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**Brett Dixon retiring from Top Brass**

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By

Keith Loria

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[Top Brass](#), a grower, packer and shipper of fresh California grapes and potatoes, will see some changes coming to leadership. At the end of 2024, Brett Dixon, president of Top Brass will be retiring from the company.



Brett Dixon

“Brett’s legacy will live on with his fourth-generation children still involved in the business— Brady Dixon, his son, in sales; along with Amanda Dixon, Brett’s daughter in visual communications,” said April Myers, sales manager for the Bakersfield, CA-based company. “Brett Dixon was a mentor to me, and he believed in me when no one else did. For that, I will be forever grateful. I wouldn’t be where I am today if it wasn’t for him. He will truly be missed at Top Brass, but he will never be forgotten.”

Since 1938 when Ted Vignolo planted his first crop on Central Californian soil, Top Brass has taken a vow to stay true to its founding philosophies, which includes growing responsible produce that feeds the people with sustainable practices.

As fourth-generation family farmers that have evolved through the years, grapes are an important part of Top Brass’ legacy.

“Grapes have always remained a passion of ours,” Myers said. “With good growers, such as John Vignolo, growing quality grapes year after year is the easiest part of our business.”

Those at Top Brass work hard to stay up on recent trends and that has been a cornerstone of its success through the years.

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“Every commodity evolves throughout the years and grapes are no different,” Myers said. “As family farmers, our main concern is providing quality produce to our customers with every single delivery. In order to make it in this category, you must have knowledge of customers’ wants and needs and you must be able to change with the ebbs and flows of the industry as a whole.”

Last grape season was a difficult one for Top Brass and most companies working in the segment.

“For the first time in my lifetime, California experienced a hurricane,” Myers said, explaining 2023 was an anomaly in weather and growing conditions alike. “It took a toll on late season varieties and many vineyards were not even harvested.”

Thankfully, things are expected to be much, much better in 2024 with early indications showing plenty of positives.

“We’ve had excellent growing conditions in 2024 and Mother Nature has definitely cooperated this year,” Myers said. “We are seeing amazing size, color and quality throughout our 2024 crop and we are so excited to get back to our usual superior quality.”

This season, Top Brass will be offering a new red seedless variety called Karizma and it believes customers will be very interested in the new grape.

“We are eager to see how it performs,” Myers said.

“For the 2025 season, we will have Honey Pop, Fire Crunch and Cherry Crush. Top Brass is constantly searching for the next variety to pique the interest of our customers.”

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## About Keith Loria |

A graduate of the University of Miami, Keith Loria is a D.C.-based award-winning journalist who has been writing for major publications for close to 20 years on topics as diverse as real estate, food and sports. He started his career with the Associated Press and has held high editorial positions at

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magazines aimed at healthcare, sports and technology. When not busy writing, he can be found enjoying time with his wife, Patricia, and two daughters, Jordan and Cassidy.

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