



Passing on the Trade

PAGE 10

Veterans 'Hand Up' Fundraiser to be Held

PAGE 7



Dixon Independent Voice

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PAGE 7

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PAGE 8

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Dixonites Trek Across Spain



Kim Schroeder-Evans and Maria Comejo-Lopez show their many stamps on their Camino passports. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Maria Cornejo-Lopez and Kim Schroeder-Evans, both born and raised in Dixon, knew each other's families, and even went to school together but didn't formally meet until 2018 at a Dixon Historical Society where Maria presented her family history and spoke about her Camino walk in Spain. Kim was thrilled to hear her as she was getting ready for her own trip.

All roads Lead to Santiago

The Camino de Santiago, known in English as the Way of St. James, is a network of pilgrims' ways leading to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great, the brother of Jesus, in the

Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in Spain. It is believed the apostle's remains are buried there.

Maria's desire for the trek was sparked during a 2015 road trip through Spain when she was learning about where her paternal side (Cornejo) of her family was from. Kim lived in Spain for a year and a half in college and wanted to go back again to thoroughly experience the culture.

"People have been walking the Camino for more than a thousand years," said Maria. "It is a pilgrim's journey through the past and through ancient Roman times." Maria researched all about the walk for a few years before her own trek and was happy to help Kim prepare

for hers. She took Kim to REI to show her what kinds of shoes she should buy and what walking sticks were best.

Recently, the two sat together and "relived the journey" sharing maps, pictures, and their white shells with a red cross emblem made from two crossed swords - a souvenir of the Camino walk.

Their treks were different yet similar, and both lead them to Santiago. A phrase heard or seen often was, "All roads lead to Santiago," and proof of that was seen on the map Maria shared showing the various paths people can take across Spain to Santiago. It did look like a shell.

Maria went on the walk as an
Continued on page 3

New Mobile App for City

City of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City of Dixon has launched a new mobile app, "City of Dixon", available for free in the Apple Store and Google Play Store.

Through a single, public-facing app, residents and business owners have access to all of the services, resources, and information the City has to offer. The goal of the app is to increase efficiency and accuracy in public interactions and improve customer service by offering additional online access.

"The City of Dixon mobile app is an exciting new way for the City to connect with the public and provide additional transparency," said Mayor Steve Bird "The new app goes beyond reporting issues, it provides a way for City staff to interact with the public and provide real-time updates."

This initial launch of the app allows the public to: Report an issue such as sidewalk damage, illegal dumping, or a streetlight that isn't working; View a calendar feed populated with events and meetings, which residents can add to their device's native calendar; Pinpoint event locations, parks, and other facilities; View a searchable directory of elected and appointed officials through directories; Access key public safety services such as burn permits, alarm permits and police report requests; Sign up for push notifications to stay up to date on news, events, or other important information; Receive up-to-the-minute local announcements, such as office closings or storm alerts.

The City's "FixinDixon" app is no longer active. FixinDixon is now available in the new City of Dixon app. The new app allows residents to report quality of life issues and request select city services, similar to the old FixinDixon app. Residents can provide city staff with photos, videos and specific descriptions of the problem by clicking the "FixinDixon" icon. ★

Governor Candidate Dahle Visits Dixon

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A steady stream of Dixon citizens came through the downtown Vets Hall to meet Republican Senator Brian Dahle who won the California primary and will face off in November's election against Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom who is seeking a second and final term.

Brian had just got out of a Sacramento meeting with his wife Megan and came to Dixon at the invitation of Joe Anderson, a farmer and former Dixon Mayor, and his wife Mary.

"Joe bought the farm I managed, and we've known each other a long time," Senator Dahle said. His family is 5th generation Californians. His grandfather came here after WW1 in 1929 looking for a job. He wound up in Northern California thanks to land grants for Veterans. "He brought the Dahles to California 92 years ago," he said.



Assemblywoman Megan Dahle and husband, Senator Brian Dahle, far left, visited with supporters (L-R) Joe and Mary Anderson, Dist. 3 Solano County Supervisor Jim Spering, and Les Cafaude. Back row are: Lanette Bingaman, Taylor Femino, TJ Raycraft, Tom Raycraft, and Bud Fanning.

"We are small business owners but I'm not sure that we can continue," said the Senator who still farms. "Big Valley Seed Company - seeds for cereal grains such as oats, wheat, and rice - has been running 80 years and is 95-percent organic," he explained, then added with a sense

of pride, "I still do payroll every two weeks."

"It's a wonderful state but California has been run by Democrats for the past 20 years and we have the highest taxes, highest poverty, and inflation. We need balance," he said. The state has voted Democratic in every presidential election

since 1992. "I've been in the minority my whole career, so I know how to build relationships. I know how to reach across the aisle and know how to get things done."

If elected this November, his first task would be to "fire Newsom's parole
Continued on page 7





Dixon News Briefs



Dixon History Museum docent Denise McBride looks over some of the very first Chanticleers, the Dixon High School's yearbook. The newest addition to the museum is a full collection of the books through the decades. There is a table set next to the display for the public to use for perusing. Photo by Debra Dingman

See Something, Say Something

By Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

An alert neighbor called me recently about a house near me that had some suspicious activity.

There was a man using spray paint on a large piece of plywood up against the back of her fence. Note, there is a large space of land between her and her backyard neighbors. It was unusual for someone to use the back of her fence when, if he lived in the house he came from, why wouldn't he use his own back fence? Because of this unusual situation, she observed more closely and discovered the man only used the side gate entry of that house and there seemed to be a single, low light late in the evening--similar to a camp lantern, not a kitchen light, or any other light in the house. She no longer felt safe and knew we had grandchildren often.

I knew the house to be empty as I had recently knocked on the door a couple different times to ask something about their yard and no one was ever home but the last time, I could see from the front window that the house was vacant. I learned who the owner was and left a message.

The next day and after my husband were busy chastising me for "getting involved," and that I needed to mind my own business – and me telling him about the See and Say slogan spread across the country, an unfamiliar couple walked from behind our house and through our front yard while my hubby was changing his shoes on the courtyard bench.

This is a small neighborhood and it's true we don't know everyone, but we know there's a locked fence leading to that back area, and no one is supposed to be back there. Only then did he get

involved and called the appropriate source. We stopped a crime. The man was trespassing.

"If You See Something, Say Something®" is a national campaign that raises public awareness of the indicators of terrorism. It is licensed to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. It's a useful protocol because the campaign respects citizens' privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties by emphasizing behavior, rather than appearance, in identifying suspicious activity. Even Chief Robert Thompson used the slogan at a recent City Council Meeting in regard to reporting illegal fireworks.

This incident comes too soon after I noticed that on August 8 the City of Vacaville hijacked the National Night Out purpose to make another community party. If I wasn't an old lady who publicized the event over the years, I wouldn't know this but, the National Night Out started with the purpose of PREVENTING CRIME. It was not so you'd get to meet your City Councilman or Mayor or even get to see a fire truck.

The purpose was birthed out of the Neighborhood Watch Program and the goal was for neighbors to meet neighbors and local law enforcement. If they knew who their neighbors were and their children and cars, they would be more likely to know when something out of the ordinary was happening – like a house being burglarized – and they wouldn't hesitate to call police.

According to the official US Government website, "Public safety and security is everyone's responsibility. If you see suspicious activity, report it to local law enforcement or a person of authority." ★

MPG Staff

Park-it Market

On Tuesday, August 9 and Wednesday, August 24, the community is invited to drop in for free food and health information at Dixon Family Services. The free food includes fresh produce, all manners of groceries and information about COVID-19 vaccines. It will start at 10 am and run to noon. DFS is located at 155 North Second Street. Partnering are Food is Free Solano, Innovative Health Solutions, Independent Living, and the Redwood Community Health Coalition. Call (707) 678-0442 for info.

School Started

In case you didn't notice, school has started which means the downtown core will experience traffic congestion for the whole school year less vacation/breaks. The worst times are between 8 and 8:30 in the morning and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Please slow down and drive carefully. Please avoid the area during those times because there is always a train to add to the mix.

Start a Business?

A free webinar on How to Start a business in Solano and Napa Counties will be offered on Tuesday, August 16 through the Solano Small Business Development Center. This organization conducts a variety of virtual business webinars every month on subjects that include business planning, marketing, finance, human resources, and more. Learn more at solanonapasbdc.org/events to see the complete list.

Wine & Art

Tickets are still available for the DDBA annual Wine and Art Show is Saturday, August 20, from 4 to 8 p.m. Tickets in advance are \$30 and, on that day, they will be \$35. That gets you a commemorative goblet and a map as to where to find wonderful tastings throughout downtown. There will be two options/locations for

check in. One will be at the Pardi/Town Center Plaza and the other will be at the ReMax Gold /Chamber office, 220 North Jefferson which has plenty of parking. It's a great opportunity to go inside the downtown businesses and see what great stores and restaurants we have.

Chamber Mingle

The next Chamber 'Mingle' will be at The Pip Wine Bar & Shop on Wednesday, August 24, from 5 to 7 p.m., at 116 North First Street. There is free admission and a chance to network. There is a no-host cash bar and raffle prizes. For more information, call (707) 678-2650.

Senior News

Friday, August 19 is the last Ice Cream Social and will also host the Dixon Fire Department for fire safety especially in regards to living alone. It will be at noon. This is also a good time to reserve your table (\$10) for their Indoor Garage Sale on September 17. Activities are at the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 South Fifth Street. Call (707) 678-7022 between 9 am and 2:30 p.m. for info.

Fish Fry

Due to the price of cod going up significantly, Friday's Veterans Dinner on August 12 will cost a bit more. The fish dinner will be \$12 and include lightly battered fish, hush puppies, and coleslaw. Bring your friends and enjoy the evening at 1305 North First Street.

District Sale

Find a treasure at the Dixon Unified School District Community Sale August 11-13 at the C.A. Jacobs Middle School Multi-Purpose Room, 200 North Lincoln, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be surplus furniture, equipment and lots of miscellaneous items with many of those priced at \$1, \$2, and \$5. Items will be sold as is and for cash only. Plus, they must be removed at time of sale or no later than 5 p.m. ★

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Dixonites Trek Across Spain

Continued from page 1

individual and Kim went with an organized group. Maria walked ten to 13 miles a day and covered 800 kilometers or about 500 miles. Altogether she walked 48 days carrying a 30-pound backpack and using special ergonomic-handled walking sticks during the months of April and May. Kim walked 8 to 10 miles a day for eight days.

Both women experienced friendliness and open doors from villagers who offered them kind greetings, water, and cookies. Many times, and for miles, the women walked alone.

Camino's Purpose

"People go on the Camino for many different reasons," explained Kim. For some it is spiritual, some are recovering from divorce or heartbreak, some go to leave burdens behind, some want the physical challenge, and some want a life reset. "I met a mother who was honoring her child who had passed," she said.

"Everyone has stories," said Maria. "We are all damaged." Some people carry rocks that are representative of their burdens, and they place those rocks when they are ready to let go. They showed pictures of rock gardens, green hills, broad farmland with crops of corn, wheat, barley and oats. They also saw dairy farms and cows on their paths.

Maria's Trek

The other common phrase was 'All that you need will be provided.' Maria studied the Camino for nearly four years and made maps of the terrain and worked calculations of how long she could walk each day starting from the city of Pamplona and what hotels she might stay at. She walked ten miles a day around Dixon to prepare and packed an extensive medical kit.

Unfortunately, her first day on the Camino was not a good one. It poured rain and she walked in mud, losing a shoe. At times during her trek, it even hailed, and she was cold but fortunately there were some small buildings to take refuge in. They looked like round adobe huts and they were made for the pilgrims. All along the paths, there were yellow arrows or ancient markings of a seashell looking much like a sun shining indicating they were on the right path to Santiago.

"Hotels there are more like small country manors but homemade foods by the senora were fresh and healthy," explained Maria with obvious appreciation. For her simpler meals, Maria ate sardines for protein and bread. There were often small cafes or restaurants where Maria's favorite treat was hot chocolate and churros.

"Twice I got to stay in a monastery and could hear the vespers and the whole mass with nuns and beautiful singing," she said. While the trek started out for her with a goal of simply experiencing the country, it did become spiritual for her. "You talk to God when you walk alone for long periods," she said. She used her Rosary beads



Kim in her Dixon Milk Farm T-shirt at one of the many markers showing the way for the Pilgrims. The side-ways shell on top is demonstrative of "All Roads Lead to Santiago." Photo courtesy of Kim Schroeder-Evans



Maria with her 30-pound backpack and ergonomic walking sticks at one of the colorful fields in Spain. Photo courtesy of Maria Comejo-Lopez

and said prayers during those quiet times.

"Many people try to make it in 33 days but that is brutal. You hear of blisters, blown out knees, worn out shoes, and worse," she said as she unfolded a long roll of papers taped together with printed diagrams of hills and valleys divided by pink lines. The lines indicated days and how many miles she would walk so she knew where she would end each day.

Her medicine kit was fully used as she wound up helping a lot of people who had injuries or got ill from overestimating their abilities. She never had to use it for herself – not even for a blister.

"I became a provider in my own way," Maria said remembering the famous phrase about all that is needed will be provided.

Kim's Trek

Kim never got a single blister both thanks to Maria's shoe advice.

"I took it slower because I wanted to meet people and experience the towns," she said. "I met a man from Sacramento because I was wearing my Milk Farm T-shirt that says Dixon, California on it. I often walked two or three miles all by myself. Families opened their doors to greet you and there were quaint villages." She reported that there were people on bicycles and rollerblades – even a man with a wheelbarrow, she reported. The man said he made the trek every year. Another man was in his 90s.

While there was plenty of peaceful beauty, there were lots of hills to go up and down and all were not paved.

Kim's highlight was getting to read in Spanish to the congregation the first reading of the Old Testament in Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the famous ancient cathedral bearing elaborate architecture, statues, and paintings.

"It was such an honor. I spoke clearly and at the end, a single tear fell right on the Bible," she said, getting teary-eyed.

Reaching Santiago

Both cried when they reached Santiago.

"It was just such a huge undertaking, and it was done," said Maria proudly. They received affidavits of completion written with their names in Latin and both unfolded their long strips of passport stamps that pilgrims get when they go through different villages or pass certain sites. Some people leave their shoes or burn their clothes at the end.

"It's a shock to go back into society. I wish the world could walk to Santiago," said Kim. Maria talked about how the trip was a metaphor of life.

"Some paths are easy; some difficult. All experience fear, and worry (bad weather.) You have to travel over rocks and streams but sometimes the path is through fields of flowers as far as you can see. You walk through frozen fields, get pelted by hail but you never see signs that say No Trespassing," Maria said. "But the seashell sign was everywhere you go, guiding your path." ★



Kim and Maria encountered this man, seen here with his donkey and dog, in Spain. Photo courtesy of Kim Schroeder-Evans



Quaint eateries were much appreciated by both Kim and Maria on their journey. Photo courtesy of Kim Schroeder-Evans



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Matt Crowley Joins the First Northern Financial Advisors Team



First Northern Bank News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - David R. Davis, Senior Vice President/Manager of First Northern Advisors is pleased to announce that Matt Crowley has joined the First Northern Advisors Team as Vice President.

As a financial advisor with Raymond James, Matt is responsible for providing non-FDIC insured investment and brokerage services, as well as investment advisory services for the Bank's Rancho Cordova, Davis, and Dixon markets. These products include securities, mutual funds, 401(k) plans,

annuities, tax and investment planning, asset management, retirement planning and estate planning. First Northern Advisors is a part of the Bank's Wealth Management Division.

In his announcement David Davis said, "Matt is a seasoned financial professional who brings years of experience to our Financial Advisors team. First Northern Bank's clients will benefit from his depth of knowledge, his friendly manner, and personalized approach to helping them achieve financial independence with carefully selected investment options."

Matt has 22 years of financial advisory experience; he most recently served 13 years as an Assistant Vice President/Financial Advisor of Wells Fargo Advisors, where he worked with the firm's priority clients to establish

long term investment objectives, provided investment solutions for those objectives, and monitored their ongoing performance. Prior to that, he did the same at Merrill Lynch where he got his start in the industry.

Matt has a bachelor's degree from University of California at Santa Cruz. He holds Securities Licenses (Series' 7 and 66) and a Life Insurance license in the state of California. He currently lives in El Dorado Hills with his wife, Shawna, and three teenage children. In his spare time, he enjoys surfing, snowboarding, and vacationing with his family.

Matt's office is located at 2901 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95742. He can be reached at 916.642.1474 or mcrowley@thatismybank.com. Matt is also available by appointment at the Bank's Dixon and Davis Branches. ★

Classical Music Competition puts Spotlights on Local Youth

Solano Symphony Orchestra News Release

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Solano Symphony Orchestra will hold its annual Young Artists Competition, Saturday, Nov 12, 2022, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church (1600 Union Avenue in Fairfield, CA). Classically trained musicians between the ages of 12 and 21 are encouraged to apply and compete in four categories: vocal, piano, winds, and strings. The first-place winner in each category will win a monetary prize and the chance to perform as a featured soloist with the Solano Symphony Orchestra during its Salute to Youth concert, under the direction of Maestro Semyon Lohss, on February 5, 2023.

The competition is open to Solano and Yolo

County youth, who must prepare and memorize a movement from a CONCERTO for their instrument or a vocal ARIA, which can be accompanied by an orchestra. Applications are due Nov. 5, 2022 and can be found at www.solanosymphony.org/young-artist-competition along with more details about the competition. Second and third place winners will also receive prize monies.

Solano Symphony Orchestra's Salute to Youth concert is underwritten in part by the generous support of the Margaret Beelard Community Foundation. It is a highlight of the season and a tremendous opportunity to champion local talent and inspire young musicians to continue developing in their technique and dedication to artistic excellence. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001092
 The following persons are doing business as: Ryan Darrall Wine, 2650 Cordelia Road, Fairfield, CA 94534.
 Ryan Darrall Wine LLC, 3154 Highway 128, Unit B, Calistoga, CA 94515. Date Filed in Solano County: June 27, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 26, 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: July 29, August 5, 12 & 19, 2022
 RYAN 8-19-22

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001154
 The following persons are doing business as: Educational Records Evaluation Service, 2480 Hilborn Road, #106, Fairfield, CA 94534.
 Educational Records Evaluation Service, 2480 Hilborn Road, #106, Fairfield, CA 94534. Date Filed in Solano County: July 6, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 2/5/2018
 This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration July 5, 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: July 29, August 5, 12 & 19, 2022
 EDUCATIONAL 8-19-22

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001261
 The following persons are doing business as: Dixon Suspension & Smog, 790 N. Adams Street, Dixon, CA 95620.
 Dixon Suspension & Smog, 790 N. Adams Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Date Filed in Solano County: July 22, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration July 21, 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: August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022
 DIXON 8-26-22

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001240
 The following persons are doing business as: Empowered Instructors, 4191 Summer Gate Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94591.
 Kelsey Anne Power and Timothy Michael Power, 4191 Summer Gate Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94591. Date Filed in Solano County: July 19, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is conducted by: A Married Couple. 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 July 18, 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: August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022
 EMPOWERED 8-26-22

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001250
 The following persons are doing business as: Solano Solar Cleaning, LLC, 942 Cedarcrest Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687.
 Solano Solar Cleaning, LLC, 942 Cedarcrest Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687. Date Filed in Solano County: July 21, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration July 20, 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: August 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022
 SOLANO 8-26-22

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001182
 The following persons are doing business as: Ruff Translation, 7637 Gish Road, Vacaville, CA 95688.
 Juniper Zen, 7637 Gish Road, Vacaville, CA 95688. Date Filed in Solano County: July 11, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: July 25, 2017.
 This Business is conducted by: 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 July 10, 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: Aug. 12, 19, 26 & Sept. 2, 2022
 RUFF 9-2-22

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- State Farm Agent Victoria Barros-Ortiz
- The 100 Club of Solano and Yolo Counties
- The Creative Space

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

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Riley Reviews

'THE GRAY MAN' DELIVERS RUNAWAY THRILLS FOR ACTION JUNKIES

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“THE GRAY MAN” RATED PG-13 Jason Statham’s action career may be on a brief hiatus because he would seem to be an ideal choice for a role in Netflix’s movie “The Gray Man” as a globe-trotting skilled operative taking out assorted bad guys.

This reminds me that Statham starred as a special agent on a secret mission to thwart weapons dealers in Guy Ritchie’s “Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre” which was slated for release earlier this year and I still haven’t found it on a major streaming service.

We’ll have to settle for Ryan Gosling as a CIA operative known only as Sierra Six, once an Agency-sanctioned merchant of death, but now the target of psychopath mercenary Lloyd Hansen (Chris Evans).

For fans of action films there is no need to wait for Jason Statham or Liam Neeson to pummel villains into the ground. “The Gray Man,” at the tune of an ostensible budget that could finance a war in a small country, delivers the thrills craved by action junkies.

Serving time in a federal penitentiary for killing his abusive father, Six is offered a get-out-jail-free card when recruited by CIA handler Donald Fitzroy (Billy Bob Thornton) to join the Agency as an assassin.

Much like operatives such as James Bond and Jason Bourne, Six works mostly on his own in dishing out mayhem and killing enemies, proving that he picked up some nice moves during internment, or so it would seem.

Under the tutelage of Fitzroy, things are working out nicely for Six, but then a change in management results in having to report to Denny Carmichael (Rege-Jean Page), a shadowy, unethical string-puller with a dubious agenda.

Six’s world is upended when he’s assigned to kill another agent who happens to be in possession of a flash drive that would reveal dark Agency secrets implicating Carmichael in treachery.

As a result of this assignment, Six now has a target on his back and becomes hunted by Lloyd Hansen, who is not only criminally insane but sports a mustache that makes him look like a Seventies porn star.

Since Fitzroy is retired, Six has few allies to watch his back, other than fellow Agent Dani Miranda (Ana de Armas), as well as retired CIA station chief Margaret Cahill (Alfre Woodard).

Meanwhile, though Fitzroy would want to assist his protégé, his young niece

Claire (Julia Butters), beset by health problems with a pacemaker, has been kidnapped by the deranged Hansen who will kill anyone looking at him the wrong way.

The contrast between the principled Six, who would not hurt a kid, and the nutjob Hansen, who tortures Fitzroy in a cringe-worthy, hard-to-watch manner, is brutally stark. Hansen is so evil that it’s a wonder his mustache is not bushy enough to twirl.

Unreservedly nasty and fearsome, Hansen can deliver funny insults like referring to Six as Ken Doll, but mostly he’s just a bloodthirsty killing machine without any remorse for random acts of brutality.

Interestingly enough, Six has a tattoo of Sisyphus, which is emblematic of his inability to escape his role as an assassin, given the alternative would be a return to prison.

Underused in his part is the appearance of Indian actor Dhanush as Lone Wolf, touted as the most competent and fearless killer to be unleashed in the hunt to kill Six.

The plot of “The Gray Man” is arguably standard to the action genre, and the inevitable showdown between Six and Hansen is as predictable as a sunny day in Phoenix during the month of August, and yet the movie is a lot of fun even if it is disposable.

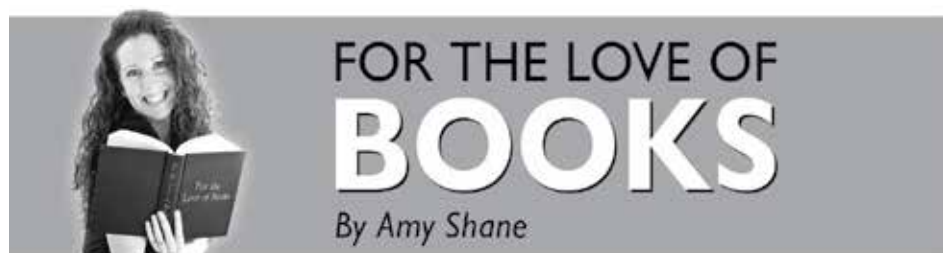
Occasional breaks occur in the non-stop action, with the most notable one being the time that Six ends up babysitting Claire while Fitzroy is away, and even then it’s not long before another assassin invades the Fitzroy home.

Flashbacks to Six’s childhood and his tortured relationship with a sadistic father don’t make for an interesting backstory to explain how he wound up in the joint.

The question that hangs over Netflix is whether the streaming service will turn “The Gray Man” into a spy caper franchise. News reports, if accurate, and Netflix willing to pony up the megabucks indicate the affirmative.

The James Bond franchise may eventually run its course, considering that 007 perished in “No Time to Die.” How will the British secret agent be revived? Will there will be a female Bond? Meanwhile, the Gray Man, aka Six, could be the future.

What more can an action fan ask for other than a surfeit of explosions, wild chases, shootouts, fireworks, a runaway train demolishing everything in its path, and even a plane falling from the sky? “The Gray Man” has it all, and then some with thrills to entertain. ★



BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • amy-shane@att.net • @amy_fortheloveofbooks

The Magic of August’s New Releases

This month’s enchanting new reads will whisk readers into magical stories of love, adventure, secrets, conspiracies, and self-discovery.



A Taste of Magic
by J. Elle

Kyana is thrilled to discover that she is a witch and will attend Park Row Magic Academy. Even though she has to keep this a secret, Kyana is thrilled that she will be learning and performing spells. But when the school loses its funding, Kyra cooks up the idea to bake her way into saving the school by entering a baking contest with a cash prize. Will Kyra be able to juggle a baking competition, dreaded school work, helping her family, and keeping her magic a secret?

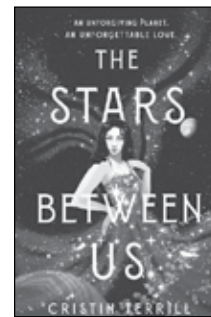
Baking up all sorts of mischief and fun, *A Taste Of Magic* will have readers rushing to stir up their own kitchen magic with the included recipes in the back. This is a story that celebrates the nostalgia of childhood with the determination of a twelve-year-old. Relatable, while also being magical, this is the perfect read for all reading groups or, as a paired parent and child read.



Three Kisses, One Midnight
by Roshani Chokshi, Evelyn Skye, Sandhya Menon

Magic is about to be reawakened in Moon Ridge, and three best friends are ready to cast their spells for the perfect love that will last forever. Onny, Ash, and True, who have named themselves “The Coven,” can’t wait to mix up the perfect love potion to bring them everything they’ve ever wanted. However, The Coven is about to discover that love, even when crafted from a perfect recipe, will find a way to surprise them.

Grab your masquerade mask and witch’s hat; it’s time to be delightfully enchanted. *Three Kisses, One Midnight* is a fun, magical read that is the perfect story for fans of *Gilmore Girls*, and *To all the Boys I’ve Loved Before* will charm its readers from the very first page.



The Stars Between Us
by Cristin Terrill

Vika Hale, a barmaid on a struggling planet, dreams of a better life, with really no way to obtain her goals. Then one day, a billionaire dies, leaving Vika as a benefactor in his will if she marries his grandson. The answer is simple, and without thinking twice, Vika Hale leaves her family and her planet for a new life of glittering wealth. But then, as quickly as she is bestowed into this glamorous world, tragedy strikes, opening the door to even more conspiracies, secrets, and murder. Now, with the fear that someone is targeting the will’s heirs Vika and the remaining benefactor, Sky, will have to combine forces to uncover the truth before they become the bomber’s next victims.

The Stars Between Us is a space-filled adventure with a rag-to-riches storyline, a regency-style time period set in a futuristic world. ★

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CLUES

ACROSS

- *Beginning of a computer class?
- Mandela's org.
- Horned birds
- Silly and insignificant
- U.S. counterpart to British M15
- Inuit skin boat
- Long oar
- Acronym, abbr.
- Movie "___ Day Care"
- "End of a pencil, sometimes"
- "Back to School" star
- Asian restaurant frying pan
- Anne ___ of gothic fiction fame
- ___ Beesly of "The Office"
- Cote d'Azur city
- Opposite of comic
- Major mountain chain in Russia
- It launched Columbus, acr.
- Walk through slush
- Lindsey Vonn's prop
- "Geography class prop"
- Bear in the sky
- Idealized imaged of someone
- Reflect deeply
- Stake driver
- Dismiss (2 words)
- Not want
- Albanian money
- *Cafeteria ware
- Rare find
- *Paper holder
- *Fictional high school in "Grease"
- Pope's court
- Barley brew
- Run-of-the-mill
- Boat contents
- Little bit
- Tale, in France
- Small island
- I, to Claudius
- Terminated

DOWN

- Fleur-de-___
- Sometimes it's enough
- Wild ox of India
- On spouse's side
- Infamous Baby Face
- A long way off
- Network at 30 Rock
- Wisp clouds
- Yemen's neighbor
- ___ receiver
- The Tramp's spaghetti-slurping companion
- Limit, to some
- Bovine milk dispensers
- Increasing
- Month X
- Reverberate
- *Student
- Scent, usually pleasant
- Malaysia native
- "Keep ___ and Carry On"
- *One at high school reunion
- Small Asian ungulate
- September edition, e.g.
- "Dry-erase marker predecessor"
- Toy construction set
- Having the know-how
- Lament for the dead
- When one is not oneself (2 words)
- Joker to Batman, e.g.
- *Do this in Math class
- *Do this in Speech class
- Subatomic particle
- Sable and beaver, e.g.
- *Type of exam
- Like SNL
- *Grader's suggestion
- City in Sweden
- "A day ___ and a dollar short"
- Some special effects, acr.
- Fall behind
- Type of Christmas lights

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Dave Ramsey Says

for a minute about the spiritual implications of a situation like this.

Proverbs 22:7 says the borrower is slave to the lender. Now, the Bible doesn't say debt is a sin, but it definitely discourages debt, and it teaches us to live our lives differently than the rest of the world. That's the case when it comes to handling money, too.

If you do this, you'd be turning your dad into your creditor in a very real sense. That's going to make family dinners taste different, because you'll be eating with your lender instead of just good old dad. Money has a way of changing the family dynamic, and it's almost never for the good. Suddenly, you're getting raised eyebrows if you buy something for yourself, because even the nicest, most generous folks have opinions.

If it were me, I'd say thanks, but no thanks. There's no way I'd be in financial debt to my dad.

Now, if he were to offer to make paying off

your debt a gift – one that was given with no strings attached to help you two get into the mission field quicker – I'd be okay with that and I'd be deeply grateful and honored.

But I would never tell you to go into debt to a parent. Your dad is probably thinking it's better for you to be in debt to him rather than some uncaring bank or credit card company. But I just wouldn't want to do anything that might jeopardize your relationship.

- 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.

A Different Kind of Creditor?

Dear Dave,

My wife and I have plans to enter the mission field as soon as we have paid off our debt and get a full emergency fund in place. We only have about \$12,000 in credit card debt left, and we don't own a home, but my father does not want this debt to stand in our way. He has offered to pay off the credit cards, and make it a loan where we would pay him back over time. It is a tempting offer, but we both feel strange about accepting it. What do you think we should do?

- Brandon

Dear Brandon,

Your dad sounds like a generous, good-hearted man. But considering the goal you and your wife have, I want you to think

Governor Candidate Dahle Visits Dixon

Continued from page 1

board and appoint one that would serve their state," then he would make sure the 1200 oil exploration permits sitting on the table would be approved. He stressed the need for a realistic energy plan.

"It frustrates me that we're bringing in oil from [other countries]," he said. The majority of California's crude oil is imported from Ecuador, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Colombia.

He wants to give money for homelessness to cities and counties because "they are the ones dealing with it." And, he wants to reduce the gas tax, noting that there is a 97-billion-dollar surplus in the California coffers. He talked about many subjects so

has many issues he'd like to tackle.

Brian served 16 years on the Lassen County Board of Supervisors before running for California's First State Assembly District in 2012 serving there until 2019. California's 1st Senate District contains all or portions of 11 counties, including Alpine, El Dorado, Lassen, Modoc, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, Sierra, Siskiyou, and Shasta. He represents a 975,000 population. Megan got elected to her husband's spot in the Assembly when he won Senator, so they have much to talk about over dinner with their 12-year-old daughter. They also have two sons, age 21 and 22.

Front Yard Traffic Signal



Earleen Turner often sits on her front porch to enjoy the weather. This is her new view.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Earleen Turner had not gotten a letter or official notice from anyone - not the City and not the utility company - that there would be digging and tearing up the streets on two sides near her home for the installation of a utility cable and a large traffic light - but a neighbor and activist for the oldest part of town, Ginger Emerson, knocked on her door let her know. Because of that, Turner's husband and son were able to attend a brief meeting sponsored by the city on the plans.

Now that the construction is complete,

she has a great view from her front porch: A giant streetlight. It was placed in her front yard across from the Dixon Mayfair corner on Chestnut Street.

"Our home is 100 years old. We've lived here since 1992 and I didn't receive any notice," said Turner.

"My husband is disabled and has serious health issues. I'm most worried about emergency services getting to us." If there is a line of cars at the stoplight and she has an emergency, she won't be able to get out of her driveway, she explained, and certainly it will be a problem for emergency services to get in.



Destructive Bugs Wreak Havoc in far Northern California, Western States

An infestation of grasshoppers and Mormon crickets is feeding on rangelands and crops in several counties in far Northern California. Farmers and ranchers are suffering impacts as populations of the destructive bugs surge in numerous western states. The challenge is worsening amid continued drought. In rural Modoc County, agricultural officials say grasshopper damage has affected 400,000 to 500,000 acres, with particularly devastating impacts on hay crops.

State Water Officials Release Report on New Delta Tunnel Plan

The California Department of Water Resources has released a draft environmental impact report for the Delta Conveyance Project. Proponents of the proposal say it would modernize the aging State Water Project water delivery infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Gov. Gavin Newsom has embraced a new single-tunnel plan to route water around the delta. That's a downsized version of the dual-tunnel plan backed by former Gov. Jerry Brown.

Legacy Family Farms, Historic Farm Bureaus Honored by Heritage Club

Seven legacy family farms and ranches have been honored for their historic - and continuing - service to agriculture. Three inductees recognized by the California Agricultural Heritage Club were honored for 150 years or more of farming. They include the Steamboat Acres farm in Courtland, established in 1848, the Dudley Ranch in Tulare County, started in 1871, and the Hindley Ranch in Humboldt County, founded in 1872. Other honorees included Solano and Merced County Farm Bureaus, established in 1915 and 1917.

Farmers, Researchers Seek Ways to Transition Fallowed Lands to New Uses

Hundreds of thousands of acres of irrigated farmland in the San Joaquin Valley are expected to come out of production this year due to water shortages. Now farmers, researchers and government officials are looking to transition fallowed grounds to other uses and to address worries over dust. At a recent forum by the Public Policy Institute of California, farmers and water policy experts discussed repurposing toppled almond orchards to low-water production of winter grains.

Veterans 'Hand Up' Fundraiser Held Soon

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - American Legion Post 208 and North Bay Operation Hand Up announced their fundraising dinner is back on track to help homeless and at-risk veterans.

The event is set for Saturday, August 20, starting with no-host cocktails at 5 p.m. and dinner served at 6 p.m. Dinner is a choice of Tri-tip or chicken and either will come with all the fixings. The very popular raffle will follow. If anyone would like to contribute a basket or raffle item for the evening, please bring it by the hall on Monday, Wednesday or Fridays from 4 to 8 p.m. or call (707) 301-0941.

Tickets are \$45 per couple or \$25 per

person or \$180 for a table of eight. For information or to purchase tickets, please come by the Dixon Veterans Memorial Hall at 1305 North 1st Street in Dixon on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 4 to 8 p.m. or call (707) 301-0941. Please make checks payable to American Legion Post 208.

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NATIONAL NEWS *courtesy of THE EPOCH TIMES*

House GOP to Unleash Wave of Investigations if Chamber Flips Red This Fall

CATHY HE

With Republicans expected to regain a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives following November's midterm elections, Republicans in the chamber are poised to launch a slew of investigations aimed at dialing up the pressure on the Biden administration over a range of issues—from border security to Hunter Biden to the origins of the pandemic.

Domestic concerns faced by everyday Americans—most notably a historic inflation rate—will be key priorities, according to Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.), chair of the House Republican Conference.

House Republicans will take the administration to task on alleged “policy failures that have created an inflation crisis, energy crisis, border crisis, and crime crisis impacting every American family,” Stefanik told *The Epoch Times* in an emailed statement.

Big Tech's censorship of conservative voices will also be scrutinized, she added.

On the foreign policy front, the Biden administration's botched withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) influence in the United States and abroad, and U.S. strategy toward Iran are set to come under focus.

Republicans are already laying the groundwork to take on “an aggressive oversight role” next year by issuing preservation notices and document requests so that a potential Republican majority “will be ready to hold the Biden administration accountable from day one,” a House GOP leadership aide told *The Epoch Times* in an email.

Oversight Committee

Many of the inquiries are expected to be spearheaded by the powerful House Committee on Oversight and Reform, the chamber's main investigative panel that has broad authority to scrutinize various facets of the administration.

The committee's ranking member, James Comer (R-Ky.), who is poised to take the chair should the Republicans flip the House, foreshadowed an ambitious agenda by a Republican-led panel.

“We will return the House Oversight and Reform Committee to its core mission of rooting out waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the federal gov-

▶
The U.S. Capitol in Washington on March 11, 2022.



ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

We will continue to conduct oversight of Hunter Biden and the Biden Family's pattern of peddling access to the highest levels of government to enrich themselves.

Rep. James Comer

ernment and holding the Executive Branch accountable,” Comer told *The Epoch Times* in an emailed statement.

Another committee member, Rep. Michael Cloud (R-Texas), said of the Biden administration in an email to *The Epoch Times*: “Their days of corruption, fraud, and abuse will no longer be met with blind eyes.”

Hunter Biden

Chief among priorities of a Republican-led House Oversight Committee is an investigation into Hunter Biden and his foreign business dealings.

For more than two years, the president's son has been at the center of growing controversy about his overseas business activities, including in Ukraine, Russia, and China, conducted while Biden was vice president in the Obama administration.

Hunter is currently the subject of a federal investigation being conducted out of Delaware and, according to a recent CNN report citing unnamed sources, it is “nearing a critical juncture.”

Hunter has previously denied wrongdoing, and Joe Biden has maintained that he has never discussed Hunter's business activities with his son.

The president's son's extensive financial dealings with foreign individuals and businesses raise concerns about conflicts of interest, illegal lobbying, and whether his ties influenced U.S. foreign policy during the Obama administration, critics say.

Republicans have honed in on Hunter's work for Ukrainian gas firm Burisma at the time his father was the Obama administration's point man on Ukraine, and on Hunter's dealings with several Chinese companies and businessmen with links to the CCP.

“We will continue to conduct oversight of Hunter Biden and the Biden Family's pattern of peddling access to the highest levels of government to enrich themselves,” Comer said.

“They have racked up over 150 suspicious activity reports for

their foreign business deals, which is a national security threat,” the lawmaker said, referring to a CBS report saying that U.S. banks had flagged more than 150 financial transactions involving Hunter or the president's brother James, for further review by the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. Some of the transactions involved large wire transfers, the report says.

“We need to know if President Biden benefited financially from these deals and if he is beholden to the interests of foreign adversaries,” Comer said.

COVID-19 Origins

The ranking member highlighted that the committee would continue to investigate the origins of COVID-19, focusing on the possibility that the pandemic was the result of a leak from the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) in China.

“Growing evidence shows COVID-19 likely originated from the Wuhan Lab and the Communist Party of China covered it up,” Comer said.

An array of circumstantial evidence has prompted some officials and scientists to point to the WIV as the most likely source of the pandemic. These include the WIV's gain-of-function research on bat coronaviruses, reports that staff members became sick with symptoms consistent with both seasonal flu and COVID-19 in the fall of 2019, before the Chinese regime acknowledged the outbreak, and that a WIV public database of 22,000 samples and viral sequences was taken offline in September 2019 before the onset of the pandemic.

The Chinese regime's persistent refusal to allow outside access to the lab and its data has made it nearly impossible to fully investigate the lab leak theory.

Domestically, the potential role of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in aiding WIV's activities has been viewed with particular alarm by Republicans, who are looking to intensify the inquiry. The NIH has previously funded

WIV via New York-based health nonprofit EcoHealth, including one grant for what experts have described as gain-of-function research on bat coronaviruses.

“We will seek to hold U.S. government officials accountable for any wrongdoing, and ensure Americans' tax dollars aren't being used on risky research at unsecure labs,” Comer said.

Other Key Priorities

The ongoing struggle by the administration to control the flow of illegal immigrants at the U.S.–Mexico border is set to become another focal point for Republicans serving on the House Oversight Committee, and other panels.

“We will also continue our oversight of Biden's border crisis that has led to historic illegal immigration, a surge of deadly drugs pouring across the border, and mismanagement of taxpayer dollars,” Comer said.

With a Republican-led House Energy and Commerce Committee, Biden's energy policies amid a deepening global squeeze on oil and gas are expected to come under close scrutiny.

“We will build on our robust oversight over how the administration is censoring conservative speech, shutting down American energy and increasing gas prices, abusing its public health emergency powers, [and] colluding with political allies like teacher's unions,” a spokesperson for Energy and Commerce Republicans told *The Epoch Times* in an email.

Meanwhile, a Republican-led House Financial Services Committee would focus on probing regulatory agencies' alleged efforts to impose a “far-left agenda” on the U.S. financial system, as well as the Biden administration's implementation of the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 stimulus package known as the American Rescue Plan, Laura Peavey, communications director for the House Financial Services GOP, wrote in an email to *The Epoch Times*.

The White House didn't respond to a request for comment.

Florida Sets Program to Help State Fight Mounting Fentanyl Overdoses

JANNIS FALKENSTERN

PUNTA GORDA, Fla.—Florida officials have announced an effort to focus on addressing the state's rising death toll associated with fentanyl overdoses.

Gov. Ron DeSantis said the synthetic opioid “ruins lives” and has infiltrated “other substances” that have led to a number of deaths, as he announced the statewide initiative at an Aug. 3 news conference in Brevard County.

“Fentanyl overdoses make up 70 percent of all overdoses in Florida,” the governor said.

The addiction program—Coordinated Opioid Recovery (CORE) Network—is based on a model from Palm Beach County that has been successful in curbing addiction, will be expanded to 12 additional counties. It uses a three-prong approach to recovery that

“focuses on long-term treatment,” the governor said.

The program will begin in Brevard, Clay, Duval, Escambia, Gulf, Manatee, Marion, Pasco, and Volusia counties, and will be expanded to Citrus, Pinellas, and Flagler counties.

DeSantis named Dr. Courtney Phillips, the director of behavioral health for the Health Care District of Palm Beach County, the statewide director of opioid recovery. Phillips said recognizing that substance addiction is “an illness” and understanding the effect on the brain is important in treating the disease.

She said her goal is to provide people who suffer from substance addiction with 24/7 access to assistance, readily available evidence-based treatment, medical and psychiatric care, and social support.

“No other chronic condition has been treated without access to emergency services the way addiction has been for many years in the past,” she said. “In Florida, that stops today, thanks to this initiative.”

During the press event, DeSantis said fentanyl overdose deaths have increased by 800 percent since 2015; in 2022, there have been almost 2,000 fentanyl overdoses across the state.

The governor, who has butted heads over policy with the Biden administration, blamed Florida's growing fentanyl problem on an open southern border.

“They are letting it come in with these disastrous policies,” DeSantis said. “Now, in the United States, the leading cause of death for Americans [between] 18 to 25 is fentanyl overdose.”

Deputy Secretary for Health



DON EMMERT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

A Drug Enforcement Administration chemist checks confiscated powder containing fentanyl at the DEA Northeast Regional Laboratory in New York on Oct. 8, 2019.

Dr. Kenneth Schepke said first responders have been instructed to take overdose victims to specialty hospitals that are trained in addiction medicine and eventually move them into “long-term care facilities” that will help them

“break the overdose cycle.”

He said, “Substance use disorder is a chronic, life-threatening, and relapsing disease that needs to be treated like all other chronic diseases with medical and subspecialty expertise.”

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



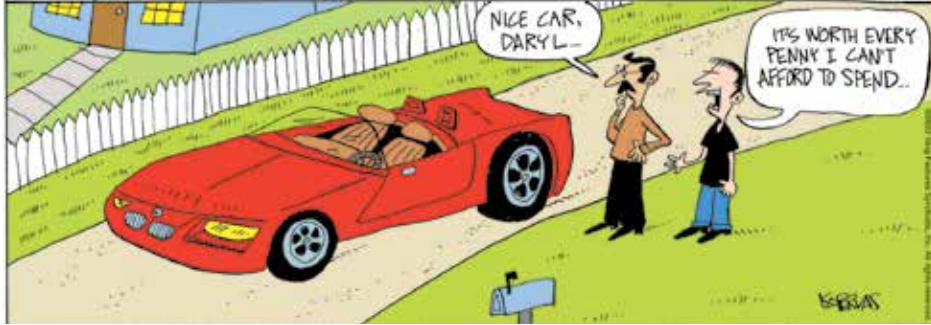
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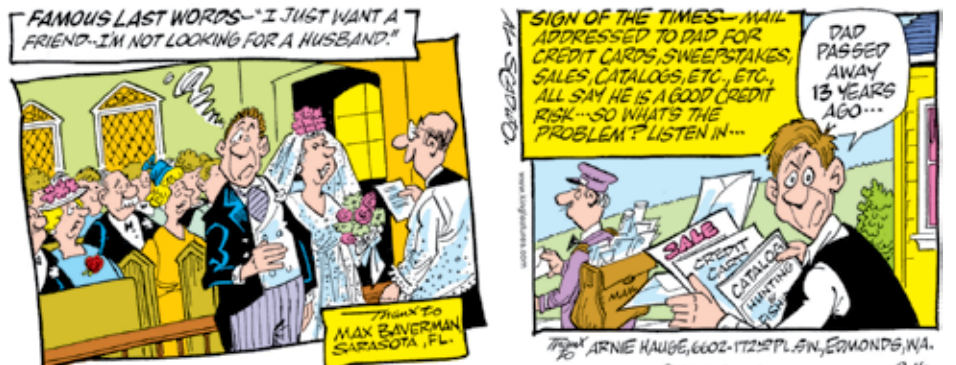
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



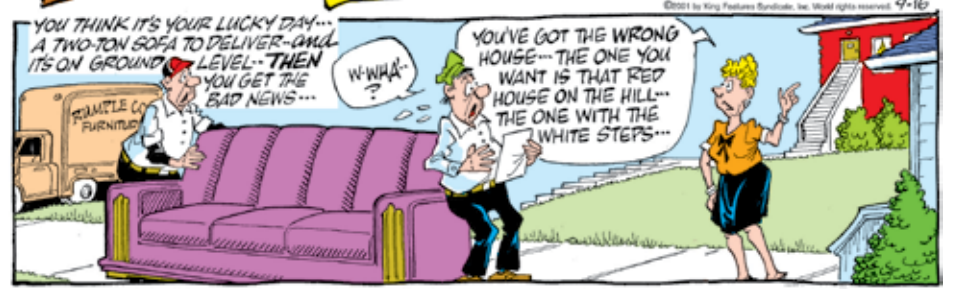
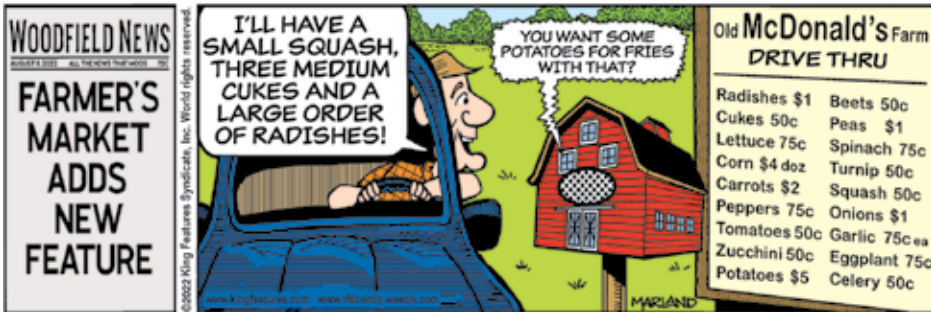
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



GRIN and BEAR IT

LAFF-A-DAY

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

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BY HENRY BOLTNOFF



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Passing on the Trade San Francisco's Shortstop Stops by SacTown



David Tejada receives a thousand-dollar scholarship from Regina Koeler, wife of the late Frank Koehler, who taught construction trades his entire career in Dixon schools.

Story and photo by Debra Dingman, Dixon editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Frank Koehler, long-time shop teacher at CA Jacobs Middle School isn't here anymore but he is still passing on construction skills to youth through a \$1,000 scholarship to Dixon High School graduate David Tejada.

Tejada's plans are to work in the construction industry and will start Sacramento State University this fall majoring in Construction Management. "I have always enjoyed working outside with my hands and my Dad is a carpenter. He came here when he was 16 but my mom was born here. He always took me to work with him when I wasn't playing sports, and he taught me how to use a hammer, build a fence, measure and cut wood, and how to read plans," he said. Tejada has also played varsity soccer throughout high school and was honored with Most Valuable Player twice. He also did track and band all four years plus he played in the jazz band two years and was in the Public Service Academy two years. His community service included volunteering at St. Peter's Catholic Church and in school clean ups. He expressed sincere gratitude for the recognition and support. ★

house destroyed by a hurricane and that he and his Dad helped rebuild it. He remembered making the adobe bricks. Regina was delighted to hear that because her and Frank had built their home out of adobe bricks as well – but purchased ones, she added.

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By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - It's not often that you have a three-time All-Star and four-time Gold Glove Award winner rolling through Sacramento and suiting up for the River Cats.

However, the uncommon occurred last week as San Francisco Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford played for the Giants' Triple-A affiliate, the Sacramento River Cats. Crawford was in town for multiple days to get in some game-action before returning to San Francisco following a stint on the injured list with a knee injury.

"The past week's been pretty good," Crawford told the media before taking the field on Tuesday, August 2. "I had three or four days where I wasn't really feeling anything in the knee. I'm hoping to continue that."

The Mountain View native had been on the IL since July 16 after aggravating the knee that had previously sidelined him once before this season. Crawford aggravated the injury on June 21 during a 12-10 victory over the reigning World Series champions, the Atlanta Braves. He spent the minimum 10 days on the IL before returning on July 5.

Crawford may have rushed his return coming back after 10 days, because 11 days later, he was right back on the IL as the Giants continue to fight to keep their record above .500 following a National League West division title last season.

"I have to make sure the knee is feeling good before I come off the IL," Crawford said. "Last time I came off



San Francisco Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford fields a ground ball during a rehab stint with the River Cats on Tuesday, August 2 at Sutter Health Park in Sacramento. Photos courtesy of Ricardo Cazares

the IL and felt good for a game, but the next week after that I wasn't feeling great. I feel like the only way to test it in a game like situation is to actually play a game. That's kind of what we decided would be best. Hopefully going forward the next couple months it feels pretty good."

Before his return from the IL, the 35-year-old recorded a .215 batting average with five home runs, 33 RBI, 29 runs scored and 10 doubles in 72 games for San Francisco this season.

"We're not far out of the playoff race right now," Crawford explained. "Hopefully I can come back healthy, and Evan Longoria can come back healthy, and we can be at full strength for a little while. I think with the guys that we have, and we kept, we can make a push for the playoffs."

As for his time spent in Sacramento, this wasn't the veteran's first time experiencing the Capitol of California.

"It's definitely convenient," Crawford said about Sutter Health Park being within driving distance of Oracle

Park. "I've always enjoyed Sacramento. I've had family that's lived up here. I have definitely played one exhibition here. I can't remember if I've played two. It's nice to come back out."

Crawford returned to the majors on Saturday, August 6. The timing couldn't have been any better for the man who was once a boy born in the Bay Area, as the Giants swept a two-game set on the road from their regional rivals, the Oakland Athletics, in the Battle of the Bay.

In eight at bats over the weekend, Crawford had three hits, two runs scored, one run batted in and one walk with three strikeouts. The Giants won Saturday 7-3 and Sunday 6-4.

As of Monday morning, August 8, San Francisco (53-55) was 6.5 games back of their rival, the San Diego Padres (61-50), who currently hold the third and final Wild Card spot. Both teams will need a WC berth to get into the playoffs as the Los Angeles Dodgers (75-33) are currently running away with the NL West crown. ★

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