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# Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022

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## FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

By Amy Shane



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## DEMS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FALL'S MIDTERM ELECTIONS



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# Women's Club Reawakens



Ready to get back together after their summer break are DWIC Board Members and Committee Chairs (L-R) Diane Schroeder, Jewel Fink, Cindy Heene, Phyllis Quiring, MaryKay Callaway, Debra Dingman, Teri Brown, Pat Inderbitzen, Rosa Gracida, and Carol Marshall. Photo by Carol Marshall and Mari Mattox

By Debra Dingman,  
Dixon editor

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - After hibernating over the hot summer months, the Dixon Women's Improvement Club is ready to wake up and kick off the 2022-2023 year with a Harvest Celebration on Wednesday, September 21 from noon to 3 p.m.

Established in 1899, the founders of this group were women from families that settled in the Dixon area following the Gold Rush of 1849. They were interested in beautifying and improving their little town. Today's members, as strong and as empowering as their predecessors, are also about fun and have planned a year of interesting presentations along with pleasant trips to nearby shows, shopping, and flower farms.

"I'm really excited about this year's programs and excursions," said President Carol Marshall. "Our first program celebrates Solano agriculture with an organization that is involved in

several projects in our town including one at Neighborhood Christian School."

Stephanie Oelsligle Jordan, Food Program Manager/Chef for Sustainable Solano, a non-profit organization that grew from Benicia's Community Gardens, and Nicole Newell, from Green Infrastructure Program Manager will be speaking. Sustainable Solano was founded in 1999 to bring local, sustainable food to Benicia. In 2016, they expanded their community garden and sustainability projects to other cities and towns in our county. They'll discuss their work supporting local farms and promoting sustainable watering practices.

"There will also be delightful harvest treats served following the presentation," said Marshall. The Board and Community Chairs also plan to provide members and guests with craft cider tasting. Other officers are Treasurer Cindy Heene; Corresponding Secretary Phyllis

Quiring; Recording Secretary Teri Brown; Financial Reviewer Martha Dukes and Past President Jewel Fink.

The Board receives additional help from the Standing Committee Chairs who handle the operations of the organization. They are: Teri Brown for Community Grants and DWIC Rose Garden; Historian Arlene Gaulke; Membership Chair Mary Kay Callaway; Parliamentarian Teri Brown; Publicity Debra Dingman; Scholarships Diane Schroeder; Hospitality Rosa Gracida, and Sunshine/Phone Pat Inderbitzen.

The Club welcomes new members and hopes their plans this year will appeal to all. Membership fee is \$35 per year and the group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the social hall of the Dixon United Methodist Church at 209 N. Jefferson.

If one enjoys the camaraderie of good friends and are interested in joining, contact their Membership Chair Callaway at (916) 541-0417. ★

## Ministry Honored

By Debra Dingman,  
Dixon editor

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Savannah Playford, a life-long member of Dixon United Methodist Church, was recently honored for her dedication to Youth and Children's Ministries. Playford was born and raised in Dixon and worked for the City of Dixon before she went to college. Afterwards, she got married and when the couple were trying to figure out where to settle down, they chose Dixon. So, back to her home church they went.

"I love the small town of Dixon," said Playford. She recently graduated with a Master of Arts degree in Special Education for Applied Behavioral Analysis from Arizona State University, and she did that with a 4.0 GPA, too.

"Her service is phenomenal. She goes beyond her call of duty. She would sit and talk with them, and visit them," said church member Ramona Todd. "We would go to their basketball games, and she would support them with whatever they needed." The opportunity to serve at the church also helped Playford understand more about youth.

"The thing that I learned the most from working with the teenagers was to remember to have fun. As we get older, we get wrapped up in responsibilities and forget to laugh and have fun," she said. "I was the Youth Coordinator during COVID and I also learned how important it is to be resilient." While she continues to be an active member of the church, she hopes to find meaningful work.

"The future is finding a place where I can use my skills in education," she said. "My hobby is to give back. My hobby is to give back. My hobby is to give back. I like to volunteer for different things, and I like to mentor young people. I want to take the mentorship that is important to me and pour it back into the community."

Playford also provided a series of uplifting messages from the church Facebook page. They are approximately five minutes in length and offer thoughts and reflections on a Bible reading. She suggests prayer exercises to give participants a way of taking action. The Daily Devotions are posted to the church FaceBook page. ★

# VFW Commander Brock Eulogized

By Debra Dingman,  
Dixon editor

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Brock McMahon would be humbled if he had been able to see the many US Air Force uniforms, the Veterans of Foreign Wars emblems, and the numerous family and friends who attended his Celebration of Life last week. He collapsed suddenly at his home on August 14 and passed. He was 73.

McMahon was well known in Dixon through his volunteerism and leadership as Commander for VFW Post 8151. He was chosen as Dixon's Veteran of the Year in 2017 and had served as a long-time Chief maintenance operator at Travis Air Force Base.

"He was a private man and he died the way he would have wanted: Privately," said his son Josh who told stories of growing up and getting to go on trips around the world because of his Dad's jobs. "If I could be half the man, my Dad was..."



Known for always leading the group of the military at the start of the annual May Fair Parade, Brock McMahon was a pillar of the community and a celebrated advocate of the veterans and service members. Photo courtesy of Rich Hardy

he said, pausing to regain composure. He knew his Dad would be happy to see the turnout and expressed surprise at so many stories from the men who shared at the podium.

Several men spoke of Brock's easy going supervisor style that warmed them to the tasks at hand and particularly his tender

conviction that they were 'all family,' even attending a funeral of one his coworker's daughter who died as a teen.

One of his employees referred to his boss as a mentor, a word echoed by others. They also poked fun at how Brock loved McDonald's. One of the guests at the celebration

brought two bags of McDonald's food to the service and presented them to Jan, Brock's wife, and to his daughter, Erin.

"If you didn't like sleeping standing up and you could find a McDonald's, that's all he ever required of you," said another co-worker. McMahon,

*Continued on page 2*







# Life's too SHORT Heatwave!

By Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

In checking last year's column this time of year, I was relieved to read that there was also a heatwave. That means this is not unusual even though the temperature is higher by a few degrees. I'm not playing this down at all, I'm just reminding folks, it is, after all, summer.

When I am super hot, I always think of my birthplace: Fresno, California. I remember people aghast at the temperature record of 111°F way back then because it had never been that hot there before.

Since memory is only linked through emotions/feelings, I can safely presume that my 2nd grade mind was thinking it was the end of the world because God said in the Bible he would not destroy the Earth by water again so I knew it was going to be fire. (I have always been dramatic, according to my parents and siblings.)

Since I've been a Northern California gal the rest of my life with the exception of blazing hot Dallas and uni-season El Segundo, I look back over the years and think, "Well, we've had it pretty good, haven't we, right here in this little 'ol town of Dixon!"

But, it is hot, no doubt, so here are some suggestions for getting out of the heat if you are local:

1. Get in your car that has air conditioning and drive to McDonald's, Baskin-Robbins, or Big Spoon for ice cream. Both the car and the ice cream will offer relief, but you know the insides of those places are pretty cool, too;

2. Visit the Dixon Library. This is one of our favorites. I can catch up on reading

other newspapers, finding the latest best sellers that I can check out free, and even hop on their computers if I need to. It's not only cool, it's also quiet;

3. Go to Walmart. I'm sure that out of the massive amounts of summer clearance, you'll have plenty to browse through. It is obvious that last year's inventory was snatched up by government-fueled family bonus recipients and the company buyers didn't foresee that inflation would completely change the way Dixonites buy this year. Families are having to severely scale back;

4. Visit the Dixon Historical Museum. Speaking of browsing, this place is nice, mostly dark, and cool. It's only open a few hours a few days a week but check it out because there is plenty to look at and study. I really like going through the yearbooks. (They have them from the beginning of Dixon High School... really!) There is a nice little table and chairs set up for just sitting and going through the long history of students, events, and even styles over the years;

5. Go swimming. There is a public pool for those who don't have them in the backyard. Just don't forget to lather on the sun block!

6. Lastly, you can enjoy your own home by doing a foot soak in a tub of ice water. This is great because anyone can do this and still work from home, do your homework from classes, the dog likes to drink it, or you can watch television/movies.

Of course, there are movie theaters to go to in nearby Vacaville or Davis. The weather temp is supposed to go down soon and we'll all be better for it. Hopefully, it won't come up again and we'll get to move into fall. ★

## Dixon News Briefs



At a previous Coastal Cleanup in Dixon, these volunteers worked to clean the pond at the end of Parkway Boulevard. This year's event will focus on the Industrial Pond at the end of Industrial Way where foam and debris clog the water way there when there is rain. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

### City Planning

Next Tuesday, September 13, there will be a City Planning Commission meeting at 7 pm. As always, the meeting is inside the Council Chambers at City Hall, 600 East A Street. But, it is also on Zoom to participate from your computer or through Granicus to watch (but cannot speak) on your computer. See the agenda and links on the City of Dixon website.

### Senior Center

Bingo is back on Mondays from 12:15 to 2:15 pm at the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 South Fifth Street. If you or someone you know is interested in calling BINGO, inquire at the Senior Center at (707) 678-7022. There is also a Bunco game on Tuesday, September 20 at 10 a.m. Stop by the office to sign up.

### Coastal Cleanup

Saturday, September 17, will also be the date for this year's Coastal Cleanup where good citizens volunteer to help pick up trash and clean up our local environment. This year's Dixon location will be at the Industrial Pond (600 Industrial Way.) It will start at 9 am and supplies will be provided but you should wear grubby clothes and it's a good idea to bring your own gloves as well. Contact is Lealand Markusen at the City of Dixon (707) 678-7030, ext. 5312 or email lmarkusen@cityofdixon.us. In addition to the Dixon location, there are cleanups also at Lake Berryessa, Sandy Beach in Rio Vista, Lake Solano, Belden's Landing, and Putah Creek. Visit Cleanupsolano.org or call (707) 678-1655, ext. 114 to register.

### Wellness Writing

On the third Thursday of each month, Dixonites are invited to learn 'Writing for

Wellness' with simple techniques using words and writing. Studies on this have shown that it may assist in stress reduction and processing emotions related to depression and anxiety. The program is usually one hour and registration is required at [solanolibrary.com/events](http://solanolibrary.com/events). It is for ages 18 and older but no writing skills are required. It starts on Thursday, September 18, starting at 6:30 p.m. The library is located at 230 North First Street.

### Dog Show

The public is invited to the Donner Trail Kennel Dog Show at the May Fair on Saturday and Sunday, September 24-25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Friday, September 23, there will be a specialty show featuring Doberman Pinscher. There is no admission but a charge for parking. The show has a long history; organized since the early '70s. This is their first show since the pandemic and they expect 1,000 dogs. For more information, call Adrian Woodfork at (916) 716-2369. Note only dogs registered for the show are allowed on site.

### Coffee Hour

This month's Coffee Hour at the Dixon Historical Museum will be a book discussion of *The Train Never Stops* in Dixon by Bil Paul (available at the Museum or on Amazon) on Wednesday, September 28, 3 to 5 p.m. This book is the true story of how Carissa Carpenter came to Dixon to try to sell a scam of building a movie studio in the town. Address is 125 West A Street, downtown.

### Pinball Show

The annual Pin-a-Go-Go, the giant PinBall machines, will sweep you back into earlier and happier times happening at the Dixon May Fair again this year on Friday through Sunday, October 7 through 9. This event is a major fundraiser for the Dixon Teen Center. ★

## Emergence of Monkeypox Underscores Need to Strengthen Public Health

California Can't Wait News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

The California Can't Wait Coalition, including local public health officials, health equity advocates, county governments, and frontline workers, applauded the California State Senate's passage of AB 240, their sponsored bill with bipartisan support (39-0) to require a comprehensive assessment of our public health workforce and infrastructure.

"Californians now know that public health saves lives. Preparing for the next threat will require a clear assessment of workforce and infrastructure gaps that have emerged over decades of disinvestment," said Michelle

Gibbons, Executive Director of the County Health Executives Association of California. "AB 240 will provide a roadmap for California to ensure local health departments have the workforce and infrastructure to protect the state against public health threats and deliver and achieve health equity."

"SEIU members had a front-row seat to how quickly the COVID-19 pandemic overran our threadbare public infrastructure and how longstanding inequalities left communities of color predisposed for the worst outcomes," said Dr. Kelly Zhou, Nurse Anesthesiologist, LAC USC and member of SEIU Local 721. "We simply can't wait for the next crisis to invest in our public health system.

AB 240 is a simple bill to allow California to study the long-term needs of local public health agencies so that California never again experiences such suffering and inequity in sickness and death. SEIU members are proud to support this essential bill."

"Californians face an unprecedented series of overlapping public health crises - viruses such as COVID and monkeypox as well as societal conditions such as poverty and racism," said Harold Goldstein, Executive Director of Public Health Advocates. "The state senate has consistently supported legislation to help public health officers address multiple threats and they deserve our thanks." ★

## VFW Commander Brock Eulogized

Continued from page 1

originally from Ontario, Canada, had become a Californian in his youth and graduated from San Jose City College. He voluntarily joined the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and attended aircraft maintenance training.

One coworker reminisced that McMahon's decade-long stint with the Thunderbirds at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada 'never left him' and remembered that Brock had one of the Thunderbirds blue flight suits hanging in his office.

In 2011, Brock returned to Dixon from a state convention of 800 VFW commanders with three prestigious awards for Dixon. One for his community involvement,

another for membership recruitment which had doubled under his command, and a National Recognition Award for outstanding citizenship education to students.

Josh told of how difficult it was for the family to go through his things. He explained that it was touching to see the things that he kept that were important to him.

"He loved the label maker and everything was labeled, organized, filed, and in its place. But there was a lot of it," he said, drawing chuckles from the guests.

He was laid to rest at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery and is survived by his wife Jan, son Josh, daughter Erin and her husband Jeremy Jefferson, and grandson Vance. ★



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

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# Defendant Found Guilty of Second Degree Murder and Felony Hit and Run

**SCSC News Release**

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - On August 30, 2022, in Department 11 of the Solano County Superior Court, before the Honorable William J. Pendergast, the jury found Defendant Nadhir Ghuzi, Guilty of Second Degree Murder in violation of Penal Code Section 187 and Felony Hit and Run Causing Injury in violation of Vehicle Code Section 20001(b)(1).

On October 19, 2021, Fairfield Police Officers were dispatched to the intersection of North Texas and Wisconsin Street to respond to a fatal traffic collision. City cameras showed that a dark SUV style vehicle had struck a bicyclist while traveling at a high rate of speed. The bicyclist sustained life threatening injuries and unfortunately succumbed to those injuries at the scene. The driver of the SUV fled the scene. Officers located a hubcap belonging to the SUV. Using the hubcap, city cameras, and license plate readers, officers were able to identify the vehicle. Additional surveillance footage from a

nearby gas station identified the defendant as the driver of the vehicle at the time of the collision.

Officers responded to the defendant's home and placed him under arrest. At this time, Officers began to develop additional information that showed that the defendant was intoxicated at the time of the collision. Defendant had previously been convicted of Driving under the Influence and had been advised of the dangers of driving under the influence. As a term of probation, he had completed a 9-month course that discussed the dangers of driving under the influence.

Defendant Nadhir Ghuzi is scheduled to be sentenced on October 27, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. in Department 11 of the Solano County Superior Court.

The case was investigated by Officer Tuss of the Fairfield Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jessica Morrell and Victim Witness Advocate Cynthia Malloy provided victim advocacy and support to the victim's family. ★

# Farmstead Being Framed



The Farmstead will ultimately house 88 beds and up to 100 residents in a contemporary, 2-story facility on Gateway Boulevard. Photo by Debra Dingman

**By Debra Dingman, Dixon editor**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Farmstead, a long-needed residential assisted living and memory care facility, is now being framed and seems to be coming together quickly with many construction workers on site daily. It will house 88 beds and up to 100 residents in a contemporary, 2-story facility looking more like a hotel on Gateway Boulevard.

The development is led by Jason Reyes, owner of Vacaville-based Chronograph Properties, Calson Properties, and Lenity Architect. Chronograph is a family-owned business and now owns several assisted living facilities in California including Courtyard in Vacaville. ★

"This is not a nursing home," said Sam Thomas, Senior Specialist Architect in a presentation last summer to the Dixon City Planning Commission. "The average age of our residents is 82 and our residents are still somewhat mobile." There will be a centralized dining facility, social activities, and 24-hour staff on site.

Currently, Calson operates seven communities comprising over 640 units of senior living totaling more than \$150 million in market value. In addition to Dixon, they have three other projects actively under construction in Los Gatos, Santa Rosa and San Jose, equating to another 368 units.

Anyone who wants information for future residents can email [Cathy@calsonmanagement.com](mailto:Cathy@calsonmanagement.com). ★

# Solano Resource Conservation District Secures Post-Fire Disaster Recovery Grant

**Solano RCD News Release**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Solano Resource Conservation District is working to catalogue habitat concerns remaining in the 2020 LNU burn footprint. This survey effort will inform upcoming work funded under a fire resilience grant from the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) and help build future projects and proposals.

As the size and intensity of California wildfires grow, the challenges of post-fire restoration grow as well. From 2019-2021, over 7 million acres of California burned, many of which include high severity landscape-altering burn acres. Post-fire recovery is not only a time of healing for the community but also presents a narrow opportunity to address impacts to the landscape. One of the many important parts of post-fire community healing is managing the landscape to restore ecosystem function, support habitat resilience, and prevent a semi-permanent to permanent deforestation event.

In May 2022, the USDA United States Forest Service (USFS) awarded CARCD a Post-Fire Disaster Recovery Grant to provide sub-grants to RCDs through a competitive process. Solano RCD's project was one of six funded across the eligible state area, bringing \$175,000 to local economies to complete fuel reduction and fire readiness projects. Solano RCD will use the grant to implement fire resilience projects – including fuels removal and habitat restoration – in burned creek areas within the 2020 LNU footprint.

"RCDs like Solano RCD are well integrated and trusted in their communities, so they are perfectly situated to work with private landowners and tribes to complete critical post-fire forest recovery work," said Karen Buhr, former executive director of CARCD.

Solano RCD staff will be conducting a survey of burned areas to assess remaining habitat damage. Participation in this survey is voluntary, and data collection will be focusing on impacts to landscapes – such as forest health, fuel loads, creek impacts, flooding and erosion concerns – rather than infrastructure.

While work on riparian properties (those with creeks running through them or along their borders) can be funded through the CARCD grant, the goal is to use the survey findings to apply for future grants that could address broader habitat impacts throughout the burned areas in Solano County.

"With the increasing size of landscape-altering wildfires, timely and effective restoration is needed to reduce hazards, restore forest resilience, and prevent permanent impacts to Solano County's natural areas," said Chris Rose, Solano RCD's Executive Director. "Solano RCD is working to play our part in the community's recovery, and collaborating with our partners through forums like the Solano Fire Safe Council to plan additional fire resilience projects."

To participate in this survey effort, please contact Karin Young, Conservation Project Manager, at [karin.young@solanorcd.org](mailto:karin.young@solanorcd.org) or visit <https://tinyurl.com/SRCD-LNU>. ★

# Help Ease Patient Pain During Sickle Cell Awareness Month

**By Cari Dighton, American Red Cross**

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - During Sickle Cell Awareness Month in September, the American Red Cross emphasizes the importance of a diverse blood supply to help meet the needs of those with sickle cell disease – the most common inherited blood disorder in the U.S.

Sickle cell disease impacts more than 100,000 people across the country, most of whom are of African descent. Regular blood transfusions are critical to managing extreme pain and life-threatening complications faced by many. Unfortunately, they may develop an immune response against blood from donors that is not closely matched to their own. However, because most individuals who are Black have unique structures on their red blood cells that are not often found in other donor populations, 1 in 3 African American blood donors is a match for people with sickle cell disease.

Seasonal changes can trigger pain crises for those battling sickle cell – possibly increasing the need for lifesaving blood transfusions. As summer ends, book a time to give blood by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). As a thank-you, all who come to give through

Sept. 18 will get an exclusive Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

Sickle cell disease distorts soft, round blood cells and turns them hard and crescent-shaped, which can cause severe pain. "When cells harden, they can get caught in blood vessels, potentially leading to stroke and organ failure," says Catherine A. Mazzei, MD, Medical Director for the Red Cross Northern California Coastal Region. "Transfusions provide healthy blood cells, unblocking blood vessels and delivering oxygen, minimizing crises patients with sickle cell may face."

To help ensure patients have the blood products they need, the American Red Cross is working with partners in the Black community to grow the number of blood donors who are Black through the sickle cell initiative, which launched in 2021. In the first year of the initiative, the number of first-time African American blood donors who gave with the Red Cross increased by 60%. In September and October, the Red Cross launches *Joined by Blood*, a fall component of the initiative where the Red Cross is teaming up with community organizations, like the National Pan-Hellenic Council and others, to host blood drives and inspire donors who are Black to give blood to support patients with sickle cell disease. To learn more, visit [RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood](http://RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood). ★

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# Riley Reviews

## ABC FALL SCHEDULE: USA NETWORK LOVES COMPETITION SERIES

### A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

ABC's fall season offers two new drama series, one of which is a spinoff from the flagship series "The Rookie." To leave no doubt as to its origin, the new series is, naturally, titled "The Rookie: Feds."

The spinoff was introduced as a two-part event during the current fourth season of "The Rookie," where Officer John Nolan (Nathan Fillion) and the LA Division of the FBI enlist the help of Simone Clark when one of her former students is a suspect in a terror attack.

"The Rookie: Feds" stars Niecy Nash-Betts as Simone Clark, the oldest rookie in the FBI Academy. If this sounds familiar, it's because Fillion's John Nolan was the oldest rookie at LAPD when "The Rookie" launched in 2018.

The middle-aged recruit to the federal agency will be joined by Frankie Faison as Christopher "Cutty" Sark and Felix Solis as Special Agent Matthew Garza.

Not much else is known about Nash-Betts' Simone Clark than her ride-along as an FBI trainee helping Fillion's LAPD officer in a search for a suspect behind a bomb plot somewhere in the city.

From the mind of Tom McCarthy (writer and director of the film "Spotlight"), "Alaska" stars Hilary Swank as Eileen Fitzgerald, a recently disgraced reporter who leaves her high-profile New York life behind to join a daily metro newspaper in Anchorage.

On a journey to find both personal and professional redemption, the discredited journalist's search for a fresh start brings her in touch with Jeff Perry's Stanley Cornik, Grace Dove's Rosalind "Roz" Friendly and Matt Malloy's Bob Young, among others.

In a likely endeavor to achieve verisimilitude, two of the executive producers of "Alaska" are with the state's largest newspaper, "Anchorage Daily News," one serving as the chief executive officer and the other as an editor.

"Celebrity Jeopardy" was a series of hilarious skits on "Saturday Night Live" in which cast members lampooned the television quiz show. Will Ferrell, in role of host Alex Trebek, was often subjected to vulgar insults from Darrell Hammond's Sean Connery.

Parody is not what ABC has in mind for its "Celebrity Jeopardy!," an all-new game show airing this fall. This new series welcomes real celebrity contestants to compete for a chance to win money for a charity of their choice. Mayim Bialik ("The Big Bang Theory") will host.

For the moment, only one midseason replacement series is on tap. "Not Dead Yet" follows Nell Stevens (Gina Rodriguez), a broke and newly single self-described disaster, working to restart

the life and career she left behind ten years ago.

When she lands the only job she can find – writing obituaries, Nell starts getting life advice from an unlikely source. The series is adapted from Alexandra Potter's book "Confessions of a 40-something F\*\*K Up."

USA Network, a basic cable channel owned by NBC Universal Television, has an upcoming slate of new larger-than-life unscripted series and exclusive live international sporting events such as cycling's Tour de France and being the cable home of soccer's Premier League.

Longtime friends Blake Shelton and Carson Daly head to Nashville and open the doors to Blake's bar, Ole Red, and everyone is invited to join their party in the new series "Barmageddon."

With Daly behind the bar and Shelton taking the stage with his house band for live music sing-alongs in front of a rowdy crowd, both the icons and celebrity favorites show a new side to themselves in this anything-but-ordinary game show.

No stranger to competition, WWE Hall of Famer Nikki Bella heats up the party and sets the stakes as celebrity friends go head-to-head in a series of classic bar games with a fun twist, including "Keg Curling," "Drunken Axe Hole," and many more.

In the most remote parts of Alaska, businesses such as canneries and hunting lodges operate seasonally. Each winter these businesses in the distant wilds shut down and hire "winter watchmen" to defend their properties against man, beast and the elements.

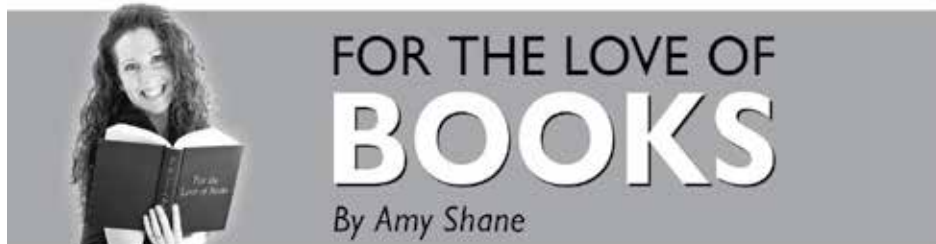
In "Winter Watchman," four pairs of amateur survivalists sign on for a unique social experiment, based on the job of real winter watchmen. We will see if they can survive the harshest winter of their lives while protecting four respective lodges.

Can each duo make it to the spring thaw and collect a cash bonus? Or will extreme weather, isolation and fear of man-eating bears compel them to tap out? The cash bonus had better be a serious amount of greenbacks.

Pushing human nature to the limits with the new competition series "Snake in the Grass," this action-packed social experiment is hosted by national radio and television personality Bobby Bones.

Each episode will feature four strangers who are dropped into the wild with a chance to win \$100,000. In order to win, the team must figure out which one of them is the Snake – a saboteur who is secretly undermining the group every step of the way.

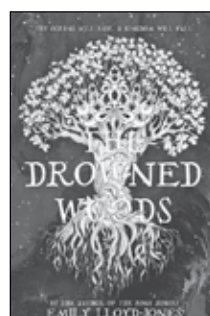
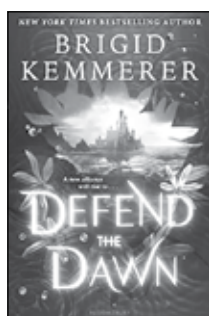
In the ultimate outdoor competition series "The Chain: Alaska," adventure racers and survival experts clash while battling through the horrible elements of Mother Nature to claim the \$500,000 prize. ★



BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • amy-shane@att.net • amy\_fortheloveofbooks

## Kingdoms Will Rise and Fall in This Month's Most Exciting Titles

With school back in session, it's time to grab a great book. Whether looking for a reason to take a break from schoolwork or find time to unwind, these titles will give any reader a welcome distraction.



**Defend The Dawn**  
by Brigid Kemmerer;  
Bloomsbury

It's time for the heart-stopping fantasy adventure to return in the next book in the

Defy The Night series. The Story of a Kingdom at the edge of peril from a deadly curse and the only cure is controlled by that of the rich and powerful and divided by political lines. But one girl is determined to change that, becoming a Robin Hood for the people in need. But what happens when the Prince will not decipher between stealing for self-gain or for others to survive? Continue this high stakes, a high-seas adventure between rebels and royals, and the pursuit of more than just a rare flower to make an elixir; it's about defying those who threaten a kingdom. Electrifying

and fast-paced, Defend the Dawn will plunge its readers into a story filled with adventure, new alliances, morally grey characters, and star-crossed lovers, leaving them just at the very edge.

**The Drowned Woods**  
by Emily Lloyd-Jones;  
Little Brown

A story of a falling Kingdom, magic, a fae-cursed young man, the lady of thieves, a girl named Mer, and a corgi that may be a spy.

As the last water diviner of her time, Mer found herself at the helm of the Prince's demands. Her job was to seek out the wells of his enemies, unaware of his plans to poison them. Once she discovers the truth, the only thing left for Mer to do is flee, becoming out of reach to the Prince. But when she is offered a proposition to turn the tables and bring down the Prince. Now it

is up to Mer and a crew of misfit allies to bring down a prince to save the Kingdom and themselves. All set in the same world as The Bone Houses, this story intertwines dark fantasy, fairytale elements, and the fight for what is right.

**The King Will Kill You**  
by Sarah Henning;  
Tor Teen

The conclusion readers have been waiting for is finally here. Everything is finally coming together for Princess Amaranthe, she is able to rule as Queen and be with her one true love, but everything is not that easy. Some oppose her views and are willing to take revenge at any cost, even if it's deadly. Start this epic fantasy with *The Princess will Save You* and be taken on an adventure that interlaces, twists, and turns around every page, forbidden love, betrayal, and even pirates. ★

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ACROSS  
1. The Sweet's hit "Ballroom"  
6. Farm cry  
9. Schooner pole  
13. Barrel racing meet  
14. "\_\_\_" Quiet on the Western Front," 1920s novel  
15. Move sideways  
16. Southeast Asia org.  
17. Hula dancer's garland  
18. Like the Vitruvian Man  
19. "New type of movie in the 1920s"  
21. "Jack Dempsey's sport  
23. Triple \_\_\_ liqueur  
24. Prep flour  
25. "Hamilton: An American Musical" singing style  
28. Floppy data storage  
30. Smack  
35. Not much (2 words)  
37. "Prolific playwright \_\_\_ Coward  
39. Sacrum, pl.  
40. "Nana" author Émile  
41. Flash of light  
43. Not kosher  
44. Convex molding  
46. "Football legend Graham, born in 1921  
47. Furniture wood  
48. Not wholesale  
50. Aquatic snakes  
52. Reggae precursor  
53. Animal den  
55. Café alternative  
57. "Assassinated Villa  
60. "St. \_\_\_," 1928 Olympic site  
63. East Asian peninsula  
64. Nope  
66. "Bite the bullet," e.g.  
68. Relating to Quechuan people  
69. B&B, e.g.  
70. Foul smell  
71. Challenge  
72. Langley, VA agency  
73. Decorates, as in Christmas tree

DOWN  
1. Type of undergarment  
2. \*Like generation described by Gertrude Stein  
3. Brain wave  
4. Shades of blue  
5. Very tired  
6. "The Fighter" actor Christian  
7. Bass or Redhook  
8. Defendant's excuse  
9. Longer then mini  
10. Port in Yemen  
11. Smelting waste  
12. \_\_\_ Aviv  
15. 6 equal parts of 6  
20. Cake layer  
22. Short for oftentimes  
24. Mosquito, slangily  
25. Schick's product  
26. Beyond's partner  
27. \*Amelia Earhart, e.g.  
29. \*Like Charles Lindbergh's 1927 transatlantic flight  
31. W on a bulb  
32. TV classic "Green \_\_\_"  
33. Floorboard sound  
34. "The Trial" and "The Castle" author Franz \_\_\_  
36. Samoan money  
38. Not on time  
42. Much, in Italy  
45. Tin Man's prop  
49. Follows soh  
51. Confession, archaic  
54. Not Doric nor Corinthian  
56. Downy duck  
57. Kind of cornbread  
58. Rainbows and such  
59. Like a drink in a snifter  
60. Mimicking bird  
61. \_\_\_caca, South American lake  
62. Type of modern meeting  
63. \*American Girl character born in 1923  
65. American cuckoo  
67. Robinson to "The Graduate"

**CROSSWORD**

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## Energy Challenges to Continue Despite Gov. Newsom Signing Diablo Canyon Bill



**Commentary**  
by Evan Symon,  
California Globe

Following Gavin Newsom's signing of a bill this weekend to allow Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant to operate for another 5 years, many are scrambling to seek final approvals for not only final hurdles to keep the plant open, but to get enough power plants up and running within that time to replace the power gap that would occur.

Senate Bill 846, authored by Senator Bill Dodd (D-Napa), invalidates the 2018 California Public Utilities Commission ruling that would have Diablo Canyon shut down between 2024 and 2025. New dates, if approved of by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Agency, will be added in instead. Up to \$1.4 billion would then be allocated to the Diablo Canyon Extension Fund to keep the plant running, with the overall goal of helping California reach the 2045 goal of having 100% green and carbon-free energy in the state.

Ever since Pacific Gas and Electric announced in 2016 that it would close Diablo Canyon in 2025 – to be replaced by newer zero carbon resources and reduced traditional electricity energy usage – many have called for an extension of the plant's life due to the critical energy role it plays in California.

In addition to being clean energy, Diablo Canyon currently powers 9% of the state, amounts to about 15% of all clean energy produced in the state, and would be a huge loss as California slowly transitions to being 100% renewable energy powered by 2045. While prior bills have failed in the past to extend the life of the plant, including AB 2898 in 2020, many state and federal officials have been pulling for California to keep the plant going. A November 2021 Stanford/MIT study that found that keeping the plant open until 2035 would save billions and

keep California on track to meet its emissions goals had the rare unifying effect in California of bringing many Democrats and Republicans together to keep the plant open. This has included California Republican leaders, notable Democrats such as Senator Dianne Feinstein, and Biden cabinet officials such as Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm. Blackout and brownout worries due to the energy transition have also won many lawmakers over as well.

The push also affected Governor Newsom, who in April began seriously considering keeping the plant open for another 5-10 years. With energy and environmental concerns still at the forefront, and the state not wanting to leave a major gap in energy production open while the state strives to meet clean energy goals, Newsom backed the framework of SB 846. Specifically, Newsom proposed last month that PG&E would receive a \$1.4 billion from the state to cover operations and relicensing costs, as well as possible U.S. Department of Energy grants, with the California Public Utilities Commission setting a new closure date of October 31, 2029 for one unit, and a date between October 31, 2030 and October 31, 2035 for the other. This led to the Governor signing SB 846 into law during the weekend.

Newsom signs SB 846, final agency approvals still needed

“The purpose of this letter is to express my intent in signing Senate Bill 846, which supports the option to extend the Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) by five years to meet the State's energy reliability needs,” said Newsom in his approval letter.

“Climate change is causing unprecedented stress on California's energy system and I appreciate the Legislature's action to maintain energy reliability as the State accelerates the transition to clean energy. Senate Bill 846 facilitates the actions necessary to keep the option of the DCPP as a statewide reliability asset beyond the current 2024-2025 retirement dates of the plant's two units.

“The bill includes a rate component specific to the DCPP that does not apply

outside of the extended operation of the DCPP. The legislation provides that the rate component established in the bill is applied based on a customer's gross consumption of electricity.”

However, the signing of SB 846 still leaves much to do. Multiple state agencies, as well as the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Committee, still need to give the OK to keep the plant going for another 5+ years. In addition, the state needs more solar, wind, hydro, and other non-carbon plants to help fill the huge gap to be filled by the eventual closing of Diablo Canyon, as well as future technology such as energy storage batteries and other things to help strengthen California's energy resources.

“Diablo Canyon staying open is a band-aid,” LA-based energy expert Adam Klein told the Globe on Tuesday. “An expensive one and a needed one, but it only keeps California in an energy holding pattern until the end of the decade. The state has some big goals, but residents also, you know, need electricity. Beyond focusing on putting all the pieces in place for Diablo Canyon, which again, isn't a sure thing yet, the state needs to approve more plants and look for anything to help inch up to meeting the demand. This includes giving tax breaks for home solar and even wind plants, replacing energy inefficient machinery and appliances, and utilizing new energy alternatives as they are created.

“The state should also hold off on ending the sale of gas-powered cars and should only do so once electrical issues are solved. The more electric cars on the road, the more the grid will strain, especially during heat waves. I mean, gas powered cars can be fueled at any time. In an energy event, you can't. We literally have seen California not allow electric cars to charge at peak energy times.”

“The thing is, California is trying to do everything at once to reach all of these climate goals. While noble, they are also stretching themselves thin. Diablo Canyon helps, but the bigger problem still leaves a deep shadow.”

Newsom has until the end of September to either sign or veto legislation. ★

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### Change Tactics

Dear Dave,

I recently had a judgment filed against me for an unpaid, old hospital bill. Is it possible to negotiate things with the lawyer? Originally, the charges were \$2,700 but now they have increased to \$3,500, and I am not sure why the amount has risen. I have made several phone calls asking him for a detailed statement of the account, but all I have received is a payment booklet. What is your advice?

– Ronnie

Dear Ronnie,

Are you sure you've been speaking directly to the lawyer? I'm guessing

## Dave Ramsey Says

the reason you haven't gotten a real answer to your question is because you've actually been talking to some low-level staffer or paralegal. If you have been talking to the lawyer, there's a pretty good chance he's running a small debt collections or debt lawsuit machine. If this is the case, he probably gets a piece of whatever he collects. That means he's out to collect as much as possible, as quickly as he can.

You might consider changing tactics, and see if you can talk to the hospital administrator. Propose giving them \$2,000, or whatever reasonable amount you can afford, on the agreement that the hospital accept it as payment in full. Hospitals and doctor's offices are often some of the easiest folks to work with when it comes to paying off debt, but people

have to be proactive and make an honest, good faith effort to make it happen.

There's a moral, as well as legal, responsibility involved when it comes to paying off bills or debt, Ronnie. You should always pay what you owe if at all possible.

– 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.* ★

## Democrats Think the Inflation Reduction Act Will Help Their Midterm Fortunes



**Commentary**  
by Sally C. Pipes

Congressional Democrats are increasingly optimistic about this fall's midterm elections. They believe their recently enacted Inflation Reduction Act, especially its healthcare provisions, will win them plaudits from voters.

But they could be in for a rude awakening. Contrary to lawmakers' claims, the Inflation Reduction Act won't reduce inflation or bring down drug prices for most Americans. Many voters will ultimately feel duped, and they could take their frustrations out at the ballot box for years to come.

Consider a recent analysis of the IRA by the Penn Wharton Business Model, the authors of which reported “low confidence that the legislation will have any impact on inflation.” The Congressional

Budget Office reached a similar conclusion, finding that the bill would have “a negligible effect” on inflation in the coming years.

So much for addressing voters' chief concern.

In fact, it's entirely possible that the legislation won't merely fail to reduce inflation, it could actually cause prices to rise further in the years ahead.

The new law extends generous Obamacare subsidies to middle and even high-income households through 2025, at a supposed cost of \$64 billion. In reality, the three-year cost may well be higher. Those same subsidies have cost about 50% more than anticipated this year alone, according to health economist Brian Blase.

If a future Congress ultimately makes the subsidies permanent, as Democrats clearly hope to do the ten-year cost will balloon, pumping hundreds of billions more in deficit spending into the economy and driving up inflation.

Or consider the IRA's price controls on prescription drugs. Democrats promised consumers cheaper medicines — but the vast majority of Americans won't notice

any difference at the pharmacy counter.

Here's why. The price controls only apply to Medicare, so by definition, Americans with private insurance won't derive any savings from the price caps. Even seniors won't notice much change, since their out-of-pocket copays and coinsurance are set by insurance plans, not drug companies.

Plus, these price controls don't kick in until 2026, and will only impact 10 drugs. That figure will steadily increase to 20 by 2029.

Democrats are doing their best to downplay this inconvenient reality in the hopes of improving midterm prospects. It's a desperate, cynical strategy, and it's unlikely to work. Voters will find out soon enough that, with the IRA, they've been sold a bill of goods and an expensive one at that.

*Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is False Promise, False Reality of Medicare for All (Encounter 2020). Follow her on Twitter @sallypipes.* ★

## New ACT Against Hate Alliance to Focus on Hate Crime Epidemic

**ACT Against Hate Alliance**  
News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The rise in hate crimes has impacted communities throughout the United States creating mistrust and anger from targeted groups. The tie between these crimes and the Covid pandemic is a clear one, with economic peril resulting in even more of a divide between various ethnic groups.

“We have all expressed horror at what is going on – which has become almost a daily occurrence in this country,” stated Bob Huff, former minority leader of the California Senate and the sponsor of multiple pieces of legislation in support of underrepresented communities.

“It is time that we pull together our enormous resources and talent to start identifying solutions. Talk without action is not advancing change and change is desperately needed,” Huff said.

Senator Huff and his wife, Mei Mei Ho Huff, consultants in government affairs, community/media relations, and business development, have established a new initiative called the ACT Against Hate Alliance (AAHA) to identify the roots of hate crimes and then to identify solutions. In 2022-2023, AAHA will provide innovative programming that brings key stakeholders together to discuss the most pressing issues surrounding hate crime and each aspect of the



Responding to the growing hate crime epidemic, Bob and Mei Huff (right of the podium) established the “ACT Against Hate Alliance” to focus on solutions on August 17, 2022. Photo courtesy of AAHA

program to focus on solutions. During his time in California government, Bob Huff was known as a coalition builder whose expertise enabled him

to get many important pieces of key legislation passed.

“We committed to taking new action when members of our Asian

community reached out to us to ask for help, commenting on the increase in hate crimes—often violent—against Asians in our community and across the nation,” said Mei Mei Huff, a well-known leader in California's Asian community for over two decades.

“We see these same problems targeting other groups,” said Mei Mei Huff, “and we cannot stand by and relegate the responsibility to someone else hoping they will find solutions. We have the experience and the commitment, and with AAHA, we are focused on finding the solutions we so desperately need.”

The inaugural program for ACT Against Hate Alliance was held at the California State

Capitol on August 17, 2022, with government leaders speaking on the importance of this new initiative in bringing together leaders from all sectors around a solutions-focused agenda.

Other AAHA programs and events throughout the year will be a mix of remote and in-person activities. All programs will be open to members of government, NGOs, media, academic institutions, and community organizations, as well as to members of the public.

Seed funding for media programming is provided by a grant from the California State Library.

For more information contact: Bill Bird, Communications Director, at [billbird@actagainsthate.org](mailto:billbird@actagainsthate.org) ★



NATIONAL NEWS *courtesy of THE EPOCH TIMES*

# Over 50 Biden Administration Employees, 12 US Agencies Involved in Social Media Censorship Push: Documents

ZACHARY STIEBER

More than 50 officials in President Joe Biden's administration across a dozen agencies have been involved with efforts to pressure Big Tech companies to crack down on alleged misinformation, according to documents released on Aug. 31.

Senior officials in the U.S. government, including White House lawyer Dana Remus, deputy assistant to the president Rob Flaherty, and onetime White House senior COVID-19 adviser Andy Slavitt, have been in touch with one or more major social media companies to try to get the companies to tighten rules on allegedly false and misleading information on COVID-19, and take action against users who violate the rules, the documents show.

In July 2021, for instance, after Biden said that Facebook was "killing people" by not combating misinformation effectively, an executive at Meta reached out to Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, a Biden appointee, to say that government and Meta teams met after the remarks "to better understand the scope of what the White House expects from us on misinformation going forward."

The same executive later wrote to Murthy saying, "I wanted to make sure you saw the steps we took just this past week to adjust policies on what we are removing with respect to misinformation, as well as steps taken to further address the 'disinfo dozen,'" including removing pages linked to the group.

The White House publicly pressured social media companies to take action against a group that officials dubbed the "disinformation dozen," which a nonprofit claimed were producing the bulk of "anti-vaccine misinformation" on the platforms. Also in July 2021, Murthy said Facebook hadn't done enough to



**Facebook co-founder, chairman, and CEO Mark Zuckerberg testifies before a hearing in Washington on April 10, 2018.**

combat misinformation.

Flaherty, director of digital strategy for the White House, told Slavitt and others in April 2021 that White House staff would be briefed by Twitter "on vaccine misinfo," with the meeting including "ways the White House (and our COVID experts) can partner in product work," according to one of the messages.

In another exchange that year, a Department of Treasury official working on "mis, dis, and mal-information" told Meta workers that the deputy Treasury secretary wanted to talk about "potential influence operations."

In a text in February 2021, meanwhile, U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Director Jen Easterly wrote to another agency official that she was "trying to get us in a place where Fed can work with platforms to better understand the mis/dis trends so relevant agencies can try to prebunk/debunk as useful."

The documents were part of a preliminary production in a lawsuit levied against the government by the attorneys general of Missouri and Louisiana, later

joined by experts maligned by federal officials.

"If there was ever any doubt the federal government was behind censorship of Americans who dared to dissent from official Covid messaging, that doubt has been erased," Jenin Younes, a lawyer with the New Civil Liberties Alliance who is representing some of the plaintiffs in the case, said in a statement. "The shocking extent of the government's involvement in silencing Americans, through coercing social-media companies, has now been revealed."

## 'Censorship Enterprise'

Plaintiffs said the massive pressure campaign amounted to a "Censorship Enterprise" because it involved so many officials and agencies.

Government lawyers only identified 45 officials at five agencies—the Department of Homeland Security, CISA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and Murthy's office—who communicated with social media companies on

misinformation, although documents they produced showed others were involved, including officials at the Census Bureau and the Departments of Treasury and State.

Responses from the Big Tech companies also revealed more officials involved with the effort.

Meta has disclosed that at least 32 federal officials, including top officials at the White House and the Food and Drug Administration, were in communication with it about content moderation. Many of the officials weren't identified in the response by the government.

YouTube disclosed 11 officials not divulged by the government and Twitter identified nine, including senior officials at the State Department.

"The discovery provided so far demonstrates that this Censorship Enterprise is extremely broad," plaintiffs said, adding later that "it rises to the highest levels of the U.S. Government, including numerous White House officials."

Additionally, the FBI wasn't identified even though the agency recently said, after Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg revealed that the bureau reached out before the 2020 election, that it routinely issues communications to social media companies.

More discovery is needed to uncover the full breadth of the pressure campaign, plaintiffs told the judge overseeing the case.

"When the federal government colludes with Big Tech to censor speech, the American people become subjects rather than citizens," Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, a Republican, said in a statement. "The [U.S. Department of Justice] must not be allowed to hide behind the veil of executive privilege, especially when there is already compelling evidence that the people's government colluded with these social media companies to suppress their right of free speech."

# 1,100 Scientists and Professionals Declare: 'There Is No Climate Emergency'

ALLAN STEIN

More than 1,100 scientists and professionals worldwide have signed a World Climate Declaration (WCD) stating that there's no climate emergency.

The independent foundation Climate Intelligence (CLINTEL) issued the one-page summary on June 27, garnering 1,152 total signatures in 15 countries as of Aug. 23.

"Climate science should be less political, while climate policies should be more scientific," the summary reads. "Scientists should openly address uncertainties and exaggerations in their predictions of global warming."

At the same time, "politicians should dispassionately count the real costs as well as the imagined benefits of their policy measures," the declaration states.

CLINTEL was founded in 2019 by emeritus professor of geophysics Guus Berkhout and science journalist Marcel Crok to promote knowledge and understanding of climate change in forming climate policy.

Crok said the WCD project began in 2019 and that the power is in its message, brevity, and accessibility.

"The message is plain and clear: There is no climate emergency. Very important: This is true, even if you accept that CO2 is the main driver of the current climate change," he told The Epoch Times in an email.

"We simply state that all evidence so far indicates that the increase in CO2 and the

increase in temperature [are] not harmful for us or for nature and therefore the climate hysteria surrounding the topic is totally unjustified [and] that the 'cure'—getting rid of fossil fuels asap and replacing them with renewables—probably will be worse than the 'disease' [climate change]."

Crok said the CLINTEL document has produced significant pushback from climate activists.

He said the organization sent many open letters to organizations such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the U.N., and the World Economic Forum asking for a high-level meeting with CLINTEL scientists.

"We normally don't even get a polite reply," Crok said. "Activists don't like our WCD for the simple reason that they always claim there is a 97 percent or 99 percent or 99.9 percent consensus."

"So, they have two general ways to attack the WCD. They say that only a few [signatories] are active climate scientists and many are retired. Both are true and very understandable."

He said if a working climate scientist dependent on government money signs the WCD, they face the risk of getting fired.

"We have some brave enough to speak out nevertheless, but that means you will have to face a lot of criticism and attempts to discredit you," Crok said.

Direct engagements with the activists are rare, he said.

"They simply dominate the media, and if they feel our WCD

has some impact, they will arrange that it gets discredited in the media and the social media."

In recent weeks, CLINTEL has received increased attention and new signatories, many of whom have worked in academia.

The WCD states that the science of climate change is far from settled and that the geological archive shows Earth's climate has been in flux for as long as the planet has existed.

"Therefore, it is no surprise that we are now experiencing a period of warming. Natural as well as anthropogenic factors cause warming. The world has warmed significantly less than predicted [based on] modeled anthropogenic forcing," it reads. "The gap between the real world and the modeled world tells us that we are far from understanding climate change."

The WCD also states that climate models have "many shortcomings" and are unsatisfactory policy tools.

"They do not only exaggerate the effect of greenhouse gases, [but] they also ignore that enriching the atmosphere with CO2 is beneficial," it reads. "CO2 is not a pollutant. It is essential to all life on Earth. More CO2 is favorable for nature, greening our planet."

"Additional CO2 in the air has promoted growth in global plant biomass. It is also profitable for agriculture, increasing the yields of crops worldwide."

The Texas-based company Navigator Heartland Greenway recently announced plans to build a carbon capture network across five states in the U.S. Mid-



**A giant sand artwork on New Brighton Beach in Wirral, England, on May 31, 2021.**

west to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The company held public meetings on potential land takings to make way for the project earlier this year.

The proposed Heartland Greenway pipeline would span 1,300 miles across South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Illinois to nearly 20 recipient points. CO2 would be converted into liquid form and buried underground.

"CO2 is plant food, the basis of all life on Earth," the declaration reads. "There is no statistical evidence that global warming is intensifying hurricanes, floods, droughts, and suchlike natural disasters or making them more frequent. However, there is ample evidence that CO2 mitigation measures are as damaging as they are costly."

"There is no climate emergency. Therefore, there is no cause for panic and alarm. We strongly oppose the harmful

and unrealistic net-zero CO2 policy proposed for 2050."

The declaration states to European leaders that climate policy should "respect scientific and economic realities."

"To believe the outcome of a climate model is to believe what the model makers have put in," the WCD reads. "This is precisely the problem of today's climate discussion to which climate models are central."

"Climate science has degenerated into a discussion based on beliefs, not on sound self-critical science. Should not we free ourselves from the naive belief in immature climate models?"

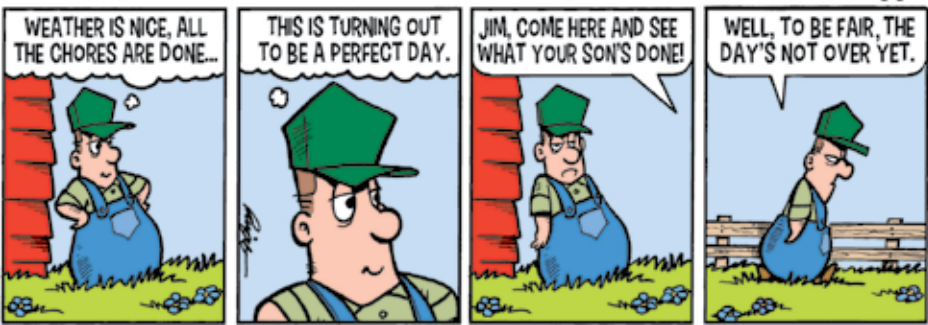
Crok said the document's main goal is to make clear that even if you accept most of the claims of the IPCC, you can still conclude there's no climate emergency.

"In this respect, our WCD should be uncontroversial," he said.

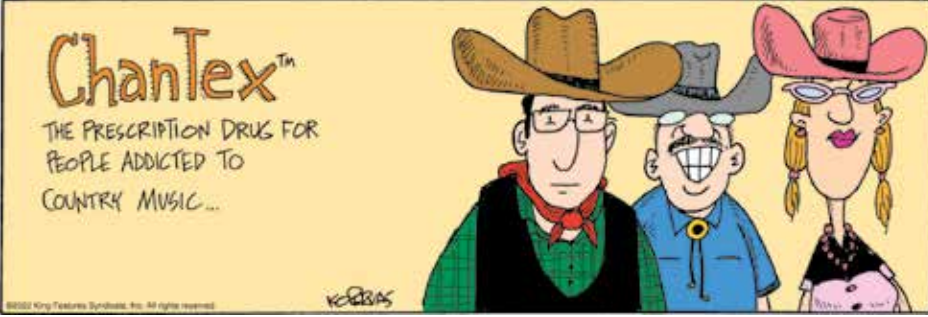


# WEEKLY COMICS

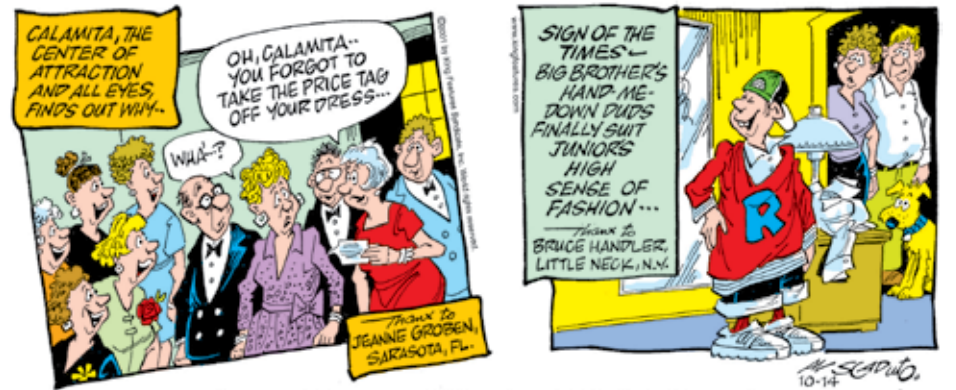
## Amber Waves



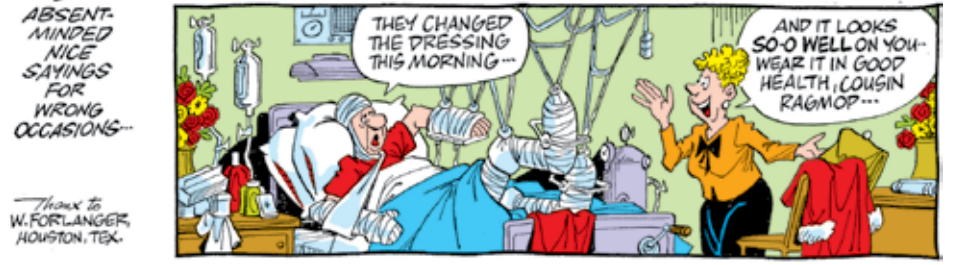
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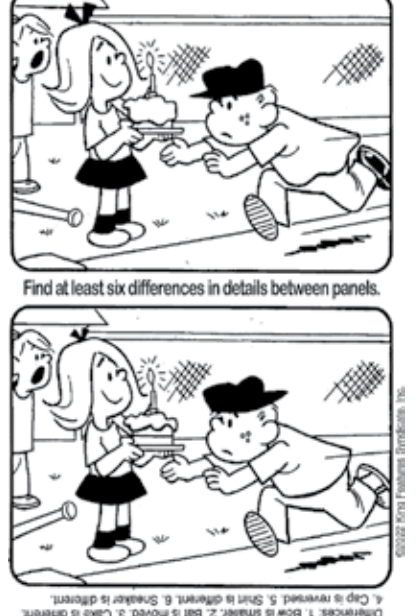
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# UC Davis Research: What a Monarch-Milkweed Interaction Project in North Davis Revealed

**UCD Department of Entomology and Nematology News Release**

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** - Newly published UC Davis research investigating wild monarch-native milkweed interactions in rural Davis over a three-year period has yielded three key findings in the search for what factors constrain monarch development.

“This study collected a high-resolution temporal dataset on milkweed-monarch interactions during the last three years prior to the precipitous single-year population decline of western monarchs in 2018,” said community ecologist Louie Yang, a professor in the Department of Entomology and Nematology.

Yang organized and led a 135-member team, all co-authors of the paper, “Different Factors Limit Early- and Late-Season Windows of Opportunity for Monarch Development,” published in the journal *Ecology and Evolution*. (This document is open access at <https://bit.ly/3volFal>.)

From 2015 through 2017, the team monitored the interactions of monarchs, *Danaus plexippus*, on narrow-leaved milkweed, *Asclepias fascicularis*, planted in December 2013 on city-owned property adjacent to the North Davis irrigation channel.

“This study has three key findings,” the UC Davis professor said. “First, we documented early and late seasonal windows of opportunity in the wild, migratory western monarch population. Second, our data suggest that early and late seasonal windows were constrained by different factors. Third, climatic and microclimatic variation had a strong effect on the timing and importance of multiple factors affecting monarch development. Broadly, we hope that this study contributes to a more temporally



Monarch on a native milkweed at the UC Davis research site in north Davis. Photo courtesy of Larry Snyder

detailed understanding of the complex factors that contribute to year-to-year variation in monarch breeding success.”

The project, funded by two of Yang’s National Science Foundation grants, involved UC Davis, Davis Senior High School and the Center for Land-Based Learning. Among them were 107 high school students and a K-12 teacher, 18 UC Davis undergraduate students, three graduate students and two post-graduate researchers.

Feared on its way to extinction, the migratory monarch is now on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species as Endangered threatened by habitat destruction and climate change. Statistics show that the overwintering population of western monarchs along coastal California has declined by more than 99 percent since the 1980s, according to the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation.

The UC Davis-based team set out to answer three questions: (1) How do the developmental

prospects of monarchs vary in time, within- and across years? (2) How do the combined effects of bottom-up, top-down, and abiotic factors interact with seasonal variation in monarch density to constrain the timing and extent of seasonal windows of opportunity? and (3) How do climatic variation and microhabitat heterogeneity affect these constraints?

The researchers also noted: “Throughout this study, climatic and microclimatic variations played a foundational role in the timing and success of monarch developmental windows by affecting bottom-up, top-down, and abiotic limitations. More exposed microclimates were associated with higher developmental success during cooler conditions, and more shaded microclimates were associated with higher developmental success during warmer conditions, suggesting that habitat heterogeneity could buffer the effects of climatic variation.”

“Together, these findings show an important dimension of seasonal change in

milkweed-monarch interactions and illustrate how different biotic and abiotic factors can limit the developmental success of monarchs across the breeding season. These results also suggest the potential for seasonal sequences of favorable or unfavorable conditions across the breeding range to strongly affect monarch population dynamics.”

Yang and his team planted 318 narrow-leaved milkweeds adjacent to the seasonal irrigation channel, which carries runoff water with a “seasonal pattern of generally increased flow during summer irrigation periods and immediately following winter precipitation events. As a result, this site combines several elements representative of the California Central Valley at a landscape scale.” The Davis site typifies a “Mediterranean pattern of cool, wet winters and hot dry summers.”

The researchers recorded daily temperatures and precipitation in one dataset, and in a second dataset, sub-hourly temperature observations, approximately every 20 minutes. They defined

the “early season” as days 90–180 (approximately the end of March to the end of June) and the late season as days 180–270 (approximately the end of June to the end of September) each year.”

They measured and recorded the milkweed growth and leaf area removal by herbivores and counted and measured the eggs and larvae. They also gathered information on the predator and herbivore community.

Participants in the Monitoring Milkweed–Monarch Interactions for Learning and Conservation (MMMLC) Project, directed by Yang, collected most of the observations. Yang provided hands-on, in-person training in milkweed-monarch biology, data collection, and data entry protocols, partnering with the Environmental Science internship program led by Eric Bastin at Davis Senior High School and the Growing Green internship program led by Karen Swan at the Center for Land-based Learning, Woodland.

“We documented 674 weekly observations of monarch eggs and 997 weekly observations of monarch caterpillars across the three years of this study,” the researchers wrote. “Monarchs were most numerous in 2016. We observed 2.7 times as many monarch eggs in 2016 as in 2015 and 2.2 times as many as in 2017. We observed 3.0 times as many caterpillars in 2016 as in 2015, and 2.5 times as many as in 2017. Separated by year and normalized by the total number of emerged plants each year, we observed 137 eggs and 193 caterpillars (0.49 egg and 0.69 caterpillar observations per plant) in 2015, 369 eggs and 576 caterpillars (1.55 egg and 2.42 caterpillar observations per plant) in 2016 and 168 eggs and 226 caterpillars (0.74 egg and 1.0 caterpillar observations per plant) in 2017. ★

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