



Boy's Volleyball Season Ends in D3 Playoffs

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Dixon Beats Casa Roble in Season Finale

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Dixon Independent Voice

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MAY 13, 2022

SEE INSIDE

LOCAL ELECTION FRAUD WAS GROWN TO NATIONAL SCALE

KATHY JONES RECOGNIZED AS OUTSTANDING SENIOR

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Vast Crowds at May Fair



The Dixon May Fair featured rides such as the Ferris Wheel and Zipper. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Anyone who went to the May Fair this year, knows without a doubt that it was certainly a successful event. People were everywhere and all smiles.

The event kicked off last Thursday evening after a 2-year hiatus and gathered momentum throughout the night with only the game area being a bit slow but on Saturday after the parade, the line for admission went all the way to College Way where the traffic lights are to the high school. Also, for the first time, Sunday numbers were higher than Saturdays.

"The main gate lines were unreal, but we couldn't sacrifice security and some people got frustrated. But that's what happens when everyone comes at the same time. I don't know of another venue who could have handled the onslaught of that many people showing up all at once," said

Pat Conklin, May Fair Manager of several years who reported the attendance numbers were up every day. "We pride ourselves in being a safe



The Dixon May Fair featured several species of animals including pigs. Photo by Debra Dingman

and secure fair and proof of that is how many families stay at night," she added. Organizers were back in

the office first thing Monday morning to do the tallies.

"Gate numbers were up 16 percent and didn't include online sales—and those numbers were pretty high. We can't say we made up for the past two years of lost revenue. But we had a good fair," Conklin said. "There were a lot of positive comments and only a few complaints, but that was due to the unprecedented crowds."

The organization that went into the preparations was "super" and very smart with the expansion of the parking area across the street being clearly marked with a double-lane entry, preventing too much traffic building up from each direction on Highway 113. When that parking filled up, cars were routed to the high school parking where gates opened between the school and the May Fair in a perfect marriage of assistance. There was also a trolley to cart folks

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Thinking about Becoming a Chef?

SBDC Press Release

SOLANO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Solano-Napa SBDC, Solano Community College and Travis Credit Union have come together to offer a new program for aspiring food entrepreneurs.

Food Incubator will give participants the unique opportunity to work with expert chefs and perfect their products in a commercial kitchen.

Altogether, 13 chefs – a baker's dozen you can say – were invited to participate, at no-cost, in the six-week Food Inc. program. The cohort is meeting for four hours every Wednesday at Solano Community College for a combination of classroom training and kitchen labs led by business advisors from the NorCal SBDC Restaurant Program.

All the participating chefs are relatively new to the food industry and are working on their products with the goal of starting a cottage, artisan food, home kitchen or catering business.

"For some of our chefs, this is their first opportunity to work in a commercial kitchen," said Solano-Napa SBDC Director Tim Murrill. "For four hours, they have an opportunity to focus solely on their business and their food product and learn from and work with two talented and experienced chefs and business owners. Best of all, this entire experience is being offered to them at no-cost."

The Solano-Napa SBDC was inspired to offer a Food Incubator program following a similar successful SBDC program in Oakland. Murrill was invited to the final night of that six-week training, where the chefs presented their products to guests. He knows there are many aspiring food entrepreneurs in both Solano and Napa

"Of course, you can always wish for something to happen, but you need the funding and partnerships to be successful," he said. "We were very fortunate to find generous partners in both Travis Credit Union and Solano Community College."

Travis Credit Union provided the funding for the training that allows the program to be offered at no-cost to participants. Meanwhile, Solano Community College opened its commercial kitchen and accompanying classroom space free of charge to the SBDC.

The Food Incubator will continue to meet weekly through June 1. Just like in Oakland, the SBDC is planning a small event for participants to prepare and present their products to guests, a culmination of six weeks of hard work. ★

Downtown Plaza Prevails at Last

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It was a perfectly clear spring day for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Downtown Dixon Plaza, corner of East A and South First Street, performed by Mayor Steve Bird who was flanked by his fellow City Councilmen and City staff. But no one had a bigger look of joy and satisfaction than Jill Orr and Susan Motley, (spectators sitting on one of the benches) who served as President and Vice-President on the Downtown Dixon Business Association when the plaza idea was spring boarded off former Dixonite and former Dixon City Councilmember Rob Salaber. The councilmember had also tried several years to develop a commercial center there that included a plaza.

"If it wasn't for the DDBA this would not be here," said Jill who with



Ray McCluskey, Jill Orr, and Susan Motley were all smiles at the official ribbon cutting ceremony of the new Downtown Dixon Plaza known to many locals as the Pardi Plaza. Both women served as leaders in the Downtown Dixon Business Association that pushed for the development of the plaza for many years. Photo by Debra Dingman

her husband Greg, now owns Dawson's Bar and Grill across the street. "It was back when Jack Batchelor was serving as Mayor and we'd taken a

piece of paper sketched out in pencil to Dan Figueroa who improved it, and I took it to the Council and presented it saying this is what we want. It's been

so long," she sighed. That was in the early 2000s but negotiations kept drawing out until 2016, when the Pardi Market Site Citizens

Continued on page 3



Dixon News Briefs



It was a busy day for Katrina Marsh at Busy Bee Yoga who expanded with a clothing line and moved across the street. An Open House was held at her new place. Photo courtesy of Busy Bee Yoga

MPG Staff

Homeless Infiltrate

By Debra Dingman

I recently learned there was a homeless camp behind Walmart and decided to investigate. It was not good. I also interviewed a frustrated man in management at Walmart who gave a story of theft and when he called the police, they asked him how much was the value.

He told of how the homeless people in addition to stealing in the store, sneak into the Walmart area at night and steal their pallets and make their homes out of them. There is a fence already put on the property to keep trespassers out, but the people live back in an area where bushes and trees hide them from the freeway onramp. They travel on bicycles and look hardened and dirty.

Then I learned that a homeless woman had been sleeping in our expensive, restored wagon train outside the museum. She became belligerent when the Dixon Police removed her. I'm disgusted and angry.

No matter how much Dixonites want to look the other way, or not blame crime on homelessness, it is only common sense that they go hand in hand. If you don't have basic

essentials, and you don't have a job, or if you are addicted to drugs, you are going to do what it takes to survive and that means stealing.

I've been listening to Armstrong and Getty on the radio who have covered this topic and I am disturbed. Former Sacramento Sheriff John McGinnis also has a radio talk show that has covered this.

The actual law change was Prop 47 that I have written about before (7-11 clerk shot) which gets rid of the 3-strikes rule that essentially made what was a felony, now a misdemeanor.

The other big chunk of this is activist district attorneys; most notably are these two: George Gascon, L.A. County District Attorney, and Chesa Boudin, S.F. District Attorney. Both believe that punishment is racism. They have chosen to stop pressing charges against misdemeanors and certain "minor" felonies. (It is my opinion that there is no such thing as a "minor" felony.)

When someone gets arrested, they get booked and they get released, often without bail, because bail is also considered racist by them.

Remunerative justice is a topic you need to look further at. See the

article in the Economist (Economist.com) about making prisoners work while incarcerated. I cannot condense all that I have learned into one column but since our voter ballots have arrived in our mail, may I strongly suggest you take the time to know good candidates and choose those who will see Prop. 47 overturned.

Currently, the state is not going to hold prisoners convicted of this type of crime so there is no consequence. But, the County jail is not meant to be long term so our Solano County District Attorney's hands are tied.

I have an idea: Let's build three more jails in Solano County and let's make them fantastic; meeting all of the state standards. And then, let's put the misdemeanor guys in there and when we elect a governor and legislature that's realistic about controlling or better yet, stopping crime, we can sell one back to the state so we're not stuck with the long-term cost of maintaining three jails. Sounds like a realistic plan to me.

Crime and homelessness are affecting our small town and our safety. Please read and study the candidates on your ballot and don't go behind Walmart. ★

Busy Bee Moves

Katrina Marsh, owner of Busy Bee Yoga, has relocated across the street to 175 North First Street, next to First Northern Bank, and celebrated with a well-attended Grand Opening event this past week. She has added a line of clothing from Lululemon and new classes. For more information, go to www.busy-beeyoga.com.

Grad Gifts?

Looking for unique gift ideas for graduates? Back by popular demand and with a "Grad Vibe," is another vendor fair on Saturday, May 4, at Mother House Plant Boutique from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be artisans and delicious foods, according to business owner Shar Agvateesiri, who is celebrating the store's 2nd anniversary at 350 West A Street.

You will find beautiful stained glass, wood, and driftwood wind chimes by Paul DeVilbiss, Pearly Everlasting Organic Botanicals by Danielle Davidson, and gift items by Fused Glass Artist Maria Rese to name just a few. For more information call (707) 639-0377.

Book Sale

The Friends of the Dixon Library will be hosting a Bag Sale on Saturday, May 21, from 11 AM to 4 PM at the BookWorm Bookstore next to the library on 200 North First Street. You can buy a bag of books for only \$5. Cash or check only. Some books have been excluded from the sale. All proceeds support the programs of the Dixon Public Library. Don't miss it!

Breast Fundraiser

No, not a typo, just having fun that will support Solano Midnight Sun Breast Cancer Foundation. Pip Wine Bar is hosting the fundraiser on Thursday, May 30, from 5 to 8 PM at 116 North First Street.

You're invited to come and hear what this organization does from those who work with those we work with directly and learn how your donation is helping people in Solano County.

The event is for healthcare providers, Survivors, and supporters that make it possible for this organization to help those in need. ★

Mother/Son Art

The Creative Space is hosting a 'Mother and Son Color Fun' which includes lunch and fun activities with colored powder on Saturday, May 14, noon to 2 pm. Participants are encouraged to wear white to see who leaves with the most colors. Reservations are taken at Neighborhood Christian School at (707) 678-9336 or come by the school at Dixon Community Church, 955 East A Street.

Reiki Room

Michelle Austin has created a Reiki Room inside Kula's Salon at 120 West B Street. Reiki is a Japanese form of energy healing, considered an alternative medicine. Reiki practitioners use a technique called palm healing or hands-on healing through which a 'universal energy' comes through, similar to a massage.

Energy therapies are based on the concept that disturbances in energy fields in and around the body result in illness, and that improving the flow and balance of energy can improve health and wellbeing. For more information, call (415) 553-0619.

City Council

City Council will be meeting on Tuesday, May 17, at 7 pm in the Council Chambers. It has been a heavy agenda for the last few meetings so expect at least a couple hours to sit or watch Zoom the whole meeting. There has been much discussion lately on districts, budgets, managing late or unpaid business licenses, landscape maintenance, parking along Industrial Boulevard, and drone purchases (and use) by the Dixon Police Department. It is all very interesting. Don't wait until it's 'in your backyard,' before you pay attention!

Fish Fry

It's that time again for the Vet's Dinner Fish Fry (usually the 2nd Friday of the month) at the Dixon Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street, starting at 6 pm till 8 pm or until quantities last. Dinners are \$10 and come with coleslaw and hush puppies but sometimes that changes to french fries. The evening will be informal and fun with Veteran Roger Schaller singing and accompanied with his guitar. ★

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Downtown Plaza Prevails at Last



Whether it was the concrete tables, iron benches, or lush lawn, there were plenty of places to sit and listen to the DHS Jazz Band under the direction of Adrian Coulson at the ribbon cutting of the Downtown Dixon Plaza last week. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Continued from page 1

Development Committee was formed.

Jill received a small plaque along with other committee members present that night like Barry Schulze. Other committee members that she could remember were Danny Ayala, Debra Weingartner, and Dave Scholl.

"It's taken tons of input from the citizens and [DDBA Board Members] went to other cities and talked with other city managers to see how to do this. We've never had a 'destination.' Now, we do," she said. "I don't think people realize the synergy this will bring to our downtown. I'm relieved and happy and excited. It not only brings value, but it will bring people, exposure, and money to our merchants. We're finally here."

The former site of the Pardi Market was celebrated by about 100 visitors who received green Frisbees with the City logo on it and bottles of water while city staff, engineers, and other dignitaries gave pleased reports for perseverance in the long path to this place.

"This is a historical moment," said the Mayor who felt the plaza was "a beautiful addition to downtown and is a sort of a beacon of something that once was and that we wanted back." He spoke with regard to the pandemic that took away places to gather and celebrate.

The grounds had lush grass, a spacious,

raised stage, concrete tables and benches, and the Rotary Clock surrounded by parking spots across from Bud's Pub and Grill.

"Our goal was to provide a focal point, both for the historic downtown and also develop a multi-use space for the rest of you to be able to use for different venues moving forward," said City Engineer Deborah Barr from the podium. "We also wanted to maintain some parking, provide a welcoming environment and also facilitate the connectivity of both our bicycle and pedestrian routes and give a little bit of relief off of the vehicular traffic."

Karman Cates from Bennett Engineering Services joined the crowd happy to see the final outcome of the project the company has been working on.

"It is a very visible project for the firm and it's great to see it all come to fruition," said Cates. There were groups of families, a bunch of Dixon Police officers and Chief Robert Thompson all seeming to enjoy chatting with new and long-time Dixon residents while the Dixon High School Jazz Band played from the stage.

"Every time I took a walk, I kept looking in and couldn't wait to see it complete. Dixon is growing!" said Brooke Butler, originally from Vacaville but now a Dixon resident living near downtown. She is looking forward to hearing country music and hip-hop music with some dancing at the plaza. ★

Kathy Jones Recognized as Outstanding Senior

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year is Kathy Jones who was described by Mary Lou Batchelor, one of the organizers of the Dixon Senior Resource Fair, as a loving and kind person. Kathy, a native of New England, traveled to Europe one year and met her husband-to-be who was stationed in Madrid, Spain. They fell in love, married and had two lovely daughters: Erin Tyler who lives in Oklahoma with her husband Rocke and their daughter Eiley (7), and Emily who is here in Dixon and is married to Bill Slater with two children, Jemma Dubach (11) and Charlie Slater (2) rounding out the family.

The late Bill Jones and Kathy moved to Dixon 41 years ago, and she has been a pillar of help to others ever since. Her generosity is well-known and here are a few of her efforts: Vista Volunteer in Service to America; Helped Dixon Community Nursery School; Special



Mayor Steve Bird helped honor Outstanding Senior Kathy Jones at the recent Dixon Resource Fair. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Friend Counselor - Just for Kids Program at Dixon Family Services; Dixon Dolphins Swim Team Mom; Served on the Site Councils - C A Jacobs and Dixon High School; Worked in the grammar school classrooms; Sober Grad Night Volunteer; St. Vincent de Paul Food Locker; St. James School - early school program; Active Member of St. Peters Church and YLI; also a Eucharistic Minister and First Holy Communion Teacher; Team Dixon volunteer; and Advocates for Dixon

Seniors. Kathy's background is in nursing, working 40 years in that field. Her expertise is serving people having the disease of addiction. She worked in Sacramento as a psych nurse. "One might say Kathy has never known a stranger; her joyful spirit is infectious," added Batchelor. "She likes to be involved, enjoys reading, making memories with her grandchildren, spending time with family and friends, laughing, and on occasion, wine tasting." ★


MEMORIAL

LARRY WYATT JAHN • 12/11/1946 – 4/18/2022

Larry was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last August. He was a trooper and was optimistic. On Easter Sunday he collapsed and the doctors speculate it was cardiac arrest. He did not suffer.

Larry was plagued with pain from years of sports and farming. Now he is free of that pain. And for that his loved ones are grateful. We hope you will all have some good memories of him! Now Rest In Peace, Larry Wyatt Jahn.

A small service for family and friends will be held on Saturday May 21 from 4pm to 6pm at the Dixon History Museum 125 West A Street, Dixon, CA. The military honor guard will attend at the beginning of the service. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the museum would be appreciated.



Parade Winners!

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the winners from The Dixon May Fair Parade, held on Saturday, May 7 in downtown Dixon.

<p>BEST IN SHOW Dawson's Bar & Grill</p> <p>FLOATS - LOCAL ADULT 1st Place - Renovia Catolica St. Peter Church 2nd Place - Cornerstone Baptist Church 3rd Place - Julian Cuevas for School Board</p> <p>FLOATS - LOCAL YOUTH 1st Place - Dixon Montessori Charter School 2nd Place - Dixon Little League - Double A Dodgers 3rd Place - Dixon Little League - Single A and Triple A Pirates</p> <p>FLOATS - COMMERCIAL 1st Place - First Northern Bank 2nd Place - Downtown Dixon Business Association 3rd Place - Cattlemens</p> <p>MUSICAL UNITS - HIGH SCHOOL 1st Place - Dixon High School</p> <p>MUSICAL UNITS - OPEN 1st Place - Rancho el Zapotillo 2nd Place - Rancho JV</p> <p>DRILL TEAM/DANCE TEAM OPEN - SENIOR 1st Place - Discovery Challenge Academy 2nd Place - Recology Dixon</p> <p>DRILL TEAM/DANCE TEAM - DANCE/SPECIALTY JUNIOR 1st Place - Dixon Dance Studio</p> <p>COLORGUARD OPEN 1st Place - Discovery Challenge Academy</p> <p>COLORGUARD - MILITARY 1st Place - Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8151 7 American Legion Post 208 2nd Place - Veteran Riders Motorcycle Club</p> <p>TALL FLAGS - OPEN 1st Place - Dixon High School</p> <p>DRUM MAJOR - SENIOR 1st Place - Dixon High School</p> <p>AUTO CLASSIC 1st Place - James Hilton 2nd Place - Ruiz Rods 1932 Ford Coupe 3rd Place - Ruiz Rods 1932 Ford Classic</p>	<p>AUTO MILESTONE 1st Place - Michael Maunder 2nd Place - Ruiz Rods 1955 Chevy Bel Air 3rd Place - Ruiz Rods 1957 Chevy Bel Air</p> <p>AUTO/MOTORCYCLE CUSTOM BUILT 1st Place - Sam Fernandez 2nd Place - Danny Hansen</p> <p>AUTO COMMERCIAL 1st Place - Bobtail Apparel 2nd Place - Acosta Glass 3rd Place - Altec Industries</p> <p>DECORATED AUTO 1st Place - Hunt's Hauling & Junk Removal 2nd Place - Crystal Rico</p> <p>COMIC SENIOR 1st Place - Dixon Independent Voice Newspaper 2nd Place - Dixon Branch of Solano County Library 3rd Place - Recology Dixon</p> <p>NOVELTY - JUNIOR 1st Place - Ramtown Karate</p> <p>NOVELTY - SENIOR 1st Place - Barrett-Leber Realty 2nd Place - Dixon Unified School District 3rd Place - Aggie Animal Clinic</p> <p>EP PATROLLER 1st Place - AAliyah Ayon, Malissa Ayon & Holly Knight 2nd Place - Memezes Kids 3rd Place - Alan Johnson & Drake Hickman</p> <p>MOUNTED SWEEPSTAKES California Highway Patrol</p> <p>MOUNTED GROUP - CHARRO COSTUME 1st Place - Rancho JV 2nd Place - Rancho El Zapotillo</p> <p>MOUNTED GROUP - VAQUERO 1st Place - Rancho JV 2nd Place - Rancho El Zapotillo</p>
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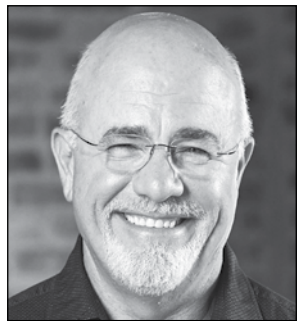
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Dave Ramsey Says

keeping them clean and looking great, I'd advise looking into another line of work. In other words, if you're thinking about this kind of business just because it's plausible or a way to make money, chances are you're not going to be happy or stick with it very long. In that case, it's really more of a side job than a business.

Is this something you'd want to be doing every day five years from now? Think about possibly having a team to lead and work with, too, at some point. Then, lay out a smart business plan, and write up everything from your marketing strategies to the cost of start-up equipment and supplies, to what your projected revenues are, and the per unit charges for all your services and widgets. Work this up like you had to prepare a report for a college class, and that's what a business plan looks like.

You'll always do a better job, and have more

fun, when you're part of something you love. And when it comes to running the business, stay away from debt, pay cash and don't be afraid to grow slowly. Be patient, be smart and give people a quality, reasonably-priced product and friendly, professional service. If you do all these things, there's a good chance you'll be successful.

Best of luck, Andrew!

– 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. ★

Simple Keys to Small Business Success

Dear Dave,

Do you have any advice on how to start a car wash and detailing business? What things should I consider first, and what do I keep in mind over the long run?

– Andrew

Dear Andrew,

I'm excited for you, man! And I love your ambitious spirit. Working for yourself is one of the toughest and most rewarding things anyone can do. It'll take a lot of blood, sweat and tears to be successful, and you'll experience some of the highest highs and lowest lows in the process.

But, if you don't absolutely love cars and everything that goes into

Gavin Newsom's First Term: Reality Bites



By Dan Walters
CALMatters.org

Last weekend, Gavin Newsom released the first video ad of his campaign for a second term as California's governor.

It is, therefore, an appropriate moment to look at what he said he wanted to accomplish as governor during his 2018 campaign and how it has turned out.

A two-word summary would be "reality bites."

Candidate Newsom, touting a book entitled "Built to Last: Successful Habits of Visionary Companies," embraced its central point that visionary leaders should seek "big, hairy audacious goals."

"I'd rather be accused of (having) those audacious stretch goals than be accused of timidity," he said at one point.

True to that philosophy, Newsom told voters he wanted to do big things, such as creating a single-payer health system, solving the state's chronic shortage of housing and completely converting California to renewable energy.

During his 2018 campaign, the state Senate passed a single-payer bill and Newsom enthusiastically endorsed it, saying there was "no reason to wait around."

"I'm tired of politicians saying they support

single-payer but that it's too soon, too expensive or someone else's problem," Newsom said.

The 2018 bill stalled in the Assembly but when another bill cleared the Senate and was pending in the Assembly this year, Newsom made no effort to get it passed and it died without a vote.

A commission Newsom appointed to study single-payer's feasibility has issued a report that lays out options but offers no clear path to implementation. Essentially, single-payer is no more likely today than it was four years ago.

Instead, Newsom's budgets have incrementally extended Medi-Cal coverage to uninsured residents, including undocumented immigrants, but in the long term, that coverage depends on the state's notoriously volatile revenues.

As he was running for governor, Gavin Newsom pledged to "lead the effort to develop the 3.5 million new housing units we need by 2025 because our solutions must be as bold as the problem is big."

The pledge would have required increasing production to 500,000 units a year, but actual construction has been, at best, about 20% of that figure. Newsom downplayed his pledge to "a stretch goal," telling the Los Angeles Times, "It's a stubborn issue. You can't snap your fingers and build hundreds of thousands, millions of housing units overnight."

And so it has gone – Newsom edging away from "big hairy audacious goals" one-by-one when they proved impossible to achieve in the real world.

Two recent positions on

high-profile environmental issues also illustrate how reality has tempered his governorship.

One reality is that California is afflicted by severe drought and, due to climate change, may face permanent shortages of water. One very controversial option is tapping the limitless supply of ocean water and stripping out its salt.

Recently, the state Coastal Commission recommended that the state's second desalination plant not be built, but Newsom reiterated his support. "We need more tools in the damn tool kit," Newsom told the Bay Area News Group editorial board.

That, at least, was a consistent position, but he modified his stance on another real world issue – whether California's only remaining nuclear power plant, Diablo Canyon, should be shuttered as now scheduled.

The San Luis Obispo County plant generates at least 6% of the state's electrical energy and closure could leave California, whose power supply is already marginal, in the dark.

Newsom had supported decommissioning Diablo Canyon but told the Los Angeles Times editorial board last week that California will apply for federal funds aimed at keeping threatened nuclear plants in production, saying, "We would be remiss not to put that on the table as an option."

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



Deep Freeze Severely Impacts Valley, Foothill Winegrape Growers

Winegrape growers in the northern San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada foothills are tallying losses from an April frost that devastated crops in many areas. Some growers report the freeze destroyed more than 90% of winegrapes. Two counties—Amador and Calaveras—are preparing disaster declarations based on crop losses averaging 60% or more. Much of the damage occurred during a four-hour freeze spanning night and pre-dawn hours April 11 and 12.

Port Delays Worsen for Farm Products, as Empty Containers Sent to Asia

Tree nuts, fresh produce, dairy products and other California farm commodities continue to pile up. That is happening as fewer ships arrive to pick up cargo at the Port of Oakland, where farm products account for 60% of total exports. Agricultural shippers were frustrated as some 67,000 containers left empty during the first two months of 2022, nearly double from last year. Three out of every four containers returning to Asia were reported empty.

UC Extension Offers Certification Training for Water Diversifiers

California law requires water-rights holders, including agricultural interests, to measure and report the water they divert from rivers and streams. It's a complex process, requiring metering equipment and, often, expenses in hiring professionals to do the work. But the state is now allowing water-rights holders to do the measuring themselves—if they complete certification courses offered by University of California Extension. The reporting requirement applies to diversions exceeding 10 acre-feet a year.

Scientists Target Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter, a Peril to Grapevines

Scientists at the University of California, Riverside, are researching gene-editing technology that may help neutralize a dangerous agricultural pest. The research is targeting the glassy-winged sharpshooter, a pest whose resistance to insecticides has been growing. The flying insect transmits bacteria that causes Pierce's Disease, which infects vineyards and poses a worrisome challenge for California's \$58 billion wine industry. ★

Heeney's History

The Big Flood and My Big Catfish Catch

Commentary by Ed Heeney

Every few years we would get what we called "the big flood." It would rain in the northwest overnight and be in flood stage by morning chore-time. We would have milk cows secured in the barn for milking and other livestock rounded up and safe in non-flooded areas.

Most farmsteads were developed with houses and outbuildings on higher ground, leaving "bottom land" for crops. This allowed safety from flooding most of the time but it also made a pretty good observation to view all the stuff floating down-stream like wagons, trees, and all the good stuff from the farm up-stream that had not been built on higher ground.

The "big flood" of 1941 was a real doozy. We had moved to a farm along the Chikaskia river and planted alfalfa in a good bottom land field of about ten acres. The first crop was a good one and we had cut and stacked three large piles of hay right at the edge of the field awaiting winter's livestock feeding. It was a sad sight when the river flooded, picked up our haystacks, floated them downstream and deposited alfalfa stems among the trees next door; looked like Spanish moss in the Bayou.

Shortly after the haystacks passed our view we noticed our old turkey settin'

hen was climbing the pear tree where she had a nest. The water was increasing rapidly and she was soon on the top. As she was surveying her chances, she made a decision: she would fly. Lifting head and looking for any alternative, off she flew rather clumsily and headed for the safety of the barn on dry ground. Turkeys were not meant to fly, but that old turkey sure did.

Shortly after the water went down and the river went back to normal, my brother and I were exploring the old bridge that had washed out and floated down the river and was lying on its side.

I was up on top of the structure looking down at the water below when I noticed a large catfish lying in a shallow pool, sunning himself with gills moving in and out. Well, I had no fishing tackle but I sure wasn't going to let him go. I did have telephone wire caught on the bridge. I stretched a piece of wire about 9 feet long, made a hook, and ever so slowly lowered it into the gill when opened and snared that 10-pound cat.

To this day I believe I hold the record of the biggest catfish caught on telephone wire.

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. ★

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NATIONAL NEWS *courtesy of THE EPOCH TIMES*

Dinesh D'Souza attends the premiere of Lionsgate Films' "America" at Regal Cinemas L.A. Live in Los Angeles on June 30, 2014.

Researcher Featured in '2000 Mules' Documentary Explains How Local Election Fraud Was Grown to National Scale

Local Election Fraud Was Nationalized in 2020, Researcher Says

JOHN HAUGHEY

Voter fraud has traditionally been a local affair in the United States, where elections are conducted by more than 3,000 counties in a decentralized system that makes mass ballot manipulation nearly impossible.

And it very much remains so, maintains Gregg Phillips. His investigation into Georgia voter fraud during the state's 2021 U.S. Senate election runoff is featured in Dinesh D'Souza's "2000 Mules" documentary, to be released this week.

While manning True the Vote's voter fraud hotline during the 2020 election, Phillips said he observed local election fraud "grown to scale" as part of a ballot-harvesting scheme orchestrated by national organizations.

Across the country, "there are a thousand local insurgencies doing their own things" in defiance of state election laws, he said.

But what has happened over the past few decades, and became evident during the 2020 election, is "new money and old money, old-fashioned foundations" can "leverage fraud already in place at a local level," Phillips said. "This is how this thing grows to scale" and can influence state and national election results.

Phillips, a former director of the Mississippi Department of Human Services and a former deputy commissioner for the Texas Health & Human Services Commission, is the managing partner and majority owner of OPSEC Group LLC, based in Birmingham, Alabama.

His company conducts voting roll and election results investigations and analysis for True the Vote (TTV), a nonprofit based in Houston founded by Catherine Engelbrecht in 2010.

For more than a decade, TTV has been training poll watchers, educating voters in election law, and lobbying to enact many of the reforms adopted post-2020.

Engelbrecht's TTV and Phillips's OPSEC conducted the investigation presented in the documentary by D'Souza, which is set to open in 300 theaters on May 2 and May 4.

The genesis of the investigation, which he and Engelbrecht say proves large-scale, illegal



▲ Utah County election workers gather ballots from a drop box in Springville, Utah, on Oct. 26, 2020.



True the Vote founder Catherine Engelbrecht in an interview with EpochTV's "Facts Matter," aired on April 14, 2022.

THE EPOCH TIMES

vote trafficking occurred in the 2020 election, was digging into reports after manning TTV's tip line, Phillips said.

"We started to see these anomalies, these densities," in "precinct after precinct" in places like Milwaukee, Detroit, Atlanta, and Arizona's Maricopa County, where voter turnout was extraordinarily high and virtually all ballots were cast for the same candidates, he said.

"Mistakes happen, but when you have 100 percent of [registered voters] voting and all for the same candidates," there is something fishy afoot, Phillips said.

He said that people calling the tip lines from across the country reported oddities around ballot drop boxes. A common theme was seeing the same people dropping off ballots.

"There was a lot of speculation about things related to drop boxes, a lot of video around these drop boxes," Phillips said, but it was difficult to use in trying to prove fraud.

Then he had an idea: Geospatial analysis gleaned from cellphone data.

He said that each cellphone emits a unique, identifiable signal, or "ping," he said, all of which are "collected and amalgamated by brokers and sold."

By collecting cellphone data, "you not only know where, but when" a phone is at different places, Phillips said. "Presuming you know the person who owns that phone, you can learn, where does he sleep? Where does he work?"

He was eager to see what analyzing cellphone "pings" around drop boxes would engender. The phone numbers can be tracked

and investigators "can go back and bust out a pattern of locations before, during and after" the phone was at the dropbox, he said.

They then "refined a hypothesis that [could be tested] in Georgia" during the January 2021 runoff election for both of the state's U.S. Senate seats.

The operation would require the purchase of a petabyte of pings. A petabyte equals 1,000 terabytes, which Phillips said is "a big, big, big thing."

"[Engelbrecht] and her team were working on filing freedom of information requests, and she didn't really buy into a lot of the stuff that was out there," he said. "But she supported us, backed us all the way, when we needed more data, she went out and raised more money."

The data were "super expensive"—millions of dollars, Phillips said. "We may be the only group left standing when this is all said and done that went out and bought 10 trillion" pings.

Once they had the data, the question was, who made 25 or more visits to a dropbox?

"What that left us with was 242 individuals who met that threshold," Phillips said.

TTV also collected "4 to 5 million minutes" of video that also show the cellphone owners making ballot drops, he said. Those who did so 25 or more times were labeled "mules."

The data confirmed conclusively that industrial-scale ballot harvesting was routine in Georgia, especially in the Atlanta area. Phillips said Engelbrecht demanded it be checked and rechecked.

"She says over and over again,

"Gregg, no matter what, you can't be wrong," he said. "We had to put it through these quality control checks, create algorithms to pick up anomalies and kick them out. We did not want to include false positives, exclude people who should be included, and include people who should be excluded."

"We don't want to get ahead of ourselves," Engelbrecht said. "It takes time" to develop these analyses.

When the findings were presented to state officials in early 2021, they didn't get the expected response. In September 2021, Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vic Reynolds said that since TTV would not reveal sources cited in its analysis, there was no probable cause to investigate.

"They got mad at us and sent us a letter saying no probable cause to investigate—you don't need probable cause to investigate," Phillips said.

"I think the greatest challenge we faced was we really believed we could get our work to a point to where it was clear there is a problem, that using our data" collected by the same technology "routinely used by law enforcement would be impetus enough for key officials to say, 'This is something we should look into,'" Engelbrecht said.

On April 25, Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger announced the state would investigate TTV's claims and subpoenaed Engelbrecht and Phillips.

One reason for Georgia's revived interest in TTV's 2021 investigation—and sources—was that similar subsequent geospatial investigations by Phillips had gained traction with officials in Arizona, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

Phillips said they found ballot harvesting to be a local cottage industry everywhere they looked.

County by county, "the gifts are different, the collectors and the collection methods are different," he said. "You think, how could this possibly be so coordinated? It doesn't seem plausible that thousands of people could have been brought in to do all this stuff."

This makes combatting fraud at the polls a "thousand-front war, a whole bunch of mini-insurgencies" that provide the infrastructure for national groups to scale up.

Phillips said he can't name names right now. "We are being advised right now (not to make specific allegations) until we get further down the road," he said.

But he said the groups capitalizing on local election fraud networks tend to be state chapters of national advocacy groups and foundations with grant programs that have significant influence in communities.

"I went to Dinesh and said there's enough material here for a movie, and I'm not sure anyone else will tell the story," Engelbrecht said. "It's very difficult in today's environment to find people like Dinesh willing to step up to the line and say, 'Let's take a look at it.'"

"We both ended up being a lot more involved in this movie than we thought we would be," Phillips said. "The next thing we know, we are front and center." But stay tuned, both say more is coming.

"We have two investigations that are more explosive and likely more impactful than this entire 'mules' thing," Phillips said.

"There is something we haven't spoken of publicly because we thought it was going to go in a certain direction, and now that agency is flipping the script, so we are trying to batten down the hatches," Engelbrecht said. "When it comes to this stuff, you cannot be wrong."

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Riley Reviews

'MEMORY' REMEMBERS THE ACTION FORMULA; FOREIGN FILMS ON DVD

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"MEMORY" Rated R

There is no quit when it comes to Liam Neeson taking the leading role in action thrillers, and "Memory" proves to be no exception when calling for the seemingly ageless actor to display the requisite physical toughness.

However, the stereotype of Neeson the action figure that has gained traction since his role of revenge hero in the first "Taken" film is upended this time in the part of Alex Lewis, a professional hitman afflicted with incipient dementia.

Not straying too far from his screen persona of righteous avenger, Neeson's character is a bad guy with scruples, which means he has no compunction about killing sex traffickers or sleazy businessmen but draws the line on the more vulnerable.

Our first glimpse at Alex's trade and his diminished mental capacity is a gruesome hit in a Mexican hospital, followed by his predicament of remembering where he put his car keys for a quick getaway.

As an assassin working both sides of the Texas/Mexico border, Alex's fading memory is cause for retirement but he's persuaded to take one last job because, even though unstated, he's still got "a particular set of skills."

Unable to resist the insistence of his Mexico City contact offering a large wad of cash for another job, Alex is instructed to kill two people in El Paso, which happens to be his home turf.

The first job is to eliminate wealthy businessman Ellis van Camp (Scot Williams) and retrieve the flash drive stored in his safe. Pulling off this part of the assignment is easily accomplished.

Upon discovering that the second victim is 13-year-old Beatriz (Mia Sanchez), who had been pimped out by her father (Antonio Jaramillo) to the entitled son of a prominent developer, Alex won't kill a child.

Meanwhile, undercover FBI agent Vincent Serra (Guy Pierce) is hell-bent on stopping the sexual abuse of children, along with his partner Linda Amistead (Taj Atwal) and Mexican cop Hugo Marquez (Harold Torres).

Davana Sealman (Monica Bellucci), the well-known real estate mogul, along with her depraved son Randy (Josh Taylor), runs a sordid criminal enterprise of drugs and underage sex trafficking.

Connected with corrupt officials, the villainous Sealman has wide berth in El Paso for her nefarious endeavors, such that local detective Danny Mora (Ray Stevenson) rebuffs FBI agent Serra's dogged pursuit of justice.

For his part, Alex is not deterred from going after Sealman even if she's protected by lawmen and a feckless district attorney thwarts the determination of the FBI agents to bring down Sealman's sex ring.

There may be a turf war between the El Paso authorities and the feds, but Alex goes about the business of dispatching the thugs not so easily apprehended by Serra's crew even when his memory starts to falter.

An interesting twist is that Serra is so focused on cracking Sealman's sex ring that he ends up in the tight spot of aligning with Alex in the takedown of sleazebags.

Arguably, "Memory" is the type of action thriller that might have been more suitable for a streaming service or straight-to-video, notwithstanding it's better than Neeson's recent "Blacklight."

Nevertheless, "Memory" is a serviceable B-movie that delivers the action goods craved by Liam Neeson fans, even if it offers temporary enjoyment before eventually dropping into a memory hole.

FOREIGN FILMS ON DVD

Proving that action films don't have to be homegrown, "Indemnity," set for release on May 10th, is South Africa's most ambitious thrill ride packed with stylishly choreographed fights, car crashes, explosions and daring fire rescues.

Traumatized Cape Town ex-fireman Theo Abrams (Jarrid Geduld) wakes up next to his wife's corpse, with no recollection of what transpired and all evidence pointing to him as the killer.

Labeled the prime suspect, Theo quickly finds himself hunted by sinister forces and a ruthless deputy chief of police and embarks on a breakneck mission to uncover the truth behind his wife's death.

As the former firefighter struggles to survive, connections are revealed between his past, the mysterious death of his spouse, and a government conspiracy with terrifying implications.

A newcomer to the genre, lead actor Jarrid Geduld spent three months with stunt masters and performed all his own stunts, including a record-breaking hanging suspension stunt performed outside a 21st floor window.

In 1969, the Norwegian government announced their discovery of one of the world's largest oil fields in the neighboring North Sea, which launched a prosperous period of offshore drilling.

The disaster in "The Burning Sea" comes fifty years later, when a crack opens on the ocean floor causing a rig to collapse and it becomes clear there would be environmental consequences for these actions.

When a team of researchers, including submarine operator Sofia (Kristine Kujath Thorp), rushes in to search for the missing and assess the damage, they discover this is just the start of a possible apocalyptic catastrophe.

As rigs are evacuated, Sofia's loving companion Stian (Henrik Bjelland) becomes trapped in the depths of the sea, and she must attempt one last life-saving measure by diving in for a rescue. ★

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A Family Is...

by Lisa Thiesing

A Family is a celebration. They are there in the morning and on the way to the park. A family helps and cheers one another while also understanding, talking, and snuggling.

Celebrate all the joys of being family with this charming read-aloud storybook. With engaging illustrations celebrating the countless ways to be family, *A Family Is...* will quickly become a favorite read.

Bloom by Ruth Forman

and Talia Skyles

A celebration of self-love, beauty, and standing tall, *Bloom* highlights how all girls bloom like flowers. With beautiful glowing illustrations, the joy of each little girl jumps off the pages and instantly will make young girls feel unique, empowered, and a sense of togetherness in this garden of life.

You Complete Me

A Sliding Pull-Tab Book

by Cindy Jin and Yuzhen Cai

Let your little one know just how much you love them with this sliding pull-tab book. With its sturdy board book design, little hands can slide each piece together and apart to show how perfectly each piece matches. Like ice cream and its waffle cone, or a ball to its glove, this book show how each piece fits perfectly just like you.

The Blur

by Minh Le and Dan Santat

Parenting is a blur of superhero activity. From a baby's supersonic voice, enhanced hearing, and even turning invisible. From always being on the move, running head-first into danger, to even zipping through life, every parent also knows there are little moments where time stands still.

Fall for the parenting adventure of the *Blur*, highlighting moments from babies to teens that pass like a blur. Be prepared to have this story tug at your heartstrings. Not just a story for those with little ones all in a blur of activity, but for the parents who have



watched their child's life pass by in a blur of activity. The perfect book for new parents and parents of graduates, this book hits on all levels and is a true classic in the making.

Harriets Ruffled Feathers

by Joy McCullough and Romina Gulotta

Celebrate a notable woman in history this Mother's Day with *Harriet's Ruffled Feathers- The Woman Who Saved Millions of Birds*. Harriet was the height of society and loved to wear a beautiful hat everywhere she went. Harriet loved all her hats, especially those adorned with stunning arrays of feathers. Then one day, Harriet read a news story about the millions of birds who died, so their feathers could adorn their hats. Immediately Harriet sprang into action and, with her friends, propelled initiatives to get laws passed to save these wild birds, even without a woman's right to vote. Harriet also founded the Massachusetts Audubon society with a few wonderful friends at her side, which helped springboard the Audubon Society throughout the country. Through Harriet's heroic and brave stance, millions of birds were spared from being hunted in the name of fashion. ★

Dodd Introduces Affordable Housing Bill

Office of Sen. Bill Dodd Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, announced legislation on April 26 that would assist the creation of affordable housing in California by identifying excess state property that could be used for development, advancing earlier initiatives from Gov. Gavin Newsom to address the state housing crisis.

"The rapid creation of affordable housing is vital to Californians, who are experiencing increased homelessness and instability because of extreme prices," Sen. Dodd said. "To accelerate construction of these much-needed units, we must continue to prioritize the use of excess state land. My bill will ensure we continue to identify which properties are available and get these projects going as economically and efficiently as possible."

The state's need for affordable housing is significantly outpacing its production, which is negatively affecting Californians. According to a report from the California Housing Partnership, 1.4 million low income California households lacked access to affordable housing last year. Despite California's need for affordable housing, the state has annually fallen 100,000 units short on its affordable housing creation goals for many years.

Gov. Newsom made progress with his 2019 executive order that first called for the use of surplus state land for affordable housing. On his order, the Department of General Services reviewed 44,000 state properties and found 92 of them suitable for affordable housing. However, as of March of this year, only 19 of

the properties have been offered by the department for development. A recent California State Auditor report found that process could be accelerated.

Sen. Dodd's bill, Senate Bill 561, would speed development, codifying the governor's order and requiring transparency and reporting on the long-term leasing of surplus land to the Legislature. In addition, it would incorporate key recommendations from the State Auditor's report to facilitate the identification of additional excess state property and the ultimate creation of more affordable housing.

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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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS
 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-000668
 The following persons are doing business as: Blue Monarch Medical Transport, 3628 Sunny Hills Lane, Vacaville, CA 95688. Blue Monarch Medical Transport, LLC, 3628 Sunny Hills Lane, Vacaville, CA 95688. Date Filed in Solano County: April 14, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. 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 the filing of this 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 April 13, 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: April 22, 29, May 6 & 13, 2022
 BLUE 5-13-22
 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-000589
 The following persons are doing business as: Stone Editorial/Stone Age Distractions/Kimberly Boutique, 1961 Marshall Road, Vacaville, CA 95687. Stone Creative Studios, LLC, 1961 Marshall Road, Vacaville, CA 95687. Date Filed in Solano County: April 4, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
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erally 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 April 3, 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: April 22, 29, May 6 & 13, 2022

STONE 5-13-22
 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-000665
 The following persons are doing business as: Hancock Properties, 65 Villa Circle, Fairfield, CA 94533. Jeffery Hancock, 65 Villa Circle, Fairfield, CA 94533. Date Filed in Solano County: April 13, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1.23.2021
 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

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 Publish: May 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2022
 HANCOCK 5-27-22

Vast Crowds at May Fair

Continued from page 1
from the high school and back.

Conklin was quick to give credit to the locals and friends who showed up before the fair to help.

“We couldn’t get through the fair without all our friends in the fair industry,” she said. “We couldn’t get anybody to work. We’re just like all the other businesses who can’t get workers. The fair industry is like a big family so when one

needs help, people come help.”

Conklin started getting help setting up the buildings from several friends.

“One came to set up the Youth Exhibits and a friend from Plumas came and painted all the planters at the main gate. Several came and helped to receive entries, and Rotary planted plants and kids came with their families to help. And, I can’t say enough about the Huffman family and all their friends who came to help,” she said,

referring to Donnie Huffman, founder of the Friends of the May Fair.

New Dixonite Brett Machado was impressed. He and his wife moved to Dixon last August and bought a new home near enough to the May Fair that they walked to it. The line was long for security, but they were understanding of the need for security, they said.

“They expedited people through quickly,” said Machado. “We found it was

very manageable to get in, to get out, and purchase tickets. For me and my wife with her background in FFA we really enjoyed checking out the animals. There was a wide variety of food vendors, and we found the service all very, very good.” They had such a good time that the next day they returned with a teenage relative and took in the rides.

“Staff was warm and welcoming and overall, it was a great time,” he said. ★



A young cowboy lassos his rope while standing on the back of his horse during the 2022 Dixon May Fair. Photo by Nicolas Brown



The Dixon May Fair featured several species of animals including goats. Photo by Debra Dingman



A young boy plays a duck capturing game at the 2022 Dixon May Fair. Photo by Debra Dingman



The Ben Ali Shriners ride go carts during the 2022 Dixon May Fair Parade. Photo by Nicolas Brown

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Kings Announce Mike Brown as Head Coach

Sacramento Kings News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Monday, May 9, Sacramento Kings General Manager Monte McNair named Mike Brown as the team’s new head coach. Per team policy, the terms of the deal were not disclosed.

“Mike has consistently demonstrated his ability to lead winning teams throughout his long and successful coaching career,” said Sacramento Kings General Manager Monte McNair. “He has worked with some of the best players in the NBA and is one of the league’s premier defensive minds. I am excited to bring his extensive experience to Sacramento.”

Brown joins the Kings from the Golden State Warriors, where he is currently in his sixth season as an assistant coach. He helped guide the team to back-to-back titles in 2016-17 and 2017-18. Prior to the Warriors, Brown held head coaching duties with the Cleveland Cavaliers (2005-10, 2013-14) and Los Angeles Lakers (2011-12). Brown’s teams qualified for the playoffs in six of his seven full seasons as a head coach, advancing past the first round in each appearance.

In 2007, Brown led the Cavaliers to their first-ever NBA Finals appearance and was named the NBA Coach of the Year in 2008-09 after guiding the Cavaliers to a franchise-record 66 wins. Cleveland won at least 50 games in four of Brown’s first five seasons

with the club, including back-to-back 60-win campaigns in 2008-09 (66) and 2009-10 (61). During the 2011-2012 lockout-shortened season, Brown led the Lakers to a Pacific Division title and a 41-25 (.621) record. He owns a career head coaching record of 347-216 (.616) over eight seasons, which ranks as the ninth-best winning percentage in NBA history among coaches who have registered at least 500 games at the helm.

Prior to joining the Cavaliers in 2005, Brown was associate head coach of the Indiana Pacers for two seasons (2003-05) after spending three years as an assistant with the San Antonio Spurs (2001-03), where he also captured an NBA title. Brown began his career with the Denver Nuggets in 1992, spending five seasons as a video coordinator and scout before serving as an assistant under Bernie Bickerstaff in Washington beginning in 1997.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Brown is a graduate of the University of San Diego, where he played collegiately for two seasons after spending two years at Mesa Community College.

Brown was the head coach of the Nigeria men’s national basketball team during the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, held in August 2021. He has two sons, Elijah and Cameron.

For more information visit Kings.com. ★

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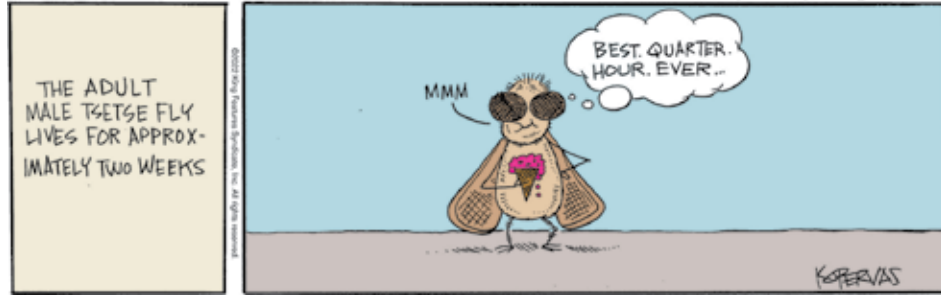
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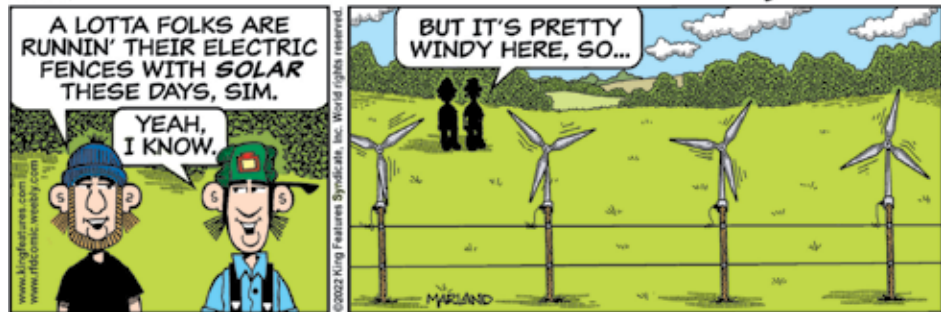
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Softball Team Wins on Senior Night

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) -The Dixon High School varsity softball team remained unbeaten in its 16th consecutive game Monday on Senior Night in Dixon with a 12-3 win over Pioneer.

The Rams (18-1-1, 9-0 Golden Empire League) also stayed undefeated in league play with the victory over the second place Patriots (12-10-1, 6-3). Dixon has already clinched the Golden Empire League title for the second year in a row, even with one regular season game remaining. The Rams won the league for the first time in school history last year.

Dixon celebrated the team's seven seniors who were playing in their final home game on Monday afternoon. The following Rams are in the Class of 2022: Janie Ming, Isabella Orozco, Madi West, Brianna Humphries, Alexis Bencze, Lexi Coyle and Shea Garcia. Humphries, Coyle and West are among the leaders in their class as starters for Dixon. Garcia leads the team in on base percentage and Ming is currently injured. Orozco and Bencze are reserves.

The Rams got the scoring going early against the Patriots on Monday afternoon, scoring three runs in the bottom of the first inning and one in the second. Dixon added on to their lead and put the game away in the fourth inning

with four runs to take a commanding 8-0 lead.

Pioneer attempted to mount a comeback with three runs in the top of the fifth inning. However, the Patriots' effort was matched as the Rams piled on four more runs in the bottom half of the fifth to increase its lead to nine. Dixon tallied 13 total hits and went on to win 12-3.

Coyle led the Rams to victory, going 4-for-4 at the plate. Coyle had four hits (one double), four runs batted in, two runs scored and two stolen bases. Sophomore



Dixon seniors from left to right: Janie Ming, Brianna Humphries, Madi West, Lexi Coyle, Alexis Bencze and Shea Garcia pose for a photo after defeating Pioneer 12-3 on Monday, May 9 at Senior Night in Dixon. Photo courtesy of Wendi Hendershot



Dixon seniors and their families pose for a photo before defeating Pioneer 12-3 on Monday, May 9 at Senior Night in Dixon. Photo courtesy of Wendi Hendershot

Felesha Lepenske was perfect with the lumber Monday as well, reaching base in all four of her plate appearances. Lepenske recorded three hits (one home run), three RBI, three runs, one walk

and one stolen base.

On Senior Day, Coyle did it all, including on the mound. The senior pitcher earned the win after tossing a complete game going seven innings, allowing five hits, three

earned runs and two walks with 12 strikeouts on 105 pitches. Coyle practically won the game by herself, knocking in four runs while limiting the Patriots to three.

Pioneer tallied five

total hits, as five Patriots had one each. Freshman pitcher Jia Beebe took the loss on the bump for Pioneer, throwing six innings and giving up 13 hits, 12 runs (six earned), five stolen bases and four

walks with four punchouts on 113 pitches.

Dixon plays its regular season finale on the road at Casa Roble (13-9, 6-3) on Tuesday with first pitch scheduled for 4:30 P.M. ★

Rams Clash!

Dixon tops Casa Roble in regular season finale

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

ORANGEVALE, CA (MPG) - The back-to-back Golden Empire League Champions Dixon High School softball team traveled 50 minutes northeast to Casa Roble on Tuesday for the Rams' regular season finale.

In a battle of the Rams, Dixon (19-1-1, 10-0 Golden Empire) was victorious 6-1 over Casa Roble (13-10, 6-4). With the win, Dixon finishes the regular season unbeaten in league play. The Rams have also gone 17 straight games without a loss. Dixon has not lost since its third game of the season on March 10 when the Rams lost 11-0 at home to East Nicolaus (24-2, 14-0 Sacramento Valley).

Dixon tied 4-4 with Pinole Valley (21-2-1, 10-0 Tri-County - Rock) on April 23 at a neutral site

tournament. Normally, the game would've been played until a winner was determined, but the game was called after five innings due to heavy rain. If the Rams had finished that game with a victory, they would be on an 18-game winning streak.

On Tuesday afternoon in Orangevale, Dixon got the scoring started early with three runs in the top of the first inning. Casa Roble responded with one run in the bottom half of the first to prevent the shutdown inning for Dixon sophomore pitcher Felesha Lepenske. Dixon added on two more runs in the second inning and one in the fourth to win 6-1.

Monday may have been Senior Night in Dixon, but Tuesday was sophomore day in Orangevale for the Rams. Second baseman Audrey Graham had a great day with the lumber, reaching base in all four of

her plate appearances. The sophomore was a speedster on the bases, swiping four bags with three hits, two runs scored and one hit by pitch.

Lepenske provided herself with some run support, going 2-for-4 (one double) with three runs batted in. The sophomore flamethrower had a similar performance to senior pitcher Lexi Coyle from the day prior, knocking in more runs at the plate than she allowed on the mound. Lepenske earned the win by tossing a complete game going seven strong innings allowing five hits, one unearned run and one walk with seven strikeouts on 99 pitches.

The Rams from Dixon will now patiently wait to find out who they will be playing in the first round of the postseason. The 2022 CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Softball Playoffs brackets will be released on Friday, May 13 after 2 P.M. ★



Dixon senior pitcher Lexi Coyle throws a pitch during an 8-5 extra inning win over Benicia on April 25 in Dixon. Photo courtesy of Wendi Hendershot

Volleyball Season Ends in D3 Quarterfinals

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

MANTECA, CA (MPG) - A magical season came to an end Thursday, May 5, in Manteca for the Dixon High School boys' varsity volleyball team following a loss to East Union in the quarterfinals of the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division III boys volleyball playoffs.

The No. 5 seed Rams (16-2, 10-0 Golden Empire League) lost to the No. 13 Lancers (12-9, 5-5 Valley Oak) in four sets, 3-1. The loss not only ended Dixon's season, but also snapped the team's impressive 15-match winning streak.

East Union needed extra time to win the first set, as the Lancers narrowly prevailed 27-25. The Rams responded well in the second set, winning 25-20 to even the score at one. East Union won the match with two more narrow victories in the third and fourth sets, conquering Dixon 25-23 in each, respectively. The Lancers were swept in the semifinals on Tuesday night at No. 1 seed Lathrop.

Nine out of 14 Rams are seniors and will not be on next year's team. The



Dixon senior opposite/outside/middle hitter Kyan Fries prepares to spike the ball during a sweep of Pioneer on Wednesday, April 27 at Senior Night in Dixon. Photo by Nicolas Brown

following students are in the Class of 2022: Defensive specialist (DS)

Diego Palomino, co-captain and libero Demetrio Acosta, middle hitter (MH)

Shanay Nair, DS Ethan Reed, setter (S) Jonathan Covello, co-captain and MH/S Ernesto Arias, opposite hitter (OPP)/outside hitter (OH)/MH Kyan Fries, OH Dylan Diaz and OH/MH Josef Iten.

The 2022 season will be remembered for multiple reasons. First, the 15-match winning streak. Dixon lost its second game of the season and then didn't lose again until the second round of the playoffs. However, the Rams did not merely survive each match during the streak, they dominated most. After its first two wins of the streak, Dixon won nine consecutive matches without losing a single set.

The Rams battled to five sets against the Casa Roble Rams on April 25, then swept their next three matches before losing to the Lancers on Thursday night. The 2022 season will also be remembered for an undefeated record in Golden Empire play, en route to a league championship. Nine out of 10 of the league wins were sweeps.

Kudos to head coach Jessica Biesanz, assistant coach Nikki Garcia and the entire Dixon team on a spectacular season. ★