



Rams Suffer First Defeat with Home Loss to Wood

PAGE 10

Final Farewell for Queen Elizabeth II

PAGE 4



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SEE INSIDE

GROCERIES GIVEN FOR NEEDY



PAGE 3

FESTIVAL OF TREES SHIFTS INTO GEAR



PAGE 7

SENIOR GARAGE SALE SUCCESS



PAGE 2

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Homecoming Traditions Bring Fun



About 30 Dixon High students put together activities for the student body and attend a regular class called Leadership where this month, they worked on Homecoming Week, a long tradition with many details. Online voting, coordinating rallies, ground logistics, even decorating are all handled by subgroups like this one. (L-R) Casey Vaughn, Kayla Canady, Shelby Moody, Dulce Guerrero, Tyler Morey, Jesiah Suarez, and Seyyid Smith.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - While this Friday, September 23, may very well be one of the quietest homecomings ever in Dixon as students continue to recoup school experiences and disconnects from COVID, there are some fun-filled activities going on out at 555 College Way. Spirit Week is one of them.

The Associated Student Body leaders created the menu of funny wear during the week. Monday was Favorite Team Jersey Day; Tuesday was Cosmo vs. Wanda,

based on a popular cartoon, 'The Fairly OddParents' - where the parents are fairies and raising a son who grant him wishes to solve his everyday problems; Wednesday was Dress Down Before You Dress Up; Thursday was Construction Zone; and this Friday is Wear Green Day.

"This is my 24th year and since my first year here, nothing has changed," said Norma Holtmeyer, Secretary for the Athletic Director and ASB Clerk. "Just the faces have changed. There may have been a tweak here or there but it's all the same. There will be a rally in the gym." However, there are no floats, or a parade planned.

What also is the same is the stadium filled with a zealous pep squad, lots of cheerleaders, and hundreds of families and friends to cheer on the Dixon Rams football players.

There will also be the introductions of the Homecoming Court and the crowning of the Homecoming Queen and King - a faithful tradition for so many years, a beginning could not be found in all the yearbooks at the Dixon History Museum.

Wikipedia reports the tradition of homecoming has its origin in alumni football games held at colleges and universities since the 19th century.

Continued on page 3

Bill Signed to Crack Down on Street Racing and Illegal Sideshows

From the Office of Jesse Gabriel

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Monday, September 19, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 2000, which will prohibit street racing and sideshows from occurring in parking lots across the state.

The bipartisan measure, authored by Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel (D - Woodland Hills), aims to crack down on dangerous driving - including street racing, "sideshows," and street takeovers - which continue to cause injuries and fatalities across California.

"Far too frequently, street racing and illegal sideshows devastate families, harm innocent bystanders, and cut short young lives," said Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel. "Communities in the San Fernando Valley and across California are sick and tired of this reckless behavior. I'm grateful for Governor Newsom's leadership on cracking down on this dangerous activity and signing this commonsense measure that will save lives across our state."

"AB 2000 will help us save lives and prevent further crashes and drivers going to prison for manslaughter," said Lili Trujillo, Founder and Executive Director of Street Racing Kills, a non-profit created in 2014 after Trujillo's 16-year-old daughter, Valentina, was killed in a street racing incident. "An exhibition of speed in a parking lot is way too common now and people are being hurt and killed, AB 2000 is definitely a great tool to help us save lives."

"There are countless stories every week throughout California about illegal street races and dangerous sideshows shutting down streets, causing accidents, damaging neighborhoods, and endangering lives," said Assemblymember Vince Fong (R - Kern County), a joint author of the measure. "They are unpredictable, destructive, and can lead to senseless deaths that devastate families. AB 2000 is an important and needed step in cracking down on illegal sideshows to make our communities safer."

Across the state, COVID-19 has caused a sharp rise in illegal street racing activity as drivers took advantage of roads emptied by stay-at-home orders. In 2020, the

Continued on page 3

Offering a Hand Up

By Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - After a four-year hiatus, the 18th North Bay Operation Stand Down will be back on Wednesday, October 12, at the Dixon May Fair.

It is the 18th event that includes local community, County, and Veterans Administrations benefits, services, and resources for returning Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom Veterans and homeless veterans who served their country honorably.

One of the veterans who found a way to get from Sacramento to Dixon had the typical medical and dental issues caused by being homeless and having an alcohol addiction. But, after a couple more years of coming and getting help, he eventually got more involved, received counseling, got sober, and got a job.

"We got him off the streets and because of Stand Down, he made [the right] choices," said Lynn Jewell, the Secretary/Treasurer and Volunteer/Service Provider



Veterans get checked in at a prior North Bay Operation Stand Down held at the Dixon May Fair. This year's one-day event is October 12 and volunteers as well as vendors who want to serve the veterans with services like haircuts or dental, need to sign up now. Photo courtesy of North Bay Stand Down

Coordinator for North Bay Stand Down, an all-volunteer organization.

"I'm so proud of him," she said. "He moved to Arkansas to be closer to family and we stay in contact."

He is one of the organization's successes stories - and the 200 to 250 volunteers like Lynn and Jeff

work to make many more.

Jeff started in the all-volunteer organization in 2002 and Lynn came on board in 2005. Jeff is an Air Force veteran who ended up at Travis where he met Lynn after duty in Wisconsin and Japan. He worked in the field with combat so when he attended a Stand Down in Sacramento more

than 20 years ago, he was greatly moved. He came back determined to organize one locally. Jeff is now the Director.

"We had one by the second year and it's been a labor love ever since," said Lynn. "When the organization did the 3-day events, it took 700 to 800 volunteers

Continued on page 3



No, Football is Not Simple

By Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

Since the player got the ball all the way down on this end after they had all lined up in the center of the field, I got all excited and told my husband, that means they get to start on the first down, right?

He responded with football jargon like I would know what he was saying but the bottom line was that I was incorrect. There was a brief second, I thought I was getting it but with his response, I decided I'm not really very good at football.

"Football has too many rules," I said. Every time I memorize one of the rules and think I am advancing in my woman-spectator mode, I'm wrong. I do know there are plenty of women who get this game, and this is my third game in a row at the Dixon High School Finney Field. I was determined this season would be my breakthrough of understanding. Especially because my new daughter-in-law is learning the game from my son, and they spend Sunday afternoons watching football together. My husband watches a lot of football.

"It's simple," said my husband who then proceeded to watch the game with no further input.

Downs, flags, interceptions, loss of yards, line of scrimmage, passes, punts, penalties. It's just too much. I've been trying to understand it my entire life. Whatever I might have gotten right in the brain by the end of season, by the time the next one came, it was all forgotten.

Finally, there was a kickoff. I know what that is. But in another play, when all the

players stood around the ball acting like it was poison, so no one dared touch it, hubby had to explain again.

"You can catch it in midair or pick it up and run with it ...but that is really risky," he said, adding something about a punt.

How is it that I got to 65-years-old and never knew that football players could choose to kick the ball over the goal posts or try to run it through? This seems very basic now that hubby explained it. But then he added that one thing is worth one point and the other thing was worth two points. Oh no, something else to remember! How will I remember which one is which? They both seem equally difficult. One way, the player can get tackled or wiped out if he doesn't kick quick enough while the ball is being balanced by its end by another player kneeling with his face very close to where the guy's foot is going to go. The other is where you must get the ball through a pinball maze of opponents looking to smash you?

Is that hot chocolate I smell? I have learned that the snack bar gets a long line at half time. Now, that I remember. If you want anything during the game, you better go before half time. That's a good time to use the restroom, too. You know they close the snack bar sometime before the 4th quarter. Those are simple rules.

Well, I may not know all the rules of football, but I get enough of it to know how fun and special homecoming is and it's Friday, the 23rd. I think it is great to see all the Dixonites out there wearing green or Ram-wear cheering on our Rams. Hope to see you there! ★

Dixon News Briefs



Cutting the red ribbon of welcome are the families of Joel Rabago, Alfonso Ulloa, and Nestor Paredes who are the new owners of Super La Favorita Meat Market, at 925 North Adams Street. The Dixon Chamber Ambassadors and friends look on. Photo by Debra Dingman



Scouts from Scout Troop 152 received a healthy donation of \$400 from the American Legion Post 208 to thank them for their assistance in serving dinners at their North Bay Stand Down Fundraiser. Our story in the September 2 issue incorrectly stated the amount. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Discount Store

To better reflect his retail business, Mike Scott has officially changed the name of his business from "Charity Shop Wholesale" to "The Discount Store" at 1025 North Adams.

"When we first started Charity Shop, it was just a part-time side business to give back and make some extra money, and then as it's growing over the last few years, while we still give to charity, a lot of people have the misconception that we are a nonprofit," posted Scott on social media. The previous name confused shoppers and many thought it was a thrift store, but merchandise is new and is 40-percent below Target prices, staff informed. Business improvements of new carpet and extensive organizations have increased the customer base.

Parks & Rec

The City of Dixon Parks & Rec Commission will be meeting this coming Tuesday, September 27 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street. Agenda can be found on the cityofdixon.us website under the government tab.

Veterans Dinner

The Friday night menu for this week's Veterans Dinner at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street is oven-roasted chicken, scalloped potatoes, corn, and roll. Dinner is \$10 per person and is served starting at 6 p.m.

Higby's Appreciates

Since 1984, Higby's Country Feed has been serving more than rural Dixon at 8479 Currey Road so it's time to appreciate customers once again. The celebration will be Saturday, September 24 all day, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be a 10-percent discount on almost everything in the store plus pony rides,

raffle prizes, free samples, vendors, tacos, beverages, and sweet treats.

Museum Coffee

Local author Bil Paul will be attending the Book Club's Coffee Hour Learning Sessions on September 28 at the Dixon History Museum, 125 West A Street. Take part in reading *The Train Never Stops* in Dixon, the true story of how Carissa Carpenter came to Dixon to try to sell a scam of building a Movie Studio in the town. Enjoy a discussion of the book with others. Signed copies of his book are available at the museum for \$10. Reserve your spot by calling (707) 693-3044.

Lambtown

All things sheep, lamb, and wool will be brought to Dixon for the 36th annual Lambtown Festival October 1 and 2 at the Dixon May Fair. The mission of the Lambtown Festival aims to celebrate and promote these noble ruminants, from fleece to food, fiber to fabric, and farm to festival, while providing education and enjoyment for all so includes vendors selling beautiful, one-of-a-kind wool shawls, hats, and blankets along with a children's area. There are also live spinners who are happy to explain how their machines work. It is now the largest sheep and wool show in California. Admission is free but there is a fee for parking. For more information, email info@lambtown.org.

Fire Fundraiser

The Dixon Fire Department is hosting its annual all-you-can-eat prawns and raviolis dinner on Saturday, October 12 starting with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:30 p.m. The menu includes salad and bread as well. Tickets are \$50 and includes entry into the door prize raffle. They are available by calling Rachel Domegaard at (707) 678-7060. Other questions can be directed to Ricky Rodarte at (707) 862-1047. The dinner will be held at the Dixon Fire Station, 205 Ford Way. ★

Tremont Elementary Playground Needs Cleanup

By Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Tremont Elementary parents and community volunteers are asked to help clean up the Tremont Elementary School Playground area on Sunday, September 25, any time between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Parents who walked out into the large grass playground at their student's Back to School night this year were quite shocked to find the giant yard in such poor shape. There were large mounds of debris that could have held ticks and tall grass that needed mowing. Tremont Parent Association Vice President Jennifer Roman went to work organizing the Field Clean Up Day.

"I've been here nine years and I've never seen it this way. I reached out to the Principal to ask permission to have volunteers help clean it up and several Tremont parents reached out to DUSD Board President Caitlin O'Halloran,"

she said. "Our new principal, Treva Foster, has been really good about listening to our TPA and wanted to help but we just had to go through the process." It took a while, but permission was granted.


Gloves, weed whackers, blowers, and other gardening tools are tools one might want to bring along with any other tools for general clean up.

"While I've never seen this school in such disrepair, it's nothing we can't fix. But we need lots of help." Roman said. She expressed appreciation for the District allowing them to help and to the Principal and to the parents who will be helping. Drinks will be provided.

Participants will have to sign waivers at the Principal's office, and you have to be 18 or over to participate. There is also some childcare being provided. The school is located at 355 Pheasant Run Drive. For questions, call the school office at 707-693-6320. ★



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Senior Garage Sale Success



"Nearly everybody I talked to was really pleased and I really appreciated all the help we got with publicizing," said Event Coordinator Barbara Long of the Senior Club. "There wasn't any time that people weren't coming in, so I thought it was really good." The only thing missing was coffee.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Senior Club's Indoor Garage Sale offered last Saturday seemed to be a hit with a heavy flow of bargain hunters from children to white-haired men.

The room filled with full tables represented a wide variety of items to hunt through. There were household items,

wall art, home-made and hand-sewn items, Beanie Babies, jewelry, books, clothing, collectibles, knick-knacks and the list could go on and on. The mother of Oliver, Eloise, and Charlotte Nunes purchased three home-made children's aprons made by Barbara Davis who also offered her needle art. Women from many of the booths took turns shopping at other booths throughout the morning. ★

Groceries Given for Needy

By Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Family Services received a bunch of free groceries this past week after an impromptu visit by Christa and Joe Bruch, owners of Dixon Grocery Outlet with a wonderful donation. They brought cases of canned soup and cereal and \$260 in Gift Cards to donate to the Dixon Family Services Food Pantry.

“The people we serve really appreciate it when we can give a gift card along with several bags of non-perishable foods,” said Executive Director Cookie Powell in an email. “The cards allow them to also get some refrigerated and/or frozen items they need for their families. Thank you, Christa and Joe!”

If anyone would also like to help Dixon Family Services, they welcome all donations of checks, gift certificates, and non-expired shelf-safe food. One can also donate with a credit card on the DFS website: www.dixonfamilyservices.org by clicking on ‘Donate.’

In addition, if there is someone you know who needs help from DFS, one can encourage them to suggest they call Powell at (707) 678-0442 or email cookie@dixonfamilyservices.org.

Founded in 1984, Dixon Family Services is



Christa and Joe Bruch, Owners of Dixon's Grocery Outlet donated cases of food and gift cards recently to an ever appreciating Dixon Family Services. Photo courtesy of Cookie Powell

a one-stop-shop of social services that helps hundreds of people each year achieve goals such as employment, financial stability, improved nutrition, escape from domestic violence, sobriety, emotional wellness, positive

parenting skills, safe and healthy homes and family cohesiveness. All services are offered in English and Spanish.

Due to the coronavirus restrictions, they cannot serve people on a “walk-in” basis. ★

CPUC Provides More Numbers for 707 Area Code

CPUC News Release

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG) - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on June 23 acted to ensure that phone numbers continue to be available to meet the demand in the geographic region served by the 707-area code by approving a second area code (called an overlay) that will provide additional numbering resources while minimizing customer inconvenience. The new area code to overlay the 707-area code is 369.

The 707-area code, serving portions of Del Norte, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, Sonoma, Tehama, and Trinity counties, is projected to run out of available prefixes (the first three numbers after the area code in a phone number) by the fourth quarter of 2023. The CPUC’s action today approves the request of the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), the neutral third-party area code relief planner for California, for approval of an area code overlay to provide additional numbering resources to meet the demand for telephone numbers.

An area code overlay adds a second area code to the geographic region served by the existing area code. Therefore, multiple area codes co-exist within the same geographic region. Existing 707 customers will retain their area code and specific telephone number(s). Customers will continue to dial the three-digit area code for all calls to and from telephone numbers with the 707 and 369 area codes. The price of a call will not change due to the overlay. Customers can still dial just three

digits to reach 911, as well as 211, 311, 411, 511, 611, 711, and 811.

Below are some tips to help prepare for the area code overlay: 1. Contact security or alarm vendors to update dial-up numbers to avoid a break in security routines and contacts. 2. Reprogram equipment or features, i.e., automatic dial, speed-dial, call forwarding, modems for computer or Internet dial-up access, etc. 3. Update items like stationery, checks, etc., to include your area code + telephone number. 4. Provide your area code and telephone number, not just the telephone number, as needed. 5. When asking for someone’s number, remember to ask for the area code, too. 6. Remember that the previous area code and the new area code will co-exist within the same geographic region.

The 707-area code was created when it split off the 415-area code in 1959. The 707-area code serves the cities of American Canyon, Arcata, Benicia, Calistoga, Clearlake, Cloverdale, Cotati, Crescent City, Dixon, Eureka, Fairfield, Ferndale, Fort Bragg, Healdsburg, Lakeport, Napa, Novato, Petaluma, Point Arena, Rio Dell, Rio Vista, Rohnert Park, Saint Helena, Santa Rosa, Sebastopol, Sonoma, Suisun City, Trinidad, Ukiah, Vacaville, Vallejo, Windsor, Willits, and Yountville.

More information on the 707-area code is available at www.cpuc.ca.gov/707area-code. The CPUC regulates services and utilities, protects consumers, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians’ access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. ★

Bill Signed to Crack Down on Street Racing and Illegal Sideshows

Continued from page 1

California Highway Patrol responded to more than 25,000 calls involving illegal street racing activity statewide, an alarming increase of more than 3,500 calls from the year before.

In Southern California, street racing and sideshows have become extremely popular. In August and October of 2021, respectively, a Calabasas teen was among three people killed by apparent street racers in a three-vehicle collision in Burbank caused by street racing, and a Woodland Hills woman was killed and seven others were injured after a driver lost control while racing. Just last week, police arrested three dozen people at several illegal street takeovers

in and around Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.

Statewide law enforcement groups have identified driver’s license suspensions as an effective tool for the deterrence of illegal street racing activity. Expanding on AB 3, which was signed into law last year, AB 2000 allows courts to issue a driver’s license suspension for the exhibition of motor vehicle speed during a sideshow taking place in a parking lot – an area not currently covered under the law – and thereby helps to further deter individuals from engaging in these dangerous activities.

Jesse Gabriel proudly represents the West San Fernando Valley in the California State Legislature. ★

Fall Sunset Funnel Cloud



This original photo from a cell phone captured what looked like a Funnel Cloud above the Azevedo Ranch on Pitt School Road and West A Street. The skies at dusk were showing signs of the incoming storm that would strike a couple days later. Photo by Debra Dingman

Homecoming Traditions Bring Fun

Continued from page 1

Since students are back in school one might wonder why some of the traditions seem asleep this year.

“There’s not that connection,” said Courtney Williams Kett who was crowned Dixon Homecoming Queen in 1987 alongside Homecoming King Stewart Hayes. “The students don’t have the memories from the years before. They did what their siblings did and now there is a whole class of students that didn’t [experience these traditions,]” she theorized.

“Homecoming was a really big deal. We had games at school at lunch every day. We also had dress up days and spirit week with class competitions at lunch. All my family came, and you had to have your dress approved by Miss Adams,” she reminisced. Even her big sister, Melissa, came home from college in San Francisco for the celebration.

“That’s what Dixon did. We had a huge car rally on Homecoming Friday and all the floats went through town. We didn’t have lights yet so our senior year, we had to have the game during the day on a Saturday on the field at the high school. I remember we did win

the games,” she added.

Kett, who along with her siblings own Dixon Florist, the business her parents started, said that her mother did all the bouquets for homecomings back then and she made her daughter’s as a “big presentation” of a dozen roses. Kett’s school spirit didn’t stop there.

“Matt and I helped with the Quarterback Club, and we tried to bring some of those things back,” she said. “I think the students really enjoyed it. It was very fun. The whole community got so involved. Everyone went to the games.” Their son, Hunter, was Homecoming King in 2011.

“Stu Hayes lives in Idaho and is doing very well and it’s a sweet connection,” she said. “When he’s in town, he stops and says hi.” Hopefully more of the fun and traditions of Homecoming will soon return.

“After COVID, we’re just happy to be back to normal,” said Holtmeyer. begin with the JV game at 5 p.m. and Varsity at 7 p.m. The Homecoming festivities are when the JV game is over and before the Varsity start, about 6:30 p.m. Then at half time, the band will do their special show and then the cheerleaders do theirs. ★

Continued from page 1

and was a really big undertaking.” But even the one-day event attracts veterans from Napa, Solano, Yolo, and Sonoma counties.

“We have gotten folks off the streets but it’s a choice and it’s a good choice but it’s still a choice,” Lynn emphasized. “We do not judge. We’re going to do the best we can for as many people as we can and hope that they give back in some way. There are a lot of homeless programs and they’ve been successful with stabilizing transitional housing and helping with the workforce but there are less out there now than when we started. When veterans are homeless and come to the Stand Down, we help them; that’s when we’ve done our job.”

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs statistics, Veterans comprise about 10 percent of the homeless population of the United States and the community. The adversities of homelessness include lack of safe shelter, unemployment, physical and emotional disabilities, substance abuse and hopelessness. For many Veterans, these adversities create a self-generating cycle, which leads

to complete isolation from mainstream American society. This year, transportation to the fairgrounds can be provided in Solano County.

The dental and the medical are the biggest draws for the Veterans plus the court system. There are usually court representatives from Solano, but not yet confirmed, to help with minor infractions like vagrancy, traffic, or misdemeanors. There is also job information, haircuts, clothing and shoes, and spiritual services to name a few.

“The process for Veterans to register is simple and they have to fax their DD214,” said Lynn.

As in past years, the success of this event depends largely on the willingness of those in the community to serve as volunteers or donate cash to the cause.

“Volunteers need to submit a basic application, then they go to the next step and determine where they want to work such as in clothing or in the kitchen,” she said. Go to www.nbstanddown.org or call the Solano County Veterans Service Office at (707) 784-6590 or the Director at (707) 365-8384. ★

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Final Farewell for Queen Elizabeth II

By Susan Maxwell Skinner

It was a spectacle few will see again. A Queen – perhaps the greatest monarch in history – borne to rest with pageantry beyond Cecil B. De Mille. Monday’s funeral

heartfelt mourning demonstrated the brood’s profound love.

When I was a little girl, I waved to the Queen from a street crowd. In pale flesh, I beheld the icon from New Zealand’s stamps and pound notes. When I met her many years later, I was



Photographed with the Queen on tour, Susan Maxwell Skinner was among correspondents that followed the Royal family during the 1980s. Photo courtesy of Anwar Hussein.

was a masterpiece only the Queen’s horses and men could achieve; meticulously choreographed by the lady herself.

The massed pipers, gun carriage and swaying naval phalanx was not just pomp. Pragmatic to the last, Elizabeth II knew great pageantry stirs sentiment. What better tonic for royal continuance? What better kick-start for her heir’s succession?

Ten thousand military officers and the tears of a grateful nation accompanied an Empress into legend. Elizabeth was not born to her role, yet this accidental monarch managed sovereignty so peerlessly that her death was – for millions – like the loss of a mother, a grandmother or great grandmother.

The Queen encapsulated the Greatest Generation. Her radio voice comforted Londoners during Hitler’s blitzkrieg. Her wedding dress was purchased with clothing ration coupons. The Navy bride followed her husband’s deployments, and she paraded children at her coronation. As a Commonwealth leader, she walked a steel tightrope through 70 years of diplomacy. During pandemic, she reassured locked-down subjects, “We will meet again.” The nonagenarian bore the yoke of duty until death.

Service came at a price. Her babies lacked a mum’s hands-on guidance and later blundered into mistakes she so deftly avoided. But three Windsor generations’

told to address her as her ma’am. Through nerves, I called her “mum.” She looked at me askance, but the irony was surely not lost on the mother of the Commonwealth.

I was then a court correspondent in London. Palace press corps members saw her frequently, but the jokey banter of Charles and Diana’s entourage was absent with the Queen. Some people called her shy; I found her reserved. I recall achingly polite conversations about the weather. Her sapphire gaze was beguiling. But in disapproval, what she called “the look” could silence cannon fire.

Stoicism is not the same as snobbery. As much as her 15 prime ministers, the Monarch knew adaptability was key to survival. In tune with her times, she knighted rock stars, agreed to pay taxes, shelved her minks, mothballed her yacht and shook hands with activists.

She bent only as far as her principles allowed. The Queen gave no interviews; nor did she pander to the press. She believed a monarch should be seen – hence her bright ensembles – but heard as little as possible. In an age of celebrity narcissism, the world’s greatest celebrity eschewed exposure of emotions or private life. Her children divorced; a son was disgraced; a grandson defected. The matriarch seethed or grieved in private. Her husband died; she soon donned lavender



A broad smile and colorful ensembles were foils for Queen Elizabeth’s stoic reserve. Photo courtesy of Zak Hussein.



In keeping with royal tradition, more than 140 Royal Navy ratings pulled a Victorian gun carriage bearing the Queen’s casket. The flag-draped lid was topped by Crown Jewels, including the Imperial State Crown and orb and scepter. Flowers from the Queen’s gardens formed a wreath. Photos above and below courtesy of Zak Hussein.

ensembles and returned to work. Her policy to neither explain, complain or comment served her well.

The Queen nevertheless knew the age when few questioned colonialism – or Britain’s right to the Koh-in-Nor diamond – were over. Abdicating from dynastic problems on September 8, her final coup was to unite stewing elements of the Commonwealth in mourning.

Elizabeth II’s most crucial legacy is the king she groomed. What Charles missed in motherly cuddles was not stunted in his training.

The mentor likely hammered in responsibility to a changing society over tea and scones.

When Elizabeth ascended, her realms were emerging from war years with adoration for Queen and Country. Charles III inherits national crises and a complaining Commonwealth. But as passionately as one Sovereign believed in contouring monarchy for the times, so will her heir.

Elizabeth II was the right Queen for her era. Thanks to her unflinching example, I believe Charles III will be the right King, for his. ★

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- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
1. Gumbo pod
5. Old horse
8. "I see!"
11. "Like Yankees and Dodgers in 11 World Series"
12. Kind of tale
13. Mother-of-pearl
15. "Like a pennant in wind above a ballpark"
16. Foam-at-the-mouth display
17. Agenda entries
18. "League with most World Series wins"
20. Oldsmobile founder
21. Two-door car
22. Legal org.
23. "2018 World Series champs famous for Green Monster"
26. Dockets
30. Paul is to Simon as ___ is to Garfunkel
31. Household
34. ___-a-whirl fair ride
35. Kills a dragon
37. U.N. labor standards grp.
38. Follows a cut?
39. Certain party garb
40. Closed book
42. Repeated Latin dance step
43. Catch in a trap
45. Not like The Fonz
47. Crème de cassis plus wine
48. Faquir, alt.spelling
50. "Only 3 World Series games in history ended in these"
52. "Play-in game entry"
55. Sticker on a jar
56. Rod of a hot rod
57. Sodium hydroxide
59. Falstaffian in body
60. Not quite an adult
61. World's longest river
62. Formal wear, colloquially speaking
63. Put to the test
64. Big Bang's original matter
- DOWN**
1. Not quite right
2. Caffeine-producing tree
3. Paper unit
4. Characteristic to consider
5. W.E.B Du Bois's org.
6. Pool problem, pl.
7. "Rhinstone Cowboy" singer
8. Passed with flying colors
9. "Baseball bullpens always need good ones"
10. "For ___ a jolly ..."
12. Three in one
13. She turned to stone, mythology
14. "Hometown of last year's World Series champs"
19. Hotel's offering, pl.
22. It shows over time
23. Moistens a turkey
24. Acrylic fiber
25. Bambi and Rudolph
26. Bug-eyed
27. '70s music genre
28. Poetic although
29. "Objectionable action encouraged on a diamond"
32. "Number of players in the field"
33. Baba of "One Thousand and One Nights"
36. "1949-1953 World Series winners"

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Mark Your Calendar: Festival of Trees Shifts Into Gear

Story and photo by Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Kiwanis Club announces the 13th annual Festival of Trees at the Veterans Memorial Hall on Saturday, December 10 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and is looking for sponsors and decorators.

There are several changes to the event plans starting with new Kiwanis Co-Chairs Brandi Proffitt and Kristin Janisch.

In addition, the Festival of Trees is slated for a week later than usual. It will continue to be held at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street in Dixon.

“Kristin and I are co-chairing the event this year,” said Proffitt with enthusiasm. “I just loved seeing the smile on the kid’s faces and love the community aspect of it. I also enjoyed putting together the musical portion of it last year.” Janisch also volunteered at the event last year.

“We are now seeking Decorators for all sized trees and Sponsorships. If interested in being a part of this amazing tradition, please contact us,” she added. Trees are sponsored by a variety of local businesses or individuals. Tree decorators including non-profit organizations, church groups, youth teams, and



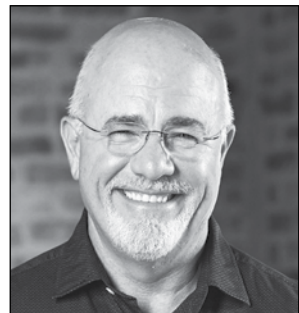
Kiwanis Club Secretary Brandi Proffitt posed at last year’s Festival of Trees. She and Kiwanis member Kristin Janisch will co-chair this year’s Festival of Trees on December 10.

individuals, donate ornaments, time and their creativity to finish them and trees range from fun to stunning in design. All of the trees are displayed for the day-long event and up for auction.

Hundreds of visitors to the event get one vote for each size tree and winners receive the coveted ‘People’s Choice’ award with their names engraved on a beautiful perpetual plaque which is shown off around town at Kiwanis

events. Admission is free and so is parking.

The Festival of Trees is a major fundraiser for the Dixon Kiwanis Club with monies benefitting local children’s services and programs along with the Kiwanis Family House, an emergency shelter for families of hospitalized children at UC Davis Medical Center. For more information, Email is Kiwanisofdixon@gmail.com or call (707) 628-5896. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

everyone in the family until the kids are out on their own.

Between now and then, your continued saving and wealth building will lead you to a place where you guys are self-insured. And that’s a great place to be!

– Dave

Commission, Not Allowance

Dear Dave,

What is the right age to begin giving children an allowance?

– Ben

Dear Ben,

In my mind, there’s never a right time to give kids an allowance. Instead, work out a plan to pay them commissions, and assign them age-appropriate weekly chores.

This can be done with very simple tasks starting at an early age. When the work gets done, they get paid. If they don’t do the work, guess what? They don’t get paid. This helps teach them a healthy work ethic, and it introduces

them to the idea that work creates money.

Simply giving kids money is a sure way to plant the seeds of entitlement in a young mind. You don’t want your kids growing up with the idea they deserve money simply because they’re alive. Of course, there are things kids should be expected to do without pay, too. When you’re part of a family, everyone needs to understand they have a responsibility to pitch in and help out sometimes!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of *The Ramsey Show*, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on *Good Morning America*, *CBS This Morning*, *Today Show*, *Fox News*, *CNN*, *Fox Business*, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

Heeney’s History Stubborn Mules

Commentary by Ed Heeney

A few years ago, the United Methodist “4 M” club had an outing to Ceres, CA, a day of fun, frolic, visiting, and “mule skinning”. Except the mules turned out to be donkeys.

The donkeys, Blackjack and Eeyore, had been donated for use at the Heifer Project Learning and Livestock Center. HPL is an organization that furnishes livestock and livestock expertise to families all over the world and Ceres was the Pacific Northwest Region headquarters.

Mary and I were the Host couple and Farm managers of this 10-acre spread and put our teaching and farm upbringing to fruition. Everything was pretty well up to snuff when we arrived except the donkeys They were not trained to harness. And they had an attitude: “Who do you think you are, making us work?”

I found some rope and a couple of harnesses and proceeded to start some practices. Neither the donkeys nor I were too confident we knew what was going on. After about three weeks of this faltering equine training, I was ready to call in some help. It was about time to call in some experts.

About a dozen couples from the Dixon Methodist Church had formed a club for

get-togethers and dinners and they needed an outing. We invited them to Ceres for a cook-out and a work-out.

The work-out was to see if they could assist in donkey training. Now, most of the old boys grew up in Arkansas/Oklahoma and used to know how to harness and work donkeys. The ladies all lined up and chuckled at our attempts.

Now it had been 50 years or so since the guys had harnessed up a team, and there were a couple straps we couldn’t figure out. Suddenly, I had an idea! How about the 1900s Sears catalogue? It had pictures of harnesses in it. Sure enough, it worked and we were ready to go. Three or four of these old boys tried to get the team to function and the ladies were having a great chuckle. Alice Smith had been watching the antics, put on her gloves, walked over to the donkey team, picked up the reins, and with a snap across their back hollered “OK boys, let’s go. Smoothly down the driveway and back to the barn. Nice ride boys!” Now, let some of the men try it.

Ed Heeney is a long-time Dixonite who has been very active in the community over his lifetime. He enjoys sharing his missives with Dixon Independent Voice readers. ★

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NATIONAL NEWS *courtesy of THE EPOCH TIMES*

Fentanyl-Laced Pills Killing Teens as Pill-Popping Culture Fuels Crisis

Grieving family members say fentanyl isn't a drug, it's a poison. And Mexican cartels are bringing it in via the US-Mexico border

CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON

It only takes a quick scroll through the Facebook group “Lost Voices of Fentanyl” to see the wake of devastation that illicit fentanyl is leaving behind.

The public group, which has more than 19,000 members and grows daily, is full of the faces of lost loved ones and grieving family members trying to contend with the pain.

If that's not enough, parents are trying to understand autopsy and toxicology reports, figuring out how to obtain a copy of a 911 call, and seeking advice on how to ensure that drug dealers receive justice.

America's pill-popping culture has fueled the crisis that's killing more than 100,000 people a year.

Many children are dying after taking a pill that they think is a prescription painkiller such as OxyContin or Percocet. Others think they're taking the prescription drug Adderall.

“When these kids are buying Xanax, they think, ‘Well, it's no big deal. Mom and Dad get it prescribed, what's the big deal?’” said April Babcock, who started “Lost Voices of Fentanyl” in 2020.

In reality, America is flooded with lookalike pills that contain deadly doses of fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that was originally developed as a painkiller and anesthetic. It's 50 to 100 times more potent than heroin, and just 2 milligrams can be fatal.

Grieving family members say fentanyl isn't a drug—it's a poison. And Mexican drug cartels are bringing it into the country via the U.S.-Mexico border.

Babcock said the term “overdose” is obsolete in the case of illicit drugs.

“The term overdose means there's a safe dose to take, and you took too much. There's no safe dose of illicit fentanyl,” she said.

Babcock's son Austen died in 2019 after he bought some co-



April Babcock holds a picture of her son Austen, who died in January 2019 after unknowingly taking some fentanyl-laced cocaine.

When these kids are buying Xanax they think, ‘Well, it's no big deal. Mom and Dad get it prescribed, what's the big deal?’

April Babcock, founder, Lost Voices of Fentanyl

caine, not knowing it was laced with fentanyl.

“That's a deception. [He] didn't die from cocaine. He died from fentanyl, and there is no safe dose,” she said.

“When you go out and you buy a Xanax or you buy an Adderall or anything, but you're dying from fentanyl, that's a deception. These kids are being deceived. And they're being poisoned to death.”

Babcock originally created the Facebook page for a rally she held at the Chinese Embassy in Washington last year. She wanted to raise awareness that the precursors and analogs to fentanyl were being shipped from China to the cartels in Mexico, where they were subsequently pressed into counterfeit pills or mixed into heroin, cocaine, and even marijuana.

In August 2019, the Mexican navy intercepted a 25-ton shipload of fentanyl originating from China and bound for Culiacán, Sinaloa—the home base of the Sinaloa cartel in Mexico.

Fentanyl also is an extremely lucrative drug. One kilogram of fentanyl costs about \$5,000 in China. If the cartels take that kilogram into their labs and cut it with other drugs or press it into pills, they can make \$2 million or

more by then selling it on American streets.

While scientists measure fentanyl by the microgram for hospital use, drug dealers and cartel members aren't as precise.

“You might have a fake Percocet that's got enough fentanyl in it to kill 40 people. Then, you might get another fake Percocet that has no fentanyl in it at all,” Babcock said.

“The parents in my group with dead kids that are young, so many of their [children] bought their drug on Snapchat. It's a fake pill, and they're finding their kids dead in their bedrooms. That's not normal.”

Babcock said America's youth are being targeted through social media and the colorful candy-like pills laced with fentanyl.

“It actually breaks my heart because I know, today, 300 other parents are going to be me. And that's really why I do everything I do—because I can't bring my son back. My goal is to save another family from going through this,” she said.

“It's bad enough when you have people dying that have a substance use disorder—that's a nightmare on its own—but now we have an entirely new demographic of people that are

dying. These are first-time and experimental users, and even occasional users, because, let's get real, people occasionally use drugs who aren't drug addicts.

“I'm not saying it's right to use drugs—all I'm saying is now people are instantly dying.”

Rallying for Awareness

On Sept. 17, Babcock is hoping hundreds of people will join her rally in front of the White House. She's calling on the federal government for an awareness campaign around fentanyl as broad as it was for COVID-19.

“We're almost 10 years deep into this crisis. Where's the public awareness campaign? Within three months of COVID, every single American 3 years old and up knew ‘social distance, wash your hands, wear a mask,’” she said.

“We want it on every news [channel]. They had a ticker up there for COVID. Why can't they put a ticker up there for fentanyl deaths? Because it's the leading cause of death in young Americans aged 18 to 45.”

During 2020, major news networks pinned a ticker on their screens that displayed the total number of cases and deaths in which COVID-19 was reported as a factor.

“I shouldn't have to be holding a rally in front of the White House. I should be able to memorialize my child and have memorial events,” Babcock said.

But she's determined to warn the public about fentanyl.

“From what I'm hearing, the life expectancy of someone addicted to illicit fentanyl is about three years,” she said.

“I tell people it's not a matter of ‘if’ you will die. It's only a matter of ‘when’ you will die. If you use anything in this day and age, it's only a matter of when. It's Russian roulette.”

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Greensboro, NC, Rent Prices Soar 74 Percent Since 2021

MARY PRENON

While New York, California, and Boston continue to be the most expensive rental markets in the country, some unexpected locales have actually experienced the largest increases in one-bedroom apartment prices year-over-year.

Greensboro, North Carolina, sits atop the list with rent increases of 74.2 percent, followed by Newport News, Virginia, at 60.7 percent, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, at 59.8 percent, according to Rent.com's August report. Jon Leckie, a researcher with Rent.com, told The Epoch Times that such increases aren't unusual, given the amount of people who have been flocking to these areas.

“We're seeing a pattern where the markets around the larger metro areas are attracting more people because they're less expensive, but still within an hour's commute to a city,” he said. “People want to get out of the crowded, expensive core metros, and the trend toward more remote working means they may not have to commute every day.”

With one-bedroom apartment monthly rentals averaging \$1,289, Greensboro's rental market falls far below the national average of \$1,770.

“Currently, Charlotte [North

Carolina] has the most outbound migration than any other city in the county,” Leckie said. “People are leaving the bigger cities, and we've found that much of inbound traffic to Greensboro and the other smaller markets is from New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago, Raleigh, Atlanta, Nashville, and [Washington] D.C.”

Little Rock, Arkansas; Oklahoma City; Lexington, Kentucky; Rochester, New York; and other communities with populations below 300,000 people are also experiencing rental booms.

On the other hand, St. Louis; Fort Lauderdale, Florida; and Baltimore are the top three locations that have seen the biggest decrease in one-bedroom apartment rents. St. Louis leads with a 39.4 percent decline, followed by Fort Lauderdale at 34.9 percent and Baltimore at 26.9 percent. Miami, Cleveland, and Reno, Nevada, also made the list of rent reductions.

“St. Louis saw a huge decline, especially when downtown prices are so high for small spaces,” Leckie said. “The general trends we see, as the big coastal cities continue blowing up with high prices, are that renters will seek out cheaper areas in the Midwest and South. The Northeast and the West are still losing people.”



Residential apartment buildings in New York on July 26, 2022.

Not surprisingly, the report lists New York as the most expensive rental area, with the average one-bedroom rental at \$5,760 per month. In the cities of Glendale and Oakland, California, monthly rents average \$4,014 and \$3,916, respectively. Boston apartment renters pay an average of \$3,080, while San Francisco's average is \$3,701 per month.

Some of the nation's most affordable one-bedroom rentals can be found in Oklahoma City, at an average of \$945; Wichita, Kansas, at \$840; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with the lowest average of just \$796.

For two-bedroom rentals, the report lists Seattle, Little Rock,

and Durham, North Carolina, as the top three cities experiencing the biggest rent increases. Seattle's rent is up by almost 60 percent, followed by 54.7 percent for Little Rock and 54.2 percent for Durham.

Conversely, the largest two-bedroom rental decreases were found in Fort Lauderdale, down by almost 43 percent, and St. Louis and Des Moines, Iowa, down by 28.2 percent and 20.6 percent, respectively.

As with one-bedroom apartments, New York leads the way with the priciest options; the average two-bedroom apartment in the city rents for \$8,346 per month. Boston, at \$5,795 per month, is the sec-

ond-most expensive two-bedroom rental market, followed by Oakland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

On the more affordable end, two-bedroom apartments in Lubbock, Texas, are averaging \$922 per month, compared to Shreveport, Louisiana, where rentals are at \$1,106, and Lincoln, Nebraska, at \$1,295.

The once red-hot rental market of Boise, Idaho, has since cooled, with more than 61 percent of listings experiencing recent price cuts. The report also notes that homebuilders who couldn't keep up with the demand last year are now cutting back on construction in the area.

Boise has since earned its reputation as “the most overvalued housing market in the United States,” according to researchers at Florida Atlantic University and Florida International. They blame continued high prices there for negatively affecting the region, making it harder now to attract new residents.

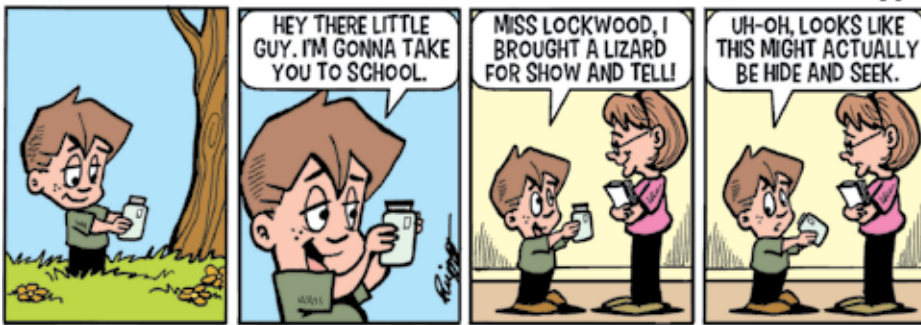
A recent report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition found that a worker would need to earn at least \$25.82 per hour to afford a small two-bedroom rental home. For a one-bedroom, the wage dips slightly, to \$21.25 per hour.

“Nearly 60 percent of wage earners cannot afford a modest two-bedroom rental home working one full-time job,” the report states.

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



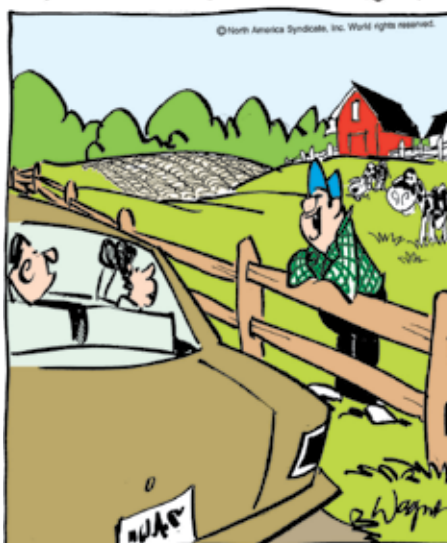
R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



GRIN and BEAR IT

LAFF-A-DAY



"Right now I'm between not growing wheat and not growing cotton."



"Henry has a very radical way of settling intellectual disputes."

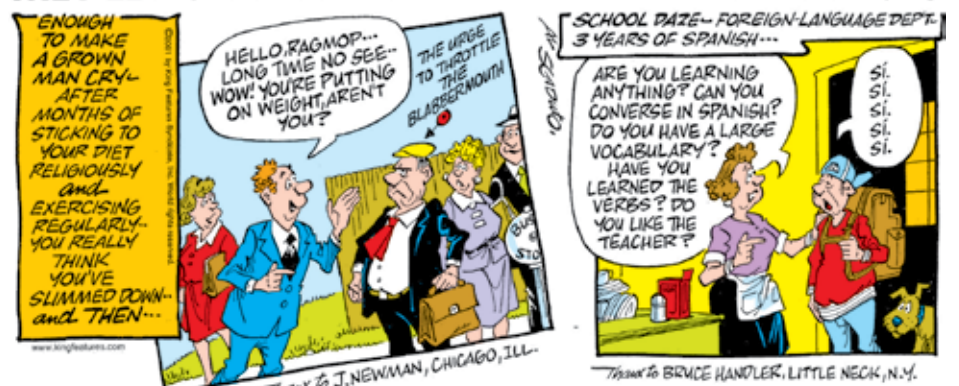
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

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Just Like Cats & Dogs

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Rams Suffer First Defeat with Home Loss to Wood



Dixon senior quarterback Jett Harris uses a block from junior defensive end Zachary Hodel to evade Wood senior cornerback Ryan Clayton during a 19-6 loss to the Wildcats on Friday, September 16 in Dixon. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Dixon senior quarterback Jett Harris sprints in the open field during a 19-6 loss to Wood on Friday, September 16 in Dixon. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Dixon junior center Andres Vidales (center) and senior tackle Seyyid Smith (left) line up before snapping the ball during a 19-6 loss to Wood on Friday, September 16 in Dixon. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Dixon senior quarterback Jett Harris gets a block from junior defensive end Zachary Hodel during a 19-6 loss to Wood on Friday, September 16 in Dixon. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Shaun Holkko,
sports editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon High School varsity football team experienced something Friday that they hadn't experienced since last year - a loss!

The Rams (3-1) were defeated at home 19-6 by Wood (3-2) of Vacaville on Friday evening, September 16. Dixon had extra rest time between games as its bye week was on September 9. The Rams had begun the season with three straight wins: 27-21 at Union Mine (1-2) of El Dorado on August 19, 42-22 at Winters (1-3) on August 26 and 28-26

at Armijo (3-1) of Fairfield on September 2.

Dixon was the first team to score Friday night, as senior Braden Baumbach rushed in for the touchdown. However, the ensuing two-point conversion attempt failed. The Rams led 6-0 after the first quarter.

Wood took the lead with under a minute to go in the first half when senior running back Manny Delatorre rushed into the end zone from two yards out. The point after try was successful via the leg of senior kicker Carson Sacca. The Wildcats led 7-6 at halftime.

When San Francisco 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan wins a coin

toss, he typically defers to receive the ball in the second half. He does this to "lap" his opponent by scoring before halftime and then scoring against to begin the third quarter. That is exactly what Wood did on Friday night.

The Wildcats drove down the field over four minutes to begin the second half and finished off the drive with Delatorre punching in an eight-yard touchdown rush. Sacca missed the PAT. Delatorre earned a hat trick about three minutes later, scoring a one-yard touchdown for his third of the night. The PAT was missed again.

Following a scoreless fourth quarter, Wood ultimately won

19-6. Dixon senior quarterback Jett Harris completed 12-of-26 passes for 140 yards and rushed three times for seven yards. Baumbach had a team-high 35 rushing yards on 10 carries.

Senior Brent Green tallied four receptions for 63 yards offensively and had a team-high 10 tackles with six of them solo. Senior Luis Torres had an interception while senior Ja-Pre Jenkins recorded a sack for a loss of four yards.

The senior captain led the way offensively for the Wildcats as Delatorre scored three touchdowns. On defense, senior middle linebacker Jarren Ford had a game-high 12 tackles with seven of them solo. Senior

cornerback Zaire Fortune recorded half of his team's pass deflections with two. Senior defensive tackles Ian Morales and Nicholas Brown had one fumble recovery each in the win.

The Rams will now pivot to their final preseason game of the season at home against Fairfield (0-4). This week is homecoming and varsity kicks off at 7 p.m. Dixon will be back at home the following week on September 30 to begin Golden Empire League play against Rio Linda (2-2).

Wood will now have its bye week before playing at Fairfield to begin Monticello Empire League play on September 30. ★

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