



New BNI Network Grows in Dixon

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Women's Hoops is Buzzing Back at Sac State!

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Ortiz Leads Lady Mavericks to Win



The JKMS Lady Mavericks Soccer Team scored a win against Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High from Davis. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - John Knight Middle School is working out to be a place where pride in the new school facilities and for the sports teams seem to be growing. Especially full of enthusiasm is Daniel Ortiz, the Campus Supervisor who also coaches the Girls Soccer Team.

He was thanked recently for going above and beyond for the students on the JKMS school social media site which stated he is at all the after school events and sports activities and is the last to leave after the events.

"He is coordinating all sports at JKMS plus his normal tasks. The students and parents appreciate all that you do," the post read. Ortiz had been coaching for 15 years now with the past four at the middle school and

12 years for competitive soccer, too. "I love soccer," he said. "We've always had a team in middle school. My goal is for the girls to learn how to play the game and understand it." Ortiz is the father of three with two of them at Dixon High and one that just graduated.

"Considering that they are coming from not playing for the past two years any sports to what they've accomplished is amazing." Two years of not playing really takes a toll. In all the sports I've seen, there is a little downplay. They were my 5th and 6th graders and now they've come over here. It's a big jump, but they are exceeding my expectations."

Ortiz was happy with last week's game against Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior High out of Davis which they won 7-1 and exudes appreciation for parent Heather Morales for getting

the news out on social media.

"Heather Morales is a saint," he said. "I wish every school had a Morales." She helps get the dates, times, and places out to the other parents and the community, he said.

"I hope other parents and citizens will come out and show their support for students at their games. They are usually in the afternoons at 4 pm. Tickets are \$5 for adults, students are \$3, JKMS students with ID are only \$1 and children under age 10 are free. There is also a snack bar.

There is a game every Tuesday and Thursday up until March 10. Girls play Tuesdays and boys on Thursdays. Next girls soccer game is against Harper Middle School (Davis) on March 1. The school is located at 455 East A Street.

For more information, see JKMS on Facebook or call (707) 693-6350. ★

Stars Coming Out at Chamber Awards Dinner

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you'd like to meet the many volunteers who make this community thrive, you might want to pick up a ticket now on sale for the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Awards Night. 'The Stars Come Out at Night' is the theme for the annual dinner ceremony to be held at the Olde Vet's Hall, 231 North First Street in downtown Dixon on March 12.

You will be among the many active volunteers in the community - young, old, and in between, who serve in many facets of the community and usually for many years. You will be honored to be there with so many citizens who give much to our community.

The evening is from 5 pm to 11 pm and is designed to honor the 59th Citizen of the Year, the 26th Business of the Year, the Ambassador of the Year and the Veteran of the Year. Due to the COVID shutdown in 2021, the honorees from the prior year will also be acknowledged.

Tickets are \$55 per person and must be purchased in advance by 4 pm on Wednesday, March 2. No tickets will be available at the door.

Dinner will be catered by Bud's Pub and Grill and features Tri Tip with Gorgonzola Sauce or Chicken with Lemon Caper Sauce, baby roasted red potatoes, mixed green salad, pasta salad and garlic bread.

The no-host bar opens at 5 pm with dinner being served at 6 pm. The awards ceremony is scheduled for 7:30 followed by raffle drawings, with music and dancing afterwards to the sounds of TRM4.

To purchase tickets or for more information call the Dixon Chamber of Commerce at (707) 678-2650 or email info@dixonchamber.org. COVID protocols in effect at the time of the event will be followed. ★

Blossoms Signaling Almond Festival Season

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - This is the time of year that a zillion light pink and white petals fall from trees all around Dixon - mostly from almond orchards and a good time to remind residents about the Capay Valley Almond Festival. For Dixonites, this is a short drive past Winters and into the small towns of Esparto, Capay, Guinda, and Rumsey.

The 107th tradition of celebrating the bountiful almond production in the Capay Valley will run this weekend, February 26 and 27.

The first Almond Festival was held in October of 1915 to celebrate the almond festival. It was a 2-day event that started with a parade and festivities flowing into Sunday culminating with the crowning of the Almond Queen. The celebration was put on hold during World War II



Almond blossoms like these on Schroeder Road can be seen all around Dixon and are the star of the Capay Valley Almond Festival in nearby Esparto this weekend, Feb. 26 and 27 and promoted by the Esparto Chamber of Commerce. Photo by Nicolas Brown

and was not revived until 1964 when the Esparto Regional Chamber of Commerce breathed life back into it and moved it to February, according to the Chamber website.

This year, the Saturday parade will be held again starting at 11 am in Esparto showcasing the

newly crowned Almond Queen, Karla Guijarro, followed by food and music in the Esparto Park.

The car show will be in its usual spot around the Esparto Fire Department. Activities include an almond bake-off, live music from Little Hud playing classic rock, local

booths and food trucks. Visitors are encouraged to take the scenic drive to the other cities of which each has its own twist of fun celebrating the season.

In the past, the other cities have offered barbecues, dances, open museums, farmers

Continued on page 3

We Support Our Military



Email is Instant, but People Need Time

By Debra Dingman

Someone in Dixon whom I well respected said to me once, "If it/they/company didn't give a 2-week notice, they didn't put enough time and thought into it to deserve my attention." I have remembered that and fight sometimes to get dates and plans nailed down so that there is at least a week's notice. So forgive me Downtown Dixon Business Association contacts for the "urgent" notice I sent on behalf of volunteer and past Citizen of the Year, Jill Orr. Since she owns a restaurant, is a grandmother, and still runs DDBA, I felt I had to help despite it being less than a 24-hour notice. After a long DDBA dormant period, Jill said, "We just have to start!" So, we did. A new Board of Directors is needed.

I have noticed that Dixon has gotten truly busier as leaders climb back on the hamster wheel...

For example, I got an email one day last week that had the time of about 8:30 pm announcing a meeting the next morning at 10 am. This works great for the very spontaneous or retired, but it doesn't work well at all for those who are working for an employer. I might have been able to attend if I had more notice and I know others who got our DDBA email who felt the same.

Another trend I'm noticing is entire conversations of a volunteer group making plans via email and moving ahead with votes and decisions while I'm at work. Are there no lines between work and home anymore thanks to the world moving home and online? Out of my respect for my employer, I try not to do personal tasks unless it's my lunch hour or I'm at home.

And if I'm running an errand or making a doctor's appointment during lunch, then I'm not seeing a lot of those emails until later that evening. If someone doesn't feel heard, included, or like they matter—why be part of that organization?

It is frustrating me that the City of Dixon has at times posted an agenda on a Friday for the upcoming Tuesday night. So if you are one to research, you won't have time to make a call to the right person and are more unlikely to get a response on an issue. Can you imagine how much time a City Council Representative has to delve into any issue of substance put on that agenda?

Remember the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. If you want to ask people to show up, or volunteer, or join in an effort: Please give time. Just because email can get somewhere in a minute, doesn't mean that a person can. If you want a good turnout, give them plenty of time to get it on their calendar.

I Regret the Error:

Had it backwards about the cost of goats in my story about 8 Gables Dairy Goat Ranch last week: the does and bucks start at \$500 and the wethers, which are neutered boys, start at \$175.

Not Traffic Lights

The Valley Glen intersection traffic lights were not under construction; it was a pedestrian crossing instead. Sorry about that! That is what I get for assuming something just because it was the same company with the same trucks and equipment that were being used a month ago for the traffic lights on A Street near Evans and also on Pitt School Road. ★

Dixon News Briefs



The weather offered intermittent cloudy skies this past week, casting a beautiful pink hue to the skies over Dixon, making the iconic water tower at Adams and A Streets look a bit gothic. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

City Council

The next opportunity for citizens to hear about Dixon decisions or have a chance to comment on them, is Tuesday, March 1, 7 pm inside the Council Chambers at 600 east A Street. You can also participate via Zoom. Check out the link available online at cityofdixon.com. This is also a great opportunity to learn about the District Representatives and if you want to re-elect them in November. Both District 1 Representative Scott Pederson and District 2 Representative Jim Ernest are completing their 4-year terms and their seats will be open. Ernest has announced he will seek re-election.

SBA Support

In celebration of Black History Month, the Small Business Administration announced new funding of \$1.5 million to expand outreach centers for women entrepreneurs through minority savings institutions.

Women's Business Centers provide vital support, connecting women entrepreneurs with many of the SBA's most valuable resources including access to capital, professional networks, skills training for business growth and resilience, and much more. Since March 2021, 24 new centers were opened with three affiliated with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, two in Puerto Rico, and several in rural communities.

The SBA's WBC network provides one-on-one counseling, training, networking, workshops, technical assistance, and mentoring to women entrepreneurs on numerous business development topics, including business startup, financial management, marketing, and procurement. To find other WBC locations and additional SBA resources, visit www.sba.gov/tools/local-assistance or call the Small Business

Development Center at (833) ASK-SBDC.

Business Loan?

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce Business In Action workshop will feature speaker Tahir Masood who will talk on How to get a Business Loan. Tahir will review the loan application process, talk about fees to expect, what lenders look for, and common reasons people get declined.

The committee's goal is to educate and empower small business owners. Chamber members are invited on March 1, at 12 noon to hear the presentation at the Best Western Plus, 1345 Commercial Way, Dixon. There is free admission, and participants can feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. For more information, call (707) 678-2650.

Girls Softball

The 2022 Spring Clinic for girls softball will be next Saturday, March 5, from 9 am to 2 pm at the Dixon High School Softball Fields, 555 College Way. It is hosted by the Dixon Lady Rams.

Any age is welcome, and all neighboring cities are also invited. The registration fee is \$35 and includes a shirt and lunch. Girls are invited to come out and learn new techniques and develop their softball skills. Register at www.dixongirlsoftball.com.

Antiques Sale

The annual Antiques and Vintage Sale hosted by the Soroptimist International of Dixon, is returning to the Dixon May Fair on Saturday and Sunday, March 12-13. The Twin Bridges Productions has been at this since 1982 and offers something for every treasure seeker from old books, lamps, furniture, and more.

The cost is \$6 for admission but then you can return free and there is free parking as well. Proceeds benefit charities supported by Dixon Soroptimist. For more information, call (530) 241-4063 or go to www.tbcashows.info. ★



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Almond Festival Season



The Almond Festival invites you to head north and sample what other small towns will be offering. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1 markets, small vendor fairs, and delicious foods – all worth the drive. For more information, contact the Esparto Chamber at (530) 787-3242.

On a side note, if you are wanting a photo of your family using the many Dixon orchards as a natural backdrop, the Solano County Farm Bureau is offering time slots for almond bloom photos for the next two weeks. You can sign up through the website link and all proceeds go to the Ag Education Foundation. ★

New BNI Network Grows in Dixon



A new business networking group has launched in Dixon and if you want to grow your company, here is a group of people who will help you out. Photo courtesy of Crystal Rico

Board Resolves to Move Forward with Water and Infrastructure Project

By Aleck Crofoot, SCWA

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - County leaders took a major step this week to protect the water supply for half a million Napa and Solano County residents.

The North Bay Aqueduct, part of the State Water Project, currently supplies water to Solano and Napa counties, but its intake location limits its usefulness. Poor water quality and sea-level rise near the aqueduct's intake in Cache Slough reduce water supply reliability while increasing cost to residents. Water diversions often must be curtailed to minimize impacts to endangered fish. The Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) board of directors resolved Thursday night to pursue development of the Water+ project to maintain the useful life of the aqueduct.

"It's like financing the purchase of a new home with a 30-year mortgage and discovering the foundation is failing after 10 years," said Roland Sanford, SCWA General Manager. "You're not going to walk away from your home, you're going to fix the foundation. We have a valuable asset in the North Bay Aqueduct that is suffering from multiple stressors. We need to fix it."

SCWA's Water+ solves these problems by moving the intake to the Sacramento River, improving drinking water quality and water supply reliability while at the same time fortifying the project against climate change impacts. Water+ also could benefit endangered fisheries that federal and state agencies and SCWA are investing millions of dollars to recover.

"Water+ is a win-win for the region," continued Sanford. "This multi-benefit project will help our water supply meet 21st-century demands. It will increase

reliability, improve the delta ecosystem, and protect against future sea-level rise."

Relocating the project's intake location will provide opportunities to create additional environmental benefits. Water deliveries will increase healthy flows for native species at various Cache Slough locations and Water+ can assist with groundwater recharge and support the Solano groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainably Plan.

SCWA is doing its due diligence to ensure the success of Water+. The next step for the project will be in conducting additional feasibility studies to assess infrastructure needs, ecological benefits, and interoperability with other Solano County water infrastructure. SCWA has applied for state funding to pay for the studies.

"Water+ promises to provide a modern solution to meet the future water needs of Solano and Napa counties," said Supervisor Jim Spering, who chairs SCWA. "It protects against climate change and improves environmental quality while providing users with a more reliable and affordable water supply. The project approach we're taking with this first step should attract federal and state financial assistance, which holds the potential to save Napa and Solano residents hundreds of millions of dollars in the long run."

Established in 1951, the Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) is a public agency and regional water wholesaler representing all local agencies involved in water and flood management. SCWA's mission is to provide clean, reliable, and adequate water supply to more than 400,000 residents in its service area while working to protect and preserve the environment. ★

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Business Networking International, known as "BNI," is a referral-based networking group that now has a local Dixon Chapter. This new chapter offers local Business Owners and Entrepreneurs access to an inclusive yet exclusive referral-based networking group that launched in late November 2021.

Lock out your competition because this group only allows one person per profession in each chapter. Crystal Rico, who is a longtime Dixon resident and President of the new Dixon BNI Chapter, reports they are currently fifteen members strong and growing.

This Chapter has played an integral role in growing my book of business and I love networking with our members to help them grow their businesses as well. BNI's philosophy is 'Givers Gain' which means each member is positioned to think of how they can help others first.

All local business owners and entrepreneurs are invited to attend a meeting and learn more. Dixon BNI currently has open seats for a Roofer, Painter, Plumber, Landscaper, Photographer, Tax Advisor, Massage Therapist, Chiropractor, and more. President: C

Currently, leaders are: Crystal Rico - Farmers Insurance; Vice President: Brenda Walker - Edward Jones; Secretary: Anthony Proffit - Family Law; Education Coordinator: Alisha Platt - KW Realty; Mentor Coordinator: Charles Rafferty - Rafferty Investigations; Growth Coordinator: Erin Ford - Solagistics; and Events Coordinator: Jodie Selby - Allied Builders

In addition, the Membership Committee is made of Kim Puch - Mary Kay; Jonas Keys - Hero's Heating & Air; Amy Tette - Sci Tek Staffing.

Please contact Brenda Walker @ Edward Jones to register as a visitor or reach out via Facebook @DixonBNI. ★

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Labor Market and Consumer Deposits Could Remain Unusual

By Matt Wyre,
California Credit Union League

ONTARIO, CA (MPG) - Recent financial and economic trends exhibited by households, workers, and consumers across the Solano-Sonoma-Napa-Marin Region point to the possibility of today's historically unusual labor market not reaching some sense of normalcy until sometime between 2023 - 2025, according to the most recent analysis of regional credit union trends and state-level jobs data.

THE LATEST TREND

Going into first-quarter 2022, workers in the local labor market were reaping the benefits of a major historical financial cushion coming out of late 2021. Local household "savings" in checking and all other combined deposit accounts across the Solano-Sonoma-Napa-Marin Region hit their highest levels ever experienced at eight credit unions headquartered across four counties, with this total-deposit figure skyrocketing 46 percent from pre-pandemic fourth quarter 2019 to fourth quarter 2021.

This trend represents an unprecedented two-year increase according to the latest Solano-Sonoma-Napa-Marin Region Credit Union Industry Snapshot report released today by the California Credit Union League.

WHY? A FEW REASONS...

"Just one reason deposits may have risen is because some current and former workers have been concerned with labor market prospects where they live - a situation that's more tenuous today than 12 months ago," said Dr. Robert Eyler, economist for the California Credit Union League. "Some people want flexible financial options due to uncertainty and unknowns in their income, even during what is perceived to be a somewhat healthy and growing jobs market."

Eyler said businesses and policymakers in the Solano-Sonoma-Napa-Marin Region can expect the excess demand for workers by employers to continue possibly into the next few years, which is part of the "shadow effect" of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting public health policies. Additional underlying reasons for today's wacky labor force phenomenon also includes:

- A noticeable number of households migrating out of California.
- Some workers retiring throughout the

pandemic and not considering rejoining the labor force either part-time or full-time until there is a possible "correction" in the financial/stock market or housing market prices (thus negatively impacting their wealth).

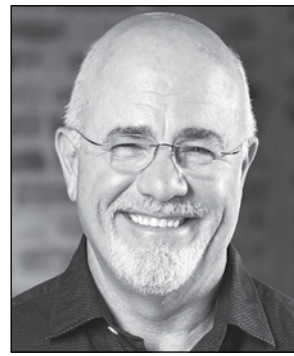
- Some available workers in today's labor force not having the immediate skills to fill high-demand job positions across a variety of industries.
- Some individuals deciding not to job search or be hired as they face the marginal choice of working versus using childcare or dependent care, as well as concerns over safety at work.

"Each of these issues generally takes years to solve or reverse, and we can most likely assume these themes will continue for the next couple of years at a minimum," Eyler said. "When it comes to worker and household deposits and savings, these volatilities should eventually diminish if the labor market's continued job growth starts to increasingly resemble pre-pandemic hiring patterns. Hopefully it will also gradually get easier for employers to find workers as urban and suburban migration trends settle down."

DEPOSIT & LOAN DATA

Collectively, deposits made by Solano-Sonoma-Napa-Marin Region credit union members rose from \$8 billion to \$11.7 billion during the December 2019 to December 2021 period - a statistically significant barometer of local financial and banking activity. No other two-year period in recent history has experienced such a boost in Solano-Sonoma-Napa-Marin Region credit union deposits by members and households to the tune of a net-positive \$3.7 billion (46 percent growth).

Altogether in the Solano-Sonoma-Napa-Marin Region, credit union members (individual consumers) and total deposits either remained-at or reached record highs by Dec. 31, 2021 compared to the year-ago period, with 617,000 members (consumers) and \$8.7 billion in outstanding loans supporting local consumers and businesses. You can view the Solano-Sonoma-Napa-Marin Region snapshot report (web link above) for details on first mortgages, HELOCs/home equity loans, new auto loans, used auto loans, credit card lending, and business loans, as well as checking accounts, savings accounts, money market accounts, certificates of deposit, and IRA/Keogh accounts. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

These Debt Reduction Strategies are Bad Ideas

Dear Dave,

I've been seeing lots of ads lately for debt consolidation companies, debt settlement companies and the HELOC. Are any of these methods for reducing debt a good idea?

- Brent

Dear Brent,

No. These are all bad ideas when it comes to getting out of debt. There's a lot of buzz these days surrounding all the "quick" and "easy" ways to clean up debt and get control of your finances. But the truth is neither one is ever easy. If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Debt consolidation is basically a loan that combines all your debts into one single payment. Sounds like a great idea at first, right? But then you find out the lifespan of your loans increase, and that means you'll stay in debt even longer than before. The low interest rate that looks so appealing in the beginning usually goes up over time, too. Stretching out the amount of time you're paying off debt, plus adding interest, is just dumb.

Debt settlement companies are awful. These crummy outfits will charge you a fee, then promise to negotiate with your creditors to reduce what you owe. In most cases, they take your money up front, do a bad job "negotiating" your debt and leave you responsible for what's left.

A home equity line of credit (HELOC) is also a bad idea. With a HELOC, you're borrowing against your home. On top of that, you risk losing your house if you

can't pay it back on time. All these plans are really just gimmicks that only treat the symptoms of your money problems. They never help you address the root issue of why you landed there in the first place. Personal finance is always 80% behavior, and 20% head knowledge. You have to change your behavior if you want to make a lasting, positive impact on your finances!

- 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. ★

CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See legitgov.org

CDC Admits PCR Tests Were Used to Harvest People's DNA Without Consent | 18 Feb 2022 | If you've gotten a Covid test, there's a chance your DNA has been harvested without your consent. Following a worrisome tweet from the CDC on Wednesday, another widely criticized so-called "conspiracy theory" has become reality: Covid-19 PCR tests have been forwarded to laboratories for mapping "genomic sequencing" without consent. The procedure of genomic sequencing is used to examine the genetic makeup of viruses. In summary, if you consented to a PCR nose swab, your genetic material may have been transmitted to a facility outside of the United States and utilized for reasons you were unaware of. The CDC noted in the film "its [PCR tests] being used by scientists all over the world to track the emergence of SARS-CoV-2 variants."

Sen. Ron Johnson Introduces Bill That Would Block Federal Agencies From Interfering With Doctors' Right to Treat Patients | 18 Feb 2022 | Republican Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson introduced legislation Wednesday that would block federal agencies from interfering with doctors' rights to treat patients. The Daily Caller first obtained the legislation which was cosponsored by Republican Indiana Sen. Mike Braun and Republican Utah Sen. Mike Lee. The bill is titled the "The Right to Treat Act" and would make it so no federal agency would have the authority to regulate the practice of medicine and that no federal law, rule, regulation, or policy would restrict the distribution of FDA approved drugs or a Right to Try drug. Many other countries have experimented with other drugs to help prevent or treat COVID-19.

American truckers plan convoy to DC in protest of COVID-19 mandates - | 17 Feb 2022 | Taking a cue from truckers bordering America's north, a political action committee will partner with truck convoys to protest what it deems as overreaching government COVID-19 restrictions and mandates. The Great American Patriot Project on Wednesday asked volunteers to contribute, join or support a convoy of truckers slated to travel to Washington D.C. next month. Routes for the convoys will start in Cleveland, Columbus, Ohio and Fresno, California and will end on March 6 in Washington. They will be met by a congressional welcome committee to discuss policy changes, organizers said.

Police horses trample demonstrators at Freedom Convoy protest in Ottawa By Joe Warmington | 18 Feb 2022 | Turns out the lasting image of the Freedom Convoy protest at Parliament Hill will not be bouncy castles but that of a woman with a walker being trampled by a police horse. The violence the Prime Minister has expressed concern about during the three-week protest in Ottawa didn't unfold until Justin Trudeau's Emergencies Act police army was sent in to disperse the crowd. The three major incidents Friday, under a form of martial law, were grotesque. Video of Toronto Police Mounted Unit officers charging into the crowd and at least one horse trampling multiple people - including an elderly woman with a walker - was disturbing. But that was not the only troubling incident. Another saw a protester behind a police line repeatedly being smashed with an officer's rifle. And convoy organizer Benjamin Dichter also told the Toronto Sun "one of drivers had his truck windows smashed by Ottawa Police (with) guns drawn and (he was) dragged out of his vehicle by force."

Canadian clergy rebuke Trudeau for invoking Emergencies Act, other 'tyrannical actions' | 18 Feb 2022 | A group of Canadian clergy sent an open letter to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau earlier this week rebuking him for invoking the Emergencies Act to quell the Freedom Convoy and for other actions they described as "tyrannical." "We are writing to you as representative pastors of Christian congregations from across the nation and as law-abiding citizens who respect the God-defined role of civil government and uphold the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the highest law of our land, which recognizes the supremacy of God over all human legislation," read the letter, which was signed by 29 clergymen and remains open for other Canadians to sign.

New Zealand Threatens to Use Military Against Civilian Anti-Mandate Protesters | 17 Feb 2022 | The New Zealand Defense Force (NZDF) warned Wednesday it was poised to deploy "Defence Force assets" to Wellington to disband an anti-coronavirus vaccine mandate protest near New Zealand's parliament building after the rally pushed into its ninth consecutive day. "An NZDF spokeswoman said discussions on the possible deployment of Defence Force assets remain ongoing, and no decisions have been made," New Zealand's Stuff news site reported on February 16... The New Zealand Police issued an ultimatum to anti-vaccine mandate protesters gathered outside New Zealand's parliament building on February 15 warning them to move their motor vehicles - many of which are blocking roads around the legislative center as part of the demonstration - or face the towing and seizure of their automobiles. The rally's participants largely ignored this demand by the police force -- which is controlled by New Zealand's federal government -- and continued to gather by the hundreds near the parliament building's grounds on February 16. ★

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

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

PROJECT: 178 North First Street - Request for a Conditional Use Permit to have permanent outdoor seating area associated with a new pub/lounge that will occupy the existing building; APN: 0115-082-090; Zoning District: Downtown Commercial (CD); Tiffany Fabiani, owner/applicant; File No: PA21-36, UP 22-02

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and no environmental review will be completed. This project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption from the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines under 14 CFR Section 15301, Class type 1, Existing Facilities. If the Planning Commission determines that this project is in an environmentally-sensitive area, further study may be required.

HEARING DATE & LOCATION 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=r2dxz3rkbU9sxdIuvlrc0Qlqzww09> 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, Associate Planner 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>.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to remotely attend the public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the Planning Commission prior to making any decision on the application.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, Planning Commission, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the Planning Commission 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 hearing. 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.

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

February Cover Love

This month is all about love, and what better way to celebrate love is through the pages of a great book. These beautiful new releases are worth falling in love with for the first time. They will take love to new heights while also diving deep with demands.

Base Notes

by Lara Elena Donnelly;
Adult

What would you pay to relive a memory?

Vic Fowler has discovered an art worth killing for, unique custom-made scents that elicit precise memories. Memories that clients are worth paying any price. As the rising costs of city living forces Vic to accept an opportunity to expand, he knows he can't refuse, even if the intricacy of the job is something that he can't achieve alone. So, manipulating struggling artists is the next best plan. Yet, even the most carefully laid out plan can unravel at the seams, and the cost of losing it all is even a higher price.

In a story of sacrificing, it all for art, readers will be taken in a cutthroat story of betrayal, desperation, lovers, and so many scent profiles in the ultimate desire to achieve greatness.

Through a powerful storyline, Lara Elena Donnelly delivers a story full of scent notes and obsession. Asking her readers the ultimate question, what would you do to achieve your greatest dream?

Court

by Tracey Wolff;
young adult

Fans of the NYT Best-



selling Craves series will be delighted to know that the wait is over. Grace's story is ready to continue, but this time they are taking no prisoners. The last battle affected everyone, and with a war on the horizon, everyone is unhinged. If Grace doesn't uncover some answers about her ancestors quickly, there might not be anything left to help them survive.

In a battle of immortals, vampires, werewolves, and ancient Gods, Flint, Jaxon, and Hudson are going to have to get it together, while Grace must embrace who she truly is to have any chance at survival.

Catch all the action in the 4th installment of the series, taking the world by storm.

Castles In Their Bones
by Laura Sebastian;
Young Adult

"Never trust a pretty face."

From the author that

brought us the Ash Princess series comes a whole new enchanting adventure. Three Princesses and three destinies: seduction, conquest, and the crown. The triplets have been trained their entire lives for the moment they would leave and marry their Princes, but never underestimate the power of a girl.

Armed with the power of knowledge, seduction, and deception, the princesses have been preparing their whole lives for this moment. Through their trained arts, each Princess will have their hand in bringing down the monarchies, spreading their reign over the entire continent. However, their futures that lie in the stars might have another plan.

A new fantasy series that is destined to have us all rooting for different destinies. ★



Riley Reviews

"BLACKLIGHT" GENERIC PARANOIA THRILLER; "RUBY" FAMILY DRAMA

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"BLACKLIGHT" RATED PG-13

One question that fans of Liam Neeson need to consider is whether following the career path of Steven Seagal in action pictures is worthy of emulation for a talented actor just shy of being a septuagenarian.

The Northern Irish thespian's starring role in 2008's "Taken," in which he played a retired CIA operative who employed his "particular set of skills" to harshly deal with abductors of his teenage daughter kidnapped while on a trip to Paris, was followed by a series of similar films.

"Taken" turned into a trilogy, where he saved family members before having to finally save himself after being framed for the murder of his ex-wife and then using his talents to track down the real killers.

This brings us to "Blacklight," where Neeson's Travis Block is a deep undercover agent and a "fixer" for the FBI under the direction of its director Gabriel Robinson (Aidan Quinn), both of whom served together during the Vietnam War.

The film's opening would seemingly appear to cleverly recall the paranoia of political thrillers from the Seventies when charismatic Congressional candidate Sofia Flores (Mel Jarnson) ends in the crosshairs of a shadowy conspiracy.

On the scene of the Flores political rally in the nation's capital is Dusty Crane (Taylor John Smith), who we soon learn is an undercover FBI agent working for Director Robinson on a covert assignment of dubious origins.

A chain of events propels Crane to take drastic measures to reveal the foreboding conspiracy dubbed "Operation Unity" at high levels in the FBI, leading the agent to connect with website news reporter Mira Jones (Emmy Raver-Lampman).

As seen before in other films of the genre, Block tries to make amends as an absentee parental figure to his single mom daughter Amanda (Claire van der Boom) and young granddaughter Natalie (Gabriella Sengos).

To that end of seeking more quality time with family, Block wants out of his extraction duties, but Director Robinson won't hear of it and insists that he must bring the errant Crane back into the fold.

Without giving away some twists, Block begins to harbor doubts about his superiors, and with a little push from journalist Jones, a light begins to shine on the sinister truth of "Operation Unity."

Soon enough, Block is on a collision course with his old war buddy Robinson when his daughter and granddaughter mysteriously vanish from their home

that Block had outfitted with cameras and sensors.

As expected, the obligatory gunfights and high-speed car chases add to the thrills, and Block delivers a few catchy lines, the best one being telling the menacing Robinson, protected by two agents, "you're gonna need more men."

According to the dictionary, blacklight is invisible ultraviolet light or infrared radiation. Given that blacklight could be used to detect that which is not visible to the naked eye, perhaps the title "Blacklight" is a metaphor for the unmasking of the bad guys.

Frankly, this generic Liam Neeson thriller does not merit any serious thought about the meaning of the film's title. It's so indistinctive that the only proper thing is for it to fall quickly into a black hole of one's memory.

Having enjoyed the ride with many of Neeson's previous forays into the genre, particularly with the original "Taken," my suggestion is that anyone tempted to see "Blacklight" should save a few bucks and wait for its inevitable appearance on a streaming service.

"RUBY AND THE WELL" ON BYUtv

BYUtv is a free streaming service that produces a number of original series. "Ruby and the Well" is a 10-episode family drama, premiering on Sunday, February 27th, that follows the adventures of 14-year-old Ruby O'Reilly (Zoe Wiesenthal) in the rural town of Emerald.

After inheriting her great uncle's apple orchard, Ruby and her dad Daniel (Kristopher Turner) arrive in Emerald, flush with hope for the future. To their surprise, the orchard and the town are in disrepair, and everyone seems to be going through a rough patch.

All that starts to change when Ruby discovers a profound way to impact the lives of the townspeople by granting their innermost wishes, which have been captured and stored in a magic well on their property.

While Ruby and her new best friends Mina (Lina Sennia) and Sam (Dylan Kingwell) work on solving the wishes one by one, Daniel toils in the disheveled apple orchard, determined to make their new lives work, even if it means taking side gigs to support the family.

But as the town's rejuvenation draws attention from outside, a stranger from the city shows up with an offer that threatens everything Ruby has been working for. She and her friends must figure out a way to fight back while still honoring the well's purpose.

"Ruby and the Well" invites viewers to a place where new beginnings and second chances have room to grow. Fittingly enough, this series is intended as entertainment for the whole family. ★

Crime, Homelessness Drag Down Newsom's Approval



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration is very gingerly lifting the restrictions on personal behavior that were imposed to counter the omicron surge of COVID-19 – particularly the requirement to wear masks inside public places.

It's the latest wrinkle in two years of Newsom decrees alternatively tightening and then loosening behavioral controls to deal with the pandemic and comes as the governor focuses on getting himself re-elected to a second term this year.

His re-election prospects are high, given the lack – so far – of a viable Republican opponent, the state's very blue political orientation and his easy defeat of a recall attempt last year.

That said, Newsom's overall popularity is less than impressive, as two recent statewide polls found, with crime and homelessness the most erosive factors in his public standing.

The first poll, conducted by the Public Policy Institute of California in January, gave Newsom a 56% approval rating among all adults, markedly lower than his high water mark of 65% in May 2020 but also markedly

higher than his low of 44% in September 2019.

The second, conducted in February and released on Tuesday by the Institute of Governmental Studies at UC-Berkeley, puts Newsom's approval rating among registered voters at 48%, just slightly higher than his lowest rating of 46% a year ago. Significantly, 47% of voters disapprove of how he has performed as governor.

"Contributing to voters' more mixed assessment of the governor are growing concerns of how Newsom is handling several festering problems, such as homelessness and crime, that are now plaguing the state," Mark DiCamillo, director of the Berkeley-IGS poll, said in an analysis.

"For example, two in three voters (66%) now rate Newsom as doing a 'poor' or 'very poor' job in his handling of the issue of homelessness. This is up 12 percentage points from 2020, the last time the poll made an assessment. In addition, a 51% majority of voters also downrates the Governor's performance on crime and public safety issues, up 16 percentage points from 2020."

The poll confirms that Californians are increasingly worried about a recent uptick in crime, both violent and property offenses, and are increasingly fed up with the inability of Newsom and other politicians to deal effectively with homelessness that has manifested itself in squalid encampments throughout the state.

Two recent crimes in the Sacramento area even indicate that the two issues

could be joined in the minds of voters. A young woman was kidnapped in suburban Sacramento and brutally murdered, allegedly by a homeless man living in the American River Parkway. A young mother was placing her two children in the car after they had visited a park in East Sacramento when she was attacked and beaten, allegedly by a man living in a nearby homeless camp.

Newsom knows that these two issues are big downers for him and has uttered many recent denunciations of criminal activities, particularly smash-and-grab robberies, and promises to clean up urban blight.

Again, Newsom is no danger of being unseated this year. But if crime and homelessness continue to be seen as failures, they will stain his gubernatorial legacy. Moreover, they could adversely affect his fellow Democrats in down-ballot contests.

Both of the Sacramento crimes will be prosecuted by Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert, who is challenging Attorney General Rob Bonta, a Newsom appointee, and calling for a tougher attitude toward crime.

Republicans intend to make crime a centerpiece of their campaign to regain control of Congress and with several California seats up in the air, it could be a decisive factor.

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

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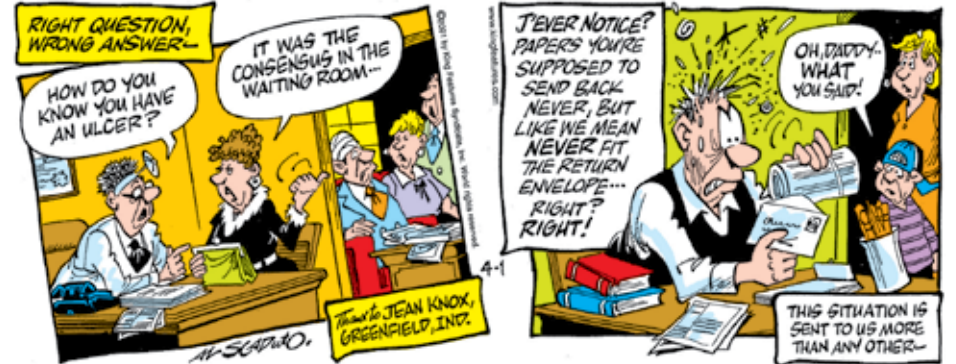
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Out on a Limb



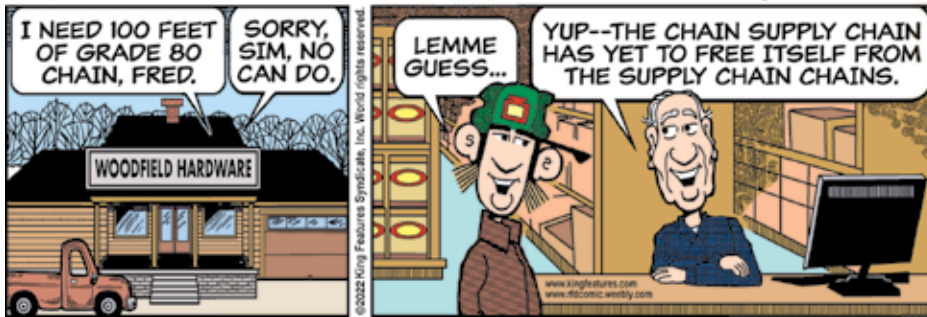
by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

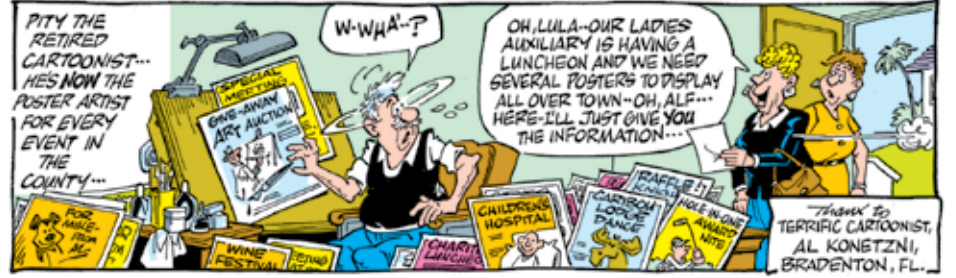


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Women's Hoops is Back at Sac State!

Story and photos by Shaun Holkko

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento State women's basketball team is making history in the 2021-22 season under first-year head coach Mark Campbell.

The Hornets (13-12, 9-7 Big Sky Conference) have already improved 10-games from last season, the best season-to-season turnaround in program history, with four regular season games and the Big Sky Tournament to be played.

Campbell brought his "blueprint of chasing excellence" with him from The University of Oregon.

"Every day you gotta be locked in, as a team, as a staff," Campbell said. "It's a simple formula but it's hard to follow. It's hard to bring it every single day, day after day, for seven months. For college basketball, it's a grind from August all the way to March."

"This group is learning that. They've done an incredible job of giving us everything they have. You've seen the byproduct of all the hard work with what we've been able to do over the last month and a half. So, I would say that's probably the biggest thing that I gotta bring from my time at Oregon, and at Oregon State, we built a Final Four program there too."

While he was an assistant at Oregon, Campbell coached the No. 1, 2 and 8 overall picks in the 2020 WNBA Draft, Sabrina Ionescu, Satou Sabally and Ruthy Hebard.

Campbell ranks second in win improvement among NCAA Division I coaches who are in their first season at a new school. He is second in the nation behind LSU's three-time national championship coach Kim Mulkey, who has currently led the Tigers to 14 more wins than a season ago.

Sac State only won three games last season (3-22) under Bunky Harkleroad, the final straw after six consecutive losing seasons.

Guard Summer Menke is in her fourth year at Sac State and is one of three players on the team who played under Harkleroad for the last three seasons.

"(Campbell) raised the bar completely," Menke said. "Our toughness, what he expects from us, everything. Our offense is so much better. He brought a completely brand-new program here. We're still working out the kinks, it's the first year. I'm excited to see what it's going to look like in a couple years."

After spending seven seasons at Oregon and six as the associate head coach, Campbell moved to California's Capitol with loads of experience and some familiar faces. Joining Campbell in Sacramento as assistant coaches were Xavier "Xavi" Lopez and Minyon Moore, both having spent time at Oregon as an assistant and player, respectively. Lopez's wife and Oregon alumna, Megan Murphy Lopez, also joined the Sac State program as director of operations, the position she previously held at Oregon.

Campbell and his staff took over a Sac State program that has not had a winning season since 2015, when the team went 18-16 and lost in the third round of the Women's NIT Tournament.



The Sacramento State women's basketball team huddles during a timeout in the second quarter of a game against Idaho State on Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Nest in Sacramento.



Sacramento State senior guard Summer Menke drives to the basket during the third quarter of a game against Idaho State on Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Nest in Sacramento.

The Hornets began this season 4-9 overall and 0-4 in the Big Sky before rattling off wins in 9 out of 10 games. The biggest win of the nine came Jan. 27 at first-place Idaho State winning by 16 and in Pocatello, Idaho for only the second time in school history.

"It takes time, we're still growing," Campbell said. "You can't just throw a group of people together and expect them to instantly become cohesive. The outside world thinks it's that simple but it's not."

"You have to develop a chemistry. A defensive cohesiveness, offensive cohesiveness. That takes time. We won 9 out of 10 but it's still year one where we're just creating an identity on both ends of the court. We're fighting and competing and we're learning a lot."

Leading the charge for the Hornets has been graduate transfer Lianna Tillman, who spent her first four collegiate seasons at the University of the Pacific.

"I think (Campbell's) competitive spirit matched mine especially and that's why I came

here," Tillman said. "I feel like he turned this team around. Just being more competitive and striving for a championship rather than just getting through the season is the biggest thing."

The 5'9 guard currently leads the Big Sky and ranks 14th in the

nation in scoring with 20.5 points per game. Tillman is also one of only two players in women's college basketball that is averaging 18 points and 6 assists per game, alongside University of Iowa phenom Caitlin Clark.

Sac State returned home to the

Nest for a two-game homestand last week taking on penultimate Weber State and Idaho State. The Hornets lost both games falling to the Wildcats 62-52 on Thursday, snapping their four-game winning streak, and against the Bengals 67-56 on Saturday.

This weekend against Idaho State, freshman Isnelle Natabou had 11 points and 8 rebounds, snapping her streak of 10 consecutive games with a double-double. The 6'5 center has 15 double-doubles on the season.

Despite the two-game setback, Sac State still has a lot to play for. The Hornets have four regular season games remaining on their schedule before the Big Sky Tournament begins in Boise, Idaho on March 7. The winner of the tournament receives an automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament, something Sac State has yet to achieve.

"The ultimate goal from the beginning is that we're playing our best basketball in Boise at the conference tournament," Campbell said. "I have no doubt if we can stay healthy our last four games, when we go into Boise, we're going to be a very dangerous team." ★



Sacramento State head coach Mark Campbell (left) and assistant coach Minyon Moore (center) look on during the third quarter of a game against Idaho State on Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Nest in Sacramento.



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Heeney's History

Tractors Go from Steel Wheels to Rubber Tires

Commentary by Ed Heeney

As I sat at my desk trying to decide what I might want to write about, my glance lighted on the tractor model Farmall H that sits there among the papers and stuff on my desk. I started to think of all the different tractors I had driven in my younger days: I guess mostly Farmall and John Deere models both on rubber and steel wheels.

The first tractor I ever drove was my Dad's McCormick Deering 10-20. The numbers were for horsepower; the larger for the belt and the smaller for the drawbar.

I was walking out to meet my dad in the field where he was plowing and as I got near, he stopped the tractor, put it in neutral, and told me to get in the seat. I felt pretty cocky up there just barely able to see over the fuel tank, but I was ready to give it a try. Dad warned me to take it easy, letting out the clutch. Not to worry, I couldn't hardly reach it with my right foot. I ever so slowly, I thought, let the clutch pedal out. The tractor let out a burp and stopped dead in its tracks. My Dad laughed and informed me not to feel embarrassed. Everyone who has ever driven a clutch kills the machine the first try.

Shortly thereafter, I was looking out the kitchen window and I saw the local tractor salesman drive into our barnyard with a bright red tractor loaded on his truck. My Dad was out in the field so my Mom went out to talk to him. There was not much I could do since I was quarantined with measles.

The 'tractor man' unloaded the new tractor and went back to town. This was a brand new Farmall, Model B rubber tires, road gear, and all. When Dad came

in from the field at noon, everybody had a chance to ride the new tractor except me.....measles!

A few days later Dad called me from the field to come out where he was plowing with the new tractor. I skipped right smartly out to where he was and as I got closer, he stopped the tractor hopped off and told me to get in the seat. Now there wasn't a prouder kid in Sumner county that day that I got to drive the new tractor. It only jumped a little when I let out the clutch, but it kept on running.

In the spring when I was 17, a neighbor asked if I would work for him during harvest. After discussing this offer with my parents it was decided that it was a pretty good deal. The pay was \$5 per day and the use of a Model A Ford auto to drive home on the weekends.

Will, the farmer, had two tractors, a Farmall F 20 and a Allis Chalmers Model U. He was most proud of the Allis Chalmers because it was powerful, fast, and most of all – it came with rubber tires.

In the late thirties many farmers experimented with exchanging their steel wheels with rubber tires with varying degrees of success. Meanwhile Harvey Firestone of Firestone tires had worked with Allis Chalmers and outfitted 30 tractors with rubber tires. He felt pretty confident with his progress and talked Barney Oldfield into testing some of the new rubber-tired tractors. All were excited with the results and Allis Chalmers introduced the first farm tractors with rubber tires as standard. At Will's farm the Model U 'Alley' was carefully put into the garage at night.

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. ★

Dodd Introducing Prescribed Fire Fund Bill

From the Office of Senator Bill Dodd Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, announced legislation that would enhance wildfire prevention in California through implementation of a \$20 million prescribed fire claims fund.

"We know fighting fire with fire is one of the most effective means of prevention, which is why I wrote the law to encourage greater use of this wildfire prevention technique last year," Sen. Dodd said. "This new proposal continues our efforts to encourage greater use of prescribed fire by ensuring those who practice this time-tested technique can have some protection from any unintended costs."

Prescribed fire, also known as controlled burning, has been used for centuries to clear tinder-dry trees and brush that are known to fuel runaway wildfires. Rarely do prescribed fires escape their bounds and cause damage to neighboring properties. If they do, Sen. Dodd's new bill would establish a fund to help cover costs. It is a follow-up to Senate Bill 332, written

by Sen. Dodd and signed into law last year, which protects landowners and prescribed fire managers from having to pay fire suppression expenses unless they have acted with gross negligence.

Sen. Dodd's new bill is sponsored by The Nature Conservancy.

"The science tells us that greater use of prescribed fire is a critical step to protecting communities from catastrophic wildfire," said Michael Wara, director of the Climate and Energy Policy program at Stanford University. "Sen. Dodd has been a leading advocate for smart, careful use of prescribed fire. This bill creates a structure that will allow landowners and prescribed burners to feel more comfortable using this important tool, knowing that if unintentional harm occurs, there are funds to make people whole."

"This claims fund is the lynchpin of all the other prescribed fire efforts we've been working on," said Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, are fire director of University of California Cooperative Extension and director of Northern California Prescribed Fire Council. ★

Dodd Introduces Hospital Pandemic and Emergency Response Bill

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, introduced legislation today to help California hospitals respond to public health crises including pandemics and other emergencies by streamlining the processing of licenses for health professionals, expanding insurance coverage, and making it easier to increase bed space for patients.

"California hospitals have been slammed, not only during the pandemic but with increasingly destructive wildfires and other natural disasters," Sen. Dodd said. "When a public emergency strikes, they need to be able to respond. This bill will help them adapt to fast-changing conditions, serving patients as quickly as possible."

Sen. Dodd's bill, Senate Bill 979, contains several key provisions. It makes it

easier for hospitals serving emergency zones to expand capacity and bed space, allowing better treatment and triaging for victims of pandemics, wildfire, earthquakes and other emergencies. It also eases the onboarding process for medical personnel coming in from other states. Additionally, it relaxes insurance restrictions for patients seeking treatment outside of their network coverage areas, ensuring they get medical coverage wherever an emergency hits.

The bill is sponsored by the California Hospital Association.

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Solano, Yolo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, and Sacramento counties. You can learn more about the district and Senator Dodd at www.sen.ca.gov/dodd. ★

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