



**Caltrans Honors
Fallen Highway
Workers**

PAGE 10

**ALA Report
Doesn't Tell
the Full Story**

PAGE 5



**Dixon
Independent Voice**

VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 22

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JUNE 3, 2022

**SEE
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**AGUIAR-CURRY
CALLS FOR STATE
GUN CONTROL
PACKAGE**



PAGE 5

**D4 SECTION
CHAMPS**



PAGE 8

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DWIC Grants Awarded



Left to right: Angelina Arias of Maine Prairie High School, James Fuller of Bids 4 Kids, Dixon Ridge 4-H Leader Sandy Means, Solano County 4-H Coordinator Valerie Williams, DWIC Community Grant Chair Teri Brown, Barb Stocking of The Little Dress Project, and DWIC Incoming President Trisha Seastrom. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - From providing incentives via 'swag' for Maine Prairie students to assisting in 4-H membership fees for a dozen Dixon youth, the members of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club continue to nurture through its community grants.

This club of some 50 members recognizes the need within the community to strengthen existing programs and expand learning opportunities by providing monetary grants to classrooms, programs, and nonprofit organizations that serve the Dixon community.

Teri Brown, Chair of the DWIC

Community Grant Committee, announced this year's recipients at their last meeting where recipients were guests for the club's annual luncheon. As in the past, requests exceeded the funds available but five were chosen.

"Our students have an unfortunate disadvantage due to language, culture, ethnicity, etc.," said Angelina Arias, a counselor at Maine Prairie who has been in education for 25 years. "Every Friday, everyone wears their school swag, and we want to purchase swag such as lanyards, water bottles, and T-shirts with our logos on them to incentivize and award for perfect attendance, positive behavior, or most improved."

They received a \$500 grant.

Two different 4-H clubs, Maine Prairie 4-H and Dixon Ridge 4-H both were awarded \$500 each to enable six new members each to cover program fees. Both 4-H programs in Dixon have experienced a significant increase in underserved youth enrolling and those need financial assistance to participate and due to the pandemic, fundraising efforts have been limited. Each received a \$500 grant.

Bids for Kids also was awarded \$500 with President James Fuller thanking the club for its support.

"We get along in life with the help of others," said Fuller who explained

Continued on page 3

**New Wine,
Spirits Bottle
Recycling
Bill Clears**

Office of Sen. Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- The California Senate voted on May 25, 2022, unanimously to approve legislation written by Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins, D-San Diego, and co-written by Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, to add wine and distilled spirits bottles to California's recycling program.

"I am really pleased that so many of our Senate colleagues recognized the importance of this common sense bill that benefits our environment and consumers," Sen. Dodd said. "With SB 1013 we can increase the recycling rates of millions of bottles that would otherwise wind up in our landfills or be illegally discarded. I look forward to seeing this bill with all its benefits for California pass the Assembly and be signed by Gov. Newsom."

"SB 1013 is historic change that is 40 years in the making," Pro Tem Atkins said. "I want to commend the wine industry, distilled spirits industry, environmental advocates, and other groups who have come together to support this landmark proposal. We will continue working with stakeholders as the bill moves through the Assembly to make sure remaining concerns are addressed, and then, hopefully, 2022 will be the year we can pop a cork and celebrate this overdue improvement to California's recycling law."

The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act, established in 1986, encourages consumers to recycle beverage containers by requiring them to pay a deposit for eligible bottles. According to a 2019 report, curb-side programs received approximately \$172 million from the so-called Bottle Bill in 2017, including \$15 million that is annually provided from the Beverage Container Recycling Fund.

Although the program includes beer, it does not include wine or spirits. It is estimated that California generates more than 500 million wine and spirits bottles each year, with less than 30% being recycled and over 300 million wine and spirits bottles going into landfills. Under Senate Bill 1013, wine and spirits bottles would be added to the program, leading to more recycling, increased business for recycling centers and reduced processing costs. The expansion would

Continued on page 2

Long-time Methodist Minister 'Retiring'

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - While the average tenure of a Methodist Pastor is three years, Cathy Morris of Dixon's United Methodist Church has shepherded her local congregation for 35 years—a very unusual situation and one that is coming to an end.

According to conference archives, there is no pastor—male or female—who has ever held the same appointment for this long nor is there anyone in the foreseeable future who will. That is why the celebration for Cathy's 'retirement' on Sunday, June 26, will be bittersweet.

"This is going to be a huge change for the church to have a new pastor after so many years," said long-time member Suzanne Galloway. "She keeps telling us it's not a retirement, but she is taking two years of family leave to care for her parents who live in Washington and then hopes to take some kind of a church position, somewhere when that is over."

Cathy and her husband,



John Reeb, Pastor Morris, and Suzanne Galloway at the Dixon United Methodist Church. DUMC courtesy photo

Peter, have raised their children here and have been a part of the community since Cathy started her position here in 1987. In 2018, she gained another title: Dixon's Citizen of the Year.

"We were just beginning construction on our now, not so new, fellowship hall," reported Galloway who gave a presentation at the church Pastor

Appreciation service about the changes seen since Cathy arrived. "Oh, the changes we have seen!"

In 1991, the cupola and bell tower were removed and two years later the Sunday School rooms were finished plus the old fellowship hall and kitchen were remodeled into the church office, meeting room and pastor's office.

Then began the work on the historic sanctuary, followed by the new portico out front and renovation of the old parsonage, now Friendship House. Finally, the steeple and bell were reinstalled in 2011. More recently the pandemic gave them an opportunity to renovate the fellowship hall, kitchen and

Continued on page 3



Two Extra Special Grads



Kenya Smith and Skylar Bruce help out on the newspaper. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

This past week, I needed some students to proof our graduation pages ensuring student names matched with their photo. I knew who I could call and both young women, Skylar Bruce and Kenya Smith, helped get the job done. Kenya was new to Dixon a few years ago and we got to know each other over several months while working with my son on a political campaign. I wrote about her before because she is an impressive young woman: intelligent, hard-working, and a problem-solver who will go far in life.

Skylar Bruce is equally impressive. She has grown up in Dixon and has family roots here.

I met Skylar at Dixon United Methodist Church volunteering in children’s ministry where we attended a couple years. She was a shy child with big blue eyes and blonde hair, but I’m naturally drawn to quiet people because they are usually introspective. Then I got to know her better as the Kiwanis Club established the high school version called Key Club.

She was always part of the working group, doing what needed to be done from set up to cleanup. From the beginning of her freshman year when The Dixon Kiwanis Club requested help from the Key Club students to ‘fluff’ the trees for the Festival of Trees decorators, Skylar was there along with other students, bending branches into place for ten large artificial trees. It was an incredible amount of work and wonderful help—proving that many hands make light work.

Another year when the high school club needed extra funds for their T-shirts, we were able to get a bunch of mistletoe,

and the students bagged them in cellophane with ribbons and made more than a hundred bucks at the Festival of Trees. Skylar set up the table and coached fellow students. I loved that she could see what needed to be done before being asked.

During the spring, the focus turned to Breakfast with the Bunny and Skylar happily donned a pair of rabbit ears and joined in setting up tables with placemats, color crayons, spring story books and syrup. She also volunteered to take turns guiding the giant bunny around to tables to meet young children.

When the pandemic hit and the Kiwanis Club did a Bunny photo-op instead of the breakfast, last year, she was one of the students who showed up and helped the club members fill a hundred or more plastic eggs with goodies, but she also spent the morning of the photo op as well. She did everything there could be to do! She is always cheerful, and I have always found her warm and friendly.

Over the four years of high school, Skylar stepped into advancing roles of leadership ultimately serving as President of Key Club this past year all the while holding many other duties with other facets of clubs, sports, school, and church activities.

I know that Skylar isn’t the only young woman who volunteers but she’s the only one I know—who for all four years of her high school education—set an example of serving one’s community. I am thankful Skylar and I were involved in Kiwanis International at the same time and for getting to work with Kenya on a 4-month campaign project. They are both terrific young women who will be great assets in our world. ★

Dixon News Briefs



The Pat Granucci Aquatic Center is a popular place during the summer which officially begins Tuesday, June 21, but it’s still warm enough to swim laps now. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Swimming Yes!

For ages 14 and up, summer lap swim is now open and is \$5 per session or \$4 if you’re 55 and up. If that seems steep, you can always purchase a 20-visit pass for \$75 or \$60 for older citizens.

Early morning Monday thru Thursday hours are 5:30 am to 7:45 am; Late mornings are same days 11 AM to 12:45 PM; and afternoons from 4 to 6:30 PM. On weekends which is Friday thru Sunday, hours are 8 to 10 AM. The pool is located at 450 East Mayes. Call (707) 678-7441 for more information.

Graduation Week

Dixon High School students will be graduating at the school stadium Saturday, June 4, at 9 AM. For families and friends attending, remember this is outdoors where there is no sun cover and the bleachers are aluminum. So, you might want to bring umbrellas, wear visors or hats, and/or lather up in sunblock. A bottle or two of water is definitely a good plan, too. Make sure your phone is charged so you can get great photos.

For everyone else in Dixon, please try to avoid the downtown roads, especially South First Street, during the times of the graduation start and finish. History shows that hotels fill up and the local restaurants are also very busy afterwards.

Regional Housing

The Solano County Housing Element Collaborative, made up of the cities of Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville, Vallejo, and the County of Solano, provides an overview of the fair housing requirements and a summary of the fair housing findings for Solano County on their website.

Workshops have been conducted on the new Housing Element fair housing requirements (AB 686) and you can learn more information on the Solano County Regional Housing Element Collaborative, project schedules, and a community survey are available at the links below.

Recordings of previous presentations will be available in English, Spanish and Tagalog on the Solano County Collaborative website: solhousingelements.com/. You can also find a link to a survey where your input will be valued.

Planning Commissioners

The filing deadline to apply to serve on two spots on the Dixon Planning Commission is extended. The deadline for filing applications is now 5 PM on Friday, June 3, 2022.

The Planning Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to planning and land use. Commissioners serve four-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. Both vacancies are four-year terms expiring on June 30, 2026. The Commission meets at 7 pm on the second Tuesday of every month. City residency is required.

A stipend of \$100.00 per meeting attended is paid to each Commissioner. Interested Dixon residents may obtain an application at City Hall, 600 East A Street, by calling 678-7000, or by visiting the City’s website at www.cityofdixon.us.

Veteran’s Menu

The dinner at the Veterans Memorial Hall for this Friday, June 3, is supposed to be a Pork dinner. Cost is \$10 and if you enjoy listening to Roger Schaller on his guitar, you can leave him a nice tip in his case. The hall is located at 105 North First Street and dinner is 6-8 PM. ★

Wine, Spirits Bottle Recycling Bill Clears

Continued from page 1

also cut greenhouse gas emissions by almost 200,000 tons of carbon dioxide while reducing litter of wine and spirits containers, a visible and dangerous component of urban litter pollution.

SB1013 is supported by a number of groups including Californians Against Waste, Heal the Bay, California Association of Local Conservation Corps, Monterey Regional Waste Management District, National Stewardship Action Council, Northern California Recycling Association,

California Teamsters Public Affairs Council, The 5 Gyres Institute, the Plastic Pollution Coalition and Zero Waste USA. It has no formal opposition.

It passed the Senate with unanimous, bipartisan support. It heads next to the Assembly.

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. ★

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Congratulations to the Dixon High School Girls Softball Champs!

Photo: Wendi Hendershot

State Water Board Adopts Emergency Water Conservation Regulation

California Water Boards News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In response to Governor Gavin Newsom’s March 28 Executive Order the State Water Resources Control Board adopted an emergency water conservation regulation that will ensure more aggressive conservation by local water agencies across the state.

The new regulation bans irrigating turf at commercial, industrial, and institutional properties, such as grass in front of or next to large industrial or commercial buildings. The ban does not include watering turf that is used for recreation or other community purposes, water used at residences or water to maintain trees. The regulation also requires all urban water suppliers to implement conservation actions under Level 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans.

In March 2022, the state’s urban retail water suppliers reported average water use statewide that was nearly 19% greater than in March 2020, lowering the state’s cumulative water savings since July 2021 to 3.7%. On May 23, 2022, Governor Newsom convened leaders from the state’s largest urban water suppliers imploring them to take more aggressive action to combat drought.

“The severity of this drought requires all Californians to save water in every possible way,” said Joaquin Esquivel, chair of the State Water Board. “The regulation compels water systems and local authorities to implement a range of additional critical conservation measures as we enter the hot and dry summer months.”

Level 2 water shortage contingency plans are meant to address up to a 20% shortage of water supplies. In addition to implementing Level 2 actions, the regulation requires urban water suppliers to fast-track supply and demand assessments to plan for potential

extended dry conditions.

Level 2 actions often include things such as:

- Limiting outdoor irrigation to certain days or hours;
- Increasing patrolling to identify water waste;
- Enforcing water-use prohibitions;
- Increasing communication about the importance of water conservation.

Some water suppliers already have imposed strong new restrictions on customers’ water use in accordance with their drought management plans. However, about half of the state’s 436 water suppliers (both urban water retailers and wholesalers) have not yet activated Level 2, and 36 have not submitted drought plans. The emergency regulation will require suppliers without drought plans to take certain conservation actions, such as conducting outreach to customers about conservation, restricting outdoor irrigation to two days a week and enforcing against wasteful water practices.

The approved regulation will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for approval, which typically occurs within 10 calendar days. The ban on non-functional turf becomes effective upon OAL approval and the Level 2 requirements for urban water suppliers are proposed to take effect on June 10, 2022.

The regulation will give suppliers new options to reduce water waste if they choose to use them. A violation of the non-functional turf irrigation provision, for example, would be an infraction and subject to a fine of up to \$500.

People who see water waste should report it at savewater.ca.gov.

The State Water Board’s mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California’s water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper allocation and efficient use for present and future generations. ★

DWIC Grants Awarded

Continued from page 1

how the organization fosters youth into agriculture by buying or bolstering bids on animals that students raise and show at the Dixon May Fair and Solano County Fair. “In the High-5 Club, the students agree to give back 5 percent to helping somebody else.” This year, they served 46 students.

Barbara Stocking of The Little Dress Project, an organization that

provides brand new clothing to children ages 5 to 7 years old, who delivers clothing for 30 children every month at three elementary schools in Dixon.

Lastly, the Dixon Historical Society was awarded funds for two bookshelves, a table, and chair to create a permanent display for their collection of Dixon High School Chanticleer yearbooks.

Over the past three

years, the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club has given more than \$5,000 in community grants to local programs to help them go the extra step to accomplish goals. These funds are raised through dues and their annual fundraising dinner at Bud’s Pub and Grill, which also features a very popular raffle with dozens of decorated gift baskets. For more information, see the new DWIC Facebook page. ★

Long-time Methodist Minister ‘Retiring’

Continued from page 1

bathrooms with new flooring and fresh paint.

“We have celebrated our three major sesquicentennial,” Galloway added. “In 2008, it was the 150th anniversary of the founding of the church in Silveyville. In 2016, we celebrated the construction of our historic church building in Silveyville and then four years later, we celebrated its move to its present location in Dixon.”

Church programs and ministry have changed with the needs of the congregation over the years. Cathy has introduced Disciple Bible studies, the always changing Bible study groups, Stephen Ministry outreach, various programs for our children and youth, multiple and varied types of Sunday worship services.

When the pandemic hit, Pastor Cathy then saw the congregation through the church building closure, Zoom church services and daily devotions, outdoor church services, hybrid Bible studies, and inside services with restrictions.

“The impact Pastor Cathy has had on my life is remarkable and impossible to put into words because she taught me the most important lesson in life: to love like Jesus,” said Savannah Playford, a member of the congregation. “If we want to love like Jesus, we need to open our hearts, minds, and churches to the ever-changing way of the world. This is a hard pill to swallow and even hard to live out in our actions but Cathy models this flawlessly. She leads by example and will continue to touch the lives of others both inside and outside of the church walls.” Said Playford.

“She has faced every change, always with her eye on the future of our church and the needs of our congregation,” Galloway said. The community is invited to an Open House to say ‘Goodbye for now’ on Sunday, June 26 from 2 to 4 pm. “I’m sure there are lots of people in town who would like to come by to see her. We have been truly blessed with her leadership.” ★

Senate Approves Dodd’s Hospital Pandemic and Emergency Response Bill

Office of Sen. Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Senate voted unanimously to approve legislation from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that would help California

hospitals respond to public health crises including pandemics and other emergencies. “When a public emergency strikes, hospitals need to be able to respond,” Sen. Dodd said. “The pandemic,

destructive wildfires and other natural disasters have been hard on California hospitals. This bill will help them adapt to fast-changing conditions, serving patients as quickly as possible. I

appreciate my fellow senators for approving this common-sense measure.” Sen. Dodd’s bill, Senate Bill 979, relaxes insurance restrictions for patients seeking treatment outside of their

network coverage areas, ensuring they get medical coverage wherever an emergency hits. It is sponsored by the California Hospital Association. SB 979 heads next to the Assembly. ★

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Newsom, Legislators Given Stark Budget Warning



By Dan Walters
CALMatters.org

The Capitol is agog about Gov. Gavin Newsom’s declaration that California will have a nearly \$100 billion budget surplus.

“You’ve never seen a number like this,” Newsom told reporters as he unveiled his revised 2022-23 budget proposal.

Nearly half of the surplus must, by law, go to schools. The governor and legislative leaders are now busily negotiating how to spend the other \$52 billion. They agree on giving a big chunk of it back to Californians but are arguing over how much and who will get the checks and/or cash cards.

However, the Legislature’s own budget advisor, Gabe Petek, is warning the politicians that they should be very careful because the budget could be in big trouble in the years ahead. If they ignore his advice, there could be a fiscal meltdown of epic proportions.

Petek believes that the governor’s revenue estimates – on which the huge surplus estimate is based – could be too optimistic because he ignores a very real threat of recession. Petek also faults the governor’s budget for ignoring long-term effects

of the Gann Limit, a constitutional provision that imposes tight controls on revenue windfalls.

“Although predicting the next recession is impossible,” Petek says in a report released on Tuesday, “economic indicators currently suggest a heightened risk of recession within two years. Past recessions – with the exception of the one induced by the pandemic – have resulted in cumulative revenue losses of tens of billions of dollars. In two recent recessions, in fact, total revenue losses were around \$100 billion.”

“Under our estimates of revenue and spending in the out-years, the state would have a very narrow operating deficit in 2023-24, a small operating surplus in 2024-25, and a larger operating deficit in 2025-26,” Petek says.

Although Newsom’s budget makes passing reference to the possibility of recession, it assumes that the state’s recovery from the pandemic-caused downturn will continue to be strong, and thus will generate a strong flow of revenues.

Petek reserves his sharpest criticism, however, for the budget’s lack of a plan to cope with the effects of the Gann Limit. Once the calculated limit is reached, any revenue beyond that point must be either returned to taxpayers or spent on a few exempt categories.

“These requirements would far exceed the state’s narrow operating surpluses – and would compound operating deficits,” Petek notes, adding that without corrective action “the state likely would have

significant budget shortfalls in the out-years.”

As drafted, Newsom’s budget avoids triggering the Gann Limit in 2022-23 by clever accounting, but Petek warns that it’s likely to hit home within the next few years, forcing Newsom – assuming he’s re-elected this year – and the Legislature to reduce spending on other programs to meet Gann Limit requirements.

Although Newsom and legislative leaders have indicated they may ask voters to repeal or modify the Gann Limit’s stringent requirements, “In the meantime, we strongly caution the Legislature against passing a budget with a structural deficit stemming from unaddressed State Spending Limit (Gann Limit) requirements,” Petek says.

He suggests that one way to make the budget more resilient to both recession and Gann Limit requirements is to devote more of the surplus to reserves, which would mean spending less of it on things that the governor and legislators want, such as a massive election year give-back of cash to voters.

“Economic indicators point to a recession on the horizon within the next two years, not three-to-four years from now,” Petek warns. “The state has a \$52 billion surplus this year – now is the time to prepare for these looming budget problems.”

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



‘There’s a Perfect Storm Brewing,’ Farm Bureau President Warns in D.C. Visit

California Farm Bureau leaders met with members of Congress and key officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other agencies in Washington, D.C., this month. The meetings took place as California agriculture faces severe challenges from drought and water shortages, surging fertilizer prices and supply chain disruptions stranding farm exports. “There’s a perfect storm brewing that could pretty traumatically affect our food supply,” warned Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson.

Blueberry Yield Plummets After Weather-related Damage

California blueberry growers are picking a smaller crop this year after losing fruit to spring frost and hail. The California Blueberry Commission estimates that farms will produce 55 million pounds of fresh berries this year. That’s down from an original projection of 65 million pounds and nearly 20 million pounds less than the 2021 crop total. The drop comes after farmers in parts of Northern and Central California suffered crop damage in a spring freeze.

California Almond Harvest May Fall by 4%, According to Forecast

California’s 2022 almond harvest is expected to drop by 4% compared to 2021. That’s according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. The agency’s subjective forecast estimates that California will harvest 2.8 billion pounds of almonds this year, down from last year’s yield of 2.92 billion pounds. The average yield per acre is expected to drop by 8%, falling from 2,210 pounds per acre to 2,040.

Cattle Ranchers Partner with Conservationists to Protect Rangelands

California cattle ranchers and conservationists are partnering to preserve open space, while also protecting grazing for livestock. Since 2001, 280,000 acres of working ranch landscapes have been lost to development, such as subdivisions and shopping centers. But some 80 California ranches have reached agreements with a conservation group, the California Rangeland Trust, to permanently protect another 365,000 acres of working lands. ★

Scouts at Silveyville Cemetery



Dixon’s Cub Scout Pack 253 and Boy Scout Troop 152 placed flags at Silveyville in time for Memorial Day as is their custom. Scouts locate the grave, post a flag, stand at attention with their scouts’ salute, and say the deceased’s name. They complete their salute and continue on. “We received lots of thanks from the cemetery visitors,” said John Decker, Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 152 who is also Cubmaster for Pack 253. “As we were laying flags a family visiting a nearby grave asked us to come over. Their recently deceased loved one was a vet that wasn’t yet on our list. A number of family members got to see and record their veteran receiving his first Memorial Day flag. It was a wonderful memory for that family and a great lesson in showing reverence (part of Scout Law) for our scouts.” Photo Courtesy of Dixon Scouts

Capitol Democrats Again Reject Lower Gas Prices

Assembly Republicans News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On May 25, 2022, Assembly Republicans gathered in front of a local gas station ahead of a pivotal vote to suspend the gas tax. For the third time this year, Democrats struck down any efforts to lower gas prices as they continue to escalate. Ahead of Memorial Day weekend travel, Republicans wanted to put forward a bipartisan solution that would have passed on savings to consumers at the pump, though Democrats continued to play party politics and were not in favor of hearing this legislation on the floor.

Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) was joined by colleagues Assemblyman Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin), Assemblywoman Laurie Davies (R-Laguna Niguel), Assemblyman Steven Choi (R-Irvine), and Assemblyman Thurston Smith (R-Apple Valley) in front of a Sacramento gas station to discuss bipartisan proposal AB 2547 ahead of a vote on the Assembly floor that took place this morning. This legislation would have suspended the gas tax for one year and require that all revenue generated by the tax be passed on directly to the consumer.

Assembly Members of the Republican Caucus released the following statements:

“This morning we are here to talk about the gas prices and much-needed relief California families need. As Republicans, we have been pushing for a gas tax suspension since the beginning, when we introduced a bill in January and pushed for a vote and brought a vote to the floor... we need to provide this relief. People have waited far too long... we are now on day 77 of the Governor promising to provide gas tax relief. The good news is, there’s been a bipartisan measure that’s been introduced, AB 2457, which has both Democrats and Republicans who have signed on. We are going to bring it to the floor and vote on it now. We are not going to wait any longer.” -Assembly Republican Leader James Gallagher

“Yesterday, Joe Biden celebrated high gas prices as we make our ‘incredible transition’. Apparently, it’s more incredible here in California than anywhere else as our gas prices climb to astronomic levels... our caucus is fighting to reverse the tide. We are fighting to make sure people can stay and build a career, raise a family, and retire. We are ready to meet our colleagues on the other side of the aisle when they are ready to work on real solutions. That starts today, this morning, when we will give them another chance to vote on suspending the gas tax.” -Assemblyman Kevin Kiley

“When Republicans first proposed suspending the gas tax on January 12, gas prices were just \$4.58 on average in California according to AAA...if you tally up how much Californians would have saved since then if we had enacted the gas tax suspension, that number comes to about \$2,400 dollars per person. If you are looking at a family, that number nearly doubles. That’s a far cry from the small checks the Governor has been proposing to send. Californians deserve better. In some parts of the state, gas is nearly \$8 a gallon. That is unacceptable and unsustainable for our communities... enough is enough.” -Assemblywoman Laurie Davies

“Legislative Democrats continue to delay while Californians struggle to pay. Why hide behind process, deadlines, and blame, when we can take action today by using a small portion of the Governor’s nearly 100 billion dollars of budget surplus to temporarily suspend the gas tax and lower gas prices by over 50 cents immediately? How many more gas price records does California have to break before Legislative Democrats take action? How much longer can we ask hardworking families to choose between filling up their gas tank or buying groceries? I emphatically urge the Legislature to suspend the gas tax and give these families a 50 cent break now. Today is the time to pass AB 2457.” -Assemblyman Steven Choi, Ph.D. ★

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ALA Report Doesn’t Tell the Full Story, Includes Misleading Data

Sac Metro Air District News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District, Placer County Air Pollution Control District, Feather River Air Quality Management District, and El Dorado County Air Quality Management District have issued a joint response to the American Lung Association’s recent release of its annual State of The Air Report and the Sacramento Bee’s coverage of the report on April 22, 2022.

The Air Districts address the report’s ranking of counties based on air quality data that is skewed by extreme but short-term wildfire data and the increasing international transport of pollution that raises background concentrations, resulting in a misleading picture of air pollution emissions in the Sacramento region. The Bee’s article omitted these factors as well. While air quality and public health are absolutely impacted by wildfires, to assign an “F” grade without naming the reason doesn’t tell the full story. It also unnecessarily undermines public confidence and denies true progress.

Response From the Air Districts of the Sacramento Region:

“Thanks to innovative projects and programs by Sacramento region air districts and their partners, air quality has improved significantly over the past several decades and will continue to get cleaner in the future. Despite the challenges of wildfire and increasing transport of pollution, coupled with sharp increases in population and vehicle miles traveled, the Sacramento region has made great strides in moving toward and meeting strict state and federal health-based air quality standards.

Although the counties in our region received poor rankings, these rankings are flawed and do not reflect the real, tangible improvements in air quality that have been made possible by the efforts of our districts and residents. While we value our partnership with the American Lung Association, we are extremely disappointed that the ALA report fails to recognize that the region currently meets federal health-based air quality standards for short-term particle pollution and is on track to meet similar standards for summertime ground-level ozone pollution within the next several years. That is no small feat and certainly worth a passing grade. We are equally disappointed that the Sacramento Bee article about the report did not acknowledge these factors or recognize the region’s air quality accomplishments.

Our Districts are committed to combating climate change and improving air quality and public health outcomes for all residents, especially in our environmental justice communities. It is important for the ALA report to honestly reflect the significant challenges the region faces, while we continue to work together to find innovative new solutions to improve public health.”

Historical Air Quality Data Shows Dramatic Air Quality Improvement in the Region

Between 2000-2022, the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA) population grew 30.57% resulting in an increased number of vehicle registrations, and motor vehicles in the region. The SFNA is comprised of all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties, the eastern portion of Solano County, the southern portion of Sutter County, the western slopes of El Dorado and Placer Counties up to the Sierra crest and includes five local air districts.

Because cars, trucks and trains are the largest source of emissions in the region, Sacramento region air districts have developed creative and innovative strategies to ensure the region can continue to grow due to an increased population but at the same time reduce air pollution, combat climate change, stimulate economic prosperity and improve the quality of life for residents.

According to the state’s historical data, the number of smoggy summer days that exceed the current 2015 ozone standard has declined from 81 days in 2000 to 47 days in 2020. Even with the 2020 data, which had high measurements due to summer wildfire smoke impacts, this shows a strong downward trend that is expected to continue over the next several years.

Innovative Air Pollution Reduction Strategies Are Making a Difference

Sacramento region air districts have implemented numerous successful and innovative programs within the region

to reduce air pollution that impacts our health, environment, and local economy.

A few examples include: Infusing millions of dollars into the region each year to support and incentivize electric vehicle conversion and infrastructure builds for businesses, public agencies, school districts and residents. Requiring the use of the most stringent emission control equipment on major stationary sources, which means less pollution coming out of the stack. Working with both public land managers and private landowners on prescribed burn activities to reduce excess vegetation and restore fire resiliency to the land. On-going support for the utilization of forest woody biomass wastes to fuel electricity generation and reduce wildfire size, severity, and pollution.

Implementing mandatory or voluntary residential wood burning reduction programs. Creating clean, safe, and reliable transportation options by providing access to electric vehicles, carshare services, transit, and ride share for communities most in need in the region. Building out the region’s zero and near zero emission infrastructure with the development of electric vehicle chargers, hydrogen fueling dispensers, and natural gas fueling stations.

About the Districts

Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District is responsible for monitoring air quality, reducing air pollution, and enforcing air quality regulations, and helps to achieve state-wide carbon reduction goals. The district develops and administers programs to reduce air pollution levels below the health-based standards established by the state and federal governments, improve air quality in our region and combat global climate change. For more information, please visit www.AirQuality.org.

Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District

The Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District’s mission is to protect human health and property from the harmful effects of air pollution. The district works to fulfil its mission through the development and enforcement of local rules, state, and federal air quality regulations; providing guidance to local agencies of air quality impacts of projects and planning documents, creating strategies to meet state and federal air quality standards, monitoring local air quality and raising awareness of reduction strategies through public outreach and education. For more information, please visit www.ysaqmd.org.

Placer County Air Pollution Control District

The Placer County Air Pollution Control District’s mission is to manage Placer County’s air quality in a manner to protect and promote public health by controlling and seeking reductions of air pollutants while recognizing and considering the economic and environmental impacts. This is achieved through: enforcement of local, state, and federal air quality regulations, implementation of incentive programs to reduce emissions, air quality monitoring, efforts to reduce wildfire impacts, and land use/development reviews. The district works in concert with the five Sacramento-area air districts with a goal of moving the region into attainment of ambient air quality standards. For more information, please visit www.PlacerAir.org.

Feather River Air Quality Management District

The Feather River Air Quality Management District is a bi-county District that was formed in 1991 to administer local, state, and federal air quality management programs for Yuba and Sutter counties. The mission of the Feather River Air Quality Management District is to promote and improve the air quality of Sutter and Yuba counties. This is accomplished through monitoring, evaluation, education, by implementing control measures to reduce emissions from stationary sources, permitting and inspection of pollution sources, enforcement of air quality regulations, and by supporting and implementing measures to reduce emissions from motor vehicles. For more information, please visit www.fraqmd.org.

El Dorado County Air Quality Management District

The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District works to improve air quality and quality of life for El Dorado County residents by ensuring regulated sources control emissions and by implementing several emission reduction grant and incentive programs. For more information, please visit www.edcgov.us/airqualitymanagement. ★

Heeney’s History Chopping Wood

Commentary by Ed Heeney

I am not real sure why, but one of my favorite “toys” (next to a riding mower) is a chain saw. It may be that I helped my Dad when I was a kid on the farm. We warmed our entire 2 story house with one wood stove. That took a lot of firewood and many Saturdays cutting/sawing to keep the back porch wood pile filled. And this was before chain saws! We used axes, splitters, and cross cut saws which took 2 persons, one on each end of a 6-8 ft saw blade. You tried to be in sync as you sawed back and forth, if not you ended working against each other.

There were several kinds of trees along the creek that ran through our pasture and each had burning characteristics. Cottonwood burned fast; Elm was a good long-burning wood; Osage Orange spit out sparks like fireworks; and Willow was good for kindling.

The family story goes that when Dad asked Mom to marry him she said yes on one condition: she would not shut up the house in the winter time and she would not cut wood. I guess Dad had his marching orders.

When Mom and Dad retired from the farm and moved to town they had natural gas available for heating. Even though they had several gas heaters, they missed the wood fire. So, they had a fireplace built and Dad became the town’s firewood cutter for many years.

When I retired from the Air Force we moved into a new house in Davis. We were all excited that we had a fireplace in our new house. As Fall approached

I started thinking about wood for our new fireplace. I saw an ad in the Davis Enterprise offering almond trees to be cut for firewood.

When responding to the phone number, I learned this almond orchard was about 3 miles north of Esparto. The owner agreed to meet me there and make a deal. I did not own a chain saw but figured I better find out what kind of a deal could be made.

We met, we agreed, and I bought 3 trees. The owner left and I headed to Sacramento to shop for a chain saw. I chose a Poulan, 12-inch bar and all the stuff to keep it running. On my way back, I stopped in Davis to “report in.” My neighbor, Roland Smith was all excited about the wood cutting endeavor so he went off to town to shop for a chainsaw.

We cut several loads of wood that winter and began to feel like professionals. Roland wasn’t too sure about my little 12-inch saw so he bought an Echo 16-inch. We soon found that it was a pretty good combination; big saw for larger stuff and 12” for trimming.

We cut firewood for several seasons, mostly almond, a little English walnut, and some plum. It was good exercise and we enjoyed it. Our wives went along with us once in awhile, but were careful not to get good at cutting wood. As a 12-year-old farm boy, I would never have dreamed that as an older man I would enjoy cutting wood.

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. ★

Aguiar-Curry Calls for State Gun Control Package

Office of Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In the wake of the recent, horrific shootings in Buffalo, NY and Uvalde, TX, and the nation’s long history of devastating firearm-related massacres, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters) announced her support for a package of legislation adopted by the State Assembly to stem the scourge of mass shootings.

“We are the only country in the world where the regulation of guns and gun-ownership is treated with such callous disregard, where no place is safe, including places of worship, grocery stores and elementary schools,” said Aguiar-Curry. “I want to make very clear that these bills do nothing to infringe upon the rights of law-abiding gun owners. They are meant to increase attention to violence prevention, increase transparency, and promote registration of and accountability for gun manufacturers. These measures will help. But, until the US Congress takes up such common sense measures as Congressman Mike Thompson’s HR 8, The Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021 and renews the ban on assault weapons and other implements of war, Californians will be at continued risk.

The bill package includes:

AB 2571 (Bauer-Kahan) - Prohibits firearm industry members from marketing or advertising firearm-related products to minors and authorizes public attorneys and injured plaintiffs to bring a civil action to enforce the prohibition, obtain injunctive relief, and seek either civil penalties, or, in some cases, damages for harms caused by a violation.

AB 1621 (Gipson) - Changes the definition of a firearm and firearm precursor part and prohibits a person from possessing or manufacturing a firearm precursor part without authorization, seeking to address the rising problem of ghost guns..

AB 2156 (Wicks) - Reduces, from 50 to three, the number of firearms a person, firm or corporation may manufacture in a calendar year without having a state license to manufacture firearms. Also prohibits a person, firm or corporation from using a 3D printer to manufacture any firearm, including a frame or receiver, or any firearm precursor part, without having a state license to manufacture firearms.

AB 2552 (McCarthy) - Mandates

additional notices related to the storage, handling, purchase and theft of a firearm be posted at each public entrance of any gun show, event or exposition and requires the California Dept. of Justice to inspect half of all gun shows and events every year.

AB 1929 (Gabriel) - Requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to establish a community violence prevention and recovery program, under which violence-preventive services are required to be provided by qualified violence prevention professionals as a covered benefit under the Medi-Cal program. Defines the eligibility of Medi-Cal beneficiaries for violence prevention services, and training and certification program and continuing education requirements for violence preventive professionals.

AB 2239 (Macinschein) - Creates a 10-year firearm prohibition for individuals convicted of child abuse and elder and dependent adult abuse involving violence.

“Before I am an Assemblywoman, I am a mother and grandmother,” Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry said. “Too many mothers and grandmothers have buried their loved ones in the wake of violence like what we saw yesterday in Texas. I was proud to support these measures, which are supported by the vast majority of Americans and a majority of gun owners.”

More Americans died of gun-related injuries in 2020 than in any other year on record, according to recently published statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That included a record number of gun murders, as well as a near-record number of gun suicides. Nearly eight-in-ten (79 percent) U.S. murders in 2020 – 19,384 out of 24,576 – involved a firearm. That marked the highest percentage since at least 1968, the earliest year for which the CDC has online records.

“Too many Californians have faced what families in Uvalde faced last night – empty beds and broken hearts,” Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry said. “These bills will take real steps toward keeping guns out of the hands of those who would do harm.”

Aguiar-Curry represents the 4th Assembly District, which includes all of Lake and Napa Counties, parts of Colusa, Solano and Sonoma Counties, and all of Yolo County except West Sacramento. www.asm.ca.gov/aguiar-curry ★



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- Longer than midi
- Any day now, formerly
- Long-limbed
- Unfortunate outcome
- *Rumpelstiltskin's weaver
- Saint Anne, or Santa ____
- Resoundingly successful
- Demeanor
- Slovenian ski maker
- Cut with a beam
- Matt Damon/Adam Driver movie
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Head Into Summer Adventure

These books will have any reader set for summer, whether you plan to spend the summer sitting poolside, exploring the beach, or even enjoying the simple pleasure of the perfect ice cream cone.

The Sweetest Scoop: Ben and Jerry’s Ice Cream Revolution
by Lisa Robinson,
illustrator Stacy Innerst

Get the inside scoop on ice cream icons Ben and Jerry. When Ben and Jerry met at the age of twelve, they never expected it to be the beginning of something unique. Follow their Rocky Road of highs and lows as they set out to follow their dreams while simultaneously taking efforts to help change the world.

Sharks A Mighty Bite-y History
by Miriam Forster
pictures by Gordy Wright

Get ready to learn all about some of the oldest animals on earth, sharks! Every inch of this giant-oversized book is filled with amazing illustrations, facts, and charts to keep the avid enthusiast entertained for hours. Everything from pre-historic days to how we can help sharks today is covered in vivid detail, making this book a must-have for any ocean lover.

Water A Deep Dive of Discovery
by Christy Mihaly,
illustrator Mariona Cabassa

Before taking that leap into the pool, discover how a simple raindrop changes the world around us. Go on an around-the-world adventure and learn all about the superpowers of water, along with lift-the-flap facts and a



little interactive water drop-let character to carry readers throughout the entire book.

I See the Sea
by Julia Groves

Dive deep into the breath-taking world of the sea with a see-thru adventure that carries throughout each page. A world of discovery awaits with the peek-through holes and included ocean facts. Playful, bold illustrations instantly catch the reader’s eye, while lyrical lines add to the calming and wonder of each ocean creature.

Hawaii Sea Turtle Rescue James O. Fraiolo,
illustrator Joe St. Pierre

Dive into the fantastic Fabien Cousteau Expeditions graphic novel series, perfectly written for middle-grade readers. Bianca and Baylor get the opportunity of a lifetime when Fabien Cousteau asks for their help to track down a ghost net threatening the life of endangered

sea turtles. This book is a must-read, filled with high-stakes adventure, turtle and wildlife facts, and a powerful message!

The Boat That Ben Built
by Jen Lynn Bailey,
illustrator Maggie Zeng

When young Ben sets out in his boat, he embarks on a grand adventure. Along the way, he meets many animals, including a beaver who builds, a goose with a grin, a moose all wobbly and slim, and even a heron all proper and prim. Young readers will instantly recognize the familiar rhyme while being submerged in little Ben’s adventure. This book beautifully captures a young child’s desire for independence and exploration while also lending animal facts at the end of the book. The adorable illustrations paired with the loving nature of this book easily allows this story to become a new favorite. ★



Riley Reviews
“TOP GUN: MAVERICK”
SOARS HIGH WITH RELENTLESS THRILLS

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

Let’s no waste time getting to the point. Better than its 1986 source material, “Top Gun: Maverick” fires on all cylinders to deliver an adrenaline-charged, suspenseful entertainment that demands to be seen on the large screen.

Several names are attached to this film in the producer capacity, but the only name that really matters is Jerry Bruckheimer, the creative force behind the “Beverly Hills Cop” franchise, “Pirates of the Caribbean,” and “Bad Boys.”

With a track record of incredible success and having produced “Top Gun,” Bruckheimer, reunited with Tom Cruise after being the actor’s mentor more than three decades ago, is an essential factor putting the pieces in place for electrifying action.

Once a hotshot Navy pilot, Tom Cruise’s Pete “Maverick” Mitchell has only ascended to the rank of Captain and is contented to remain one of the Navy’s top aviators because any advancement in rank would ground him.

Like all of his fellow pilots, Captain Mitchell goes by his own aviator call sign of “Maverick,” which is a most fitting nickname given his propensity for skirting the rules if not outright being insubordinate.

Based in the Navy’s equivalent of Siberia in the Mojave Desert, Maverick runs afoul of Rear Admiral Chester “Hammer” Cain (a grizzly Ed Harris) with an unauthorized test of the speed limit of an advanced fighter jet.

Rear Admiral Cain tells Maverick that “the future is coming, and you’re not in it.” Even though he’s ruffled more than a few feathers during his time in the Navy, Maverick still has friends in high places to save his bacon.

After all, it’s only the beginning of the story, so we know Maverick is not headed to the unemployment line. And it may not be the last time he’ll disobey a command or bend the regulations.

His former nemesis from the old days, Tom “Iceman” Kazansky (Val Kilmer) is now a 4-star Admiral who knows that Maverick is the only pilot with the expertise and daring needed to train a special detachment to complete a crucial mission.

The operation is so dangerous that only the most elite pilots could be recruited for the job, and yet this new generation of aviators doesn’t have the proficiency required to have a chance at returning home safely.

As a result, Maverick is shipped off to the Miramar Naval Base in San Diego, the place where it all began for him 36 years ago, with the assignment to teach a dozen aviators the logistics and tactics for a daring

excursion into a foreign country.

Teaching is not exactly what Maverick had in mind, and his new commanding officer, Admiral Beau “Cyclone” Simpson (Jon Hamm) is another by-the-book stiff who on at least one occasion threatens to have Maverick court-martialed and dishonorably discharged.

Given his old-school manner, Maverick finds it challenging to connect with the young pilots in the Top Gun program, one of them being the supremely arrogant and brash Lt. Jake “Hangman” Seresin (Glen Powell).

But the more troubling relationship for Maverick is the fact that Lt. Bradley “Rooster” Bradshaw (Miles Teller) is the son of his former wingman Lt. Nick “Goose” Bradshaw, who was killed in a training accident.

At the heart of this new story is the conflict between Maverick and Rooster, as their history runs deep to the time that Maverick and Goose had to eject from their F-14 Tomcat and the fact that Goose did not survive is a cross that Maverick has had to bear.

Another part of Maverick’s past is a reunion with Penny Benjamin, a character only mentioned in the original movie, now brought to life by Jennifer Connelly, who’s the owner of The Hard Deck bar, the hang-out for the Navy aviators.

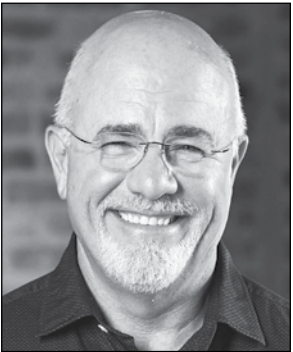
Penny and Maverick had a brief romance and rekindled the relationship over the years, and while their breakups were amicable, now the sparks start to fly again so that the aging hotshot pilot might actually settle down for a change.

In any case, whether the pilots are bonding over touch football on the beach or enjoying a raucous time at their seaside hideaway, the quest for a sneak attack on a nuclear installation deep in enemy territory is what matters most.

The stakes are extremely high as the pilots must navigate narrow canyons flying at low altitude to evade radar detection. It’s impossible to watch the daring flights and not feel the tension deep in your heart and soul.

There is a majesty and beauty to the sophistication of the aerial sequences of F-18 fighter jets engaged in dogfights or rousing evasive maneuvers. The visceral delight of muscular aerial heroics on display is simply mind-blowing.

“Top Gun: Maverick,” steeped in old-fashioned nostalgia celebrating America’s military might, does not disappoint. The F-18 jets soaring in the sky and dodging enemy fire are truly breathtaking and unnerving, and the excitement of the airborne thrills cannot be overstated. ★



I’m Not Doing That

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are empty nesters, and our house is too big for just the two of us now. We talked about selling the house and moving into an apartment in a multi-use development with retail and restaurants that we go to several times a week. Then, in a year or so, buying a smaller house when housing prices go back down. How do you feel about this idea?

– Ephram

Dear Ephram,

I like the idea of downsizing. My wife and I did the same kind of thing recently. But at this point,

Dave Ramsey Says

I’d say there’s about a 99% chance the housing market is not going down. It has gone down two times in the last 100 years – way back during the 1930s and again in 2008. And the market snapped back fairly fast after 2008.

I don’t think the price of housing is going to go down at all anytime soon. I do believe the housing market’s rate of increase will slow down, but that still kind of defeats your premise of renting until then. I wouldn’t be opposed to you two buying a different property in the same area and just moving in, but I’m not going to tell you to go rent something right now. That would put you in a hole with the rental amount, plus the fact that housing prices are probably going to continue to rise, even if not at the pace they’ve risen recently.

In other words, if you

rent, you’re going to lose money two different ways – with the rental amount and home prices continuing to increase. Buying high and selling high isn’t such a big deal. But buying high, and later buying higher after renting? No, I’m not doing that.

– 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. ★

Allergies or COVID? Emergency Physicians Explain How to Tell the Difference

Commentary by Steve Arnoff, ACEP

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - The springtime sniffles are here, and it can be tricky to determine whether common symptoms are due to COVID-19 or seasonal allergies. The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) offers tips to distinguish between the two and determine when symptoms become an emergency.

“It can be confusing to figure out whether your symptoms are allergies or something worse,” said Gillian Schmitz, MD, FACEP, president of ACEP. “Some symptoms of COVID and allergies overlap, but there are a few clear signs that indicate a COVID infection.”

A quick quiz can help you determine whether you have COVID-19 or seasonal allergies:

Do you have a fever? Seasonal allergies do not typically include a fever. It is possible to get COVID without a fever. But, when the body temperature is unusually high, it’s often a sign of illness rather than allergy.

Do you typically have allergies? It’s understandable to be concerned about COVID, but if the season reliably brings familiar symptoms like an itchy or runny nose, sneezing, or watery eyes, it’s likely allergies flaring up again. COVID symptoms can overlap but often include additional signs of concern. The duration of symptoms is important, too. COVID symptoms last about a week but could have longer-term effects, while allergies tend to stick around for months.

Are your symptoms more than coughing or sneezing? Some of the

most common COVID symptoms are consistent with allergies or a cold and can include a sore throat or runny nose. A likely sign of COVID is the addition of one or more symptoms, including body aches, fatigue, nausea, stomach problems or diarrhea, or loss of taste or smell.

People with COVID may feel short of breath or have difficulty breathing, but seasonal allergies don’t usually cause breathing issues unless there’s an underlying respiratory condition, such as asthma, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Are you taking avoidable risks? Even without symptoms, it is helpful to continue to wear a mask, social distance, and get vaccinated to decrease the chances of getting sick and slow the spread of COVID.

Stay home if you are sick, whether it is with COVID or another illness and contact a primary care physician when symptoms are mild to discuss treatment options. It is time to visit the closest emergency department or call 911 for any medical emergency, such as trouble breathing or shortness of breath, when illness become severe, or there is a high risk of illness or complications due to age or preexisting conditions.

To stay safe, visit a testing site or take an at-home COVID test when symptoms start. Free at-home tests are available to order from the government on COVID.gov or they can be purchased at retailers or pharmacies.

“We should all continue to take every precaution to prevent the spread of COVID,” said Dr. Schmitz. “The best way to clear up doubt is to get tested for COVID when worrisome symptoms appear.” ★

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ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #FCS058142

Araceli Arambula S and Jose G de la Torre filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Jairo de la Torre to Jairo de la Torre Arambula.

THE COURT ORDERS that all

persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should

not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. June 24, 2022, 9:30 a.m. Department 22, Room 3, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer
Dated: April 29, 2022
Publish: May 27, June 3, 10 & 17, 2022
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Dixon Varsity Softball Team Wins D4 Section Title

By Shaun Holkko,
sports editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - 2022 has been a pretty great year thus far for girls' sports at Dixon High School.

Back in February, the girl's varsity basketball team (27-4, 10-0 Golden Empire League) won a league title, the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division IV Girls Basketball Championship and 20 consecutive games. The Rams' season ended with a loss to the eventual state champions, Oakland Tech, in the second round of the CIF Division III State Girls Basketball Championships.

Six members of the varsity basketball team also play on the varsity softball team: Seniors Janie Ming and Brianna Humphries; Juniors Brynne Dominguez, Kamryn Fullmore and Sarah Rodriguez Vargas; and sophomore Lola Bernhardt. Those six young ladies can now add another patch to their letterman jackets, because the Dixon softball team (22-1-1, 10-0 GEL) are the 2022 CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division IV Softball Playoffs Champions.

The Rams earned a first round bye as the No. 1 seed in the post-season tournament. Dixon's first game on May 19 in the quarter-finals was against a familiar foe, the Casa Roble Rams (14-11, 6-4), who were the No. 8 seed. The Rams from Dixon and Casa Roble clashed twice in the regular season during Golden Empire League play. Dixon was victorious in both matchups, winning 10-0 in six innings on April 7 in Dixon and 6-1 on May 10 in Orangevale, spoiling Casa Roble's senior night.

Dixon may have dominated the two regular season meetings against Casa Roble, however, that was not the case in the playoffs. Casa Roble scored more runs in the top of the first inning than the Rams had in the



The Dixon High School varsity softball team celebrates with crazy hats and poses for a photo after defeating Ripon 6-2 in the semifinals of the 2022 CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division IV Softball Playoffs on Tuesday, May 24 in Dixon. Photo courtesy of Wendi Hendershot

previous two games combined, plating three. Dixon responded with one run in the bottom half of the inning and one in the second to cut the Casa Roble lead to one at 3-2.

Casa Roble scored one run in the fourth inning to increase its lead to two. Then in the bottom of the fifth, Dixon scored three runs to take its first lead of the game at 5-4, a lead that Casa Roble never got back. Casa Roble tied the game at five in the top of the sixth inning with one run. In a battle of the Rams, Dixon prevailed once again, this time on a walk off hit as Dixon scored one run in the bottom of the seventh to win a nailbiter, 6-5.

Two Dixon players, senior Madi West and sophomore Aemonn Rosenberger, had two runs batted in each. West recorded two RBI, two hits, two stolen bases, one run scored and one hit by pitch in four plate appearances. Rosenberger tallied two RBI, two hits (one double)

and one run in four plate appearances. Dixon senior pitcher Lexi Coyle earned another win on the mound. Coyle pitched a complete game tossing seven innings and allowed seven hits, five runs (four earned) and three walks with nine strikeouts on 108 pitches.

In the semifinals on May 24, Dixon matched up with No. 4 seed Ripon (19-5, 11-1 Trans Valley). Each team scored one run in the first inning. The Rams took a brief lead with a run in the bottom of the third inning, but the Indians quickly responded with a run of their own in the top of the fourth to tie the game back up. Dixon essentially won the game in the bottom of the fifth inning by plating three runs. The Rams added one more run in the sixth and ultimately won 6-2.

West and sophomore pitcher Felesha LePenske both had perfect days at the plate. West recorded one hit, one walk and one HBP in three plate appearances. LePenske tallied three

hits (two doubles), three runs, one RBI and one HBP in four appearances. Humphries led the team in RBI after hitting a three-run homer.

LePenske earned the victory on the bump by tossing a complete game, pitching seven innings and allowing six hits, two earned runs and two walks with nine Ks on 112 pitches. Sophomore pitcher Kharime Caratachea took the loss for Ripon. Caratachea pitched six innings and allowed nine hits, six runs (five earned), three walks and two HBP with four punchouts.

For the first time this post-season, Dixon found itself in unfamiliar territory, playing away from its home field at a neutral site for the CIF SJS D4 Championship game. The Rams matched up against No. 2 seed Marysville (20-5, 10-0 Pioneer Valley) in the section title game played at Sacramento City College on Saturday, May 28.

Dixon got on the scoreboard

early, scoring two runs in the top of the first inning. The Indians immediately responded with three runs in the bottom half of the inning to take the early lead. The Rams answered with an explosive second inning, plating six runs to take a controlling five run lead at 8-3. Marysville scored one run in the third to chip away at the deficit. Dixon added two more runs in the top of the fourth and led 10-4.

The Indians scored one run in the fifth, two in the sixth and one in the seventh but their comeback attempt fell short. Dixon triumphed over Marysville 10-8 to secure the CIF SJS D4 Championship.

Three Rams had two RBI each: West, Humphries and LePenske. West hit a two-run double to earn her RBI. Humphries racked up three hits (one double), two RBI and two runs in four at bats. LePenske did not record a hit but tallied her two RBI when she reached base on an error and added one run.

Coyle earned the win by pitching another complete game. The senior pitcher tossed seven innings, allowing 12 hits, eight runs (five earned) and three walks with seven Ks on 126 pitches. Senior pitcher Riley Duff suffered the loss for the Indians despite performing well. Duff pitched six innings and allowed 11 hits and 10 runs (four earned) on 77 pitches.

Dixon began the 2022 CIF Division IV NorCal Softball Championships on Tuesday, May 31. The No. 1 seed Rams hosted the regional quarterfinals on Tuesday against No. 8 Woodland Christian (25-3, 6-0 Central Valley California). The result of the match was unknown as of press time. If Dixon won on Tuesday, they also hosted the semifinals on Thursday. For more Dixon sports coverage, visit <https://www.independent-voice.com/>. ★

They Remembered the Fallen



Veterans Wayne Holland and Cecil Denning secure the wreath for the marker for Dixon soldiers killed in action as they prepare for the Memorial Day ceremony in the Women's Improvement Club Park. Photos by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The turnout doubled this year at Dixon's Memorial Day services and included active and retired military, families with young children, teens, and a dozen veteran motorcycle riders.

The mood was solemn as people stood about the tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Silveyville Cemetery while veteran Roger Schaller, a former Chaplain in the service, read a powerful prayer begging for God's mercy on those who have suffered or died because of a litany of evil including "...

bombs, bullets, starvation, or torture." The flag was moved to half-mast while he played Taps in honor of those who died serving our country.

The gathering afterwards at the Veterans Memorial Hall included a lunch and a special opportunity to honor those currently serving.

"My Dad was serving in Pearl Harbor when it was attacked," said Kitty Lockwood, long time Dixonite and veteran herself, "Frank Green was also there." Frank and Kay Green were longtime Dixonites and their grown family, Diana and Richard Brians, also served Dixon many years

through civic duty.

Antonio Arredondo and Deanna Torres brought son Isaac, age 13, to build patriotism.

"We took a drive to the Sacramento Valley Veterans Cemetery first because we want him to appreciate what we have. There are people who died or lost a part of their body fighting for our country," said Arredondo.

"I think it's important," added Torres. Isaac took some time to visit with Nicolas Escobar, a 2021 Dixon High graduate in full uniform of the US Army Police and who was raised in Dixon with three siblings. All of his



Nicolas Escobar, a 2021 Dixon High grad, talks with a student about why he chose to go into the service and his experience in the US Army as a military policeman.

family resides here.

"When I learned from the article in the Independent Voice online about this, I grabbed flowers from Safeway, then went to the Sacramento National Cemetery first. My great grandfather was a Korean War Vet in the Army," Escobar said with pride. "I

followed in his footsteps." Escobar plans to complete an 8-year contract with the Army and is now stationed in Louisiana. His goal is to become a Fish and Game Warden and ultimately plans to make his home in or near Dixon.

"Dixon is a special place," he said. ★

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



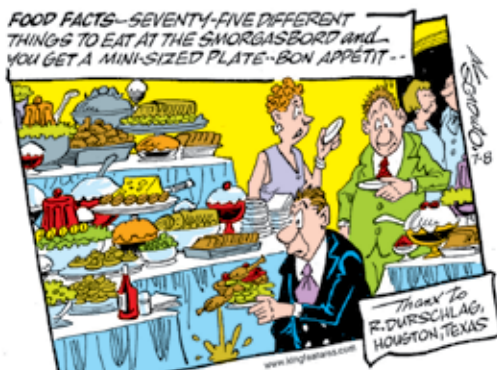
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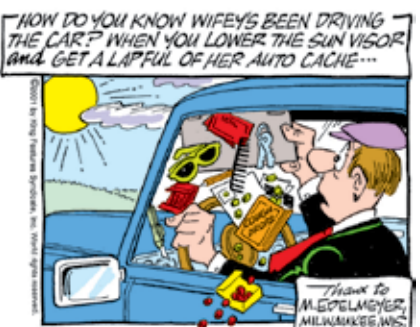
Out on a Limb



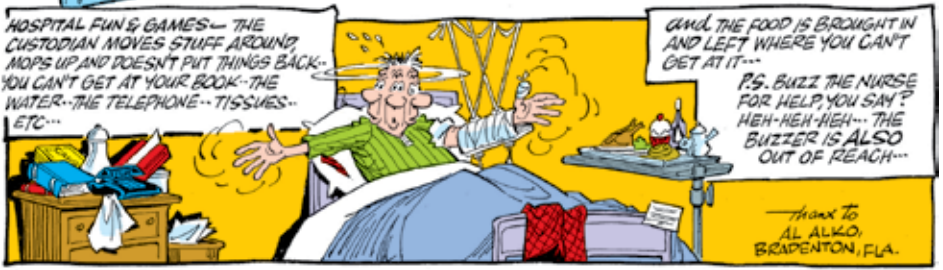
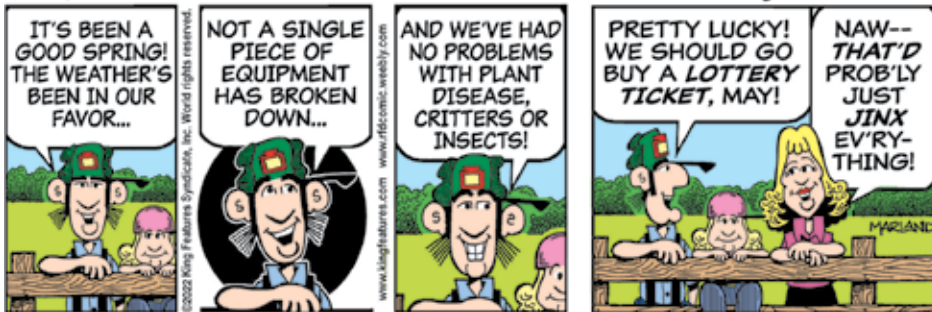
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Caltrans Honors Fallen Highway Workers at Memorial

Caltrans Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Caltrans dignitaries, employees, families and friends gathered solemnly on the west steps of the State Capitol for the department’s 32nd Annual Workers Memorial to remember and honor the 189 public servants who have died since 1921 while building and maintaining California’s transportation system.

The yearly memorial – in addition to honoring families and giving staff the opportunity to pay respects to their fallen colleagues – reminds us to “Be Work Zone Alert” and “Move Over” a lane when you see flashing amber lights ahead, or slow down if not safe to do so.

“Safety is always Caltrans’ top priority and the tragedies that brought us here today have resulted in intensified safety efforts within the department,” said Caltrans Acting Director Steven Keck. “Zero deaths on our state highway system is the only acceptable



Caltrans employees honor the 189 fallen highway workers that have died since 1921. Photo courtesy of Caltrans

transportation system – we remind all motorists to please Slow for the Cone Zone, Be Work Zone Alert and Move Over when you see flashing amber lights.”

During the ceremony, Caltrans placed 189 orange traffic cones in a diamond “caution sign” configuration, each bearing the name of an employee lost since



A Caltrans employee holds an orange cone while honoring the 189 fallen highway workers that have died since 1921. Photo courtesy of Caltrans

on the state highway system, including private contractors, tow truck drivers, California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers and other emergency responders. The commemoration also included the Caltrans Honor Guard, who led the symbolic tribute. Additionally, flags are flying at half-staff today at the State Capitol and at all

Caltrans facilities in honor of these fallen workers.

The ceremony marked the third year in a row that no new names were added to the memorial – the longest stretch in nearly 75 years – though speakers at the memorial stressed the need for everyone to remain vigilant.

With the help of Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and

Accountability Act of 2017, as well as the recently enacted federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Caltrans and local agencies now have significant additional funds to repair and maintain California’s transportation system. The additional funding also increases the number of Caltrans employees and contractors working on our roadways,

increasing their exposure.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, highway construction and maintenance work is one of the most hazardous occupations in the United States. In 2020, more than 6,500 work zone collisions occurred on California roadways, resulting in an estimated 1,964 injuries and 60 fatalities. Nationally, drivers and passengers account for 85 percent of the people who are killed in work zones.

In February, Caltrans announced a new Director’s Policy on Road Safety, which commits the department to the Safe System approach and reaffirms the vision of reaching zero fatalities and serious injuries on state highways by 2050. This policy takes steps to further a shift that began in 2020, as state transportation leaders recognized a bolder and more focused approach was necessary to combat the troubling rise in fatalities and serious injuries on California roads. The state’s 2020-24 Strategic Highway Safety Plan – managed by Caltrans and involving more than 400 stakeholders – was updated to include the Safe System approach.

Caltrans has partnered with the California Transportation Foundation to develop two funds to benefit the families of Caltrans workers killed on the job. The Fallen Workers Assistance and Memorial Fund helps with the initial needs a surviving family faces and the Caltrans Fallen Workers Memorial Scholarship is available to the children of these workers. For more information or to make donations, visit the California Transportation Foundation. ★

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