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# Dixon Independent Voice

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# You Can't Lock Her Up



Emily Kincheloe, 26, of Bob's Safe and Lock in Dixon replaces a mailbox lock after keys were lost at an old building in downtown Dixon. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The slim blonde woman jumps out of a big old, white truck and slings on her tool belt like a western cowboy putting on his pistols. But, it's just Emily Kincheloe, resident locksmith, and the dozens of tiny tools that will pick a lock,

unhinge a jam, and in some cases, even save a trapped dog or child.

Emily is the granddaughter of Bob Kincheloe who started Bob's Lock and Safe back in 1967 after working 38 years at UC Davis starting as an apprentice and later running the whole shop. Then Robert, Bob's son who was working for Vault Security

in Vacaville, started working weekends to help out when suddenly the business "exploded," said the elder Bob.

Emily would come along with her Dad on some of the calls and in high school expressed an interest in the field.

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## Zealous 4th Sparks New Fireworks Discussion

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - If you thought you might have heard more booms, bangs, and crackles this last holiday, you were right alongside most other Dixonites who voiced their concerns about 4th of July fireworks on social media, to their council representatives, and to this newspaper. Some might say after a year of pandemic-induced government restrictions there was much to celebrate, and if you're from Dixon, there have been two years without a display in Hall Park so residents might have taken celebrations more seriously to their neighborhoods.

"It was a bad year [for Independence Day]," said Dixon Police Chief Robert Thompson after he supplied a report on the past three years over 4th of July Police and Nuisance Activities at the last City Council Meeting held via Zoom. Despite that they had twice as many officers and started the evening with an average response time of 17 minutes, by 10 pm that response time extended to 42 minutes.

"Everything went wrong," he said with not one but two structure fires--one a small apartment complex with three families inside--and officers were forced to become "traffic wardens" with street closures due to the responding fire fighting vehicles. The building, carport, and cars were destroyed but the families escaped uninjured. Whether or not fireworks played a role in the blaze has not yet been determined.

But, in comparison with last year and the year before, in the way of police issues, there were more details to analyze.

"Was it the worst year?" asked the Chief. "In the larger national narrative, is it an anomaly? Was it because the Rotary didn't have a display and the City didn't have a place for people to go?" After his presentation, Dist. 3 Representative Kevin Johnson asked for the issue of fireworks to be agendized.

"Let's talk about it," he said, not differentiating between enforcement of current statutes or changing the ordinances of California's Safe and Sane Fireworks. "Last year was out of control and this year was out of control times ten. I don't

*Continued on page 4*

# Everyone Deserves a Great Park

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - A simple drive at lunch time around one of Dixon's large parks--Hall Park--one can see a variety of uses by a variety of people. There is a couple playing tennis, someone guiding swimmers in the aquatic center, a couple of young skateboarders navigating turns and twists on the concrete hills; two older women talking about their dogs as they stand in the shade of the large trees, and a mommy pushing a baby in a stroller. If you look closer in the far back of the expansive grass and past the Little League fields, you can even see a couple seeming to meet for a secret romance.

Perhaps the pandemic gave us all a boost of awareness of the value of parks and recreation in our community, but it is a fact that more and more, the public is realizing how parks and recreation facilities have a positive impact on the quality of life in our communities, according to the National Recreation and Parks Association.

During July, marked for Park and Recreation Month, the organization encouraged appreciation for park and recreation agencies staff who provide services that make our community a better place to live, work, and play.

For Dixon, one of those

is Recreation Manager Jean Houseman. She came from Vacaville starting in 1993 but soon moved to Dixon as it is after all, a much shorter commute, she laughed. She worked her way up and about 2010 became the Recreation Manager.

"I love my job. It's great here. I've never wanted to work anywhere else. I can go anywhere in town and see my seniors or people from activities here," she said. "It's more than just work; it's a lifestyle." She works with new Recreation Supervisor Austin George.

"We are basically starting over after COVID," explained Houseman. "We

are holding a meeting next week with the senior club and starting from scratch and seeing what they would like to do. I hope to have regular activities starting in a couple weeks. I'm so excited," she said.

In the past, the center offered numerous activities including classes such as art, writing, and exercise but also offered a weekly lunch, Bingo games, and other social activities.

Houseman keeps the Senior/Multi-Use Center located at 201 South 8th Street open Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 2:30 pm.

The Parks and Recreation

Commission that meets monthly would also be worthy to mention. They are Jocie Bair, Mark Cooley, Loraine Hernandez-Covello, Charles King, April Seto, and Angelic Villalpando.

They are an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to recreation programs and park facilities. Commissioners serve two-year terms, with a maximum of three consecutive terms. City residency is required and hopefully the pleasure of using our parks and recreation services have been experienced. For more information, call Houseman at the Senior/Multi-Use Center at (707) 678-7022. ★



City of Dixon Recreation Supervisor Austin George earned a degree in Economics but found his dream job two and half years ago being outdoors and near the pools. Photo by Debra Dingman

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# Why is City Landscaping Neglected and Shameful?



The City of Dixon collects assessments from most property owners for landscaping and lighting maintenance but for the past two years the landscaping along the sidewalks and street mediums have been neglected. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

At the last City Council Meeting I brought up Dixon's landscaping issues as several people have talked to me about this and Councilman Scott Pederson said he was happy that someone finally acknowledged we needed to get more money to take care of it. But, that's not what I meant. The City has plenty of money. I said find it because I know it's already there.

It may seem dramatic to say that I am heartbroken over shrubs but I am. As my husband and I drove back from the store down North Lincoln, the landscaping to the right was dying grass and tall weeds. Then we hit the shrubbery area just past the humongous City of Dixon sign that every driver on I-80 can clearly see, and it looked like a jungle. I was quiet until we drove down to Pitt School Road and the medium looked like a chaos of dying trees and tumbleweeds. My heart sank more.

Even coming back from church on Sunday, the weeds along West A Street--as one enters our city--were 4-feet tall. All of this reflects poorly on our city.

"Is there nothing I can do to make people see that we have got a serious problem at City Hall?" I asked my former City Treasurer hubby. "Just look at the bills from Doug White's office and see that we are paying him millions to sue our citizens, write threatening letters in response to almost every facet of public engagement whether it be business or homeowners--and instigate a variety of legal action for every single City Council meeting but our town is falling apart because we can't afford to

MOW THE DARN LAWN?" I lamented.

But, I know why I moved to Dixon 30 years ago (it was a small community of people who cared) and what it looked like (welcoming, professionally manicured, clean.)

Never when City Managers Dave Harris, Warren Salmons, or Nancy Huston were in charge did we have this problem. Is our City being mismanaged by Jim Lindley who uses White like a crutch?

Citizens are paying more in assessments, taxes and fees (for putting in your new water heater, for example) than we have ever paid and we have phenomenal growth (commercial and residential, even kicking out the citizen's Measure B to the curb). Yet even with all the additional tax revenue and the collection of bigger fees, we can't TRIM THE DARN BUSHES. Where is the money going?

Just a couple months ago, the City ran a phone survey in hopes to pass a one-cent sales tax. I'm thinking we really don't need that if we can cut ties with White-Brenner, stop giving 5-percent pay raises, and ride out the next two years of Lindley's contract. (If we let him go early, he'll ride a golden parachute which will cost us more.)

I want to live out my life in Dixon. I wanted to be proud of the community I drive around in.

Call your Mayor or District Rep and show up at our Dixon Council Meetings because something is wrong. We have to change this downward trajectory of our town management and we have to CHOP DOWN THE DARN WEEDS! ★

# Recruiting Docents for Dixon History Museum

By Loran Hoffmann

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Webster's Dictionary defines a 'DOCENT' as --"a person who acts as a guide, typically on a voluntary basis, in a museum, art gallery or zoo."

The Dixon History Museum opened a little over one month ago (June 3) with the arrival of a covered wagon, along with a banjo player strumming Americana music, and a group of over 100 well-wishers! Since opening its doors, the museum has welcomed 243 visitors from as far away as Washington, D.C. and as nearby as right here in Dixon.

The museum is open five days a week from Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. Many local visitors have commented that they feel privileged to have a museum which they are able to reach by walking or riding their bicycles. Others have actually discovered the museum while driving through town or enjoying breakfast or lunch in the downtown area. This first month has been a delight as the museum has become a place to meet new people, hear family stories and see tears in a visitor's eye as they recall a memory.

We are pleased to have had a number of individuals attend our Docent Training programs held in the month of June. The individuals who signed up attended the two-hour training to become certified docents and are now enjoying spending a couple hours each week or month at the museum sharing information about the current exhibits and exchanging



Sign up! The month of July Docent Training program will be offered Monday, July 26. Photo by Debra Dingman

information with visitors about our hometown. The docents say they gain more from the experience than they give and the interaction with the other docents and visitors is truly fulfilling!

More docents are needed! A Docent Training will be offered on Monday, July 26 from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm at the Dixon History Museum, 125 West A Street. The training is free and open to individuals 18 years of age and older. Docents can choose their own days and morning or afternoon shifts to volunteer using the sign up Genius computer app.

Signing up for the training is as easy as stopping by the museum during open hours or by contacting Loran Hoffmann at 707-372-7094. Also, if you have not visited the museum yet, we encourage you to come by and learn about your hometown. Admission is free, although donations are welcome. ★

# You Can't Lock Her Up

Continued from page 1

"She's just a real sweet girl and likes to learn," the grandfather said. "She picked it up really fast. Robert took a little longer because he was hard-headed," he added with a chuckle. On one call he went on with Emily when Bob was ill, she had the locks off the doors before he barely got out of the truck.

"She's very efficient," he said and explained that he wasn't surprised when she expressed an interest of learning the trade. She is the last of the five siblings and was extra close with her Dad, the elder explained.

Emily is now 26 and admitted there are a lot of details in the work and that she is still learning. The first call she went on without her Dad was "nerve wracking" but she knew she had him via phone to walk her through it.

"It's hard. There is still so much I don't know but my Dad is a good teacher and he's patient," she said. She started working weekends with him while still in high school and it's been 11 years now, she says proudly.

"I've been working full time since I was 18 or 19," she said and enjoys working with her Dad the most and last year worked with another woman, her best friend. That created some interesting reactions she said as people don't expect two women to arrive at a call. There were surprised looks and some remarks.

"It's hilarious when they



Emily Kincheloe is a 3rd generation locksmith, following the steps of her grandfather Bob Kincheloe and her Dad, Robert Kincheloe. Photo by Debra Dingman

call and ask me, 'when will he be here?' and I say 'No, it's just me.' They often think I'm the receptionist," she said, understandably. The industry reports 88 percent of locksmiths are men and only 12 percent are women. Fifty-six percent of locksmith companies do not have any females on staff. Emily is too busy to care.

She handles about 30 to 40 calls a week and rescues a lot of dogs and children who have gotten accidentally locked in a bathroom. Many calls are from repeat customers and the elder Bob answers each call with a friendly and helpful demeanor. They are not

only fair-priced, they do business with most of the realtors here and are the contact for Fidelity Home Warranty.

"They keep us real busy," said Emily.

As electronic devices entered the picture, the Kincheles learned how to use them as they came on the markets, she said, so they "didn't mess up our business." The elder Bob talks about how the company has evolved with the times and how nice it is to send pictures over the phones if they need help from each other.

"I can say it's been a great ride," said the elder Bob sounding every bit pleased with his family. ★

# Kiwanis Partners with Walmart for Children's Hospital



Dixon Kiwanis Club couples up with the local Walmart to collect donations for UC Davis Children's Hospital in Sacramento which is part of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Numerous Dixon businesses, including Panda Express and Starbucks, were also collecting for the hospital as part of a regional fundraising effort. Pictured are Walmart staff Jorge on the far left and Monica on the far right with Jim Ward, Mike and Patti Liu, and Debra Dingman in between. Photo by Walmart Store Manager Derek Wensky

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# Zealous 4th Sparks Fireworks Discussion



This house fire happened in the evening of Independence Day fireworks although the investigation of its origin is still underway. However, the need for police to guide traffic in the area impeded their ability to respond quickly to other calls, according to Police Chief Robert Thompson. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1  
have the answer, but I know the problem and I think it would be naive of us to suspect that it was pent up after COVID and this was the first time," he said.  
"The issue is that Dixon is very much known in Solano County and there is growing knowledge that you can blow off everything here. If we do nothing, I do not believe we can reasonably expect that next year will return to something that is remotely okay." He cited safety, pets, anxiety, and mental health concerns need to be addressed.  
Dist. 1 Rep Scott

Pederson and Dist. Rep 2 Jim Ernest agreed.  
"A lot of people contacted me in regards to illegal fireworks, fearing for their homes. We may need tighter restrictions for illegal fireworks and I'm for a more robust Hall Park celebration," said Ernest.  
Mayor Steve Bird said that the California League of Cities is dealing with fireworks as well and is a topic of concern throughout the state.  
Johnson emphasized he is "fully aware" of the money fireworks sales bring to local nonprofits and the memories made for families celebrating legally

so asked for the item to be agendized for future discussion. It is not known how soon that will be.  
"The problem with banning all fireworks is it doesn't affect law abiding citizens other than they will not have access to Safe and Sane Fireworks. All of the problems are being caused by illegal fireworks that are illegal today and will still be illegal tomorrow if you ban fireworks. The illegal ones are being brought in from Nevada, Mexico and the black market in Chinatown," said former Councilman Devon Minnema after the meeting. ★



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# Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

Congratulations to **Bella Ngo**, a Dixon High School incoming senior who won the State Championship in her weight class for Coed Varsity Wrestling, according to DHS Athletic Director Brett Peterson. Although the pandemic caused loss of tournament experiences, Bella continued to practice and was guided by her coach, Chris McCoy, and wrestling trainer, Tyler Morey.  
This past year she competed in Bakersfield, Fresno, Arizona, Nevada, Texas, Utah, Iowa, and Virginia tournaments and competed in freestyle and folk style nationals, world team trials, and California state. Bella is hopeful for a wrestling scholarship to help with college.  
High Jumper Dixon High School graduate Marcus Gelpi, who has been jumping only two years, was on KCRA news recently for making the top Outdoor High Jump in the United States for under 20-year-olds. He jumped seven feet and a quarter inch. He had previously hoped to win the State meet but COVID shut that down; however, he did not let that deter his training.  
That record jump got the attention of the Governing Body of Track and Field of Puerto Rico and was invited to be on Puerto Rico's National Team. Gelpi has dual citizenship due to his father being born and raised there so his Dixon family has travelled back and forth many times and Marcus had already wanted to be part of the movement after the hurricane that brings back Puerto Rico, he said. So, he accepted the invite, is in Puerto Rico training now, and is the number one high jumper in Puerto Rico.

He plans to compete in the Under 20 Program in the World Championship in Kenya next month and also wants to compete in the 2024 Summer Olympics. Congrats to Marcus--Dixon is proud!

## City Council

Even at the last City Council Meeting, it wasn't 100-percent that the City meetings would return to in-person inside City Hall since there have been A/C issues, bathroom issues, and rug replacements. The next City Council Meeting is set for Tuesday, July 20, but that will be via Zoom. City Manager Jim Lindley and Mayor Steve Bird said they were aiming for August to be back to in-person meetings inside the Council Chambers. Be advised to call the City of Dixon at



State Wrestling Champion Bella Ngo is a Dixon High School student. Photo by Pinky Ngo

(707) 678-7000 to find out--for sure--if the meetings are now in-person or not as we could not confirm by press time.

## Citizen of the Year

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce has issued a "Save the Date" for Saturday, September 18, for the Citizen of the Year Awards Dinner that includes the Business of the Year, Ambassador of the Year, and Veteran of the Year. It is planned for the Olde Vets Hall, 231 North First Street across from the public library.  
Traditionally, this event is held in March but with the pandemic, it was held off. Tickets will be \$50 and will go on sale in August.  
They have also released information for the annual Epicurean Fete to happen on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at the Dixon fairgrounds, 655 South First Street. More information will be available soon on both events at DixonChamber.org or by calling (707) 678-2650. ★

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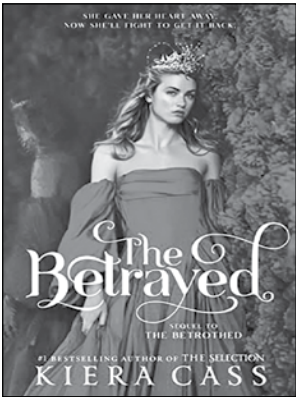
# The Betrayed

by Kiera Cass

Hollis’s life has been taken by storm, upended by the heavy-weight of following her heart. In one devastating moment, Hollis’s whole world came tumbling down around her, stripping away everyone she loved. Fleeing to Isolte was her only chance, and with the love of the Eastoffe family, Hollis quietly fell into a gentle rhythm. Scarlett became her calming force, and her new Mother was the soothing guide she needed if only Etan’s daily disdain for her and Coroa wasn’t there to sour her mood at every turn.

But Hollis would soon learn that a secret plan was afoot, and the very family that saved her once would need Hollis’s help to save their country in return. Now, with news of a tyrant King and a family able to overthrow him and take the crown, Hollis will need to look within and find the strength to do what’s right while also facing the true desires of her heart.

The battle of heart versus duty of the crown comes to a close in the compelling conclusion to *The Betrothed* series, *The*



- ◆ Publisher: Harper Teen
- ◆ Hardcover, 304 pages
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥
- ◆ Released: June 29, 2021

*Betrayed*. Kiera Cass submerges her readers deep within a world of royalty, duty, honor, and heartache; while unapologetically giving readers a storyline that will make them think about each character and their motives. Cass once again delivers a strong female lead that will not yield when times are tough, and is unwilling to bend through threats of sacrifice or death. In a world where love must take a backseat to the throne, *The Betrayed* delivers another option, giving readers a cause worth fighting for and a woman to stand behind.

Picking up exactly where *The Betrothed* left off, readers will be

swept into a compelling, fast-paced story, celebrating strong will, defiance, and desire, with characters that are willing to take the uncharted road. Readers will get a whole new look inside the obstinate and argumentative Etan, allowing readers to see a softer side while also learning the royal lines and history of Isolte. While unknown motives, betrayals, and treasons are uncovered, new alliances are awakened opening the door for a new family to take the royal lines of Isolte, throwing Hollis headfirst in the middle of another battle for the crown.

While the question of duty versus love is still the heartbeat of the series, readers will finally discover if Hollis will ever be rewarded for following her heart and if she will ever have the chance at love. The conclusion of a wonderful new series perfectly pairs well with *The Selection Series* and is a perfect choice for anyone who loves royal reads. Fans of Kiera Cass will not be disappointed; however, they will be left longing for Hollis’s story to continue. ★

# California has a Segregation Problem



By Dan Walters  
**CALMatters**

Deeply blue California’s top political figures, from the governor downward, portray the state as a model of multi-cultural integration. In fact, however, as a new study from UC-Berkeley’s Othering & Belonging Institute reveals, most California metropolitan areas have high levels of racial segregation in housing and it has become more pronounced over the last two decades. Oddly, too, California’s segregation tends to be highest in areas most likely to lean to the left politically.

The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Santa Ana metropolitan area, the study found, is the nation’s sixth most segregated region of 200,000 residents or more. Other California areas with high levels of segregation include San Francisco-Oakland (25th), San Diego (38th), San Jose (45th) and Sacramento (82nd).

Of the 11 California regions on the report’s “high segregation” list, only two, Bakersfield (37th) and Fresno (72nd), hew to the right politically. The San Luis Obispo-Paso Robles area, which also is somewhat conservative politically, is one of only two regions in the nation deemed to be highly integrated, the other being Colorado Springs, which is a Republican bastion.

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accessible news that informs Californians and empowers them to engage with their state government. We couldn’t have reached this moment without our supporters. Support our mission with a donation during our birth-day month.

Okay, so California is not the exemplar of integration it often pretends to be. But isn’t the state trying to make its housing patterns more inclusive?

Officially, yes. State housing guidelines and recent legislation seek more integration of multi-family housing into what have been exclusively single-family neighborhoods as determined by local zoning laws. A mixture of housing types, it’s argued, would create more neighborhood diversity.

Those efforts, however, have faced stiff opposition in suburban communities where single-family homes predominate, with the fiercest resistance in suburbs dominated by Democratic voters, such as Marin County.

The outcome of California’s housing war remains in doubt. However, as California pursues – at least on paper – more integration in housing, it seems to be encouraging more segregation in political representation through a concept called “community of interest” or COI.

When California’s Citizens Redistricting Commission, created by a statewide ballot measure, first tackled the redrawing of legislative and congressional districts in 2011, it assumed that one of its jobs was to identify COIs and make them a dominant factor in redistricting.

The commission is just beginning to do its work again, using still-to-be-released data from the 2020 census, and is putting even

more emphasis on COIs, although how to define them remains uncertain. The current commission is staging “COI input meetings” around the state and seeking participation but admits in its latest invitation that “there are no clear rules on how to define a community of interest.”

It’s assumed that under federal law, redistricting plans must not inhibit the ability of ethnic and racial groups to elect representatives. To insulate the new maps from legal challenge, the commission will use data on concentrations of potential voters (over the age of 18 and citizens) to create “majority-minority” districts that, in effect, preordain the election of legislators and congressional members from the designated communities.

Although California’s overall population has seen only scant growth over the last decade, whites have continued to decline proportionately while Latino and Asian populations have increased. Thus, as the state’s leading redistricting expert, Paul Mitchell, has written, “it’s more likely than ever that the data will tell (the commission) there are more majority-minority districts that need to be drawn than ever in light of heightened segregation within our cities and counties.”

So on one hand, California officialdom says it wants to lessen segregation in housing, but on the other hand it wants to reinforce racial and ethnic segregation in legislative and congressional districts. That’s California in a nutshell.

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



## Summer Jobs Left Vacant as Young People Look Elsewhere

Summer jobs on the farm for high school and college students are nowhere near as common as they once were. As a national survey shows the average age of the farm workforce going up, California farmers say young people don’t think much about farm work anymore. One farmer says he hasn’t hired a student for a summer job in several years, while another says young people aren’t as likely to have a farmer in the family.

## California Melon Crop Faces Challenges

While the demand for California-grown melons is high, farmers say getting those melons to the nation’s tables has faced multiple challenges this season. These include a statewide drought impeding water deliveries; excessive heat reducing yields; a shortage of skilled on-farm employees and truck drivers; and a shortage in supplies such as pallets, bins and cardboard. The San Joaquin Valley’s west side and the Imperial Valley provide 75% of the nation’s commercially grown melons.

## Agricultural Employers Say ‘Soft Skills’ are Crucial

When selecting employees, agricultural companies say that soft skills like a strong work ethic, good communication, time management and dependability are just as important as technical know-how, according to a recent survey by California State University, Fresno. Agriculture industry knowledge was the only technical skill that was on the top 10 skills listed as most important.

## Roses thrive in state’s cities

When it comes to flowers, roses are among the most widely recognized. But where do they flourish? Eight California cities rank among the best in the U.S. for rose gardens, according to a recent ranking based on factors such as growing season and average summer temperature, precipitation and hours of sunlight. Fresno and Sacramento are in the top 16 cities of 50. On the farm, California rose growers produce approximately 17 million stems of cut roses and 4 million units of potted rose plants annually. ★



## Republicans Should Bail on Infrastructure Deal

So far, the bipartisan infrastructure deal is going through the normal life cycle of such proposals – alive, dead, revived, uncertain.

For Republicans, the best answer should be dead.

They have nothing to gain by blessing a portion of President Joe Biden’s spending plans, when an ungodly amount of money is going to go out the door regardless of whether they vote for a chunk of it or not.

The conventional wisdom is that the Senate has to prove that it can work, and the test of its functioning is how much of Biden’s spending Republicans endorse.

This is a distorted view of the Senate’s role, which shouldn’t be to get on board a historic spending spree for which Biden won no mandate and which isn’t justified by conditions in the country (it’s not true, for instance, that the nation’s infrastructure is crumbling).

Besides, if bipartisan spending is the test, the Senate just a few weeks ago passed a \$200 billion China competition bill by a 68-32 vote. It used to be that \$200 billion constituted a lot of money, but now it doesn’t rate, not when there’s \$6 trillion on the table.

The infrastructure deal

lurched from gloriously alive to dead when Biden explicitly linked its passage to the simultaneous passage of a reconciliation bill with the rest of the Democratic Party’s spending priorities in it.

Then, it revived again when Biden walked this back, and promised a dual track for the two bills.

The fierce Republican insistence on these two tracks doesn’t make much sense and amounts to asking Democrats to allow a decent interval before going ahead with the rest of their spending – Democrats are going to try to pass a reconciliation whether the bipartisan deal passes or not.

In other words, at the end of the day, there’s only one track.

The calculation of Republicans supporting the deal is that a significant bipartisan package can take some of the heat off of Sens. Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema in their resistance to eliminating the filibuster.

A deal that passes and is signed into law will certainly be a feather in their caps, but it’s hard to believe they’d change their minds on the filibuster if the deal fell apart.

They are both so extensively and adamantly on the record in favor of the filibuster that a climb-down would be politically embarrassing and perilous. Republicans supporting the deal also think that it will make passing the subsequent reconciliation bill harder. First, the parts of infrastructure that have the widest support – roads and bridges – will be in the deal and not in the

reconciliation bill. Second, the unwelcome tax increases excluded from the bipartisan deal *will be* in the reconciliation bill.

This isn’t a crazy calculation, although it’s not clearly correct either. The higher the top-line number is for the reconciliation bill, the harder it will be to pass. By allowing Democrats to cleave off some spending into a bipartisan deal, the overall number for the reconciling bill gets smaller. In other words, the bipartisan deal could make the partisan reconciliation easier, rather than harder, to pass.

It’s not as though Biden is fiscally prudent on all other fronts except in this one area, which he considers a particularly important national investment with unmistakable returns. No, he’s universally profligate. His reckless spending on all fronts (except defense) makes it more imperative for Republicans to stake out a position in four-square opposition.

The bipartisan deal is hardly exemplary legislation, by the way. It resorts to all the usual Beltway gimmicks to create the pretense that it’s paid for, when it’s basically as irresponsible as the rest of the Biden spending.

Bipartisanship has its uses, but so does partisanship. Joe Biden wants to be known for his FDR- and LBJ-like government spending, believing that it’s the key to political success and to an enduring legacy. Fine. Let him and his party own it.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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# CLG NEWS UPDATES

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**Oregon may use National Guard for door-to-door COVID questions –Health official: ‘We’re looking to bring on a team’** | 9 July 2021 | After Joe Biden’s recent COVID move – a door-to-door visit to Americans to promote vaccines – was announced, one member of Congress openly suggested while the door knocks this year may concern COVID vaccinations, those next year might be about collecting Americans’ guns. But a report from Press California explains Oregon already is considering ways to implement Biden’s agenda, and “one tactic could be to send out the National Guard to neighborhoods.” The state actually has some 70% of is residents vaccinated, but “that’s not enough, according to zealous public health bureaucrats,” the report said. “In the state’s fourth most populous county, which includes the college town of Eugene, National Guard members may be among the teams designated to persuade people to take the shots, according to Jason Davis, Public Information Officer with Lane County Public Health,” the report explained.

**CNN medical analyst: life ‘needs to be hard’ for unvaccinated Americans – Wen urged President Biden to get behind ‘vaccine credentialing’** | 10 July 2021 | CNN medical contributor Dr. Leana Wen suggested Saturday that life needs to be “hard” for Americans who have not received a[n experimental] COVID-19 vaccine and individuals who refuse to get shots should perhaps face weekly testings. “It needs to be hard for people to remain unvaccinated,” Wen, the former Planned Parenthood president, said. “Right now, it’s kind of the opposite.” Unvaccinated people, she fretted, can at the moment go about their lives as normal without any consequence.

**Panetta calls on Biden to mandate COVID-19 vaccines for military** | 10 July 2021 | Former Defense Secretary [deep-state nut-job] Leon Panetta said that Joe Biden should require all military members to get the COVID-19 vaccine. In an interview with Greta Van Susteren set to air on Sunday, Panetta said it was a matter of “national security.” “I frankly think the president ought to issue an order requiring everybody in the military to get a COVID-19 shot, period. That’s an issue involving our national security,” Panetta, who served under the Obama administration, said... The vaccines are under an emergency use authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Therefore, the Pentagon cannot legally require that all military members get the vaccine, although Biden could grant an exception to this rule.

**Sen. Rand Paul to Introduce Bill to Bar ‘Farce’ Mask Mandate on Planes** | 11 July 2021 | Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) said that he will reintroduce legislation that would bar the public transportation mask mandates on airplanes that were implemented earlier this year by the federal government. “When the Senate returns to session, I will be introducing an immediate repeal of the mask mandate on planes. Enough! Time to stop this farce and let people travel in peace!” he wrote last week on Twitter. On his second day in office, Joe Biden signed an executive order requiring that face coverings be worn when using all forms of public transportation, including inside airports and on airplanes.

**Texas Investigating 386 More Cases of Voter Fraud, Attorney General Tells CPAC** | 11 July 2021 | Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton told an audience at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) on July 11 that his office is investigating nearly 400 more cases of voter fraud and told audience members that concern about election fraud isn’t overblown. The 386 cases that are being investigated come in addition to more than 500 cases that his office has prosecuted, Paxton said, without elaborating on the details of some of the cases. “Do not believe the narrative because in Texas we are going to fight election fraud,” Paxton said, adding that Republicans would have struggled during election day last year if his office didn’t stop local election officials from breaking rules around balloting.

**Trump easily wins CPAC 2024 GOP presidential nomination straw poll** | 11 July 2021 | Former Presidentv Donald Trump easily won the 2024 GOP presidential nomination poll at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) gathering this weekend in Texas. Trump, who’s repeatedly flirted with making another presidential run in 2024 to try and return to the White House, captured 70% of ballots cast in the anonymous straw poll, according to results announced by CPAC on Sunday afternoon. That’s a boost from the 55% support he won in the hypothetical 2024 Republican primary matchup straw poll at CPAC Orlando in late February. ★

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 2021-001290**

The following persons are doing business as: : **C&L HOME RENOVATION**  
**5556 Burgundy Court, Vallejo, CA 94591**  
**Alfredo Lozano, 5556 Burgundy Court, Vallejo, CA 94591**  
Date Filed in Solano County: June 14, 2021  
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2021  
**This Business is Conducted by: an Individual**

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 13, 2026. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)

Publish: June 25 and July 2, 9, 16, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
**CASE #FCS056561**

1. Petitioner Kristina Grace filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name	Proposed name
Aliah Celeste Monroe	Aliah Celeste Grace

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **August 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m. Department 8, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533**  
Judge of the Superior Court: Wendy G. Getty

DATED: June 3, 2021

Publish: June 25 and July 2, 9, 16, 2021 (The Dixon Independent Voice)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT**  
**FILE NO. 2021-001385**

The following persons are doing business as: : **SWEETVDEPOSITORIES**  
**235 Larissa Lane, Vallejo, CA 94590**  
**Yolanda Amos, 235 Larissa Lane, Vallejo, CA 94590**  
Date Filed in Solano County: June 25, 2021  
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
**This Business is Conducted by: an Individual**

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 25, 2026. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)

Publish: July 16, 23, 30 & August 6, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

# PG&E Suspension of Service Disconnections Extended

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (MPG)** - Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) announced recently that it will extend the moratorium on utility service disconnections through September 30, 2021. The moratorium was put in place in March 2020 by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

“We believe extending the service disconnection moratorium for all customers allows for additional relief efforts from the state to take shape while protecting our customers who are financially struggling,” said Marlene Santos, PG&E Executive Vice President and Chief Customer Officer.

As part of the company’s ongoing efforts to help customers manage their bills, PG&E will auto-enroll eligible customers in new extended payment plans by the end of September to coincide with the potential ending of the moratorium.

While the moratorium has been extended, other emergency customer protections put in place by the CPUC during the pandemic have expired.

Recertifications and Post-Enrollment Verifications for the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) and Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) programs have resumed. CARE/FERA customers whose program eligibility would have expired between March 4, 2020 and June 30, 2021 will be required to re-certify. Customers whose program eligibility expired on or after July 1, 2021 will be required to recertify within 90 days. The earliest a customer may be removed from CARE/FERA is October 1, 2021 after a series of direct mail and targeted email communications.

PG&E has helped almost 300,000 residential customers enroll in CARE since February 2020 providing income-qualified customers with a monthly discount.

In addition, Medical Practitioner Certifications for the Medical Baseline Program have resumed. Active Medical Baseline customers who have enrolled in the program under the consumer protections and customers with non-permanent medical conditions as designated by their medical practitioners will be required to recertify for their continued eligibility. PG&E will proactively communicate with Medical Baseline customers and remind them of their upcoming recertifications.

The transition coincides with the launch of PG&E’s new online Medical Baseline medical practitioner portal. This new portal will allow customers and their medical practitioners to complete the Medical Baseline certification/recertification process fully online. The new online application is accessible at [pge.com/medicalbaseline](https://pge.com/medicalbaseline).

In 2020, 192,000 customers were enrolled in PG&E’s Medical Baseline Program. As of June 2021, there are more than 256,000 PG&E residential customers signed up for Medical Baseline.

PG&E has proactively reached out to almost 400,000 impacted customers since the start of the pandemic and continues to partner with local Community Based Organizations to support customers.

PG&E is dedicated to helping customers as the company slowly moves back to more normal billing operations later this year. For more information log onto [pge.com/covid19](https://pge.com/covid19). ★

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**Request for Proposals**  
**For Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and**  
**Zoning Map Update**

**City of Dixon**  
**Community Development Department**

**7/9/2021**

The City of Dixon has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) and invites proposals from qualified firms with expertise in zoning code preparation and updates to lead a process resulting in the preparation of a comprehensive new Zoning Ordinance and Map for the City, including any necessary environmental (CEQA) clearances. Proposals received through the RFP process will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of City staff and appointed officials in the City of Dixon and final firm will be forwarded to City Council for review and approval of a Professional Services Agreement.

Proposals shall be submitted no later than **3:00 pm on August 13, 2021**. Questions related to the RFP may be submitted in accordance with the procedures identified in the RFP, no later than Friday, July 23, 2021. The City will post a written response to any questions received at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/ZoningOrdinance> by Friday, July 30, 2021.


The RFP has been distributed to firms who have previously submitted requests to be included on the City’s RFP list. Any other firm(s) interested in submitting an RFP, may view the RFP and procedures on the City’s web site (identified above)

To submit a Proposal, you must submit five (5) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy of the proposal by the deadline, following the procedures identified in the RFP. Details on the background, scope of work, RFP schedule, compensation, proposal requirements, evaluation criteria and process, resources, RFP terms and contract conditions are all contained in the RFP.


The successful Proposer will be asked to enter into an agreement with the City reflecting the terms and conditions of the Proposal based on the City’s Professional Services Agreement requirements. A copy of the Agreement template is included as Attachment 1 to this RFP. Submittals should include a list of any proposed modifications to the Agreement by the Consultant. Award of an agreement is subject to approval by the City Council of the City of Dixon.

All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Raffi Boloyan, Community Development Director, via electronic mail at [rboloyan@cityofdixon.us](mailto:rboloyan@cityofdixon.us). Inquiries shall contain the firm’s name, contact person, and email address and be titled “Zoning Code Update – RFP”

Dated: July 9, 2021  
By: Lupe Ruiz, Administrative City Clerk  
Advertisement Dates: July 9, 2021 and July 16, 2021  
Dixon Independent Voice July 9 and 16, 2021



**Publisher,**  
**Paul V. Scholl**  
*Dixon Independent Voice* is a member of **Messenger Publishing Group**



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**Crossword Puzzle on Page 7**

S	E	L	M	A		C	A	P		S	E	R	E						
T	R	E	E	S		A	L	L		F	I	X	E	R					
E	N	V	O	I		L	E	E		A	G	I	L	E					
M	E	O	W	M	I	X				B	O	U	N	T	Y				
						S	O	N		V	E	I	N						
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C	E	L	T							O	W	E		R	E	C	O	N	

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**Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7**

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

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1. 1965 march site  
6. Bottle top  
9. Dried up  
13. Can't see the forest for this?  
14. \* \_\_\_\_ You Need is Love  
15. \_\_\_\_-upper  
16. End of a poem  
17. Filmmaker Spike  
18. Like a good athlete?  
19. \*\*Tastes So Good, Cats Ask for It by Name"  
21. \*\*"The Quicker Picker Upper"  
23. Duke of Cambridge to Prince of Wales  
24. Blood vessel  
25. The Jackson 5 1970 hit  
28. Plural of velum  
30. Havanese or Pekingese  
35. High school formal  
37. What the phone did  
39. Abrupt increase  
40. \* \_\_\_\_ John's: "Better Ingredients. Better Pizza."  
41. Working shoelaces  
43. Island east of Java  
44. Shockingly graphic  
46. Hurtful remark  
47. Design detail  
48. Canine's coat  
50. Law school prerequisite, acr.  
52. a.k.a. Tokyo  
53. Muscovite or biotite  
55. Uber alternative  
57. \*\*"Let's Go Places" advertiser  
60. \*\*"Can You Hear Me Now?" advertiser  
64. On the fritz  
65. Wharton degree  
67. Upholstery choice  
68. Bell-bottoms bottom  
69. Emergency responder, acr.  
70. Prenatal test, for short  
71. Medieval Northern European  
72. Be obliged  
73. Reconnaissance, for short

**DOWN**

1. Part of a flute  
2. Marine eagle  
3. What malevolent and levorotary have in common  
4. Jellylic's cries  
5. Isaac of science fiction fame  
6. Burnt metal residue  
7. India pale \_\_\_\_  
8. Annapolis frosh  
9. Leo or Virgo, e.g.  
10. Sign above a door  
11. Count on  
12. Before, poetically  
15. Floras' partners  
20. Apathetic  
22. Crude fuel  
24. Flavoring from Madagascar  
25. \*\*"Think Different" advertiser  
26. Former Milwaukee Brewer All Star Ryan  
27. Dried coconut meat  
29. \*\*"Betcha Can't Eat Just One" advertiser  
31. Drinking establishments  
32. Blind alternative  
33. Checked out  
34. \*\*\*So Easy, a Caveman Can Do It" advertiser  
36. Disfigure  
38. African migrants  
42. Actress turned princess of Monaco  
45. Lower a rank  
49. Ignited  
51. Tooth decay agent  
54. Tarantino in his own movie, e.g.  
56. Biotic community  
57. Story "of Two Cities"  
58. October stone  
59. Nomad's round house  
60. Flower holder  
61. Dietary mineral  
62. Medley  
63. Ne  
64. \*\*"It's Finger Lickin' Good"  
66. \*\*"The Ultimate Driving Machine"

**Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14			15				
16					17			18				
19				20			21	22				
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48					49		50		51		52	
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	57	58	59				60			61	62	63
64					65	66		67				
68					69				70			
71						72				73		

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

**Solutions on Page 7**



# The CONVERSATION GROWS

By Debra Dingman

The Conversations column written by Shirley Humphrey and Loran Hoffmann that has appeared in the Dixon Independent Voice for more than seven years is growing! The column has offered readers information on local issues and strived to develop residents into active and involved citizens. We are pleased to welcome talented and proven writers to the 'Conversation' beginning in September 2021. The new writers will offer expanded coverage of community issues and topics that impact those of us that call Dixon 'home'.

Shirley will be writing once a month and depending on Devon Nishimura's schedule, the two will team up on addressing issues. The first month they will discuss "Goals and Objectives: What do we expect from our Council?" Devon is working full time, attending law school and learning the ropes of being a new husband! But Devon may contribute to the third month's issue also.

In addition, Shirley will tackle "Issues Facing the East Side of Town." For example, the city council proposes plans to build another firehouse on the west side of the railroad track leaving Anderson Elementary School, the Junior High and High School located on the east side of Dixon without access to emergency services if the railroad tracks are blocked. These columns will be based on discussions with residents living in the downtown area, Collier

Manor, La Esperanza, etc. Another issue on the East side of town is "Where is all of the parking?" The city council has approved expanding the old Pardi Market site to include cultural and music events. Local residents have found that events such as the wine stroll and Grillin' and Chillin,' create crowded streets in Old Town and residents have trouble getting out of their driveways. Does the council have a plan to provide parking for such events?

Thom Bogue will write an occasional column "Thom Playground". Thom has lots on his plate, too, but will occasionally write about issues that he and fellow citizens consider important. Thom's previous experience as an elected official will allow him to bring important issues to you.

Shirley will invite the Solano Taxpayers to bring to you issues that are important to local citizens. In addition, we are in talks with a couple of other residents about writing columns so expect a number of writers to weigh in their opinions and expertise. If you are interested in participating, let Shirley know.

Loran will be contributing to the last issue of each month focusing on local and community events and activities, including Dixon History Museum exhibits, featured artists, 'Meet the Authors,' Sunday speakers at the museum, and other local entertaining venues.

We would like to hear from you. You can email any one of the Conversations team through the IV. The e-mail address is Debra@IndependentVoice.com. ★



## Riley Reviews

"TOMORROW WAR" BATTLE TO SAVE EARTH; CBS FALL TV PREVIEW

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

### "THE TOMORROW WAR" RATED PG-13 on AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

While the fare at movie theaters hasn't quite returned to what it used to be, at least there is the alternative of your own home cinema with streaming services.

Amazon Prime Video offers up in "The Tomorrow War" the type of entertainment that would appear at the multiplex. In the hero role as Dan Forester, Chris Pratt's is an ex-military guy unwillingly conscripted into a global war against alien species.

In the press notes, Pratt is quoted as saying "making a film where I get to fight aliens and save the world while cracking the occasional joke is right in my wheelhouse."

During a televised World Cup soccer game, time-traveling soldiers from the year 2051 appear on the field with an urgent message that thirty years from now mankind faces extinction unless more citizens get transported to the future to fight aliens known as "white spikes."

Having to leave behind his wife (Betty Gilpin) and their young daughter, Forester along with draftees that include Charlie (Sam Richardson) and Norah (Mary Lynn Rajsckub) are shuttled to post-apocalyptic Miami Beach for an apparent suicide mission.

The fast-moving "white spikes," armed with tentacles and rotting teeth, are ravenous creatures with an insatiable taste for human flesh. Scores of humans fall prey to aliens that are hard to kill.

Leader of the mission is a brilliant female scientist code-named Romeo Command (Yvonne Strahovski), who is revealed to have a connection with Forester's present. Let's just say there is an emotional element to the story for touching character development.

The political equation is fairly absent from the story unless you count Forester's estranged father (J.K. Simmons) cracking wise of reporting the alien threat to "the U.N. and they can talk about it till we're all dead."

As a reluctant warrior, Sam Richardson is a delight for his comic wisecracks, and the likable Chris Pratt's science teacher and devoted family man seems like the right man, with the help of a diverse group of draftees, to save humanity.

Who really cares if the premise of "The Tomorrow War" is far-fetched or cheesy? We come for the sci-fi thriller action of the fierce, the violent battle with slimy aliens, and are not surprised with the outcome.

### CBS FALL TV PREVIEW

Legendary producer Dick Wolf may be the undisputed king of network television programming. Not satisfied with two full nights on the NBC fall schedule, Wolf is going for the trifecta by taking over

Tuesday nights for CBS this coming fall. NBC has Wolf's "Law & Order" and "Chicago" series completing the lineup for Wednesday and Thursday nights, and now with CBS having Wolf's "FBI" franchise taking over the entire Tuesday night, what's left is to conquer Monday and Friday nights.

"FBI: International" takes the successful brand to follow elite operatives of the Bureau headquartered in Prague as they travel the world with the mission of tracking and neutralizing threats against American citizens.

Not allowed to carry guns, the international team of agents must rely on intelligence, quick thinking and brawn as they put their lives on the line. This new series will be bracketed by "FBI" and "FBI: Most Wanted," creating a nice bridge to shore up the evening.

Another new drama that has its own franchise is "NCIS: Hawaii," where Vanessa Lachey's Jane Tennant, the first female Special Agent in Charge of NCIS Pearl Harbor, has thrived and risen through the ranks by equal parts confidence and strategy in a system that pushed back.

With an unwavering team of specialists, Tennant's crew balance duty to family and country while investigating high-stakes crimes involving military personnel, national security and the mysteries of the sun-drenched island paradise itself.

There seems to be no end to crime drama franchises, and as if to prove the point, "CSI: Las Vegas" in another entry into the sweepstakes with "CSI" opening a new chapter in Sin City, a good a place as any to deploy the latest forensic techniques to preserve and serve justice.

A new team of investigators led by Maxine Roby (Paula Newsome) must enlist the help of old friends, Gil Grissom (William Petersen), Sara Sidle (Jorja Fox) and David Hodges (Wallace Langham). Matt Lauria and Mel Rodriguez also star.

"Ghosts," a single-camera comedy about cheerful freelance journalist Samantha (Rose McIver) and up-and-coming chef Jay (Utkarsh Ambudkar), who throw caution and money to the wind when the decide to convert a huge run-down country estate they inherited into a bed-and-breakfast.

The problem is that they find the place is inhabited by the many spirits of deceased residents who now call it home. The departed souls are a close-knit, electric group that experience anxiety when they realize Samantha is the first live person who can see and hear them.

The colorful spirits include a saucy Prohibition-era lounge singer, a pompous 1700s militiaman, a '60s hippie fond of hallucinogens, a cod-obsessed Viking explorer from 1009, and a sarcastic and witty Native from the 1500s, among others. ★



## Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

### Look in the Mirror



If you want to see who is responsible for your life then look in the mirror. You are not a victim. You are in control of your thoughts, emotions, and actions. If you don't take active control of your life, you are allowing other people and circumstances to make decisions for you.

Life isn't always fair. Unanticipated circumstances occur. Adversity, challenges, problems, and obstacles occur. Although you can't control external situations, your response is up to you. You decide how you handle your circumstances.

Taking control of your life is more satisfying and requires less effort than constantly struggling in reaction to what's happening. It's the difference between being proactive vs. reactive. Taking the initiative to get where you want to be puts you in the driver's seat.

Eliminate excuses. Excuses are a roadblock. Don't waste time justifying why you can't, or won't be able to accomplish your objective. Instead, formulate reasons to succeed. Every problem has a solution. There is a way around each obstacle. Any challenge can be overcome.

Don't blame other people or circumstances for your situation. You have free will to choose who you associate with, along with the circumstances you involve yourself with. You can say NO to anything or anyone that is a negative influence.

Stop procrastinating. Don't wait for something to happen, make it happen. Make positive decisions. Only by taking action are you able to steer your life in your desired direction. A passive approach leaves you drifting aimlessly.

Stop worrying. Worry drains your energy with nothing to show for it. You can't control other people or circumstances. The past is over. Replace worry with action. What you do today prepares you for tomorrow, so focus on the present.

When you look in the mirror you see who is responsible for solving your problems. Issues which are ignored tend to worsen. The best time to solve a problem is as soon as it's identified. Small problems are easier to fix. As soon as a problem is recognized, concentrate on solving it.

Don't waste any time complaining about a problem. Complaints drain your energy with no positive results. If you need assistance with a problem, turn to those who have successfully solved a similar problem. Following bad advice accelerates the worsening of your problem. Looking for sympathy accomplishes nothing.

Attempting to run away from, or hide from your problems doesn't work. Your problems follow the person you see in the mirror. They go wherever you go. Start fixing your problems right now, wherever you are.

Your perception is your

reality. How do you see the person in the mirror? Do you see someone in charge of their life, or do you see a victim? Do you see a problem solver, or do you see a problem creator? Do you see a happy person, or someone who is miserable? Changing your perception is key to changing your direction. Your mind follows your self-image.

Look for the best in yourself and your circumstances. Be solution oriented, not problem oriented. You always have a choice as to what path you take. You are in control of your thoughts and emotions.

Don't get offended by the actions of others and don't take things personally. You have no control over what others say, think, or do. You do have control over your response. You are in charge of your emotions.

The person you see in the mirror has control of your life. You determine your thoughts, emotions, and actions. You have free will to make any changes you desire. You are in charge. Use this responsibility to shape your life in the way you desire.

**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@columbianist.com](mailto:bryan@columbianist.com) or write him c/o this paper. © 2021 Bryan Golden ★



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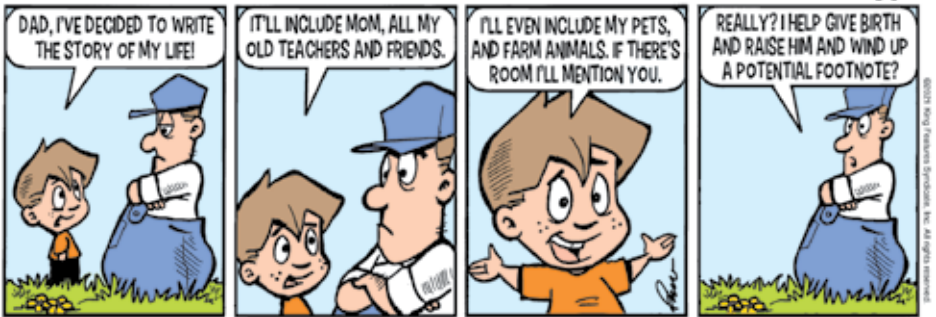
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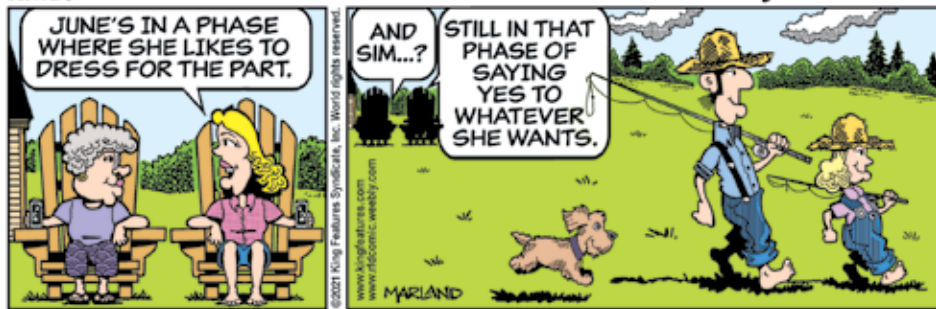
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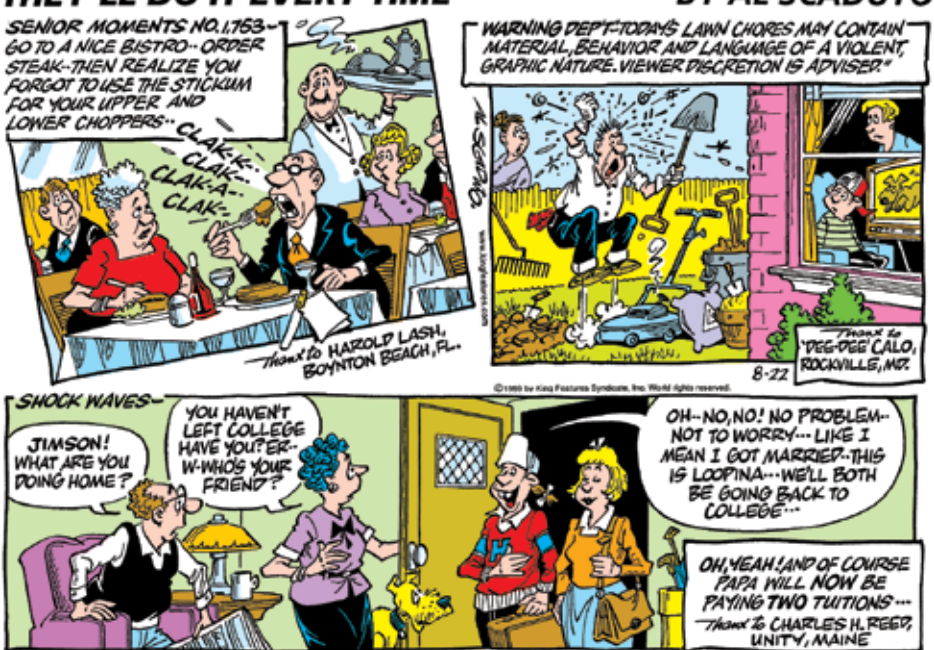
R.F.D.



The Spats



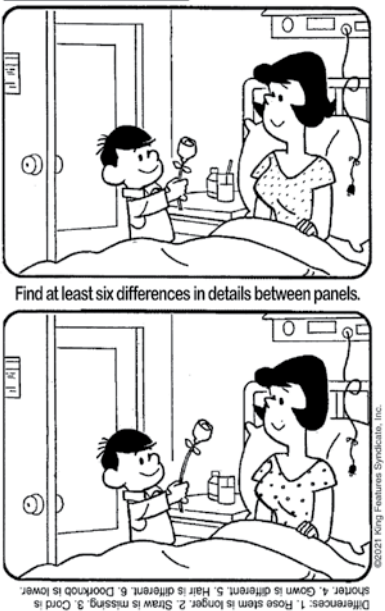
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Food Pantry Feels the Love

Committee Approves Sen. Dodd’s Disaster Preparedness Bills



The Dixon Boy Scouts annual 'Scouting for Food' program canvassed the community for donations and made it one of their biggest years to help Dixon Family Services pack its food pantry. Photo by Cookie Powell

By Cookie Powell,  
Dixon Family Services

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The first half of 2021 has already passed and the giving continues, as the needs in many Dixon households continue to increase. We had a Drive up Groceries and Diapers distribution on July 14. Our pantry is stocked thanks to several spring food drives and donations specifically for our Food Pantry including the Dixon United Methodist Church Food Drive which brought in three SUVs full of non-perishable foods and the Dixon Scouts as well.

Another constant source of support for Dixon Family Services and the DFS Food Pantry is The Church of Saint Martin in Davis. They don't do a big concentrated "food event" but they offer monetary support with their annual Mathew 25 funds and the Episcopalians bring non-perishable food to services each week. Volunteers have delivered the food donations to us regularly for many years. Long-time St. Martin volunteer and Dixon resident, Jerry Hulbert, and I lamented early in the pandemic that donations would undoubtedly go down. Again, that was not the case. Parishioners have been more determined throughout all the months of the pandemic in their support of the DFS Food Pantry to assist in feeding the hungry and serving the poor. We see Jerry about every 2 or 3 weeks when he brings his car full of food from Saint Martin's.

Ron Turner of the 100 Club of Solano and Yolo contacted me in the spring to say that his organization wanted to donate \$2,000 to the Dixon Family Services Food Pantry. He wanted to involve Dixon Grocery Outlet too because the club appreciates how much all local Grocery Outlet owners get involved in and help out in their communities. With the donation we agreed that purchasing Grocery Outlet gift cards would be a wonderful addition to our supplemental grocery bags so that people could go there and purchase things we cannot provide, such as milk, meat and other items that are not shelf-safe. So, until they are gone, our grocery bags will also include gift cards to be used at Dixon's Grocery Outlet.

Then, in June, Joe Bruch of Grocery Outlet let me know about the event they planned for the month of July, 'Independence from Hunger'. They are raising dollars and groceries for the DFS Food Pantry and for Cornerstone Church Food Pantry. People can donate \$5 and get a coupon that is good for \$5 off at a future time, purchase an already-filled grocery bag for \$10, round up your purchase amount, or donate a dollar or more. Each dollar they raise will be matched by Grocery Outlet. Dixon Family Services encourages everyone to shop at Grocery Outlet. We thank the owners, Joe and Christa Bruch, who are new to Dixon but who are very involved already and are really interested in making a difference for Dixon.



Bill Dodd

By Paul Payne,  
WW

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With wildfire season off to an early start, a pair of bills advanced today from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that would help local government deal with preemptive electric power shutoffs and create a new office to foster emergency equipment innovation.

"The wildfire threat is not going away and we must take decisive action to protect life and property," Sen. Dodd said. "The passage of these bills ensures our communities have adequate resources to respond when power is turned off and that we are working on new and

better ways to prevent and respond to wildfire. I thank committee members for seeing the value in these proposals and look forward to approval by both houses of the Legislature."

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.

SB 109 Creates the Office of Emergency Technology Research and Development to

study, produce and test new equipment to battle wildfires and other emergencies. Public, private and non-profit organizations and companies would join forces and become a state hub for firefighting advancements. SB 109 is supported by numerous groups including the California Fire Chiefs Association, the League of California Cities, Breathe California and the counties of Napa and Yolo.

Both bills passed the Assembly Utilities and Energy committee today with overwhelming support after previously being approved by the full Senate. SB 52 heads to the Assembly floor and SB 109 goes to Assembly Appropriations.

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Yolo, Sonoma, Solano, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties. More information on Senator Bill Dodd can be found at [www.senate.ca.gov/dodd](http://www.senate.ca.gov/dodd).

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TYPE OF SOURCE	WHAT TO DO...
Leaking faucets and broken pipes:	Repair or replace defective parts immediately.
Water under buildings:	Install sump pump and provide drainage if possible.
Roof gutters:	Maintain roof gutters and down spouts clear of debris.
Septic tanks:	Seal and cover all openings and screen vents.
Impounded water:	Fill if possible or provide adequate drainage.
Flower pots:	Drain-off excess water or invert if not in use.
Swimming pools & Hot tubs:	Use filter and skimmer daily to remove egg rafts and larvae. Chlorine will not kill mosquito larvae. Provide drainage for filter and sump pumps. When not in use, cover tightly.
Wading pools:	Change water weekly. When not in use turn upside down.
Swimming pool covers:	Tighten cover to prevent sagging.
Ornamental ponds:	Stock with mosquito fish and remove excess vegetation such as leaves, and thin pond lilies occasionally. Maintain even water level. Screen inlet on recirculation pump. When cleaning pond, transfer to glass bowl - chlorine kills fish. If pond is no longer desired, make holes in bottom and fill with dirt or sand.
Bird baths:	Change water frequently, preferably every 2-3 days
Lawns:	Avoid over watering.
Tree holes:	Fill with a polymer such as Soil Moist or Broadleaf P4 granules which absorb water - can last for years, available at garden supply stores, sand or dirt, drain if possible - when in doubt, call a tree surgeon.
Water troughs:	Change water weekly or stock with mosquito fish.
Boats:	Use a water tight cover or store upside down.
Containers:	Dispose of all unused containers that can collect rain or irrigation water such as tin cans, jars, barrels, buckets, old tires and tubs. Gardening containers such as vases and buckets should be stored upside down.

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