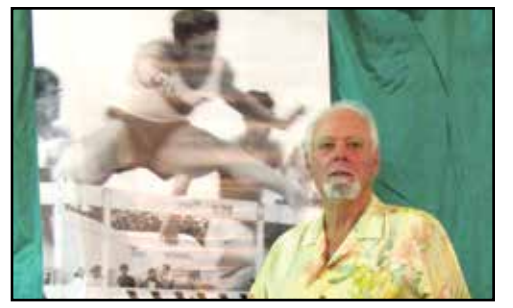


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Dixon Independent Voice

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DECEMBER 16, 2022

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Bringing Sparkle to Dixon



Dixon Dancers perform at last week's Festival of Trees as a warmup to their Winter Showcase, 'Hometown Holiday,' this Saturday and Sunday at Dixon High School Theater.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Sparkling as much as the Christmas tree lights will be the eyes of the Dixon Dancers at their annual Winter Showcase December 17 and 18 at the Dixon High School Community Theater on the school campus, 555 College Way.

This year it is called Hometown Holiday and there will be three performances on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. and another on Sunday at 1 p.m. The show will feature about 120 dancers in a variety of styles including Tap, Jazz, Ballet, Hip Hop, Modern Contemporary,

Acro Jazz (tumbling,) Musical Theater, Pre Ballet, Pre-Hip Hop, Tap/Jazz Combo, and more.

"It's live entertainment and we're really proud of our show," said teacher and choreographer Morgan Kate Hicks.

"We want a fun atmosphere for our dancers, but we want everyone to get a professional experience. Some of our students want to go on and become performers." Students are aged 3 to 17-years-old and practice almost daily.

Some students just want to have fun--like those in the mom's class called Adult Jazz Funk Class.

"It's a lot of fun," said Hicks.

It's a given that dancing

is a great form of exercise, and experts say that a love of dance from an early age can help motivate children to stay active as they grow into adults but there are many other benefits to those happy feet including socialization, creativity, and cognitive development.

"Dance definitely does wonders for their confidence, too, because they have to learn a new routine monthly and they have to perform in front of an audience twice a year. It's a sport to learn a whole new routine frequently," said Crystal Rico who has a 9-year-old in the classes and an older daughter that grew up in dance there as well.

"It happens all the time that the kids who are so quiet come alive on stage," said Hicks. That inner joy was evident on the young dancer's faces as they darted here and there while performing at the Veterans Memorial Hall Saturday.

"It also keeps them active, which I love because every single week they practice 45 minutes to an hour and one of the things that I love being, so it creates a second family. The teachers are so warm and caring, which creates a home away from home and they go through life together and create bonds that last a lifetime," Rico said. "The Elite Team

Continued on page 2

Ernest, Janisch Sworn In; Bogue Next

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It should feel like he's returning to his old stomping grounds when former councilman/former mayor Thom Bogue takes the dais again in January. He will officially be sworn in this time as District 2 Council Representative at the first city council meeting of the year Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 7 p.m.

This was all determined after the last council meeting on December 6 concluded.

At that meeting and after some confusion over the Brown Act and proper notice to the public, Administrative City Clerk Lupe Ruiz read the resolution to accept the election results and have only City Council District 1 winner Jim Ernest and Elected City Clerk Kristen Janisch raise their hands to recite the Oath of Office.

For District 2, the winner by 20 votes was Bogue but challenger Scott Pederson had asked for a recount, so the original agenda listing Bogue had to change. Pederson stopped the recount at 4 p.m., on Tuesday, December 6, the day of the City Council meeting, but too late for any agenda changes to be given proper legal notice per the Brown Act. When Pederson halted the recount, Bogue then became officially elected to District 2.

District 3 Rep Kevin Johnson thanked and appreciated everyone who ran as they upheld "our democratic process" and he congratulated the winners. Councilman Ernest said he enjoyed working with outgoing Councilman Pederson.

"I have served this community for the last ten years and my decision to have a recount of an election was actually my right," Pederson said, adding that the reason he called for it was that "Ten percent of the vote that was cast was uncounted, meaning there could be something wrong with those items in question. Unfortunately, there are people in this community who outright blasted me for my actions. This is the responsibility of the public to vote."

Pederson was "astonished" at the number of people who turned in ballots that had votes for judges and distant officials, but clearly no votes for either of the local District 2 candidates.

"I appreciate that I had this opportunity to do the recount," Pederson said. "The cost was on me, not on the taxpayer, and I wanted to make sure every single person had their

Continued on page 2

City Planners Approve Car Washes



Plans for two Quick Quack Car Washes have been approved for Dixon that will look like this one on Leisure Town Road in Vacaville.

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - At the last City Planning Commission meeting, Two Quick Quack Car Washes- sought Design Reviews for its 3,358 sq. ft.

carwash along with a smaller building and two large canopy areas for car drying plus a trash enclosure.

They were approved to go on the Highway Commercial-zoned parcel next to Denny's on the corner of Stratford and North Lincoln

and at 220 Dorset Court which is the small street leading into Cattlemen's Restaurant.

The first location met with an organized resistance from the neighbors of Allison Courts and one on Renee,

Continued on page 10

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Life's too SHORT

Hurting Through the Holidays

By Debra Dingman

The other morning when I was simply getting ready for work but listening to Christmas music, a wave of sorrow hit me over the recent loss of my brother. I cried off all the mascara I had just applied and didn't care. I sunk onto the edge of the bed and let it roll out of me.

Over the past few weeks, I've spoken with a friend who lost a daughter and grandchild in a car accident. Another friend's father recently died. And I've stayed close with my brother's wife so we grieve together.

But grief seems to be more intense over the holidays. We miss these people who were so much a part of our lives and must face the fact that we will not have them physically with us anymore. Our lives will never be the same.

"It hurts so bad. Will it ever go away?" one asks. I like what my kind neighbor, Jeanne, said when I asked her about mourning. "It never goes away but you get used to it."

I know talking with loved ones helps a lot and with my sister, we often

wind up laughing over something, for example, and I feel I helped her by being there to listen, and maybe lifting her mood... and it helps me.

But watch out for getting too tired from holiday gatherings or events. You can go to them but just don't stay too long or take a pass altogether if you want. Fatigue doesn't mix well with grief. Sometimes people feel guilty that they are having fun but I know two different feelings can coexist--like being happy but sad, too.

It may be tempting to numb yourself with alcohol or drugs but then there is always the day after when your more reasonable self is out of commission to deal with difficult emotions.

Keeping family traditions might help you feel like you are honoring your loved one or you may decide to start something new. I set up a glass shelf in my living room cabinet with my favorite pictures of my brother. It's not a shrine or anything but it's my way of honoring his memory.

Pay attention to your feelings and acknowledge

them. It takes a very long time to get on with life sometimes and that is okay. Just remember to keep taking care of yourself by taking walks, breathing deep, enjoying a hot shower.

Do something for someone else. Bringing joy to someone else's life also brings it to yours. For my dear friend in Tennessee who lost her mother this past summer, I made her a picture frame with a little help from Walmart photos.

The larger picture was of her and her mom holding hands in the hospital. The smaller photo was a tender picture of her and her mom together, and then another smaller photo of her parents at their wedding. The words 'Forever in our hearts' were along the bottom. She loved it. It was a double Christmas gift as I got the gift of happiness.

You can also volunteer or donate socks and blankets to the needy or senior shut-ins.

Just know that there is always help and although reaching out may be difficult, the closest of friendships often start there. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Adrian Coulson, Band and Choir Director at Dixon High School, led the school choir in Christmas carols and holiday songs at the recent Festival of Trees. Photo by Debra Dingman

Community Christmas

The churches of Dixon are joining together to host a Community Christmas Gathering on Saturday, December 24 from 5 to 5:30 p.m. so be prompt if you want to be part of this first-time group gathering. It will take place at the new Pardi Plaza stage in downtown Dixon.

School Break

Dixon Unified School Students will be out of school for three weeks starting December 19 through January 6 so if you want to send them to Grandma's house, that would be a good time. If you consider the Saturday after they are out through the Sunday before they go back, there is a total of 22 days out of the education grind. Neighborhood Christian School's break begins the same day as DUSD, but they are due back on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

Historical Plaques

Regarding the downtown historical plaques that is spear-headed by District 4 Representative Don Hendershot gave an update: "We're still trying to get property owners to sign a right of entry and release of liability form and had to track two this morning," he said. "Connie Lewis and Angela Meisenheimer and I will meet up with Gary Archer next. It's a steady process and taking longer than I anticipated but the Historical Society and DDBA are involved and helping."

Crossing Danger?

Another one of the topics discussed recently by City Council had to deal with a "dangerous" intersection on Fourth and A Streets near John Knight Middle School that has been brought up before and thus far, there is no resolution, explained District 4 Council Representative Don Hendershot.

Some people want a stop sign, and some aren't in favor, according to City Engineer Deborah Barr, who is also Chief of Facilities.

"I remember being on the planning commission when that was brought up," said Hendershot. "I don't know if it just got to a point and then stopped but allegedly a woman almost got hit. I'm not so sure that the stop sign is the answer. I suggested lighted crosswalks so you're not impeding traffic all day. The Councilman has asked Chief Robert Thompson and Barr to check into that."

"I'm not giving up, but I don't forget and if I start something, I will see it through," he said.

Ugly Sweater

Atkinson Self Storage has announced an Ugly Sweater Contest that can save you \$100 off your monthly storage rental if you win. Your job is to wear your ugly sweater in their office at 1800 North First Street and they'll take a picture and you'll be in the contest.

Veterans Dinner

Tonight, Friday, December 16, the menu features a steak dinner with a baked potato, green beans and a roll for \$17 at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street across from DuPratt Ford. It starts at 6 p.m. and cost is \$10 each meal. Funds support the hall and veteran endeavors.

Meetings Cancelled

City Meetings have been cancelled due to the holidays. They are the City Planning Commission on Tuesday, December 13, City Council on Tuesday, December 20, the Transportation Advisory Commission on Wednesday, December 21, and the Parks & Recreation Commission on December 27. They resume in January. ★

Ernest, Janisch Sworn In; Bogue Next



Elected City Clerk Kristen Janisch and re-elected Councilman Jim Ernest.

Continued from page 1 vote count." He then chastised people who had said disconcerting things about him on social media.

Ernest and Janisch were then sworn into their positions by Administrative City Clerk Ruiz.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to get to know this community," Janisch said. "After the [original] appointment, it's been an honor to serve and engage and to truly get to know the community I am thrilled to embrace."

In another discussion, artwork on the tiles on the back of the stage for the Pardi

Plaza was presented by Madeline Graf, Public Information Officer for the City, and discussed by Dixon Historical Society President Kim Evans who worked with Diane Schroeder and Maria Cornejo to narrow down the selection to 50 pictures. They were of people, houses, and churches in black and white as well as color.

After discussion of using captions on each of the photos, numbering the pictures and then placing a legend on the side or nearby wall or including a QR code so people could hear a recording from their phones what each picture was about. The QR code idea was chosen. ★

Dancers Bring Sparkle to Dixon Stage

Continued from page 1

goes every holiday and gives back to the community. They are the ones you see performing at Festival of Trees and at assisted living facilities--five to ten homes a year. It brings so much joy to them and I love to see the kids live out their passion," she added.

Studio owner Amy Forrest-Stokes is teaching and choreographing along with other dance instructors Staci Forrest, Jeanne Jacobson, Baylee Poole, Justina Thiessen, Lexi Cardinale, Kiana Valeriotte, Savannah Grant, and Hicks, who has been

teaching over five years.

"Many of our instructors are moms of our dancers. In fact, several of the classes are taught by previous students so it's a real family atmosphere," said Hicks. "I've loved dance since I was a kid at Dixon Dance Studio and I always wanted to be a teacher."

Tickets for the Winter Showcase are \$14 and can be purchased online at ddshometownholiday.eventbrite.com. The studio is located at 1910 North Lincoln, next to KUIU. Phone is (707) 678-8881. ★

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New Sports Achievers Inducted to Hall of Fame

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - At the annual Dixon Hall of Fame Dinner, which is hosted by a group of dedicated volunteers on a mission to raise funds for the athletic programs at Dixon High School, ten high achievers and an entire basketball team were added to the long list of prestigious inductees.

"Thousands of dollars are raised each year [from the dinner] and those funds have bought uniforms, equipment, and signs," said organizer Linda Barrett who explained the group was formed to keep alive school traditions and to honor those persons who have excelled in one or more high school athletic programs. "We are trying to bring back the spirit of Dixon we grew up with," she added.

Here's a brief about the inductees:

John Watson 'Watsie' Kilkenny Jr., Class of 1949, was a life-long Dixon resident and big supporter of sports in the community. He was a 3-sport athlete during his time at Dixon High School participating in

was a three-year varsity baseball player and was selected to the all-league team his senior year. He was nationally recognized for his offensive play and named to the Far Western Conference All-Star Team two years in a row. After college, the Dodgers offered him a professional baseball contract that he ultimately turned down due to family commitments.

George Shields, also known as 'Butch,' Class of 1969, was a stand-out three-sport athlete participating in basketball, football and track. In track and football, he helped lead both teams to back-to-back league championships. During his senior year, Butch was selected to the football All-League Team as an offensive end and named to the Sacramento Valley All-Star Team for the 13th Annual Optimist Football Game. In track, Butch excelled setting records in the 120-meter high and 180-meter low hurdles, which are still Dixon High records. He also set a record in the 440-meter relay with teammates.

Kim Moriel, Class of 1978, grew up in Dixon.



The Green Jacket Club which were the attending individuals that had been inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. Photo courtesy of Linda Barrett

sports. In football, Ronny was an all-league linebacker and running back. His senior year Ronny rushed for over 1,000 yards and made 90 tackles which he received unanimous voting for All SCAL small schools outside linebacker. He was also a

years and participated in the State meet. He also played basketball all four years, earning honors of All-League Rebounder his senior season. He ran Track varsity all four years, was Subsection Champion in pole vault, and received the Most Valuable Athlete Award at the Largest Small School Track meet in California (760 athletes). He became a three-time All American and the first UC Davis student-athlete to ever win a national title in track and field when he won the pole vault in 2000. After college, Trevor became the head pole vault coach at UCD for 5 years. After college, he became the head pole vault coach at UCD for five years and was then hired by the Japanese National team to work with athletes using American style of training.

He transitioned to high school coaching track at Cathedral Catholic High School in San Diego for ten years where he helped the girls track team become the highest ranked program in Section history, including winning the State Championship. He went on to establish a track club that is still a prominent program in the San Diego area. Eventually returning to Northern California, he continued his career at Rio Americano High School and served as the League Chairman and CIF Advisor. Trevor is currently in his 21st consecutive year of coaching track.

Danica McGreevy, Class of 2009, was a three-sport star at Dixon High School, participating in volleyball, basketball and softball. She was captain of the volleyball team for three years and won the league championship her senior season. Danica was also captain of the basketball team and led the team in points, rebounds and steals, leading them to the playoffs all four years. As captain of the softball team her junior and senior season, she played center field, first base and catcher. She was voted all conference in all three sports her senior year. She earned a degree in communications at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Jeffrey Anderson, Class of 2010, was a star football player at Dixon High School. He played quarterback and had a stellar career. He was the league most valuable player his junior and senior seasons.

Jeffrey was also voted Davis Enterprise Player of the Year and All Metro his senior year. He played football in college for Contra Costa College and Texas Southern University and graduated with a major in liberal arts. He coached football at Contra Costa College where the team won two conference championships then coached for Northern Colorado, San Jose State and Cal Poly. Ultimately, he became an assistant coach for the Cleveland Browns in 2022.

Barb Iten grew up in Northern California and attended UC Davis, where she was a standout three-sport athlete in basketball, volleyball and softball. Among her accomplishments, she led the 1971 basketball team to the National Collegiate tournament in North Carolina. Barb earned degrees in political science and edu-

Pat Granucci was an active community volunteer in Dixon for over 30 years. In addition to her strong civic engagement and committee work, Pat coached cheerleaders at Dixon High School for ten years and helped students of all ages outside of school as a community swim team coach for more than 20 years. Pat took over the local swim team which became the Dixon Dolphins. The Dixon community pool was named the Pat Granucci Aquatic Center in her honor.

Other honors given at the Hall of Fame included the **1979-1980 Boys Basketball Team and Coach George Skezas**. Skezas and team players Rob Adams, Kevin DeGarmo, Tim Fitzpatrick, Abraim Garcia, Keith Hamilton, Mike Hansen, Tavo Lizarraga, Chris Luttges, David MacDonald, Abel



Chris Luttges, Tim Fitzpatrick, Tim's mom, MaryLee Fitzpatrick, and Bill Slater. Photo courtesy of Linda Barrett

football, basketball and baseball and had numerous achievements. He was the quarterback all four years and was appointed as team captain in his junior and senior year. He was part of the Class A Champions for football and one of the leaders of the Hall of Fame 1947 Championship football team and again the SCAL championship team in 1948. He owned and operated Farmers Exchange in Dixon for 35 years.

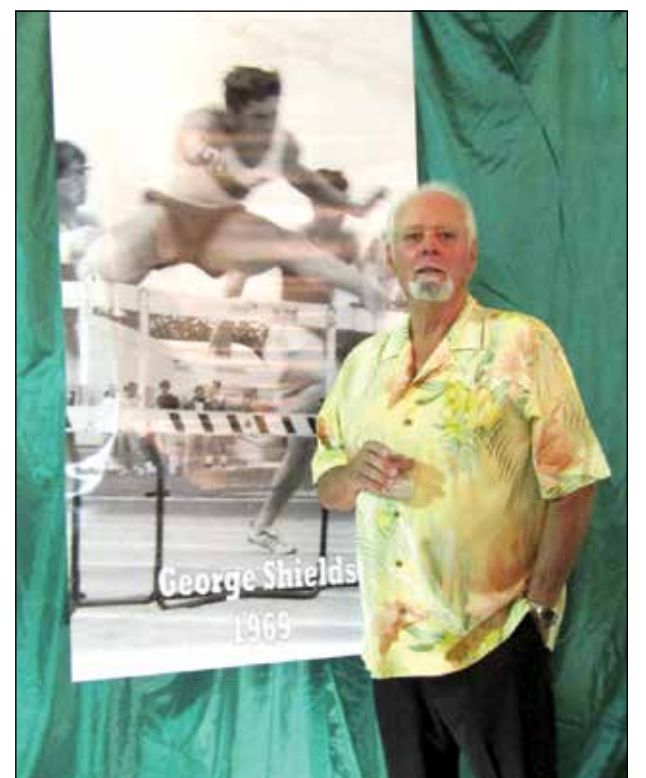
Marvin Van Curen, Class of 1958, was nicknamed "Marvelous Marv" during his time at Dixon High School. He was a highly touted two-sport athlete in baseball and basketball. He

She was a four-year varsity softball starter, receiving SCAL All League Team selection three years in a row. Most notably, during her junior year Kim was lauded for pitching 51 strikeouts during seven league games, pitching every inning plus three pre-season games. Kim also played varsity volleyball for three years and was an honor student. She graduated from UC Davis with an Interior Design degree.

Ronny Kitchen, Class of 1980, was a four-sport athlete at Dixon High School, participating in football, track, wrestling and baseball. Through hard work and dedication Ronny lettered in all four

member of the undefeated mixed 440-meter relay team with Linda Barrett, Edwin Contrera and Chris Step. After high school, Ronny was an all-league linebacker at Solano College and named the most valuable defensive player. After his playing days, he came back to Dixon High and coached JV football for five years. He also continued to coach numerous youth softball and basketball teams in the community.

Trevor Boler, Class of 1995, was an all-around student-athlete at Dixon High School excelling in academics and participating in cross country, basketball, and track. He ran cross country for four



George Shields or "Butch" as classmates knew him, stands in front of a picture of himself at a Dixon High School track meet. He still holds the DHS record for the 120-meter high and 180-meter low hurdles. Photo courtesy of Linda Barrett



Green Jacket Club members Brian Bello, Danica McGreevy, and Ronny Kitchen stand in front of McGreevy's poster. She was in the Class of 2009, and a 3-sport star at Dixon High School, participating in volleyball, basketball and softball. Photo courtesy of Linda Barrett

ation at UC Davis, and a Master of Science degree in physician education from Western Illinois University. She was inducted into the UC Davis School's Athletic Hall of Fame for all three sports and invited to try out for the US Olympic Women's Basketball team. She served as head women's basketball coach at Cal State East Bay. After moving on to coach at Dartmouth and then Iowa State, Barb began her 20-year career teaching and coaching basketball, softball, volleyball, golf and football at Dixon High School. From 2004 on, she took teams into championships, and earned numerous awards, honors, and recognition for her achievements.

Martinez, Greg Pryor, Todd Rehrman, Bill Slater, and Troy Sorensen. Led by the Most Valuable Player of the Division III Section tournament Mike Hanson, and All-Tournament selections Chris Luttges and Greg Pryor, they finished as one of the best teams in school history. Both Hanson and Luttges were named All-League, Keith Hamilton as 2nd team All-League and George Skezas receiving league Coach of the Year.

For more information, go to DixonHallofFame.org. Events guests were tasked to 'Save the Date' for next Year's Hall of Fame which will be Saturday, November 11, 2023. ★

Comprehensive Comparison of All Long Term Services Will Soon be Available

Cal Healthcare Compare News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Beginning in 2023, Californians will get easy access to data on over 19,000 long term care services and facilities in California, thanks to a \$1 million grant from the California Department of Aging for the expansion of the Cal Long Term Care Compare website.

Through this funding, Californians will be able to access Cal Long Term Care Compare to compare quality performance and facility information for over 1,000 nursing homes, as well the following services and facilities in their area: home health agencies, hospices, adult residential care programs, adult day health centers, long term care hospitals, inpatient rehabilitation facilities and more.

The public website will be updated over a two-year period to include comparative information, such as facility location, number of beds, resident information, services, and resident feedback, for these additional long term care options. In addition, the website will be updated to include several tools designed to guide Californians through the decision-making process, from determining their long-term care needs to selecting the right provider in their area. As part



Californians will be able to access Cal Long Term Care Compare to compare quality performance and facility information. MPG file photo

of this effort, overall website accessibility, such as Spanish translation services and ADA compatibility, will be improved so that even more Californians can access this vital information.

Cal Long Term Care Compare is a free website that offers an unbiased, one-stop snapshot of how local long term care services and facilities compare to each other and to statewide averages on a variety of quality metrics.

“Searching for long term care services can be a difficult, anxiety-ridden challenge. We know that many individuals and families struggle with just understanding the difference between the various long term care options — such as nursing homes versus hospice,” said Dr. Bruce Spurlock, Executive Director of Cal Healthcare

Compare. “We hope that this free site will lessen the apprehension and provide individuals and families with reliable, objective information and educational material so that they can be more confident in the decisions they make.”

Created by Cal Healthcare Compare, a multi-stakeholder non-profit, the user-friendly website offers a quick reference about some of the most pressing issues consumers need to weigh before choosing the long term care facility best suited to their unique needs. Funded by California health plans, data analysis informing the posted measures are produced by researchers from the UC Davis Center for Healthcare Policy and Research and the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing. ★

Conversion to Organics Could Increase Food Prices, Shrink Farm Profits

California Farm Bureau News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A European Union policy goal to exponentially increase organic farming to 30% of all agricultural production by 2030 is expected to be considered by Gov. Gavin Newsom for next year's budget. However, a new economic analysis says such a plan would dramatically increase the price of food for many consumers and jeopardize the solvency of organic farms.

California currently has an estimated 7.35 million acres of irrigated cropland, of which 460,000 acres — or 6% — is certified as organic and not all of that is farmed in any given year.

A preliminary analysis by ERA Economics, a Davis-based consultancy specializing in the economics of agriculture and water resources in California, focused on the potential challenges of applying the EU standards to one California crop: tomatoes. The state produces 95% of America's processing tomatoes and the total annual tomato crop is valued at \$1.2 billion.

Only 5% of California's 228,000 processing tomato acreage is currently needed to meet consumer demand for organic. The study found that reaching 30% organic production by 2030 would cause substantial disruptions to the market. The farmgate price of conventional tomatoes was estimated to rise by more

than 11%. And, importantly, the price for organic tomatoes was estimated to fall by 28% at the farmgate level — potentially putting the market price below the cost of production.

That could mean organic farmers would be forced to cease production, sell, or farm something else — a result that could potentially crash the organic market and ultimately drive-up consumer prices. Mandating an increase in organic acreage without a clear connection to consumer demand could result in market disruptions that would hurt farmers, farm employees and consumers alike, the study noted.

Any initial organic price drop would mostly benefit wealthier consumers who purchase organically grown products, with lower-income customers paying more for traditionally grown products. All tomato farmers, organic or not, could see reduced profits, according to the analysis.

“Farming works when we are able to grow what the consumer actually wants and not what government mandates. California consumers are already struggling to afford higher prices for food than other states because of government mandates and these types of proposals just make things worse,” said Jamie Johansson, president of the California Farm Bureau. “When the government increases the price of food, it acts like a regressive tax, hurting lower- and middle-income

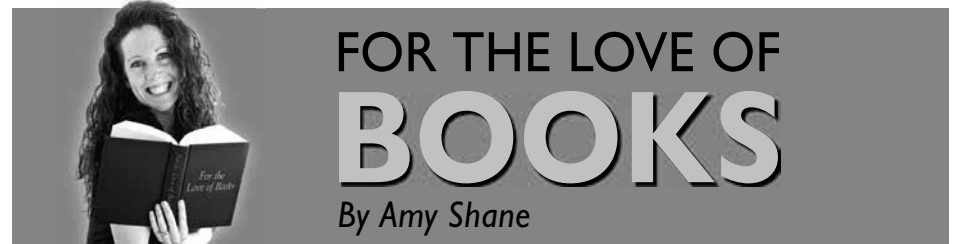
families the hardest. At the end of the day, the government needs to let organic markets grow organically.”

To increase organic acreage for processing tomatoes from an average of 4% to 30% would represent a five- to six-fold increase in current acreage. Tomato growers and processors interviewed for the analysis confirmed industry data regarding consumers' finite desire to purchase organic tomato products;

Tomato growers may specialize in organic, non-organic or both, depending on market demands and conditions. By mandating a specific growing method, it could greatly impact the ability of farmers to keep their operation sustainable, both financially and as they encounter other challenges, such as climate change and pests and disease;

Both conventional and organic farmers of processing tomatoes face risks of economic losses. Conventional growers, with likely reduced acreage, could see a 17% potential downside cost from expected earnings;

Organic production presents greater risk of crop failure, higher production costs and lower crop yields. As a result, organic farmers are likely to see less stability. They face a potential downside cost of 36% of anticipated net returns, making it potentially unprofitable to grow organic processing tomatoes. ★



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

Holiday Gift Giving Guide by Simon and Schuster Publishing

Santa Mouse Bakes Christmas Cookies

by Michael Brown

Santa mouse returns with a new Christmas story perfect for any little one ready to decorate cookies for Santa.

I'm A Little Snow Man

by Hannah Eliot and Anna Daviscourt

Sing about all the beauty of snowmen and snowgals set to the nursery rhyme tune of “I'm a little teapot.”

Yetis Are the Worst

by Alex Willan

Gilbert the goblin is back and here to talk about Yetis and why everyone loves this mysterious beast. This time he is out to prove why they are the worst, but he has to find one first!

Follow Gilbert on his hilarious adventure of Yeti hunting, but watch out! Yetis might be closer than you think. This laugh-out-loud book is the perfect read for fans of the series or anyone looking for a fun winter read.

Noodle and the No Bones Day

by Johnathan Graziano and Dan Tavis

Noodle, the pug, loves all his daily activities of taking walks, barking at friends, and having snacks. But as Noodle gets older, there are days he would rather stay home and relax. Follow the story of noodles and his human Jonathan as they learn the importance of balance and self-care while celebrating an older pet. Adorable illustrations and storyline will keep readers coming back to read this one repeatedly.

I Want to Be a Vase

by Julio Torres and Julian Glander

A little bathroom plunger shakes up the whole house when he decides he wants to be a vase, sparking the idea in all the other appliances. Now, everyone is quickly sharing who they dream of being.



An utterly unpredictable story that turns the thought of everyday objects on their head while also discussing an underlined theme.

Better than The Movies

by Lynn Painter

Ever since they were kids, Wes has always been the annoying boy next door. Although, now, it is senior year, and Liz needs Wes's help if she is going to land her dream crush, Michael, in time for prom. But the more she is around Wes, the more she sees him as something more than the annoying little boy from next door. Changing everything Liz thought she wanted for a happily ever after.

This charming young adult rom-com is a quick, fun read that will excite readers about love and all its possibilities.

Foul Lady Fortune

by Chloe Gong

The book that swept readers away with a story of intrigue and mystery with two spies investigating a series of murders in 1931 Shanghai. While Rosalind and Orion are an ill-fit pair, they must still pose as a married couple to try and unravel secrets, lies, and a horrifying conspiracy. A story that has captivated readers with vivid scenes and exquisite storytelling, Foul Lady Fortune is sure to be this year's top young-adult read. ★



The Extreme Recklessness of Biden 2.0

Joe Biden 2024 is a bad idea whose time has come.

If Democrats had gotten the shellacking that seemed to be coming their way in the midterms, Biden might have been wounded enough for elements of the Democratic establishment to begin to try to shoulder him into retirement.

Instead, the Democratic overperformance has Biden looking revitalized. Gov. Gavin Newsom of California told the president on election night that he's not running against him (not that Biden was ever likely to face a direct primary challenge). Press coverage has emphasized Biden's vindication. The shot in the arm is understandable given what his party was able to pull off, yet it doesn't make Biden a day younger -- in fact, he just turned 80 and every day of his presidency is an experiment in whether an unprecedentedly aged president can perform at the level demanded of the office.

Democrats consider Biden the safe choice in 2024, since he's the incumbent and surrounded by flawed alternatives, yet he is actually an enormous risk. Nominating him again would be extremely reckless, both for the party and for the country.

It may well be that Biden,

even in his enfeebled state, is the best matchup against Donald Trump. He beat him once before, after all, and used him as an effective foil during the midterms. It is to Biden's advantage that it has proven difficult for anyone to work up a passionate hatred of him, rather than a low-intensity sense of pity or contempt. And he still has a relatively moderate affect and profile -- there are limits to how “woke” an 80-something, silver-haired creature of the Democratic establishment can appear, no matter how far left his policies are.

There's no guarantee, though, that Biden will get the former president as his opponent. If he doesn't, then he'll be denied the dynamic of one old guy whose record is terrible running against another old guy who frightens people.

If Trump can't secure the GOP nomination, everything changes. Ron DeSantis is 44. Ted Cruz is 51. Mike Pompeo is 58. Tim Scott is 47. Basically, any Republican nominee besides Trump would instantly be bequeathed a powerful past-vs.-future theme (age aside, Trump will unavoidably and perhaps explicitly be running a campaign of restoration).

There's another risk for Democrats, as well -- namely that Biden will experience some age-related meltdown in public during a general-election campaign that will make his struggles undeniable even to well-wishers determined to look the other way.

Aging is a progressive condition. Biden isn't getting any younger or more

capable. The good news is that today, right now, he is as fit as he'll ever be to perform his duties; the bad news is that there are a lot of days between now and 2024 when he'll be less fit, whether by a tiny increment or by a lot.

The public is already unsettled. According to the exit polls, 58% of voters said Biden does not have the acuity to serve effectively as president.

If Democrats get their way, this is just the beginning. They propose to reelect a man who will be 82 on Inauguration Day, and 86 by the end of his second term.

The actuarial tables and the realities of aging being what they are, this creates considerable risk of putting the country through the trauma of having a president who is incapable of carrying out his entire term. If you think our politics are deranged now, just wait until we face a genuine, inevitably wrenching 25th Amendment crisis, or we have to deal with the legitimacy issues around an unelected president.

Why even consider going down this route? In part, because Biden made an identity politics choice for vice president, and not a good one. It is understandable that the prospect of Vice President Kamala Harris makes Democrats want to cling to their nurse for fear of something worse. But the country deserves a better idea.

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

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'Kids of Caltrans' Aims to Get Drivers to Move Over, Save Lives

Caltrans News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The young faces of the families of highway workers are reminding you to move over a lane or slow down for their loved ones who help keep our roads safe. The "Kids of Caltrans" provide the personal, impactful messages behind the new public awareness campaign from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP), that kicked off today at Sacramento's Golden 1 Center.

Some of the children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews of Caltrans workers featured in the "Move Over" campaign were on hand for the kickoff event, which comes on the heels of last week's National Crash Responder Safety Week. In video messages that will air throughout the state through January 2023, they ask drivers to be alert and move over a lane if safe to do so or slow down to safely pass highway workers.

Sadly, highway workers, law enforcement officers, emergency personnel and tow truck drivers are killed or injured along California's roadways every year.

Moving over and slowing down when passing a vehicle stopped on the roadway with flashing lights in California isn't just a matter of following the law—it is about saving lives. The "Move Over" law exists to provide a safer environment for maintenance and emergency vehicles stopped along roadsides close to fast-moving traffic.

"Making a traffic or emergency stop on

the side of the road is one of the most dangerous duties law enforcement officers and other first responders perform," said CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray. "Tragically, too many first responders and highway workers have been killed on the shoulder or median, and dozens more have been seriously injured. Please, move over or slow down when you see our officers and others working on the side of the freeway; not only is it the law, their lives depend on it."

California's "Move Over" law requires all drivers to move over a lane if safe to do so, and if unable to do so safely, to slow down when they see amber flashing lights on Caltrans vehicles, law enforcement and other emergency vehicles and tow trucks.

In 2020, nearly 7,000 work-zone crashes occurred on California roadways, resulting in more than 3,000 injuries and nearly 100 fatalities. Nationally, drivers and passengers account for 85% of those killed in work zones.

Although all 50 states have enacted "Move Over" laws, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that 71% of Americans are not aware of them. In California, failure to obey the "Move Over" law can result in fines up to \$1,000, plus points on your driving record.

Since 1921, 191 Caltrans employees have been killed on the job, and one of the biggest hazards to them and anyone working on the roads is from motorists who do not exercise caution. Those 191 employees represent scores of families torn apart by preventable work zone collisions.

To see campaign videos from the kids and grandkids of Caltrans, visit BeWorkZoneAlert.com ★

Triple Threat to California's Budget



Commentary by Jon Coupal

There is near unanimity among economists that the United States will experience a recession in 2023. Last month, the Conference Board predicted a 96 percent likelihood of a recession in the U.S. within the next 12 months due primarily to the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes.

Relative to other states, California is ill-prepared to weather a recession, especially a severe one. But even without a recession, California's Legislative Analyst predicts a \$25 billion shortfall for fiscal 2023-24. The deficit, which the LAO calls a budget "problem," is mainly attributable to revenue estimates that are \$41 billion lower than previous budget projections.

Moreover, the LAO acknowledges that programs which include inflation adjustments will make the problem worse: "Our estimate of a \$25 billion budget problem understates the actual budget problem in inflation-adjusted terms."

Particularly surprising is that all this bad news from the LAO doesn't even assume that a recession is imminent. "While our lower revenue estimates incorporate the risk of a recession, they do not reflect a recession scenario." If a recession does occur in 2023, the LAO says that revenues could be \$30 billion to \$50 billion below its initial revenue outlook.

If the legislature took seriously the report from the LAO, it would take immediate action to blunt the damage from the economic downturn predicted for 2023. But that is unlikely because California's political leadership lacks the will to reduce spending as well as the high tax burden which drives that spending. Government spending is California's growth industry, exploding 600% since 1989-90. (\$49.1 billion to \$303 billion).

California's out of control spending leads to the second reason why an economic downturn will hurt California more than other states: A reduced tax base due to outmigration of businesses and productive taxpaying individuals.

This column has reported numerous times on how California's high taxes, heavy regulations and lack of affordable housing have led to an exodus out of California. The well-known satire site, Babylon Bee, recently featured an image of a high speed train emblazoned with a U-Haul logo with the caption: "U-Haul Builds Bullet Train from California to Texas." Humorous, but capital flight out of California is no laughing matter.

A recent report from the Hoover Institute is downright frightening: "In 2021, California business headquarters left the state at twice their rate in both 2020 and 2019, and at three times their rate in 2018. In the last three years, California lost eleven Fortune 1000 companies, whose exits negatively affect California's economy today. But California also is risking its economic future as much smaller but rapidly growing unique businesses are leaving, taking their innovative ideas with them."

Because California is overly reliant on high-wealth individuals paying the lion's share of income

tax revenue, their departure inflicts a disproportionate level of harm to the state budget. As California experienced in the last recession, the drop in revenue from stock options and capital gains exposes California to a vulnerability not shared by other states. But that's not all.

Governor Gavin Newsom touts California's status as the leader in high tech and venture capital. But other states are cashing in on California's reputation as an anti-business state. According to a Bloomberg report on initial public offerings (IPOs), only nine companies headquartered in California went public during the first three quarters of 2022. More troubling was that California's share of U.S. IPO proceeds fell to 2% through Sept. 30, compared with 39% for 2021.

The final concern for California is the fact that the U.S. House of Representatives, the house of origin for all appropriations, is now under the control of Republicans. For two years, right-leaning states have watched California receive favorable treatment from Washington from everything from High Speed Rail funds and other special projects. (Remember Nancy Pelosi's securing \$200 million for a park within walking distance from her home?) The extent to which California received more than its "fair share" of federal assistance is a matter of debate. But the odds of Congress going out of its way to help California with its budget "problem" are now zero.

The only silver lining to this very dark cloud is that a recession may finally force the tax-and-spend politicians in Sacramento to do something they haven't done in decades: Reduce waste and prioritize spending.

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

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AMERICAS 12-16-22

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001903
The following persons are doing business as: Shop Le Jour, 643 Elderberry Loop, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Amanda Taylor, 643 Elderberry Loop, Vacaville, CA 95688. Date Filed in Solano County: November 16, 2022. The Registrant commenced to trans-

act business under the above business name on: N/A
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SHOP 12-23-22

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001962
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James Edward York, 223 Barcelona Street, Vallejo, CA 94591-7410. Date Filed in Solano County: November 29, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
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JAMES 1-6-23

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #FCS069143

Pablo Ramirez Jauregui filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Pablo Ramirez Jauregui to Pablo Ramirez.
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. February 3, 2023, 9:30 a.m. Department 22, Room 3, 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: November 23, 2022
Publish: Dec 16, 23, 30, 2022, Jan 6, 2023
PABLO 1-6-23

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Dixon City Council adopted Ordinance No. 22-008, repealing and replacing Title 16 (Building and Construction) of the Dixon Municipal Code (DMC) in its entirety to (1) adopt by reference and amend the 2022 California Building, Fire, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Building Standards Administrative, Energy, Historical Building, Existing Building, Referenced Standards, Residential, and Green Building Code, including adopting by reference certain appendix chapters of these codes; (2) adopt by reference and amend the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code and the 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code; (3) adopt findings of fact supporting the local amendments to the codes; and (4) repeal of Chapter 16.13 (Housing Code) and add a new chapter (Chapter 16.19), adopting AB 1236 and AB 970 (permit streamlining for electric vehicle charging systems).

The State of California adopts a set of new construction codes every three years, referred to as the California Building Standards Codes (Title 24). The ordinance adopts the 2022 California Building Standards Code, which automatically becomes effective January 1, 2023, along with the 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code and the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code with certain administrative and technical amendments, based on Dixon's local conditions, in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 17958.7. The local amendments mainly relate to local climatic, geographic, and topographic conditions inherent to the City of Dixon. The ordinance includes repeal of obsolete sections of the DMC, Title 16, and adding prior State required standards related to the permitting of electric vehicle charging stations (AB 970 and AB 1236) that had not been included in DMC, Title 16.

This Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 15th day of November 2022, and adopted at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 6th day of December 2022, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Ernest, Hendershot, Johnson, Pederson, BIRD
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

A copy of the full text of the adopted ordinance is available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or at www.cityofdixon.us

Kristin M. Janisch
Elected City Clerk

Heeney's History Post Covid Times

Commentary by Ed Heeney

As I was transporting a carload of ladies to lunch today, I couldn't help but marvel at the animated conversation from the back seat. The main topic seemed to be how many and how colorful the city decorations were appearing in the "town" square and how the newspapers were carrying the news to one and all. The subjects went from Dixon's new Town Square to Winter's Tractor parade, and Davis and Vacaville alike.

These post-COVID times just seem to have a renewed feel like the "old days" with Grandpa and Grandma watching the grandkids and everyone out in the crowd with smiles and children tugging on hands while heading for the store or Santa's lap. Grandpa's feet are sore, but he won't let on.

Gifts sure have changed since I was a kid. Now there are so many electronics and all the gizmos. I have to chuckle at how the kids of today accept the

knowledge of electronic gadgets and operate them in such a sophisticated manner.

Star Wars is kindergarten now. Thankfully, there are still those grins, smiles, and the general feeling of excitement as we enjoy the Christmas Season, family, and friendship. May we continue to feel blessed, happy, and healthy in this wonderful time.

Editor's Note: Ed and Mary Heeney are long-time Dixonites. They first moved to Dixon in 1971 and raised three children here and now have seven grandchildren. Ed reported how he first learned to write. "I was in the Air Force for 25 years and I never got high enough to have a secretary, so I learned to write because I had to. After that, I've written directives and so on for my work and in almost every assignment, I've done a newsletter. I also followed Mary around the circuit--Mary was the Editor of the Dixon Tribune for 10 years. I had the privilege of proofreading." ★

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CLUES

- ACROSS
- Make change
 - Used in combination to denote the middle
 - *Ammo material
 - Star
 - The "place with the helpful hardware folks"
 - Neutral shade
 - Orderly arrangement
 - Romanian monetary unit
 - Button on electrical outlet
 - *Frosty's nose
 - *Gingerbread Man, e.g.
 - Drench
 - What a willow did?
 - Famous song by The Jackson 5
 - Cone-shaped quarters
 - *Snow mover
 - A bit of water
 - Pakistani language
 - Measured in knots
 - Tatted fabric
 - "A Visit from St. Nicholas" poet
 - Tropical edible root
 - Paintings in Orthodox church
 - Not swim or swum
 - Frozen puddle accident
 - Small skullcap
 - Dresden's river
 - Captain's turf
 - Drop of sorrow
 - "Slippery" tree
 - *Frozen spike
 - *Three-horse sleigh ride
 - Words to live by
 - Caviar alternative
 - On D'Artagnan's hat
 - Group of wives
 - Boiling emotion
 - Furnish with a fund
 - Travelers' stops
 - Poetic "even"
 - Buy second-hand
- DOWN
- Agha, alt. sp.
 - Artist Chagall's first name
 - Poet Pound's first name
 - Draws close
 - Fungus damage (2 words)
 - Shake's cousin?
 - * fishing
 - Two, in cards
 - Station finder button
 - Not final
 - Curved molding
 - Kind of nurse
 - Bouillions
 - Laudanum ingredient
 - Saturn's wife
 - As opposed to widow
 - Impromptu
 - Emergency pedal
 - *Hot treat
 - Major-leaguers
 31. Prefers
 - Butcher shop offering, pl.
 - Ghostlike
 - Parkinson's drug
 - Philadelphia's Ivy League member
 - Russian mountain chain
 - *Fireplace glob
 - TV offering
 - Reef fish
 - Kind of bride
 - Eagle's home
 - Hundred Acre Wood creator

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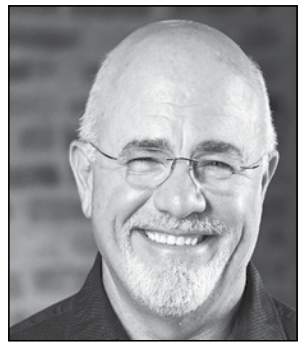
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Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Karla,

In their later years? I'm not trying to be mean, but they're already in their later years.

I'm really sorry you're in this situation. Even though you're in your 50s, he's still your dad, and I know this hurts your heart. It's probably even tougher to accept the fact that he's being manipulative. I mean, seriously. What dad calls up his daughter with the idea he's entitled to \$55,000 of her money and starts acting like a travel agent for guilt trips in the process? That's just wrong.

Look, if the relationship and the situation were different, we might have something to talk about. With your net worth, you're not going to miss \$55,000 out of \$2 to 3 million. In a good relationship, I'd help my mom or dad like that in a heartbeat—just to help them out because they're older. But this situation already is what it is. Something tells me this isn't the first time he's behaved in a manipulative way. And if you say yes to this, then I've got a feeling it isn't the first time

you've caved into him. I'm worried you won't be able to live with yourself if you do this, and that it may cause a big rift between you and your husband.

It's wrong of your dad to treat you this way and put you in this situation. If you want to tell him your money's tied up, which it is, or you just don't like the way it feels, that's fine. But my advice is to try to step back from the emotions and come to the realization in your own head that no is a complete answer.

You don't have an ethical or moral obligation to give manipulative people money just because they're related to you.

—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. ★

A Travel Agent for Guilt Trips

Dear Dave,

My dad and his wife asked my husband and I for \$55,000. They want the money so they can pay off their debt. We're debt-free and have a net worth of between \$2 to 3 million, but we're also retired. We don't keep that much in the bank, so we'd have to draw from our retirement accounts – which is something we don't want to do. They've already approached other family members about this too. His wife is owed money at some point from a family settlement, but they don't want to wait that long. My dad said we should do this if we want them to get ahead and have anything left in their later years. My dad is 80, and his wife is in her late 70s. My husband and I are both in our 50s. Please tell me how to handle this.

—Karla



Riley Reviews

GORY 'VIOLENT NIGHT' HOLIDAY FUN; 'MICKEY' ORIGIN STORY

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"VIOLENT NIGHT" RATED R

Looking for a different type of Christmas movie that won't be found on the Hallmark Channel? "Violent Night" is it, and knowing this film comes from the producers of "John Wick," "Atomic Blonde" and "Deadpool 2" should inform that the action will be a bit extreme.

On Christmas Eve in a London pub, David Harbour's jaded Santa Claus is having an existential crisis about keeping his appointed rounds and lamenting the greed and self-interest of spoiled kids ruining the holiday spirit.

Back on his sleigh ride through the night, he ends up at a Greenwich, Connecticut mansion where he takes a break to snack on cookies and sip brandy, unaware that all hell will soon break loose at the wealthy Lightstone family gathering.

Led by the foul-mouthed matriarch Gertrude (Beverly D'Angelo), the dysfunctional Lightstone family has gathered for tenuous Christmas Eve cheer that won't overcome the bickering and recriminations of fairly obnoxious people.

Only Gertrude's son Jason (Alex Hassell) and young daughter Trudy (Leah Brady), as well as Jason's estranged wife Linda (Alexis Louder), seem to be relatively normal human beings.

The holiday festivities are soon interrupted by a vicious psychopath code-named Mr. Scrooge (John Leguizamo) staging a home invasion with his crew of heavily armed mercenaries as they plan to heist a large sum of cash stored in the basement vault.

The world-weary Santa Claus may be centuries old, but at one time he was a Viking warrior, or so it seems from flashbacks as well as his amazing ability to wield a sledgehammer as if he were Thor.

Inspired by the Santa-believer Trudy who has managed to hide in the attic to set booby traps, Santa is motivated to save the faithful young girl and rescue the hostages by going to all-out war with Mr. Scrooge's elite team of combatants.

The word "violent" is in the title for good reason, because not-so-jolly Saint Nick channels his inner medieval fighter to enact gruesome violence where bad guys get impaled on a bed of nails, beheaded or thrust into a wood chipper, among other acts of carnage.

Amidst the bloody gore and violent action, there's a twisted sense of humor to "Violent Night" to elicit laughs, which may give one pause to think this bloody action-comedy is a warped combination of "Home Alone" and "Die Hard."

This film won't suit everyone, but the element of fun mixed in with the mayhem may well catch on with an audience open to the antithesis of the usual holiday fare.

"MICKEY: THE STORY OF A MOUSE" ON DISNEY+

Three simple circles are all it takes

to create the image of an iconic cartoon character. Take one quarter and strategically place two dimes as ears, and presto, you've got the outline of Mickey Mouse.

There is an undeniable cultural significance to a cartoon mouse that's been around for nearly a century, and "Mickey: The Story of a Mouse," a documentary streaming on Disney+, is here to tell the back story of the animated lovable rodent and its creator Walt Disney.

One of the world's most beloved icons, Mickey Mouse is recognized as a symbol of joy and childhood innocence in virtually every corner of the globe, even if there are controversies that surround the cartoon mouse.

As an ambitious young artist who moved to Hollywood from Kansas City, Missouri, Walt Disney found initial success with Oswald the Lucky Rabbit and then had it all taken away from him in a dispute over intellectual property rights with Universal Pictures.

In 1928, Disney created the character of Mickey Mouse with animator Ub Iwerks and provided Mickey's distinctive high-pitched voice for decades, and it is inarguable that the mouse's debut in "Steamboat Willie" launched a lucrative career and a global empire.

When producer Morgan Neville was approached by Disney+ about making a documentary on Mickey Mouse in 2018, he found the idea both exciting and daunting given that as a cultural documentarian the subject matter was fascinating.

According to Neville, "it's hard to think of another symbol in our culture that has so many different sides. Mickey Mouse is a symbol of innocence and childhood as well as a symbol of America, a symbol of consumerism, a symbol of the counterculture."

Not everything in the Disney kingdom is viewed favorably. The documentary examines some of the ways in which Disney animated shorts promulgated harmful ethnic, racial and gender stereotypes.

Notably problematic was the 1933 short "Mickey's Mellerdrummer," in which Mickey Mouse performed in blackface. Of course, judging a product nearly 90 years old on the basis of contemporary standards would inevitably result in flaws being revealed.

"Mickey: The Story of a Mouse" also follows the progress of master animators Eric Goldberg, Mark Henn and Randy Haycock, as they create the original animated short "Mickey in a Minute," which traces Mickey's adventures though the ages.

The hand-drawn process of animation is a highly specialized craft. This documentary sheds light on many aspects of the Mickey Mouse creation to interest animation buffs. ★

Reid Joins First Northern Bank as VP/Financial Services Manager

First Northern Bank News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - First Northern Bank is pleased to announce that Lynn Reid accepted the position of Vice President/Financial Services Manager for the Rancho Cordova Financial Center in the Sacramento County Region.

Lynn brings 24+ years of commercial banking, financial management, and customer service experience to First Northern Bank. Prior to joining First Northern, Lynn served as VP/Branch Manager for Bank of Marin (formerly American River Bank) in Gold River.

In her role as VP/Financial Services Manager, Lynn will be responsible for managing daily banking operations, supervising the branch staff, building customer relationships, and developing business.

Lynn is a native of Arcata, CA, and currently resides in Carmichael with her husband and two children. She enjoys attending her kids' sporting events, gardening, kayaking, visiting the coast, and spending time with her family and friends. Her volunteer efforts include community service with Sacramento Life Center, St.



Lynn Reid Joins the Bank as Vice President/Financial Services Manager of the Rancho Cordova Financial Center. Courtesy photo

John's Program for Real Change, and The Salvation Army.

First Northern Bank's Rancho Cordova Financial Center is located at 2901 Sunrise Blvd.; Lynn may be reached at (916) 642-1483, Monday through Thursday: 9a.m.-5p.m. and Friday: 9a.m.-6p.m. ★

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Initial State Allocation Signals Another Year of Water Shortages for Farming

Signaling another difficult year for drought-impacted farmers, the California Department of Water Resources has announced an initial water allocation of 5% of requested 2023 supplies from the State Water Project. At this time last year, state officials predicted a 0% allocation and ultimately delivered 5% of requested supplies. Farmers this year followed an estimated 750,000 acres of productive cropland due to water shortages. The State Water Project supplies 29 water agencies that serve 27 million Californians.

Farm Bureau President Calls for Water Infrastructure to Help Agriculture

California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson has called on state policymakers to build critical infrastructure to protect water resources and allow America's most important agricultural sector to continue to thrive. "The management of scarcity is failing," Johansson told attendees of the California Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting in Monterey. "It's time now to reimplement the management of bounty, which made California great." California's nearly 70,000 farms, which produce more than 400 crops, are navigating severe water shortages.

State Provides Emergency Assistance to Drought-Impacted Communities

California water officials have allocated \$86 million in financial assistance to help drought-impacted communities meet immediate and long-term water needs. Some \$44 million in funds will support 23 projects through the state's Small Community Drought Relief program. The projects include helping incorporated areas of Tulare County facing severe water shortages to connect to a nearby public water system and building a local water storage facility to help irrigate 2,100 acres of farmland and recharge groundwater in Merced County.

Sonoma County Dairy Farmers Honored with Leopold Conservation Award for Sustainability

A Sonoma County dairy family has won the Leopold Conservation Award, a prestigious award honoring farmers and ranchers who employ sustainable practices to maintain natural resources. The pasture-based Beretta Family Dairy, run by Doug Beretta, his wife Sharon and adult children Ryan and Jennifer, is a 100% certified organic operation with 300 milk cows and 400 heifers. The dairy was lauded for its composting efforts that nurture grazing lands and help sequester carbon. ★

Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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Another Covid Winter?



Politicians and media are trying to foist another Covid winter on America. Photo courtesy of Yuri Arcurs | Dreamstime.com

By Katy Grimes, California Globe

It appears some politicians and members of the media are trying to foist another Covid winter on America. In California the pandemic never really ended. California Gov. Gavin Newsom still clings to his autocratic emergency powers under his March 4, 2020 Covid State of Emergency order, so why not perpetrate another crisis?

Hysterical and misleading headlines from mainstream media tell the story:

SacBee: California hospital ICU's see 20% jump in COVID-19 patients since last week, state data show. "As of Wednesday, there were 346 patients in hospital intensive care units, accounting for roughly 13% of available beds," the Sac Bee health care writer reports, but she omits what the 346 ICU patients are hospitalized for.

A quick look at Sacramento County Public health Covid statistics (below) shows about 12-13 Covid "cases" a day are reported, 13 Covid patients in the ICU and 13 recent deaths. It took 3 minutes to look this up.

Here is another headline

from the SacBee health reporter: California's 'triple-demic' of viruses is on the rise. Here's how to care for a sick loved one.

The advice in this 605 word article is useful to anyone who hasn't ever had the flu: drink plenty of fluids, take Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen for the fever, and get plenty of rest.

What is this "triple-demic" of viruses? COVID-19, the flu and respiratory syncytial virus.

"According to CDC data, the hospitalization rate in all kids for the week of Nov. 12 was twice as high as any other flu season on record," ABC 7 reported. "The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Children's Hospital Association say cases of the flu, COVID-19, and RSV are overwhelming the health system."

However a look at the CDC Covid dashboard shows hospitalizations are static. Of the 331.9 million Americans, there are 19,480 hospitalizations:

Here's part of the motive: "Declaration of a national emergency would give providers additional funding as well as more flexibility from regulations to deal with what they call a 'crisis'."

The COVID-19

pandemic is over and has been over except for political motivations — and government funding.

Taking a page from Dr. Anthony Fauci who warned families to get Covid tested ahead of Thanksgiving gatherings, California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said, "I think there's ways that we can really improve how we do it, rather than spend our time talking about whether we should or shouldn't," referring to family gatherings.

The Los Angeles Times reporters took the hysteria one step further:

"In California, however, coronavirus-positive hospitalizations have been increasing. As of Wednesday, there were 2,782 coronavirus-positive patients in hospitals, up 84% from the autumn low of 1,514 on Oct. 24."

There are 40 million residents in California, and 2,782 are Covid-positive in the hospital?

"Nationally, hundreds of Americans are still dying every day of COVID-19, which remains a leading cause of death. And there are signs that transmission is once again on the upswing," the LAT reports.

But the CDC reports,

COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer.

For perspective, on any given day, approximately 740 Californians die of all causes, totaling about 270,000 California deaths annually.

According to the California Department of Public Health, as of November 21, 2022, there are zero deaths from Covid.

But at the top of their chart, the CDPH shows 96,701 total Covid deaths. This is the cumulative total since February 1, 2020, through November 22, 2022, according to the CDPH's data.

The state of California wants people to believe that Covid patients are dropping like flies at 12 per day. But that is the average over the entire almost 3-year Covid pandemic since February 2020.

It's feeling like Groundhog Day with public health officials and media breathlessly talking about Covid "cases," rather than focusing on the vulnerable groups of people.

Throughout the pandemic, there was too heavy of a focus on an uptick in cases, as Stanford's Dr. Scott Atlas reported, "especially in places where

governors either have reinstated or have further enforced restrictions. When we see this focus on more cases, it doesn't really matter how many cases — it only matters who gets the cases. We know that the infection-fatality rate for people under 70 is 0.04 percent — that's less than or equal to the seasonal flu," he said.

A physician told the Globe that because doctors even can have a difficult time getting good data through their hospitals, trends are far more important numbers than raw numbers to study, as it gives more context.

For the average American, faith in government authority was significantly eroded because of how Covid was handled, managed and grossly mismanaged. It's still going on with politicians and the State of California inundating the people with advertisements pushing Covid vaccines and masks by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). These ads are everywhere — radio, television, online ads, social media, iHeart radio, Sirius radio — even radio hosts are being paid to read the CDPH ads...

it's difficult to escape the commercials.

The governor and Legislature are also seeking to punish physicians and surgeons for "unprofessional conduct" for advocating for the potential benefits of early treatment with off-label drugs, or those who dare to ask questions about COVID vaccine safety. Under AB 2098 doctors will be subject to disciplinary actions by the Medical Board of California and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California if they do not adhere to the "approved COVID treatment consensus."

Fortunately, a group of California physicians has filed a complaint and motion for a preliminary injunction in *Høeg, et al. v. Newsom, et al.*, asking the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California prevent AB 2098 from going into effect.

Will there be another Covid Groundhog Day? The Californians I talk to say "Oh, Hell no."

Katy Grimes, the Editor of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol. ★

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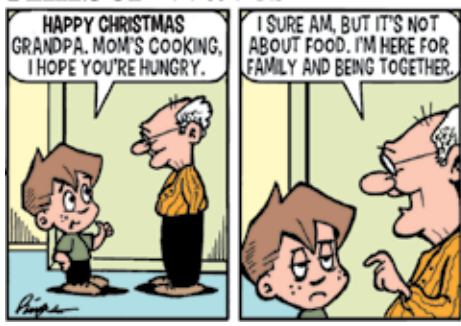
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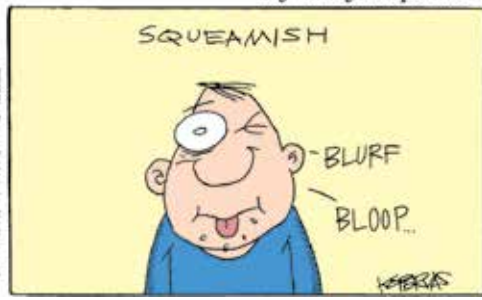
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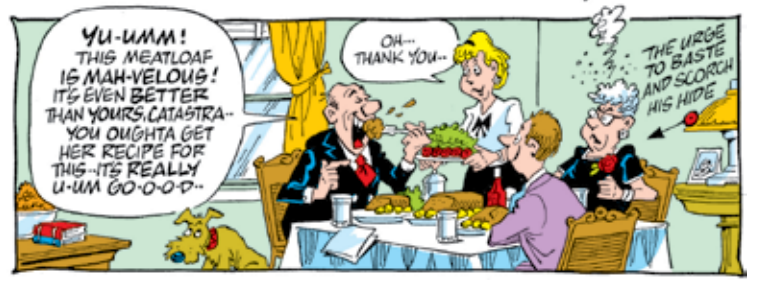


R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

THAT'D BE GOOD! BUT YOU TAKE THE CART, DADDY--YOU CAN LEAN ON IT...
 GROUND'S FOR YOU KNOW--WHAT--DINNER AT DAUGHTER-IN-LAW'S, AND DAD HAS THIS TO SAY ABOUT HER COOKING...
 THANK TO SHIRLEY A. WAXBOM, WORTHINGTON, OHIO



GRIN and BEAR IT



"I set the alarm for April."

LAFF-A-DAY



"That reminds me, Mom -- have you told Dad about your car yet?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cone is different. 2. Chair back is missing. 3. Cup is different. 4. List is smaller. 5. Hair is different. 6. Armchair is smaller.

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City Planners Approve Car Washes

Continued from page 1

where they said their courts will be directly across from the car wash.

Claire Pincock, an Allison Court neighbor, said the noise had been accepted by the City based on what was acceptable for a single family, not a business. A long discussion followed over the level of noise and ultimately, the developer did say they could use special equipment that could lower the sound of the dryers.

"The decibel level for multi-family is 65 but a single is only 60," said Commissioner Randy Davis. "We can't get this wrong because it's seven days a week." The developer ultimately responded that the equipment to reduce the sound was more expensive and doesn't work as well but said they "want to work in the neighborhood and be part of this community."

Another concern of the residents was declining property values. The car wash is to be open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and with time, could typically see 325 to 350 cars per day.

"We moved here because my wife fell in love with the town," said Alejandro Ascencia. "Now, we're going to have cars all day long."

The company tries hard to build each one better, said the developer who added that this one will be substantially quieter than



Plans for two Quick Quack Car Washes have been approved for Dixon that will look like this one on Leisure Town Road in Vacaville.

the one on Leisure Town Road in Vacaville.

"I bought my home in 2009, re-starting my life because it was a quiet, cute little home," said resident Cathy Fisher. "It's great they want to be here in Dixon but not by our home." This is the last lot to be developed since the homes in those courts were built and all that time, there have been a lot of dried weeds.

"We bought our home

in 1991 and then came Safeway which fit into our neighborhood quietly. Next came Lincoln Creek and asked for the driveway to be moved down which was done. I really feel Quick Quack does not fit in our neighborhood," said resident David Alvarez. "After 31 years, there was one last parcel across from our property. I was hoping for a more professional [type]

business."

"We are one of the largest car wash companies in the country and have verified that the noise level should not be excessive. We recycle our water and use significantly less than someone washing their car in the driveway with a hose," the developer said.

"All the various codes and regulations have been checked through the building permit process and we

recommend approval," said City of Dixon Community Development Director Raffi Boloyan. The item passed but residents planned an appeal and did meet with City Manager Jim Lindley and made their case at the December 6 City Council meeting but were told by Lindley and Mayor Steve Bird that the appeal deadline had passed. No change was made.

In other discussions, the Bank of Stockton planned for the corner on Vaughn Road and North First Street next to Tractor Supply, sought Conditions of Revision and sought direction on the front corner design to include a decorative sign or statue. Some suggestions were statues of lambs, horses, or cows and a welcome to the City of Dixon sign. ★

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