



**Jim and Joyce
Conley's 75th
Wedding
Anniversary**

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Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 6

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

FEBRUARY 9, 2024

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BUTTERFLY
CONTEST?**



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State of the City



Another success story for Chief Thompson: Dixon Police Sergeant MarJonne Roberson is surrounded by his family after being given a Chief's Commendation. He graduated from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute (SLI), after completing an intensive eight-month program, recognized by the California Commission of Peace Officer Standards and Training as an elite leadership development program designed to mentor and develop the next generation of law-enforcement leadership. After consulting with your instructors, his work was of such quality that he was recognized for his outstanding achievement.

Story and photos
by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - For Dixonites who favor the growth they are seeing in Dixon, the good news is the city seems to be positioned for the influx of new businesses and residents.

The Dixon multi-purpose center filled with locals anxious to hear the annual 'State of the City' addresses sponsored by the City of Dixon and the Dixon Chamber of Commerce.

**Chamber, Mayor
Welcome**

The number of memberships has doubled in



City Manager Jim Lindley fielded questions from the audience about the city's budget at the recent State of the City address.

the last three years to 230 members, reported Chamber Board Chair Joe Bruch of Grocery Outlet who reminded their

mission was to bring businesses and the community together. He touted the many activities including the parade and the

Chamber concerts at the downtown Pardi Plaza as just a few of the events this year that brought people out to enjoy the community and brought business to the town.

Mayor Steve Bird relayed the city-wide goals and initiatives that included investing in infrastructure, supporting economic development through business retention, ensuring services match growth, and building partnerships.

"We've established new financial systems," he said, noting the new recreation portal for facility reservations and student
Continued on page 8

Community Pillar John Dawson Passes



John Dawson. Courtesy photo
By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon lost a part of living history last Saturday when John Dawson quietly passed away at his home. He was 93 and much of a legend in Dixon to his past military service, involvement in politics, and his long-running newspaper column.

John was born to Fay and John Dawson, and had one sister, Dorothy (Wallace.) They grew up on the family chicken ranch at a time when roads to town were unpaved and the train still stopped in Dixon.

Both were active in Dixon Community Church over time.

"I admired him for the many years he served through the Community Church," said Martha Dukes, another long-timer of Dixon. "He was a great, steadfast supporter throughout church struggles." He was also a columnist for this paper for a decade. It was called Curmudgeon's Corner.

"I asked John to be the counter voice as a Republican to Maureen Southwell, a Democrat, when we started the Dixon Newspaper, now the Independent Voice," said City Editor Debra Dingman. "He was a man to be esteemed and was always fair...and funny. He had quite a sense of humor and we—including my husband and youngest son—became wonderful friends." John continued to pen his column when Dave Scholl became Publisher.

"Now, I have another friend in Heaven," said Scholl. "John was a dear friend who was always a good supporter of the Independent Voice. Every year, he'd sponsor a pool party and barbecue for the IV staff. He was particularly fond of our son, Patrick, who got to wear his flight helmet."

John graduated with the Dixon High School Class of 1948 and was a three-sport star while at Dixon High School, participating in football, basketball, and track while maintaining a good GPA. He was inducted into the Dixon Hall of Fame in 2017 for his outstanding sports achievements.
Continued on page 2

Dixon Tribune Closes

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - What should have been a celebration of 150 years for The Dixon Tribune newspaper, there was bad news. The newspaper that was first opened in 1874 by Fred Dunicliff, Sr., published its last edition Wednesday, January 31. The business has been owned by Gibson Radio and Publishing for about 40 years.

Although there was no news article about it, Dixon Tribune columnist Bil Paul wrote, "Now, the Tribune is closing down and the issue you're holding could well become a collector's item... So, goodbye Trib, you've had a long and valuable run." He included a bit about its history and a tribute to Advertising Manager Sarah Villec, age 86, and Editor Jarrod Kohls.

Villec had started with the company for the Rio Vista newspaper and had worked for a few of Gibson's other publications until Dixon's Ad



The Dixon Tribune published its last edition Wednesday, January 31, without fanfare. Photo by Debra Dingman

Manager David DeLeon left after 15 years for the Davis Enterprise in 2002. Villec was then moved to the Dixon office and has stayed since. She has been with the company for more than 30 years now.

"I was planning to retire, just not this way," she said from her home.

Villec would not comment on closing details. Some

residents seemed surprised while others were expecting it as the paper was no longer being sold in its traditional locations, timely billings were not happening, and advertisements were disappearing from the pages.

"I'll always treasure my time at the Dixon Tribune," said former Editor Brianna Boyd. "It was an incredible starting off point in my

professional life. It gave me so much experience and I met incredible people in the community." She was the Editor from 2005 to 2014.

"Reporting and writing on the city and the schools for ten years was so rewarding and I loved it. I'm sad to see it close," Boyd added. "Sarah put her heart and soul in the paper and took pride in being everyone's second mom." ★



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Life's too SHORT



Breaking Bread with Ben

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - We were told to bring a large, clear glass bowl, and a large spatula. I also brought my apron. We greeted friends and gathered around a large kitchen counter for a bread party.

When Ben Cox pulled the cast iron pan out of the stove, an aroma of fresh-baked sour dough bread filled the house teasing all of our senses with warmth on a cold night. It was absolutely the smartest way to get us excited about making a mess.

"It's the oldest bread in the world and only has four ingredients; flour salt, water, and leaven," he said.

Ben handed each of us a copy of his recipe that he had "perfected and simplified." He put the lid of the Dutch Oven pan over a bread mound and showed us that he was putting it in the oven for an hour at 450 degrees but that it was, in fact, "going backwards." We wouldn't get to see or taste a finished product if he didn't get this one in the oven, he explained.

Using the sourdough starter that he had prepared in advance; a large blob was dumped into our bowls. Then, we measured and added traditional white flour, sea salt, and lukewarm water. We began mixing with large spatulas or wooden spoons while Ben told us how he got started sharing bread.

He explained that the recipe seemed complicated but didn't have to



Ben Cox lifts a large baked sourdough bread out of a Dutch oven.

be. That is why he worked to make it simple in three different stages and easy for him to share with friends and family.

"I made it very simple that way everyone can follow it, and if it is simple, you can share with others in making it and it makes it kind of special," he added. He learned himself by watching numerous YouTubes. "I just have fun and it's great team-building." Ben is a Sales Executive at Fidelity National Title covering Solano and has family and grandchildren that also learned.

Someone asked him to come over and show a few friends how to make the bread and that got word out and others called. Now he buys flour in bulk which is very inexpensive, and he enjoys meeting new people.

"It's my hobby so if I charged, it would be a job and then it wouldn't be

fun," he said with a laugh.

He showed us how to shape the bread blob into a mound on top of a flour-dusted counter before putting it back into the bowl. We were to take it home and put it in the refrigerator for 12 hours.

He said we didn't have to bake it right away if we didn't have time, so my hubby and I wound up waiting a few days before baking. We remembered to score the top and spray it seven times with a small squirt bottle. After an hour, we brought it out and plopped it on the breadboard. The aroma was glorious. We should have scored the top a little deeper, but it was still pretty anyway. It was fun to call the others and compare notes and pictures.

We toasted it, made sandwiches with it, and dipped it in chili beans and soups over the next week. I called Ben to thank him for a tasty lesson. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Students from Dixon High School react to one of their wins at the Academic Decathlon held recently at Solano Community College. There were 208 students from 16 schools who participated and Dixon finished 7th. Courtesy Photo

MPG Staff

Academic Decathlon Team Wins

The Dixon High School Academic Decathlon team has been competing over the past month. They began with an essay when we returned from break, followed by tests in seven different subjects last Saturday, and a speech and interview competition recently where the students earned several individual awards:

Kirsten Donovan: silver medals in art and science; Sierra Fong: bronze medal in economics; Aaron Reyes: bronze medal in art; Ariana Cuevas Meza: gold medals in both speech and interview.

"We had our strongest overall team performance in many years," reported teacher Michael Vlach. "Our super quiz team (this is kind of like a game show with questions from various subject areas) finished in 3rd place. This team included Ariana Cuevas Meza, Aaron Reyes, Sierra Fong, Andres Tejada-Patino, Ben Hale, Kurtis Westerhaus, and Pedro Romo. This was the first team award we have won in many years. Overall, we finished 7th out of 16 schools from throughout the greater Bay Area."

Additional participants in the overall competition included Diego Gonzalez, Sam Lopez, and Jaya Wartson. Janette and I are very proud of their performance this year. Make sure to congratulate these students if you see them, and we are always looking for new members for next year!

City Meetings

These are the upcoming City Meetings held in the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street: The Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. and City Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20. Also, the Transportation Advisory Commission will be meeting on Wednesday, February 21 at 7 p.m.

Volunteers Wanted to Teach Money Smarts

Volunteers are needed for Travis Credit Union's award-winning financial literacy program - MAD CITY MONEY.

The program is coming to Dixon High School on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

It's fun, it's easy, and it gives you the

opportunity to have a positive impact on the students right here in the Dixon community! For more information, contact Steward Pimienta at steward.pimienta@traviscu.org.

BINGO!

Mondays at noon are Bingo games at the Dixon Senior Center, 201 South Fifth Street at noon except President's Day. Join them on February 12 for a special Valentine's Day Bingo event. There will be cookies compliments of the Dixon Senior Club. The cost is a nickel per card, per game, and all adults are welcome. They are also in need of Bingo callers as well. There is a full calendar of activities posted in the Senior Club Newsletter found on the City of Dixon website (cityofdixon.us) under 'Recreation' tab. For more details, call (707) 678-7441. NOTE: The next Senior Club meeting is Tuesday, February 13, at 11 a.m. at the Senior Center.

Women in Business Night

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce encourages women to join other local women business professionals for a fun evening of mingling and getting inspired on Thursday, February 22, at The Creative Space, 160 West A St. in downtown Dixon. From 5:30 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person.

Tamuri Richardson is an International Public Speaker, a Mental Health Advocate, International Best-Selling Author, a Communications Specialist, and a Coach. She is also President of the Solano Black Chamber of Commerce.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Management from the University of Phoenix, and an AA in Communication and Media Studies.

This in-person event is your chance to network, learn, and be inspired by successful women entrepreneurs. Whether you're a seasoned business owner or just starting out, this event is for you. Connect with like-minded individuals, share your experiences, and gain valuable insights through engaging discussions, and thought-provoking keynote speeches. RSVP to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/women-in-business-night-tickets-745722826047>.

For more info contact robin@tullygroup.com or info@dixonchamber.org. ★

Community Pillar John Dawson Passes

Continued from page 1

He placed first in the long jump and third in the 100-yard dash at the Superior California Athletic League meet during his sophomore year. He won first place in the long jump at the San Joaquin Section meet his senior year and was part of the first-place team in that 880 Relay and achieved a second place in the 440-yard dash, according to Dixon Hall of Fame records.

He was a captain on the Hall of Fame 1947 Championship Football team. After high school, John attended the University of California Berkeley where he played four years of football. After college, John returned home to work on the family ranch. It was there he discovered his love

of flying. He told the story many times of when he was a boy, a family friend who was a former World War I fighter pilot, flew over the farm for him. After saving and taking lessons, he became a member of the Air National Guard where he became a Colonel. He later decided to take an opportunity to sign on with Pan American Airlines where he went on to a satisfying 25-year career.

John Dawson's father was a brother to the three Dawson's (Restaurant/Bar) owners. John was a charter member of the Dixon Lions Club. He had three children Cristy, Diane and Jerry and lived on his Dixon ranch with his wife, Maxine, until his death. ★



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Jim and Joyce Conley's 75th Wedding Anniversary



Jim and Joyce happily married 75 years later. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Conley

By Patricia Conley

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It was 1948 when 19-year-old Jim Conley drove his 1941 Plymouth down main street in Woodland, and he spotted 16-year-old Joyce Waggoner standing outside of the State Theater passing out tickets. As he admired her beauty, he wasn't paying attention to the road ahead and bumped into the car in front of him. Oops!

Joyce's job inside the theater was to spin a wheel for someone to win a prize. Jim, sitting in the second level top row, would raise his hand as if was the winner. Joyce would run all the way to the top row to verify the ticket number only to discover he didn't even have a ticket. They fell in love and were married a year later in Reno, Nevada. Their favorite song, from the movie Casa Blanca, was As Time Goes By. Jim and Joyce moved to



Jim and Joyce Conley at their wedding. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Conley

Dixon in 1957 to raise their children Patty, Debbie, and Jimbo. Jim worked for Stoeven Brothers and later for Mace Meat Co. Joyce worked for the Betty Ann Shop before opening her

own hair salon called the House of Beauty. Jim and Joyce have enjoyed all these years living in Dixon and January 29, 1949, is how it all started. Happy 75th Anniversary! ★

DA's Office Awarded Grant for Specialized DUI Prosecution Team

Office of Solano County District Attorney News Release

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) - This is the 12th year that the Solano County District Attorney's Office has received funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to maintain a specialized team to prosecute alcohol and drug-impaired driving cases. We are fortunate to have received a grant in the amount of \$418,000. "Driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs poses a significant risk to everyone using the roadway. We too often see drivers under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs involved in traffic collisions resulting in injury or death. These consequences are both devastating and preventable. We are fortunate to partner with the California Office of Traffic Safety as we

join efforts to hold offenders accountable and deter this dangerous activity," Solano County District Attorney Krishna Abrams said. The specialized prosecution team will also partner with the statewide Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor Training Program (TSRP) to provide training to other prosecutors and investigators, as well as collaborate with law enforcement agencies on best practices for handling and managing driving under the influence (DUI) cases. Last year, the prosecution team filed 1436 DUI cases, including 89 DUI drug cases and 32 DUI combined alcohol and drug cases. The grant program runs through September 2024. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ★

NorthBay Opens Dixon Clinic



The new North Bay Health Clinic is now open part-time for urgent and primary care. Photo by Debra Dingman

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - NorthBay Health is bringing primary care to Dixon this spring, with a bright and spacious office at 1305 Stratford Ave., conveniently located just off Interstate 80 in the Safeway Plaza Shopping Center.

A soft opening began in late January, with NorthBay scheduling already existing patients for appointments at the site three days a week, providing time to apply finishing touches to the 4100-square-foot medical office building.

Stepping in to get things started are NorthBay Health Primary Care Medical Director Shanaz Khambatta, D.O., and Kulbir "Bubbly" Bajwa, M.D. Dr. Khambatta is a family medicine physician and will continue to see patients in Vacaville, as well. Dr. Bajwa specializes

in internal medicine and plans to relocate her practice to Dixon.

Each physician is seeing patients one day a week, while Niko Lazarewicz, N.P., and Anne Keith, N.P., are rounding out the schedule to enable the office to be open Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Recruitment efforts are underway to bring on a full-time physician and nurse practitioner in the next few months who will welcome new patients with appointments from Monday through Friday, according to Tim Williams, Chief Ambulatory Operations Officer. "We're also planning to bring after-hours care and urgent care to the site in the near future," said Williams. "Our top priority is to bring convenient, accessible, top-quality care to this community."

For more information, go online to NorthBay.org ★

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I learned earlier this week that the city parks and recreation department ignored the rental application from Dixon High School.

Mrs. Marquez placed the request to use the Salaber turf field in February 2023, which included dates for 2024 and it was ignored. She requested to rent the field for 12 days at the nonprofit rate of \$64.50. She followed the department's protocol in placing the rental agreement. This rental agreement should have been honored since the MOU between the city and Leon had ended at the end of December 2023 and the request was submitted at the beginning of 2023.

The Dixon High School community was blindsided by this denial and by the City Manager signing a new MOU for 2024 with Leon without even taking into consideration the rental request or even allowing the 2 x 2 meeting to occur with the district. It is unbelievable that the new MOU was signed December 15, 2023, in the midst of all this discussion and despite that rental application being in place. The city manager discriminated against Dixon High School.

This is no longer about placing the turf field on the city and district agreement. This is about unfair rental practices by the city and its department.

Every other city around us works with their high school teams so that they can use the community turf field, look at Woodland. It is very unfortunate that the City of Dixon cannot help their own high school.

I am requesting that the 2024 MOU with Leon be amended so that Dixon High School request for rental be granted and hope you will publish this letter so others will know our request.

In fact, the city and Dixon High school should have their own MOU so that the students can use the turf field during their high school season (Jan-Feb 2024, and Dec 2024-Feb 2025).

Please help support this effort by voicing to your Council Reps immediately!

Mrs. Eli Mendoza
Dixon resident

Thompson Statement on Passage of PG&E Fire Victims Trust Tax Relief



Office of Congressman
Mike Thompson
News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG)

- On February 1, 2024, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04) released the following statement after the House of Representatives voted to pass H.R. 7024, the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024. The bill includes Rep. Thompson's legislation with Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA-01) to make PG&E Fire Victims Trust settlements nontaxable.

"Today's strong bipartisan vote to provide essential tax relief to fire survivors is an important step towards recovery

for those who lost homes, businesses, and loved ones in disastrous wildfires," said Thompson. "The Senate must swiftly consider and pass this bill so that our fire survivors receive the tax relief they desperately need."

"Fire survivors have waited too long for certainty regarding the settlement with PG&E. To have to pay a huge portion to the government because the IRS deemed disaster aid as income adds insult to injury, especially paying the income tax on the lawyers' fees. My staff and I have worked diligently on this initiative for many months to finally see it come to fruition. I thank Ways and Means Chairman Smith for negotiating this deal, and Speaker Johnson for getting it to the House Floor for a vote expeditiously. The Senate needs to quickly act quickly as the new tax period will be upon us soon." said Rep. Doug LaMalfa.

"We are grateful for the leadership of Rep. Mike Thompson in

spearheading tax justice for fire victims. Rep. Thompson has been a fierce supporter of fire victims since our devastating megafire disaster in October of 2017. Rep. Thompson's ability to work across the aisle with Rep. LaMalfa to get this over the line in the House is a testament to the critical importance to thousands of families," said Jennifer Gray Thompson, Founder and CEO of After the Fire USA. "This bill is the most important legislation ever passed for fire victims, affecting hundreds of thousands of disaster survivors and correcting a grave error in the tax code. Rep. Thompson's commitment to fire victims and bipartisanship on this issue is deeply appreciated by megafire victims at home and across the country. After the Fire USA is proud to work with Rep. Thompson in service to fire victims everywhere."

The bill now goes to the Senate for a vote before going to President Biden's desk for his signature. ★

MEMORIAL

JOHN VICTOR DAWSON JR. • 11/5/1930 — 1/27/2024

Lifelong Dixon resident, John Victor Dawson Jr. died peacefully at his home on January 27, 2024 of heart failure. He was born November 5, 1930 at Stanford Hospital to John Sr. and Fay Webb Dawson, joining older sister, Dorothy. The Dawson family started the family chicken ranch east of town after John Sr. narrowly recovered from tuberculosis, forcing him out of Dawson's, the family's bar business.

John attended Dixon schools prior to heading off to UC Berkeley where he earned a degree in Economics. During his college years, he married his high school sweetheart Joan Merritt, who gave birth to their son, Jerry on John's 20th birthday. Later two daughters, Cristy and Diane followed. John played tight end for the CAL football team, becoming one of the legendary Pappy's Boys. He was on the team that actually made it to the Rose Bowl. John always lamented the end zone pass he dropped on national TV.

After college, the young family returned to the chicken ranch. However, John's lifelong dream was to be a pilot. Every time he earned any money in high school he took flying lessons. He tried diligently to join the Air Force. At the time, having children was an obstacle that could not be overcome. Eventually, however, on his last effort, he met a sympathetic Air Force recruiter. During their brief exchange, they discovered a mutual



connection with a Dixonite. This recruiter went to bat for John and he was finally allowed to join the Air Force. John Dawson graduated from pilot training in Texas. He was commissioned an officer in the Air National Guard and served at the 194th Squadron in Fresno. He eventually became squadron Commander. Throughout his distinguished career, John flew F-86L's, F-102's and finished up with F-106's.

During this time, John joined Don Miller and Associates and worked selling homes, ranches and creating subdivisions, including one located just west of Almond Avenue. He would refer to taking only one week's vacation during seven straight years of selling real estate. John longed for more flying in his life and was hired by Pan American Airways just before he was too old to apply. Throughout his career he was based at San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York, depending on promotions and the itineraries that intrigued him. His true homebase, however, was always Dixon.

John's first marriage to Joan ended in 1979 and in that same year he married Maxine Hendry from Fresno. She had two daughters, Karen and Debbie.

John was never shy about sharing opinions and was delighted when he was hired to write his Curmudgeon's Corner for the Dixon Independent Voice, offering conservative views on just about everything.

His affinity for anything aeronautical landed him as a member of Daedalians and Quiet Birdman. These organizations are exclusively for pilots and he cherished the camaraderie they provided.

John is survived by his children, Jerry, Cristy (Tom), Diane, and his step daughters Karen (Alan) and Debbie (Rick), with grandchildren Nick Rathjen (Louise), Andrew Rathjen (Jenny) and Chelsea Verhasselt (John) along with great grandchildren Lily and Luke Rathjen.

All events will take place in Dixon. The Viewing will be on 2/12 from 3-5 pm at the Milton Carpenter Funeral Home. On 2/13 the Burial Service will be held at the Silveyville Cemetery at 10 am. A Celebration of Life will follow at the Carpenter Funeral Home at 11:30 am. Immediately afterwards, a reception will be held at the Olde Vet's Hall at 231 N. First Street.

Memorial Contributions may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research at PO Box 5014 in Hagerstown, MD 21741.

Kings Korner By V.G. Harris



If you're like many Kings fans, you've probably already had a conversation as to whether the current Kings team can surpass the 48 wins of last year.

As of this writing, the Kings are on a 5-1 road trip, and with a win over the Cleveland Cavaliers, this road trip poses the possibility of being the best in the last 25 years! This, after a horrific four-game losing stretch that should have been at worst two wins and two losses.

Time to give out some much-deserved kudos. Much-criticized coach Brown has tightened up his rotations in recent games, and the results are speaking loudly.

It is so good to see Davion Mitchell jumping off the bench every game and creating havoc with the opposing team. His presence literally changes the defensive chemistry on the court, and it seems to work like a much-needed jump start. Collectively, everyone seems to realize that it's time to up-tempo the defensive effort, and I'm seeing significant changes in Fox, Sabonis, Murray, Huerter, and even Kessler Edwards.

In addition to Mitchell seeing increased playing time, let's give coach Brown some credit for giving Trey Lyles more time on the court. As I have expressed several times, we have yet to see what Lyles' ceiling will be, and he continues to impress me. He could arguably be the best 3-point shooter on the team, but his game brings much more. Like Sabonis and Barnes, he is adept around the rim, a good passer, and one of the best on the team in drawing offensive fouls.

A 5-1 road trip, with the potential of winning six games before returning home, puts smiles on everyone's faces, and like last year, the Sacramento Kings are telling the league, "We are tough on the road!"

Playoff teams win on the road, period! Something else playoff teams do is shoot free throws.

If the Kings don't make some immediate improvement in their ability to sink free throws, look for another quick exit from the playoffs. Yes, we first have to make the playoffs, but this team is very capable of doing that, and I for one believe they will surpass 50 wins this year.

The Kings have exactly two players shooting 80% or better from the line, and that

would be Malik Monk at 81% and Harrison Barnes at 80%.

The team is dead last in the league, and that just isn't acceptable. While it's true that the coaching staff doesn't shoot free throws, with the number of coaches on this team one would think we could find a prescription to improve the moniker of worst in the NBA.

Let's set some goals here Kings fans, and the first one should be getting out of last place. We can do this!

I would be remiss if I didn't hand out a major accolade to "Mr. Double-Double," Domantas Sabonis, who just tied Oscar Robertson for achieving the most consecutive double-double games as a member of the Kings roster, with an incredible 31 straight. In addition to his stellar consistency, Sabonis is challenging the league leader Nikola Jokic for triple-doubles! This is nothing short of remarkable. For all Kings fans, stop and smell the roses. This is something you may never see again, so let's appreciate the guy that brings his lunch pail to work like no one else does.

29-19 and fifth place in the western conference should be applauded, and I hope you're enjoying the breadth of this team. There is something here for everyone.

As much as I like to see coach Brown tightening up his rotations, something needs to be done as it relates to coach's challenges.

My wife made the observation that with a success rate of 28%, it makes more sense to flip a coin than continue on the present course.

When you are wrong three out of every four challenges, it's time to make some changes. Give this to one of the assistant coaches, or if it comes at a critical time in the game, call a timeout, and take the time necessary to make a good decision.

Last note, De'Aaron Fox broke out of a miny slump to lead the team in points on the recent road trip. His 41 points in the win against Chicago was huge, and watching him improve from the free-throw line was encouraging.

Trade talks have died down, so appreciate the team we have, and let's have a tremendous second half!

Light the Beam!

Your thoughts? Reach out to me at vghar-riskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

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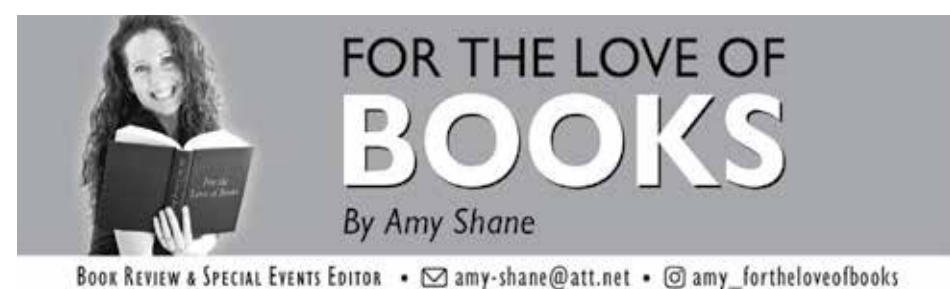
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Riley Reviews

“ARGYLLE” STYLISH SPY CAPER WITH LOTS OF TWISTS AND TURNS

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“ARGYLLE” RATED PG-13

Back to a time before the internet and cell phones, there was an advertising campaign for cassette recording tapes, with the tagline: “Is it live, or is it Memorex?” Could you tell if the sound was genuine, authentic, and real from the artist, or was it a recorded copy?

Not sure why this ad sticks in my head, but it came to mind in thinking about whether the espionage story was real or not in the spy action thriller “Argylle,” wherein the line between a novelist’s fictional world and the real one begins to blur.

During the COVID lockdown, visionary filmmaker Matthew Vaughn screened for his two daughters Alfred Hitchcock’s 1959 classic “North by Northwest,” in which an ordinary man gets swept up in an espionage-tinged adventure.

The appreciation by his offspring for the film led to the motivation to make a movie in that ostensible genre. Just as inspiring might be “Mr. & Mrs. Smith,” where Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are a married couple unaware that each harbors a secret of being an assassin for rival agencies.

The genesis for what Vaughn wanted to do soon landed on his desk in the form of a manuscript for an unpublished spy novel by an unknown author. Elly Conway’s book, “Argylle,” was, according to Vaughn, the best spy thriller he had ever read.

Befitting an espionage story, there’s an aura of mystery surrounding Elly Conway such that news outlets have been reporting that she may actually be two persons. Or maybe she doesn’t exist at all.

There’s wild speculation that Taylor Swift, or maybe J.K. Rowling, had penned the mysterious spy novel. The Taylor Swift theory would be interesting, but she hardly needs more exposure now that TV cameras frequently capture her at Kansas City Chiefs football games.

As far as the movie goes, Elly Conway (Bryce Dallas Howard) is a reclusive author of a series of best-selling espionage novels, who is most comfortable at her Colorado home with her computer and her cat, Alfie.

Cat lovers may become fascinated with Alfie, who carries an attitude of cool disinterest or contempt and goes everywhere with Elly in a backpack with a plastic window. There will also be curiosity about Alfie’s breed, a Scottish Fold who looks adorably grumpy.

With a loyal fan base, Elly leaves her cocoon to interact with her followers, some of whom even wear clothing with the

underlying theme of her books, namely: “The greater the spy, the bigger the lie.”

The spy novels feature characters who come to life, including the refined agent named Argylle (Henry Cavill with an odd haircut); his best friend Wyatt (John Cena), the muscle; and Keira (Ariana DeBose), their fearless field tech.

Richard E. Grant’s Fowler is a senior member of agent Argylle’s secret organization, and Grammy-winning superstar Dua Lipa’s Lagrange is Argylle’s elegant, lethal nemesis who gets involved in an elaborate, thrilling chase scene in scenic Greece.

While reading from her book to a captivated audience of fans, Elly is asked what’s in store for their favorite secret agent. She can only say that it’s a work in progress, which she’s either not willing to share or has no clue.

Retreating to the coziness of home, Elly shares her thoughts with her mother Ruth (Catherine O’Hara) for some advice on writing a forthcoming tome. Deciding to return home to Chicago, Elly packs up Alfie and takes the train since she’s afraid to fly.

Things take an interesting turn on the train ride when a stranger takes a seat across from Elly. His name is Aidan (Sam Rockwell), a scruffy looking dude with long hair and beard who looks like he has not changed clothes in forever.

Aidan recognizes Elly because he’s in the middle of reading her book. He claims to be in the espionage business as well as a fan, and then all hell breaks loose when armed thugs arrive to kill Elly, because apparently her books are too prescient and revealing about a corrupt group known as the Directorate.

Puzzled and frightened about what is happening, Elly is not too sure about Aidan but has no other choice than to be whisked away and go on the run with her savior to elude a horde of trained assassins.

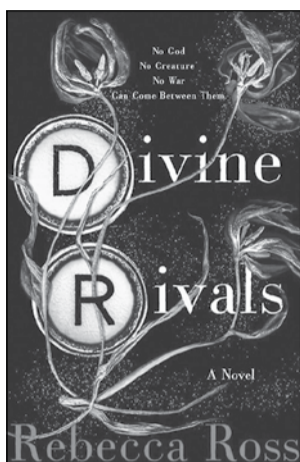
At this point, it would be best to let the rest of the plot remain a surprise with its surfeit of twists and turns. Not a surprise is Samuel L. Jackson showing up as another man of mystery because he’s in the trailer.

As seems to be the case all too often these days, “Argylle” has a running time that is more than necessary even if it relies on a lot of smoke and mirrors obfuscating a spy caper that is already mystifying enough in its delivery.

“Argylle” does not lack for stylish action, with violence elegantly choreographed. In fact, just watching the film’s trailer reveals some of the best action scenes without spoiling the cliffhanger. ★

Divine Rivals

by Rebecca Ross



◆ Publisher: Wednesday Books
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
◆ Release Date: April 4, 2023

Divine Rivals will take its readers back to a time when newspapers were the only form of news and typewriters were revered as a way of life. Gods and monsters join a war-torn land, where mortal soldiers lay hidden in trenches, fearing the wrath of a war fought by angry Gods. A missing brother, an unreliable mother, a magical love interest, and one annoying co-worker all combine to elevate this story to a fast-paced edge-of-your-seat battle between good and evil; while also redefining what is capable in the name of love. Strong, likable characters grace the pages of this story that take their time to build and develop into their relationships while also opening the door to new possibilities.

With soft echoes of *You’ve Got Mail*, *Divine Rivals* is a story that will make readers stop and pause to think about the power of humanity and the unstoppable force of love in the most unlikely of places. Grab a typewriter and a stack of paper; this book will strike the desire for letter writing, as it transports even the youngest of young adult readers to a time when letter correspondence, even in secret, was the way to someone’s heart. ★

typewriter in hand, Iris embarks on a new, independent journey until the annoying, arrogant Roman Kitt shows up.

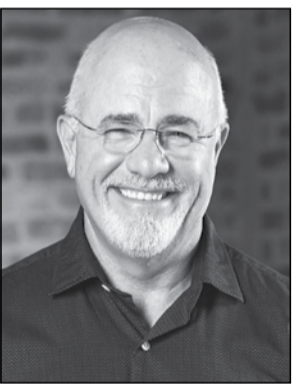
Now overwhelmed with the plight of war, Iris must make sense of her secret correspondent and the annoying Kitt, who alarmingly becomes less annoying. But Kitt is carrying his own set of secrets and feelings that are about to change everything that Iris thought she knew about her letters, war, love, and her magical typewriter.

Rebecca Ross throws the door wide open on this war-torn fantasy that will leave readers cheering, crying, and even searching for their own typewriter.

Iris Winnow has always dreamed of being a newspaper columnist, but she always seems to be neck and neck for featured spots with her rival Roman Kitt. Handsome and irritatingly annoying, Roman Kitt is always one step ahead or too worry, and it would be even more irritating if he weren’t so enigmatic. But Iris has other things on his mind; her brother Forest has just been deployed to war, and her mother is suffering from an addiction that takes all of Iris’s money and time.

When months go by without any news from her brother, Iris begins to worry, and the only way she can find solace is by typing him letters and slipping them under her wardrobe door, where miraculously they vanish. Even more impressive, one day, a letter appears, not from Forest but from someone else. Instantly, Iris and this unknown writer forge a bond that can’t be broken as he guides her through life’s turbulent and unknown moments.

When an opportunity arises to become a war correspondent, Iris strikes, knowing this will be the only way to find her brother. So, with the



Dave Ramsey Says

you’re living right now will have either a positive or negative effect on your future. I decided I wanted the greater, long-term good, so I gave up on the short-term stuff.

Debit cards are great tools. You can’t spend money you don’t have with them like you can with a credit card. But you’ve still got to budget very carefully for each month, and give a name and a job to every single penny of your income. Otherwise, you can still overspend.

– Dave

Put The Money In Your Own Pocket

Dear Dave,
Are home warranties a waste of money if you already have a fully-funded emergency fund containing six months, or even more, of expenses set aside?

– Jodie

Dear Jodie,
I don’t do extended warranties, because they’re not a good deal. In my mind, you’re better off to self-insure against damage or things breaking down. That way, you can put what would have been profit and marketing

dollars for the extended warranty company in your own pocket. I mean, think about it. If you buy something, but can’t afford to fix it if something goes wrong, it’s not really a smart move to buy it in the first place, is it?

I always recommend an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses to cover the unexpected things that life will throw at you. In most cases, this amount of cash—sitting in a good money market account with check writing privileges—will allow you easy access in the event of unexpected expenses or a financial emergency.

– Dave

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

Dear Dave,

I switched to a debit card so that the money I spend comes directly from my checking account. But I still have a problem some months with overspending and buying things I shouldn’t. Do you think I should stop using my debit card?

– Debbie

Dear Debbie,
When I made the decision to get intentional with my money, I just used cash. It’s hard to spend it when you don’t have any on you. It’s a tough thing, I know, but you have to make a conscious decision to start living differently. You’ve got to get mad at the things that steal your money a dollar or two at a time enough to take action.

Try looking at your life as a whole, not a moment at time. All the moments



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

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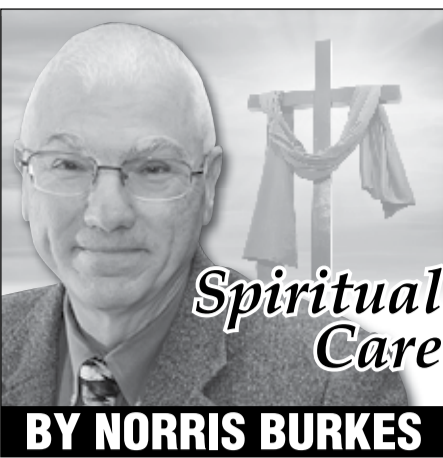
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A DREAM FOR ALL



“How many of you remember the first time you saw a black person?” asked my sociology professor in my freshman class at Baylor University.

Several students answered with stories about the first time they saw a black person walking beside the road or working in their backyard.

I was shocked. But I really shouldn't have been. It was 1975 and my southern friends had enjoyed school holidays for “confederated heroes,” yet not for Abraham Lincoln.

As a Californian, I was out of my element, but I counted myself lucky to be free of their racist upbringing.

Or was I?
With the beginning of Black History Month we might find how confessing our own history can provide insight into understanding racial issues.

As a boy growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, my skin was as white as the fog that shrouded my hometown hills. But it was mostly the fog of my family's southern roots that made me “color blind” to other races and cultures.

It was from the distant listening post of my Richmond, Calif., home where I began hearing the cries of social change, muffled and off-key.

In 1967, I started fifth grade with the announcement that our school, Balboa Elementary, would soon receive our first black students.

Few of my classmates said anything, holding our comments for the playground, where we assembled around Keith, our class troublemaker.

Keith seemed to always be fighting someone on the schoolyard. It was even rumored that he was once suspended for hitting a teacher.

He persuaded us that we needn't fear these black children – as long as “us white kids stick together.”

“Don't anyone talk to them,” he

commanded. We agreed. We'd follow our appointed leader and stick together.

“If they cause any trouble,” Keith said, slamming his fist into his palm, “we'll show them who really runs this playground.”

We weren't just counting on Keith; we were counting on our geography too.

For you see, while many U.S. towns were segregated by only railroad tracks, Richmond was segregated by a freeway. And with the district out of money for bussing, we thought our school would be safe from integration.

And it would have been – except for one thing.

“The tunnel,” as the kids called it, was a darkened pedestrian walkway under our freeway that reeked of urine and was paved with broken soda bottles..

Located only a few hundred yards from our playground, the tunnel was forbidden territory. All of our parents warned that none of us were to ever cross through the tunnel that connected the black community to the white one.

So, one September morning in 1967, as troop strength in Viet Nam approached 500,000, a small group of 10-year-old soldiers in the war on prejudice emerged from the tunnel. They carried the look of a scraggly group of Pop Warner football players returning to a halftime deficit – overwhelmed both by the size of the field and the stakes of the game.

Among those kids were Deborah, Agnes, Geoffrey and Gregory. I still remember their names because that was the first time I truly “saw” a black person.

Usually my columns work toward a dramatic climax, but the most dramatic thing in today's story is that nothing happened. No drama. Nothing

Keith didn't beat anyone up. Nobody rioted or protested. We just had life happen right amongst us. Agnes stole my pencils, but Deborah stole my heart. Gregory beat me out on the history quizzes. Both he and Agnes easily beat me in the 50-yard dash.

No drama until that first Thursday in April 1968. Sometime after the evening fog returned to the Richmond hills, a friend came over to tell me he'd just heard that Martin Luther King had been assassinated in Memphis.

Now, almost fifty-five years, it seems to me that in the end, our little school became part of King's dream as it was “...transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.”

That's my history. What's yours? ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Turn Your Back



To lead an orchestra, a conductor has to turn his back to the crowd. To lead your life, you have to turn your back to the crowd. This means you have to immunize yourself to what others say, think, or do relative to your quest to achieve your goals.

Just as a conductor must focus on the performance of the orchestra, you need to focus on the performance of your life. If a conductor faces the crowd, he can't direct the musicians.

Do you measure your performance by what the crowd thinks. Are you more concerned about the opinions of others than about the direction of your life? If so, you may find it hard to stay on a path of your choosing.

Far too many people have abandoned their dreams due to input from the crowd. This is a shame, since it is you who suffers when your dreams are abandoned. The crowd rarely roots for success. They would rather see failure. If you doubt this, just look at the news. How many stories depict defeat and tragedy compared to success and triumph?

People tend to be jealous when someone does better than them. Rather than attempting to elevate themselves, they boost their stature by comparing themselves to those who are doing worse. Additionally, people love to give their opinion, often unsolicited. When you pay attention to the crowd, you do yourself a disservice.

At first it won't be easy to turn your back. You have become conditioned to care about what others think. You want to be accepted and fear rejection should you not be sensitive to others' opinions. You want to fit in.

Dave loved to cook and entertain. One beautiful summer day, he invited a number of friends over for a barbecue. He put several steaks on the grill. As he was cooking, one of his friends came over and told Dave the steaks needed more salt. Wanting to accommodate his guest, Dave followed his suggestion.

Then another guest came over and suggested the food needed more steak sauce. Again, Dave did as his guest asked. Each guest proceeded to make some suggestion about how to make the steaks better; add garlic, turn the flame up, turn the heat down, more spices, less spices.

When Dave served the steaks, no one liked them. Even though Dave knew how to make a tasty steak, he listened to everyone. The result was inedible food. If Dave had done the cooking his way, everything would have turned out fine. Dave's party would have been much more successful had he turned his back to the crowd.

Imagine Dave's frustration. In spite of all the effort, time, and money he put into having a successful party, it was a flop. Dave tried to please everyone but in the end no one was happy.

What happened to Dave is exactly what happens to many people. They take advice from anyone and everyone. Their minds constantly vacillate depending on who they are speaking to at the moment. The result is just as unsatisfactory as the food at Dave's barbecue.

There was a better way for Dave to handle the situation. All he had to do was thank each of his friends for their suggestion while he continued to grill the food his way. With this approach, Dave would have had a successful party without being rude to anyone.

Turn your back to the crowd. Do your own thing. Conduct your life the way you want. Thank others for their suggestions while proceeding along your own path. Keep your attention focused on what's ahead of you.

NOW AVAILABLE: “Dare to Live Without Limits,” the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. ©2024 Bryan Golden ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-000026
The following persons are doing business as: Sourdough Crumb Co, 520 West D Street N, Dixon, CA 95620.
Ana Siebert-Ralstin, 520 West D Street N, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: January 5, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration January 4, 2029. 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: Jan 19, 26, Feb 2, 9, 2024
SOURDOUGH 2-9-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-000074
The following persons are doing business as: Make A Smile, 1955 W. Texas Street #2A, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Tavallaei D.M.D. Corporation, 400 Plaza Drive Suite 120-311, Folsom, CA 95630.
Date filed in Solano County: January 16, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 1, 2017.
This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. 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 January 15, 2029. 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: Feb 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2024
MAKE 3-1-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-000075
The following persons are doing business as: Smile Time Dental, 1955 W. Texas Street #2B, Fairfield, CA 94533.
S. Jang DDS Incorporation, 400 Plaza Drive Suite 120-361, Folsom, CA 95630.
Date filed in Solano County: January 16, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 1, 2017.
This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. 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 January 15, 2029. 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: Feb 9, 16, 23, March 1, 2024
SMILE 3-1-24



State Program to Compensate Ranchers for Wolf Attacks Runs Out of Money

Less than a year after the state fully implemented a pilot program to compensate ranchers for livestock losses and other economic impacts caused by wolves, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife says it has run out of money. Ranchers say the \$3 million allocated for the program does not begin to pay for the rising financial damage created by the presence of wolves, apex predators that are protected under state and federal endangered species acts. In an announcement, the department said it had received 102 applications for compensation and that there may not be enough money to cover future applications.

As Rice Planting Surges After Drought, Waterfowl Flock to Fields

The return of fully planted rice crops to the Sacramento Valley following years of drought has restored another essential feature of the region: migrating waterfowl. After harvest, reservoirs replenished by last year's historic storms enabled farmers to flood more of their fields this winter, creating wetland habitat for birds. “You can't drive down the road without seeing thousands of geese,” said Kim Gallagher, who grows rice along Highway 45 in Yolo and Colusa counties and participates in government-funded programs

that incentivize rice farmers to flood their fields for wildlife conservation.

American Farm Bureau Federation Sets Policy Agenda

The American Farm Bureau Federation has wrapped up its annual convention in Salt Lake City by approving policy changes to guide the organization's legislative priorities for the year. AFBF delegates reversed policy by allowing caps on the annual number of temporary guest worker visas, as long as they do not restrict farmers and ranchers from using the program to meet labor needs. Delegates also agreed to address the growth of artificial intelligence in agriculture, which has the potential to enhance farming practices but raises some privacy rights concerns.

Researchers: Wet Weather Could Increase Almond Orchard Threat

University of California researchers are warning almond growers to be on the lookout for a rare disease that can cause severe damage to their orchards. Phytophthora, soilborne microorganisms dubbed “water molds” because of their dependence on water, can cause root and crown rot at the base of trees. With heavy rains in the forecast for late January and early February, one species—Phytophthora syringae—was drawing attention due to an unprecedented outbreak last winter, fueled by the atmospheric rivers that lashed California. ★

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Missile Site's TCE Spreading to Border of Active-Adult Community

Story and photos
by Carol Feineman

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Remediating a trichloroethylene (TCE) plume that moved from the defunct Titan 1-A missile site in Lincoln to properties across the street and today bordering an active-adult community is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) priority.

That's what U.S. Army Corps' Sacramento District Deputy District Commander Lt. Col. Dianna Lively stressed during a Jan. 31 meeting with the grassroots Lincoln-based Titan1-A Missile Site Environmental Contamination and Remediation Committee. Right before an Army Corps' public informational meeting about the former missile site's soil vapor and groundwater contamination, Lively and other Army Corps representatives assured the committee that the agency was working on removing the contamination.

Minutes later at the public meeting, however, Army Corps representatives told about 250 residents that remediation would not begin until at least 2027. Army Corps representatives at both meetings would not estimate when remediation would start.

The Titan 1-A Missile site at 401 Oak Tree Lane in Lincoln was one of 18 former intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) silo sites in California, Colorado, Wyoming and Washington during the Cold War.

Each Titan 1 missile site stored three missiles in the underground silos. Beale Air Force Base 851st Strategic Missile Squadron near Marysville oversaw the Titan I missile sites in Lincoln, Chico and Live Oak. Lincoln's missile site operated from 1962 to 1965.

According to the Jan. 31 public meeting presentation, the Army Corps will place three soil vapor probes and a groundwater monitoring well at a church property located in between the missile site and the Sun City Lincoln Hills (active-adult community) border. The Army Corps will add probes and five monitoring wells along the Sun City Lincoln Hills border. The reason for the probes and the monitoring wells is because the federal agency "wants a better understanding of the amount of contamination in the area," according to Army Corps Deputy Chief for Public Affairs Tyler Stalker.

"It's hard to say when everything will be finished," said Army Corps technical



Sun City Lincoln Hills residents looked at charts and information from the U.S. Army Corps showing a trichloroethylene (TCE) plume bordering the active-adult community. The residents also listened to a presentation by Army Corps representatives saying that more information was needed to determine the contamination's extent.

lead Matthew Marlatt during the public presentation. "We don't know yet."

Asked by the Messenger Publishing Group when remediation could possibly start, Marlatt would not answer and said to look at the meeting slide that described the CERCLA process. CERCLA stands for the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

The project is in the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) phase. Samples of soil, soil vapor and groundwater are collected and analyzed to determine the contamination's extent. The Army Corps expects to finish the study in 2024, followed by a proposed plan in 2025 and an approved record of decision with the state of California in 2026, according to the Jan. 31 public presentation.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the federal agency responsible for cleaning up the contamination and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board is the state agency responsible for remediation oversight.

Eliminating the TCE "is not a fast process," said U.S. Army Corps Project Manager Tim Crummett. "When the record of decision is done, there's always the unknown. Things don't go as planned."

The Jan. 31 presentation was the Army Corps' second public presentation on the Lincoln missile site's remediation efforts.

During the first public presentation on May 31 at Sun City Lincoln Hills, Crummett said, "We have a carcinogen in the groundwater. It's under the ground. It's not too far from you. It's in your neighborhood. We all agree, everyone in this room, we want it removed."

Crummett, at the May 31 presentation acknowledged that several Lincoln residents and the Army Corps representatives disagreed about the health risks and levels of TCE contamination in the groundwater. He said residents were not at risk.

Others, including Center for Public Environmental Oversight Executive Director Lenny Siegel, Lincoln resident and grassroots committee member Anne Constantin Birge, Lincoln City Councilmember Bill Lauritsen and Lincoln City Manager Sean Scully strongly disagreed and have pushed for remediation.

Exposure to high TCE concentrations can cause dizziness, headaches, sleepiness, confusion, nausea, unconsciousness, liver damage and death, according to the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention.

The Army Corps included a fact sheet in a Jan. 18 email blast inviting the public to the Jan. 31 public informational meeting.

The fact sheet stated, "However, the data collected as part of the Remedial Investigation (2018-2023) indicates that there is no imminent risk to residents that live or work near the former missile complex as the impacted soil vapor is within undeveloped land to the southwest, and groundwater is not used as a drinking water source. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board), the government regulatory agency coordinating with USACE on this project, concurs with this finding."

The grassroots Lincoln committee has said that the health risks are not from the drinking water supply, but from TCE vaporizing from the groundwater.

What Lincoln Officials Said About the Jan. 31 Meeting

"We were excited to hear about the additional testing measures that will be implemented in the very near term, which will hopefully give a better quantitative view of the contamination and its spread or movement," said Lincoln City Manager Scully on Feb. 1. "...We consistently heard from USACE personnel about how important it is for the city and community to remain engaged on this issue as a partner in the process, so we will continue to advocate, participate and coordinate until remediation is complete."

Lincoln City Councilmember Bill Lauritsen had another perspective.

"The USACE presentation was disappointing on several fronts, although I have two main concerns. The first was the 'Area of Concern' or testing zone outlined within the yellow border on their maps. This 'Area' excluded Sun City, even though it goes right up to the Sun City fence and the area immediately downhill south from the already contaminated zone..." Lauritsen said. "My second concern is the timeline. If what I heard is right, the Army Corps of Engineers won't really begin remediation until 2029 at the earliest. This is not a pleasant thought. Developers want to build on this land and residents of Sun City are rightly concerned about the spreading contamination... We need to begin testing beyond the yellow line and push for a speeded-up calendar." ★

State of the City

Continued from page 1

registrations. He told of how they also heavily utilized social media, established the parks master plan, set up a new Alert Test System and partnered with organizations for community events.

Future goals included Lights and Landscape Management and developing funding strategies for the new Fire Department off Pitt School Road in the Homestead Development.

Community Development

Raffi Boloyan, Community Development Director, spoke on numerous projects growing Dixon throughout city limits and beyond.

Getting adequate staff was crucial to "matching the high volume of activity," he said.

"Our biggest challenge was in our building division and one major initiative was getting software to do permit tracking," he said. The city has processed about 1100 permits for a broad range including water heaters to new buildings.

"It is a huge endeavor and allows online access to applications and issuing permits. One can see the status and offer a more thorough way of tracking activity." He hopes for it to be live by September of this year.

On the Planning side, Boloyan talked about the housing element update required by the State that is to be done every eight years was certified in May 2023. The General Plan, which helps make the City eligible for grants, was adopted and the final comprehensive zoning update will be before the Council for approval at the Tuesday, February 13, City Council meeting.

The planners have approved a dual hotel by Cattlemen's, Whiskey Barrel 707 in downtown, and Rotten Robbie gas station and car wash to name a few of several projects. In about two months, there will be an



Signs of a healthy fire department were seen with the recent promotions in the Dixon Fire Department: Chief Randy Shafer was promoted to Deputy Chief; Firefighter Matt Fields was promoted to Battalion Chief; Firefighter Andrew Tomelloso was promoted to Captain; Reserve volunteer firefighters Jackson Bird and Antoine Catacutan were hired to full time Firefighters; and not present was Firefighter Ryan Murphy who was promoted to Engineer.

opening the Bank of Stockton and a few months later, there will be Chipotle, on the corner of Vaughn and North First Street near Tractor Supply.

One that is little known to Dixonites but perhaps greater than the current discussions on Forever California is that of Campus Dixon 257.

"The major applications are for Campus Dixon 257 involving 260 acres [previously the site of the defunct Dixon horse track idea] which includes a research and development resource that is being worked on presently and one that will be ready in March or April of this year to the public," reported Boloyan.

The project contains a total of 260 +/- acres. The site is bounded by Pedrick Road with Solano County unincorporated Agricultural lands to the east, Industrial designated lands to the north and south, and lands designated as Regional Commercial and Industrial to the west.

Dixon Opportunity Center

The 47.87-acre Dixon Opportunity Center (DOC) would be a large employment area developed to accommodate technology, business park, and light industrial uses. The intent of



Community Development Director Raffi Boloyan speak about the various developments going on in Dixon.

this area is to foster new mixed-use employment districts with a range of job-generating and other tax revenue generating uses. Clusters of related light industrial, manufacturing, office, and research and development uses are envisioned. Large and small scale industrial, manufacturing, office, research, heavy commercial uses, and other related uses

could be developed as these critical uses grow within Dixon.

A total of nine lots are planned to accommodate low-, medium-, and high-density residential uses. Up to 1,041 residential units are planned. City Planning Commission will hear more about this at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, he said.

The Milk Farm Redevelopment has run into "extremely complicated" infrastructure issues and has now been put on hold. In addition, there is an application by Lewis Group for 150 acres on the Southeast of the City. They are exploring a project of 150 acres for predominantly residential.

"That will be a very long process," said Boloyan.

Dixon Police & Fire

"This isn't a small town, and it can't be policed like a small town," said Dixon Police Chief Robert Thompson, our Chief since 2017. He reported an increase in crimes due to the convenience of Interstate 80. "We know this because of new technology. It is the Bay Area impact."

There has been a dramatic improvement in police force retention over the last five to

six years thanks to overcoming a "massive pay problem." He explained that when he first got here, there were 2-year cops, and now there are 5- to 6-year officers including two homegrown officers and that is due to "active management."

"We are still smaller so have to be more creative and learn to live within our means but still provide the best services," he said. "We've had to fight for training and used to shoot standing in the dirt but now have a state-of-the-art firearms training center that 14 other agencies now use. Our reputation has improved. We also have a crimes analyst and now we can investigate."

"You can't just add 2,000 residents/homes and not recognize impacts to community services," he said, encouraging the public to read their online annual reports. "This community has always supported the police [and surveys showed that.] The crime rate and level of services are why our officers live here. Even other police officers choose to live here. I think we are well-positioned for the future."

Fire Chief Todd McNeal agreed that Dixon's reputation has become one that is considered a "regional leader."

"It takes a team of leaders to maintain a quality of life that we enjoy in our city," he said. "There is a constant demand and a coming wave that will force us to be ready," he said.

Last year, there were 3,000 calls with 60 percent for Emergency Medical Services which is low as the National average is 70-percent. They are responsible for 120 square miles and fight a slew of totally different fires, he said.

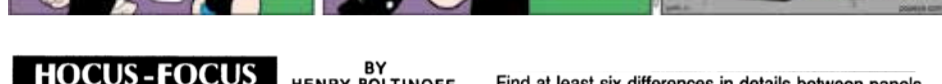
He noted the department is building a large training center for staff at the station that will offer a hyper-realistic training facility. ★

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

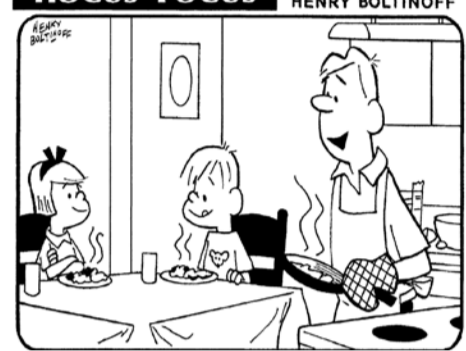


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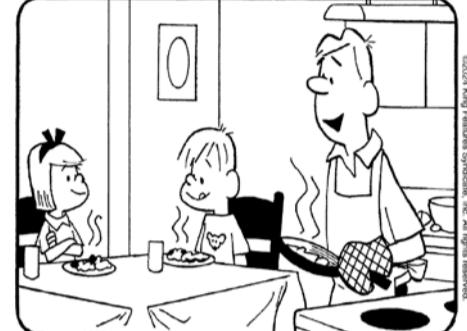


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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTONOFF

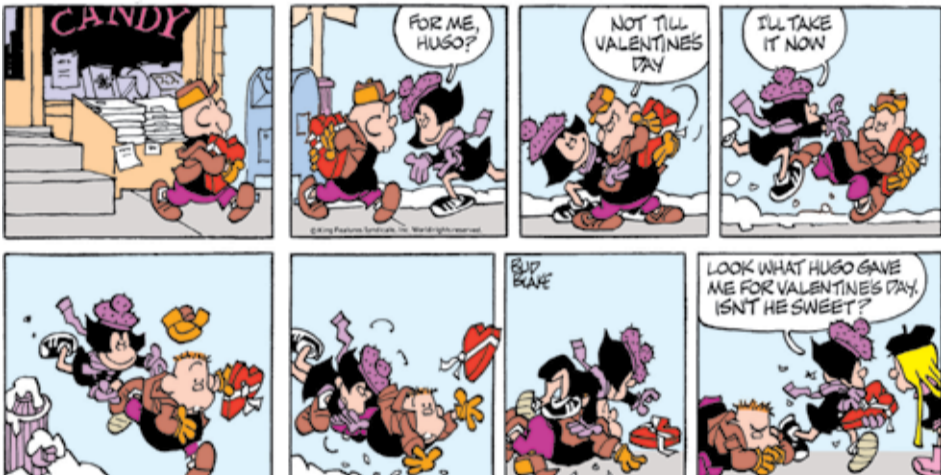


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Burner is larger; 2. Hand is not showing; 3. Plate is moved; 4. Glass is moved; 5. Box is missing; 6. Hair is longer.

TIGER CANDY



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GRIM and BIAR IT



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Who Won the Beer-for-a-Butterfly Contest?

Story and photos by Kathy Keatley Garvey

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Drum roll....

We have a winner in the annual Beer-for-a-Butterfly Contest, in which the first person to collect the first cabbage white butterfly of the year in the three-county area of Yolo, Sacramento and Solano, wins a beer.

The 2024 winner of the "Suds for a Bug" contest?

The repeat winner, UC Davis distinguished professor emeritus Art Shapiro. He has sponsored the annual contest since 1972 as part of his scientific research involving long-term studies of butterfly life cycles and climate change. He also participates in his own contest.

In its larval stage, the cabbage white butterfly, *Pieris rapae*, is a pest of cole crops, including cabbage, cauliflower, and broccoli.

Shapiro did not actually collect the butterfly; he recorded it. But no person came forth with an eligible entry.

Shapiro spotted the cabbage white on Monday, Jan. 29 at 11:30 a.m. in West Sacramento, Yolo County, and saw the same one again at 11:40.

As he related in his posse email: "Went to West Sac bright and early, direct from breakfast and without a net. Light ground fog broke up by 9:30 a.m. and thereafter it was clear until around 2, when high, thin overcast moved in rapidly from the west. Before it clouded over, it hit 73F, with light and variable wind. Once the clouds moved in, although they were translucent, the temperature dropped quickly into the 60s. There are a few Brassica kaber (mustard) and a couple of dozen Raphanus (wild radish) in bloom, a tiny fraction of what was around last year at the end of January."

"Saw my first rapae of 2024, a male, at 11.20 a.m. and the same one again at 11.40. Then nothing until 12:20--another male, certainly a different one, 1.5 miles farther west. Nothing else seen, so



The cabbage white butterfly, *Pieris rapae*, is white with black dots.

Photo by Kathy Keatley Garvey

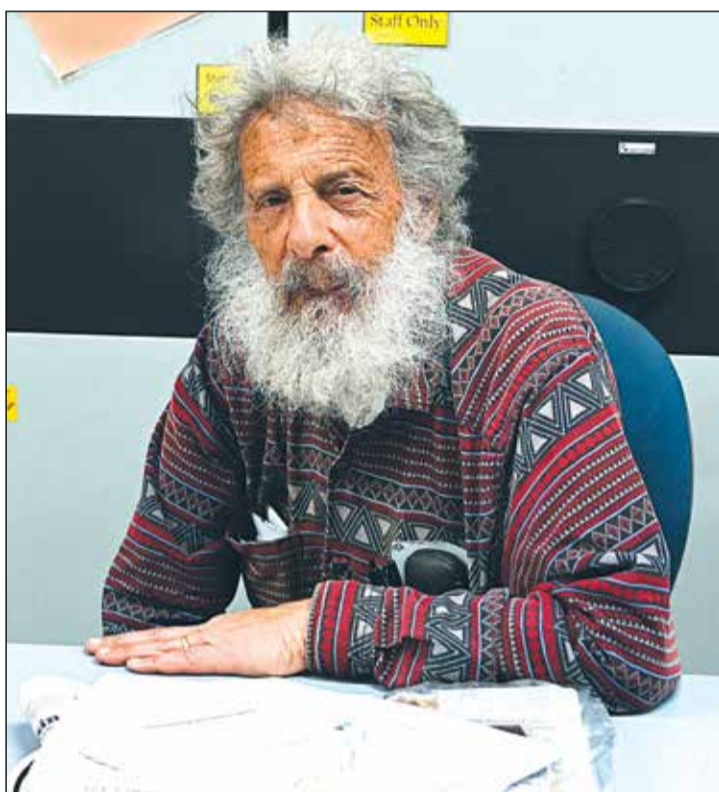
1(2) for the day."

The emeritus professor said he learned that someone "may have gotten one yesterday (Jan. 28), location unknown, but no one came forth." He also received a report of one collected on Jan. 22 in Davis "which almost certainly hatched indoors so I'm not counting it. It was found in the person's apartment at 7 p.m., but never seen to come in from outdoors."

Shapiro, who has monitored butterfly populations in Central California since 1972, and maintains a research website at <http://butterfly.ucdavis.edu/>, says the point of the contest "is to get the earliest possible flight date for statistical purposes. The rules require that the animal be captured and brought in alive to be verified. That way no one can falsely claim to have seen one or misidentify something else as a cabbage white."

The contest rules include:

It must be an adult (no caterpillars or pupae) and be captured outdoors.



UC Davis Distinguished Professor Emeritus Art Shapiro.

It must be brought in alive to the Bohart Museum of Entomology, located in Room 1124, Academic Surge Building, 455 Crocker Lane,

UC Davis campus, during work hours, from 8 a.m. to noon, and from 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. It must include full data (exact time, date, and location of the capture) and the contact information of the collector (address, phone number and/or e-mail.) Brennen Dyer will certify that it is alive and refrigerate it. (If it's collected on a weekend or holiday, it can be kept in the refrigerator for a few days--do not freeze it, Shapiro says.)

Shapiro is the sole judge.

Brennen related that no one brought a white cabbage butterfly to the Bohart Museum to compete in the contest.

P. rapae is emerging earlier and earlier as the regional climate has warmed, Shapiro says. "Since 1972, the first flight of the cabbage white butterfly has varied from Jan. 1 to Feb. 22, averaging about Jan. 20."

Shapiro has been defeated only four times and those were by UC Davis graduate students. Adam Porter won in 1983; Sherril Graves and Rick VanBuskirk each won in the late 1990s; and Jacob Montgomery in 2016. The first three were his own graduate students.

Who won in 2023? Shapiro spotted the first butterfly of 2023 at 11:22 a.m., in West Sacramento. He did not collect the butterfly but recorded it as the first of the year. No one came forth with a competitor.

Matthew Forister, the Foundation Professor, Trevor J. McMinn Endowed Research Professor in Biology at the University of Nevada, Reno, collaborates with Shapiro and annually creates a graph, using statistics from 1972 to the current year. "The long-term linear pattern continues, although recent years have been less steep (the year slope was -0.45 six years ago; is -0.34 now)," he related. Forister received his PhD in ecology from UC Davis in 2004, studying with Shapiro. ★

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