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# Dixon Independent Voice

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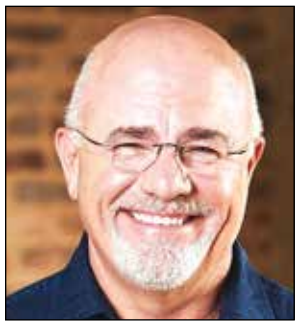
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## THE FOUR DOMAINS OF AVID



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## USE THAT MOMENTUM TO WIN!



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## FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS



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# More Opportunity, More Smiles



These 4-H students were studying hurricane patterns — one of many activities members might do in the plethora of life learning experiences through 4-H Clubs around the nation. Photo courtesy of 4-H

By Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - ‘More Opportunity, More Smiles’ is the theme to kick off National 4-H Club Week, October 2-8 new season. For over 100 years, California 4-H has provided ways for youth to make a positive difference in their world and Solano County 4-H clubs are now open for sign-ups.

This organization provides a place where young people develop positive relationships, leadership, and skills for life. 4-H members make friends and share interests, ranging from engineering to raising rabbits, from tabletop gaming to gardening.

Two different 4-H clubs, Maine Prairie 4-H and Dixon Ridge 4-H both were awarded \$500 each this past spring to enable six new youth to become members to each club. The grant will cover their program fees thanks to the Dixon Women’s

Improvement Club.

Both 4-H programs in Dixon have experienced a significant increase in underserved youth enrolling and some of those students need financial assistance to participate. Normally the clubs would have local funds saved for this but due to the pandemic, traditional fundraising efforts have been limited.

The special week will begin with an information booth at Dixon’s Tractor Supply and the club holding their ‘Paper Clover Campaign,’ which raises money for scholarships to 4-H camp and conferences.

“We also hold our annual 4-H Achievement Night where 4-H members in Solano County are recognized for their 4-H achievements, as well as Friends of 4-H and the Solano County Leader of the Year,” reported Sandy Means, a Community Leader of the Dixon Ridge 4-H group.

The Solano County 4-H Youth Development Program serves all of Solano County through programming offered by the following local 4-H Clubs. Dixon: Dixon Ridge 4-H Club and Maine Prairie 4-H Club; Suisun Valley 4-H Club; Rio Vista 4-H Club; Elmira 4-H Club, Pleasant Valley 4-H Club and Vaca Valley 4-H Club; and Vallejo/Benicia’s Sherwood Forest 4-H Club.

For more information about Dixon’s clubs, you can reach Means at (707) 688-9376 or you can also contact Jen Henkens, Solano County 4-H Program Representative at jahenkens@ucanr.edu or the Solano County 4-H Youth Development Program at [http://solano4h.ucanr.edu/Get\\_Involved/](http://solano4h.ucanr.edu/Get_Involved/).

The California 4-H program is a part of the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UC ANR), a statewide network of the University of California. ★

## Peña Adobe History Told



Cecelia Peña and Armando Pérez to share their family histories and paths to the Peña Adobe in Vacaville

By Kim Evans, DHS President

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Dixon Historical Society welcomes guest speakers Cecelia Peña and Armando Pérez to share their family histories and paths to the Peña Adobe in Vacaville. at the next Dixon Historical Society presentation on Sunday, October 16, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dixon United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

This first presentation is Part I of a series that will focus on the history of the interactions among Americas’ First Peoples, the early Spanish and Mexican Colonists, and the looming Manifest Destiny of the Anglos from Prehistory to 1841.

The families of Juan Felipe Peña, and Juan Manuel Vaca came to the Laguna Valley from New Mexico in 1841 during California’s Mexican era. The Peña Adobe, built in 1842, on a 10-league land grant, is the oldest restored structure in Solano County.

Cecelia and Armando, two of the Peña Adobe Historical Society docent storytellers, team up to share their history as part of the Peña Adobe Historical Society’s educational outreach.

Cecelia Peña, a retired businesswoman, is a fifth generation Peña, an officer of the Peña Adobe Historical Society, and officer of the Descendants Chapter of the Old Spanish Trail Association. Cecelia has written a book for 4th graders, A Visit to the Peña Adobe and is currently transcribing her great aunt’s correspondence, Rose’s Letters.

Armando Pérez, Chiricahua Apache and Tarahumara, is a retired Respiratory Care Practitioner. He was a youth football coach for many years. Armando shares his extensive Native American experiences and knowledge about native cultures.

The Dixon Historical Society welcomes the community to join us for this very special and unique opportunity. The presentation will take place from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Refreshments and the Membership Meeting will follow the presentation. The community is invited to join our membership.

To learn more or to get involved, please visit or contact us: [www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org) or email at [dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com). Phone is (707) 693-3044. The Dixon History Museum is open 125 West A Street in downtown Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ★

# Concerts Start in Pardi Plaza

By Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - At the last City Council Meeting, the City approved a request from the Dixon District Chamber of Commerce to host a four-part concert series in the Pardi Plaza starting Thursday, September 29, featuring the Vacaville Jazz Society All Stars. You have time to get down there if you have gotten your newspaper early or view it online. This first performance includes Dixon’s own Frank Salamone, the long-time Cornerstone Church Pastor.

The rest of the concert series will also be held on Thursday evenings 6 to 8:30 p.m. and feature a variety of genres and musicians. Here’s the rest of the lineup: October 6 is Charlie Wade Blues Band (Blues;) October 13 is Pub Kats (Classic Rock;) and on October 20, 2022, there will be Bonanza King



The Charlie Wade Blues Band will play on October 6. Photo courtesy of the Charlie Wade Blues Band

(Country Swing.)

“As the President/CEO of the Dixon Chamber, I am always looking for ways to improve the economic vitality of the community through a positive business environment, which is part of our Mission Statement.

Sometimes that goes beyond the standard definition of what a Chamber does,” said Shauna Manina. “All of the City people I talked to totally supported the concept. I worked very closely with Madeline Graf from the beginning on the whole

project, and she is totally awesome.” Graf is the City of Dixon Public Information Officer.

While the Chamber will pay for all fees associated with the musicians, the City will provide the venue space, staff to assist with set up of the space such as turning on and off power to the stage, and marketing materials. including use of the City logo. The City will also help market the event and share information on the City website, social media channels, and other appropriate channels of communication.

This agreement opens the door for future events the Chamber may want to host.

“The Pardi Plaza has unlimited potential and is a jewel in the heart of downtown Dixon,” said Manina. “I have over 25 years of doing all kinds of community events - including concerts, street fairs, farmers markets, bridal shows,

Continued on page 3



# Life's too SHORT

## People Watching

By Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

I'm sitting in a corner of a local Starbucks and relaxing.

Many years ago, my family went to the Santa Cruz Boardwalk. It was one of those really big trips and we had so much fun. But I remember seeing my mother from atop a ride sitting on a bench just watching people pass by. I felt bad for her so when we got off the ride, I asked her to join us with a long p l e a s e .

She said she was perfectly happy sitting. She said she was "people watching" and as we sat there together in silence watching people, I felt a bizarre sense of awe and delight to be part of this world.

Many years since, one of my secret pleasures is to just sit and watch people. People are fascinating to me. They come in so many shapes, sizes, and colors and have so many different styles of dress and hairstyles. They are mostly so full of life and busy, busy going here or there.

I slowly sip my hot decaf pour-over from Starbucks.

A photo pops up on my phone. My niece has sent me a picture of my brother in the hospital. He is surrounded by his grandchildren, and they are leaning into his hospital bed, smiling at the camera. I note he has a bit of twinkle in his blue eyes. Yet, he looks so small and frail. He normally towers over me and is a robust kind-of-guy who is very smart and quick witted.

My mind races back to another man

who looked identical: My grandfather who Heaven claimed at age 66 from a third heart attack. He was a tall man and was a robust kind-of-guy who was very smart and quick witted. I have so many happy memories of my Grandpa.

My brother is fighting cancer that is trying to steal him from us despite the fact that he is only three years older than me. I am so happy they are there with him and making him happy. They have their silly antics and oh-so-crazy love to remind him of his worth to those of us on Earth.

I spread my palm over the face of my phone and lower my head in prayer. In my heart, I know there is some powerful force able to take my prayers strung with healing energy across the miles to him. I pray for mercy.

My thoughts turn to the cancer patients I used to watch coming and going out of T. Boon Pickens Cancer Hospital at Baylor University Hospital in Dallas. My job was to help get wheelchairs to the families so they could bring their family member from the car into the doctors.

They came in only one shape: Slim. They had only one color: Gray. They had no hairstyles; only hats or scarves to hide their lack of hair. And mostly, they were not full of life. We all helped in any way we could to get them here or there...so they could get well. Then, I prayed for a lot of people I didn't know. But I know the patient this time, so I pray even more fervently. ★

## Assemblywoman Greets Dixonites



From Suisun Mayor to State Assemblywoman, Lori Wilson was sworn into office as the 11th District's new Assemblymember on April 6 after winning the special election following Jim Frazier's retirement. She invited Dixon residents to learn what she hopes to do in the full 2-year term by stopping in on her Lawn Chair City Tour recently. She met with residents, Mayor Steve Bird, and Councilman Jim Ernest and his wife Kathy at Pardi Plaza. She is seeking a full two-year term and was recently elected Chair of the California Legislative Black Caucus and looks forward to working with her colleagues to uplift over two million Black residents living in California. From access to healthcare to housing and homelessness to criminal justice reform and creating economic opportunity, the CLBC has a long history of legislative accomplishments. "I am excited to build upon the past successes of the honorable leaders who have come before me as we move forward into the 2023-2024 Legislative Session," she said. Photo by Debra Dingman



# Dixon News Briefs



The large group of volunteers posed for a group picture at a previous Grace Fellowship Pancake event where collections of clothing, shoes, and donations take place. Photo courtesy of Grace Fellowship Church

MPG Staff

### Pancakes

Grace Fellowship Church is doing a clothing and food drive for the needy and offers free pancakes in exchange for a donation this Saturday, October 1, from 8 to 11 a.m. Residents are encouraged to drive up and drop off their gently used clothing and shoes for babies, children, women, and me. For more information, call the church at (707) 678-5700. They are located at 535 West H Street.

### City Council

Tuesday, October 4, is the next City Council Meeting at the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street. There are three ways a Dixonite can participate: You can go in person, you can use Zoom in real time and ask questions if you want, or you can watch via 'Granicus,' which is a live feed through the City of Dixon website. Meeting starts at 7 p.m. and the agenda is also on the website.

### Valley Glen Construction

In conjunction with the City of Dixon's Parkway Blvd Project, earthwork will be ongoing in the southwest corner of Valley Glen Pond A for the next several weeks. Heavy equipment and trucking will be in constant operation during construction hours and the area should be avoided. Signs have been posted on the walking trail in the vicinity. For any questions or concerns, please call 707-678-7030.

### Lions BBQ

Get your tickets quick! Prices on everything are rising but the Lions said they will not raise their price for their barbecue tri tip drive-thru fundraiser on Saturday, October 15, 4-7 p.m. in the Tractor Supply parking lot. For only \$15 you get the Lion's world-famous tri tip, potato salad, beans and dinner roll. New this year: each sold ticket qualifies for a \$500 prize. All proceeds go right back to those in need in Dixon. Tickets can be delivered to you. Call Scott Stacy.

### Lambtown

All things sheep, lamb, and wool will be brought to Dixon for the 36th annual Lambtown Festival October 1 and 2 at the Dixon May Fair. Admission is free but

there is a fee for parking. For more information, email info@lambtown.org.

### Fire Fundraiser

The Dixon Fire Department is hosting its annual all-you-can-eat prawns and raviolis dinner on Saturday, October 12 starting with cocktails at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30. The menu includes salad and bread as well. Tickets are \$50 and includes entry into the door prize raffle. They are available by calling Rachel Domegaard at (707) 678-7060. Other questions can be directed to Ricky Rodarte at (707) 862-1047. The dinner will be held at the Dixon Fire Station, 205 Ford Way.

### Home Game

Tonight's Dixon High School Rams football games are at home beginning at 5 p.m. for JV and 7 p.m. for Varsity. The game theme is 'Defeat All Cancer Night' and we will be playing against Rio Linda High School (Sacramento area) Their team is the Knights. Dixon High School is located at 555 College Way and there is free parking.

### School Board

All School Board meetings of the Governing Board happen on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the City Hall inside the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street at 6 p.m. The agenda can be found at dixonusd.org under Governing Board.

### DHS Class Reunion

The 1982 Dixon High School Class Reunion--which will include 1979 through 1985--is set for Friday, November 11. Classmates, faculty, and friends are invited www.dhsrams1982.com email dixonhighclassof82@yahoo.com or call Suzi (Haase) LaChance Reunion Committee Chairperson at (209) 418-8796.

### Veterans Dinner

The Friday night dinner at the Veterans Memorial Hall will be meatloaf, oven-roasted potatoes, vegetables, and a roll for only \$10. Time is 6 to 8 p.m. while supplies last. It is located at 1305 North First Street. You do not have to be a veteran to attend. The funds help support the hall and veteran activities. ★

# LIFE MATTERS

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# DUSD Superintendent's Message

By Brian Dolan

We have referred to our District-wide implementation of AVID several times in the Weekly Update and will continue to provide information regarding the program throughout the rest of the year.

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is a college and career preparation program that begins in Kindergarten and runs all the way through 12th Grade. It has a number of key components, four of which will be highlighted today. These domains, or areas of focus, are the framework for how we can transform our schools, integrating the AVID philosophy and methodologies into everything that we do. By providing the AVID experience to every student in the District, we are attempting to prepare every student for whatever college and career path they choose to pursue.

### The Four Domains of AVID:

**INSTRUCTION:** Students will not reach the necessary levels of preparation if classroom instruction is not rigorous and properly designed to meet the needs of all students through a variety of strategies and practices. Central to instruction in AVID are WICOR tools. WICOR



stands for Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading. We will further explain these components in detail in a future update. Staff properly use WICOR strategies when they have been adequately trained and are supported to do so. The District has invested a very large amount of time and funding in professional development for our staff, and evidence of WICOR practices can be seen across the District.

**SYSTEMS:** Systems provide structures that support the full implementation of AVID at every site. They provide organization, planning, implementation, and monitoring of how AVID is being embedded at each school site and across the District. Systems help to ensure the successful development of AVID and its benefits for every student in the District.

**LEADERSHIP:** Leadership sets the vision and tone that promotes college and career readiness, and high expectations for

all students. While school site and district administrators have a large and important role as leaders, the development of effective AVID Leadership Teams with a variety of staff members on it is the most important part of ensuring strong leaders at each campus. Each school has an AVID Site Team that plans and supports implementation of the program. We could not become an AVID District, with certified AVID schools without strong leadership teams.

**CULTURE:** One of the underlying principles of AVID is that culture trumps strategies every time. In other words, if a school or the District does not have a shared vision, common beliefs and behaviors, and the effective inclusion of all members of the school community – students, families, and staff – the plans that contain strategies, plans, and various activities cannot be successfully implemented. The culture must include principles such as every student can learn and benefit from AVID, all stakeholders agree that AVID is the foundation of how we will do our work, and that we must look past the awarding of a high school diploma and prepare students for their futures, whether that includes an immediate career, or college or other training before starting a career. ★

# Concerts Start in Pardi Plaza



The Vacaville Jazz Society All-Stars start the downtown concert series. Photo courtesy of the Vacaville Jazz Society All-Stars

Continued from page 1

senior resource fairs, theatre, you name it. After the Ribbon Cutting at the Plaza, I saw the possibility of doing concerts there.”

According to the resolution, the day of the event will require one member of the Public Works staff from approximately 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. with the estimated cost of supplemental City staffing services at \$180 per event or \$720.00 for the full concert series. Staff assigned to the event will code their time to this event, so the City may track actual costs associated with the event.

These events are totally free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged

to bring their lawn chairs or picnic blankets and enjoy great music in the fresh air.

Manina expressed appreciation to the following sponsors for making these concerts possible: Presenting Sponsor-Dixon Wellness Collective; Gold Sponsor- Tully Consulting Group; Silver Sponsor- Recology; Bronze Sponsors-Dixon Tire Pros and Travis Credit Union.

“I know that this will bring people to downtown, and showcase the businesses and restaurants there,” Manina added. “I also know that it helps to build a sense of community, bringing people together, especially after COVID had impacted both businesses and events so badly.” ★

# Ghostly Shenanigans at The Historic Woodland Opera House



The Ghost of Woodland Opera House is inspired by the history of the heroism of Woodland resident and volunteer firefighter William W. Porter. Photo courtesy of the Woodland Opera House

### Woodland Opera House News Release

**WOODLAND, CA (MPG)** - In memory of Paul and Barbara Taloff, Chris and Betsy Taloff present The Ghost of Woodland Opera House. This theatric work is inspired by the history of the WOH and the heroism of Woodland resident and volunteer firefighter William W. Porter. Porter was the single casualty of the fire of 1892 that resulted in the loss of the original Opera House along with many downtown buildings and residences.

Since Porter’s death, there have been numerous reports of ghostly sightings throughout the years at the Woodland Opera House. Volunteers and visitors, actors and audience members alike claim to have experienced supernatural spec-ters, strange smells, and startling sounds. Traditionally, many of these unexplained events have been attributed to William Porter whose spirit purportedly still inhabits the historic theatre.

A new comedy by Matthew Abergel and Bob Cooner, The Ghost of Woodland Opera House tells the story of a troupe of traveling actors in 1909 who arrive at the theatre to perform their latest melodrama. But mysterious accidents make a mess of their dress rehearsal. Could it be the malevolent meddling of the ghost that reportedly haunts the Opera House? This show is

perfect for the Fall/Halloween season! Due to the nature of the Main Stage shows, and for the comfort of our patrons and actors, we do not allow children under the age of 4.

Reserved seats are \$30 for adults, \$23 for seniors 62+, and \$15 for children 17 and under. Balcony tickets are \$18 for adults and \$9 for children. Flex Pass specials and group rates are available.

Tickets on sale now at <https://www.etix.com/ticket/e/1028735/the-ghost-of-woodland-opera-house-woodland-woodland-opera-house>

Woodland Opera House is located at 340 Second Street, Woodland, CA 95695

Performances presented October 7 - 30, 2022 on Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. & Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no performance on Friday, October 14.

The Opera House is located in historic downtown Woodland, just 20 minutes from Sacramento. Many wonderful shops and restaurants are within walking distance from the theatre.

*Current COVID Policy: In accordance with the updated indoor mask requirements from the State of California and Yolo County, masks are no longer required in the Woodland Opera House. We do, however, support Yolo County in its efforts to inform the public about the high transmission level.* ★

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# Dr. Marshall to Speak at Solano Genealogical Society Meeting

**SCGS News Release**

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - Dr. Kathryn Marshall will present "Cemetery Research" at the next meeting of the Solano County Genealogical Society. This virtual presentation begins at 11 a.m. on Saturday, October 1st.

Kathryn Marshall was the Director of the Lodi Family History Center for 14 years. Currently working with the FamilySearch website, she develops interactive maps for the Research Wiki and builds instructional content. She is a frequent speaker at genealogical conferences and workshops. Honored for her contributions to historical research and public education, she serves on the Advisory Board of the California Pioneer Heritage Foundation, which

provides living history reenactors at state parks and preserves historical sites in California.

Learn how to combine clues from obituaries, death records, and cemeteries to find and verify ancestors. Discover what more can be learned by physically visiting cemeteries than by relying solely on sources found online. Compare the websites FindaGrave and Billion Graves. Use Google Earth features to locate additional cemeteries in likely areas and see how different cultures honor their dead.

Guests are welcome to attend this free event. If interested, send an email to the society at [scgs@scgsca.org](mailto:scgs@scgsca.org) no later than 4 p.m. September 30th and request an invitation. More information on events can be found on the society's webpage at [www.scgsca.org](http://www.scgsca.org). ★



## Riley Reviews

### THE FUTURE OF THE CW NETWORK COMES INTO GREATER FOCUS

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

Last month, Nexstar Media Group announced that it was taking a 75% ownership interest in The CW Network. Nexstar claims that, together with its partner stations, it is the nation's largest local television broadcasting company.

This could be good news for The CW because it is apparently the lowest-rated broadcast network when compared to the big four of FOX, ABC, CBS and NBC. The network has been tagged as appealing only to the younger demographic.

Trade publications like "Variety" reported last month that the Nexstar president stated the average viewer of The CW is 58 years old. Hardly anyone could believe this until Nielsen data backed it up.

How to explain the interest of older viewers to tune into youth-oriented programming like "Riverdale" and "All American?" A plausible answer may be that the younger crowd are watching on platforms other than traditional television.

Now that the fall season is upon us and major networks are launching new series in September, we can take a closer look at The CW's new slate of programs, all of which will premiere in the early days of October.

One of its most successful franchises, "Supernatural" ran for more than a dozen years. Now along comes "The Winchesters," a wild-west origin story to this big hit.

Told from the perspective of narrator Dean Winchester (Jensen Ackles, "Supernatural"), "The Winchesters" is the epic, untold love story of how John Winchester (Drake Rodger) met Mary Campbell (Meg Donnelly).

Putting it all on the line to not only save their love, but the entire world, when John returns home from the war in Vietnam, an enigmatic happenstance sparks a new mission to trace his father's past.

In his journey, John crosses paths with 19-year-old demon hunter Mary, who is also searching for answers after the vanishing of her father. Together, they join forces with young hunters-in-training to unearth concealed truths about both their families.

The action-packed "Professionals" follows Vincent Corbo (Tom Welling), a top-tier security operative who is paid to protect the interests of wealthy clients by any means necessary, whether legal or not.

After a next generation medical data satellite explodes on launch, Corbo is hired by the rocket's designer, billionaire futurist Peter Swann (Brendan Fraser), who suspects sabotage.

Complicating Corbo's gig is his former courtesan and now Swann's betrothed, medical visionary Dr. Grace Davila (Elena Anaya), who is racing to help avert a global calamity.

As Corbo and his team of veteran security

pros investigate the rocket disaster, they expose a poisonous scheme of Swann's corporate foes, corrupt government officials, and a shadowy crime syndicate, all working to take control of Swann's empire.

Worse, Corbo must also contend with Swann's overindulged, mischievous teen daughter (Jazzara Jaslyn) and a rogue Europol agent (Ken Duken), who is hellbent on busting him for past sins.

Set in the late 1800s, "Walker Independence" is an origin story for the current hit series "Walker." The new program follows Abby Walker (Katherine McNamara), an affluent Bostonian whose husband is murdered while on their journey out West.

After crossing paths with Calian (Justin Johnson Cortez), a curious Apache tracker, Abby arrives in the town of Independence, Texas, where she encounters assorted free-spirited residents running from their pasts and pursuing new dreams.

Quirky burlesque dancer Kate Carver (Katie Findlay) has perhaps too keen an interest in Abby's origins, and Kai (Lawrence Kao), a soulful Chinese immigrant runs a local restaurant and offers Abby friendship without an agenda.

Abby literally runs into Hoyt Rawlins (Matt Barr), a slippery rogue, thief and con artist with a dented heart of gold who quickly eyes Abby as a mark, until she turns the tables on him.

In seeking justice for her husband, Abby encounters noble deputy sheriff Augustus (Philemon Chambers), and his new boss, Sheriff Tom Davidson (Greg Hovanessian), who she has reason to believe is a very bad man.

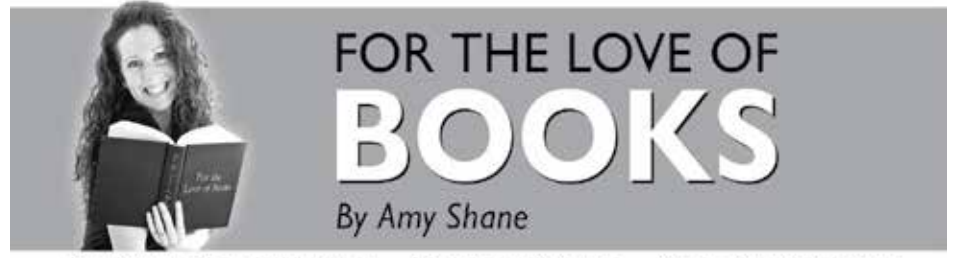
Abby and Hoyt soon find themselves precariously aligned, both seeking to discover the truth about the identity of the person who killed Abby's husband, and vowing to save the frontier boomtown of Independence.

"Family Law" centers around Abigail Bianchi (Jewel Slaughter), a high-paid personal injury attorney who's good at blaming others, particularly when it comes to her own problems.

After Abigail's husband boots her from the family home because of alcoholism, she goes on a bender, shows up drunk in court and retches on a client. Suspended and fined, she can only practice law if she secures a senior lawyer willing to mentor her for a one-year probationary period.

One man inclined or foolhardy enough to take that risk is Harry Svensson (Victor Garber), the top practitioner of a family law practice, just so happens to be Abigail's estranged father.

Conflicts arise with half siblings in the firm and a stepmother from Harry's third marriage. An odd dynamic takes shape at Abigail's new workplace, but the greatest challenge is working under the thumb of the man she's spent a lifetime resenting. ★



**BellaDonna**  
by Adalyn Grace



- ◆ Publisher: Little Brown for Young Readers
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Release Date: August 30, 2022

A dance between a cursed orphan and the man she only knows as Death,

Cursed from the moment she was born, Signa was known as the cursed orphan. No one knows why, but each family succumbs to Death after adopting Signa. Now, as the last remaining relative, the Hawthornes, have taken Signa in, they are harboring their own house of secrets.

Hidden behind their eccentric wild parties and exceeding wealth, Hawthorne's patriarch is mourning the Death of his wife and his daughter's mysterious illness. But when the late wife's ghost appears to Signa, claiming she was poisoned, Signa knows she is the only one that can help the family survive the curse.

With enlisted help from the cute stable boy and an alliance with Death, it is up to her to hunt down a killer. However, Death has his own plan, and Signa might just learn that making a deal with Death might open her up to a connection too powerful to break.

Adalyn Grace captures the beauty, the desire, and the lure of forbidden passions, delivering a story to her readers and wrapping them up in a black velvet cloak adorned with belladonna flowers. While the package might be beautiful to the eye, it beholds a dark, sinister secret whose flower is too tempting to withstand. Enthralling and powerful, *BellaDonna* opens readers up to a gothic-infused story filled with Death, curses, desire, and betrayal.

**Shades of Rust and Ruin**  
by A.G. Howard



- ◆ Publisher: Bloomsbury YA
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Release Date: September 06, 2022

Nix has always believed that her family's under a Halloween curse. Her parents tragically died on October 31st when she was a child, and then eleven years later, her sister passed on the same day. Now, Nix takes vigil around the clock every Halloween, ensuring that she and her uncle don't fall under a similar fate. But when her uncle goes missing, Nix knows that she is the only one who will be able to save him. She never expected to be led straight into a portal, propelling her into the sinister world of Mystique. The same dark, foreboding world filled with goblins and faeries from her sketches and artwork. Has Nix's world come to life? Or is there a secret her uncle has been keeping all these years?

Now, Nix is forced to solve the Goblin King's maze before the clock strikes midnight or be forever trapped within this cursed world.

A.G. Howard once again takes her readers on a fanciful flight into a gothic re-imagined fairytale world. *Shades of Rust and Ruin* embraces a dark, sinister underground world filled with mechanical steampunk-inspired goblins and faeries, and a Goblin King's maze that must be solved by the stroke of midnight. For Fans of the poem, The Goblin Market, and the 80's cult film, Labyrinth and the Caraval series. ★



**California Farm Receipts Up 3.6% in 2021 Despite Drought Year, State Reports**

Despite water shortages and continued drought in 2021, California farms and ranches took in \$51.1 billion in cash receipts – a 3.6% increase over 2020. That's according to newly published agricultural production statistics from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. According to the 2021 report, California's top value commodities for the year were dairy products and milk at \$7.57 billion, followed by grapes at \$5.23 billion, almonds at \$5.03 billion and cattle and calves at \$3.11 billion.

**Farm exporters resort to rail, alternative routes to bypass congested ports**

California agricultural exporters are turning to alternative routes and transportation modes to move their products to bypass some congested ports. The Port of Oakland, a key agricultural trade hub, has seen reduced vessel service by ocean carriers. This summer, almond growers and processors launched a so-called "almond express," using rail lines to instead transport exports to ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. One walnut producer has resorted to shipping product by rail all the way to the Port of Virginia in Norfolk.

**California Walnut Yield May Exceed 2022 Expectations**

California's walnut crop, now in harvest, is forecast at 720,000 tons, which would be down by 1% from last year. However, California Walnut Board and Commission CEO Robert Verloop said the industry consensus is that the yield may be significantly higher – likely between 775,000 to 800,000 tons. California produces 99% of America's walnuts. The state this year had 400,000 bearing acres of walnuts, with 60% of the nuts destined for export markets.

**Irrigators with Senior Water Rights Win Court Fight Over Curtailments**

A state appeals court ruling protects longstanding water rights of many California farmers, ranchers and water agencies. The Sept. 12 ruling by California's Sixth Appellate District Court of Appeal, related to water cuts imposed in 2015, signals that the State Water Resources Control Board cannot target senior water rights holders with across-the-board curtailments. California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson said the decision recognizes that water rights are "critical to California communities, agriculture and securing our nation's food supply." ★



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14. Exhibitonist
15. It's OTAN in French
16. Carbon monoxide lacks this
17. Geometry class prop
18. "Lou Reed: "She says, "Hey babe, take a walk on the
20. European "curtain"
21. Mustangs, e.g.
22. Campaign pro
23. Cause of wheezing
26. Men's Colonial headgear
30. Fib
31. "Bon Jovi: "Take my hand, we'll make it I swear. Woah, livin' on a "
34. The only thing to fear?
35. Small and round, eyes description
37. Future fish
38. Alabama civil rights site
39. Tangelo
40. Shape clay, e.g.
42. James Corden's network
43. Awaited deliverer
45. Same as lathes
47. 0 meridian acronym
48. World-weary
50. Prefix with legal
52. "Aerosmith: "Sing with me, sing for the year. Sing for the
55. Siberian prison
56. Pakistani language
57. "Dionne Warwick: "I think I'm going out of my
59. Rapidly
60. Cheese app
61. "Cogito, \_\_\_ sum"
62. Diamond's corner
63. European Economic Community
64. Whiskey grain, pl.

**DOWN**

1. "Kansas: "Carry on, my wayward
2. "Stick in one's "
3. Italian wine region
4. Dough
5. "The Buggles: "Video killed the
6. Cattle controls
7. Bébé's mother
8. "Elton John: "And it seems to me you lived "
9. Capital of Norway
10. Hiking sandals brand
11. Mess up
13. Show's other star
14. Rap sheet listing
19. Negative house description
22. p in #5 Across
23. Michael Jackson's "Thriller", e.g.
24. Military blockade
25. Bluish greens
26. Banana leftover
27. \_\_\_\_, grape jelly brand
28. Many iambs
29. "Guns N' Roses: "Take me down to the paradise city where the
32. Missouri capital tourist
33. "ABBA: "Waterloo - knowing my fate is to be with "
36. "Queen: "You got mud on your face, you big "
38. Hiding place
40. Aptitude test acronym
41. Black Death
44. Picture
46. Restraint
48. Ballet rail
49. Playful
50. Immature butterfly
51. Unfortunately, exclamation
52. Jiffy's grease
53. Spooky
54. Uncontrollable anger
55. Loquacious person's gift
58. Not don'ts

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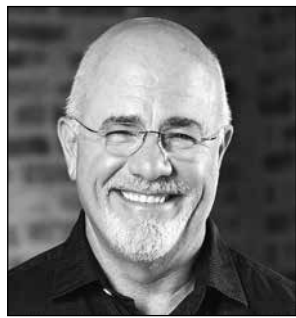
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7	9	2	6	5	8	1	4	3
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1	6	7	3	8	2	5	9	4
9	8	3	5	6	4	2	7	1
2	4	5	1	7	9	3	6	8
4	2	9	7	3	1	6	8	5
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## Dave Ramsey Says

I think you should attack the one with the larger interest rate first. In your case, that'd be the credit card debt.

### Use that Momentum to Win!

Dear Dave,

We are ready to start Baby Step 2, and we have about \$35,000 in total debt. Our two smallest debts, a credit card and a truck we financed, are both \$4,500 right now, and we have a combined income of about \$95,000 a year. Since the credit card has a higher interest rate, my wife thinks we should pay it off first. To me, the truck is a necessity, and we should pay it off first for that reason. What do you say?

– Grant

Dear Grant,

When the rule of paying off debts from smallest to largest doesn't apply,

I get what you're saying about the truck. And I agree that transportation is a necessity. You guys might be in a bind if something happened and you lost a vehicle, but it's also a situation you could probably work around for a little while if you had no choice. My guess is you have friends or relatives who could loan you a car in a pinch, and public transportation is an option for some folks. So yeah, knock out the credit card first, then move on to the truck.

Do you understand my reasoning, Grant? Going this route serves two purposes: First, it will save you a little money. And second, I've got a feeling it will fire up your wife, and get her on board with

the idea of you two getting your finances in order even more than she already is.

She's taking this whole thing pretty seriously if she's eyeballing interest rates, buddy. She loves the thought of you two having control of your money. Use this momentum to work together as a team, and knock out that debt!!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a *seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.* ★

# SCOE Awarded \$300,000 Grant for Student Salmon Monitoring Project

## SCOE News Release

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) has been awarded a \$300,000 Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The grant focuses on engaging teachers and students in citizen science to help solve a mystery threatening the salmon population in California's ecosystems. SCOE's grant program, dubbed the Spinning Salmon Citizen Science Monitoring Project, launched on September 23, 2022, with a two-day training for a small pilot group of teachers from across Solano County at SCOE's main office in Fairfield.

The Spinning Salmon project was developed through a collaborative effort with SCOE, NOAA, the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science. Other community organizations like the Solano Land Trust and the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District also supported the project and teacher training. The teachers will lead Solano County high school students through a partnership with researchers from UC Davis and facilitate the collection of data in the classroom to support UC Davis' work.

"Exposure to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and STEM-related fields can be a significant equalizer for students. We are excited to be awarded this grant that will provide students the opportunity to provide real research and data

that can help CDFW and UC Davis scientists solve a problem endangering salmon in our local ecosystems."

A mystery emerged in 2020, when experts at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fish Health Laboratory and UC Davis Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory discovered something was causing young salmon in fish hatcheries to swim in cork-screw patterns and die at unusually high rates. Investigators with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's California-Nevada Fish Health Center noticed that a bath of thiamine immediately revived the ailing juveniles. They now suspect the problem is linked to a deficiency of thiamine in returning adult salmon that fed off the coast of central California.

SCOE's Spinning Salmon project will place fish tanks, research equipment and salmon fry in local classrooms. Teachers received training and permitting from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CA DFW) allowing them to legally possess the wild species. The program aims to provide real-world data collected by Solano County high school students to support research looking to uncover what is causing the deficiency in the salmon, which play a critical role in our Californian and global ecosystems.

The NOAA B-WET program is a competitive grant program that promotes Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences: activities driven by rigorous academic learning standards that aim to increase participants' understanding and stewardship of watersheds and related ecosystems. ★

# Safeway Environmental Settlement Amounts to \$8 Million

## Solano County DA News Release

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Solano County District Attorney Krishna A. Abrams announced on September 16, 2022, that the Solano County District Attorney's Office, together with California Attorney General Rob Bonta and five other California District Attorneys reached an \$8 million settlement with Safeway resolving allegations that the company violated state environmental laws while operating underground storage tank systems at its 71 gas stations across California. An investigation into Safeway's gas stations – branded as Safeway and Vons fuel stations – found a recurring failure to install, implement, and operate various spill prevention and safety measures since at least March 2015. Today's settlement includes robust injunctive terms to improve operational safety and compliance with state laws to avoid potential contamination to soil and groundwater.

"The Solano County District Attorney's Office remains committed to the enforcement of these violations that can have an immeasurably detrimental effect on our citizens. Today's settlement will protect the public and ensure future compliance with all regulations that safeguard the water sources that we rely upon every day in our community," said District Attorney Krishna Abrams.

Underground storage tank systems are subject to strict regulations in California because of the potential for even a small tank leak, if undetected, to cause substantial contamination to soil and groundwater. California requires that all underground storage tank systems be designed and constructed with primary and secondary

levels of containment, continuous monitoring systems, constant vacuum pressure, equipment to prevent spills and leaks, and automatic leak detectors.

Beginning in 2015, Safeway is alleged to have violated state laws regulating the operation of underground storage tanks and the handling of hazardous waste. Specifically, the Attorney General and district attorneys found evidence of recurring violations at Safeway gas stations, including failure to:

- Install and/or maintain automatic line leak detectors; Construct, operate, and maintain secondary containment systems; Maintain a monitoring system capable of detecting a leak at the earliest possible opportunity; Continuously monitor and conduct required testing of underground storage tank systems; and, Properly notify local agencies of the release of a hazardous substance.

This settlement resolves these allegations. As part of the settlement, Safeway will pay \$7.5 million in civil penalties, including \$600,000 to fund several supplemental environmental projects, and an additional \$500,000 for investigative costs. Solano County will receive \$696,544 in civil penalties and \$66,020 in costs. Safeway will also be required to take immediate steps to improve spill and alarm monitoring, employee training, hazardous waste management and emergency response at its gasoline stations. For example, Safeway will employ an environmental compliance manager to ensure compliance with the applicable state laws, document any unauthorized release of hazardous waste, and submit annual reports to the California Department of Justice, among other responsibilities. ★

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001511**  
The following persons are doing business as: Star Lore Publishing, 1010 Helen Power Drive, #1001 Vacaville, CA 95687.  
Tannalee Kendall, 228 Camino Alto, Vallejo, CA 94590, and Andre Conscienceia, Rua Da Bela Vista, N51 5C, Caparica, 28250-04. Date Filed in Solano County: August 31, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: A General Partnership.  
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 August 30, 2027. 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: Sept 16, 23, 30 & Oct 7, 2022  
STAR 10-7-22

## 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:** **2200 North First Street (Bank of Stockton)** - Request for a Conditional Use Permit (22-02) and Design Review (22-05) for the construction of three new commercial buildings totaling 12,600 sq. ft. on a vacant 2.12-acre lot. The project also includes, two drive-thrus, parking, landscaping, and other site improvements. The property has a zoning designation of Service Commercial - Planned Development (CS-PD). The bank use requires a Conditional Use Permit (DMC Section 18.12.030) and all new structures are subject to Design Review (DMC Section 18.12.120). APNs: 0111-200-010 & -020; Zoning District: Service Commercial – Planned Development (CS-PD); Miner Joaquin Building Corporation, owner; Gary Price, applicant; File No: PA22-13, DR22-05/UP22-02

*The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and no environmental review will be completed. This project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption from the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines under 14 CFR Sections 15303 and 15315, [Classes 3 and 15, New Structures and In-fill Development]. If the Planning Commission determines that this project is in an environmentally-sensitive area, further study may be required.*

**HEARING DATE & LOCATION:** **Tuesday, October 11, 2022 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 **Scott Greeley, Associate Planner** at (707) 678-7000 ext. 1115 or [sgreeley@cityofdixon.us](mailto:sgreeley@cityofdixon.us). You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can view the staff report 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN:** All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the Planning Commission prior to making any decision on the application. The meeting will be physically open to the public and all persons attending the meeting must abide by all State rules and public health guidelines, regarding masking and social distancing in City Council chambers.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to [PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us](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 attend remotely, you may 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand" 2) via teleconference press "9, or 3) email comments/questions to [publiccomment@cityofdixon.us](mailto:publiccomment@cityofdixon.us)

*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 65009 (b)(2)).*

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

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

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NATIONAL NEWS *courtesy of THE EPOCH TIMES*

# Pentagon in ‘Potential Noncompliance’ With Law in Denying Religious Exemption Requests to Vaccine Mandate: Leaked Memo

*The inspector general calls the volume and rate of religious vaccine exemption denials ‘concerning’*

J.M. PHELPS

The Department of Defense (DOD) has been in “potential noncompliance” with standards for reviewing and communicating denials of religious accommodation requests to the vaccine mandate, the Pentagon’s watchdog wrote to the secretary of defense in a June memo obtained by The Epoch Times.

The June 2 memo by Acting Inspector General (IG) Sean W. O’Donnell states that after reviewing dozens of complaints from service members who were denied religious accommodation, the IG’s office “found a trend of generalized assessments rather than the individualized assessment that is required by Federal law and DoD and Military Service policies.”

The purpose of the memo was to inform the secretary of defense of “potential noncompliance with standards for reviewing and documenting the denial of religious accommodation requests of Service members identified through complaints submitted to the [IG’s] office.”

“The denial memorandums we reviewed generally did not reflect an individualized analysis, demonstrating that the Senior Military Official considered the full range of facts and circumstances relevant to the particular religious accommodation request,” the memo reads.

It provided an example of such cursory treatment. An Air Force general used a one-sentence statement to deny an airman’s request: “I disapprove your request for exemption from vaccinations under the provisions of AFI 48-110, paragraph 2-6.b.3.”

The acting IG also noted that the volume and rate of denial decisions were “concerning.”

An average of 50 denials per day were processed over a 90-day period, according to the memo.

“Assuming a 10-hour work day with no breaks or attention to other matters, the average review period was about 12 minutes for each package,” it reads. “Such a review period seems insufficient to process each request in an individualized manner and still perform the duties required for their position.”

The acting IG drew attention to DOD Instruction 1300.17, titled Religious Liberty in the Military Services. Paragraph 3.2.d, which was extracted in a footnote of the memo, states that “officials charged with making recommendations or taking final action on a Service member’s request for the accommodation of religious practices will review each request

individually, considering the full range of facts and circumstances relevant to the specific request. ... The means that is least restrictive to the requestor’s religious practice and that does not impede a compelling governmental interest will be determinative.”

The memo was received by Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin who, in a Sept. 2 memo that was also obtained by The Epoch Times, referred the matter to the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness “for appropriate action, in coordination with the Secretaries of the Military Departments and the DoD Office of General Counsel, as necessary and appropriate.”

“Uniform standards must be applied to all requests for medical or administrative exemption in a manner consistent with law and DoD policy, including DoD Instruction 6205.02, ‘DoD Immunization Program,’ and DoD Instruction 1300.17, ‘Religious Liberty in the Military Services,’” reads the Sept. 2 memo signed by Austin, a Biden appointee.

When contacted by The Epoch Times about the June memo, a spokesperson for the IG’s Office said via email, “The memorandum in question is Controlled Unclassified Information and will not be released at this time.”

The spokesperson didn’t dispute the authenticity of the document. To date, the combined services have separated at least 7,476 service members over the vaccine mandate, according to the most recent publicly released figures.

As of July 11, the Air Force had approved 104 religious exemptions and administratively separated 834 service members for refusing the vaccine mandate. As of Sep. 8, the Marine Corps had approved 14 religious exemptions and separated 3,436 service members. As of Aug. 24, the Navy had approved 46 religious exemptions and separated 1,533 people. As of Sept. 1, the Army had approved 32 religious exemptions, with 1,673 separations.

## ‘Unethical Behavior’

Army Chief Warrant Officer Danny Erickson (a pseudonym) discovered the IG memo through a fellow member of the military last week and posted extracts of the memo on his personal website that he created to be a voice for service members who continue to battle against the military’s vaccine mandate.

Erickson, an active-duty service member for more than 20 years and a whistleblower, spoke to The Epoch Times using a pseudonym because of a fear of reprisal.



The Pentagon in Arlington, Va., on March 3, 2022.

The DOD has flat out, undeniably, broken the law concerning religious liberty, and the [secretary of defense] is fully aware of it.

Danny Erickson (a pseudonym), active-duty service member

The officer’s website provides more than two dozen examples of Air Force and Navy religious accommodation request denial letters sent to service members.

“Air Force denials are almost identical, while Navy denials are an exact match,” he said. “For the last year, I’ve seen hundreds of other letters with striking similarities.”

“These identical letters expose a level of corruption or unethical behavior within chains of command and leadership.”

“They are clearly not looking at individual cases considering the full range of facts and circumstances relevant to specific requests for religious accommodation. They are blanket denying any religious accommodations, and it’s happening at the highest levels.”

“The DOD has flat out, undeniably, broken the law concerning religious liberty, and the [secretary of defense] is fully aware of it, because of the memo dated June 2.”

What’s more, the secretary has done nothing to address the acting IG’s warning, Erickson alleged.

## A Common Theme Warrants Investigation

The Epoch Times also spoke to Navy Commander Robert A. Green Jr., who was relieved from his position as an executive officer of one of the seven Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadrons within Navy Expeditionary Combat Command on Jan. 7.

“I provided evidence that the Navy was violating federal law and military regulation in how they adjudicated the standardized pre-determined denials of religious accommodation requests,” Green said.

He was relieved of his duties as an executive officer only four days after this evidence was used as the

basis for a preliminary injunction granted to Navy SEALs by a federal court.

“In December 2021, I filed an internal Navy complaint against Vice Admiral John Nowell who was the chief of naval personnel and the person designated by the Navy to adjudicate all religious accommodation requests for COVID-19 products,” Green said.

His complaint pointed to Nowell’s utilization of a standard operating procedure that “streamlined the process” that his staff would take to deny all religious accommodation requests. Green noted that “one of the very first steps in the process, once they received a request, was to paste the requestor’s name into the denial template and then route the denial for review.”

“It wasn’t until one of the last steps of the process, that a staffer was finally directed to actually open the request,” he said.

Green’s complaint was formally dismissed in August.

“This is shocking because the Navy’s response came two months after the [IG’s] memo to the secretary of defense,” he said. “Claiming that they could find no evidence should have been impossible, considering a higher-level inspector general had already found that blanket denials of religious accommodations were being given to service members.”

Erickson and Green emphasized that their views don’t reflect those of the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, or the Department of the Navy.

DOD officials and the Office of the Naval Inspector General didn’t respond to requests for comment.

*Zachary Stieber contributed to this report.*

# Biden Admin’s New ‘Climate Cop’ Studied at CCP-Controlled University With Ties to Chinese Military

FRANK FANG

A former employee at New York’s financial regulator who once lived in China and earned a bachelor’s degree at a Chinese Communist Party-controlled university has taken an important job in the Biden administration.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency—a Treasury Department bureau overseeing the country’s largest banks and federal savings associations—has named Yue (Nina) Chen as the agency’s first “climate cop,” or chief climate risk officer, according to a Sept. 12 statement.

Her responsibility is to guide the bureau to “focus on the development and implementation of climate risk management frameworks for the federal banking system.”

She’ll report to Acting Com-

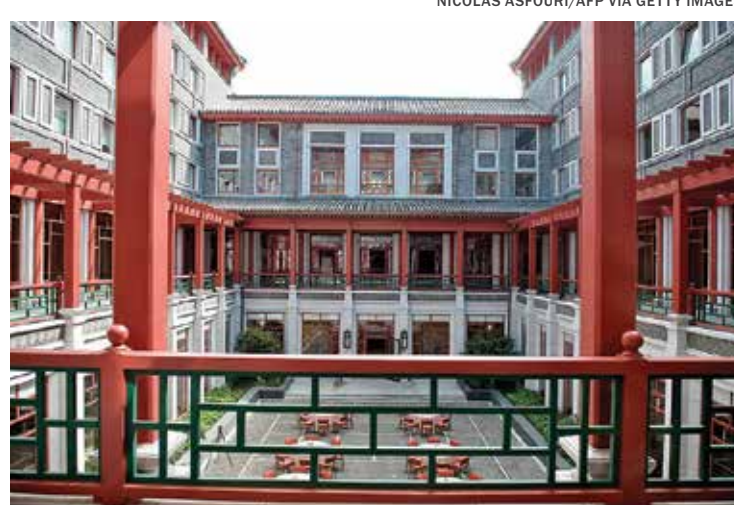
troller Michael J. Hsu, who said in the statement that Chen is “an asset” to the bureau, given her “background and experience in both finance and climate-related financial risk.”

Chen replaces Jonathan Fink, who assumed the responsibility in an acting capacity in March.

## Tsinghua University

Chen obtained a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from China’s Tsinghua University in 2000 and later earned a doctorate degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Tsinghua University is funded by the Chinese regime’s Ministry of Education and supervised by the State Administration of Science, Technology, and Industry for National Defense (SASTIND), a defense industry agency for the Chi-



A courtyard on the Tsinghua University campus in Beijing on Sept. 10, 2016.

nese Communist Party (CCP). According to Canberra, Australia-based think tank the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), Tsinghua University conducts “defense research,” including in areas such as air-to-air missiles

and artificial intelligence, and the school is home to several defense-focused laboratories.

The Pentagon also highlighted Tsinghua University in a 2020 report, noting that the university has ties to the CCP’s military-civil fusion strategy,

which allows the communist regime to leverage commercial technologies for military development.

The CCP controls Tsinghua University through the school’s party committee, which is headed by a Party secretary, Qiu Yong, who reminded students and teachers in a July speech about the importance of being “loyal to the Party.”

Tsinghua University, like many universities and colleges in China, has its own “United Front Work” office, which is part of the CCP’s sprawling bureaucracy headed by the United Front Work Department, a powerful Party agency.

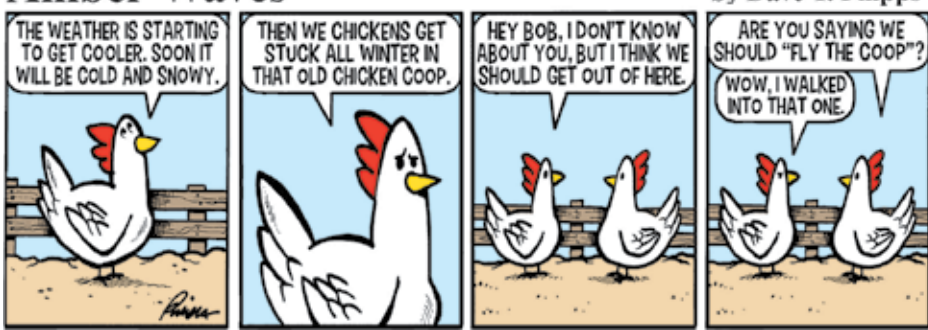
According to a 2020 ASPI report, the department coordinates thousands of groups to carry out foreign political influence operations, suppress dissident movements, gather intelligence, and facilitate the transfer of technology to China.

The Washington Free Beacon first reported on Chen’s educational background in China.



# WEEKLY COMICS

## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

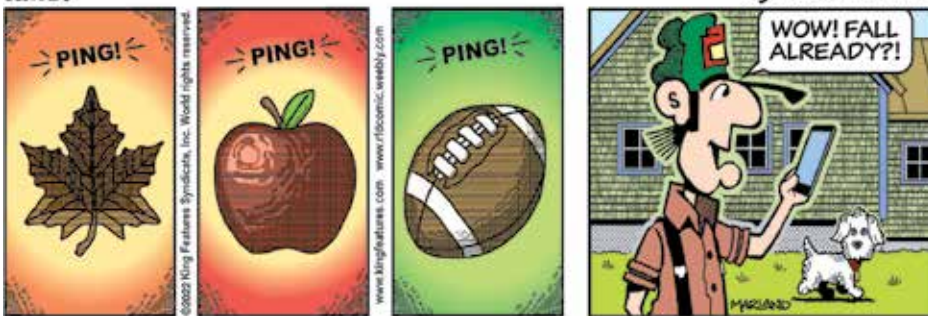
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



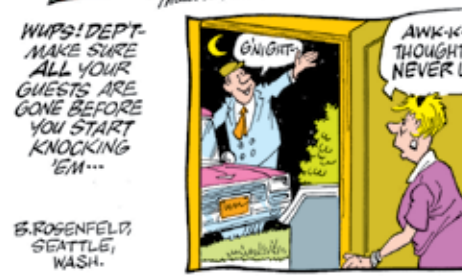
## BY AL SCADUTO



## R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



## GRIN and BEAR IT



## LAFF - A - DAY



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF



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# Rams Run Up Score in Homecoming Win

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Dixon High School celebrated homecoming this past weekend in a big way, as the varsity Rams football team blew out Fairfield 47-6 on Friday, September 23.

The Rams (4-1) scored the first 34 points of the game and never looked back. The Falcons (0-5) have now been outscored 193-33 this season.

"I think they responded very positive to the last game," Dixon coach Wes Besseghini told the Independent Voice when asked about how his team handled the loss to Wood. "Games like this are good for us and prepare us for [the Golden Empire] League (GEL). The best thing about a game like this is we got the whole team up [to play]."

Dixon senior quarterback Jett Harris had a perfect night, completing all 10 of his pass attempts for 182 yards and four touchdowns. Harris also added three carries for 53 yards, including a 40-yard burst. Junior wide receiver Easton Valenzuela also got an opportunity to take snaps under center. Valenzuela connected on 4-of-7 throws for 60 yards and an interception.

Senior wideout Matthew Whitaker led the way for Dixon with two rushing touchdowns on five carries for 35 yards. Senior running back Braden Baumbach followed closely behind with two rushes for 40 yards and a score.

Dixon junior WR Jordan Sengmany had a game-high four catches for 73 yards and two TDs. Senior WR Luis Torres caught three passes for 65 yards and a score. Fellow senior WR Brent Green added three receptions for 44 yards and a TD. Torres and Green each also had one interception on defense.

Junior inside linebacker Marcos Gregorio tied for a game-high with six tackles. Torres contributed to all three facets of the game. The senior nailed five of six point after attempts with his leg.

Dixon's junior varsity team didn't fare nearly as well as their peers on varsity, losing 22-6 to Fairfield. In between Friday night's JV and varsity games, the Homecoming King and Queen were crowned with Jaden Mulitsch Reynolds and Casey Vaughn receiving the honors.

The Rams will now pivot to GEL play, beginning with a matchup at home against Rio Linda this Friday, September 30. Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. ★



Fairfield senior Dylan Flores (#53) begins to rush towards Dixon senior offensive tackle Elijah Hairston (#52) during a 47-6 win against the Falcons on Friday, September 23 in Dixon. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Dixon senior quarterback Jett Harris prepares to throw a pass during a 47-6 win against Fairfield on Friday, September 23 in Dixon. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Jaden Mulitsch Reynolds and Casey Vaughn were named the Dixon 2022 Homecoming King and Queen. Photo by Nicolas Brown

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