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Dixon
Independent Voice

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SHIRLEY ANN
HUMPHREY



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COVID AND
BEYOND



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Students Get a New Farm



Long-time Ag teacher John Ramos slices through the Grand Opening Red Ribbon at the new student farm that features two barns and a greenhouse at Dixon High School. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In a community like Dixon surrounded by row crops, dairies, and a huge lamb processing plant, it's perfectly natural for Dixon High School to have a large Agriculture Department. Now, two new school barns and an additional greenhouse were added and celebrated last Saturday with a grand opening where long-time instructor John Ramos cut the red ribbon.

"Oh man, it was great! I've never done something like that. We've been looking forward to this for so long," said Ramos who is relieved after so many years of "begging" anyone with a bit of extra land to let his students raise an animal on their property.

Tours were offered after the ceremony through the buildings that are located at the end of the new football stadium and parking areas. They are not far from the long row of Ag

classrooms, where students learn welding, soil composition, floriculture, and animal sciences, through many hands-on experiences that help them be job-ready.

It's been a long wait. When students interested in farming wanted to raise lambs or pigs at the old high school site, they were able to utilize space on Sievers Road—a bit of a drive but still in town. But that site was sold to help garner enough monies to build a new barn so for the past few years, Future Farmers of America students were on their own.

In 2019, a Career Technical Education Facilities grant was awarded to the school by the State Department of Education and FFA students and staff looked forward to groundbreaking. Saturday's Official Ribbon Cutting seemed exciting.

"I think it's wonderful that the tradition of having a facility for hands-on learning is back. And it's not seven miles away. It's on-site!"

said Bill Scott, a long-time Ag teacher at Dixon High, now retired. "The new farm will enhance the learning of Dixon's students and FFA members."

Ag classes explore the physical and chemical nature of soil as well as the relationships between soil, plants, animals, and agricultural practices. Students examine the properties of soil and land and their connections to plant and animal production. In relation to animals in Ag classes, students have opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of restraint, handling, behavior, etc., and ultimately will be able to properly handle livestock of varying species.

"I think it's going to be a slow and gradual process before all the animals can come in because there's some more equipment [that] needs to be purchased but hopefully by the May Fair season, they can raise their animals and spring crops right here—in their own backyard," said Ramos. ★

Well Over
a Decade,
Scholl vs. City
Settled

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - After more than a decade, the case Dave Scholl vs. the City of Dixon, et al, is settled via an approval of the current council 4 - 0 at the last City Council meeting with District 4 Representative Don Hendershot not present. It is the first time in that many years there has been anything to report out of the twice a month closed sessions with City Attorney Doug White.

"They drug it out until I was unable to continue due to medical reasons," said Scholl reached by phone in Texas where he moved to be closer to his children a year and a half ago. "The settlement was not the amount to make it whole but it was worth it to settle." Scholl is wheelchair bound and receiving treatment through the Dallas Veterans Administration.

"The case caused a huge amount of stress and a psychologist said it was a contributing factor to my stroke," he added.

Scholl contested the City's decision to award the City's legal advertising to another newspaper in Dixon based on three arguments: Violation of the City's Locally Owned Preference Ordinance since Scholl lived in Dixon for more than 20 years at that time while the other bidder was by a Marin County resident, Gibson Radio & Publishing Co. in Vallejo with David Payne, acting Chairman/CEO of West America Bank Corp. had never lived in Dixon.

Secondly, that ordinance requirements were removed from the published Request for Proposals and were structured to favor a non-locally owned business. Thirdly, the RFPs were published only four days apart when the law requires no less than one week. The fourth contention was that Scholl was the lowest bid and the City awarded the contract to another bidder at a much higher rate.

During the prolonged years of legal battle, and while Scholl was representing himself, he filed an appeal to Solano County 1st Court of Appeals and won a unanimous verdict in appellate court and was to receive reimbursement of that cost. Ultimately that amount was factored into the final settlement.

The case went into mediation although the City rejected the mediator's recommendation and the case went into a stalemate while

Continued on page 4

New Principal O'Connor
Leads School of Mavericks



JKMS Principal is liking the "Dixon thing" of student kindness another first experience for this new middle school leader. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Middle school is known to be a tough time for students as they face new schools with a new set of rules for how to act, both socially

and academically, and it's also tough because puberty causes different abilities and different maturity levels. But, Kamilah O'Connor, the new principal at John Knight Middle School, knew this.

Serving as Assistant Principal at a middle school in Los Angeles before coming to Dixon, O'Connor's long career in education prepared her for this. She always wanted to work in big cities and in

"tough, tough areas" and has—including Houston, Texas, for seven years before LA. But Dixon has changed that.

The O'Connors had driven to UC Davis then San Francisco for college visitations with their eldest daughter when they stopped briefly at the Dixon Starbucks. Her husband said that he could see her working in a town this size, but she dismissed the notion...until the principal's job opened on her school newsfeed. O'Connor wanted to be closer to her daughter who had chosen a university in San Francisco. She decided to apply.

She said to her husband, "Remember that itty bitty town we stopped in..."

Fast forward to Dixon Unified School District Superintendent Brian Dolan recommending O'Connor after three layers of interviews and extensive records checks.

Continued on page 4

Dixon Independent Voice - Dixon's ONLY Family Owned Newspaper For Over 25 Years



A Friendship Cut Short



Shirley and Jim Humphrey on a trip celebrating a 60th anniversary. Photo by Loran Hoffman

By Debra Dingman

I have known Shirley Humphrey in and out of political activities and the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club for many years. We had congenial, brief discussions at meetings, for example, but I would not have considered her a friend but more of an acquaintance—until just over a year ago.

That’s when I officially started as Editor here. Shirley and her dear friend, Loran Hoffman—both totally community-driven volunteers (and I will add very smart women who I esteem) wrote the “CONVERSATIONS” column in our weekly publication. They had been writing for several years after wanting to help then-Publisher Dave Scholl and thought they’d “help just a little while” but the next thing they knew, it had been years, Shirley told me recently.

Shirley was a deep thinker. She was always going the extra step to investigate and

ponder possibilities to help Dixon be a better community. Whenever she called in the beginning of our friendship, I noted her pride in the years she worked for UC Davis and the many connections she made over the years there. I learned to sit and not rush our conversations.

I loved her fierce commitment to Dixon, and I felt I was looking into my future and seeing what kind of older Dixonite I would become. We’d have long conversations about Measure B, the lights and landscaping districts, the Fire Department, the Railroad Tracks, her concerns of anything affecting older residents, especially those in downtown, Parkway Boulevard Overpass, and many more topics. I surprised her with flowers on National Columnists Day. She seemed respectful of my son and even volunteered to campaign for him.

She never slowed down even during the pandemic. She volunteered to

put cookbooks and history books together for the Dixon Historical Society and the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club. Sometimes I’d call her at home and chat with her husband Jim. They talked to each other the way David and I talk to each other during phone calls interrupting each other to ask a question or verify something. I think that’s the cute way couples communicate when they’ve been married so long that they are almost one.

I know the commitment to the column was also strong and when Loran needed to dedicate more time to the museum, Shirley took it upon herself to find replacement writers. She spent hours talking to potential contributors on the phone and worked out all the finer details and schedule of who would write when, keeping me in the loop on each setback or success.

I was shocked to hear about her collapsing last week, and Loran kept friends abreast of her situation. She never regained consciousness, and I learned when I got back from a short trip, she passed away.

On that trip, I went into a used bookstore in Ft. Bragg where I finally found a tattered copy of “Heaven is for Real” by Todd Burpo. I had read it several times over the years and watched the movie and had told my granddaughter about it recently but had given away the numerous copies I keep buying.

She wanted to read it, too, so I said I’d find one. I used the trip home to re-read it and planned to discuss it with Shirley at the hospital. Sadly, I didn’t have the chance. My heart grieves...but I believe my friend, Shirley, is rejoicing in Heaven. ★

Dixon News Briefs



The USAF Band of the Golden West will offer a free concert at Hall Park on Saturday, September 11 at noon next to the Aquatic Center. It is being coordinated by the City of Dixon. Photo courtesy of the USAF

MPG Staff

Concert Postponed

The concert by the Band of the Golden West brought by the United States Air Force in Hall Park is postponed to Saturday, September 11 at noon. The update from the City of Dixon came just a couple hours before we printed last week’s edition, so please take note.

DHS Football

Dixon High School Football will play a home game on Friday, September 3, against Antelope’s Center High School. Home football game admission prices are: Adults \$8; Seniors (55+) \$5; Student \$5; Barnyard Shirt \$2; and, children under age 5 are free. Junior Varsity starts at 5 pm and Varsity is at 7 pm. Support local sports, bring a blanket, and cheer for Dixon!

City Council

The next City meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 7, at 7 pm inside the Council Chambers at 600 East A Street. The agenda was posted on the city website last Thursday, but if you want to comment

on something that is NOT on the agenda, your opportunity is toward the earlier part of the meeting when the public is welcome to speak on non-agenda items.

Mental Health

Register now for an upcoming NAMI Family-to-Family free, 8-week session education program for family, friends and significant others of adults with mental health conditions. NAMI Family-to-Family provides information about anxiety, depressive disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and other mental health conditions. Other topics covered include communication, problem solving, treatment and recovery.

The course is designed to increase understanding and advocacy skills while helping participants maintain their own well-being. The program is taught by trained family members who have a loved one with a mental health condition.

This program provides mutual support and shared positive impact. As a result, one can experience compassion and reinforcement from people who understand the situation. One can

also help others through sharing personal experiences. The Zoom class will be held September 20 through November 8, 6 to 8:30 pm and there is no cost, but registration is required.

Genealogical Society

Nicka Smith will present “Held in the Balance: the Trask 250” at the next meeting of the Solano County Genealogical Society. The virtual presentation begins at 11 am on Saturday, September 4.

The Trask family lived in Massachusetts but ran a lucrative cotton empire in Mississippi and Louisiana, with several plantations. Learn how the DNA shared by more than 350 former slaves of the Trask family unearthed this discovery and how traditional family history research found the documents for a family history project that now details the lives of more than 5,400 people.

Guests are welcome to attend this free event. If interested, please email the society at scgs@scg-sca.org no later than 4 pm on Friday, September 3, and request an invitation. More information on society activities can be found on the society’s webpage at www.scgsca.org.

British Car Show

If you’re not a fan of British cars, just watch an old 007 Goldfinger movie and mark your calendars for Saturday, September 19. That’s when the Dixon May Fair will fill up with great cars for the United British Car Show, postponed due to the pandemic in May. There is free admission to the public and it will be held rain or shine, opening at 8 am. ★

MEMORIAL NOTICE

Shirley Ann Humphrey

February 18, 1942 to August 25, 2021

Shirley Ann Humphrey passed away peacefully from a brief illness at North Bay Medical Center in Fairfield on August 25, 2021 at the age of 79.

Shirley was born on February 18, 1942 in Berryville, Arkansas, to Grant and Bea Fanning. Shirley’s sister, the late Claudine Thompson, was born 15 months later. Following several trips to visit members of her father’s family, the family moved from Arkansas to Dixon in the mid 1950s. They first settled in the Normandy Court area and both daughters attended Dixon schools.

While in high school, Shirley met and married the love of her life – James “Jim” Humphrey. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on February 28, 2021. They have three children, a daughter, Karlene Rebich (husband John) living in Windsor, and twin sons, Pat Humphrey and Mike Humphrey both living in Berryville, Arkansas. They are blessed with seven grandchildren, Michael Lewis, Adam Lewis (wife Corey), Rachael Rebich, Dakota Humphrey-Friend, Ginger Humphrey-Fritz, Zachery Humphrey and Chase Humphrey, along with three amazing great-grandchildren, Elijah Lewis and Mason and Caleb Lewis. Shirley leaves her brother-in-law, Jim Thompson, and niece, Stephanie Thompson, of Dixon, and nephew Troy Thompson of Arkansas. Her sister, Claudine Thompson, passed on April 4th, of this year.

Shirley graduated with the class of 1961 and was proficient in shorthand and typing, both skills she used personally and professionally every day of her life. Following graduation, Shirley worked for the University of California at Davis for 42 years, first as a secretary in the Department of Entomology, then as a UC Agriculture and Natural Resource Small Farm Program Representative and later as Regional Administrative Analyst. She enjoyed her work and excelled at writing agricultural publications, reports and guides. Shirley earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Behavioral Sciences from UC Davis when she was in her 40s while working full time and raising her family.

Shirley retired from the University in 2004, and proudly shared that she was “pleased to have earned her college degree and appreciated her great retirement benefits.” Once retired, she

changed her focus to “community activist” and “journalist.” Shirley was an outspoken and strong supporter of citizen’s rights, freedom of speech, and the waste of taxpayer dollars. At the time of her passing she was co-author of a weekly column, CONVERSATIONS, featuring local political issues and topics of general interest for the Dixon Independent Voice newspaper.

In her role as a Community Activist, Shirley was instrumental in the “Dump the Downs” campaign that succeeded in preserving Dixon’s rural farm character, worked on three citizen petitions opposing the increase of city of Dixon sewer rates that the voters approved resulting in the City suing its own citizens. Shirley was described by some council members as relentless in her pursuit of transparency and integrity in city government.

Shirley was a long time, dedicated member of the Davis Chapter of Soroptimists, the University Farm Circle, and an usher at the Mondavi Center at UC Davis. She was a loyal and contributing member of the Dixon Historical Society and Dixon Women’s Improvement Club, and a docent at the Dixon History Museum.

First and foremost, Shirley’s immediate and extended family were what she was most proud of and spending time with them gave her the most joy. An avid bridge player, Shirley loved her weekly bridge groups, looked forward to lunches at Bud’s with the “Fanning Women,” delighted in traveling with Jim and friends globally, and, was a voracious reader, especially books by author, Alexander McCall Smith. Shirley reviewed the stock market activity daily and lived her life to the fullest.

Her love, feisty spirit, and “git’er done” approach will be missed!

Family and friends are invited to a “Celebration of Shirley’s Life” to be held at the Olde Veteran’s Hall at 231 North First Street, downtown Dixon on Sunday, September 12th. Services will begin at 12:30 pm followed by lunch. Guests will have an opportunity to share their memories and recognize her for a lifetime of giving to her family and the community.

Shirley’s final resting place will be at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery at 5810 Midway Road near Dixon.

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Well Over a Decade, Scholl vs. City Settled

Continued from page 1
Scholl's health continued to decline.
"I've been trying to settle for years but the Council would not. I agreed with the mediator but the Council did not," said Scholl. "All my bids were 40% lower than the Tribune." At last, the City proposed half of the mediation recommendation and Scholl accepted it to "end the battle." ★

Postponing "The Stars"

It is with deep regret that the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors announces that it is postponing "The Stars Come Out at Night" honoring the 58th Annual Citizen of the Year, the 25th Annual Business of the Year, the Ambassador of the Year, and the Veteran of the Year that had been scheduled for Saturday, September 18. There is no future date set at this time.
"With the current surge in the Covid Delta strain, and the fact that many of the attendees would be in the high-risk group, we feel it is appropriate at this time to postpone," said Herb Cross, current Chair of the Board of Directors. "We are closely monitoring the information regarding COVID and hope to reschedule when everyone feels comfortable and safe attending this type of event."
The Epicurean Fete, which had been scheduled for Saturday, November 6, is also being postponed until further notice.
For further information or questions, contact the Dixon Chamber of Commerce at 707-678-2650. ★

New Principal O'Connor Leads School of Mavericks

Continued from page 1
"There was a great deal of diligence and attention. It is so crucial we need to know who is leading our schools," said Dolan. "I hired Kamilah for her energy and passion for kids being the absolute center of her world. She knows learning and she knows instruction plus she has great curriculum experience," he said.
After interviewing with Dolan, O'Connor's opinion about small towns began to change.
"I felt he could help me begin my career as a Principal," she explained. "We're starting a whole new school. What I love about this school is that you can feel the history in its bones. If you go into the A Wing and walk along the long hall, you can look up and see the original history in the beams. Or, you can go into the band room, open the cabinets, and see names of students from decades ago."
When school opened, she noted that most students seemed to really want to be there.
"We've already had a couple tough situations but so far, the students appreciate being around people again and are excited to get busy in class and get started in clubs, too," she said.
Her daily routine begins with greeting students at the door.
"It is the best part of my day," she said. "I look into their eyes and ask how they are doing. What's surprising is they also ask me how I'm doing. They seem to genuinely care about others. They are constantly checking on me as a principal just like I'm checking in with them." She thinks that's a "Dixon thing" because, she explained, "I've never experienced that before."
O'Connor also takes time to walk around at the lunch break to talk with students about their "pandemic life."
"Some have the funniest stories but not everyone made it through okay," she said. "Some experienced trauma. They've lost people and seen their family members get sick. Some worried about their next meal because their parents lost jobs."
She spoke of the helpfulness of the Wellness Center which are at some of the Dixon schools and are part of the District's efforts to support students with their social-emotional and mental health needs. Students have the opportunity to use the rooms to refocus, address negative or stressful feelings, and develop coping skills with the support of a staff member. Each room has been set up with furniture and other accessories that provide a calming environment.
Another first for the middle school is a School Resource Officer.
"This is the biggest bang for our buck," she said. "So far, it's been very successful—something about his presence but also when we call, he responds. There are consequences for the students and the important thing is what happens after that consequence. The partnership is amazing. There are disciplinary consequences in suspension and we meet with that student upon returning and discuss what things can't happen," she added.
Dolan commended O'Connor's training formerly as a Vice Principal in Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS).
"That's being able to support students via a shift to building a positive environment for students," he explained. "I've seen her positive work."
For more information on John Knight Middle School at 455 East A Street, call (707) 678-6350. ★



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FOR THE LOVE OF
BOOKS
By Amy Shane

BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy_fortheloveofbook

CoComelon Is Heading Your Way With A New Series Of Books!

Back to school had become even more exciting with the highly anticipated hit series, CoComelon. This familiar children’s tv series hit the world by storm, first appearing on YouTube, and quickly became the most-viewed YouTube channel in the Us, then headed over to Netflix in June of 2020. Pairing bright, engaging 3D characters with catchy songs, expressive faces, attentive adults, and lots of baby giggles makes CoComelon’s age-appropriate educational content even more exciting for its young viewers’. Parents and adults watching the show will easily recognize the familiar nursery rhymes while also welcoming the original songs that are refreshing and catchy.

Now, CoComelons’ excitement and charisma can be enjoyed over and over again with its first four brand-new books releasing this week from Simon Spotlight: *Ready For School, Hello New Friends, The Wheels On The Bus, and Yes, Yes Vegetables*. With the same engaging content, these books include fun stories and lyrics that pair perfectly with stills from the familiar show. This pairing aids in the educational



content by bringing CoComelon right into a child’s library. Those unfamiliar with the show or the song tunes can easily pull up an episode to learn the matching tune, making this series a complete hit for all audiences.

CoComelon Hello, New Friend by Patty Michaels

Meet the CoComelon crew with the Hello Song. Readers will meet JJ’s mom and dad, brother and sister, and all his friends. Sometimes it’s hard to meet new friends, but the Hello Song will help little ones quickly feel comfortable and learn about the ones around them.

This adorable catchy song will quickly become a favorite and pairs perfectly with the book and lyrics.

CoComelon, Ready for school by Natalie Shaw

Grab your backpack and lunchbox; it’s time to head off to school. With a sticker from his big brother

TomTom and a hug from mom, JJ is all ready for his first day. There are so many things to learn and do with his new friends. Ms. Appleberry teaches shapes and colors, and JJ learns there are shapes and colors everywhere, even in his lunch. Then it’s nap time and time for coloring, then and time to say goodbye. JJ can’t wait for tomorrow.

Little ones will be even more excited about their own day at school as they read and follow JJ on his exciting first day.

CoComelon Yes, Yes, Vegetables by Maggie Testa

Little ones will be eating their vegetables in no time with this book and song. Watch as JJ eats all of his peas, carrots, squash, broccoli, and beans as mom pairs the veggies with a fun song. Little readers’ curious nature will have them wanting to try their vegetables just like JJ.

CoComelon The Wheels On The Bus by May Nakamura

This bus-shaped board book will ride right into your hearts as it combines JJ’s class field trip story with the lyrics to the familiar song- The Wheels On The Bus. ★

Covid and Beyond



Commentary by Bil Paul

You may have seen my covid column in the other newspaper in town. I’ve decided to switch it to the Independent Voice to present it to more readers. Also, I like the IV’s better local news reporting. In the IV, the column will be shorter.

I’m a 12-year resident of Dixon. Although I worked for Kaiser Permanente for several years, I’m not a medical expert, but I do read a lot of reliable news sources. My aim is to give you a brief picture of how Dixon and Solano County are doing with a covid pandemic that doesn’t want to quit. Plus, offer a few suggestions about covid avoidance, expose false claims about the virus and relate how other parts of the US are coping with it.

The Solano County public health department releases covid-related figures each weekend. This past week saw at least a temporary plateau in the current covid surge in the county. There were 17 covid deaths in the

county in August. Dixon saw 63 new covid cases last week, about the same as the week before (last Christmas saw a covid peak of about 220 new cases in a week).

The number of those covid-hospitalized in the county and the number of active covid cases remained at about the same levels. One area of concern, though, is that the number of available ICU hospital beds in the county declined to 11 percent. One would not want to see covid patients in tents in parking lots.

It goes without saying that getting vaccinated, wearing N95 and KN95 masks, and getting tested will help turn things around. Get the booster shots when they become available. Unfortunately, a lot of people seem to feel the pandemic is over. Realize that this latest version of covid is an equal-opportunity disease – it’s readily available to anyone aged 2 through 100 and whether you’re rich or poor.

Following are some points:

North of us, the East Nicolaus High School had to close for remote learning after it had been open only a week -- due to too many covid cases. They hope to re-open September 7. In Georgia, children aged 5 to 17 are currently more likely to test positive for covid than adults;

California has fewer covid deaths per capita than the national

average. The worst states in this regard are New Jersey, New York, and Mississippi. States doing much better than California are Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Maine, and Hawaii;

After the annual Sturgis motorcycle rally in South Dakota, where most of the attendees threw caution to the wind, one out of every three local residents testing for covid is testing positive. The state has seen nearly a 700 percent increase in daily case counts over the past three weeks -- all in the name of giving local businesses a boost in income. Despite only one-third of Sturgis-area residents fully vaccinated, the state’s governor has no plans to encourage vaccinations;

According to a Kansas City Star newspaper article, patients there are being urged to be hospitalized with covid, but they sometimes angrily deny that covid exists. Later, they return (or go to a different hospital) with a more serious case. “... As they’re being intubated, they still don’t believe [they have covid],” said a hospital worker;

Vaccine skeptics have claimed that most public health officials secretly don’t support covid vaccines, so a researcher contacted over 200 medical people from all fields to see if this was the case. Of the 203 respondents, none raised a concern about covid vaccines for adults or children. ★

Food & Farm NEWS

Water Board Promotes Cooperation for Diversions from Klamath Watershed

A new state drought regulation for the Klamath River watershed seeks to conserve water to help fish while also keeping farmers farming. The Water Resources Control Board adopted measures that maintain minimum flows on the Scott and Shasta rivers. But the policy also encourages voluntary actions to achieve local water savings. Those include cooperative agreements between some water rights holders on diversions of surface and groundwater.

Caldor Fire Creates Worries for Apple Hill Farm Tourism Season

Operators of wineries, apple orchards and farm tourism destinations in the Sierra Nevada foothills are anxiously trying to gauge impacts of the ongoing Caldor Fire in El Dorado County. The fire, still largely uncontained, has spared farms in the popular Apple Hill region. But it has devoured nearby forests, burned hundreds of structures and closed Highway 50 just as the area was gearing up for the kickoff of its peak tourism season.

California Apple Harvest Underway as Growers Look to Expand Markets

California apple growers are looking to expand business through exports as competition from other regions impacts the domestic market. The Golden State apple harvest, now underway, typically gives farmers a three-week market jump on other regions with later harvest times. This year California growers are expected to produce 1.3 million 40-pound boxes of apples. That’s down just slightly from last year.

Junior Livestock Auction Goes on Despite Major Wildfire

A junior livestock show and auction appeared doomed after the Dixie Fire forced cancellation of the Plumas Sierra County Fair. But determined volunteers stepped in to ensure the auction went on. It was moved to the Sierraville Roping Club Grounds, and generous livestock buyers turned out to support 4-H and FFA exhibitors. The auction grossed more than \$500,000 and also supported a Dixie Fire relief fund. ★



The Media’s Finest Hour

Poor Ron Klain.

It’s not a good sign when a White House chief of staff to a Democratic president wants to retweet favorable news coverage and all he can find is the least credible and most slavishly loyal commentators on the internet.

The Afghanistan fiasco has created that most disorienting and discomfiting experience for a progressive administration – a serious bout of critical media coverage immune to White House spin and determined to tell the unvarnished story of an ongoing debacle.

The White House and its allies have lashed out at what they are portraying as an insular, pro-war media ignoring its many successes in the Afghan evacuation.

This, like Ron Klain’s tweeting, is a sign of desperation and of a feeling of outraged betrayal that usually dependable allies have, on this story, switched sides. Say it’s not so, CNN.

The White House is unfamiliar with what it’s like to be on the receiving end of the kind of media feeding frenzy that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis experiences every other day (almost always involving spurious storylines).

But on Afghanistan, Joe Biden in effect set out to test how much shameless incompetence and dishonesty the media would accept. The answer? Not nearly enough.

The press is blatantly biased and has become even more so over time, repeatedly propagating false narratives that have shredded its credibility. Still, there are limits beyond which even it can’t be pushed.

Biden said that the Afghan withdrawal wouldn’t be another Saigon within weeks of Saigon-like scenes of a hasty evacuation of the U.S. embassy, of terrified Afghans clinging to a U.S. transport plane, of desperate Afghans passing their infants over the barbed wire to Western soldiers guarding the Kabul airport.

There is no number of look-on-the-bright-side briefings that are going to overcome these indelible images, and even a journalist who tilted heavily toward Biden in 2020 and supports his agenda was going to be hard-pressed to look away.

The contradiction in Biden’s case for withdrawal was also too stark to ignore. He originally justified his pullout because the Afghan government and military were capable of defending the country without us, then he justified his exit because the government and military collapsed so quickly. Which was it?

Much of what Biden has said in his remarks and press conferences has been vulnerable to instant fact checks. When he said that Americans weren’t having trouble getting through to the airport, reporters could immediately attest that it wasn’t true.

Who was everyone supposed to believe? Biden’s misleading assurance, or CNN reporter Clarissa Ward’s compelling report from outside the Kabul

airport that she was threatened with a whip for not covering her face and her producer nearly pistol whipped? Ward said it was “mayhem” and “a miracle that more people haven’t been very, very seriously hurt.”


The complaints from the administration and its most committed journalistic supporters that the coverage has been unfair and the product of a press biased toward interventionism ring hollow.

It is certainly true that the East Coast media has more cosmopolitan attitudes than the rest of the country, but it’s hardly full of committed foreign policy hawks. The press didn’t notably dissent from President Barack Obama’s pullout from Iraq in 2011 or his nuclear deal with Iran. It has steadfastly favored the so-called peace process in the Middle East.

It’s not as though only the American media has noticed Biden’s ineptitude, either. If anything, our foreign allies have been harsher about the humiliating mess Biden has stumbled into (former British prime minister Tony Blair called it “imbecilic”) than journalists here at home.

Since he won the Democratic nomination last year, Biden has been the subject of relentless favorable press coverage forgiving his lapses and enthusiastic about his alleged accomplishments. It was hard to see what he could do to lose media support, even for a time, and then he botched his withdrawal.


Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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First Northern Bank Takes Leadership in Affordable Housing

U.S. Army Troops to Support NIFC in Wildfire Response

First Northern Bank Press Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - First Northern Bank is proud to announce that Jeremiah Smith, Senior Executive Vice President/Chief Operating Officer has been appointed to chair the Greater Sacramento Economic Council’s newly formed Community Reinvestment Coalition whose primary goal will be reinvesting in low- to moderate-income communities. The first initiative of the CRC will be a commitment of \$100 million in financing to address the affordable housing crisis in the Greater Sacramento region.

Joining Jeremiah on the CRC are regional community banking leaders Five Star Bank’s James Beckwith, River City Bank’s Stephen Fleming, Suncrest Bank’s Ciaran McMullan and Bank of the Sierra’s Michael Olague. There will be the opportunity for additional banks to join the committee in the future. “We’re looking forward to building this coalition of banks to focus on the need for more affordable housing options for our residents,” Jeremiah said. “The housing data shows us how vital and important this initiative is in the Sacramento region. Through the collaboration of

local community bank leaders and our combined financing of \$100 million for affordable housing, we believe we will be able to make meaningful headway toward addressing this critical issue throughout our region. “First Northern Bank is extremely vested in the local communities we serve and has always played a major role in ensuring the vibrancy of those communities. The CRC’s mission is a natural fit for the Bank, and I am honored to be a part of such a vital coalition focused on bringing solutions that will have positive and long-lasting impacts on our region.” ★

U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) News Release

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS (MPG) - At the request of the National Interagency Fire Center, approximately 200 U.S. Army Soldiers will support a wild-land fire ground response operation in Northern California. U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), U.S. Northern Command’s Joint Force Land Component Command, will provide operational command of the active-duty military ground forces in support of federal and state efforts. “This request marks the fortieth time federal military ground forces have been mobilized to support wildland firefighting response efforts in a decades-long interagency agreement,” said Lt. Gen. Laura J. Richardson, ARNORTH and JFLCC commander. “We had a very active fire season last year, employing ground forces from both the Army and Marine Corps in California, and are proud to once again support NIFC and the state.” The supporting units,

the 23rd Brigade Engineer Battalion and the 2-3 Infantry Battalion, both from the 1-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, I Corps, assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), Washington, will assist with wildland fire response efforts on the Dixie Fire in the Lassen National Forest, Lassen Volcanic National Park and Plumas National Forest. Beginning Monday, Aug. 30 at JBLM, the Soldiers will be outfitted with wildland fire personal protective equipment during NIFC-led training, which will cover the basics of wildland fire suppression and firefighter safety. Upon completion of training at JBLM, the Soldiers will deploy to Northern California to conduct additional fireline training prior to serving as hand crews assisting with wildfire suppression on the Dixie Fire. “The rigorous training and certification process our Soldiers undergo, prior to operating in a firefighting environment, will ensure that once deployed, they will safely augment

federal wildland fire fighting capabilities in order to protect lives, natural and cultural resources, and property,” said Maj. Gen. Xavier T. Brunson, I Corps and JBLM commander. While providing support, the Soldiers will be accompanied by experienced wildland fire strike team leaders and crew bosses. The JFLCC, through USNORTHCOM, is the primary Department of Defense organization for coordinating defense support of civil authorities to help federal partners, like NIFC, respond to natural or man-made disasters. In addition to the U.S. Army activation, eight U.S. Air Force C-130s equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems are currently fighting fires from the air, providing wildfire support across Western states. For additional information, contact ARNORTH Public Affairs office at 210-428-9835 or usarmy.jbsa.arnorth.mbx.pao@mail.mil; for photos and/or videos, visit: <https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/NIFC>. ★

Legislature Approves Sen. Dodd’s Wildfire Power Shutoff Bill

By Paul Payne Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With wildfires threatening new rounds of public safety power shutoffs across the state, the Legislature approved a bill from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that would help local governments fund emergency operations centers during the planned power outages. “Today’s vote is an important step toward ensuring our communities have adequate resources to respond during power shutoffs,” said Sen. Dodd. “Clearly, the wildfire threat is not going away. And as we’ve seen recently, utility companies continue to employ this preventative measure. I thank fellow legislators for seeing the value in this commonsense proposal.” Senate Bill 52 follows a series of de-energizations from PG&E over the past two years that were intended to prevent fallen power lines and damaged equipment from sparking fires. It makes clear that such public safety power shutoffs are eligible for

official emergency declarations, freeing financial assistance for local government under the Emergency Services Act. SB 52 is supported by Napa County, California Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Districts Association of California, Regional Council of Rural Counties, Disability Rights California and the California Association of Public Authorities. The bill passed the full Assembly today with overwhelming bipartisan support after previously being approved by the Senate. It heads to Gov. Gavin Newsom’s office following Senate concurrence. “While a power shutoff may be a necessary tool to prevent wildfires, the disruption to people’s lives and costs to local government cannot be ignored,” said Supervisor Diane Dillon who represents the majority of rural Napa County. “Napa County is honored to sponsor this bill, which will clarify a power shutoff constitutes a local emergency, and thanks Sen. Dodd for his leadership getting it to the governor’s desk.” ★

Air Force Band Concert Rescheduled

City of Dixon

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Predictions for high heat and unhealthy air quality have forced the unfortunate cancellation of last Saturday’s Air Force Band of the Golden West’s concert at Dixon’s Hall Memorial Park. Given that the audience would be seated in an open outdoor area without shade, the decision to cancel was

made on the basis of public health and safety considerations. The concert has been rescheduled for 12:00 pm on Saturday, September 11, at Hall Park, next to the Aquatic Center. The City is appreciative of the Air Force’s generous offer to reschedule, and invites all to participate in a very special event commemorating an important and tragic day in our nation’s history. ★

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

S	T	A	R	S	A	T	E	T	B	A	R		
C	R	E	E	P	L	E	X	S	U	R	G	E	
A	I	O	L	I	O	D	E	T	R	I	A	L	
T	O	N	I	G	H	T	C	O	U	N	T	R	Y
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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

6	8	2	9	1	7	4	3	5
1	7	9	4	3	5	2	6	8
4	5	3	2	6	8	7	9	1
7	6	5	3	9	4	8	1	2
2	1	8	5	7	6	3	4	9
9	3	4	8	2	1	5	7	6
3	9	1	7	5	2	6	8	4
8	2	6	1	4	3	9	5	7
5	4	7	6	8	9	1	2	3

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ACROSS
1. "Emmy Awards attendees or celestial bodies"
6. "He ____ and drank the precious words..."
9. Skier's transport
13. Move like ivy
14. What Alex and Lexington have in common
15. Power glitch
16. White condiment
17. Schiller's "____ to Joy"
18. Movie "The ____ of the Chicago 7"
19. "Last Week ____ with John Oliver"
21. "Lovecraft ____"
23. Excessively
24. Invitation request
25. Part of graduate's ensemble
28. South American indigenous people
30. Lung pouch (2 words)
35. Giannis Antetokounmpo's target
37. Stain on Santa
39. Take exception to
40. Highland tongue
41. Bar, legally
43. Tropical tuber
44. Time on the job
46. Grey tea
47. Make a picture
48. Satellite Navigation System, for short
50. Mr. Eugene Krabs, e.g.
52. X
53. "Compilation of nominees, e.g."
55. Uh-huh
57. "Swingers" actor turned "The Mandalorian" director
61. "Ewan McGregor's role
65. Soviet entity
66. Flightless bird
68. Princess of #34 Down
69. Type of weasel
70. Lady or Tramp, e.g.
71. Improvise
72. Young herring
73. Printing unit, pl.
74. '90s TV sitcom "Boy ____ World"

DOWN
1. Sing like Ella Fitzgerald
2. Jack, Janet and Chrissy from "Three's Company," e.g.
3. Long time
4. Rekindled
5. Faucet
6. Loads (2 words)
7. "Jason Sudeikis' role
8. Golden parachute recipients
9. U, on the road
10. One from Great Britain
11. Culture-growing turf
12. Bank on
15. Like an ignoramus
20. "Hugh Laurie's medical drama, nominated 25 times, that ended in 2012
22. Egg cells
24. Great Britain's anti-mob law (2 words)
25. "The Queen's Gambit" game
26. Blood carrier
27. Suggest
29. "Drag ball culture drama
31. Retired, shortened
32. "Get ____," Outstanding Comedy Series winner in 1968 and 69

33. Sainly glows
34. "Royalty chronicles, with The Philadelphia's Ivy
38. Millimeter of mercury
42. "Vamos a la ____"
45. "What one needs to be nominated
49. Itinerary word
51. Old crone
54. Like Elvis's famous shoes
56. Digression
57. Much ado
58. Against, prefix
59. Violin's Renaissance predecessor
60. One less traveled
61. Os in XXXO
62. "The Handmaid's "story"
63. ____ top of ____
64. Captures
67. "Allison Janney's show

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15			
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19				20			21	22			
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35		36		37		38		39			
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65					66	67		68			
69					70			71			
72					73			74			

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4			8			2	

Solutions on Page 7

Larry Elder’s Critics may be Helping Him Succeed



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

“The enemy of my enemy is my friend” is an ancient proverb thought to date from a 4th century BC Sanskrit writing on statecraft.

The most graphic example of its application occurred in World War II, when Soviet Russia, which had a “nonaggression” pact with Nazi Germany, was suddenly attacked by its erstwhile ally.

Overnight, the Soviet Union’s dictator, Joseph Stalin, was transformed from enemy to a partner of the U.S. and Great Britain in their war against Germany and its dictator, Adolf Hitler. Militarily, it was the best thing that could have happened for the Western allies because had it not happened, Hitler might easily have triumphed.

Something like that is happening in California as Gov. Gavin Newsom fights off a campaign to oust him from office via a September 14 recall election.

With voting underway, Newsom’s campaign has shifted from defending his gubernatorial record to attacking the leading Republican candidate to succeed him, talk show host

Larry Elder. Pro-Newsom editorialists and the second place Republican, former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, have joined Newsom’s assault on Elder.

The overall theme of the attacks is that Elder’s extreme right-wing views make him unacceptable as an officeholder, and the drumbeat quickened last week when Elder’s former girlfriend accused him of being verbally abusive and even, at one point, waving a gun at her.

“I, for one brief moment, believed that he intended to shoot me. I was in fear for my life,” Alexandra Datig said, adding: “At the same time, I’m also very fearless and, having grown up around guns, I didn’t take it seriously.”

Elder, of course, denied the gun allegation, but immediately, his critics turned from saying he shouldn’t be governor to demanding that he drop out of the contest.

The Sacramento Bee declared that Elder’s “misogynistic attitudes toward women and the damning allegations revealed this week about how he treated his ex-fiancee Alexandra Datig are disqualifying, and make him wholly unfit to be California governor. Elder must drop out of the race immediately.”

“Elder’s backwards positions harm women’s rights and the livelihoods of California families,” Faulconer said in a late Friday afternoon statement. “Elder’s lack of judgement and character flaws threaten the success and credibility of this historic recall

movement — Californians will not vote to recall one dysfunctional governor if it means replacing him with another.”

So what effect will this barrage of criticism from Newsom, Faulconer and pro-Newsom media have on Elder and the recall drive?

Newsom obviously hopes that focusing on Elder and the supposedly terrible fate that would befall California should he become governor will not only change the subject but motivate Democrats to vote against the recall. Democratic voter apathy is, polls indicate, the prime reason Newsom is in danger of losing his office.

However, the focus on Elder could also make it more likely that he would, in fact, become governor should the recall succeed. Voters who favor the recall could easily conclude that if Newsom, the media and Faulconer are ganging up on Elder, perhaps he’s just the man to lead the revolt against the political status quo.

That’s what happened in 2016 when Donald Trump emerged from the Republican pack to become the GOP’s presidential nominee. The more Trump was attacked for his many personal shortcomings, the more attractive he became to angry Republican voters. The rest, as they say, is history.

Elder may be, as his critics say, unfit to be governor. However, like Trump, he probably loves the attention because his enemies are making him more friends.

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



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“FREE GUY” RATED PG-13

Failing to be an aficionado of video games, I approach a review of “Free Guy” with some measure of trepidation for fear of misrepresenting the mechanics of what unfolds.

Even to the uninitiated, Ryan Reynolds’s primary role is that of a background character named Guy in a violent video game that is called “Free City.” In his gaming world, Guy is a bank teller where his best friend is Buddy (Lil Rel Howery).

Given his status as an NPC (Non-Player Character), Guy wears the same blue shirt and khaki pants every day, wakes up to his goldfish, orders the same bland cup of coffee, and goes to work where he endures daily violent robberies.

Guy and his pal Buddy, a security guard at the same bank, cheerfully brave their daily routine. Guy’s usual greeting is “Don’t have a good day; have a great day!” Everyday is “Groundhog Day” until he spies the pretty, unapproachable Molotov Girl (Jodie Comer).

Back in the real world, Guy’s dream girl is based on game architect Millie (Jodie Comer), who developed “Free City” with colleague Keys (Joe Keery). Both of them find their game being purloined by Soonami Studios CEO Antwan (Taika Waititi).

Possessed of a token amount of Artificial Intelligence, Guy desires to activate his free will and become part of the action, if for no better reason than he’s falling for Molotov Girl and hoping for a romance that seems unrealistic.

Meanwhile, Antwan is the epitome of an arrogant, greedy corporate villain. He’s appalled that a liberated Guy, who becomes known as “Blue Shirt Guy,” threatens the orderly nature of his gaming world.

What’s at stake, at least for Antwan, is the pending release of the sequel to the “Free City” videogame, a version that would not be compatible with Guy and his NPC cohorts.

Apparently, Antwan cares not at all about his promise to his programmer Keys and creator Millie that the sequel “Free City 2” would uphold components of the original. This explains why Millie is on the outside with a lawsuit against Soonami.

Skulduggery by Antwan leads Keys and others to find ways to expose the villainous corporate honcho’s efforts to conceal the game’s code in order to destroy the upstart Blue Shirt Guy’s growing popularity.

For gamers and non-gamers alike, sweating the operational details of this videogame action comedy would likely be pointless. “Free Guy” can be appreciated for the wit and charm of the guy in the blue shirt. ★

Riley Reviews

“FREE GUY” UPENDS VIDEO GAMES; CABLE TV PREVIEW

Ryan Reynolds, master of frenetic comedic demeanor (think “Deadpool”), shines with a low-key charisma that brings a rooting interest in his character. Be assured, however, that some fine gags result in agreeable laughs.

CABLE TV PREVIEW

The fall season is upon us, with many new cable programs. From executive producer Curtis “50 cent” Jackson, Starz’s new series “BMF” is inspired by the true story of two brothers who rose from the streets of Detroit in the late 1980s to become a crime family.

Demetrius “Big Meech” Flenory (Demetrius “Lil Meech” Flenory Jr.) and Terry “Southwest T” Flenory (Da’Vinchi) exercise business acumen and a vision beyond the drug trade into the world of Hip Hop to become iconic on a global level.

Their unwavering belief in family loyalty would be the cornerstone of their partnership and the crux of their eventual estrangement. “BMF” is a story about love, kinship and capitalism in the pursuit of the American dream.

The first season of “Heels” on Starz has already started but there’s time to catch up to this story about the people who chase their dreams in the world of small-town pro wrestling.

Set in a close-knit Georgia community, “Heels” follows a family-owned wrestling promotion as two brothers and rivals, Jack Spade (Stephen Amell) and Ace Spade (Alexander Ludwig) war over their late father’s legacy in the ring.

During the TV press tour, Ludwig reported that training for the series made the actors realize “just how much athleticism goes into this sport.”

There will be a longer wait for the launch of Starz’s “Shining Vale,” a horror comedy about a dysfunctional family that moves from the city to a small town into a house in which terrible atrocities have taken place.

No one seems to notice the strange history of the house except for Pat (Courteney Cox), who’s convinced she’s either depressed or possessed – turns out, the symptoms are exactly the same.

Pat is a former “wild child” who rose to fame by writing a raunchy, drug-and-alcohol-soaked women’s empowerment novel. Now 17 years later, Pat is clean and sober but totally unfulfilled.

In the new house, Pat is the only one to whom Rosemary (Mira Sorvino) is visible. During the press tour, Sorvino was cagey in saying much about her character, other than she’s “really colorful” and “sort of scary.”

Pat and her husband Terry (Greg Kinnear) are working on a last-ditch effort to save their marriage. Maybe living in an old house in the suburbs where evil and humor collide may complicate matters. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Why You Should Never Give Up



Giving up may seem tempting when things aren’t going well. If you are feeling tired, frustrated, worn out, or disheartened, giving up on a goal is appealing. Regardless of how drained you are, you should never give up because you only fail when you give up.

There are numerous reasons to persist. You never want to regret that you gave up on pursuing a goal you really wanted. Anything worthwhile takes effort. Taking the path of least resistance doesn’t provide the elation goal achievement provides. Success feels great. The more difficult the goal, the better it feels once reached.

You never know how close you are to achieving your objective. More often than not, you are closer than you realize. Persistence is essential in order to reach your objective. Utilize the principle of the slight edge: A small amount of extra effort produces results far in excess of the effort required. Giving up guarantees you won’t make it.

You learn and discover. Setbacks are a normal part of the road to success. Setbacks are a learning experience. They are never justification for giving up. Setbacks identify areas which need to be adjusted. Setbacks may also indicate an alteration in your course is warranted.

Fears are overcome through persistence. Giving up reinforces fears. Breaking through fears opens up more possibilities. It’s amazing how much

more can be accomplished once your fears are no longer limitations.

You become more creative. Creativity is essential for solving problems. By refusing to give up, you use your creativity to overcome obstacles. There is always a way to reach your objective. You have to adapt, adjust, and improvise as needed. Purge the concept of impossibility from your self-talk.

Your confidence level increases. Being successful builds confidence. Solving problems builds confidence. When you persist, it becomes a way of life. Giving up creates self-doubt and insecurity. People who give up will do so in response to the slightest adversity.

You connect with your inner strength as you realize that you already have within you what you need to be successful. This self-reliance is a tremendous asset which is often overlooked. Too many people look instead to external factors they erroneously believe are responsible for their success or failure.

You also realize how much you are capable of accomplishing. You go through life being told what you can’t do by all of the naysayers. Ignoring them in order to follow your own path enables you to reach amazing destinations.

You develop a can-do, will-do attitude which enables you to get things done. There’s a big difference between making a commitment to do something versus saying you’ll give something a try. Trying

is a back door to failure. If something isn’t successful, people who try say, “Well, at least I tried,” as they give up.

With each successful accomplishment, you realize how many possibilities are open to you. You start thinking about all you can do and stop worrying about what you can’t do. Conversely, when someone gives up, they add another item to their growing list of things that won’t work.

You discover that things not working out as planned is not failure, but rather an incentive to change strategy or direction. Since you never fail unless you give up, you always look for a way to move forward. If you fall, you get right back up and keep going.

You keep learning. As you persist, you discover effective strategies to repeat, along with ineffectual approaches to avoid. You learn from your own experiences as well as from those who have gone before you.

Never give up. Regardless of how tough your circumstances are, keep going forward. Giving up is a dead end without possibility. Perseverance and determination get you to where you want to be.

NOW AVAILABLE: “Dare to Live Without Limits,” the book. Visit 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 or write him c/o this paper. © 2021 Bryan Golden ★

More California School Workers Desperately Needed

By Debra Dingman

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) – The children in the state of California have gone back to school but are suffering from not enough school workers to help them get safely across streets, be monitored on playgrounds, served their school lunches, or have their schools cleaned by custodians.

Teachers are also in demand. There are 25,413 jobs currently available according to EdJoin.com, the site for schools to post positions available where a whopping 3,362 were listed just in Los Angeles alone. There are 1,376 in Sacramento, 827 in San Joaquin County, 1,361 in Santa Clara and 681 in Sonoma just to name a few. Locally, there are 465 positions in Solano and another 266 in its next-door neighbor, Yolo County.

“Teachers don’t get their lunch breaks because they are doing yard duty. They don’t have assistants in the classroom. They are getting completely stressed. There aren’t enough aids to help with special needs children and it is just chaos,” said one Sacramento school employee who asked not to be identified. “We need people to come work with the children.”

The times have created a perfect opportunity for retirees and seniors—those who have long experienced age discrimination, to come out for a few hours a day and really help the future generations.

These are no low-paying jobs either. A Crossing Guard starts in Vacaville at \$15.92 to \$20.37 an hour. A Playground

Monitor for seven hours a week can make between \$14 and \$16.63 an hour. That is a whopping \$420 a month of a second income or ‘fun’ money for a retiree.

Do you like working outside? A “Groundsperson” starts between \$16 and \$20 per hour. Do you like working in a kitchen? Food Assistants start at \$14 per hour. These positions are often part-time but for those who want to work more, they can lead into full-time positions.

To address some of the teacher shortages, Governor Gavin Newsom signed the TK-12 Education Trailer Bill (AB 130) at the end of July creating new pathways for aspiring teachers to demonstrate they have the subject matter and basic skills knowledge necessary to begin teacher preparation.

Part of the 2021-22 State Budget agreement, California expanded the choices available to teacher candidates by permitting, for the first time, relevant collegiate-level coursework to be used to meet the Basic Skills and Subject Matter requirements in lieu of the California Basic Education Skills Test (CBEST) and the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET).

“This is a game changer for those who have dreamt of becoming a teacher only to find their paths blocked when they couldn’t pass the Basic Skills or Subject Matter entrance exams. These tests are meant to accurately measure readiness to begin teacher preparation not to be a barrier that keeps potentially great teachers from learning

to teach,” said Mary Vixie Sandy, Executive Director of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing in a press statement. “We are eager to move forward with this shift in State policy. As alternatives to high-stakes testing these measures will right-size the role of testing and allow a broader and more diverse array of people to make a career out of teaching.”

The new Basic Skills flexibility creates the option for aspiring teachers to meet this requirement by completing full-credit, college-level coursework with a letter grade of B or higher in the subject areas of reading (including courses in critical thinking, literature, philosophy, reading, rhetoric, or textual analysis), writing (including courses in composition, English, rhetoric, written communications, or writing), and mathematics (including courses in geometry, mathematics, quantitative reasoning, or statistics). Courses from closely related subject areas may also be used in this manner.

Individuals may also seek approval from a California teacher preparation program to mix-and-match from among all the options permitted under current law, including the CBEST subtests.

The measure additionally allows incoming teachers to meet the requirement if they have completed an academic major in the subject they will teach. Further guidance will be provided on the Commission on Teacher Credentialing website (www.ctc.ca.gov). All in all, our children need more help. Apply today. ★

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Military Jets to Star in New Afterburnin’ Drive-In

Story by Shaunna Boyd

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)
- The California Capital Airshow (CCA), which is held annually at Mather Airport, will feature a new event this year: The Afterburnin’ Drive-In Airshow.

Before the weekend-long aviation festival on September 25 and 26, the 2021 California Capital Airshow will kick off with the Afterburnin’ Drive-In Airshow on Friday, September 24. For this new event, attendees will park their vehicles in the largest parking lot on Mather Airport’s west cargo ramp for a tailgate party featuring performances by more than 25 military jets. The show is billed as more up close and intimate than the traditional airshow – with three action-packed hours of wild, loud flights by military aircraft from both the United States and Canada.

“Drive-In Airshows were successful across the country last year,” said CCA Director of Operations Angela Terry, “so we thought we would give our attendees the option to enjoy the airshow in a new format! It also gives fans who aren’t quite ready to gather another way to enjoy the Airshow!”

The format of the Afterburnin’ Drive-In Airshow will give every guest an excellent view of the performances and ensure that everyone has their own personal space from which to enjoy it. This new event will be a very different atmosphere, and it might appeal to more people who want a fast-paced, intense experience.

If the event proves to be popular, it could become a regular feature of the Airshow. “We have never done it before so we look forward to getting feedback from our loyal fans,” said Terry.

Gates will open at 2:00 PM on September 24, with opening ceremonies scheduled to start at 3:30 PM. Only 2,000 tickets are available for this unique event. Tickets are purchased per vehicle, with up to six people included in each ticket.



The California Capital Airshow is offering guests a new way to experience the excitement, with the Afterburnin’ Drive-In Airshow on Friday, September 24. The show will feature three hours of flight performances by more 25 military jets. Photo by Mark Loper courtesy CCA

The ticket covers a parking spot and an area right next to the vehicle for tailgating where guests can set up their chairs. There will be portable restrooms and handwash stations positioned throughout the area, and the restrooms will be cleaned throughout the event.

No food will be sold on-site, so guests are encouraged to bring food, drinks, and coolers. But grills and BBQs aren’t allowed, due to the presence of jet fuel vapor.

CCA is also partnering with local restaurants – Zak’s Bar & Grill, Taco Tacos, Petali, BurgerIM, Straw Hat Pizza, Mr. Pickle’s Sandwich Shop, Taqueria La Bonita, and Wing Stop – so guests can order food ahead of time and pick it up on the way to the show.

Tickets are only available for purchase online ahead of the show. For more information about the Afterburnin’ Drive-In Airshow, visit <https://californiacapitalairshow.com/friday-afterburnin-drive-in-airshow/>. ★



Come see the amazing F35 perform. Photo by Mark Loper, courtesy CCA

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Ephesians 3:16

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