



Chamber Makes Board Changes

PAGE 3

CHP Highlights New Laws in 2023

PAGE 4



Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 31 • ISSUE 1

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

JANUARY 6, 2023

SEE INSIDE

GETTING MORE COVERED



PAGE 8

STEALING IS STEALING



PAGE 8

SPENDING YOUR MONEY



PAGE 10

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DIXON, CA
PERMIT NO. 45

OR CURRENT
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Volunteer Need Continues



L-R: Pastor Frank Salamone, Monica Sepulveda, Janette Barrango, and Cari Loftin and her children all helped Cornerstone Church Sanctuary turn into the Community Christmas Program with donations of coats, blankets, socks, and many, many toys.

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Christmas may be over but the demands continue — and more volunteers are especially needed to keep the Dixon Community Christmas Program running for 2023, according to a nearly exhausted Monica Sepulveda, Cornerstone Church secretary. She volunteered from sunup to sundown the last few weeks leading up to the major holiday, especially after the donations kept coming while helping hands diminished.

The Community Christmas Program is the new version of the



Robin Adams and Monica Sepulveda look over the dozens of bags of groceries that were to be handed out to families and seniors over Christmas.

long-time charity that helped 500 to 800 disadvantaged families of Dixon through the holidays. The new leadership including Mike Hamilton and Jack Caldwell spent their first

year creating a new Board of Directors and making the endeavor officially a non-profit. The excitement pulled new faces into the work but with the pandemic, so much had to

change, including Santa's personal visits with the children.

This year and with more volunteers stepping back, there were only 90 families to serve and the traditional paperwork to identify those in need went away but Hamilton and Caldwell persevered, arranging connections with Recology, for example, to bring pallets of toys from storage to the church. Sepulveda and a dozen volunteers stepped up even more, coming together like a large family pulling for a sick one.

Patti Aguirre who has been collecting toys from the drops around town for 13 years was still working

Continued on page 3

Flavored Tobacco Ban Begins In California

By Evan Symon, California Globe

The statewide flavored tobacco and e-cigarette ban went into effect on Wednesday, (December 21, 2022) impacting retailers and consumers alike less than a week after a final attempt to stop it in the Supreme Court failed.

The battle over flavored tobacco in California dates back to January 2020, when then-Senator Jerry Hill introduced SB 793, to totally ban flavored cigarettes and e-cigarettes from sale in the state. The bill had much support, and easily made it through the Assembly and Senate, although a number of amendments were added, allowing certain exceptions. Governor Gavin Newsom signed the bill shortly afterwards, with the ban set to take place at the end of the year.

However, tobacco companies quickly formed a coalition and set up a ballot referendum, collecting enough signatures in time by December to delay the ban. In early 2021, enough signatures were collected to put the decision up to California voters, with the referendum going to the November 2022 ballot. Tobacco companies fought hard to fail the referendum, now known as Proposition 31, as many felt the ban went too far, and that it would hurt many businesses as a result. Those supporting pushing for Prop 31 to pass claimed a rise in youth tobacco consumption partially attributed to flavored tobacco being on the market.

Last month, Californians overwhelmingly voted for the ban to stay in place, 63% to 37%, or, 6.8 million for the ban and 3.9 million against. With the ban now set to begin later this month, R.J. Reynolds, as well as other tobacco companies, quickly filed an emergency application for a writ injunction with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking the court to stop the ban as a last Hail Mary attempt. In their application, the tobacco companies said that the ban will cause "irreparable harm, leading to substantial financial losses and a hit to customer goodwill and its reputation." Meanwhile, California argued that this was a state matter, and voters had already decided on it.

Flavored tobacco ban in CA begins

Without any quotes or other notes, all nine Supreme Court justices

Continued on page 2

Hobo Dinner Pushes for Fun

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - There is a lot of great dinners you can have on a Saturday night in Dixon but a truly unique one is coming up: The Hobo Beef Stew Dinner hosted by the American Legion Auxiliary Dixon Unit 208. It's probably the newspapers that create the tablecloths that add to the dinner's relaxed and fun atmosphere.

It will be at the American Legion Hall, 1305 North First Street on Saturday, January 21, with the no-host bar open at 4:30 and dinner served at 6 p.m.

With the affordable price of only \$10 per person, it's an opportunity to gather up a whole table of friends and get in some good visiting, which is what happens to the many who attend.

"I enjoy the Hobo dinner and it is a lot of work but also a lot of fun," said Pat Holland, who's been Dixon Women's Auxiliary President for nearly 12 years. The dinner will include a hot and plentiful



This table full of friends enjoyed a good visit at last year's Hobo Dinner, and they plan to repeat the fun at this year's on Saturday, January 21.

beef stew with carrots and potatoes along with a roll or French bread and some sort of salad. There is also a take-out option if preferred.

The Auxiliary administers hundreds of volunteer programs across America, giving tens of thousands of hours to communities and veterans, and raising millions of dollars to support

its programs, as well as other worthwhile charities.

Their motto is: "Service to God, our country, its veterans and their families." They hold a strong tradition of patriotism and citizenship. And, it is all accomplished with volunteers including the 25 members belonging to Dixon's Post 208.

The Dixon women hope

to raise \$1,000 for two \$500 scholarships they'll hand out to deserving Dixon grads.

If anyone is interested in joining, see Pat Holland at one of the Friday night dinners or call (707) 301-0941 and ask for her. There is a form to complete and the yearly dues are \$25. A relative or husband needs

Continued on page 3



Create Systems, Not Goals

By Debra Dingman

When I asked around about who does annual ‘slogans’ or ‘mottos,’ this was one of the responses from a particularly intelligent and successful businessman: Create systems, not goals.

I had changed from setting goals to having a slogan a few years back because it was easier to make all life decisions on that one statement. The first year, mine was “Start with Yes.” The second year and when I was exhausted, I changed it to be, ‘Sometimes say No.’

I’ve always been a ‘goal’ person and my hubby has gone along so we’ve written down our goals every New Year but it’s true, we had to create a system to get to the goal so I totally agree with this.

We had areas such as relationships, travels, home improvement projects and also personal things we wanted to improve.

For our relationship, we’ve had plans to be involved together in one club or church program, going on a monthly getaway, or trying a new restaurant once a month. Often, we wrote down two major vacation plans we wanted to experience. Finishing the inside of our garage and re-doing our bathroom cabinets were on the ‘home’ lists in the past that were accomplished.

What I’ve learned from our successes is that the above statement is true. You have to create a system and put it into place to really accomplish something.

There is also importance with posting them on a door or refrigerator where you can regularly see them.

If you want to see what the Dixon City

Council listed as goals, they are posted on large boards inside the Council Chambers. I look at them every time I attend a meeting there. I hope the all-men dais review them regularly too. Are they accomplishing what they set out to do? More importantly, did they create a system to accomplish those goals?

Whenever I decide I need to change something, it’s usually because my doctor has put the fear of God in me, I read a magazine article or book telling me why this change is so important, or I have thought a great deal about how much greater my human experience will be if I make this change. Any of these will work but you still have to create a plan to meet your objective.

After I lost a loved one, I decided I wanted to be more purposeful about getting my family together. My ‘system’ is to talk with my children and grandchildren on a good visit or at a shared activity at least once a month. I know boys like to be more physical, and we’ve got four grandsons so when they visit, I’ve asked hubby to step up with playing basketball or bowling. I may not have everything figured out yet but I’m setting up phone reminders and clearing the calendar.

One friend texts his grown children every night to say that he loves them. After he told me that, I started doing something similar but more like weekly. I could be imagining this, but it feels like my family is growing closer.

I’d like to hear some of the goals and systems people create to achieve their goals so feel free to send them in: debra@dixonindependentvoice.com ★

Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

Burkhardt Farewell

Family, Friends, and Staff attended the Retirement Gathering for City of Dixon Economics Developer Larry Burkhardt this past week at the Senior Multi-Use Center. Burkhardt has been with the City of Dixon for five years and told the guests that most people don’t know what an Economic Developer does but that the job is to bring the mission of the community to fruition through jobs and businesses. He was honored with three collective gifts including a SF Giants vs. Colorado Rockies baseball game and was highly praised for his work in Dixon.



City of Dixon Economics Developer Larry Burkhardt said farewell to his long commute from Roseville by retiring. He was honored at a recent retirement gathering by numerous fans including Mayor Steve Bird who joked over their similar beards. Photo by Debra Dingman

Pork Chop Dinner

This Friday, January 6, the Veterans Dinner menu will be breaded pork chops, potatoes with gravy, veggies, and a roll starting at 6 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street. Cost is \$10 but tips are welcome. Monies go to support the veterans and the facility. The bar will be open.

Planning Cancelled

The Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, January 10, has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on Valentine’s Day, Tuesday, February 14, at 7 p.m.

The Chamber Lunch

Members of the Dixon Chamber of Commerce are invited to a no-host networking lunch on Tuesday, January 17, noon to 1:30 p.m. at Bud’s Pub & Grill, 100 South First Street. For more information, contact the Chamber at (707) 678-2650.

School Back In

Dixon Unified School District students have been out of school for 23 days straight with the Dixon Teen Center not open. Hopefully students are rested and will have their social skills involving fellow students and teachers re-booted quickly. They are expected to be back in classes this coming Monday, January 9.

Skills Assessment

On Saturday, January 7, there will be a 2023 Spring Skills Assessment for Dixon Girls Softball at Hall Park starting with 8U and 10U from 10 a.m. to noon and 12U and 14U from noon to 2 p.m. If you are interested in playing but have not yet signed up, this is a good time to check them out.

Blood Drive

Donate your most valuable offering: Your blood. On Monday, January 16, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. there will be a blood drive at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street. To schedule

your appointment, call Vitalant at (877) 258-4825 and mention blood drive code SMFM014 to sign up and receive instructions. All donors 21 or older will be entered into a drawing to win a trip to the Big Game, a trip valued at \$27,400. For complete rules and details go to vitalant.org/biggame.

Hobo Dinner

Mark your calendar for the American Legion Auxiliary, Dixon Unit 208, annual Hobo Beef Stew Dinner & Raffle on Saturday, January 21, 2023. This is always a whole lot of fun and there are plenty of raffle prizes, too. Tickets are \$10 each. There is a no-host bar that opens at 4:30 and dinner is at 6 p.m. For tickets, please call (707) 592-0991 or inquire at the Veterans Hall.

Fundraising Dinner

Mark your calendars for Monday, February 13, 2023, for the annual Dixon Women’s Improvement Club Scholarships and Grants Fundraising Dinner. At Bud’s Pub & Grill, 100 South First Street in downtown Dixon. Tickets are now on sale and are \$30 per person. Dinners can be eaten inside or taken home from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Call to pre-order at (707) 678-4745 after 4 p.m. on Monday, February 13 if you want to do pick up.

Entrée choices are Prime Rib or Tri-tip, Chicken, Salmon, Pasta or Vegetarian dish. They also will include dinner salad, garlic roasted red potatoes, and bread. There will be a huge raffle drawing of all kinds of goods and services during the evening. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased by any of the DWIC members or call the newspaper office at (707) 678-8917. ★

Flavored Tobacco Ban Begins in California

Continued from page 1

turned down the case last week, ending the last legal avenue to stop the ban and clearing the way for the ban to begin on the 21st. On Wednesday, all flavored tobacco products, including flavored cigarettes, flavored e-cigarette juice, menthol cigarettes, flavored tobacco enhancers, and all other related flavored tobacco products were officially banned. A few exemptions, such as flavored tobacco used in hookah bars, flavored loose-leaf pipe tobacco, and flavored premium cigars costing over \$12, are still allowed under the law, but will be closely regulated from now on.

While some retailers and users have been generally fine with the ban, others noted to the Globe on Thursday that it has already negatively hurt them.

“So we had to take out shelves of the products Tuesday night,” Duy Pham, a convenience store owner in Riverside, told the Globe Thursday, “A lot of customers have been lost and angry the last several days, and

I’d say we have lost hundreds in sales so far. We all knew this was coming, but it’s not great. This isn’t what we wanted at all.”

Others noted that, instead of discouraging users, it was only having them change products.

“We get a lot of teenagers and people in their early twenties here,” said Paul Stevens, a manager at a national convenience store chain. “When we told them what happened, some did get angry, but 99% of them just asked for another type of cigarette brand or something pure tobacco. Others said they’ll simply stock up on the next trip out of state and maybe give some to their friends. Whatever they thought would work, it hasn’t. And it looks like a work around is forming by having people bring it in out of state, so California is losing out in taxes in the end. I don’t think they realized what they did honestly.”

Other states and cities in the U.S. are currently considering similar bans. ★

Reprinted by permission

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS  

Thank
A Veteran Today

FOLLOW US
for Local News and much more!
Dixon Independent Voice

 Facebook: @DIVMPG8
 Twitter: @DIV_MPG8




The Dixon District Chamber of Commerce is proud to welcome the following new members

- Atlas Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning
- B811 Medical Transportation
- Budget Blinds of Fairfield/Vacaville
- Joseph Vituillo - Patelco Credit Union
- Young Professionals of Solano

The Chamber wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

For information on how the Dixon Chamber can help your business be more successful, call 707-678-2650 or email info@dixonchamber.org.

Connect • Communicate • Collaborate

CENTRAL AUTO PARTS
Your Local NAPA Dealer

AUTO & TRUCK PARTS



For All Your Automotive Needs
707-678-2309
1205 N. First Street, Dixon

Joint Planning, Council Meeting to Discuss Zoning

City of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In July 2021, the City initiated a comprehensive update to the City's Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map. This initiative was the next step following the City's General Plan update, which was adopted in May 2021.

Following months of background research and review, two public workshops, and a public survey, the City of Dixon has completed a preliminary draft of updated Zoning regulations and Zoning Map. To facilitate review of the expansive topic, the Draft Zoning Code and Map will be presented and reviewed in three sections prior to official review of the Zoning Code and Map in its entirety for adoption (tentatively in Fall of 2023). Three Joint City Council and Planning Commission Study Sessions will be conducted on each set of preliminary draft regulations to introduce, discuss, and gather input from decision-makers and the community at-large.

Prior to each Study Session, City staff and the project consultant will also host "office hours" where community members can view materials, ask questions, and discuss specific topics with planners and the consultant.

The dates and topics of each study session are listed below.

Study Session #1: District and Use Regulations. Session #1 will cover Zoning District Regulations (use and development standards) Overlay Zoning Districts, Standards for specific uses, and Use classifications (definitions of uses) and the Draft Zoning Map.

Date/Location: Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2023, 6:30 – 9 p.m. at Dixon City Council Chambers.

"Office Hours" will be hosted by staff and consultant between 5-6 pm on this afternoon, in City Hall.

Study Session #2: Citywide

Standards. Session #2 will cover Citywide Standards, i.e. General Site Regulations, Affordable Housing/Density Bonus, Landscaping, Nonconforming Uses/Structure/Lots, Parking, Performance Standards, Measure B, and Signs.

Date/Location: Monday, March 20, 2023, 6:30 – 9 p.m. at Dixon City Council Chambers.

"Office Hours" will be hosted by staff and consultant between 5 - 6 p.m. on this afternoon, in City Hall.

Study Session #3: Administrative Provisions. Session #3 will cover Administration and Permits, Procedures, Authorities, Zoning Clearance, Design Review, Use Permit, Temporary Use Permit, Modifications, Variance, Amendment, Pre Zoning and Enforcement.

Date/Location: Date: Monday, April 24, 2023, 6:30 – 9 p.m. at Dixon City Council Chambers.

"Office Hours" will be hosted by staff and consultant between 5 – 6 p.m. on this afternoon, in City Hall.

All three study sessions will be conducted as a hybrid meeting, both in person, at Dixon City Council Chambers, and also will be available through zoom for participation. See notice for information.

Preliminary draft regulations will be available on the project website (www.cityofdixon.us/zoningupdate) or a hard copy will be available at Dixon City Hall for a minimum of two weeks to provide opportunities for community members to review and comment on the material.

Materials for Session #1 are already posted and available for review.

Materials for Sessions #2 and #3 will be posted to the website listed above or hard copy at city hall two weeks before each of those meetings. ★

Chamber Makes Board Changes



Julia Lopez, Jill Orr, and Fernando Ontiveros were given Plaques of Appreciation for their service on the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Missing is Herb Cross. Chamber courtesy photo

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Shauna Manina, Dixon Chamber of Commerce CEO, along with the Board of Directors, said goodbye to four outgoing Board members this past month and welcomed five new faces.

Completing their terms on the Board were members Herb Cross of Lyons Real Estate, Julia Lopez of Recology, Jill Orr of Dawson's Bar & Grill, and Fernando Ontiveros of Johnson Group powered by Remax Gold.

Incoming Board members who will be installed in January are Joe Bruch of Grocery Outlet, Crystal Rico of Farmers Insurance, Kristina Fink of Lemuria Nursery, Ben Ernest of Dixon Montessori Charter School and Jennifer Huff of Silveyville Cemetery District.

"All are amazing people, and we thank the exiting board members for their service and support of the Chamber and community," said President Robin Tully of Tully Consulting. "We are also excited for our new board members who have a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm that will be helpful for taking the Chamber even further into the future." ★

The new Board members will join Tully from Tully Engineering, Rodolfo Pineda from Dixon Universal Services, INC., Ted Jorgensen from Dixon Tire Pros, Haley Andrew from Dixon Wellness Collective, Kathy Ernest from Ramtown Karate, and Karstin Stranger from Almond Tree Mortgage.

The mission of the Dixon District Chamber of Commerce is to promote the economic vitality of the community through a positive business environment and to foster a climate in which commerce, industry, and agriculture will flourish. Their events and activities implement a goal to bring value to the members by promoting economic well-being through leadership, economic development, education, networking, and advocacy for our business, industry, nonprofit, and community members.

For more information on the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, see 'The Dixon Chamber of Commerce' Facebook page or go to www.dixonchamber.org or call (707) 678-2650. The office is located at 220 North Jefferson, across from the Dixon United Methodist Church. ★

Volunteer Need Continues

Continued from page 1

alongside another long-timer Arlene Mendoza and Janette Barango, Cari Loftin and her Dad, Mike Loftin the week before Christmas setting up in the front and in the back of the church.

"This is about children," Mike said, then pointed out the words, 'The Little Church with the Big Heart' on a sign at the front of the church.

"The parents are actually excited that they get to pick out the toys for their children," said Sepulveda. The toys are not wrapped this year – which turned out to be a plus as the parents were excited, they could choose toys they knew their child wanted, she explained.

"During the pandemic, eight of us did all the wrapping and we spent 10,000 hours on Zoom calls. It's nice to have people that think like me," said Sepulveda, as she stood in the middle of the church sanctuary filled with coat racks, a dozen or more tables filled with toys, blankets, slippers, and socks. The back room was a sea of brown paper bags filled with food that will also be given out to the families as well as senior shut-ins. "The Dixon community goes above and beyond in giving," she added.

Sepulveda started what she calls a "canning/harvesting ministry" a dozen years ago that developed into the Cornerstone food bank that now takes up most of the back of the church. With the help of Robin Adams, her "right hand person," and Ron and Margie Nordman, 40 bags go to needy folks every Friday.

She admits that there are people who could be taking advantage of the charity but says she is not "the food police."

"I pray about it all the time, 'Lord, bring the people who need this.' If they choose to come and take advantage, that's between them and God," Sepulveda said. "We're an outreach church. You never know whose soul you're touching."

Sepulveda and the few other volunteers want to see the Community Christmas Program and the food program continue but they know new energy has to come in.

"You can't say 'this is it,'" Aguirre scolded Sepulveda.

"We need help and don't know how this can go on. It can be someone who re-imagines how to work it," Sepulveda said. If you can help, please contact (707) 678-5234 or drop by 185 West Cherry Street in Dixon. ★

Southwest Park Should Open Next Week



It will probably never look this perfect again, but that's because it is all brand new and spotless clean. After months of delays and a grass re-do, a Notice of Completion and Certificate of Acceptance for Southwest Park was on last Tuesday night's City Council Consent Calendar. This is the park on Pitt School Road and Sunflower Way in the Homestead development. Staff reports the fence is to be removed next week. Photo by Debra Dingman

Hobo Dinner Pushes for Fun

Continued from page 1

to have been in the service. There are no age restrictions.

Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month

at 6 p.m.

"They are very informal," Holland said. "I've been the President for about 11 or 12 years; No one wants the job," she

said with a laugh. She and the other members will be assisting Leah Marlin and Carla Shafer prepare the vast array of raffle baskets. ★

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

Fisk's Cyclery
"Your family bike shop since 1976"

FULL SERVICE BIKE SHOP

Professional
Affordable Repairs
FAST SERVICE!

Monday - Friday 9:30 - 6:00 PM • Saturday 9:30 - 3:00 PM

539 N. Adams St., Dixon • 707.678.4330
fiskscyclery.com

GOOD BETTER BEST

WE HAVE THE RIGHT TIRES FOR YOUR CAR OR TRUCK FOR LESS!

All Tires Come with **FREE** Rotations, Flats and Balance, for the Life of a Set of 4 Tires.

(707) 678-1669
205 Stratford Avenue, Dixon

CHP Highlights New Laws in 2023



California Highway Patrol (CHP) is educating the public on traffic safety laws that were passed during this year's legislative season and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom. Photo courtesy of Michael Ludwig | Dreamstime.com

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As we head into the new year, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is educating the public on traffic safety laws that were passed during this year's legislative season and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom. The laws take effect January 1, 2023, unless otherwise noted.

Public Employment: Peace Officers: Citizenship (Senate Bill (SB) 960, Skinner)

The law maintains that peace officers, including peace officer trainees, be legally authorized to work in the United States consistent with federal law and regulations, however, removes the requirement that they be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

Catalytic Converters (SB 1087, Gonzalez) (Assembly Bill (AB) 1740, Muratsuchi)

These laws specifically list who can sell catalytic converters to recyclers and require those recyclers to keep documentation such as the year, make, model, and copy of the vehicle title from which the catalytic converter was removed. The purpose of these laws is to help reduce catalytic converter theft.

Vehicular Manslaughter: Speeding and Reckless Driving (SB 1472, Stern)

This law expands the criteria for "gross negligence" as it relates to the crime of vehicular manslaughter. Drivers involved in sideshow activity, exhibition of speed, or speeding over 100 miles per hour which results in a fatality could now be charged with Vehicular Manslaughter with Gross Negligence.

Motor Vehicle Speed Contests and Exhibitions of Speed (AB 2000, Gabriel)

Parking lots and off-street parking facilities are now included as locations where it is a crime to engage in a speed contest, exhibition of speed, or sideshow activity.

Endangered Missing Advisory: Feather Alert (AB 1314, Ramos)

The new "Feather Alert" allows law enforcement agencies to request the CHP to initiate an alert when an indigenous person has been kidnapped, abducted, or reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances, and specific criteria has been met to permit alert activation. Additionally, consistent with the Department's existing AMBER, Blue, and Silver Alert programs, this new "Feather Alert" program encourages the use of radio, television, and social media to spread the information about the missing indigenous person.

Hit-and-Run Incidents: Yellow Alert (AB 1732, Patterson)

This law authorizes law enforcement agencies to request the CHP to activate a "Yellow Alert" when a fatal hit-and-run crash has occurred, and specific criteria has been met to permit alert activation. The law also encourages local media outlets to disseminate the information contained in a Yellow Alert. The new law serves to use the public's assistance to improve the investigatory ability for law enforcement agencies throughout the state when working to solve fatal hit-and-run crashes.

Online Marketplaces: Reporting (AB 1700, Maisenschein)

This law requires the Attorney General's Office to create an online reporting system for users of third-party online marketplaces to report listings of suspected stolen items. The reported information would be available to local law enforcement and the CHP's Organized Retail Crime Task Force to assist with investigations.

Bicycles Omnibus Bill (AB 1909, Friedman)

Much like the move over or slow down law, this law provides for increased protections to bicyclists by requiring vehicles passing or overtaking a bicycle in the same direction, to move over to an adjacent lane of traffic, if one is available, or slow down and only pass the bicyclist when safe to do so. The law also permits Class 3 e-bike riders to use approved bicycle paths and trails, bikeways, and bicycle lanes. The law prohibits local governments from requiring bicycle registration and allows local authorities to prohibit any electric bicycle on an equestrian, hiking, or other recreational trail.

Electric Bicycles: Safety and Training Program (AB 1946, Boerner Horvath)

This requires the CHP to work with other traffic safety stakeholders such as the California Office of Traffic Safety, to develop statewide safety and training programs for electric bicycles. This training program, which will consist of electric bicycle riding safety, emergency maneuver skills, rules of the road and laws pertaining to electric bicycles, will launch on the CHP's website in September 2023.

Pedestrians (AB 2147, Ting)

This law prohibits peace officers from stopping pedestrians for certain pedestrian-specific violations, such as crossing the road outside of a crosswalk, unless there is an immediate danger of a crash. The CHP reminds all road users of the responsibility to travel safely and look out for one another on the road.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★



A Thousand Heartbeats

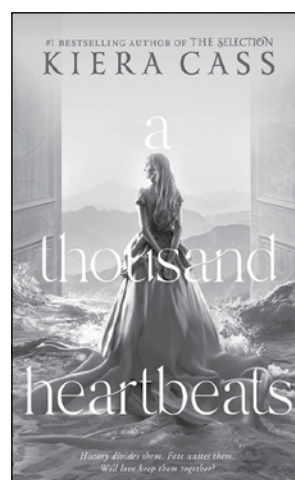
by Kiera Cass

What is the sound of love?

Princess Annika grew up knowing her life would never be her own. Since her mother's disappearance, her father has been a shadow of the man he once was, growing to the point of heartlessness. His focus is now primarily on the duty of the crown.

With duty, honor, and the love of her people, Annika knows she must marry for the political purpose of her Kingdom's safety. However, she will do it on her own terms. While Annika may be afforded the luxuries of royalty, she refuses to allow herself to become weak. Secretly learning to defend herself and fight behind the hilt of her sword rather than the security of hiding behind her guards.

Lennox grew up without the luxuries that are usually afforded to royalty. For his people, that luxury was stolen from them, and Lennox would die by the edge of his sword to take his land back. However, with the Kingdom controlled by his stepfather



◆ Publisher: Harper Teen
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥
◆ Release Date: Nov. 29, 2022

and Lennox labeled as an outcast, the battle must start within his own borders.

But fate is stronger than duty or honor, and it is fate that will bring these two enemies together. With all odds against them and a battle raging, one moment will force them both to listen to the sound that echoes in their hearts.

Fans of Kiera Cass will once again find themselves lost within the pages of a young adult romance tied within the bounds of royalty, honor, forsaken promises, and forbidden desires. ★

A Thousand Heartbeats opens the door for a modern fairytale, enemy to lover's romance that delivers strong, likable characters along with those that will shock and infuriate its readers. Told in alternating voices between the two main characters, readers will be able to see into their heart, their fear, and their inner thoughts making this story longer but very easy to embrace. Action, adventure, battles, and kidnappings grace the pages while supporting characters maintain such a vital role; that readers will be left with the desire to know more about them. The larger size of this book will fade away as readers fly through this story taking a slow build into a fast-paced love story.

Known for her ability to deliver strong women who demand to be heard and not just seen, Kiera Cass delivers a stand-alone beauty to be shelved along with her NYT Bestselling *Selection* series, *The Betrothed* and the *Betrayed*. ★



Beware Aggrieved Empires

China sent 71 aircraft and seven ships toward Taiwan in a 24-hour period, while Russia shelled the Kherson region more than 70 times.

These acts of aggression – occurring 5,000 miles apart, one in a grinding war of attrition, the other as part of an ongoing political and diplomatic struggle that may well result in open hostilities – are related.

It's no accident that the two most dangerous powers in the world, China and Russia, are aggrieved empires seeking to right what they consider the wrongs that resulted in their humiliation and diminishment in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Whereas in the 2000s the most pressing problem of the international system seemed to be malicious sub-national groups operating in un-governed spaces, now it is malicious would-be supra-national entities seeking to take over spaces governed by others.

In his masterly book, "Diplomacy," Henry Kissinger observed, "Empires have no interest in operating within an international system; they aspire to be the international system."

The fall of the Roman Empire was a social and economic catastrophe for the West, but it's been a blessing that no such over-awing behemoth ever rose in its place.

Russia and China, in con-

trast, never lost their imperial DNA, and have chips on their shoulders.

Russia achieved some success in its long-running ambition to be considered a major European power through top-down reforms and military conquest. It gobbled up an estimated 50 square miles a day across a couple of centuries. But it lost the Crimean War in the mid-19th century, suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of Japan in 1905, and then experienced utter cataclysm in World War I.

Marxism-Leninism was supposed to provide a way for backward Russia to leap-frog the West. That didn't happen, but Moscow established a new Communist empire of considerable extent. Of course, this came a cropper with defeat in the Cold War, an event that Vladimir Putin, notably, considers "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the century."

The man who has statues of Peter and Catherine the Great, accomplished Russian imperialists, on display in the Kremlin considers an independent Ukraine merely a tool of hostile Western forces and a wayward part of Greater Russia. Such ideas -- and a deep feeling of shame at Russia's fall -- justify the brutish attempted occupation and dismemberment of Ukraine, a cynical and crude operation even by Russian standards.

If Russia sought to be a respected member of the European club, China believed it needn't bother. It was the Middle Kingdom, the only civilization in a world of barbarians who owed it tribute and deference. Its sense of superiority was punctured by the Opium Wars in the

middle of the 19th century and, as with Russia, a shocking defeat in a conflict with Japan.

Eventually, China, too, turned to Marxism-Leninism. After yet more humiliation and failure, the CCP now is fired with audacious visions of a return to imperial grandeur.

President Xi Jinping is more or less explicit about it. He has said that "since the Opium War of the 1840s the Chinese people have long cherished a dream of realizing a great national rejuvenation." Now, it is on the cusp of providing "a new option for other countries," and "a Chinese approach to solving the problems facing mankind." In short, "it will be an era that sees China moving closer to center stage."

This is a vision of Middle Kingdom redux, although couched in bloodless phrasing.

Xi views Taiwan much the same way as Putin views Ukraine – it rightfully belongs to China, and re-taking it will help salve the geopolitical and psychological wounds of imperial China's spectacular descent into disaster and powerlessness. "We cannot lose even one inch of the territory left behind by our ancestors," Xi told a U.S. official in 2018.

The war in Ukraine shows that when an autocrat ruling a once-great empire speaks in such terms, it is time to arm the targeted state to the teeth and dispense with all illusions.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

(c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

Do You Need **MPG**
Your Legal Ads
Published?
We can help.

Call us now to place
your legal advertising!

916-773-1111

All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.



Heeney's History *The Definition of Awesome*

Commentary
by Ed Heeney

I recently heard a person describing a first time visit to Yosemite as nearly overwhelming with the beauty and majesty of the grand scene. Further described as almost unbelievable, the spectacle held him in awe. It pleases me to watch and listen to someone enjoying the moment and who is truly appreciative of the wonders of life. And as I thought about it a few moments, I was reminded of a few moments in life where I also considered things that caused me to also say, "Wow,

that's awesome!" The more I pondered, the more the list grew. I will describe a few "awesome" experiences that have come my way and hope you can enjoy the moment with me.

- Niagara Falls. As you approach the Canada side you see a majestic river flowing toward a drop off. And as the water tumbles over the edge it gathers speed and crashes to the river below into a roiling basin of water, foam, and mist. Viewed from a frontal position it makes quite a spectacle. I would call it "Awesome!"
- Coliseum, Rome Italy. From a

schoolboy, I have always wished to see the coliseum and in 1964 I had the chance. It stands there in the midst of traffic and pedestrians in its ancient grandeur seeming almost ready for a performance on its stage. As you walk in through open doorways you get the feeling that it is only yesterday. Gazing down at the floor, one can imagine gladiators, wild animals, and other performers getting ready for the show. Gazing at the open ceiling, it is hard to imagine this was once a covered dome. Immerse yourself in being part of this imaginary entertainment and you can have an enjoyable

afternoon. Awesome!

- Sully on the Hudson. The ditching of the airliner in the Hudson River is a WOW right up there with the best of the best. Having been a pilot myself, I can feel the adrenaline whenever I view the picture hanging on the wall in my den of a drawing by Rex Babin of the Sacramento Bee. It pictures crew and passengers all safely gathered on the wings of the plane waiting for rescue crews arrival. Can't you imagine the horror most felt as the pilot and crew were trying to decide what was the best action to take, and knowing that they might not survive

this ordeal? As I viewed the movie, I not only watched with attention, I also entertained a lump in my throat. Awesome.

* On a personal note. A few days ago I decided to get out of bed a little early to make coffee and pick up the paper from the driveway. I slipped out quietly so as not to wake my wife. As I eased down the hallway, I looked over my shoulder to see how I was doing and I saw my partner of 73 years soundly asleep, a light smile, a small sunbeam sneaking through a crack in the shade lighting her facial expression of "all is well." AWESOME! ★



FOLLOW US
for Local News and much more!
Dixon Independent Voice

Facebook: @DIVMPG8
Twitter: @DIV_MPG8

Be a part of something important
Local Writers Wanted

We are looking for local Freelance Writers to provide great coverage.



Call us today at 916-773-1111

Legal Advertising Hotline 916-483-2299
Legal Advertising Fax 916-773-2999

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Dixon's Independent Voice Adjudicated For and By the County of Solano
Adjudication No. FCS030046–November 24, 2008

Legal Advertising
P.O. Box 14
Carmichael, CA 95609

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001962
The following persons are doing business as: James Edward York, 223 Barcelona Street, Vallejo, CA 94591.
James Edward York, 223 Barcelona Street, Vallejo, CA 94591-7410. Date Filed in Solano County: November 29, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration November 28, 2027. 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: Dec 16, 23, 30, 2022, Jan 6, 2023
JAMES 1-6-23

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #FCS059143
Pablo Ramirez Jauregui filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Pablo Ramirez Jauregui to Pablo Ramirez.
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. February 3, 2023, 9:30 a.m. Department 22, Room 3, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Alesia Jones
Dated: November 23, 2022
Publish: Dec 16, 23, 30, 2022, Jan 6, 2023
PABLO 1-6-23

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #FCS059046
Ngan Kim Pham and Viet Hung Nguyen on behalf of Minor Children filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Nathaniel Hung Minh Pham Nguyen to Nathaniel Martino Pham and Catherine Ngan Khanh Pham Nguyen to Catherine Theresa Ngan Pham.
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. February 22, 2023, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Stephen Gizzi
Dated: December 19, 2022
Publish: Jan 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2023
NGAN 1-27-23

Need Legal Advertising?
Call 916/773-1111



NOTICE OF JOINT STUDY SESSION OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION

The Dixon City Council and Planning Commission will hold three (3) hybrid **STUDY SESSIONS** to review and provide feedback on the following project:

- PROJECT:** **Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Update** - Three Joint Study Sessions of the Planning Commission and City Council are scheduled to allow the public, along with Commission and Council, to review initial drafts of the Zoning Ordinance update.
- Session #1** will cover Zoning District Regulations (use and development standards) Overlay Zoning Districts, Standards for specific uses, and Use classifications (definitions of uses) and the Draft Zoning Map, which includes changes to reclassify and rezone property.
 - Session #2** will cover Citywide Standards, i.e. General Site Regulations, Affordable Housing/Density Bonus, Landscaping, Non-Conforming Uses/Structure/Lots, Parking, Performance Standards, Measure B, and Signs.
 - Session #3** will cover Administration and Permits, Procedures, Authorities, Zoning Clearance, Design Review, Use Permit, Temporary Use Permit, Modifications, Variance, Amendment, Prezoning and Enforcement.
- MEETING DATE & LOCATION:**
- Session #1 - Tuesday, 1/31/2023, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.**
 - Session #2 - Monday, 3/20/2023, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.**
 - Session #3 - Monday, 4/24/2023, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.**

These meetings will be at **Dixon City Council Chambers, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620.**

These three Study Sessions will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754)

Prior to each of the previously listed meeting dates, Raffi Boloyan, Community Development Director and Martha Miller, Planning Consultant, "will host "office hours" at City Hall from 5:00-6:00pm to answer any questions or receive comments."

MORE INFORMATION: Contact **Raffi Boloyan, Community Development Director at (707) 678-7000 x1114 or rboloyan@cityofdixon.us**. Documents for all sessions will be available on line at www.cityofdixon.com/zoningupdate. Materials for Session #1 are available as of January 6, 2023. Materials for Session #'s 2 & 3 will be posted 14 calendar days in advance of each meeting. Agendas for each meeting, along with the documents will also be posted on the Agenda page 5 days before each meeting, under "Upcoming City Council meeting" dates at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: Comments from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council and Planning Commission. No decisions will be made at these meetings. These sessions are an opportunity for preliminary public, City Council and Planning Commission review and input.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us or CityCouncil@cityofdixon.us 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, Planning Commission, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the Planning Commission/ City Council and will become part of the official record, but will not be read aloud at the meeting.

You may also attend the Study Sessions at the time and location listed above or participate remotely, to provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments remotely during public comment period, you may 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand" 2) via teleconference press "9"

Dixon Independent Voice 1-6-2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL

The Dixon City Council will hold a hybrid **PUBLIC HEARING** to consider the following project:

PROJECT: **Development Agreement Ordinance** – An Ordinance of the City of Dixon adding Chapter 18.32, Development Agreements, to Title 18, Zoning of the Dixon Municipal Code, establishing procedures and requirements for Development Agreements. The Ordinance, if adopted, would: 1) codify the City's procedures and requirements for consideration of development agreements, as allowed under Government Code section 65864 et seq, and 2) provide clarity and certainty in the planning process by establishing procedures for review and approval of a development agreement. The City would be formalizing the process that it already follows related to development agreements, ensuring that land use development applicants and the public are informed of the process. This item was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at their November 8, 2022 meeting.

The Ordinance is not a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) since it does not have the potential to cause a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. (Pub. Res. Code, § 21065), therefore no CEQA review is required.

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: **Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm** at Dixon City Hall, City Council Chambers, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

MORE INFORMATION: Contact **Raffi Boloyan, Community Development Director at (707) 678-7000 x1114 or rboloyan@cityofdixon.us**. You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also view the staff report 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing, in person or remotely, to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the item. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to making any decision on the Ordinance. The Ordinance will be scheduled for the next City Council hearing for a second reading and adoption.

The meeting will be physically open to the public and all persons attending the meeting must abide by all State rules and public health guidelines, regarding masking and social distancing in City Council chambers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to CityCouncil@cityofdixon.us or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, City Council, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the City Council and will become part of the official record, but will not be read aloud at the meeting.

You may also attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above or participate remotely, to provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments remotely during public comment period, you may 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand" or 2) via teleconference press "9".

At the above time and place, all letters received will be noted and all interested parties will be heard. If you challenge in court the matter described above, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the above referenced public hearing (Government Code Section 65009 (b)(2)).

Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Dixon Independent Voice 1-6-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBJECT: DIXON CITY COUNCIL MEETING N. LINCOLN STREET AND REGENCY PARKWAY FOUR-WAY STOP IMPROVEMENTS

To whom it may concern:
The City Council of the City of Dixon has received a request to consider Four-Way Stop Improvements at the North Lincoln Street and Regency Parkway intersection. This intersection was brought to the Engineering Department's attention in 2022, and City staff has determined that improvements to create a Four-way stop-controlled intersection are necessary to foster a safer experience for pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Copies of the agenda and staff report for the meeting will be available for review on Friday, January 13, 2023 at City Hall as well as the City of Dixon website. The meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2023
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: City Council Chambers
600 East A Street
Dixon, CA 95620

Additionally, the public may participate via video conferencing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9886211137?pwd=R2dxZ3RkbU99SjQxdjUVRk0QlQwZz09> and via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128, meeting ID: 988 621 1137, passcode: 604754 and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment. To speak during public comment via video conferencing click on "Raise Hand", via teleconference press "9".

We welcome and appreciate your participation. If you should have any questions or comments, please contact me at (707) 678-7030 ext. 5311 or by email at jsantos@cityofdixon.us

Sincerely,

Jordan Santos Junior Engineer

Dixon Independent Voice 1-6-2023

LEGAL ADS FOR SOLANO COUNTY?

We Can Do That!

Call to place your legal advertising **916-773-1111**

All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing 

FOLLOW US

for Local News and much more!

Dixon Independent Voice

Facebook: @DIVMPG8
Twitter: @DIV_MPG8

TUNNEL TO TOWERS HONORS OUR MILITARY AND FIRST RESPONDERS

WHO CONTINUE TO MAKE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE OF LIFE AND LIMB FOR OUR COUNTRY

Donate \$11/MO TODAY
T2T.ORG

Tunnel to Towers Foundation

Local Classified

Announcement

Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing, Trusted by Authors since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for your Free Author's Guide 1-877-538-9554 or visit <http://dorranceinfo.com/Call> (Cal-SCAN)

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options. Request a FREE Quote - Call now before the next power outage. 1-844-439-5645 (Cal-SCAN)

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (Cal-SCAN)

NEW AUTHORS WANTED! Page Publishing will help you self-publish your own book. FREE author submission kit! Limited offer! Why wait? Call now: 1-855-667-0380 (Cal-SCAN)



Autos Wanted

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS. Fast Free Pickup - Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - Maximum Tax Donation - Help Find Missing Kids! Call 1-888-491-1453. (Cal-SCAN)

DONATE YOUR CAR OR TRUCK TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. CALL 1-844-491-2884 (Cal-SCAN)

Cable/Satellite TV

DIRECTV for \$79.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! DirecTV is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-888-641-5762. (Cal-SCAN)

Classified Advertising

916 773-1111

CapCon 2023.

Rebuilding TRUST in an Age of Disinformation

The California News Publishers Association hosts **the can't-miss media event of the year.** How disinformation threatens democracy and what journalists can do about it. Scan to learn more, register.

Jan. 31 - Feb. 2
Sacramento

Financial Services

Over \$10K in Debt? Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 1-888-231-4274. (Cal-SCAN)

Health/Wellness

JOIN FOR FREE - NO KITS OR QUOTES & FREE WEBSITE. CTFO (Changing The Future Outcome) has the best CBD oil available. Products for health, beauty, weight or hair loss and even for your pets. Check out these products: canderson.myctfo.com TFN

Insurance/Health

SAVE BIG on HOME INSURANCE! Compare 20 A-rated insurance companies. Get a quote within minutes. Average savings of \$444/year! Call 1-844-410-9609! (M-F 8am-8pm Central) (Cal-SCAN)

Internet

FREE high speed internet for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 1-855-480-0769 (Cal-SCAN)

Miscellaneous

DID YOU KNOW Newspaper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated, condensed, broadcast, tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed countless times throughout the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email cecilia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

The difference in winning and losing market share is how businesses use their advertising dollars. CNPA's Advertising Services' power to connect to nearly 13 million of the state's readers who are an engaged audience, makes our services an indispensable marketing solution. For more info call Cecelia @ (916) 288-6011 or cecilia@cnpa.com

Visit MPG8.com

Real Estate

RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073. No consumer loans. (Cal-SCAN)

Rental

Property is under construction and will soon have 1,2,3, & 4 bedroom units for rent!

The Housing Authority of the County of Butte is currently accepting applications for its Farm Labor Housing property in Gridley, CA. We have 2 Bd. units available at this time. Rental assistance is available and provided by USDA Rural Development for those that meet USDA Rural Development guidelines. For more information contact our office at (530) 895-4474 or TDD 1-800-735-2929.

"The Housing Authority of the County of Butte is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Housing Provider"



We Support Our Military

Schools/Training

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! 1-877-806-0935 (M-F 8am-6pm ET). Computer with internet is required. (Cal-SCAN)

Wanted to Buy

TOP CASH PAID FOR OLD GUITARS! 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins/Banjoes. 1-844-910-1960. (Cal-SCAN)

Wireless

Switch and save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. Limited time offer get \$50 off on any new account. Use code GIFT50. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605 (Cal-SCAN)

Work Wanted

Is it time to declutter and clean your garage and house? I can help! And I prune and weed and wash windows. References. College grad. Call Tim, 916-370-0858. 1230

Messenger Publishing Group
Call to Advertise Here 916 773-1111

WE BUY TRUST DEEDS
We Purchase and Loan on Partial Interests*

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING
Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker
WWW.VIPLAN.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073
CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217
Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

D	A	T	U	M		P	A	S		S	T	A	B	
U	V	U	L	A		A	L	P		U	K	A	S	E
D	I	N	T	S		S	E	E		N	I	X	I	E
E	V	E	R	E	S	T		C	A	S	P	I	A	N
		A	R	T		I	S	L	E					
L	I	T		S	I	A	N		L	A	V	I	S	H
I	D	E	S		E	T	C	H		T	E	C	H	Y
T	I	R	O		S	M	E	A	R		S	H	A	D
H	O	C	U	S		O	N	T	O		T	O	R	R
O	M	E	L	E	T		S	E	M	I		R	I	O
			R	I	F	E		E	N	S				
B	A	R	R	I	E	R		S	O	C	I	E	T	Y
O	N	I	O	N		A	B	A		O	M	A	H	A
A	N	D	E	S		N	I	L		M	O	T	O	R
T	E	E	S			C	O	T		E	N	S	U	E

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • GEOGRAPHY 101

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Piece of data
 - Baryshnikov's step
 - Back wound
 - Soft palate hanger
 - *Any high mountain
 - Tsar's edict
 - Means
 - Bishop of Rome's jurisdiction
 - Female water-elf
 - *Highest mountain
 - *Sea that is also the largest lake
 - A in MoMA
 - *Small island
 - Ignited
 - Lamborghini model
 - Extravagant
 - 15th of March, May, July or October
 - ____-a-Sketch
 - Technology expert
 - Novice
 - Damage one's reputation
 - Lil' Bow Wow's first name
 - Bette Midler's movie "____ Pocus"
 - "I'm ____ you!"
 - Unit of pressure
 - Denver breakfast choice
 - Big rig
 - ____ de Janeiro
 - Excessively abundant
 - Ensign, for short
 - *Great ____ Reef
 - *National Geographic
- DOWN**
- Surfer's "man"
 - Tel ____ Israel
 - Ditty
 - Extremist
 - Masters without t
 - Ghost of Christmas ____
 - Miller High Life, e.g.
 - Four-eyes' gear
 - Bypass
 - Uber alternative
 - *The largest continent
 - Past participle of "be"
 - Remove from political office
 - Eyelid infections
 - Opposite of nothing
 - Burning aroma producer
 - *____sphere, the solid earth
 - "She is pulling my leg," e.g.
 27. 9 a.m. prayer
 - *____sphere, air surrounding earth
 - Sleeveless garment
 - Blood of the gods, Greek mythology
 - Harry Belafonte's daughter
 - *____sphere, all water on earth
 36. Aretha Franklin's genre
 - Type of crime
 - Young Montague
 - Brown and yellow finches
 - Cravat or bola
 - Financial gain
 - 100 centimes
 - "Barefoot in the Park" playwright
 - Summer ride
 - "Green Gables" protagonist
 - Amusement park attraction
 - Sturgeon ____ and salmon ____
 - Table mineral
 - Crow or grub
 - Biblical pronoun
 - Ready and eager
 - *____sphere, all life on earth

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
13					14			15						
16					17			18						
19					20			21	22					
					23			24						
25	26	27			28			29		30	31	32	33	34
35					36			37		38		39		
40								41			42		43	
44					45			46				47		
48					49			50			51		52	
					53			54			55		56	
57	58	59	60					61				62	63	64
65								66	67			68		
69								70				71		
72								73				74		

dish BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/MO. (where available)

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE \$69.99/MO. (includes 190 CHANNELS including Local Channels)

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card (while supplies last) 1-888-416-7103

Classified Advertising

Sell Your Stuff! Reach 1000's of Readers Every Week!

916.773.1111

4	5	9	1	2	6	3	7	8
3	1	8	7	9	5	6	2	4
6	2	7	3	4	8	1	9	5
9	4	5	8	6	1	7	3	2
7	6	1	5	3	2	8	4	9
2	8	3	9	7	4	5	1	6
8	7	6	2	1	9	4	5	3
5	3	2	4	8	7	9	6	1
1	9	4	6	5	3	2	8	7

LEGAL ADS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY?

We Can Do That!

Call to place your legal advertising **916-773-1111**

All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing

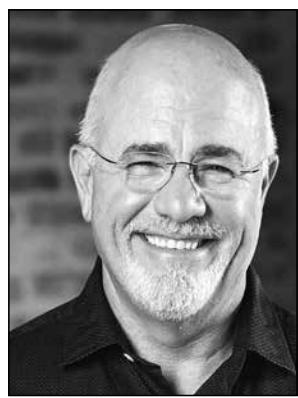
SUDOKU

Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF

SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB 1-855-576-5653

	5			6					
3	1								
		7		4	8	1	9		
	4			6			3	2	
7								9	
2	8			7				1	
	7	6	2	1		4			
								6	1
				6					8

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.



Dave Ramsey Says

File Bankruptcy? That's Really Bad Advice

Dear Dave,

My husband co-signed a loan for an old girlfriend four years ago. Apparently, she hasn't made a payment in almost two years, and a collection agency called him last week wanting the balance of \$3,000. We make about \$80,000 a year combined, and an attorney we spoke with recommended we file bankruptcy. Is this really the best thing to do?

– Scarlett

Dear Scarlett,

If you have the money, and you can pay it off without putting yourselves in a bind financially, do it. That's the right thing to do, both morally and legally. If you don't have that kind of cash on hand, try haggling with them. See if they'll agree to settle for \$1,500. At this point, they might even take less. But if they go for the idea, do not give them electronic access to your bank account. Make sure you get the agreement in writing, too, before sending them a penny.

Here's the deal. This collector bought the loan for pennies on the dollar. It's an old debt, and that means the expectation for collection is very low. At the same time, your husband did co-sign for the loan. They'll probably threaten to sue and whatnot, but my guess is you

can work something out. It might take two or three weeks – and a little patience – but that's a small price to pay if it saves you a bunch of money.

Oh, and the attorney you talked to? He doesn't sound very bright. A bankruptcy stays on your record for years. Trashing your financial life over \$3,000 would be stupid.

Good luck, Scarlett!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling 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. ★



Riley Reviews

'GLASS ONION' MYSTERY LAYERS; 'SPECIAL FORCES' REALITY TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"GLASS ONION: A KNIVES OUT MYSTERY" on NETFLIX

The challenge of writing about a whodunit is to impart enough information about the characters and the basic setup without divulging too much about the twists and surprises.

A murder mystery should be peeled back like the layers on an onion. The title alone, "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery," suggests the same, even though the onion in question is an architectural feature of an island estate.

"Glass Onion" may be considered a sequel to Rian Johnson's 2019 "Knives Out" in the same way that the James Bond franchise was launched when "From Russia with Love" followed "Dr. No."

Just as Sean Connery was the common thread of the 007 character in those early films, Daniel Craig is the Hercule Poirot-type detective Benoit Blanc holding together a budding new whodunit franchise.

The fun begins with longtime friends and associates of tech billionaire Miles Bron (Edward Norton) receiving puzzle boxes containing invitations to a weekend on his lavish private estate on a Greek island.

The guest list includes Miles' former business partner Cassandra "Andi" Brand (Janelle Monae), Connecticut governor Claire Debella (Kathryn Hahn) who's running for the senate, and cutting-edge scientist Lionel Toussaint (Leslie Odom Jr.).

Fashion designer and ditzzy former model Birdie Jay (Kate Hudson) and her assistant Peg (Jessica Henwick), and Twitch influencer Duke Cody (Dave Bautista) and his sidekick girlfriend Whiskey (Madelyn Cline) round out the party.

Not in the circle of Miles' group is world famous detective Benoit Blanc, but here he is on the dock with the other guests for the boat ride to Miles' hideaway. Since the event is a game about the billionaire turning up "dead," why not involve a real sleuth?

On our first glimpse of Benoit, he's in his bathtub playing an online murder mystery game with friends Angela Lansbury, Stephen Sondheim, Natasha Lyonne and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

Suffering from ennui and lack of a challenge from a great case, Benoit tells his gaming buddies that his "mind is a fueled-up racing car, and I got nowhere to drive it." This is all the more reason for the famed sleuth to join the eclectic group for the murder mystery game.

Miles is fond of calling his guests "disruptors" and in a sense, some of them seem more so than others. Claire appears to be an idealistic candidate for higher office, but she's being bankrolled by Miles.

Others have a connection to Miles' bounty as well. Lionel actually works as a scientist for Miles. Former partner Andi has been estranged from Miles due to bad blood over their business breakup.

As in all the best murder mysteries, where writer-director Rian Johnson has crafted a really good one with thrills and humor, each character harbors their own secrets, lies and motivations.

Here's hoping that Netflix will deliver another crowd-pleasing "Knives Out" installment, and that we will learn more about the enigmatic Benoit Blanc and how he came to be as resourceful as Hercule Poirot and Sherlock Holmes.

"SPECIAL FORCES: THE ULTIMATE TEST" ON FOX

Presented as the ultimate celebrity social experiment, "Special Forces: The Ultimate Test" is an all-new series on FOX television in which ostensible household names endure some of the harshest, most grueling challenges from the playbook of the actual Special Forces selection process.

Unlike other survivor reality shows, there are no votes and no eliminations in the expected sense. No one will be voted off the island. These celebrities, who are so used to being in the spotlight, quickly learn the meaning of "no guts, no glory."

Selection for the Special Forces is a test unlike any other. Sixteen celebrities from all genres will take on, and try to survive, demanding training exercises led by Directing Staff (DS) agents, an elite team of ex-Special Forces operatives.

In this unique series, the only way for these recruits to leave is to give up on their own accord, through failure or potential injury, or by force from the DS agents.

Viewers will see the recruits face the harshest of environments that simulate the highly classified selection process.

The celebrities will push themselves in a way they never have been challenged before. They face the ultimate test of their physical, mental and emotional resilience, revealing their deepest and truest character.

Who are these celebrities? Who will quit, who will survive? Some of the celebrities are known better than others. Mike Piazza, a Hall of Fame catcher mostly with the Mets and Dodgers, played for 16 seasons in the MLB.

Dr. Drew Pinsky, known nationally as "Dr. Drew," has been a ubiquitous figure both on television and radio for the entirety of his career. Kate Gosselin might be remembered for the reality series "Jon and Kate Plus 8."

Anthony Scaramucci was the Communications Director in the Trump White House for a day or two. No, actually it was a full ten days before he was caught up in controversy. He's authored five books, so that should go a long way in making him fit, or not, for the Special Forces challenge. ★

Hospitals Finally Face the Music



Commentary by Sally C. Pipes

Two Georgia hospitals were recently fined \$1.1 million for failing to publish their prices. The facilities had also ignored letters from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services asking them to publicly disclose what they charge for procedures.

It's about time. The federal government directed hospitals to publish clear, consumer-friendly charge lists by the beginning of 2021. Six months later, just 6% of hospitals nationwide had complied, according to a study published in June in the medical journal JAMA.

Hospitals shouldn't be able to get away with flouting the law. Price transparency empowers patients and payers to shop around for medical care – and ultimately allows them to leverage the power of competition to extract the best value for their dollar.

The Trump administration issued the price transparency rule in 2019. It required hospitals to

publish standard prices for 300 of their most common services, including rates for insurers and those for individuals paying cash. The rule set daily fines for non-compliant institutions, which the Biden administration increased in November 2021.

Since the rule took effect, hospitals have been cautioned plenty. CMS has issued more than 350 warning letters requesting compliance.

Yet transparency has lagged. The biggest medical centers have been among the worst offenders. Just 0.5% of facilities owned by the country's three largest hospital systems were fully compliant as of early 2022, according to a report from Patient Rights Advocate.

Hospitals may be leery of revealing their prices because the results can be embarrassing. In one case, an Illinois patient received a \$15,000 hospital bill for an EpiPen. He later learned he could have purchased the same device from a pharmacy for \$320.

Or, take the recent experience of a couple in Fresno, Calif. According to reporting from NPR, the husband underwent cataract surgery with an in-network provider that cost over \$4,000. His wife, who has the same coverage, received the same exact procedure at a neighboring clinic – and only owed \$204. The two facilities were just a half

mile from one another.

High-cost providers wouldn't be able to get away with those wide spreads in price if patients and payers knew about them. That's why a 2021 RAND Corporation study projected that improving price transparency could reduce U.S. healthcare spending by up to \$26.6 billion a year.

Of course, some hospitals may be justified in charging more than others. Factors like quality, convenience, and reputation of doctors and hospitals always influence price. But patients and payers should be able to evaluate those factors on their own. Hiding prices deprives them of key pieces of information that help them make prudent decisions.

Opaque prices also undermine competition – and thus help healthcare providers avoid improving quality or reducing costs in order to attract customers at the margin. The feds did the right thing by fining hospitals that aren't following the rules. But more needs to be done to make hospitals around the country do what businesses in every other sector do every day – tell potential customers what they can expect to pay.

Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Follow her on Twitter @sallypipes. This op-ed originally ran in the Chicago Sun-Times. ★

Demolition-by-Neglect: How the Legislature Plans to Destroy State History

Commentary by Save Our Capitol!

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Save Our Capitol! issued the following statement in response to the California Legislature's claim that the Capitol Annex, one of the state's most significant historic governmental buildings, is too damaged to rehabilitate:

"The Capitol Annex is in need of significant repairs to ensure the safety of legislative and executive staff; however, much of these repairs could – and should – have been done over the past 70 years. In 2005, the Department of General Services (DGS) prepared a plan to upgrade and modernize the building, but the Legislature decided not to move forward with it. Now, lawmakers say it's too damaged to rehabilitate. That's simply not true.

"After they neglected to properly maintain the building, and without conducting a rehabilitation feasibility study, DGS and the Joint Committee on Rules (JRC), lead on the project within the Legislature, decided demolition was the only option. They had no basis upon which to conclude that the building could not be rehabilitated to modern standards.

"In fact, the State knows exactly how to rehabilitate older buildings. The original Capitol, Library and Courts Building, and the Jesse M. Unruh Building have all been successfully rehabilitated. They are all older buildings than the Annex. And, claims that asbestos abatement is impossible for the Annex are misleading. The Unruh Building contains asbestos, as do many older buildings, and crews are able to properly remove it or rehabilitate around it, which is very common with historic buildings. The Environmental Impact Report for

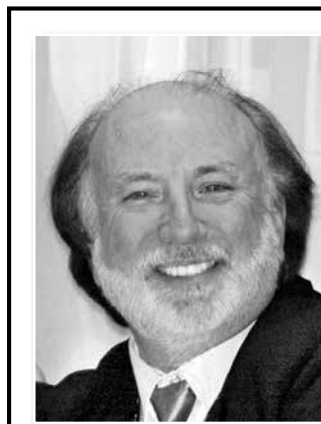
the Unruh Building contains plans for how crews will properly remove and dispose of hazardous materials such as asbestos and lead-based paint, and even calls on "restoring the building to the Secretary of the Interior Standards and Guidelines for the Restoration of Historic Buildings." The same standards the State is refusing to comply with for the Capitol Annex Project.

"Clearly, the State is capable of preserving and rehabilitating – rather than demolishing – when it wants to, so why are lawmakers choosing to destroy Capitol Park, the West Steps, and the Annex to the tune of \$1.2 billion when rehabilitation is estimated to cost around \$500 million?

"The choice is between erasing or embracing a central part of California's history. It's clear to us which side the Legislature and DGS should be on, but without Governor Newsom's engagement, state history will be erased and every Californian will lose the ability to walk the halls of their Capitol Annex and gather or protest at the West Steps.

"With the support of California voters, taxpayers, small businesses, preservationists, and environmentalists, we will continue to fight to save the historic Annex, Capitol Park, the West Steps, and the entire west side of the original Capitol."

About Save Our Capitol!
The purpose of Save our Capitol! is to preserve the site of the historic Capitol and its surrounding Park as the center and symbol of Californians' right to truth, transparency, and trust in self-governance. Follow Save Our Capitol! on Twitter and act to #StopTheDemolition by visiting www.saveourcapitol.org ★



Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

Dixon Independent Voice is a member of Messenger Publishing Group

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher." If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.



Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

It is the intent of the *Dixon Independent Voice* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

The *Dixon Independent Voice* is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the *Dixon Independent Voice* are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the *Dixon Independent Voice* is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

Subscriptions should be mailed to:
Dixon Independent Voice
P.O. Box 1106, Dixon, CA 95620

Subscription rate is \$39 per year within Dixon and Solano County. \$59 per year (Mail only).

Main Office Address: 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The *Dixon Independent Voice* is published weekly on Friday.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



Getting More Covered

By Elizabeth Aguilera, CALMatters.org

Hundreds of thousands of Californians previously shut out of Covered California — the state program that offers discounted health insurance — soon can participate because the eligibility requirements are changing.

Prior to the new rules, individuals who had access to an employer-based health insurance plan through a family member were not eligible for Covered California. Employer plans are often expensive for spouses or children, driving up the cost of coverage for those family members. Those caught in this unaffordable “family glitch” have few choices: buy the expensive plan, try to buy a barebones plan separately or go without health insurance.

In April, the Biden administration issued guidelines to fix the near-decade-long problem and last month the federal government adopted the regulation. Starting in January 2023, if a family’s premium costs more than 9.12% of the household income the family could be eligible for federal subsidies, or discounts, through Covered California.

According to the UC Berkeley Labor Center, the “glitch” impacts an estimated 615,000 people in California, mostly women and children from low and middle-income families. The center estimates that about 400,000 of those people would be eligible for financial assistance through Covered California based on their income.

“For the people impacted, it could be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars,” said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access California, a consumer rights group. “It really does have an impact on the health and well-being of the family and their finances.”

A state analysis by Third Way, a national think tank, found that a California family of four with \$53,000 in annual earnings would likely save about \$4,340 a year in health insurance premium costs. The report shows that lower-income households would see the most significant savings.

The federal government is footing the bill for the expansion and pays subsidies directly to the health plans based on Covered California’s marketplace prices. The Congressional Budget Office reported that it would cost \$44 billion over the next 10 years to cover family members previously impacted by the family glitch.



More people will be eligible for health insurance through Covered California. Photo courtesy of Alexander Rathes | Dreamstime.com

Covered California pays for outreach to families, including those who have been caught in the glitch, said Jessica Altman, executive director of Covered California. Covered California has a \$109 million annual budget for marketing and the bulk is spent during open enrollment to outreach to Californians to sign up or renew coverage.

Open enrollment started this week and runs through Jan. 31, 2023. Coverage can begin as early as Jan. 1.

California health advocates have been trying to solve the glitch at the state level for years but it was too expensive for the state to pay the cost. The federal government had to decide to fix it and fund it.

This change should help reduce the number of uninsured people in California. The state has experienced the steepest decline in the number of uninsured since the federal Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, launched in 2013. Since then, some 35 million people have enrolled in health plans nationwide, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The state’s rate of uninsured residents dropped from 17% in 2013 to 7% in 2021. More than half of the 3 million still uninsured in California are eligible for some sort

of coverage, according to UCLA Center for Health Policy Research and UC Berkeley Labor Center. The remainder, about 1.2 million, are undocumented immigrants who are ineligible for coverage through the exchange, although some may now qualify for public programs.

Any change that increases coverage for Californians, especially children, is a boon, Wright said.

“This is a big deal toward the goal of a government guarantee that everybody has access to affordable health coverage,” Wright said of the policy change. “The more we get rid of asterisks and exclusions the better.”

The change comes as employers continue to shift insurance costs to families. According to a Kaiser Family Foundation survey, premiums for family coverage increased 22% between 2016 and 2021.

Nationally, about 5 million individuals are eligible only for unaffordable employer-provided insurance. More than half of those are children. Among adults, more women than men are caught in the glitch.

“It created an unaffordable situation for a small but meaningful group of people,” said Christine Eibner, a senior economist focused on health care at RAND, a nonprofit research

organization that published a report about the issue in 2015. “Most of them were enrolling anyhow and paying the higher premium. They could be paying 15% to 20% of their income.”

In California, of the estimated 615,000 who are stuck with high-priced employer insurance plans as their only option, researchers estimated that about 87,000 are uninsured, Altman said. About 35,000 are in the individual market paying full rates and the majority are paying for that expensive employer-sponsored coverage, Altman said.

“There are families that can save thousands of dollars — middle-income families, lower-income families — that it’s going to make a significant change for,” Altman said. “There is value in helping people who have coverage to connect with lower-cost coverage.”

If people are uninsured or have expensive coverage they are less likely to get the care they need.

Those who stretch their budgets to sign up for employer-based plans may take the least expensive plan with higher deductibles or catastrophic coverage, Wright said. That could result in people going to the doctor less or not using the plans they have because they would still have to pay out of pocket.

“We believe it’s important to have the whole family covered,” Wright said. “There is a real result of not having coverage. The uninsured live sicker, die younger and are one emergency away from financial ruin.”

The Affordable Care Act requires employers with at least 50 employees to offer health insurance to them and their dependents. Spouses are usually included but not required under the law. In California, 47% of people are enrolled in an employer-provided plan. A national study published in the Health Affairs Journal found that families spend an average of 16% of household income paying employer-based premiums.

Before the latest change, the Affordable Care Act allowed employees to obtain insurance through discounted state programs if their employer health plan cost more than 9.1% of their income, which is considered unaffordable. Employers face penalties if their workers are obtaining insurance through those state programs.

Also, prior to the latest change, the law did not define affordability for family members and employers faced no penalties related to the cost of premiums for family members. ★

Stealing is Stealing

By Katy Grimes, California Globe

A massive rise in retail theft is contributing to “shrinkage” at brick-and-mortar retailers, contributing to the growth of online sales.

“The National Retail Federation estimates that shrink—an industry term for loss in inventory—amounted to roughly 1.4% of retail revenue in 2021, or roughly \$94.5 billion. Most of that shrink is caused by theft, the Wall Street Journal reports.

The Globe reported on California’s retail theft last May:

The escalation of organized “smash-and-grab” robberies in cities around the country has been costly. CNN reported in January that retailers across America say shoplifting is now 2% to 3% of their total sales, forcing the retailers to install new security systems, video cameras and security staff.

A 2021 survey of retailers found 65% acknowledged an increase in violence, while 37% said Organized Retail Crime gangs were much more aggressive than in the past.

With every legislative solution killed by California’s Democratic supermajority, retailers and Chambers of Commerce formed Californians Against Retail and Residential Theft (CARRT), and launched a campaign to raise lawmakers’ and the public’s knowledge of the growing theft problem in the state. CARRT is a broad-based coalition of business associations, local groups, and victim organizations advocating for California officials to act now to undo the damage done by Proposition 47.

Not the Bee also addresses this shrinkage: the Covid lockdowns.

“Whoever had the bright idea to shut down the entire U.S.



Retail Theft is a \$94.5 Billion Crime Problem at American Stores. Retailers say Covid-19 has worsened the risk of crime. Photo courtesy of Dreamstime

economy, confine people to their homes indefinitely, foment open-ended hysteria about a respiratory virus, and drive inflation to sky-high record rates — congratulations, your strategy is bearing fruit.” Not the Bee reported.

“Brick-and-mortar retail’s indisputable edge over e-commerce is that consumers can get what they want immediately, and can touch and feel the product before buying it. Raising theft — and stores’ measures to prevent it — could dull that edge,” WSJ said.

The National Retail Federation report also found that the vast majority (89.7%) of respondents report that their Loss Prevention department is evaluated according to inventory shrink levels — in

other words, shrink reduction is part of their goals, objectives or performance measures. Just 10.3% reported that they were not.

“Retailers surveyed by the NRF said Covid-19 has worsened the risk of crime, partly because labor shortages have made it difficult to fully staff stores,” WSJ said. “Moreover, supply-chain shortages made certain products more susceptible to theft because they fetched high value in secondary markets.”

“Can you imagine a more predictable outcome from the pandemic policies we enacted to fight COVID-19?” Not the Bee asks. “We threw our entire way of life — our economy, our organizations, our social structures, our education — into a complete

and total tailspin.”

“Shrink can have a substantial impact on already thin retail margins. Target said that the rise in shrink, including theft, reduced its gross profit by more than \$400 million in the first three quarters of its fiscal year, compared with a year prior. For the full fiscal year, it estimates that its gross profit will take a \$600 million hit.”

“Although shrink is a perennial problem in retail, it really took off when the pandemic hit. In the five years leading up to 2019, retail shrink grew at a compound annual growth rate of roughly 7%, according to data from the NRF,” WSJ said. “In 2020, it jumped 47%, and rose another 4% on top of that huge jump in 2021. Some retailers, including Ulta Beauty and Target, have

said that shrink has gotten worse again this year. ‘When times get tough, shrink goes up,’ Ulta Beauty Chief Financial Officer Scott Settersten said on the company’s earnings call on Dec. 1. ‘We’ve seen that in retail over a long period of time.’”

And who will pay for these increasing retail costs? “Retailers will ultimately pay for shrink risk in some form or another—either on the top line if they want to keep stores completely accessible or on the bottom line if they spend heavily on labor and mitigation measures,” WSJ said. “Finding the right balance will be key to preserving brick-and-mortar businesses.”

And if you wonder why toothpaste, shaving cream and laundry detergent is under lock and key at many stores, it is a theft mitigation measure, according to retailers.

California’s nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California released a report that found a direct correlation between Proposition 47 and a marked increase in larceny thefts across California, despite many media reports attempting to refute the correlation, the Globe reported. As for any legislative support from the California Legislature, don’t hold your breath:

The California Assembly Public Safety Committee heard and killed Assembly Bill 1599 by Assemblyman Kevin Kiley (R-Granite Bay) in March, which sought to repeal Proposition 47, and “make crime illegal again.”

“Retail theft losses may be the straw that breaks the camel’s back,” said Julian Canete, President and CEO of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce. “Something needs to be done before mom and pop stores are stolen from our communities.” ★

Reprinted by permission

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



CRIN and BEAR IT

LAFF-A-DAY

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

CLEANING

CONSTRUCTION

WATER SERVICES

S & Y Cleaning Services
Weekly • Bi-Weekly • Monthly • One Time
Weekends • Move-Ins • Move-Outs
Lots of References on Request
Gift Certificates Available
(707) 689-6532
FREE ESTIMATES

ALBERTAZZI CONSTRUCTION
GENERAL CONTRACTING
Consistent Results
(916) 257-5400
CA LIC # 560820
Based in Dixon Since 1991

You could give your people
Culligan Water
(530) 662-0295
culliganwoodland.com

PREGNANCY

PROPANE

Pregnant? Worried?
We Can Help!
All services are free & completely Confidential.
Info on Pregnancy, Adoption & Abstinence
Post-Abortion, Miscarriage & Stillbirth Counseling
707-449-8991
Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center
138 S. Orchard St. Vacaville

We live where you live
We understand your propane service needs.
WE ARE
Pro-Gas
ALLIED PROPANE
(707) 678-8500
1700 N. First Street | Dixon
RobL@alliedprogas.com

FOLLOW US
for Local News and much more!
Messenger Publishing Group
@MPG8dotcom

California Water Service

Call us for **FREE** Water Conservation Information
201 S. First St. • Dixon
707.678.5928

You're Invited To

Loving God,
Loving Others,
Serving Our World

Sunday Services
Adult Bible Study 9:00 am
Worship 10:30 am
With Kids and nursery programs available

SMALL GROUPS MEET THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

Frank Salamone - Pastor/Teacher
Mike Bates - Associate Pastor
185 W. Cherry St. • Dixon • 707-678-5234
www.cornerstoneindixon.com

Spending Your Money



Gov. Gavin Newsom addresses a press conference where he unveiled his budget proposal for 2022-23 in Sacramento on Jan. 10, 2022. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

By **Alejandro Lazo**
and **Jeanne Kuang**,
CALMatters.org

California faces a projected deficit next year even if the U.S. avoids a recession. Despite the expected shortfall, policymakers say they'll maintain spending on social programs though advocates are calling for more.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently said in its annual forecast that Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Democratic Party-controlled Legislature are facing a \$24 billion projected budget deficit for the next fiscal year.

If the state enters a recession the outlook is even worse, with revenues predicted to fall short by \$30 billion to \$50 billion. The governor signed a record-breaking \$308 billion budget in June.

The legislative analyst attributes the projected shortfall to California's reliance on those whose incomes often ebb and flow with the price of stocks, real estate and other investments.

"Those are the same people who get a lot of their income from financial investments," said Legislative Analyst Gabriel Petek. "That volatility then gets transmitted directly to the state budget."

The governor will present a proposed budget in January and then a revision in May. The budget, which the Legislature must approve, will fund state government for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

H.D. Palmer, spokesperson for the state Department of Finance, declined to comment on whether social spending cuts might be proposed.

He did say, however, that the governor's priority was to not scale back programs that people have come to depend on, or to begin new ones. Some program expansions in later fiscal years could be delayed if there isn't enough revenue to support them, he said.

The goal is to avoid the kind of drastic program reductions enacted during the Great Recession that took years for the state to restore.

The state's Democratic legislative leaders have said they are not inclined to cut recently expanded programs, such as the extension of free health care to low-income undocumented immigrants, which began with older adults this year and is slated to open up to all ages in January 2024. The expansion is expected to cost more than \$2 billion annually.

The budget is in a much stronger position than it was during the state's last fiscal crisis, said Phil Ting, the Assembly budget committee chair from San Francisco.

"We have a significant amount of cash available, both in terms of reserves, but also in terms of liquidity," Ting said. "So this is a very different situation than the state faced in 2008-2009, where they were running out of cash."

The governor, nevertheless, has signaled he is being cautious. Newsom in October said he had vetoed 169 bills and saved taxpayers billions. Seventy-five of those vetoes were directly budget related, with many including boilerplate language that the state was facing "lower-than-expected revenues" and that it was "important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing."

Among the bills vetoed by the governor earlier this year were proposals to expand government-funded care for new mothers, expand free transit programs for California students and create grants for graduate students in mental health who commit to working at certain California-based nonprofits.

Newsom, whom voters elected to another four-year term, has used surpluses to pay down debts, build reserves and provide direct



California Governor Gavin Newsom is photographed at a press conference in Fontana on February 17, 2022. Photo by Alisha Jucevic for CalMatters

payments to millions of Californians.

Recently Moody's Analytics rated California one of the states most prepared for a recession, citing its reserves.

Nevertheless, California's budget enacted in June 2021 committed to \$3.4 billion in new ongoing spending and is expected to grow to \$12 billion in the 2025 budget year. The budget enacted in June of this year committed an additional \$2.3 billion, expected to grow to nearly \$5 billion by the 2026 budget year, the Legislative Analyst's Office said.

The state has \$37 billion in specific reserve funds. That includes about \$23 billion in a rainy-day fund voters agreed to strengthen in 2014 at the urging of then-Gov. Jerry Brown. The state also has \$900 million in a reserve account for safety net programs. The rest of those reserve funds are in school-specific and general operating reserves.

But, Palmer noted, the state can only draw down the rainy-day fund by half in any year. The Legislative Analyst's Office has advised the Legislature to slow down

or pause program expansions before dipping into reserves.

Ting's office contends the state has billions in unspent federal and state dollars in its coffers that could address a potential deficit. Using that money would avoid cuts to programs but delay other projects.

Anti-poverty advocates said in interviews they plan to continue pushing for program expansions, arguing the precipice of a downturn is the time to bolster social spending, not cut it.

Nearly 30% of California residents live in or near poverty, according to the Public Policy Institute of California. Experts expect poverty rates to increase after the end of a boost in federal cash aid, which came in 2021 in the form of an expanded child tax credit included in the American Rescue Plan Act.

Advocates are proposing that California mimic that federal expansion by opening up the state's Young Child Tax Credit, currently a \$1,000-a-year credit for low-income families with children under age 6, to include all children in low-income households.

They estimate 1 million children live in families that would qualify, at an additional cost of \$700 million a year.

Advocates said they also want the state to create an unemployment benefits program for undocumented immigrants and to include all low-income immigrants, regardless of immigration status, in its food assistance program.

"We know the projected budget shortfalls make it more challenging, but the past few years highlighted why something like this is so important," said Sasha Feldstein, economic justice policy manager at the California Immigrant Policy Center. "People who are excluded from our safety net have been the most adversely impacted from the COVID-19 pandemic and are the most harmed during times of economic downturn."

Lawmakers and Newsom this year allocated money to expand the California Food Assistance Program, a state version of food stamps, to include undocumented immigrants age 55 and older; the benefits are expected to become available late next year. Newsom vetoed a bill that would have tested an unemployment benefits program for undocumented immigrants, citing costs.

The projected shortfall is the state's first major fiscal challenge since Newsom's office predicted a \$54 billion shortfall in May 2020, when the country was in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic. After financial markets rebounded and the federal government provided unprecedented stimulus, the anticipated shortfall resulted in surpluses.

The Federal Reserve began hiking interest rates in March 2022 to cool inflation. Then housing sales, initial public stock offerings and stock markets fell. All are important sources of personal income

tax revenue.

In California, personal income withholding fell even as the job market recovered.

Over the last decade, California has increasingly relied on some of the state's highest earners to fund its budget which, among other things, takes aim at poverty and some of the nation's starkest income inequality.

Much of the state's general fund is paid for by its progressive personal income tax, which voters in 2012 raised on the state's highest earners after Brown warned of cuts to health and education. In 2016 voters extended those higher income tax rates through 2030 while also allowing a temporary sales tax to expire. The increases, meant for education and healthcare spending, have also paid for increased social safety net spending.

About 49% of the personal income tax paid in California in 2020 came from just 1% of tax filers, according to the state's finance department. And in the past decade, taxes collected from the most volatile form of income — capital gains — have doubled, making up a larger share of the state's revenue and tying the state's budget to particularly unstable economic cycles.

To address that, voters approved changes to the state's rainy-day fund in 2014. The changes serve as a check on spending, directing California to capture additional dollars in reserve when capital gains tax receipts are high.

Building reserves large enough for a state to ride through a recession is difficult, said Donald Boyd, a state finance expert at the University of Albany in New York.

"As a practical matter, it is very hard to build a rainy-day fund that's big enough to get you through a rainy season," Boyd said. "You need huge amounts of money to offset the effects of even a modest recession." ★