

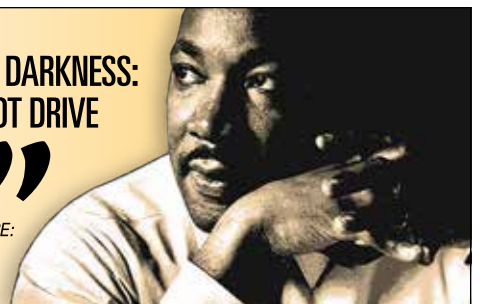


Rotary Plans Annual Crab Feed Event

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“DARKNESS CANNOT DRIVE OUT DARKNESS: ONLY LIGHT CAN DO THAT. HATE CANNOT DRIVE OUT HATE: ONLY LOVE CAN DO THAT.”

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., A TESTAMENT OF HOPE: THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS AND SPEECHES



Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 2

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JANUARY 14, 2022

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WHO WON THE BUMBLE BEE CONTEST?



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COOMER WINS NEMATODE THESIS COMPETITION



PAGE 4

New Bilingual Immersion Program Ready to Start



Shawntel McCammon with a student at Gretchen Higgins Elementary School where a new 2-Way Bilingual Immersion program will be starting. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Shawntel McCammon, DUSD

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Unified is looking forward to finishing off the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year with students in person. With that Dixon Unified is even more excited about the following school year as they are introducing implementation of Two-Way Bilingual Immersion (TWBI) at Gretchen Higgins Elementary for incoming Kindergarten students in the 2022-2023 school year.

There are three primary goals with the implementation of TWBI. Those goals are: (1) High Academic Achievement; (2) Bilingualism and Biliteracy; (3) Cross-Cultural Understanding. These goals coincide with Dixon Unified's Mission

to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and career and success in a global society. TWBI is a highly effective language acquisition model and improves academic achievement outcomes for all student groups. TWBI is the most effective language acquisition model for English Learners and will enhance our already robust English Learner program at the elementary level.

You might be wondering why is Dixon Unified interested in TWBI? Research has found the benefits are twofold. The instruction can be one of the most effective ways for English learners to develop their language and academic skills, but it also helps native English speakers and English learners improve their

communication skills, empathy, and cultural awareness. Additionally, California has launched a statewide effort to expand access to dual-language programming. There's even a national effort underway to get more states and districts to adopt the Seal of Biliteracy, a credential displayed on transcripts and diplomas that recognizes high school graduates who are proficient in two or more languages. Dixon Unified has most recently graduated 20 students with the Seal of Biliteracy.

Incoming Kindergarten students' school day will include periods of instruction during which students and teachers use only one language, with no translation or language mixing allowed. Both English language

Continued on page 3

City Treasurer Considering Council Run



James Ward at his swearing in ceremony for being elected Dixon City Treasurer in 2020. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - With 7,400 votes in November 2020, elected City Treasurer James Ward was hoping to continue service to his community by watching city decisions involving spending and savings but has learned that his position, though elected, can make no impact. His input, suggestions, and even concerns seem to fall on deaf ears.

Having more impact in the future of his town and on his fellow constituents is why this former California Highway Patrol Sergeant is considering a run for a Dixon City Council seat. He is the first candidate to express interest in the upcoming November elections and resides in District 1.

"I have begun seeking support but am not yet ready to make a final decision," he said. "The best part of this whole possibility is the people I have been meeting and how supportive they are."

As an Army veteran (Sp4) with 28 years of law enforcement experience, he served as a road patrol officer for 22 years before promoting to the rank of sergeant CHP San Francisco office where he worked for five years before serving his last year as a supervisor within the CHP (ENTAC) Center, Sacramento.

"I am no stranger to the workings of government," he said. "My primary areas of interest include improving the relationship between our citizens and city council that still seem to be strained and fiscal responsibility. As the City Treasurer, I've learned so much about the City of Dixon's financial and economic situation and I want to have more impact in our future."

District lines have not yet been formalized and won't until possibly April, said District 3 Councilman Kevin Johnson, but they are not expected to vary widely from the current ones. Both District 1 and 2 will be open for election this year. Currently District 1 Council Representative is Scott Pederson and District 2 Representative is Jim Ernest.

According to the Constitution, election day is to be the first Tuesday after a Monday in November so that will be Nov. 8, 2022. ★

Now That's Purr-fection

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Did I hear a "meow" from that suitcase? Ditch the 'cat lady' image of an older, white-haired woman feeding a dozen kitties from her back porch and replace it with a jet setter with stylish coiffure and pretty dress rolling a beautiful case of two felines through the airport.

While tradition may reign in the feline competition world, the clientele is showing up suave—and attracting new competitors, too. You can see for yourself at the upcoming All Breed Cat Show, Jan. 22, at the Dixon May Fair starting at 9 am. It is the first time in about a dozen years that they've held one in Dixon but with success, they hope to bring it to Dixon annually as they are affiliated with the Cat Fanciers Association which



Heidi Murphy holds her Persian cat, Tuffton Victorious, next to cat show judge, Carol Fogerty. Poppy State Cat Fanciers. Courtesy Photo

has the largest registry of cats in the world.

"Like in any world we produce, people that breed and exhibit become this family. We know each other and

we're very social and it's a chance to get together," said Linda Aherns who breeds oriental shorthairs and has been involved with cat shows for 30 years.

"To have our cats judged to make sure that we are breeding to the standards, also gives us a chance to meet people who are

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Life's too SHORT

Careful What You Pray For

By Debra Dingman

When I said the prayer “Lord, just a few pounds would be nice...” I knew I was being silly but I’ve worked so hard at Excel Fitness for a week and ate super well and drank lots of water so naturally, I felt I should have lost at least one pound but no, the scale hadn’t moved.

It never fails that when I’m at the top of my exercise game, I get sick. No, not COVID; just the common cold. I felt a sore throat for a couple days and shied away from people not sure if it was from forgetting to take my allergy pill. But it stayed for another day, and I sneezed several times throughout the day plus I was incessantly freezing so I took an EmergenC drink and easily slipped under the covers cuddling my heating pad.

A day later, I woke up angry yelling at hubby to tell those kids to stop playing basketball so close to our house... but then I realized it was just my heartbeat I was hearing. I wandered into the kitchen for food and went rummaging through the cupboards and the fridge. All full but nothing sounded good. I really wanted a Big Mac, a bean & rice burrito, or a pizza. I was trudging back to bed when I saw David’s grocery list on the counter. It said: “ant bait” and “kitty litter.” I added underneath in all caps, “FOOD!”

“You’re just grumpy because you don’t feel good,” he said, suddenly appearing over my shoulder. We then argued over whether chili has beans or not. He didn’t seem to understand that chili to me means soaking the beans the night before or that

if he asked me what I wanted for dinner and I said chicken would be nice, it’s a real good idea to throw it in a crockpot at about 1, but here it was “nearly night,” I was feeling starved, and there was “nothing good to eat.” Colds ruin your tastebuds so the egg and spinach quiche I heated up tasted awful.

I’m the queen of last minute meals and there is always healthy food for dinners: grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup; eggs and pancakes with fruit; taco salad loaded with veggies and topped with beans; or bean and cheese burritos with carrot and celery sticks—but, none sounded good.

Now if you’re talking REAL dinners, that takes planning. I thawed some frozen chicken breasts in the microwave, covered them in no-sugar barbecue sauce, and threw them in the crockpot. I asked him to wake me back up in four hours.

I drank another Vit. C mix and went back under the covers. He woke me up for chicken dinner and had made a huge green salad loaded with all my favorite veggies. It was wonderful and I told him how grateful I was. I went back to bed while sucking on a cherry throat lozenge (don’t judge me) to keep me from coughing and downed two NyQuils. For another few days, I felt pretty miserable and sipped chicken noodle soup but had less congestion and less coughing each day.

When I started to feel better and knew I had to get to work, I went to take a hot shower and decided to step on my scale right next to it. I lost three pounds. ★

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Kiwanis Club Thanks Supporters of Festival of Trees

Dear Editor,

We want to publicly thank our sponsors, tree decorators, performers, volunteers, and people who purchased trees for their endearing support at our 12th annual Dixon Kiwanis Festival of Trees. The trees were extraordinarily beautiful and unique this year plus the music was perfectly enjoyable. We appreciate each business and each person for the time and money contributed to make the event successful.

If not for all of them, Kiwanis of Dixon could not benefit children and youth through programs serving disadvantaged children, foster care children, special needs children, Middle School and high school band programs, student leadership programs and more. We also help support the Kiwanis Family House (a temporary housing facility next to UC Davis Medical Center and Shriners Hospital for Children in Sacramento, giving families with medical emergencies a place to stay.)

Our Gold Tree sponsors were Community Action North Bay, First Northern Bank, California Water, Superior Farms, and the Tully Consulting Group.

Silver Tree sponsors were Alisha Platt

Real Estate, American Legion Auxiliary, Demaray Chiropractor & Wellness Center, Dixon Moose Lodge, Kristen Janisch Family, Crystal Rico Farmers Insurance, Brenda Walker of Edward Jones, Ron DuPratt Ford, Realtor Melanie Wright, and Solano Baking Company.

Table Top Trees were sponsored by Curves-Jenny Craig, Cynde’s Place, Dawn Jamison Family, Dawson’s Bar & Grill, and Susan Motley Realty.

I wish I could list each decorator but there isn’t enough newspaper! Please go to our Facebook page (Kiwanis of Dixon) and see those joyful friends!

We are looking forward to planning the next Festival of Trees and are looking for a new Chairperson and new volunteers. Many hands make light work—and there is always much we can accomplish together improving our community! Start your New Year with the same hope we provide to millions of children across the world in Kiwanis International and call Patti (635-3303) or Debra (678-9198) today.

Sincerely,
Debra Dingman, 2021 FOT Chair
Kiwanis Club of Dixon

Dixon News Briefs



Dixon Teen Center Board Members Pastor Cathy Morris, Chairman Jerry Castañon, Sr., and Kay Caylor receive a check for \$7,373 for future operations of the Dixon Teen Center from Pin-a-Go-Go organizers Ellen and Don Highley. Photo by bil paul

MPG Staff

Teen Center News

The Dixon Teen Center got a big relief check after Pin-a-Go-Go organizers awarded them proceeds from their annual event held at the Dixon May Fair that is a weekend of Pinball fun. The Teen Center was closed down for most of the pandemic and is reorganizing with Chairman Jerry Castañon, Sr. at the helm.

Pin-a-go-go organizers Ellen and Don Highley presented a check for \$7,373. The Teen Center provided volunteers to help run the three-day exhibition of pinball machines last October.

The Teen Center’s next fundraiser will be an Elvis Presley tribute performance by nationally recognized impersonator Rob Ely at Dixon High School’s theater on Jan. 22. Masks are required. Tickets are \$30 and are available at Dixon Florist, the Chamber of Commerce, and Grocery Outlet. Online tickets are available at eventbrite.com (search for “Elvis Dixon.”)

City Council

The next City Council Meeting is this coming Tuesday, Jan.18 at 7 pm in the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street. Just in case you decide to take a more active interest in city government, the agendas are posted the Thursday before the meetings and available to the public at cityofdixon.com.

Elections for two council representatives—District 1 now occupied by Scott Pederson and District 2 currently occupied by Jim Ernest—are this November. Dixon has not had an elected woman on the dais for many years. It is a big responsibility, and it would be nice to have someone well studied in the Constitution and the issues that face Dixon.

Hobo Dinner & Raffle

The American Legion Auxiliary Dixon Unit 208 will hold their annual Hobo Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 15. This is an evening of fun organized by a great group of women. Enjoy a delicious beef stew, fresh baked bread, and cookies while waiting to see if you win one of several raffle items. Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street. There is a

no host bar starting at 5 pm with dinner served at 6 pm. Cost is \$10. For tickets, please call (707) 592-0991 or inquire at Veterans Hall.

Literacy Program Needs Tutors

Many people in Dixon may not be aware that about two years ago our own Dixon Library became a part of the Solano County Library system. Among the many additions to our Dixon Library has been the inclusion into the nearly 25-year-old Solano County Library Adult Literacy Services.

This group of dedicated employees has been reaching out to train tutors and teach them to help adults in learning to read and write or improve their reading and writing skills in English. Some students are native English speakers and others are learning English as a second language. Either type of learner may be in various stages of what they need to learn from very basic skills to more advanced reading and writing. Many have set a goal that they would like to achieve such as passing a driver’s license, GED, or Citizenship test.

Anyone can be a tutor. No experience is necessary to become a tutor. One does not need to speak another language to work with a second language learner. Being a tutor and helping someone work towards their goals can be a very rewarding experience. You may give the gift of literacy to someone who will be grateful to you for the rest of their lives.

There is no cost to become a tutor or to attend an orientation or training. Although the trainings are held in Vacaville and Fairfield, if you live in Dixon, you will be matched with a student in Dixon unless you choose another community. There is a long list of Dixon residents that are waiting for help from their neighbors.

You are invited to attend an orientation and find out more. Wednesday, Jan. 19, 6 pm - 7:30 pm Fairfield, Thursday, Jan. 20, 10 am -11:30 am in Vacaville, or Saturday, Jan. 22, 10 am -11:30 am in Fairfield. Call Solano County Library Adult Literacy Services for more information or to register to attend (707) 784-1526. The staff is always helpful and available to answer your questions. ★



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New Bilingual Immersion Program Ready to Start

Continued from page 1

learners and native English speakers do work in both languages. English language learners and native English speakers are together for most content instruction. Dixon Unified knows that the success of TWBI programs is largely based on the commitment by both the District and the families. The District commits to fund, staff, and support the program in grades TK-12. While families commit to maintaining enrollment in the program at MINIMUM for six years (grades K -5).

When students begin the program, 90% of their day will be in the target language, in this case Spanish, with 10% in English. As students progress in grade levels, the language balance shifts, and by 5th grade 50% of instruction is in Spanish, and 50% is in English. In order to ensure there are plenty of language models for both native Spanish and English speakers, ideally one-third of the Kindergarten cohort is English only, one-third Spanish only, and one-third students who have language skills in both English and Spanish.

The vision for Gretchen Higgins school is that it transitions to a full TWBI program over the course of 6 years. This means that beginning with next year's Kindergarteners, classes at Gretchen Higgins will be exclusively

TWBI classrooms; as that cohort progresses through the grades, the current regular program will be phased out. Current Gretchen Higgins' students will be able to finish their elementary schooling enrolled at Gretchen Higgins in the regular program; however, families who reside in the current Gretchen Higgins' boundary will be reassigned to either the Anderson or Tremont boundary beginning with next year's Kindergartners. The TWBI program will be a choice for ALL Dixon Unified School District students, regardless of their school boundary. Please note: we do anticipate high demand for this program. If interest outpaces available spots in the class, Dixon Unified School District will employ a lottery to select classes.

Dixon Unified will have a presentation regarding TWBI Programming beginning next school year for families interested in participating. Those families with a student that will be 5 years old for the 2022-2023 school year are encouraged to attend the meeting at 5:30 pm on Thursday, January 13th in the Gretchen Higgins Elementary Multipurpose Room at 1525 Pembroke Way, Dixon, CA.

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way." – Frank Smith, psycholinguist. ★

DWIC to Explore the History of the Patwin Tribe

By Loran Hoffmann

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Women's Improvement Club will be holding their January 19th meeting via ZOOM because of the highly contagious Omicron Variant of the Corona-19 virus that is sweeping through Solano County this month. A high percentage of those individuals that have been vaccinated and received a booster are contracting the new variant; however, those that have been vaccinated are not experiencing the extreme symptoms and hospitalization of those that have chosen not to receive the vaccination. Based on this current situation the board determined that a ZOOM meeting was in the best interest of the club at this time.

The Program for the meeting will feature a video by Clyde Low of the City of Fairfield of the early inhabitants of Solano County-the Patwin Indians and the life of Chief Solano from 1800-1850's. The Patwins were a peaceful group that lived and hunted in the area for thousands of years. A short business meeting will be held

following the program. Bud's Pub and Grill will again be hosting the Scholarship Fundraising Dinner for the Dixon Women's Improvement Club on February 21, 2022, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. This highly popular and well attended dinner allows the DWIC to provide scholarships to graduates of the High School Class of 2022 that are interested in pursuing a level of higher education at a 2- or 4-year college or university.

The dinner tickets are \$30 each which includes your selection of an entrée from Prime Rib, Grilled Salmon, a Chicken Dish, or a pasta or vegetarian Dish, along with a dinner salad, potatoes, a vegetable, bread and a non-alcoholic beverage. Tickets can be purchased at Dixon Florists and Gifts, the Dixon History Museum, or by calling or texting Loran Hoffmann at 707-372-7094.

In addition to scholarships, the DWIC offers community grants to other nonprofits community organizations and schools to enrich their programs and reach more members of the community. The

DWIC members contribute handcrafted items, prepare themed baskets, or donate gift cards for a raffle held at the Scholarship dinner. Proceeds from the game of chance are dedicated to funding community grants.

DWIC Community Grants have been awarded to an after school program to construct a library corner and including books; supported a TEAM Dixon cookie decorating drive by activity during the pandemic; funded transportation and a grocery shopping experience for teens with special needs; funded purchase and distributions of Spanish language children's books distributed by La Rosita in Dixon neighborhoods; and supported fabric purchases for blankets for the Senior Visitation Christmas Eve program. These are only a few of the projects that have been funded over the past three years that have helped to make a difference in the Dixon community.

If you are interested in learning more about the Dixon Women's Improvement Club or becoming a member, please contact Mary Kay Callahan at (916) 541-0417. ★

Seeking Outstanding Community Citizen, Business

Dixon Chamber of Commerce News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is happy to announce they are now seeking nominations for Business and Citizen of the Year for 2021. Both will be honored at the Annual Awards Banquet, tentatively scheduled for March 12, 2022.

The criteria for nomination are: Nominee must live in Dixon. Participation in all-around community activities and civic enterprise. Evidence of lasting contribution to community welfare. Evidence of leadership ability. Cooperation with individuals and civic organizations. Unselfish devotion and contribution without thought to personal gain. Nominees cannot be prior Citizen of the Year winners Contributions and community activities must have taken place within the City of Dixon.

Please submit a letter of recommendation explaining why you believe the nominee is worthy of this prestigious award. Please list, as completely as possible, the nominee's past activities, as the award is based on an individual's cumulative service to the community. Include the nominee's involvement with business, professional, civic, and/or religious committees and any offices held.

Recipient of this award will be chosen based on the criteria above, NOT on the number of nominations received. Petitions will not be accepted. Nominees must be nominated by an individual.

Please include the following information: 1) Nominee's name, address, phone number, spouse's name, years of residency in Dixon and occupation along with 2) Your name, address, and phone number
All letters submitted must be signed and

dated. All nominations must be received at the Chamber office no later than 4 pm on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022. You can mail, email or drop-off your nomination to the Chamber. Submit to: Dixon Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 159, 220 N. Jefferson St., Dixon, CA 95620 or info@dixonchamber.org. Call (707) 678-2650 with any questions.

This award is traditionally a surprise to the recipient. Therefore, nominees should not be aware that their name has been submitted. The Dixon "Citizen of the Year" Award will be presented at the Dixon Chamber's Annual Awards Night Dinner to be held later this year, subject to COVID restrictions.

Deadline for submissions is Thursday, February 17, 2022.

Criteria for Nominating the 2021 Business of the Year are:

Nominee must be a Member of the Chamber of Commerce; Nominee business must be in Dixon; Monetary giving or volunteerism in the community; Outstanding Customer Service; Involvement in Community Events; Nominees cannot be a prior Business of the Year winner; and Businesses cannot nominate themselves. *Note: Non-Profit Clubs & Organizations are Ineligible for this Award.*

Please submit a letter of recommendation explaining why you believe the nominee is worthy of this prestigious award. Recipient of this award will be chosen based on the criteria above, NOT on the number of nominations received. All letters submitted must be signed and dated. All letters must be received at the Chamber office no later than 4 pm on Thursday, February 17, 2022. You can mail, email or drop-off your nomination to the Chamber. For a complete list of awardees, please call (707) 678-2650. ★

Dodd Introduces Power System Reliability Bill



Senator Bill Dodd News Release

SOLANO, COUNTY (MPG) - Senator Bill Dodd, D-Napa, introduced legislation to improve the reliability of California's electricity grid, preventing rolling blackouts such as those that left hundreds of thousands of residents without power during past heatwaves.

"By reducing demand from the largest energy users during peak times, my bill would make the grid more reliable, ensuring Californians have continued access to the energy they

need," Sen. Dodd said. "We need to be proactive to prevent the risk of future blackouts. Outages that come from imbalanced supply and demand are completely unacceptable."

Since the 1980s, industrial customers have contributed to grid reliability by curtailing manufacturing when capacity is scarce under an emergency system known as the Base Interruptible Program. During extreme heat last year and in 2020, the California Public Utilities Commission called on large businesses to voluntarily reduce energy consumption, preventing more widespread outages that would have left nearly a million customers in the dark. However, an improved program could have further reduced blackouts.

Sen. Dodd's bill strengthens the commission's mandate to call for

energy use reductions and requires participation from the state's three largest utilities. It is supported by the California Large Energy Consumers Association.

"Sen. Dodd is focusing on the often-neglected part of the equation: decreasing demand not adding new generators," said Christian Lenci, chair of California Large Energy Consumers Association. "CLECA is proud to support Sen. Dodd in introducing this bill, and we pledge to work together to provide Californians with an electric grid they can rely upon."

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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CHP Valley Division Cracks Down on Highway Violence

California Highway Patrol Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol's (CHP) Valley Division Investigative Services Unit (ISU) has made seven arrests related to eight incidents occurring from November 2, 2021, to December 5, 2021. These incidents have involved road rage, as well as other criminal activity within Sacramento and San Joaquin counties.

These incidents resulted in five gunshot victims, one of which was paralyzed, and another tragically lost their life. Investigators do not believe any of the shootings are related and have determined three of the shootings to be the result of road rage incidents and two incidents were related to criminal drug activity. The remaining shootings are currently under investigation.

The CHP is asking the public to refrain

from engaging in road rage type incidents, which includes verbal, visual, and/or physical confrontations. Never get involved or engage with an aggressive driver, and if you feel you are a victim of highway violence, or observe someone being actively aggressive on the road, immediately call 9-1-1 and provide as much information as possible.

Members of our communities often witness incidents of highway violence, and CHP investigators are asking witnesses to report any unsafe or unusual behaviors they observe. Investigators have determined that even in broad daylight on freeways, uninvolved civilians may witness a crime in progress and may be able to provide valuable information to help with the investigation.

Anyone with information regarding any of these incidents is asked to please contact the CHP Valley Division Investigative Services Unit at (916) 731-6400. ★

Davis Student Alison Coomer Wins Nematode Thesis Competition



UC Davis doctoral student Alison Coomer is an international champion
Photo: UC Davis

By Kathy Keatley Garvey, UC Davis, Department of Entomology and Nematology

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - UC Davis second-year doctoral student Alison Coomer is now a global champion. Coomer, a member of the laboratory of nematologist Shahid Siddique of the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology, just won a world-wide competition sponsored by the International Federation of Nematology Societies (IFNS) for her three-minute thesis on root-knot nematodes.

She delivered her video presentation virtually on "Trade-Offs Between Virulence and Breaking Resistance in Root-Knot Nematodes." She will be awarded a bursary and plaque at the 7th International Congress of Nematology (ICN), set May 1-6 in Antibes, France.

Coomer earlier was selected one of the nine finalists in the 22-participant competition, vying against eight other graduate students from the University of Idaho, Moscow, and universities in England, Australia,

Brazil, Ireland, Kenya, Belgium, and South Africa.

"Our entire lab is glad for Alison winning this award," said Siddique. "This is an outstanding performance and Alison has really been working hard for that. I feel proud about it. I am also looking forward to Alison's presentation at ICN."

Judges announced that Rhys Copeland of Murdoch University, Australia, won second, and Laura Sheehy of Liverpool John Moores University England, scored third. They also will receive bursaries and plaques at the 7th International Congress of Nematology.

IFNS hosts the competition, IFNS 3-Minute Thesis, "to cultivate student academic and research communication skills, and to enhance overall awareness of nematodes and the science of nematology." The competition began with 22 participants. Each was required to present a single static slide, and not use any props or sound-effects. In the finals, a panel of judges, six nematologists and three non-experts from other areas of plant science scored them on the quality of their research presentation, ability to communicate research to non-specialists, and the 3MT slide. (See the winning videos at <https://bit.ly/3naarTe>).

In her presentation, Coomer related that: "Root-knot nematodes, specifically the MIG-group, consisting of *Meloidogyne incognita*,

javanica, and *arenaria*, are the most damaging of the plant parasitic nematodes causing severe yield loss in over 2,000 different plant species including tomatoes. The Mi-gene, which is a resistance gene in tomato, has been used in commercial farming and has been praised for its effectiveness towards the MIG group. This gene has been cloned but the mechanisms of how it's resistance works is still unknown." (See video at <https://www.ifns.org/alison-coomer>) Coomer, a doctoral student in plant pathology with an emphasis on nematology and advised by Siddique, is working on her dissertation, "Plant Parasitic Nematode Effectors and Their Role in the Plant Defense Immune System."

Coomer, originally from the St. Louis, Mo., area, received two bachelor degrees, one in biology and the other in chemistry in May 2020 from Concordia University, Seward, Neb., where she won the Outstanding Graduate Student in Biology Award. She served as a biology lab assistant and taught courses in general biology and microbiology. As a biological science aide/intern, Coomer did undergraduate research in the Sorghum Unit of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, Lincoln, Neb. Her work included collecting, prepping, and analyzing DNA, RNA, and proteins to identify genes that contribute to an under-and over-expression of lignin in sorghum plants. ★

Seven Graduate From Leadership Farm Bureau Program

California Farm Bureau Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - An intensive, months-long training program concluded today for seven Farm Bureau members from California who participated in the Leadership Farm Bureau program. The LFB Class of 2020-21 graduated during the 103rd California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting in Garden Grove.

The class acquired enhanced background in communication, teambuilding, advocacy, and the Farm Bureau organization during 20 months of in-person and virtual instruction. Adapting the program to the pandemic, participants advocated on behalf of Farm Bureau virtually with lawmakers in Sacramento and in person in Washington, D.C. The class also took a field-studies trip to Texas and participated in training on agricultural issues, governmental policy, and personal development.

Graduates of the 2020-21 Leadership Farm Bureau class are:

Katerina Kronauge of Dixon grew up in Redwood City, where she learned about agriculture in high school while working at Hidden Villa Ranch as a student intern. She previously worked for the Colusa-Glenn Resource Conservation District, specifically on its irrigated lands program.

Mark Avilla of Modesto is a walnut farmer and owner of Grafted Tree Public Relations. He works to connect agribusinesses and organizations to the non-agricultural community and serves as chairman of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

Amanda Battle of Sacramento is a fourth-generation cattle rancher and crop insurance adjuster with Rural Community Insurance Services. She previously served on

the California Young Farmers & Ranchers State Committee.

Amanda Berry of Murphys is a territory manager for Elanco, a company that produces medicines and vaccinations for pets and livestock. She serves as president of Calaveras County Farm Bureau and co-founded the Gold Country Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

Katie Byrne of San Diego is membership coordinator and policy associate at San Diego County Farm Bureau. She does not come from a farming background but quickly gained expertise on the issues facing agriculture and the importance of advocacy to keep farmers farming.

Paul La Follette of Brentwood is a fifth-generation farmer from Contra Costa County who grows wine grapes and raises game birds. He is a member of the Contra Costa County Farm Bureau board of directors, working to preserve agriculture in the county.

Angelica Smith of Sacramento grew up in Oakhurst, where her family was involved in wildland firefighting. She is program and membership coordinator for Sacramento County Farm Bureau and is active in the county's Young Farmers & Ranchers Committee.

The class represented the 21st group to graduate from the LFB program since its inception in 2000.

Applications for the 2022 Leadership Farm Bureau class will be accepted through Dec. 17. For information and the application form, see www.cfbf.com/leadership-farm-bureau/.

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 31,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 6 million Farm Bureau member families. ★

DIXON POLICE LOG

Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.



Monday, December 27, 2021

- 1317 - Battery reported in the 100 block of Dorset Drive.
- 1639 - Petty theft reported in the 1500 block of North 1st Street.
- 2155 - Suspicious person in the 1100 block of Pembroke Way. A 44-year-old male was found to be intoxicated. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.
- 2309 - Suspicious person in the 200 block of Dorset Court checking doorhandles to a locked business. Ethan Edwards (24), of Fairfield, was contacted and arrested for Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Probation Violation. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

- 0634 - Hit and run accident reported in the 200 block of East A Street.
- 1921 - Multiple vehicle burglaries reported in the 200 block of Dorset Court.

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

- 1208 - Citizen contact in the 7800 block of Schroeder Road.
- 1432 - Traffic stop in the 1100 block of Pitt School Road resulted in the arrest of Jose Zarate (34) of Dixon for 4 outstanding warrants, possession of methamphetamine, and drug paraphernalia. He was taken to county jail.

Thursday, December 30, 2021

- 1651 - Found bike report in the 800 block of Marvin Way.
- 1656 - Theft report in the 1400 block of Pembroke Way.
- 1800 - Domestic violence reported in the 1300 block of Cottonwood Street.
- 2145 - Report of vandalism in the 1100 block of North Lincoln Street.

Friday, December 31, 2021

- 2347 - Officers responded to the 200 block of Ahern Lane, where a subject was placed in protective custody after being determined to be a danger to himself and others.
- 0145 - Officers responded to several 911 hang-up calls in the area of Newgate, in which a female was crying and stated she had been assaulted before the call disconnected. Additional calls plotted in the 1400 block of Ingrid Drive. Upon arrival, Officers contacted and detained Alexis Leon (21) of Dixon as he fled out a side window of the house. No force was used in the detention. As a result of the investigation, Officers arrested Leon for felony domestic violence, felony child abuse, violating the terms of his felony probation, misdemeanor violation of a restraining order, misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance, and for having an outstanding felony warrant. He was booked into the Solano County Jail without incident.

Saturday, January 1, 2022

- 0901 - Theft report in the 500 block of Stern Drive.
- 1147 - Traffic collision report in the 100 block of West A Street.
- 1908 - Information report in the 1700 block of North First Street.
- 2220 - A hit and run collision occurred in the area of West A Street at North Lincoln Street.

Sunday, January 2, 2022

- 0808 Domestic violence reported in the 800 block of North Adams Street.
- 1437 Traffic stop in the 1400 block of Ary Lane resulted in the arrest of James Canerday (35) of Vacaville for possession of methamphetamine and reporting a false emergency. Hewent to county jail.
- 2017 A subject was taken into protective custody and transported to a local hospital for a mental health evaluation.
- 2143 Officers responded to a report of shots fired in the 200 block of West D Street. No injuries were reported.

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Chuck Schumer's Jan. 6 Cynicism

On Jan. 6, 2021, rioters seeking to disrupt the counting of electoral votes breached the U.S. Capitol and rampaged for hours before order was restored.

This was a disgraceful spectacle that shouldn't be repeated, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer knows just what is needed to respond to the moment – passing every progressive voting-related priority that can possibly be jammed through the Senate on an extremely narrow, partisan vote.

The defense of our democracy, Schumer maintains, demands nothing less.

The latest pitch for the Democratic voting agenda is more cynical and detached from reality than ever. We are to believe that the only way to counteract the furies unleashed on Jan. 6 is by imposing same-day voter registration and no-excuse mail voting on the states, ending partisan gerrymandering, and requiring the counting of ballots that arrive up to seven days after Election Day, among other provisions completely irrelevant to events that day or afterward.

If you're thinking that Democrats supported all of this on Jan. 5 of last year and still supported it on Jan. 7, you're correct.

Their agenda has as much to do with Jan. 6 as an

annual appropriations bill or the naming of a post office.

The Democratic drive to nationalize our elections has always been a sweepingly radical step in search of an alleged crisis to address. When a version was first introduced a few years ago, it was sold as addressing "the vile voter suppression practices" of the GOP, in the words of The New York Times. The big lie of the time was that the Georgia gubernatorial campaign of Stacey Abrams in 2018 was undone by such practices. Now, the justification is the Capitol riot and subsequent GOP state-level voting changes that have been portrayed, falsely, as the return of Jim Crow.

In reality, voting has never been easier and voters have never had so many options for how to participate in elections, whether early in-person voting, traditional same-day voting, or mail-in voting. There are partisan disputes about how to strike a balance between the convenience and security, but there is no reason that these differences can't be debated at the state level, with the balance struck differently depending on the policy preferences of elected officials in each state.

Limits on drop boxes or measures to tighten up the identification requirements around mail-in ballots aren't suppressing the vote.

The true weakness of the system that was highlighted last year on Jan. 6 is the poorly drafted Electoral Count Act. It should be revised to make it explicit that the vice president can't decide which electoral votes to count and that states

can't discard the popular vote if the outcome isn't to their liking. Even though changes along these lines might get bi-partisan support, Schumer is pushing to eliminate the filibuster to pass the progressive wish list of electoral non-sequiturs (although a few provisions, like prohibiting the intimidation of election officials, have been added to the Democratic package to address the 2020 post-election fight).

To wrap this push in the bloody shirt of Jan. 6 is opportunistic and irresponsible and can only serve to convince even more Republicans that the outrage over that day is in the service of a nakedly partisan agenda.

Schumer has an uphill climb to convince relatively moderate Democrats Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema to go along with kneecapping the filibuster. If the New York senator were to succeed, he would have blown a hole in the traditional practices of the Senate and set the precedent for Republicans – should they achieve unified control of Washington in 2024 – to impose all their own favored electoral policies on the states.

This yin and yang wouldn't do anything to restore faith in democracy, rather the opposite. But Chuck Schumer is on a mission to achieve, and to use, the power to rewrite the country's electoral rules – justifications and consequences be damned.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Heeneys History Mulberry Shortcake

Commentary by Ed Heeneys

I doubt if most people have heard of a Mulberry Shortcake, but I know of one that got started but never finished. Back in Kansas after the dust bowl, there was not much fruit growing except some skinny peach trees and Mulberry trees. The Mulberry tree had 'blackberry-like' fruit clusters kind of skinny but very, very full of red-staining juice. Us kids and a few opossums enjoyed feasting on them when ripe. In a good year, a whole bucket full could be picked and eaten.

One spring day, my mother gathered us kids and headed us toward the Mulberry tree about a quarter mile away. She had collected all the ingredients and was ready to bake a shortcake for supper. Dad had rigged up tin pails with wire handles for our use in gathering the berries.

Off we went down the road...four little country kids swinging tin pails and kicking up dust from the country road. When we arrived at the

tree, we found that there were a lot of good berries. But of course, we had to try them out and check on their sweetness. They were good! And in our eagerness to eat mulberries, we forgot to put any in our buckets.

After about an hour we had eaten mulberries, thrown mulberries, squeezed mulberries, and in general just made a mess. The worst part, we had not saved any to take home. We picked just a few and then returned home.

Mom had baked a nice shortcake, and Dad was smiling in anticipation of a great dessert. But when they saw us kids all messy and no mulberries, their expressions changed. Instead of fun looks of the morning, they had looks of disappointment and a bit of sadness. How could their dumb kids be so thoughtless? Dad threatened to go to town and get berries just for him and Mom. As we sat there dejected on our kitchen chairs, I think I may have seen a couple of shared grins of parents of such a purple-hued bunch of country kids. ★

Rice Commission to Meet in January

The California Rice Commission

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

The California Rice Commission annual grower meetings will be held Thursday, January 20, 2022, in Colusa and Yuba City. The meetings are an excellent way for rice growers and handlers to get the latest on key issues impacting the industry.

The first meeting will be held at the Colusa Casino Resort Table 45 Room (in the main casino), with doors open at 8:00 a.m. and the

meeting from 8:30 until 11:30 a.m. The afternoon meeting will be at Hillcrest at the Plaza Room, 210 Julie Drive, Yuba City, with doors open at 12:30 p.m. and the meeting from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Information presented will be the same at each venue.

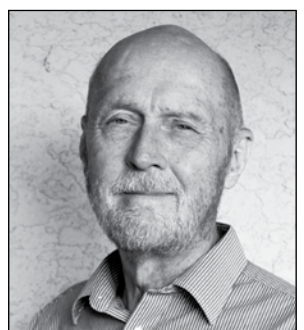
This year's scheduled presenters include Louie Brown of Kahn, Soares & Conway with a state update, Tyson Redpath of The Russell Group will provide a Washington, D.C. overview, Tess Dunham, Kahn, Soares & Conway will review

water quality in agriculture, a water year outlook from David Guy of the Northern California Water Association and Ben Mosely, USA Rice will discuss the next farm bill.

Attendance by industry members is greatly encouraged. Don't miss your chance at winning fabulous raffle prizes! Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, please contact California Rice Commission Communications Manager Jim Morris (916) 205-5395 or jim.morris@calrice.org. ★

COVID Omicron Surge Finally Hits Dixon Big-time



Commentary by bil paul

The new COVID omicron virus must've rubbed its hands with glee over the holidays when it saw so many opportunities to spread.

A bunch of our family friends in various northern California cities came down with COVID over the past week. There's always some new twist to this disease that keeps it viable, like the whack-a-mole game. This time we have a mutation (omicron) that seems to spread as easily as the common cold. Maybe that's an exaggeration. Maybe not.

Dixon is now having as many new COVID cases per week as it did during the surge a year ago. During the first week of this new year, 135 new cases were reported in the city. And that might just be the tip of the iceberg.

The number of active, reported COVID cases in the county has nearly doubled. COVID hospitalizations were up 38 percent. About one out of every five people being tested is testing positive.

There's hope that because so many people may catch the omicron variant, and have only mild symptoms (especially if they're vaccinated) the illness might provide them some natural immunity against

future COVID infections.

Business owners often back away from absolutely requiring masks, vaccinations and testing these days because they're afraid of losing customers and/or employees. Politicians are afraid of losing votes.

The Washington Post reported that a pizza restaurant in Portland, Maine had toed the line early last year by requiring employees to wear masks. But as more and more employees and customers became vaccinated, the owners relaxed the masking requirement, failed to notify all employees when other employees became ill with COVID, and even refused an employee request to post a "masks recommended" sign. As a result, most of the pizzeria's employees walked off the job. Another factor was severe understaffing.

What's the difference between having a cold, the flu or covid?

The symptoms for the flu and the COVID virus are often similar: muscle aches, cough, fever or chills, headache, and tiredness. The loss of taste and smell is unique to having COVID. If you have these symptoms, it pays to be tested for COVID and to isolate yourself if you test positive.

If you have sudden confusion, can't stay awake, have persistent chest pain or pressure, trouble breathing, and lips and skin turning blue, pale or gray, it's time to seek emergency medical care for COVID.

On the other hand, a cold usually involves milder symptoms such as

sneffles and sore throat.

The new omicron COVID virus, because it's often milder and doesn't go deep into one's lungs, may actually be mistaken for a cold, especially among vaccinated people.

It's possible a person could come down with both the flu and a COVID virus at the same time, and that could be a serious hit on one's body.

Many of you have been looking for a COVID test kit at CVS or Walmart, only to find them sold out. Keep checking. The Dixon Unified School District was handing out free kits to parents last Friday. I feel test manufacturers are selling them at too high a profit. Makes their shareholders happy.

I've written before about China's extreme measures to contain COVID, resulting in relatively few COVID deaths compared to us. Because of the most recent COVID outbreak there, the city of Xi'an, with 13 million residents, has been completely locked down. China is especially interested in keeping COVID at bay because it's about to hold the winter Olympics. I expect that foreign athletes coming in will be rigorously tested.

bil paul did PR for the Postal Service and medical companies, and worked as a reporter and photographer. He's the author of the book about Dixon's failed movie studio project ("The Train Never Stops in Dixon" - available at Amazon or the library) and has a non-fiction book coming out next year about GIs in the Aleutian Islands during WWII. ★

Seasonal Affective Disorder Doesn't Take Holidays

The Jason Foundation News Release

HENDERSONVILLE, TN (MPG)

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is characterized as a type of depression that is related to changes in seasons, typically tied to the start of fall and persisting into the winter months. We know that depressive disorders don't take holidays and this time of year can be stressful. For individuals who suffer from or are at risk for depression, though, the impact of holiday stresses and pressures can be much more severe than the momentary frustrations that almost everyone experiences. Typical symptoms of SAD, sometimes referred to as winter depression, may include the following (Mayo Clinic):

Feeling depressed most of the day, nearly every day; A lack of energy; Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed; Feeling sluggish

or agitated; Oversleeping or having problems with sleeping; Social withdrawal; Feeling hopeless, worthless or guilty; Substance abuse.

Recently, more people are willing to engage in more meaningful conversations regarding mental health, but that has not always been the case. Many of the same symptoms listed above are commonly associated with warning signs of suicidal thoughts or behavior, the second leading cause of death for ages 10 – 24 in California. The Jason Foundation, a nationally recognized leader in youth suicide awareness and prevention, has developed a program designed to help reduce the stigma surrounding mental health issues and suicide. #IWONTBESILENT is an awareness campaign to raise the conversation on suicide prevention and mental illness, allowing open conversation regarding

these serious subjects. Visit www.iwontbesilent.com to learn how you can become involved and make a difference within your community. Creating an environment where people of all ages feel comfortable to talk about their struggles is an important step in preventing unnecessary tragedies.

Contrary to a prevalent myth, suicide rates do not peak during the holiday season. However, depressed individuals are hardly immune from either depressive episodes or suicidal ideation during this time. If you or someone you love is struggling with depression and/or thinking about suicide, get help now. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (8255), is a free resource that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for anyone who is in suicidal crisis or emotional distress. ★



Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com. Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher." If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.



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

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P.O. Box 1106, Dixon, CA 95620

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We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



Rotary Plans Annual Crab Feed Now That's Purr-fection



Kathy Ayala and Phyllis Seelye sell tickets to one of the raffles at a past Rotary Club Crab Feed.
Photo courtesy of Dixon Rotary

Dixon Rotary News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It's time to kick off crab season so mark your calendars for the 18th annual Crab Feed hosted by the Rotary Club of Dixon. It will be held on Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, in Madden Hall at the Dixon May Fair, 655 South First Street. The event starts at 6 pm with a no-host bar and dinner is at 7 pm.

A ticket includes CRAB, PASTA, SALAD and BREAD.

All seats are reserved and are being sold online for \$70 each. A ticket includes crab, pasta, salad, and bread. If the event is canceled, \$70 will be refunded for each ticket purchased. For groups of six (6) or more, please call Janice at (916) 240-0147. You can purchase your tickets directly online through Eventbrite at:

<https://2022-dixon-rotary-crabfeed.eventbrite.com>.

Things to know before the event: (1) Bring your driver's license or other photo ID to enter event. (2) Bring proof of full COVID vaccination (with final dose at least 14 days prior to event date or negative COVID test result taken within 72 hours of the event. (3) Bring and wear face mask when not eating or drinking.

Gather your group early to get your seats together. Along with great food you will have opportunities to win raffle baskets and bid on silent auction prizes. Then after dinner, dance the night away with The Time Bandits.

The proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward high school scholarships for students going to a four-year college, two-year college, and trade school. Proceeds also go toward

Continued from page 1

interested in the breed," she added. Ahearns reports she's enjoyed being involved but is in "pre-retirement" with her cats now and is happy to make room for the 'fresh energy' that comes with Heidi Murphy, an energetic blonde who flies around the country to 30 different shows a year with her Persian pets. The women are working together to bring felines from near and far to the event and have a goal of 225 cats in various breeds. The deadline for entries is one week before the show.

To enter one cat, the fee is \$100 but it is less if you enter more than one. There are 42 breeds eligible to compete in the Championship, Premiership, Kitten and Veteran Classes.

There is even a category for the "Household Pet." You can show your wonderful kitty if it is spayed or neutered and not declawed. Your cat can compete with other household pets and earn ribbons, rosettes, and titles awarded by the judges.

It can be a busy environment with exhibitors preoccupied with listening for

their cat's number to be called to a ring, grooming their cat, or taking an opportunity to speak with other exhibitors. Nonetheless, the majority of cat owners will be delighted to speak with folks and answer questions about their breeds.

For example, did you know that the Bengal breed has a short hair coat with a pattern similar to a leopard, and his personality is curious and athletic but a Ragamuffin is docile and quiet? It is also fluffy and loves people.

"There are reasons for breeds. People like the way a cat looks, and a breed has a personality. For example, the Cheshire cat in Alice in Wonderland is a cat that just lays around," said Ahearns. "When people are looking for a pedigreed cat, they are looking for a lot of different things and if they're matched up right-breeder and buyer—that's wonderful."

But even if you're not into a specific breed, there will be Solano Kitten Network Rescue organization on site if one is interested in adopting a kitten.

For more information, contact Linda Aherns via email at kat-attack@msn.com. ★

Remember-a-Vet (Wreaths Across America) and other veteran programs, school programs, local food pantries, community projects and grants, eradicating Polio worldwide, and much more.

Rotary is an international service organization with over 35,000 clubs and 1.2 million members in over 200 countries and is open to every race, culture, and creed. Rotary members are business,

professional and community leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotary Clubs usually meet weekly to plan their club and service activities. For more information about the Rotary Club of Dixon or you would like to attend a meeting, please call Marc Monachello at (530) 753-8226. ★

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Request for Proposal to Provide Architectural and Engineering Services for Fire Station 82

January 6, 2022

The City of Dixon (City) is seeking architectural and engineering services to plan, develop and assist in the delivery of, the new fire station (Fire Station 82).

Proposals shall be submitted by firms that are capable and experienced in the type of work described in Section III, "SCOPE OF SERVICES," of this Request for Proposal (RFP). In addition, all interested firms shall have sufficient, readily available resources in the form of trained personnel, support services, specialized consultants and financial resources to carry out the work without delay or shortcomings. The proposals shall be submitted **NO LATER THAN 3:00PM, Thursday, February 3, 2022 to:**

City of Dixon
600 East A Street
Dixon, CA 95620
Attn: Andrew MacDonald, PE, Consultant Project Manager
916 562-2227
andrew.macdonald@weareharris.com

Each proposer shall submit five (5) bound copies, and an electronic version (Adobe Acrobat PDF) of the proposal in accordance with Section V, "PROPOSAL FORMAT," of the RFP. This RFP and related documents are available on the City website at <http://www.dixonplanroom.com>. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS TO CHECK THE CITY WEBSITE FOR ANY FUTURE ADDENDUMS TO THIS RFP.

All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Andrew MacDonald, PE, Consultant Project Manager via electronic mail at andrew.macdonald@weareharris.com.

Dixon Independent Voice - Jan. 7 and 14, 2022

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-002480

The following persons are doing business as: : WESTEC BUILDER
3431 CANTELOW ROAD VACAVILLE, CA 95688
Robert Edward Stefanowicz, 3431 Cantelow Road Vacaville, CA 95688
Date Filed in Solano County: December 30, 2021
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 6/27/2013
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 December 29, 2026. 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: January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-002475

The following persons are doing business as: : BIRCH LANE THERAPEUTICS INC
7373 Timm Road Vacaville, CA 95688
Birch Lane Therapeutics Inc, 7373 Timm Road Vacaville, CA 95688
Date Filed in Solano County: December 29, 2021
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 12/06/2016
This Business is Conducted by: Corporation

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration December 28, 2026. 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: January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-002449

The following persons are doing business as: : CROCESSORIES
602 Humbolt Drive Suisun City, CA 94585
Shawntel Ridgle, 602 Humbolt Drive Suisun City, CA 94585
Date Filed in Solano County: December 22, 2021
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 8/26/2021
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 November 21, 2026. 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: December 31, 2021 January 7, 14, and 21, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-002485

The following persons are doing business as: : GNI INTEGRATIONS
2134 Cole Court Fairfiled, CA 94533
George A Martinez/Foreign Trust and Jorge Alberto Martinez/U.S. National, 2134 Cole Court Fairfiled, CA 94533
Date Filed in Solano County: January 03, 2021
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is Conducted by: A Trust

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 January 2, 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: January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-002386

The following persons are doing business as: : THE BUZZ BAR
730 West D Street South Dixon, CA 95620
Kelsie Sorensen, 730 West D Street South Dixon, CA 95620
Date Filed in Solano County: December 10, 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 November 29, 2026. 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: December 24, 31, 2021 January 7, and 14, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-002411

The following persons are doing business as: : PURPLE ROSE BOUDOIR
840 Alexander Drive Dixon, CA 95620
Laura Robertson, 840 Alexander Drive Dixon, CA 95620
Date Filed in Solano County: December 14, 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 December 13, 2026. 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: January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

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 - Repressed
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 - Not odd
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 - Band performance
 - Theodores, to friends
- DOWN**
- Flat-bottomed boat
 - Scottish lake
 - Antioxidants-rich berry
 - Popular primo dish in Italian restaurant, pl.
 - Bye, to Edith Piaf
 - Wanderer
 - Garbed
 - "Moby Dick" author
 - Length times width
 - Call someone, in the olden days
 - Poetic "ever"
 - Apple invention
 - Food contaminant
 - Run off to wed
 - Jean of Dadaism
 - Out of style
 - Find repugnant
 - Burn with coffee, e.g.
 - "Ursula K. Le _____"
 - Jargon
 - It happens at a certain time and place
 - First novel, e.g.
 - Near in space or time
 - Not a win nor a loss
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 - "Chronicles" author and songwriter
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 - Smidgins
 - Young swan
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FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

By Amy Shane

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

The Monarchs

(The Ravens Series)

By Kass Morgan and Danielle Paige

Kappa Rho Nu is back! After last semester, the Raven's will stop at nothing to rebuild their sorority threatened to bring them into ruins. Scarlet Winter has finally achieved her dream of being Kappa's new president, even if it's after the untimely death of the sorority's last president. This year she has vowed to make things different and keep her sisters safe. Although trouble is afoot, a new presence of evil hidden in the shadows is determined to take their coven's power.

Vivi Devereaux finally believes that she has found the place she belongs. Accepted as a sister of the Kappa Rho Nu's, Vivi is determined to show them how much they mean. So, when she is asked to be the social chair, she finally has a chance. But when the threat of impending doom resurfaces, and their magic goes awry, Vivi's standing as a Kappa's as well as her new relationship with longtime crush, Mason, is about to crumble.



◆ Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
 ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
 ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥
 ◆ Release Date: Jan 11, 2022

As new magical forces, talismans, and the Theta's threaten their very existence, the Kappa's will need to dig deeper more than ever and pull strength from those that came before them, The Monarchs.

The sisters of Kappa Rho Nu are ready to leave their mark; unfortunately, there are others that are ready to steal the spotlight. This exciting series is everything fans of The

Ravens are hoping for, with a few additions of grimoires and the occult parts of the craft.

Told in two perspectives, The Monarchs continues where The Raven's left off. A contemporary story that delivers hard punches from every angle. This fierce story will captivate its readers, pulling them under its spell, where first appearances aren't what you think, and people aren't who they say they are.

Danielle Paige and Kass Morgan deliver a refreshing story, fast-paced and full of wicked intent. The Ravens take readers deep into a secret coven of witches, friendships, relationships, and deceit but also delivers twists and turn that will keep you guessing. A slightly slow build only adds to this book's explosive ending. This book is a great wrap up to a fun witchy series, leaving it's reading hoping they could visit the adorably named shop, Cauldrons and Candlesticks. ★

Should State Provide Health Care to Everyone?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

On paper, having one state agency as the exclusive purveyor of health care for 40 million Californians would seem to make sense, replacing dozens of federal, state and private systems and their often bewildering financial and managerial peculiarities.

Centralized health care seems to work fairly well in other developed countries, such as Canada and the United Kingdom, with per capita costs somewhat lower than those in the United States.

The notion has been kicking around in California political circles for years and at one point, the state Senate passed a single-payer bill, although it stalled in the Assembly for lack of a financing mechanism.

The idea resurfaced last week with the introduction of two measures. One to create the framework for such a system in California, the other to ask voters to levy tens of billions of dollars in new taxes, mostly on affluent taxpayers and businesses, to pay for it.

"There are countless studies that tell us a single-payer healthcare system is the fiscally sound thing to do, the smarter healthcare policy to

follow, and a moral imperative if we care about human life," the proposal's chief author, Assemblyman Ash Kalra, said.

"What we're trying to do is get rid of these dozens of buckets of funding – whether it's private insurance, whether it's employer, whether it's Medi-Cal – put it into one bucket," the San Jose Democrat added.

Kalra has obtained support from a fairly large group of his legislative colleagues and apparently has conceptual backing from Gov. Gavin Newsom, who pledged to work for a single-payer system during his 2018 campaign.

"Doing nothing is not inaction," Kalra said of promises not kept. "It is, in fact, the cruelest of actions while millions suffer under our watch."

The constitutional amendment needing voter support would impose a new excise tax on businesses equal to 2.3% of any annual gross receipts in excess of \$2 million, plus a payroll tax of 1.25% of total annual wages on employers with 50 or more workers, another payroll tax on employers tied to workers earning more than \$49,900 a year, and graduated increases in personal income taxes on affluent taxpayers.

Estimates of revenues from the new taxes vary but would, it's assumed, top \$150 billion a year. Sponsors say the taxes would be offset by eliminating what employers and individuals now pay out of pocket for health care.

Even with overwhelming Democratic majorities in both legislative houses,

it may be difficult to advance the two companion measures, since they will face very stiff opposition from private employer groups such as the California Chamber of Commerce and much, if not most, of the current health care industry.

There are, moreover, some serious practical hurdles. The federal government now pays about half of the state's medical care tab, which approaches a half-trillion dollars a year, through Medicare, Medi-Cal, Obamacare and systems serving federal employees, and civil service and military retirees. The proposal assumes that the feds would, in effect, turn over all of that money, well over \$200 billion a year, to the state.

It also assumes that unions, including those of government workers, would also be willing to throw their health care money into the pot, meaning their often lavish benefits would be equalized with the rest of the state's residents.

The biggest hurdle, however, may be convincing Californians that a state government riddled with managerial messes such as the Employment Development Department, the Department of Motor Vehicles, the bullet train project and countless failed technology initiatives should be trusted with something as important as medical care.

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



Riley Reviews

SUPER "SPIDER-MAN" HEROICS;
"TENDER BAR" HEARTFELT TALE

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME"
RATED PG-13

Except for the hardcore fans of the franchise, there have been enough "Spider-Man" films in the last two decades that it proves a challenge to keep track of the exploits of the succession of costumed crimefighters from Tobey Maguire to Andrew Garfield and Tom Holland, the current Spidey.

Just like Sean Connery in the James Bond films, Tobey Maguire may remain the favorite, though that takes nothing away from his successors who put their own stamp on the friendly neighborhood hero from Queens.

Not everyone in the film's public sees Tom Holland's Spider-Man, having been exposed to be teenager Peter Parker by newspaper editor J. Jonah Jameson (J.K. Simmons) in the previous outing, as a hero after accused of causing the death of Mysterio.

Peter's troubles are only intensified at the beginning of "Spider-Man: No Way Home" with the execrable, ruthless Jameson as a cable host now gaslighting Peter on his widely-viewed program the Daily Bugle.

With family and friends in danger due to a lack of his secret identity, Peter summons help from Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) to use his magic to erase Peter's identity from the public consciousness, but that simple request gets so convoluted as to engender chaos.

Complications over Peter's perceived misdeeds affect his plans for college as well as those of his girlfriend MJ (Zendaya) and best friend Ned (Jacob Batalon), all three of them finding their hopes to be accepted at MIT being dashed due to Spider-Man's newfound notoriety.

It's bad enough for Peter and his friends to deal with unwanted media attention and peer hassles in the corridors of high school. This leads us back to Doctor Strange casting a spell that unwittingly causes villains from other dimensions to be foisted on our planet.

Emerging from their alternate worlds, Willem Dafoe's Green Goblin, Alfred Molina's Dr. Otto Octavius, Jamie Foxx's Electro, Thomas Haden Church's Sandman and Rhys Ifans' The Lizard pose a climactic challenge to Spider-Man in a pitched battle at the Statue of Liberty.

It should not come as a surprise to anyone following these superhero films that "Spider-Man" does not resist an end credits scene of a familiar figure whose presence leaves little doubt that another sequel is in the works.

As it goes so far, Tom Holland has the insouciant charm of youthfulness that serves him well for Peter Parker's believable alter ego of Spider-Man, and

it would seem his boyish poise is good for another round or two.

Memory does not serve to recall sufficient details of all previous films in the franchise, but it must be said that "No Way Home" ranks at or at least near the top of the best, an opinion vindicated in no small measure by the boffo box-office returns.

Elements of the storyline can at times be confusing, but the filmmakers bring technical excellence to all facets of superhero action. Efforts have been taken here to avoid spoilers about some of the key characters. "Spider-Man: No Way Home" merits a trip to the multiplex.

"THE TENDER BAR"
ON PRIME VIDEO

Now streaming on Prime Video, "The Tender Bar," adapted from the same-titled memoir of journalist J.R. Moehringer, is a coming-of-age story directed by George Clooney.

In 1972, 9-year-old J.R. Maguire (Daniel Ranieri, a gifted young actor) and his mother Dorothy (Lily Rabe) are displaced from the big city and have no other choice than to move back to the Manhasset, Long Island home of the boy's curmudgeonly grandfather (Christopher Lloyd).

Young J.R.'s real father is a deadbeat radio deejay by the nickname of "The Voice" (Max Martini) who deserted him and his mom years earlier. J.R. dreams of being reunited with his father, but that hope seems rather elusive.

Stepping in as an unconventional father figure is the good-hearted Uncle Charlie (Ben Affleck), a self-educated voracious reader who tends bar at the local watering hole called "The Dickens," a friendly dive bar that becomes J.R.'s hangout.

Uncle Charlie, as well as a number of other relatives that seem to come and go, lives at grandpa's house as well, where his closet is full of classic books. Charlie encourages J.R. to read and forego any notion of playing sports.

Charlie tends to wax philosophically at The Dickens pub, where an assortment of amiable barflies prove supportive of Charlie's tutelage and encouragement of J.R. to become a writer.

Meanwhile, with not a dollar to her name, Dorothy wants nothing more than for J.R. to go to Yale. Soon enough, we see college student J.R. (Tye Sheridan) achieve his goal in the Ivy League, where he seems more obsessed with pretty rich girl Sydney (Brianna Middleton).

After a stint at the New York Times, J.R. makes his way back to Manhasset and The Dickens. Uncle Charlie is still there to dispense advice and J.R. has a final reckoning with his absentee father.

Ben Affleck delivers a tour de force touching, colorful performance in his guidance of J.R., and for this reason alone "The Tender Bar" is worth watching. ★



California Agriculture Exports
Plummet Due to Clogged Ports

California farmers lost \$2.1 billion in export sales between May and September due to supply chain disruptions, including congested ports. That's according to a new study from the University of California, Davis. It estimated that containerized agricultural exports dropped by 17% in the five-month period alone. Tree nuts saw the sharpest trade declines, with estimated losses of \$520 million. Wine exports were down by \$250 million.

Early-Season Storms Boost California
Snowpack After 2 Years of Drought

California's snowpack is 160% higher than normal, according to the state Department of Water Resources' first seasonal snow survey. Early winter storms have been a blessing for California agriculture, which has faced severe water cutbacks due to historic drought. But water officials remain uncertain that this year's precipitation will be enough to replenish reservoirs to provide irrigation water through the summer. Snowmelt supplies one-third of California's water supply.

FDA Says it Wants to Simplify Water
Testing for Agriculture

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says it is proposing new rules to safeguard the food supply while also simplifying regulations and testing that govern agricultural water use. The FDA said it hopes to update the Food Safety Modernization Act, which sets standards for growing, harvesting, packing and storing fruits and vegetables. The FDA says it wants to clarify pre-harvest water testing regimens to make it easier for farmers to comply.

UC Davis Researchers Get \$6.5 Million
Grant for Drought-Resistant Crop Research

The University of California, Davis has been awarded a \$6.5 million grant to develop ways to improve breeding pipelines for legumes and sorghum. UC Davis researchers plan to use 3-D modeling, artificial intelligence and crop genetics to help develop farm produce that is better equipped to withstand hotter temperatures and persistent droughts. The grant for the research comes from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. ★

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



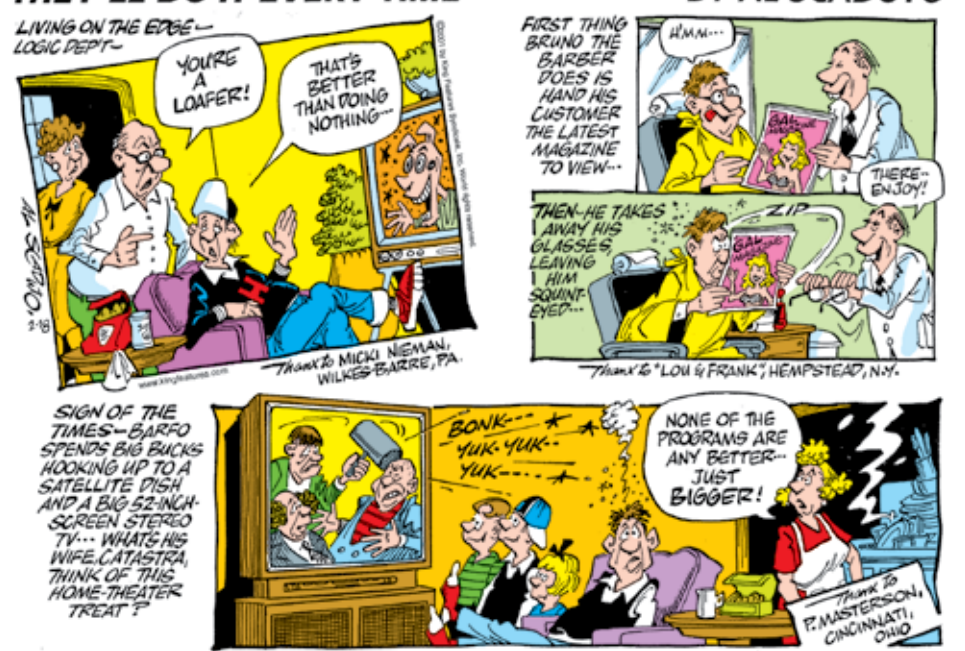
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Who Won the Bumble Bee Contest?

By Kathy Keatley Garvey, UC Davis

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Game over. The second annual Robbin Thorp Memorial First-Bumble Bee-of-the-Year Contest is over.

On two separate expeditions, but at exactly 2:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 1, UC Davis doctoral candidate Maureen Page of the Neal Williams lab, UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology, and horticulturist Ellen Zagory, retired director of public horticulture for the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, co-won the contest by each photographing a black-tailed bumble bee, *Bombus melanopygus*, foraging on manzanita (*Arctostaphylos*) in the 100-acre Arboretum.

Fittingly, they both knew and worked with Robbin Thorp (1933-2019), a global authority on bees and a UC Davis distinguished emeritus professor of entomology.

The event also marked the second consecutive year that a member of the Williams lab scored a win. Last year postdoctoral researcher Charlie Casey Nicholson of the Williams lab and the lab of Elina Lastro Niño, claimed the prize by photographing a *B. melanopygus* at 3:10 p.m., Jan. 14 in a manzanita patch in the Arboretum. The bumble bee species is the earliest to emerge in this area.

Contest coordinator Lynn Kimsey, director of the Bohart Museum of Entomology, sought the first bumble bee of the year in the two-county area of Yolo and Solano in memory of Thorp, a 30-year member of the UC Davis faculty. Thorp retired in 1994 but



Ellen Zagory captured this image of the black-tailed bumble bee, *Bombus melanopygus*. Photo: UC Davis

continued his work until several weeks before his death at age 85 at his home in Davis. Every year he looked forward to seeing the first bumble bee.

Page and Zagory will each receive a coffee cup designed with the endangered Franklin's bumble bee, a bee that Thorp closely monitored in its small range at the California-Oregon border. The cup features the image of the bee specimen, photographed by Bohart scientist Brennen Dyer, and designed by UC Davis doctoral alumna Fran Keller, professor at Folsom Lake College.

Page began looking for the bumble bee in the Arboretum on Dec. 31. "I went on a walk through the UC Davis Arboretum at 3 p.m. on New Year's Eve and stopped by a manzanita tree hoping to see a bumble bee," recounted Page. "After less than a few

minutes, I spotted a black-tailed bumble bee, *Bombus melanopygus*! However, it was not yet 2022 so I planned to return the following day at 2 p.m. and was similarly lucky—I spotted a bee within minutes of arriving. It was sunny and about 50 degrees Fahrenheit outside when I observed the bumble bee."

"Although I saw the bee within a few minutes of arriving, I spent an hour trying to get a good photograph," Page said. "In the process of trying to photograph the bee, I saw at least one other *Bombus melanopygus* visiting manzanita flowers!" She captured the image with her cell phone.

Zagory began her search the afternoon of Jan. 1. "I took about an hour looking at all the *Arctostaphylos*—I was walking through the Arboretum from the east end (Davis Commons)

to Mrak Drive where—voila!—there was the bee feeding on flowers of a manzanita in bloom, tucked under a yellow-berried toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)." She captured images on a Sony RX10 M3 with a Zeiss lens.

Both Zagory and Page worked with Robbin Thorp, a tireless advocate of pollinator species protection and conservation and the co-author of *Bumble Bees of North America: An Identification Guide* (Princeton University, 2014) and *California Bees and Blooms: A Guide for Gardeners and Naturalists* (Heyday, 2014).

"I indeed knew Robbin Thorp, one of the most generous and kind people I have ever met," Zagory said. "Dr. Thorp invited me to do a page for their book (*California Bees And Blooms: A*



Ellen Zagory, retired director of public horticulture, UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden. Photo: UC Davis



Maureen Page, UC Davis doctoral student in entomology. Photo: UC Davis

the American Museum of Natural History, N.Y.

Page said she was "also lucky enough to participate in a "Bumble Bee Blitz" organized by Thorp and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in July 2016 on Mt. Ashland, where we searched for *Bombus franklini* and *Bombus occidentalis*—two very rare west coast bee species. We unfortunately did not find *Bombus franklini*, which is now recognized as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act."

"Robbin was a brilliant scientist and a dedicated advocate for bumble bee conservation," Page said. "His death was a great loss and I wish more of my career could have overlapped with his time in Davis."

As a doctoral candidate in entomology, Page researches and investigates "whether European honey bees compete with native bees for floral resources and how we can use well-planned floral enhancements to mitigate negative effects of competition."

She and Nicholson are the co-leading authors of "A Meta-Analysis of Single Visit Pollination Effectiveness Comparing Honeybees and Other Floral Visitors," the Nov. 30th cover story in the American Journal of Botany. Citing the importance of native bees, Page said: "Native bees provide irreplaceable pollination services. I'm glad to see that flower plantings, like those found in the UC Davis Arboretum, provide food for diverse native bee communities as early as Jan. 1." ★

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