



## The Recall is Here

PAGE 10

# Never, Ever Forget



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

# Dixon Independent Voice

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**SEE  
INSIDE**

**TABLE FOR 13  
MEMORIALIZES  
SERVICEMEN**



PAGE 3

**PACKATHON  
HONORS 9/11  
VICTIMS**



PAGE 6

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## Ramtown Karate Nabs Medals

*Local Team Competes in National Championship*



The Ramtown Karate team from Dixon with Breanna Ramirez missing: Front row Chris Vega; middle row Angela Vega, Thomas Sanchez, Liza Pankova and Kathy Ernest; back row Jim Ernest, Kiera MacKenzie, Nathan Chappell, and Joshua Galindo. Photo by Erin Chappell

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - A youthful Ramtown Karate team returned to Dixon at the end of Labor Day Weekend with spirits lighter and awards heavier after competing in the U.S.A. Nationals in Chicago. It was only last year in 2020 that Karate made its debut at the Olympic Games in Tokyo.

After weeks of "intense practice" led by Sensei Jim Ernest who is a National Referee but is also District 2 Dixon City Council Representative, the team took off from Dixon. He also coaches Kiera MacKenzie, 22, who started the competition rolling last Thursday.

"She won every match and finished with an impressive 8-0 over her opponent," said Sensei Kathy Ernest, Jim's wife and president of Ramtown Karate, Inc. "Kiera is now in the top two in the United States," she said. "She's fought in Women's Elite National category to defend her spot on the national title and made it in the top two." She is currently in the USA Karate National Team and now will head to the National Team trials at the Olympic Training Center in the spring.

The rest of the Dixon team competed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. One was Nathan Chappell, 16, doing three events: weapons, Kata, and Advanced Division

fighting. Joshua Galindo, 16, also did Advanced Division fighting. Other students who entered both Kata and fighting were Liza Pankova, 14; Breanna Ramirez, 14; Thomas Sanchez, 12; Angela Vega, 11; and Christopher Vega, 9.

Kata is a demonstration of karate techniques using pre-defined movements judged on speed, strength, focus, balance, and more. Kumite is a fighting discipline where athletes compete head-to-head against each other using punching and kicking techniques performed on permitted parts of the body.

Chappell has been a student for seven years and this was his fourth

*Continued on page 2*

## Sac Valley Natl Cemetery Honors 9/11 Attacks

**Veterans Affairs  
News Release**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento Valley National Cemetery invites the community to attend a special commemoration and day of service to honor the memory of those who perished on 9/11, as well as the thousands of service members who paid the ultimate sacrifice or who were injured during Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn.

The activities will take place on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021 beginning at 10 am with a brief ceremony. After the ceremony, volunteers are encouraged to remain to assist in cleaning headstones throughout the cemetery. Cleaning supplies will be provided. Most activities at the cemetery will conclude early afternoon.

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery is partnering with the national non-profit Carry The Load for this day of service. Those wishing to volunteer should sign up in advance at <https://www.carrytheload.org/>.

As part of its 9/11 Commemoration, the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) invites individuals to visit its online Veterans Legacy Memorial at <https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/>. VLM hosts individual profiles for all 3.8 million Veterans interred at VA national cemeteries. Visitors are especially encouraged to post tributes (comments) and photos to a Veteran's page while visiting or cleaning the Veteran's headstone or marker.

VA operates 155 national cemeteries and 34 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 44 states and Puerto Rico. More than 5 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA cemeteries. Fulfilling President Lincoln's call "to care for those who shall have borne the battle," VA also provides headstones, markers or medallions for Veterans buried in State and Territorial Veterans cemeteries or interred in private cemeteries. ★

## Options to Vote; Dixon Polling Places

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - There are four polling places in Dixon to cast your vote or drop off your ballot in the California Gubernatorial Recall Election next Tuesday, Sept. 14. They are: the former CA Jacobs Middle School at 200 North Lincoln Street; the Dixon Moose Lodge at 180 West B Street; the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center at 201 South 5th Street and the Veterans Memorial Hall at 1305 North First Street across from DuPratt Ford.

The Solano County Office of Voters Registrar is able to help with a variety of special situations considering the California fires affecting one's access to his or her ballot. If you have not registered to vote, have no ballot or your identification was destroyed, you can call (707) 784-6675 or email [Elections@solano-county.com](mailto:Elections@solano-county.com).

There are a variety of ways a person can vote as long as you are a registered voter.

The simplest way might be using the Vote By Mail (VBM) system. All registered voters should have

received a ballot through the U.S. post office and can simply fill out the ballot and return it via the postal service.

"I don't want to go anywhere and it's just so much easier by mail," said Dixonite Donna Briggs who said she and her husband have been voting by mail for the past four or five elections. "Everything is easier to do online or by mail these days," she added.

Voters may also cast VBM ballots in person in the Elections office during the VBM voting period which began 29 days before

the election and extends until the close of polls on Election Day. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 am to 5 pm, and yes, the office is even open from 7 am until 8 pm on Election Day.

On Voting Day, there is a curb-side drop off for those who do not want to get out of their vehicle either for COVID or immune compromise, for example.

"They can just drive up to the blue cone and call the number and the ballot will be brought out," said John Gardner, Assistant Registrar of Voters, who added that

the best time of day to vote is before 2 pm. "I liken it to traffic on Interstate 80; voter turnout is heavier late in the day when people get off work," he said.

There is a drop box inside the polling place for those who don't mind getting out of their car and walking in and there is the standard check in and vote procedures using voting booths.

"The whole process should not take more than two minutes," said Gardner. "It's a very simple ballot with only a couple boxes. People know what they are voting for." ★



Citizens line up outside the Dixon Moose Lodge last November to mark their ballots and place their votes. The Moose Lodge is one of the four polling places for Voting Day on Tuesday, Sept. 14, from 7 am to 8 pm. Photo by Debra Dingman

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# Back Seat Drivers; Volunteer Poll Workers Risky Business

By Debra Dingman

**Sibling Reunion**

I thought it was just me. Sometimes family reunions can be so very helpful. Especially when you find out that something has been going on for a while (or getting worse) but then you discover, it's normal after all.

My siblings and their spouses were spread out in a circle in the living room of a very clean and nice time share that my sister arranged, and we were discussing travels we've all been on when I revealed that I can't enjoy the scenery anymore--only the destinations. I simply cannot watch my hubby's driving.

All of a sudden, my sisters chimed in full acknowledgement of the same feelings and added how they coped when in the passenger seat. I told how I try to read and not look up but if I feel the car jerk or brake--no matter how slight, I will look up and my heart leaps out of my chest because it takes a few seconds for my mind to grasp what's happening. My sisters totally agreed and demonstrated how they freak out with their arms flailing and their feet trying to break then we all roared in laughter.

The husbands just kind of sat there sadly shaking their heads while we went on for a bit about peering down the edge of a cliff or feeling the car is about to flip in a turn. And to think, all this time, I thought it was just me.

**Mail Your Ballot**

Voting Day is Tuesday, Sept. 14 to recall -- or not -- our Governor. (Our City Clerk voting won't be until Nov. 2.) As Kiwanis Club (Outgoing) President and volunteering to be an 'Inspector' for the 'Adopt-a-Poll' fundraiser, let me urge you with all I've got: Please mail your ballots

in and trust the post office. I'm certain our group of online-trained-volunteers will have our hands full but for different reasons than what you might think.

Yes, it is complicated but the training is good. While there are many intricacies, I kept telling myself during the video classes, "I can do this! I can do this!" reminding myself of all the gray and white-hair poll workers that have greeted me on past Election/Voting Days. I wish I could ask the late Maggie Kittyle about duties. She was a fixture at Dixon polling places.

But watching the news last night about the hundreds of displaced citizens in the nearby fires, I realized that they are going to be coming to vote at polls they normally don't. We will most likely experience some of those right here in Dixon. That is another tangent of being a poll worker: making sure everyone who wants to vote, gets to vote.

Some of these people will not even have ballots because of the fires destroying their homes. It is bad enough we were trained to be peaceful in the event some charged up citizen is upset with the recall. I can imagine there is going to be someone who has politicized the recall into a vaccination issue as that is what I'm seeing on the campaign ads in between my evening TV shows.

I've lost sleep worrying about our little city of Dixon showing up on the national news like what happened in Florida and Arizona and worse, Debra Dingman and our meager crew of Kiwanians accused of not doing a polling place correctly and possibly costing or not costing the Governor of the largest state in the nation his seat.

So please, do me a very big favor: Mail in your ballots. ★

# Dixon News Briefs

**MPG Staff**

**To Be Clear**

Don't forget that the free U.S. Air Force Concert was rescheduled by the City of Dixon and will be held this Saturday, Sept. 11, at noon in Hall Park near the Pat Granucci Aquatic Center. Citizens are encouraged to bring blankets and/or chairs to sit on and in this case, maybe water bottles and a shade umbrella also.

The British Car Show at the Dixon May Fair is on SUNDAY, Sept. 19. Free admission. It is open to public at 8 am at 655 North First Street with parking across the street.



Tuesday night's Planning Commission Meeting will be held inside Dixon City Hall in the Council Chambers. Meetings are no longer available via Zoom but can be watched online via the City's website under the 'Government' tab. Photo by Nicolas Brown

**City Planning**

The next City Planning Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14 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 in person.

The meeting can be watched live by connecting through the City's website.

**Landscape Help Wanted**

The City of Dixon is hiring a Streets & Streetscapes Maintenance Supervisor. The position will be in the Public Works Department. This person plans, organizes, monitors and supervises the work of maintenance personnel assigned to Street Maintenance Division within the Public Works Department and performs

a variety of technical tasks relative to Street and Streetscapes Maintenance.

The purpose of the eligibility list is to establish qualified candidates that meet the position requirements and will be eligible to undergo the employment process noted below if the position becomes vacant in the future. Eligibility lists shall remain in effect pursuant to the City's Personnel Rules.

Applications are invited from qualified persons who possess the knowledge and abilities to perform the job. Apply by 9/30/21 at 5pm. For more info visit: <https://www.calopps.org/dixon/job-20133712> or call (707) 678-7000 or email [hr@cityofdixon.us](mailto:hr@cityofdixon.us).

**Entrepreneurs Orientation**

An 11-week Business Planning Course for entrepreneurs is offered through the Solano Small Business Development Center and a free, online orientation is set for Thursday, Sept. 16, and another on Sept. 23, if you'd like to see what it is all about.

NxLevel™ is a practical, hands-on business development program for aspiring and serious business owners. Through a winning combination of in-class learning, independent study, mentoring and networking, NxLevel™ covers all phases of researching, analyzing, defining, improving, expanding or launching a company.

While the orientation is free, there is a fee for the course that includes weekly classes for entrepreneurs, materials and advising. For more info, call (707) 646-1071 or go to [solanosbdc.org](http://solanosbdc.org).

**Dixon Library**

To celebrate children getting their first Library card, children ages 0 - 6 will receive a free special "My First Library Card" tote bag during Library Card Sign Up Month through September while supplies last.

Getting a card is easy. Children will need a parent or guardian's signature. If a child doesn't have an ID, the Library will accept the parent or guardian's ID (ex: driver's license or passport) and proof of current California address (ex: utility bill). The Dixon Library is at 230 North First Street in downtown Dixon. For more information, call 1-866-57-ASKUS (1-866-572-7587). ★

# Ramtown Karate Nabs Medals

*Continued from page 1*

Nationals. Vega returned for her second National experience.

This was Chris Vega's first big event and he fought hard but lost to the bronze medal winner by decision. Angela Vega won every match in fighting and earned a U.S. National Championship Gold medal for her division. She had an impressive Kata which brought her all the way to the medal rounds earning bronze #3 in the U.S. for her division, according to the Ernests.

Sanchez has only been training at Ramtown for three months but won two fights earning both silver but lost in the final round, putting him in a Number 2 position in the U.S. for his beginner division. He made some friends before the match, and they invited him to join a fighting team of three. The team fought hard and won the silver medal.

Ramirez gave it her all and won Silver in fighting and Bronze in Kata.

"Breanna [Ramirez] was a big influence on the younger team, cheering them on and helping them train. Pankova was

in a larger division and narrowly missed a bronze in kata," Kathy reported. "She battled impressively through the division for the Bronze in fighting, placing her third in the U.S. for her division."

Galindo and Chappell fought in 16-year-old Advanced Divisions. Galindo scored most of his points with punches and a well-timed body kick. He earned the bronze medal.

Chappell began his competition on Thursday, winning a bronze medal in his Advanced weapons division as well as Kata. He was competing with the Okinawa sai. He fought hard on Saturday and won the bronze in fighting, bringing home three medals.

"Jim and I are so grateful for the spirit of this team, for the huge parental support from the parents who were able to attend and those at home, and for the Ramtown Boosters club for making this possible for these athletes," said Kathy.

Ramtown Karate is located at 1680 North Lincoln Street and can be reached at (707) 678-4899. ★

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***Sheila Dybdahl - Children's Minister***

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# Table for 13 Memorializes Servicemen



This table draped by a Marine flag and 13 glasses of beer honors those killed in Kabul. Photo by Debra Dingman



Servers at Bud's Pub that helped bring awareness to the lost servicemen were Kristeena Albright, Julia Noble, David Kline, Nayeli Gonzalez, and Stephanie Turner. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Patriotism runs strong in a pub that boasts antlers and ram heads and where folks wearing crusty work boots frequent alongside the young and restless craft beer drinkers in our town. Although lots of them patronized last week, their moods quieted by the empty table of 13 glasses of beer on top of the Marine flag reminding of lost American soldiers inside Bud's Pub & Grill in downtown Dixon. Further back in the restaurant was another table set with 13 small vases of flowers, a flag in each, and tied with red, white, and blue ribbons.

On a day that should have been the end of America's longest war, 13 U.S. Troops were killed in an Islamic State suicide attack outside Kabul's airport, where the United States had been staging a massive airlift of Americans and Afghans.

It has been learned that not one of the soldiers were over the age of 31 and that five

were just 20-years-old, just as the ages of most of the waitresses and waiters that work at Bud's. A relative of a Dixon family was also terribly injured, according to Cherie and Bud Fanning, owners of the restaurant who with staff, went to work to coordinate a memorial for the servicemen.

"Bud was at an IOOF Meeting and there were a group of 16 or 17 guys who talked about the tragedy the whole time," said Cherie. "We wanted to create an awareness. There's been so much negativity for the military, and this makes you want to stand up and show your support." It was long-time employee Stephanie Turner's idea to tie the yellow ribbons on the outdoor rails with ribbons purchased by Downtown Dixon Business Association.

John and Carla Snelgrave ordered flowers from the Dixon Florist for the 13 mini-memorials inside that were created by staff Kristeena Albright, Desiree Martinez, and Nayeli Gonzalez. ★

# Women's Group to Meet Chamber's CEO



Kay Cayler with Shauna Manina, CEO of the Dixon Chamber of Commerce who will be speaking next week at the first DWIC meeting of the year. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Loran Hoffmann

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Shauna Manina, the CEO of the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, will share information about the new comprehensive Chamber website she has developed and how to access the information at the first Dixon Women's Improvement Club meeting of the year.

The meeting will be led by Jewel Fink, President of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club, and it will start at 1 pm on Wednesday, September 15 at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church, 209 North Jefferson Street. Club members and guests are asked to wear masks and the chairs in the room will be set to allow for proper social distancing.

Manina has also developed a professional magazine that promotes Dixon, local businesses and nonprofits that are members of the Chamber of Commerce. Although new to town, she is aptly qualified for her position, and is pushing the boundaries to expand

Dixon's visibility by introducing activities and events that may be new to the community and area.

The DWIC welcomes guests, past members, and encourages new members to their general meetings. The Board approved waiving the \$35 membership fee for all members that had paid their 2020-2021 dues. The pandemic curtailed the club's meeting and activity expenses last year, therefore, leaving funds in the operating account that were carried forward to the 2021-2022 program year. Members that did not pay their membership fees last year will be notified and they can pay them at the September meeting. New members will be assessed a \$35 membership fee upon joining.

For more information, contact Membership Chair, Mary Kay Callaway, at (916) 541-0417 or Fink at (510) 301-1887 if you are interested in attending the September 15 meeting or if you have any questions about 'Dixon's oldest civic organization' and are interested in joining. ★

# Accepting Applications for Vacancies on City Commissions

City of Dixon

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City of Dixon is currently accepting applications for the following vacancies on City Commissions:

One (1) vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to recreation and park facilities. Commissioners serve two-year terms, with a maximum of three consecutive terms. However, this vacancy would fill one unexpired term through June 30, 2022. The Parks and Recreations Commission meets at 7 pm on the fourth Tuesday of every month. City residency is required. A stipend of \$75 per meeting attended is paid to each Commissioner.

One (1) vacancy on the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC). The Transportation Advisory Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to traffic, transportation, and parking issues. Commissioners serve four-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. However, this vacancy would fill one unexpired term through June 30, 2023. The TAC meets at 7 pm the third Wednesday of even-numbered months. City residency is required.

A stipend of \$75 per meeting attended is paid to each Commissioner

Interested Dixon residents may obtain an application at City Hall, 600 East A Street, by calling City Clerk Lupe Ruiz at (707) 678-7000, or by visiting the City's website at [www.cityofdixon.us](http://www.cityofdixon.us). The deadline for filing applications is 5 pm, Monday, Sept. 27, 2021.

In other City news, a volunteer cleanup day is planned on Saturday, Sept. 11, in alignment with the National Day of Service and Remembrance.

There are two areas of focus. The first area is the linear paths between North First Street and Pembroke Way. For this location, volunteers should meet at Alexander Court. The Rotary Club has committed to working this area with their volunteers and more are always welcome.

The second location will be the streetscapes on Pitt School Road north of A Street. Volunteers can sign up by contacting Linda Babb at (707) 693-2224 or email her: [lbabb@cityofdixon.us](mailto:lbabb@cityofdixon.us). Volunteers will meet between 8:45 am and 9 am.

The City will be negotiating contract changes with Recology in the coming months and the community-wide garbage pick-up will be discussed. ★

# Community Cleanup Happens Saturday

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City of Dixon is planning for a volunteer day on Saturday, Sept. 10, in alignment with the National Day of Service and Remembrance. They are promoting the need for volunteers on social media channels and websites.

There are two areas of focus of the cleanup. The first area is the linear paths between North First Street and Pembroke Way. For this location, volunteers should meet at Alexander Court. The Rotary

Club has committed to working this area with their volunteers and more are always welcome.

The second location will be the streetscapes on Pitt School Road north of A Street. Volunteers can sign up by contacting Linda Babb at (707) 693-2224 or [lbabb@cityofdixon.us](mailto:lbabb@cityofdixon.us). Volunteers will meet between 8:45 am and 9 am.

Additionally, the City will be negotiating contract changes with Recology in the coming months and a community-wide garbage pick-up will be discussed. ★





## 2 MILITARY JET TEAMS



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# A Morning Like No Other - Ground Zero at 20 Years



**Commentary**  
**by Paul V. Scholl**

After a long night of late work well into the morning, I was in a deep sleep. The repeating ring of the telephone awakened me. I received an alarming telephone call from a close friend frantically trying to get my attention. She said “just get up and turn on the TV. You won’t believe what is happening”. She was absolutely right.

As I sat there on my

white leather couch in my small rental home in Roseville, tuned in as the world was tuned it, to the disaster in New York as it unfolded live for everyone to see. We were all New Yorkers that day.

I had previously lived in Manhattan. After returning to California, I traveled to New York City often to teach classes at The Learning Exchange and spiritual training centers as a part of my ministry. I also met with many clients as a spiritual life coach each visit. Through these visits I became friends with so many great people who lived in The City. I stayed at their homes, got to know their families, learned about their lives, loves, and fears. Many of them worked in the immediate area of the Twin Towers.



One of the memorial walls surrounding the Ground Zero site. Photo by Paul Scholl

As I sat there watching the towers fall along with the rest of the world, I had no idea if any of those friends or members of their families were being crushed under the weight of that destruction. It was a personal anguish and horror felt by millions simultaneously. It was a grief embedded forever. And we as a nation vowed to never forget.

Everything changed for everyone during those hours. Terrorism had come to our shores, and those whom we had charged to protect us failed miserably. We have been paying for their failures ever since.

And for those who paid the ultimate price, giving their lives to save others inside and around the Twin Towers? And for all the First Responders who witnessed the death and destruction at the end of

their fingertips and right before their own eyes? What did they get from so many after only 20 years? Many forgot.

Yes, life goes on, but as individuals we do not. Our time is limited. We are here to understand life, liberty, love, and loss. We are here to understand joy and grief. These become the web that builds our evolution, our DNA that we pass on to those who follow us. If we do not teach our emotional history to our children, good and bad, they will suffer repeating our mistakes and the feeling of betrayal from us for not forewarning them.

Enter our current day Neon Nation. Have we lost our way in one generation? Does the “Shiny thing” distract us so easily because it is too hard for us to focus on the truth and explaining it to others

as our society crumbles around us?

A few months after 9/11 I traveled back to New York to offer support to any of those friends who needed it. I traveled to the site while the clean-up was still underway. I saw the scorched church and cemetery. There were still many “Missing” flyers posted to walls and lampposts. I saw the many memorials around the site. When I found one memorial that listed all of the names of those lost I read every one of them. I thank God to this day that not one of my friends was on that list.

The history of Ground Zero is complex and still unfolding. The more the years fall away the more important it is that we reveal as much as we can about that fateful morning and all that led up to it.

When someone kills

your son or daughter, husband or wife, it doesn’t matter what political party they belong to. It doesn’t matter what religion they belong to. It doesn’t matter their motive. All that matters is your loved one is gone forever. Grief takes over. And no one can ever really fill that void. It never truly heals. You just learn how to manage it in the silent times, alone with your Creator.

All those who lost a loved one during those tragic days only asked one thing from us. Never Ever Forget.

On this remembrance weekend 20 years later, take a few moments in silence to share the grief and the weight of the losses experienced by so many on September 11, 2001. If only with that simple action, love will prevail. ★



Visitors reading through the many memorials and “missing” posters. Photo by Paul Scholl

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# FINAL GAMES

**SMUD ORANGE FRIDAY**  
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17:**  
SMUD Orange Friday with post-game fireworks presented by Arden Fair Mall

**SUTTER HEALTH**  
**SATURDAY, September 18:**  
Fireworks Saturday | Family Fun Pack game

**DINGER'S KIDS CLUB**  
**SUNDAY, September 19:**  
Dinger's Kids Club | Kids run the bases postgame

**FAN APPRECIATION WEEKEND**  
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1:**  
SMUD Orange Friday with postgame fireworks presented by ACE Hardware

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2:**  
Family Fun Pack game

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3:**  
Season Finale | Dinger's Kids Club

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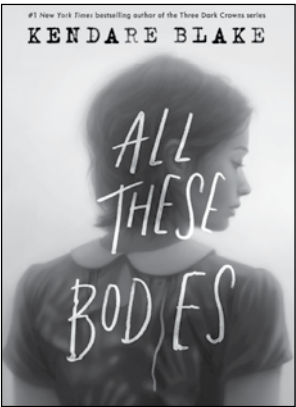
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# All These Bodies

by Kendare Blake

When a rash of unsettling murders sweeps through the Midwest, Michael Jensen never thought it would end with him. As newspapers circulate across the nation carrying stories of the “Bloodless” and “Dracula Murders,” Deer Falls thought they were safely tucked out of sight. What was quickly becoming the most peculiar case of the decade, everyone is reeling and questioning the bizarre evidence left behind; each body was discovered to be drained of all their blood, without a single drop left behind. But when the murders hit Michael Jensen’s home town the world as he knows it is turned upside down. This time there is a clue, the first in the string of murders. Fifteen-year-old Marie Catherine Hale is found standing in the center of the room, blanketed in blood, yet not a drop was her own. As the town reels with what to do with such a heinous crime, as well as how to house a female juvenile criminal, Michael finds himself drawn to the quiet, unassuming girl. Maybe it’s just the journalist side of him; maybe it’s her age, or perhaps it’s the lore behind the murders; whatever it is, he’s intrigued and even



- ◆ Publisher: Quill Tree Books
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥
- ◆ Release Date: Sept. 21, 2021

more bewildered when Marie claims she will only give her confession to him. Marie quickly gets swept into the media frenzy, where she is purely known for her black bow and a slight smile that was just as unsettling as the crime itself, but Michael knows there is more to Marie than she wants others to see. Marie’s story for that night’s events is unsettling and unbelievable, and Michael might have to embrace the possibility of the unknown if he wants to uncover any truth behind her story. Can Marie really be responsible for these horrific crimes, or is there something even darker and more sinister at play? Atmospherically, ★

eerie, and raw, All These Bodies rattles the cage of the unthinkable allowing readers to linger on the side of the impossible for just a mere moment. Kendare Blake returns to the world of horror, blending with it mystery, shock, and disbelief. Taking her readers back to the time of 1958, she will leave some readers shaken to the core, while fascinating others with a true sense of morbid curiosity. Tangling her readers in another blood-soaked tale, this book is part story, part investigation notes, and part personal accounts, making it read like an actual moment in history. However, this story delves deeper into the mind, the psyche, and the era blending these factors to give a true-crime account that feels like it is ripped straight from the headlines. Kendare Blake not only captures your heart with a truly mesmerizing story of a boy and a girl but truly wraps you within a tale of a truly heinous crime that is just past the realm of possibility. This story is hauntingly beautiful in its pure form and research, allowing readers to decide for themselves what is actual fact and what is a misguided version of the truth. ★



## Sorry Joe, This Was Not a Success

Talk about a catastrophic success. The Biden administration wants credit for the Afghanistan evacuation as measured by the sheer number of people it flew out amid a security and humanitarian crisis of its own making. This is the arsonist bragging about how many fires he has put out. Those with memories that stretch past a couple of weeks ago will recall the halcyon days when a mass evacuation at a civilian airport exposed to suicide bombers and other attackers wasn’t, according to Joe Biden, even conceivable. Biden contributed to the collapse of the Afghan military by denying it air cover, gave away Bagram Air Base for no good reason, pulled out U.S. troops before our diplomats and civilians, drastically underestimated the gathering Taliban offensive, and then, caught unawares by the fall of Kabul, scrambled to jury-rig a desperate rescue that shouldn’t have been necessary in the first place. That the U.S flew out more than 115,000 people out of Kabul is a testament to the awesome capabilities of the United States military. It is not in any way a vindication of President Biden’s exit. The evacuation itself has been costly. Because

we outsourced security outside the airport to the Taliban, our service members were forced to operate in dangerous conditions. A nearly inevitable attack last week killed 13 of them. That’s the loss of more Americans in one day than were killed in action most years in Afghanistan since 2015. Then, we failed by the most important metric. We left hundreds of Americans behind who wanted to leave, a squalid betrayal that was unfathomable before the Biden team began to try to prepare the public for it a week or so ago. It’s hard to imagine any prior American president, perhaps with the exception of Jimmy Carter, abandoning Americans behind enemy lines. Theodore Roosevelt mustered the naval might of the United States to save one American who had been kidnapped in Morocco in 1904. Barack Obama traded five Guantanamo detainees for Bowe Bergdahl in 2014. Even Biden felt the impulse to get every last American out. He pledged to do it in his interview with George Stephanopoulos. In order to keep his promise to the Taliban to get out by Aug. 31, though, he broke his promise to his countrymen. We still don’t know how many U.S. green-card holders, to whom we should also feel an obligation, have been left behind. And there have been reports that the Taliban was blocking our most deserving Afghan allies from getting to the airport, meaning

the Afghans we got out weren’t necessarily the most endangered. Even if the evacuation had been flawless and complete, the underlying situation speaks of an abysmal failure. After 20 years, we lost a war to a Taliban that now controls more territory than it did on September 11, 2001. The Taliban hasn’t renounced al Qaeda; indeed, the Haqqani network, a key element of the Taliban that has been responsible for security in Kabul, is closely allied with the terror group. Biden talks bravely of launching counterterrorism strikes from “over the horizon,” but failed to secure a base in a neighboring country. We will have to operate from hours away in the Persian Gulf, even as our intelligence capabilities in Afghanistan are drastically diminished. Our ineptitude and dishonorable conduct have shocked our allies, who need to place their trust in our competence and reliability. Biden’s supporters have resorted to the defense that almost all of this was inevitable. Yet, for years, the Afghan army fought and bled after we had stepped back into a support role, suggesting an unsatisfactory stalemate was achievable at a relatively low cost. Biden rejected that option. Instead, he chose defeat and disgrace. All of the exertions to rescue people from the wreckage over the last two weeks can’t change that. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

# Beware of Price Gouging During and After Fire Evacuations

## Better Business Bureau Press Release

**OAKLAND, CA (MPG) -** The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is reminding businesses and consumers of the California law prohibiting excessive price hikes during a state of emergency following California State Governor, Gavin Newsom’s declaration on August 18, 2021 in response to the Caldor Fire. According to CalFire, the Caldor Fire is 20% contained, has burned over 200,000 thousand acres, and has destroyed close to three thousand structures in its way causing mandatory evacuations in and around the South Lake Tahoe area. “Local businesses may be overwhelmed with the influx of customers following recent evacuations in the South Lake Tahoe area and other communities experiencing these wildfires. We want to help businesses avoid potential problems as our

community comes together to help one another in a time of need,” said Lori Wilson, President of the Golden Gate Better Business Bureau. Industries affected by the consumer protection laws during a state of emergency include, but are not limited to, hotels and other lodging accommodations, gas stations, grocery stores, and rebuilding industries. If you need to make preparations to stay at a hotel: Know that according to California law, under Penal Code 396, 30 days after a state of emergency is declared, it is illegal for a business or other entity to sell their goods or services for more than ten percent of their regular rate. This includes hotels, motels, the sale of food items, gasoline, and any goods or services used for emergency cleanup, emergency supplies, and building materials. Consumers who are told

otherwise should file a complaint with their local Better Business Bureau, the California Attorney General and their local District Attorney’s Office. There is a penalty up to \$2,500, one year of jail time, or both per violation; To file a citation please visit [www.oag.ca.gov](http://www.oag.ca.gov) or call 800-952-5225. For more information on this and other tips please visit [BBB.org](http://BBB.org). For more than 100 years, the Better Business Bureau has been helping people find businesses, brands, and charities they can trust. In 2020, people turned to BBB more than 220 million times for BBB Business Profiles on 6.2 million businesses and Charity Reports on 11,000 charities, all available for free at [BBB.org](http://BBB.org). The International Association of Better Business Bureaus is the umbrella organization for the local, independent BBBs in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. ★

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# Covid and Beyond



## Commentary by bil paul

As I said last week, the covid pandemic isn’t over. New cases in Dixon doubled during the past week, from 63 to 114 cases. One out of every eight people in Dixon has had the disease so far. The county public health people won’t tell me how many Dixonites have died from the disease, but just last week, there were 10 more covid deaths in the county. That’s a big increase, too. Protect yourself by wearing masks in public and avoid gatherings where there are unvaccinated people and folks not wearing masks. And - get vaccinated yourself. It’s free and it won’t kill you. How will Labor Day gatherings contribute to the present covid surge? Some other stats: Women are 10 percent more likely to be vaccinated in the county than men. That goes along with seeing more women out walking, running and bicycling than men. Among the age group 12 to 17 in the county, only 58 percent are vaccinated. That contributes to increased

numbers of youth being hospitalized with covid. Part of the reason some people don’t get vaccinated is not knowing anyone who’s been down with the disease and thinking, “It won’t happen to me.” That leads me to wonder about how isolated from threats we are. We aren’t being flooded. The Taliban are half a world away. We haven’t had any power blackouts lately. The forest fires aren’t burning next door. We do, however, feel the outside air becoming warmer each year. I also think about how people have been expressing themselves. Not long ago, people who disagreed with some government action wrote letters to the editor, lobbied their elected representatives, protested peacefully, or they elected people more in line with their views. Nowadays, people storm the capital building to try to overturn an election, yell at school boards, attack teachers and principals who carry out mask mandates, and in extreme cases, threaten to overthrow the government with guns. On the left, protestors tear down Confederate statues, battle the police, and close down highways. It seems that this is the generation of “we want immediate results” and “releasing emotions trumps intelligent perseverance.” The California governor recall election has begun. Governor Newsom will be partly judged on his handling of the pandemic.

Did he adequately protect us from the spreading disease? (I think he used an abundance of caution.) Was the damage caused by shuttering businesses worse than the disease? Was he too inconsistent in his responses? How does California rate in the number of covid cases per capita compared to nearby states (Washington and Oregon are better; Arizona and Nevada are worse)? People are trying to sidestep masking requirements for students. A Florida chiropractor issued over 500 medical exemptions. The school district then changed its rules to allow only medical doctors and nurse practitioners to issue exemptions. Remember, covid can progress from an unpleasant experience to increasingly desperate attempts to save a life in a hospital. Don’t become a covid death statistic. Final note: The city is now in the final stages of turning Pardi Plaza into a snazzy park and performance place. What’s not snazzy is the arching sign over the entryway reading: “City of Dixon.” Who thought that up? bil paul did PR for the Postal Service, worked in the medical field and as a reporter and photographer. He is the author of the book about Dixon’s failed movie studio project (“The Train Never Stops in Dixon”) and has a book coming out next year titled “Awaiting the Sun: World War Two Veterans Remember the Aleutians.” ★

# Packathon Honors 9/11 Victims

By Scott Raab,  
MAF Outreach Director

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Move America Forward (MAF), a non-profit organization dedicated to serving our troops on the front will be gathering dozens of volunteers in Sacramento to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks by holding the 4th annual Packathon Memorial. They will be shipping over 2001 care packages and hand-packing 911 more with local volunteers, military families, and active-duty military from the Sacramento area.

All are invited to join in this important event at 3105 Fite Circle, Suite 108, Sacramento, (Bradshaw exit off of Hwy 50) from 10 a.m. to noon on 9/11.

MAF plans to deploy about 20-30 volunteers throughout the day starting at 10 a.m. and will not halt work until they reach their goal of shipping over 2001 packages overseas and hand packing another 911 more. The care packages are meant to honor the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Melanie Morgan, Co-Founder and Chairwoman of Move America Forward started the group in 2004 to thank American troops for their important missions



Move America Forward package recipients are Armed Forces soldiers who get a colorful view inside packages sent with care and affection. Photo: MAF

in Iraq and Afghanistan. “In the 20 years since we deployed to Afghanistan our troops never faltered, never lost a fight, and even when losing dear friends, never lost faith. Our brave troops succeeded in ousting the Taliban, destroying Al Qaeda, and sent all our enemies into hiding. Time and again, our troops proved victorious on every battlefield.”

Melanie Morgan went on to say. “To all troops who served in Afghanistan, you accomplished your mission and we the American people, always and forever, thank you for your exemplary service and sacrifice.”

World Trade Center Tower 2 Survivor and MAF Ambassador, Richard Hannaford will be present at this event. His day

will begin at the West Sacramento 9/11 Flag Display at 5:46 a.m. at the exact time the first plane hit North Tower (1 WTC) of the world trade center 20 years ago that started what we would know as 9/11 - the most horrific terror attack ever on American soil, which killed almost 3,000 innocent Americans. Hannaford was working for a major financial firm

on the 84th Floor of South Tower on the morning of September 11, when the first plane hit the North Tower, prompting Rich to gather friends, colleagues, and complete strangers to begin evacuating. Rich was in the middle of evacuation when the South Tower was hit just 17 minutes later. If not for his immediate decision to evacuate, Rich would have perished in the

South Tower like so many other friends and unfortunate innocent victims that day.

For more of Richard’s story and work with Move America Forward in his own words TROOPATHON FOCUS: 9/11 VIDEO; For questions om MAF contact 916-441-6197, email info@moveamericaforward.org; www.moveamericaforward.org and on Facebook ★

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Public Notice

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
RAIL CORRIDOR STUDY

To whom it may concern:

The City of Dixon City Council will be discussing the acceptance of the Rail Corridor Study at their next meeting. This discussion includes, but is not limited to, recommendations for improvements in and around the City of Dixon to enhance safety and to assess the growth of development and the projected increase in population along with its effects on traffic.

All interested parties are invited to attend the September 21, 2021. Copies of the agenda and staff report for the meeting will be available for review on Friday, September 17, 2021 at City Hall as well as the City of Dixon website. The meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021  
Time: 7:00 P.M.  
Location: City Council Chambers  
600 East A Street  
Dixon, CA 95620

We welcome and appreciate your participation. If you should have any questions or comments, please contact me at (707)678-7031 ext. 5311 or by email at jsantos@cityofdixon.us.

Sincerely,

Jordan Santos  
Junior Engineer

Dixon Independent Voice 9-10-2021

Public Notice

SUBJECT: CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
STREETS MASTER PLAN

To whom it may concern:

The City of Dixon City Council will be discussing the acceptance of the Streets Master Plan at their next meeting. This discussion includes, but is not limited to, installation of new traffic signals at various locations, interchange improvements at various I-80 ramps, coordination of signal timings, and revisions to Engineering standards.

All interested parties are invited to attend the September 21, 2021. Copies of the agenda and staff report for the meeting will be available for review on Friday, September 17, 2021 at City Hall as well as the City of Dixon website. The meeting will be held at the following time and location:


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Sincerely,

Jordan Santos  
Junior Engineer


Dixon Independent Voice 9-10-2021



Publisher,  
Paul V. Scholl

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**Crossword Puzzle on Page 7**

H	A	I	R		L	S	D		C	G	I			
A	N	T	E		L	E	A	R		A	C	O	R	N
S	E	C	T		U	G	L	I		L	O	R	I	S
	W	H	A	T	S	A	P	P		I	M	A	M	
		K	O	A	L	A		Y	A	M				
S	T	R	E	A	K			R	E	S	E	R	V	E
C	H	A		D	A	V	I	E	S		N	O	E	L
R	A	S	P	Y		L	O	P		S	T	A	N	D
U	N	T	O		T	O	N	S	I	L		S	U	E
B	E	A	D	I	N	G			M	A	S	T	E	R
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**Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7**

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

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- Hallucinogenic drug
- Some special effects, acr.
- Chip in Vegas
- Cordelia's father in Shakespeare play
- One in squirrel's stash
- Dissenting clique
- Tangerine/grapefruit hybrid
- Type of lemur
- "Popular messenger
- Mosque prayer leader
- Down Under marsupial
- Thanksgiving serving
- \*100 days of snapping, e.g.
- Military's inactive force
- Repeated Cuban dance step
- The Kinks' lead singer, a.k.a. godfather of Britpop
- Late December season
- Rough, as in voice
- Chop off
- Stephen King's "The "
- "Do \_\_\_\_ others..."
- Strep throat organ
- File a suit
- Sewing pearls on a wedding gown, e.g.
- One with authority
- Army bed
- Space path
- Law school test acronym
- \*Unique social media identifier
- Latin dance
- "Place" in French
- Sacred Hindu writings
- Post-mortem bios
- Actress Campbell
- African chieftain
- Recipe amt.
- Nirvana's "Come as You "
- Bader's den

DOWN

- Current tense of "had"
- All over again
- Eczema symptom
- Second shot
- Corporate department
- Salpae, sing.
- Type of coffee maker
- Elizabeth McGovern's "Downton Abbey" role
- Inspiring horror
- As opposed to outs
- Capital of Zambia
- Bruce Wayne's \_\_\_\_ was Batman
- "Message under a post
- Bootlicker
- Da, to a Russian
- "Done to social media post before applying for job?"
- Haile Selassie's disciple
- Gym exercises
- Comedy Central's "critique"
- Dolby Theatre to Oscars
- Often considered wise
- \*Video blog
- Charge carrier
- \*Audio series
- Killed, like dragon
- Big bang maker
- Permeate
- I to Greeks, pl.
- Sheet music line, pl.
- Basketry stick
- Clark Kent actor Christopher
- Black, yellow and chocolate dogs
- Parking spot for a boat
- Bone in human forearm
- \*Bernie wearing mittens, e.g.
- "Do this before posting?"
- Chronic drinker
- It's open to interpretation

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**Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
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			4	9	2			

**Solutions on Page 7**

# California Housing Plans Need an Overhaul



By Dan Walters  
**CALMatters**

For more than a half-century, California has been trying to nudge county and city governments into generating enough new housing to handle an ever-increasing demand.

The state’s chief tool has been a legal requirement that local government “general plans” include an adequate “housing element.” Every eight years, the state Department of Housing and Community Development issues regional quotas of housing needs which then are divvied up into specific city-by-city goals for zoning enough land to meet projected needs.

The allocations are very controversial, especially in suburban communities, because they run counter to the not-in-my-backyard sentiments of local residents. As housing production falls chronically short of the state’s goals, the cyclic quotas steadily increase and in recent years the state has added penalties for failure.

Obviously, the quota system hasn’t been working very well and researchers at UCLA’s Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies have concluded that it has a “fundamental flaw” because vacant land being zoned for

housing to meet the quotas is only rarely used for housing. Rather, the housing being built – which is still too little – tends to go on other property, including some previously being used for other purposes.

The study focused on what has happened in the San Francisco Bay Area vis-à-vis the housing quotas issued in the last decade for the eight-year period that will end next year.

“The median Bay Area city is on track to approve housing projects on less than 10% of the sites listed in its housing plan,” the study found. “On average, however, cities are achieving a substantial portion of their (too low) housing targets – nearly 60% for the median city – just not on the sites they had selected and presented to the state as likely or apt for development. Across the Bay Area as whole, nearly 70% of housing built during this period was on sites not listed in housing plans.”

While cities zone specific sites to meet quotas, “housing development occurs in a way that is hard to anticipate. In spite of planners’ efforts to select imminently viable sites, they do not.”

The solution, they say, is to create a more realistic set of requirements that identifies all potential sites for housing, a “change (that) may require cities to include many more sites in their housing plan.”

While a more realistic inventory might require more work – and possibly increase local angst – the UCLA team also proposes that “cities receive preemptive credit for housing they

expect to be built on sites not listed in their plan.

“The credit would be tied to production on non-inventory sites during the previous period, giving cities an incentive to accommodate much-needed development when it is proposed, even if they can’t anticipate exactly where or what developers will want to build.”

“The Legislature should stop proliferating ever more detailed requirements for a site to be included in the inventory, and instead require cities to consider every parcel on which residential use is allowed,” the UCLA team suggests. “Since cities aren’t very good at picking the sites where developers want to build, the focus should shift to estimating how much housing is likely to be built during the planning period on the entire stock of residentially zoned land in a city.

This is wonky stuff, but important because of the state’s worsening housing shortage. The proposals would shift the housing quotas from an exercise in paper-shuffling into something more likely to produce real results. But implementing it would require an official admission that the current system isn’t working and a willingness to correct its “fundamental flaw.”

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

*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

# Riley Reviews

## “US OPEN” BRINGS BACK THE TENNIS FANS; CABLE TV PREVIEW

“US OPEN” BRINGS BACK THE TENNIS FANS

Last year, the US Open tennis tournament in New York proceeded without fans and only a handful of media were on hand to cover the event. This year, due to the outdoor nature of the venue, full capacity is allowed for fans, but much less so for the media.

Once again, our coverage is limited to the remote method, which is about thrilling as grocery shopping or standing in a queue for more than a day to be among the first to see the newest “Star Wars” film (apologies to the hardcore fans).

Maybe being remote this year is just as well. US Open distributed a media guide which informs that only every other workstation will be available, meaning you would have an empty desk next to you. Are people aware that many commercial airplanes are flying at full capacity?

As of this writing, the US Open’s media-only site has malfunctioned, adding to frustration on coverage options. Here’s hoping that next year we are back to in-person reporting, especially to chronicle the awesome fan experience.

What’s more, the media dining room isn’t open for food service. Media have to dine in the food courts, but on the plus side, the daily meal allowance has been doubled. The good news for media and the fans is that this year’s food experience looks to be better than ever.

The largest retail and dining experience in the world, Eataly is a new concession. The gourmet sandwiches of Brooklyn-based Stuf’d make their debut. Also new is Stacked Sandwich Shop offering a vegan muffuletta. Hunger pangs are setting in now.

One sign that the pandemic has taken a toll is that the US Open has launched a mental health initiative to support the players with the “necessary resources to compete at the highest level.”

On Opening Night, tennis legend Billie Jean King remarked that the “heart of New York City is Broadway and Broadway is back,” thus introducing the evening’s entertainment prior to the first match.

Beginning first with the backup singers, the Tony award-nominated “Moulin Rouge! The Musical” provided a taste for the fans with show stars Aaron Tveit and Natalie Mendoza headlining the ceremonial performance.

A coincidence of bad timing, this year’s US Open suffers from the withdrawal of several marquee players. For the first time since 2003, both American sisters Serena and Venus Williams are not participating.

Still a teenager, Coco Gauff, who reached the third round in her first

appearance at the US Open and now ranked No. 23, is clearly someone to watch, but lost to fellow American Sloane Stephens in straight sets. Notwithstanding the loss, Gauff competes in women’s doubles.

On the men’s side, stars Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer are out due to injuries. Thus, the path may be cleared for Novak Djokovic to pull off the feat of winning the grand slam of the four major tournaments if he takes the Open’s championship trophy.

Even if the star power of the top tennis icons is missing, it’s worth watching on ESPN to see if Djokovic prevails or how far an American player goes.

While thirteen American men advanced to the second round, the most since 1994, setbacks still remain since America’s highest-ranked male player John Isner lost in the first round.

CABLE TV PREVIEW

This should be a preview of upcoming programs, but for the Hulu streaming service the fall season has mostly begun, notably with Steve Martin in a comedic murder-mystery series he helped to develop with creative partners Dan Fogelman and John Hoffman.

“Only Murders in the Building” follows three strangers (Martin, Selena Gomez and Martin Short) living in an apartment building on New York’s tony Upper West Side and who share an obsession with true crime and suddenly find themselves wrapped up in one.

With this triangle of two Boomers and one Millennial as amateur sleuths investigating a murder, we not only get a great cast with chemistry but a delightfully funny series. Adding to the comic formula is Nathan Lane in a recurring role.

Based on Liane Moriarty’s bestselling book, “Nine Perfect Strangers” is an eight-episode series with an ensemble cast that include notable figures who converge at a wellness resort that seems as dull as it is pretentious.

The Tranquillum House spa is run inexplicably by Nicole Kidman’s Masha, a Russian as autocratic as Vladimir Putin but at least not riding a horse shirtless like the leader of her homeland.

After viewing a few episodes, it seems that the visitors for the ten-day retreat are asking themselves how did they end up in this lush yet dubious place. I started asking myself the same even when it was fun to watch Melissa McCarthy and Bobby Cannavale sparring.

A limited series inspired by Beth Macy’s book, “Dopesick” arrives later this fall to examine how one company triggered the worst drug epidemic in American history.

In the struggle with opioid addiction, “Dopesick” has its heroes emerging in an intense and thrilling ride to take down the craven corporate forces behind this national crisis. ★



## Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

### Everyone is Important



How do you treat yourself? How do you treat others? Do you think other people are more important than you are? Do you feel superior to others? How you view your interaction with others says a lot about you.

Everyone harbors the desire to be considered important and treated well. It's common for someone to feel inferior to those with more money, more education, or a better career. Although someone may tolerate being treated disrespectfully, it's not enjoyable. A person may think of themselves as nothing special due to upbringing, occupation, or the way they are treated.

Regardless of their role in society, everyone is important. Each job serves a needed function. Everyone is equal. To treat anyone as inferior is folly. Many people will put up with bad treatment because they feel their employment depends on it, not because they feel it's deserved.

To get the best response from someone, treat them as an important person. Your treatment of others speaks volumes about you. The way you treat others affects the way you will be treated in return.

If people treat you poorly, resist the temptation to treat them in kind. A person may treat you poorly due to pre-conditioning. This is not to excuse their behavior but

to explain it. They expect poor treatment so they automatically act defensively. As a result, they elicit the very same behavior from others that they abhor.

Treating a person as if they are above you is no better than treating someone as if they are below you. When you act inferior, you tend to be treated that way. The goal is to consider yourself and others as equal.

Since all people are in fact equal, this is not asking a lot. The challenge is overcoming engrained habits. Each person’s feelings are important. There’s no justification for being callous and uncaring.

Many interpersonal problems would evaporate if people would treat each other considerately. A person's importance is not linked to social status, occupation, degree of wealth, where they live, what they own, or who they know.

It hurts to be treated poorly. Even a complete stranger can cause you emotional distress by a thoughtless action or comment. If and when this happens, remember that everyone is equal. If someone else doesn't recognize this, they have a problem, not you.

Treat a person better than they expect and they'll be pleasantly surprised. You will brighten their day. Interacting with you may even be

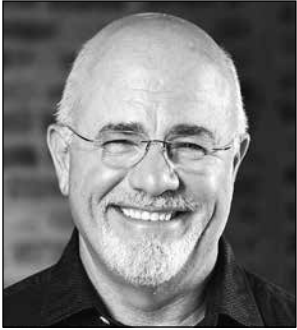
a highlight of their day. When you treat someone well, they will respond to you in a very positive way. In most instances taking this tact will turn a frown into a smile.

Don't try to fake this attitude. If you don't believe everyone is important, but try to act as if you do, you will come across as insincere. Act superior and you will be shunned and resented. Act inferior and you will be taken advantage of and treated poorly.

Everyone is born equal and dies equal. Each of us travels an individual path. All paths are valid as long as one doesn't harm others. How you think of and treat others determines how you are thought of and treated in return.

Everyone is important. Recognize and respect this and you will immeasurably enrich your life and the lives of others. Smile, say please, thank you, and wish others well. You will be astounded by how much more pleasant each day will be.

**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 ★



# Dave Ramsey Says

Teaching the Value of Work

Dear Dave,

What are your views on teaching children good work habits? Many of our friends don't require their kids to help out or work around the house, but we both strongly feel that instilling a strong work ethic early in life is one of the best things you can do as a parent for your children.

– Deshay

Dear Deshay,

I'm so glad you both feel that way. Our culture has made many great advances to ensure the happiness and well-being of children. But too many parents today are so centered on what their children want that they have lost perspective on what their children need.

Perspective, or looking at life over time, demands

that you teach children to work. Teaching a child to work is not child abuse. We teach them to work not for our benefit, but because it gives them dignity in a job well done today and the tools and character to win as adults in the future.

In my mind, children should be taught to work just like you'd teach them to bathe or brush their teeth – as a necessary life skill. An adult who has no clue how to tackle a job and finish it with pride is every bit as debilitated as an adult with body odor or green teeth. If your child graduates from high school, and his or her only skill set consists of playing video games, eating fast food and believing the world owes them something, you've set up your child to fail.

Another benefit of teaching a child the wonder of work is they may grow to lose a little respect for those who refuse to work. I'm not talking about folks who lost jobs due to unforeseen circumstances and are trying to

get back on their feet, or someone who genuinely cannot work. I'm talking about folks who refuse to look for, or accept, gainful employment.

My wife and I noticed that our kids, as they grew older, didn't pursue relationships with people who didn't understand the value of work and demonstrate the character traits of mature, hardworking people. And that was wonderful news to us!

– 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 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on “Good Morning America,” “CBS This Morning,” “Today,” Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and 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

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



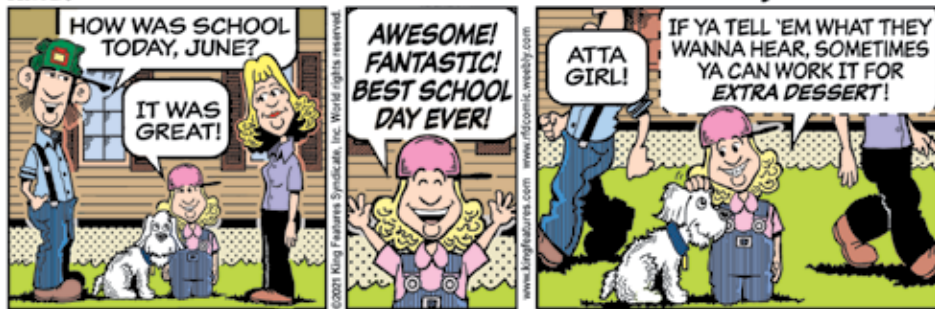
by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb



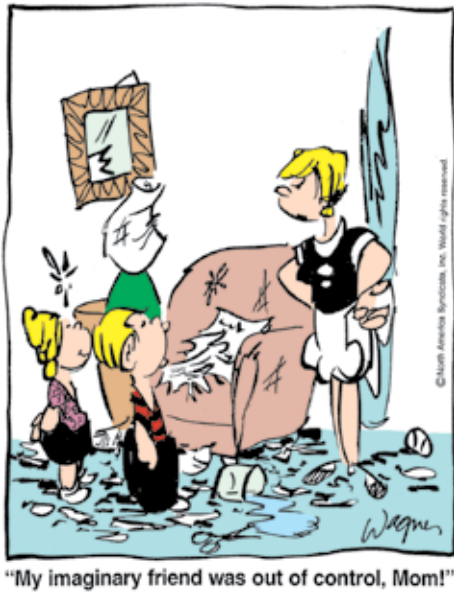
by Gary Kopervas

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

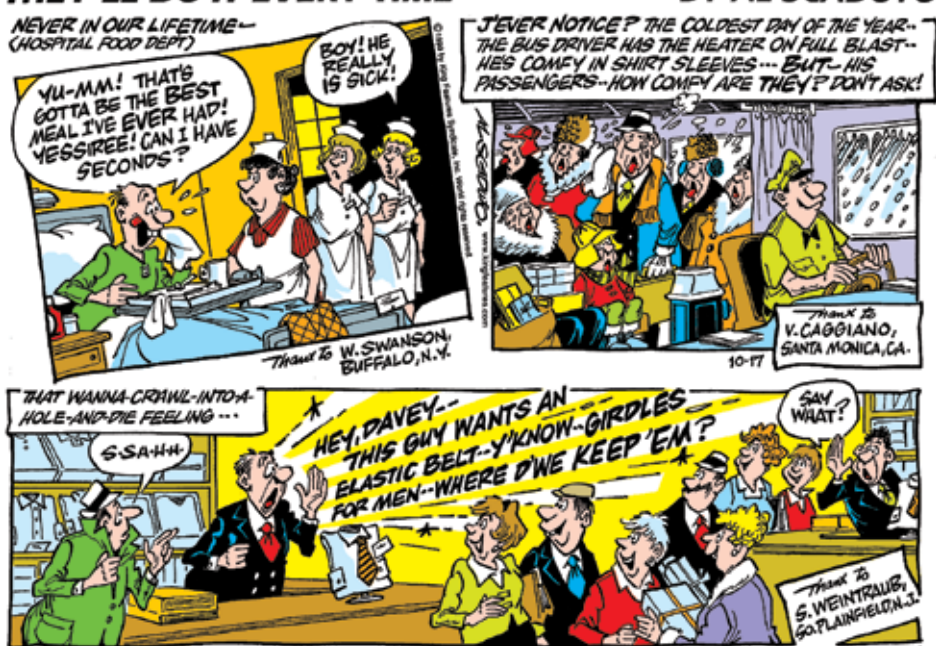
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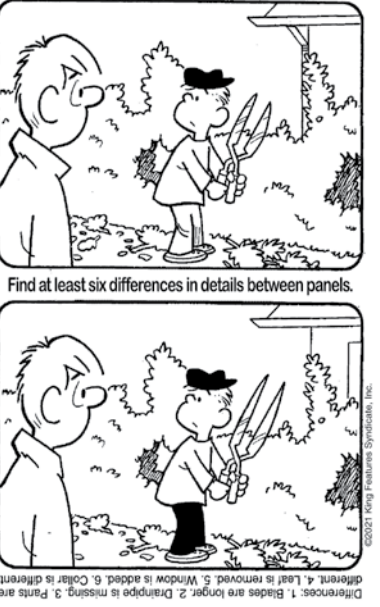
BY AL SCADUTO

Just Like Cats & Dogs



by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS



BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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# The Recall is Here

By Jackie Botts,  
CALMatters.org

Two weeks before voters decide whether to remove Gov. Gavin Newsom, a second round of stimulus payments is landing in the bank accounts of Californians who make less than \$75,000 per year –with one glaring carve-out.

To get the money, you must have earned income last year – for example, from work, interest, rental income or private pensions – and filed tax returns. That excludes potentially hundreds of thousands of low-income retirees, veterans and disabled Californians who receive government benefits and do not work.

They live on fixed incomes – and they’re asking why they were left out. Nearly 700 people have signed a petition to urge Newsom to send the benefit to people on Social Security Disability Insurance. More than 60 elderly and disabled readers have contacted CalMatters to express their frustration. In interviews and emails, 13 of them said that being left out of the Golden State Stimulus has caused them to doubt Newsom’s leadership, if they didn’t already.

“I’m very upset at him for that,” said Chris Cummins, 64, who rents a house in Martinez with her daughter and three of her grandchildren. She said she lives on \$1,197 a month in disability benefits and \$395 in widow’s insurance. Usually a Democrat, Cummins has lost faith in Newsom. Unconvinced by his opponents, she’s considering not voting at all in the Sept. 14 recall election.

It’s difficult to predict how much this frustration could affect Newsom’s odds of overcoming the recall. Those left out of the stimulus – far outnumbered by the 15 million-plus tax filers who do qualify – are a diverse group with conflicting voting patterns. They don’t usually get bundled together in campaign strategy. And it’s difficult to estimate how numerous they are, though it could be in the range of 500,000 to 2 million.

What’s clear is that Newsom’s \$11.9 billion plan to hand out cash to Californians – which Republican challengers labeled as a ploy to buy votes – has, in fact, lost him some support from low-income seniors and Californians with disabilities.

Newsom’s anti-recall campaign declined to comment on how concerned it is about these voters, or what efforts it is making to reach out to senior and disability communities. Several of the major Republican recall candidates have slammed the governor over the stimulus, including for making undocumented people eligible.

In February, lawmakers approved Newsom’s Golden State Stimulus program to send



Newsom’s stimulus left out many retirees, veterans and disabled Californians. Will they vote to recall him? MPG file photo

\$600 payments to about 5.7 million of California’s lowest-income workers, with extra help for undocumented workers who file taxes.

Families enrolled in CalWorks were also made automatically eligible. So were elderly, blind and disabled people who receive Supplemental Security Income. But recipients of other disability benefits, including Social Security Disability Insurance, were not included.

In May, with California overflowing in tax revenue from its wealthiest residents and federal relief dollars, Newsom proposed sending the payments to California’s middle class, too. Lawmakers approved the plan in late June.

Under the expansion, taxpayers earning as much as \$75,000 a year qualify for a \$600 payment. Families with at least one dependent get a \$500 boost, which increases to \$1,000 if they are undocumented and file taxes.

However, the state delayed clarifying what kinds of income made people eligible for the

stimulus, confusing many Californians on fixed incomes.

Only in late July did the state tax agency update its webpage to clarify that income from various public assistance programs – Social Security, disability insurance and veterans disability benefits – didn’t count.

When asked in June why those receiving disability payments were not automatically made eligible, Newsom’s administration cited logistical challenges. California maintains an up-to-date list of residents who get Supplemental Security Income, but doesn’t have access to the same information for Social Security Disability Insurance.

A spokesperson in Newsom’s office pointed out in an email that several forms of income besides wages from work could make people eligible, but side-stepped questions about why people whose only income comes from Social Security or disability benefits can’t qualify for the stimulus payment.

How many Californians could that be? California is home to about 673,000 people

who receive Social Security Disability Insurance, but not Supplemental Security Income, according to the Social Security Agency. National research shows that fewer than one in five recipients work during a typical year, so the vast majority didn’t qualify for the stimulus. About 4.6 million Californians receive Social Security retirement income, but it’s unclear how many have no other forms of income, and thus wouldn’t qualify. National research shows that about 40% of all retired adults rely solely on Social Security retirement income. About 355,000 veterans in California received disability compensation in 2015, but it’s unclear how many have no other forms of income.

It’s a large group of potential voters, but it’s difficult to predict how much they could sway the recall. Low-income voters and older voters both tend to lean blue in California and favor keeping Newsom in office, according to a July poll by the UC Berkeley Institute for Government Studies. However, poor voters are less likely to

cast ballots, while older voters consistently have the highest voter turnout rates.

No statewide polls have zeroed in on low-income older voters, or asked people whether they have disabilities or are veterans. National studies show that both groups vote less often than the general population and veterans tend to vote Republican.

Newsom has explained that he gave extra help to undocumented workers because they have been excluded from federal stimulus checks, as well as unemployment benefits if they lost work during the pandemic.

“When the federal government was not able to provide those supports, the state of California will step in to do what we can,” Newsom said in May, while announcing his spending plan.

But Newsom’s top challenger in the polls, Republican radio host Larry Elder, quickly pounced.

“Illegal aliens qualify for the Golden State Stimulus but Californians on Social Security disability benefits do not,” Elder said in a statement. “It makes zero sense, but this is one of the many failures of Gavin Newsom.”

Though Elder said he sympathized “with those left out,” he wouldn’t expand the stimulus to include them. Instead, he said he’d make California more affordable by cutting taxes and regulation.

Republican recall candidate Kevin Faulconer, a former mayor of San Diego, called Newsom’s exclusion of people with disabilities “unfair.” He said he’d address the cost of living for people on fixed incomes by making retirement benefits for veterans tax-free.

John Cox, a former small business owner, did not respond to requests for comment, but previously criticized the stimulus as an effort by Newsom “to avoid being recalled.”

Kevin Kiley, a Republican Assemblymember from Rocklin, has characterized the stimulus payments as part of the “playbook of corrupt regimes.” Republican recall candidate Caitlyn Jenner, an Olympic gold medalist and reality television star, has likened the program to a “bribe” and criticized it for doing nothing to entice businesses to move back to California.

Newsom’s main Democratic challenger, Kevin Paffrath, took a different tack.

“I would be absolutely willing to work with the Legislature... to make sure that those left out of the Golden State stimulus would actually receive what they’re owed,” said the real estate agent and YouTube show host.

*This article is part of the California Divide, a collaboration among newsrooms examining income inequality and economic survival in California.* ★



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