

Graduation 2021

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE



Dixon Independent Voice

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INSIDE

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Step into Dixon History

Downtown Museum in the Making since the 1960s



Above: Museum Director Gary Erwin cuts the Chamber of Commerce Welcome Ribbon. Right: Jewel Fink discovers museum mementos such as engraved glasses, cups, calendars, and hats to purchase. Photos by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Nearly 100 people came out for the grand opening of the Dixon History Museum and were welcomed by a very proud and happy group of people in black polo shirts; volunteers who have nearly abandoned spouses, families and television for the past four months united in the effort to bring Dixon a view of its rich history.

But, the last four months were just a small part of many years working toward this goal.

It started in the 1960s with the librarian wanting to create an archive and there were volunteers who helped

out here and there but about four years later, a group was formed with a goal of creating a museum. They knew museums enrich small communities and help educate through exhibits, programs, and archives. They knew museums, like libraries, provide free and low-cost experiences for children and adults.

"We thank the many visionaries who once believed this day would come - who were the driving force behind the creation of

Dixon's History Museum," read the program message from Museum Director Gary Erwin.

"When I first started learning about the history of Dixon, I joined the Historical Society and became

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Graduates Invited to Celebrate Safely

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Thanks to Sober Grad Night, the ultimate graduation party, Dixon High School seniors can celebrate with the most fun a student might be able to have after a year of missing out on friends due to the Coronavirus. It will be held at the school auditorium and outdoors in the quad from 8 pm Saturday, June 12 to 1 am Sunday, June 13.

"It will be fun to just meet up with all the rest of the students together," said senior Tyler Hickerson who is planning to attend and was happy to learn he could buy a ticket at the door. Hickerson said he hasn't seen most of the students in his class this year.

"My largest class has only seven students," he said despite returning to on-campus learning.

That's why the Sober Grad team prepared and planned throughout the year to make the celebration spectacular... and safe. It offers top-notch entertainment, great food, exciting prizes including cash, a fun casino and lots of interactive games and activities including Minute-to-Win-It, Boxer Bingo and a rock wall.

"It's been a group effort," said Jennifer Lee, a Sober Grad Night Committee member. "We've had to pivot the last two years between getting the grads gift cards in 2020 to being mostly outdoors this year, but we are able to do this because of community support."

Dutch Brothers is donating coffee drinks, Solano Baking Company is donating donuts, Rotary Club is going to cook breakfast from 11 am to midnight, and Safeway helped with gift cards just to name a few contributions, she said.

The event is organized by a team of six women with four of those women who no longer have students in school. And, it takes about 25 to 50 volunteers throughout the evening to handle the various activities.

Last year, there were nearly 100 students; almost half of the graduating class. Dixon High has approximately 220 graduates this year which you can see in this edition's special section. The Sober Grad volunteers are hoping most students attend the bash.

"I have a senior and I'm so excited he's going to get this. It's a great way to celebrate!" Lee said. "We want to give these students a party. They've earned it and they deserve it." That graduate might also win a \$500 Visa Gift Card just by showing up. Tickets are \$40 and there are scholarships available. For more information, go to <https://dixongradnight2021.eventbrite.com> or call Dixon High School at (707) 693-6330. ★

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Coming in Strong for Dixon's Post 208

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The American Legion Post 208 will officially be led with a strong arm. Literally, thanks to the newly installed Post Commander Robert Strong, a Dixonite since 1997 and U.S. Air Force veteran who was installed this past week in an official ceremony with numerous other leaders.

The ceremony led by Norm Shontz, reminded officers that "there is no rank among us" and recited the oath that all agreed: "I am not a member or affiliated in any way with any group opposed to our government."

Strong is a huge Raiders fan and loves motorcycles, he said, both interests shared by former Commander Greg Coppes, now deceased, who influenced Strong into Dixon's Post about nine years ago. He was drawn by the organization's activities they do for outreach, he said, especially the Veterans Stand Down.

He's a member of the



Newly installed for American Legion Post 208: (L-R) Adjutant Maggie Lovejoy; Women's Auxiliary 1st Vice President Leah Marlin; Finance Officer Wayne Holland; Teacher of Democracy Greg Young; President of the Women's Auxiliary, Pat Holland; ALP Commander Robert Strong; Women's Auxiliary Sergeant at Arms Martina Morgan; Chaplain Roger Schaller; Women's Auxiliary Secretary Lynne Schaller; Women's Auxiliary Carla Schafer; Judge Advocate Nelson Reyes; and Sergeant at Arms Dean Manley. Photo by Debra Dingman

Napa Solano Veteran Riders, participates in fundraisers such as the annual fireworks booth, and enjoys the camaraderie built at the Friday night dinners.

"My goals are to get this facility up to par and get more young active military members coming to enjoy the place," Strong said. He's the father of two

grown children, one an Eagle Scout.

"He met the one requirement we have for leadership: He wanted to be the Commander," said former Post Commander Wayne Holland with a big laugh. "I'm all for [his goals]. We can grow our post and put some new blood and youth in our post

because we are growing older."

Strong, who works full time for an insurance company, is looking into what kind of events might draw the community into the facility that rents out and helps support veterans activities.

The hall suffered

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A Message for the Graduates

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Another year of Dixon High School and Maine Prairie graduates turned loose to be the economic engines of Solano County. Congratulations! I want to point out that if my memory serves me correctly, this is the first time all the graduates from both Dixon High School and from Maine Prairie High School are pictured in full color in a Dixon newspaper—and it's our newspaper!

Working with Principal Stephanie Marquez, Dixon High School Yearbook Advisor Nick Stidham, and a little help from graduating seniors Kyla Maghoney and Haley Scott to proof names, we present to you in today's newspaper the graduating classes of Dixon.

My prayers are that after the dust settles from celebrations, our grads will go out and get further educated or get trained in skills to best their earning potential and serve our citizens.

I see a view that looks promising and there is no better time than now.

My strong advice to

students who take the time to read this column in print or online: No need for mind-numbing anything, be it drugs or alcohol. If you ever start to feel sad, lost, out of purpose, etc., go volunteer holding crack babies in the hospital. God only gives us one brain and one body so please take care of it for the sake of my insurance rates. Don't abuse yourself as you are going to need your whole self for the (more often than not) long haul.

At my 10-year-class reunion planning meeting, there was a young handsome man that I had remembered for being "hot" and girls swooned over him. He had thick brown hair and dark eyes. He was a little on the shy side but hung out with all the popular sports guys. I knew he was a skilled basketball player on the varsity team because I was one of the scorekeepers and I thought he was kind.

But, at the meetings, I noticed he acted strange, and I couldn't understand him. When he talked, nothing made sense and at first, I thought he was joking around but no one laughed.

I honestly didn't know what to make of the situation so after the second meeting with him present, I called one of the other women, a popular former cheerleader, to ask about his story. She told me that he had done drugs and "fried his brain."

People laugh when they hear parents tell their students, "Make smart decisions," but REALLY, please make smart decisions! And, one of those would be to read *What Now? Words of Wisdom for Life after Graduation* by former Dixon High School English teacher Jennifer Leigh Selig who was a DHS favorite and gave the commencement speech in 1997. It was the most moving speech I ever heard. You could have heard a pin drop on that bright Saturday morning. Her story starts on page 39. If you have a student, or are a student, please get it from the library or buy it as a gift and READ it.

From all of us at Messenger Publishing Group and at the Dixon Independent Voice – best wishes in all your future endeavors! ★

Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

Sherrie Retires



Sherrie Garrison has served sweetness for 17 years at Solano Baking Company. Photo by Debra Digmam

Solano Baking Company has been more than a sweet treat stop for those who enjoy the delectable; it's been a pleasurable experience thanks to the 17 years of smiles and great customer service by Sherrie Garrison aka "Sherrie Berry," the assistant manager, said owner Kendra Benz. Kendra and all the staff got to send Sherrie off with a beautiful lei for her Hawaii trip, floral bouquets, and gifts plus many well wishes from customers who came in to bid her well in retirement.

"From 3am wake up calls to get donuts to where they needed to go, to delivering wedding cakes from Sacramento to Oakland and every place in between, for always striving to help us be our best us, being able to pivot and turn in a dime and down for whatever new recipe, idea, or plan that came your way, we thank you," Kendra posted to Sherrie on social media.

Sherrie was one to go the extra step including helping to build a giant Ginger

Bread House for the annual Kiwanis Festival of Trees and help organize food collections for the bakery. She will be missed much.

Business Development and Culture

Attention business owners: the Solano Small Business Development Center is holding a workshop on Inclusivity and Diversity Training on Wednesday, June 16 at 4 pm. Knowing how to build a diverse staff and create an inclusive environment is a critical success factor for new or existing businesses. Creating a corporate culture where all people are respected, heard and included has never been more urgent or important to your business's success.

Come find out how easy building a diverse and inclusive corporate culture can be. In this course we will learn: The Importance of Workplace Diversity; How to Create an Inclusive Work Environment; and, How to Internalize Diversity & Inclusion, Individual Self-Discovery

Join SBDC Inclusivity Project Advisor, Black Chamber of Commerce member, Johnicon George for this insightful event. Call (707) 646-1071 for more information.

Floral Arranging

Summer is coming and the staff at the Barn and Pantry at 151 West A Street are happy to have classes back on the slate for summer fun. Next up is floral arranging. Reserve your spot at their first event of the year. The class is offered June 12 and June 19. Visit [SACBREWSANDBLOOMS.COM](https://www.facebook.com/SACBREWSANDBLOOMS.COM) for more info and to get signed up or call (707) 640-0036. ★

Coming in Strong for Dixon's Post 208

Continued from page 1

significant financial losses this past year when the pandemic shut down their main income stream which was hall rental for quinceañeras and weddings. The veteran's popular Friday night dinners serve as a social connection for the community but are also fundraisers and feature Roger Schaller's live music. The menu changes each week and costs only \$10 except for the steak dinner which is \$17.

The American Legion Post 208 is part of the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization that was chartered by Congress

in 1919 committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

Active or retired military interested in joining are invited to attend meetings held every first Wed of the month at 7 pm at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street across from DuPratt Ford. For more information, call (707) 678-6308. Or, for hall rental information, call Holland at (707) 301-0941 or email alpost208@aol.com. ★



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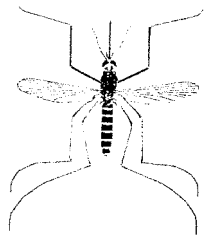
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TYPE OF SOURCE	WHAT TO DO...
Leaking faucets and broken pipes:	Repair or replace defective parts immediately.
Water under buildings:	Install sump pump and provide drainage if possible.
Roof gutters:	Maintain roof gutters and down spouts clear of debris.
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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Step into Dixon History

Chief: Laguna Was Not a Good Fit

Continued from page 1
fundraising chair,” said Mary Savage, one of those people. “We did pretty good. We had a book sale, a big rummage sale, other garage sales, and an open house tour.”

“We had buildings in mind a couple times, including the train depot, and asked the City for [financial help] but the city had never been supportive of these kinds of things,” she said.

Bill Schroeder, President since 2014 and 5th generation of the Dixon/Silveyville area, even had his eye on the historical Pacific Ice Coast building they have now rented but it was being used by a successful Barn and Pantry Coffee Shop at the time. It was serendipity that the building became available when a benefactor provided a substantial financial gift.

The band of volunteers comprised long-time Dixonites, retired professionals, and a highly-skilled university intern laid out a business plan and signed the lease. As word spread that the years of dedicated work were coming to fruition, the enthusiasm also spread.

At their opening ceremony, not only was there a commendation by Congressman John Garamendi’s office, there were also Dixon’s Mayor and Councilmen taking pictures in front of the open doors and the large gold scissors from the Dixon Chamber of Commerce were held by Erwin to cut the long, red welcome ribbon.

There was simple bluegrass music provided by a



Bill Fairfield, long-time Dixon Fire Chief (left), reminisces to a crowd of about 100 people who gathered to mark the grand opening of the Dixon History Museum. Photos by Debra Dingman

couple called the Pleasant Valley Boys and a huge, covered wagon brought in that was similar to the ones pulled by oxen—not horses like in the movies—that crossed over the California Sierras into Sacramento, explained Schroeder.

“It cost \$65 for two oxen and you sold them in California for \$200 after you got here,” he said. “Mules were faster but Oxen would pull a wagon without wheels.”

Bill Fairfield, 95, a long-time Dixon Fire Chief and member of the Phirehouse Philharmonics addressed the audience in a crisp shirt, hat and sunglasses on the bright sunny morning under the shade of a First Northern Bank umbrella. He told of the fires that devastated downtown and some of his favorite memories including working at the Ice House when he was in high school. He said he thought that was the best job to avoid the summer heat but soon learned differently when he had to load ice into box cars.

Inside the museum was a plethora of artifacts like an old spinning wheel, quilt, and sewing tools, a kitchen display with antique dishes and tools, a

sailor’s uniform with military pictures, a school display with desks, books, and toys from the past – so much to peruse and study.

“I love this stuff and I love this town,” enthused Derek Roediger, 40, who attended with his Dad, an artist whose work was on display there. “I have so many great memories of growing up here. It was like a living movie set where you and your friends all rode your bikes down to Frosty’s and the universe was stored inside Robben’s [Department Store.]”

Loran Hoffmann, 1st Vice President, assured the audience that there would always be something new to see so plan on returning frequently she said. They also plan to bring in speakers and will offer special events.

The new museum is located at 125 West A Street in between Bud’s Pub & Grill and Frosty’s. It is open 10 am to 3 pm Tuesdays through Saturdays. Admission is free, but donations and memberships of \$25 are encouraged. For more information, see their website at DixonHistoricalSociety.org. ★

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - “If you make a wrong turn, you don’t keep going,” said Dixon Police Chief Robert Thompson who is back at the helm after five months as Laguna Beach Chief of Police. “It was not a good fit and I chose to come back.”

The Chief left Dixon at the start of the New Year to take the Chief post in Laguna Beach, a small coastal community exactly the same size as Dixon. He was selected from a candidate pool of about 47 applicants, only 10 of which went on to a panel interview of professionals and city executives.

Thompson said his move to Laguna Beach came when faced with several complications in the family schedule including a 400-mile commute for his wife, college in southern California for their 19-year-old daughter, and childcare for their 5-year-old son. It was supposed to work but Thompson soon discovered an “incompatible management style” and said that “things are so different down there.” The couple are working on a new plan that includes Dixon.

“This was not planned at all. It is serendipity,” said Thompson. “I’m proud that I’m here and can hit the ground running. We are in a period of exceptional growth.”

Brian Greip, representing the Laguna Beach Employees Executive Board, commended Thompson’s work:

“In his short time here, Chief Thompson recognized several issues and worked tirelessly to address them one by one,” the statement said. “Change is difficult, but sometimes it is necessary



Chief Robert Thompson said it was a stroke of serendipity that enabled him to return to Dixon and run the Dixon Police Department again. Photo by Debra Dingman

for the benefit of all. Under Chief Thompson’s leadership, employee morale has vastly improved, productivity and efficiency have increased dramatically, and we are on route to becoming the world-class police department that our citizens deserve.”

“Things have changed,” said Mayor Steve Bird. “He left his Dixon department in wonderful shape and from what he left behind, it’s even a better scenario for him coming back. He’s the maestro!”

Thompson was first hired in Dixon in March of 2017 after spending 15 years in the Sacramento Federal Bureau of Investigation after starting his police officer career with the St. Louis Police Department in 1994. He immediately rolled up his sleeves after Dixon had experienced a long absence after Chief Jon Cox.

He hired almost everyone in the department and the department “underwent an evolution from the ground up,” he said. Over the three and a half years he was here, there were protocols set, updated equipment purchased including body cams, and he improved all

levels of technology and accountability.

“We embraced a whole series of initiatives and it was exhausting but we won the race,” he said in a DIV article about his departure. “There is not a thing we did not touch. We have systems in place for tracing, built the fence, brought in a resource school officer, a canine patrol, created a completely paperless reporting system, and brought in a motorcycle. I’m very confident that we are well-positioned for the future. We have the right people in the right places.”

It is no wonder that City Manager Jim Lindley, who was still in the throes of filling the very spot Thompson had vacated, happily announced the news that the Chief was being reinstated.

“I am extremely pleased to announce the return of Chief Thompson,” he said in a news release. “He is a true leader, deeply respected by our police officers and truly appreciated by our community.”

Dixon Mayor Bird agrees. “He was a wonderful Chief and I’ve worked with many Chiefs over the years,” he said. “I can tell you he’s the cream of the crop.” ★



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Bank Signing Congratulates 2021 Graduates



Mary Sand from Sacramento paints Dixon High School's mascot on the windows of First Northern Bank in downtown Dixon last week to show the company's community spirit in congratulating 2021 graduates. Photo by Debra Dingman

Delicious Organic Ice Cream

Get the Scoop!

Lohit Garikipati is happy to announce that The Good Scoop and Mother House Plant Boutique have partnered to bring the delicious, organic ice cream to downtown Dixon via offering it inside their plant store at 350 West A Street right across from the railroad tracks in Dixon. The store is open Wednesday through Sunday 10 am to 5 pm. All the rest of the time, you can purchase Good Scoop Ice Cream at 1160 Pitt School Road in the Safeway Shopping Plaza Tuesday through Sunday, 4 to 9 pm. Photo by Debra Dingman



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Board Seeks Member of the Public to Appoint to the Solano Consolidated Oversight Board

Solano County Press Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Solano County Board of Supervisors seeks a member of the public to appoint to the Solano County Consolidated Oversight Board, a seven-member body that oversees the activities of the six redevelopment successor agencies in Solano County.

The appointed individual will play a critical role in the oversight and winding down of the six redevelopment successor agencies in Solano County, including the cities of Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville and Vallejo. The board is responsible for approving actions by the successor agencies which include establishing new repayment terms for outstanding loans, refunding outstanding bonds or debts, merging of project areas, setting aside reserves, continuing the acceptance of federal and state grant funds, compensation agreements with taxing entities, establishment of the Recognized Obligation Payment Schedule and approval of the administrative budget of the successor agencies.

The Solano Consolidated Oversight Board consists of seven members, including one member appointed by the Solano County Board of Supervisors, one member appointed by the City Selection Committee, one member appointed by the Independent Special District Selection Committee, one member appointed by the Superintendent of Education, one member appointed by the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges,

one member of the public appointed by the Solano County Board of Supervisors and one member appointed by the recognized employee organization representing the largest number of successor agency employees in the County.

The Solano Consolidated Oversight Board meets every second Thursday of the month at 9 a.m. in the Board Chambers at the County Administration Center, located at 675 Texas Street in Fairfield. Board members serve without compensation and reimbursement for expenses, and the board remains established until the six successor agencies have been formally dissolved.

To Apply:

To apply to the Solano Consolidated Oversight Board, visit the Solano County website at www.SolanoCounty.com. Click on the "Departments" button and navigate to the "Clerk of the Board." On the Clerk of the Board page, click the "Advisory Boards and Committees" link under the Options Menu. Click on the "Online Application" to apply online or download the PDF application to mail or drop off.

Appointment Process:

The Solano County Board of Supervisors will review the applications submitted for the Solano Consolidated Oversight Board and approve a member at an upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting.

For More Information:

Contact the Solano County Clerk of the Board at (707) 784-6100 and at Clerk@SolanoCounty.com. ★

Solano County Grand Jury Issues Report

By Cheryl D. Clower,
Solano County Grand Jury

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) -The 2020-2021 Solano County Civil Grand Jury has released the following reports entitled: COVID-19: Resident Safety in Nursing Homes; City of Vacaville Unfunded Liabilities: Pensions and Other Post-Employment Benefits; Solano County Family Justice Center Revisited.

The Solano County Civil Grand Jury is an investigatory body and part of the

judicial branch of government. The results of Grand Jury investigations are reported to public officials and to the general public through written reports, which contain the Jury's findings and recommendations. Public officials are required to respond to Grand Jury findings and recommendations within 60 or 90 days.

These reports are available on the Grand Jury website, which may be accessed at www.solano.courts.ca.gov by clicking on "Grand Jury", then "Reports & Responses." ★

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Can California Shut Down Failed Projects?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

We human beings hate to admit failure. Even though our brains may know when some endeavor has failed, our emotions and our egos may drive us to continue trying to make it work. Indeed, the syndrome has developed its own linguistic phrases, such as “throwing good money after bad,” or “sunk costs,” or “cutting our losses.” Private businesses are usually – but not always – willing to shut down or sell off ventures that don’t pan out. Ford Motor Co. famously jettisoned the Edsel, a car named after the beloved son of founder Henry Ford, when the car failed to attract enough buyers. But the Boeing Co. stuck with an elongated version of its 737 jetliner even after two crashed and killed 346 people, and is still trying to make it acceptable. Government officials are generally less willing to admit failure, perhaps because, unlike business executives, they have no personal financial stakes in outcomes. Their guiding, albeit informal, rule is that launching new programs enhances one’s standing while shutting down those that fail just angers their stakeholders. California’s recent history

is replete with examples of programs and projects that deserved merciful deaths but have continued to soak up billions of dollars in taxpayer money. The woebegone bullet train project is the most spectacular. Voters were promised a statewide network of high-speed trains when they passed a \$9.95 billion bond issue in 2008. Thirteen years later, we have only a few concrete structures in the Fresno area — no track, no trains and no certain date when even a relatively short segment will be operative despite the many billions of dollars spent, or wasted, so far. It would take a book – a thick book – to fully describe all of the state government’s highly touted, very expensive digital information projects that have failed to deliver the promised benefits. While it lacks the scale of the bullet train and the failed information technology projects, Calbright may fall into the same category. It’s former Gov. Jerry Brown’s pet project – an online community college that would offer high-quality, low-cost instruction to help working Californians upgrade their job skills. Tens of millions of dollars have been sunk into Calbright over the past few years but it’s actually provided instruction only to a few dozen students — at an enormous per-student cost, of course. Last month, State Auditor Elaine Howle catalogued Calbright’s failures, declaring that “A primary reason...is that

its former executive team failed to develop and execute effective strategies for launching the college.” If Calbright doesn’t shape up by next year, Howle told the Legislature, it should be axed. Five days before Howle issued her report, the state Assembly voted unanimously for legislation that “makes the California Online Community College Act inoperative at the end of the 2022-23 academic year.” To be fair, the legislation, Assembly Bill 1432, does not merely reflect an unwillingness to continue a project that has fallen short of its lofty goals. The bill is sponsored by the union that represents faculty at the state’s 115 local community colleges and it opposed Calbright from the onset, fearing that it would undermine the existing system. However, Calbright’s obvious shortcomings made it vulnerable to a political death sentence. The fight over its fate now shifts to the state Senate, or perhaps will be decided when legislative leaders and Gov. Gavin Newsom negotiate a final 2021-22 budget deal behind closed doors this month. If Calbright is jettisoned, perhaps it would mark a new willingness to stop throwing good money after bad. Now how about that bullet train to nowhere? Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★

Solano County Launches MEHKO Program for Home Chefs

SBDC Press Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Home chefs will soon be able to operate a ‘mini-restaurant’ from their kitchens, as Solano County becomes one of only several counties in California to offer certification in Microenterprise Home Kitchen Operation. More commonly known as MEHKO, this permit will allow chefs to prepare, cook and serve food prepared in their home kitchen directly to consumers, either through delivery, take-out or dine-in at the house. Food must be cooked and served on the same day and approved MEHKO’s can serve up to 30 meals a day, or 60 meals per week. MEHKO was established in California in 2019, with the passage of AB 626. Chefs can participate in MEHKO if their county has opted into the program. Solano County began that process in early 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic put it on hold – until now. Solano County’s Board of Supervisors officially approved MEHKO in March. “I am thrilled to have this program in Solano County,” said Solano County Supervisor Monica Brown. “I believe the home kitchens will provide economic opportunities for our residents, particularly our military spouses at Travis Air Force Base. This program will not only help our entrepreneurs, but it will also provide better protection for customers as we provide oversight of home-based kitchens. It’s a win-win.” The MEHKO program also establishes regulations for home chefs, such as inspection and training requirements, that never existed in California until now. A MEHKO certification is one way a chef can show their business is operating safely and legally in their county. Prior to now, home-based food businesses have been able to obtain a county certification as a Cottage Food Operation. However, unlike a Cottage Food business, MEHKO kitchens are permitted to cook with potentially hazardous foods, such as milk, eggs, meat, poultry, fish and shellfish, and vegetables. Solano SBDC Director Tim Murrill has been following the progress of the MEHKO program since California legislatures approved the law in 2019. “This program is perfect for those who like to cook and have an entrepreneurial spirit but may not have the financial resources to start a restaurant or other food services business,” he said. “The Solano SBDC is committed to fully supporting anyone who decides to start a MEHKO business. We can assist clients with all aspects including the application process, food safety training, operational efficiencies, food costing, business planning, finding clients and more.” Solano County is now accepting applications for its MEHKO program. You can access the application and learn more about the program by searching for “MEHKO” on solanocounty.com. The Solano SBDC and the NorCal SBDC Restaurant Program are offering webinars introducing the program, the certification process, and requirements for the home chefs. The next webinar will be June 8 from 5:30 to 7 pm. Register at solanosbdc.org/calendar. The Solano SBDC offers free, individualized, and confidential one-on-one advising for existing businesses and start-ups with 500 or fewer employees. Business advisors are experienced in a variety of areas, including business plans, marketing, restaurant operations, finance, SBA loan programs, human resources, and retail. For further information on this press release, please contact Marketing Specialist Brianna Boyd at bboyd@solanowdb.org or (209) 814-4836 (cell) or SBDC Director Tim Murrill at tmurrill@solanowdb.org or (707) 863-3554. ★



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U.S. judge overturns California’s ban on assault weapons – California first restricted assault weapons in 1989, with multiple updates to the law since then. | 4 June 2021 | A federal judge has overturned California’s three-decade-old ban on assault weapons, ruling that it violates the constitutional right to bear arms. U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez of San Diego ruled Friday that the state’s definition of illegal military-style rifles unlawfully deprives law-abiding Californians of weapons commonly allowed in most other states.

Scientists race to rescue Western monarch butterflies after 99 percent of species is wiped out | 4 June 2021 | A coalition of conservation groups is working with the state of California in an effort to save the Western monarch butterfly from the brink of extinction. The population of Western monarchs that once migrated to California in the millions has seen a dramatic drop over the past several decades. The San Francisco Chronicle reports the population of Western monarchs has seen a 99 percent decline since the 1980s... In an attempt to save the monarchs, the Rivers Partners group and others are working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to plant more than 30,000 milkweed plants across more than 600 acres of the state with the hopes of bringing the insect’s numbers back, according to The San Francisco Chronicle.

Shocking study finds 10% of world’s giant sequoias killed by Castle Fire – Redwood forests are world’s most efficient way of removing and storing global warming causing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. | 2 June 2021 | (CA) What was once a lush forest is now a “moonscape.” At least a tenth of the world’s mature giant sequoias were destroyed by a single wildfire that tore through the southern Sierra Nevada late last year, according to a draft report prepared by scientists with the National Park Service and shared with the Visalia Times-Delta. The catastrophic discovery that forest managers called “mind-blowing” comes five months after firefighters contained the Castle Fire -- which scorched 175,000 acres across the Sequoia National Park and forest. Between 7,500 and 10,000 monarchs perished in the wildfire, which equates to 10% to 14% of the world’s mature giant sequoia population, the study found.

New Email Shows Dr. Fauci Was Told in Jan. 2020 the Coronavirus ‘Looked Engineered’ | 2 June 2021 | Despite the warnings, the US National Institute of Health (NIH) under Dr. Anthony Fauci awarded a \$3.7 million grant to the Wuhan lab studying the bat virus. This was after State Department warned about the risky tests going on in the lab... As Dr. Lawrence Sellin reported at The Gateway Pundit back in July 2020 – Dr. Peter Daszak, President of the EcoHealth Alliance and a long-time collaborator with the Wuhan Institute of Virology, presumably was referring to the **Ralph Baric- Zheng-Li Shi experiments**, stated “you can manipulate them in the lab pretty easily” inserting a spike protein “into a backbone of another virus.” And yet for over a year Dr. Anthony Fauci has vehemently denied the Wuhan coronavirus was man-made until last month when Dr. Fauci admitted it may have possibly been naturally occurring. On Tuesday emails from April 2020 were released via FOIA.

Fauci Colluded With Mark Zuckerberg on Facebook COVID-19 ‘Information Hub,’ Emails Show | 2 June 2021 | Dr. Anthony Fauci colluded with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg on distributing government-approved information on COVID-19 across the social media platform. In a series of March 2020 emails obtained by BuzzFeed News, Zuckerberg invited the infectious disease doctor to partake in the company’s newly developed informational program on the COVID-19 pandemic... In his response dated March 17, Fauci praised Zuckerberg’s planned COVID-19 information hub, while also expressing his willingness to cooperate with the tech giant. While the nature of Zuckerberg’s additional offer to Fauci remains unknown, the redactions in question are classified as a b(4) exemption under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which permits agencies to redact “trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person which is privileged or confidential.” ★

California Budget: Senator Dodd Responds to May Revise

By Paul Payne,
Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, issued the following statement upon the release of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s revised \$267.8 billion budget, which invests money from an unprecedented surplus in pandemic recovery while supporting essential services such as schools, drought relief and wildfire protection. “California is poised for rapid economic recovery as we invest in key areas including jobs creation, aid to working families and the reopening of our public school system,” Sen. Dodd said. Gov. Newsom’s budget is bolstered by a record \$100 billion surplus. These revenues form the basis of a strong COVID-19 recovery plan, which includes money for families and small business, leaving a historic \$24.4 billion reserve. Highlights include: **\$93 billion to K-12 education** for a record \$14,000 per pupil. Includes phase-in

of universal transitional kindergarten by 2023. **\$12 billion in tax rebates** to two-thirds of Californians. People earning up to \$75,000 a year will receive \$600 checks with an additional \$500 for families with children. **\$12 billion to address homelessness** and get 65,000 people off the streets. Supports projects Roomkey and Homekey. **\$6.2 billion tax cut to small businesses.** \$3.5 billion in new mental health housing and beds. **\$5.2 billion for rent relief** for low-income people. **\$5.1 billion in drought relief. \$2 billion in utilities and water debt relief.** Includes assistance sought under Sen. Dodd’s water access and equity bills, SB 222 and SB 223. **\$7 billion for broadband expansion.** Advances access consistent with Sen. Dodd’s SB 556 to help bridge the Digital Divide. **\$1.2 billion for wildfire prevention,** preparedness and response. Includes \$7.4 million for expansion of the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center created by Sen. Dodd’s SB 209 in 2019. ★

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If the subscribers have any questions on extracted historical articles, or Dixon history in general, these questions will be answered as research time permits." **hagavard@gmail.com.**



Yes, Democrats Should Fear the Crime Wave

On the anniversary of the death of George Floyd, dozens of gunshots rang out in the middle of the day at George Floyd Square in Minneapolis, forcing reporters and bystanders to duck and cover.

The symbolism was unmistakable – the year-long bout of protest after Floyd’s killing has coincided with a surge of urban crime that has made gun-play dismayingly common.

Indeed, the intersection where Floyd was killed, now a memorial blocked to vehicular traffic, has become a watchword for mayhem.

The issue of public safety may be about to play its most significant role in our politics since the mid-1990s, the beginning of a decades-long decline in crime that steadily eroded its political salience.

Donald Trump tried to make law and order a defining issue in 2020, but the rioting he so forcefully denounced was, in most places, too transitory to become an overwhelming issue.

Now, more than a year into a serious crime wave, Democrats are fooling themselves if they think they won’t be blamed for rising violence in Democratic-run cities.

Overall, murder increased by more than 25% in the

United States last year, the biggest jump in 60 years. Surely, the dislocations of the pandemic have been a factor, but it’s also obvious that anti-police agitation has put the cops on their back feet. Exhibit A is Minneapolis.

In the fevered aftermath of the Floyd killing, the City Council pledged to do away with the police department, among the most outlandishly unachievable and self-destructive promises ever made by an elected body. Of course, it couldn’t follow through on it any more than it could have followed through on a promise to eliminate traffic lights or municipal snow removal.

Still, cops have fled the force while crime has soared. The impeccably progressive mayor of Minneapolis, Jacob Frey, who desperately wanted to ingratiate himself at a tribunal-like anti-police rally last summer, but, to his credit, wouldn’t commit to defunding the police, now occasionally sounds like he’s channeling Rudy Giuliani circa 1993.

Another dyed-in-the-wool progressive, Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, faced with ongoing unrest that once was blamed on Trump, has called for the city’s residents to “take the city back,” and for unmasking, arresting and prosecuting rioters.

Los Angeles cut its police budget by 8% in the wake of the Floyd protests, and now is adding it right back. In South Los Angeles, the LAPD is increasing patrols and vehicle stops to search for guns and gang members.

Irving Kristol famously said a neoconservative is a liberal who has been mugged by reality. If

progressive politicians who are now sounding friendlier to the police haven’t been mugged, they at least have been alarmed by the sound of approaching gunfire.

The turnabout isn’t universal. White House press secretary Jen Psaki was asked the other day whether there’s a crime problem and, sounding as evasive as when she discusses the border, would only say there is a “guns problem.” This was a reference to the completely unconvincing argument that increased gun sales have led to the spike in crime when surges in gun sales since the mid-1990s never before led to higher crime.

The problem that Democrats have is that they have accepted – and celebrated – the people making a comprehensive case against the police as systematically racist.

This argument doesn’t naturally allow for nuance. In fact, it logically entails calling for fewer cops and less police funding, an agenda that will be hard to sell to most people in the best of circumstances but is toxic in an environment of rising crime.

Black Lives Matter has already been losing support in the polls, while trust in the police has been rising. Things would have to get much worse for crime to become as central an issue as it was in the 1970s. But Democrats who aren’t alarmed that reporters are dodging bullets at the George Floyd memorial are tempting political fate.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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A TV Review by Tim Riley

“FRIENDS: THE REUNION” ON HBO MAX

Running on NBC for ten seasons and a total of 236 episodes, “Friends” gained acclaimed as a sitcom about the lives of six close friends in their 20s and 30s living and working in Manhattan.

On HBO Max, the six primary cast members return after seventeen years for “Friends: The Reunion” for a real-life celebration of the beloved series and are joined by show creators David Crane and Marta Kauffman.

The series starred Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer. According to the credits, the reunion marks only the second time all of them have been together in one room since the series finale.

Moderated by late night talk show host James Corden (who incidentally really adds nothing of interest to the show by his lack of insightful questions), “Friends: The Reunion” is a nostalgia trip for the cast members.

In some respects, the reunion seems more like a nice payday for the primary cast members and those involved in the production rather than delivering incisive revelations. But then, it’s great to see the sets on Stage 24 recreated in all their glory with the apartments and Central Perk.

While the show creators dropped a few notable morsels about casting, one of the best disclosures was how Aniston and Perry were committed to other shows that flopped so promptly as to free them up for “Friends.”

The special cuts back and forth, often with jarring effect, from vintage clips to celebrity cameos (Tom Selleck notably for his role in the May-December romance with Cox’s Monica) to an array of spontaneous recollections from the cast.

Probably most revealing of all was Perry’s remembering that he felt like he was going to die if the audience didn’t laugh, noting that he would “sweat and just go into convulsions” if there was no laughter.

More casual television viewers may not be drawn to this reminiscence of the popular series. Devoted fans that connected with “Friends” will find delight in the show clips, bloopers and cameo appearances of characters from Maggie Wheeler’s Janice to James Michael Taylor’s Gunther.

As a demonstration of “Friends” global reach, one of the more interesting aspects of “The Reunion” had to do with earnest testimonials of avid fans from countries ranging from France to Ghana to Slovakia and elsewhere.

“Friends: The Reunion,” though it may shed not enough insights on happenings behind the scenes, is obviously geared to the passionate fan base that probably realizes a

Riley Reviews

“FRIENDS” TAKES A NOSTALGIC TRIP; OVATION TV PREVIEW

similar gathering won’t happen again any time soon.

OVATION TV PREVIEW

Ovation TV, America’s only arts network, is planning a summer of “Secrets & Crimes” with film and drama series pairings every Monday night. Episodes of “Street Legal,” “The Brokenwood Mysteries” and “Mystery Road” are part of the programming block.

The episodes are planned to air following a range of widely known films, such as “The Usual Suspects,” “The Bank Job,” “The Thomas Crown Affair” (hopefully the Steve McQueen original), “ Fargo,” and “Pulp Fiction,” to name a few.

A character-driven legal drama that follows the professional and private lives of a group of ambitious lawyers at a start-up firm in Toronto, “Street Legal” stars Cynthia Dale as Olivia Novak, now a named partner, who is deep into a massive class-action lawsuit.

Three tenacious young lawyers at a rival firm challenge Olivia and her usual methods. Cara Ricketts, Steve Lund and Yvonne Chapman have blind-sided Olivia by stealing her case right out from under her.

Crime apparently runs rampant in a small rural New Zealand town in “The Brokenwood Mysteries” series. Neill Rea’s Detective Inspector Mike Shepherd and partner Kristin Sims (Fern Sutherland) investigate the mystifying and macabre crimes that hit the town.

The first episode takes Shepherd on an investigation of the death of a local farmer found in a river, where he uncovers a family’s tragedies and secrets, and learns that Brokenwood is a place where shadows lurk just beneath the surface.

The Australian outback is the setting for the six-episode “Mystery Road” series. At the remote town of Patterson, Detective Jay Swan (Aaron Pederson) arrives to investigate a mysterious disappearance from a cattle station, thinking he’s got an easy three-day job.

But it soon becomes clear this is not a simple case. Jay now has to work with smart, tough local cop Emma James (Judy Davis). Born to a wealthy pastoral family and proud of her pioneering history, Emma’s life is embedded in the town, but she harbors her own secrets.

For a crime series, the “Mystery Road” has the feel of a soap opera, as the investigation uncovers a past injustice that threatens the fabric of the whole community. There’s also the tension that arises even between Jay and Emma trying hard to put their differences aside.

Both “Street Legal” and “The Brokenwood Mysteries” debut in June, with the former on Tuesday, June 8 and the latter on Tuesday, June 29. “Mystery Road” arrives late in the summer on Tuesday, August 24. ★



Deteriorating Pastures Force Ranchers to Reduce Herds

As pastures continue to dry out, dairy farmers and livestock ranchers say they may need to downsize their herds. Some have already done so. Along the North Coast, for example, ranchers say they must haul water and buy hay for their animals, because ponds and grasses won’t sustain them. The cost for such measures can prove prohibitive, forcing ranchers to sell animals earlier than they would prefer.

Water Shortages Affect Tomato Plantings

In the wake of water shortages, food processors have reduced the number of tomatoes they plan to buy from California farmers. A new government estimate says tomato acreage will be down nearly 4% from an original planting-intentions survey released in January. The report cites “concern over water availability” for the reduction. It says tomatoes that were planted have been “developing nicely,” and that the overall crop could still be larger than last year’s.


Home Improvements Drive Lumber Market

Demand for lumber products rose sharply during the pandemic and has remained high – and California timber operators say they’re still trying to catch up with the increased activity. People who stayed at home during the pandemic took on home repairs they had postponed earlier. Timber-market analysts say they expect that demand will continue for a few months, but may tail off as stay-at-home orders relax.

California Pear Crop Should Be Larger

Pear farmers expect the California harvest to begin in about a month, and say early prospects for the crop appear positive. The California Pear Advisory Board reports the crop should be “more plentiful than the last two years.” The board says farmers will wait until pears reach optimum maturity to begin harvest. The market outlook for the pear crop also appears positive, although the board expresses concern about South American imports. ★






**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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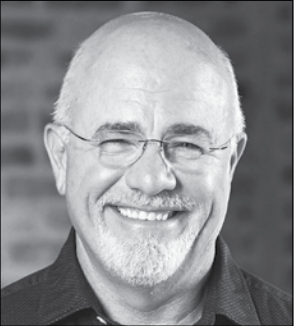
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Dave Ramsey Says

idea connected to something they enjoy and want others to experience. Often, that can grow into a job, and then maybe into a career – or even a business.

I think it takes a lot of time, reflection, insight, and self-evaluation before anything can be termed a calling. I know this is true in some cases, because that’s how it happened with me. I can’t honestly tell you that when I first started on radio, or began formally teaching and writing I knew it was God’s plan for my life. I knew early on I was drawn to it, and felt there was a need for it, but it took a while for me to understand and accept that it was what I was really meant to do.

I hope this helps a little bit, Tony. Just be honest

with yourself, think about it, and pray about it a lot, too. God wants what’s best for you, so make sure you include Him in everything. It worked for me. I’ve been doing what I do for nearly three decades now, and I still love it. I’m convinced that it is God’s calling on my life.

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

A Calling or a Job?

Dear Dave,
When it comes to your career and profession, how can you tell if you’ve truly found your calling in life?

–Tony
Dear Tony

I don’t think it’s common for most folks to feel like they’ve experienced some kind of grand revelation, and suddenly they know what they’re supposed to do with their lives. Personally, I believe this kind of thing usually starts out as an activity or



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Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

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

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. *Treble or bass ____

5. Pharaoh's cobra

8. *Zeus' sister and wife, and character in Broadway musical "Xanadu"

12. Hair-dwelling parasites

13. Quinceañera or bat mitzvah, e.g.

14. Puts money in the bank

15. Pearl Harbor locale

16. Flair

17. Inuit boat

18. *Record-holding musical for most awards received by a single production, with The 20. *Broadway hit "Jagged Little ____"

21. *Comment to the audience

22. Web address

23. ____'er ____, at the pump

26. Private chapel

30. Keats' poem

31. Quit

34. Medley

35. ____ or do nothing

37. Right-angle building extension

38. Razor nick

39. Like lemon

40. Make a choice

42. 1980s teen idol, Bobby

43. Give authority

45. Bias crime perpetrators

47. *Theater, e.g.

48. Cordial disposition

50. Surrender

52. *Non-musical with record number of Tony nominations

56. Shredded cabbage dishes

57. *Melpomene, e.g.

58. Just a little

59. Gold unit

60. Lodge fellows

61. "Game of Thrones" bastard

62. Without purpose

63. Past tense of "is"

64. Short-term employee

DOWN

1. Hoof sound

2. Yarn spinner

3. Canyon sound

4. Like medieval European society

5. Was sick

6. Fixed look

7. Montblanc and such

8. *Musical with record number of Tony nominations

9. Like most fairytales stepmothers

10. Madrid's Club de Fútbol

11. Pose a question

13. Chef's prescription

14. Toyota sports car model

19. Shylock's practice

22. Coffee pot

23. *Bob ____, choreographer with most Tony awards

24. *"Break a leg" or "have two left feet," e.g.

25. Reduce pressure (2 words)

26. Eye up and down

27. Mediterranean appetizer

28. Type of potato masher

29. Ox connectors

32. *Tiresias in "Oedipus Rex," e.g.

33. Feverish

36. *NYC district

38. Washington, e.g.

40. Sun's descent

41. Onion-like herb

44. Seize by force

46. Obscure office position

48. Spurious wife

49. *Comedy and tragedy, on a Tony medallion

50. Attired

51. *James ____ Jones, multiple Tony winner

52. Old World duck

53. Like Silver's owner

54. H or O in H2O, e.g.

55. Make a raucous noise

56. Mogul equipment

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7

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6 7 9 1 3 4 8 5 2

9 1 5 8 6 3 4 2 7

3 6 2 5 4 7 9 8 1

4 8 7 9 2 1 6 3 5

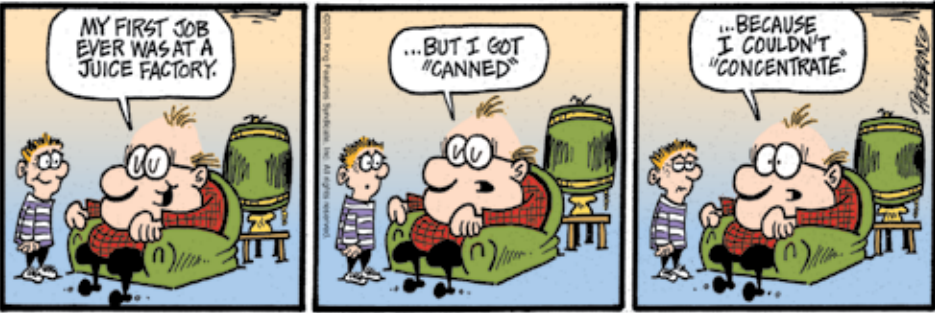
Solutions on Page 7

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



The Spats



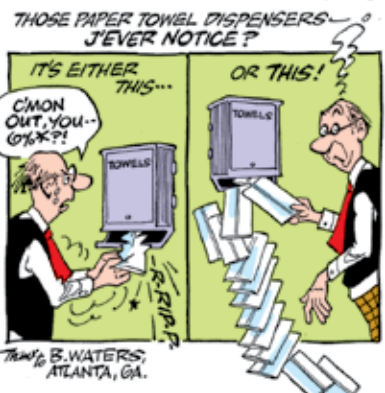
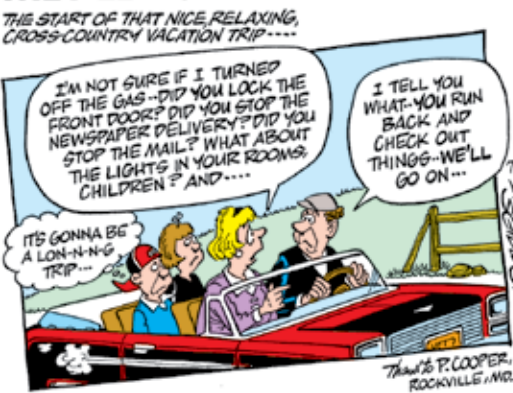
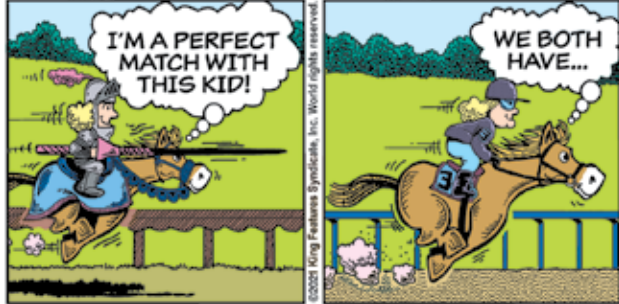
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by Gary Kopervas



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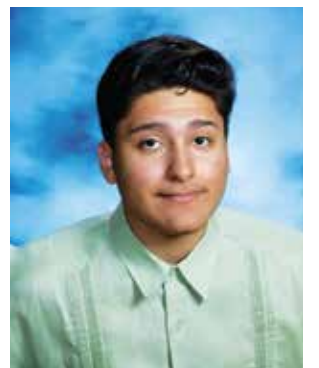
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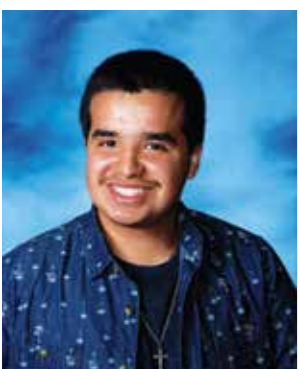
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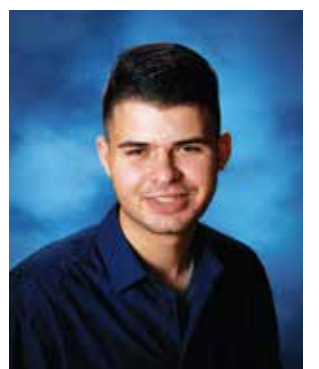
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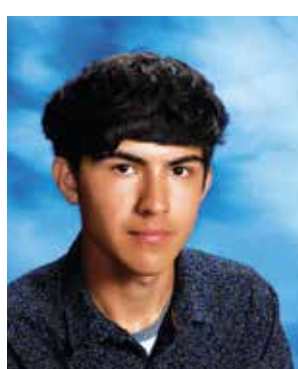
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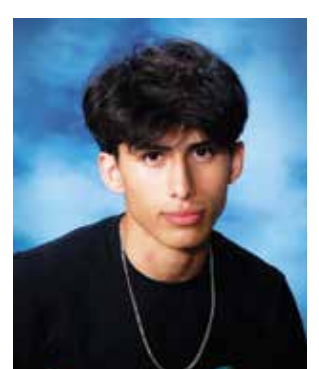
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In the face of more than a year of disappointment, fear, never ending change, politics, and grief, the Class of 2021 is here, shining. They are graduating from high school and persevering as they engage in their plans for the future. They are strong, capable, talented, empathetic, humble, and very, very kind. They are our community's best 'product' and I am confident they will make our world a better place. It is an absolute pleasure to know them and to have worked with them!

Stephanie Marquez
Principal, Dixon High School



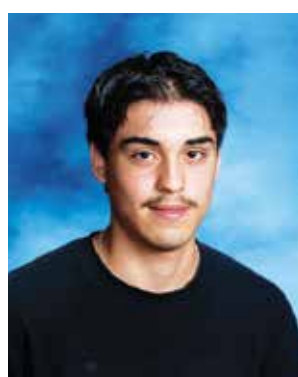
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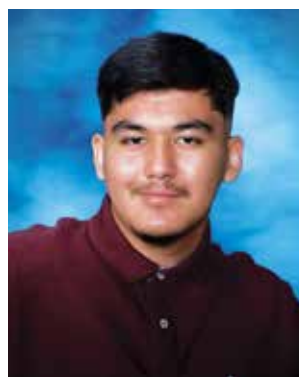
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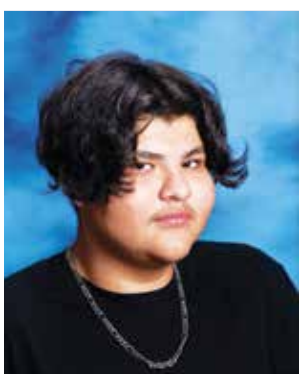
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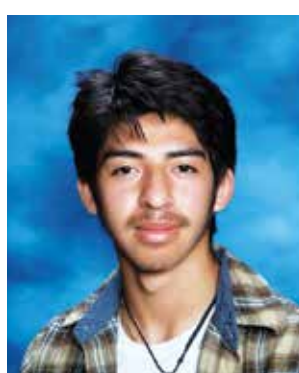
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