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Earns First
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Dixon Independent Voice

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MAY 20, 2022

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Edifying the New Pioneers

Montessori Students Learn through Living History



Children raise their hands and talk to a Trapper who can explain about the various animal furs and how they kept warm during snow and cold weather during their trails into California. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A living history rolled up on a life-sized wagon and by Thursday morning, the backgrounds of Dixon Montessori Charter School looked similar to any camp of pioneers back in 1846, complete with dozens of elementary school children skipping around in costumes of the times.

Girls in long skirts and bonnets or braids visited and boys in breeches wearing wide-brimmed hats scattered around numerous tents of bleached muslin to explore carpentry, a tinsmith, and the barrel-making work of a cooper.

A group of tall boys gathered around one display, an Apothecary, where a costumed woman, Xina

Frawnfelter from Redding, showed them leeches in a large water-filled glass container and talked about the creation of medicines from root, bark, and herbs. The boys were anxious to watch her pick up one of the leeches with the silver tongs.

And it wasn't just 4th through 6th grade students who wanted to learn how butter was churned or how to bake bread from these early settlers. Younger children from the other DMCS classes filed out to the campsites to learn from a trapper how he made his hat from a fox and what trappers did to keep warm when travelling across mountains into California.

The many volunteers were from the Marshall Gold Discovery State Park in Coloma, a California state park that marks the discovery of

gold by James W. Marshall at Sutter's Mill in 1848, sparking the California Gold Rush and from The Trans California Mining Company as well as several independent historians. The wagon was provided courtesy of the Dixon History Museum.

Parent volunteer Stephanie Baltz, a professional costume designer and seamstress, organized the event. The Mills College graduate was a history major and "fell in love with the 19th Century" particularly the time around 1846. She explained that she first made a couple costumes for children and wound up soon building enough for the entire school and over the years also built up her adult collection.

"I love doing this, the clothing,"
Continued on page 3

Buy a Bag of Books this Saturday

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Members of the Friends of the Dixon Public Library are pleased to announce a huge sale at The Friendly Bookworm bookstore located at 200 N. First Street, next door to the library.

After more than two years of waiting, the public will be happy to know that they are planning a \$5 per bag sale on Saturday, May 21, from 11 AM to 4 PM. Hundreds of quality used books in a wide variety of genres, audiobooks, CDs, and DVDs will be on sale. This is a great opportunity for customers to pick their favorite books and authors at a bargain price and even try a few new ones. Brown paper grocery bags will be provided to shoppers at the bag sale. There is no limit to how many bags can be filled.



Friendly Bookworm bookstore volunteer Sharon Swifka. Photo by Debra Dingman

Volunteers update the shelves regularly and bring new materials into the store. If you enjoy reading books or just want to support your local community, consider becoming a volunteer or a member of the Friends of the Dixon Public Library. Applications are available at the bookstore. Donations of gently used books and other media are always appreciated.

All proceeds from the book sale support the Dixon Library and are used to encourage reading in our community for both adults and children. The Friends of the Dixon Public Library is proud to contribute to the summer reading programs, scholarships, and other library sponsored events. They thank you for your ★

Firefighters Promoted and Recognized

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - "Our community needs to know the names and faces of the people that serve selflessly to protect our citizens and region," said Dixon Fire Chief Todd McNeal.

McNeal promoted and recognized numerous Dixon firefighters at a recent City Council Meeting.

"I feel that publicly recognizing our Dixon Fire members is vitally important," McNeal said. "Dixon firefighters are committed to service before self."

His goal was to honor the 2021 award recipients and to announce and pin the newest promotions within the department.

"We have a tremendous staff," McNeal said, adding that Grant Haynie was awarded Firefighter of the Year for 2021.

The promotions are Michael Raycraft, Grant Haynie and Justin Hemje to Engineers; Zach Glankle



Two Dixon firefighters, Jarrod Infante and Randy Shafer, were promoted to Battalion Chiefs and were pinned by their family members at a recent City Council Meeting.

and Nick Warren are now Captains; and the Battalion Chiefs are Jarrod Infante and Randy Shafer.

The award for Commendation of Superior Effort went to John Malone, Taylor McAbee, Jarrod Infante, Al Apaka,

Grant Haynie, Markus Lincoln, Wade Norberg, Michael Raycraft and Chris Wilson. The nine individuals performed a life rescue involving a submerged vehicle that had a life trapped inside.

The Cody Robben

Memorial Life Saving Awards went to Nick Warren, Wade Norberg, Al Apaka, Christian Arriaga-Bautista, Justin Hemje, Zach Glankle, Jarrod Infante, Grant Haynie, Markus Lincoln,

Continued on page 5

**We
Support
Our
Military**



Sample Ballot Arrives

By Debra Dingman

Many of you have discovered that if you don't get our free thrown paper in your driveway, you can pick up this great news source free in many spots around town now including Grocery Outlet at the front door, Safeway by the Wells Fargo ATM, Viva La Favorita Market at the front door, the news stand at the post office, Solano Baking Company, Dixon's Pure Water, Bud's Pub, Dawson's, the Vet's Hall, Dixon Laundry, numerous gas stations and hotels, and of course, at the back entrance of the Susan Motley Building. My 2nd home for more than two years now has been at the corner of A and Adams Streets where the Independent Voice Newspaper office is and where we placed a nice newspaper stand.

What I love, though, is that if you prefer, you can get a \$35 a year subscription where our lovely newspaper comes every Friday in your mailbox. But better yet, we are also online so you can read us every week at independentvoice.com.

Nevertheless, we still would love to have a news carrier so if you know of someone who wants to make some extra

money working just one day a week for a few hours, call our publisher at (916) 773-1111.

Other News Source

There are many new people in town who may not know where there is another good news source for all the events coming and going so I will share this with newcomers as anyone who has lived here awhile already figured this out. It's the post office windows.

Shauna Manina, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, is really good about posting news signs from Chamber members. You can also ask about the Newcomers Bag for new Dixon residents. So even if you're waiting three weeks for an Internet provider to get your Wi-Fi connected after your move, you can still learn about what's coming up in Dixon.

On a side note about communications, AT&T is improving their cell phone service now. At the last City Council Meeting, another tower was approved to go up by the Second Street Apartments near the tracks. It will look like a tree...

Ballot Choices

Okay, I know some readers are very astute when it comes to

candidates and elections, but I would bet that most are not. When I got my ballot, I was surprised how many people were running and almost all I had NEVER heard of and I'm somewhat of a newshound. I counted and there were 116 people who want to do something about our government. So commendable...I think.

So, I let my husband do the homework. Who else has the time to investigate all those people? He emerged from our office two days later. I caught a glimpse of his notes and x's and circles all over his sample ballot.

This is a preliminary vote and not all these people will be actually running. (Government is a tricky dog.) To help you make your decisions, I suggest you look at your deeply held convictions about your belief system and try to find a candidate that shares those.

In case you're at a loss for that, I will share with you an overarching view I hold of government: I am a person who believes firmly in less government and I have very high expectations of anyone wanting to be in public office so they need to be able to actually WORK at the job. Specifically, I look for very high integrity. Good luck! ★

Dixon News Briefs



John Knight Middle School will hold an Open House this coming Tuesday, May 24, from 5:45 to 7 PM and will feature the school band at the opening ceremony. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Senior Car Cruise

On Friday, May 20, there will be a Senior Car Cruise throughout town for families and friends in this community to recognize the hard work and effort high school graduates put into this school year. Drivers will meet at Hall Park before the cruise begins at 6:30 PM. For any questions, call Regina Fish at (707) 628-9771.

Win a Traeger BBQ

The Dixon Little League has some raffle tickets for their drawing that will be available for sale at the snack bar in Hall Park during games. Tickets are \$10 and first prize is a Traeger Barbecue Grill, 2nd prize is a 65" Samsung Smart TV and 3rd prize is Giants or A's tickets package of your choice which is up to a \$250 value.

The drawing will be held on Saturday, May 21 and you do not have to be present to win. The Dixon Little League appreciates support.

Little League Fair

Also on that Saturday, 21st, the Little League will be celebrating their season with a Family Fun Day from 10 AM to 4 PM. Tickets are \$1. There will be baseball games, of course, but also carnival games, local vendors, a petting zoo, dunk tank, a barbecue, and more raffles and prizes.

For more information, contact Jennifer Roman on Facebook or on Instagram @JSRoman2016.

JKMS Open House

John Knight Middle School Open House will be Tuesday, May 24, from 5:45 to 7 PM. It will start with a Meet & Greet in the Main Gym at 5:40 PM with the JKMS Maverick Band performing before

guests are invited to see the open classrooms, tour the campus, and visit with teachers. Students' work and projects will be on display.

If you're wanting to talk with your child's teacher, they are asking that you please schedule a parent conference for better conversations.

Sports Camps

The City of Dixon is hosting along with the National Academy of Athletics numerous sports camps for youths this summer along with a 'junior' version for ages 4 to 6-years-old. There is a soccer camp, a flag football camp June 20-24 for ages 7 to 13.

There are camps one week a month in the mornings for boys and girls ages 4 to 6-years-old. For more information, call Lisa Arellano at (707) 678-7441.

Parks & Rec

This next Tuesday, May 24, the Parks & Recreation Commission will be meeting at 7 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers at 600 East A Street. To view the agenda, check online at the City of Dixon website under the Government tab.

Hiring Fair

Are you needing a job or want to get a better one? Just in time for our graduates to learn more about work in Solano County, the Workforce Development Board of Solano County, and sponsored by Kaiser Permanente is presenting a Hiring Fair on Wednesday, May 25 from 4 to 6 PM at 500 Chadborne Road in Fairfield.

Their mission is to connect the community to living wage jobs in Solano County and grow job opportunities in cashiering, customer service, and transportation. Justice involved job seekers are welcome. To register, go to empowersolano.com/jobs. ★

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A Message from your DUSD Superintendent



Brian Dolan

By Brian Dolan

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The following are a few notes from Dixon Unified School District Superintendent, Brian Dolan.

New Link for Families to Access Homelink (Aeries)

As mentioned last week, we had a server fail that required a new link for Aeries or Homelink. This is the site where families can monitor children in grades 7 through 12. Both grades and attendance can be reviewed through the program. If you need to update to this link,

or sign up for the first time, please use the following link: <https://aeries.dixonusd.org/HomeLink/LoginParent.aspx>

Summer School Programs

The district is offering a variety of summer programs for students from elementary through high school levels. You can find information through the DUSD website - dixonusd.org - or this link: <https://www.dixonusd.org/summer-school/>

The Closing Days of the School Year

It is hard to believe that there are only 16 days left in the school year. The secondary sites have finished their state testing as of today, and the elementary schools are just about ready to begin. We have been pleased with the effort of our students so far and hope to see the elementary students doing their best to show everything they have learned

this year. We have a few points of emphasis that we ask families to emphasize with their children:

Resist the temptation to participate in pranks, disruptions, and other things that are not acceptable that are not acceptable things to do in school. At their best, they are unacceptable and may result in school discipline. At their worst, they are illegal and may result in law enforcement action.

Expectations for students regarding their academics are not reduced or eliminated. Yes, there are many celebratory or alternative activities that occur in the closing days of school, but those days are still about two weeks away and there is a lot of teaching still to be done.

Be nice to the district-issued computers! We have had a high rate of damage as a result of disregard or carelessness on the part of students. Replacement costs are very high. Treat them like you own them! ★

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Seniors Parade for Elementary Students

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Sometimes seeing is believing. That was the message passed from 50 Dixon High School and Maine Prairie High students dressed in their flowing green or maroon graduation gowns to every Dixon elementary school student this past week in the inaugural Senior Parade.

In turn, all the children from every grade in Anderson, Tremont, and Gretchen Higgins Elementary Schools cheered, shook pom-poms, and held posters congratulating the students. Many of the signs read, "Congratulations Class of 2022!" and "You made it!" One held by a bespectacled youth read, "I hope you go to your dream college!"

The bus full of students who signed up for the 'Senior Parade' travelled from school to meet long lines of much younger students who were waiting to see who had come from their school or identify grown up pals from sports, scouts, their neighborhoods, and churches. It was organized by Shawntel McCammon, DUSD Coordinator of Outreach and Engagement.

"When you see these little kids looking up to the big kids, I could just feel the power connection," she said. The tears started for her as soon as they got off the bus. "This is what we did in our town back home in South Carolina and I knew I had



Graduating seniors from Maine Prairie Class of 2022 participated in the 'Senior to Elementary Parade,' inspiring their younger elementary counterparts to keep up their efforts with a positive learning spirit. Photos by Debra Dingman



The graduating Dixon High School Class of 2022 students show solidarity to elementary students from Dixon Unified School District.



DUSD elementary students returned the friendly gesture expressed to the graduating Classes of 2022 from Dixon High School and Maine Prairie High School last week.

to do this when I was a Principal."

It was called the 'Senior to Elementary Parade' and McCammon did not get to realize her dream while she was Gretchen Higgins Principal for several years but this year, she made it happen.

"It's the big motivating the little and it says, I went through the system and now I'm graduating." She added with enthusiasm, "It's a really big deal where I'm from and I'm elated."

Career fields represented by the grads were metal fabrication, technology, nursing, the job corps, graphic design, political science, and Animal Cruelty Investigation to name a few.

Colleges or secondary education listed were Sacramento City, Sacramento State, Chico State, UC Davis, UC San Francisco, Grand Canyon University, Napa Community, Woodland Community, Simpson University, CSU Fullerton, Princeton University, as well as University of Idaho, Oklahoma, Reno, Nevada, and Puget Sound. Also, schools for the CHP, Air Force, and dental school.

DUSD Superintendent Brian Dolan walked with the grads.

"We can't hide our Dixon Pride!" he posted on social media. "Our Coordinator of Outreach and Engagement organized a Seniors to Elementary Parade with the assistance of the principals at the elementary and high school sites." ★

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Edifying the New Pioneers



Boys gathered at this Pioneer's set up to learn about carpentry and the tools used in the 'olden days.' Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1
the social element, the history, and the stories," she said enthusiastically while visiting with Jerrie Beard and Jen Rogers near the Trading Post where pictures of children taken in costumes at a dress rehearsal were for sale as well as simple toys. Youth used plastic coins to purchase them.

Principal Ben Ernest was more than impressed.

"This is amazing," he said, adding that Baltz is "phenomenal." There didn't seem doubt that this was the inaugural 'Pioneer Days.'

The lunch served up for students and staff included roasted chicken, brownies, and apples.



Callista Leslie, 9, in authentic Pioneer garb, carries her lunch to a grassy spot on the campgrounds. Photo by Debra Dingman

"I liked the gingerbread best," said 4th grader Alex

Aguilar. "I want to do this next year, too." His buddy, Maximo Arellano said he really enjoyed learning about the way Pioneers wrote the alphabet (calligraphy.)

"I love the letters and the way they wrote them. They were very different," he explained. Students also liked making flags for the Bear Flag Revolt, making rope, and ragdolls.

The Montessori School students learned that although their lives were very different, Pioneer children wanted the same things as children do today. They liked spending time with their families, learning new things, and playing with friends. ★

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NATIONAL NEWS *courtesy of THE EPOCH TIMES*

China's Killing of Prisoners of Conscience for Their Organs a 'Tool of Genocide': Rep. Smith

U.S. Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey.

GARY BAI

The Chinese communist regime's mass killing of prisoners of conscience for their organs is a "tool of genocide," according to Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.).

Beijing's forced organ harvesting involves "the execution of people declared enemies of the state, as if on order to provide certain organs to meet transplant needs," he said. "This is also an apparent form of punishment, and indeed a tool of genocide meant to cull minority populations deemed 'undesirable' by the state."

Smith made the remarks at a May 12 hearing of the House's Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to explore evidence of China's organ harvesting. The Republican from New Jersey is a co-chair of the commission.

A 2019 independent panel found "beyond a reasonable doubt" that the Chinese regime has for years been forcibly harvesting the organs from detained prisoners of conscience on a significant scale, with no signs showing that the practice had stopped. The primary victims are detained Falun Gong practitioners, the tribunal found. It also found that the practice amounted to "crimes against humanity."

Falun Gong is a spiritual practice consisting of meditative exercises and moral teaching centered on the tenets of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. After it became widely popular in China in the 1990s, the communist regime, perceiving that popularity to be a threat, began a nationwide persecution targeting the practice and its adherents. Millions of practitioners have since been held in detention centers, jails, and labor camps across the country, effectively turning them into a living organ bank for the Chinese regime.

Smith also urged Congress to approve his legislation seeking to punish those involved in China's forced organ harvesting trade.

He said the proposal, the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act (H.R. 1592), would impose sanc-

tions against known perpetrators such as Chinese officials, prohibit surgery devices proved to be used for forced organ harvesting from being exported from China, and require the State Department to report on these measures.

Chilling Details

At the hearing, Ethan Gutmann, China studies research fellow at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation and author of "The Slaughter," recounted his interviews with victims who were jailed in concentration camps in China. The people shared strange and chilling details that he said were signs that they were a living pool of involuntary organ donors.

"Following a camp-wide health check, including comprehensive blood tests, certain individuals are cross-matched for organ harvesting," Gutmann said, recounting how Sayragul, a teacher in a camp, told him she had printouts for the blood tests on which "a pink checkmark" was manually added to certain names.

"Other witnesses recalled that certain individuals were forced to wear colored bracelets or vests, sometimes pink, sometimes orange," he said. "Either way, approximately a week after the test, the color-coded individuals vanished in the middle of the night."

Gutmann noted that "witness testimony from approximately 20 camps is strikingly consistent—between 2.5 percent to 5 percent annual disappearances from the entire camp."

These disappearances, he said, are predominantly of people in the 28-year-old age group, which is "deemed the ideal age for organ ripeness by the Chinese medical establishment."

Adding to the testimony was a regretful recount by Dr. Enver Tohti, a former oncology surgeon who the Chinese regime ordered to carry out the first known case of live organ harvesting, in 1994. Tohti was made to extract the organs of a prisoner who had purportedly just been executed, only to discover on the operating table that



THE EPOCH TIMES

KEVIN DIETSCH/GETTY IMAGES

the man was still alive.

"The whole operation took around 30 to 40 minutes. Chief surgeons happily put those organs into a weird looking box, and said, 'OK, now you take your team back to hospital; remember nothing happened today,'" Tohti testified.

The hearing came weeks after researchers published a paper in the American Journal of Transplantation that reviewed more than 2,800 Chinese-language articles from between 1980 and 2015, and concluded that Chinese transplant surgeons forcibly removed organs from people without performing tests required to determine brain death.

"In plain language, the papers appear to show that the donors, who were prisoners, were alive at the time of surgery, and were killed by the transplant surgeons in the process of heart extraction," Matthew Robertson, co-author of the transplant paper and a doctoral candidate at the Australian National University, testified at the hearing.

More Action

Others at the hearing called for more action from the international community and medical entities.

"The topic for today's hearing, organ harvesting, has far too long been swept under the rug by the international community," said Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.), who



Falun Gong practitioners take part in a parade in Brooklyn, N.Y., marking the 22nd year of the persecution of Falun Gong in China, on July 18, 2021.

is a co-sponsor of the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act.

"The United States and our allies must send a strong and unwavering message in defense of basic human rights and protections for all people."

Last week, the European Union approved a resolution voicing "serious concerns" about the Chinese regime's "crime against humanity."

"Respect for human rights is not an option, but a requirement in all areas, including in the challenging medical and ethical area of organ donation and transplantation," said the EU's top foreign policy official, Josep Borrell.

The medical community, meanwhile, has been largely silent on this issue because of

significant professional and financial opportunities in China, Gutmann said.

"This catastrophe was created by Beijing. Yet, for the last 10 years, it has been continuously enabled by a handful of Western doctors who thought they could ride the Chinese dragon and come back home as if everything was normal," he said.

Robert A. Destro, former assistant secretary for democracy, human rights, and labor during the Trump administration, urged the United States to take concrete action.

Congress must use its "power of the purse to demand accountability from the bureaucracy and the business community."

From NTD News

US Baby Formula Shortage Worsens As Families Panic

ANDREW MORAN

The baby formula shortage is intensifying in the United States, according to new Dataassembly numbers.

The retail information provider reported that out-of-stock (OOS) rates continue to climb nationwide, rising to 43 percent in the week ending May 8. This is up from the 30 to 40 percent readings in April.

"Unfortunately, baby formula out-of-stock levels have continued to soar since the beginning of April, and we see no indication of a slowdown," Ben Reich, CEO of Dataassembly, told The Epoch Times. "Baby formula out-of-stock levels have reached 43 percent nationwide and continue demonstrating higher out-of-stock levels than other categories."

Data as of May 1 show that nine states have OOS rates above 50 percent, including Tennessee (54.7 percent), Delaware (54.5 percent), Texas (52 percent), Montana (51 percent), and Nevada (51 percent). Jurisdictions with the lowest OOS rates were Colorado (26.3 percent), New Mexico (29 percent), and Indiana (29.7 percent).

Across the United States, multiple retailers including CVS, Kroger, Target, and Walgreens, have applied limits on purchases of infant formula.

Last month, CVS limited in-store and online purchases of baby formula to three per order. Kroger installed a limit of four products per customer. Target and Walgreens have maintained restrictions for several weeks.

Media reports suggest that some parents are responding to the shortages by producing their own, watering down current supplies, and rationing formula.

The FDA has discouraged parents from making formula at home due to "very serious health concerns" for babies.

"The potential problems associated with errors in selecting and combining the ingredients for the formula are very serious and range from severe nutritional imbalances to unsafe products that can harm infants," the agency noted.

Health experts warn that too much water for infants under six months could trigger seizures and brain swelling and dilute the calories.

As of 2018, four companies control close to 90 percent of the market: Abbott, Reckitt Benckiser, Nestlé, and Perrigo.

How Did This Formula Crisis Begin?

Earlier this year, Abbott Laboratories, a leading baby formula maker, recalled products sold under the Alimentum, EleCare,

and Similac brands that were produced at a Michigan facility. Four children had become sick with bacterial infections, resulting in two deaths. This prompted public health authorities to encourage shoppers to avoid buying formulas tied to the plant, although Abbott doesn't believe there is a link between these illnesses and its formulas.

In addition to Abbott's recall, the baby formula shortage has been exacerbated by global supply chain snafus, the shifts in pandemic-related consumer patterns, and soaring price inflation worldwide.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 public health crisis, many parents hoarded containers of baby formula much in the same way consumers accumulated large amounts of toilet paper and paper towels.

In 2021, manufacturers noticed that demand had been sliding. They responded by curbing production. Today, infant formula demand is surging once again as shortage fears grow and breastfeeding rates fall.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), only one-quarter of babies born in 2018 were breastfed exclusively in their first six months.

In recent years, the prevalence of breastmilk substitutes has been a source of controversy

among public health experts.

"The promotion of commercial milk formulas should have been terminated decades ago," said Dr. Francesco Branca, director of the WHO Nutrition and Food Safety Department, in a statement last month. "The fact that formula milk companies are now employing even more powerful and insidious marketing techniques to drive up their sales is inexcusable and must be stopped."

The global formula milk industry is now worth \$55 billion.

Meanwhile, Abbott announced that it will work closely with the FDA to restart operations within two weeks. The company projects that it could take six to eight weeks to get its products back on store shelves.

'Life and Death'

The U.S. government has been scrambling to resolve the issue.

President Joe Biden met with infant formula manufacturers and retailers on May 12 to gather updates on intensifying shortages across the country.

Following the meeting, the president announced additional steps to address the issue to get more infant formula on store shelves faster, including reducing red tape and boosting supply through increased imports. In addition, he urged the Federal Trade Commission and state

attorneys general to tighten down on any infant formula price gouging.

Earlier, more than 100 House Republicans urged the administration and the FDA in a letter to release data on the nationwide shortages and provide specific details on how they plan to address the issue.

"This issue is a matter of life and death, and it is time this administration treats it with the appropriate urgency it deserves," the 106 Republican lawmakers wrote.

Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) says this is an example of Biden's "failed leadership," adding that the FDA didn't have a plan to figure out how to address the supply chain crisis aspect of baby formula manufacturing.

"But it even goes back earlier than that, as a result of just the labor shortage in this country, the lack of accessing basic materials that are part of the manufacturing process," she told the host of NTD's "Capitol Report," Steve Lance. "But what's really struck me is the sheer incompetence of Joe Biden and House Democrats and frankly, failure to address any aspect of this."

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf assured the public that "we are doing everything in our power to ensure there is adequate product available where and when they need it."

Emel Akan contributed to this report.

Newsom's Electric Car Nirvana Collides with Reality



By Dan Walters
CALMatters.org

Gov. Gavin Newsom and the California Air Resources Board publicly boasted last week about making great strides toward eliminating fossil fuels and their greenhouse gases.

The board released "a draft plan that, when final, will guide the state's transition to a clean energy economy, drastically reduce the use of fossil fuels, achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 or sooner, and significantly clean the state's air especially in disadvantaged communities disproportionately burdened by persistent pollution."

Much of the plan is concentrated on transportation — particularly cars and trucks — which is the largest single emitter of carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

"That means rapidly moving to zero-emission transportation, electrifying the cars, buses, trains, and trucks that now constitute California's single largest source of planet-warming pollution," ARB said.

Newsom, meanwhile, crowded that with new state subsidies, sales of battery-powered zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) have exceeded 16% of all new vehicle sales so far this year, more than double the proportion in 2020. He also noted that Californians make

half of nationwide purchases of electric vehicles.

"Our state is on the frontlines of extreme weather, and we're taking aggressive steps to protect Californians from the costs of climate change — transitioning away from the big polluters fueling this crisis and towards clean energy," Newsom said. "These incentives make it easier and cheaper to make that transition."

This year's increase in electric car sales was, no doubt, spurred in part by a steep hike in gasoline prices, as well as subsidies — which poses an interesting dichotomy. Newsom has decried those fuel price spikes and wants the state to offset them with payments to motorists, which would reduce some of their motivation to buy electric cars.

Moreover, were California to eventually ban sales of gasoline- and diesel-powered vehicles and go 100% ZEVs, as Newsom also advocates, charging their batteries would impose immense new burdens on an electric power grid that's already strained to meet demand.

By happenstance, as Newsom and the air board were issuing their upbeat messages about the shift, a financial data website, Forbes Advisor, was revealing that California has one of the nation's worst records on providing recharging sites for ZEV owners.

Its study, drawn from U.S. Department of Energy data and numbers from all 50 states, found that North Dakota is the nation's most ZEV-friendly state with one charging station for every 3.18 electric vehicles.

Wyoming, Rhode Island,

Maine and West Virginia round out the top five.

And California? It has the fourth highest ratio, just one station for every 31.2 ZEVs. New Jersey is the least accommodating to ZEV owners, with one station for every 46.16 electric vehicles.

Okay, so California is lacking when it comes to infrastructure needed to support the ZEV nirvana that Newsom and the ARB envision, both in terms of electrical power supply and sites to connect that power to electric cars.

However, the situation may actually be worse.

Again by happenstance, last week brought us evidence that not only is California failing to provide enough ZEV charging stations, but those it does have often don't work.

David Rempel, a retired professor of bioengineering from UC Berkeley, and a team of volunteers tested 181 public Bay Area charging stations with 657 plug-in kiosks and found 73% in working order but 23% had inoperable screens, payment failures or broken connector cables and in 5% cables were too short to reach vehicles recharging inlets.

California's much-vaunted shift to electric cars may turn out to be one of the state government's many high-concept programs that become managerial disasters, another Department of Motor Vehicles or Employment Development Department.

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



RICHARD HENRY RAYCRAFT

8/16/1932 – 4/25/2022

Richard "Dick" Henry Raycraft, Patriarch, husband, father, grandfather, brother, farmer and friend to many passed away the morning of April 25, 2022, with family at his side. Dick was born in San Luis Obispo, CA, on August 16, 1932, to parents Thomas William Raycraft and Claire Peterson, and grew up with siblings Thomas William Raycraft Jr. and Gary Kilkenny.



Following his time served in the Korean War, Richard returned home to Dixon, CA where he would meet his beloved wife, Patricia Flaherty of Rio Vista. Richard was a passionate farmer, outdoorsman and football fan. He was a large supporter of the UC Davis Aggies' Football Program which originated from his time as a player and student for UC Davis.

Richard was a steward of the land he owned, but also in the community. Serving as Mayor Pro Tem of Dixon, President of the First Northern Bank Board of Directors, a Volunteer Fireman and eventual Commissioner for the Dixon Fire Department and as a member in many other community organizations, Richard loved giving back.

After retirement, Richard and his wife would spend many summers together at their cabin in Donner Lake. It is there, Richard would earn the nickname "Donner Dick."

Richard is preceded in death by his parents, Thomas W. Raycraft, Claire Peterson Kilkenny, and stepfather, James "Jim" Kilkenny, and his

loving wife, Patricia Flaherty Raycraft. He is survived by brothers, Thomas W. (Mary) Raycraft, Jr. and Gary Kilkenny; Sister-In-Law, Betty Flaherty; Children, William "Willy" (Carmen) Raycraft, Thomas "Tom" (Lanette) Raycraft and Lorine "Sis" Raycraft; and Grandchildren, T.J. (Taylor) Raycraft, Chanel Haifley, Jillian (Dalton) Taylor and Michael Raycraft and his soon-to-be born Great Grandson, Dutton James Raycraft. Richard will be deeply missed by family, friends, and all who knew him.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, May 20, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. at the Olde Vets Hall in Dixon, CA. He will be laid to rest with his wife, Pat, in Genoa, NV, at a private ceremony.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Dixon Volunteer Fire Department or the Independent Order of Odd Fellows - 172 Montezuma Lodge of Dixon Scholarship Fund.

Firefighters Promoted and Recognized

Continued from page 1

Wolfgang Riedel and Randy Shafer. This was in recognition of their efforts for bringing a person back to life that was technically considered deceased, according to McNeal.

That award is in remembrance of James "Cody" Robben, who was only 24 years

old when he passed away in 2010 from injuries he sustained during an off-duty auto accident in Dixon. He had grown up in the Dixon Fire Department, following the footsteps of his father, Tony Robben.

Chris Wilson was honored with the Al Benefield Award for most volunteer participation. ★



Scalia Was Right – Again

Justice Antonin Scalia was among the most prescient Supreme Court justices in American history, and the firestorm over the leak of Justice Samuel Alito's draft opinion overturning Roe is a reminder of it.

In Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey, the 1992 Supreme Court decision upholding (and amending) Roe v. Wade, the justices in the majority believed that they could settle once and for all the dispute over abortion.

Scalia thought this was outlandishly wrongheaded and said so in a dissent that looks farsighted 30 years later. Not only did the Court fail to calm the political waters on abortion, it made itself central to the political and moral argument over the issue.

If there's any doubt about that, consider the security fencing reminiscent of the days after January 6 that is now going up around the Supreme Court building. Consider the left-wing group planning protests at the homes of conservative justices. Consider the proposal from Sen. John Cornyn of Texas that justices get 24/7 security details.

It's extraordinary that now, at the very least, the whiff of physical intimidation is part of the Court's deliberations on Roe.

Scalia might be surprised by that, but not that abortion has remained a point

of contention over the decades, despite the Court's preposterous belief that it could make itself the final arbiter.

In his dissent in Casey, Scalia analogized the Court's jurisprudence on abortion to its decision in Dred Scott v. Sandford, the notorious 1857 case in which the Court denied the petition of a slave named Dred Scott for freedom.

The Court issued a sweeping decision, declaring unconstitutional the Missouri Compromise of 1820 that had banned slavery north of latitude 36 degrees 30' in the Louisiana Purchase. It did this, in part, because it thought it could forge a settlement on slavery that had eluded the political branches.

Instead, the Chief Justice Roger Taney made himself infamous for a decision that, like Roe and Casey, was wrongly decided, that entrenched and extended a profound social wrong, that short-circuited democratic decision-making, and that utterly failed to create political and social peace.

The decision was immediately excoriated by opponents of slavery in the harshest possible terms. They called into question its legitimacy and indeed the legitimacy of the Court itself. Serious and sober-minded men like Abraham Lincoln and William Seward advanced conspiracy theories for how the Court could have arrived at such an atrocious place. (There were indeed improprieties around the Court's deliberations.)

Scalia invoked a portrait of Roger Taney at Harvard Law School by the great painter Emanuel

Leutze in 1859. "He sits," Scalia wrote, "facing the viewer and staring straight out. There seems to be on his face, and in his deep-set eyes, an expression of profound sadness and disillusionment." Scalia imagined him despairing at what his ambitious ruling in Dred Scott had wrought and warned the Court against making the same mistake again.

"It is no more realistic for us in this litigation than it was for him in that," Scalia noted, "to think that an issue of the sort they both involved -- an issue involving life and death, freedom and subjugation -- can be 'speedily and finally settled' by the Supreme Court ..."

Rather, Scalia argued, "By foreclosing all democratic outlet for the deep passions this issue arouses, by banishing the issue from the political forum that gives all participants, even the losers, the satisfaction of a fair hearing and an honest fight, by continuing the imposition of a rigid national rule instead of allowing for regional differences, the court merely prolongs and intensifies the anguish."

"We should get out of this area," he urged, "where we have no right to be, and where we do neither ourselves nor the country any good by remaining."

The Court should have listened to Scalia the first time. Now, Alito's opinion opens the way for it, after one of the most catastrophic misadventures in its history, to finally heed his wisdom.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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- Ne on periodic table
- Golfer's weapons
- Biblical twin
- Russian river or Russian mountains
- Understand (2 words)
- *Moisture in the air
- Law school test acronym
- Layers in plywood
- Trigonometry abbr.
- Uses a laser
- Squawked or crabbed
- Bitty
- Two dots above a letter
- Jasmine of "Aladdin," e.g.
- Forbidden, in Islam
- Bruin legend Bobby
- Lays in peace
- "Metamorphoses" poet
- Charge with crime
- "For ___ a jolly..."
- Easily irritated
- *No clouds
- Gremlin or pixie
- *Check the weather before hitting this hiking path
- Speech defect
- *Cloudy
- Classic TV's Mrs. Brady
- Same as island
- "Cheers" regular
- Elephant poacher's ware
- Pb on periodic table
- "The first sign of rain?"
- Declare untrue
- Pig's digs
- MacFarlane or Rogan

DOWN

- *Road hazard
- Eyelid hair
- Oahu shindig
- Assumes bad posture
- Chill-inducing
- Bearded ruminants
- Unrivaled
- *Barometer reading
- Tiny bit
- Purl partner
- Three ahead of PST
- Certain beachgoers' philosophy
- *Cold weather is needed for this melttable home
- Part of small intestine
- Cathode-ray tube
- Hit the road
- Falcon's home
- Mentor or expert
- The Obamas' daughter
- Bruce Lee's "___ the Dragon"
- Treat without respect
- Wallop
- Scottish lake
- *Rainbow shape
- *Weather warning
- Archaeologist's find
- Venom source
- Filled with dread
- State indirectly
- African antelopes
- Living room centerpiece? (2 words)
- 4 x 4 race
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May's Cover Love



Wind Daughter by Joanna Ruth Meyer

Joanna Ruth Meyer once again takes readers into a world all of her own; this time, it's for the storyteller's soul. The storyteller has told his daughter, Satu, so many stories. There were stories about night-ingles, wicked snow queens, white wolves, and magical enchantments, but the most powerful story was his own. Once the North Wind, the storyteller, gave up his power for love. Now Satu believes that she can save her father by embarking on a journey to the North to reclaim his magic. But the path to the North is fraught with danger as she discovers herself in a treacherous race against the Winter Lord, who also seeks the power of the North Wind for his own personal gain.

Joanna Ruth Meyer once again cradles her reader's hearts in the palms of her hands, casting magical enchantments that will far surpass the last page. A truly enchanting and haunting read, *Wind Daughter* takes hold with its cast of strong characters, plot

twists, and celebrating the power within.

Our Lady of Mysterious Ailments by T.L. Huchu

Adventurous and witty ghost talker Ropa Moyo returns with an all-new ghostly adventure. After recent past events and now desperate for work, Ropa agrees to look into a patient's past at Our Lady Of Mysterious Ailments Hospital. The boy's mysterious illness has eluded healers but also opens the door to a whole new mystery. Ropa jumps in, hoping that maybe she can help find a cure and bring in the treasured money she needs for her family. On a chase for answers, she is led to the four main schools for magic, where she also uncovers more questions, missing boys, and an evil spirit who has taken hold of this world. Now, it is up to Ropa, her dagger, Cruickshank, and her pals to help solve the case and save the world.

T.L. Huchu returns with an all-new contemporary fantasy book set in futuristic Scotland.

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I Am The Ghost In Your House by Mar Romasco-Moore

Pie has spent her whole life wandering inside other people's homes. She traveled with her mother by train sleeping in strangers' houses, floors, or even in stores. Yet, Pie and her mother aren't ghosts. They are invisible. This year for her seventeenth birthday, Pie knew just where she wanted to go, the city she fell in love. However, this year Pie has a plan; this time, she will reveal herself to the girl she loves. Only, it will be tricky. How can anyone love someone they can't see?

A story that amplifies the desire to be noticed and the loneliness of not being seen. *I Am The Ghost In Your House* is a truly unique story that starts slow, but quickens the pace with a powerful ending. ★



Riley Reviews

'THE MISTY EXPERIMENT' SHINES ANOTHER LIGHT ON VIETNAM WAR

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"THE MISTY EXPERIMENT" ON PUBLIC TELEVISION

The consequences of the Vietnam War remain arguable and controversial. Nearing fifty years after the infamous fall of Saigon, one can easily debate why victory proved unattainable or how we ended up in an unfortunate quagmire.

Was it the failure of political leadership? After all, Vietnam figured mightily in Lyndon Johnson's decision not to seek re-election for the presidency in 1968. Was it the struggle of fighting an enemy that uses guerrilla tactics and the dense jungle for cover?

Airing on public television stations across the country in time for Memorial Day, "The Misty Experiment: The Secret Battle for the Ho Chi Minh Trail" tells the largely unknown story of U.S. Air Force pilots volunteering for a treacherous secret mission.

By 1967, American forces in Vietnam had entered a stage of expanded air and ground battles throughout Southeast Asia during a time of increased southward flow of weapons and supplies from North Vietnam.

Convoys of trucks carrying Chinese and Russian supplied weapons traveled on newly carved or expanded roads through the jungles of Cambodia and Laos, known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Traditional intelligence flights, the Air Force's Forward Air Controllers, were hobbled by slow aircraft that made them easy targets. It became clear the U.S. needed to fly closer and faster to gain the advantage.

Quietly, an elite squadron of combat-seasoned pilots was recruited, supported by on-the-ground intelligence and ancillary personnel. Referred to by their radio call sign, the so-called "Mistys" would spend months flying into danger.

The select pilots knew they had a 30 percent chance of being shot down, killed, or taken as prisoners of war. The latter possibility was not a good one, as the horrors of internment were well-known. The late Senator John McCain was a poster boy for POW torture.

"The Misty Experiment" chronicles how judgments by American military leaders resulted in not being allowed to hit ports where supplies to North Vietnam were coming in. The decisions were made to keep Chinese forces from moving into the battle.

As supply routes were left open for North Vietnam to exploit, the U.S. government became convinced a new approach was necessary. Air Force commanders designed an experimental method that needed pilots with steely nerves.

As seen in the film, Misty pilot Don Sheppard, who flew 58 missions and later became Major General, says when the

nation was not willing to bomb the harbors, "we were the ones who had to pick them off, truck by truck."

The pilots "were a bunch of guys who would do anything to accomplish the mission we were given....an impossible mission to stop the flow of arms and material coming south," Sheppard says.

Unlike today's automated drones and satellites that pinpoint target areas, the Mistys relied on human observational skills to root out enemy movements.

The pilots developed "Misty eyes" in the ability to spot signs of enemy troops such as dust accumulations on tree leaves indicating nearby movements, tell-tale splash patterns on creek beds pointing to truck traffic, or too-perfect canopies that suggested man-made camouflage.

The Mistys flew hours-long daily missions, putting their bodies through extreme physical stress from G-forces during quick evasive maneuvers, while also taxing their eyes and brains to identify and remember enemy locations.

Upon their daily returns, and often finding their planes riddled with battle damage, the pilots would debrief for hours with intelligence officials to create detailed maps with the crucial information they recounted.

"There was an atmosphere of innovation," says Misty Intelligence Officer Roger Van Dyken in the film. "One flight reconnaissance fed into the next. The next day's group of pilots tested the theories from the day before. There was constant pressure."

The missions began showing results after just a few weeks, and the thrill of flying risky sorties proved undeniable to the pilots. The physical and mental strains of flying F100s caused the Mistys to be limited to 100 missions in 120 days.

"There were a few of us thought 'gee, this is so much fun. How can I can back to South Vietnam? This is where the action is,'" says Misty pilot and military history author Dick Rutan, who appears in the film and was himself shot down and then rescued.

Of the 157 Misty pilots who served, 34 were shot down; eight were killed and four became prisoners of war. About half of the men who served are living; many are in their late 70s and 80s.

The discipline required for these missions translated into other successes after leaving the missions. Two pilots became Air Force Chiefs of Staff; two more became astronauts. Many became industry CEOs. One Misty alumnus received the Medal of Honor for his service.

Those interested in history and military history buffs, in particular, are bound to find "The Misty Experiment: The Secret Battle for the Ho Chi Minh Trail" a fascinating look at the bravery of men called to duty in a war that divided the nation. ★

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This Business is conducted by: an Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration April 12, 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: May 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2022
HANCOCK 5-27-22

CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE
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In light of worsening drought conditions and Gov. Gavin Newsom's recent Executive Order, California Water Service (Cal Water) requested to move into **Stage 2** of its Schedule 14.1 (Water Shortage Contingency Plan) in the Dixon District by filing Advice Letter 2452 with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on May 9, 2022. Stage 2 measures include outdoor irrigation limits and increased water waste penalties. If approved, Stage 2 will become effective June 10, 2022.

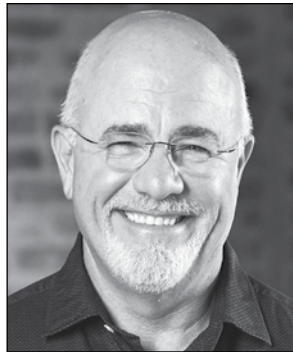
Cal Water is hosting a virtual public meeting to help customers understand and comply with these new reductions. The meeting will educate customers on Stage 2 of Cal Water's Schedule 14.1, water-use limits, and a range of conservation programs and tools available to assist customers.

DATE: June 1, 2022
TIME: 7 p.m.
LOCATION: calwater.com/stage2

Cal Water invites customers in its Dixon District to attend this public meeting to learn more. Customers can direct questions to Cal Water at (707)678-5928 or infoDIX@calwater.com. More information is also available online at www.calwater.com/drought.

Customers who would like to provide comments on this plan directly to the CPUC can write by June 8 to: California Public Utilities Commission; Attn: Program Manager, Water and Sewer Advisory Branch; Water Utilities Division, Room 3106; 505 Van Ness Ave., 3rd Floor; San Francisco, CA 94102. On the same date the comment is submitted to the CPUC, please also send a copy by mail to: Cal Water; Attn: Natalie Wales, Rates Department; 1720 North First Street; San Jose, CA 95112; or via e-mail to: cwsrates@calwater.com. Please reference California Water Service Advice Letter No. 2452.

Dixon Independent Voice 5-20-2022 CNSB#3585732



Dave Ramsey Says

It's Really About Giving and Putting Others First

Dear Dave,
My wife and I have always attended church, and we have always tithed. Over the last few months, we have come to the decision it is time for us to find a place to worship that is a little more involved in the community. If we are actively looking for a new church, should we continue to tithe to our current church? Would giving our tithe money to a charity be better? We both agree it feels strange to continue giving to our current church when we would rather be somewhere else.

— Brad
Dear Brad,
There's nothing wrong with continuing to tithe to your current place of

worship until you find a new church home. It would probably be alright, too, if you gave your tithe to one of the places you visit while you're looking. When it comes right down to it, it's all about learning to be a giver and putting others first.

I can tell you two are taking this situation very seriously. But I mean, it's not like He needs the money, you know? Tithing isn't about making a deposit into God's bank account, or building up spiritual brownie points. It isn't a salvation issue, either. It's all about changing our hearts and our minds. It's about being a little less selfish, and a little more Christ-like. I believe it makes God smile when we put other people's needs ahead of our own wants.

There are some pretty strong indications in scripture that a tithe — which is a tenth of your income — should go to your local church. I have no problem with giving to responsible charitable organizations, too, but when it comes to tithing, I'm not sure a generic charity is the answer.

My wife and I have had times in our lives when we changed churches, and in the periods when we didn't have a home church, we'd write out the checks just like normal, but leave the "pay to the order of" portion blank. This way, the money was already accounted for in our minds and in our checkbook. Then, when we found a place that really spoke to us, we'd complete the checks and give them to that church.

I hope this helps a little, Brad. God bless you two!

— Dave

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

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Entomologist's Role in Harvard Museum of Natural History Exhibition

By Kathy Keatley Garvey,
UC Davis Department
of Entomology and
Nematology

CAMBRIDGE, MA (MPG) - A UC Davis entomologist, formerly of the Harvard University Herbaria, is among the scholars and artists who helped spearhead the newly created Harvard Museum of Natural History's "In Search of Thoreau's Flowers: An Exploration of Change and Loss," an exhibition hailed as an examination of the natural world and climate change at the intersections of science, art and history. It opens to the public starting May 14.

Emily Meineke, assistant professor of urban landscape entomology, UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology, helped launch the project in 2017 when she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Harvard University Herbaria.

The exhibit in Cambridge, Mass., is "an immersive multidisciplinary experience that marries art and science through a modern artistic interpretation of Henry David Thoreau's preserved plants," said Bethany Carland-Adams, a public relations specialist with Harvard Museums of Science and Culture (HMSC).

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), naturalist, author and philosopher and a 1837 graduate of Harvard University, is best known for his book Walden. Removing himself from social life, he settled into a cabin by Walden Pond, Concord, Mass., from July 1845 to September 1847 to immerse himself in nature.

The 648 plant specimens that Thoreau donated to the museum form the foundation of the exhibit. "He was prolific in his practice of collecting botanical samples and plants are important indicators of how our world is responding to climate change," Carland-Adams said in a press release.



Artwork by Leah Sobsey. Photo courtesy of the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology

Meineke, who joined the UC Davis faculty in 2020, served as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University Herbaria from 2016 to 2019, including a National Science Foundation-sponsored fellowship there in 2017. She holds a doctorate in entomology from North Carolina State University (2016), Raleigh, where she wrote her dissertation on "Understanding the Consequences of Urban Warming for Street Trees and Their Pests."

"I was one of the original creators of the exhibit, along with the other scholars and artists listed on the program," Meineke related. "We started thinking about it in 2017 as a group. I served as the primary scientific liaison with the artists, helping them interpret the most interesting data that arose from studies of Thoreau's specimens."

"Ultimately, we landed on using visual media and portraits to highlight the decline of local plants," Meineke said. "Those art works are now central to the exhibit, as are Thoreau's actual specimens provided by Harvard



Emily Meineke. Photo courtesy of the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology

and descriptions of the discoveries made possible by his work as a naturalist."

The exhibit includes Meineke's work on insect herbivore-plant interactions over the period of recent climate change as one type of research made possible by Thoreau's plant collections.

"The digitization of the specimens, and others in the Herbaria collection, are now allowing broader access to scholars and citizen scientists, in turn welcoming new domains of scholarship,"

Carland-Adams noted. "The exhibition invites visitors to experience emotionally resonant connections to the profound loss of natural diversity caused by human-induced climate change. The exhibition urges us to ask, 'What do Thoreau's findings tell us about what plants are winning, and what plants are losing, in the face of climate change today?'"

Charles Davis, curator of vascular plants at Harvard University Herbaria, teamed with Marsha Gordon, a North Carolina State University professor, and Meineke to frame plans for the exhibit, collaborating with artists Leah Sobsey and Robin Vuchnich, both university faculty members, to shape the vision.

Vuchnich, an assistant professor at North Carolina State University, leveraged the digitized specimens to craft an immersive experience in the gallery theater. It includes animations of the herbarium images and soundscapes recorded at Walden Pond.

Sobsey, an associate professor of photography and director

of the Gatewood Gallery at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, focused on cyanotype, a 19th-century photographic process that relies on UV light to create a distinctive Prussian blue tone. Sobsey utilized all 648 digitized Thoreau specimens, and created a wall-paper comprised of original cyanotypes and digital imagery, relating a story of the survival and decline of plant specimens.

In the news release, HMSC executive director Brenda Tindal emphasized the significance of Thoreau's observations and his indelible impact on society... "Thoreau's clarion call compels us to intentionally lean into our surroundings and learn from nature - and by extension, the global community to which we all belong."

Visitors will gain "a deeper understanding of how different plant species respond to environmental factors, within and between species," Carland-Adams shared. "For instance, some plants are sensitive to temperature, while others show less or no sensitivity. This type of data drives the exhibition's animations and directly impacts our daily lives in the context of agriculture and food production."

The Thoreau exhibit may also become a traveling exhibit.

The HMSC mission "is to foster curiosity and a spirit of discovery in visitors of all ages by enhancing public understanding of and appreciation for the natural world, science, and human cultures," according to its website.

"HMSC works in concert with Harvard faculty, museum curators, and students, as well as with members of the extended Harvard community, to provide interdisciplinary exhibitions, events and lectures, and educational programs for students, teachers, and the public. HMSC draws primarily upon the extensive collections of the member museums and the research of their faculty and curators." ★

Solano WDB Offering Free Pre-Apprenticeship Training

Solano Workforce
Development Board

DIXON, CA (MPG) - With construction, manufacturing, and transportation as three of the fastest-growing industries in Solano County, area job seekers can find many opportunities in the trades if they have the required training completed.

Having that necessary training can make the difference when it comes to applying for competitive jobs. The Workforce Development Board of Solano County is offering a free, five-week pre-apprenticeship training for young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 that will help them to complete all the training they need for an introductory trades position at no cost to them.

The pre-apprenticeship training will be offered Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM, July 11 to Aug. 15, at the Fairfield-Suisun Adult School.

"This program will truly open doors for their future," said Nel Sweet-Davis, an employability specialist with the Workforce Development Board of Solano County and one of the organizers of the training program. "It's more than the trades. It will encompass so many industries—industries that are becoming very common here in Solano County. We encourage the students to see this as a kickstart program to their future in the trades or labor industry."

The program will include four industry certifications, the Hazardous Waste and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training, construction fundamentals, concrete

pouring techniques, trades math, fitness training, and more.

The first week alone, Sweet-Davis said, will include the OSHA 10 safety course, training for traffic control flaggers and confined space awareness, and first aid and CPR. The co-hort will work on construction building, framing and concrete in the second week, and will have a project they will build for hands-on training.

Once students pass the course and can apply for the unions, the Workforce Development Board of Solano County will pay the initiation fees into the unions for the first three months.

"It's not often you find something where this is all available to you in one place," Sweet-Davis said.

The pre-apprenticeship training is limited to 20 students. All interested students must attend one in-person informational session. There are four scheduled at the Workforce Development Board, 500 Chadbourne Road, in Fairfield:

June 1: 1 PM to 5 PM | June 7: 9 AM to 1 PM | June 9: 9 AM to 12 PM or 2 PM to 5 PM

Prospective students must be between the ages of 18 and 24; able to read, speak and write basic English; pass a drug test; is authorized to work in the United States; have a valid driver's license; and have a high school diploma or GED.

For more information and to register for an informational session, please contact Joyce Ugweje at 707-863-3533 or jugweje@solanowdb.org ★

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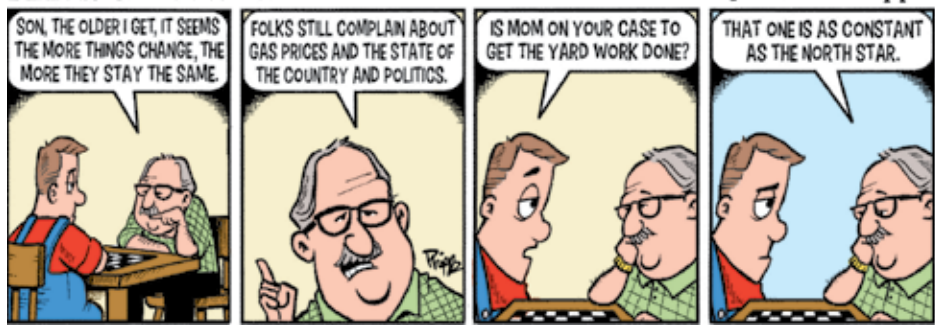
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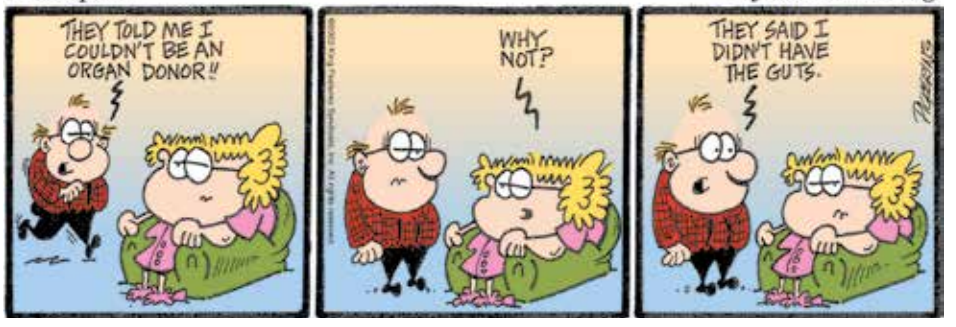
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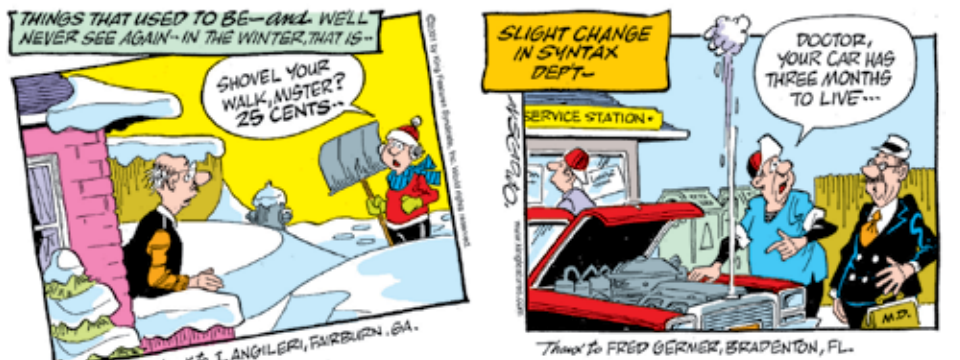
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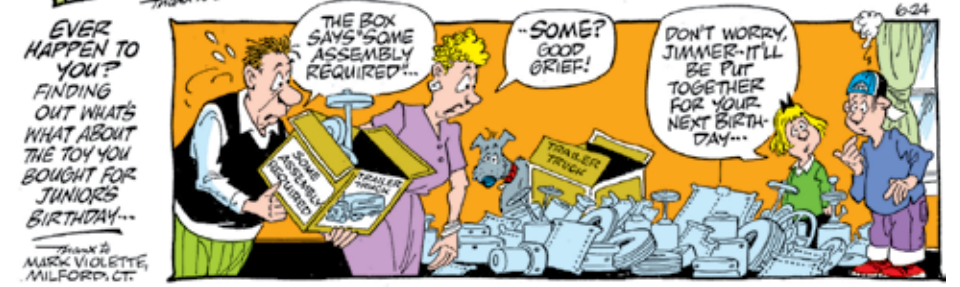
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Vincelli-Simard Earns WAC Honors



Sac State junior infielder Martin Vincelli-Simard (left center) celebrates with his teammates at John Smith Field in Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Bob Solorio/Sacramento State Athletics

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

Riding a streak of five consecutive multi-hit games, junior infielder Martin Vincelli-Simard was named the Western Athletic Conference Hitter of the Week on Monday after a stellar showing at the plate helped Sacramento State to a 4-0 week and its first league sweep of the 2022 campaign.

It is the first career weekly award from the conference office for the Boisbriand, Quebec, native and the second offensive honor of the year for a Hornet after Dawson Bacho collected weekly laurels back on April 18. Freshman teammate Colin Hunter has also earned WAC weekly honors, picking up the first pitcher of the week award of the season back on Feb. 21.

Entering the week batting just .218 on the year, Vincelli-Simard picked up

right where he left off in his three-hit game to close out the Grand Canyon series on May 8, finishing with two-or-more hits in each of the Hornets' contests last week, hitting .563 (9-for-16) with nine total hits, seven runs scored, six extra base hits, and seven RBI to raise his batting average 59 points to .277 on the year.

For the week, Vincelli-Simard slugged 1.188 thanks to four doubles and a pair of home runs, while posting a .579 on-base percentage after also drawing a walk and absorbing a hit by pitch. He also lofted a sacrifice fly to drive in a run — one of six on the week for the Hornets, who entered the four-game stretch leading the NCAA in the category.

Vincelli-Simard opened the week with his second straight three-hit game to tie his career high, finishing 3-for-5 with three runs scored, a home run, and three RBI in an 11-9 mid-week win on the road at Fresno State. The three

runs batted in matched his season high, while the home run was his first in a month since leaving the yard at New Mexico State.

As Sacramento State opened its final WAC series of the regular season, Vincelli-Simard proceeded to rattle off three-straight two-hit games as the Hornets completed the sweep of Utah Valley, scoring four times and driving in four-runs, including a pair of doubles in Saturday's 5-2 victory and double and a home run to help his team to a "Senior Day" victory on Sunday.

Since the calendar switched to the month of May, Vincelli-Simard has been the Hornets' hottest hitter over the last nine games, batting .424 (14-for-33) with nine runs scored, seven doubles, a triple, a home run, and 10 RBI, slugging .879 for the month and adding six walks for a .500 on-base percentage. Defensively, he has been perfect at first base, going errorless in 77 total chances.

Having clinched the No. 2 seed for next week's WAC Tournament at Hohokam Stadium in Mesa, Ariz., Sacramento State closes the 2022 regular season with a three-game non-conference series against Bay Area rival San Jose State. The Hornets host the opener on Thursday (May 19) at 6 p.m. at John Smith Field, with the final two games scheduled for Excite Ballpark in San Jose on Friday (May 20) at 6:05 p.m. and Saturday (May 21) and 4:05 p.m. ★

Dixon Softball Team Earns First Round Bye

Rams are No. 1 seed in Division IV Playoffs



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

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The 2022 Golden Empire League (GEL) champions Dixon High School varsity softball team earned a first round bye as the No. 1 seed in the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section (CIFSJS) Division IV Softball Playoffs, it was announced by the CIFSJS on Friday, May 13.

The Rams (19-1-1, 10-0 GEL) automatically advanced into the quarterfinals of the D4 playoffs as one of the top five seeds. On Thursday, May 19, Dixon hosted the winner of No. 8 seed Casa Roble (13-10, 6-4 GEL) and No. 9 Sonora (17-10-1, 11-4 Mother Lode), who played on Tuesday, May 17 in Orangevale. The result of the first round battle between the Rams and Wildcats was unknown as of press time.

As for the Rams' first game of the postseason in the quarterfinals on Thursday afternoon in Dixon, that result

was also unknown as of press time. Visit <https://www.independentvoice.com/> for more Dixon sports coverage.

The Rams won their league with an undefeated record in Golden Empire play. In fact, after beginning the season 2-1 overall following an embarrassing 11-0 home loss to East Nicolaus on March 10, Dixon has gone 17 consecutive games without a loss, including with 10 straight wins in the GEL.

The Rams 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 Dixon had finished that game with a victory, they would be on an 18-game winning streak.

If the Rams were victorious on Thursday, they will play in the semifinals at home on Tuesday, May 24 at 4 P.M. ★

Villar Wins PCL Player of the Week



Infielder David Villar currently leads the River Cats in BA (.310), runs (27), HRs (12) and RBI (36). Photo courtesy of Ralph Thompson Photography

Sacramento River Cats News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento River Cats infielder David Villar was named PCL Player of the Week after his impressive showing at the El Paso Chihuahuas from May 9-15.

The Giants' 11th round pick out of

South Florida in 2018 went 8-for-20 (.400) with nine runs, two doubles, four home runs, 10 RBIs, five walks, and a 1.620 OPS in six games against the Chihuahuas.

Villar ignited the River Cats' 10-9 comeback victory on May 11 with a fifth-inning grand slam and a go-ahead 10th inning home run. He followed that up with home runs the next two days.

The award is Villar's first in his debut Triple-A season. The 25-year-old was named a MiLB.com Organization All-Star and Team MVP for Double-A Richmond last year.

Villar leads the PCL with 12 home runs and his 36 RBIs are tied for the lead with El Paso infielder Aderlin Rodriguez. He also ranks inside the top-10 in the league with a .426 on-base percentage (sixth), .690 slugging percentage (third), 1.116 OPS (second), 19 walks, (sixth), and 27 runs (third).

This is the first weekly award for a River Cats player in 2022. They totaled five in 2021 with current River Cats outfielder Bryce Johnson (May 4-9) and infielder Jason Vosler (June 28-July 4) being two of the winners.

Fans can catch Villar and the River Cats for a 12-game homestand, starting on Tuesday, May 17 against the reigning PCL Champion Tacoma Rainiers. Tickets are available on rivercats.com. ★

CHP to Deploy a Motorcycle Safety Enforcement Operation

CHP News Release

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) - Whether you drive on a scenic highway or a congested freeway, motorcycles are all around.

As such, motorcycle-involved crashes in California continue to be a major concern for the California Highway Patrol (CHP). From January 2020 through December 2020, provisional statistical data revealed there were 38 injury crashes involving motorcycles and 3 fatal

crashes involving motorcycles in the CHP Solano Area's jurisdiction.

In an effort to reduce the number of motorcycle incidents or crashes resulting from unsafe speed, following too closely, unsafe lane changes, improper turning, and other violations by both motorcyclists and other drivers, the CHP, Solano Area will deploy additional officers on Interstate 80. The operation commenced on May 1, 2022.

To assist the CHP in this traffic safety effort, the

Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, has awarded a grant titled "Get Educated and Ride Safe IV." With the grant-funding, the Solano Area will continue to deploy additional enforcement efforts through September 30, 2022.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Public Information

Officer Jason Tyhurst, at 707-639-5600. ★

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