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Dixon Independent Voice

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MARCH 4, 2022

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Rams Run Winning Streak



Members of the Dixon girls varsity basketball team celebrate defeating Calaveras 48-42 in the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division IV girls basketball championship on Friday, Feb. 25 at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Michael Vlach.

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Pressure was high Friday at Golden 1 Center as two juggernauts faced off for the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division IV girls basketball championship.

Dixon (26-3, 10-0 Golden Empire League) and Calaveras (27-4, 10-0 Mother Lode) each came into the game as champions of their respective leagues on 18-game winning streaks. Something had to give in this matchup of behemoths, as Dixon

prevailed 48-42 to extend their win streak to 19 and secure the Division IV section title.

“It didn’t really hit me that, ‘Ok Mikey, your team is in the history books now.’ It didn’t catch (on),” said Dixon head coach Mike Gilliard. “Then my son was like, ‘Dad, you gotta understand, we’re in the history books right now.’”

The Rams’ current streak is nearly double the total amount of games (10) the team played last season due to the coronavirus pandemic.

“It was such an honor for us just to get to play this season,” said Dixon senior forward Brianna Humphries. “Just because COVID was still around and was still a big thing. Getting to win all those games was such an honor for us just to play as a team and get all these wins together.”

The Rams were led to the victory by Humphries who told the Independent Voice that it was one of the best performances of her career. The senior forward recorded

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City Invites Public to Hear Housing Update

By Raffi Boloyan, City of Dixon

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The public will have two opportunities to hear about housing in the City at two upcoming meetings. The Planning Commission and City Council will each receive the same presentation on the following project at upcoming meetings on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 (Planning Commission) and Tuesday, March 15, 2022 (City Council).

Housing Element Update (2023-2031)

An introduction and overview on the upcoming 6th Housing cycle (2023-2031) Housing Element update process for the City of Dixon, including state law changes that affect housing element updates, the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) process, the Solano County collaborative, required components of the Housing Element and the upcoming work plan and steps for the update process.

1. Planning Commission meeting - **Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will not be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting via video conferencing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9886211137?pwd=r2dxz3rkbu9sqx-dluvlrkc0qlwzz09> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128, meeting ID: 988 621 1137, passcode: 604754 and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

2. City Council meeting - **Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may attend the meeting in person, or participate in the meeting via video conferencing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9886211137?pwd=r2dxz3rkbu9sqx-dluvlrkc0qlwzz09> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128, meeting ID: 988 621 1137, passcode: 604754 and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

Agendas and staff reports for each of those meetings will be posted on the Friday before each meeting, www.atcityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos. ★

Testing the Waters

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It is nothing out of the ordinary for Luis Camarena to not trust water – even from the faucet in one’s kitchen. He grew up in Mexico where water was a dangerous commodity. Everyone purchased water where he grew up. Even when he lived in Dixon for 17 years while growing up, his family always carted bottles to and from the kiosks. But as time went on, he noticed the spickets got dirty, there was mold in the drop zone, and the water dispensers looked unclean.

Working in a lab through the years, he learned about bacteria and how the human body can get parasites and that pure water is the “best fluid for their body,” he said he became aware of the importance of sanitation and the need for pure drinking water. He also married and brought babies into the world. These are many of



Luis Camarena poses in front of the huge reverse osmosis water filtering system he purchased for his business, Dixon Pure H2O, to provide pure water to Dixonites. Photo by Debra Dingman

the reasons that Camarena thought owning a store that sold healthy, pure drinking water would be a great idea – especially here in Dixon. “There are many older homes in Dixon; some that are from the 1940s and 1950s that have old lead

pipes,” he said. “Unless they have removed old pipes, sediment has built up. That sediment gets in your water. What the City does is provide water but it’s not enough.”

He opened the store just a few months ago in the

Safeway Shopping Plaza.

Behind his counter is a large glass window where customers can see the huge reverse-osmosis water system in the back.

“It is a 5-step purification system using

Continued on page 10





Life's too SHORT

Week of Most Unhappy Place

By Debra Dingman

While getting a bad cold, I've taken to the couch and reading *Tuesdays with Morrie*. My second time. I love this book. I'm several chapters in when I read how Morrie explains to Mitch that he cries all the time now. He says that it's hard to explain but maybe because he's suffering, he feels closer to people who also suffer. He watched a newsclip about Bosnia where people were running across the street getting fired upon and killed. They were innocent victims and he said he felt their anguish as if it were his own. I read that part out loud to hubby who always wonders why I cry so easily...

I'm laying in bed after a couple sleepless nights because my coughing kept me awake and my mind is turning everything over in my brain that I could possibly worry about. The Kiwanis Club is near and dear to my heart but with working at the newspaper, my time is slim and I can't help as much as I want. I was worried that our new date (April 9) along with our new venue (The Dixon Moose Lodge,) would not allow enough room to take fun photos of families with their children. After years of attending events there, I just couldn't see how a very large, fluffy bunny was going to get around in there.

When I finally decided I would go for a tour of the place and double check things, I got up and dragged my slippered feet to the middle of our asphalt court to pick up the newspaper. (For some reason, our Reporter newspaper carrier can't figure out which of the five homes in our court takes the paper

so he throws it smack dab in the middle of it instead of our front. Not a problem on Saturday and Sunday but weekdays, our neighbor leaves for work early and always smashes it with his car wheels. Yes, I've called and no, nothing has changed.)

I pull off the rubber band and there is the headline big as a World War font: Russia launched a large-scale invasion of Ukraine. I only made it back to the bench on our porch before I had to sit with heartbreak. "And, I was worried about a bunny," I secretly asked God for forgiveness and said with shame to hubby. We turned on the news.

And each day and each night we've watched a potential World War unfold, praying fervently for solutions that greater minds than ours might have. It was Putin's threat to countries who interfere will face "consequences you have never seen" that terrified me most. What does that mean?!?! I say to hubby. My USAF hubby just reassures me that our Military is greater than I think.

Rolling in my mind were the Ukraine people in the subway cold and hungry and the woman saying she "just couldn't believe we were bombed!" So many families just like us in America with children in front packs and strollers and tagging alongside parents...I'm sure there are many of us who are trying to figure out what we can do to help.

David and I agree that if any of those families could get here, we'd share our home...we'd find a way to help. I truly feel their anguish. Now, it's later in the week, and I'm more sick than ever. The doctor has put me on antibiotics for bronchitis. Please pray for Peace! ★

Dixon News Briefs



This little guy, Shere Khan, is one of 17 rescues from one home in Dixon that need to find new homes after they are fixed. If you can help, call Solano Kitten Network at (707) 862-1400. Photo by Trina Shaw

MPG Staff

City Planning

The Dixon City Planning Commission will be meeting the second Tuesday of the month, March 8, at 7 pm. For the agenda, go to cityofdixon.com. At press time, this meeting is not going to be physically open to the public and is scheduled for Zoom access only. The access info will be on the agenda that is usually posted on the Thursday before the meeting on the city website or you can call the city at (707) 678-7000.

Support Baseball

Tickets are now on sale for the Dixon High School Baseball Teams' annual fundraiser dinner at Bud's Pub & Grill. The boys will be selling tickets on the following dates at Safeway in Dixon: Saturday, March 5 from 9 am to 3 pm; Saturday, March 12 from 9 am to 3 pm and April 9, from 9 am to 3 pm.

The dinner will be held on Monday, April 11, from 4 to 8 pm and the ticket/donation is \$30 per person.

Entree Choices: Prime Rib, Chicken and Mushrooms, Tri Tip with Gorgonzola Sauce, Fresh Salmon or Specialty Pasta of the Day. All dinners include a house salad, garlic roasted potatoes, bread and a non-alcoholic beverage.

They can also deliver tickets by contacting Regina Fish (707) 628-9771.

Ruhstaller Farm

Kicking off their 2nd season of music at Ruhstaller Farm is Hannah Jane Kile who will perform with her full band this Friday, March 4, from 5 to 8 pm. Hannah Jane Kile is a singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Donations welcome and appreciated.

Ruhstallers is a popular brewery and entertainment center now open Tuesday and Wednesday 3 to 8 pm; Thursday and Friday 3 to 9 pm; and Saturday and Sunday noon to 9 pm. They are at 6686 Sievers Road in Dixon. They are family and pet friendly. They not only grow beer, they

have a nice selection on their menu that is fun to eat around one of their numerous campfires.

For more information, call (530) 601-8240 or go to RuhstallerFarm.com.

Time Change

Don't forget that time change is only a week away! You will need to set your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night March 12.

Senior Activities

Crafters are invited to craft and chat on Mondays from 10 to 11 am at the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 South Fifth Street. The Center is open daily from 9 am to 2:30 pm and ask that all unvaccinated guests please wear a mask.

Also, volunteer Tim Olesen, is offering basic tech support for Seniors, including help with Desktop (PC/Mac) iPhone/iPad Email/Web-browsing Communications (Skype/ Face me,) Online Service Support Bill Pay, Banking, Online Forms and Online Healthcare.

He offers one-hour appointments scheduled at your home or at the Senior Center. Please call the Center before 2:30 pm at (707) 678-7022 for more information.

Help Kittens

Solano Kitten Network is asking for assistance from our Solano County friends, families and neighbors, to help spay and neuter a local colony of feral cats and kittens.

As a volunteer-based 501c3 organization, we are dependent on the generosity of others; 100% of donations go directly towards serving the cat community through vaccinations, veterinary expenses, fostering supplies, trapping services, and so much more!

Donations can be made via our PayPal account. Please consider donating, any amount will help to <https://www.paypal.me/solanokittennetwork>

We are also in need of foster homes and kitty chauffeurs. If you can help, please call (707) 862-1400. ★



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Lions Barbecue Supports Dixon High School Senior Scholarships



Members of the Lions Club fire up the grills at a recent barbecue. The club has become experts at these fundraising dinners that offer a 2-way value: for the people who buy the dinners and the youth who will benefit from the scholarships. Photo courtesy of Dixon Lions

Dixon Toys for Tots, Dixon Schools Athletic Boosters, Dixon Relay for Life, Dixon High School scholarships, Wreaths Across America, Dixon Bids for Kids, Dixon Destination Imagination, Dixon Dolphins swim team, Dixon youth sports programs, DHS Open House, DHS Sober Grad Night, Dixon FFA, Dixon Elementary School outdoor education trips & Lions Club vision programs.

Dixon Lions are a group of service-minded people who are interested in improving their community. They are young people, families, and baby boomers alike. To become a Dixon Lion is to become an active volunteer, a member of a respected international organization, a leader in the community, and a friend to people in need.

For tickets, please call Scott Smith at (916) 806-7451, or contact any Dixon Lions Club member. For more information about the Dixon Lions Club, see their website: <http://e-Clubhouse.org/sites/DixonCA> or check out their Facebook page: Dixon Lions Club.

They meet on the first and third Wednesday from 7 to 8:30 pm at Bud's Pub & Grill, 100 South First Street in downtown Dixon. ★

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Great bargain and great food awaits those who buy a ticket to the Dixon Lions Club annual BBQ Tri Tip Drive-thru Fundraiser on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at the Tractor Supply parking lot between 4 and 7 pm.

For only \$15 per meal, you get sliced barbecue Tri tip, potato salad, baked beans & dinner roll (potato salad & beans will be in a separate container within meal.) They

store well in a fridge if you want to enjoy this great meal two days in a row or you can buy enough for the whole family and sit around your outdoor patio table.

You must present a ticket on day of the event when you pick up your meal.

All proceeds help fund Dixon High School senior scholarships. Since the club's chartering in 1954, proceeds from past fundraising events have gone to Team Dixon, Dixon Unified School District,

Treasure Hunt Coming to May Fair



Enjoying a look at the past, these folks peruse numerous booths of vintage items and antiques for sale at a past Dixon May Fair show by Twin Bridges. Photo by Carole Berry

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Collectors attending the Dixon Antiques & Vintage Sale will discover a plethora of treasures at the Twin Bridges' 20th Annual Antiques & Vintage Sale indoors at the Dixon May Fair on Saturday, March 12, from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, March 13 from 10 am to 4 pm. It was missed by many last year.

A wide selection of quality merchandise from the Victorian period through the 1990's will be offered by Western States exhibitors including Western Americana; Folk Art and Native American art; American and European furniture and furnishings; art pottery & glassware; sterling silver and silverplate flatware and holloware; vintage and estate jewelry, watches, accessories and coins; tools, militaria and sporting; toys, dolls, linens and textiles; paper collectibles and repurposed, refurbished and upscaled.

Part of the proceeds benefits charities supported by Soroptimist International of

Dixon with over \$17,000 raised to date.

"We have worked with them since 2002 and are proud to be supporters and benefit from the event," said MaryLou Batchelor. "Over the years we have gained new memberships from the event and made special friends with a number of the vendors that attend. We, too, have missed the event and generally it is very well attended."

Daily food and beverage service will be provided by volunteers from Soroptimist International of Dixon, chaired by Patti Crotzer. Volunteers from local Girl Scout Troops, chaired by Becky Santini, Cookie Site Coordinator, will sell cookies and volunteer as event helpers throughout the two-day event.

Admission to the Dixon May Fair show is \$6 with free return and free parking both days. A \$1 discount will be given per person with this article. The Dixon May Fair is located at 655 South First Street. For more information, contact Twin Bridges at 530-241-4063 or online at www.tbca-shows.info. ★

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The Stars Come Out at Night!

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce invites you to join us as we honor the 59th Annual CITIZEN OF THE YEAR, 26th Annual BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR and VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Saturday, March 12, 2022, From 5 to 11 pm
 The Olde Vets Hall, 231 N. First St. in downtown Dixon

Dinner catered by Bud's Pub & Grill
 Music & Dancing to the sounds of TRM4
 For information call 707-678-2650
 Email info@dixonchamber.org
 COVID protocols in effect at the time will be followed

\$55 per person Must be purchased by March 4, 2022 No tickets will be sold at the door

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Some Proudful Times and New Endeavors at DFS in 2021

By Cookie Powell,
Dtr. of Dixon Family Services

First Ever Drive-thru Fund Event for DFS

The pandemic and related restrictions created the need for us to do drive-thru distributions of food, face masks, hand sanitizers, toilet paper, diapers, gift cards, detergents and other household necessities on several occasions. Covid-19 restrictions were also the reason we had our first ever drive-thru fund event, 'Drive and Dine for DFS'.

The event was a collaboration of many good volunteers from the Lions Club, Rotary Club, DFS Board of Directors, local business sponsorships and people who purchased dinner tickets and raffle tickets. 'Drive and Dine for DFS' generated \$14,000 in profit, a lot of volunteer comradery and a chance to say 'hi' and 'thank you' to many supporters who drove through our back alley to pick up their dinners. We consider the event a great success. We might do another one in 2022 if we're not able to plan an indoor event like Comedy Night.

Santa Came to DFS, Thanks to Ron DuPratt Ford

Another highlight of 2021 was in December when Santa Claus came to DFS, sat in our lobby for several hours to greet and visit with children of the community. That day was not only responsible for many big eyes and smiles from small people. DFS and Ron DuPratt staff members and parents were also touched by the joy of the season and the magic of Santa Claus. We sincerely hope he will stop by again in December 2022.

Citizen of the Year, Sarah Villec

We cannot finish this summary of good news highlights of 2021 without talking about Sarah Villec, our Board of Directors President, being honored by all local, state and federal officials

and the Dixon Chamber of Commerce as Citizen of The Year! Several news articles re-capped her life as a business leader and a community volunteer. You can see some of the stories about Sarah on our website, www.dixonfamilyser-vices.org

Never fading in her dedication and support for Dixon Family Services, Sarah is currently recruiting to fill some vacant positions on our Board of Directors. We are hoping that our in-person meetings may resume by March. Good people who believe in what we do for families and children, willing to roll up their sleeves and get involved at the Board level, should call Sarah at 707-678-5594 or email her at advertising@dixontribune.com

She will explain how important it is to represent our organization, raise funds, solicit for additional support/partnerships, and spread the good word/educate fellow citizens about DFS's purpose and why we are vital to a healthy community.

In Summary

We look forward to continued relationships that enable us to assist more families this year and beyond. Whether you are a donor, volunteer, advocate, partner organization or supporter in some other way – we appreciate you and consider you a valuable member of Team DFS! We are all a partnership of compassionate human beings who desire to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

These last two years have been more challenging than usual, but at the same time, the support for Dixon Family Services as a method to be "part of the solution" has grown immensely, and it is our honor and privilege to pass on your generosity to people who need it.

If you want to join the Team DFS Partnership, please contact us at info@dixonfamilyservices.org or 707-678-0442. Learn more about us at www.dixonfamilyservices.org. ★

Ron DuPratt Passes

By Debra Dingman

Ever friendly, courteous, and professional Ron DuPratt, the founder of one of the longest established businesses in Dixon who was an example of engaged Dixon citizenry, passed away this past Thursday. He was 95.

Ron and his wife, Jacky, bought the car dealership in Dixon in 1956 and grew his reputation of honest and low-pressure sales adding to the expansive lot on the corner of North First Street and Over the years, his grown sons, Greg and Val, joined in leading the business and two additional locations were eventually added two additional locations; another in Dixon and one in Vacaville.

His civic involvement and solid business ethics kept him number one in car sales in Dixon for nearly six decades. He was a member of the Dixon Rotary that same amount of time and was an ever-present chef at pancake breakfasts for many years. He long served the Dixon Chamber of Commerce.

Even till recently, the couple were frequent visitors to the Veterans Memorial Hall dinners where they were surrounded

by many long-time friends.

The business supported almost every known event all the way up to his passing. He also served as a planning Commissioner and a Councilman in the 1970s and was honored in 1965 as Dixon's Citizen of the Year.

In 2014 when Ron was approaching his 90s and his sons did not want to take over the business in their coming retirement years, the family sold to their General Manager, Pete Spitzer, who continued the legacy of being a family-run business. Recently, the dealership was ranked No. 1 in Solano County, and the No. 7 dealership in Northern California. The sale of parts is a big part of the business and in 2021, the company was ranked No. 5 in the nation.

Mr. DuPratt was born in Mason, Nevada in 1926 to parents who immigrated from Italy in 1910. He went on to become an all-state basketball and football player in high school and played for the University of Nevada basketball team from 1945 to 1949, according to news sources. He also had a major interest in cars, particularly Fords, when he moved to California in 1956 to buy the Ford dealership here. ★



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL

In accordance with the Government Code section 54953(d) and City of Dixon City Council Resolution No. 22-018, the Dixon City Council will hold a hybrid PUBLIC HEARING to consider the following project:

PROJECT: Vacant Lot at Southwest of the N. Lincoln Street/SR 113 intersection (Lincoln Square Project) - Request for Rezoning, Tentative Subdivision Map, Planned Development, and Design Review for the following project. A 10.99-acre portion for the site would be a subdivided residential community, which would be developed into 100 detached, two single-family homes. Additionally, the proposed project includes a 2.27-acre commercial lot, which would be developed at the corner of the site with a 4,500-sq-ft (sf) Rotten Robbie convenience store, a 5,789-sq ft. fueling canopy with eight fuel dispensers, and a 2,613-sq ft. car wash. The commercial lot would be located immediately southwest of the North Lincoln Street/State Route (SR) 113 intersection. The proposed residences would be constructed to the west, southwest, and south of the commercial lot. The residential community would provide an open space area by way of a pocket park, which would be located immediately to the west of SR 113 and would serve to capture stormwater runoff. North Lincoln Street and SR 113 would provide access to the project site, with each roadway featuring a single point of entry/exit to both the commercial lot and subdivision. The Rezoning proposes to change the zoning from Light Industrial (ML)/Professional Administrative Office (PAO)- Planned Development (PD) to Planned Mixed Use (PMU) -Planned Development (PD), to be consistent with the recently adopted General Plan; APN No's: 0108-110-450 and -460; Light Industrial (ML)/Professional Administrative Office (PAO)/Planned Development (PD) Zoning District; Duffel Financial & Construction Company, property owner, Lewis Land Development, Inc, applicant; File No's: PA20-31, RZ20-01, PD20-01, TM20-01 and DR20-10.

Consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") an assessment of potential impacts (Initial Study) was completed and released for a 30-day public review period, beginning on Friday, January 7, 2022 and concluding on Monday, February 7, 2022. Potentially significant impacts related to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, transportation, and tribal cultural resources were identified in the Initial Study and all the potentially-significant impacts were shown to be reduced or eliminated by requiring and implementing recommended mitigation measures. Therefore Initial Study (IS) recommends the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration, which includes the recommended mitigation measures. The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, on February 8, 2022. Revisions to the mitigation measures for biological resources were included as a result of comments submitted during the public review period. This notice provides the City's intention to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The IS/MND and supporting documents are available for public review at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/EnvironmentalReviewDocuments>

HEARING DATE & LOCATION Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may attend the meeting in person, or participate in the meeting via video conferencing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9886211137?pwd=r2dxz3rkbu9sqxdlvllrkc0qlqwz09> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128, meeting ID: 988 621 1137, passcode: 604754 and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment

MORE INFORMATION: Contact Scott Greeley, at (707) 678-7000 ext. 1115 or sgreeley@cityofdixon.us. You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also view the staff report after 12:00 p.m. on the Friday before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>. You may view the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/EnvironmentalReviewDocuments>

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing either in person or remotely in order to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to making any decision on the application. The City Council hearing will serve as the this final decision for this project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed CityCouncil@cityofdixon.us or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, City Council, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the City Council and will become part of the official record, but will not be read aloud at the meeting. You may remotely attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above, and provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments during public comment period at the meeting, you may 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand" 2) via teleconference press *9, or 3) email comments/questions to publiccomment@cityofdixon.us

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

Appeals of decisions by the Planning Commission to the City Council shall be made in person at Dixon City Hall by completing the appeal application and submitting the required fee, within 10 calendar days of a decision (Dixon Municipal Code Sections 17.01.050 or 18.40).

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-000197
The following persons are doing business as: CT HANDYMAN 106 Meadowbrook Court Vallejo, CA 94591 Chris Gilbreth, 106 Meadowbrook Court Vallejo, CA 94591 DateFiledInSolanoCounty:December30,2021 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A 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 February 02, 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: February 25, March 4, 11, and 18, 2022 DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 3-18-22

TRUSTEE SALE NOTICES

T.S. No. 21-20191-SP-CA Title No. 210188941-CA-VOI A.P.N. 0113-081-040 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 11/12/1999. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, (cashier's check(s) must be made payable to National Default Servicing Corporation), drawn on a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings

association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state; will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made in an "as is" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Ruth E. Nixon, as surviving joint tenants Duly Appointed Trustee: National Default Servicing Corporation Recorded 11/17/1999 as Instrument No. 1999-00099673 (or Book, Page) of the Official Records of Solano County, CA. Date of Sale: 03/21/2022 at 9:30 AM Place of Sale: At the Santa Clara Street Entrance to the City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA. 94590 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$75,828.84 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 29 El Dorado Dr Dixon, CA 95620 A.P.N.: 0113-081-040 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The requirements of California Civil Code Section 2923.5(b)(2)2923.55(c) were fulfilled when the Notice of Default was recorded. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL

BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgage, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call or visit this Internet Web site www.ndscorp.com/sales, using the file number assigned to this case 21-20191-SP-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Date: 02/16/2022 National Default Servicing Corporation c/o Tiffany & Bosco, P.A., its agent, 1455 Frazee Road, Suite 820 San Diego, CA 92108 Toll Free Phone: 888-264-4010 Sales Line 855-219-8501; Sales Website: www.ndscorp.com By: Rachael Hamilton, Trustee Sales Representative 02/25/2022, 03/04/2022, 03/11/2022 CPP352034

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dixon ("City") City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620, in accordance with the Fair Maps Act (Elec. Code, § 21600 et seq.), the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54950 et seq.), and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, to receive a report on the redistricting process and the permissible criteria to be considered to adjust City Council district boundaries, and to receive public input on potential City Council district boundaries.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend the Tuesday, March 15, 2022 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence on the adjustment of City Council district boundaries. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking any action or making any recommendation on potential City Council district boundaries. Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Any person requiring language interpretation services should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting.

Interested individuals will be given an opportunity to speak on the adjustment of City Council district boundaries. Written comments are also accepted prior to the meeting by mail at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or electronically by emailing truis@cityofdixon.us. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be provided to interested individuals upon request. If a challenge to the above proposed action is made in court, persons may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City before the meeting.

If you have any questions, please call the City at (707) 678-7000.

At the Pharmer's Market, Patients Suffer While Middlemen Profit



Commentary by Sally C. Pipes

Imagine a visit to the local farmer's market. When you're about to pay the farmer for some fruit, a man in a suit and sunglasses interrupts the exchange and offers to negotiate a discount with the farmer.

Cool, right? Not so fast. The man in the suit didn't tell you who the discount was for. He gets the fruit for less, to be sure, but sells it on to you for the original price. He keeps the difference between his purchase price and yours. You've received no benefit—and the farmer received far less than the price he'd listed.

Oh, to be that man in the suit!

Of course, that's not your typical farmer's market exchange. But that is how prescription drug sales work. And the suited man is called a pharmacy benefit manager.

PBMs serve as go-betweens for drug manufacturers and

insurers, helping the latter design prescription drug plans and negotiate prices. PBMs secure considerable rebates, discounts, and other payments from pharmaceutical companies.

A recent report from the Berkeley Research Group found that the majority of drug spending isn't going to the firms that develop and manufacture those drugs. Rather, it's going to entities within the supply chain like PBMs, hospitals, and health plans.

There's also evidence that middlemen are the primary reason that spending on prescription drugs is going up.

Between 2019 and 2020, total gross spending on branded medications increased 6.4%—some \$31 billion. Payers including plan sponsors, insurers, the government, and PBMs received 35% of that increase—the largest share of any player in the market. Altogether, these entities received over \$140 billion in brand-medicine spending in the form of discounts, rebates, and other payments from pharmaceutical companies that were intended to lower the cost of drugs.

Sharing discounts directly with patients could save between \$145 and \$800 per patient annually. If all rebates were shared at the point of sale, patients could save \$57 billion over 10 years.

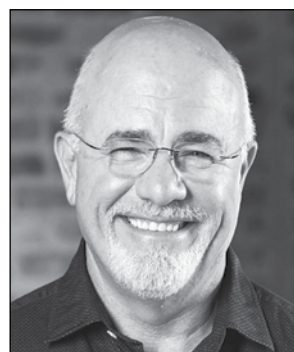
Yet those savings rarely make their way to individuals at the pharmacy counter. Even as overall drug spending rises and middlemen rake in cash, millions of Americans can't afford their prescription medicines.

This is proof of a broken system. But it need not be.

PBMs must be held accountable for their role in prescription drug spending. Lawmakers can consider requiring that prescription drug rebates be shared with patients at the point of sale. Employers can demand that their insurers and the PBMs with whom they work rebate the discounts they secure to their beneficiaries at the pharmacy counter.

Ultimately, the stakes in this "pharmer's" market are more than your weekly produce—they can dictate whether someone is able to access medication. In other words, this market dysfunction is a matter of life and death.

Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is *False Promise, False Promise: The Disastrous Reality of Medicare for All* (Encounter 2020). Follow her on Twitter @sallypipes. This column originally appeared in *Issues and Insights*. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

Choosing an Executor is a Vital Part of the Estate Planning Process

Dear Dave,

What exactly is an executor, and what part do they play in someone's will?

—Gabe

Dear Gabe,

Simply put, an executor manages the last will and testament of someone who dies. Acting as an executor is an honor and a huge responsibility. As the designated representative of the deceased, executors are responsible for making sure the deceased's assets are distributed according to the will. Executors deal with

probate court, tell everyone who needs to know about the death, pay outstanding debt, distribute assets, and generally represent the deceased person whenever needed.

Think of someone you know who is trustworthy, conscientious and good at talking to people. This person also needs to be mature, capable of handling life events with a level head and have an honest heart. You need to think about where your potential executor lives, too, because they could end up spending a lot of time working with the courts in your area.

If you already have someone in mind who has all the right personal qualities, but lives out of state, research your state's requirements for an executor's location. Virtual meetings could be a possibility.

The amount of time needed for an executor to handle your affairs when you're gone could

be enormous. Depending on the complexity of your estate, it could take months—or even years. Once you settle on someone as executor, be honest with them about all the responsibilities that come with the job. And if you're unable to find someone appropriate, you can always hire a professional executor.

Great question!
—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. ★

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Police Reports

After listening to the Chief of Police on the facts of crime. The question was asked at a WIC meeting. Do you allow the local newspapers to place the police logs on crime in Dixon? He said Yes, they are there and jokingly said they must be lazy to want to bother to place them in their newspaper. Listening to him speak about the importance of knowing what is going on in town and being informed. The crime in Dixon will grow as the population increases and those that want to commit crimes find Dixon an easy prey

by coming off the freeway to do their dirty deeds and then use the highway routes to escape. They now have license plate readers, which do help in being able to connect with other police departments to look-out for those criminals. Example is the recent shooting in Dixon, where they were able to catch those criminals via connection with other police depts to look out for those license plates. Therefore, the citizens should know what crimes are occurring in Dixon. The community needs some awareness on what goes on in Dixon. ★

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Solano COE Supports Social-Emotional Learning Amidst the Pandemic

By Jennifer Leonard, Solano COE

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Amidst the pandemic, social and emotional needs for students and educators alike seem greater than ever. Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) launched its social-emotional learning (SEL) community of practice (CoP) in March 2021 to provide resources and supports for Solano educators and students.

A community of practice is a group with a common concern or interest in a topic who come together to fulfill both individual and group goals. Communities of practice often focus on sharing best practices and creating new knowledge to advance an area of professional practice. Interaction on an ongoing basis is an important part of this.

SCOE's SEL CoP includes educators from school sites throughout the county. Collaborating during the Spring and Summer of 2021, the CoP focused on mental and emotional supports for educators. SCOE has secured grant funds for SEL work to continue in 2022 and is partnering directly with schools on opportunities available to students and educators that support self-care, mental agility, and a growth mindset. SCOE's CoP also provides educators with concrete strategies to work with students and each other while experiencing an ongoing pandemic crisis.

"Solano County Office of Education continues to prioritize social-emotional learning for students, faculty, and staff across Solano County. We are thankful for our partnership with school districts and colleagues who are committed to

ensuring the community of practice work is focused, intentional, and timely," says Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

Prior to the pandemic, California's youth were experiencing high rates of depression, anxiety, substance use, and suicide. COVID-19 has layered additional challenges for students and has heightened awareness around the need for meaningful social-emotional learning for students and educators alike. In response to the need for SEL support, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) received funding to support crisis response statewide. SCOE is partnering with the Sacramento County Office of Education to implement CalHope Student Support, using a statewide CoP model to further position educational agencies as trusted centers of wellness for their community.

For more information about the Solano County Office of Education SEL CoP, please contact Deputy Superintendent of Education Services & Student Programs Dr. Andrea Lemos, at alemos@solano-coe.net.

Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 63,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state. ★

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46. Another word for golf club
48. Rice wine
49. Lacking sense

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Riley Reviews

“UNCHARTED” SAILS FOR ADVENTURE; “ANGELA BLACK” ON TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“UNCHARTED” RATED PG-13

What happens when you mix the first “Indiana Jones” movie with “Tomb Raider” and “National Treasure?” Since one of the three is actually based on a video game, we may arrive at the conclusion that “Uncharted” proves to be a hybrid of high-octane adventure and electronic thrills.

Given that it is based on the PlayStation video game by Naughty Dog, “Uncharted” could either go the dismal route of so many videogame-to-movie transitions that flopped or surprise with a rollicking sense of fun with some likable characters up against nasty foes.

With Tom Holland (“Spider-Man”) and Mark Wahlberg as the leads paired on a treasure hunt, this video game movie falls into the latter category, an unserious yet fun escapade involving affable con artists on a wild ride.

In the spirit of fantastic stunts that permeate a rough journey, the film begins with Holland’s Nathan Drake dangling perilously by a strap tied to cargo floating out of the rear of an airborne plane.

More thrills are in store, but first a flashback to Nathan’s childhood. History buff Nathan is seen as a 10-year-old orphan with his older brother Sam breaking into a museum.

Before being apprehended by security, the boys find their attention drawn to a vintage map of the world that offers a clue to where Spanish explorer Ferdinand Magellan hid a treasure valued at billions.

Separated by the authorities, Sam goes on the run and young Nathan grows up without family. In the present day, Nathan has become a New York City bartender juggling bottles like Tom Cruise in “Cocktail” and also moonlights as a pickpocket.

Recruited by Victor “Sully” Sullivan (Mark Wahlberg) with the admission of knowing his lost brother, Nathan’s interest is aroused by the scheme to search for Magellan’s gold fortune.

But first, Nathan and Victor must infiltrate a posh auction house and coordinate a tricky ploy to purloin a golden cross that unlocks clues that takes them to Barcelona and beyond.

Trust issues arise between the two treasure hunters, with Nathan dubious about his shady mentor’s honesty and credibility, and while they are not exactly bosom buddies, they share an obsession to find the cache of gold probably located in a pirate’s cove.

Once in Spain, they encounter one of Sully’s cronies, a young woman named Chloe (Sophia Ali) who is tough and resourceful. But she’s about as trustworthy as the scorpion in the fable that involves hitching a ride on a frog’s back with a false promise not to sting him.

An even greater challenge for Nathan and Sully is the obsession of the sinister Santiago Moncada (Antonio Banderas) who claims that Magellan’s lost treasure belongs to his family’s House of Moncada.

A more interesting and exceedingly dangerous villain is Moncada’s sexy confederate Jo Braddock (Tati Gabrielle), and unlike Chloe, there’s no mystery about what side she’s fighting on.

Amidst the backstabbing, lies and double-crosses, piled on top of battling cutthroat thugs in a pizza parlor and on the high-seas and everywhere in-between, Victor and Nathan are on a bumpy road filled with some fast-paced and energetic thrills.

Knowing anything at all about the film’s origin in a video game is irrelevant for enjoyment of a rousing adventure where the bantering duo of Nathan and Sully turns on the chemistry of their wisecracks and feelings to deliver a satisfying buddy relationship.

What’s not to love about the spectacular stunts that come with 16th century Spanish galleons flying through the air for climactic battles between our heroes and Moncada’s cadre of henchmen and mercenaries?

Leaving open the almost certain possibility of a sequel, “Uncharted” could not ask for a better scenario than a repeat performance for the main protagonists and their female counterparts. “Uncharted” should set sail for its next chapter of risky ventures.

“ANGELA BLACK” ON SPECTRUM

A Spectrum Originals production, the limited series “Angela Black” is a spellbinding psychological thriller of a woman’s life seeming like a dream, but in reality, she’s living in a nightmare from which an escape may be elusive.

Angela (Joanne Froggatt) lives an ostensibly idyllic life in a lovely house in suburban London with two beautiful sons and a charming, hard-working husband, and volunteers at a dog shelter.

Behind this façade of charmed domesticity, Angela is a victim of domestic abuse at the hands of her spouse Olivier (Michiel Huisman). Though Olivier is controlling and brutal, Angela loves him and he’s the father of her children.

The daily abuse causes Angela to cover her bruises with makeup and fabricate lies to explain away her missing teeth. Until one day, Angela is approached by Ed (Samuel Adewunmi), a private investigator who smashes her already strained domestic life to pieces.

Ed reveals Olivier’s deepest secrets to Angela, and she is faced with horrifying truths about her husband and his betrayals. Forced to take matters into her own hands, the situation could become desperate for a mother trying to protect her kids. ★

Horror Hotel

by Victoria Fulton and Faith McClaren



◆ Publisher: Underlined
◆ Rating: ★★★★★
◆ Release Date: February 1, 2022

everything quickly changes when the Ghost Gang stumbles across a new horror, throwing them right in the middle of a serial killer’s path. This time the Ghost Gang needs more than each other to survive, throwing them all in a tailspin of questioning who they can trust, and this time it might be the dead that answer.

A truly mesmerizing and thrilling ghost story, *Horror Hotel* can hold its own on a shelf next to a Christopher Pike book any day. What starts as just a ghost hunting adventure quickly turns deadly, and no one is safe, not even the ghosts. This book’s ghostly twists and turns down every blood-drenched hallway will leave readers with their hearts

racing, unable to put down this book even as darkness creeps into the late hours of the night.

Debut authors Victoria Fulton and Faith McClaren are a power duo that readers will want to follow into any haunted location, even if it is just through the pages of their next book. Combining their unique ability to leave readers calling out to the characters and begging them not to go down the hallway along with the relevance of today’s social media influence makes for a perfectly blended reading experience.

Although think twice before bringing this book on your next vacation, *Horror Hotel* will have you looking down the hall, in the closets, and thinking twice before you step into the elevator or grab that bucket of ice. Go ahead, press floor 13 or 14 (which ever works for you), but only if you dare.

Underlined paperbacks are the Fear Street books for the new generation bringing gut-punching bite-size horror to devour in a weekend. With a whole line of paperback romance, thriller, and horror books releasing each month, which will you choose? ★

How California Mistreated its Working Families



By Dan Walters
CALMatters.org

Democratic politicians frequently and vehemently express their admiration for and support of what they call “working families,” while contending that rival Republicans lack such empathy.

Despite that political posture, the Democratic governor of California, with the implicit support of a Democrat-dominated Legislature, has imposed unnecessary misery on those they purport to value, as a new report from the Legislature’s budget analyst confirms.

When COVID-19 struck California two years ago, Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency and ordered closure of large segments of the state’s economy to battle its spread. Almost immediately, more than two million workers were laid off as their employers complied with the orders and most applied for unemployment insurance benefits to keep themselves and their families housed and fed.

Whether the closures and resulting layoffs were justified, in terms of their pandemic-fighting effects, will be endlessly debated. Regardless, they happened and having lost their jobs by executive decree, the suddenly idled workers’ claims for benefits deserved rapid and accurate processing by

Newsom’s Employment Development Department.

Instead, EDD’s pandemic operations rapidly devolved into a bureaucratic Chernobyl with immense and prolonged backlogs of claims, unresponsive handling of claimants’ inquiries, rampant fraud and, as the new report details, botched anti-fraud practices that blocked payments to those with legitimate claims.

The state’s oversight agencies, particularly the state auditor’s office, have steadfastly catalogued EDD’s shortcomings and the latest report, focusing on about \$20 billion in fraudulent payments and EDD’s measures to battle it, comes from the Legislative Analyst’s Office.

What emerges is a tale of an agency repeatedly failing to act when necessary and then overreacting as it tries to correct its previous errors.

Embarrassed by the revelations of fraud, mostly involving special federal jobless benefits, EDD’s managers went overboard in adopting anti-fraud policies, thus denying benefits to many legitimate and qualified claimants, the LAO report declares.

At one point, it says, “EDD and (an outside contractor) identified 1.1 million claims as potentially fraudulent. EDD stopped payments for these claims. Workers were not notified ahead of time. To reopen their accounts, workers had to verify their identity using ID.me or their accounts would be closed permanently. Ultimately, more than half of the claims (600,000) flagged as fraudulent were confirmed as legitimate.”

Thus, the “working families” that Democrats profess to treasure have been doubly

and triply mistreated.

Newsom’s proposed 2022-23 budget contains funds for six contracts by outside vendors to prevent future fraud, in addition to 13 other fraud-related contracts and the LAO report questions “whether additional anti-fraud efforts are warranted at this time.”

“Moving forward at this time with new, additional layers of fraud protection also would move the department further out of balance by again prioritizing fraud elimination at the expense of prompt and straightforward payments,” the report states.

One of the most irritating things about the EDD’s incredibly bad performance over the last two years is that its political overseers had plenty of warning. During the previous recession that began in 2007, the department experienced great difficulty in handling a surge of unemployment insurance claims because of antiquated tools and procedures.

However, once that recession ended, the agency reverted to its customary ministerial role and no one — in particular Newsom’s predecessor, Jerry Brown — took the proactive step of improving EDD’s capabilities before the next recession hit.

Thus, when it did hit in 2020 by Newsom’s decree, the department was overwhelmed and the shortcomings revealed in the previous recession were magnified. It’s another reminder of government’s endemic inability to look ahead and plan ahead.

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



BLM is a Political, Moral and Policy Disaster

The Democratic party is finally realizing its vulnerability on culture issues, and perhaps no group better exemplifies the problem than Black Lives Matter.

The group's eponymous slogan swept all before it in recent years. It was repeated by Democrats around the country. Corporate leaders paid obeisance to it. Sports leagues displayed it. Such was its totemic power that a more inclusive version of the three words – all lives matter – was considered a dangerous heresy.

The BLM agenda on criminal justice – based on the idea fewer criminals should be arrested and held in jail – took hold in blue jurisdictions, and the slogan “defund the police” got traction despite its utter impracticality and obvious political destructiveness.

Now, it's obvious how shortsighted and foolhardy all this was. The rise in violent crime is a clear and present danger to the Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, and progressive prosecutors allied with BLM who have pursued soft on crimes policies in the midst of a crime wave are under fire, facing either recalls or heavy criticism.

BLM the group is continuing to find ways to underline its own extremism as it withers under scrutiny for its dodgy finances.

If a right-wing purveyor

of internet misinformation wanted to discredit BLM and its allies, he couldn't do much better than concoct a story where a disturbed activist attempts to shoot and kill a local politician and immediately gets bailed out by his BLM brethren spouting cliched attacks on the criminal justice system.

It's what happened in Louisville, Kentucky, though. After 21-year-old Quintez Brown allegedly shot at – and missed – mayoral candidate Craig Greenberg, the BLM chapter in Louisville quickly posted his \$100,000 bail. From attempted murder to walking free a couple of days later is quite the turnaround.

The BLM organizer in Louisville, Chanelle Helm, explained it was necessary to bail out Brown because: “They are calling for this individual, this young man who needs support and help, to be punished to the full extent. It is a resounding message that people are down for the torture that has taken place in our jails and prisons.”

Everyone agrees that Brown has mental health problems and needs treatment, but given the violent act he's accused of, common sense dictates that he receives it while confined.

In the wake of George Floyd's death, BLM's radicalism was very good business. The group's co-founder, Patrisse Cullors, said the other day that the money raised itself, as practically every entity in America that wanted to bolster its “social justice” credentials tried to buy its way into BLM's good graces.

“People have to know we didn't go out and solicit the money,” Cullors explained. “This is money that came from white guilt, white corporation guilt, and they just poured money in.”

If that sounds a tad defensive, it's because BLM raised \$90 million in 2020 and it's unclear who has stewardship of the funds or how they're being spent. BLM has gone from a sainted group to one that's on the run. California and Washington have ordered BLM to stop fundraising in those states and, in a telling symbolic blow, impeccably woke Amazon has kicked BLM off its charity platform, AmazonSmile.

Cullors has the explanation that you'd expect for the new focus on BLM's lack of financial controls – “anti-Black racism.” Yes, good accounting is racist, now.

Democrats wonder how they can blunt GOP attacks on culture issues and believe that if they explain their positions better, they'll be fine. But the party is positioned so far left that it needs bold gestures. If it wanted to send an unmistakable signal of change, it would denounce the leadership of BLM, call for investigations into its finances, declare that the group's priorities aren't those of the Democratic Party, and wear the ensuing furor from the left as a badge of honor.

But Democrats won't do that and can't do that – which is why they are in such trouble.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Heeney's History

Boyhood Jobs

Commentary by Ed Heeney

One of the great things I considered as a boy down on the farm was the opportunity to have a job. Money was scarce so any chance to make some spending money was welcome. There were several farmers in the area whose kids had left and gone to the “big city” or to pursuits of their own and frequently, some extra help was needed with their farming operation. There were four of us in our family so I could frequently spring loose for a job at the neighbors.

Farm jobs started in the Spring with corn planting, oats planting, and always the first crop of alfalfa. Alfalfa offered a variety of jobs from cutting, raking, stacking, and baling. Stacking was an art in itself, requiring carefully moving forks of hay so it created a “thatch” effect to facilitate water run-off. The farmer himself usually did this job, at least until a younger person learned to be a ‘stacker.’ I eventually became a certified ‘stacker’ and reaped the benefit of bonus pay.

Then summer arrived with the BIG jobs of wheat harvest. Wheat farmers wait from planting in the Fall through winter and now early summer for their main crop to be

harvested. Everything from truck driving to water boy is a valuable task during harvest. The prize job is Combine Harvester Operator. You sit up there in the cab watching the reel tip the grain into the auger and up through the harvester and you turn your head frequently and marvel at the golden grain falling into a big bin behind you. This is farming at its best!

After harvest is completed, there is a short lull in activities until it is time to plow the land for next year's wheat crop. Plows and tillage machines are in operation day and night. When I was a Junior in high school, I hired on to plow at night. I worked a field a bit like a bowl shape down in a bottom piece of land. It wasn't too bad early in the evening, but as the night grew darker, it sure got lonely. When down in the ‘bowl-like’ part, there just was nothing to keep you company except the ‘pop,’ ‘pop,’ ‘pop,’ of the old John Deere tractor. It sure was good to see the sun come up over Harold Knox's barn.

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. ★

Genealogical Society Hosting Speaker Saturday

By Michele Waltz, Solano County Genealogical Society

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Gena Philibert-Ortega will present “25 Tips for Researching Your Female Ancestors” at the next meeting of the Solano County Genealogical Society. The virtual presentation begins Saturday at 11 A.M.

Finding female ancestors can be a challenge. Historically, women typically adopted their husbands' surnames when they married and used that name the rest of their lives. Property and estate records were usually recorded only in the husband's name. Nonetheless, there are records out there that document their lives.

Genealogical researcher and popular genealogical speaker Gena Philibert-Ortega has specialized in researching the women in family trees and the lives they led. Ms. Philibert-Ortega holds a master's degree

in Interdisciplinary Studies and a master's degree in Religion. Her published works include three books and numerous articles in magazines and online. Her writings can be found on her blogs, “Gena's Genealogy” and “Food.Family.Ephemera”, and on the Genealogy Bank blog. She is also editor of the Utah Genealogical Association's magazine, Crossroads. Her most recent book is From the Family Kitchen: Discover Your Food Heritage and Preserve Favorite Recipes. Ms. Philibert-Ortega's current research includes women's repatriation and citizenship in the 20th century, foodways and community in fundraising cookbooks, and women's material culture.

Guests are welcome to attend this free event. If interested, email the society at scgs@scgsca.org no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, March 4, and request an invitation. More information on society activities can be found on the society's webpage at www.scgsca.org. ★

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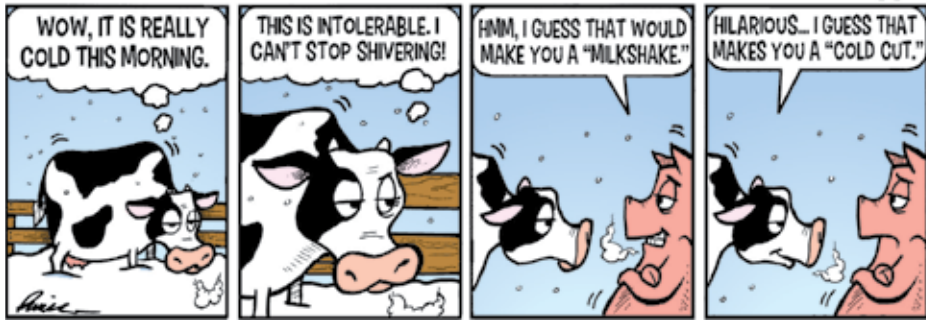
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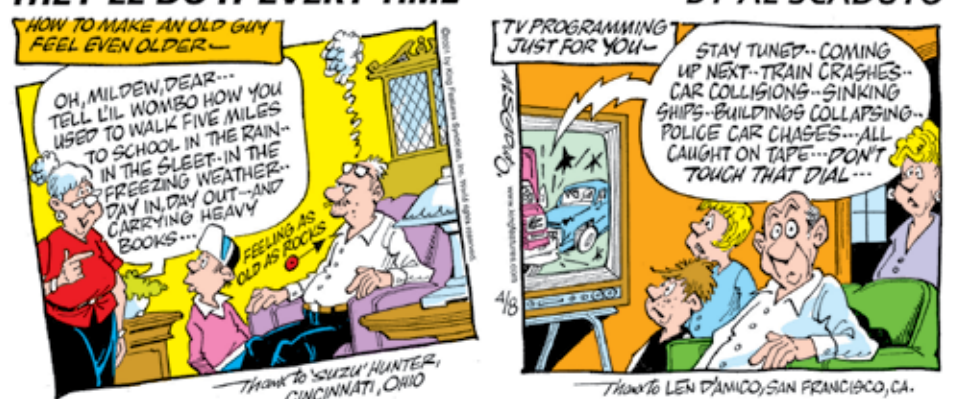
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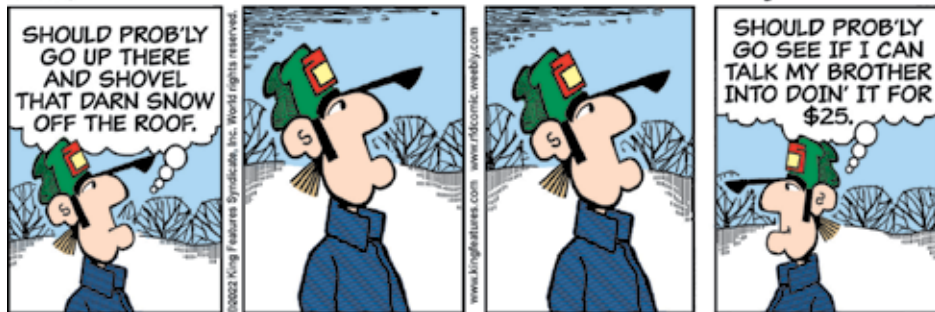
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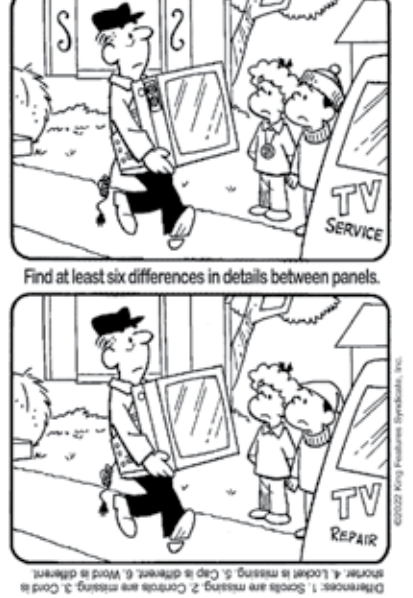
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Rams Top Calaveras to Win D4 Girls Hoops Section Title



Dixon head coach Mike Gilliard looks on as his team plays against Calaveras in the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division IV girls basketball championship on Friday, Feb. 25 at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Michael Vlach.

Continued on page 1

a double-double with a game-high 27 points, 16 rebounds, three blocks and three steals.

"Brianna is very unselfish," Gilliard said. "She's very talented, she's just a gifted athlete, she plays three sports. When she plays basketball, she does things that she doesn't realize that she's doing at another level. She had the hot hand, so the team really looked to feed her the ball.

"She's capable of getting 20-point games every night. Brianna has led us in double-doubles all season,

she had a triple-double one game. In the championship game, everyone got to see what she can do."

Humphries made 8-of-23 from the field (35%) and was a perfect 11-of-11 from the free-throw line.

"That was one of my better games," Humphries said. "I feel like I played very well just because I played as a great teammate, and I wasn't selfish with the ball. I knew that my other teammates could get the job done as well, not just me, it's a whole team effort."

Junior Brynne Dominguez contributed seven points and

eight rebounds. Senior guard Janie Ming added eight points, six rebounds and two assists.

Dixon led by three after the first quarter 15-12. The Rams stretched their lead to double-digits by half-time at 11 after outscoring Calaveras 14-6 in the second period. However, Calaveras did fight back, doubling up Dixon in the third quarter 14-7 to trim their deficit to four.

"It was a real good game," Gilliard said. "We knew that they were going to come back and throw a hard punch. It was just, how are we going to handle that? That was the main thing. We know what's coming, like how are we going to handle it? They came at us in that third quarter and then the girls answered back."

The Rams secured the victory by outscoring Calaveras 12-10 in the



Dixon senior guard Gracie Nickum prepares to shoot a free throw against Calaveras in the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division IV girls basketball championship on Friday, Feb. 25 at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Michael Vlach.



Dixon senior forward Brianna Humphries goes for the layup against Calaveras in the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division IV girls basketball championship on Friday, Feb. 25 at Golden 1 Center in Sacramento. Photo courtesy of Michael Vlach.

fourth period to ultimately win by six.

"Doing this after I think it was about 42 years, being the section champions at Dixon High School, it's probably the best feeling I've ever had in a high school game," Humphries said.

Both teams' seasons will now continue Tuesday

at 6 P.M. With the win, Dixon moves up to the Division III CIF State Girls Basketball Championships and will host Chico (19-8, 8-2 Eastern). Calaveras will remain in the Division IV bracket and host Madera (16-15, 5-5 County/Metro). ★

20 Straight Wins!

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

DIXON, CA (MPG) - One year after playing a season with only 10 games due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Dixon High School girls varsity basketball team has won 20 games in a row.

The Rams (27-3, 10-0 Golden Empire League) returned home Tuesday for the first round of the Division III CIF State Girls Basketball Championships. Dixon defeated Chico (19-9, 8-2 Eastern) by a score of 58-46.

"With Chico, I knew it was going to be a tough game because they have very good outside shooting," Dixon head coach Mike Gilliard told the Independent Voice. "Their guard was very crafty, she knew how to split defenses. So, the plan was to jam her up, try to force bad passes and get out to those guys at the 3-point line."

The Rams won each quarter, with their biggest margin of victory coming in the second period when they outscored the Panthers 14-7. However, the Rams did not win this game without facing adversity.

Early in the game, Dixon's pressing defense was successful leading to multiple Chico turnovers. Then the Panthers went on a run sparked by 3-pointers that led to a Rams timeout. Gilliard spoke to his team during the break and stressed how they don't want to give the Panthers hope for a comeback and wanted to avoid a "dog fight" of a game. Following the timeout, the Rams got back on track and seized control.

"After they were starting to break our press and were throwing those threes up, we started adjusting on defense and knew that there was a couple of shooters on their team



Dixon senior guard Gracie Nickum sprints up court for a fast break opportunity in the first round of the CIF State Girls Basketball Championships on Tuesday, March 1 in Dixon. Photo courtesy of Nicolas Brown.

that we had to close out good and make sure they didn't get a set shot off," said Dixon senior forward Brianna Humphries.

Dixon came into Tuesday night's game with momentum on top of their 19-game winning streak, as the Rams had just won the Division IV section championship on Friday at Golden 1 Center.

Humphries stuffed the stat sheet for the Rams with another double-double, recording a game-high 15 points (on 7-of-13 from the field), 10 rebounds, five blocks, three steals and two assists.

Senior captain Talia Medalle nearly had a double-double of her own with nine points

and eight assists. Guards, senior Janie Ming and junior Brynne Dominguez, added 10 points each.

"I told them after the game, 'You guys did great,'" Humphries said about Ming and Dominguez. "It was such a good game. For us to work together and not just me (scoring) again, it helped me a lot and our whole team out."

Gilliard said the team's chemistry is what has led to this season's success.

"The team really clicks together, they all look out for each other," Gilliard said. "The good thing about this team is that they all are truly friends. I have had teams where

we were pretty decent, but the girls did not click. So, when it came down to a championship game or crunch time, people were very selfish, and this team isn't like that."

Mike Gilliard has been the head coach at Dixon since the 2014-15 season when he took the Rams to the second round of the state playoffs. Now seven years later, Gilliard's team is back.

"Now to see this team get a section championship plus going to the second round is a big thing," Gilliard said. "I told the girls, 'You've accomplished a lot. If we keep working hard, you're really going to put Dixon on the map.' That's just the goal. We have a tough game coming up on Thursday."

Dixon will now hit the road for the second round as the Rams play at Oakland Tech (17-11, 7-1 Oakland) on Thursday night at 6 P.M. ★



Dixon senior forward Brianna Humphries looks on as someone shoots a free throw in the first round of the CIF State Girls Basketball Championships on Tuesday, March 1 in Dixon. Photo courtesy of Nicolas Brown.

Testing the Waters

Continued from page 1

ultraviolet light that kills bacteria," he explained. In the back are two large canisters which are storage and in front is a visible light. "I've been drinking water and using the same type of equipment for the past five years in Woodland," he added.

The purified water that Camarena sells has gone through the machines and is filtered to remove sediments or any other impurities including lead and any metals. Until recently, the most common form of purified water was

called distilled water.

"Distilled water is completely pure, but it doesn't taste good for drinking," Camarena said. "Reverse osmosis equipment filters water and gives that good taste."

Inside the spotless clean store is a variety of pretty ceramic dispensers and various sizes, colors, and shapes of water bottles. On one wide is a long counter with several faucets called the filling station where with a push of a button, you can choose 1, 2 or 3-gallon fills.

With almost every

phone call, he is explaining to customers the difference between pure water and distilled water, which is steamed water that goes through a machine and separates the sediments and is necessary for fish tanks, batteries, and special equipment.

He also talks a lot about the Ph balance of water and explains about alkaline water.

"I'm always looking to keep the pH level as a spring water," he said. pH is a numeric scale used to specify the acidity

or basicity of an aqueous solution. The scale runs from 0 to 14. If it is located lower on the scale, it is more acidic. If it is located higher on the scale, it is more basic, or alkaline. The importance of water pH is to keep your body in balance and to regulate metabolic processes.

There doesn't seem to be anything simple about it, but Camarena has studied much and is confident the water he dispenses is superior. Come inside, he offers a free drink to be sure. ★



Dixon Pure H2O has outdoor kiosks which owner Luis Camarena maintains so customers can get the pure water at all times. Photo by Debra Dingman