



DDBA Reopens Farmers Market

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Celebrate Father's Day!



Dixon Independent Voice

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It's Railroad Day in Downtown Dixon!



Model railroads will be set up in two different areas for Dixon's inaugural Railroad Day on June 24 in downtown Dixon. Courtesy photo

Story by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you live in Dixon, you can think of Railroad Days in downtown Dixon that's happening next Saturday, June 24, as a very large field trip to learn how Dixon got started. The Downtown Dixon Business Association's Railroad Day is just a week away and is a new event created with a goal of offering something for the whole family to enjoy from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

There will be western re-enactments by the Congressional Gun Fighters of America in the Dixon Women's Improvement Club Park with shows at 11:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. There will also be model trains set up and railroad enthusiasts to talk to, children's activities happening, plus stores will be open to

show off their new railroad wares. Visitors will also get to discover the new Pardi Plaza and several new businesses as well.

"I was trying to think of another event to do that was more family oriented and had seen other cities doing railroad days so one day I'm looking at our DDBA logo and a train was on it," DDBA President Jill Orr said. "Our history has been our railroad all along since our beginning so it's our history. I've lived here my entire life and did not know our history until I started looking into the train idea. No one ever explained to me how Dixon got started and when I started talking with Dixon History Museum people, I learned how impacting trains were."

She learned a lot from long-time Dixon resident Bill Schroder, Dixon Historical Society Vice President and

a man who comes from founding families here. His grandmother's side came in 1853 and the Schroeder side came in 1865 and farmed dry crop in Maine Prairie.

"Before the icehouse was built [between Bud's and Frosty's] so way, way back - there was a need for refrigeration for your food and no way to do it locally, so it was shipped by train from the Truckee area in ice cars," explained Schroder who seems to remember amazing details from growing up in Dixon. "Then they unloaded the ice at the train depot and back in the old days, the Robben brothers were the ones that sold the ice. Ice was a main commodity that came to town along with supplies. They didn't have trucks, so trains delivered most of the

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Merchants Invited to Get Help

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Downtown merchants and members of the Downtown Dixon Business Association will learn about the many services offered by the Solano-Napa Small Business Development Center at their next meeting on Thursday, July 6. It will be held at the Dixon Independent Voice Newspaper office at the Motley Building, 100 N. Adams beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Center Director Tim Murrill and Marketing Specialist Brianna Boyd, formerly a Dixon newspaper Editor for several years, will provide the information on the many services they provide and will answer questions.

"For many years, I owned my own businesses including retail and a public relations company and used the services of SBDC numerous times from crafting a business plan in my early years to selling my stores. They were invaluable," said Debra Dingman, Editor. "I've also attended many of their workshops."

The services from SBDC are offered free of charge thanks to a portion of California sales tax that is marked for helping businesses thrive. The top-talent advisors provide business owners with the expertise to guide brand, business, and growth strategies.

They cover everything from restaurant and food businesses to government contracting plus marketing, buying, and selling a business.

Additionally at this meeting, DDBA President Jill Orr will present nominations for Board members and the upcoming Wine & Art Stroll will also be discussed.

The meeting place for the Downtown Dixon Business Association is at a different business each month. Please go onto www.downtowndixon.com and click on 'meetings' to see where each month's meeting will be held or print out the entire year's schedule.

The mission of the DDBA is to enhance the business environment and promote the revitalization of downtown as the cultural center of the community. Call (707) 678-8400 or see downtowndixon.com for more information. ★

Woodland Memorial Gets Gifts of Gratitude

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Walking through the doors of Dignity Health Woodland Memorial Hospital, one senses a hospital of traditional beliefs in family, support, care, and pride. On a large wall loaded with many old photos, is a history of how the hospital began beginning in 1905 when a nurse, Kathleen McConnell, and her two sisters founded the Woodland Sanitarium in a 2-story rented house with nine beds and where the second floor served as the surgical suite.

When the McConnell sisters retired, four doctors built a new sanitarium to continue providing care to the community. The care facility's physicians were considered innovative and were modeled after the Mayo Clinic and drew patients from outlying areas including Dixon. For several decades, this hospital was the nearest hospital for all of Yolo County and



Jennean Rogers of Dixon who has worked at Woodland Health for 37 years, Foundation Board Member and Dixonite Marianne MacDonald, the hospital's President and CEO Gena Bravo, and Chief Philanthropy Officer Kevin Sanchez.

for residents of the little town of Dixon. Now they care for approximately 28,000 patients a year.

The hospital is managed by President and CEO Gena Bravo, a nurse who lives in Woodland and who

has had 24 years of clinical and hospital leadership. She knows that four walls

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Don't Stay in Room 214

By Debra Dingman

My husband had been wanting to go to Pollock Pines so we went, and I scouted out the hotels in Placerville so we could make it an over-nighter and truly enjoy the downtown.

There was a very affordable one for less than \$100 but it was on the outskirts of town, and I wanted an "experience" so sprung for what I thought would be a special treat for \$150: The Historic Cary House Hotel "traditional rooms in an 1857 property" in Placerville. It was in the center of the main street so we could go to a restaurant easily, offered close, free parking, and I could shop all those little, fun shops while he hiked somewhere nearby.

First, we went on a hike around Jenkinson Lake which was stunningly beautiful and peaceful. It was fun to chat with a few other hikers along the way and pet their dogs. It was exactly the refreshing getaway I needed. I love nature, trees, flowers, and beautiful views. I got them all.

When we were ready to check in, we found a young man at the Cary Hotel counter in a most elegant lobby with a grand piano and several huge stained-glass pictures. He asked us which room we wanted and, of course, I didn't choose a specific one because online, there were numerous and all beautiful and I didn't have time to go through them all. Besides, I have found that if I'm not picky, I'm usually happily surprised.

So when I said we didn't have a preference other than the second floor, he asked if we wanted a queen or king bed. Well, if

I had a choice, King is good. He gave us Room 214. I knew this was a 100-year-old building so didn't mind the old elevator that had a 500-pound capacity as I quickly did the math for both of us and our suitcase.

All the rooms have names. This one was "Rhone" like the Swiss Alps. That was promising. It was at the very end of the hall and had a fire extinguisher at the doorway. I thought that was a good thing, too.

So I'll cut to the chase. Room 214 should be a storage room. Always ask to see your room first when going for "the experience."

The first thing I noticed was the (one and only) high-back pink sitting chair that was worn and needed cleaning. But, everything else was okay so we tried to take a nap but the three air conditioners were right outside the thin-glass windows and screeched on. Then I noticed the light out, the wallpaper peeling in several areas and a large hook sticking out of the wall where there should have been a picture.

We asked the clerk when we went for dinner about the fans keeping us up at night and he said they usually shut off about 10 p.m. Nope, they went on all night. Every time I started to get into a good sleep, one would screech on.

The next morning, I asked the new clerk if we could see a couple other rooms since I didn't want to write anything unnecessarily negative. She gave us three room keys to go look at that were all stunning. When I asked how this could happen? Did the earlier clerk just decide to give us the worst room in the entire hotel? My "experience" required me to come home the next day and sleep for 24 hours straight. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Letty Salcedo and Alejandro Ortega are serving up tasty lunches and dinners with chips and freshly made salsa at La Cocina Mexican Restaurant at 105 East Dorset Drive in the Walmart Shopping Center. The restaurant just reopened after it had been closed a month due to damage from a car accident and repairs to the building had to be made. Customers have been flocking in to show their support. "Again, we thank everyone for their heartfelt messages and patience. It means a lot to us!" said Salcedo. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Housing Approved

Congratulations to City of Dixon Community Development Director Raffi Boloyan and his staff for the City of Dixon's 6th cycle Housing Element (2023-2031) being certified by State Dept. of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on May 24, 2023.

On March 21, 2023, the Dixon City Council adopted the Housing Element. The adopted Element was then submitted to HCD for certification review. HCD had a few minor comments, which were addressed, and the element revised, and with those final edits, the HCD certified Dixon's Housing Element.

The final Certified Dixon Housing Element, including Appendices and State Certification letter, can be viewed at www.cityofdixon.us/housingelementupdate under 'Project Documents' section. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Boloyan at rboloyan@cityofdixon.us.

Pickleball

Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 8 p.m. you can get your fun on by playing Pickleball at the Hall Park tennis courts. They even offer free instruction. Paddles and balls provided and it's fun for all ages. For more information, contact Joe at Pickleball4Dixon@gmail.com

Downtown Concerts

The City of Dixon and the Dixon District Chamber of Commerce present 'Concerts in the Plaza' on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 6 to 8:30 p.m. On July 6, it is More on the Floor; July 20 is Kindred Spirits; August 3 is Hey Jude; August 17 is Sazil; September 7 is Strange Brew; September 21 is Amo Jazz Orchestra; October 5 is Helios; and October 19 is Geoffrey Miller Band. There are tables but bring a blanket if you prefer to sit on the softer grass.

Vacation Bible School

Dixon United Methodist Church will host their annual Vacation Bible School with a Superheroes theme June 26 through 29. The church is located at 209 North Jefferson. Call (707) 678-2191

for more information.

Pool Construction

The locker room construction at the Pat Granucci Aquatic Center has hit a speed bump and the locker rooms will remain closed until the week of June 12, the City of Dixon reported. There was an unforeseen structural issue with the old flooring that had to be addressed before the new flooring could be installed. During this time, there will be a portable restroom available, and programs will run as scheduled, with the exception of recreational swim. They will announce the first day for recreational swim once an opening date has been set. They apologize for the inconvenience and hope to see you out at the pool this summer.

Summer Smoothies

Attention Teens: Dixon Public Library is offering you free summer smoothies for teens every Tuesday at 3 p.m. For more information, visit Solanolibrary.com/Events.

Shredding Event

On Saturday, June 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. bring your boxes of papers you need shredded to Atkinson Self Storage. Cost is \$10 per banker size box and card and cash payments will be accepted. They are at 1800 North First St.

Library Yoga

Busy Bee Yoga will be offering two yoga dates for tweens and teens, age 10 to 18. They will be on Wednesdays, July 19 and 26 at 4 p.m. at the Dixon Public Library. Visit solanolibrary.com or phone 1-866-572-7587. The other event is Teen Open Mic Poetry and Song Night that will be on Thursday, July 13 from 3 to 5 p.m. Show off your bold and creative side with poetry, rapping, and singing. Signups are at the event and acts are limited to five minutes. The Dixon Public Library is located at 230 North First St. in downtown Dixon.

Veterans Dinner

Breaded chicken, broccoli, potatoes, and a salad are on the menu for Friday's Veterans Dinner for \$10 at 1305 N. First St. beginning at 6 p.m. Proceeds from dinner and the bar help keep the hall open. ★

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DFS Thanks for Pork



Devon Camara-Soucy of First Northern Bank looks over a freezer full of pork donated to Dixon Family Services. Courtesy photo

Dear Editor,

We want to publicly thank Devon Camara-Soucy and First Northern Bank who donated two pigs that First Northern Bank Purchased from the Dixon May Fair. Devon contacted me to make arrangements for the delivery. She and a friend picked up the butchered and packaged meat and delivered it to the Dixon Family Services Food Pantry. We will be happy to distribute the wonderful pork portions to families along with our regular supplemental groceries until gone. Thank you so much First Northern Bank for your support!

Signed,
Cookie Powell, Executive Director
Dixon Family Services

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DDBA Reopens Farmers Market

Railroad Day in Downtown Dixon



Liz Robben of R-Grand Garden pictured with her young helper at the DDBA Farmers Market several years ago where they sold produce as well as flavored almonds.

who sold straw baskets, kettle corn and handmade gifts such as jewelry.

It was every week for about eight weeks, first offered on a Thursday evening and later moved to a Saturday morning but that might have brought its demise as many of the small and faithful vendors were at the large Davis Farmers Market on Saturdays and couldn't be in two places at one time. It didn't help, either, that the large, dragon's tail of the recession was sweeping around from the East Coast to hit California.

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Since the rain gave California farmers a late spring, this year's Downtown Dixon Farmers Market will be kicking off just one day into summer on Thursday, June 22 from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Pardi Plaza.

Locally grown vegetables from Robben Ranch and Jones Farms, fresh fruits, and artisan breads plus a little entertainment sprinkled from the stage will be at the Pardi Plaza almost every other Thursday, reported Downtown Dixon Business Association Vice President Susan Motley. "I'm very excited about this," said Motley with enthusiasm. "With the rains earlier, we worried it wouldn't happen but all of a sudden the farmers are ready to go and we're doing it!"

This is not Dixon's first Farmers Market. The first one was brought with help from then Downtown Dixon Business Association's Board of Directors that included Jill Orr, Kathy King, Motley, Debra Dingman, Devon Nishimura, and Rose Koogler. Motley chaired the event for three years beginning in 2009 when Dixon first opened its "Certified Farmers Market". It



These banners have popped up around town promoting the DDBA Farmers Market at the Pardi Plaza starting Thursday, June 22.

had financial assistance from the City of Dixon to have an official Farmers Market Manager from the Bay Area who helped establish contacts and certify "organic" vendors.

It was held in the Dixon Women's Improvement Club Park on the corner of North First and C Streets next to the public library. The large variety of produce was no less than amazing for our small town and plenty of Dixonites came to grab a hot coffee and delicious pastry before selecting bags of it. There was usually a musician, face painting, and a variety of vendors from as far as Watsonville as well as locals with their peaches, plums, cherries, unusual squash, strawberries, cherries, almonds, and eggs. There were also vendors

It ran an additional two springs in 2012 and 2013 with Devon Nishimura of Nishimura Farms running it as nearly a sole operator selling his popular bags of beans, tomatoes, squash, bell peppers, and corn. Although the recession officially ended in June 2009 according to online sources, the brunt forces hit California through 2013, driving the last of the local farmers back to their farms to concentrate on larger farming endeavors.

With the growth of new residents in Dixon coupled with the Pardi Plaza offering easy parking for the vendors, this re-start for the DDBA Farmers Market looks promising. For the exact dates, please go to downtowndixonca.com or call Motley at (707) 695-1809. ★



Michael Gloege, 9, is ready for Railroad Day in downtown Dixon where there will be lots of educational activities to learn how railroads made Dixon grow. Photo by Debra Dingman

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merchandise to town. That's why the town expanded around the train station. That was the hub of the town; That's where everything came in and came out there."

Those were the days that transportation was mainly horse and buggy.

"I never knew how many wagons full of food and crops came here or how we sent it up and down the state and even out on boats all over the world," said Orr. "Dixon grew because we had the opportunity to do that. We were all horse drawn so this area was rich with opportunity. Ice came from Dixon and ice kept things cold - like milk. Dixon had the world's largest dairy." Still part of the Coast Ice House building the museum now inhabits is a concrete loading dock where ice was loaded onto trucks and hauled over to the trains.

Schroeder along with other Dixon Historical Society board members will be at the Dixon History Museum on Saturday

from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. for sharing more about Dixon's past. There, visitors can view a 20-panel historical timeline of Dixon, along with a historical train display to learn how Dixon came to be. Railroad Teddy Bears and whistles will be available for purchase for children and adults alike.

"We even had a short-lived electric train that came in from Argyle Park," he said. "It went on the backside of the cemetery and worked its way over to the entrance of where the post office is today. That's where it stopped then it backed out," Schroeder said.

"I'm excited," Orr said. "Come down and look what's going on and everybody will learn the educational history about your community. Next year, it will be even bigger. We'll have docents and vignettes all around town." For more information on the DDBA, call (707) 678-8400 or see their Facebook page: downtowndixon.ca.org. ★

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A Dad's Daughter

It's fascinating when you think about dads and daughters. Either they are the little princess or the daughter that my mother would always accuse me of being... "just like your father"... especially when I got one of my stubborn streaks going. Of course it didn't help when I would thank her for saying that. Don't know why she always got angry when I thanked her. Like...right! My dad has been gone a very long time, and I do miss him still.

He was a strong man with a short fuse, but got over it just as quickly. Sounds like yours truly. Dad passed on so many lessons without even realizing he was doing it. He never gave up was the best. He was born in Ilasco, Missouri, but his mom took him back to Romania when he was just two years old. His father was a brilliant man who spoke some 11 languages with little education. He just had the knack for it. But he did not have the knack for being a responsible father. He did not return to Romania with his family. He became an interpreter for the Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan when it was a real powerhouse. When my dad was fourteen, he had to declare whether he would stay in Romania or return to the USA. Here's where I can say my dad was as strong. He literally said he was born in the USA and wanted to return. But no one gave him a hand... not even his own father. His own father told him... "I gave you wings, now fly." BUT DAD NEVER GAVE UP!

He worked long and hard, lying about his age to get whatever job he could get. I don't have enough time to share the whole story, but he became a Furrier and made it to Metro Golden Mayer studios in Hollywood to design fur coats for the stars including Betty Davis. When ulcers took their toll on his health, he worked his way up to making airplane wings in a plant and then turned to, of all things, taking on the arduous task of becoming an Ironworker. Yup, walking



I think it's important to realize that dads do have a significant influence on their daughter's life. My dad taught me to never give up, no matter what the situation. I would like to think he would be proud of my accomplishments today.

on those two inch girders several stories up in the sky, including the Sears Tower in Chicago. And I can tell you, he succeeded in every job he took on...right to the end when cancer took over and his heart gave out.

So why do I tell you this abbreviated version of my life with dad? I think it's important to realize that dads do have a significant influence on their daughter's life. My dad taught me to never give up, no matter what the situation. I would like to think he would be proud of my accomplishments today. He got to see the beginning of my work in Television and Radio, but not my writing a book and my sharing stories with you in this column. But I do think about dad often, and his words still ring in my ears. NEVER GIVE UP! I won't dad.

Happy Father's Day.
Love, Mary Jane.

The Bats of the Yolo Causeway are Back!



People watching bats at the Yolo Basin Foundation Bat Walk. Photo courtesy of Polly Kleinberg

Yolo Basin Foundation News Release

YOLO REGION, CA (MPG)

Summer is here, and the bats are back! The Mexican free-tailed bat colony under the I-80 Yolo Causeway is growing daily as they return from wherever they spent the winter. Although many of the bats over-winter in the bridge, most seem to leave. As the weather warms, crops grow, and insect populations explode, the bats return to the Causeway.

These amazing, winged wonders are the only mammals capable of true flight. In late June, the females give birth to one pup. She nurses that pup for about 5 to 6 weeks, and then it joins her as she flies throughout the Central Valley to consume crop pests and mosquitos. There also are males that live in the Yolo Causeway bridge, but their groupings are smaller, so

they are less noticeable.

Throughout the summer, Yolo Basin Foundation offers many Bat Talk and Walks, as well as a number of special events. Registration for all of these activities are now open on our website, www.yolobasin.org.

Children who are interested in bats are encouraged to join Yolo Basin Foundation for a morning of Bats and Crafts on August 13th and September 17th. Meet live bats from our local area, then have fun creating crafts and playing bat games. This special event is aimed at young children, especially those that are too young to stay up late to watch the bats fly.

Adults can visit the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters for Bats and Brews on August 19th to taste a variety of local beers and meet ambassador bats from a rehabilitation

program, followed by a visit to the Bypass to see the evening bat flyout.

We are also hosting a Bat House Building Workshop on August 26th! This is a great opportunity for small groups or families. Registration includes supplies and instructions to build a Bat House which can be put up to invite bats to your yard or farm.

Additionally, we are seeking Bat Program Volunteers to help educate the public, guide tours, and host our special events. Our Bat Program Training will take place on June 7th. Visit our website, www.yolobasin.org, for more information about volunteer opportunities!

Yolo Basin Foundation: Expanding public appreciation and stewardship of wetlands and wildlife in the Yolo Basin through education and innovative partnerships. ★

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Bill to Allow Amsterdam-Style Cannabis Cafes Passed by CA State Assembly

Office of Assemblymember Matt Haney

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

Assemblymember Matt Haney's (D-San Francisco) bill to allow local California governments to license Amsterdam-style cannabis cafes passed out of the State Assembly with a broad bipartisan support receiving a 64 to 9 vote on June 1, 2023. While cannabis cafes in the Netherlands capitalize on the social experience of cannabis by offering coffee, food, and live music, all of those opportunities are currently illegal under California law. Haney's AB 374 will allow struggling cannabis businesses to diversify away from the marijuana-only "dispensary" model and bring much-needed tourist dollars into empty downtowns.

"Lots of people want to enjoy legal cannabis in the company of others," said Haney. "And many people want to do that while sipping coffee, eating a scone, or listening to music. There's absolutely no good reason from an economic, health, or safety standpoint that the state should make that illegal. If an authorized cannabis retail store

wants to also sell a cup of coffee and a sandwich, we should allow cities to make that possible and stop holding back these small businesses."

California is known worldwide as the birthplace of cannabis culture with its early adoption of medical cannabis and its expertise in cultivation. But there's another location that competes with California for the title of the world capital of cannabis: Amsterdam. There are over 700 cannabis cafes that operate across the Netherlands, and over 1 billion dollars is spent in the cafes every year.

California on the other hand, is still dealing with the unintended consequences of decades of medical marijuana-only policies. California's "dispensaries" have replaced the social aspect of the Amsterdam cannabis scene with pharmacy-like businesses that only allow customers to order cannabis at a counter, purchase nothing else, and then leave.

"California's small cannabis businesses are struggling," said Haney. "Issues like over-saturation, high taxes, and the thriving black market are hurting cannabis

businesses who follow the rules and pay taxes." In 2020, California's legal cannabis sales reached \$4 billion, while the state's illicit market sales were projected to have exceeded \$8 billion.

While consuming cannabis on-site at cannabis retailers is technically legal in California, selling non-cannabis-infused products is not. AB 374 is simple because it allows cannabis retailers to diversify their business and move away from the struggling and limited dispensary model by selling non-cannabis-infused foods.

"To be clear, we're not saying that coffee shops should be allowed to sell cannabis," said Assemblymember Matt Haney. "We're saying that cannabis shops should be allowed to sell coffee. It shouldn't be illegal for an existing cannabis business to move away from only selling marijuana and instead have the opportunity to grow, thrive and create jobs by offering coffee or live jazz."

AB 374 will now move to the Senate for approval, before being sent to the governor's desk to be signed. ★

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Jurassic World Live Tour Roars into Sacramento This Summer



Jurassic World's unmistakable score transforms the arena into the dense jungles of Isla Nublar, where real Gyrospheres roll through the valley and scientists explore the lost world. Photo courtesy of Atherton Public Relations

Atherton Public Relations News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - *Jurassic World Live* Tour, an exhilarating and unpredictable live, family entertainment experience that brings the wonder and thrills of *Jurassic World* to generations of fans, will be roaring into Sacramento for the first time ever this summer playing Golden 1 Center for six action-packed performances from June 30-July 2, 2023.

With unrivaled arena production quality, *Jurassic World* comes to life against a backdrop of captivating scenery where dinosaurs from the iconic franchise, including fan-favorite Velociraptor Blue and a Tyrannosaurus rex more than 40 feet in length, take centre stage. The

production features more than 24 film-accurate, life-sized dinosaurs, with scale, speed and ferocity, operated by animatronics and performers. Fans of the popular Netflix animated series *Jurassic World: Camp Cretaceous* will also recognize Bumpy, the friendly and food motivated dinosaur, as she goes from baby to adult fairly quickly.

Jurassic World's unmistakable score combined with projection and practical scenery transforms the arena into the dense jungles of Isla Nublar, where real Gyrospheres roll through the valley and scientists work to unravel a corrupt plan and save anew dinosaur from a terrible fate. With pulse-pounding stunts and an original, authentic storyline, *Jurassic World Live* Tour is

guaranteed to make memories that will last another 65 million years.

Guests will be able to start the adventure early with a special Pre-show Experience included with all ticket purchases. By arriving one hour before showtime, audience members can see their favourite *Jurassic World* dinosaurs and vehicles up close and personal, including fun photo opps with Triceratops, Stegosaurus, Baby Bumpy, and the iconic *Jurassic World* Jeep and Gyrosphere.

Family friendly ticket pricing is available and can be purchased online at Ticketmaster.com or visit the venue box office during open hours on event days. *Ticket pricing is subject to change based on market demand. ★

California Water Rights At Risk As Three Legislative Proposals Advance



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When California imposed its first-ever regulation on the extraction of water from underground aquifers in 2014, it gave environmental groups a landmark victory in their decades-long effort to overhaul water use laws.

It was also a political setback for farmers, who are California's major water users and have depended on wells to irrigate their crops as increasingly frequent droughts reduce surface water in rivers and reservoirs.

However, while ground-water regulation ended one front in California's never-ending political and legal battles over allocation of water, it merely set the stage for an even bigger conflict over surface water rights, particularly those pre-dating 1914, when the state first began controlling diversions.

Just months after the groundwater regulation's enactment, with drought still gripping the state, the water rights battle was joined when the state Water Resources Control Board attempted to curtail diversions by some pre-1914 rights holders.

The board accused a small water system on the southern edge of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District, of ignoring its curtailment order

and continuing to take water from the Delta for 13 days.

"We are a test case," Byron-Bethany's manager, Rick Gilmore, said at the time. "I think this has become a larger issue. I think the water board wants to use this as a precedent so they can start to gain more control over senior water right users."

An immediate confrontation was averted, but the underlying conflict continued and last year the state court of appeal declared that the board lacked emergency curtailment authority over senior rights holders.

Meanwhile, 2022 saw another clash involving another small water agency that ignored curtailment orders on the Shasta River a few miles south of the Oregon border. The Shasta River Water Association's farmers and ranchers continued to tap the river and later paid small fines.

The court decision and the Shasta River case fired up a long-standing drive by environmental groups to reduce diversions that damage wildlife habitat, contending that pre-1914 rights reflect exploitive and even racist 19th century attitudes incompatible with climate change and 21st century societal mores.

Water rights reformers have pressed the board to aggressively invoke the "public trust doctrine" of California water law and the state constitution's declaration that water use must be reasonable.

Despite its clashes over curtailment orders, the water board has been reluctant to engage in a sweeping political and legal war. It did, however, underwrite research by UC Berkeley's

Center for Law, Energy and the Environment on the powers needed to curtail diversions during droughts.

The resulting report, issued in April, declared that "the state needs to implement curtailments on a regular basis, not only in times of extreme crisis. Routine curtailments already happen in other western states. California cannot afford to remain an outlier."

Not surprisingly, three bills have been introduced in the Legislature to give the water board the authority suggested in the UC Berkeley study, pitting water rights reformers against agricultural and municipal water agencies.

Although advocates contend that the bills would merely give the water board much-needed managerial tools, a coalition of water districts and agricultural groups see them as a prelude to the wholesale abrogation of their water rights. The board could gain the "potential to strip public agencies of water rights that have been used to sustain communities for decades," with decrees of "arbitrary outcomes," they wrote in an opposition letter.

All three measures, Assembly Bill 1337, Assembly Bill 460 and Senate Bill 389, survived initial floor votes but the political battle is just beginning. Their fate could rest in Gov. Gavin Newsom's hands as powerful interests clash over a bedrock issue — who prevails when there's not enough water to meet all demands.

Dan Walters has been a journalist for more than 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

Don't Put All Your Eggs in One Basket

Dear Dave,

My employer offers an employee stock purchase plan at a 15% discount. I'm usually the kind of guy who buys stocks and holds on to them forever. But when it comes to an opportunity like this, should I buy it and wait for a year to sell it, or should I buy it and sell right away?

— John

Dear John,

Generally, I don't recommend buying single stocks at all. Single stocks are way too risky, and a 15% discount is nothing special in this kind of scenario. Virtually every single company out there that has an employee stock option plan offers a 15% discount.

In most situations like this, if you pull up a 52-week chart on the stock's performance, you'll

find a variance of as much as 15% in those 52 weeks. In other words, you could lose any or all of that discount in one move of the stock. Plus, it's not like 15% is a big discount to begin with. Fifteen percent off a single stock, considering how volatile they are, is no big deal. But hey, if you love your company that much, they have a great track record, and the stock has a good history, go ahead. Just don't allow single stocks as a category to make up more than 10% of your net worth.

The core issue here is a lack of diversification. When you put all your eggs in one basket, there's always some clown twirling the basket. The first time I ran into that was a long time ago with a lady who was 70 years old. She had worked for a large company for 40 years. On top of that, she invested all her 401(k), all her wealth—\$800,000 total—in that one company. Well, this company experienced a crisis. It lost nearly

half of its value, and her \$800,000 was suddenly worth about \$400,000. She left herself vulnerable with a high-risk play, John.

I'll say it again. Don't bet the farm on one horse, and don't have more than 10% of your net worth wrapped up in single stocks. Hundreds of research projects have been done that show individuals who buy individual stocks and think they know what they're doing actually lose money much more often than they make money.

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show," heard by more than 18 million listeners. He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," "Fox News," "CNN," "Fox Business" and many more. Since 1992, He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions. ★



Supreme Court Limits "Waters of United States" Regulations in Win for Farmers

Farmers for years sought relief from what they called government overreach into vast swaths of land and water through the "waters of the United States" regulations. They got their wish last month when the U.S. Supreme Court set limits on how the Environmental Protection Agency can regulate wetlands and waterways. Farmers argued that EPA was regulating features that are often not recognizable as water bodies. Though the high court reined in the scope of the 51-year-old Clean Water Act, states retain authority to regulate waters within their own borders.

U.S. Officials Protest Mexico's Move to Ban Genetically Modified Corn

United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack are contesting Mexico's move to largely ban imports of genetically modified corn from the U.S. Tai said the U.S. has "repeatedly conveyed its concerns that Mexico's biotechnology policies are not based on science and threaten to disrupt U.S. exports to Mexico to the detriment of agricultural producers." Vilsack called for "fair, open, science- and rules-based trade." Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador is seeking to phase out genetically modified corn by 2024.

California Farm Bureau Delegation Makes its Voice Heard in Washington D.C.

Leaders of the California Farm Bureau are calling attention to important agricultural issues, such as the next federal farm bill, labor, water, forestry and the response to disasters, including flooding and wildfires. During the May 23-25 advocacy trip, the board of directors and federal policy team for California's largest agricultural organization met with lawmakers, including House Agriculture Committee Chairman Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson. Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson testified before a House subcommittee on reducing wildfire dangers to protect California agriculture.

Bill Training for Use of Agricultural Drones Passes California Assembly

Legislation seeking to make it easier for farmers to use drones for targeted pesticide applications passed 72-0 in the California Assembly and moves to the Senate. Sponsored by the California Farm Bureau, Assembly Bill 1016 would expand the Department of Pesticide Regulation's authority to create training programs for drone aerial applicator licensing. As a result of the bill's progress, Orange Coast College recently announced the creation of an associate science degree in unmanned aerial systems, or drones, with an emphasis on aerial applications. ★

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Soroptimist Thanks

Dear Editor,

Soroptimist International of Dixon celebrated their 30th Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, June 9, and want to publicly thank our amazing banner sponsors, Valley Farm Transport, Taylor Builders, Tully Consulting, GLI-CO Hay, First Northern Bank, Rotary of Dixon, KUIU, Northern California Roofing, Greiner Heating & Air.

Also, thank you to our Gold Ribbon and Blue Ribbon Sponsors: Dixon Wellness, Reveille Farms, Archer and Ficklin, Edward Jones, Dependable Heating and Air, Diane Dawson, Steve and Janice Beman, Sisters' Salon, Recology, Park Avenue Turf, Kristina Wiley, DDS. And, additional sponsors Delores Garton and John and Andrea Kett.

The proceeds from our Golf Tournament will assist us in supporting local projects, such as High School Scholarships, Wreaths Across America, Dixon May Fair, and Toys 4 Tots.

Sincerely,
Soroptimist International of Dixon

Veterans Museum Reopens



DIXON, CA (MPG) - During the Friday night dinners at the Veterans Memorial Hall, the Veterans Museum has re-opened, and visitors are welcome to come peruse the paraphernalia from the local vets and their military experiences. Among those items are several large-scale models of battleships created by the late Heber Holbrook. There is also a commemorative frame of Greg Coppes who passed in 2020 in a motorcycle accident and to whom a motorcycle run is planned in his honor on August 19 this year. The museum room is located inside the hall at 1305 North First St. Dinners start by 6 p.m. but people can visit inside the museum free of charge. Photo by Debra Dingman

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Aardvark's repast
- Game official, colloquially speaking
- In alignment
- Tiny bottle
- Big rig
- ___ Apso
- Fairy-tale opener
- Arabian chieftain
- Peter Pumpkin ___
- *White House Plumbers' affair
- Arrival times, acr.
- *Gerald R. Ford and Nelson A. Rockefeller
- Tolkien's Ogre-like creature
- *Charlie's TV detectives
- At sea but close to shore
- Always, poetically speaking
- Adjust
- Cupid, to the Greeks
- High
- 9 to 5, e.g.
- Bow-like structure
- Hippocrates' promise
- Struck in certain way, in baseball
- Paleontologist's estimate
- Like a kilt
- English county
- Boiling blood
- ___, Stinky and Stretch
- Shade of beige
- **Rainy Day People" singer Gordon ___
- Things on a list
- Rod of a hot rod
- *Bee Gees or The Supremes, e.g.
- Saintly glows
- Never, poetically speaking
- Pre-Easter period
- Demeanor
- *Banned insecticide, acr.
- Oxen connector

DOWN

- Assert
- **"Black Gold" singer Nina ___
- Diplomat's asset
- *Popular bell-shaped part of garment
- Gerrymander
- Gives off
- *Earth and Wind partner
- *First female British prime minister
- Pro ___
- Operates
- Head canal locale
- Wisest
- Unfriendly looks
- Track event
- Buck
- Famous fabric-maker
- *Kathmandu location and Hippie trail stop
- Heating outlet cover
- Research facil.
- Shamu and such
- *Khmer ___
- English county
- Sound of impact
- Coffee holder
- *Mao's honorific
- Sunbaked, archaically speaking
- Busy flyer
- * ___ Rolle of "Good Times"
- Corbel
- **"Killing Me ___ with His Song"
- Spayed
- End of a shoelace
- Evening purse
- Wrap in waxy cloth
- It "was made for you and me"
- Black and white cookie
- Piglet sound
- Carrying container
- *Helen Reddy's " ___ Woman"

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Where Did All the Money Go?

Newsom's plan to cover California's ballooning budget deficit

By Alexei Koseff,
CALMatters.org

California's estimated budget deficit has grown by \$9 billion since January, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced, though the governor downplayed the severity of its potential impact on critical government services and programs.

During a press conference at the California Natural Resources Agency in downtown Sacramento, Newsom unveiled a revised spending plan that will rely on some additional fiscal maneuvers — including shifting funding sources and internal borrowing — to address a projected \$31.5 billion gap in the 2023-24 state budget.

"We have a \$31.5 billion challenge, which is well within the margin of expectation and well within our capacity to address," Newsom said.

Despite the growing shortfall, California's overall budget is now expected to be \$306 billion, including special funds, less than a 1% decline from a record \$308 billion in the current fiscal year.

Newsom proposes to close the deficit by shifting an additional \$3.3 billion in existing commitments out of the general fund, including paying for \$1.1 billion in climate spending and \$1.1 billion in college student housing projects with bonds, and pulling back another \$1 billion in unused money from programs such as middle-class tax refunds and utility bill support for low-income residents.

Under the governor's plan, the state would also borrow \$1.2 billion from special funds and increase by \$2.5 billion a tax on managed care health plans to address the spending gap. Extensive savings would remain largely untouched, though Newsom did propose to make a \$450 million withdrawal from one



Gov. Gavin Newsom unveils his revised budget proposal for 2023-24 during a press briefing at the state Natural Resources Agency in Sacramento on May 12, 2023. Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

reserve account.

California's fiscal picture has largely worsened since January, when finance officials projected the state would face a deficit of \$22.5 billion. Newsom called it a "modest shortfall" and proposed to delay billions of dollars in spending commitments, reverse recent steps to shore up the state's fiscal health and shift around funding sources to limit program cuts.

Enduring high inflation, turmoil in the regional banking sector and a showdown in Washington, D.C., over raising the federal debt limit have all deepened the economic headwinds. California relies heavily on income taxes from its wealthiest residents, whose earnings have taken a hit with drops in the stock market.

Monthly tax revenues came in billions of dollars below forecasts this spring, and fears of a recession continue to loom, which Newsom

said could reduce state revenues by tens of billions of dollars even in the mildest scenario.

"That is an uncertainty that we must take very seriously and very soberly," he said.

Adding to the unpredictability, most Californians don't have to file their income taxes until October because of the intense damage and disruption from winter storms. Officials estimate that \$42 billion in payments will be delayed until the new deadline.

The governor's updated budget proposal kicks off a month of negotiations with the Legislature, which must pass a budget by June 15 to get paid, though some items may remain unresolved after the July 1 start of the fiscal year.

Legislative leaders have been largely optimistic about the budget situation, noting that the deficit is less drastic than during the last recession more than a decade

ago and arguing that they have plenty of fiscal tools at their disposal to avoid deep spending cuts. Last month, Senate Democrats pitched increasing taxes on large corporations and suspending a major business tax credit to raise new funds, an idea that Newsom quickly rejected.

The governor reiterated that it was not "the right time to raise taxes and I was crystal clear on that." He also took off the table — at least for now — dipping deeper into the state's reserves, which he said should be maintained while the state weathers the broader economic uncertainties.

"No one can be wedded ideologically to conditions that may present themselves, but right now, we're able to submit a budget that we think is prudent and it's balanced," he said. "Those are conversations for another day."

Newsom closed his remarks by encouraging the Legislature to

show restraint, both in what it seeks in a budget deal and with costly proposals that lawmakers may try to advance to the governor's desk later this year, which he said he would have to veto.

"You don't have to be profligate to be progressive," Newsom said, trotting out what has become a favorite turn of phrase. "We tend to write checks that we can't keep and then we let people down."

Aside from a brief economic downturn at the start of the coronavirus pandemic, most legislators have faced only budget surpluses and growing revenues during their tenures. Because of term limits, just a handful were around as California's economy tanked in 2008, forcing deep spending cuts.

With less money available next fiscal year, the challenge is getting everyone to agree about what should take the hit. Some lawmakers have already raised objections to potential cuts for climate programs and public transit funding that the governor proposed in January. Assembly Democrats are pushing to raise funding for subsidized child care because of complaints from providers that reimbursement rates are less than their costs.

Republicans, who represent a superminority in the Legislature and whose votes are not needed to pass a state budget, dismissed Newsom's approach to the deficit as irresponsible. In a statement, state Sen. Roger Niello of Fair Oaks, who serves as vice chairperson of the Senate Budget Committee, said the governor should not count on avoiding a recession.

"We are concerned that his crystal ball may be cloudy," Niello said. "We would recommend that the state take a more sustainable path on spending and reduce the desire to borrow during this time of high and increasing interest rates." ★

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PG&E Wants to Help Customers Recognize Utility Scams and Avoid Falling Victim

PG&E News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - With reports of scams targeting utility customers at an all-time high, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) shares tips with customers to help recognize the signs of a potential scam.

A typical sign of a scam targeting a utility customer includes a caller claiming to be from PG&E and threatening disconnection if immediate payment is not made via a pre-paid debit card or money transfer service like Zelle. As a reminder, PG&E will never send a single notification to a customer within one hour of a service interruption, and we will never ask customers to make payments with a pre-paid debit card, gift card, any form of cryptocurrency, or third-party digital payment mobile applications.

"If you ever receive a call threatening utility disconnection if you do not make immediate payment, hang up the phone and either log into your account on PGE.com or call our customer service number to confirm your account details. Remember, PG&E will never ask for your financial information over the phone or via email, nor will we request payment via pre-paid debit cards or other payment services like Zelle. End the call, end the scam" said Matt Foley, lead customer scam investigator for PG&E.

Based on data collected so far in 2023, scammers are stepping up their efforts to defraud customers. In fact, there have been over 19,000 scam attempts reported by customers to PG&E, and customers have lost nearly \$342,000 in the first four months of 2023 alone. During 2022, PG&E received nearly 23,000 reports from customers who were targeted by scammers impersonating the company, and customers lost approximately \$946,000 in fraudulent payments.

Scammers can be convincing and often target those who are most vulnerable, including senior citizens and low-income communities. They also aim their scams at small business owners during busy customer service hours. Another recent emerging scam trend involves scammers targeting real estate agents via their listings, and threatening to shut off power if immediate payment is not made. However, with the right information, customers can learn to detect and report these predatory scams.

Signs of a potential scam
Threat to disconnect: Scammers may aggressively demand immediate payment for

an alleged past due bill.

Request for immediate payment: Scammers may instruct the customer to purchase a prepaid card, then call them back supposedly to make a bill payment.

Request for prepaid card: When the customer calls back, the caller asks the customer for the prepaid card's number, which grants the scammer instant access to the card's funds.

Refund or rebate offers: Scammers may say that your utility company overbilled you and owes you a refund, or that you are entitled to a rebate, and ask you for your personal financial information.

Scammers Impersonating Trusted Phone Numbers: Scammers are now able to create authentic-looking 800 numbers which appear on your phone display. The numbers don't lead back to PG&E if called back, however, so if you have doubts, hang up and call PG&E at 1-833-500-SCAM. If customers ever feel that they are in physical danger, they should call 911.

How customers can protect themselves

Customers should never purchase a prepaid card to avoid service disconnection or shutoff. PG&E does not specify how customers should make a bill payment and offers a variety of ways to pay a bill, including accepting payments online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

If a scammer threatens immediate disconnection or shutoff of service without prior notification, customers should hang up the phone, delete the email, or shut the door. Customers with delinquent accounts receive an advance disconnection notification, typically by mail and included with their regular monthly bill.

Signing up for an online account at pge.com is another safeguard. Not only can customers log in to check their balance and payment history, they can also sign up for recurring payments, paperless billing and helpful alerts.

Customers who suspect that they have been victims of fraud, or who feel threatened during contact with one of these scammers, should contact local law enforcement. The Federal Trade Commission's website is also a good source of information about how to protect personal information.

For more information about scams, visit pge.com/scams or <https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams> ★



Interview with Debut Author Rosaline Woodrow

Recently, I spoke with Rosaline Woodrow about her newest Regency dramatic comedy, *Dearest Georgiana*. When Woodrow isn't happily photographing her garden, she can be found nestled within the branches of a tree, writing her next book.

Please explain a little about your newest debut *Dearest Georgiana*.

RW: Dearest Georgiana is regency-inspired dramatic, romantic comedy. It follows the points of view

of Samuel Barrington and Georgiana Montagu. Samuel has recently inherited his father's title of Marquess and his struggle in mourning his mentor, dealing with his father's reputation, and trying to find a wife to bring his dying mother peace. Tenacious Georgiana is doing her best to play with the rules of society to find a marriage to bring her true love and bring her brother's peace in their late parents absence. The pair are childhood adversaries that are oblivious to their comparability as they are too focused on their own goals.

What was the inspiration behind writing a Regency style dramatic comedy?

RW: I've always liked when the Regency era has been played with. My favorite Austen movie adaptation is Mansfield Park, and when Bridgerton came out it was permission to play with the genre. We always tell the stories of the young ladies in the era, I wanted to tell stories from young men's point of view.

Who was your favorite character to write and what do you want readers to pull from them?

RW: I loved writing Samuel. His story



highlights the role a strong male mentor can play in a young man's life and my favorite thing about his story is that you can choose to be more than what you come from. His and Georgiana's story is about what it means to love people despite their flaws and conquering your own faults.

What has been the most challenging part of being an indie author?

RW: It's all up to you. No one can finish your story. No one can revise

your vision. It's completely self-driven, and you have to do all of that despite doubt or fear.

What has been the most rewarding part of your author journey?

RW: For me, it's finally doing what I've always felt I was meant to do. Since I was in fourth grade, I've been putting my work out there for people to enjoy. Now I'm finally brave enough to do it in a professional capacity.

As an author, what do you want readers to pull from your books?

RW: Emotional human connection. I tend to write emotionally driven love stories that are based in what I believe are the foundations of good relationships romantic or platonic.

Now that you have your debut out in the world, what is next?

RW: I am currently working on a sci-fi romance that I intend to query an agent for this summer, I would love to go to the traditional market with that voice.

Where is *Dearest Georgiana* available?

RW: The ebook and paperback are available on Amazon and Amazon's Kindle Unlimited Program. ★

DIXON POLICE LOG

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.



Tuesday, June 06

1954 - Vandalism report taken in the 900 block of Pembroke Way

Monday, June 05

1000 - Hours- Information Report taken in the PD lobby.

1400 - Hours- Found Property Report in the 1400 Block of North Lincoln St.

1750 - Hours- Incident Report in the 1400 Block of North Lincoln St.

Sunday, June 04

1440 - Hours- Found wallet returned to owner.

1630 - Hours- Restraining Order served

2139 - Confidential report taken in the 1100 block of Purdue Court. 0212 Traffic stop on WB I-80 and Dixon Ave resulted in the arrest of Austin Adam (25) of San Jose for driving under the influence of alcohol and possession of cocaine. He was cited and released from the PD to a sober adult.

Saturday, June 03

0958 - Informational report was taken in the 200 block of East C St.

1046 - Shoplifting, resisting arrest, and battery on a police officer arrest report was taken in the 1000 block of North 1st St. Officers contacted (S) Selena Bagaforo (27) of Dixon. While attempting to arrest Bagaforo, she resisted arrest and kicked an officer in the leg. Bagaforo was arrested and booked into jail.

1844 - Officers conducted a traffic stop in the area of Pitt School Road and Porter Road. The driver of the vehicle was identified as Tanner Rubio (19) out of Dixon was contacted. Rubio was found to be operating motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. Rubio was placed under arrest and issued a promise to appear at the police department. He was released without incident.

1858 - Reckless driving report in the 200 block of West Chestnut Street.

0018 - Officers responded to the area of West Chestnut Street and South Jackson Street for a vehicle driving recklessly. Upon arrival, officers contacted the driver of a blue Mustang identified as Jesus Ortiz-Herrera (31) out of Dixon. Ortiz-Herrera was placed under arrest for reckless driving and driving without a license. Ortiz-Herrera was issued a promise to appear and released from the scene. The vehicle was towed by All About Towing.

0140 - Vehicle rollover accident in the 200 block of East C Street.

Friday, June 02

1214 - Domestic violence report was taken in the 800 block of North Adams St.

1159 - Coroner's report was taken in the 200 block of Ahern Ln.

1923 - Officers conducted a traffic stop in the area of West A Street and Pitt School Road. The driver was identified as Javier Munguia (50) out of Fairfield was contacted. Further investigation revealed Munguia was operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol. Munguia was placed under arrest for DUI and later cited and released from the police department.

Thursday, June 01

0841 - Information report was taken in the 1500 block of Marendra Dr.

1159 - Warrant arrest report was taken in the 200 block of West A St. Officers made an enforcement stop and contacted (S) Michael Karr (27) of Dixon. A records check revealed Karr had an outstanding felony warrant out of Sacramento. Karr was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail. Karr's vehicle was released to a family member. 2108 Restraining order violation report in the 200 block of East C Street.

Wednesday, May 31

0906 - Hours- Theft of license plate report in the 200 block of Dorset Ct.

1148 - Hours- Vehicle burglary report in the 1500 block of Valley glen Dr.

1330 - Hours- Traffic investigation in the area of North Lincoln St and Stratford Ave.

0332 - Traffic stop in the area of North Lincoln St and Stratford Ave. Gonzales was placed under arrest for the felony of resisting arrest causing injuries (69PC), misdemeanor attempting to disarm a police officer of his weapon, and misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol (23152(a)/(b) CVC). Traffic stop in the area of North Lincoln St and Stratford Ave. Gonzales was placed under arrest for the felony of resisting arrest causing injuries (69PC), misdemeanor attempting to disarm a police officer of his weapon, and misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol (23152(a)/(b) CVC).



Riley Reviews

SUPER BOWL COULD BE THE BIGGEST HIT ON CBS FALL SCHEDULE

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

CBS has landed Super Bowl LVIII to air on Sunday, February 11, 2024, taking place at the home of the Las Vegas Raiders' Allegiant Stadium in Sin City. Chances are that the Raiders won't be taking the field on that day, even though that would be nice.

The primetime lineup for the fall season will feature three new dramas, one new comedy, and 22 returning shows, illustrating that CBS usually has a lot of stability in its programming.

That means that Tuesday night still belongs to the FBI with its top-rated lineup. The eight o'clock hour opens with "FBI," which is followed by "FBI: International" and the night closes out its block of heroic storytelling with "FBI: Most Wanted."

New drama "Elsbeth" stars Carrie Preston ("The Good Wife") as Elsbeth Tascioni, an astute but unconventional attorney who, after her successful career in Chicago, utilizes her singular point of view to make unique observations and corner brilliant criminals.

After leaving her successful legal career in the Windy City to tackle a new investigative role in New York City, Elsbeth finds herself jockeying with the toast of the NYPD, Captain C.W. Wagner (Wendell Pierce).

Working alongside Elsbeth is Officer Kaya Blanke (Carra Patterson), a stoic and ethical officer who quickly develops and appreciation for Elsbeth's insightful and offbeat ways.

Based on the character featured in "The Good Wife" and "The Good Fight," the new series "Elsbeth" will take the ten o'clock slot on Thursday nights.

What's old is new again, and that's the case of the classic television series "Matlock," but Andy Griffith's criminal defense attorney will just be a memory, while the new series of the same name takes a gender twist.

The new "Matlock" stars Kathy Bates as the brilliant septuagenarian Madeline "Matty" Matlock, who achieved success in her younger years, and decides to rejoin the workforce at a prestigious law firm where she uses her unassuming demeanor and wily tactics to win cases.

Matty is assigned to Olympia (Skye P. Marshall), a senior attorney and key rainmaker with a thirst for justice. Olympia's ex-husband, Julian (Jason Ritter), the son of the head of the firm, is intrigued by Matty and her clever skills.

As Matty endeavors to establish herself in her new high-stakes world, she works alongside the firm's younger associates - the charismatic Billy (David Del Rio) and the uber ambitious Sarah (Leah Lewis).

Premiering in the highly coveted post-Super Bowl timeslot on that

February Sunday night, the drama "Tracker" stars Justin Hartley as lone-wolf survivalist Colter Shaw, who roams the country as a "reward seeker."

Using his expert tracking skills to help private citizens and law enforcement to solve all manner of mysteries, Hartley must also contend with his own fractured family.

The mid-season will bring new comedy "Poppa's House," starring Damon Wayans and Damon Wayans Jr., which features the senior Wayans as legendary talk show host and happily divorced "Poppa" who has his point of view challenged at work.

The trials for the radio host come when a new female co-host (Essence Atkins) is hired, and at home where he finds himself parenting his adult son (Damon Wayans Jr.), a brilliant dreamer who is trying to pursue his passion while being a responsible father and husband.

CBS dominates Friday nights with the return of "S.W.A.T." at 8:00 p.m., followed by what the network bills as its number one new series and number one streaming series, "Fire Country," starring Max Thierot as a young convict hoping for redemption volunteering for Cal Fire.

The big kahuna for Friday night remains "Blue Bloods," entering its 14th season, with Tom Selleck as head of the Reagan family and police commissioner for the City of New York. At an age when most people are retired, Selleck keeps going strong with no end in sight.

Wednesday night brings two iconic reality series expanding to 90 minutes each to deliver a full night of adventure and challenges. The globe-trotting "The Amazing Race" hosted by Phil Keoghan fills the slot ending at 11:00 p.m.

The groundbreaking broadcast hit and most-watched reality show on Paramount+, "Survivor," on the air since the turn of the century and hosted by Jeff Probst, kicks off Wednesday night at 8:00 p.m.

Thursday night remains for comedy with "Young Sheldon" anchoring the evening at 8:00 p.m., leading into "Ghosts" which is followed by the witty drama "So Help Me Todd" starring Marcia Gay Harden and Skylar Astin.

Stability is the key for CBS as it finishes the 2022-2023 season as "America's Most-Watched Network" in primetime for the 15th consecutive season, tying broadcast television's longest winning streak on record, also held by CBS from 1955 to 1970.

A caveat for all stories about network television scripted programs is the wild card of a writers' strike dragging on for a few months. CBS, like everyone else, will have to scramble for contingencies in the event of no deal. ★

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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves



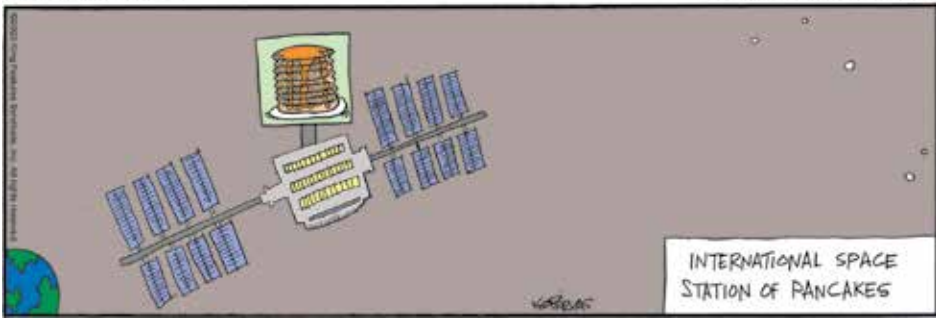
by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

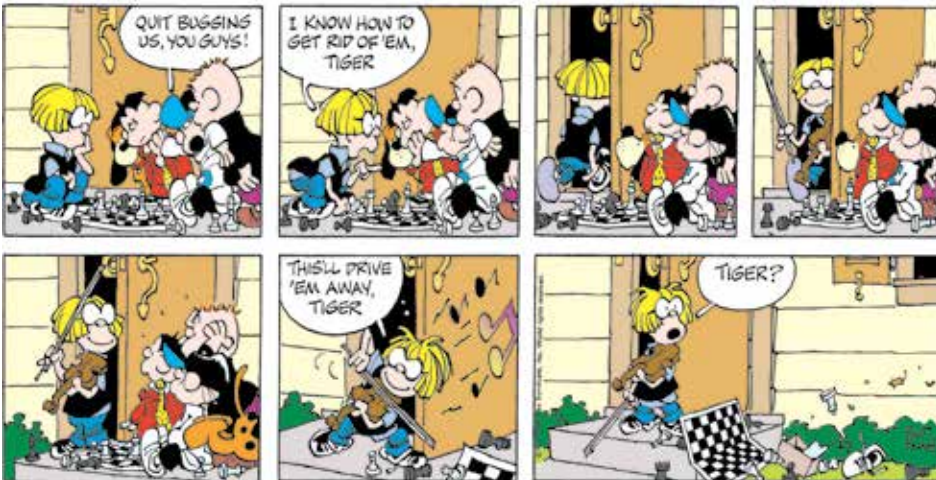
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by Gary Kopervas



TIGER



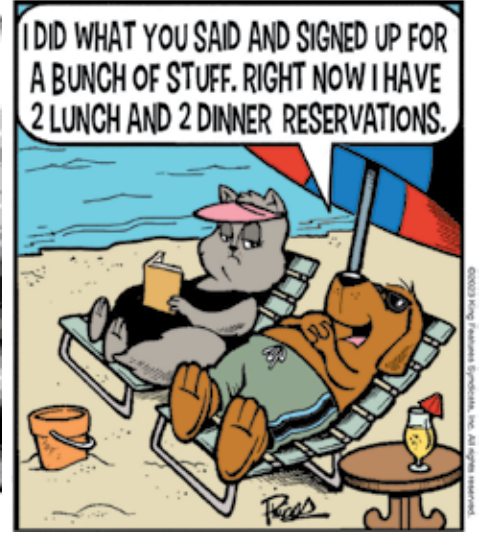
by BUD BLAKE

GRIN AND BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

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Woodland Memorial Gets Gifts of Gratitude

Continued from page 1

don't make a hospital. Her concern for care stems from being raised by a disabled veteran father and by her experiences fighting breast cancer.

Woodland Healthcare Foundation Chief Philanthropy Officer Kevin Sanchez leads a team of strong colleagues who seem more like a large family committed to supporting the hospital.

DEEP ROOTS TO DIXON

Woodland Memorial Hospital is located at 1325 Cottonwood St. in Woodland and only 20 minutes from Dixon, is as dedicated as the hundred years past to delivering high quality and compassionate care. As an example, the leaders of Woodland Healthcare Foundation, including Marianne MacDonald of Dixon, continuously seek donors to purchase the latest equipment for their doctors and staff to be able to provide exceptional medical care. They now have 740 employees and 108 licensed acute care beds, 17 emergency department beds and 30 inpatient beds in the Behavioral Health unit.

"I've served as Board Trustee for seven years, serving as President for one year, and in 2021, started serving on the Woodland Health Foundation. Making time to give back has always been a priority for me," said MacDonald who is in Dixon Rotary and has served for the Dixon Teen Center and is a past board member for Child Haven in Fairfield. "The initiative I'm working on is about strengthening oncology and orthopedics," continued MacDonald who gave birth to her sons there some 50 years ago.

Across many of the doors, the bricks that encircle a garden retreat area, and rooms throughout the hospital are conspicuously inscribed letters or plaques which include names of Dixonites who have generously donated including Lowell and Muriel Morris.

Lowell was a farmer and invented the simple irrigation pipe that wound up crossing the world with sales. A friendly, hardworking man with an affection for ham radios and barometers, he and Muriel lived on Marvin Way for decades.

Muriel, who was barren, spent her life as an elementary school teacher, mostly in Dixon, so she could be with children. She passed three years before her beloved husband, Lowell, of nearly 60 years.

The Morris's donated significantly to the radiology department and their names are immortalized above the double door waiting room now known as the Advanced Imaging Center in large scrolling silver letters.

FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS

Government programs like Medicare and Medicaid pay hospitals less than the cost of caring for the beneficiaries and insurance



Tech Steven Podsednik explained the Computed Tomography (CT) machine.



Director of the Family Birth Center Nova Fox watches nurse Lindsey Lyon demonstrate how laboring mothers can be more comfortable with the Linet Birthing Bed.

companies negotiate deep discounts with hospitals. Plus, many people who are uninsured pay little or nothing at all. In the case of healthcare, revenue is mostly earned by rendering services to patients. This can leave a gap for the hospital to purchase needed diagnostic tools and medical equipment.

The Woodland Healthcare Foundation that MacDonald was asked to serve on last year, is a non-profit arm of the hospital that works to connect with patients, family, friends, and supporters who help fund those life-saving pieces of equipment through gifts of gratitude.

The legal benefit is that Woodland Healthcare Foundation creates a perpetual

existence, receives limited liability protection, provides a tax-exempt status for donors benefit, and gives access to grants—all important factors in philanthropy.

Some of the gifts they have been able to secure for the hospital include expansion of the Birth Center to include eight LDR beds, reported Nova Fox, Director of the Family Birth Center. These rooms are where the mother may labor, deliver, and recover from childbirth in the same room. It's the size of a family room and includes a couch that can double as a bed for the father or labor coach.

"The patient can walk around or take a warm shower," said Lindsey Lyon, an RN who is also a mother of five. "The

advantage of working at a small hospital is that we can adapt a lot quicker." Lyon has worked seven years at Woodland Memorial after 12 years at North Bay Hospital.

Both Nova and Lyons demonstrate the advantages of the beds called Linet Birthing Beds. They can 'break away' in various pieces for the comfort of the laboring mom during her contractions. Some women find more comfort leaning forward in a squat and that can help them bear down more effectively—but that is awkward to do in a traditional hospital bed. Since squatting can enlarge the pelvic outlet diameter by almost 2.5 centimeters, giving more room for baby to rotate and move through the bony pelvis, these beds are a huge advantage to the laboring mother.

They have also purchased new delivery room lights that are softer, a blanket warmer, and a new bilirubin measuring device that doesn't prick the baby. All these help reduce stress and discomfort for babies—and their watchful mothers. Additionally, Halo bassinets have been purchased allowing the mother who has had a cesarean section to swing the baby's bassinet closer to her for accessing baby without pulling on sensitive stitches, Lyons demonstrated.

Other gifts included a new comprehensive screening device for hearing tests that shortens the time between appointments and diagnosis helping patients get a treatment plan and care sooner; a 3D Mammography Scanner that advances early detection of breast cancer; and more.

Braden Victor, Director of Diagnostic Imaging Services explained the Nuclear Medicine Camera, one of the purchases of equipment in one area while technician Steven Podsednik explained the CT, or Computed Tomography in another area down the hall.

CLEAR MISSION

"We are committed to furthering the healing ministry of Jesus. We dedicate our resources to delivering compassionate, high-quality, affordable health services; serving and advocating for our sisters and brothers who are poor and disenfranchised; and partnering with others in the community to improve the quality of life," is stated as their mission.

CAPITOL PROJECT

When looking at where the hospital can continue to serve the growing population and save money in their current systems, they've learned that ideally, they will someday need a medical office building that places all of the out-patient services under one roof.

To learn more about supporting Woodland Memorial Hospital and Woodland Clinic, go to supportwoodlandhealthcare.org or call Sanchez at (530) 669-5682. ★

Undercutting Accelerated Approval Could Doom Biden's "Cancer Moonshot"

Commentary by Kenneth E. Thorpe

Thirty years ago, AIDS patients faced increasing symptoms and the risk of death while awaiting life-saving drugs that had shown enormous promise in clinical trials -- but that were hung up in the FDA's traditional approval process. In response, Congress sanctioned a new FDA "accelerated approval" pathway that gave patients earlier access to medicines. Lives were spared and our healthcare system finally had solutions to manage a disease that was ravaging our nation.

That same accelerated approval pathway has saved countless lives over the past three decades. Cancer treatments have been developed and delivered to patients more readily. Rare diseases once considered untreatable now have new standards of care that were previously completely unthinkable.

Despite this, the pathway is back in the news -- and for all the wrong reasons. Congress recently passed legislation that changed the accelerated approval pathway in significant ways. The latest reforms could substantially weaken the pathway and its potential to bring future treatments down the pike. It's puzzling that some elected officials are championing the Cancer Moonshot while at the same time undermining the pathway that's facilitated earlier access to breakthrough cancer drugs.

Accelerated approval is reserved for treatments that address serious or life-threatening conditions for which there are currently no adequate therapies.

Under traditional FDA approval, new drugs don't get a green light until tests demonstrate they produce a clinical benefit in patients -- for example, better cancer survival rates. Under the accelerated approval pathway, however, medications are conditionally approved if they can demonstrate success at a "surrogate endpoint" -- that is, a predetermined and measurable step that predicts a future clinical benefit. For example, if tests show a new cancer drug shrinks tumors, there's good reason to think it will

extend lives.

Crucially, if further required testing determines the medication has failed to deliver on its initial promise, its accelerated approval can be revoked. But in the overwhelming majority of cases -- some 76.5% of accelerated approvals between 1992 and 2016 -- confirmatory testing has led to what's called conversion to traditional approval.

Compromising the accelerated approval pathway would lead to fewer new treatments, period.

Emerging biotech companies are responsible for about 80% of all experimental medicines in the drug-development pipeline. Yet these firms often lack the funds to see a drug all the way from creation to confirmatory testing. With accelerated approval, they can begin selling their medication sooner, thereby enabling them to financially sustain the final rounds of testing themselves.

Unfortunately, that might not be a workable business model much longer. The FDA's top oncology regulator said he intends to begin withholding accelerated approval of new cancer drugs until confirmatory trials are already underway. As a result, two companies have already seen promising cancer treatments delayed because of this new policy.

Further concerns lie in the inconsistencies around access to drugs approved under the accelerated approval pathway. The Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS), for example, has disclosed plans to pay less for accelerated approval drugs that haven't completed confirmatory studies.

Equally worrying, CMS has issued a "national coverage determination," that will prevent most Medicare beneficiaries from accessing an entire class of groundbreaking new Alzheimer's treatments simply because they received accelerated approval.

All told, these misguided coverage restrictions will only delay access to FDA-approved treatments that could change the course of some of the nation's most costly chronic conditions. ★

Treating ADHD is Harder Than it Should Be

Commentary by Dr. Ann Childress, M.D.

Approximately 6 million children in the United States have attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, better known as ADHD. As many as 5% of adults also live with the condition.

The good news is that ADHD is highly treatable. Medication and behavior therapy -- or some combination of the two -- can help people with ADHD manage their condition and lead healthy lives.

The bad news is that many ADHD patients are struggling to access these treatments. That is largely due to the actions of little-known middlemen in the drug supply chain: pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs).

Insurers hire PBMs to manage the prescription drug components of their health plans. PBMs negotiate with drug companies to decide which medicines to include on a plan's "formulary" -- the list of medicines an insurer will cover -- and at what prices.

PBMs use their control over formularies to play drug manufacturers against each other and secure the largest discounts possible. For a given class of similar medications, PBMs will often favor a small number, say one or two, out of a dozen potential treatments.

Drug makers are willing to offer substantial discounts for preferred treatment on insurer formularies. In 2021, discounts to payers -- private insurers as well as other entities, such as the Medicare and Medicaid programs -- lopped more than \$118 billion off the list price of brand-name medicines.

The variable results of formulary negotiations, however, often end up leaving patients in the lurch. That's especially true with regard to the medications used to treat ADHD and other mental health conditions.

Most people think a generic medication is exactly the same as the brand-name drug on which it is based. But that's not true.

For approval as an equivalent, the FDA allows generics to fall within the range of 80%-125% of the "bioavailability" of the reference drug -- essentially, the amount of the drug that is actually absorbed by the body.

This allowable variability can make the difference between relief from ADHD, the return of symptoms due to lesser bioavailability, or the onset of side effects due to greater bioavailability.

From a clinician and patient perspective, this can become a nightmare -- a scramble to help patients find suitable relief at an affordable price.

For example, one of the largest PBMs, OptumRx, announced that it is removing several popular ADHD-treating drugs from its coverage and replacing them with generic versions that might not offer the same bioavailability as their brand-name counterparts.

CVS's company-owned PBM plans to limit its coverage of Adderall XR -- the drug's extended-release formulation -- and another popular ADHD treatment, Concerta, likewise limiting treatment options for patients.

All this churning activity is highly lucrative for PBMs. Their gross profits totaled more than \$28 billion in 2019. But patients are getting a raw deal. The three largest PBMs together control 80% of the market. The list of their "excluded" drugs grew from 850 in 2020 to more than 1,150 in 2022.

Fortunately, lawmakers in Washington are beginning to show interest in standing up for patients. A new bipartisan "Patient Advocacy Caucus" promises to investigate the drug supply chain middlemen keeping prices high for patients. They've pledged to begin with PBMs. There's a lot more to be done, but that's a good place to start.

Dr. Ann Childress, M.D. is a physician and internationally recognized expert in the diagnosis and treatment of ADHD. She also serves as president of the American Professional Society of ADHD and Related Disorders. ★