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**Dixon  
Independent Voice**

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**BUSINESS OF  
THE YEAR  
AWARDED**



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**Students, Staff Thankful for School**



Maine Prairie High School staff Susana Perez (left), student Anthony Padilla, Nelsy Velazquez and Principal Yvette Ramos prepare plates for Thanksgiving dinner at the annual school feast. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Maine Prairie High School Principal Yvette Ramos was spooning a delicious-looking stuffing out onto dozens of plates of roasted turkey for the annual school Thanksgiving dinner this past Friday where students, staff, and teachers would talk about reasons to be thankful.

"I'm thankful that we are back in school, that we have students who are thankful to be at school, teachers that are grateful, and parents who are grateful their kids are back at school," she said. "It has been a tough year and they're expecting a surge in COVID at least in the hospitals." The administration worked with leadership students to move the luncheon to the end of the day and staff prepared the food including wonderful desserts.

Anthony Padilla, 17, a senior, came to Maine Prairie to get ahead on his credits with a goal of graduating early

and took a moment to talk about his appreciation of the school.

"I wanted to get done early but as I attended, I saw that I liked this environment. It is so much more personal compared to Dixon High. Maine Prairie listens a lot better—even the counselors. I am thankful to be here," he said. He decided to spend the rest of the school year there although he had enough credits to graduate early. He also has all A's but one and that is a B.

"I get to hang out with these people. It's kind of like a little family," he added. When he is not at school, he is working and wants to work more but that's because he's trying to save money for college. He has plans to attend the University of Silicon Valley Polytechnic Institute in San Jose and earn a BS in Game Art & Design. Principal Ramos proudly reports that Padilla has already been accepted there.

His family has had their share of troubles, he said, but his two brothers,

one older, and one younger, are very close and it was a good choice to hold out to graduate because it gives him more time to hunt scholarships and save money. For now, he's setting a great example to fellow students who are showing signs of adjusting back to school on campus.

"The honeymoon is over, the grind is back, and there are things that we have to teach," said Ramos. "The teachers are expected to deliver instructions and my teachers are phenomenal—considering the students were on their own for 13 months and maybe doing school from their bed or living room."

The Thanksgiving dinner brought them together for a tasty meal before taking the week off.

"The students are doing great and they are so good about their masking. In Dixon we have good students and we're going to get stronger," said Ramos. In December, leadership students will do a food drive and donate to a food pantry. ★

**Downtown  
Tree Lighting  
December 2**

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - After many bumps and bruises, the downtown tree lighting on Dec. 2 will go on.

First, the Downtown Dixon Business Association discovered they couldn't get their hands on the super large fresh cut Christmas tree due to the many fires in Northern California and Oregon.

Then, due to COVID, they had to readjust Santa Claus to be outdoors so lines of children could be more spread out. But the company that used to rent the large tents that DDBA used many times for outdoor events went out of business. Even the pony ride company was no longer in business. Finally, the sound system provider and his wife who usually led the community in Christmas carols around the tree had retired. Things were looking pretty bleak for the annual Tree Lighting Festival.

But organizers Jill Orr and Angela Meisenheimer wouldn't give up. The dynamic duo found an artificial tree vendor that would not only do the lighting on the tree but would also set it up. Then, Santa outdoors began to take shape with a large pop-up tent. Several of the organizations or groups that offer free popcorn, cookies, hot chocolate or hot apple cider started calling to make sure they were getting to serve.

"It's been crazy but it's going to happen," said Meisenheimer with a hint of final exasperation. "The tree has arrived and will be set up on time."

"It's going to be wonderful," said an enthusiastic Orr. 'Light Up the Night' will be held in the Dixon Women's Improvement Club Park at 230 North First Street from 4 to 8 pm.

It will feature free activities and entertainment to all. There will be a photo booth sponsored by Grace Fellowship Church and Childrens Crafts inside Calvary Chapel, 140 North First Street. There will also be StoryTime inside the public library and Santa Claus visits where you can take your own pictures.

Sponsors include the Dixon Volunteer Fire Fighter's Association, Barbara Bulkley, City of Dixon Police Department, and John Decker with Dixon's Cub Scout Pack 253. ★

**New Mental Health Support**

**Solano County  
Special Release**

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)**

- Solano County officials, in partnership with Touro University, has announced the launch of SolanoConnex, a new web-app that lists more than 100 mental and emotional health services available throughout Solano County. The web-app is free, easy-to-use, includes live support and is available in three languages, including English, Spanish and Tagalog.

"This web-app is a resource that anyone can use, whether you are a parent looking for emotional support, or someone experiencing feelings of depression and anxiety," said Dr. Sarah Sweitzer, Provost and Chief Academic Officer, Touro University, California. "We are so pleased to have partnered with Solano County on finding a way to increase access to mental health services."

SolanoConnex is a 3-year project managed by Touro



SolanoConnex, a new free web-app, is designed to help expand access to mental and emotional health resources. Photo Piyapong Thongcharoen - Dreamstime.com

University, California, with funding provided by the Solano County Board of Supervisors. SolanoConnex is designed to improve access to mental and emotional health resources for all residents in Solano County. This project is in response to findings from a 2018 Human Services Needs Assessment, a survey that showed nearly half of all people who seek help for mental health

conditions never gain access the services they need.

To access the SolanoConnex web-app, visit <https://SolanoConnex> on a smartphone, computer, tablet, or any device with internet access. Simply click on the type of service(s) you are looking for and providers will be listed in order of proximity to your location. Services are verified on a regular basis. Additionally,

mental health navigators are available by text, email and phone to assist in accessing services, including guiding residents through the web-app and helping them find appropriate services based on their needs.

Providers who are interested in being listed in the app can contact [SolanoConnex@gmail.com](mailto:SolanoConnex@gmail.com). For more information visit <http://solanoconnex.tu.edu>. ★

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# Much to be Thankful for

By Debra Dingman

Dixon churches held a Community Thanksgiving Service last week outside the Dixon United Methodist Church. I remember when they had a similar get together for Easter. It was lovely. This time it was very cold but was just as wonderful.

Of course, we should be thankful all the time, but it takes a day like Thanksgiving that we—and I’m speaking for most people—REALLY think about what we are thankful for. I asked the question on social media and enjoyed the answers. People were thankful for their spouses or their families, their mothers—alive and deceased (but out of their physical pain.)

Liz Robben was thankful for all the volunteers at Cornerstone Church who work on the food pantry to help others. Nicolas Brown was happy for a job. Stephanie Otto was grateful for a school community that contributed to a PTA food drive.

Sometimes when I think about how much I have to be grateful for,

my heart just swells. I’m almost embarrassed that I’m so happy. In fact, if it weren’t for the fact that I’m exhausted by 3 pm every day, I would probably be seen singing in the backyard or even dancing with my husband around our living room. Silly me. Okay, I suppose that’s a bit much.

I have a loving husband; we have our health still; we have terrific family on both sides; and we have several adorable grandchildren. I also love my job 89 percent of the time. Living in Dixon is also something I’m very grateful for. All of our basic essentials are right here in town, and we are only a 6-square mile. Our small-town charm is a frame of mind that we most embody.

My husband said he was grateful for a life of freedom.

“I’m grateful I get to live in this country, even though there’s a few idiots running around, it’s still a great country to live in,” he said.

My sincere joy comes from experiencing the bottom side of life. But, I was blessed with a faith in a heavenly father thanks to my

grandmother taking me regularly to church. That faith enabled me to climb up and out of any pit that life ever threw me in.

I try to be grateful every day—not just on Thanksgiving—and I hope people are deliberate about these kinds of things because it is a fact our mindset in the morning will affect our whole day.

The very first time I cooked a turkey in my home as a newlywed, I cooked that little white bag of turkey gizards inside the turkey, never knowing I was supposed to pull it out before cooking.

My Mom had always bought the largest turkey she could find so naturally, I thought I was supposed to do that, too, even though only my husband and mom and dad were going to be eating with us in our tiny apartment. Our table was an old card table since we were just married right before Thanksgiving. When I put that big beautiful golden bird in the center of it, it made all four plates tilt upward. We had a good laugh... and enough turkey to last a week! ★

# Dixon News Briefs



Last year's Christmas Cruise was a happy sight for Dixon residents after a long pandemic shutdown and organizers are going to make it happen again this year on Dec. 9 starting at Hall Park. Christmas Cruise. Courtesy Photo

MPG Staff

## City Meeting

This coming Tuesday, Nov. 30, there will be no city meeting. In fact, take note that there will be only one City Council meeting in December as the Dec. 21 was cancelled due to the Christmas holiday. The Dixon Council will meet at 7 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 600 East A Street. The agenda can be found online at cityofdixon.com but not until the Thursday before the meeting around 4 pm.

## Senior Club

The Dixon Senior Club is up and running again after a long COVID-19 hiatus. Call the Dixon Senior Center for upcoming events, trips, games and classes. It's time to get together again with our friends and peers to get over the cabin fever we all experienced during the pandemic.

The next Senior Club Out-to-Lunch is on Dec. 10 and the group is going to Mr. Taco. Please join them as an opportunity to see each other just before they get busy with Christmas and New Years.

The non-profit organization recently decided that they will donate to both Dixon Family Services and the Dixon Toys for Tots' Senior Visitation Program this year and plan to make it an annual thing.

Dixon Family Services expressed their gratitude to have another new partnership with one of Dixon's oldest clubs. This partner adds to the long list of service organizations and clubs in Dixon that support DFS on a regular basis.

The Senior Club coordinates with the City of Dixon and uses the Dixon Senior Center to schedule classes, exercise, meals, and many other activities throughout the year. The Senior Club and the Advocates for Seniors will also work together to find resources and provide links to services that are specific to senior citizens in Dixon. The Senior Resource Fair is tentatively planned for the Spring of 2022.

## Christmas Cruise

Dixon Mobile Christmas Tree Lighting Car Cruise and Canned Food and Toy Drive for Dixon Community Christmas Program will be at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Dixon. Start with bringing out your classic or decorated cars to Hall Park at 4pm, Thursday, Dec. 9, where we will start with a car parade collecting toys and canned food for Dixon families and then proceed with a cruise at 5:45 pm through local neighborhoods. Contact Karstin Stranger of Almond Tree Mortgage for more info. ★

# Distracted Driving: Is It Worth It?

CHP Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Every year, thousands of people are seriously injured or killed statewide in vehicle crashes caused by distracted drivers. To combat this issue, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) received the Adult Distracted Drivers (ADD) XII grant to keep California roads safe through education and enforcement.

“Distracted driving is a serious issue that is 100 percent preventable,” said CHP Commissioner Amanda Ray. “We are encouraging drivers to make a conscious choice to not drive distracted. This simple decision can have a tremendous positive impact on the safety of California’s roadways.”

Drivers who choose to drive distracted exponentially increase the odds of being involved in a vehicle crash. According to data from the CHP’s Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System, in 2019 there were nearly 19,000 crashes where driver inattention played a role. Of the 9,371 drivers involved in a fatal or injury distracted driving

crash that year, nearly 10 percent cited cell phone use as the source of inattention.

Though there are numerous distractions for a driver, cell phones are the most prevalent. Handheld cell phone use while driving is not only illegal in California, it is an unsafe activity behind the wheel. In California, drivers under the age of 18 are prohibited from using a cell phone while driving for any reason, including hands-free devices.

“Driving safely requires complete attention, so it is best to stay focused on the road. Distraction behind the wheel jeopardizes your safety, your passengers’ safety, and the well-being of those around you,” Commissioner Ray added.

Funds from the ADD grant will help support the CHP’s completion of at least 400 traffic safety presentations statewide and a minimum of 80 distracted driving enforcement operations between October 1, 2021, and September 30, 2022.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ★



## MEMORIAL NOTICE

### Shea Matthew Bassler

March 28, 1992 to October 18, 2021

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the unexpected passing of Shea on October 18, 2021. He was born March 28, 1992 in Vallejo, CA, on the birthday of his beloved grandmother Chiyoko Bassler (known as “Nana” to all her grandchildren.) He lived in Dixon, CA all his life and worked at the local Safeway store for over 10 years.

Shea was an amazing person and had the most beautiful soul. He was well loved in our community and enjoyed working at Safeway. Everyone enjoyed his BIG smile and his caring ways. He had a fun, care-free personality and loved to make people laugh and feel good about themselves. When he was little, he couldn’t resist running around the house in masks, costumes, or anything that would make you laugh at him and this carried on into his adulthood.

Shea’s true passion was his love for cars. He loved hunting for special car parts and accessories and always managed to find a gem now and then. He was truly a collector of all

things. He also enjoyed music, camping, and simply hanging out with family and friends. Shea was loved by so many people. He will be forever missed and our lives will never be the same. We are sure God has a reason for calling him to Heaven so soon. May he rest in peace and God bless him and keep him.

Shea is survived by his parents, John and Chelli Bassler, brother John Bassler, II; Grandmother Gloria Evans; Niece Gracie Bassler; and many uncles, aunts, cousins, and extended family members who loved him very much.

He is preceded in death by his grandfathers, Thomas Bassler and Robert Evans; grandmother Chiyoko Bassler; aunt Kathy Bassler; and his brother Thomas (Tommy) Bassler.

A Celebration of Life and reception will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 1 pm at the Dixon United Methodist Church, 209 North Jefferson Street, Dixon, CA. Interment will be private at the St. Alphonsus Catholic Cemetery in Fairfield, CA.

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# Science and Engineering Fair Returning to In-Person

**Solano County Press Release**

**FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG)** - Solano County Office of Education is hosting another Solano County Science and Engineering Fair competition on March 17, 2022. The youth event seeks to develop inquiry and problem-solving skills among students, ignite a passion for science and engineering and better prepare youth for STEM and related careers. The fair will be returning to an in-person format, and all Solano County students grades 3-12 are invited to enter this STEM competition.

Visit [solanocoe.net/sciencefair](http://solanocoe.net/sciencefair) to complete the entry form and view the Science and Engineering Fair information packet to learn more about the competition. The application deadline is 3:00 PM on February 25, 2022.

Now more than ever, it is vital that our elementary, middle, and high school students have opportunities to apply science and engineering skills, investigate theories, gather, and evaluate evidence, and develop potential conclusions. SCOE aspires to motivate more students to explore careers in science, engineering, or related fields, said Solano County Superintendent of

Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

The competition has three divisions: elementary school (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8), and high school (grades 9-12). Each division has three categories: earth science, physical science, and life science. Participants' investigative science and engineering projects will be reviewed and judged by representatives from various universities. Top middle and high school winners in this competition will be eligible to enter the California State Science and Engineering Fair in April 2022.

Parents and community members are invited to celebrate students' achievements and view their Science and Engineering Fair projects on March 17, 2022, from 4:00-5:45 PM followed by the awards ceremony from 6:00-7:30 PM at the McCormack Hall, Solano County Fairgrounds at 900 Fairgrounds Drive, Vallejo. Medals, trophies, and prizes will be awarded to winners.

For more information about the Science and Engineering Fair, contact Director of Innovative Programs and Student Success Lilibeth Pinpin, at [lpinpin@solanocoe.net](mailto:lpinpin@solanocoe.net) or 707-399-4439. ★

# Tamika Hamilton Named to E-PAC's 'Women to Watch' List

**Tamika Hamilton for U.S Representative Press Release**

**FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG)** - Air Force Sergeant and candidate for California's third congressional district Tamika Hamilton reacts to news she has made E-PAC's "Women to Watch" list for the 2021-22 election cycle.

As a veteran and working mother of five, I feel an obligation to show other women that anything is possible in this country,"

said Hamilton. "Being named to this list is a tremendous honor and I'm thankful to be thought of in the same company as other leading Republican women candidates across the nation who are doing so much for their communities."

E-PAC was founded after the 2018 midterm elections by Republican House Conference Chair Elise Stefanik to support leading Republican women running for Congress.

In 2020, E-PAC helped more than double the

number of GOP women in Congress in what former President Trump called 2020, "The Year of the Republican Women." 11 out of the 15 seats that flipped red were won by E-PAC endorsed Republican women.

Click here for the full E-PAC Women to Watch list.

For more information about Air Force Sergeant Tamika Hamilton, visit [votetamika.org](http://votetamika.org) or contact Micah Grant at [micah@alexipr.com](mailto:micah@alexipr.com). ★

# The Solano Symphony Orchestra is Back



**Dana Rath, mandolin player for Solano Symphony Orchestra.** Photo provided by Solano Symphony Orchestra

**Solano Symphony Orchestra Press Release**

**VACAVILLE, CA (MPG)** - With the welcomed resumption of live classical music, the Solano Symphony Orchestra is once again delighting and inspiring its audiences under the direction of Maestro Semyon Lohss. Following the orchestra's stunning October season-opening concert, Maestro Lohss has prepared a feast of holiday music consisting of new and familiar cheerful fare.

Opening the program,

the overture to Handel's Messiah will instantly set a joyous mood. Adding a dash of up-tempo rhythms, Maestro Lohss conducts the congenial "Du und Du" waltz by Johann Strauss, Jr., and the rambunctious "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson. An unexpected piece, new to the orchestra's repertoire, is the Mandolin Concerto by J. N. Hummel performed by Dana Rath. Rath is a founding member of the Grammy-nominated Modern Mandolin Quartet. He has devoted his musical career to reawakening interest in the mandolin family of instruments. The gentleness of the instrument's voice paired with the charm of Hummel's score welcomes a lovely guest to the orchestra's holiday banquet.

The evening's musical entrée consists of choice selections from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker ballet. From the stirring rhythm of the opening March to the swirling Final Waltz and Apotheosis, it will transport listeners to

the ballet's fairyland and into the wonder of the holidays in a way only the magic of music can convey.

The concert takes place on Sunday, Dec. 5, 2021, at 3 p.m. at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre (1010 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville). Tickets for the performance can be purchased at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre by phone, (707) 469-4013, or via the website, [www.vpat.net](http://www.vpat.net). Tickets can also be purchased through the Symphony via its website, [www.solanosymphony.org](http://www.solanosymphony.org). The theatre box office opens one hour before the performance.

Ticket Pricing: Adults \$30; Senior (62) \$25; Active Military \$15 (with ID); Student (with High School or College ID) and Youth under 18 \$15. A \$1 theatre fee is added to the price of each ticket.

Contact Lisa Gill Board Vice President Email: [info@solanosymphony.org](mailto:info@solanosymphony.org) Phone: (907) 360-4775 Website: [www.solanosymphony.org](http://www.solanosymphony.org). ★

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# Citizen, Business of the Year Awarded at Chamber

**By Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - With all the honor and glory one can receive inside the Chamber office, Sarah Villec, long-time Advertising Manager at the Dixon Tribune, was given the sweet title of Dixon's Citizen of the Year for 2020 while Hayley Andrews received the Business of the Year for the Dixon Wellness Collective.

Plaques, awards and flowers were bestowed by Dixon Chamber President Herb Cross in front of Villec and her daughter, Karen, from Santa Rosa along with Andrew's family present.

"We don't know what is happening with COVID," said Chamber CEO Shauna Manina. A committee of representatives from five non-profit groups chose the Citizen of the Year out of three nominations that arrived back in spring of 2021. A committee of five prior winners chose the Business of the Year. There had been hopes the annual dinner celebration would come to fruition but the pandemic restrictions lingered.

"Restrictions have eased but there is concern of a surge now. Instead of depriving the winners of their feelings of accomplishments, the Board decided to go ahead and notify the winners and do a small reception



**Cookie Powell (left) with Citizen of the Year 2020 Sarah Villec (right). The simple but special ceremony with Villec's daughter making a guest appearance was held at the Chamber office.** Photo by Brianna Boyd

at the Chamber. They were both totally surprised."

Several Board members were present and the small group included Councilman Jim Ernest at one gathering and Mayor Steve Bird at the other.

"Hayley was basically kidnapped by her staff and we had her children here as well. She was totally blown away, too," added Manina, who was pleased with the simple but happy recognitions.

Cookie Powell was one citizen who nominated Villec and provided the following: "For me personally, Sarah is much more than the supportive, loyal and lasting member of the Dixon Family Services Board of Directors that I report and answer to. She inspires me

with her "knowledge of all things" in life, business and human behavior. Strong in her mind and body, those of us who know Sarah are in awe of her tenacity, leadership and love for her family.

"Sarah has also suffered recent setbacks including the loss of her loved one, Donny, and then a fall that required hip surgery and many months of physical therapy. She has been amazing in accepting her hardships with grace and dignity. She continues to work and volunteer for The Tribune, The Dixon Chamber and Dixon Family Services. Sarah is a role model to all of us for her strength, giving nature and determination—a champion in the business world and as a community volunteer." ★

# Dixon Wellness Collective Nomination for Business of the Year

**By Laura Ziegler, Travis Credit Union Branch Manager**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - During the past two plus years of doing business here in, Dixon Wellness Collective has provided close to one hundred hours of charity work. They have made over \$150K in monetary donations to various community groups and projects. They were a primary sponsor in the Dixon Christmas Tree Lighting 2019.

They have actively participated in mixers, and various other chamber and downtown business events such as Epicurean Fete, and the Beer and Wine Stroll. In addition, they participate in Grillin' & Chillin' along with the Vacaville Farmer's Market.

Dixon Wellness has volunteered to help members of the community in their time of need, most recently allowing a community member to do a pop-up tent fundraiser in front of



**Haley Andrew and Rich Ferguson together when Haley was selected Ambassador of the Year by her fellow Chamber Ambassadors. Now she happily adds Business of the Year 2020 by Dixon Chamber of Commerce.** Courtesy Photo

Dixon Wellness.

Dixon Wellness does a fabulous job of promoting community events via social media. They were a Toys for Tots drop off as well as collected Halloween Costumes for less fortunate children.

Haley Andrews serves on the Board of Directors of the Dixon District Chamber of Commerce and has made countless contributions to the Chamber in the form of ideas, numerous raffle prizes and hard work!

The positive contribution this business has brought to Dixon in such a brief period of time should not go unnoticed. Haley Andrew of Dixon Wellness Collective truly deserves this award. ★

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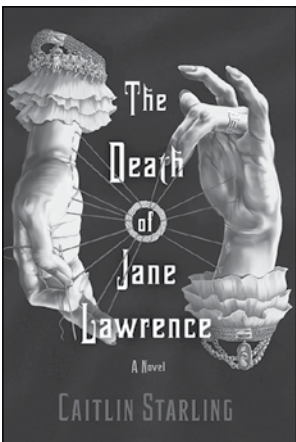
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# The Death of Jane Lawrence

by Caitlin Starling

Jane Shoringfield never desired the life that most girls dreamed of at her age. Jane dreamed of an unassuming, practical life hidden behind the carefully crafted numbers that fill her ledgers. However, as life happens, Jane quickly finds herself in a desperately changing situation. Without the security of marriage or chaperones, Jane will no longer be able to live the life she desires freely. So, with a few carefully crafted ideas, Jane settles on the idea of a marriage of convenience, and her eyes are set on the quiet, seclusive new doctor Augustine Lawrence. Purposed as a logical business agreement, Dr. Lawrence reluctantly agrees upon one condition: Jane must never visit his manor outside of town, where he will continue to stay every evening.

Yet, once again, fate steps in, sending Jane to the very steps of the forbidden manor. Alone and deserted in the middle of a rainstorm, Jane has only one place to go, and once she passes through the door of Lindridge Hall, she realizes nothing will ever be the same. There she finds her new husband lost within the recesses of his mind,



- ◆ Publisher: St Martin’s Press
- ◆ Intended audience: Adult
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥
- ◆ Release Date: October 05, 2021

overcome with paranoia and fear, believing that ghosts of the deceased are there to haunt him. However, in the morning, he returns to the man she once knew. All too soon, Jane realizes that there is something gravely wrong with the decaying manor, and once the sun sets, so does the rationale of one's mind.

Before Jane knows it, days have passed, and the startling realization sets in that once you pass through the manor's doors, it is nearly impossible to leave. Then the haunting images and illusions begin to present themselves as secrets

that need to be unearthed. With her quick thinking and firm resolve, Jane discovers the only way to free them of the horrors is to delve deep into the house's magical hold, plunging them into madness that might be their final undoing.

Caitlin Starling weaves a lush, atmospheric, and haunting tale where secrets want to be unearthed as much as they want to stay buried. *The Death of Jane Lawrence* questions the power that guilt holds on one person as well as the power it has to turn into madness. A story that goes far beyond one of illusions and torment, but also interlaces a complex magic system and surgical practice. With a gothic twist that will leave readers questioning what is real and what is a truth buried deep within the recesses of their mind?

Starling's writing leaps off the pages, throwing readers tumbling headfirst into this truly unique story that lashes out at readers, demanding their full attention. With the faint echoing of *Crimson Peak* and *Rebecca*, set in post-war England, this story is perfectly set for fans of historical, medical, or gothic reads. ★



### Joe Biden’s Incredible Shrinking Presidency

Joe Biden was never exactly a colossus bestriding the Earth, but he's been getting smaller by the day.

A Washington Post poll over the weekend suggested that his presidency is, for now, a smoking political crater. It had him at a 41% approval rating, despite the passage of his long-sought infrastructure bill that was supposed to buoy him and his party.

Even more striking, the survey found that Republicans lead Democrats on the generic congressional ballot by 10 points, 51% to 41%, an unprecedentedly strong showing for the GOP that forecasts an earthquake, tsunami, and maybe a few more natural disasters for Democrats come next fall.

And who can be surprised? Biden is stumbling, out of touch, and weak. Two of his major initiatives, at the border and in Afghanistan, created completely avoidable catastrophes. He has given no sense of being in control of events or even his own party. He is an accidental president who is running smack into his own inadequacies and absurd pretensions.

No one in Washington over the last four decades ever said that Joe Biden was just the man with the foresight, wisdom and deft political touch to lead the free world.

No, he was an average

senatorial bloviator whose first two presidential campaigns flamed out in embarrassing fashion, before he hit the jackpot when Barack Obama choose him as his running mate in 2008.

Showing the advantage of hanging around for a very long time, Biden won both the 2020 Democratic nomination and the presidency by default. In the primaries, the former vice president looked good in comparison to Bernie Sanders, and he ran in the general on not being Donald Trump.

Now, Biden is allied with Bernie Sanders, who helped write the first version of his Build Back Better plan, and Donald Trump no longer looms as large as Biden's foil.

The best case for Biden's presidency was that he could be a kind of consensus caretaker – restoring a sense of normality and maintaining a low profile while riding in the slipstream of improving economic conditions and a diminishing pandemic.

Instead, he’s been carried along by the left-wing tide of his party and repeatedly engaged in unconstitutional executive overreach. On top of it all, he's brought his own brand of incompetence, exemplified by the botched pull-out from Afghanistan.

His foremost mistake was overestimating an attenuated electoral mandate for pedestrian governance as a permission slip for passing nearly the entirety of the progressive agenda in the space of less than a year.

Not only has there been sticker shock over the price tag of the Biden agenda,

but it has little connection to things people truly care about. The infrastructure bill polls well, but no one goes about their daily lives worried about the alleged crisis of crumbling bridges and tunnels.

Meanwhile, the Build Back Better bill started as a \$3.5 trillion grab bag of everything that progressives want but couldn’t get in the infrastructure bill. Passing as much spending as you possibly can before you lose Congress a year from now, which is essentially the rationale behind Build Back Better, is not a compelling reason for a historic spate of federal spending.

That legislation has been pared down to largely a child care and climate change bill. That’s an unnatural pairing that came about not because those are the top two things that the public wants from Washington, but because they happen to be what Democrats think they can pass.

Only now is the White House trying to argue that the infrastructure bill and Build Back Better will address real public concerns, namely the supply chain disruptions and the inflation that is outpacing wage growth. This is clearly a tendentious, after-the-fact argument.

The White House can hope that the supply chain bottlenecks ease and inflation declines, but Biden’s disastrous first year speaks to a more intractable problem with the lackluster occupant of the Oval Office himself.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*  
*(c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.* ★

# Country Hometown Comes Alive

Commentary by Ed Heeney

I am sure boys who grew up in the city had fun times, but it is hard to fathom how they could have had it as good as us country boys and girls enjoyed. Especially downtown on a Saturday night. All the stores stayed open through the evening and as the sun began to set in the west, the chores were being finished on the farms, farmers put on a freshly ironed shirt, the family all loaded in the family auto, and the country hometown came alive.

As cars arrived and passengers off-loaded, a carnival atmosphere began to form. The ladies visited various shops to purchase needed supplies and when completed, they would gather in the corner grocery store and take their seat on the bench that stretched the length of the plate glass windows. The men would gather in the pool hall and/or barbershop to swap tales on the wheat crop outlook and price of livestock. The children were in a world all their own with two or three pennies to spend. You could still get a lollipop, candy bar, or bubble gum for one penny.

In our town, South Haven, Kansas,

population 400, Main Street was one block north and one block south of middle town, so children couldn't get lost or in too much trouble without being supervised by an adult.

Also in our town, any adult had permission to intervene with any child and set them straight. The worst punishment was to have some adults take you by the collar and march you straight to your dad. Double humiliation was when the pool hall doors opened, and you were delivered to your dad amidst guffaws and laughter from all the neighbors.

But we had great entertainment after shopping was done. About half a dozen old guys brought fiddles, guitars, banjos, etc., and set up in the middle of a side street by the hardware store and tuned-up as the 'Old Fiddlers.' And, what a great couple of hours enjoying real country music it was. Adults parked cars nearby, rolled down the windows, and enjoyed the evening of the free concert. Us kids sat on the sidewalks, car fenders, and empty milk cans and felt real "up town," When I look back on this scene from my youth, I can't help but feel blessed. It was a wonderful life. ★

# I Was Just Thinking, or Was I Really Thinking?

Dr. James L. Snyder

Thinking has not really been my strong suit. Not that I don’t do some kind of thinking, but my thinking never gets me ahead of anything or anyone. In fact, I’m not sure if I really do think. I wouldn’t know what to do with thinking.

Many people give a lot of credit to what they’re thinking. I suppose there is a place for real serious critical thinking, but it has never arisen in any of my situations that I can think of right now.

One day this past week, we had to go across town for an errand. As we were traveling, I said, “You know, I was thinking...”

As soon as I said that, she started laughing almost hysterically. I looked at her and said, “What are you laughing about?”

“You were thinking? When did you start thinking?” Then she laughed some more.

If only I could have thought up a response to that jab, I would’ve been happy, but my cognitive activity was on pause.

Recently my wife and I were in conversation, and she was asking about some projects that she had in mind to do. Believe me;

she’s always working on some crafty project. I can’t keep up with all of her projects.

Then she looked at me and said, “What project do you think I should do?”

For her to ask me to think was something out of my thinking zone. When it comes to craft projects, I just am beyond imagination. I couldn’t work on a project like that if my life depended on it.

I had to stop for a moment and think about it. Honestly, I really didn’t know where to start with those projects. One would be just as good as the other, and I really had no preference about the whole thing.

Being a husband as long as I have been, I understand she’s not asking a question for my opinion. She is simply thinking out loud. I know whichever one I picked, she will pick the opposite.

“Well,” I said as soberly as possible, “giving this a lot of thought, I suggest you do project number two.”

“I was thinking,” she said as though she had not heard anything I had suggested, “that I would do project number four.” And then she said something else, “What do you think of

that choice?”

I didn’t have to think of that choice because she had already thought through that choice, and no further thought was necessary.


It’s amazing to me how cognitive my wife can be when dealing with her crafts. I’m jealous of that ability. But, of course, I know if I had that kind of cognitive ability, it would only get me so deep in trouble that I couldn’t get out.

Doing some more thinking on my own, I thought of a special verse of Scripture. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:11).

It’s not my thinking that matters so much. Rather, it is what God is thinking about me that encourages me. God’s thinking about me is based upon his infinite wisdom and his love for me.

*Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.* ★






**Publisher,  
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# Farm Credit West Donates Over \$50,000 to Food Banks

## Farm Credit West News Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Farm Credit West, ACA, one of the largest agricultural lending cooperatives in the nation, recently donated over \$50,000 to food banks throughout the regions where they operate, including Arizona, California’s Central Coast, the Imperial Valley, South San Joaquin Valley, and Sacramento Valley.

“In times of need, it is imperative our communities have access to healthy foods,” said Mark Littlefield, President and CEO of Farm Credit West. “Providing financial support to our local food banks helps connect the nutritious foods our customers grow to those

trying to make ends meet.”

Every year, Farm Credit West prioritizes distributing funds to fight food insecurity through their robust charitable giving program. This year, seventeen food banks received a donation to support their local programs helping families impacted by illness, job loss, or loss of a home.

“Stewardship is at the core of Farm Credit West’s mission. Year after year, we keep a keen eye on the most vulnerable in our local communities and respond with financial assistance. Our Association and its Board of Directors recognize the direct impact these organizations have on our communities and dedicate our resources to help ensure no family

goes hungry.”

*Farm Credit West is a lending institution of the Farm Credit System with California branch offices in Bakersfield, Dinuba, Hanford, Imperial Valley, Santa Maria, Templeton, Tulare, Ventura, Woodland and Yuba City; and Arizona branch offices in Tempe, Safford, and Yuma. The corporate headquarters is located in Rocklin, California. The Farm Credit System is a nationwide network of borrower-owned lending institutions and specialized service organizations created by Congress in 1916. The System provides loans, leases, and related services to farmers, ranchers, rural homeowners, agribusinesses and agricultural and rural utility cooperatives nationwide. Visit [www.farmcreditwest.com](http://www.farmcreditwest.com).*



### Report says adaptability will help farmers and ranchers weather the drought

Impacts of the 2020-21 drought on California farms and ranches might not be as bad as feared, according to a University of California report. Despite record-setting drought conditions and hundreds of thousands of acres left unplanted, the authors say the state’s farms and ranches may generate normal revenue in 2021. The report cites adaptability as a key factor.

### California gets \$54.5 million for specialty crops, pandemic relief

California is getting \$54.5 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Specialty Crop Grant Program. The money will benefit farm boards and producers and University of California system research centers, and some 100 agricultural projects will get funds to boost specialty market sales of fruits, vegetables, tree nuts and nursery crops. The money includes \$31.6 million in stimulus funds to help agriculture address impacts of the pandemic.

### Jose Emilio Esteban nominated as Under Secretary of Food Safety

A University of California, Davis graduate has been nominated to serve as Under Secretary for Food Safety. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said Jose Emilio Esteban, chief scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service, “has an extensive track record on this key issue.” Esteban holds a master’s degree in Preventive Veterinary Medicine and a PhD in Epidemiology from UC Davis.

### Cal State Monterey Bay Gets \$975,000 grant for ag programs

California State University, Monterey Bay has been awarded a \$975,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase student participation and career opportunities in food, agriculture, natural resources and human science fields. Under the grant program, the campus will also partner with the University of California, Santa Cruz and regional agricultural industries on student recruitment, retention and job placement.



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# Prosecutors Reach Settlement for Violations

## Solano County District Attorney Press Release

**FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG)** - Solano County District Attorney Krishna A. Abrams announced recently that the Solano County District Attorney’s Office, together with 22 other California District Attorneys and City Attorneys, have reached a settlement with Hassan & Sons, Inc., H&S Energy, LLC and H&S Energy Products, LLC (formerly known as Colonial Energy, LLC), (collectively referred to as “H&S Energy”) over allegations that the companies violated state laws regarding the operation and maintenance of motor vehicle fuel underground storage tanks (“USTs”). The settlement includes \$1,100,000 in civil penalties, and costs payable in 2 installments. H&S Energy has 113 fueling stations in California, of which, 12 Chevron and Texaco branded locations

are in Solano County.

The settlement follows an investigation that started with multiple inspections by local environmental health agencies wherein H&S Energy stations were found to be out of compliance with many provisions of the UST regulations including but not limited to failure to have a permit to operate, failure to obtain permits for installation and repairs, failure to test leak detection equipment every 12 months, improper placement of sensors, failure of overfill protection and improper handling and disposal of hazardous wastes and materials associated with USTs.

In full cooperation with the People’s investigation, H&S Energy allocated significant capital resources to address the stations’ deficiencies in order to get them into compliance.

Under the settlement, which includes a Final Judgment and Permanent

Injunction entered on November 18, 2021, in Solano County Superior Court Case No. FCS057332, by the Honorable E. Bradley Nelson, H&S Energy must implement certain compliance assurance programs including hiring an environmental compliance manager and bi-annual environmental audits and reports submitted to the People. In addition, H&S Energy must pay \$900,000 in civil penalties and \$200,000 in costs.

Krishna Abrams stated, “Protection of the groundwater in Solano County and beyond is a priority for this office. Fuel leaks from service stations with inadequate secondary containment or monitoring equipment can pollute groundwater. By getting fuel stations into compliance with the UST regulations, we help to prevent gasoline from contaminating the water we drink.”

# Proposal to Allow a Jury Trial in Custody Cases

## Office of California Secretary of State

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Secretary of State Dr. Shirley N. Weber announced that the proponents of a new initiative were cleared to begin collecting petition signatures on November 12, 2021.

The Attorney General prepares the legal title and summary that is required to appear on initiative petitions. When the official language is complete, the Attorney General forwards it to the proponents and to the Secretary of State, and the initiative may be circulated for signatures. The Secretary of State then provides a calendar of deadlines to the proponents and to county elections officials. The Attorney General’s official title and summary for the measure is as follows:

**Allows a party to choose to have a jury trial in child-custody and dependent-child cases. Initiative statute.** Allows a party in child-custody cases to choose that a jury, rather than a judge, determines who receives legal custody of the child. Prohibits the judge from rejecting a jury’s decision in child-custody cases. Allows a party in dependent-child proceedings to choose that a jury, rather than a judge, determines whether a child should be declared a dependent of the court. Summary

of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: Unknown ongoing net fiscal impact on state courts that would depend significantly on (1) how the measure is interpreted and implemented by the courts and (2) how individuals respond to the ability to demand a jury trial in child custody and juvenile dependency jurisdictional hearings. Potential ongoing increase in county costs that could reach the low millions of dollars annually related to juvenile dependency jurisdictional cases – some or all of which could be shifted to the state. (21-0019.)

The Secretary of State’s tracking number for this measure is 1913 and the Attorney General’s tracking number is 21-0019.

The proponents of the measure, Wylmina Hettinga, and Stephen Konnoff, must collect signatures of 623,212 registered voters (five percent of the total votes cast for governor in the November 2018 general election) in order for the measure to become eligible for the ballot. The proponents have 180 days to circulate petitions for the measure, meaning the signatures must be submitted to county elections officials no later than May 11, 2022. The address for the proponents is 630 Quintana Road #145, Morro Bay, CA 93442.

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

**FILE NO. 2021-1002183**

The following persons are doing business as: : **K1 SPEED**

**1560 Gateway Boulevard, Fairfield, CA 94533**

**BKC Entertainment LLC, CA**

Date Filed in Solano County: November 2, 2021

The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is Conducted by: 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 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 November 2, 2026. 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: November 19, 26 & December 3, 10, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

**CASE #FCS057294**

1. Petitioner Rudy Brooks Sr filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

<u>Present name</u>	<u>Proposed name</u>
Rudy Brooks Sr	Rudy Robert Brooks Sr

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **December 15, 2021, 8:30 a.m. Department 12, Room 2, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533**

Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer

DATED: October 27, 2021

Publish: November 19, 26 & December 3, 10, 2021 (The Dixon Independent Voice)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**

**FILE NO. 2021-1002253**

The following persons are doing business as: : **OMBRE NAILS**

**613 Tennessee Street, Vallejo, CA 94590**

**Dan Lam, 1593 Gardner Boulevard, San Leandro, CA 94577**

Date Filed in Solano County: November 15, 2021

The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is Conducted by: 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 November 14, 2026. 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: November 26 & December 3, 10, 17, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)



**Solutions on Page 7**



# Covid and Beyond



Commentary  
by bil paul

The number of new covid cases in Dixon continues to be low, but there were six covid deaths in the county last week. That’s a sudden uptick.

## Nurses Stretched to their Limits

Nurses must be depressed watching COVID patients be yanked out of their normal lives, be hooked up to breathing machines and being away from loved ones. Oftentimes, the only person to hold a dying patient’s hand is a nurse. Early on during the pandemic, nurses often had to deal with no or insufficient personal protective equipment (PPE) such as high-quality masks. Since then, better PPE has become available, but other challenges have emerged. Many COVID nurses, overcome by job burn-out, stress, anxiety and depression, have left the profession or moved to a less demanding area of healthcare (I talked with one of those departing nurses – a male nurse – when I was out kayaking one day.) That makes it harder on the remaining nurses. Many COVID nurses have had to work extra

hours, and even with PPE, still risk catching covid and bringing it home to their families. It was estimated early this year that more than 2,200 nurses worldwide had died of COVID. Nurses working in ICUs may not be as likely to catch COVID as nurses working elsewhere with patients who have just tested positive and may be more likely to spread the disease (because they have a higher viral load.) A labor and delivery nurse in southern California (pregnant and mother of five) died of COVID. She hadn’t been vaccinated. Her husband was also hospitalized with a severe COVID infection. The baby was saved. If nurses and doctors dare advocate in public for COVID vaccinations and mask wearing, they may be treated harshly by anti-vaxxers. If this is the life of covid nurses in this country, you can imagine the life of medical personnel treating COVID in many third world countries.

**Then There are the Stewards and Stewardesses**

Airline stewards and stewardesses have had their share of problems. First off, when the pandemic began and airline travel slowed down dramatically, many of them were laid off and had to survive with no pay. Back in the day, these jobs were often seen as fun, prestige jobs for primarily younger workers. Stewards and stewardesses served food, looked after passenger well-being, and could banter with passengers and each other.

Nowadays, they serve as mask enforcers, luggage-size enforcers, food vendors and are tasked with trying to keep worked-up and confrontational passengers from going nuts and getting physical. Sometimes when unruly passengers have to be reported to police upon arrival, both the police and the airline take little or no action at all. A recent survey of flight attendants revealed that 85 percent of them had dealt with out-of-control passengers. Sixty-one percent said these passengers had used racist, sexist or homophobic slurs during confrontations. I have the feeling that when people board planes these days, they keep their cell phones handy in case they’ll have the chance to record yet another fight aboard a plane. Not least of all, stewards and stewardesses worry about catching COVID and taking it home. More of them are quitting the profession because of stress and burnout. Airlines’ erratic schedules and rescheduling can make a normal life difficult. Knowing these things, next time you fly, thank these people.

*bil paul did PR for the Postal Service and medical companies, and worked as a reporter and photographer. He’s the author of the book about Dixon’s failed movie studio project (“The Train Never Stops in Dixon” – available at Amazon or the library) and has a non-fiction book coming out next year about GIs in the Aleutian Islands during WWII.* ★



# Riley Reviews

## “NASH BRIDGES” RETURNS; “THE HOT ZONE” SCIENCE THRILLER

### A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

**“NASH BRIDGES: THE MOVIE” ON USA NETWORK**

Don Johnson as Inspector Nash Bridges and his partner Cheech Marin’s Inspector Joe Dominguez, elite investigators in the San Francisco Police Department’s Special Investigations Unit (SIU), had a nice run of six seasons on the CBS Network in the series “Nash Bridges.”

Now more than twenty years later Johnson and Marin are reunited in their original roles for “Nash Bridges: The Movie,” a two-hour film on the USA Network that finds these initial cast members facing a new world of policing.

Nash Bridges, with a keen sense of humor and charm, comes back to SIU after a suspension and unfortunately has to report to a new boss Steve Colton (Joe Dinicol), a young, uptight officer who is wrapped up in political correctness.

Time has not mellowed the wisecracking Bridges’ penchant for bending the rules in pursuit of the bad guys, even if his partner Dominguez is more cautious, and maybe that’s because he’s running a side business of a legal marijuana retail shop.

Bridges remains the freewheeling character who now disdains how the SIU headquarters has been turned into a modern data-driven enterprise that relies on technology for police work. He prefers the old streetwise methods rather than predictive policing.

Part of the fun is seeing how Bridges irritates his new boss Colton without crossing a red line of insubordination, though a reckless chase that results in a huge explosion and the destruction of his beloved yellow Barracuda convertible puts him a precarious position.

While Bridges dances on the fine line between team player and going rogue, he doesn’t much care how the world around him has changed because he’s going to rely on instincts that are usually correct.

Whether during the series run or the new movie, the action in “Nash Bridges” involves the police duo chasing down murderers, drug dealers, and the whole gamut of despicable criminals.

Remembering the storyline of any episode or the movie itself only days later may be a little hazy. However, the excitement happens during the moment, and Johnson and Marin do not disappoint in their advancing years.

Aside from Johnson and Marin, the cast is all-new with the exception of Jeff Perry’s return as retired Inspector Harvey Leek, who helps the pair hack into computer systems. There’s no mention of Bridges’ daughter Cassidy (Jodi Lyn O’Keefe), who by now must be nearing middle age.

Fans of the original series will want to tune into “Nash Bridges: The Movie,” and

if all goes well in the ratings, it appears that the producers are hoping for a relaunch of the series.

Undeniably, the chemistry between Don Johnson and Cheech Marin is what ultimately drives the enjoyment of a police procedural that’s all about crime-busting but doesn’t take itself too seriously.

**“THE HOT ZONE: ANTHRAX” ON NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

The nation was on edge twenty years ago following the devastating terrorist on 9/11, and while the nightmare of that day is burned into our conscious mind, we may not so readily recall another deadly act of terrorism when letters containing anthrax were sent to unsuspecting victims.

“The Hot Zone: Anthrax,” a three-night event on the National Geographic Channel and also streaming on Hulu, depicts the plight and eventual triumph over a national threat.

The anthrax letters were sent to Florida, Washington, D.C., and New York. This anonymous assault claimed five lives and caused panic. Despite many false leads, a team of FBI agents and scientists slowly closed in on a shocking prime suspect.

Inspired by true events, “The Hot Zone: Anthrax” follows parallel stories of FBI agent Matthew Ryker (Daniel Dae Kim) and Dr. Bruce Ivins (Tony Goldwyn), a brilliant microbiologist.

Ryker, with a specialty in microbiology, risks his career to convince his superiors of the unthinkable just three weeks after the 9/11 attacks. Yet, the nation is under attack again.

Dr. Ivins becomes embroiled in the hunt to find the 2001 anthrax killer, working closely with the FBI to uncover who is behind the deadly anthrax letters, while his growing instability and paranoia give way to deeper unnerving discoveries.

The cast also includes FBI Special Agent Dani Toretto (Dawn Olivieri), who is tough enough to maneuver through the boys club in the bureau and is among the first agents on the ground at the 2001 Capitol Hill anthrax attack.

Morgan Kelly’s FBI agent Eric Sykes is a cocky agent who delights in mocking Ryker for his hunt for “elusive bio weapons.” Denyce Lawton’s Sheila Willis, a pharmaceutical lobbyist dating Ryker, starts rethinking her priorities after 9/11.

Newbie FBI agent and graduate of Quantico, Chris Moore (Ian Colletti) is eager to learn under a seasoned agent. While high-ranking FBI lifer Ed Copak (Dylan Baker) feels the weight of responsibility to get justice for a wounded nation after the recent events of 9/11.

Recognizable public figures are also portrayed. Enrico Colantoni’s Mayor Rudy Giuliani emerges as a bold advocate for the citizens of New York, and Harry Hamlin’s NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw becomes a trusted voice of reason. ★



## Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

### You Do Make a Difference



Do you make a difference in the world? Does anyone care about what you do? Are some people more important than others? We all ask ourselves these questions from time to time. Some people wonder about them more than others.

You do make a difference. You are important. Who you are and what you do does matter. You may have wondered what’s the purpose of life. Or perhaps you contemplated the nature of the big picture.

There are many more questions than answers. But we don’t need all of the answers to lead meaningful lives. Everything you do and each person you impact has a ripple effect, just like a stone thrown into a pond.

Every occupation helps people and fills some need. If it didn’t, the job wouldn’t exist. Although there may be a wide range of compensation, lower pay doesn’t mean a job is less important. All people are equal, regardless of what they do to earn a living. What can make a person special is how they treat others.

A special person treats others with concern, care, and consideration. A special person’s economic status, education, intelligence, or occupation is irrelevant. If you want to make a difference in the world you can do so one person at a time. By having a positive influence

on just one person’s life, you will have made a significant difference in this world.

The seemingly simple act of saying hello and smiling at a stranger will brighten the day of at least two people; the person who smiled and the one they smiled at. When you help improve someone else’s day, who knows how many other people they will have a positive impact on as a result. It’s like a good will chain letter that keeps multiplying.

You have three spheres of influence: immediate, direct, and extended. In your immediate sphere are all those people who know you and with whom you have repeated contact. These include family, friends, acquaintances, and coworkers.

Many of the people in your immediate sphere depend on and rely on you more than you or they realize. Although people do not show their gratitude to you as often as they should, your presence is nonetheless important to them.

Your direct sphere of influence includes all the people you have personal contact with. Contact involves any kind of interpersonal communication including in person, over the phone, mail, email, or visual. You can have direct contact with a person once, and then never cross paths again.

You have personal

contact with people everywhere you go. You talk to many people over the phone or via mail/email that you will never meet in person. You have visual contact with people in other vehicles when you are driving.

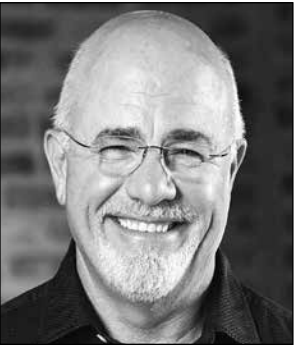
When you are polite and caring, it makes a difference to others. How do you feel when you are treated this way? It affects you as the receiver the same way it impacts others when you are the transmitter.

Your extended sphere of influence includes those that are affected by the people you have had direct contact with. One good deed will have a ripple effect that extends farther than you can ever imagine.

So don’t underestimate the difference you make in the world. It is far greater than you realize. If someone voices appreciation for what you have done, ask them to repay you by showing the same consideration for someone else.

You do make a difference, one person at a time.

**NOW AVAILABLE:** “Dare to Live Without Limits,” the book. Visit [www.BryanGolden.com](http://www.BryanGolden.com) or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at [bryan@colum-nist.com](mailto:bryan@colum-nist.com) or write him c/o this paper. © 2021 Bryan Golden ★



## It’s Always a We Thing

Dear Dave,

My husband recently approached me with an idea for our money. He wants us to set up an account where we both put 10 percent of our income for discretionary spending. My husband makes more money than I do, and because of this, he says it is fair that he would be able to spend more than I would. How do you feel about this?

– Liz

Dear Liz,

I’m sure deep down he’s a decent guy and he loves you very much. But he’s looking at this all wrong. Right now, he’s being pretty immature and selfish about the whole situation. It’s a bad plan.

Let’s look at this from another angle. There are lots of families where only one person works outside the home and generates an income. Would it be fair,

## Dave Ramsey Says

then, to say only the person making money is allowed a little cash to spend for fun once in a while? Of course, not.

When two people are married, they are pronounced “as one.” That means even if you only have one person with an income, it becomes our income. If you have kids, they become our kids. See where I’m going with this? Marriage is not a me thing, it’s a we thing. Always.

– Dave

**Before or after?**

Dear Dave,

When it comes to paying off credit cards and getting out of debt, I’ve heard you talk about cutting up the cards and closing the accounts. Should I pay off the balances before or after I close the accounts?

– Adrian

Dear Adrian,

I like the idea of cutting up the cards and closing the accounts first. Sometimes credit card companies will respond to this by jacking up the interest rates, or doing other shady things, but the point is to get them out of your life as quickly as possible and stop using the stupid things. Personal

finance is 80 percent behavior. Ridding yourself of credit cards, and getting credit card debt out of your life for good, is a great first step in learning to behave with your money. You don’t build wealth or save money by using credit cards, no matter what anyone says. If you’re naïve enough to think you’re going to play around with a multi-billion-dollar industry and beat them at their own game, you’re sadly mistaken.

The only way to win against credit card companies is by refusing to play their game!

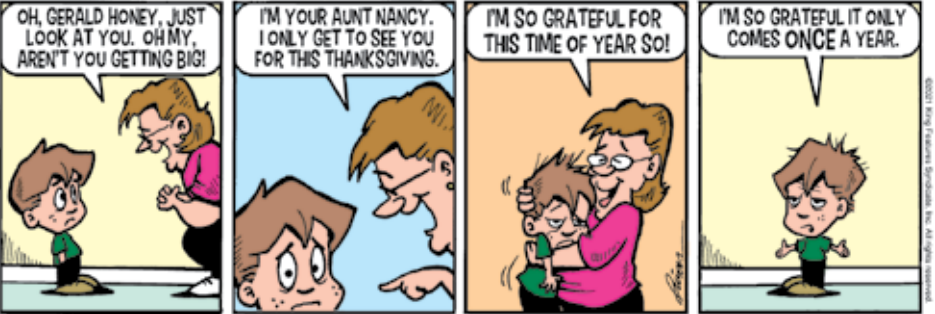
– Dave

*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.* ★



WEEKLY COMICS

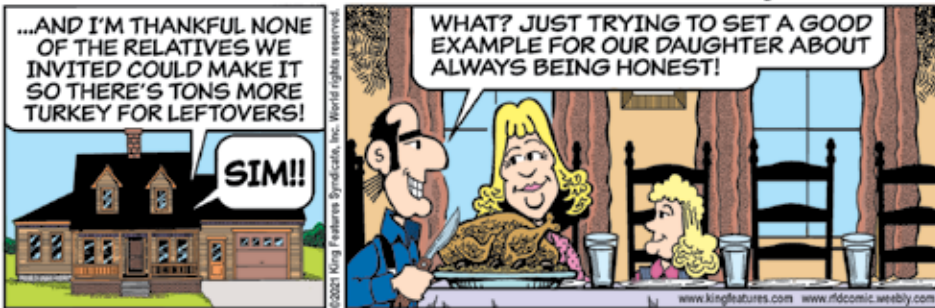
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"I only threaten him with the silent treatment. ... I don't follow through with it!"

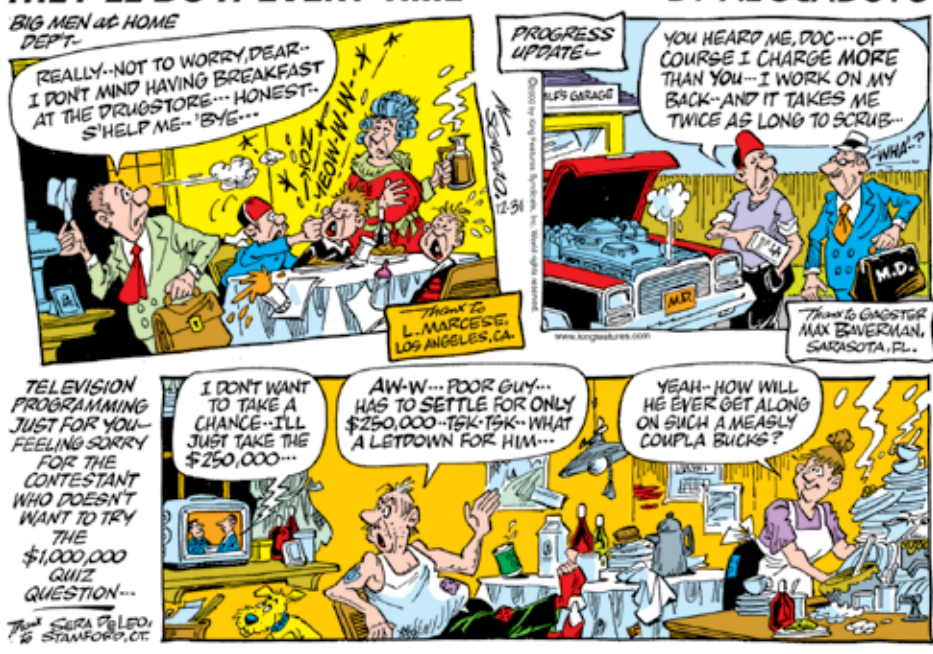


"I just won the lottery! Fatso."

The Spats



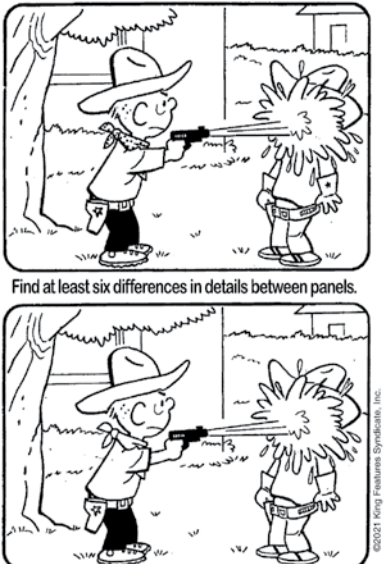
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# Retirement Brings with It Extra Time

Commentary  
by Patti & Milledge Hart

Singer Jim Croce longed to put time in a bottle.

Retirees aren’t always certain what it is they long to do with time, but one day they stop working and find they have a barrelful of it.

“People often are so focused on making sure they are financially ready to retire that they forget to plan for what they want to do in retirement,” says Patti Hart, co-author with her husband, Milledge, of *The Resolutionist: Welcome to the Anti-Retirement Movement*.

“And they may have more time to fill than they realize. Life expectancy has grown, and retirements that last 20 years, 30 years, or longer aren’t that unusual. So you have to start thinking, what will you do with your time? How do you envision your days playing out?”

For the Harts, the answers to those questions involve the “anti-retirement movement,” where retirement is more than a rocking chair on a front porch or endless hours of golf.

“We did leave our careers, but we would never call ourselves retired,” Milledge Hart says. “We are busier now than we’ve ever been. The difference is that we are busy doing what brings us joy rather than what advances our careers.”

But the transition isn’t always easy, which is why the Harts recommend finding efficient ways to manage that extra time the post-career years bring.

Patti Hart cautions that time management does not have to mean blocking out every minute.

“For most people, it is just setting goals and priorities, then making sure you plan for how you are going to accomplish them,” she says. “It is being productive with your time.”

To do that, the Harts suggest putting yourself into the mindset you had in your working years,



Retirees aren’t always certain what it is they long to do with time, but one day they stop working and find they have a barrelful of it. MPG File photo

such as: **Use a calendar.** People in a corporate setting rely on calendars to manage their obligations and retirees can as well. “Too often people just think they will remember that they have yoga on Tuesday and Thursday, and volunteer at the animal shelter on Wednesday,” Patti Hart says. “But then they add a lunch here or a board meeting there and pretty soon find themselves scurrying from activity to activity.” Checking a calendar each day also let’s people know they may need to pull back if they are overcommitted, or they may need to find activities to add if too many empty hours are going to waste. **Make a to-do list.** A to-do list helps ensure nothing

gets forgotten. Just be flexible, Milledge Hart says, because the list is a tool to keep you on track, not a ball and chain to imprison you. “If you’d rather do something else today, feel free to move items to another time or just skip them altogether,” he says. “It’s your list so it’s your call.” **Treat everything like a business appointment.** The calendar and the to-do list can be filled with things that would never have made a business person’s schedule – but may now be high priority for you. “You can pencil in 30 minutes for meditation or an hour to begin reading a James Patterson novel,” Patti Hart says. “Maybe you want to block out Friday afternoon to experiment

with a new recipe. These are your preferred ‘appointments’ now and are equal in importance to board meetings or conference calls.” **Adapt your system as your needs change.** Some people begin retirement doing all the things they had been putting off, such as traveling or fishing more. “But that first burst of activity usually begins to wear, and you realize you want more from this stage of life,” Milledge Hart says. “At that point it makes sense to reevaluate your resources and goals. Be aware of how you feel about certain activities and be ready to drop some and pick up others as your time and interests change.”

“In the same way that making

good financial investments provides you with additional capital, investing your time wisely provides you with more time to do things you really want to do,” Patti Hart says. “And that will make your life so much better.”

Patti and Milledge Hart, co-authors of *The Resolutionist: Welcome to the Anti-Retirement Movement*, spent more than 30 years as executive leaders in numerous technology and investment banking businesses. Today, in what they refer to as the “Resolutionist” – rather than retirement – phase of their lives, they are applying their resources and skills in new ways to advance philanthropic and corporate activities around the globe. ★

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