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Dixon Independent Voice

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A Monumental Task



Angela Meisenheimer, Bill Schroeder, Don and Wendy Hendershot on one of the many trips out to discover locations of old buildings for Dixon's Historical Walking Tour and subsequent bronze plaque placements

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - For years, a stack of 15 bronze plaques sat in the corner of the Dixon Chamber of Commerce office, an expensive but abandoned effort to put them on Dixon's historical buildings. Somewhere, with time, they were moved to an old barn that was used for storage of many antiques for the Dixon Historical Society and mostly forgotten until last year when they were brought back into the Chamber.

"It's been 20 years in the making and we're at the finish line," said Committee Member Angela Meisenheimer, sounding excited

about finally having a walking historical tour of Dixon.

"The project really changed and evolved since we first started one year ago," reported Don Hendershot who was asked to spearhead the group. "But I think people will be very appreciative." The goal was to put together a walking tour of historical homes and businesses in Dixon and use the plaques to note where the properties were located.

There was a handful of people meeting almost weekly with Hendershot, who was often accompanied by his wife, Wendy, along with Denise McBride, Bill Schroeder, Jill Orr, Alan Schmeiser, and Meisenheimer - although there have

been a lot of other helpful people along the way, he said.

Through the process, more plaques were added, and now the finished number is 34. The work that has been done has been tedious and required all kinds of research into archives. McBride, who is an ancestry research expert, could look up families and find photos of where they lived. Talking with Schroeder, who helped the team use the Sanborn maps, he could remember a lot of things being born and raised here. They also spoke with long-time homeowners who sometimes had the history of their homes that they shared.

"We've gone through 2,000
Continued on page 3

Water Rate Advisory to Meet

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Next Thursday, October 26, will be the next Water Rate AD-Hoc Committee Meeting.

The Water Rate Advisory Ad Hoc Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to water rates. The goal of the committee is to provide a recommendation to the City Council regarding appropriate new water rates. The Committee shall deliver a recommendation by January of 2024 but no later than April of 2024.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. and will be held at City Hall, 600 East A Street, in the Council Chambers. Meetings can also be streamed on Zoom, online, or watched on Channel 20. To view agendas and streaming information, go online to cityofdixon.us and see the drop-down menu under government.

Members of that committee are District 1 Council Representative Thom Bogue, District 3 Council Representative Kevin Johnson, former Cal-Water Manager and current Planning Commissioner Jack Caldwell, Jeremy Cox, former Dixon Councilman Herb Cross, Frank Drayton, and Christopher Fong.

Cox has 25 years of municipal water experience, and currently works for City of Vacaville as the Operations and Maintenance Manager. He currently holds a Division of Drinking Water Grade V Water Distribution license and a Water Treatment Grade III license. Cox was also recognized on a national level by American Public Works Association (APWA) as National Manager of the Year 2021.

A resident of Dixon since 1978, Drayton possesses 35 years as a first responder and more than 20 years in the United States Navy and Air Force. He served the City of San Ramon as the Deputy Fire Chief beginning in 2017 and retired this year. He also retired from the United States Air Force as Chief Master Sergeant.

Fong is a 33-year Dixon resident who resides in the Dixon City Water System service area with over 20 years of experience in the water industry as a registered professional engineer. ★

Dia De Los Muertos Returns to Silveyville Cemetery

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - October 29 from 1 to 5 p.m. will be Dia De Los Muertos, a free community event with music food, and vendors in the Silveyville Cemetery and presented by Silveyville Cemetery and the Dixon Chamber of Commerce.

"For those who honor Dia De Los Muertos, it is an important social and spiritual time which recognizes the circle of life and death that connects all human beings. It is all about honor, respect, and remembrance," said Jennifer Huff, Silveyville Cemetery District Manager. "This festive occasion honors those who have passed away while also celebrating the continuation of life."

Like last year, there will be various vendors and food trucks.

"We have Mariachi and Folkloric dancers coming," added Shauna Manina, Dixon Chamber of Commerce CEO/President.

"It's like All Saints Day and came from the Aztec



Mis Villalobos, who had painted half her face with unique art at the last event, had a booth explaining symbols and traditions for the holiday. Photo by Debra Dingman

culture," explained Andrea Perea who attended last year's event with her children and mother. "It's really about remembering your past loved ones. As long as you pray for them, they are still with you." Another large and colorful booth that expected to be back this year described what each of the altar items meant.

Water is offered to quench the thirst of the

deceased and strengthen them for their return journey and the person's favorite food and drink are offered to celebrate the soul. Calaveras or skulls are representations of deceased relatives and are usually made of sugar or chocolate and are consumed by children after the celebration. This is supposed to be an example of the Mexican ability to celebrate, mock, and play with

death, a poster read.

Salt is another item put on an altar and it is supposed to stop the souls of the deceased from being corrupted by Earthly temptations. Incense is placed to purify the souls of the dead but also to ward off spirits, added Mis Villalobos who had beautifully painted half her face with unique art at the last event.

Colorful flowers are
Continued on page 2



Life's too SHORT



Redding, Red Bluff, and Chico Get-Away



Yours truly at the Sundial Bridge in Redding. Photo by David Dingman

By Debra Dingman

We're so lucky to live in a town so close to beautiful areas of California! After a very busy week, it was time to get away again. This time we drove up I-5 to Redding and saw the Sundial Bridge. I hate to admit this but I'm a terrible passenger, so to keep peace, I drove.

But when I'm driving outside of Dixon, there is a whole new level of stress. Thankfully, we drove on a weekday with easier traffic. But it was way worse in a big city. In Redding, there is a one-way snake-like path of one-way streets that could not be more confusing and there actually was a 3-car crash right in front of us.

But we did finally figure out how to get to the Sundial Bridge. Did you ever read that the Sundial Bridge was made of glass

panels so you could see the rushing Sacramento River underneath your feet? This "cantilever spar cable-stayed" bridge is only for pedestrians and bicyclists and was completed in 2004. I read about it many times and always wanted to go see it. I couldn't believe that much time had passed for me, but it was still something amazing. I was surprised that it cost \$23.5 million to build.

The Sundial Bridge gnomon's (large fin) shadow is cast upon a large dial to the north of the bridge and is a "working sundial" with shadows but we never saw that. Maybe we were too busy admiring flowers, the butterflies, and the plants in the arboretum.

We did sit for a while and watch the sun reflect off the flowing river creating dancing sparkles of

bright light. Hubby noted the fishermen out in simple, aluminum boats. According to the information stands nearby, they are fishing for salmon, steelhead, and rainbow trout.

There was a nice little shop with a variety of cool refreshments and a gift shop. We picked up the local publications as we always do and enjoyed delicious fruit smoothies while reading.

After a delicious dinner out in downtown Redding, our hotel offered the softest pillows and greatest mattress ever, so I got a great night's sleep.

The next day, we went to Ironhead Trail in Red Bluff, getting there about 9 a.m. and someone else was already hiking. It was perfect weather, and I even surprised myself for being able to handle it. I think it helped tremendously that hubby brought his hiking poles, and I used them. The terrain was rocky in some places, but we set our goal for the top and could see expansive, gorgeous views in all directions.

After getting back and eating lunch, we headed to Chico. Hubby wanted to hike Bidwell Park, so I asked him to drop me off downtown for shopping. Chico has a great downtown. I looked at everything! About the time I thought my legs couldn't take another step, he called 45 minutes earlier than planned. I love that we were in sync.

Before we headed home, we were able to catch up with our son for a brief but sweet visit at Savor Ice Cream which was across town and once again, I got so confused with GPS navigating. But, and I am not kidding, I had the best waffle cone I've ever tasted! It was warm off the iron, and the ice cream was so creamy. But what made me more happy was getting back home after the 2-hour drive. ★

Dixon News Briefs



A lamb is scrubbed spotless by its owner at the recent Lambtown event where sheep shearing demonstrations and sheep dog demonstrations were well attended. The event grew exponentially this year with more vendors than ever, twice as many food trucks and a band on Saturday. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Historic Home Tour

The Dixon Classic Home Tour is a unique opportunity to explore four of the city's most iconic vintage homes. Guests can enjoy a guided tour of the homes, learning about their fascinating history and architecture and the stories of the families who lived there. Lunch is provided and it happens rain or shine. This is a wonderful way to experience Dixon's rich history and beautiful homes!

There are now five homes on the Historical Society's Historic Home Tour on Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Ticket holders and online ticket purchasers need to pick up their guidebooks between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Standfill Victorian Home at 360 North First Street, next to the railroad tracks. Lunch will be served between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the St. Peter's Social Hall on the corner of Second and East Mayes Streets. Tours of the homes end at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased online at www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org/. Phone for the Dixon History Museum is (707) 685-0802. Note: no photography, strollers, small children, backpacks, or pets please. All proceeds from the home tour and lunch benefit the Dixon Historical Society and Museum and the Valley of the Sacred Heart Academy.

DUSD Schools Close

Friday, October 27 there will be NO SCHOOL for Dixon Unified School District due to teacher work day. Also, be aware that the week of Halloween, Oct. 30 through November 3, students/schools will have half days due to parent-teacher conferences. Take note school is also out on Friday, November 10, for Veterans Day and all of Thanksgiving week.

City Planning Commission

This coming Tuesday, October 24, at 7 p.m. the Parks and Recreation Commission will be meeting in the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street.

Neighborhood Christian School

Neighborhood Christian School students will get out at noon Wednesday through Friday, October 18-20 for Parent/Teacher Conferences. For more information, call

(707) 678-9336. NCS will also host their annual Harvest Festival noon to 3 p.m. on Friday, October 27, at the school located at 955 East A Street.

Grupo Hispanico

At the Dixon Senior Multi-Use Center, a Hispanic group meets up to talk about current events, play Loteria, and enjoy the company of friends on the first and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. That is at 201 South Fifth Street. Phone is (707) 678-7022.

Cool Patch Pumpkins

Our favorite sun-glass-wearing pumpkins announced they are now open, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily at 6150 Dixon Avenue West (weather permitting!) There are free activities for children such as the mini hay maze, giant rocking horses, and photo ops with pumpkins and dinosaurs. There are also hayrides, corn baths, and concession food for fees. Children ages 5 and under are free. For info, call the Mark Cooley family at (530) 746-8725.

Mini Health Fair

Touro University will be hosting a 'Mini Health Fair' at the Dixon Public Library on Wednesday, October 25 from 3 to 5 p.m. It will be a family-friendly event and participants can receive free diabetes and blood pressure checks plus flu shots. For more information, visit solanolibary.com/events or drop by at 230 North First Street in downtown Dixon.

DuPratt Ford Opens Trunks

The public is invited to a Trunk or Treat event at Ron DuPratt Ford on Saturday, October 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are located at 1760 North Lincoln Street. There will be a unique display of Ford Mustangs and trick-or-treating for the whole family. They will also offer free handcrafted coffee and donuts by Vio's Pastries while supplies last.

Football Triple Header

The Dixon High School Finney Field will get plenty of use tonight, October 20, as it will be a triple header: Flag and tackle football teams will spar against Mesa Verde High School Mavericks. First, the Lady Rams Flag Football Team will play at 4 p.m. The Rams Junior Varsity Tackle Football will play at 5 p.m. with the Varsity kicking off at 7 p.m. ★

Dia De Los Muertos Returns

Continued from page 1

also on the altars with purple being the traditional color of mourning in Mexico. Candles are guiding lights for loved one's spirits and a portrait of the loved one is placed in the middle or top of the altar to pay tribute to them.

Families are welcome to decorate their loved one's grave with a personal ofrenda, to sit and reminisce, and to share stories of their loved ones.

The cemetery is located at 800 South First Street across from the May Fair. Call (707) 678-5578 for more info. ★

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MEMORIAL

JOSEPH "JOE" G. LEWIS III • 1/13/1939 — 10/10/2023

Joseph "Joe" G. Lewis III, 84, of Hayden, Idaho died on October 10, 2023 at the Schneidmiller Hospice House.

Joe was born on January 13, 1939 in Ross, California. The family moved to his Grandfather McKenzie's sheep ranch in 1946 in Dixon, California. He was a member of FFA, his project was "sheep". Demolay was an important part of his life, he is a past Grand Master of the Dixon chapter. He attended Tremont County School, Dixon Grammer School and graduated from Dixon High in 1957 with 41 boys and 14 girls. He was also a graduate of Eastern Washington University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

In 1963, he met and married his "sweetie", Marla (Hemenway) in Santa Rosa, California. In 1978 the family moved to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho where together they operated Daylight Donuts, a coffee shop near 2nd and Lakeside. 13 years later Joe established Ledger Perfect Bookkeeping.

Marla, son Michael Lewis, daughter Terri Larkin, sister Diane Schroeder (Syd), and brother and sister-in-law Don and Inge Hemenway. Joe always enjoyed his grandchildren; Chelsea, Jack, Christopher, Scott, and Brandon. as well as all the nieces and nephews. He is also dearly loved his English Springer Spaniel, Molly.

Joe received kind, compassionate care from the staff at the Schneidmiller House, Hospice of North Idaho. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Schneidmiller House or the Dixon Historical Society in Joe's name.

A celebration of life will be held in the spring with the addition of his ashes to the family plot in Silveyville Cemetery, Dixon, California.

Yates Funeral Home entrusted with arrangements. Please visit Joe's online memorial and sign his guestbook at www.yatesfuneralhomes.com

Family and friends were an important part of Joe's life. The love for his wife of 60 years was obvious and the marriage was filled with fun and laughter. His heart was always full of love and admiration for his son, Michael and daughter, Terri.

Joe is preceded in death by his mother Roberta, father Joseph, brother Robert, sister Mary, and brother-in-law Mike.

He is survived by his wife

Water Polo Hosts Cupcake Wars

A Monumental Task



Varsity Team swimmers with their cupcakes are (top L-R) Shelby Moody, Sophia Martinez, Faith Dunn, Angel Santa Cruz, and Miranda Cline and (front) Audra Lacey and Kat Guerrero. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon High School water polo teams held their Senior Night this past week at the Pat Granucci Aquatic Center and featured something special: a cupcake war. Each year the teams decide on a beneficiary for funds raised from selling votes for the best batch of cupcakes. Parents, family, and friends gather to vote on the cupcakes during the break between the girls team, who played against Casa Roble High School from Orangevale, and the boys team that played afterward.

“We won both games: Girls 16 – 6 and the Boys won 22-9,” reported Coach Michael Vlatch. It was a great way to round out an evening to celebrate the senior players as well as hold the cupcake competition, which is divided between classes so last week, displays were set up for classes 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027. Each had posters with messages of hope and photos or emblems of the military. This year, the students chose their fundraising efforts to go to the new nonprofit, the Charlie Mike program. The mission of that organization is to “save the lives of military veterans still carrying the unseen wounds of combat.” Charlie Mike is the phonetic phrase for C – M, which means Continue the Mission. It can also mean ‘don’t quit’ or ‘we aren’t done yet’ according to their website: charliemike.org.

Their vision is to help soldiers, marines, airmen, and sailors help one another continue the mission of life whatever form that may be. They run dog and horse camps and are headquartered in North Carolina.



Sophomores Erick Siegmund, Katie Zlebnik, and Isacc Santos pose with their patriotic cupcakes. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Freshmen Abi Leslie and Audrey Thiessen pose with their display. Photo by Nicolas Brown

The Senior team featured chocolate cupcakes with the letters “CM” on top while others were decorated with swirls of red, white, and blue. That display also featured several photographs of local men in military uniforms.

The Seniors won the competition by raising \$637. Second place went to the freshmen and third to Juniors and Sophomores in fourth. Together, the teams raised \$1,035.50.

Students expressed

appreciation on social media to the families “who worked so hard for the evening to happen.”

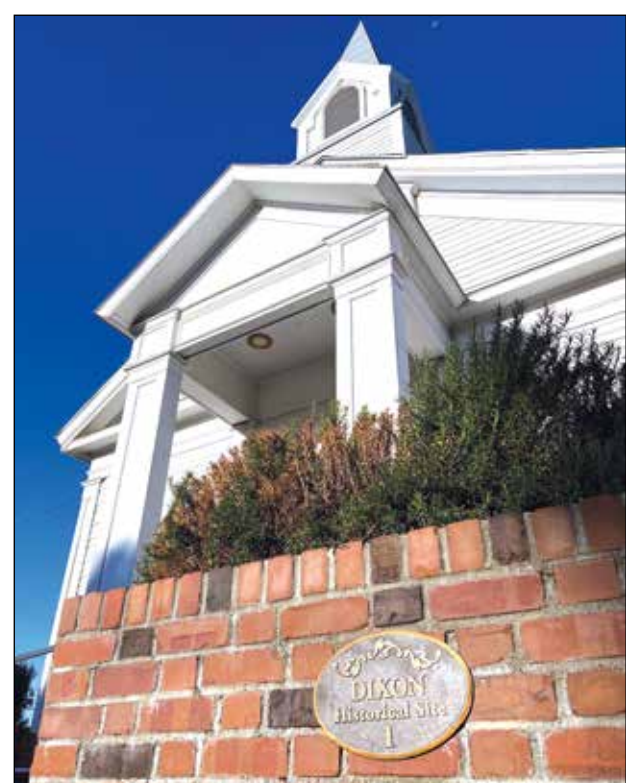
The next Water Polo games for JV Boys will be at a weekend tournament in Granite Bay starting Friday, October 20 through Saturday, October 21. Varsity Girls will also play a tournament on the same days but at Napa Valley College. League finals will be October 25 with times and locations to be determined. ★

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photographs and had to decipher if a photo could be a different business or a different year. And, due to several fires, addresses changed in 1884, 1911, etc. and some businesses changed locations when they rebuilt,” Don said. “It’s a lot of information that we’re trying to get right.”

“The whole idea is to be able to walk in downtown and learn something about the history of the buildings,” said Meisenheimer, who was tasked with getting Release of Liability signatures from the owners of each of the properties. Interestingly, not all of them approved. And, not all historical buildings will have plaques but they will be in the write ups that are linked into the QR codes.

“There were just too many,” said Don. Others worked on creating a safe path for pedestrians to travel and ensure that the historical information was accessible through the creation of a QR code.

What is new is this initial book for the 34 will give you a snippet of that location which will be perfect for those without a



The first stop on the new Dixon's Historical Walking Tour in downtown is the Dixon United Methodist Church and leads visitors to 33 more sites. The maps will be available soon at the Dixon History Museum and the Dixon Chamber of Commerce.

lot of time but if someone wants to delve into a particular place, they can use the QR code that will provide much more and will include photos.

Don was also tasked with collaborating with the City for installation which required knowledge of the kinds of textiles the plaques could be adhered

to although installation will not be completed all at once.

City of Dixon Public Works Superintendent Dave Horigan picked up six plaques this past week and started installations with the first one up at the Dixon United Methodist Church on North Jefferson. The last one will be at the Silos on North First Street. ★

Hands-on Science Program Brings Students to the Suisun Marsh

Solano RCD News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Students from around Solano County are spending time this fall learning about their local watersheds and enhancing that learning through hands-on science activities in the Suisun Marsh.

Over 1,200 sixth graders from Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Vacaville, and Vallejo are scheduled to participate in the program, run by the Solano Resource Conservation District. The program includes three in-class lessons led by Solano RCD staff and a field trip to Rush Ranch Open Space outside Suisun City.

The program begins with two classroom lessons taught by Solano RCD staff. Students learn about their watershed and the importance of keeping pollution out of stormwater using a 3-D Enviroscape model. They also learn more about the vital role the Suisun Marsh plays in the region’s ecosystem and preview what they will experience on the field trip.

At Rush Ranch Open Space, a property owned by Solano Land Trust, lessons about the importance of our region’s water resources come to life through three science stations.

Students practice collecting data to serve as evidence for scientific questions regarding how human activities affect watershed health. The sixth graders learn about how pollution can affect water quality, then test the water in the marsh slough themselves. They learn about the two distinct environments at the marsh, then identify plants that live in the grasslands and the wetlands, as well as make observations about the soil in the two habitats and consider how drought might affect the landscape.



A student analyzes a sample with a soil station chart at Hogan Middle. Photo courtesy of Solano RCD

Diane Martin, a teacher at Hogan Middle School in Vallejo, noted that “it is wonderful to see students outside enjoying nature while learning! The Suisun Marsh program enhances classroom curriculum while giving young people an appreciation for our water resources and overall environment.”

Participants have noted on field trips this year that they enjoy the quiet of the marsh environment and the beautiful views. Students use binoculars to look out for birds and butterflies, and they spend time writing or drawing about their experiences under the shade of trees. In addition to crucial hands-on learning experiences, the field trips give students the chance to be outdoors to enjoy the natural world.

The final classroom lesson of the program, which takes place after the field trip, teaches students about the sources of their drinking water and reminds students of the importance of water conservation.

The curriculum for the classroom lessons and field trip meets California’s Next Generation Science Standards and engage

students in inquiry-based learning.

Education Program Manager Shea Kinser noted the importance of getting students outside for these hands-on experiences: “We provide students with the opportunity to see up close the open spaces and water resources they’ve been studying. This helps them see the importance of these places as they learn to be stewards of the environment.”

Solano Resource Conservation District’s Suisun Marsh Watershed Program is free to participating schools. The program is made possible by the Solano County Water Agency; Solano County Department of Resource Management; Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District, Solano County Orderly Growth Committee, Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District, the Vacaville Public Education Foundation, and the Benicia Valero Refinery, in partnership with Suisun Resource Conservation District.

To learn more about the Suisun Marsh Watershed Program and Solano RCD’s other education programs, visit www.solanorcd.org or email education@solanorcd.org. ★

Solano County Court Jury Finds Joshua Benton Guilty

Solano County Superior Court News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On September 14, 2023, in Department 11 of the Solano County Superior Court, before the Honorable William J. Pendergast Presiding, the jury found Defendant Joshua Benton Guilty of Domestic Violence, False Imprisonment, and Interference with a Wireless Device.

In January 2023, shortly after his release from jail in Reno, Defendant Joshua Benton assaulted his girlfriend and mother of their infant child while staying at the Super 8 motel in Vacaville. The defendant physically assaulted his pregnant girlfriend and threatened to kill her in front of their infant child. While injured, the victim was kept in the hotel room against her will for days and the defendant took her phone so she could not contact her family or police. The victim

eventually fled the room with her infant and was able to flag down a police officer who was nearby. Defendant returned shortly after she fled and was apprehended by the police. After listening to all testimony at trial, the jury returned verdicts of Guilty as charged.

Defendant, who is currently in custody, was remanded without bail following the verdict. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced before the Honorable Judge Pendergast.

Vacaville Police Officer Shelby Nichols investigated the case. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Luke Leichty. Victim Witness Advocate Cynthia Malloy provided victim advocacy and support to the victim.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of domestic violence and need the assistance of an advocate, please call 707-784-6827. If you have an emergency, please call 911. ★

On the Mental Health Hot Seat

By Jocelyn Wiener,
CALMatters.org

Three years ago, California leaders passed legislation that promised the most dramatic expansion of mental health and addiction care coverage in decades.

As the state's residents struggled with the stress and trauma of a raging pandemic and a record wildfire season, mental health advocates used words like "groundbreaking" to describe the new law. Finally, they said, California was poised to become a national leader on mental health.

Their optimism about that law, Senate Bill 855, has been fraying ever since. Advocates say health plans routinely fail to ensure that enough mental health providers accept their coverage, and often make patients wait too long before being seen.

Case in point: Last week, the Department of Managed Health Care unveiled news of a historic \$200 million settlement with Kaiser Permanente for failing to provide patients with timely mental health appointments, among other issues.

Such issues will take center stage Wednesday at a special oversight hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Mental Health and Addiction.

Democratic state Sen. Scott Wiener of San Francisco, chair of the committee and author of the California Mental Health Parity Act, says he shares many of the mental health advocates' concerns.

"We know the plans have a long history of finding ways not to cover mental health treatment," he told CalMatters. "The whole purpose of this law is to put an end to that."

Prior to the passage of the 2020 law, the state only required health plans to cover medically necessary treatment of nine serious mental illnesses. For years, mental health advocates had tried and failed to expand that list. With Wiener's law, they were finally triumphant.



Kaiser Permanente mental health workers strike at Kaiser Headquarters in Oakland on Oct. 7, 2022. Photo by Martin do Nascimento, CalMatters

Beginning in January 2021, the state has required plans to pay for treatment of a much more extensive array of mental health issues, along with substance use disorder and addiction. This state law is separate from a federal mental health parity law passed in 2008. The concept of "parity" refers to requiring insurers to treat mental and physical health conditions equally.

Health plans say they "have been diligently working in good faith" to comply with these laws while facing industry-wide challenges like workforce shortages. They say they are navigating guidelines that are ambiguous and uneven while waiting for the Department of Managed Health Care to finalize regulations.

"This creates a situation of moving goal posts for plans, providers, and our enrollees," said Mary Ellen Grant, spokesperson for the California Association of Health Plans, in an email.

Mental health advocates

have also long criticized the Department of Managed Health Care, which oversees health plans in the state that receive monthly fees to provide health care for their members. And they, too, are concerned that it's taking so long for the official rules to be decided.

This summer, more than a dozen advocacy groups signed a letter of concern to the department, questioning its commitment to enforcing some aspects of the new state parity law. The organizations want the department to publish and publicize its investigations.

"It's still a relatively secret process," said Lauren Finke, a policy director at The Kennedy Forum, a national organization that cosponsored California's parity legislation.

The Department of Managed Health Care declined to make anyone available to speak with CalMatters until later this fall. In an email, a representative said the department "is committed to

ensuring enrollees have appropriate access to behavioral health care when they need it."

In response to advocates' critiques that the department isn't adequately analyzing and publicizing how well plans are complying with state parity law, the department said in a statement that it is evaluating health plans' compliance in other ways; including that analysis in the behavioral health investigations would slow them down too much, the statement said.

Meiram Bendat, a Santa Barbara attorney and psychotherapist who focuses on mental health parity, says that the three-year-old state law has improved patients' ability to receive mental health care by creating a uniform definition of what is considered "medically necessary."

But when it comes to ensuring that health plans maintain adequate provider networks, he said, the department is "failing miserably." Too often, plans offer their members only outdated lists of

providers who then prove to be unavailable, Bendat said. The Department of Managed Health Care hasn't adequately held plans accountable for this and other problematic practices, he said.

"The historic network inadequacy around the state and the lack of meaningful fines, that's a real failure on the part of the department," he said.

Finke, of The Kennedy Forum, called the Kaiser settlement "long overdue" and "a very important first step in the Department holding plans more accountable for their performance (or lack thereof)." The settlement includes a \$50 million fine and corrective action plan as well as a commitment by Kaiser to invest an additional \$150 million over five years to improve behavioral health services.

But Finke and others also said the settlement itself provides evidence of the department's failures to enforce a previous settlement agreement with Kaiser from 2017.

"Will DMHC do its job going forward? That's the big question," asked Fred Seavey, research director for the National Union of Healthcare Workers, which represents 2,000 Kaiser mental health workers in Northern California who undertook a 10-week strike last year over heavy clinician workloads and long wait times for appointments. He said he wrote complaints to the Department of Managed Health Care earlier this year, saying that Kaiser in Southern California has been illegally restricting the scope of behavioral health services.

Kaiser said, in an emailed statement, that "any accusation that we intentionally limit or restrict needed care is untrue."

Southern California Kaiser members receive a wide range of behavioral health clinical offerings, the statement said. Despite a statewide shortage of clinicians, Kaiser is "doing all that we can" to expand its network of mental health providers. ★

Bureau Praises Bill to Aid Drone Use

California Farm Bureau
News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On October 9, 2023, California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson applauded the signing of Assembly 1016, which will expedite training and licensing programs so that more farmers may use drones for pesticide applications.

"I am proud that the California Farm Bureau is leading the effort to ensure that farmers have access to precision technology," Johansson said. "We thank Gov. Gavin Newsom for supporting us by signing Assembly Bill 1016. With aerial spray technology within reach of all farmers for the first time, this will help them save on crop protection costs by allowing drones

to target affected areas instead of entire fields. Drone use can also replace backpack spray and ground-based delivery systems with remote technologies, which protects our agricultural employees from close contact with pesticide applications.

"California's farmers and ranchers lead the world in innovation – producing amazing yields of fresh produce, dairy, and meats while decreasing water, fertilizer and pesticides use. AB 1016 is a bill in that spirit. It allows farmers better access to innovative technology to gain even more efficiency and safety.

"The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 29,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.3 million Farm Bureau members. ★

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



On the left is pictured Dereck Vicevich, DFS Tech Support, with DFS Board Member Sarah Villec who contributed a security system, Crystal Gutierrez, Bilingual Case Manager Crystal Gutierrez, and Bilingual Receptionist Fatima Alvarez. DFS courtesy photo

Dear Editor,

I want to share some exciting and positive news. There was a recent wonderful gift from longtime Dixon Family Services board member, Sarah Villec. Sarah made the purchase of 6-Ring solar-powered surveillance cameras to go around the entire building!

This was not an inexpensive gift and the thoughtfulness that went into her decision demonstrates how much she cares about our staff and their safety. You would think that all we needed to do next was hire a tech person to hook all that equipment up for us.

But, the news just kept getting better when Sarah's grandson, Brandon, volunteered almost an entire day off from his job at Geek Squad to install, program and explain the surveillance system to all DFS staff members.

Brandon is a delightful young man and we all loved having him here for the day. We respect his technical expertise and skills, his bright personality, and can-do attitude. We all feel so much safer now and we are very hopeful that bad people will stop doing bad things to and around our building.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank You Sarah and Brandon for your gift to DFS!!

The remaining list is now much shorter and includes:

A 3.5-foot wooden fence around the front and north side of the property; Landscape refresh on all sides of the building; Repair two and replace two toilets; Remove old dumpster enclosure.

Other items of concern are due to the age of the building, such as cast-iron pipes that are corroding, and some cosmetics like flooring and paint. We will continue to solicit for help from people and groups who are looking for service projects or want to help for any reason. I was talking with a member of one of Dixon's finest service organizations and he and I agreed that it would be a wonderful thing for volunteers from several groups to come together and tackle that fence job. An opportunity to work together to accomplish something meaningful for Dixon Family Services and our community. There may be a Boy Scout looking for an Eagle Project. The possibilities are endless.

Interested? Please call or email me. Thank you.

Cookie Powell,

Executive Director
Dixon Family Services

Grant Fuels the CHP's Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Efforts

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Motorcycle-involved crashes continue to be a major concern for the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The CHP has implemented a yearlong, federally funded program, Get Educated and Ride Safe VI (GEARS), with the goal of increasing motorcycle safety and awareness throughout the state.

The GEARS VI goals are designed to reduce the number of motorcycle-involved crashes and crash victims. Based on provisional data, there were 7,639 motorcycle-involved crashes, resulting in 381 deaths and 6,969 injuries, within CHP jurisdiction in federal fiscal year 2021-22 – an 8% increase from the previous year.

"Motorcycle riders are statistically more likely to be injured or killed when involved in a crash," said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. "The GEARS VI grant will support the Department's efforts to improve safety for motorcycle riders and other road

users through focused education and enforcement."

During the grant period, the CHP will increase motorcycle safety activities in regions with a high number of motorcycle incidents and participate in traffic safety education campaigns such as "National Motorcycle Ride Day" on October 14, 2023. The campaign will promote the use of U.S. Department of Transportation-compliant helmets for all riders and raise driver awareness of sharing the road with motorcyclists. The CHP will also increase enforcement in areas with a high number of motorcycle-involved crashes, which resulted from speed, improper turns, and driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

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

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★

Friends of the Solano County Commission for Women and Girls Receives Grant

SCWG News Release

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Friends of the Solano County Commission for Women and Girls is excited to announce that 74 organizations across California have received one-time funding from the California Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CCSWG) as part of the highly competitive Women's Recovery Response Grant Program.

Friends of the Solano County Commission for Women and Girls is proud to support the Solano Commission for Women and Girls (SCWG) by elevating and serving the needs of women and girls in California who have been disproportionately affected economically by the pandemic. Grantees chosen by the CCSWG include organizations serving low-income, unemployed, or underemployed, American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN), Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA), unhoused, rural, disabled, senior, and veteran populations. Thanks to the CCSWG Women's Recovery Response grant, California can continue to rebuild economic opportunity for and elevate the needs of women and girls.

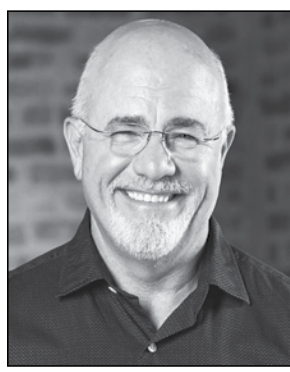
"The partnership between SCWG and us is mutually beneficial and will serve both organizations well. We look forward to working together to offer programs and provide a helping hand to women and girls

in need," said Chair Kay Kelley.

"This grant gives us the opportunity to do more amazing things this year. We are planning our third annual Birth Justice event for early 2024, where we connect young and expecting mothers with doulas and practitioners to share stories and data on infant and maternal risks and racial disparities. We strive to bring people together and advocate for the needs of women in Solano. We are proud of the work we do and are so thankful for the partnerships that made this opportunity possible for us. Check out our website SolanoCommissionWomenGirls.com, we have some exciting things to share," said Jennifer Hamilton, Chair of the SCWG.

The "Friends" was established as a California 501c3 in October of 2022, as the fundraising and fiscal management side of the SCWG. The non-profit has been in development for over a year and is excited to receive this grant to provide the much-needed services for women and girls in Solano County.

The Board of Directors includes a diverse membership of community leaders including: Chair Kay Kelley, Rio Vista; Vice Chair Dr. Frances McCullough, Fairfield; Secretary Sabine Goerke-Shrode, Fairfield; Treasurer Assemblymember Lori Wilson, Suisun City; board members Liliana Gonzalez, Vallejo and Susan Rotchy, Dixon. SCWG Chair Jennifer Hamilton from Vacaville also serves on the board of the "Friends." ★



When You Nickel and Dime Things, Nothing Gets Done Well

Dear Dave,

I'm currently on Baby Step 2, and I have about \$7,000 in debt to pay off before I can move to bulking up my emergency fund in Baby Step 3. When you're paying off debt, what do you recommend for 401(k) contributions?

—Rae

Dear Rae,

I recommend putting a temporary stop to investing while you're getting out of debt. Lots of people are shocked by this advice, and some disagree with it, because they're afraid of missing out on their employer's match or the wonders of compound interest. But before we go any further, let me emphasize one

Dave Ramsey Says

thing. The key word here is temporary.

Baby Step 1 is to save \$1,000 as a starter emergency fund. Baby Step 2 is paying off all of your debt, except for your home, from smallest to largest using the debt snowball plan. During this time you're attacking your debt with incredible intensity, and putting every penny you can scrape together toward paying it off.

Working my plan, the average person can pay off all their debt, except for their home, in 18 to 24 months. Some folks can do it faster, and for some it takes a little longer. But during this time I want your financial focus to be on nothing but getting out of debt. Once that's done, you'll find you have a lot more control over your biggest wealth-building tool—your income.

Trying to accomplish too many things at once diminishes the ability to focus. And when you spend all your time nickel-and-dime everything, the result is that nothing at all gets

done very well. You need to really move the needle and see results, because personal finance is 80 percent behavior and only 20 percent head knowledge. It's not so much a math issue, because if you'd been doing the math all along you wouldn't have a bunch of debt.

That's why, for a short period of time, I want you to concentrate with laser intensity on knocking out debt. Once that's out of the way, you can pour even more money into investing, saving and giving!

—Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show." He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company Ramsey Solutions. ★

Sprague Honored for Community Medical Centers

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Community Medical Centers will present awards to three individuals including Nurse Practitioner Karen Sprague of the Dixon office, who have made major contributions to improve services to CMC patients and communities when it hosts its annual fundraiser on the University of the Pacific campus in Stockton on November 4.

"It's a joy to say things about Karen as she was one of my students at Sacramento State University and she was absolutely excellent and went on to become a Nurse Practitioner," said Dixonite Martha Dukes, retired Mental Health Nurse who serves on the Board of Directors for Community Medical Centers. "Then, she got her first position working for Community Medical Center and has been working there ever since. She is a very special person." Sprague, CMC's Northern Clinic Lead based in Dixon, will receive the Health Hero award.

"I was a young nursing student, just 20, and it was a large group who had already been around the block," she said about her class with Dukes. "We were a rebel rouser group because this group had a lot of experience, and she was our [ever understanding] Psychiatry nursing teacher. We bought shirts and wore them that said, 'We're the class they warned you about' and Martha took it all in stride."

"I love my job; I love working in the community. Done it for 28 years; a lot longer than I thought I'd be here," Sprague said with a laugh but then turned serious. "COVID really made things hard. I was the only permanent provider here for all of 2022 and that was really rough. It's a very difficult job. There are many deserving people and I'm very honored. There aren't many of these [awards] handed out in our organization. It's a bit humbling and I'm thrilled."

The Business Partner award will go to recently retired architect Tom Bowe, who spent 10 years creating respectful and welcoming health centers for CMC. The Community Partner award will be presented to Maggie Park, MD, the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer, and a former CMC provider.

"All three of these amazing individuals

have significant histories with CMC, incredible dedication to our patients and a commitment to our Mission of quality and respectful health care for all," CMC Chief Executive Officer Christine Noguera says. "I am excited that we will have the opportunity to celebrate our honorees as part of our 45th Anniversary Gala."

The event, from 6-10:30 p.m. at the DeRosa University Center, "will be a celebration of the diversity of our community and CMC's long, proud history as a nonprofit organization serving those in need in San Joaquin and Solano counties," according to Roger Phillips, CMC Communications Manager.

The fundraiser's theme is 'Fabric of Our Community ... 45 Years in the Making.' Major sponsors include Health Plan of San Joaquin, Cambridge Investment Research and Nationwide Insurance. The event will give guests a chance to learn about CMC's history, celebrate its successes, and hear about plans for the future as it becomes ever more embedded in the fabric of the communities it serves. The annual fundraiser will include dinner, dancing, and a silent auction. November's event will be CMC's first fundraiser since before the pandemic.

During the past three years, CMC played an integral role in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and grew to 28 neighborhood health centers serving more than 111,000 patients a year. CMC launched a mobile mental health program in partnership with the City of Stockton; built a community-based residential detox center with funding support from San Joaquin County; broke ground on an East Lodi clinic; and developed plans for an adolescent health center in downtown Stockton. The Dixon location is at 131 West A Street in downtown Dixon.

For information on tickets or sponsorships, visit www.cmcenters.org/giving or contact CMC Director of Development Jennie Rodriguez at jrmoores@cmcenters.org. Community Medical Centers is a growing non-profit network of neighborhood health centers serving San Joaquin and Solano counties. CMC provides primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care along with supportive services to individuals and families in need. To learn more about CMC, visit cmcenters.org. ★

How Liberal California Compares to Florida, Texas on Social Media Regulation



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The dichotomy between blue and red states – in essence California vs. Florida and Texas – has played out in many arenas on many specific issues, including immigration and abortion.

The whole nation will get a full dose of the running conflict next month when California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat who's obsessed with building a national image, debates Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a declared 2024 Republican candidate for president, on national television.

Meanwhile, an ironic twist to the rivalry has developed over how the competing states seek to force social media companies, such as X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook, to toe the official line on content that runs afoul of their very different ideological outlooks.

When it reconvened this month, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to examine laws in Florida and Texas that would prohibit social media outlets from barring controversial political speech. The laws were enacted after both Facebook and Twitter suspended former President Donald Trump's account.

The Texas law, now on hold, would classify social media companies as

common carriers such as public utilities and require them to disclose their "moderation standards" affecting what they allow to be posted, and declare why they remove certain content.

The Florida law – similar in thrust – would prohibit banning certain users, such as journalists or politicians, and require social media companies to explain the rationale for each instance of content moderation.

In both cases, the social media companies say Florida and Texas are attempting to control how they edit their platforms in violation of the Constitution's right to freedom of speech.

"At bottom, government 'may not ... tell Twitter or YouTube what videos to post; or tell Facebook or Google what content to favor,'" Scott Keller, an attorney for internet trade groups, told the court in a petition.

The issues before the Supreme Court are remarkably similar to a lawsuit filed in federal court this month by X Corp. against California, alleging that a 2022 law violates its free speech right as well.

The law, Assembly Bill 587, also bores into the standards that social media use to moderate content, requiring them to make extensive disclosures to the state Department of Justice. The measure was sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League and is aimed at pressuring the social media companies to remove what the sponsor deems to be hate speech.

"The line between providing an open forum for productive discourse and permitting the proliferation of hate speech and

misinformation is a fine one, and depends largely on the structure and practices of the platform," Assemblyman Jesse Gabriel, a Woodland Hills Democrat, said in a statement as his bill was being considered.

X Corp. claims that Gabriel's law violates the First Amendment because it interferes with social media companies' constitutionally protected editorial judgments, requires them to post terms "dictated by the government," and pressures them to remove content the state "deems undesirable or harmful."

Fundamentally, then, while Texas and Florida accuse social media of being too eager to censor inflammatory content, the California law implies that they are not eager enough.

California, meanwhile, has rolled back another censorship law passed last year.

Assembly Bill 2098 threatened doctors with losing their licenses for "unprofessional conduct" if they openly disagreed with officialdom on the nature of COVID-19 or the vaccines used to battle the pandemic.

This year, a few words that repealed the law were slipped into an omnibus medical licensing measure, Senate Bill 815, that Newsom quietly signed. The repeal short-circuited what could have been another legal battle over censorship and the First Amendment and is a lesson about legislating without considering effects on constitutional rights.

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

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- CLUES**
- ACROSS
- Down in the dumps
 - Letter-writing friend
 - Trampled
 - Hokkaido people
 - D. H. Lawrence's "____ and Lovers"
 - Near the wind, archaic
 - Mideast ruler
 - Hipbones
 - *Pumpkin, e.g.
 - *"The _____", movie
 - Jackson 5 member
 - Twinings product
 - ____ canto (singing style)
 - Appetite whetter
 - Chucking
 - Pilot's announcement, acr.
 - Short sock
 - Kuwaiti leader
 - Dapper
 - *"____ the ramparts ..."
 - Origami bird
 - Popular picnic side
 - Weary walk
 - Often precedes "whiz"
 - Larry of Oracle
 - Most idle
 - Napkin holder
 - Gamy, alt. sp.
 - *"What witches' brew does in 52 across"
 - *"Eye of newt and toe of frog" holder
 - Shell-less gastropod, pl.
 - Siren's song, e.g.
 - A Flock of Seagulls' hit (2 words)
 - Ottoman title
 - Type of mine passage
 - Head of family
 - Aid in crime
 - *"World's largest Halloween Parade location, acr.
 - Bulgarian or Serb
- DOWN
- Ovine utterance
 - Margarita fruit
 - Windows alternative in computers
 - "Europa _____" movie (1990)
 - Disease in Philip Roth's "Nemesis"
 - Licorice-like flavor
 - Future atty.'s exam
 - *Michael Jackson's spooky classic
 - Disorderly retreat
 - M lunge
 - "Silent Spring" subject, acr.
 - Make ill
 - Subsequently
 - Settle a debt
 - Contrary conjunction
 - End of "incense"
 - In the least (2 words)
 - Birth-related
 - Group of cows
 - JPEG data
 - "To the _____," or "to a great extent"
 - Roll out the red carpet
 - *Kandy _____
 - Romanian money
 - *Stephanie Meyer's vampire saga
 - Relinquished
 - Spinning toy
 - Gin plus lime cordial
 - Chip dip
 - *"Monster Mash" words, e.g.
 - Tasteless and flashy
 - Gold-related
 - Spill the beans
 - Yorkshire river
 - Kin group
 - Word of mouth
 - California wine valley
 - R&R destination
 - *All Saints' Day mo.

CROSSWORD

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Israel is Not a Colonial State

It doesn't take long to read or listen to anti-Israel advocacy before the word "colonial" or "colonialism" is hurled at the Jewish state.

After the spasm of Hamas murder, rape, and kidnapping over the weekend, the U.S. Palestinian Community Network exclaimed, "Our people are waging an anti-colonial, anti-occupation, and anti-Zionist liberation struggle!"

According to an anti-Israel statement signed by dozens of student groups at Harvard, Israel is undertaking "colonial retaliation."

An academic cottage industry is devoted to deeming Israel a decades-long exercise in "settler colonialism," and Hamas itself is partial to the term.

The use of the word "colonial" in all its forms isn't meant to accurately describe reality or clarify anything; rather it is a term of abuse wielded to delegitimize Israel and justify every means of resisting its very existence.

The "colonial" smear can't survive contact with the slightest critical scrutiny.

First of all, the original Jewish settlers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries weren't sent by any mother country to set up enclaves for the honor and profit of the homeland. To the contrary, they were escaping countries that, in many cases, didn't want them. It would have

been perverse for Jews to have sought, say, to establish an outpost of Russia in the Levant, given the atrocities routinely carried out against them on Russian soil.

They thought of their venture as a return to a place that Jews had inhabited for thousands of years.

Indeed, the colonialism charge raises the question of how an indigenous people can be colonizers?

The Jewish people have had a connection to Israel since Abraham. The people became fundamentally identified with the land; indeed, they were synonymous. The land was a locus of the Jewish faith – the site of its holy city, Jerusalem; the place where many religious commandments, the mitzvot, were supposed to be performed; the object of yearning after the dispossession of Ancient Israel ("Next year in Jerusalem").

There is a reason that Zionists had no interest in settling in Uganda, as was proposed in the early 20th century.

On top of this, Israel has been willing at key junctures, notably right at the beginning in 1948, to accept a two-state solution.

The Palestinians must be counted among the worst nationalists the world has ever known: They have repeatedly rejected opportunities to obtain a nation-state because they hate Israel's legitimate national aspirations more than they love their own.

In one sense, Israel's ultimate offense is to have won defensive wars fought against antagonists seeking to wipe it from the map.

As for Gaza, Israel end-

ed its occupation nearly 20 years ago. It wanted to wash its hands of the place as much as possible, an understandable impulse but one that has proved unsustainable. Hamas

won legislative elections in 2006 and then expelled the rival Palestinian group Fatah in a factional war. In total control, Hamas proceeded to make Gaza a base for conducting armed operations against Israel.

Israel's failing here wasn't so much heavy-handedness – although it took measures to protect itself from the threat in Gaza, as did Egypt – but the naive belief it could reach a de facto accommodation with a Hamas that would misrule Gaza for its own ends while not becoming too dire a threat to Israel. Its mass terror attack on Israel ends that delusion.

If nothing else, the accusation of colonialism is very telling. There is one country in the roll call of nations that doesn't deserve to exist. One people that doesn't deserve a homeland. One people who, despite being subjected to hideous persecutions over the centuries and being constantly attacked today, is supposedly guilty of every possible crime.

And it happens to be Israel and its Jewish inhabitants.

The Hamas attack was just a taste of what it would do to Israel if it had the power – extricate an indigenous people from their homeland in the most brutal fashion possible, in the name, of course, of anti-colonialism.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Riley Reviews

"HEIST 88" A CAPER INSPIRED BY TRUE STORY LACKS SIZZLE

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"HEIST 88" ON PARAMOUNT+ WITH SHOWTIME

Remember when the major networks produced made-for-TV movies on a regular basis? As they might say, that's so last century. Since TV movies are all but gone from the networks, cable and streaming services are picking up the slack.

Paramount+ with Showtime are exclusively streaming "Heist 88," an unbelievable story centered on Courtney B. Vance's Jeremy Horne, an ostensible criminal mastermind with an innate ability to convince anyone to do just about anything.

The first scene has Horne at a Chicago bank teller's window requesting the transfer of \$80 million to a Swiss bank account, and then a quick flashback to three weeks earlier.

What brings Horne, wearing an ankle monitor because he's due back in prison, to the Windy City is his brother's funeral. There, he runs into his nephew Marshall (Bentley Green), an aspiring musician in hock to loan sharks for ten large.

Marshall was always warned to stay away from his Uncle Jeremy, advice he should have heeded since he would soon be drawn into the bank robbery scheme only because of desperation to pay off his debt to unsavory thugs.

Marshall introduces Horne to his three pals working at entry level bank jobs. Each one has some sort of grievance with their station at the job as well as in life. For Horne, they prove to be easy prey for his scheme.

Danny Pugh's Xavier is a nerdy comic book collector who is brilliant with numbers but has given up on his job at the bank. Rick (Nican Robinson), a loyal employee, has toiled unnoticed in the back room for six years with dreams of becoming a stockbroker.

The beautiful, bright LaDonna (Precious Way) is ambitious but largely invisible to superiors at the First Chicago Bank. However, she overhears her noxious boss relating how the bank will soon be computerized.

This bit of technological news is a key turning point of the plot. The plan to steal millions from various corporate accounts hinges on the complete lack of modern cybersecurity protocols.

Unlike the usual bank robbery, the heist is violence-free. The scheme revolves around wire transfers and telephonic confirmations. It's not riveting stuff but it proves effective with the absence of computer tracking.

Aside from the four youthful conspirators, Horne gets an assist from his mentor and master safecracker Buddha Ray (Keith David), along with Keesha Sharp's Bree Barnes, an elegant, smart,

political consultant that possesses a criminal mind.

With a running time of less than an hour-and-a-half, "Heist 88" should move at a faster pace befitting a crime thriller where the caper itself should keep everyone on the edge of their seats.

Alas, this is not that kind of movie. Courtney Vance's morally-compromised slickster is mysterious enough that you wonder what tricks he might have up his sleeve if his careful plans ignite into a ball of combustible disaster.

Vance's Jerome Horne, a charismatic conman, deftly used his wily magnetism to enlist impressionable young bank clerks in his scheme, but the more you think about his allure, it all seems so improbable.

Another troubling aspect of the film, other than how awkwardly the heist plays out, is that someone supposedly as crafty and smart as the master thief doesn't seem to have a Plan B in place if the stratagem should prove to be flawed.

An aficionado of heist films might be drawn to "Heist 88" out of curiosity that the genesis for the plot is based on the real-life criminal exploits of Armand Moore who had the uncanny ability to lure unsuspecting ordinary persons into his illicit web.

With a background of crimes committed in Detroit, Moore was a career criminal with a knack of conning people with clean records to do his bidding. Just like in the movie, Moore engaged low-level bank employees for an embezzlement scheme.

For an apparently crafty mastermind, Moore proved to be incredibly imprudent when he and his cohorts went on a spending spree for expensive cars and luxury goods. A sensible person knows from watching crime shows that you lay low and don't draw attention to yourself.

This review is not meant to give anyone ideas; you can get plenty of that watching TV crime shows. Moore almost pulled off the greatest bank heist in Chicago in 1988, but he wasn't truly a criminal genius. When prison becomes a revolving door, you're not that smart.

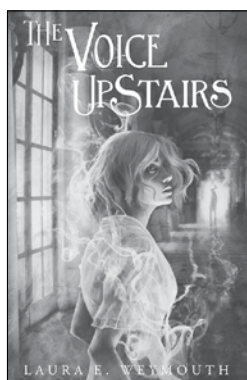
For all its flaws, the film doesn't make the fictional Jeremy Horne the fool. But maybe, given his evident guile, Horne should have figured out the possibility of the story's eventual denouement and not be caught flat-footed.

Ending rather abruptly in what seems to be a contrived situation, "Heist 88" feels like the filmmakers were on a tight budget where the funds ran out and they had to call it a wrap. At least, it's a not a three-hour movie that wastes an entire evening. ★

FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS
By Amy Shane
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • amy-shane@att.net • amy_fortheloveofbooks

Haunting New Reads For the Season

Both of these new releases will have readers captivated by their covers but also serve as a haunting warning – be careful where you dwell. Each historical mystery will have readers plummeting through the story while also trying to decode the past.



The Voice Upstairs
by Lura E Weymouth;
McElderry Books

Wilhelmina Price has an unusual talent; she can see spirits leave a person's body, even days before their death. Which has truly made her an outcast, even though she has prevented quite a few deaths. Luckily, she still has her one true friend, Ed, on her side.

Ed Summerfield cherishes everything about his best friend, Wilhelmina, although hiding that he has fallen in love takes everything. Tormented by the fact that his brother's ghost is haunting him, Ed fears the worst, that he might be losing his mind.

But when a maid is found dead within Ed's father's estate, both Wilhelmina and Ed decide to intestate, even if it means there could be deadly consequences. Forcing Ed and Wilhelmina to face the ghosts of the past and the present in order to solve the mystery and save themselves.

A ghostly, haunting, and powerful mystery, *The Voice Upstairs* will leave readers guessing to the very end. This atmospheric tale whisks readers back to the 1920s with a beautiful manor, unique characters, and a mystery that needs to be solved. Laura E. Weymouth pulls readers in from the very first chapter, with duel narratives and agendas, murder mysteries, and ghostly hauntings perfect for readers who want to avoid diving into a horror read.



Holly Horror
by Michelle Jabes Corpora,
Penguin Workshop

Evie Archer's hopes for a new start in Ravenglass, Massachusetts, is dashed the moment she arrives with her mother and brother at Hobbie House. The house looked like an 80's time capsule with old peeling wallpaper and a cassette player, but the most disturbing was the handwritten "Horror House" on the side of the mailbox. The moment Evie went to school, she realized her house was legendary and tied to the disappearance of Holly Hobbie.

However, it's more than just the legend of Holly. It's also the story of the patchwork girl that seems to hover in the shadows. The longer Evie stays in the house, the more haunting it becomes. At first, it's just hearing a song, and then a strange shadow seems to follow her. However, Evie knows one thing is certain: if she doesn't uncover the secrets of Holly Hobbie and her house, she might be next.

Holly Horror is a haunting story that calls to readers like a faint song in the distance you can't ignore. Michelle Jabes Corpora delivers a genuinely haunting tale that builds with excitement within each chapter. With an eerie melody that calls off in the distance, a girl who disappears without a trace, and incidents that can't be explained, all build it to be a fun, fast, scary read. ★

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State Delivers \$55 Million to Sacramento Water Agencies for Water Resilience Projects

CNRA News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - To help combat climate change and drought impacts on regional water supplies, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and Department of Water Resources (DWR) have partnered

with local water agencies to implement critical infrastructure upgrades that will improve water resilience and support environmental health in the Sacramento area.

As part of a landmark partnership agreement, the state agencies have committed \$55 million in

funding to the Sacramento Regional Water Authority to advance 21 projects designed to boost local water supplies and environmental flows for the Lower American River during dry years.

Funded projects include new and improved groundwater wells,

upgrades to existing wells, pumps, interties and storage facilities. These upgrades will significantly expand the regional water system, giving water providers improved capacity to move supplies between agencies, recharge groundwater aquifers during wet conditions and use available groundwater supplies more sustainably when needed during dry years.

These improvements will allow the region to better withstand intense drought and impacts from climate change, reduce reliance on surface water and distribute supplies where they are needed most to support communities and the environment.

By expanding groundwater supplies and use in the region, local water agencies will be able to reduce diversions from the Lower American River during dry years and increase instream flows necessary to support delicate ecosystems and fish species such as salmon and steelhead. As part of the funding agreement, agencies will allocate 30,000 acre-feet of water in the river in three critical or dry years over an eight-year period once funded infrastructure upgrades are completed and in place. Completed infrastructure upgrades are anticipated within the next two years.

State representatives, water agencies and elected officials gathered today to highlight these investments, which are another step forward in developing a network of groundwater

wells, pumps and pipelines that enable local water providers to withdraw and replenish groundwater reserves.

“It is gratifying for the state to invest in our decades-long vision for enhancing the role of our groundwater aquifer - our natural infrastructure - as a key strategy for adapting the Sacramento region’s water system to the changing climate,” said Michelle Banonis, Manager of Strategic Affairs for the Regional Water Authority. “This investment will allow us to build on proven methods for securing our water supplies while also providing water for the environment during the driest times, long into the future.”

“As California prepares for a future driven by climate change, it’s more important than ever that we be proactive and invest in infrastructure that helps secure a reliable water supply. This partnership agreement is a pivotal step forward in securing our water future and DWR looks forward to working with our regional partners,” said DWR Director Karla Nemeth.

This funding partnership demonstrates California’s commitment to working with local agencies to increase river flows, restore ecosystems and strengthen water supply reliability in the state.

“This agreement will support projects that modernize infrastructure and improve water resiliency, both of which

will enhance flow and habitat for California’s native fish populations,” said Charlton H. Bonham, Director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. “We look forward to continued efforts with partners that will bring flexibility in water management and improve habitat in the Central Valley for fish and wildlife.”

The Sacramento Regional Water Authority, which represents nearly two dozen water providers serving 2.2 million people in the Sacramento region, will work to implement the funded projects with nine water providers in the region including the City of Roseville, Sacramento County Water Agency, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Carmichael Water District, City of Sacramento, Golden State Water Company, Citrus Heights Water District, Fair Oaks Water District and Orange Vale Water Company.

This funding partnership is also one example of DWR’s work to provide funding for local communities under the state’s “Go Golden” initiative. The initiative highlights the state’s partnership with local organizations and water agencies to implement projects that address water infrastructure, flooding impacts, water conservation, well rehabilitation and fish and wildlife protection as California prepares for a future driven by our changing climate. ★



Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.

DIXON POLICE LOG

Monday, October 9, 2023

- 1002** - Vandalism report taken in the 300 block of Archer Place.
- 1116** - Child welfare report taken at the PD. 1412 Vandalism report taken in the 1600 block of Sequoia Way.
- 1800** Hours - Hit and Run Investigation in the area of North First Street and Auction Lane.

Sunday, October 8

- 1055** - Hit and run accident reported in the 1000 block of Vaughn Road.
- Report of a credit card skimmer located in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 1830** Hours - CWS report in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.
- 0030** Hours - Domestic Violence investigation in the 800 block of Elm Drive.

Saturday, October 7

- 1514** - Theft reported in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 2302** - Domestic violence and a convicted felon in possession of ammunition arrest report was taken at 420 La Esperanza Dr. Officer arrived and contacted (S) Richard Muller (38) of Dixon. Muller was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.

Friday, October 6

- 0857** - Informational report taken in the 200 block of North Lincoln Street.
- 1221** - Property was surrendered to the Dixon Police Department.
- 2256** - An abandoned vehicle was found unoccupied in the 100 block of East C. St. was towed away by All About Towing for being a traffic hazard.

Thursday, October 5

- 0957** - Vandalism reported in the 1600 block of Sequoia Way.
- 1102** - Informational report taken in the 600 block of North 1st Street.
- 1317** - Theft of boat parts reported in the 1100 block of Weyand Way.
- 1334** - Theft reported in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 1556** - Domestic dispute reported in the 500 block of West D Street.
- 2234** - D.U.I and driving on a suspended license arrest report was taken at the intersection of East Mayes St. at South 2nd St. Officers made an enforcement stop and contacted (S) Emmanuel Cortes-Cadenas (30) of Vacaville. Cortes-Cadenas failed FSTs and was arrested. Cortes-Cadenas was transported to the Solano County Jail and released to their staff.

Wednesday, October 4

- 0630** Hours - Domestic Violence Investigation in the 1200 block of Columbia Drive.
- 0820** - Battery report 400 block East A Street. 0850 Vehicle collision 100 block East A Street.
- 1100** - Confidential report 400 block East C Street.
- 1245** - Agency Assist for Fire Department 400 block East A Street.
- 1545** - Vehicle collision West A Street at Pitt School Road.
- 1700** - Vehicle theft report 1500 block North First Street. A Ford cargo van (IN Lic# 3307321) was rented out of Dixon and was never returned.
- 2259** - Hours- Domestic Violence Investigation in the 1300 block of North Lincoln Street.

Tuesday, October 3

- 1019** - Found bike report taken at the PD.
- 1323** - Confidential report taken at the PD.
- 1409** - Counterfeit bill report taken in the 2300 block of North 1st Street.
- 1504** - Arson report taken in the 300 block of West Broadway Street.
- 1840** Hours - Joseph Levigne (42) of Dixon was contacted during a traffic stop in the 2500 block of West A Street and was later arrested for an outstanding warrant and possession of a controlled substance.
- 0130** - Hours- Monique Galvan (34) of Dixon was contacted during a traffic stop in the area of North First Street and West H Street and arrested for driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license, and violation of DUI probation.
- 0230** - Hours- Missing Person report taken in the 1300 block of West H Street.

Monday, October 2

- 0758** - Confidential report taken at NorthBay Hospital.
- 1127** - Lost property report taken in the 2800 block of West A Street.

Sunday, October 1

- 1238** - Petty theft report taken in the 200 block of East Chestnut Street.
- 1930** - Hours- Confidential report taken in the 400 block of East A Street.
- 2248** - Hours- Welfare check in the 900 block of West F Street.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish Oct 13, 20, 27, Nov 3, 2023
LAQUINTA 11-3-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001566
The following persons are doing business as: BD Publishing, 2757 Ambrosia Way, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Matthew Macias, 2757 Ambrosia Way, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Date filed in Solano County: September 29, 2023. 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 August 21, 2028. 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 Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 2023
PUBLISHING 11-10-23

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU23-03268
Esala A Nakalevu and Salesia Nakalevu filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Iliessa Iliessa Nakalevu to Elijah Iliessa Nakalevu.
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. November 8, 2023, 8:30 a.m. Department 12, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano

under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 2023
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Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer
Dated: September 8, 2023, 2023
Publish: Sept 29, 10/6, 10/13, 10/20, 2023
NAKALEVU 10-20-23

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF KIMBERLEE JEZEL HUNTER AKA KIMBERLEE J. HUNTER AKA KIMBERLEE HUNTER CASE NO. PR23-00287
To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Kimberlee Jezel Hunter aka Kimberlee J. Hunter aka Kimberlee Hunter.
A Petition for Probate has been filed by Eldred Hunter, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Eldred Hunter be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.
The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to

give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: December 11, 2023, 8:30 a.m. in Dept 4; Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 600 Union Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.
IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult

with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.
YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Edward W. Goldkuhl, 2315 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95816; 916-422-3000
Publish: October 13, 20, 27, 2023
HUNTER 10-27-23

with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

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The following persons are doing business as: La Quinta Inn, 316 Pittman Road, Fairfield, CA 94534.
Grapevine Hospitality LLC, 11 Volta Del Tintori Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92532.
Date filed in Solano County: August 22, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration August 21, 2028. 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

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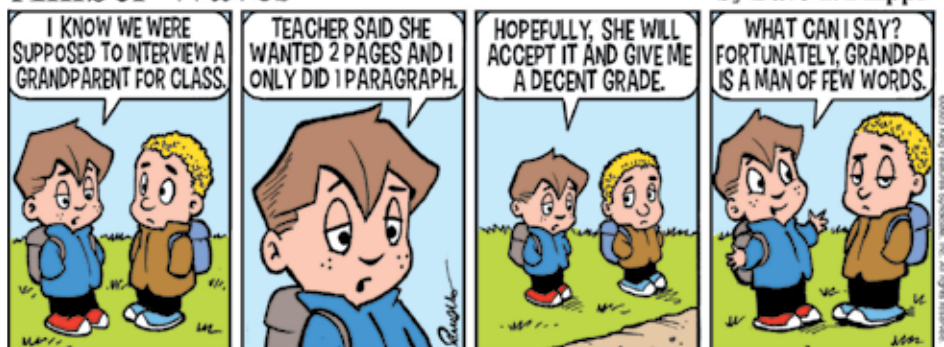
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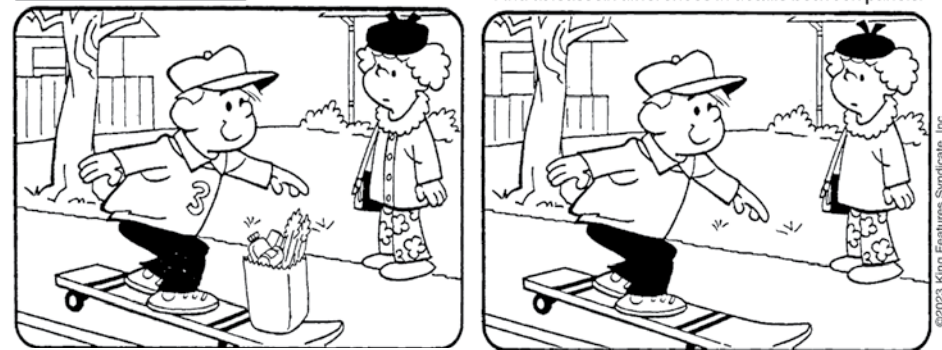


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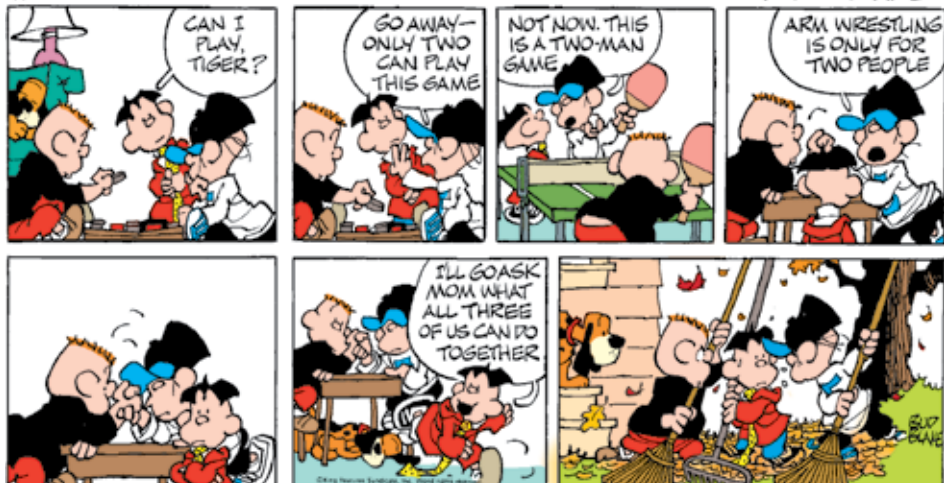


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Nation's Finest Educational Program to Help Veterans in Need

Nation's Finest News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Veterans' advocates and community leaders joined together at the California State Capitol on September 12, 2023, to launch a 3-month campaign by Nation's Finest to raise awareness about programs and services to help Veterans in need.

Coinciding with National Suicide Prevention Month, the community outreach program aims to shine a light on the alarming statistics impacting Veterans – from mental health and high suicide rates to homelessness and unemployment -- and help connect Veterans and their families to resources that honor their service and ensure their care and success.

“The suicide rate among Veterans remains high, with approximately 17 Veterans committing suicide each day, and on any given night, over 40,000 Veterans don't have a place to call home in our country,” said Chris Johnson, President & CEO, Nation's Finest. “As a nation, we can and should do better to honor those who have sacrificed and served, which is why we are launching this program to raise greater awareness and help connect Veterans to the help and services they need.”

Through Veteran's Day, Nation's Finest will host a series of community awareness events in California, Arizona, and Nevada, that bring together community leaders, Veterans' advocates, and community partners to ensure Veterans and their families have access to services, programs, and the care available to them. Each event will feature a Nation's Finest mobile service unit staffed by trained professionals to assist Veterans, as well as community partner booths to provide educational information about available services. On display will be a powerful storytelling exhibition honoring Veteran heroes for making a difference in the lives of Veterans. At each event, Nation's



Honoree Don Harper (left) and Sacramento City Mayor Darrell Steinberg study this veteran's storyboard on display at the State Capitol in Sacramento. Photo by Tracy Atkins/Nation's Finest

Finest will present special awards to local Veterans who have gone above the call of duty to help Veterans and their families in their local communities.

During a ceremony on the west steps of the Capitol, seven local Veteran heroes from Northern California were honored for their service. Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg joined Nation's Finest to present special medallions to them for their work. A special storytelling exhibition featured their stories and that of other Veteran heroes, which will also be on display through September 30th in the window fronts of the historic Weinstocks Building in downtown Sacramento located at 1130 K Street.

“These local heroes exemplify the spirit of our community and continue to answer the call of duty in helping those who have served access mental and behavioral health care, including housing stability, employment and suicide prevention services,” said Mayor Steinberg. “I applaud the efforts of

Nation's Finest in launching this important program and so many other Veteran organizations, community partners, and advocates, who work tirelessly to ensure our Veterans can get the care they need and deserve.”

Sacramento area recipients of the Nation's Finest 50 Local Heroes Award include Gail Belmont, Don Harper, Kia Phillips, Steve Reed, Preston Sharp, Julie Baumgarten, and Michael Harris. Their personal stories, along with all the Nation's Finest awardees, are featured in the exhibition and on the Nation's Finest website at www.NationsFinest.org, along with information about the Community Outreach Program.

Harris, a U.S. Army Veteran and Sacramento native credits the work of Nation's Finest and the support he received at Mather Veterans Village for helping change his life during vulnerable times, saying, “It was a life-changing experience to be so humbled to have to ask for help with you are vulnerable and

broke. They helped lift me up and gave me a chance.” Today, Michael helps other Veterans, particularly those facing homelessness. He is also Chair of the California Black Agriculture Working Group, where he is dedicated to bringing equity to Black agricultural producers.

The Nation's Finest Community Outreach Program is funded through the support of many community partners, including Verizon (presenting partner), U.S. Veterans Affairs, Safeway, the Land of the Free Foundation, Comcast, Turton Commercial Real Estate, Enterprise Community Partners, and the Charles M. Shulz Museum, among others.

“Verizon is honored to join together with so many community partners in supporting Nation's Finest and their mission help Veterans in need,” said Sophia Garcia, Director, External Affairs & Local Engagement at Verizon. “Verizon is committed to helping Veterans and their families with

access to smart technologies that improve connectivity to the programs, services, and care available to them. It's through community partnerships like this that we can work together to make a difference.”

This year marks 50 years since Nation's Finest was founded to support Veterans returning from the Vietnam War by providing critical housing, health, and employment support to ensure Veterans reach their full potential. During the past five decades, the programs and impact of Nation's Finest has continued to grow, having served 150,000+ veterans and providing \$275 million in direct services in 31 locations in California, Arizona, and Nevada, as well as through national services. Additionally, through its mobile service unit program, Nation's Finest can reach thousands more Veterans each year, who lack access to care by bringing resources directly to them, particularly those living in rural areas. ★

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