



**Busy Bee Yoga
Helps Slow
Your Stress**

PAGE 3

**Thanksgiving:
Have an Attitude
of Gratitude**

PAGE 10





Dixon

Independent Voice

VOLUME 29 • ISSUE 47

PO Box 1106 • Dixon, CA 95620 • (707) 678-8917 • email: staff@independentvoice.com • Independentvoice.com

NOVEMBER 19, 2021

**SEE
INSIDE**

**THE TEACHER
SHORTAGE**



PAGE 6

**LOCAL AUTHOR
RELEASES
BOOK "101
PAT-DOWNS"**



PAGE 4

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Timeless Tremont Church Restored



At a recent gathering with the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, the restored Tremont Church offered a simple but eloquent venue.
Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Just 20 years ago when you entered the Tremont Church at 8290 Tremont Road, you worried you might fall through one of the boards in the floor. The air smelled like old leather suitcases, and particles of dust sparkled through rays of sunlight. There were cobwebs around the lectern and some paint peeling from the walls. But one could see the silhouette of the simple life of farm families that must have sat on the pews for more than a hundred years.

The building was decaying and the members of the Tremont Mite Society which had been a functioning

organization since 1863 were also tired. The organization was the longest continuously chartered women's organization in California, but they were becoming few. This group of Silveyville ancestors dedicated to preserving the church were also aging.

Yet the bones seemed strong and if you closed your eyes, you could see a couple in wedding attire and beautiful boughs of greenery and flowers on the pews. You could imagine what it could be...with a little tender, loving care.

With the help of many, it is now restored—it even has the original lectern and is a beautiful wedding venue. Located just east of Dixon

on Tremont Road, the 2-acre parcel that was donated by the Hyde family is a perfectly preserved diamond sitting to one side of a well-maintained grassy park. In the back area behind the church is the Tremont Cemetery that still offers burial space.

The restoration began about six years ago when the Trustees of the Silveyville Cemetery District decided the goal was to "put it into use" after the church had been shut down due to being ADA non-compliant, said Jennifer Huff, District Manager. "We had no intention of it being a wedding venue. That just evolved on its own by people talking about and wanting to share it."

Continued on page 3

Encouraging You to Shop Small

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you were worried about your Christmas shopping after watching news of cargo ships drifting around the ports unable to get their goods delivered to stores, there is no better time than to shop small. Staying in town saves you gas, time, money and supports local merchants. You also support our local economy!

Several downtown locations will be kicking off the holidays with special shopping events beginning at Bella Moda Boutique, 140 North Jackson, this Friday, Nov. 19, with Pink Friday slated for 10 am to 7 pm.

According to online sources, Pink Friday is a small business spin on the traditional Black Friday shopping experience, reminding people to Shop Small First.

This special small shop located inside the Linde Lane Tea Room offers contemporary clothing, unique accessories, and handbags. Owner Amy Pretti's beautiful clothing choices can be seen on her website also. For more information, call (707) 693-1604.

Uptown Collective, 120 North First Street, is also participating. This store, created by Rebecca Robinson, is actually a dozen stores in one as upscale handcrafted items as well as unique affordable clothing and accessories for men and women. Also, inside is kitchen and homewares, jewelry, books, scents, soaps, and more. Hours are 10 am to 5 pm Friday and Saturday.

On Saturday, Nov. 20, a Downtown Holiday Open House will be from 9 am to 5 pm at Cynde's Place, Salon and Boutique. This beauty salon is full of retail not just for hair products but also clothing, accessories, and home decor. They have a nice selection of Christmas decor, scarves, hats, and mittens, too.

They will offer 20 percent off one's entire retail purchase at Cynde's Place, Salon and Boutique at 201 North First Street. Phone is (707) 693-1105.

You may not know this but Kula's is not only a tanning salon but also a boutique full of women's clothing and accessories and also some home decor. Kula's will offer 20 percent off everything in the store and that includes the tanning packages and that will be Friday and Saturday only. Look for the yellow door at 120 West B Street next to Cynde's Place. For more information, call (707) 678-2633. ★

Pampered Pets

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Beautiful flowing fur, handcrafted dinners, and mozzarella cheese treats are visions of the 1500 pampered pets that shined at last week's dog show. Silent and obedient purebreds from Afghan Hounds to Yorkshire Terriers pranced alongside well-dressed ladies and gentlemen with thin, leather leashes. Was this England? No, this was the Dixon May Fair last week.

You can learn a lot about dogs and their training by attending a dog show. You might think that you'd hear a bunch of loud, noisy, barking dogs for example, but actually dog shows are quite silent. That was the first thing I noticed about the Sacramento Valley Dog Fanciers Association show held this last weekend at the Dixon May Fair where hundreds competed for best of show and other awards.

These dogs respond



Lilly Witte took 1st in Senior Jr. Handler and Owner Handler both Saturday and Sunday with the family pet, Luna, at the Dixon May Fair. She is working to become a professional dog handler. Photo by Debra Dingman

to hand gestures to sit or stay and to tiny clicking noises or small tasty treats to 'heel' or to get them to look up. If a dog sits in the competition ring or jumps on a person, it can be disqualified. When 'at

ease,' they are supposed to "stack," which means standing but leaning forward. They also respond to light strokes on their tails so they'll lift them high for the perfect stance that a judge is looking for.

Other than humans conversing, the show is mostly silent. Certainly, the judging is. Judges, who came from ten different states, were professionally dressed matrons or older gentlemen with few exceptions. Even the handlers—people who run alongside the dogs and show them off inside the rings — wore suits and dresses.

The fairground was transformed into an array of 50 or more pop-up tents with a hundred or more recreational vehicles or vans and twice as many dog crates. Feet of white chains created divisions in the lush green grass to create nearly 20 'rings' for various competitions. Certain breeds

Continued on page 3



Witnessing “Petty” Crimes

By Debra Dingman

Slowing down to make a turn into Atkinson Self Storage about 4:30 pm to grab a couple of boxed Christmas trees for volunteer Decorators, I take note of a person who appears ragged, hunched over a small blue grocery cart, and intensely rummaging through what appears as a wallet.

If someone is looking through their own wallet to find a credit card or cash for example, they don’t do it that way. So, I drove around the parking lot to get a better look. It was as I thought. I knew it was not right because the person was letting things drop onto the sidewalk. If you drop something out of your wallet, you pick it up. If you are a thief...

The person looked up only for a second and returned to examining the contents, digging into every corner. For several minutes I pretended to watch traffic and witnessed the person stuffing a couple of things –one that appeared as a credit card – into a pocket. I drove around one more time and decided I was witnessing a crime and called the Dixon Police Non-emergency number. It rang several times and exasperated, I hung up deciding I could not police all of Dixon so went into the storage facility.

Twenty minutes later and now dark, I drove out and noted the grocery cart still there and the many pieces of paper still on the sidewalk.

That was someone’s wallet and I’m going to find out whose, I told myself so parked and started picking things up when there was my business card! Someone had my tattered newspaper card in their wallet along with some family photos, little notes of Bible verses, Ace Hardware key tag, coupons, etc. I felt myself getting angry as I knew someone somewhere was probably distraught about losing their wallet so I called the police back.

The police dispatch started taking the information and asked if there was anything with a name on it. That’s when I found the library card. My breath caught when I saw the name. It is a man who has already endured many physical and mental challenges due to a terrible car accident years ago. Many of us know him because of his special bike in Dixon.

I had spoken to him in a restaurant several months ago about doing a feature story on him. I had given him my business card and asked him to call me.

I told the dispatch there is only one store and it is Dollar Tree. It’s only been 20 minutes and I would bet that person is in that store. She cautioned me to not confront and that she was sending an officer. I could not help myself. I found that person at the end of aisle 4.

“Excuse me, is this your wallet?” I asked spreading my hand out to show

the many pieces atop the empty wallet. The thin face peeked out of a gray sweatshirt hood with big, sunken eyes from drugs. She came closer to look and said that no, it wasn’t hers. I studied the person in baggy pants, who I had thought to be a young man but realized it was a young woman. I called back the police and told them the thief was in the store.

I left back to my car and had to go pick my hubby across town where I had left him to run this quick errand that now had turned into an ordeal. I called the store and told them that there was someone in their store and described her – warning that she might steal or use a card that was not hers so pay attention because the police were on their way.

Later, we drove back to the store and the clerk that I had talked to on the phone said that the police had not come in nor had anyone tried to use a card but thanked me for the tip.

About a month ago, I called the police after my husband and I were out on our evening walks, witnessed a drug deal happening in our neighborhood. By the time the Dixon Police arrived 20 minutes later, the vehicle had left and the situation was over.

I’ve asked Dixon Police Chief Robert Thompson to talk with me about what citizens can do when witnessing something like these situations. Stay tuned. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Joe and Christa Bruch of Grocery Outlet celebrated the store’s first anniversary in Dixon. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

First Anniversaries

Happy 1st Anniversary to Joe and Christa Bruch and their store, the Grocery Outlet on North First Street. Congrats are also in order for Shar Alvateesiri, owner of Mothers House Plant Boutique at 350 West A Street. Uptown Collective owned by Rebecca Robinson is another brave soul who, despite uncertain times, took the positive leap into entrepreneurship. These folks not only opened during a pandemic, they have survived it – and appear to be doing well. Congratulations to all!

City Meeting

Parks and Recreation Commission will be meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 7 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 600 East A Street. The agenda can be found online at cityofdixon.com. It is usually posted on the Thursday before the meeting around 4 pm.

School Out

This next week will be a lot more calm in regards to downtown traffic since the Dixon Unified School District schools will be closed for Thanksgiving vacation. In addition to the public schools, Neighborhood Christian School will have a half day on Friday, Nov. 19 and then students will be out the whole week of Thanksgiving. They will come back on Monday, Nov. 29.

Community Christmas Program

It’s that time again where The Dixon Community Christmas Program (Toys for Tots) needs your help to gather toys for our Dixon Families. If you are a business owner here in Dixon and can help out by putting a box at your location to collect toys, please call or text (530) 315-3754. Boxes will start to be delivered Monday, Nov. 15 and all help is appreciated.

Vet Wreath Project

Each December, holiday boughs are placed on the grave sites at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, 5810 Midway Road in Dixon, in honor of our veterans resting there. This year’s will be on Saturday, Dec. 11.

This tradition began in 2006 when the cemetery opened, and it is one of the few in the country to have 100 percent coverage each year. To reach this goal again this year, 28,000 boughs will need to be purchased. Funds are collected year-round and boughs are purchased in advance; the public is invited to help place the boughs.

Currently there are no plans for a program on that day; instead volunteers are welcome to visit SVNC on Saturday, Dec. 11, to assist with scheduled placements starting at 8 am and ongoing throughout the day, until all boughs are placed.

For families and friends wanting a more private placement, boughs will be available at the following locations starting on Saturday, December 4. You may pick up a bough and place it any time before the public event on Saturday, December 11.

Early pick-up locations are Sacramento Valley National Cemetery drive-thru from 10 am - 3 pm on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 4-5 (weekend only).

There are two Dixon locations: at Grow West, 8751 Pedrick Road, Monday thru Friday, Dec. 6 – 10, from 8 am to 4 pm or at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, 220 North Jefferson Street, Monday thru Thursday, Dec. 6 – 9 from 8 am - 4 pm.

Each bough costs \$7; any amount you are able to donate is very much appreciated. You can make a one-time donation or consider monthly contributions.

Checks are accepted year-round and may be sent to: RememberAVet.net, PO 773, Winters, CA 95694 or online donations at <http://www.GoFundMe.com/f/2021-wreath-project>. For more information call or text 707-249-5852 or visit wreathproject.org. ★

Candidate Tamika Hamilton Takes Questions from Patriots



Congressional Candidate Tamika Hamilton addresses the meeting of the Feather River Tea Party Patriots. Photo by Noah Ross

By Noah Ross

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Feather River Tea Party Patriots had a special guest earlier this month. District 3 congressional hopeful Tamika Hamilton was a guest speaker. Hamilton started the engagement by outlining her qualifications for office. Hamilton is a 19-year veteran of the Air Force with two combat deployments under her belt, she is a mother of five, and most importantly she is a Republican.

After her brief introduction the candidate went straight into her message. She addressed the crowd of patriots hungering for truth telling them “It’s time” to get rid of incumbent Congressman John Garamendi, “It’s time” to stop the supply shortages and exorbitantly high gas prices, and “It’s time” to clean up the mess that President Joe Biden has made of this country in his brief time in office.

In her presentation Hamilton promised to bring common sense with her to Washington D.C. if elected. She outlined why she is against the progressive liberal agenda. Moreover, she is opposed to paying illegal immigrants settlements for family separations that they suffered as a

result of their illicit activity. As the challenger, she is against mask mandates and anything that impinges on civil liberties.

Hamilton is in favor of prioritizing social programs that focus on homeless veterans of which California has the most in the nation. She believes that too few veterans are aware of the benefits and resources that are available to them and believes that more resources should be allocated for homeless veterans in California by expanding Veteran Affairs programs. The challenger is an advocate of school choice, and she believes in fiscal responsibility.

Hamilton also rallied the crowd to take action to take their government back. She emphasized how important grass-roots campaigning is going to be if the Republican Party is going to take California back from the liberals in 2022. Hamilton also spoke about the importance of volunteers willing to go door knocking. Citing the positive effect these efforts have on Republican vote totals in a state where Democrats outnumber Republicans by a 2 to 1 ratio. Hamilton also advocated ballot harvesting saying, “You can just do it, you don’t have to ask for permission.” ★

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Tremont Church Restored



This is the staff and Trustees that transformed a dilapidated Tremont Church into a beauty. (L-R) Caretaker Christine Gabbard, Mark Cooley, Rafael Lara, Trustee Raymond Jensen, Office Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Jones, District Manager Jennifer Huff, Grounds Foreman Matt Cowan, Board of Trustee Chairwoman Cindy Gill, Vice Chairman Bill Birdsong, Trustee Marcy Savala and Joe Holecsek. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1

They began with a ramp but found dry rot and contracted with Wes Standfill who is a restoration specialist with

historical buildings. “He is meticulous and his craftsmanship is exemplary,” she said. Standfill redid the faux bell tower and redid the

whole back of the church with reclaimed wood. He changed some of the hardware that was not working or falling apart, and they used him as a resource after that, knowing they were trying to match the year or the era. “We were getting close to the end and it had been closed up for so long so we finished painting inside and out and painted black accents,” Huff said. “When Emily Rowe got it listed on the historical registry, that was a big deal. The Board has been very supportive. It’s never been about money. It’s always been about getting it back in use because there is too much history and character to have it just sit there.”

Now, it is the perfect spot for a special day with a historical chapel that exudes peaceful charm. The tall windows allow in plenty of light for important photos, and with a neutral decor and dark stained wood pews and lectern, it can bring any bride’s wedding theme to exemplary.

“We re-did all the wiring and even painted the chandelier. This was all done with fundraising,” said Board of Trustee Cindy Gill. “We had our first wedding last week,” she said with obvious pride. Weddings or Vow Renewals run \$750 while Memorials run \$500. For more information, see tremontchurchsilvevillecemetary.net or contact Huff at (916) 678-5578. ★



The restoration of the old Tremont Church was celebrated by visitors recently. Photo by Debra Dingman

Busy Bee Yoga Helps Slow Stress



Katrina Marsh, back, and Karstin Stranger, front, do Yoga moves at Busy Bee Yoga in downtown Dixon. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you’ve been looking for a yoga studio to stretch out those stiff muscles caused by the colder weather, Busy Bee Yoga has opened downtown at 108 North First Street sharing a space and sponsored by Almond Tree Mortgage.

Katrina Marsh, 20, was certified two years ago but has been doing yoga for a long time before that. “I noticed we didn’t have any studios in Dixon, and I do it every day so at first I thought of doing classes online but Karstin [Stranger] offered the space and I could have never done this without her,” Marsh said.

Stranger was just elected to the Board of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce and hopes to be an example of a “liaison system” she wants to introduce where a new or young entrepreneur is coupled with a seasoned business person to help that new business prosper.

“We don’t want them to come in and fail and we can offer a platform unique to Dixon,” Stranger explained. There seems to be a trajectory of younger business people opening in Dixon with Barn & Pantry and Rosemary’s Farm to Fork, added Marsh, who was thrilled to have the support of Stranger guide her.

Almond Tree Mortgage has two offices in Dixon and Marsh uses the downtown space for her classes.

“The response has been incredible,” said Marsh, who is the daughter of Kristen Marsh who ran the Firehouse Coffee Co. downtown for a few years before opening the J. Thaddeus Coffee Company. “I definitely got that entrepreneur mindset from her,” she added.

Katrina sought her certification originally for her own personal study but would share with others if she got the chance which ultimately blossomed into teaching others.

“Yoga is meant for all ages and all people and that’s the best part about it—it is so amazing for your physical and mental health,” she said. “A lot of people are reaching out saying that their doctors are recommending they take a class. Some people are intimidated to get into Yoga because they are afraid they are not flexible, but you can adjust it to whatever you can do.”

Check out her variety of classes which include a beginner’s class and a “Silver Yoga” which is a “modified yoga for bodies that don’t quite move like they used to.” They are posted on her website, busybeeyoga.com or call (707) 295-1855 and leave a message. ★

Pampered Pets



This judge looks over a Vizsla in the ring at the Dixon May Fair competition. She is looking at every facet of this dog comparing it to specific breed standards such as height, weight, and the way it holds its tail and head. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1

were to report at certain times throughout the day beginning at 8 am over the course of the 3-day event.

My idea of dog ownership was having my favorite pets like Duncan my Dalmatian or Millie my Beagle, snuggled on my lap or playing with the children outside. I thought of Harry Potter: I knew only the muggle world but here were the purebreds. Here was an opportunity to learn a few things!

Show Dogs

These dogs have another purpose than simply being a man’s best friend and they seem to know it. Like dogs that herd sheep, these dogs are to be visions of purebred perfection. They are show dogs.

Even as they were groomed, standing on top of tables with hair dryers buzzing around them, they stood stoic – a far cry from when Millie seemed wide-eyed and uncertain when we used our bathtub for her flea shampoo. She was ready to make an escape in a split second if she could.

“First and foremost, they are my family pets,” said Elizabeth Blake, Chair of the show who has five Border Terriers. “We do not mass produce dogs. I have a want-list for my puppies that may not appear in 2022 and people will wait because they have an appreciation for what I do and for my breeding program. When I breed, it is the best representation – temperament, confirmation, conditioning in the sense that they are trainable. I train them before they even leave the house. That last part is why most dogs end up in a shelter because people don’t have the expectations that this dog can be part of the household,” she explained.

In the rings, I watched judges run their hands down the neck, back, and shoulders on the dogs and learned that judging includes observing bone structure



Ron Montaro, a professional dog handler from Sacramento, walks Siberian Huskies Mozart from Russia and Sabastian from the Netherlands at the recent dog show in Dixon. The show featured 1500 dogs competing for prestigious titles such as Grand Champion and Best of Show in their specific breed. Photo by Debra Dingman

and testing the poise of the dog when others touch it. This is why owners want you to pet their dog.

Handling

Some dogs have “professional handlers,” and they get paid well – about \$150 per dog per show. One young woman I saw with four different breeds in various rings that lasted only about 20-30 minutes each. She made \$600 in a few hours. But a lot of show dogs are being shown by their owners and those people are called “owner-handlers” which is where I met up with Lilly Witte who is learning to show Luna, a Vizsla, for her grandmother.

“I just love working with animals and traveling,” said Witte. “I want to get better and become a professional handler.” She is working toward a scholarship. For every level she wins, she can advance until she becomes classified as a “professional.”

Some of the professional handlers show up in extra-long vans with doors that slide open to reveal a stainless steel interior with a

half dozen crates filled with beautiful dogs. Who wants to be in a dog show when they can’t bring their own dog, I wondered.

People can make a lot of money if their dog is awarded a grand championship because they can sell the dog’s semen or ask for more money for their pedigree pups. But, you have to win those accolades; you have to show your dogs and they have to win. Like horse racing, I realized.

“These guys are like kids to us,” said one professional handler who held the leashes of Sebastian and Mozart, two Siberian Huskies who have champion lines – one from Siberia and the other from Russia. “I take better care of them than I do myself,” he said boldly. He told me all about Siberian Huskies.

I walked back to my car past custom license plates such as DOGKRAT and ME&AKC knowing this might very well be the very best way to really know about a certain breed as these people seem to really – and I mean on a very deliberate level – know their dogs. ★

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Local Author Releases Book “101 Pat-Downs”



Author Malvini Redden with Book. Photo courtesy of WordSmith Communications

WordSmith Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento and CSU Sacramento faculty member Shawna Malvini Redden has released *101 Pat-Downs: An Undercover Look at Airport Security and the TSA*, just ahead of the agency’s 20-year anniversary. Part confessional, part investigative research and part light-hearted social commentary, *101 Pat-Downs* takes readers behind the scenes as Malvini Redden explores airport security interactions and offers solutions to what has become the most stressful part of modern-day travel.

Shawna Malvini Redden, an award-winning author and professor who specializes in organizational communication research, teaching and consulting, interviewed more than 200 passengers, Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) and airline crew. She spent years observing security lines

as a passenger, watching everything from TSOs cracking jokes to passengers fuming over carry-on confiscations, to the occasional security shutdown and everything in between. Seasoned and amateur travelers alike will recognize familiar characters (and possibly themselves) in *101 Pat-Downs*, including the stereotypically gruff TSO, the entitled business traveler and the nervous first-time flier. Malvini Redden examines airport security interactions in a social-science framework, explaining how people navigate communication in complex interpersonal situations – like TSA checkpoints.

“As a road warrior myself, I appreciated 101 Pat-Downs and its keen observations about our current form of security theatre and how people on either side of that power dynamic react to and evolve because of it,” said Elisa Camahort Page, co-author of *Road Map for Revolutionaries: Resistance, Activism and*

Advocacy for All. Now available at online bookstores, *101 Pat-downs* is a perfect traveler’s companion for navigating what one TSO described as the nation’s “second most hated government agency.” The book also offers research-driven suggestions for improving the airport security experience for passengers and TSOs alike.

Shawna Malvini Redden is an associate professor in the Communication Studies department at California State University, Sacramento. She holds a doctorate in organizational and interpersonal communication from Arizona State University. Her academic research has been widely published and she has received Top Paper awards from the National and International Communication Associations. In addition to academic and professional writing about communication, she maintains a personal blog called The Bluest Muse.

For More Information, visit: <https://101patdowns.com/> ★

California Comment on Today’s Small Business Economic Trends



John Kabateck
NFIB Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - From John Kabateck, California state director for the National Federation of Independent Business on today’s release of NFIB’s monthly Small Business Economic Trends (SBET) report, America’s bellwether measurement of the Main Street economy.

I am glad the U.S. Labor Department is finding workers returning to the job, Main Street is still waiting. What stood out for me in this month’s SBET is that small business owners expecting better business conditions over the next six months fell four points to a net negative 37%. This indicator has declined 17 points over the past three months to its lowest level since November 2012. Unfilled job openings, supply chain disruptions, inflation, a Congress threatening more taxes add up to a bleak outlook for the nation’s and California’s leading job-creators.

From NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg

Small business owners

are attempting to take advantage of current economic growth but remain pessimistic about business conditions in the near future. One of the biggest problems for small businesses is the lack of workers for unfilled positions and inventory shortages, which will continue to be a problem during the holiday season.

Adding to the muddle, Washington is having trouble putting its economic policies into place. Spending and tax policies are still up in the air, while debt ceiling problems loom larger each day. The Federal Reserve is also scrambling to reset policies to deal with growth and inflation numbers it had not expected.

More comment is available on Page 3 of the NFIB Small Business Economic Trends report.

About the Small Business Economic Trends (SBET) Report

The NFIB Research Center has collected Small Business Economic Trends data with quarterly surveys since the 4th quarter of 1973 and monthly surveys since 1986. Survey respondents are drawn from a random sample of NFIB’s membership. The report is released on the second Tuesday of each month. Today’s survey was conducted in October 2021. NFIB’s SBET and Jobs Report are national

snapshots not broken down by state.

The SBET’s primary value is anticipating short-run fluctuations in economic activity. An additional value of the SBET is its measurement of small business activities and concerns over time. The benefit of a longitudinal data set offers an invaluable perspective on how policies and business cycles impact small businesses over time. The SBET is one of the few archival data sets on small business, particularly when research questions address business operations rather than opinions. Today, it’s the largest, longest-running data set on small business economic conditions available.

Keep up with the latest on California small-business news at www.nfib.com/california, where this release can also be read, or by following NFIB on Twitter @NFIB_CA or on Facebook @NFIB.CA. For 78 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America’s small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven association. Since its founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit nfib.com. ★

Sacramento Harvest Festival® Returns with Life for Small Business

By Liz Rosinski, Rosinski Communications

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - For many independent artists and makers, 2020 was a devastating blow because of all the COVID-19 related event closures. Now there is a feeling of hope amongst many of these small businesses because they are able to once again participate in events like the Sacramento Harvest Festival, happening November 19-21 at Cal Expo.

“In 2020, we had a temporary rebrand to ‘Harvest Market’ which allowed us to operate under the same regulations that Farmer’s Markets did,” said Nancy Glenn, owner of the Harvest Festival Original Art and Craft Show. “We did unfortunately lose some exhibitors who couldn’t weather the storm, but we are starting to see that many of our exhibitors are finally beginning to feel optimistic about the future.”

The Harvest Festival is known as one of the West Coast’s premier art and craft shows, and hundreds of artists depend on the annual show as a platform to sell their products. Many of the exhibitors don’t have brick and mortar storefronts, and some don’t even



The Sacramento Harvest Festival not only showcases products but allows vendors to interactively display the “how-to” of many of your favorite hobbies and pastimes. Photo provided by Rosinski Communications

have websites.

“Our show was built on supporting the independent artist and small businessperson, so we are extremely glad to be able to continue that mission,” said Glenn.

The festival says it is following all health guidelines set forth by the county and the state.

The Sacramento Harvest Festival boasts thousands of American handmade crafts, including original art, jewelry, pottery, clothing, specialty foods, home décor and much more. Throughout the weekend there will also be strolling entertainment, delicious festival foods, artist

demonstrations and more.

The Harvest Festival will be held at Cal Expo 1600 Exposition Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95815 on Friday: 10am - 5pm, Saturday: 10am-6pm, Sunday: 10am – 4pm

Tickets are Adults: \$9, Seniors (62+) & Military: \$7, Youth (13-17): \$4, 12 & Under: Free (*Tickets valid for re-entry*)

Visit www.harvest-festival.com or call 925-392-7300.

The Harvest Festivals, promoted by Nancy Glenn, are the largest indoor arts and crafts show of its kind on the West Coast. ★

Sentencing Scheduled for Kristofer Williams

Solano County District Attorney Press Release

SOLANO, CA (MPG) - Yesterday, at the conclusion of a four week jury trial in Department 11 of the Solano County Superior Court, before the Honorable William J. Pendergast III Presiding, the jury found Defendant Kristofer Williams Guilty of Murder in the First Degree, Kidnapping a Minor under the age of 14, Assault with a Deadly Weapon (and inflicting great bodily injury), Child Abuse, and Residential Burglary.

On October 23, 2018, after attending a funeral for a friend, Defendant Kristofer Williams, Victim Jonathan Russell, and others went to a mutual friend’s home. Upon arrival at the home, the defendant noticed a 9-year-old child home alone. The defendant became angry as he made the assumption that the child had been left home alone all day. He also expressed concern regarding the conditions in the home where he believed the child had remained all day. The defendant, upset about the conditions of the house and his false assumption the child had been home alone, left and then returned to the home where he stabbed the young child’s father in the stomach inflicting serious injury. He

then grabbed the small child and started to run out of the house with her. Mr. Russell tried to rescue the child, who was screaming in terror. Eventually, the young child was able to break free and run back into her house, where she hid until Solano County Sheriff Deputies arrived. The defendant then stabbed Jonathan Russell in the neck and fled the property. Jonathan Russell’s friends attempted to perform life saving measures while they awaited the arrival of emergency services. Upon receiving a 911 call, the Solano County Sheriff’s Department immediately responded to the scene and deputies were able to apprehend the defendant later that night. Jonathan Russell was rushed to the hospital, but unfortunately on October 31, 2018, he succumbed to his injuries.

The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced February 22, 2022, in Department 11 of the Solano County Superior Court. The defendant is facing an indeterminate sentence of 26 years to life in state prison, and a determinate sentence of 17 years and 8 months in state prison.

Sergeant Andrew Hendrix of the Solano Sheriff Office investigated the case. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Ilana Shapiro. ★

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Members of the 2019 Dixon City Council must be congratulated. Members of the 2019 Dixon City Council, Steve Bird, Jim Ernest, Devon Minnema, Scott Peterson and then Mayor Thom Bogue must be congratulated because, after pressure from their constituents, they made the right decision.

The city was approached by Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) Marin Clean Energy (MCE), a green energy provider, claiming it would provide “renewable green energy” to our City.

In May 2019 the city council voted 4-1 (Mayor Bogue voting No) to proceed with a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with MCE, a green energy provider. However, after a long article that appeared in the Independent Voice on June 7th 2019 that got the attention of the establishment, the council, at their next meeting, reversed of their initial support and pulled the second reading of the ordinance establishing a Joint Powers Agreement with Marin Clean Energy off of the consent calendar and called for further discussion.

Councilman Steve Bird said he had heard from a number of people whose main concern was that you had to “opt out rather than opt in” to have or reject MCE as your new energy provider and decided not to make snap decisions.

A Marin County energy expert Jim Phelps identified several problems with the MCE program, including that our City would be locked into the program and saddled with on-going contract costs if it was subsequently determined that CCA was a bad deal. The CCA could also invoke eminent domain against the City of Dixon, meaning we could end with wind farms strewn across our land.

According to Mr. Phelps’ research, since late 2015 “clean” MCE has spent more than \$370 million on dirty energy -- that’s enough brown power to run MCE’s core Marin-based electric load for 9 years with energy that emits nearly 9 billion pounds of greenhouse gas.

Since the start of 2021 four CCAs (Baldwin Park, Montebello, Santa Paula, Butte County) have decertified and a fifth has declared bankruptcy. Economics and inflation will add to operating problems for the remaining CCAs whose prices are all experiencing upward pressure.

Our city council deserves credit for listening to their constituents, taking a conservative route and pushing back on CCA, preserving our city’s sovereignty and its financial future.

Ourania Riddle, Dixon resident



FOR THE LOVE OF

BOOKS

By Amy Shane

BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • [✉ amy-shane@att.net](mailto:amy-shane@att.net) • [📷 amy_fortheloveofbook](https://www.instagram.com/amy_fortheloveofbook)

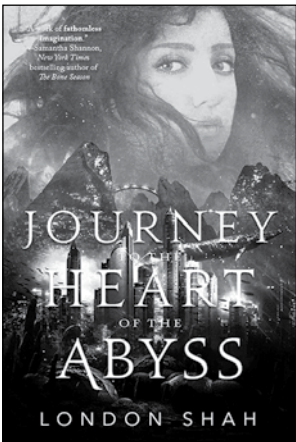
Journey to the Heart of the Abyss

by London Shah

Living life undetected and on the run was one thing, but knowing that the Government is part of a vast coverup, spreading falsehoods is another. Leyla's heart's desire was to free her father from prison, and now that her father is finally by her side, it's time to uncover the truth. Deep down, Leyla knows that there was more to her father's arrest, Ari's capture, and the Government marking her as the nation's "Number One Enemy," and she will stop at nothing to uncover the truth.

Now, Leyla and her father must evade detection as they travel into remote areas of the ocean, looking for any sign of anthropoid communities, hoping that they might be able to find answers. Yet, traveling into remote areas of the ocean carries new types of threats. Dangerous creatures roam the waters, and hostile communities could be hidden around any bend. Yet, Leyla is driven by her convictions, knowing that truth lies far beyond a few broken laws.

However, the deeper Leyla dives into uncovering the truth, the more she is aware of the devastation, and the reality



- ◆ Publisher: Little Brown
- ◆ Intended audience: young adult
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥
- ◆ Release Date: November 16, 2021

hits like a rippling shock wave across Britain. Surmounting fears begin to surface and tension escalate as rebel crowds rise, demanding equality and justice, marking Leyla's fight as one that has the power to change the future – proving that now is the time to have their voices heard.

Journey deep into the abyss where old world relics lie on the ocean floor in watery decay. Where truth is buried deeper than the vast depths of the ocean and the search for answers may cost you your life. London Shah returns to her beautiful and enchanting world

encapsulated by the sea as she continues the fight for survival and acceptance.

Like the sea-filled city, nothing is what you expect to uncover. Political tension begins to rise, and traitors are revealed. Leaving Leyla and her father to take on a fight for both truth and justice that could end up costing their lives. Just as intense and unforgiving as the first book, Journey to the Heart of the Abyss, will leave readers dreaming of a world encapsulated by the sea. London Shah takes her readers deep into the depths of the ocean, filling their minds with vivid imagery of a time that was lost. Wallpapered walls and curtained windows dance in the rippling water as if a view from a perfectly encapsulated snow globe, seemingly blending wonder with just the right level of intrigue and fear.

London Shah keeps the same thrilling tempo as The Light at The Bottom of the World, proving to her readers that you can't drown preserve, determination, or heart. As she shatters barriers and stereotypes, Shah allows her voice to be heard. But the one question that remains can love prevail? ★

Is it Possible?



Commentary by Bruce Lee

This column's primary mission deals with citizen ownership and responsibility for our governments. However, at times I am asked if that just sounds good? Or, is it really possible? Are we "tilting at windmills?" Can you fight City Hall?

Today, I want to assure everyone that citizen ownership is absolutely possible, and I have real-world results to prove it. It takes effort and organization, but it is possible. Let me share a few illustrations to encourage us all!

2020 was a busy year for the Sacramento Taxpayers Association. SacTax was involved in a multitude of state and local issues, including Split Roll Property Tax and several local policy and tax matters (COVID fines on businesses, changing the election cycle of the county sheriff, and the Sacramento strong mayor initiative, etc.). The result was that billions of unnecessary tax dollars were saved!

Of particular significance, in the spring of 2020, we met head-on the Sacramento Transportation Authority's proposal to increase the county-wide sales tax by a half percent for forty years. On July 15, 2020, after months of working on this tax increase in the middle of a pandemic, the Authority

reluctantly withdrew its November 2020 ballot measure. Most notable to me was literally the very last comment in the report:

"(S)hould any organized opposition materialize, the measure will not be viable (on the November ballot)."

Dear co-owners of our government, we were the "organized opposition!" And, we had a resounding success.

Then in August 2020 (after pleading with the Citrus Heights City Council to reconsider placing Measure M on the November ballot to raise their sales tax by one percent with no sunset date) we faced another new battle. The Council was intransigent – arrogantly confident that voters would easily approve their tax increase as the Council's consultants assured them that polling showed the measure being adopted by well over 70 percent.

The City Council scoffed at us – confident in their ability to call in over \$50,000 of "pay-to-play" vendor money to push Measure M across the winning line, as well as spend thousands of public city dollars in multiple citywide mailings to every household – all proclaiming the merits of Measure M in so called "educational mailings."

It was all very daunting ... but SacTax rolled up its collective sleeves and organized a "No on M" task group. With a total of about \$7,000 (from small donors) plus hundreds of coordinated hours of volunteer time and help from community leaders, in two months the citizens sent this "ugly pig" of a tax measure to its rightful grave by approximately 2,000 votes (or 52.45%).

Again, friends, we were "the organized opposition,"

with another resounding success!

In fact, if you look at all of the local tax increase and bond measures placed before Sacramento region voters in November 2020, they all passed – except for the ones SacTax actively opposed.

There is an important lesson here, we did not have to burn down buildings or destroy businesses. We did not have to deface or tear down any monuments. All we had to do was be well organized; upfront; use sound logical arguments; make our concerns known; and educate citizens. All we had to do was put leadership into practice and encourage our citizens in exercising ownership over their governments.

We had to shed light on important topics; allow government officials to realize that we must all be good stewards of public dollars; and realize that "business as usual" was not acceptable.

Lesson learned – our democratic, republican form of government works when we collectively take responsibility for it! Together, we make a difference!

W. Bruce Lee is an educator and speaker (WBruceLee.com) with a career in government as an elected official and fiscal advisor, who has worked at the local, state, and federal levels. He authors the "We the Government" column as a community service. He is president of the Sacramento Taxpayers Association (SacTax) - promoting efficient, economical government; fair and equitable taxation which permits a strong, healthy economy; as well as sensible balance and rational control of government expenditures.. His private message telephone is 916-624-6476. ★

I Can Never Have Too Much Ice Cream

Dr. James L. Snyder

It was one of those hectic weeks that flew by, and I didn't know it until the end of the week.

I had come to the point where I had enough. Enough is enough; let's get on with life.

You can't get enough of some things in life, and then there are other things that you can have too much. If only we could choose one at our discretion.

That evening supper was quite good, and I had, like always, stuffed myself. I don't blame my over-eating on myself, rather on the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. If she were not such an excellent cook, I wouldn't eat so much. All the blame rests upon her.

The marvelous supper was behind us, and we had just settled down to watch something on television.

About halfway into the mystery movie, there was a commercial time, and my wife got up and said, "Would you have any room for ice cream?"

Would I have any room for ice cream? I can never have too much ice cream, and I am never too full for one more bowl of ice cream.

So, when my wife asked

me if I would like some ice cream. "I'll have as much ice cream as you can stuff into that bowl."

Not long ago, it was such a long weary day, and I was thinking about the ice cream I would reward myself with at the end of the day. Nothing calms me down better than a nice bowl of ice cream.

Supper was over; I settled down into my easy chair and then asked, "Honey, I really could use some ice cream tonight. It's been such a long weary day."

I didn't hear anything from her, so I said, "Can I have some ice cream?"

Then I heard from the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage.

"I'm sorry, my dear," she said as disparagingly as possible, "we've run out of ice cream."

Those words are the worst words ever uttered in our parsonage. To be out of ice cream is the most stressful time of the week. How is it possible to run out of ice cream?

I sat there thinking how in the world can I survive any day without ending it with a bowl of ice cream?

There's a lot of things in this world that I can do without. Number one on

that list is broccoli. I don't even like the sight of that so-called vegetable.

I have a long list of what I can do without, and nowhere on that list is ice cream.

How I would get through the night without my ice cream is a mystery that only the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can solve.

They only know what you like and what's important to you when it's not available. Then you begin to appreciate the value of that item.

I thought of the Bible verse in the Old Testament that sort of focus is on this idea. "Yea, they are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain, from his quarter" (Isaiah 56:11).

Whenever greed takes over, we never can have enough. Then we become a slave to our greed.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com. ★



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Adjudication No. FCS030046–November 24, 2008
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2021-1002183

The following persons are doing business as: : K1 SPEED
1560 Gateway Boulevard, Fairfield, CA 94533
BKC Entertainment LLC, CA
Date Filed in Solano County: November 2, 2021
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is Conducted by: Limited Liability Company

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration November 2, 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: November 19, 26 & December 3, 10, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)


ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #FCS057294

1. Petitioner Rudy Brooks Sr filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:


Present name	Proposed name
Rudy Brooks Sr	Rudy Robert Brooks Sr

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **December 15, 2021, 8:30 a.m. Department 12, Room 2, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533** Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer

DATED: October 27, 2021
Publish: November 19, 26 & December 3, 10, 2021 (The Dixon Independent Voice)



Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl
Dixon Independent Voice is a member of **Messenger Publishing Group**






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Dixon Independent Voice
P.O. Box 1106, Dixon, CA 95620

Subscription rate is \$32 per year within Dixon and Solano County.

Main Office Address: 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The *Dixon Independent Voice* is published weekly on Friday.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



The Teacher Shortage

The decline in substitute teachers challenges school districts

By Donna Glassman-Sommer and Marvin Lopez, CALMatters

California’s teacher shortage means most quality substitute teachers are being hired on full-time. At the same time, there has been a steep decline in applications for substitute teaching credentials since last January.

In short, we’re creating a substitute teacher shortage as we try to ensure great teachers are leading our classrooms.

Substitute teachers play a vital role in the success of students and teachers. Students spend, on average, approximately more than 10 days with substitute teachers during a given school year. Not having adequate support during these days has shown a negative impact on students’ achievement. Substitute teachers maintain healthy and successful learning environments for students and provide teachers the time and energy they need to build their professional skills to best support students.

Full-time teachers could take advantage of professional learning, networking and collaboration opportunities. Most importantly, teachers felt secure and confident knowing students continued receiving a high-quality education without skipping a beat.

California is investing in teachers this year but there needs to be more focus on substitutes as part of the solution.

To expand the pool of potential substitute teachers, state policymakers need to collaborate and reexamine CalSTRS existing policies that prevent retired teachers, under state and federal law, from doing substitute teaching within their first six months of retirement. Retired teachers have experience



Substitute teachers play a vital role in the success of students and teachers. Students spend, on average, approximately more than 10 days with substitute teachers during a given school year. Photo Pixabay

leading students through their educational journeys and are familiar with the communities they served.

Having opportunities for retired teachers to temporarily work to continue helping local schools while solving a statewide shortage of teachers is a short-term solution, but one that is needed this school year.

Having the support of policymakers is only part of the solution. The support and involvement of

all our communities is also important to make a difference; this is how you can help; Research requirements to be a substitute teacher and see if this is a good fit for you or someone you might know. This can be your way of giving back to your community and helping our next generation of young scholars; Call your local district and neighborhood schools and find out how you can provide additional support on campuses. If not as a substitute, it’s likely

volunteers are needed; Attend career job fairs to learn more about what it takes to be an educator in today’s world and how you can support districts who might need higher levels of support.

Recruiting and retaining enough substitute teachers to help solve the shortage won’t be an easy task. This is a statewide problem that will be solved locally with the help of many people, people like you. Even if you’ve never worked in education, take

a moment to learn more. What could be an occasional day of work for you could be what provides the consistency students in your town need to learn, grow and succeed.

Donna Glassman-Sommer is the executive director of the California Center on Teaching Careers, based out of the Tulare County Office of Education. Marvin Lopez is the program coordinator of the California Center on Teaching Careers. ★

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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.

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

0648 - Report of a found 3 year old child in the 100 block of Dorset Drive. The child’s father was located but he had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant for theft. Noah Cobb (25) of Las Vegas was arrested for the warrant and released from the scene with a citation.

0721 - Suspicious person reported in the 1100 block of Valley Glen Drive. RP reported a person sleeping on their front porch. Brandie Mansfield (42), a transient from Texas was contacted and arrested for felony vandalism. She was taken to county jail.

1113 - Pedestrian stop in the 900 block of Newgate Way resulted in the arrest of Miguel Penuelas-Fonseca (27) of Dixon for four misdemeanor warrants. He was taken to county jail.

1114 - Theft of a catalytic converter in the 1500 block of North Lincoln Street.

1407 - Traffic stop in the area of Pitt School Road and West H Street resulted in the arrest of Marshall Gibber (30) of Winters for two outstanding misdemeanor warrants for failure to appear. He was cited and released with a new court date per the issuing agency.

1904 - Suspicious circumstance in the 1600 block of North Lincoln Street. A 54-year-old Fairfield resident was arrested for Public Intoxication. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

0235 - Traffic enforcement stop in the 7800 block of Schroeder Road. Robert Kang (49), of Sacramento, was contacted a found to have a warrant for Theft out of UC Davis PD

Saturday, November 13, 2021

1824 - Officers responded to Luke’s Lounge in the 200 block of North 1st Street regarding an intoxicated subject causing a disturbance and refusing to leave. Upon arrival, officers located and detained the subject (London Matthews (36) of Vacaville), who was later arrested for misdemeanor assault, trespassing and public intoxication. He was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail without incident.

2014 - Officers stopped to assist a stranded motorist in the area of South 1st Street and Country Faire Drive. Upon investigation, officers realized that a domestic violence incident had occurred between the occupants of the vehicle. As a result of the investigation, Jessica Gonzalez-Hernandez (38) of Hampton, Italy was arrested for felony domestic violence and misdemeanor child endangerment. She was transported to the Solano County Jail without incident.

2030 - A vandalism was reported in the 300 block of East C Street, wherein the front window of an apartment was shattered by an unknown suspect.

2317 - An officer observed a vehicle (2017 white Hyundai Sonata) breaking traction and driving recklessly in the area Pitt School and Sunflower. The vehicle fled when the officer attempted to conduct an enforcement stop. The vehicle drove eastbound on Sunflower Way and then northbound on South Lincoln. Officers did not pursue, but attempted to maintain visual. The briefly lost sight of the vehicle, but located it seconds later at the intersection of North Lincoln and Rehmann Drive, where it had collided with a curb causing major damage to the vehicle. The occupants fled on foot. One occupant was located and arrested for driving without a license, reckless driving, evading police, possession of marijuana and misdemeanor hit and run. Due to the suspect’s age (16), his information will be omitted from the log. He was cited and released to his guardian from the Dixon Police Department without incident.

Sunday, November 14, 2021

1213 - Vandalism reported in the 400 block of Porter Road.

1230 - Battery reported in the 1500 block of Madera Drive.

2148 - Domestic dispute in the 600 block of Ferguson Court. Nayely Salcedo (29), of Dixon, was arrested for Domestic Violence. She was transported to the Solano County Jail.

2257 - Prowler reported in the 2100 block of Mariposa Drive. Gerardo Cortez-Bueno (27), of Dixon was arrested for Prowling. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

Monday, November 15, 2021

1029 - Traffic stop in the area of Vaughn Road and North 1st Street resulted in the towing of a green 1997 Honda Civic after it was discovered the driver had a suspended license.

1131 - Theft from a mailbox reported in the 1500 block of North Lincoln Street.

1500 - Threats report taken at Dixon High School.

Solutions on Page 7

Covid and Beyond



Commentary
by bil paul

Over the last two weeks, Dixon had 28 new COVID cases – a notable increase. In Dixon’s schools, 46 students and 12 staff members have tested positive so far this school year.

County statistics are generally holding steady, with the number of active cases slowly falling.

California is recommending that all adults receive vaccine booster shots, because vaccine effectiveness decreases with time. Vaccine protection on average decreases from 91 percent to 78 percent over three or four months. I got my booster as soon as I was eligible.

I’ve heard some rumblings that the current vaccines are of little or no use against COVID, because some vaccinated people end up being hospitalized. The vaccines aren’t perfect, but provide the best insurance around to keep you out of the hospital. Eighty to 90 percent of those dying of COVID are unvaccinated. My nephew was one of those, unfortunately. I haven’t learned why he didn’t get the shot.

The unvaccinated are 10 times more likely to be hospitalized.

COVID is still on the loose in Dixon. People are wearing masks in public situations

less and less, thinking it’s all over. But with more people congregating indoors in colder weather, especially with Thanksgiving and Christmas coming up, the opportunity for another surge presents itself. I’d suggest only gathering with people who are vaccinated, frankly.

Meanwhile, anti-vaccine people feel empowered to say that the government doesn’t have the right to mandate shots for certain categories of workers. Say we continue just as we are now, with only about 59 percent of the population fully vaccinated. That means that COVID will continue to penetrate into families and workplaces into the foreseeable future, resulting in more sick people and deaths. People like my nephew die with no family members or spouses present. Is that what anti-vaxxers want? It’s like the resistance bikers put up when a law was proposed requiring they wear helmets.

Reduced dosages of the Pfizer vaccine are available for children over the age of five. If my offspring (now adults) were in that age group, I’d have them getting the shots as soon as possible. My granddaughter, age five, briefly had COVID; she caught it from a visiting relative a year ago. There have been 700 American COVID deaths under the age of 18.

A new pill has been developed in several forms by both Pfizer and Merck that could be taken within three days after a person became COVID-infected. Pfizer’s drug reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by 89 percent. Not sure what the vaccination status of those in the test population was.

The pandemic is the major cause of economic difficulties

the country is facing now, with inflation, a lack of workers, and shortages. A mini carton of raspberries locally sells for five dollars! Political polarization is increasing along with racial intolerance, anti-Semitism and anti-transsexual sentiments. A poll revealed that 30 percent of Republicans and 11 percent of Democrats think that “true American patriots” would be justified using violence to “save the country.” There have been threats of violence toward school board members who vote for mask mandates. What’s gotten into people?

Here’s more pleasant news to consider: Elvis is coming to town (in the form of excellent Elvis tribute performer Rob Ely). The Dixon Teen Center fundraiser Viva Las Dixon is slated for the Dixon High School community theatre on January 22. Ely has won many competitive awards for portraying The King, and if you love Elvis, you’ll love him. Check out his video by searching YouTube for “Rob Ely” and “Can’t help falling in love.” Tickets are \$30 at the Chamber of Commerce, Dixon Florist, and Grocery Outlet. Tickets can also be purchased online at Eventbrite.com (search for “Elvis” and “Dixon”). Due to seating limitations, only 300 tickets will be sold.

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 GLs in the Aleutian Islands during WWII. ★



Riley Reviews

“YELLOWJACKETS” SURVIVAL DRAMA; STOCKWELL TRIBUTE ON TCM

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“YELLOWJACKETS” ON SHOWTIME

Showtime’s ten-episode drama “Yellowjackets” works off the premise that a female-centric version of “Lord of the Flies” is compelling for the mystery of the survivors’ saga in the aftermath of a shocking airplane crash.

This series takes its name from a New Jersey girls high school soccer team with players so talented they have qualified to enter the national championship match. Hence, the ill-fated journey by air travel with their coach and a few others.

Even though the team name “Yellowjackets” is the series’ title, this is not a sports show about soccer competition. As a survival drama, the series is steeped in psychological and supernatural mystery that fluctuates with wild swings between the past and the present.

The storytelling about the fate of the girls and their accompanying adults is, in the words of writer Ashley Lyle, structured as a show not “about what happened, but about why it happened.”

Told in flashbacks from the time of the 1996 crash in the Canadian wilderness to the present day of 2021, we get to see how the passage of time has affected the survivors, most particularly the four characters in the leading roles.

Christina Ricci’s Misty was a friendless nerd serving as a team assistant. Melanie Lynskey’s Shauna, a player once destined to attend an Ivy League college, has now fallen into the rut of a loveless marriage and conflict with her spiteful teenage daughter.

Closeted in her school days, Taissa (Tawny Cypress) is an ambitious candidate for state senate who is haunted by her past as well as present-day coping with a son troubled by an inexplicable supernatural undercurrent.

Last of the group is erstwhile gothic teen Natalie (Juliette Lewis) who seems to have spent her adult life in a revolving pattern of drug and alcohol abuse and stints in rehab. Moreover, she was frequently slut-shamed as a cynical youth.

Seeing these women as their teen versions offers clues to their struggles and tribulations in adulthood. Misty’s younger self (Samantha Hanratty) was always weird and showed her cruel tendencies that carried over into her nursing home duties as an adult.

As for the rest of the teens, Taissa (Jasmin Savoy Brown) is a driven competitor; sweet-natured Shauna (Sophie Nélisse) may be deceptive and cunning; and Natalie’s (Sophie Thatcher) stoner image belies her soccer talent.

There’s also a mystery about team captain

Jackie (Ella Purnell), who is not seen in her adult years, at least in the episodes made available for review. But the real mystery lies elsewhere.

The featured adults harbor secrets that a fake reporter seeks to uncover with ludicrous offers of a book deal. What happened to the teens while in the woods is the pressing mystery and why are they receiving identical postcards suggesting a conspiracy of silence?

“Yellowjackets” is smartly written as a wickedly fascinating drama that at times dwells on the gore and macabre but ultimately relies on character and the tenuous bonds of relationships to deliver the goods.

DEAN STOCKWELL TRIBUTE ON TCM

Noted character actor Dean Stockwell, who recently passed away at the age of 85, started his entertainment career as a child actor and continued working in film and television for more than seventy years.

The TCM cable channel celebrates his life and career as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday with a retrospective of films while he was under contract with MGM for most of his childhood.

TCM’s on-air tribute to Stockwell includes “Anchors Aweigh” (1945), a story about a pair of sailors on leave trying to help a movie extra become a singing star.

In “The Green Years” (1946), an orphaned Irish boy is taken in by his mother’s Scottish relations. “The Mighty McGurk” (1946) is about a punch-drunk prizefighter living on the Bowery who takes in an orphaned boy.

Friends and family try to tame an unruly student at the turn of the century in 1950’s “The Happy Years.” In “The Secret Garden” (1946), an orphaned girl changes the lives of those she encounters at a remote estate.

An orphaned boy mystically acquires green hair and a mission to end war in 1948’s “The Boy with Green Hair.” “Kim” (1951) is based on Rudyard Kipling’s classic tale of an orphaned boy who helps the British Army against Indian rebels.

While the majority of these films being aired as a tribute to the late actor are about an orphaned child, you might wonder if this is a reflection of Stockwell’s own circumstances. The short answer is in the negative.

Born into an entertainment family, Stockwell’s father was a stage and film actor and his mother had performed in vaudeville. The parents split up when he was little, but that didn’t make him an orphan.

A film that is not part of the TCM tribute is 1948’s “Deep Waters,” in which Stockwell played an orphan runaway longing to go to sea. With a 70-year career, at least he grew out of being cast as a child without parents. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Tear off the Rearview Mirror



When driving in your car, the rearview mirror lets you see what is coming up behind you. On the road, vehicles in back of you can follow too closely, hit you, or pass you. But if you try driving by looking only in the mirror you won’t get very far before you crash.

The highway of life is different. On this road, the events behind you stay behind you and move farther away with each passing day. Yet there are people who are obsessed with looking backward rather than forward. Although they would never try this stunt while driving, they habitually refuse to look through the front windshield of life.

There are only 24 hours in each day. Therefore, any time spent looking behind you, into the past, robs you of time to look forward into the future. The fascination with the past stems from the desire to change history. As intriguing as this concept might be, the chances of accomplishing this are zero.

Yet, people get caught in a quagmire of what could have been if only they had done this or that. Thoughts of could have, should have, or would have seize hold of the mind and clog it with useless and pointless activity.

The value of the past is that it can teach you what to change, refine, and improve when moving forward. But when you dwell in the past, forward movement stops. Although

most people would make at least subtle changes, if they could do things over, there are no do overs.

As you age, the speed at which you move down life’s highway seems to increase yearly. As this perceived velocity grows, obsessing with the past can be very disconcerting. You don’t know where the time has gone and the reality of mortality becomes clearer.

This phenomenon of the accelerated passage of time is another reason why all of your attention, energy, and effort should be focused forward. Only with this directional orientation can you fully realize the potential of each day.

Imagine how boring life would be if each day was spent watching a video of what you did yesterday. You wouldn’t have time to do anything new. This is exactly how people spend their time when they get trapped in the past by looking only in their rearview mirror.

Being consumed with what has already transpired causes a great deal of stress, anxiety, and even depression. You feel powerless to change what has already happened, because you are. The only control you have is what direction to go while moving forward. You can’t go backward, but you can stagnate.

An acceptance of the past is the first step to being at peace with yourself. You may not like what has transpired, but you can’t change it. Learn

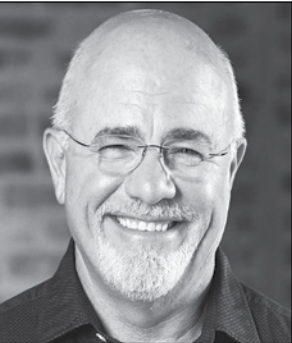
from the past. Repeat those things that produced desirable results and avoid behavior that didn’t.

It’s easy and tempting to second-guess yourself. Others will also throw in their opinion of what you should or shouldn’t have done. This combined with your own tendency to analyze, over assess, and redo the past makes it difficult to stay focused on moving forward.

But move forward you must. For to live in or dwell in the past ensures that you will squander the present and short change your future. Whenever you find yourself drawn to the past, remind yourself that you are wasting time and immediately try to refocus on the present. You will realize that more time than you had thought is spent looking in life’s rearview mirror.

With consistent practice you will be able to reverse your orientation so that a minimum amount of time is spent looking backwards. Tear off the rearview mirror and devote yourself to looking forward. The results will be a happier and more rewarding life.

NOW AVAILABLE: “Dare to Live Without Limits,” the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@colum-nist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2021 Bryan Golden ★



Dave Ramsey Says

Friend Want to be a Tenant

Dear Dave,

I own a duplex that has an opening for a tenant, and an old college buddy wants to rent the apartment. He has always been a good friend, but I’m a little worried about the possible effects on our friendship if business is brought into the picture. Do you have any advice?

– Justin

Dear Justin,

You can make this work, but you’ll both need to be careful. It’s going to take a lot of honesty and maturity from you both.

Doing business with friends always comes with the risk of running into a situation that can damage the relationship. Am I saying never do business with friends? Of course, not. I

do a lot of business with friends. I just make sure all the specific requirements and expectations of the business relationship are laid out in clear detail, in writing, and fully understood by both parties before a deal is struck.

Sometimes friends have unrealistic expectations when it comes to doing business together. The friend who’s renting may think the friend who is the landlord will give him a pass if the rent is late, and on a dozen other things. The friend who is the landlord may think the renter will be a perfect tenant, because they’re friends, and find out the hard way his buddy’s a slob who doesn’t respect and take care of the property. All these things should be ironed out ahead of time and before the agreement is signed.

You might want to make sure, too, he understands the need to come talk to you if a situation arises where he may be late with a payment, or not be able to pay the rent one month.

Most issues like this can be worked out, but he needs to understand – and it’s your job to tell him ahead of time, in a kind-but-firm manner – you’re not running a charity.

Just be friendly, straightforward and businesslike. If you have to enforce the rules, do it consistently and with fairness. Likewise, if a situation pops up where a little grace and understanding are appropriate, provide those as well.

– 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. ★



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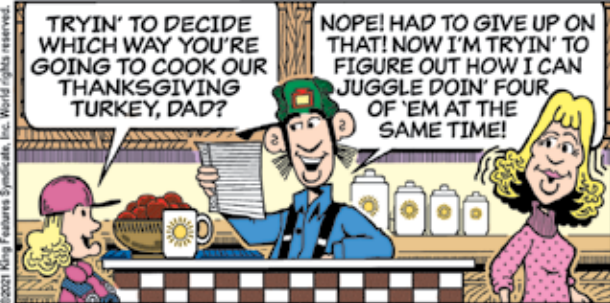


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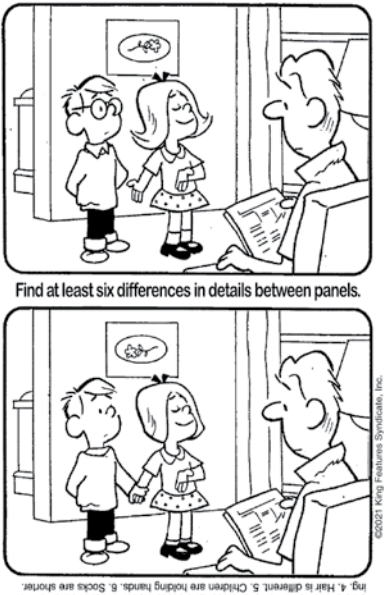
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Thanksgiving: Have an Attitude of Gratitude

Commentary
by Bryan Golden

Thanksgiving is much more than a big meal with family and friends. It's a time to reflect on, and be thankful for, all of the good things you have. It's important to be grateful, not just on Thanksgiving, but each and every day. Rather than lamenting what you feel is lacking in your life, begin each new day by developing an attitude of gratitude. Take inventory of your blessings and you will be surprised at just how much you have to be thankful for.

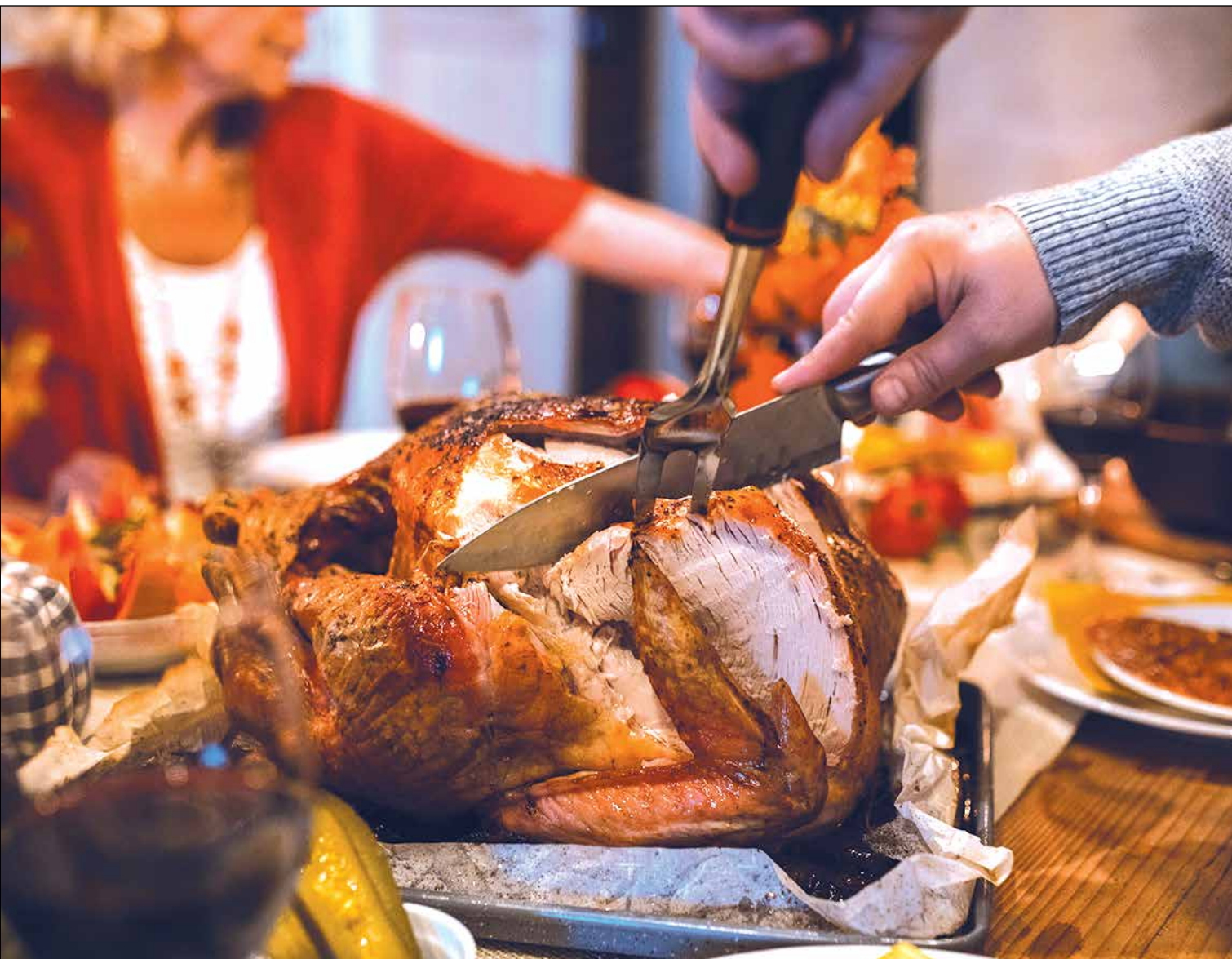
If you have enough to eat, a place to live, a way to get around, people who care about you, or people you care about, then you are wealthy. If you lack any of these elements, you must still be grateful for what you do have, while striving to obtain whatever is absent.

Focus on all positive aspects of your life. Take nothing for granted. Every morning, recharge your appreciation. Be happy for everything there is, not upset over what you feel is missing.

Dreams of the future shouldn't diminish appreciation for the present. If all you do is concentrate on what you want, you won't enjoy today. Don't be jealous of others; what they do or have has no bearing on you.

You can feel bitter or resentful for a variety of reasons. Perhaps you feel something is missing from your life, things aren't going your way, or you have been treated unfairly. You may wonder, "why do these things always happen to me?"

Life's problems tend to dominate your thoughts, turning your focus to what you feel is wrong. You may start to resent those who appear to be better off. You're apt to dwell on things you think would make your life better if you had them. If only you had more money, more time,



Thanksgiving is much more than a big meal with family and friends. It's a time to reflect on, and be thankful for, all of the good things you have. It's important to be grateful, not just on Thanksgiving, but each and every day. Photo courtesy Rodnae-Productions from Pexels

a bigger house, a different car, a different job, a different boss, had picked a different career, etc.

Once your attitude becomes one of deficiency instead of abundance and appreciation, you can become overwhelmed by feelings of frustration and feel like a victim. As this happens, a consuming vicious cycle starts.

Being bitter or resentful blows situations out of proportion. People who are bitter frequently find that their situations deteriorate and their mental and physical health decays.

It's difficult, if not impossible, to achieve your goals while you are bitter or resentful. Regardless of what challenges might befall you, bitterness makes finding solutions much more elusive.

There is no point to feeling bitter since it accomplishes nothing, harms you and makes things worse. Filling yourself with gratitude on a daily basis makes you feel good, while driving out negative feelings.

Begin your practice of gratitude each morning as soon as

you wake. Every day is a great day. If you have any doubts, try missing one. Take inventory of everything, no matter how small or seemingly insignificant, that is good in your life.

If it helps, make a written list of all things you are grateful for. Read your list every day. As you do this, you will build and reinforce your attitude of gratitude. Don't waste any time with what you feel you don't have.

Keep things in perspective. Consider all the people who have overcome difficulties far

worse than yours. Don't be consumed by your problems, there is always a solution. Maintaining an attitude of gratitude allows your mind to devise a resolution for your circumstances.

Make everyday a day of Thanksgiving and you will be amazed how much better your life will become.

Bryan is the author of "Dare to Live Without Limits." Contact Bryan at Bryan@columist.com or visit www.DareToLiveWithoutLimits.com Copyright 2021 Bryan Golden.★

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