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Hometown Focus

Community Calendar

This calendar of club, council and board meeting times and places is provided as a community service by THE DIXON PILOT.

Dixon City Council meets **First Monday** of each month at 6 p.m. at Dixon City Hall at 203 S. Walnut.

Dixon Lions Club meets **First & Third Wednesdays** at 5:30 p.m. at Oak Hills Country Club.

Arlington Lodge #346 meets the **First & Third Tuesday** of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Lodge Hall on High School Drive.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4238 meets the **First Friday** of each month at 7 p.m. at the Post Hall, corner of Highway 28 and Chestnut Street.

Dixon Ambulance District Board meets on the **Second Monday** of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Ambulance Building on Ellen Street.

Dixon Athletic Booster Club meets each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Dixon High School Library.

American Legion Post 298 meets the **Second Thursday** of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Post Home, corner of Ellen and 5th Streets.

Dixon Firefighters meet **every Thursday evening** at 7 p.m. at the Fire House on High School Drive.

VFW Post 4238 Auxiliary meets at 7 p.m. on the **Second Thursday** of each month at the VFW Post Home, Highway 28 and Chestnut Street.

Dixon R-1 School Board meets on the **Third Thursday** of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Administration Building.

Gascosage Electric Cooperative Board meets the **Third Thursday** of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Co-operative Headquarters on Highway 28.

Dixon Area Chamber of Commerce meets the **Third Monday** of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the main Park Pavilion in Dixon Lions Club Park.

Senior Citizen Center Site Council Meeting is on the **Third Wednesday** of each month at 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Citizen Center on Old Y Road.

Dixon Area Caring Center Board meets **Last Tuesday** of each month at 5:30 p.m.

Former U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison Speaks Out



Former U.S. Attorney Tim Garrison with his family. [Submitted]

By John Groves

It was a busy day on Saturday the 24th of April, 2021 at the Ark Community Sports Center in Waynesville with local and state candidates and representatives coming to speak and listen to others talk. The key note speaker was the person who most wanted to hear what he had to say. That person was Tim Garrison, former U.S. Attorney for the Missouri area, representing both Kansas City and St. Louis in additions to all other cities in the state.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Mr. Garrison after the festivities at the Republican Lincoln Day meeting and speak with him about what he had accomplished so far and what his plans were for the immediate future of his life.

I think it is important to know a little about Mr. Garrison so you can understand a bit about what makes him tick as a person and patriot. First of all he was born in the Springfield, MO area and went to high school in Springfield before attending college. Tim immediately

focused on learning history and political science as his mainstay of interest in degrees. This helped him to work toward a Juris Doctorate Degree in law to become an attorney. I asked him why history and he said he loved reading about the United States and its struggle to establish itself as a Republic in the formative years of the country.

Tim is married with three children and his wife is a Professor at Missouri State University in Springfield. His work history is aligned in the prosecutorial field most of his professional career and until currently, he has worked for the United States Government. He began his career as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Springfield office from 2007 until 2018 when he took the job and promotion to United States Attorney in Kansas City, MO. from 2018 until 2021. He was appointed the U.S. Attorney by President Trump and replaced by President Biden which is the right of each President of either party.

Tim currently works at Hush,

Blackwell Law firm. He does most of his work in the white collar business field. Tim also is a Marine Judge Advocate in the United States Marine Corp where he serves as a Lieutenant Colonel in Washington, D.C. as an Applet Judge in the Navy and Marine Corps court of appeals.

I asked him why he joined the Marine Corps when he had a well defined path in the law field and he said it goes back to the history thing. He smiled, and went on to say he wanted a military career too because of what he read in history and how the military played a certain role in the development of this country. He has served in east and west coast assignments while in the Marine Corps including a tour in Afghanistan as the Marine Corp Chief of Informational Law. He has been in the Marine Corps for 18 years.

I asked him about his tour in Afghanistan and he said he was assigned to the elections process for a certain area of the country to ensure they were fair and done correctly. He told me he went out into the countryside to talk with an elder to find out if people were allowed to vote and he discovered the Taliban would look for people who voted in the elections. He said the Taliban would check the finger of the men to see if they had ink on the one finger used to dip in the ink well so they could not vote again. He said the Taliban would then cut the finger off of the person as a warning not to participate in the legal elections again.

Tim said we have a lot better process in the United States even if all elections have problems it does not compare to the brutality of the Taliban. He went on to say people complain of voter suppression in the U. S. but it does not compare to the brutality there. I asked him if he personally had been involved in combat while traveling in country to meet with the elders and village people. He said his armored vehicle hit a roadside bomb with the vehicle he was traveling in. He said as he was attempting to get out of the vehicle he heard the snapping noise of bullets sticking over his head from a sniper. He said modestly, "I was very lucky that day."

While working as the Assistant U.S. Attorney in Springfield, most of his cases that he prosecuted evolved around Federal Interstate Drug Trafficking and violent crimes which went hand in hand with a lot of the drug cases. He said that from 2007 to 2018 he handled close to 1,000 cases. I asked him if he handled any in the Pulaski County area and he said a significant number came from the Pulaski and surrounding counties.

Mr. Garrison moved into what we would classify the Chief Attorney for the United States covering a much larger area than he had been accustomed to as an assistant. He said he introduced a program named Legend after a young



Tim Garrison in Marine uniform. [Submitted]

man in Kansas City was killed by a drive by shooting. The plan focused on increasing investigative policing powers and federal prosecution on those violent crime. He also said the Missouri Attorney General loaned him attorneys to prosecute the additional cases resulting in over 30 percent reduction the first year. He said President Trump heard of the plan and ordered it implemented in all major cities with a high crime rate in the United States. The results were the same across the board, more enforcement and greater prosecution cut the crime drastically.

I asked him why he choose to stake most of this career in prosecution and he related a story of his mother when he was five years old. His father was a pastor and travelled a lot. He said his mother decided to travel to Indiana to visit some relatives and in the process of crossing into Illinois from Missouri, their car had a blowout. His mother pulled over and another car pulled in behind them, his mother thought it was someone who would help them. His mother was about six months pregnant at the time too.

A man walked up to the car window and he was holding a gun pointing it to her head. He began to order her out of the car and she refused. His mother then put the car in gear and raced forward as fast as she could on three good tires and one flat tire. His mother found out later the man had shot the rear tire out to get her to pull over. The man fired into the windshield at her head and due to the

deflection of the bullet striking the glass, it hit an interior piece of metal and deflected off a piece of metal in the car. The round travelled through her shoulder and into her leg.

She was able to pull into a convenience store and the clerk came out to help them. The clerk took them into the building behind bullet proof glass and they watched as the men pulled into the lot but decided to leave for fear of being caught. The clerk call the Illinois State Patrol and eventually they caught up with the men. The end result was they were prosecuted and sent to prison for a long time. Tim said his family had justice where people like in Afghanistan had none and he feels like that experience pushed him into the prosecutorial field.

Tim said he sees the law introduced in elections and not the rule of man and he wants to do good at any job he holds. I asked him how he sees himself and he said he sees himself as a conservative and as a humble man that wants to see his children given the same blessings of freedom as he had growing up. Tim is a devout Christian and participates in the support of the Second Baptist Church in Springfield, MO.

I asked Tim if he was planning on running for any office and he said he is not running for any office at present, however, he will keep his options open if he feels the calling. Tim Garrison is one of the most diligent and effective Federal Prosecutors this area has had the fortune to have working for the citizens of this state.



Tim Garrison (right) at news conference with U.S. Attorney General William Barr. [Submitted]



Former State Representative Steve Lynch with keynote speaker Tim Garrison at Pulaski County Lincoln Day Breakfast April 24. Photo by John Groves

Know someone you think would be a good subject for a Hometown Focus feature? Submit their name to the Dixon Pilot. Call 759-2127 or email us at dixonpilotnews@yahoo.com.

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