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Dixon

# Independent Voice

VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 25

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JUNE 24, 2022

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## Amazing Tortillas, Finally



Cutting the Chamber's official red ribbon are owners Maria Fernanda-Evans and husband Kevin at their La Familia Tortilla Shop. Right: Using a special machine, Veronica Villalobos creates tasty tortillas for the grand opening of the new tortilla shop in the Safeway Shopping Plaza. Photos by Rich Hardy

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - With brightly-colored flags decorating the front of La Familia Tortilla Shop in the Safeway Shopping Plaza, owners Kevin and Maria-Fernanda Evans along with a couple of dozen new fans from the Dixon Chamber of Commerce celebrated their Grand Opening. For an entire year this couple has rented the space between Safeway and Solano Baking Company in their quest to bring Dixonites a true taste from Mexico: tortillas!

Maria was born and raised in Mexico and moved here in 2013, spending time trying to teach her husband what authentic Mexican food is really like. On one of their trips back to Mexico to visit her family, Kevin figured it out.

"The tortilla tastes completely different," he told her. So, we did a lot of research and discovered how it has changed over the years [Americanized]. The "legit ones," she said, "are made from ground corn imported from Mexico and are 100-percent Mexican processed with no genetic modifications and no preservatives," she explained.

At the well-attended ribbon cutting, people got to taste her favorite tortillas made of blue corn in

flavors of spicy, chipotle, and jalapeño although they offered traditional white and yellow corn tortillas as well. They were worth the wait, participants agreed.

After finally getting approval from the City last October, they finished with construction around May but in another inspection discovered there were more changes to make including small things like changing the lightbulbs.

"It's so we are not wasting electricity and being environmentally friendly and we're fine with that," she said. "We understand and we want to be compliant and good for the environment so after the fire department and the health department came over, we finally passed."

It's been a long year but they kept so busy, the time seemed to go by too quickly.

"It still hasn't really sunk in yet and it doesn't feel real," Maria said. "There's so many things we still want to do, so I don't feel like I'm finally done. I still feel I'm in the midst of opening." Over that time, the couple has realized how much they've taken for granted about the foods of their culture.

"There's a lot of education component to it. Who thought you needed to be like a scientist to make tortillas?



Back in the day we just took for granted the way food was made—and our ancestors were not scientists. They just learned from trial and error. We just wanted to bring back the natural way of making the tortilla. It's clean, never been sprayed, from small farms and we're trying to provide fair trade to the farmers. It's become bigger than us!" she said, sounding excited and equated their discovery of the tortillas to the natural beer and bread craze.

"It's so incredible that we had something so simple... The response from the community has been amazing. We're very proud and very humble – and trying to honor our ancestors. We're really in a nice spot," she said.

"I just came back to tell you that the tortillas are amazing," one customer said.

The shop is not a restaurant and operates more like a bakery but they do sell tamales on Fridays and Saturdays. Visit them at 1285 Stratford Ave., Suite C, or phone (707) 401-6100. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Thursday and Friday and Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ★

## Sales Tax Increase on Ballot

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - "When is the park in the Southwest Development going to be open for people to enjoy" was a question brought forth from a Dixon resident at the June 7 City Council meeting. The grass needed to be re-sodded and will be open soon according to the Council.

For Item 12.1, there was a Budget Report which showed that the city coffers will be operating at a negative rate within five years. Dixon Redit-Ride will be getting two new buses at \$188,000 total.

A 1-cent sales tax increase was approved to be on the November ballot by City Council 4-0 (Dist. 3 Rep Kevin Johnson was on vacation) after City of Dixon Public Information Officer Madeline Henry gave a presentation in favor of it based on 300 responses of the 20,000 residents in Dixon.

They used phone and online surveys presented in both English and Spanish, she said and allowed a 5.8% margin of error.

The results showed 69 percent would support "Dixon Essential Services," she concluded. The goal is to provide \$3.1 million to use for city services including police and fire such as crime and drug prevention, fire prevention, neighborhood police patrols, and emergency response along with street and pothole repair.

"When inflation is upping 15 percent this is not a good time," said Community Activist Michael Ceremello. "Of course, you're going to say police and fire but if you're going out in the county... why isn't the county covering those expenses?" He also chastised the council about the Parkway Overpass still not getting built.

"You just used \$4-million out of \$4.9 million to 'enhance' police and fire departments instead of Parkway Overpass. This is nothing but a slush fund," he said.

A review of that meeting is available on the City of Dixon website. City Attorney Doug White presented a "Transaction and Use Tax" proposal on Item 12.5.

Item 12.6 was brought by Dist. Council Rep 2 Jim Ernest seeking some kind of noise ordinance.

"Neighbors do not want to take action," explained Ernest, "but this way, police will be able to deal with these problems when they arise." Long-time Dixon residents Don and Susan

Continued on page 10

## Losing the Battle



Brady Lozano sits at the bar and is a loyal customer who regularly gets his favorite burger made with Angus beef. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Appearing battle worn, Diane Long, franchise owner of the BurgerIM sat at one of the restaurant's booths and could not recant a time without struggle

from the beginning of the restaurant facility inspections and franchise issues that terribly prolonged their opening to this past week when she sadly placed a notice of closure as of June 30 on their front windows. The large photo

on the wall of her with her two sons on either side are a reminder they were all in.

"The stress has been unbelievable. I'm on robot right now," she said after they have depleted every bit of savings to keep their dream alive. All of them

work at the restaurant and "can't seem to catch a break."

In simple terms, one might say it has been a litany of misfortune.

"We were supposed to open in June of 2019 but

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# Don't Change a Thing

By Debra Dingman

People who chaired or coordinated events or recurring activities are very wise because they have learned from firsthand experience, life's greatest teacher!

In my book, Learning A Living, there is a chapter about when I first got into retail after I had my last child. By the time I was 40, my 2-year-old was climbing onto my desk chair and able to push buttons on the keyboard, causing innocent havoc on my work from home when I had the opportunity to buy a children's clothing and toy store in Davis.

The seller already owned another store and gave me a week's training and a 4-month "phone support" clause in our sale agreement but also passed this advice: "Don't change anything the first six months — there is a reason for everything." There were times in those following months I couldn't figure out why we did something and even thought I could come up with a better way BUT, I remembered her advice and didn't change things.

An example of one of those times was when I lost someone's merchandise but was able to track it down through the process the long-time owner had established. The customer was very happy and I then understood clearly why the system had that seemingly little extra step in it.

About six years ago, a couple stepped in to run the annual Festival of Trees while I was in Texas. The event had already been in operation for

several years and we kept records of event evaluations, constantly improving procedures and contacts. I had left a detailed binder for them but they created all of their own processes. In a volunteer organization, I didn't think to say, "Don't change a thing." I also appreciated that they were willing.

They did not start with the same contacts we had established strong relationships with as our sponsors and decorators and re-created almost every single form. I felt bad that they said it was too much work because they didn't have to do all that work if they just used what was provided. The following year when I was back home, I discovered several people were upset that they had NOT been contacted and I had to soothe ruffled feathers.

With Dixon growing, I have seen new people step into an already existing organization and do one of two things: They either think we are country bumpkins, or they want to immediately change things.

To the first point, here is my eyeroll. We are not country bumpkins just because we live in a small town.

We, the many volunteers who do so much work keeping our community full of small-town charm, have learned and relearned and 99% of the time, there is a reason (for everything) and why we set specific dates, have specific methods, and choose specific venues.

For those who have fresh, contemporary ideas, my advice is to go slowly and observe first, and ask lots of questions — you'll soon be able to spread your wings and fly! ★

# Dixon News Briefs



Fireworks are now on sale around town and proceeds benefit numerous non-profits like this booth from last year benefited the Dixon History Museum thanks to the many volunteers who worked it. This year, the annual fireworks show at Hall Park is back and will be bigger and better than ever hosted by Dixon Rotary and the City of Dixon. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

## Fireworks Sales

Fireworks stands are set up around town and sales benefit local nonprofits who have been selected via lottery system handled by Dixon Fire Department. Here are the names of the groups and where they will be selling at stands:

Gen One 29 will be located at Michael's Wine & Spirits, 1100 Pitt School Road; Dixon High Athletics/Girls Soccer will be at Punjabi Dhaba Indian Restaurant, 7800 Batavia Road; American Legion Post 208 will be manning the booth at Safeway, 1235 Stratford Avenue; West Coast Impact Basketball will be at Walmart, 235 East Dorset Drive; Soroptimist International of Dixon will be outside CVS Pharmacy, 1057 North First Street; and Dixon Moose Lodge will be at the former George's Orange location near 2365 West A Street which is next to Victory or Valhalla Axe Throwing.

## Naming Plaza

What's in a name? What is Dixon about? What should the center of town be named that will soon feature a farmer's market, musicians, movies, and more?

The City is currently accepting name suggestions for the new Downtown Plaza. Here are a few submitted ideas: Singing Cowboy Plaza; Dixon's Downtown Plaza; Pardi Plaza; and Farm Town Square. Email your suggestion to socialmedia@cityofdixon.us by July 31.

## Ham Dinner

The 4th Friday of the month will be a ham dinner at the Veterans Memorial Hall. Dinner is served cafeteria style 6 to 8 pm and costs \$10 per person. Dinners are available to the public and there is a no host bar. All donations go to support our local veterans. The hall is located at 1305 North First Street and you can learn more

at [www.dixonpost208.com](http://www.dixonpost208.com). Note that on the 4th of July weekend there will not be a dinner (July 1).

The hall is also available for rent for special gatherings. Call (707) 678-6308 for more information.

## DDBA Meeting

Downtown Merchants and members of the Downtown Dixon Business Association will be meeting on Thursday, July 7 at 8:30 am at the pergola behind Dawson's Bar & Grill. There will be a discussion of merchants' requirements for alcohol-related event participation according to the Alcohol Beverage Control.

The group is in need of someone tech and social media savvy to help them promote their upcoming Wine & Art Stroll and their BeerFest. Contact President Jill Orr at Dawson's for more information. If you are interested in attending or would like more information about the DDBA, call (707) 678-8400 and leave a message.

## Free Lunch

Come out to the Dixon Library and get lunch and play a game of Giant Janga or Giant Connect Four. Any child 18 and under is welcome to pick up lunch Monday through Friday 11 AM to noon behind the Dixon Library — except July 4. This program will run until Friday, July 29.

## Open House

Don't forget this Monday, June 27, is a Kiwanis Club of Dixon Open House from 6 to 7 PM at Bud's Pub & Grill, 100 South First Street. The club is looking for volunteers to help them serve their community. Although this group does a lot of service projects throughout the year, their premier fundraiser is the annual Festival of Trees. President is Mike Liu. For more information, contact membership Chair Patti Sousa-Liu at (707) 635-3303 or see [www.Kiwanis.org](http://www.Kiwanis.org). ★

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# California Expands Infant Formula Options for WIC Families

CDPH Press Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - To further support California families while supplies of infant formula remain limited, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is adding a new flexibility by expanding purchasing options for the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program. Effective immediately, families with WIC benefits have eight additional formulas, and a total of 13 options, they can purchase for their infants.

WIC families can find the latest updates at [MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov](http://MyFamily.WIC.ca.gov) or the California WIC App and should contact their local WIC office with questions on how these options work for infants. General information on the infant formula shortage is available at [cdph.ca.gov/formula](http://cdph.ca.gov/formula).

"We are quickly doing what we can to provide our WIC families with as many infant formula options as possible during this challenging time," said CDPH Director and State Public

Many California families are feeling the effects of the formula shortage. Safe formula preparation is vital to ensure infant safety. Photo courtesy by Ben Kerckx from Pixabay

Health Officer Dr. Tomás J. Aragón. "In the coming days we will also add more formulas to this list."

The state's action temporarily expands the existing (WIC) authorized product list to include additional infant formula options. These newer options will be removed once infant formulas are widely available again.

## Safety Information for Families in Need of Formula

Many California families are feeling the effects of the formula shortage. Safe formula preparation is vital to ensure infant safety.

Non-WIC parents and caregivers who face a

shortage should call their health care providers first to help them navigate infant formula options when supplies are scarce.

Parents and caregivers are advised to NOT dilute formula or use homemade recipes for substitution as this can seriously harm a baby's health.

Babies usually tolerate alternative formula products except in the case of special therapeutic formula, and that's why it's important to consult with your healthcare provider first to get help or to discuss alternatives.

Visit [cdph.ca.gov/formula](http://cdph.ca.gov/formula) for more information. ★



# New Nonprofit Organizing Youth Basketball League



Basketball is one of the most popular sports in America alongside football and baseball and there will be plenty of skilled players in Dixon soon thanks to the Dixon Youth Basketball league. Boys play nightly at this heavily used court in Northwest Park.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It may seem a bit early to be thinking about the 2023 basketball season, but not for organizers who are creating the Dixon Youth Basketball [DYB] league and are busy looking for a few good community members who can help serve on their new Board of Directors.

After coaching for three years on the varsity level at Dixon High School, U.S. Air Force veteran Brian Jensen realized this year that there was a need to get youth started in developing their basketball skills sooner.

“We were teaching skills that they should have learned at a lower level but that makes sense because of COVID,” Jensen said.

He tried to get a camp done through the city with little success and decided to just put it out there on social media to do a meet-up at the park.

“50 parents and 88 kids of all different age groups showed up,” Jensen said. “I was happy that I wasn’t the only one out there and then some of the parents got together and said they played basketball as kids or youth basketball in their towns. They wanted to make it a non-profit instead of a city-run thing, so we’re doing that.”

The organization is for kindergartners through eighth grade.

Jensen and his wife, Brenda, have grown sons and young grandchildren. The couple knew they wanted to give back to their community and basketball is a natural fit as Brian used to coach and referee when he got out of the military.

“I have respect for the sport,” he said. “We are a new non-profit, starting with absolutely no assets, no basketballs, or equipment of any kind. We projected expenses and the largest at this time is the gym cost. To rent a facility like (the) John Knight Middle School gym from the City of Dixon can cost thousands. We are currently working on a MOU [memorandum of understanding] and we are optimistic that DYB can come to a similar agreement as the other youth sports.”

DYB are budgeting for 250 youth and their plan does include some help for families that cannot afford the \$150 fee. They have also been creative enough to create ways for those children to help earn their fee through 50-50 raffles so that the child has “some skin in the game.”

“I firmly believe we should help out those that we can, but they need to be invested in it as well,” Brian said.

This investment applies to the parents as well who will be expected to provide eight hours of donated time over a three-month period.

“Our success is going to be based on not what the board wants but how much the parents want to support their kids,” he said. “I know there are some parents that can’t help out but if they cannot do that, they can pay \$100.”

In addition, they plan to use high school students who will be paid referees, or they can receive volunteer credit for graduation. They’ve also made plans for training coaches.

“I developed a curriculum for the coaches for each grade with the goal (of teaching them) if that coach is new and doesn’t know what to teach the youth,” Brian explained. “It’s not about running up and down the court, it’s about learning the basics, including balance and how to run without crossing your legs and understanding your role out there.”

On June 30 at 5:30 p.m., there will be an online meet and greet with the Jensen’s, Secretary Alana Hamilton and Board Member James Robinson. They are especially in need of a social media savvy person but also a fundraiser/volunteer coordinator. The other two positions, game day representative and concessions coordinator, will not be filled until September or October, but applicants are welcome to apply now.

For more information, go to <https://www.dixonyouthbasketball.com/>. The DYB plan to open early registration for \$130 on July 1 and later registration will be \$150. For more information, email secretary@dixonyouthbasketball.com. ★

# Losing the Battle

Continued from page 1

due to inspections, did not open until April 2020,” the very month the California Governor issued a stay-at-home order. Having to pay rent and utilities the entire time was not helpful, but Long, a nurse, kept working and Matthew, her 32-year-old son who enjoyed working in the restaurant industry contributed the balance of his college fund.

Thankfully, Dixonites began to discover the place and the reviews were getting better.

“Dixon has been our only support,” she said but then they’ve struggled with the supply chain issues and sky-rocketing inflation.

“Chicken used to cost me \$70 per case and now is \$177 per case. I’m paying three times more but can’t raise my prices three times more,” she said. One week she could not get the rolls that are franchise-standard and the next week it was onion rings.

Originally, Long put in her retirement fund to buy the franchise but is now hoping their additional Small Business Loan might be forgiven. They

did get \$34,000 in COVID Relief money a year ago that kept them going for another year, and they were limping toward summer knowing vacationers would be coming through.

Their debt to Pacific Gas and Electric bills of \$2,000 - \$3,000 a month were negotiated on a payment plan that would keep them solvent until summer.

“Previously at this time of year, we would be filled with a lot of travelers passing through but with soaring gas prices, that’s not happening. This morning we found cracked glass and a hole in one of the large windows that was done by youth last night. It never ends,” said Long who lamented.

“We’re going out kicking and screaming... although I do believe in miracles,” she said.

“While restaurants have always ranked as one of the most difficult businesses to run successfully, the impacts of the pandemic have simply thrown fuel onto the fire. We have all had to deal with sharply rising food and fuel costs. Restaurants are continually dealing with these as

well and have little choice but to pass the increased costs on to their patrons,” said Larry Burkhardt, City of Dixon Economic Development/Grants Manager.

“Add to that the difficulty restaurants have in attracting and retaining qualified help in an environment where costs have risen and jobs in more stable and higher paying business sectors are plentiful. Finally, rampant inflation is causing consumers to cut back on their personal expenses. For most, eating out is a highly discretionary expense, and in times like these, can be one of the first items cut from the family budget,” he added.

The best Long says she can hope for is someone to take over their 8-year lease.

“We spent \$500,000 but someone could come in and spend half that and just change the sign. That would be the best scenario,” she said. The restaurant is located at 115 East Dorset, Suite E in the Walmart Shopping Center. For more information, call Long at (707) 718-6214. ★

# Donate to July 4th Event

Dixon Rotary Club Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Rotary Club and the City of Dixon are planning a great fireworks display at Hall Park on the 4th of July. This display will be better than ever!!

This year’s show cost is approximately \$25,000. It is only through the generosity of community members that we can provide a grand display. All proceeds received are tax-deductible and go directly to the Dixon Rotary Foundation 4th of July Fund and are only used for the purchase of fireworks.

If you would like to make a donation, please send a check to the Dixon Rotary Foundation at: P.O. Box 181, Dixon, 95620. There is no donation too small! With the community’s continued support, the sky will be bright in Dixon.

We would like to thank those listed below for their support and donations. We could not put this show on without you!! Our apologies if we missed anyone.

Albertazzi Construction, Barrett-Leber Realty, Jack & Mary Lou Batchelor, Janice & Steve Beaman, Meda Benefield, Carlene Blaylock, Joe & Christa Bruch/Grocery Outlet, Buds Pub & Grill, Kay Cayler, Chavez Transport, Randy &



Maura Davis, Carole Fukumoto, James & Liz Fuller, Rick & Janet Fuller, House of Floors, Jay & Suzanne Galloway, Dolores Garton, Bob & Becky Giannoni, Gnos Brothers, Claire Goodearl, Lucelly Gutierrez, Eric & Susan Johnson, KUIU, Marge & Jim Litsinger, Brock & Jan McMahon, Angela Meisenheimer, Napa Solano Riders, Rohwer Insurance Agency, Alan & Pam Schmeiser, Solano Life House, James Stevens, Phyllis Quiring, Rodney & Pattie Woody. ★

## STUDENTS MAKING THE GRADE

We recognize local students who have achieved scholastic honors at their institutions of higher learning.

- ❖ **MADISON BOYKIN** was named to the Spring 2022 Dean’s List at Austin Peay State University (Clarksville, TN)
- ❖ **DEVAN CALAPP** was named to the Winter 2022 Dean’s List at Southern New Hampshire University (Manchester, NH)
- ❖ **MARIANNE FERNANDEZ** was named to the Spring 2022 Dean’s List at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA)
- ❖ **SAMANTHA HENDRIX** was named to the Spring 2022 Chancellor’s Honor Roll at University of Mississippi
- ❖ **MATTHEW SALTS** was named to the Winter 2022 Dean’s List at Southern New Hampshire University (Manchester, NH)
- ❖ **ANNA SCHENE** was inducted into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at CSU, Sacramento

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# California’s Sham Budget and Unintended Consequences



By Dan Walters  
CALMatters.org

The “law of unintended consequences” is a tenet of classic economics — essentially a warning that an action meant to have a positive effect can often bring a negative outcome.

The political version is an oft-voiced admonition: “What goes around comes around.”

The California Legislature’s frantic effort this week to approve a 2022-23 budget — or at least its unfinished version of the budget — exemplifies the principle.

For many decades, the state constitution has required the Legislature to pass a budget by June 15 but for many decades the requirement was routinely violated — sometimes for months.

During those decades, the budget required a two-thirds vote in the Legislature, which meant the minority party — usually Republicans — could hold up passage until its demands were met. The syndrome reached a climactic point in 2009 when one Republican state senator, Abel Maldonado, refused to vote for the budget until Democratic leaders agreed to place a measure on the ballot to change California’s primary election process to what’s called a “top-two” system.

Leaders of both parties despised the proposed new system, but Maldonado, with backing from then-Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, held out until they agreed to his demand. The top-two proposal, in which all candidates appear on one ballot and the two top finishers face each other in the general election regardless of party, was approved by voters in 2010. Last week’s election was its latest embodiment.

Maldonado’s holdout had a consequence that neither he nor Schwarzenegger intended — motivating Democrats to make sure it never happened again. Their labor union allies spent millions of dollars to qualify and pass another measure in 2010, lowering the budget vote to a simple majority.

To make the measure more attractive to voters, its sponsors included a passage that said legislators would lose their pay if a budget was not enacted by June 15.

That proviso, however, had another unintended consequence a year later when Republican Schwarzenegger’s successor, Democrat Jerry Brown, and his fellow Democrats in the Legislature deadlocked over details of the state budget.

Brown vetoed the placeholder budget that the Democrats passed by the June 15 deadline, saying it was not balanced, and Controller John Chiang declared that since that left the state without a balanced budget, legislators would have their pay — about \$400 a day — suspended until there was one.

Chiang said the

Democratic budget was, by his reckoning, \$1.85 billion out of balance. “The numbers simply did not add up,” said Chiang, drawing the ire of his fellow Democrats, who sued, contending he had overstepped his authority.

Fundamentally, the courts later said, the Legislature is the sole judge of whether it has met the June 15 deadline. Consequently, the penalty for noncompliance that was ballyhooed to voters in 2010 is a fiction.

In subsequent years, the Legislature has always passed a budget by the June 15 deadline, sometimes a real one in agreement with the governor but often merely a placeholder.

The 1,000-page budget being passed this week is another sham, drafted largely in secret with minimal public exposure and many blanks to be filled in later. Democratic leaders and Gov. Gavin Newsom are still at odds on multi-billion-dollar issues, including the size and form of payments to Californians to offset inflation.

There’s also a big gap over how much of the state’s projected surplus to spend on permanent commitments, with Newsom’s Department of Finance warning that overspending could create problems in the future if, as many economists suspect, a recession is on the horizon.

That could be a truly important consequence of budgetary gamesmanship.

*Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers.* ★



**Drought Picture Grows More Bleak for Agriculture**

Water supply challenges for farmers are worsening as the drought deepens. Unlike in other dry years, farmers are facing troubles finding water to acquire in secondary transfer markets, says Ellen Hanak, director of water policy for the Public Policy Institute of California. “I don’t think we’re going to see a whole lot of that this year,” she said. Tim Johnson, president and CEO of the California Rice Commission, said growers will plant just 250,000 acres this year, half of the normal 500,000.

**Spring Winds Add to Farming Challenges in Klamath Basin**

Already facing sharp curtailments in irrigation supplies, farmers in Northern California’s Klamath Basin are dealing with additional challenges after a cold and windy spring. The winds further dried up crop fields at planting time and blew dust from fallowed fields across vast parts of the agricultural landscape. Farmers there are getting 15% or less of their allotment of water from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation through the federal Klamath Water Project.

**Survey of Organic Farmers Shows Concerns About Weed Control, Labor**

A new survey of 1,200 organic farmers and ranchers across the U.S. cites concerns over accessing labor and controlling weeds as key issues. According to the report by the Santa Cruz-based Organic Farming Research Foundation, managing production costs, controlling insect pests and maintaining soil fertility and crop nutrients are also key concerns. Some 144 organic farmers from California participated in the survey.

**Nursery Demand Remains Strong, After Pandemic Inspired Home Gardeners**

California’s nursery operators report that demand for nursery products remains robust. Home gardeners began buying up nursery plants and supplies at peak levels during shut-in days of the pandemic in 2020-21. Sales have fallen since then, but nursery operators say business remains above pre-pandemic levels. Part of the reason is that younger customers have stepped up purchases, building a strong new demographic in the nursery market. ★

# Sen. Dodd’s To-Go Cocktails Bill Approved by Senate

**Office of Sen. Bill Dodd**

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Senate on May 26 approved legislation from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa to boost his previous relief for struggling restaurants and bars by expanding provisions of his 2021 law allowing the sale and delivery of to-go cocktails.

“Our restaurants and bars were hit hard by the pandemic and allowing flexibility to sell to-go cocktails has been a lifeline,” Sen. Dodd said. “To ensure a strong recovery and to answer consumer demand, we must expand this successful provision in ways that will make sense and will be beneficial to all. Thanks to my Senate colleagues for seeing the value in this proposal.”

Last year, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Sen. Dodd’s Senate Bill 389, which allowed the sale of to-go alcoholic beverages as part of take-out restaurant food orders. It came as restaurants nationwide recovered from hundreds of billions of dollars in losses sustained because of lockdowns and social distancing requirements to stop the spread of coronavirus.

This year’s bill, SB 846, expands the previous legislation in important ways, removing the meal requirement to increase options for consumers and business owners. It also extends the carry-out cocktail provision to bars, which also have been hard-hit by the pandemic. In addition, it allows for the delivery of to-go cocktails from both types of businesses. Finally, the bill increases oversight of alcohol delivery by Alcohol Beverage Control to prevent underage drinking.

Co-authors are Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, D-Orinda; Sen. Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco; Assemblymember Laura Friedman, D-Glendale and Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella.

It was approved by the Senate on a bipartisan 32-0 vote.

“SB 846 restores a pre-existing privilege for restaurants, meets consumer demands, and strengthens public safety protocols for the service of alcohol,” said Matt Sutton, senior vice President of government affairs & public policy for the California Restaurant Association. “At a time when rising food costs, a labor shortage, mounting debt, and supply chain delays are forcing restaurants to reduce operating hours, limit menu offerings, or close altogether Sen. Dodd, has stepped in once again, to help assist California’s restaurant community- and for that we are incredibly grateful.”

*Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Solano, Yolo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, and Sacramento counties. You can learn more about the district and Senator Dodd at [www.sen.ca.gov/dodd](http://www.sen.ca.gov/dodd).* ★

# Heeney’s History Wheat Farming Part 2

Commentary by Ed Heeney

In the Kansas farmland area, there is always the threat of bad weather, sometimes tornadoes, sometimes hail, sometimes just heavy rain and wind. But within ten minutes it can flatten a field of “harvest ready” wheat that the farmer has waited to thresh for about 10 months. Now that is heart-breaking.

But again, we have escaped the bad weather and the wheat is ready to be cut. My earliest recollection of wheat harvest is using horses. About 6 neighbors would band together and pledge a team of horses, a hay wagon, and a hired hand to pitch bundles upon the wagon. They would work up a schedule for which day (s) they would be at each farm. The ladies would work up a menu and we were ready to thresh.


On the threshing day, everyone was up early, chickens plucked, potatoes peeled, and kids stayed out of the kitchen; it’s Threshing Day! Down the road came the threshing machine towed by a chug-chug tractor. Following were several teams and wagons and a couple of grain wagons. My Grandfather motioned me over and proceeded to give me my first job: I was to watch the pasture gate where all the wagons were headed to the thresher. My job was to make sure no cows got out. I felt quite important with my “harvest” job and at the end of the day, my pay was half a dollar.

What a deal for a young lad. Everyone was ready when the dinner bell rang. Horses were tied, pitch forks stuck in the straw, and everyone headed for the water-filled wash tubs to wash the chaff out of collars, ears, and eyes. And since I was a “farm worker” now I got to sit with the crew at the long harvest table. The table was bowed with the weight of fried chicken, potatoes and gravy, corn, peas, pickles, fresh-baked bread, etc., etc. plus 3 kinds of pie. After dinner, as was usual, the men found shade and lay down for about a 15-minute rest.

The rest of the day went smoothly as the thresher separated grain from straw, blowing straw into a pile and augering grain into the wagon alongside. It has been a long year from planting to threshing, but this has been a good year. Our threshing day was so very satisfying and even though a lot of labor went into it we all made it a kind of celebration. I once viewed a program by Hal Holbrook titled “Portrait of America” showcasing wheat farming in Kansas. One of the farmers pictured was standing by a truckload of wheat and as he ran his fingers through the grain he remarked, “It just don’t get no better than this. No sir. It just doesn’t.”

*Ed Heeney is a long-time Dixonite who has been very active in the community over his lifetime. He enjoys sharing his missives with Dixon Independent Voice readers.* ★






**Publisher,  
Paul V. Scholl**

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# Scandalizing The Little Ones

Commentary by  
**James D. Veltmeyer, MD**

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ says:  
“But he that shall scandalize one of these little ones that believe in me, it was better for him that a millstone should be hanged about his neck, and that he should be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

This quote from our Savior seems appropriate to our present-day cultural crisis, as we observe the outrageous and unjustified controversy cooked up by the “woke” Left over Florida’s new parental rights bill which prohibits the indoctrination of small schoolchildren in transgenderism and sexual deviancy. Governor DeSantis’ effort to protect young kids as young as five from having the public schools corrupt their young minds with such dangerous cultural Marxist ideologies should be applauded, not condemned.

Undoubtedly, the Left’s current campaign to convince 5-year-old boys that they are girls and vice versa, that they should undergo “gender reassignment” surgery, or that young teenagers should receive so-called “puberty blockers” (which are actually just a form of chemical castration) would, in a saner day in this nation be classified as child abuse and child endangerment and prosecuted in the courts.

Of course, the entire purpose of the Left’s drive to target America’s children is because the final arrival of their cultural Marxist “utopia” cannot be attained without capturing the youth. Every communist leader from Lenin to Mao has emphasized the need to capture a nation’s youth and its educational institutions in order to guarantee the passing of the “old order” and the inauguration of a new amoral, godless state in which only government is worshipped.

The introduction of “sex education” into America’s schools in the 1960s and the subsequent expansion of such “education” far beyond discussion of the human reproductive system to discussion of explicit sexual practices and behavior and now to transgenderism has its roots in communist revolutionary movements of the early 20th century.

Vladimir Lenin, of course, introduced sex education into the schools of the Soviet Union after the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, about the same time he was legalizing divorce and abortion. All part and

parcel of the communist effort to erase and destroy Russia’s rich Christian heritage dating back 1000 years. Before long, divorce and abortion became so widespread that Lenin’s successor, Josef Stalin, saw the moral fiber of the nation being undermined and he moved to not only ban abortion and restrict divorce, but to end sex education in the schools at the same time.

Perhaps the one individual most responsible for using the public schools as indoctrination centers for sexual license and depravity was a Hungarian communist named Georg Lukacs. In 1919, Lukacs became Deputy Commissar for Culture in the short-lived Bolshevik regime in Hungary headed by Bela Kun. He was quoted as asking the question: “Who will save us from Western Civilization?” According to an article in the American Thinker:

“He immediately set plans in motion to de-Christianize Hungary. Reasoning that if Christian sexual ethics could be undermined among children, then both the hated patriarchal family and Church would be dealt a crippling blow. Lukacs launched a radical sex education program in the schools. Sex lectures were organized, and literature handed out which graphically instructed youth in free love (promiscuity) and sexual intercourse while simultaneously encouraging them to deride and reject Christian moral ethics, monogamy, and parental and church authority. All of this was accompanied by a reign of cultural terror perpetrated against parents, priests, and dissenters.”

Lukacs was, of course, a follower of the cultural Marxist philosophy of Antonio Gramsci, the Italian communist who helped found the so-called “Frankfurt School.” Gramsci is the revolutionary who coined the term “long march through the institutions” to describe his strategy of sabotaging the religious, moral, and cultural foundations of Western Christian societies before launching the attack on capitalism. As a result of Lukacs’ atheistic and nihilistic propaganda program for Hungary’s public schools, much of that nation’s youth descended into delinquency, becoming bullies, thieves, sex predators, murderers, and sociopaths.

Today’s “woke” revolutionaries are merely heirs to the old Gramsci-Lukacs Bolsheviks who saw – in the words of author and

past presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan – Christianity as the “heat shield of capitalism,” which must be annihilated before the so-called “class struggle” could come to full fruition. What better way to achieve this objective than banning religious education from the schools and introducing sex education, unmoored from any religious or moral traditions instead. Of course, it is questionable whether the old cultural Marxists would go even as far as their modern contemporaries who outright deny science and argue that gender is not biologically determined, and that people should determine their own sexual identity.

Comprehensive Sex Education (CSE) is the Far Left’s latest scheme to scandalize our children and destroy their innocence, while challenging their parents’ authority and values. CSE is bent on radically sexualizing children as young as five. Its materials are explicit and pornographic. This is what Governor DeSantis of Florida is fighting against. And, his fight is our fight, if we truly love our children.

The bad fruits of two generations of public education stripped of any moral or religious foundations (contrary to the vision of our nation’s founders) but heavy with explicit sex curricula are all around us. America’s youth is wandering and aimless, a large percentage now endorse socialism or communism. We have STD rates, suicide rates, drug addiction rates, and crime rates unheard of back in the 1940s or 1950s. We have gangs of young people running loose in our streets, robbing, and raping and committing every kind of violence. Fifty million abortions since 1973 and more than 50% of marriages ending in divorce. Broken homes produce broken families which produce a broken society. A society that no longer embraces the values that gave rise to it will not have the strength or conviction to defend it. This is how all civilizations die. Will this be how our civilization dies?

*Dr. James Veltmeyer is a prominent La Jolla physician and author of "Physician on a Mission: Dr. Veltmeyer's RX to Save America." He was voted "Top Doctor" in San Diego County in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, and 2019. Dr. Veltmeyer can be reached at dr.jamesveltmeier@protonmail.com and by visiting his website at drveltmeier.com.* ★

# Volunteers Cleanup 353 Pounds of Trash at Lake Berryessa



66 volunteers picked up 353 pounds of trash and recyclables as part of a clean-up to celebrate World Environment Day on June 4 at Lake Berryessa. Photo courtesy of the Solano Resource Conservation District

## Solano Resource Conservation District News Release

**WINTERS, CA (MPG)** - On June 4th, 66 volunteers picked up 353 pounds of trash and recyclables as part of a clean-up at Lake Berryessa to celebrate World Environment Day.

Community members were excited to do their part to clean up the lake, which is the seventh largest reservoir in California. It is a critical source of irrigation water for growers in the region and a major source of drinking water.

Volunteers gathered at Lake Solano County Park afterwards for a picnic lunch. Other activities at the park included making wildflower seed packets to take home for planting and taking photos with Bilgee, a costumed mascot that looks like a used oil-absorbent pillow that boaters use to prevent oil from leaking into the lake.

World Environment Day, led by the United Nations Environment Programme since 1973, is held every year to build global and political awareness of environmental issues while supporting individual and community projects around the world.

Solano Resource Conservation District hosted this World Environment Day event, with generous support from Anheuser-Busch in Fairfield, the Bureau of Reclamation, Lake Berryessa Watershed Partnership, River Network, Solano County Department of Resource Management, Solano County Water Agency, and Volunteer Solano. Additional support for this year’s event was provided by Solano County Parks and 95.3 KUIIC.

To learn more about World Environment Day and other Solano County cleanup activities, including Solano County Coastal Cleanup Day on September 17, 2022, visit [cleanupsolano.org](https://cleanupsolano.org). ★



World Environment Day is held every year to build global and political awareness of environmental issues while supporting individual and community projects around the world. Photo courtesy of the Solano Resource Conservation District

# Comment on Another Grim Small Business Optimism Report

## NFIB Press Release

### SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- The April 12, 2022 release of the latest Small Business Economic Trends report (aka the Optimism Index) wasn’t expected to have any good news, and it didn’t disappoint.

“What our latest Optimism Index showed is that there is little optimism along the Main Streets of America that the economy is going to improve any time soon,” said John Kabateck, California state director for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), which produces the monthly Optimism Index. The Index is a national snapshot not broken down by state.

“The California Legislature is on Spring Recess this week, and I suggest that they make an extra effort to meet with some of the small-business owners in their districts and listen to what they have to say,” said Kabateck. “Maybe upon their return to Sacramento they can put the brakes on proposals that will put the small-business economy

in even more dire straits, such as upending the longstanding process for settling workers’ compensation claims or ruining the highly successful fast-food franchise model that has created untold thousands of jobs for decades. Small businesses have already dodged a couple of bullets this year by the failures of mandatory vaccine requirements and universal health-care scheme to advance, but lawmakers must stop sending the wrong signals again and again.”

Key findings from the new Index include:

Owners expecting better business conditions over the next six months decreased 14 points to a net negative 49%, the lowest level recorded in the 48-year-old survey; Forty-seven percent of owners reported job openings that could not be filled, a decrease of one point from February; The net percent of owners raising average selling prices increased four points to a net 72% (seasonally adjusted), the highest reading in the survey’s history.

From NFIB Chief

Economist Bill Dunkelberg “Inflation has impacted small businesses throughout the country and is now their most important business problem. With inflation, an ongoing staffing shortage, and supply chain disruptions, small business owners remain pessimistic about their future business conditions.”

Keep up with the latest on California small-business news at [www.nfib.com/california](https://www.nfib.com/california), where this release can also be read, or by following NFIB on Twitter @NFIB\_CA or on Facebook @NFIB.CA.

For 78 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven association. Since its founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit [nfib.com](https://nfib.com). ★

# Fatality in Structure Fire on Thissell Road

## City of Dixon News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - As of press time, there has been no official identification of the deceased person found in a burning RV two weeks ago.

In the afternoon of June 15, the Dixon Fire Department was dispatched to a first alarm structure fire in the Dixon Fire Protection District, along the 5800 block of Thissell Road. First arriving units noted a fully involved RV.

Crews from the City of Vacaville, Vacaville Fire Protection District, UC Davis Fire Department and Winters Fire Department responded. Firefighters initiated an aggressive fire attack and performed primary search operations. Unfortunately, during this search, a body was discovered.

The fire was extinguished. Detectives from the Solano County Sheriff’s Office and Solano County Fire Investigation Unit responded to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of the person found inside of the RV.

The identity of the deceased person, cause of death, and circumstances surrounding this incident are undetermined. This investigation is ongoing and further details regarding this incident will be released when they become available. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is urged to contact the Solano County Sheriff’s Office. For questions related to the fatality, please contact Solano County Sheriff’s Office PIO Deputy Rex Hawkins at [sheriffpio@solanocounty.com](mailto:sheriffpio@solanocounty.com). ★



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- Sound of pride
- Tom Hanks' character had this in "Philadelphia"
- Dre's headphones
- Handheld firework
- Eurozone money
- Chinese weight units
- Campaigned
- Popular July Fourth salad
- Ltd
- A in I.P.A.
- Type of embellished surface
- Dunking treat
- Potato state
- Type of poem
- Rabbit trap
- "I, Claudius" role
- As much as necessary
- Opposite of trans- in chemistry
- Bring into servitude
- Bottle \_\_\_\_
- Ill temper
- Olive branch
- Campaign worker
- Declaration signer
- Extinct Italic language
- Forsaken or desolate
- Rumpelstiltskin's weaver
- Between Egypt and Algeria
- Heed
- At the summit
- Beaver's construction
- "I Thee \_\_\_\_"
- "Liberty Bell" did it to mark Declaration reading

**DOWN**

- Calendar abbr.
- Life stories, for short
- Faith jump?
- Misprints
- \*Cooler purpose
- \*Fair attractions
- CCCP, in English
- Lab culture
- Type of pilot
- "For \_\_\_\_ a jolly \_\_\_\_"
- Hit 80's song "\_\_\_\_ Me"
- Crosswise, on deck
- \*Popular type of July Fourth gathering
- Two to one, e.g.
- Antonym of keep
- \*\*\*Common Sense" author
- \*Like the days of 1776
- Crocodile ones are insincere
- Place, in French
- Race course
- Causing fear
- "That thou \_\_\_\_, do quickly"
- Like a certain ranger
- Fuss
- \*4th of July, e.g.
- Sudden upset
- The night before
- Dad's mom
- Gladiators' battlefield
- Cold storage
- Space exploration mission
- Dog-\_\_\_\_ pages
- "Heat of the Moment" band
- Intercontinental ballistic missile
- Opposite of ebb
- I, to a Greek
- High part of day
- Like Methuselah
- Fuel economy acronym

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



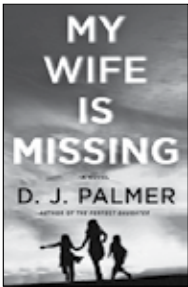


FOR THE LOVE OF  
**BOOKS**  
By Amy Shane

BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • [amy-shane@att.net](mailto:amy-shane@att.net) • [amy\\_fortheloveofbook](https://www.instagram.com/amy_fortheloveofbook)

# Cool off with May’s Thrilling New Reads

While the hot weather has quickly approached these thrilling new reads are bound to instantly readers off with their pulse-pounding storylines.

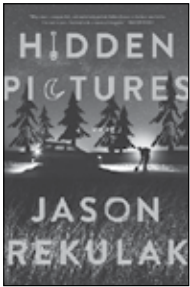


**My Wife is Missing**  
by D.J. Palmer,  
St Martin’s Press

When Michael Hart’s family disappears on vacation, he immediately fears the worse. The only logical explanation is that they were kidnapped. Then, as information is revealed he discovers even more heart-breaking news, his wife, Natalie left willingly, taking the children with her. Now, knowing the true reason behind her running is in fact, Michal’s past, Michael is now on a race against time. With Natalie unable to sleep and struggling with insomnia and horrific delusions, he knows the kids are in danger and it us up to him to him to reconcile his past, while also trying to save those he loves.

Heart pounding and intense, My Wife is Missing will take readers on a journey where there is more to fear than that of the unknown, it’s the fear of oneself. Readers will be

thrust into a thrilling convoluted ride where no on one is safe and the past is truly the villain. Readers will be propelled throughout storyline shocked with the many twists and turns that will keep them guessing, but also opening the doors to so many more questions that definitely have light shed on in the end.



**Hidden Pictures**  
by Jason Rekulak,  
Flatiron Books

Mallory Quinn felt like she found the perfect job. Just out of rehab, Mallory craves the security of her own living space but also the bond she has made nannying for five-year-old Teddy. Their days are spent with Teddy happily drawing child-like trees and rabbits in his sketch book, but one day everything changes. When Mallory discovers that Teddy has a new type of drawing in his book, she can’t help but be concerned. In dark pencil sketches is the silhouette

of a man dragging a woman’s body.

At first, it seems just a little odd, but as the days continue so do the sketches and this time in more intricate detail, far beyond the artistic abilities of a child. As fear starts to take over Mallory must enlist help to try and figure out why Teddy is drawing what looks likes pictures from a murder scene, and who is responsible for these sketches. With help from the neighbor next door and the very attractive gardener it’s up to the three of them to decipher if these are messages from the past, or a spirit’s call for justice.

A truly mesmerizing and chilling mystery that will keep readers up way past their bedtimes trying to decipher what or who is responsible for the crime and the sketched messages. Readers will be instantly questioning if the main character has fallen into the dark path of using again, are paranormal forces at play, or is or something else? To increase the creepy tone this story is also paired with the actual sketches interlaced within the chapters lending to the overall intensity of the storyline. ★



# Riley Reviews

## ‘HUSTLE’ FEEL-GOOD SPORTS FILM; ALL THINGS SHARK ON TV

### A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

#### “HUSTLE” ON NETFLIX

A feel-good sports movie can be a heart-warming pleasure even if the game is not one that you may follow with the dedication of a true fan. That’s the case here for this reviewer in Adam Sandler’s basketball-oriented “Hustle” on Netflix.

I have to admit partiality to major league baseball, football, hockey and occasional trips to the racetrack to place a few bets on the ponies. As for basketball, the names of today’s players are mostly not on my radar.

Most of us recognize former NBA stars like Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant and Wilt Chamberlain, and in many cases even former players like Doc Rivers and Julius Erving, better known as Dr. J of the Philadelphia 76ers.

Interestingly, Rivers and Dr. J figure into Adam Sandler’s nifty film, considering his character is Stanley Sugerman, a talent scout for the Philadelphia basketball team and a former college hoops player at Temple University.

It may stretch the imagination a bit too far to envision Sandler as an erstwhile player, but his character’s love for the game is so impressive that such thoughts are quickly dispelled.

Having grown weary of being on the road all the time and missing his daughter’s birthdays, Stanley is relieved when 76ers team owner Rex Merrick (Robert Duvall) promotes him to the long-coveted position of assistant coach.

Lugging baggage through airports and lonely nights in hotel rooms are not fun for a middle-aged man, and spending more at home with wife Teresa (Queen Latifah) and teen daughter Alex (Jordan Hull) will be joyful.

With the sudden death of the team owner, Merrick’s arrogant son Vince (Ben Foster) takes over and decides to send Stanley on a European tour to find what he calls the team’s “missing piece” for an NBA finals win.

Vince is such as an odious punk that he doesn’t mind telling Stanley that he won’t be home for his daughter’s next birthday. One firmly hopes that the new boss will get his comeuppance.

Ending up in Mallorca, Spain, Stanley encounters Bo Cruz (Juancho Hernangomez, an actual NBA player), a streetball hustler with a troubled past who proves to be unbeatable in one-on-one basketball games.

Taking care of his mother and young daughter, Bo fears losing his construction job when Stanley promises to be his mentor with an opportunity to play professional ball in America.

Back in the States, Bo’s passion and skill for the game does not immediately impress Vince and other executives, but Stanley has faith and empathy for his prospect and decides to invest his own time and money to train him properly. ★

The road to an NBA career is bumpy as Bo must prove himself against other prospects in the Combine, especially his nemesis Kermit Wilts (NBA player Anthony Edwards), a menacing presence who taunts the Spaniard with trash-talk about his family.

It doesn’t take a sports fan to figure out the eventual ending to a fairytale story of redemption and achievement, but watching the chemistry between Adam Sandler and Juancho Hernangomez makes “Hustle” an enjoyable and cheerful pleasure.

Bottom line for “Hustle” is that you don’t have to be a basketball fan to appreciate the passion and heart of the player and mentor leading to triumph over adversity.

#### ALL THINGS SHARK ON DISCOVERY AND NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

For the last several decades, “Shark Week” has been a successful programming block on the Discovery Channel, and as summer draws people to the beach the return of this popular program gets underway on Sunday, July 24th.

The 34th installment of “Shark Week” promises new locations across the globe and cutting-edge technology that offers revelations about the mating and migration patterns of sharks.

A celebrity twist to this year’s program will be the Impractical Jokers, whose act involves out-daring and humiliating each other, using their antics for a hysterical adventure of shark education.

National Geographic Channel celebrates its ten years of “Sharkfest” with more action-packed programming across more platforms than ever before that include Disney+, ESPN, ABC, Hulu and Nat Geo WILD.

Starting on July 10th, “Sharkfest” allows viewers to sink their teeth into almost 30 hours of original programming and over 60 hours of enhanced content featuring captivating science and stunning visuals of the iconic apex predator.

“Sharkfest” aims to not only shine a light on the science of sharks, giving audiences a better understanding of the ocean’s most misunderstood predator, but also features their true beauty, power and mystery.

The six-episode series “When Sharks Attack” explores the rise of shark attacks in North America and beyond. What causes the alarming uptick in human and shark encounters?

Scientists investigate first-hand accounts, uncovering clues and details that will unravel the mystery behind the terrifying shark attack spike. Reminiscent of fear generated by “Jaws,” the answers will impact beachgoers around the globe.

“Shark Beach with Chris Hemsworth” features the Australian actor, known to many as “Thor,” on a mission to uncover the science of shark behavior and discover how humans and sharks can safely coexist. ★

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-000906  
The following persons are doing business as: The Wild Empress/ Devanna Wolf, 301 Washington Street, Vallejo, CA 94590. Holly Defount, 301 Washington Street, Vallejo, CA 94590. Date Filed in Solano County: May 24, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name

on: N/A  
This Business is conducted by: an Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence

address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration May 23, 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: June 10, 17, 24, July 1, 2022  
WILD 7-1-22

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL ADDING CHAPTER 9.05, NOISE CONTROL, TO TITLE 9, HEALTH AND SAFETY, OF THE DIXON MUNICIPAL CODE TO CONTROL DISRUPTIVE, EXCESSIVE AND OFFENSIVE NOISE IN THE CITY OF DIXON.**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the City of Dixon (“City”) City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620, in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54950 et seq.) and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, to consider the adoption of:

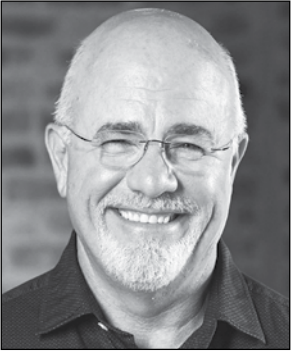
An ordinance to limit disruptive, excessive and offensive noise within the City (“**Ordinance**”). Under the Ordinance, distributive, excessive and offensive noise is noise that disturbs the peace and quiet of any neighborhood, or which causes discomfort or annoyance to any reasonable person. The Ordinance sets specific limits on noise that is generated both indoors and outdoors in residential zones at night and during the day and limits certain distributive, noisy activities, including construction activity and loading and unloading operations, to specific times or contexts. The Ordinance also includes exceptions to the noise limitations to allow noisy activities associated with, among other things, public safety activities, public works projects, and specific public gatherings to proceed without violating the Ordinance. The Ordinance’s provisions, if adopted, would be enforced using the City’s existing administrative citation process.

**ALL INTERESTED PARTIES** are invited to attend the Tuesday, July 5, 2022 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against approval of the Ordinance. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking any action or making any recommendation related to the Ordinance. 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 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 forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Any person requiring language interpretation services should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting.

Interested individuals will be given an opportunity to speak in favor or opposition to the above proposed action. Written comments are also accepted prior to the meeting by mail at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or electronically by emailing [lruiz@cityofdixon.us](mailto:lruiz@cityofdixon.us). Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be provided to interested individuals upon request. If a challenge to the above proposed action is made in court, persons may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City before the meeting.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance will be available, upon request. If you have any questions, please call the City at (707) 678-7000.

Dixon Independent Voice 6-24-2022



### Combine ... Everything

Dear Dave,

I live with my boyfriend, and we have a baby together. I brought debt into the relationship, and I’m using your debt snowball method to pay it off, but he is debt-free. We have quite a few shared expenses that we split 50-50, but that means we are constantly reimbursing each other. Should we keep our finances separate until I pay off my debt, or is it okay to combine everything now? I’m 26, and we love each other and want to get married, but he makes quite a bit more money than I do. I feel guilty taking that step when I still have debt.

– Dakota

Dear Dakota,

I don’t tell people they have to wait until they’re

### Dave Ramsey Says

out of debt to get married. I don’t tell people they should wait until they’re debt-free to have children, either. Listen, you two love each other. You have a baby together, you live together and you’re trying to figure out a way to combine incomes and everything else – except the debt. Too late. That ship has sailed.

Here’s some arm-around-your-shoulder, old-man advice. The best thing for that baby, and the best thing for you and your boyfriend, is for you two to get married and combine your incomes, combine your lives – combine everything – and join it all so tight it cannot be torn apart. Then, go live a beautiful, glorious life together. Getting out of debt is part of the adventure. Raising that child together is part of the adventure. Waking up and looking at your husband when he starts to lose his hair is part of the adventure.

It’s very difficult legally and relationally to play

house financially when you’re not married. You get into stupid arguments over who bought the mustard when you’re sharing the same bed. It’s just so inconsistent and incongruent. That’s the system you’re using now, but there are better things waiting for you.

I’m not being judgmental, Dakota. I just want good things – the best things – for you and your family.

– 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.* ★

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NATIONAL NEWS *courtesy of* THE EPOCH TIMES

# US Already Descending Into Recession: Economist

*As credit gets tighter, a lot of ‘dream’ ventures will prove to be unfeasible and fail*

PETR SVAB

The U.S. economy is already in the process of entering a recession, according to an economist who specializes in how sentiment affects markets.

Peter Atwater predicted that a large amount of malinvested capital will be wiped out and areas of the economy that have historically been resistant to crises may not be so this time. His research indicates that the economy is under the influence of “confidence cycles” and when consumer sentiment shifts toward the expectation of a recession, the market will actually enter one.

“I think the cake has been baked from the sentiment perspective where people are now acting on the assumption that a recession is coming. And remember, it’s that action that actually causes a recession to come,” Atwater, a former hedge fund manager who’s now a lecturer at the College of William & Mary in Virginia, said during a recent Wealthion interview.

Atwater says thousands of companies have fudged their earnings with easy cash because of the ultra-low interest rates set by the Federal Reserve.

“With free money, the ability to financially engineer your earnings results is unlimited,” he said.

Now that rates are going up, such companies will start having trouble rolling over their loans.

“It’s sucking the air out of the



People shop at a grocery store in New York on June 10, 2022.

I think the cake has been baked from the sentiment perspective where people are now acting on the assumption that a recession is coming.

Peter Atwater, economist

room,” he said, anticipating that “thousands” of such companies may go under.

As credit gets tighter, a lot of “dream” ventures will prove to be unfeasible and fail, he predicted, noting that overconfidence in the market has caused investors “to buy promises of even the most ridiculous things.”

“There was so much capital irresponsibly deployed to capture dreams that the volume of equity destruction is going to be massive.”

The financial elite is, so far, failing to appreciate the direness of the situation because their lifestyle has become extraordinarily insulated from a commoner’s reality, he said, calling it “work from home blindness.”

“The financial elite are spending so much time sequestered away from the real world that I think they’ve lost sight of the fact that the folks who are delivering things to them—who live in the real world—have to buy gas.”

During previous recessions, some parts of the economy were usually spared major losses and could thus serve as safe havens for investors. Those would include government bonds and

businesses serving high-end clientele, such as luxury goods producers. In recent years, big tech companies have also been treated as safe bets.

All of those, however, may get pummeled this time too, according to Atwater.

“What I don’t think investors quite appreciate is we’re having an unwinding in both fixed income and equity simultaneously here. And there’s not going to be any place to hide in that.”

Businesses serving the rich, meanwhile, may find that their clientele is in worse financial shape than expected.

In recent years, there are indicators that the rich have taken on large amounts of debt, following the mantra of “don’t sell it, borrow against it,” in order to avoid taxes, Atwater said.

“It’s a masterful tax strategy, but it is completely devoid of a connection to reality.”

As a result, he noted, “nobody has contemplated that the biggest potential losses could be among the customers that have heretofore been the safest.”

He has also noticed an unusual phenomenon in which market actors are getting worn down by prolonged market instability without actually hitting a bottom.

“Everybody, they sort of feel like, ‘Are we there yet? Is it done?’ People are tired. It’s not fear, it’s fatigue. And I’ve never seen a market bottom on whining in the sense that we’re just all tired of it.”

# Missouri Attorney General Subpoenas 7 School Districts Amid Worry Over Student Surveying

JULIETTE FAIRLEY

Surveys in Missouri schools that collect information from students and create a perceived need for a so-called social-emotional learning curriculum have drawn the attention of state officials.

We’d like him to obtain information regarding where these surveys are coming from and enforce federal and state privacy laws.

Kimberly Hermann, general counsel, Southeastern Legal Foundation

Attorney General Eric Schmitt issued subpoenas last week to seven school districts that allegedly employ student surveys—created by education companies Panorama and Project Wayfinder—that gather data about parents’ political beliefs and income levels, as well as racial identity, sexual behaviors, and mental health.

“Those same groups come in and sell that curriculum to the schools,” said Kimberly Hermann, general counsel with Southeastern Legal Foundation, a national nonprofit law firm that defends liberty.

“The contracts with these companies are public record, so they’re supposed to be approved

during school board meetings, but the surveys are happening without parental consent and parental notification.”

In response, Schmitt has opened an investigation into the use of student surveys in Mehlville, Webster Groves, Jefferson City, Lee’s Summit R-7, Park Hill, Springfield, and Neosho schools—with an eye on violations of Missouri’s Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment.

“Subjecting students to personal, invasive surveys created by third-party consultants, potentially without parents’ consent, is ridiculous and does nothing to further our children’s education,” Schmitt said in a statement.

Hermann details in a May 1 letter to Schmitt that Webster Groves requires middle school students to take a survey on “LGBTQIA+ Struggles!” that asks: “What are your preferred pronouns, what struggles have you experienced related to LG-BTQIA+, and what would you like to see in the school in order to be more inclusive?”

“There are federal statutes that they’re not supposed to ask these questions,” said Andy Wells, the Missouri chapter president of No Left Turn in Education, a national education advocacy organization.

“The problem is that school districts, and some of the companies that are being hired by school districts, don’t care. They just ignore it. They do it anyway and if somebody doesn’t like it,



Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt (C) talks to reporters with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton (2nd L) in Washington on April 26, 2022.

you’ll have to sue them.”

Second-graders were asked, “When is the first time you noticed that people can be different races from you, what did you notice, and do you feel more comfortable around people who look like you?”

“The goal here is to teach these kids that America is a white country of white supremacy and to destroy the nuclear family,” Hermann said. “If bad actors in the progressive left are not stopped, then we’re just going to have a further divide in this country among our kids.”

Neither Panorama nor Project Wayfinder responded by press time to requests by The Epoch Times for comment.

Schools often create partnerships with third-party vendors to secure grant money, according to Jill Carter, a candidate for the Missouri Senate’s 32nd District, and by accepting the grant, they are bound to allow the surveying.

“If it’s a platform that’s providing software or technology, especially with the technology in our school’s increasing, there’s less and less ability for the school to even really know what is being asked,” Carter told The Epoch Times.

“They are giving over that oversight, and the teachers sometimes don’t even know, because the kids are online or on a tablet, and that’s part of the software or implementation of some of these programs.”

Among the concerns identified is confidentiality.

“There’s a lot of danger by it,” Wells told The Epoch Times. “The biggest of which is who has access to the data and whether it follows students to college. How is the data being used?”

Another anxiety is whether the information gleaned is creating a profile that flags a need for intervention.

“It’s definitely a force of gov-

ernment and the intervention would be, ‘If we don’t like the way you respond on these surveys, we’re going to recommend intervention,’ and Panorama offers intervention activities and questions,” said Missouri-based Mary Byrne, who holds a doctorate in education from Teacher’s College in Manhattan.

“There’s a menu that you can access for teachers to implement different activities.”

The use of surveys isn’t new, according to Byrne.

“It was done years before, and that’s why the Pupil Privacy Act was put in place,” she said.

The Pupil Privacy Act, also known as the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment of 1978, prohibits children from participating in surveys and other analyses without parental consent and includes a provision for parents to opt their child out of such evaluations.

But there is no cause of action to file a lawsuit for a violation of federal privacy laws.

“The way Congress wrote the law is you can file an administrative complaint, but under the Biden administration, we know that’s not going anywhere,” Hermann said.

The subpoenas delivered by Schmitt demand documents and information to determine the extent of the surveys and whether parents consented to the surveys prior to distribution to students.

“We’d like him to obtain information regarding where these surveys are coming from and enforce federal and state privacy laws,” Hermann said.

“He has numerous different avenues that he could go based on the law and his investigatory power. So we’re going to leave it to his office to make determinations about what they think the best avenue is.”

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“THE EPOCH TIMES IS A BEACON OF LIGHT IN THE ‘NEWS’ DARKNESS THAT PRETTY MUCH COVERS THE COUNTRY.” —Jonne Rosenau

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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

HERE YOU GO, PIGS. TIME TO TRY MY WIFE'S NEW EGGPLANT CASSEROLE.

SORRY, GUYS, SHE'S INTO THESE NEW HEALTH RECIPES. MAYBE YOU'LL LIKE IT.

FLOP!

KIND OF IRONIC, THEY'RE COVERED IN MUD AND GIVING YOU A DIRTY LOOK.

by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats

I GET BETTER WITH AGE...

...I'M JUST LIKE A BOTTLE OF FINE WINE!!

MAYBE I SHOULD KEEP YOU IN THE CELLAR?

by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

CARLA, WHY DIDN'T YOU MEET ME IN THE FOOD COURT LIKE WE AGREED?

WELL...

WHY DO WE BOTHER TO MAKE PLANS IF YOU WON'T LISTEN?!! ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME NOW?!!!

YES, BUT...

CARLA! WHY IS IT EVERY TIME WE ARGUE IN PUBLIC YOU HAVE TO MAKE A SCENE?!!!

WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING MARRIED TO A PAINTER.

by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

GENERATION GAP- ATTIRE, THAT IS...

"I CHABOD... HOWCUM YOU NEVER WEAR THIS LOVELY ARGYLE SWEATER AND BEAUTIFUL SHIRT AND TIE I GAVE YOU FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY?"

AW, GEE, GRANDMA-

THANKS TO MATT WEISMAN, LOS ANGELES, CA.

BY AL SCADUTO

R.F.D.

STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS...

STOP.

HUH?

YOU TOLD ME TO STOP YOU IF I'D HEARD IT.

I'VE HEARD "STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS" HUNDREDS OF TIMES.

by Mike Marland

GRIN and BEAR IT

BAFFLE HALFRIGHT AND LUCK STOCK BROKER

XYZ-A-05 ABC-V-023

"Fortunately, it was only money."

LAFF-A-DAY

"I couldn't possibly have been speeding, officer — I'm on my way to see the DENTIST!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

THIS DINER IS GREAT! I THOUGHT THESE BIG NUMBERS WERE THE PRICES, BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY THE CALORIES.

by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF

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# Dixon Dodgers Conclude Historic Season at Tournament of Champions



The Triple-A Dixon Dodgers concluded the 2022 season in the championship game of the District 64 Tournament of Champions. Photo courtesy of Sarah Settlemoir

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Dodgers Triple-A team comprised of 9- to 11-year-olds finished a historic 2022 season in the championship game of the District 64 Tournament of Champions at Centennial Park.

For the first time in the 52-year history of the Dixon Little League [DLL] that has dated back to 1970, a Triple-A team went undefeated in the regular season. The Dodgers are also the first team since 2013 from the DLL to make it to the final round of the double elimination tournament.

The annual District 64 Tournament of Champions selects league champions from Dixon, Davis, Woodland and Vacaville among others. The district “consists of a

geographical area beginning about 15 miles west of Sacramento.”

On the first day of the tournament, Dixon was scheduled to play the two teams from Davis, however, both teams had to forfeit allowing the Dodgers to advance. Dixon lost early in the tournament, forcing the team to play their way



Instead of a trophy that they would all have to share, each player and coach received finalist rings for making it to the District 64 Tournament of Champions. Photo courtesy of Sarah Settlemoir

through the loser’s bracket to make it to the championship game.

The Dodgers advanced to the title game but were defeated 6-2 by the champions of the Vacaville American Little League. Despite the crushing defeat, Dixon was left feeling encouraged as they only lost by four runs. Vacaville’s previous two

opponents each lost by ten or more runs.

The Dodgers finished the season with an impressive record of 19-2 overall. As the Triple-A Dixon Dodgers’ season ends, a new one begins for many of the boys on the team who plan to play in All-Stars, which begins next week.

“A loss is an investible (and) we can’t win every game all the time,” said Sarah Settlemoir, a team parent. “But I am glad that our team went out the way that (they) did. We (were) beat (by) a very tough team, but they put up a fight.”

Instead of a trophy that they would all have to share, each player and coach received finalist rings for making it to the tournament. Given that they are the Dixon Dodgers, the rings are big, blue and beautiful. ★

# Sales Tax Increase on Ballot

Continued from page 1

Harness spoke at the podium about neighbors playing loud music for many hours on end frequently. The decibel level was 50 from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. on a recent evening, and the couple expressed they should have the right to live peacefully in their neighborhood.

“The only way things will change is to have a stiff penalty. We need to give the officers a tool they can administer easily,” Dist. 1 Rep Scott Pederson said. The Council gave direction to City Attorney Doug White to work with police and bring something back at the next council meeting. Ceremello then reminded the Council that there is already a noise restriction on the books. Former Councilman and Chamber

President Herb Cross suggested that landlords and/or property managers need to know about these situations as leases could be violated.

Splitting the legal advertising between the Dixon Tribune and the Dixon Independent Voice was approved with the provision that the contracts had to be signed within 30 days and that if there was a time-sensitive issue, the City had the option to put in whatever newspaper could publish closest to the needed date.

The public is reminded to participate in the Zoning Code Update by visiting [cityofdixon.us/ZoningUpdate](http://cityofdixon.us/ZoningUpdate) to view detailed project information, submit comments, and stay up-to-date on upcoming informational and outreach events. ★



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