

Cecil Dennings is Veteran of the Year

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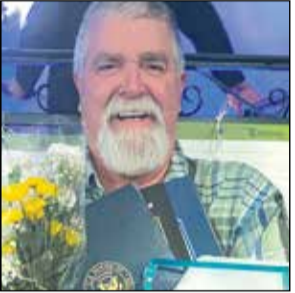
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MARCH 15, 2024

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Dixon's Citizen of the Year



David and Debra Dingman. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - At last Saturday's Chamber of Commerce extravaganza to celebrate Dixon, Debra Dingman, long-time resident and editor of The Independent Voice newspaper, was awarded Dixon's highest honor: the Citizen of the Year.

The nomination read: "Debra has been a Dixon resident since 1992 and has been involved in all aspects of the Dixon Community.

"She moved here after landing a job at First Northern Bank as a publications assistant before she was hired away by the owner of the Dixon Tribune as editor. Debra had a degree in journalism from Sacramento State University; being the editor of a local newspaper was her dream job.

"She quickly became involved in Dixon and taught Sunday School for a total of 20 years during which time she organized a huge and successful vacation bible school with

250 children, and soon was hired as the children's ministry director. After four years as the director and more successful VBS's, she returned to volunteering — helping out at church workdays, fundraisers, and numerous other activities so she could take care of her ailing mom.

Debra has helped raise funds for a wide variety of school efforts and served in numerous capacities — board of Cooperative Nursery

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Two-Decade Long Project Nears Completion

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It has been nearly two decades since the Parkway Boulevard rail safety overcrossing idea was conceived.

The timeline that began in 2004 authorizing a preliminary design, environmental documentation and other procedures is projected to end in 2025, with the final construction completed. According to a 2022 engineering report, this year is when city officials propose seeking federal and state funds for the project needed for multiple reasons.

The first reason is a growing population. The report states that by 2025, the city will need an additional 1,587 housing units for up to 5,000 people.

Second, Dixon has no existing grade-separating rail crossings, and the city has a "history of rail safety issues, with Dixon recording two fatalities over the past 10 years," according to the report.

Third, up to 40 fast-speeding trains are threatening residential areas by limiting restricted emergency access and evacuation routes to downtown.

Decreased fatalities, improved emergency response time, and safe rail crossing for bikes and pedestrians are a few of the project benefits, according to the report.

The project will also close an existing at-grade crossing at Pitt School Road while supporting capital corridor improvements and future high-speed rail lines.

In 2022, the city of Dixon committed \$6.3 million, with an estimated \$34.5 million remaining to complete the project by next year. Existing project funding included \$6.3 million in Local Transportation Impact fees and \$3.8 in Regional Transportation Impact fees, totaling \$9.8 million.

While the project needs and benefits remain, city of Dixon senior civil engineer Brandon Rodriguez said, financial figures have changed slightly over the last year. As of 2022, the city had invested several million on the project but now, Rodriguez said, based on the current design, if awarded the grant, the construction cost shortfall is approximately \$25 million and the total remaining project cost is approximately \$31.1 million.

According to Rodriguez, the Solano Transportation Authority has committed to providing \$1.9 million

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Potential Water Rate Hike To Be Discussed

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The city of Dixon's potential water rate hike is being taken seriously by officials and the public.

So serious that since April 2023, the Dixon Water Rate Ad Hoc Committee met up to eight times to decide a fair way to address rising costs and infrastructure issues.

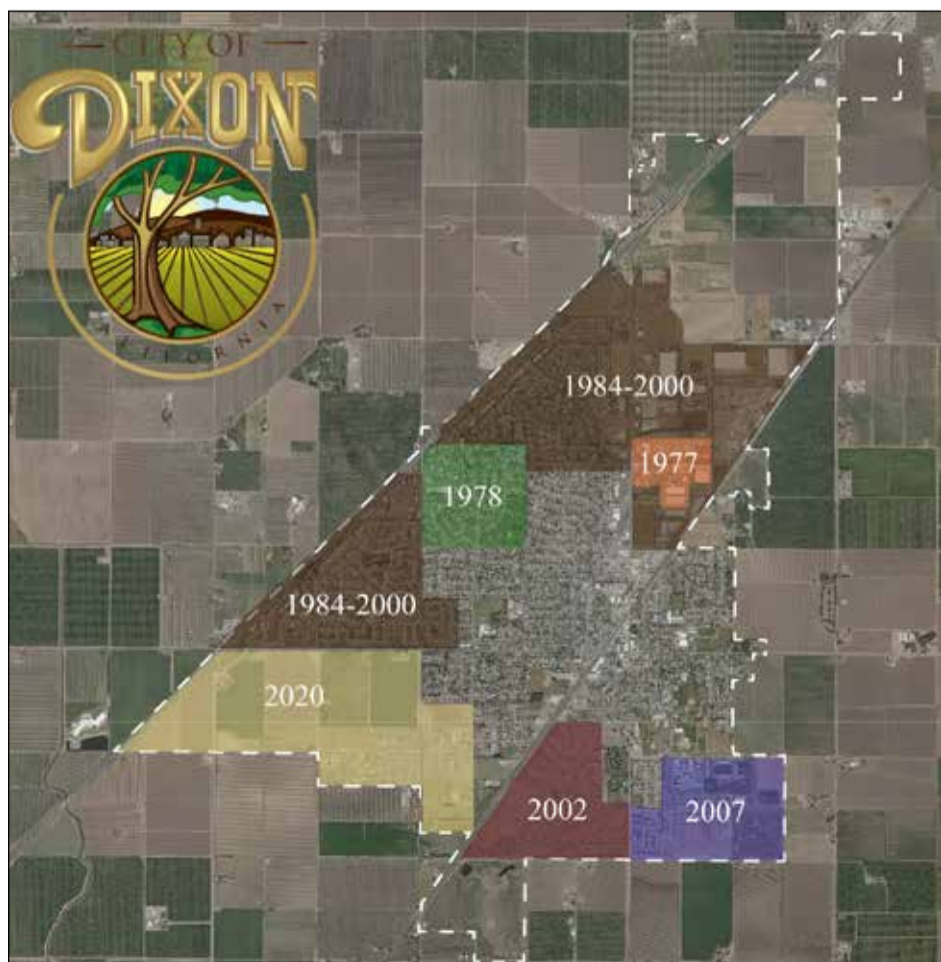
"It is important to the city that we include the public in this process and take the time to explain the financial and operational history of the water system," Dixon public information officer Madeline Graf said.

The Dixon water system rates do not involve tax dollars, which come from a general fund.

"Water customers pay water rates that fund the water system," Graf said.

Dixon's self-sufficient water system and utility costs come from an enterprise fund such as sewer costs.

"This means that money



This map highlights the city of Dixon service area and the year each area was developed. Parts of the city developed after 1977 are in the city of Dixon water service area. The center area is served by Cal Water. Photo courtesy of Dixon Water

paid into the system by water customers can only be used to maintain the water system does not system," Graf said. "The

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Only On This Day

By Debra Dingman

Last night, I received the highest honor someone can possibly receive in Dixon: The Citizen of the Year!

12 hours earlier: I started my typical day with a shower and blow drying my hair when I felt a shocking burning sensation in my knee that made me cry out. But just as fast, it went away. Seconds later, it did it again and again and I thought I was somehow being electrocuted from the hair dryer, so I turned it off and screamed for hubby. He said it was impossible for that, but I didn't finish my hair like I normally do and went off to cover a fun story on Little League Opening Day. When I was done, the pain was back.

At home, I took a pain reliever and promptly napped. When I woke up, I noticed a fever blister brewing on my lower lip. The 'Celebrate Dixon' event was a couple hours away. As usual, I tried to do too much despite my aging body, so the loads in the laundry didn't get all finished, I never got my nails done, and I didn't get to hem my slacks.

I wondered who tonight's person would be and thought of the many volunteers I adore that I hoped one would be named. I was surprised when someone handed me a corsage and asked why, and she said I had been nominated. That was news to me. I had been nominated last year and received a letter from the Chamber before the event, but I had not received such a letter this year. She said our table was number 13.

"Did you say table 13?" I asked incredulously.

I got to visit with numerous friends, my Publisher, and new people at our table but the best part of the evening is getting to see all the people I truly care about--and share history with--from living here so long. The dinner from Bud's was delicious as usual and those honored for the various awards were more than deserving. Then it was time for

Citizen of the Year.

Chamber President/CEO Shauna Manina announced there had been three nominees: Hayley Andrews, MaryLou Batchelor, and Debra Dingman. I still felt relaxed knowing MaryLou has been around longer than me and was very deserving.

As Herb Cross started the litany of activities the nominated candidate was involved in, though, he said the person was a Sunday School teacher for 20 years. I sat up and my mind began to swirl. Could Mary Lou have been a Sunday School teacher, I thought? Was she a church person? Then he said something about Vacation Bible School and Children's Ministry Director and my lungs would not expand. Vaguely in the back of my racing mind, I heard starting Kiwanis and Festival of Trees. My body began to shake, and I whispered that I couldn't believe this, not hearing anything else but my name.

I remember heading to the stage in slow-mo and seeing lots of people stand and clap and congratulate me. I had no prepared speech like the others had. I felt shocked and said thank you over and over but wished I'd collected myself enough to thank the 'wind beneath my wings,' my hubby David, and my son, Devon, who have always been such awesome helpers for whatever I got myself in and to the many other volunteers in our town who work so hard to make Dixon the town we love. It was a grand night with photos, hugs, and laughter.

When we got home and put the awards on the kitchen table, I noticed something moving. When we turned on the lights, there were a million ants that had come through the kitchen window. (I'm a clean fanatic but they found enough crumbs on the tablecloth to send armies.)

Back to the real world, I thought, and we spent the next half hour spraying, sweeping, mopping, and me on my sore knee on the floor wiping table legs. ★

Two-Decade Long Project Nears Completion

Continued from page 1

in Regional Transportation Impact Fees to support the project's completion.

"These fees are being accounted for as part of the city's proposed non-federal match funds for grant applications," Rodriguez said.

The most recent financial move was made at the March 5 meeting when the council adopted a resolution authorizing a budget transfer of \$2,075,000 from the Transportation Impact Fee Fund to the Parkway Boulevard Overcrossing Project for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) transportation grant.

"Recently, the city accepted the western embankment project," Rodriguez said of the October 2023 resolution. "The funds

were transferred to allow for a 20% match in the event the city is awarded the RAISE grant."

Rodriguez said the budget transfer was approved from the transportation fund to the project fund to make 20% match funding available.

"The overcrossing project will continue to go through the design process with consultant T.Y. Lin and tentatively plan for design completion by the end of the year," Rodriguez said.

According to the grant website, Rodriguez said, the selections will be announced by June 27.

"The Parkway Boulevard overcrossing will be a huge benefit to our community by increasing safety and helping to relieve traffic congestion," Rodriguez said. ★

Dixon News Briefs



The Dixon Challengers Little League Team was honored with pitching the first ball of the season at last Saturday's Little League Opening Day ceremony. It is the 10th anniversary of playing baseball with special needs children and their high school "buddies." Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Tully, Brandi Proffitt, Tahir Masood, and Vankeesha Frank.

Performers Apply Now

The Solano County Fair is thrilled to announce that applications are now open for performers to be considered for the 75th Annual Solano County Fair - Diamond Jubilee, scheduled to take place from June 13-16, 2024, this year and will be the Diamond Jubilee celebration which promises to be a spectacular event. Organizers are actively seeking talented performers to showcase their skills and entertain our diverse audience. Whether you specialize in music, dance, magic, comedy, or any other form of entertainment, we invite you to apply and become part of this historic celebration.

To submit your application, please visit our website at the following link: <https://www.scfair.com/perform-at-the-2024-fair>. The application process is straightforward, and all necessary details can be found on the dedicated page.

Library Events

Teen Rainbow Reads Book Club will review 'The Prince and the Dressmaker' by Jen Wong as their March study for the group that meets on Wednesday, March 27, 3:30-4:30 at the Dixon Public Library, 230 North First Street. This is for Tweens and Teens. For Spanish speaking children, there will be stories on Wednesday, March 20, also at the Library from 10 to 11 a.m.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

On Friday, March 15, at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street, there will be a St. Patrick's Day Dinner featuring traditional corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, and carrots with a roll for \$15. Wear green!

Chamber Mixer

Join the Dixon Chamber at their March Mixer on Tuesday, March 19, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Travis Credit Union at 1470 Ary Lane. Chamber Ambassadors are business representatives who help coordinate the events and those special folks are Anna Deussenberry, Rafael Lara, Cindy Black, Patti and Mike Liu, Robin

Vendors for Tremont Festival

Vendors are being sought for the Spring Festival at Tremont Elementary School which will be held on April 17. The school address is 355 Pheasant Run. vendors are offered booth space for \$30 donation plus a raffle item valued at \$20. Contact Jennifer Roman (916) 541-9731 for more information.

Family Science Night

Anderson and Gretchen Higgins school families are joining up to explore a night of science on Tuesday, March 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Gretchen Higgins is located at 1525 Pembroke Way.

Video Contest for Kindness

Calling all Solano County Junior High and High School students to participate in the 6th annual countywide video contest showcasing the power of kindness on campus. It is sponsored by Solano County District Attorney's Office and invites students to submit a video between 30 seconds and two minutes in length that expresses what the power of kindness can accomplish in their school community. It asks the question, "How can the power of kindness be used in our schools, homes, and communities to make a positive difference?" The deadline for submissions is April 24. Contest rules and submission information can be found online at <https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/districtattorney/campaign.asp>. Questions regarding the contest should be directed to scdakindness@solanocounty.com.

Spring Break for Schools

Dixon schools will be on spring break April 1 through 8 so now is the time to plan an alternative daycare situation or make reservations to take your kiddos somewhere special. Neighborhood Christian School students will be out only April 1-5. Students at St. Peter's Catholic Church Valley of the Sacred Heart will be out from Thursday, April 28 through April 5. ★

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Cecil Dennings is Veteran of the Year

How Cool Is That?

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In the days that men didn't talk about wars or being in the military, somehow the sense of duty was instilled by Cecil Dennings' father and all of his brothers went into the service. He went into the Marines and two brothers went into the Army. One even retired from 20 years of service.

The legacy continued with Dennings oldest grandson, Robert Delagrande-Soliz serving four years in the Army and another grandson, Cory Nedler, is in the Army now.

Dennings' father served in World War II, receiving not only the Bronze Star but also a Purple Heart. When the Americans were freeing the prisoners at Dachau, the elder Dennings was shot.

"The bullet went in one side and out the other," said Cecil, who was in the Marines. "He was in an anti-tank company in France and there was a prison camp where the unit was there to free the prisoners but ran into machine gun nets. It was January 15, 1945." Cecil knows these things because he was contacted by an author doing research for a history book. It also helps that his wife, Cecilia, is a Genealogist.

"I'm very proud of my



Veteran of the Year, Cecil Dennings, waves thanks to the audience at last Saturday's Celebrate Dixon event. Photo by Nicolas Brown

husband and I encourage and support all he does," she said. Cecilia wasn't the only one who felt Dennings was more than deserving of the honor he was bestowed Saturday night of Veteran of the Year at the Chamber's Celebrate Dixon event.

Dennings has been an active member of the VFW since 1985 and transferred to the Dixon Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8151 in 2016 and has been active in leading the Dixon May Fair Parade where there are 15 flags representing every branch of America's military service including the Merchant Marines and the National Guard, he said.

He was the VFW District Commander in 1920-21 for District 16

"I help do the honor guard at the first home games of Dixon High School football

and Water Polo," he added. He also judges the Voice of Democracy essay contest at the high school and the Patriot Pens at the middle school.

He is a Gold Life member of the American Legion and the Marine Corp attachment in Vacaville. He is also a member of an elite group of VFW military order Cootie which is similar to the Shriners. They visit veterans in the hospital.

His nomination read: Cecil Dennings entered the U.S. Marine Corps at the age of 18 from his home state of Michigan. After training, he was assigned to the USS Ranger CVA61. He served two combat support deployments in 1972 and 1973. He participated in almost daily aircraft combat support and gunnery assistance positions

as the carrier positioned itself along the coast near Haiphong, Vietnam. By the time of his discharge in 1975, he had earned many outstanding service awards along with the Vietnam Campaign Ribbon.

Since 1985, Cecil has represented VFW at Carrollton, MI, Stockton, CA and finally here in Dixon since 2016. He has served in numerous leadership positions in Stockton for six years and now as Post Commander for Dixon the past three. He was also past District Commander supervising VFW posts in the Northern California region while also serving as District Inspector and District Instructor. During his tenure, he was awarded the All-American recognition given to only a handful of District Commanders in the state and I the nation.

Cecil has been a relentless force for fundraising in support of our veterans including red poppy drives which raises tens of thousands of dollars for Dixon Family Services, Veterans Fund, the Dixon Transitional Veteran Homes, and the Travis AFB Fisher House located at the medical center on Travis AFB. He helps fellow veterans with transportation whenever they need it and long assisted with the Wreaths Across America. ★

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Cooley Enterprises and Cool Patch Pumpkins was selected as 2023 Business of the Year for Dixon. Matt Cooley was happy and pleased to accept the honor.

The nomination read: "This iconic business, an annual celebration of agribusiness, has brought positive attention to Dixon and Solano County for years. Since agribusiness is an essential part of our local economy, it is important that it is highlighted and promoted in such a positive light.

"This amazing annual event has not only brought attention to our local economic efforts, but it has also contributed to local philanthropy. Each year the World Record Corn Maze is dedicated to a worthy group of individuals that serve our community.

"This year the maze was dedicated to Frist Responders, both past and present.

"As part of this effort, Cool Patch sponsors fundraisers for these various deserving groups. Past recipients have been the Solano County Sheriff's office and local police.



Matt Cooley was happy and pleased to accept the honor for 2023 Business of the Year for Dixon. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Fundraisers have also been sponsored for fire victims and more.

Each year, classrooms of school children are invited to visit the pumpkin patch and learn about local agriculture. Groups of handicapped individuals have been invited and participated in the fun also. Colley Enterprises has also donated hundreds of pumpkins to the Downtown Dixon Business Association and the Dixon Chamber of Commerce to decorate our downtown, and still more donations have been quietly given to countless other worthy causes." ★

Dixon's Citizen of the Year

Continued from page 1

Schools, PTA president, den leader in Scouts, Little League baseball, CA Jacobs and Dixon High School track teams as well as the AFS program. She and her family hosted a foreign exchange student from Japan for a year and continued to host students for a decade.

"She was instrumental in chartering a new civic club in Dixon - Dixon Kiwanis in 2009 and served as secretary, treasurer, and president for four terms each during which time the club twice received the 'Distinguished Club' award in the Kiwanis Sacramento Region. Kiwanis has contributed greatly to the community financially and through service. Debra started Dixon's annual Kiwanis 'Festival of Trees' fundraiser after seeing the success of Vacaville's Festival of Trees, and also started 'Breakfast with the Bunny.' Through these and other fundraisers, the club raised nearly \$100,000 since being founded.

"Funds have been used to support numerous local organizations, provide animal aid during the fires, and give numerous scholarships for Dixon grads. This past December, Debra knew the John Knight Middle School needed funds to repair and purchase band instruments for students and organized a fundraising tree auction that brought in over \$1,600 to that department.

"She provided free publicity writing and social media posting for 30 years for various local non-profits and many other



Debra Dingman, for once, is speechless. Photo by Jeff Myers

organizations that needed help in getting the word out about their services.

"She is the 'Erma Bombeck' of Dixon with her newspaper columns that are informative and funny but can also bring the community's attention to more serious concerns.

"Dixon is Debra's home and she is the

first to roll up her sleeves to help others and continually looks for ways to serve. Whether it be putting away tables and chairs after events, helping mop up the Vet's Hall after a leaky roof, or helping clean up a local veteran's home and yard, she is always there to lend a hand.

"Debra loves children and was a

volunteer church camp counselor for numerous years, den leader for Cub Scouts and Webelos for several years. She taught workshops for children to be safe and smart about doing youth businesses, always giving credit to the Dixon Downtown Business Association (DDBA) or Chamber. Years ago, she volunteered many hours on the Chamber of Commerce Business Education Committee while helping start the Junior Chamber Ambassadors which lasted about six years and coordinated the 'Five Buck Stews' that created the Chamber's first scholarship fund.

"Debra has tenacity and strives for excellence in all she does and goes the extra mile. When she was told managing the Farmer's Market "wasn't in her job description" while working for the DDBA, she volunteered the entire summer each week managing the event and helping everywhere — even face painting when Girls Scouts needed a break, and helping supervise children at movie and music nights. She has chaired DDBA's Wine Stroll and merchant meetings, served as a museum docent and retail guide, and helped organize Dixon's first Grillin' and Chillin'.

"Lastly, Debra served on the Dixon Transportation Advisory Commission and has served on various other committees to improve Dixon. She steps up where needed and is currently serving as the president of the Women's Improvement Club." ★

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2024 Ramtown Roundup



Flag Football became an official sport last year and immediately became more popular with boys and girls across the country and certainly in Dixon where these girls joined the Dixon High School girls' team with Coach Kevin Berg. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Dixon Flag Football

This co-ed league is a great introduction to the game of football for 1st-8th graders, and a great way to keep skills sharp for returning players. Registration is \$75 per player. All players will receive a licensed NFL jersey as well as a set of flags to keep. All games will be played in Dixon. The season will consist of the following: March 26: Skills Combine; April 16, 23, 30, and May 7, 14, 21: Sunday afternoon games Registration ends March 26.

Jensen Memorial Tournament

Dixon Youth Basketball will be holding a Tournament in memory of Brian Jensen, a man who spent all his efforts on re-starting Dixon Youth Basketball after COVID when all city recreation continued to be at a standstill. He died suddenly after a brief illness just after the league formalized last year at this time.

A basketball tournament in his honor will be played starting Sunday, March 17, at 9 a.m. with awards at 4 p.m. at John Knight Middle School, 455 East A Street. For more information, go online to DixonYouthBasketball.com.

Coaches' application for the season will start being accepted on Wednesday, May 1.

Dixon High School Swim Schedule

On Friday and Saturday, March 15 and 16, the DHS swim team will be at the Woodcreek Invitational in Woodcreek – Friday at 1:30 p.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Then, on Tuesday, March 19 they will compete against Casa Robles in Dixon at 4:30 p.m. On Thursday, March 21, they will swim in Rio Linda at 4 p.m.

DHS Boys Golf

On Friday, March 22, the Golf Team will be competing against Woodland High at the Yoche Dehe Golf Club starting at 3 p.m. On Tuesday, April 9, they will be at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex in Sacramento playing against Mira Loma High School, also at 3 p.m.

DHS Boys Volleyball

Our Ram guys will be pit against Vacaville Christian on Monday, March 18 with Junior Varsity at 5 p.m. and Varsity at 6 p.m. Address is 1117 Davis Street in Vacaville. On Wednesday, March 20, our team plays against Casa Robles, but just the Varsity team at 6 p.m. that evening.

DHS Tennis Team

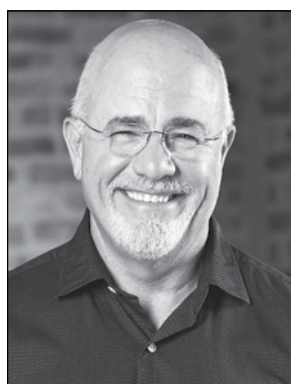
The Tennis team will match against Rio Linda at Woodland High School on Tuesday, March 19, at 4 p.m. and on Thursday, March 21, Dixon plays against Mira Loma High School at 4 p.m.

DHS Softball

DHS Softball on Monday, March 18 against Davis at 315 West 14th Street in Davis at 4 p.m. and then will have three home games: Wednesday, March 20, is against Mira Loma at 4:30; March 27 is against East Nicolaus at 4 p.m.; and Friday, March 29 will be against Fairfield also at 4 p.m.

And There's Baseball

There are three baseball games for the DHS Rams this next week: Tuesday, March 19 will be at home in Dixon at 3:30 p.m. against Rio Linda; Thursday is still against Rio Linda but on their home turf with JV at 3 p.m. and Varsity at 6 p.m.; then Rio Linda one more time on Friday, March 22 back in Dixon at 4:15 p.m. ★



Control Your Mind and Money

Dear Dave,

I'm trying to work my way out of debt, but it seems like something always happens to stall things or knock me backwards. I make \$55,000 a year, I'm single and I have \$15,000 in debt, along with a mortgage payment of \$1,224 a month. I've been trying to live on a budget, but I'm still not sure where all my money goes. Can you help?

– Lindley

Dear Lindley,

I know living on a budget can be hard at first. And honestly, it usually takes folks who are new to doing it about three or four months of practice before they start getting it right and seeing the results.

For starters, your house payment is a little heavy for someone making

Dave Ramsey Says

\$55,000 a year. I generally recommend keeping your mortgage or rent payment at about 25% of your take-home pay. Sometimes you can slide by paying a little more, but in those cases, you'd really have to be on top of your finances. So, the biggest thing you can do right now is take control of your money, instead of letting it—or a lack of it—control you. And the best way to make all this happen is by consistently living on a realistic, written monthly budget.

Once you start doing this, you've taken your first big step toward having a real gameplan for your money. At that point, the idea of trying to live on a budget ends, and the fact that you are living on a budget, and telling your money what to do—instead of a lack of it dictating what you can do—becomes more of a reality.

Remember the Star Wars movie “The Empire Strikes Back”? At one point during Luke's training, Yoda tells him, “Do, or do not. There is no try.” In a larger sense,

Yoda is urging Luke to focus and work harder, instead of continuing with half-hearted attempts and giving up easily. If you want to accomplish a difficult task, Lindley, you have to throw yourself into it completely. You must fully commit, and stop making excuses. You have to focus, and fight to make it happen.

It's no fun waking up broke at the end of every pay period. We both know this. So, put your head down and get your mind in gear. Make. This. Happen.

You can do it!

– 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 Ramsey Solutions ★

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

Thursday, February 29

1040 - Warrant Service at Dixon PD Lobby. The subject turned himself in on an outstanding warrant and was booked at the County Jail.

1130 - Confidential Report 1300 block West H Street.

1145 - Theft report 1900 block Berry Court.

1145 - Threats report 700 block Park Drive.

2110 Hours - Driver cited for driving on a suspended license in the 2800 block of West A Street.

0120 Hours - Andrea Wong (58) of Dixon was contacted during a traffic stop in the 2000 block of North First Street and later arrested for DUI.

Friday, March 1

1323 - A shoplifting incident was reported in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue.

1425 - Information report taken in the 1600 block of Pembroke Way.

1433 - A report of vehicle burglary and fraud was taken in the 1300 block of Austin Drive.

1554 - Kanike Amons (43) of Fairfield turned herself into the DPD lobby. She was cited and released with a court date.

1900 Hours - Domestic Violence investigation in the 200 block of East D Street.

1910 Hours - Welfare check in the 900 block of Justin Way.

Saturday, March 2

1130 - Vandalism report taken in the 600 block of Yachtsman Court.

1930 Hours - Domestic Violence investigation in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.

Sunday, March 3

No case numbers.

Monday, March 4

0813 - Information report taken in the 500 block of College Way.

0915 - Theft report taken in the 200 block of East D Street.

1038 - Confidential report taken in the 400 block of East A Street.

1504 - Traffic stop in the 100 block of East Dorset Drive resulted in the arrest of Suave Cook (30) of Woodland for violation of a restraining order and probation violation.

Tuesday, March 5

0934 - School information report taken in the 500 block of College Way.

1003 - Non injury traffic accident in the 1300 block of Hemingway Court.

Wednesday, March 6

1129 - Attempted theft in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.

1149 - Fraud reported in the 1000 block of Parkgreen Drive.

1217 - Agency assist with Fairfield Fire in the 2500 block of Plaza Court.

1615 - Verbal dispute in the 2500 block of North 1st Street. Informational report taken.

2123 - Possession of suspected narcotics and warrant arrest report taken in the 200 block of Dorset Dr.

2202 - Welfare check in the 200 block of Stratford Ave.

0056 - Domestic violence report was taken in the 800 block of Elm Dr.

Thursday, March 7

1150 - Battery report 500 block College Way.

1222 - Welfare Check Stratford Ave at North Lincoln Street.

1557 - Agency Assist 1300 block Commercial Way.

1654 - Traffic Collision West H Street at Pitt School Road.

1800 - Stolen Vehicle Report 600 block Paintbrush Street.

Friday, March 8

0856 - Confidential Report 500 block College Way.

1059 - Stolen Vehicle Report 200 block Heritage Lane. The vehicle was located in Texas.

1120 - Threats reported at 500 block College Way. Threatening phone calls were received, and the school was secured as a precaution. Josiah Boyd-Vaughn (18) of Fairfield was identified as making threatening calls and was arrested for criminal threats and booked into the Solano County Jail.

Saturday, March 9

0600 - Information Report 200 block South 8th Street.

1340 - Fraud Report at Dixon PD.

1720 - Domestic Battery 700 block East Creekside Cir.

1900 Hours - Threat report in the 800 block of Hillview Dr.

0030 Hours - Information Report of an intoxicated male sustaining injuries.

Sunday, March 10

1123 - Confidential report taken in the 700 block of Wintun Court.

2143 - Welfare check in the 700 block of West H St.

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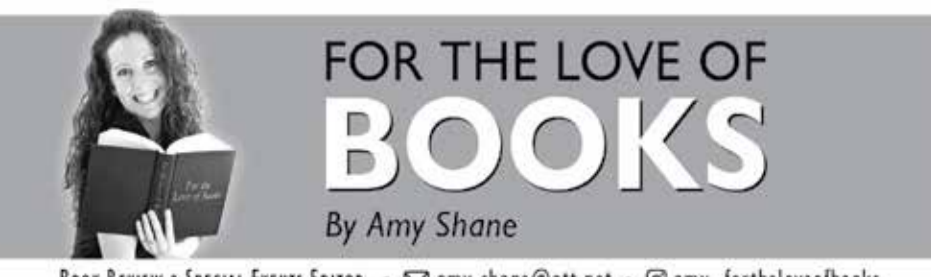
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New Children's Spring and Easter Titles



Easter Bunny, Where Are You?

By Jeffrey Burton, illustrated by Julianna Motzko; Little Simon

It's almost time for Easter, but where is the Easter Bunny? Help the cute spring animals as they search high and low in this hide-and-seek, life-the-flap adventure.

Bright, engaging pictures and large, sturdy flaps make this book the perfect lift-the-flap book for even the smallest fingers. This thick, sturdy board book and adorable Easter animals will quickly become a favorite read.

Brown Bear Wood:

The Great Easter Egg Hunt

by Rachel Piercey, illustrated by Freya Hartas; Magic Cat

It's time to head back to Brown Bear Wood, where someone has hidden over 100 Easter eggs. Follow Bear and the woodland creatures as they hunt high in the trees and all along the forest floor. Then it is off to Rabbit's home, the cool, refreshing pond, and along the meadow.

Can you find all the hidden eggs?

The Great Easter Egg Hunt is an illustrated delight. Every inch of space is filled with tiny details that will keep even the most active mind entertained. It is a perfect book for siblings of all ages and can be turned into many different types of search-and-find adventures.

Bubbly Beautiful Kitty-Corn

by Shannon Hale and Leuyen Pham; Abrams

Kitty-Corn is back, and this time as bubbly, beautiful mermaids, but what happens when everything doesn't go as planned?

Unicorn has a dream, and Kitty-corn is determined to help her friend's dream come true. With a box of fabric scraps and her

sewing machine, kitty-corn makes the most beautiful mermaid tail. But when they head to the beach, Unicorn shares a secret, and he doesn't feel as glamorous or enchanting as he thought. Kitty-corn once again comes to the rescue, helping Unicorn's dream come true, proving that anything is possible when you have the best friends by your side

In a delightful story of dreams and friendship, this adorable, glittery team proves that creativity and friendship are the best magical tools anyone can have. With adorable illustrations that leap off the pages and a powerful message, this series proves once again that Kitty-corn is here to stay.

The Goodnight Train Easter

by June Sobel, illustrated by

Laure Huliska-Beith; Harper Children's

All aboard the Goodnight train. Little readers will be softly lulled to sleep as they board the soft and comfortable Goodnight train. Darkness gently falls as little ones pass by bunnies, lamps, and chicks, all on a hunt for Easter eggs. Count the eggs instead of sheep and be surprised by each seek-and-find hole hidden within each page.

It's Your Time to Shine

by Dianne White, illustrated by Nanette Regan; Little Simon

Everyone's life has ups and downs, highs and lows. There will be times to hurry and wait, go fast and go slow, but now is the time to shine and show the world that you are a rising star.

This is a beautiful story that emphasizes life's hurry and wait, laughter and tears, but most of all, embracing who you are and who you can become. ★



Riley Reviews

“KUNG FU PANDA 4” FAMILY FUN;
“RICKY STANICKY” ON AMAZON

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“KUNG FU PANDA 4” Rated PG

The saga of a lazy, overweight panda named Po (voiced by Jack Black) began sixteen years ago when he dreamed of leaving his family's noodle shop to join the world of Kung Fu to study with his idols, the legendary Furious Five.

For this chapter of the lovable panda's adventures, “Kung Fu Panda 4” begs the question of whether eight years after the last episode this fourth journey of an action-comedy franchise is necessary.

Whether the answer is negative, what matters most is that young fans of the franchise are the target audience and the relative dearth of family-friendly films makes the fourth “Kung Fu Panda” a worthwhile entertainment even if the episodes may have run their course.

Time does not look to be on Po's side either. After three death-defying adventures defeating world-class villains with his courage and martial arts skills, Po's standing as the Dragon Warrior is facing an unwanted retirement.

Po's warrior mentor Master Shifu (Dustin Hoffman) decides to tap the rotund martial artist to become the Spiritual Leader of the Valley of Peace, which is not exactly the destiny he wants.

Returning to his roots, Po is busy starting his own noodle restaurant, and reconnecting with his adoptive goose father Mr. Ping (James Hong) and his biological father Li (Bryan Cranston).

Other than his own concerns, there are obvious problems since Po knows as much about spiritual leadership as he does about dieting, and he also needs to quickly find and train a new Dragon Warrior before assuming his lofty new position.

A new enemy arrives on the scene in the shapeshifting tiny lizard known as the Chameleon (Viola Davis), a wicked sorceress with her beady little eyes coveting Po's Staff of Wisdom, which would give her the power of the master villains Po had vanquished to the spirit realm.

Desperately needing some help, Po reluctantly enlists crafty, quick-witted thief Zhen (Awkwafina), a fox who gets under his fur but whose skills prove invaluable.

Slapstick humor and generous fight sequences with plenty of predictable action results in adventure for “Kung Fu Panda 4” that should certainly appeal to the target audience. Innocuous family fun is delivered as expected.

“RICKY STANICKY” Rated R

Beware of unintended consequences. This adage apparently did not occur to three childhood friends during their adolescent years when they created an imaginary friend who would take the blame for their pranks.

As the director of “Dumb and Dumber,” Peter Farrelly, who performs the same duties for Amazon Prime's raunchy comedy film “Ricky Stanicky,” works in his comfort zone of portraying characters that have failed in many ways to leave adolescence behind.

Dean (Zac Efron), JT (Andrew Santino), and Wes (Jermaine Fowler) are first seen in 1999 as their younger selves, pulling a Halloween practical joke that goes so horribly wrong that they create the fictional Ricky Stanicky as the scapegoat.

The deception works so well that the ruse carries on into adulthood. When JT's wife Susan (Anja Savcic) plans a baby shower, the trio of friends living in New England claim that Ricky has cancer as an alibi to leave town for a gambling trip to Atlantic City.

While gambling and drinking at a casino, they meet Rock Hard Rod (John Cena), a crazed alcoholic who wants to be an actor to do something more profound than performing bawdy parodies of famous rock stars at the dingy Slot Swamp Casino.

A premature birth of Susan's baby causes the gang to rush back home, where the existence of good friend Ricky comes into question, particularly from JT's suspicious mother-in-law who seems to have figured out the fictitious nature of someone no one else has ever seen.

As the spouses and partners of the trio demand to finally meet the fabled Stanicky, the boys decide on the dubious scheme to hire celebrity impersonator Hard Rock Rod and bring him to life.

With the mystery man apparently in “remission,” Stanicky arrives to attend the Jewish ceremonial of the baby boy's bris, going so far as to lend a hand in the ritualistic tradition.

With a lot of bravado and swagger of an ersatz cowboy, Hard Rock Rod portrays his alter ego with a fabricated backstory of charitable work helping starving people in Africa

Just so you know that the subterfuge is fraught with risk, Dean's wife Erin (Lex Scott Davis), a television journalist seeks to advance her career by pushing the idea of a story about Stanicky's heroic nonprofit work.

Meanwhile, seeking to embellish his acting craft, Ricky commits to his role so successfully that he manages to impress Mr. Summerhayes (William H. Macy), the boss of Dean and JT, that he's offered a high-paying corporate job for which he is obviously not suited.

The gang realizes they have created a monster, as the unintended consequences come into full play. Even before the story arrives at this stage, “Ricky Stanicky” succeeds in delivering enough gags and laughs for an amusing diversion. ★

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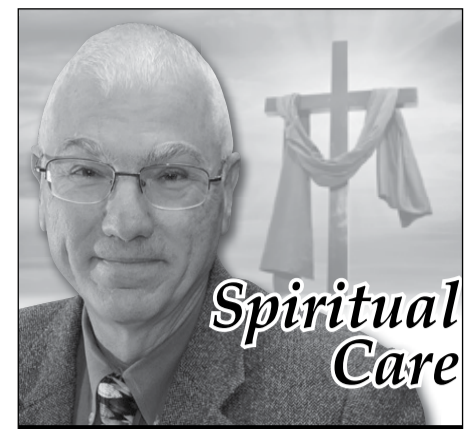
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Nonsensical Prayer Slams into Reality



Spiritual Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

After my recent Sunday sermon, a vehicle parked in front of my church rolled up hill and slammed into the pastor's bumper. Yup. That pickup truck just put itself in gear and gave my Camry a big boo-boo. At this point, I ask that you suspend your disbelief.

Let's move on to the spiritual point that you expect from this columnist.

After hearing the all-too-familiar crunching sound, I went to the rear to examine the trunk damage.

As I placed my hand on the door handle, I found myself praying a nonsensical prayer.

"Pull-ease God, just allow the trunk to be operable. Please allow my car to remain drivable until it can be fixed."

I have a name for these kinds of prayers – "nonsensical."

I call it that because I know that no matter what I pray, the damage is already done. It's a prayer after the fact, as if my plea would change history.

I think you'd agree that these kinds of prayers are about as ludicrous as someone claiming they were hit by a parked car.

However, while my prayer seemed futile, it also was a very human prayer.

Prayers that come from our disappointments and hurt often will not make sense to the casual listener. That's because they're spoken in a language of the heart that's not easily translated.

I learned this from a cancer patient who once told me that her prayers no longer made sense. She had stage-three breast cancer and wondered aloud whether it was crazy to ask God to heal her after the cancer had progressed into this advanced stage.

I was tempted to spout the "chaplain answer," the answer that would gush with

god-speak.

Instead, to this very scared mom on our oncology unit, I admitted what I knew to be true: I knew nothing.

"I'm not sure that God is looking for dialogue from us that makes sense," I said, "because I'm not sure we are expected to be doing sensible things at a moment like this."

Looking for sensible words in our prayers can be as senseless as expecting patterns in the wind. "Sensible" prayers are our attempt to find a formula or to cast a holy spell with which we make God do as we wish.

We've invented all kinds of prayer systems, but in the end, the only thing that gets us through the hardest times are the prayers that resonate in our hearts.

When it comes to the language of prayer, God uses the human heart as a universal translator by which he is best able to hear us. The prayers we express at a time like this don't always align with sensible theology.

Jesus suggested that the best way to find alignment with spiritual things is to find a closet in which to pray.

I love how The Message translates Jesus' words from Matthew 6:6:

"Here's what I want you to do: Find a quiet, secluded place so you won't be tempted to role-play before God. Just be there as simply and honestly as you can manage. The focus will shift from you to God, and you will begin to sense his grace."

The gist of the teaching is: When it's just you and God in the closet, you have no witnesses. You needn't care what your prayers sound like. The only thing that will matter is that God hears you.

All of which tells me that whether it is backing into a parked pickup or hitting the wall of reality, the prayers of a fearful heart will always find the ear of a loving God.

By the way, I was able to open the trunk by following the method of many a TV evangelist. I placed one hand on the ailing part of the car and one hand on my Bible and just "beeelieved."

Sadly, the trunk lid bounced back on my head. You should have heard my knot-headed prayer then.

So, may I just say that should you decide to visit our church, we have two parking lots. You might prayerfully consider parking in the rear parking lot, away from the silver Camry. ★



Food & Farm NEWS

Winegrape growers pull out vineyards amid shrinking market demand

A once-in-a-generation downturn in the wine market is reshaping California's grape growing regions as farmers tear out vines to rebalance supply with declining demand. Throughout this winter, bulldozers have plowed through Lodi's wine country, leveling vineyards and piling vines in mangled heaps on either side of Highway 99 in San Joaquin County. Thousands of acres in the region have been removed or are slated for removal, according to an ongoing survey of its members by the Lodi District Grape Growers Association.

As pistachio production surges, California growers seek new markets

California pistachio growers are searching the globe for potential emerging markets to handle expected record-shattering crops during the next few years. A market outlook for the surging pistachio sector was offered at the American Pistachio Growers annual conference last week in Monterey. Pistachio shipments to Europe, Asia, Canada and Mexico allowed the sector to avoid overproduction with a 2023 crop that approached 1.5 billion pounds. Pistachio harvests are expected to

grow exponentially as nonbearing acreage comes into production.

Sunflower growers seek new contracts after seed firms leave state

A second contractor of hybrid sunflower seed production has pulled out of California in as many years, sending growers scrambling to find new seed-production contracts or replacement crops. Early this year, Syngenta told growers it was shutting down its California hybrid sunflower planting seed program and would no longer be contracting the crop. The company planned to close its Hamilton City seed-processing facility after finishing the 2023 crop. Last year, Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. closed its Woodland commercial seed lab.

Sacramento water forum focuses on improving data collection

Improving data practices to best manage California's water resources helped drive discussions last week as state and local water managers, farmers, environmentalists and others gathered in Sacramento for the California Irrigation Institute Conference. With a theme of "Fluid Futures: Adapting to Extremes," the Feb. 26-27 event focused on leveraging information and data technology to make water-management decisions. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024000346

The following persons are doing business as: Tasty Every Hour Chinese Restaurant, 630 Orange Drive Suite F, Vacaville, CA 95687.

YLS Trio LLC, 830 Orange Drive Suite F, Vacaville, CA 95687. Date filed in Solano County: February 28, 2024. 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 February 27, 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: March 8, 15, 22, 29, 2024

TASTY 3-29-24

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU24-00616

Lan Quach and Karl Tran filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Clifford Ngoi Tran to Clifford Dang Khoi Tran

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. March 20, 2024, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room 3, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533

Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer Dated: February 1, 2024 Publish: Feb 23, March 1, 8, 15, 2024

TRAN 3-15-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU24-00651

Hilberto Delgado filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Hilberto Delgado to Gilbert Delgado

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. May 6, 2024, 10:00 a.m. Department 7, Room 2, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533

Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer Dated: February 21, 2024 Publish: March 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2024

DELGADO 3-22-24

TRUSTEE

T.S. No. 0125002227

Notice of Trustee's Sale APN: 0111-160-130; 0111-160-140; 0111-160-160 You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated 3/17/2020. Unless You Take Action To Protect Your Property, It May Be Sold At A Public Sale. If You Need An Explanation Of The Nature Of The Proceeding Against You, You Should Contact A Lawyer. On 4/3/2024 at 9:30 AM Santa Clara

Street entrance to City Hall 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA , Old Republic Title Company, a California corporation, as the duly appointed Trustee under the Deed of Trust recorded on 3/18/2020, as Instrument No. 202000022222, of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Solano County, California, executed by: 8077 Hyde Road Agricultural Holdings LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, as Trustor, BFSP LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, as Lender/Beneficiary, Will Sell At Public Auction To The Highest Bidder For (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States by cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in the state) all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California, describing the land therein: See Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof. The street address or other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 8077 Hyde Rd. 8037 Hyde Rd. Dixon, CA The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made is an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by the Deed of Trust, to wit: \$20,226,097.10 (Estimated). Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. Notice To Potential Bidders: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Notice To Property Owner: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call or visit this internet website <https://mkconsultantsinc.com/trustee-sales/>, using the file number assigned to this case 0125002227. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. For sales conducted after January 1, 2021: Notice To Tenant: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call , or visit this internet website <https://mkconsultantsinc.com/trustee-sales/>, using the file number assigned to this case 0125002227 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. This property which is subject to this Notice of Sale does not fall within the purview of California Civil Code Section 2923.5. Date: 2/28/2024 Old Republic Title Company, as Trustee 1000 Bumett Avenue, Suite #400 Concord, California 94520 (866)248-9598 by: /s/ Debbie Jackson, Vice President Exhibit "A" Legal Description Parcel I: Parcel 1 as shown on that certain Parcel Map recorded September 13, 1991, in Book 36 of Parcel Maps, at Page 64, Solano County Records. Excepting Therefrom the interest of the County of Solano in and to the Easterly 30 feet thereof, as conveyed in the Deed recorded April 8, 1991, as Instrument No. 910022490, Official Records. Excepting Therefrom 1/2 of all oil, gas, casinghead gas, asphaltum and other hydrocarbons and all chemical gas, now or hereafter found, situated or located in all or any part or portion of the lands herein described lying more than five hundred feet (500') below the surface thereof, together with the right to slant drill for and remove all or any of said oil, gas, casinghead gas, asphaltum and other hydrocarbons and chemical gas lying below a depth of more than five hundred feet (500') below the surface of, but without any right whatsoever to enter upon the surface of said land or upon any part of said lands within five hundred feet (500') vertical distance below the surface thereof. APN: 0111-160-130 Parcel II: Parcel 2 as shown on that certain Parcel Map recorded September 13, 1991, in Book 36 of Parcel Maps, at Page 64, Solano County Records. Excepting Therefrom the interest of the County of Solano in and to the Easterly 30 feet thereof, as conveyed in the Deed recorded April 8, 1991, as Instrument No. 910022490, Official Records. APN: 0111-160-140 Parcel III: A portion of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 13, Township 13, Township 7 North, Range 2 East, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian, as described in the Conditional Certificate of Compliance recorded July 24, 2007 as Instrument No. 2007-81349, Official Records, as follows: "Being a portion of the lands of Antoinette Hall, Trustee of the Antoinette Hall Living Trust, dated January 27, 1992, as described in the Document filed in Book 1992, Series 29521, Solano County Records, being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a point on the East line of Section 13, Township 7 North, Range 2 East, M.D.M., said point being on the centerline of Hyde Road, said point also being the Northeast corner of said lands of Hall; thence Westerly along said Northerly line of Hall, S 89° 59' 46" W 30.00 feet to the point of beginning of the herein described Parcel "A"; thence leaving said Northerly line of Hall Southerly and parallel with the center of Hyde Road, 30.00 feet, measured at right angles, Easterly from the center of Hyde Road, S 0° 03' 43" W 1,259.97 feet to the beginning of a curve concave to the Northwest having a radius of 30.00 feet; thence Southwesterly 47.06 feet along said curve through a central angle of 89° 52' 57" to a point on the Northerly line of Hackman Road, said point being 30.00 feet, measured at right angles, Northerly to the center of Hackman Road; thence Westerly along the Northerly line of Hackman Road S 89° 56' 40" W 2,571.11 feet; thence leaving said Northerly line of Hackman Road, N 0° 33' 23" W 1,292.32 feet; thence N 89° 59' 46" E, 2,614.99 feet to the point of beginning," APN: 0111-160-160 DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 3/8/2024, 3/15/2024, 3/22/2024 DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 3-22-24

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To Stop Predators from Using AI to Exploit Children, Congress Must Act

Commentary by Teresa Huizar

Sexual predators are using a new tool to exploit children -- AI image generators. Users on a dark-web forum shared 3,000 AI-generated images of child sexual abuse in one month, according to the Internet Watch Foundation.

Current child sexual abuse laws are outdated. They don't account for the dangers AI and emerging technologies pose. Lawmakers must act fast to put legal protections in place.

The national CyberTipline -- a reporting system for suspected online child exploitation -- received a staggering 32 million reports in 2022, up from 21 million two years prior. That figure is sure to grow with the rise of AI.

AI platforms are "trained" on existing visual material. Sources used to create images may include real children's faces taken from social media, or photographs of real-life exploitation.

Advanced AI-generated images are virtually indistinguishable from unaltered photographs. Investigators have found new images of old victims, images of "de-aged" celebrities depicted as children in abuse scenarios, and "nudified" images taken from otherwise benign photos of clothed children. Much of this technology is downloadable, so offenders can generate images off-line without fear of discovery.

Using AI to create pictures of child sex abuse is not a victimless crime. Behind every AI image, there are real children. And studies show that a majority of those who possess child sex abuse material also commit hands-on abuse.

Adults can also use platforms like ChatGPT to better lure children. Criminals have long used fake online identities to meet young people in games or on social media, gain their trust and manipulate them into sending explicit images, then "sextort" them for money,

more pictures, or physical acts. ChatGPT makes it shockingly easy to masquerade as a child or teen with youthful language.

President Biden recently signed an executive order geared at managing the risks of AI. But we need help from lawmakers.

We need to update the federal definition of child sexual abuse material to include AI-generated depictions. As the law stands, prosecutors must show harm to an actual child. A defense team could claim that AI material is not depicting a real child, even though AI images often pull from material that victimizes real children.

We must adopt policies requiring tech companies to monitor and report exploitative material. Only three companies were responsible for 98% of all CyberTips in 2020 and 2021: Facebook, Google, and Snapchat.

Many state laws identify "mandatory reporters," or professionals who are legally required to report suspected abuse. Employees of social media and tech companies ought to have mandated reporting responsibilities.

We need to rethink how we use end-to-end encryption, in which only the sender and receiver can access a message or file. While it has valid applications, end-to-end encryption can help people store and share child abuse images. To illustrate how many abusers go undetected, consider that out of the 29 million tips CyberTipline received in 2021, just 160 came from Apple, which maintains end-to-end encryption for iMessages and iCloud.

Even if law enforcement has a warrant to access a perpetrator's files, a tech company with end-to-end encryption can claim that it can't help. Surely an industry built on innovation is capable of developing solutions to protect our children.

AI and social media are evolving every day. If lawmakers act now, we can prevent wide-scale harm to kids. ★

Potential Water Rate Hike To Be Discussed

Continued from page 1

receive any funding from the general fund, and if the water system were to ever take a loan, it must be paid back in full."

Thus far, input surveys have shared concerns about the city's groundwater supply and production system that risk overreaching California drinking water regulations. However, Dixon Water operations supervisor Josh Hudson said the city water system meets all state requirements.

"However, with ever-changing state mandates, meeting new requirements is an ongoing concern," Hudson said, adding that California is considering a higher standard from Chromium-6 but it has not been implemented.

Hudson added that Dixon's water system is fully dependent on groundwater produced using wells.

"Should there come a time that the city is restricted from producing groundwater, relying on alternative water sources, such as surface water, will likely increase the costs associated with city water service due to the cost of purchasing surface water and installing infrastructure to deliver that water into our system," Hudson said.

In a past meeting, the Solano Taxpayer's Association stated that city workshops provided limited information. But, according to Graf, they have not submitted any questions or input since 2023.

"We have provided answers to each question

provided by the Solano County Taxpayer's Association and other members of the public. These answers are all posted online," Graf said.

The public information officer said more answers would come. In the meantime, city officials are encouraging anyone who wants to learn more to participate in meetings and workshops or submit questions online.

"The Water Rate Advisory Ad Hoc Committee was created to provide an opportunity to take a deep dive into the water system's history and operations and gather public input," Graf said.

Graf also said it is essential to educate the public during the proposal process so ratepayers have a better understanding of the water system and can provide input on rates, ensuring Dixon has a safe, reliable and financially stable system.

"The city will continue to keep the community informed through the website, social media and bill inserts," Graf said.

There are two upcoming public workshops, with the first one from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, March 18 at the Dixon Senior Multi-Use Center, 201 S. 5th St.

"The upcoming public workshops on March 18 and June 3 provide an opportunity for water customers to see how the water system is operated and how water rates are being used," Graf said, adding that the March 18 workshop will have operations staff available to answer questions about day-to-day operations. ★

Study Finds Significant Disparities in Diagnosis and Treatment of Dementia

University of California
Davis Health News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A new study from UC Davis Health and Oregon Health & Science University reveals significant disparities in dementia care. The researchers found that people living with dementia from minoritized racial and ethnic populations are less likely to receive an accurate and timely dementia diagnosis compared to non-Hispanic whites. They were also less likely to be prescribed anti-dementia medication or use hospice care. Minoritized populations are those marginalized due to systemic oppression.

In addition, the study found the same populations have a higher risk of hospitalization and receive more aggressive life-sustaining treatment in end-of-life care. The study was published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*.

"Reducing disparities in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and receiving timely, high-quality health care services is essential to advance health equity," said Ladson Hinton, first author of the study and a professor in the UC Davis Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. Hinton is also associate director for research in the Family Caregiving Institute at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at UC Davis.

The researchers conducted a scoping review, identifying and analyzing the results of 71 research studies conducted between 2000 and 2022. The studies examined health care access and quality for people with dementia and their caregivers. The studies reported findings related to race and ethnicity.

"Our review provides timely and compelling evidence of disparities in health care quality and access for people living with dementia from minoritized populations," Hinton said. "It also highlights significant gaps in data, particularly for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and American Indians and Alaska Natives populations

Statistically significant differences

Of the 71 studies identified, all but one reported one or more statistically significant differences between racial and ethnic groups. For example:

- 85.9% of the studies reported findings for Black Americans.
- 57.7% for Hispanic Americans.
- 25.4% for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.
- 2.8% for American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- 32.4% reported aggregate categories for non-white populations.

The most frequently addressed topics in the papers were medication treatment (38%), end-of-life care (22.5%), health service use (18.3%), diagnosis (15.5%), family caregiving (7%) and long-term care (5.6%).

Some of the key findings related to diagnosis and treatment found that compared with non-Hispanic white Americans:

- Minoritized populations received less optimal care and experienced delays in how long it took to receive a diagnosis. In one large, recently published study, it took 11% longer for Black Americans and 40% longer for Hispanic Americans.
- Asian American older adults were less likely to receive a diagnostic work-up for cognitive impairment.

Black and Hispanic American patients were less likely to be referred for neuropsychological testing.

-Minoritized populations had lower rates of prescriptions for anti-dementia medications like cholinesterase inhibitors and memantine.

-Hispanic and Black American older adults had higher discontinuation rates of anti-dementia medications.

Disparities in end-of-life care

There were also disparities in living conditions and end-of-life care. Compared with non-Hispanic white Americans:

-Black Americans with dementia were more likely to have increased hospital admission rates, longer lengths of stay and higher costs.

-Minoritized populations living with dementia were less likely to be in long-term care facilities with special memory care units.

-Caregivers of Black Americans with dementia were less likely to fill out advanced care directives.

Black Americans with dementia were less likely to receive hospice care and more likely to receive feeding tubes and mechanical ventilation during end-of-life care.

"The results of our study highlight the importance of granular data collection on race and ethnicity," said Oanh Meyer, co-author and associate professor in the UC Davis Department of Neurology. "Understanding where the disparities exist will help us address why they occur and how to remedy them at the individual, clinical and health-system level."

Achieving equity and closing gaps in health outcomes

The researchers recommend monitoring for disparities at the local level, educating and training clinicians to reduce bias and improve communication, and enhancing the cultural and linguistic competence of clinical care. They also support developing targeted initiatives to empower people with dementia and family caregivers as they navigate the health care system.

The authors also point out that recognizing existing disparities can prompt policy change at the health system level to address systemic racism and promote health equity.

The researchers noted several limitations of their study, including that some studies may have been missed for inclusion and that the underlying factors responsible for the identified differences are unclear and need further research. They note the study also did not include other potential disparities for people with dementia, such as those identifying as LGBTQ, or geographical inequities faced by those living in rural, urban, and suburban areas.

"Ultimately, it's critical that the best available dementia care is attainable and offered to all Americans, particularly those who are left out of novel research innovations because of their race, social standing or place of residence," said Ana R. Quiñones, senior author of the study and an associate professor at Oregon Health & Science University. "To make real progress in achieving equity and closing the gaps in outcomes for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, we must do more to ensure the most promising interventions are aimed at those who need them the most."

Additional authors of the study include Duyen Tran at UC Davis Health and Kate Peak at Oregon Health & Science University. ★

Reparations Would Cost Taxpayers \$2.8 Trillion

Pacific Research Institute
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A new analysis released February 20th by the Pacific Research Institute – a California-based, nonpartisan, free-market think tank – finds that if California were to implement the controversial recommendations of the state Reparations Task Force, it would cost taxpayers \$2.8 trillion, push 1.84 million additional people to leave California over 5 years, and increase the tax burden for the average household by 54 percent.

"As lawmakers consider the first bills to implement the state Reparation Task Force's recommendations, it is imperative that they understand the fiscal and economic implications," said Dr. Wayne Winegarden, PRI senior fellow in business and economics. "Our new analysis makes clear – the state reparations plan is a financially unrealistic proposal that will bankrupt California if enacted."

Spending Watch is a new initiative from the Pacific Research Institute evaluating the revenue, spending, and economic impacts of major budget and policy proposals.

Reviewing U.S. Census estimates, nonpartisan media analyses, and the California Reparations Report from the state Reparations Task Force, it is estimated that roughly 2 million black Californians would be eligible for the Commission's recommended \$1.4 million per person payout. Given this, Spending Watch pegs the total state reparations bill at \$2.8 trillion.

Assuming that reparations are paid out over 30 years, and that the present-day value of \$1.4 million is not accounted for over that period, the annual state cost

would be \$93.3 billion.

Given these calculations and assumptions, Spending Watch estimates that Californians would experience the following if lawmakers enact the state Reparations Task Force's proposals:

54 Percent Increase in State Tax Burden: Since lawmakers are unlikely to significantly reduce spending, Spending Watch calculates that a 3.25 percentage point increase in income, sales, and corporate income tax rates would be needed to generate sufficient revenue to fund reparations payouts. This equates to a more than 54 percent increase in the marginal state income tax and sales tax burden for the average household.

Jobs, Economy, Household Income Would Decline: Spending Watch estimates that, compared to California's baseline growth, reparations payouts would cause the economy in 2029 to be 11 percent smaller and the average family's income to be 5.7 percent lower. There would also be 4.9 percent fewer job opportunities.

Would Accelerate State's Outmigration Problem: Given the negative economic and tax effects, Spending Watch estimates that an additional 1.8 million residents would leave the state over a five-year period due to reparations, seeking a more affordable lifestyle in other states.

"Unlike reparations, there are many policies that lawmakers can enact to create prosperity and improve affordability for all – such as repealing AB 5 to increase employment opportunities, implementing school choice, and reforming CEQA to lower housing costs – without imposing huge burdens on the poorest residents who are least able to bear the costs," Winegarden concluded. ★

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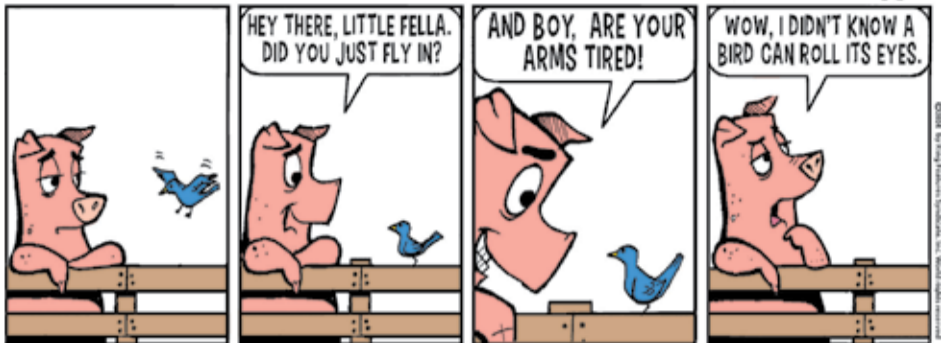
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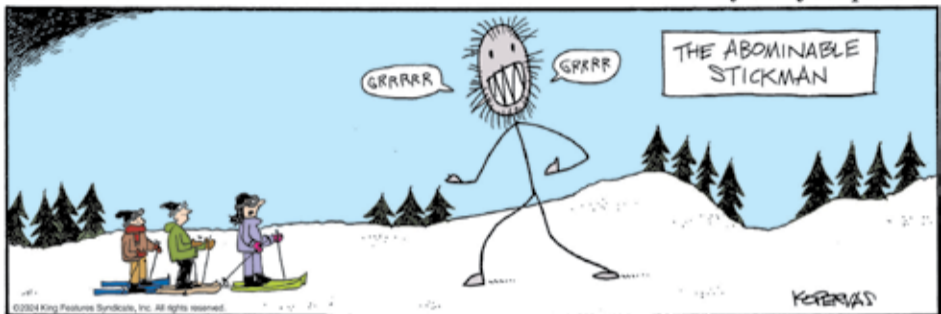
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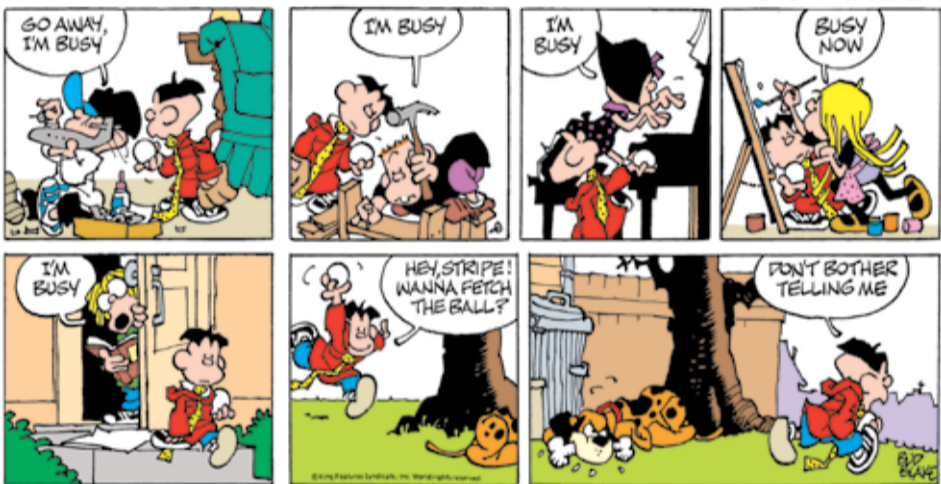
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A Delta Day Trip

Story and photos
by Dannah Nielsen,
travel writer

CALIFORNIA DELTA REGION (MPG) - The California Delta: home to many school geography lessons you vaguely remember, and if at any point you took a casual drive through the region, you might think California as a whole vaguely remembers the Delta. There are no fancy main streets, no fabulous exclusive neighborhoods, no prime retail experiences that Californians have come to expect. To put it bluntly: the Delta doesn't care to dazzle any tourist, and for the overstimulated, distracted locals that we are, this suddenly sounds mighty nice. The Delta is sleepy? Meandering? Humble? Indifferent? Count us in.

We've driven from Sacramento to Antioch on a regular routine for years now, and this means having the opportunity to focus on the simpler Delta life with the many pit stops along the way. With that said, we love to share the hidden-in-plain-sight gems we have found in the many small towns that dot the path.

First and foremost, we must pay homage to the bridges. You can twist and turn all across the delta on various brightly colored and uniquely-engineered bridges. There is even a ferry you can ride from here to there, and if you're lucky to catch a large boat passing through, you can also watch as the bridges twist and turn to let them pass.

No matter where you begin your day trip, there is a relatively easy path to follow: just go up one way along the Sacramento River on Highway 160 and then down the other side and you'll have basically touched it all. For this travel reference, Freeport is the furthest north and Antioch is furthest south.

Clarksburg: Many weekend warriors will head straight to the Old Sugar Mill for a one-stop shop of a dozen local wineries, and if you've never been, it's definitely worth checking off your list at least one time. But for those who want a little more out of Clarksburg, we suggest a walking tour of sorts — the architecture of many of the homes and schools easily bring us back to The Wonder Years nostalgia, with the old growth trees shading the streets confirming the timeline. There is also a colorful community garden to stroll, and a pit stop at Husick's Restaurant to grab an iced tea. There we admired the pickup truck that also came to its final resting spot out front during those years.

Isleton probably has the most revitalized main street along this entire drive, still keeping with the Chinese heritage mixed with some classic and eclectic shops to peak your curiosity. Mei Wah Bar Room boasts one of the few opium dens in the region, The Mcboodery sandwich shop has residents raving, and a combination of antiques, museums and a coffee shop make for a perfect jaunt to admire it all. And while some of the



Bridge over peaceful water...Freeport Bridge in Clarksburg.



Mainstreet in Locke.

classics have sadly gone out of business, the nostalgia is holding strong with neon signs, vintage buildings and land markers of crawdads. Also worth spotting? The colorful gazebo in the town center and businesses that are "coming soon" (make mental note for when you return).

Locke: In our humble opinion, Locke is by far the most unique and exciting town on the Delta. Unlike any other town we have come across in California, Locke is a historical landmark dedicated to preserving the history and contributions of our Chinese citizens. It has been preserved just as it was built some 100 years ago, and walking the Main Street is like taking a walk back in time, and in China. The buildings are nothing like the typical gold rush/Victorian homes we tend to see. They bend, they lean, they are chipped away, but still they stand.

There of course is a Chinese restaurant, an eastern medicine shop, some souvenirs, a museum and antique stores but most famous: having a drink at Al the Wop's. This town is an absolute must-stop and explore and needs to be on every California travel bucket list.

Courtland: Pear capital of California. Maybe? We haven't verified that. But what we have verified is the lovely slow winding drive through walls of pear orchards with the ultimate stop: Hemly Cider tasting room. Cider sampling for adults and kids, this family-friendly destination is set inside an old hangar with sweeping views of growing crops all around. A tasty-sweet way to appreciate our state's abundant agriculture.

Antioch boasts the most regional parks, wildlife preserves, and fishing docks to choose from on this route. Notably, Black Diamond

Preserve with its dozens of trails and historical landmarks to check in on, but one could also spend time bird watching and picnicking at the Delta Discovery shoreline & museum. Both offer fantastic educational experiences. And of course, the Antioch bridge is one of the most exciting: on a foggy day it can feel as if one is ascending into the clouds with the sharp climb up over the Delta waters.

For more Delta day trip ideas, follow @ca.love.fornia on Instagram.com and enter hashtag link for the California Delta. ★



Mainstreet Isleton kicks off with a giant crawdad mural.



Ironworks in Walnut Grove.



Hemly Cider is found in Courtland.