



### Nation's Finest Opens New Office in Vacaville

PAGE 4



**SUSAN MOTLEY** Owner/Broker

Call me on New Listing at  
800 Avon Court near Northwest Park!



Cell 707.695.1809 • Office 707.678.0218  
100 North Adams St. • Dixon • [www.MOTLEYREALTY.com](http://www.MOTLEYREALTY.com)  
E-mail: [susanvmotley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susanvmotley@sbcglobal.net) • DRE #01236245

# Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 31 • ISSUE 49

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

DECEMBER 8, 2023

## SEE INSIDE

### JUDGE APPROVES WHISKEY BARREL



PAGE 3

### EVICCTIONS ON THE RISE



PAGE 10

### DODD URGES SUPPORT FOR AI PRIVACY REGULATION



PAGE 4

## La Cocina Mexicana an Art Experience



Surrounded by vibrant colors and happy attitudes are, from L-R, Ulises Martinez, Marcos Salceda, Alejandro Saucedo, Nayely Salceda, Raul Arce, and Javier Sanchez prepare for another day of Mexican dishes at La Cocina Mexicana in Dixon.

Story and photos  
by Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - You may think you're going to a Mexican food dinner, but you will get a trip into an art exhibition, as well, when you visit La Cocina Mexicana Restaurant owned by Marcos and Leticia Salceda. Even the seat of your chair will be stunningly beautiful. And you'll notice that nearly every square inch of the restaurant is brighter than ever before.

That is because Marcos spent the "downtime" during two closures for construction staying busy inside his garage chiseling, grinding, carving, and creating new or re-painting the old restaurant tables and chairs.



While restoring random wood chairs, Marcos says he relaxes and rests his mind.

"Art makes me rest and relax," he said. "It makes me feel good and recharges me." He started wood carving when they first opened La Cocina because

they didn't have money to buy wall décor or new restaurant furniture, so he refurbished older pieces. Many of the chairs are 35-years old now, but they

are heavy, solid wood, and sturdy. Now they are also beautiful.

"My chisel feels like a pencil to me, and I use the grinder for most of it," he explained. "I never went to art school. It comes from my heart like my recipes do." All the art is from recycled wood usually given to him by customers.

#### EARLY YEARS

Marcos was born in Oakland, but is a dual citizen, and he learned how to cook great meals from his grandmother, but his passion for detailed wood carvings and colorful paintings are straight from the visions he sees in his mind or places he's found inspirational. Both food and art have found the perfect place to be displayed.

*Continued on page 3*

## Mare Island Cemetery Management Transferred

Office of Congressman  
Mike Thompson  
News Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - On November 28, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04) released the following statement after it was announced that the Mare Island Naval Cemetery was transferred to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration on November 27. The site will be managed by Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, CA.

"The transfer of the Mare Island Cemetery to VA marks the end of a nearly decade-long effort of mine to restore the level of dignity and solemnity that the cemetery deserves," said Thompson. "I am proud to see the culmination of my efforts to restore this cemetery for the nearly one thousand servicemembers buried there, including three Medal of Honor recipients, so their final resting place will be protected and honored. This announcement by VA will help ensure that the cemetery is cared for and that grounds will be preserved for future generations."

Effective November 27, 2023, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has taken responsibility for administration and maintenance of Mare Island Naval Cemetery following the facility's transfer from the City of Vallejo. Additionally, the City of Vallejo has agreed to make in-kind contributions to improve and maintain the cemetery following the transfer as contemplated by Congress. As it has been for over 20 years, the cemetery will remain closed for interments.

Mare Island Naval Cemetery is a historic cemetery that was constructed by the Department of the Navy shortly after it began operating the Mare Island Naval Shipyard in 1854. The cemetery is located within the former Shipyard, which officially closed on March 31, 1996, under the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC). The Navy transferred most of the installation's 5000-acre peninsula to the City of Vallejo in 2002, including the cemetery.

Vallejo area Veterans and their eligible family members will continue to have access to burial at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery. ★

## Forever California Will Be Neighbors

Commentary and photo  
by Debra Dingman

The Gold River community at the edge of Rancho Cordova and Fair Oaks has a population of about 8,000 residents. According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2021, Gold River is the highest-income place in Sacramento County.

The community consists of a residential planned development and some smaller subdivisions served by the Gold River Discovery Center (a K-8 school), as well as some retail, commercial and light industrial areas. It consists of detached single-family homes, duplex and triplexes, as well as a condominium development.

The Gold River Community Association is the master association for the 25 separate "villages" that make up the



A whopping \$800 million dollars has been spent purchasing rolling hills around Travis Air Force Base near Rio Vista to build a new city.

planned development. Each village has its own sub-associations as well. The community remains an unincorporated part of

Sacramento County. Trilogy, just outside of Rio Vista, is another example of a large development that is nearly

self-sustaining. There are numerous in Texas right now that look like futuristic utopias.

*Continued on page 5*

WE  
SUPPORT  
OUR MILITARY



Scan our QR Code for a  
direct link to our online edition!

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
DIXON, CA  
PERMIT NO. 45

OR CURRENT  
POSTAL CUSTOMER



# Life's too SHORT

## Look with your Eyes, not Through Phone

By Debra Dingman

It's true there is always going to be something that raises the ire in us, no matter our natural dispositions or maturity, and that might be a comment about our Downtown Dixon Christmas Tree Lighting being "Charlie Brown." When I saw the post, I was immediately offended and so was DDBA President Jill Orr who literally soaks her life into keeping downtown charming.

I remember interviewing her after she won Citizen of the Year in 2008, and I asked her why she did all the things she did for Dixon, and she said because she loved growing up here and she wanted everybody to experience it like she did. I loved that Dixon reminded me of where I grew up in Tracy.

If you want a picture that is Instagram-worthy, go to any other Bay Area city. If you want to get to know your neighbors, come to Dixon's Tree Lighting.

This story I've told before, but I'll never forget: Many moons ago when I worked for the Dixon Chamber of Commerce welcoming new people into town, one of them told me the only thing we were missing was a mall. I was shocked. Why would anyone move to a small town and wish it were bigger? Now, after 30 years here, I would bet this same woman is in my circle of friends. I wonder if she still feels we need a mall.

Moving here to get away from bigger city life was what I repeatedly heard otherwise. It is challenging to grow up and learn your way of thinking isn't everybody's way of thinking. But the long-time volunteers — and there are many who have helped retain Dixon's small-town charm — share Jill's vision. If no other

way, but my osmosis. When you come to our downtown tree lighting you see people you know. And if you don't know them, you get to know them. You can't help that when you wind up seeing the same people at church, at meetings, or at events like the tree lighting. Our charm comes from people being nice to each other, caring, and serving the community.

Dixon's tree costs \$5,000 every year to just put up and decorate and take down and store. It's the best tree we've had (ever!) Someone complained it wasn't a live tree. You should have seen the pitiful things we've tried to grow in that spot that wasted hundreds of dollars. Thank God for long-timer, Barbara Bulkley, who donated \$30K for that gorgeous tree.

When all the firefighters, police officers, or Scouts are manning the "freebie" booths, many of them actually know the names of the people and the children they are serving. My goodness, where do you get that in a polished Christmas Tree Lighting?

Now, I'm not saying fancy events in bigger towns aren't great, but they don't do Dixon like Dixon does.

That whole thing downtown is put on by the worker bees of the community, and they are happy about making others happy. They may use felt pen on Dollar Tree posterboard instead of buying a banner. They may use scotch tape. They may offer hot-dogs instead of a fancy, gourmet sandwich but you can bet if you were shivering on the corner, someone would offer you a cup of hot cocoa.

That's Dixon; and I'm thankful for every person who helps keep that charm that has surrounded us these past many years! ★

# Dixon News Briefs



(L-R) Eileen Wilson, Trina Shaw, and Rosa Gracida of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club loaded up toys and donations for the Senior portion of the Dixon Community Christmas Program. Deadline for the Toy Drive is Friday, December 15. Any donations can be dropped off at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street on Friday evenings or taken to Cornerstone Church at 185 Cherry Street. Photo by Debra Dingman

### MPG Staff

#### Friday Fish Fry

The Fish Fry is back this week, December 8, at the Veteran's Memorial Hall at 1305 North First Street across from DuPratt Ford. The public is invited to the dinner which is only \$12 and comes with hush puppies, fries, and cold slaw. The following Friday, December 15, there will be Chicken Dinner with scalloped potatoes, vegetables, and a roll, also for \$12. Dinners usually start around 5:30 p.m. and are served until about 7 p.m. if quantities last. The bar is open.

#### Christmas Car Parade

The 2023 Annual Dixon Christmas Car Parade will light up the streets on Saturday, December 9, starting at 6:30 p.m. The group will be collecting toys, food, and gift cards for Dixon Family Services. The specific route is posted on Dixon 411 Facebook page. For questions, contact Regina at (707) 678-9771.

#### Grand Opening

Avila Flooring will be hosting its Grand Opening on Saturday, December 9 at 3 p.m. They are at 120 North First Street.

#### Planning Commission

The Planning Commission Meeting will be Tuesday, December 12, at 7 p.m. and will be available online via Granicus or one can watch via the Zoom link found on the agenda which is usually posted on the cityofdixon.us website by Thursday afternoon before the meeting.

#### Open Seat

The City of Dixon is currently accepting applications for the following vacancy on the Parks and Recreation City Commission. This Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to recreation and park facilities. Commissioners serve two-year terms, with a maximum of three consecutive terms. However, this vacancy would fill one unexpired term through June 30, 2024.

The Parks and Recreations Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month. City residency is required. A stipend of \$75.00 per meeting attended is paid to each Commissioner. Interested Dixon residents may obtain an application at City Hall, 600 East A Street, by calling 678-7000, or by visiting the City's website at [www.cityofdixon.us](http://www.cityofdixon.us). Deadline to apply is December 29.

#### Christmas Concert

Living Hope Church is hosting a Christmas Concert on December 16 at 410 Gateway Drive. It will be free of charge and open to the community. The band featured is Leaving Theodora, a band based in Vacaville, and a duo band called Strands. The purpose of this event is to share with the community the Christmas spirit and have an opportunity for everyone to come together. There will be desserts and a coffee bar, pictures with Santa, and crafts for children.

#### Beer Fundraiser

Soroptimist International of Dixon is holding a YETI Tundra54 Hard Cooler donated by Pacific Ace Hardware of Vacaville and full of beer for a raffle that will be held in February of 2024. Tickets are only \$10 and you must be 21 years old or over to purchase a ticket. Call Nicki Monk at (530) 219-6940.

#### Free Rides

Have you heard of Dixon Readi-Ride's Golden Pass Program? Seniors aged 80 and older can take local trips within City limits at no charge. Golden Pass rides can happen anytime Dixon Readi-Ride is open and available. To schedule a ride call: (707) 678-5020.

#### Tremont Festival

Tremont Elementary's PTO Winter Festival and Vendor Fair will be Friday, December 8 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the school, 355 Pheasant Run Drive. There will be a DJ, food, crafts, a Dollar Table and more plus there will be a special guest appearance! ★



Be a part of our Farmer's Club. This club, with great incentives, is offered to our first 50 residents.

## Coming Soon

### The FARMSTEAD AT DIXON SENIOR LIVING

We are honored to be able to provide the residents of Dixon and surrounding areas more senior living options.

- Offering 3 levels of care:
- Independent Living • Assisted Living • Memory Care

Our community offers spacious studios, one bedroom and two-bedroom floor plans with luxury finishes such as granite counter tops, walk in closets, gorgeous views of our courtyards and the surrounding neighborhood.

- Incredible/unique amenities:
- on-site ice cream parlor
  - pizza oven dining experience
  - a putting green
  - theater room



350 Gateway Drive • Dixon, CA 95620  
[www.farmsteadatdixon.com](http://www.farmsteadatdixon.com)  
 707-301-9921 License # Pending  
[info@farmsteadatdixon.com](mailto:info@farmsteadatdixon.com)  
 We are NOW taking reservations on apartments

"Your family bike shop since 1976"

## FULL SERVICE BIKE SHOP

Professional Affordable Repairs  
**FAST SERVICE!**

Monday - Friday 9:30 - 6:00 PM • Saturday 9:30 - 3:00 PM  
 539 N. Adams St., Dixon • 707.678.4330  
[fiskscyclery.com](http://fiskscyclery.com)

# Judge Recommends Whiskey Barrel



Tiffany Fabiani, left, talks to women at a wine stroll one-and-a-half years ago inside the old Bank of America Building where she and her husband planned to open Whiskey Barrel 707, an upscale whiskey bar. The couple are still trying to get it opened after months of just two people's opposition.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - According to a local Dixon history expert, there were 14 bars on two blocks of downtown at one time. Tiffany Fabiani and Ed Renger just got another victory for adding their one whiskey bar to the seven downtown businesses that serve alcohol.

"The administrative judge issued a 'recommended determination' but he does not make the ultimate decisions," explained Fabiani, who with husband Renger are still hopeful to open Whiskey Barrel 707 in the former Bank of America building. "He makes a recommendation back to the ABC Director (an appointed official by the governor.) He's recommending we are granted our approval (a license) based on conditions no different from a permit from the City," she said.

"It's a small win for us. They then have another 100 days to issue a final ruling. After that, Ginger and the church have a hundred days to respond," she added. So the wait continues.

Last spring after an April City Council meeting, it was reported that the City Council had already twice agreed with the City Planning Commission's approval,

and twice denied appeals from downtown resident Ginger Emerson, leader of the Old Town Neighbors group, and Donna Brock of Calvary Church to stop husband and wife Tiffany Fabiani and Edward Renger's business from opening. Whiskey Barrel 707, a proposed upscale pub and lounge offering live entertainment, had originally been scheduled for its grand opening in June of 2022 in downtown Dixon on North First Street.

After a full year of opposition by a handful of people led by the unofficial Old Town Neighbors advocate Emerson, discussions of parking, loitering, security, drunk driving, noise, elderly neighbors, crime, oversaturation of liquor licensing, pedestrians, school children, and more, have been addressed to the satisfaction of the City of Dixon.

At that April City Council meeting, Fabiani read to the audience:

"First and foremost, I want to commend all the city departments that have, too, endured exhaustive efforts preparing responses to overly broad and overreaching protests submitted by one Ginger Emerson in an effort to dredge up mud and evidence of wrongdoings by myself and City staff. We have been above

board in all of our workings with the City and the State. We have not asked for favors, exceptions nor variances and have accepted and abided by all permitting requirements demanded of us." She then asked everyone in the room who supported this project to stand and raise their hand. More than 50 people showed support, many of whom spoke at the podium, and several more spoke via online Zoom, including the owner of that building who encouraged approval.

Fabiani had been prepared with several exhibits to refute claims made by Emerson and the church, such as copies of official 2003 City Planning meeting minutes, when the Calvary Chapel Pastor was trying to get his own Conditional Use Permit approved where he stated on record that he would not interfere with future businesses downtown who apply for ABC licenses when then Downtown Dixon Business Association President Rob Salaber objected to the church in the center of downtown as it was not the best use of the building.

"Why didn't (Pastor Brock) protest the other two businesses that literally, physically sit on both sides of the church building who also serve alcohol and host gatherings?" she asked. "Why didn't he appeal to the City to not build an open, public live entertainment venue now known as Pardi Plaza that also sits less than 100 feet away from the church?"

Fabiani stated their entertainment is proposed for Friday and Saturday nights - times the church told ABC they don't hold events or gatherings. Additionally, the Rengers held an informal sound test, and one could not hear anything coming out of their brick-walled building.

For the third time, the Councilmen and Mayor Steve Bird said they were for the project. ★

# La Cocina Mexicana Provides an Art Experience



The large, Aztec design in the center of the wall is Marcos Saucedo's first work for the restaurant. He reported he created it from recycled wood because they didn't have money to decorate otherwise.

Continued from page 1

It was his stepdad who encouraged him to open a restaurant together. They started in Rio Vista and ran it for 17 years, splitting their partnership when Marcos moved the family to Dixon 35 years ago. He worked two jobs: He started prepping food for Chevy's, and also worked as a cook for IHOP. He did that for eight years.

"(Hispanics) really like work," he said. Then he and his family opened Maria's on Pitt School Road. When they sold that restaurant, he went to work for Salad Cosmo for several years as the family needed medical benefits.

The vibrant 56-year-old said that he's had nine surgeries, including an open-heart surgery two years ago. He showed a long scar on his arm where a broken tool sliced his arm when he was cutting wood.

"Thanks to Jim and our friendship, and Roberta's -- they didn't let me go down," he said. Neither did his family, and most of them work together.

"My skin is old, but my heart is still young," he said with a laugh. That sense of humor is the main ingredient inside the restaurant that the late Roberta Beers and wonderful long-time friend Jim Green encouraged him to open.

### LA COCINA PREVAILS

They endured the pandemic. They prevailed despite a car crashing into the building and forcing them to close for several weeks for repairs, and soon after reopening an electrical issue causing a fire forcing another closure for months.

"We've had to rebuild twice," said Alejandro Salceda, a brother who is their

waiter of 17 years. "It wasn't explained the difference between home building requirements and commercial requirements." During that time is when Marcos would take six chairs home at a time and craft them into colorful seats.

"It was every day that someone would ask me when are you going to re-open," Marcos said about feeling missed by the community. "I can't hide because they know me." But it gave him time to relax, and now every table has been re-worked... and they've passed all the fire inspections too. When they opened last week, a simple post on Facebook nearly went viral in Dixon and they were slammed until closing.

They survived the labor shortage thanks to family members who seem to really enjoy working together. There's music and lots of joking while they work in the restaurant to the point that Leticia comes over and tells them to, "Shhh!"

"The best thing is the people," said Alejandro.

"They are humble and nice and 98 percent of them are beautiful people," agreed Marcos.

Other family workers are Marcos and Leticia's daughters: Nayely, the "boss," and Alejandra who handles the paperwork. There is also Raul Arce who preps, and Ulysses Martinez, their main cook.

"There are three generations here," Marcos said.

Located at 105 Dorset Dr., La Cocina Mexicana is in the separate commercial development in the Dixon Walmart Shopping Center. Phone is (707) 693-1102. They are closed on Sundays for their family. ★

Be a part of something important

## Local Writers Wanted

We are looking for local Freelance Writers to provide great coverage.

**MPG** Call us today at 916-773-1111

*Cynde's Place*  
SALON & BOUTIQUE

201 North 1st Street | Downtown Dixon  
707-693-1105

20% off Moroccan Oil  
with this ad

**GROCERY OUTLET**  
Dixon  
bargain market

*Santa Claus is Coming to Town!*

DECEMBER 16 • 1-4 PM

2400 N FIRST STREET  
DIXON, CA 95620

Take pictures with Santa Claus and enjoy free cookies and cider!

**DIXON**

The Dixon District Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome the following new members

<p><u>Chairman's Circle - Ruby Level</u></p> <p>Buzz Oates Construction, Inc</p> <p>The Discount Store Dixon</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/> <p>Bermudez Painting</p> <p>California Forever</p> <p>Children's Choice Dental Care</p> <p>Dignity Health</p> <p>Featherlite Yoga</p>	<p>Grand Canyon University</p> <p>Keller Williams Realty/SRES Team Barrett</p> <p>Pacific Gas &amp; Electric</p> <p>Quick Quack Car Wash</p> <p>REM Senior Day Program</p> <p>Servpro of Vacaville-Dixon</p> <p>Soroptimist Intl. of Dixon</p> <p>The Farmstead at Dixon</p>
--	--

For information on how the Dixon Chamber can help your business be more successful, call 707-678-2650 or email [info@dixonchamber.org](mailto:info@dixonchamber.org).

**Connect • Communicate • Collaborate**

# Nation's Finest Opens New Office in Vacaville



Nation's Finest Vacaville office staff includes Elizabeth Correa, Site Director; Carrigan Zunino, Program Support Specialist; Lisa Hoff, Case Manager; Jason Shaw, Case Manager; Adriana Gorham, Housing Locator; Chris Sheridan, Outreach Specialist; and Stephen Hernandez, Regional Site Director. Photo courtesy of Nation's Finest

## Nation's Finest News Release

**VACAVILLE, CA (MPG)** - Nation's Finest, a non-profit Veterans service organization, announced the opening of a new office in Vacaville to respond to the ongoing challenges faced by Veterans in Solano County. The new office, located at 490 Merchant St. Suite 201, will provide comprehensive Veteran support services and build relationships with Veterans in the community.

"Vacaville has a large number of Veterans living in the area, (and) many previously served at Travis Air Force Base or Mare Island," said Elizabeth Correa, Site Director, Nation's Finest Vacaville office. "Our new office will help us more easily connect and provide transitional housing for homeless Veterans and those in danger of homelessness, referrals for mental and physical health services, employment services, and more. It will also help us strengthen our connection with community partners in Solano

County where the need is great."

Solano County alone is home to nearly 30,000 Veterans, with more than 8,000 living with a disability, more than 400 unemployed, and hundreds more who are homeless or living in poverty. More than 50% of the Veteran population is over the age of 65.

Nation's Finest, first established as Flower of the Dragon in Santa Rosa in 1972, has been serving Veterans for over 50 years. The non-profit was founded by four former Vietnam Veterans who realized that those returning home needed services such as job training and job placement, or a safe space, to help them transition to civilian life.

The new Vacaville office has a team of eight professional and diverse staff members who serve as case managers, housing locators, outreach specialists, and a site director. Veterans from all eras and backgrounds needing support are encouraged to reach out to the new office for qualified, compassionate care. ★

# Senator Dodd Urges Support for AI Privacy Regulation

## Office of Senator Bill Dodd

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, issued the following statement on Nov. 28, 2023, on a proposal from the California Privacy Protection Agency that would protect consumers interacting with automated decision-making technology, including providing an opt-out provision to prevent the collection of their personal data.

"This is an important step toward protecting data privacy and the unwanted use of AI," said Sen. Dodd. "Maintaining human choice is critical as this technology evolves with the prospect for so much good but also the potential for abuse. The state privacy agency board and executive director

Ashkan Soltani deserve a lot of credit for getting the ball rolling on this and ensuring California leads the way on innovative consumer protections."

California Privacy Protection Agency this week announced draft regulations on how the new privacy protections that Californians voted for in 2020 could be implemented. The proposed regulations address automated decision-making consumers would encounter when buying products, applying for jobs and seeking medical care, among other things. It would give them the option of declining to share their data. This would include use of facial-recognition software. The first hearing on the proposal is Dec. 8.

"Automated decision-making

# Thompson Leads Letter to Trade Representative



Office of Congressman Mike Thompson

## WASHINGTON, DC (MPG)

- Reps. Mike Thompson (CA-04) and Dan Newhouse (WA-04) led over 60 members of Congress on a letter to United States Trade Representative (USTR) Ambassador Katherine Tai on concerns about the challenges U.S. wine producers face in critical export markets around the world, including the key growth markets of India, China and Vietnam. The letter asks USTR to commit additional resources to expand access to critical markets for high value exports like wine.

"Wine is one of the most sustainable, high value-added agricultural products grown in the U.S. adding more than \$170 billion annually to the national economy and supporting 1.1 million jobs across the nation," the members wrote. "U.S. wine exports have seen an unfortunate decline in value over the last six years due to numerous factors including retaliatory tariffs and the coronavirus pandemic.

"As you work to expand U.S. agricultural exports, we ask that USTR commit additional resources to expand access to critical markets for high value exports like wine. We recognize that the administration is not pursuing traditional comprehensive market access agreements at this time but urge you to launch targeted efforts to address the competitive disadvantage faced by U.S. wine producers."

"Expanding export opportunities is a top priority for our wineries so it is very encouraging to see

the broad support within Congress for these efforts," said Robert P. Koch, President and CEO of Wine Institute. "We look forward to continuing to work with the Congressional Wine Caucus and the administration to level the playing field for U.S. wineries throughout the world."

The full letter can be read below.

*Dear Ambassador Tai: We are writing on behalf of the Congressional Wine Caucus to raise concerns about the challenges U.S. wine producers face in critical export markets around the world. In many of the fastest growing wine markets, the playing field is tilted heavily against U.S. producers. We urge you to redouble USTR's efforts to remove tariff and non-tariff barriers for U.S. wine producers in key markets.*

*Wine is one of the most sustainable, highly value-added agricultural products grown in the U.S. adding more than \$170 billion annually to the national economy and supporting 1.1 million jobs across the nation. U.S. wine exports have seen an unfortunate decline in value over the last six years due to numerous factors including retaliatory tariffs and the coronavirus pandemic. Despite some recent recovery, U.S. wine exports are still well below their peak of \$1.62 billion in 2016. The global wine trade is still struggling to recover from these challenges as historically strong wine markets like the U.S. and European Union have seen flat to declining growth.*

*Challenging market conditions in numerous established wine markets are forcing U.S. wine producers to look to developing markets for growth. Many of these countries present numerous trade challenges that greatly increase the cost of entering the market. At the same time, competitors from wine producing regions are gaining favorable market access terms through trade agreements. Here are just a few*

*examples of the challenges U.S. wine producers face:*

*In India, U.S. wines are subject to a 150 percent tariff in addition to numerous non-tariff measures in this fast-growing market. Australia recently completed a trade agreement with India which lowers the tariff on premium Australian wine to 75 percent immediately and 25 percent in the future.*

*Currently, Vietnam applies a 50 percent tariff on U.S. wine while wine from competitors in the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, and Chile will soon pay a 0 percent tariff.*

*U.S. wines continue to be targeted by retaliatory tariffs in China as a result of U.S. actions on Sec. 232 and 301 tariffs. U.S. exports face a 54 percent tariff, while wines from the EU pay 14 percent and wines from New Zealand and Chile pay 0 percent tariff.*

*As you work to expand U.S. agricultural exports, we ask that USTR commit additional resources to expand access to critical markets for high value exports like wine. We recognize that the administration is not pursuing traditional comprehensive market access agreements at this time but urge you to launch targeted efforts to address the competitive disadvantage faced by U.S. wine producers. Doing so is critical to ensuring the long-term sustainability of this iconic and valuable agricultural product and the many benefits that it brings to our communities.*

*Congressman Mike Thompson is proud to represent California's 4th Congressional District, which includes all or part of Lake, Napa, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo Counties. He is a senior member of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Rep. Thompson is Chairman of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. He is also Co-Chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Wine Caucus and a member of the fiscally responsible Blue Dog Coalition. ★*

technologies and artificial intelligence have the potential to transform key aspects of our lives. We're proud that California is meeting the moment by giving consumers more control over these technologies," said Ashkan Soltani, California Privacy Protection Agency's executive director. "We thank staff and the new rules subcommittee for their incredible work on the draft regulations and look forward to receiving additional input from the

Agency Board and the public as we move through the appropriate process."

Link to CPPA press release: <https://cppa.ca.gov/announcements/2023/20231127.html>

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



# OH NO!

## Is that really happening?

Read the public notices in our newspaper or on our website to learn more about:

- Government meetings, bids & contracts
- Foreclosures
- Unclaimed property
- School Board issues
- Elections/Polling places, initiative petitions
- Tax assessments/proposals



# LOCAL CRIME REPORTS

Find out what's happening in your local area at...

[INDEPENDENTVOICE.COM](http://INDEPENDENTVOICE.COM)

**ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY**

# Forever California Will Be Neighbors

Continued from page 1

Why would anyone think that Forever California cannot be done? They've already purchased more than \$800 million worth of land to build it. These kinds of dream neighborhoods have already been done successfully, and it's likely that Michael Moritz, the billionaire that thought it up in 2017, will look back on its growth someday and be quite proud.

He approached fellow billionaires who got on board, and before anyone could know it, a company called the Flannery Associates out of San Francisco and run by Jan Sramek, formerly a Goldman Sachs trader who was plenty familiar with top investors in our country, purchased large parcels of land in the Travis-Rio Vista areas. Whether it was for sale or not gobbling up thousands of acres of farmland, and according to an article published in the New York Times on August 25, "paying several times the market rate."

Yes, you're right, if you are remembering the feared China purchase of military land that you heard about a few months ago, but no,

it is investments at its finest in the American way. The goal of these mighty men is to convert this huge blank slate of fields and majestic windmills and change it to a thriving metropolis with "thousands of residents, clean energy, public transportation, and dense urban life," stated the writers, Conor Dougherty and Erin Griffith.

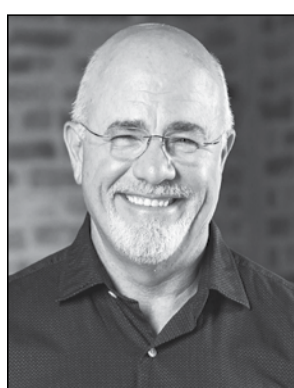
"California Forever" "I'm excited for the opportunity to connect with and get feedback from communities across Solano County during our town hall tour," California Forever CEO Jan Sramek said in a letter to interested citizens. "These events will be an opportunity for residents of Solano County to learn more about the opportunities in eastern Solano and how those benefit all parts of Solano County, and to help us design the best possible project."

The folks are doing a good job of marketing the idea, including speaking to the Dixon Rotary Club and doing phone surveys, as well as direct mail pieces to people who are remotely close to the land. That is understandable because this area is expansive and will no doubt affect

surrounding cities. They've scheduled numerous Town Hall meetings including Dixon on Monday, December 18, 5 p.m. at Dixon Olde Vets Hall, 231 North First St. It is the last stop of the county cities. You have to RSVP online to ensure your seat, and you can email questions in advance to [contact@californiaforever.com](mailto:contact@californiaforever.com).

There will be opposition, of course, especially from environmentalists, because there will be so much land impacted. In addition, I read about one of the farmers who had been on the land for decades and refused to sell. I feel for them and understand the legacy they want to keep. But how else are we looking toward the future to see what kinds of opportunities we may have for our children and grandchildren?

In a survey the company did, they reported that 81 percent said their children won't have a future in their own communities, and since all three of my grown children had to leave Dixon to find good paying jobs to support their families, this is an undeniable fact. I truly hope we can work together to bring this future into reality. ★



**Be Gentle, He's Moving in the Right Direction**

Dear Dave,

We're following your Baby Steps plan, and we've paid off all our credit cards. But when I talked to my husband the other day about cutting up the cards and closing the accounts, he said he would rather keep the accounts open, and the cards locked away in a drawer for use as an emergency fund. He says this will help us have an emergency fund in place quicker than saving for one. I think there's more behind his reasoning, though. He grew up in a very poor family, and I wonder if he's not afraid of somehow ending up in that kind of situation again. What can I do to convince him to follow your advice?

- Ramona

## Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Ramona,

I think you're a very perceptive lady. You said your husband grew up in poverty, right? So, what I'm hearing is the cards represent almost a security blanket for him—a financial security blanket. I get that, but here's the thing. If you had a fully funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses sitting in the bank, I'm talking about hard cold cash, you'd have the security of knowing that the expense of a new air conditioning unit or transmission for the car would only be a minor inconvenience. And, you'd be able to cover it easily without going back into debt.

Instead of actively trying to convince him of something, a better route might be to sit down together and talk through the whole thing. Explain to him you think you know why he feels the way he does, and that it's understandable. Then, ask him if there's a reasonable amount you two could have in the bank that would help him

stop worrying. Discuss it, agree on an amount and then agree to cut the cards up and close the accounts when you reach that figure. Remind him, too, you'd still have your debit cards in hand in the event of an emergency.

Above all, Ramona, make sure you work together. Be patient and understanding. If he has recognized the wisdom of getting rid of debt and taking control of your finances, he's moving in the right direction!

- Dave

*Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling 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. ★*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Whistleblower Retaliation

To Solano County Supervisors

John Vasquez, Erin Hannigan, Wanda Williams, Monica Brown, Mitch Mashburn

I know Solano County and Board of Supervisors are tired of hearing from me, I filed a suit a week ago against Solano County and the Board of Supervisors which I'm waiting for the courts to process. It's against Solano County and each Supervisor by name "In their Capacity as Solano County Supervisors. Over a year ago I sent emails and addressed the Board on what I feel is whistleblower retaliation against me.

I had submitted a whistleblower complaint against the county for the way they approved a Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility in an exclusive Agricultural Zone. It included the Planning Department changing the applicant's documents to make the business meet the wording that would allow it in Exclusive Ag. The business was previously located in an Industrial Zone of Solano County and said themselves they were a Retail Services Business. Solano County changed it to Infrastructure with no documentation on why. The planner violated county ethics policy numerous times including adding a CEQA exemption to the Supervisor's Final Approval that was not submitted for public and govt CEQA review.

The county review pushed the ethics boundary if not the law. I appealed all of this and submitted a whistle blower complaint. Weeks after I submitted the whistleblower complaint, I received a building code violation for a 40- or 50-year-old building on my property.

Five years prior to the violation I had applied for a permit for solar and the inspector had made a note in my file that the solar should not be connected to the unpermitted building. That was the end of it at the time. Five years later in a meeting with Mr. Schmidtbauer, Mr. Calder, and Mr. Iravani they said that the note

was noticed by staff when I applied for another permit 5 years later and that it had only been an oversite in not citing it prior. They would never tell me if this was policy or not. Over the last year I have talked to two different Solano County inspectors, and both have said they do not go looking for work and do not issue violations for unpermitted buildings during inspections. I had applied for numerous permits and had them approved between purchasing the land and the violation and it was never an issue.

I was always under the impression that when the county came out for requested inspections, they did not write violations on buildings that were not within the scope of the requested permit. What incentive would that be for people to do the right things and request a permit. When I presented this to the Board none of you seemed concerned. I have no problem bringing my buildings up to code if that is Solano County's policy. But this seems like a blatant targeting of me. After receiving a letter of abatement I'm currently retrofitting my buildings to meet Solano County standards

The final item that indicates retaliation is that the violation was done anonymously with an unsigned investigation request left on the compliance codes officers' desk as stated by the compliance officer.

It is very sad that no one from the Board will even ask the Staff what the county's violation policy is. I can understand my representative not questioning it because of their involvement with the whistleblower issue. This whole issue of approval and violation has been an education for me how govt works. Are Supervisors elected to run the government or represent the people? Please look at why you ran for Supervisor in the first place. Thanks for your time.

Jim Schneider  
Dixon, CA



### Point Reyes Dairy Farmers Fear for Livelihoods Amid Legal Battles Over Elk

In the 1960s, dairy farmers along the Marin County coast agreed to sell ranches to the federal government to facilitate creation of the Point Reyes National Seashore. That sales accord created a partnership enabling 27 working ranches to continue operating—scattered between public beaches, hiking trails, campgrounds and, later, a reserve for native tule elk. But now farmers say their livelihoods are threatened by lawsuits over the U.S. National Park Service's management of ranching, as well by a recent proposal by park officials to remove fencing that separates elk from livestock.

### In Nation's Artichoke Capital, Growing Acreage is Shrinking

California produces 97% of the nation's fresh artichokes, and 75% of those are grown in Monterey County. The artichoke is the county's official vegetable, and tourists flock to restaurants and farm stands along the Artichoke Trail, which opened in 1957. Yet artichoke production on California's Central Coast has steadily fallen over the past three decades. This is partly due to a transition from perennial artichoke plants to an annual or seeded variety in the 1990s, after a lengthy cold snap killed acres of perennial artichokes in the county.

### Water Year is Off to a Slow Start, but High Reservoir Levels Give Farmers Hope

As California's weather swings from droughts to floods, farmers say they are planning for either extreme but remain confident knowing the water supply in state reservoirs is well above the historical average for this time of year. The currently abundant surface water stored in reservoirs across the state is the result of an El Niño weather pattern that brought soaking atmospheric river storms and flooding early this year. But since the 2024 water year began on Oct. 1, the state has received little precipitation and snow.

### Dairy Farmer Reaches Cattle Exhibition 'Hall Of Fame'

After nearly 60 years of showing cattle, Tulare County dairy farmer Joey Airoso acknowledged he's "pretty well known" in competition circles. Though he has taken home various prizes through the years, Airoso said he was "completely surprised" when he was named the 81st winner of the Klussendorf Award, widely regarded as the Hall of Fame for dairy cattle exhibitors. Airoso manages a family dairy in Pixley that milks 2,600 cows and grows 1,600 acres of alfalfa, corn, wheat and pistachios. His family also breeds and sells registered Holsteins and Jerseys. ★

# Volunteers Needed for Academic Decathlon

### Solano County Office of Education News Release

**FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG)** - The Solano County Office of Education is seeking adult volunteers to help with the Bay Region Academic Decathlon scheduled for Saturday, January 27, 2024, at Solano Community College in Fairfield starting at 8:00 a.m.

Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and can register online at the Solano County Office of Education website at [www.solanocoe.net](http://www.solanocoe.net). Volunteer opportunities include interview and speech judges, room monitors, runners, Super Quiz proctors, and Super Quiz assistants. All volunteers will receive an orientation packet and in-person orientation.

The Bay Region Academic Decathlon includes high schools from Santa Clara,

Solano, Contra Costa, Napa, Sonoma, Lake, Mendocino, and Yolo Counties. This year, over 200 high school students are expected to compete in the regional competition.

The Academic Decathlon is an extraordinary platform that not only tests students' intellectual prowess but also cultivates a profound appreciation for knowledge, teamwork, and self-confidence.

Much like the ancient Greek decathlon, which featured grueling physical trials, the Academic Decathlon is a true test of academic strength. It comprises ten exhilarating events, each showcasing a unique facet of a student's intellectual capabilities. These events encompass a wide range of subjects, including art, music, language and literature, mathematics, economics, science, and social science. ★



**RETIRED COUPLE HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE\***

**V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY**  
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

**OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING**  
Principal **(818) 248-0000** Broker  
[WWW.VIPLAN.COM](http://WWW.VIPLAN.COM) \*Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217  
Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

**WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS**

# Local Classifieds

Advertise in your local community newspaper  
Call 916-773-1111

## Announcement

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote - Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-439-5645 (Cal-SCAN)

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (Cal-SCAN)

NEW AUTHORS WANTED! Page Publishing will help you self-publish your own book. FREE author submission kit! Limited offer! Why wait? Call now: 1-855-667-0380 (Cal-SCAN)

## Autos Wanted

Donating your vehicle? Get more! Free Towing, Tax Deductible. Plus a \$200 restaurant voucher and a 2-night/3-day hotel stay at one of 50 locations. Call Heritage for the Blind to donate your vehicle today. CALL 1-844-491-2884 (Cal-SCAN)

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - Maximum Tax Donation - Help Find Missing Kids! Call 1-888-491-1453. (Cal-SCAN)

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR?? Your car donation to Patriotic Hearts helps veterans find work or start their own business. Fast free pick. Running or not! Call 24/7: 1-877-529-0495. (Cal-SCAN)

Tiene un vehiculo no deseado? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-844-244-5441 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN)

WANTED! Old Porsche 356/911/912 for restoration by hobbyist 1948-1998 Only. Any condition. Top \$ paid! PLEASE LEAVE MESSAGE 1-707-339-5994. Email: Porschere restoration@yahoo.com (Cal-SCAN)

Visit: [mpg8.com](http://mpg8.com) for current and back issues

## Cable/Satellite TV

DIRECTV. New 2-Year Price Guarantee. The most live MLB games this season, 200+ channels and over 45,000 on-demand titles. \$84.99/mo for 24 months with CHOICE Package. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-641-5762 (Cal-SCAN)

## Financial

Over \$10K in Debt? Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 1-888-231-4274. (Cal-SCAN)

## For Sale:

'V-8 (Cadillac Engine) in 1995 Oldsmobile Aurora. 64,000 original miles. Must take whole car. Transmission is no good. \$500 or best offer. Call 530-742-9144 and leave message. (TFN)

'84 Corvette, 88,000 miles, engine is extremely strong, 4 speed tranny, get's up and goes. Interior needs work. Primered. First \$2,500 drives it away. 530-742-9144 leave message. (TFN)

## Health/Wellness

JOIN FOR FREE - NO KITS OR QUOTES & FREE WEBSITE. CTFO (Changing The Future Outcome) Has the best CBD oil available. Products for health, beauty, weight or hair loss and even for your pets. Check out these products: [canderson.myctfo.com](http://canderson.myctfo.com) (TFN)

## Health/Wellness

Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-888-892-5598 (Cal-SCAN)

## Advertising Works!

**GOT LOCAL NEWS?**  
Call  
**(916) 773-1111**

## Home Remodel

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're waiving all installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 9/30/23) Call 1-833-985-4766 (Cal-SCAN)

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1- 888-989-5749 (Cal-SCAN)

## Insurance

SAVE BIG on HOME INSURANCE! Compare 20 A-rated insurances companies. Get a quote within minutes. Average savings of \$444/year! Call 1-844-410-9609! (M-F 8am-8pm Central) (Cal-SCAN)

## Internet

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxisp Telecom today! 1-855-480-0769 (Cal-SCAN)

## Landscaping/Maintenance

RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, HANDYMAN, MANY FIELDS: Irrigation (manual or automatic) installation or repair; cement, mow strips, masonry (walls & columns), retaining walls; fence installation (wood, vinyl, chain-link, iron); plumbing; mowing, edging, clean-up, hauling; pruning (all kinds of fruit or shade trees); tree removal, rock, bark or sod. Call Andy 530-701-8098. (TFN)

## Legal Services

CANCEL YOUR TIME-SHARE Call Attorney Sid Connor, your nationally trusted consumer protection attorney \*40+ years experience \*1,000+ clients represented \*99% success rate L. Sidney Connor IV, Esq. 1500 U.S. Highway 17 North Suite 209 Surfside Beach, SC 29575 https://www.timeoutco.com/info@timeoutco.com Phone: 1-843-846-3688 Bar No.: 0001363 (Cal-SCAN)

## Miscellaneous

DID YOU KNOW Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email [cecilia@cnpa.com](mailto:cecilia@cnpa.com) (Cal-SCAN)

The difference in winning and losing market share is how businesses use their advertising dollars. CNPA's Advertising Services' power to connect to nearly 13 million of the state's readers who are an engaged audience, makes our services an indispensable marketing solution. For more info call Cecilia @ (916) 288-6011 or [cecilia@cnpa.com](mailto:cecilia@cnpa.com). (Cal-SCAN)

## Real Estate

RETIRE COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company [www.viploan.com](http://www.viploan.com) Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073. No consumer loans. (Cal-SCAN)

**RETIRE COUPLE**  
HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE\*  
**V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY**  
Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests  
OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING  
Principal **(818) 248-0000** Broker  
[WWW.VIPLAN.COM](http://WWW.VIPLAN.COM) \*Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans  
Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217  
Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

## Pets/Animals

DONATE YOUR UNWANTED CAR, TRUCK, RV OR BOAT TO HELP HOMELESS PETS. PETS ALIVE, A CALIFORNIA, QUALIFIED 501-C-3 NONPROFIT. WE ARE TAX DEDUCTION AND PAPERWORK EXPERTS AND PROVIDE GUARANTEED TAX DEDUCTIONS. FOR QUOTES AND QUICK PICK UP, CALL US TODAY. 833-772-2632 LAPET-SALIVE.ORG (Cal-SCAN)

## Wireless

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. Limited time offer get \$50 off on any new account. Use code GIF750. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605 (Cal-SCAN)

## Visit MPG8.com

**THE MICHAEL J. FOX FOUNDATION FOR PARKINSON'S RESEARCH**

## Take the Smell Test Challenge

A free scratch-and-sniff test can help researchers learn more about brain health.

Request your test at [mysmelltest.org/news](http://mysmelltest.org/news) or scan the QR code.



### My wife laughed when I wanted to be a CEO, But when I took the company public?

- Can't Get That Right Job?
- Is Age A Problem?
- Have You Been Downsized?
- Want To Change Industries?
- Do You Find Sending Resumes To Job Boards Unproductive?
- Are You Reaching The Unpublished Market?
- Would You Be Open To Remote or Hybrid Work?
- Are You Getting The Compensation That You Deserve?

Executives: FREE Resume Evaluation and Free Position Evaluation and Guidance

Next Level 646 219-0000

Resume to [vpcareer20@gmail.com](mailto:vpcareer20@gmail.com)

## We Support Our Military

# IndependentVoice.com

S	T	R	A	P	P	E	R	U	V	E	A	
P	O	O	C	H	I	R	A	C	R	E	A	M
O	R	A	T	E	T	A	J	A	G	I	S	T
T	I	D	I	N	G	S	A	D	V	E	N	T
N	O	R	S	H	O	O						
G	A	P	L	I	C	E	C	R	O	S	S	E
O	A	S	T	P	U	R	R	T	U	T	T	I
O	R	E	O	S	E	V	E	N	C	R	A	G
S	O	U	N	D	D	A	D	O	H	I	G	H
E	N	D	E	A	R	N	O	R	M	P	E	T
R	O	U	T	T	A	I						
G	R	I	N	C	H	C	H	I	M	N	E	Y
S	H	O	R	E	H	U	H	D	I	O	D	E
H	E	W	E	D	U	S	A	E	D	W	I	N
H	E	S	S	H	E	R	N	E	S	T	S	

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • HAPPY HOLIDAYS

- CLUES**
1. Bag holder
  6. P in mpg
  9. Eye part
  13. Dog
  14. \_\_\_\_\_ Gershwin
  15. \*Eggnog ingredient
  16. Hold the floor
  17. \_\_\_\_\_ Mahal
  18. Anti-elderly one
  19. \*Breaking news, to a caroler
  21. \*Coming, in Latin
  23. \_\_\_\_\_ easter
  24. "Begone!"
  25. Parent-child divide
  28. Fur-dwelling parasites
  30. Lacrosse stick
  35. Kiln for hops
  37. Feline vibration
  39. Little Richard's "\_\_\_\_\_ Frutti"
  40. Cream-filled treat
  41. \*Number of candles in kinara
  43. Mountain goat terrain
  44. \*\*Prancing and pawing of each little hoof," e.g.
  46. Carpenter's joint
  47. Drug-induced state
  48. Make lovable
  50. "Cheers" regular
  52. \*Max to #57 Across
  53. Overwhelming defeat
  55. Thailand native
  57. "Dr. Seuss's" spoilsport
  60. \*Santa chute
  64. Water border
  65. "What?"
  67. D in LED
  68. Carved
  69. Stars and Stripes land
  70. Astronomer \_\_\_\_\_ Hubble
  71. Hitler's sidekick
  72. Joaquin Phoenix' 2013 movie
  73. Crows' homes

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
19				20		21	22						
			23			24							
25	26	27		28		29		30	31	32	33	34	
35			36		37			38		39			
40					41			42		43			
44				45		46				47			
48					49			50		51		52	
					53			54		55		56	
	57	58	59					60			61	62	63
64						65	66			67			
68							69			70			
71							72			73			

SWITCH & GET \$25

Off First Month of New Service! USE PROMO CODE: GZ590

Consumer Cellular

CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913

© 2023 Consumer Cellular Inc. For promo details please call 888-804-0913

## Classified Advertising

Sell Your Stuff! Reach 1000's of Readers Every Week!



916.773.1111

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

- DOWN**
1. Dick's and Jane's dog
  2. Famous Amos
  3. Cormac McCarthy's "The \_\_\_\_\_"
  4. Join the cast of (2 words)
  5. Carbolic acid
  6. Deodorant target
  7. Pitcher's stat
  8. Indian prince
  9. More than suggest
  10. Blood tunnel
  11. 90 degrees, on compass
  12. Invoice qty.
  15. Romp around
  20. Key \_\_\_\_\_ on a movie set, pl.
  22. Med school grad
  24. Passepartout to Phileas Fogg
  25. \*Popular traditional holiday entree
  26. Home run hero
  27. Imposter
  29. Prompted
  31. "That hurts!"
  32. Vegas' main drag
  33. Coach-and-four
  34. \*Number of days in Hanukkah
  36. Muscle quality
  38. Word processor command

**SUDOKU**

Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

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

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

## LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY?

**We Can Do That!**

Call to place your legal advertising **916-773-1111**

All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing 



white males. Academic historians tend to obsess with broad economic and social forces or with minutiae, while the largest impersonal force of all, the climate, occupies an outsized place in the political debate of advanced countries.

We don't have to swoon like the philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, who enthused after catching sight of Napoleon in Jena about "this world-soul, riding out of the city on reconnaissance."

But the general and emperor demonstrates that great men matter -- not that they are virtuous or good, or that they can overcome every obstacle put in their way by themselves or others, or that large-scale factors don't count, but that individual leaders take a hand in shaping events, sometimes decisively.

Would any Macedonian other than Alexander the Great have toppled the Persian empire and marched on India? Would any Frenchman besides Charlemagne have united much of Europe under his rule and brought about an intellectual and cultural renaissance? Would any Russian other than Peter the Great have modernized the Russian empire, defeated the Turks and Swedes, and built St. Petersburg?

How different the 20th century would have looked without Hitler, Stalin and Mao.

By the same token, only Napoleon -- who rose to power in France only six years fleeing his native Corsica with almost nothing -- would have undertaken his historic campaign of institution-building in France

and conquest in Europe. Many of his changes in France proved worthy and enduring, while his ambitions in Europe were rightly resisted by other powers, England foremost among them.

At the end of the day, he was a captain of war who knew one thing above all -- the offensive to seek and destroy the enemy army. He had speed on his side, a feel for topography and the flow of battle, and innovative tactics. These enabled him to destroy enemy armies and pick apart coalitions arrayed against him for years, as his legend grew.

As always happens, though, his rivals learned from him, and his military advantages slipped away. He lost a long battle of attrition, in masses of broken men, horses and weapons. His operational prowess, synonymous with great victories at Ulm and Austerlitz, didn't translate into success in the ultimate geopolitical war. It all ended in ashes and exile, twice. Napoleon was unforgivably careless with the blood and treasure of France, and that of the rest of Europe that struggled so mightily to stop him.

It's not a story that should occasion hero worship, or romantic images like the famous Jacques-Louis David painting of Napoleon crossing the Alps. But it's not a story devoid of interest, or featuring a slightly ridiculous dullard at its center. Hollywood, in a rank distortion, somehow has made it so.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

*(c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc.* ★



# Riley Reviews

“SALTBURN” CREEPY WEIRDNESS; “MONK’S LAST CASE” ON PEACOCK

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

## “SALTBURN” RATED R

Shades of “The Talented Mr. Ripley” and “Brideshead Revisited” inform the dynamic at play in the psychological thriller “Saltburn,” written and directed by Emerald Fennell, who garnered much attention with the same duties for “Promising Young Woman.”

As with the films of a similar bent, “Saltburn” leans into the class divide where a character on a lower rung, fueled most likely by sociopathic tendencies, seeks to ingratiate himself with the upper class.

Set in 2006, scholarship student Oliver Quick (Barry Keoghan) arrives as a freshman at Oxford University. His humble origins set him apart from aristocratic students entitled by a sense of noblesse oblige.

Oliver’s initial friendship with a nerdy math major is quickly discarded when he sets his sights on tall, handsome Felix Catton (Jacob Elordi), the big man on campus who looks like a male model at a fashion show.

Finagling his way into Felix’s inner circle, the needy Oliver, who is actually rather creepy, proves to be manipulative by fabricating a story of lower-class upbringing by parents that are portrayed as addicts.

For reasons that are elusive and unfathomable, Felix takes a shine to Oliver, letting him into the sanctum of entitled Oxford students that you must wonder how they have time to study given nightly forays to the local pub.

When summer rolls around, Felix invites Oliver to be his guest at their palatial home Saltburn, a massive estate that is so gorgeous that it must have once been the residence of royalty.

The Catton family proves to be eccentric. The patriarch is the oblivious Sir James Catton (Richard E. Grant), while the mother Elspeth (Rosamund Pike) is hilariously clueless and good for some choice one-liners.

Felix’s unstable sister Venetia (Alison Oliver) is a train-wreck and Carey Mulligan’s Pamela is a houseguest who has overstayed her welcome. American cousin Farleigh (Archie Madekwe) is suspicious of Oliver’s intentions, and with good reason.

Creepy weird stuff starts happening at the Saltburn estate, gradually becoming more bizarre with strange things involving bodily fluids and graphic shocking events. “Saltburn” is unsettling and disturbing. Take it in at your own risk.

## “MR. MONK’S LAST CASE: A MONK MOVIE”

Fans of Tony Shalhoub’s Adrian Monk, a detective formerly with the San Francisco Police Department, should rejoice in his return in a feature-length movie fourteen years later after the eight-season run of “Monk” on the USA Network.

Peacock brings Monk back in a post-pandemic world in “Mr. Monk’s Last Case: A

Monk Movie.” To understand his character, it is important to note that the “Monk” series was about a former police detective coping with the aftermath of his wife’s death in a mysterious car bombing.

During the run of the series, Monk suffered an extreme obsessive-compulsive disorder that caused him to lose his job and being unable to leave his house for years. With some help, he returned to living, of sorts, working as a private eye and consultant to the police department.

In the later years of the series, Traylor Howard’s Natalie Teeger was Monk’s assistant, helping him to fitfully overcome some of eccentricities. In the movie, she’s in the same role, observing that Monk has a fear of “germs, needles, birds, then heights.”

Actually, there’s a whole lot more that induces Monk’s obsessive concerns. At an opening crime scene, Monk worries about whether he turned off the stove and then speaks of the stove as “one of the longest relationships of my life and certainly one of the happiest.”

Peter Falk as a detective in “Columbo” was an eccentric character with a shambling manner, but he never came close to the obsessions that plagued Monk. And yet, Monk’s anxieties are part of the fun of his character who seems oblivious to his grating idiosyncrasies.

Being a germaphobe can be debilitating in his line of work, but his compulsive behavior is well-suited to grasping the finer details of a crime scene and engaging in painstaking problem-solving.

Monk’s last case turns out to be the tragic death of Griffin (Austin Scott), the fiancé of his stepdaughter Molly (Caitlin McGee), in a bungee jumping accident that may be something more sinister.

In fact, Griffin’s an investigate journalist who’s digging around the shady dealings of Rick Eden (James Purefoy), a well-connected wealthy industrialist who has unscrupulous thugs on payroll acting like contract killers.

Of course, Monk has to overcome his wide range of phobias to solve a very personal case involving Molly, a journalist getting ready for a lifetime of happiness in her upcoming nuptials.

Several regulars from the series return, including Melora Hardin as the ghost of Trudy Monk; Ted Levine as former Homicide Captain Leland Stottlemeyer, who worked with Monk; and Hector Elizondo as Dr. Neven Bell, Monk’s psychiatrist.

A mere passing acquaintance with Shalhoub’s Adrian Monk is all one needs to enjoy a lovable character with a range of obsessions that are endearingly amusing. “Mr. Monk’s Last Case: A Monk Movie” proves that a nearly a decade-and-a-half absence of Monk’s story has not diminished its appeal. ★

## Was Napoleon a Dullard?

The figure of Napoleon has long been an object of fascination, but the new Ridley Scott biopic makes one wonder why.

The film, perhaps inadvertently, partakes of the spirit of the times. The so-called Great Man theory of history -- that it is exceptionally talented men who bend events to their will -- is out of favor. Accordingly, the movie renders the stereotypical great man, Napoleon, as doltish and uninteresting.

No man is a hero to his valet, goes the old saying. But can't he at least be a hero, or a compelling persona, to the director of a \$200 million movie about him?

Apparently not. Napoleon can be considered a proto-fascist dictator, or an enlightened reformer, or some of both, but he could never be considered dull, at least not until portrayed by a stolid Joaquin Phoenix, seemingly unaware that the general was a sparkling personality, a hugely energetic reformer and an inspiring leader of men.

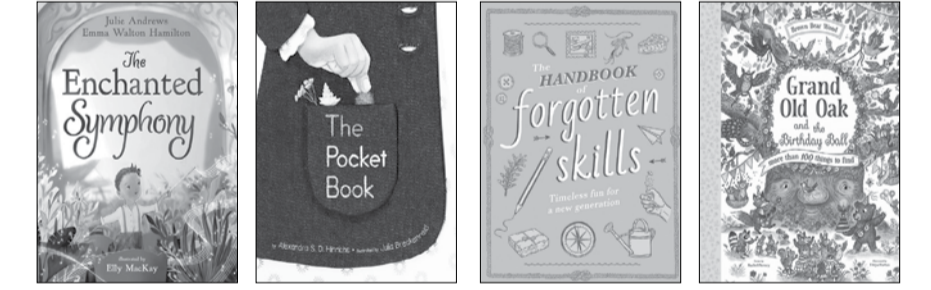
As the Wall Street Journal critic Kyle Smith puts it, “Mr. Phoenix’s Napoleon could never have commanded so much as a squadron of the Salvation Army.”

The Great Man theory is now considered simplistic and even dangerous, and has about it the stale stench of dead

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

## Children’s Holiday Gift-Giving Guide from Abrams Publishing

With the Holidays quickly approaching Abrams Publishing has you in covered with this year’s best, notable and most popular titles to add to any young reader’s library



**The Enchanted Symphony**  
by Julie Andrews,  
Emma Walton Hamilton

Piccolino’s village was vibrant, happy, and known for its singing and dancing. They cherished everything about the earth, music, and those around them. The more they embraced their talents, the more visitors came from far and wide. The villagers baked more, made more to sell, and planted more plants to make the visitors happy until they forgot the beauty of who they were. Then, a dark purple fog spread through the village, wilting the plants and their spirits until all was dark. Then, one day, Piccolino had an idea and began to play music again, and the plants started to grow, and soon everyone began to flourish. As the music spread, the fog lifted, reminding them always to keep sight of what matters most.

This story's beauty perfectly pairs with colorful and vibrant illustrations and a tale full of meaning and heart.

**The Pocket Book**  
by Alexandra S.D. Hinrichs  
Illustrated by Julia Breckenreid

A little girl and her mother take a beautiful nature walk, filling their pocket with beautiful souvenirs and memories. From the promise of sunflowers with just a few seeds and the rush of the ocean waves tucked within a seashell. A secret, A mystery, and even a little tree all tucked int safety of a pocket. So many little items can instantly become precious when seen through the eyes of a child. Beautiful illustrations mixed with photographs add to this story’s stunning realism and wonder.

*The Pocket Book* is a beautiful

exploration of wonder that will encourage young readers to go out and fill their pockets with treasures and memories.

**The Handbook of Forgotten Skills - Timeless Fun For A New Generation**

The timeless skills of sewing, , paper airplanes, drying herbs, baking pies, and tying knots are all explored in this fantastic collection that beautifully highlights and details some of the best time actives and valuable skills from the past. Head back to the simplest times when gardening was a favorite pastime and making homemade pies was a memory for the future. Grab a few lemons and make a glass of lemonade while you sit on the porch sewing your first project. Or even grab that compass and set on a nature hike to identify plants and birds along the way.

This wonderful book is the perfect gift for any family and a fun new way to earn new or old skills and traits to make new family memories.

**Grand Old Oak and the Birthday Ball Poems**  
by Rachel Piercey,  
Illustrated by Freya Hartas

Take an adventure through the seasons as Bear plans the grandest of parties for the old oak tree.

This giant book is A beautiful exploration of poems and artwork. Each two-fold page opens up to a celebration of the Old Oak Tree, complete with items to spot in each scene. This book is a visual and educational delight from the very first page to the last, making this a perfect gift for the nature lover, hide-and-seek fan, or in any classroom. ★

**Sell Your Vehicle in the Local Classifieds**  
Call 916.773.1111  
MPG

**Dixon Independent Voice**  
Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

It is the intent of the *Dixon Independent Voice* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

The *Dixon Independent Voice* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the *Dixon Independent Voice* are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the *Dixon Independent Voice* is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

Subscriptions should be mailed to:  
*Dixon Independent Voice*  
P.O. Box 1106, Dixon, CA 95620

Subscription rate is \$42 per year within Dixon and Solano County. \$62 per year (Mail only).

Main Office Address: 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The *Dixon Independent Voice* is published weekly on Friday.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

*Dixon Independent Voice* is a member of **Messenger Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: [Publisher@mpg8.com](mailto:Publisher@mpg8.com).

**Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher." If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.**

MPG, ENPA, CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL



# Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

## Desire



How badly do you want to see your aspirations turn into reality? Do you have a burning desire or just casual thoughts of “that would be nice if it happens”? Whether you reach your goals or not depends on the intensity of your desire.

If you really want something, you have to go out and make it happen. Taking a passive approach by waiting for your ship to come in doesn't work. Transforming dreams into reality requires a burning desire. Then you have to be willing to expend the necessary effort.

Desire is the fuel that powers your engine of accomplishment. Without fuel, the most powerful racing engine won't even start. Without enough fuel, an engine won't take you to your destination. If you attempt to increase the quantity of fuel by watering it down, your engine will stop running. Both the quality and quantity of your fuel are important.

Just as you have to continuously refuel your car to maintain your ability to travel, your desire must be continuously fanned to keep it burning. Negativity will sap your desire. Negativity can come from within you or from others. What matters is not the source, but rather whether or not you pay attention to it.

If you believe something is impossible, you will not attempt it. Your desire will rapidly fade as you dismiss your dreams as unattainable. However, if you sincerely believe there is a way, you will find it. You will need persistence, patience, perseverance, and determination. Desire gives you the strength to overcome obstacles.

Discouragement has the potential to extinguish your desire. When results don't materialize soon enough, or the results are not as substantial as hoped for, it's normal for you to feel frustrated. If your desire abates, you may even consider giving up. Only when you stop trying do you fail.

When you feel discouraged, fan

your desire by visualizing success. Imagine yourself as having reached your destination. Think about how you will feel when you are successful. Keep yourself moving forward. Don't sit and worry. Maintain your momentum by taking one step at a time.

Ridicule can smother your desire. The derision of others has caused far too many people to abandon their plans. The need for acceptance is an extremely strong emotion. You need a strong belief in your quest. It doesn't matter if you are laughed at. What is critical is that you don't pay attention to ridicule.

Your physical condition improves with regular exercise. Your desire is strengthened in the same manner; through consistent mental conditioning. Each morning, review your goals in your mind. Imagine how you will feel once they are attained. Reaffirm your ability to succeed along with your willingness to do what is needed.

There is no magic formula for success. A strong desire motivates you into action. Hope is not the same as desire. Hope is passive while desire is active. Someone with a burning desire is unstoppable. Their desire creates such strong determination that they go over, under, around, or through all roadblocks.

A burning desire is wanting something so badly you can taste it. When you have a strong desire you are constantly thinking about ways to reach your goals. You may even be obsessed by attaining your dreams.

A lack of desire is the most common cause of abandoned dreams. If you don't want something, you won't get it. Where there's a will, there is a way. A burning desire will give you an edge in your quest for success.

**NOW AVAILABLE:** “Dare to Live Without Limits,” the book. Visit [www.BryanGolden.com](http://www.BryanGolden.com) or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at [bryan@columnist.com](mailto:bryan@columnist.com) or write him c/o this paper. ©2023 Bryan Golden ★

## LEGAL ADVERTISING

Dixon's Independent Voice Adjudicated For and By the County of Solano  
 Legal Advertising Hotline 916-483-2299 Adjudication No. FCS030046–November 24, 2008  
 Legal Advertising P.O. Box 14, Carmichael, CA 95609

### FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001714  
 The following persons are doing business as: Custom Cleaners, 1285 Straford Avenue #F, Dixon, CA 95620.

Soo Young Jeong, 2425 Clemson Drive, Davis, CA 95618  
 Date filed in Solano County: November 1, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2008

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 October 31, 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: Nov 24, Dec 1, 8, 15, 2023  
 CUSTOM 12-15-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001747  
 The following persons are doing business as: Quick Quack Car Wash, 220 Dorset Court, Dixon, CA 95620.  
 VIP Fund IV, LLC, 6020 West Oaks Boulevard Suite 300, Rocklin, CA 95765.  
 Date filed in Solano County: November 8, 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 November 7, 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: December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023  
 QUICK 12-22-23

## TUNNEL TO TOWERS HONORS OUR MILITARY AND FIRST RESPONDERS

WHO CONTINUE TO MAKE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE OF LIFE AND LIMB FOR OUR COUNTRY



### IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Providing mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and Fallen First Responder families with young children and building specially-adapted Smart Homes for our most severely injured.

FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller gave his life while saving others on September 11, 2001

THE FOUNDATION HAS BEEN SUPPORTING OUR NATION'S GREATEST HEROES EVER SINCE AND EDUCATING PEOPLE ABOUT 9/11

DONATE \$11/MO TODAY  
**T2T.ORG**

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

### Wednesday, November 29

- 1754 - Informational report was taken in the 200 block of West H St.
- 0812 - Information report regarding a verbal dispute was taken in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.
- 0843 - Vehicle burglary reported in the 300 block of South Lincoln Street.
- 1010 - Confidential report taken in the 500 block of College Way.
- 1155 - Theft report taken in the PD lobby.
- 1256 - Found property report taken at the PD. 1349 Found property report taken at the PD
- 1504 - Hit and run report taken in the 1700 block of Gold Street.
- 1515 - Abandoned vehicle removed in the 1400 block of Market Lane.

### Tuesday, November 28

- 1940 - Residential burglary report was taken in the 300 block of West Cherry St.
- 0517 - Vehicle burglary report was taken in the 900 block of Sunset Dr.
- 0638 - Non-injury traffic collision reported in the 2500 block of North 1st Street
- 0834 - Information report taken in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive regarding a juvenile who refused to go to school
- 1047 - Information report taken in the 500 block of College Way
- 1158 - Information report taken in the 400 block of East C Street regarding a child welfare concern
- 1257 - Information report taken via telephone regarding a child welfare concern.

### Monday, November 27

- 2100 - Hours- Lori Peranzo (63) of Vacaville was contacted in the parking lot of a business in the 200 block of East Dorset and was later arrested for DUI, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- 0330 - Hours- Welfare check in the 300 block of South Jefferson Street.
- 1234 - Vandalism report taken in the 300 block of South Jackson Street.
- 1730 - Extortion report taken at the PD.

### Sunday, November 26

- 1115 - Information report taken in the 1500 block of Rosebery Court.
  - 1250 - Fraud report taken in the 500 block of Kings Court.
  - 1456 - Information report taken in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.
- Saturday, November 25
- 2156 - Warrant arrest report was taken in the 300 block of McKenzie Dr. Officers contacted (S) Michael Keaton of Dixon. A records check revealed he had an outstanding warrant out of Solano County. Keaton was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.
  - 1633 Stolen vehicle recovered in the area of Stratford Avenue and Pitt School Road. Brian Duran (27), out of Navato, was arrested for Possession of Stolen Vehicle. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

### Friday, November 24

- 1502 - Theft in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive. Jerry Howell (28), transient out of Sacramento, was arrested for Burglary, Conspiracy, Obstructing/Delaying an Officer, Misappropriation of Found Property, and Felon in Possession of Ammo. He was transported to the Solano County Jail. Jose Lopez (25), transient out of Sacramento, was arrested for Burglary, Conspiracy, Obstructing/Delaying an Officer, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

### Thursday, November 23

- 1803 - Possession of drug paraphernalia report was taken at the intersection of ParkGreen Dr. at June Ct. Officers contacted (S) Aaron Mallory (38) of Dixon. Mallory was cited and released.
- 1931 - D.U.I and vandalism arrest report were taken at the intersection of West H St. at North Almond St. Officers contacted (S) Kevin Ayala (25) of Fairfield exhibited objective signs of intoxication and was arrested. Ayala was arrested, cited and released.
- 2321 - D.U.I arrest report was taken at the intersection of West F St at North Almond St. Officers contacted (S) Susan Peccaianti (42) of Dixon. Peccaianti showed objective signs of intoxication. Peccaianti was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail and released to their staff.

# LOCAL NEWS

HAS NEVER BEEN SO IMPORTANT!  
 SUBSCRIBE NOW!



ONLY  
**\$42\***  
 PER YEAR

RECEIVE DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE EVERY WEEK AT YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS!

YES! START MY SUBSCRIPTION NOW!

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL YOUR PAYMENT TO GET STARTED IMMEDIATELY:



Office address:  
 P.O. Box 1106, Dixon, CA 95620  
 Dixon Independent Voice is published weekly on Friday.  
 \*Subscription rate valid only within Solano County



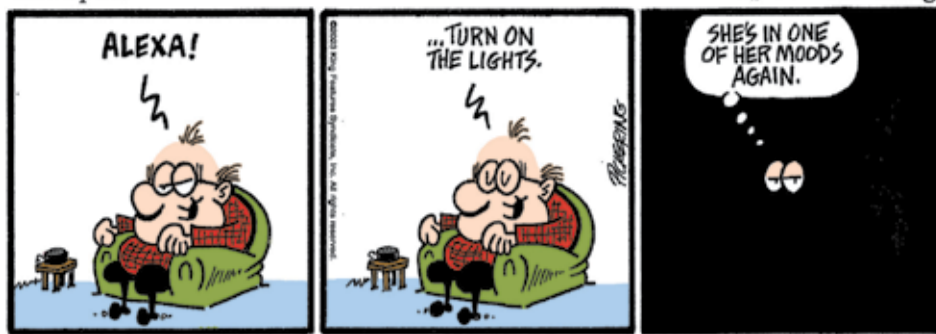
DON'T WAIT! CALL NOW! 916-773-1111



# COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



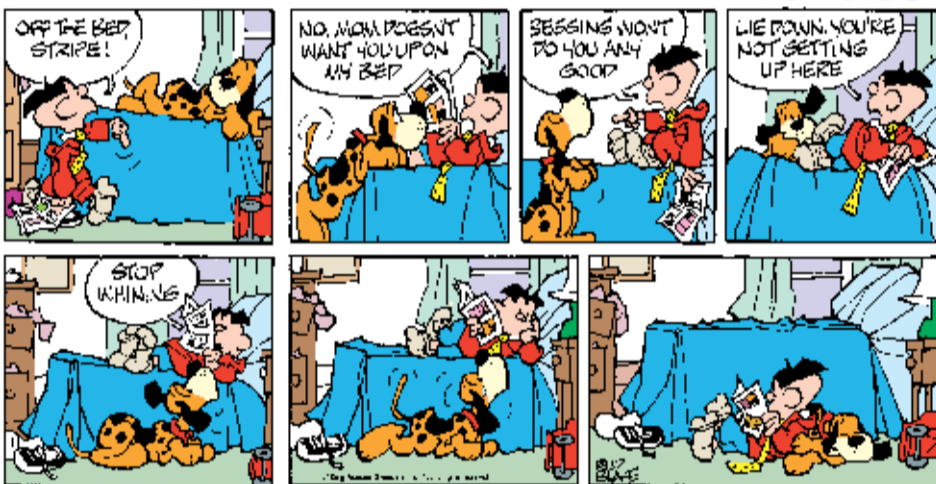
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



TIGER

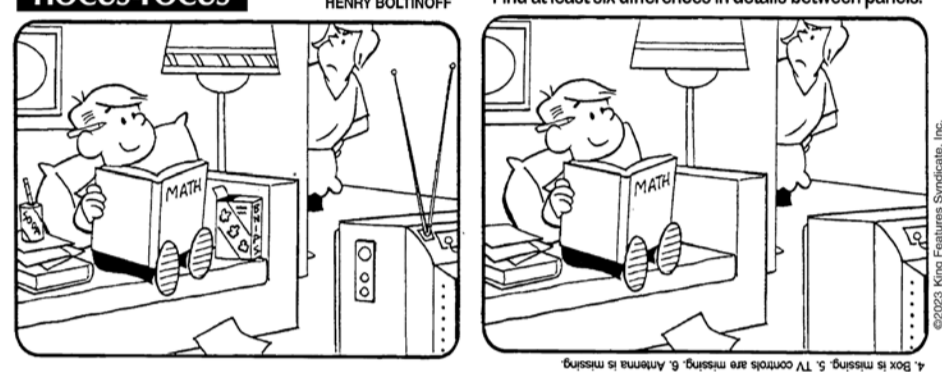
by BUD BLAKE



HOCUS-FOCUS

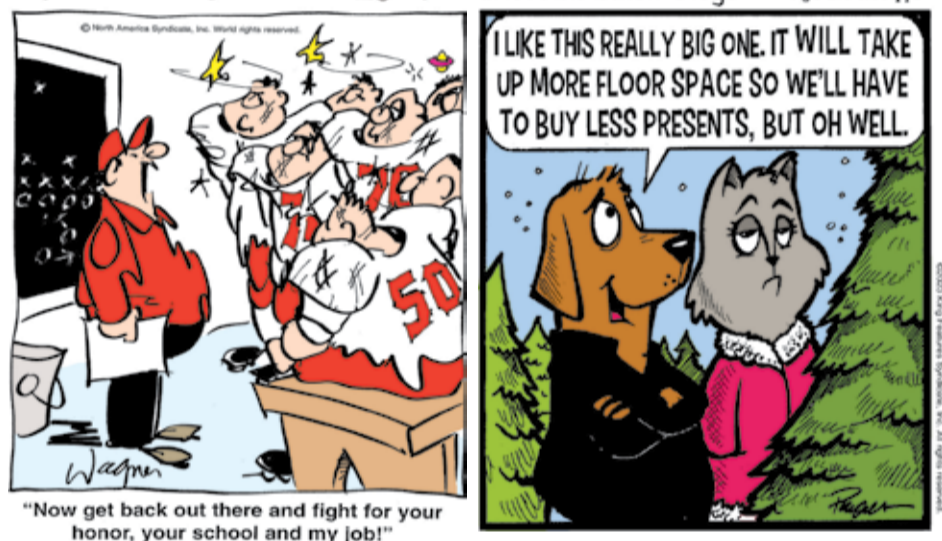
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



GRIN and BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



## BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

### CLEANING

**S & Y Cleaning Services**  
 Weekly • Bi-Weekly • Monthly • One Time  
 Weekends • Move-Ins • Move-Outs  
 Lots of References on Request  
 Gift Certificates Available  
**(707) 689-6532**  
 FREE ESTIMATES

### PROPANE

**We live where you live**  
 We understand your propane service needs.  
 WE ARE  
**Pro-Gas**  
**ALLIED PROPANE**  
**(707) 678-8500**  
 1700 N. First Street | Dixon  
 RobL@alliedprogas.com

### CONSTRUCTION

**ALBERTAZZI CONSTRUCTION INC**  
 GENERAL CONTRACTING - CA LIC. #560820  
 Custom Renovations / Structural Work  
**(916) 257-5400 - Dixon since 1989**

### PRESSURE WASHING

**DUDEPRESSURE**  
 SIMDIF THAT IS CLEAN!  
**Pressure Washing Services**  
 License Number SPB12021-00112  
 Robert Beard  
 916-825-0999  
 DUDEPRESSURE@GMAIL.COM  
 DUDEPRESSURE.SIMDIF.COM

- HOME SERVICES
- DRIVEWAYS
- PATIOS
- SIDING
- ROOF
- AUTO SERVICES
- CAR WASH
- CARPET
- SEATS
- WAX
- UV PROTECTANT

### PREGNANCY

**Pregnant? Worried?**  
**We Can Help!**  
 All services are free & completely Confidential.  
 Info on Pregnancy, Adoption & Abstinence  
 Post-Abortion, Miscarriage & Stillbirth Counseling  
**707-449-8991**  
**Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center**  
 138 S. Orchard St. Vacaville

### FLOORING

Please call for a free in-home estimate!  
**HOUSE OF FLOORS**  
 QUALITY WITH FRIENDLY SERVICE  
 1690 N. Lincoln Street • Dixon, CA 95620  
**(707) 676-5385**  
 houseoffloors@att.net • www.houseoffloors.org

**Do You Need Your Legal Ads Published?**  
**We can help.**  
 Call us now to place your legal advertising!  
**916-773-1111**  
 All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.

You're Invited To  
**CORNERSTONE**  
 Loving God, Loving Others,  
 Sewing Our World  
**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
 Worship and Children's Ministry at 10:30 am  
 Men's/Women's/Youth Wednesday's 6:30 pm  
**Food Pantry on Fridays 11am - 12pm**  
 185 W. Cherry St. • Dixon • 707-678-5234  
**www.cornerstoneindixon.com**

# Evictions on the Rise

By Jeanne Kuang,  
CALMatters.org

Eviction cases soared across California in the year after the last portion of a statewide moratorium lapsed, a CalMatters analysis of court data shows.

The elevated numbers — in some places beyond pre-pandemic levels — show a significant portion of renters remain at risk of losing their homes, despite the state's roll-out of a \$5 billion rent relief program during the pandemic and a yearslong pause on many eviction cases that many landlords have said disrupted their businesses and income. A nationwide study published this year found increases in eviction filings are associated with slight upticks in the population of homeless people living in shelters.

The statewide moratorium was extended until June 2022 for those who had applied for rental assistance by March, barring evictions in cases where tenants had not paid rent and said they couldn't because of financial hardship wrought by the pandemic. The law didn't stop evictions completely — thousands were still locked out under various exceptions — but it dropped cases to record lows. After it ended, a patchwork of local protections for tenants kicked in for cities that had passed their own eviction limits, which then phased out later in 2022 or earlier this year.

Recently obtained data from when the statewide moratorium was lifted through the summer of 2023 show that in a dozen of the state's most populous counties the average monthly eviction filings surpassed pre-pandemic averages.

Counties that extended local moratoria also are seeing waves of landlords seeking to remove tenants, albeit delayed until after their own rules end.

The post-moratoria spikes could reverse a nearly decade-long trend of evictions falling, both in California and nationwide. While the overall number of eviction cases filed post-pandemic remains far lower than the peak years following the Great Recession, researchers and tenants' advocates said they were dismayed that while the moratorium and rental assistance kept eviction filings relatively low for about three years, those state interventions don't appear to have significantly blunted the number of evictions sought afterward.

"We're facing the eviction cliff we tried to prevent during the pandemic," said Tim Thomas, a sociologist and director of the Urban Displacement Project at UC Berkeley who analyzed the data for CalMatters. "Being back to normal this quickly is concerning."

Thomas attributed the wave of eviction filings to a combination of state and local moratoria expiring, inflation and



Eviction cases have returned to, or surpassed, pre-pandemic levels. Image by Sammy-Sander from Pixabay

the recent expiration of several other pandemic aid programs that kept families afloat, such as expanded food assistance and loosened eligibility to stay on Medi-Cal.

Landlords' groups say the yearslong moratoria gave property owners no recourse when tenants failed to pay rent even when the economy started to recover during the pandemic and said lasting rental debt from the pandemic is leading landlords to now be more aggressive in seeking evictions.

Landlords can only file for evictions over unpaid rent from the past 12 months, but that does not forgive old debt, and tenants' advocates say there's little to stop landlords from applying newly paid rent to old debt. The National Equity Atlas, a research group, estimates that as of September, 605,000 California households owed a total of \$1.8 billion in back rent.

A state program that was open from March 2021 through March 2022 required landlords and tenants to apply for federally funded rental assistance to cover back rent from the pandemic before landlords could seek an eviction. But thousands who applied are still waiting for the aid to cover debts from that time period while the program appears to be on track to run out of money. Many landlords said they had trouble handling the program's red tape or had tenants who weren't approved for assistance for every month that they owed rent.

Tenants' advocates, however, also blamed recent rent increases for the high number

of filings. Even in counties that haven't been governed by any eviction limits since last summer, cases filed remained above pre-pandemic averages more than a year later. Landlords who are subject to a 2019 rent cap law have been allowed to raise rent on tenants by as much as 10% this year, due to last year's record inflation, though some cities have stricter caps.

But in some counties — including Sacramento, Los Angeles and San Mateo — the number of cases of tenants facing eviction increased this year by more than 10% compared to pre-pandemic levels, according to the CalMatters analysis. The highest leap was in Santa Clara County, where evictions filed in 2023 through August were more than 35% higher than in 2019, on average.

Eviction filings do not necessarily mean a tenant gets kicked out. But the court filing — known as an unlawful detainer — starts a legal process with strict timetables that could result in a landlord being granted legal possession of the unit, allowing them to send a sheriff's deputy to perform a lockout.

The wave has swamped tenants' attorneys, most of whom work for understaffed legal aid organizations that represent low-income residents. Few tenants have attorneys in eviction court, compared to landlords who are represented most of the time.

The recent eviction case spikes put California in line with other Democratic states that extended tenant protections during the pandemic well beyond a federal moratorium,

such as Oregon or Minnesota, Thomas said.

Kyle Nelson, a senior policy and research analyst at Strategic Actions for a Just Economy who has studied evictions in Los Angeles County, said based on how long it took for evictions to stabilize after the Great Recession, some counties should expect cases to remain elevated for years.

CalMatters obtained more than a year of data from courts in 19 of the state's most populous counties showing the number of eviction cases filed each month through August 2023, along with nearly a decade of corresponding historical figures compiled by the Judicial Council, the agency governing the state's court system.

In counties that did not extend additional local eviction protections after the state law expired, eviction filings began spiking the month before the statewide moratorium ended and reached their peaks in late 2022. But they remain elevated.

The court process allows for landlords and tenants to settle a case before it goes to trial, which could include a payment plan to avoid eviction or an agreement to leave.

But tenants' advocates point out there are numerous ways a tenant could also be "informally evicted," by moving out due to the threat of a court case. The filings data do not include those cases or show if a tenant moved out during a court case. Eviction cases are sealed from public view — but not if the tenant loses in court, making it more

difficult for them to rent again.

Landlords' associations said most property owners only file for an eviction as a "last resort."

In eviction court in Sacramento one recent morning, tenants said the process felt designed to pressure them.

To avoid a trial, Keyarra Dunn made a deal with her landlord to stay in her apartment by agreeing to pay a portion of her back rent in the next four days, and the remainder — more than \$7,000 — in three and a half weeks.

Dunn, 23, said she knew of nowhere else to live if she and her four young children had to move out. She acknowledged that she had fallen behind on rent for at least four months, but said she was getting divorced, had been in and out of the hospital and spends much of her income as a car rental shop manager on childcare.

She said it would have helped to have had an attorney, and wasn't sure she could come up with the money in time. Because the settlement was made instead of a judge's ruling, it had all the force of a court order. If she can't keep her end of the deal, the eviction process would move ahead quickly in court.

"I felt like I had to," she said of making the agreement. "It was like, now or never, to pay a rent amount that I might not have all of."

California Divide reporter Felicia Mello contributed to this story.

Data compiled by Ben Christopher, Jeanne Kuang, Alejandro Lazo, Felicia Mello and Alejandra Reyes-Velarde. ★

Thank you to all  
of our customers  
for trusting  
Dixon Tire Pros  
over the years!

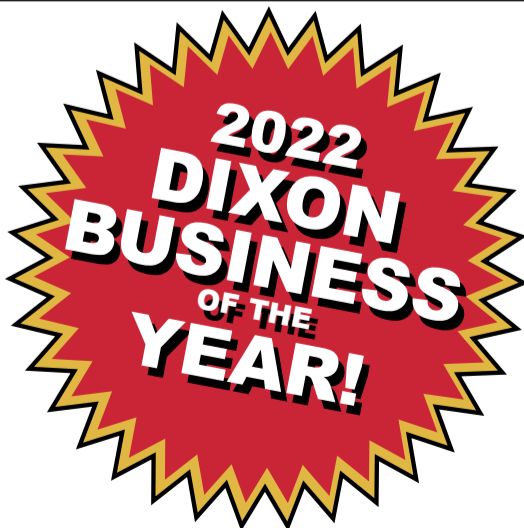
We are very proud  
to be named  
the 2022  
Dixon Business  
of the Year!

Thank You!

**DIXON**  
**TIRE PROS**  
& AUTO REPAIR®

(707) 678-1669

205 Stratford Avenue, Dixon



**California Water Service**



Call us for **FREE**  
Water Conservation Information

201 S. First St. • Dixon

**707.678.5928**