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EVENTS
ARE BUSY



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JIM WARD
RECOGNIZED



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Can You Decorate?



The Festival of Trees is a major fundraiser for the Dixon Kiwanis Club with monies benefitting local children's services and programs along with the Kiwanis Family House, an emergency shelter at UC Davis Medical Center. Photo: MPG File

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Pumpkins are still be out but it's not too early to be thinking about Christmas trees as the Dixon Kiwanis Club wants volunteer tree decorators to have plenty of time to plan out a beautiful—or clever--Christmas tree for their 12th anniversary of the 'Festival of Trees,' Saturday, December 4.

Anyone who enjoys decorating for the holidays, here is a great opportunity that gives back to the community! The club needs volunteers to decorate small, medium or

large trees sponsored by numerous different local businesses such as Superior Farms, First Northern Bank, Cal-Water, Tully Consulting Group, Demaray Chiropractic, Realtor Melanie Wright, Edward Jones, and Curves to name a few.

"We could not have this wonderful event without our gracious and creative tree decorators!" enthused Chair Debra Dingman. "While pre-lit artificial trees in green or white are supplied, tree decorators donate ornaments, time and their creativity to finish them and they range from fun to stunning in design."

Businesses, non-profit organizations, church groups, youth teams, and individuals are invited to participate and guidelines will be provided.

"Our club believes our community needs a boost in spirit more than ever," said Debra Dingman, who helped get the program started in Dixon and who also decorates a tree every year. "How elaborate and how special each tree will turn out is unique to each decorating team," she said.

Visitors to the event get one vote for each size tree and winners receive

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It's All About the Money

By Debra Dingman

Greed, noun—intense and selfish desire for something, especially wealth, power, or food. "Mercenaries who had allowed greed to overtake their principles"

DIXON, CA (MPG) - There are probably lots of people who are glad Elaine Perry, long-time Dixonite still isn't really retired. Perry first retired from the Dixon Police Department as a Sergeant in 2018 and then again after working part-time in community action. She was happy to be home feeding her animals on the ranch until a friend dropped by to tell her about a part-time job at the District Attorney's office working to prevent Elder Abuse. He had her attention.

What older person hasn't discovered you are a target for every possible scam imaginable? She applied and was hired working for Solano County District Attorney's office investigating incredibly sad



District Attorney Investigator Elaine Perry gave some guidance and warnings to a group of senior women about being taken advantage of. Photo by Debra Dingman

crimes against the elderly.

"I thought I'd do it for a couple years but it's been five and a half years now." "There is always another case on my desk." She recently told a group of mostly silver-haired women at the Dixon Women's Improvement

Club. "It deals with Penal Code 368 and there is physical, emotional, financial, psychological abuse but 95 percent of the cases are financial," she said.

She doesn't deal with the ones we hear about often like the phone call claiming the grandson is in jail

and needs money to get out, or the lottery you won. She spoke of something far darker.

"The majority of the cases happen in the family; a person of trust. It's all About the money," she said with a hint of fiery anger.

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City Plans New Fire Station, Discusses Fireworks

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Several issues have been decided by the Dixon City Council at the recent meeting including the appointment of Rudy Baltazar to the Parks & Recreation Commission and Frank Romo to the Transportation Advisory Commission.

Other action included the City unanimously adopting a resolution with little discussion accepting a 300-page Streets master Plan Update and directed staff to seek funding opportunities to implement the recommended improvements which included everything from resealing to large-scale road changes.

The in-depth report was presented by Deborah Barr, then City Engineer/Utilities Director, now promoted to Public Works Director. Following her was a presentation by Erin Vaca of DKS Associates on the Dixon Area Advanced Traffic and Railroad Safety Study. The resolution also was given unanimous support for the City to seek funding opportunities to also implement those recommendations.

A budget was approved for the development of plans for a new neighborhood fire station in the Southwest Development on Pitt School Road. The request was made by Fire Chief Todd McNeal. City staff will now initiate the design process and the cost to subcontract the Request for Proposals is not to exceed \$43,200.

The last topic of that meeting was the issue of fireworks. City Attorney Doug White asked the council to consider and direct potential revisions to the Dixon Municipal Code regulating firework-related activities and the implementation of a City-sponsored fireworks program. This generated much discussion from the council as well as citizens.

The four options presented by White were: Social Host liability, Update curfew hours, Multi-departmental Approach, and Increasing permit fees to fireworks vendors.

Mayor Bird talked about his attendance at meetings of surrounding counties and said that Dixon was not the only city with an issue, that it was heavily discussed everywhere he went and that solutions were being looked at county-wide.

Continued on page 3



Power of Positive Thinking ... and Prayers

By Debra Dingman

Several family members from Colorado were visiting this past week and the younger ones wanted to go to San Francisco. They approached us with the request of going on a ferry to San Francisco; we'd have lunch; then come right back. The pleasure would be in going across the bay. So we thought...

David and I remembered a ferry trip out of Vallejo that was very enjoyable and affordable. It took us right to where we wanted to go and because it left from Vallejo, the driving and the parking was not a problem.

I asked about the plans and this was confirmed so we decided we would drive ourselves. As soon as we got home from the visiting, David looked up the weather and discovered it was going to be a 70% chance of a good soaking.

That's when we learned it was actually a 3-hour excursion on Alcatraz Island leaving from Pier 33 at 9:30 am so we had to be there before then. We learned there was no refund so changed plans to take the bigger car that has great tires and 4-wheel drive. While David pulled out the large umbrellas, I packed the rain slickers and prayed for the best.

The night before the

excursion, my brother decided not to join us. He was one of the drivers. Our car is great for us and little grandchildren but our tall, long-legged family members were now going to be a bit crunched. We also thought of all the details that people who don't live here don't realize like the tolls, the parking, the commuters, etc. Let's just say things were not looking bright for us at all and my anxiety was heightened as we discussed what traffic might be like at those commute hours on a Monday morning. Hubby said we needed to leave no later than 5:30 am.

My niece told my sister to be here at 6:30. When I told her that David had regularly commuted to the Bay Area for years and said we absolutely need to leave by 5:30. She sat up and said, "If we don't get where we are supposed to be in three hours, I say F-it. We'll just not go." I said, "Fair enough." Then I went back to bed and turned the whole thing over God. This is what I prayed: "Lord, please bless us with a positive experience."

We left at 7 am AFTER a stop at Starbucks with each person ordering a complicated drink and/or goodie. Out of the corner of my eye, I could see my non-coffee drinking husband

who is never hungry have a twitch in his jaw.

We laughed and told stories and the drive was smooth with light traffic. I told them about the verse I read the day before that said, we have not because we have not asked. (James 4:2-3) I told them I asked God for a positive experience.

Maybe a lot of people don't commute on Mondays or they stayed home when rain was predicted. We zipped right through any congested traffic because we were a carpool, and across the bridge toll booths in the special lanes, landing at Pier 33 with free parking in enough time to go potty and be first in line. All the while I was winking at God.

The tour on Alcatraz was intense and fascinating. It poured outside while we walked the cells and listened on the audio tour phones. Afterwards we propelled back to Pier 39 and had clam chowder in the famous sourdough bowls. We bought taffy and sweat-shirts, snapped pictures of the barking lions, and never once stepped through a homeless camp. We left by 3 pm and although we had some traffic, the carpool lane helped us get home before dark. We were blessed. ★

Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

Dialing 707

If you use a landline phone, you now have some extra numbers to add to your call. The phone companies sent out notices to its customers this past week giving residents very little notice that for all calls--even those to your next door neighbors--would require dialing the area code before the rest of the phone number.

The change was ordered by the Federal Communications Commission in July 2020 when it established 988 as the new nationwide three-digit phone number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Across the U.S., 82 area codes will transition to 10-digit dialing to help facilitate the change.

Veteran's Day

On Veteran's Day, Thursday, Nov. 11, you can join locals in the annual Veterans Fundraising Dinner at 6 pm at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street. "Honoring the War Hero" is hosted by the American Legion Post 208 and offers a turkey dinner and pie for dessert for only \$15 per person.

You can purchase tickets every Friday night at the Hall from 5 pm to 8 pm or you can email ALP208@aol.com or call (530) 304-5385. There will be a no-host bar available at 5 pm.

Farm Bureau

Honoring the brave, the Solano County Farm Bureau is hosting a Veteran's Day Social on Thursday, Nov. 11, 6 to 9 pm at Green River Brewing and Taproom, 4513 Putah Creek Road, Winters. Tickets and info are available on farmbureausocial.eventbrite.com. This is a ticketed event for food and family fun.

The Solano County Farm Bureau is a membership based, non-profit organization.

We rely on our relationships with our members, business partners and community.

The Solano County Farm Bureau was founded in 1915 with full intent to represent the farmers, ranchers, and the community of Solano County.

In cooperation with the American Farm Bureau Federation, the California Farm Bureau Federation, and other county Farm Bureau members, we function to represent, protect, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of the farmers in California.

For more information, contact Jill Hendrix, Member Relations Manager at (707) 449-8044.

DHS Students Needed

The City of Dixon is currently accepting applications for one (1) vacancy for a Student Representative and one (1) vacancy for an Alternate Student Representative on the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to recreation programs and parks facilities. The student representative is expected to attend all Parks & Recreation Commission meetings.

The alternate representative will fill in for the student representative, when the representative is unable to attend Commission meetings. It is expected that the alternate representative will apply to become the student representative the following school year. The term to be served is July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

The Commission meets at 7 pm on the fourth Tuesday of every month. City residency is required. Interested students may obtain an application by contacting Stephanie Marquez at Dixon High School.

The deadline for filing applications is 5 pm, Friday, Nov. 19, 2021. If no applications are submitted by the deadline, the City will accept applications until the vacancy is filled. See the City of Dixon's website at www.cityofdixon.us to view past Commission meetings and agenda packages. ★

Tickets Available for Lions Texas Hold'em Tournament!

Dixon Lions Club Texas Hold'em Press release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Lions Club will be having a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament Saturday November 20th, 2021, at the Downtown Olde Vets Hall, 231 North First St. Dixon. Cocktails 5:00 PM & Poker 7:00 PM. \$100 per Person Donation, Rebuis Available, No Host Bar. *Must be 21 to attend*. All proceeds help fund our high school scholarships! For tickets, please call Justin Ford 707-371-6654 / Eric Kratzer 707-321-2547 or any Dixon Lions Club member!

Since the club's chartering in 1954, Proceeds from past fundraising events have gone to Team Dixon, Dixon Unified School District, Dixon Toys for Tots, Dixon



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

For more information about the Dixon Lions Club; Website: <http://e-Club-house.org/sites/DixonCA> Facebook: Dixon Lions Club ★

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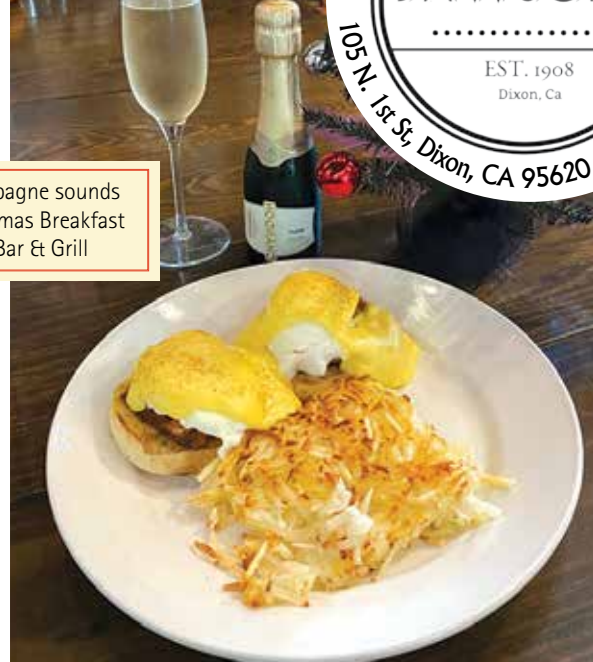
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Chandon Champagne sounds good for a Christmas Breakfast at Dawson's Bar & Grill



Halloween Events Are Busy Successes!



Halloween fun happened downtown with hundreds of children and their parents spilled over into the Chamber's Trunk or Treat that was also a successful event with numerous merchants offering candy to trick or treaters out of the trunks of their cars. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Can You Decorate?

Continued from page 1

the coveted 'People's Choice' award with their names engraved on a beautiful plaque which is shown off around town at Kiwanis events.

Due to Covid safety guidelines, decorated trees are to be delivered to the Veterans Memorial Hall on Friday evening, Dec. 3 or Saturday, December 4, between 6 and 8 am unless other arrangements are made.

During the festival, there is Christmas music, coffee or cocoa as well as Christmas live music. Mistletoe will be sold by the Dixon High School Key Club. The event will open at 9 am with the silent tree auction closing at 6 pm the same day. Hundreds of families pass through the showroom to bid on the trees.

Anyone interested in ideas for the Dixon event can see photos of previous events on the Kiwanis of Dixon Facebook page or can always peruse Pinterest.

The Festival of Trees is a major fundraiser for the Dixon Kiwanis Club with monies benefitting local children's services and programs along with the Kiwanis Family House, an emergency shelter at UC Davis Medical Center.

They meet on the fourth Monday for a no-host dinner meeting at Bud's Pub and Grill in downtown Dixon. They are an international organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time. For more information, call the FOT Chair at (707) 301-0795 or email dixonkiwanis@hotmail.com. ★

City Plans New Fire Station

Continued from page 1

District 3 Representative Kevin Johnson agreed.

"There have been stories of death and maiming and really bad stories that we haven't had to tell but other cities have," Johnson said.

"We have to do something and cannot repeat last year," said District 1 Rep Scott Pederson. "It was pretty outrageous but I want to protect our use of safe and sane fireworks." The council was in agreement. The Mayor wanted to focus on the fireworks that were illegal.

"I thought it was the best 4th of July," said citizen Mike Ceremello. "There might have been a thousand people shooting off fireworks. He contended the celebration of America was as it should be with people "celebrating in the streets" although another citizen gave caution.

"I support some [restrictions,] but you give up some freedom to have safety," said Hailie Castaneda, a Dixonite of two years and a student attending her first city council meeting. She told of how someone has the right to drive fast in the center of town but for the safety of others, there are speed limits.

Another citizen recommended an effective educational campaign as to what fireworks are legal and which ones are illegal. She also suggested using the large, LED billboard to blast the message in English and Spanish about the minimal fine of \$1,000 for illegal fireworks which was met with council support. Ideas for a city-supported show, parade, or picnic were also tossed around and supported by all.

It was agreed to direct staff with pursuing the social host ordinance, since there is already one in the City Code, and to investigate a city-sponsored community celebration. ★

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Jim Ward Awarded for Community Service

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Jim Ward, a retired CHP Officer, veteran, and Dixon City Treasurer was honored with the 2021 Distinguished Service Award from the Kiwanis Club of Dixon for his volunteer work on every service project and fundraiser the club held this past year. It is the club's highest honor.

Ward is quick to respond with a "yes" for helping to do everything from hauling feed and supplies to displaced animals during the LMU fires to organizing the Chipper from the CHP office to entertain children at an Easter photo op event for children. No task was too small or too large for Jim to assist with.

"Jim's dedication to serving our community has been inspirational for us all" said President Mike Liu. "But more importantly, Jim's enthusiasm provides an example to all of us that we can all make a difference to help others by anything we are able to contribute, as many hands can make great things happen."

Ward has been a member of the club since November 2019, has near-perfect attendance, and has worked to bring others to the Kiwanis mission of serving the children of the world.

For more than 25 years, Kiwanis clubs have awarded the Distinguished Service Award (DSA) to recognize Kiwanians who



James P. Ward Photo: by Debra Dingman

go above and beyond in their service and dedication to their club and community.

This special presentation was done this year with more than 60 Kiwanis in attendance at the Kiwanis Governor's official visit. ★

It's All About the Money

Continued from page 1

One story was about a mother that had to go to a home so the daughter moved into her house. She already didn't pay rent but the brother called for help after noticing large purchases such as vacations, cars and a boat.

"The brother was concerned that his mother's trust was being violated," Perry said. It was.

"I urge you," Perry pleaded, "Think things out. Really think about it and do your [will and plans] while you're young." She gave a few more stories that made listeners reflect as she

cautioned about trusts and powers of attorneys.

"So many ways people can be taken advantage of," she said. "Be sure you think it out. Intimidation of the elderly is big!" But, she also told a story where she went to investigate claims someone was being taken advantage of based on the children of an elderly man but it wasn't so.

"It's all about capacity," she said. The man knew exactly who she was and why she was there upon opening the door. He told her his children thought he was going to give away all their inheritance to a care

worker. Perry interviewed both and discovered they were just friends and there was no foul, no harm.

Medi-Cal In Home Support Services is a good service to help for safety issues, she said, if that was a concern but encouraged women to truly know their plans to the best of their ability and ended her talk with firm advice, that if you see something out there, report it.

For more information, one can call the Solano County District Attorney Krishna Abrams office in Fairfield at (707) 784-6800. ★

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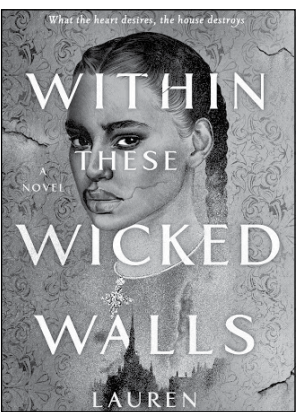
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy_fortheloveofbook

Within These Wicked Walls

by Lauren Blackwood

From a young age, all Andromedia knew was the art of survival, stealing supplies when needed and making amulets to cast out manifestations and evil spirits. Raised by a man who has never shown her any affection, Jember is also the best in his field, who has trained Andromedia to be an exceptional debtera even for her young age. Now, at the cusp of adulthood, Andromedia finds herself penniless and cast out of the only home she has known. So, when she receives an offer to come and cleanse the Rochester Castle, she immediately accepts the offer. The moment she arrives, Andromedia realizes that her job is bigger and more dangerous than she ever expected, as many have failed before her. Without knowing where her next meal will come from, she decides to stay, even if death and destruction seem to lie within every doorway.

All too quickly, the house and the staff begin to grow on her. However, it's the moody, spoiled, and enigmatic, cursed master of the house Magnus that truly catches her eye. At first, she can't seem to rid herself of him, but as the manifestations



- ◆ Publisher: Wednesday Books
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥
- ◆ Release Date: Oct. 19, 2021

start to present themselves, Andromedia realizes that she might be on a suicide mission to cleanse this house, but if she leaves, Magnus will surely die. As servants start to disappear and the Evil Eye's powers get stronger, Andromedia realizes this job requires more than she is capable of, and if they all want to survive, she will have to seek out the help of the one person who has turned his back on her. Even scarier than the manifestations themselves, Andromedia must also weigh the danger of falling for the person who has more to

lose if Andromedia fails.

In this Ethiopian-inspired fantasy, *Within These Wicked Walls* delivers a story that captures the hearts of anyone who falls within its pages. Lauren Blackwood creates a timeless story, with imaginative description and deep emotion, that highlights the need for desire, acceptance, adaptation in any circumstance, and most of all, hope. With faint echoes of Jane Eyre, this story captures the heart of anyone who loves the classic story, as well as readers who love retellings of the classics.

Readers will fall under this story's spells, as the clock strikes ten and blood seeps from the walls. With eerie settings, characters you can't help to love, and the unique use of carefully creating amulets to cleanse and protect, this story gives new meaning to terrifying secrets hidden within the walls of a large manor. A new voice to watch out for in young adult fantasy, Lauren Blackwood delivers the perfect story of sacrifice, longing, acceptance, and love while intertwining it within haunted castles walls and evil manifestations. ★



Is Trump's Grip on the GOP Weakening?

Republican politicians can be forgiven for thinking that the GOP is Trump's world and they only live in it at his sufferance.

He not only survived Jan. 6 and his second impeachment – he has thrived since.

Trump's rallies are still remarkably well-attended, he is making progress in his project of killing the careers of Republicans who supported his impeachment, and big majorities of Republicans tell pollsters they want Trump to run for president again.

And yet, there are reasons to believe Trump's dominance is exaggerated and that it is slowly degrading, such that by the time the 2024 Republican primaries roll around, he'll be challengeable and beatable if he runs.

It's not unusual for a former president to own his party until someone comes and takes it from him – Bill Clinton prior to Barack Obama, for example.

What's different is that parties typically aren't kind to one-term presidents who lost their reelection bids, and generally former presidents aren't so bent on exercising control over their parties once they vacate the White House.

Part of the reason Trump has clung to his fanciful stolen-election narrative is to

avoid the stench of defeat of Jimmy Carter and George H.W. Bush. On top of this, Trump has an intact political operation that is paying a lot of attention to his potential endorsements and how they will or won't enhance his own power.

This obviously makes Trump an important player, and maybe more. But there are indications of an undertow and factors that might increase it in the years ahead.

Trump's media footprint is much reduced. Data from SocialFlow shows engagement with Trump stories plummeting in March of this year and it took another jag down in August and September.

As for Trump's polling numbers, Republicans might tell pollsters they want him to run again as a way to stick a finger in the eye of the media or as a general statement of warm feelings toward him. Even if these findings are based on entirely forthcoming and sincere sentiments, wanting Trump to run is a threshold question that falls short of a commitment to vote for him two and a half years from now.

Trump presumably will be vulnerable to electability questions. He lost last fall in part because Biden outperformed Hillary Clinton among suburban voters and independents. Biden is alienating these voters, but there's nothing to indicate that Trump has done anything since November 2020 to make himself less repellant to them.

GOP politicians have every reason to do what they can to keep Trump and

his voters on board in the interest of a unified base in the run-up to the 2022 midterms. But if Republicans take Congress next year and are worried about keeping it in 2024, they will be wary of once again needing candidates to run better than Trump in swing districts to keep their gavels.

Trump has an increasingly self-referential message. In 2016, he talked of fighting for his voters and hammered neglected issues of concern to them, foremost among them trade and immigration. Now, he urges those voters to fight for him based on the imperative of denying his loss, which is of overwhelming concern to his ego and continued political viability.

At the end of the day, what primary voters in both parties most want is to win. And this is Trump's true Achilles' heel. The fact is that he lost to Joe Biden and, despite last-minute changes in election procedures and the media and social media landscape being stacked against him, it was fundamentally his doing.

His chief vulnerability is that, eventually, someone will put this to him directly, and it will land.

Perhaps if Trump decides to make the plunge in 2024, he will clear the field and sweep to his third consecutive GOP presidential nomination. His surface-level strength at the moment, though, might obscure a weakness that will tell over time.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
(c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★



NASA, U.S. Geological Survey use satellites to track water use

A joint mission by NASA, the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Department of Agriculture is helping farmers and ranchers maximize water efficiency. Technology that aims to track water use across 17 western states went live on Oct. 21. Called OpenET, the program provides satellite monitoring to measure evapotranspiration. That is the process by which water evaporates from land and emits from plants. The mission can improve measurements on water use to sustain crops.

Governor extends California drought emergency ahead of storms

Just before a recent atmospheric river storm hit California, Gov. Gavin Newsom expanded California's drought emergency. Experts say the rains, including a record single-day rainfall in Sacramento on Oct. 24, aren't enough to end the two-year drought. Newsom said California needs to brace itself for an anticipated third drought year. He said, "It's critical that Californians across the state redouble our efforts to save water."

Cotton prices surge as growing acreage shrinks in drought

Lack of water for agriculture may dampen prospects for California cotton farmers, even as cotton prices have soared. Roger Isom, president and CEO of the California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association, says farmers should reap a "fantastic price" for this year's crop. Still the ongoing drought is depressing cotton production. Total cotton-growing acreage in California has dropped by 38% since last year.

USDA allocates \$1.15 billion for rural broadband

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is allocating \$1.15 billion in grants and loans for projects helping rural communities access high-speed internet. The effort is intended to provide capital for broadband projects that serve low-population areas lacking internet connections at speeds of at least 25 megabits for downloading and 3 megabits for uploading. Priority will be given to projects submitted by local governments, tribes and non-profits. ★

I Don't Believe In Karma

Dr. James L. Snyder

Some people believe in karma, but I don't. I do believe that everything you do does have consequences.

Recently, my truck was in the garage for about six weeks getting a new engine because the old engine had died. It was either get a new engine or a new truck. The engine was a lot cheaper.

While my truck was in the shop, I used the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's van. Believe me when I say it was a challenge to drive that little van.

I had no choice. Either borrow my wife's van or walk.

Then the day came when my truck was finished and ready to pick up. Oh boy, was I excited?

My wife drove me to the shop, and I was able to pick up my good old truck. Driving home was a very wonderful experience that I long shall cherish.

I did make one little blunder. I talked to someone about my experience driving my wife's van, and not knowing she was within earshot, I described her van as a "Sissy Van." I explained that that van was only for sissies.

"Did you just refer to my van," my wife said to

me rather sternly with both hands on her hips, "as a sissy van?"

I never challenge what my wife hears; only explain by saying, "That's not exactly what I meant."

"All right," she said very seriously, "just remember that what you do always comes back on you."

I smiled and shrugged the comment off. I simply don't believe in karma.

Almost four weeks to the day, things began to happen.

I was driving my truck and on a Friday I drove to church to do some work at the office. Everything seemed to be going fine.

When done, I went to my truck to go home. I turned the key, and the engine did not start. It was at 4:15 in the afternoon, and the repair shop where I take my truck closes at 2 o'clock on Friday afternoons. So I was stuck until Monday.

The hardest thing I had to do was call the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and tell her I was stuck, the truck wouldn't start, and could you come and pick me up?

That Sunday, as I was setting up the sound system to record the Sunday service, I could not get it working. None of the microphones

worked, and there wasn't anything I could do to change it.

That was Sunday. Then Monday came tiptoeing along, and somebody had hacked into my email, and I could not open up my email. I worked very hard to get it open and set a new password, but nothing worked. So finally, the email service locked me out for 24 hours because I had done it too many times.

It took several days to unlock my account, so I could use my email.

I still don't believe in karma, but sometimes things come back on you because of some of your actions.

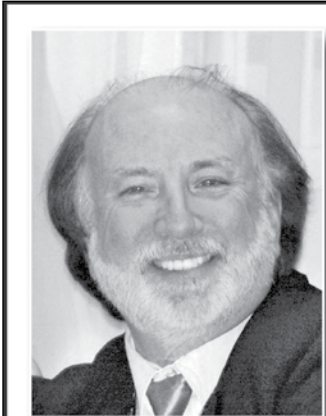
I read in the Scriptures that evening, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Galatians 6:7).

I need to learn how to be careful in what I sow because that is exactly what I will reap.

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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Shatora Watley Guilty of Two Counts of Vehicular Manslaughter

Solano County District Attorney Press Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On October 28, 2021, in Department 9 of the Solano County Superior Court, before the Honorable Carlos Gutierrez Presiding, a jury found Defendant Shatora Watley Guilty of two counts of Vehicular Manslaughter, in violation of Penal Code Section 192(c)(2).
On May 21, 2016, the

defendant was in a fatal head-on traffic collision on Highway 113 with two motorcyclists. Jamaal Abron and Malinda Averell-Kalis were out on a motorcycle ride traveling southbound on Highway 113 when they were tragically struck by the defendant. At the intersection of Hay Road and Highway 113, the defendant suddenly crossed over the center line and into the path of the two motorcyclists.

Unfortunately, both victims succumbed to their injuries at the scene. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on November 19, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., in Department 9 of the Solano County Superior Court. Officer Lambert, Sergeant White, and Lieutenant Bosco of the California Highway Patrol investigated the fatal collision. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Shashawnya Worley. ★

San Francisco Bay Trail Steering Committee Awards \$400,000 for Vallejo Section


Solano Transportation Authority

SUISUN CITY, CA (MPG)- The San Francisco Bay Trail Steering Committee awarded \$400,000 to the Solano Transportation Authority (STA) for the City of Vallejo’s Bay Trail – Bay Trail Gap Closure Project. This award will be used to fund the overall project and close the gap between the Vallejo section of the San Francisco Bay Trail, which includes connections to the Vallejo Waterfront, and the Napa Valley Vine Trail. Funding is provided through Proposition 68, the Parks, Environment, and Water Bond Act of 2019 which was passed by voters to create new parks and recreational opportunities for disadvantaged communities. “We are excited about this funding and want to thank the San Francisco Bay Trail for partnering with the STA on this project,” said STA Board Chair and Mayor of Vacaville Ron Rowlett. “The Bay Trail – Vine Trail serves a severely disadvantaged community in the City of Vallejo and this new connection will ensure a high quality, environmentally

friendly, active transportation connection between low-income neighborhoods and regional and local transit facilities, such as the San Francisco Bay Ferry, SolanoExpress, and SolTrans, which provide reliable and equitable transit services for older adults, students, and essential workers.” “In addition to the many benefits that The Bay Trail – Vine Trail Project brings to the residents of Vallejo, this project also creates an inviting recreational activity,” said STA Board Vice-Chair and Vallejo Mayor Robert McConnell. “Once completed, this project will provide great access to our waterfront.” The Vallejo Bay Trail – Vine Trail Project is a 4.2 mile section of the San Francisco Bay Trail (Bay Trail). The Bay Trail is a planned 500 mile, multi-use trail administered by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG). When complete, the trail will encircle the San Francisco Bay, linking the shorelines of 47 cities and nine counties. For more information on the San Francisco Bay Trail, please visit: <https://baytrail.org/> ★

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.



Friday, October 29, 2021

0543 - Battery report in the 200 block of West H Street. After further investigation, officers arrested Sandra Galvan-Marmolejo (22) out of Dixon for Assault with a Deadly Weapon. Sandra was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail.

0851 - Vehicle burglary reported in the 1300 block of West H Street.

1017 - Traffic collision reported in the area of Pitt School Road and West A Street.

2050 - While investigating a non-injury traffic collision, an involved party, Jose Urbina (24) of Vacaville was found to have a no-cite misdemeanor warrant for his arrest. He was subsequently arrested, transported and booked into the Solano County Jail Without incident.

2200 - Catalytic converter theft reported in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

Saturday, October 30, 2021

0640 - Sexual assault reported in the 500 block of West A Street. Hollingshead/Stevens.

1706 - Traffic enforcement stop in the area of E/B 180 and Kidwell. Armando Lizarraga (57), of Davis, was arrested for Stalking, Court order Violation, Annoying or Harassing Phone Calls, and Probation Violation. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

1017 - Traffic collision reported in the area of Pitt School Road and West A Street.

2309 - A bicycle stop in the area of S. Lincoln and Sunset Dr. resulted in the arrest of Tyler Wanderstadt (20) of Dixon for being in possession of a concealed dagger, violating the terms of his felony probation, and for committing a crime while out on bail. He was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail for all three felony charges.

0308 - Officers were dispatched to the 700 block of Park Drive when Jeffery Swafford (43) of Dixon called 911 stating that he just assaulted his wife. Officers responded to the scene and contacted Swafford, who was heavily intoxicated and uncooperative. He was taken into custody without incident. It was later determined that no physical assault had been committed, and the initial report was false. Swafford was subsequently arrested for knowingly providing false identification to police and for being drunk in public. He was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail.

Sunday, October 31, 2021

0945 - 911 hang up in the 200 block of West H Street. While on scene, the boyfriend stated that during an argument his girlfriend threw a shoe at him and she claimed he tried to pour water on her. The girlfriend was leaving for the day originally and neither party requested prosecution. A report was sent to the DA for review.

1158 - Attempt burglary in the 200 block of East Broadway Street. An unknown person kicked in the side door of the caller’s garage overnight. Nothing was taken.

1227 - Information report taken in the 500 block of Kings Court.

1440 - Theft of a catalytic converter from a Honda Accord in the 300 block of McKenzie Drive.

Monday, November 1, 2021

0628 - Verbal argument between neighbors in the 1100 block of Afton Way. Cherie Clark (37) of Dixon was arrested on a local traffic warrant.

0700 - Found Property turned into the Police Department.

0901 - Suspicious vehicle located in the 1400 block of Ary Ln. This resulted in the arrest of Robert Cea (64) of Sacramento for two out-of-county warrants. Cea was transported and booked into County Jail.

0917 - Suspicious vehicle located in the 1400 block of Ary Ln. Vehicle towed for expired registration over 6 months.

1053 - Lost property in the 100 block of N. Adams St.

1140 - Citizen turned in unwanted ammunition to the PD.

1444 - Traffic Enforcement stop in the area of Pitt School Rd at Stratford Ave. This resulted in Traci Leethearle (38) of Dixon being arrested for Driving Under the Influence.

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Public Notice

SUBJECT: DIXON CITY COUNCIL MEETING TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEE UPDATE

To whom it may concern:

The City Council of the City of Dixon has received a request to consider the adoption of updated Transportation Impact Fees (TIF, also known as Capital Facility Fees, Development Impact Fees, or AB1600 Fees). The City of Dixon’s General Plan states that “the City shall ensure that new development will pay all of the incremental public and facility costs which it generates.” As allowed by Government Code section 66000 et seq. (Mitigation Fee Act also known as AB 1600) and Chapter 4.07 of the Dixon Municipal Code, Capital Facility Fees (“CFF”) have been adopted to fund the necessary infrastructure and public facilities to mitigate the impact of new development. Dixon’s Municipal Code outlines a process to adjust the CFFs annually to reflect changes in construction costs to ensure that adequate funds are available at the time a project is built. The adjustment is based on the annual Engineering News-Record (“ENR”) Construction Cost Index (“CCI”) each September.

The annual update of the CFFs was most recently completed on December 1, 2020. (Resolution 20-191).

Per the most recent update of the CFFs, the maximum justifiable fees for Single Family Dwelling Units and Multi Family Dwelling Units Is \$14,615 and \$8,267, respectively. Additionally, the maximum justifiable fees for Retail, Office, and Industrial are \$26,435, \$13,072, and \$7,347 per KSF, respectively. The City Council may adopt any fee level below the maximum justifiable fee.

Per Government Code 660016, the most recent Transportation Impact Fee Study, completed by DKS Associates, is available for public inspection or disclosure upon request.

Copies of the agenda and staff report for the meeting will be available for review on Friday, November 12, 2021 at City Hall as well as the City of Dixon website. The meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Date: Tuesday, November 16, 2021

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Location: City Council Chambers
600 East A Street
Dixon, CA 95620

We welcome and appreciate your participation. If you should have any questions or comments, please contact me at (707) 678-7031 ext. 5311 or by email at jsantos@cityofdixon.us

Sincerely,
Jordan Santos
Junior Engineer

Dixon Independent Voice 11-5-20221

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DIXON AMENDING CHAPTER 9.06, GARBAGE AND REFUSE, OF TITLE 9, HEALTH AND SAFETY, OF THE DIXON MUNICIPAL CODE TO REGULATE THE DISPOSAL OF RECYCLABLE AND ORGANIC MATERIALS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dixon (“City”) City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620, in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54950 et seq.), and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending Chapter 9.06, Garbage and Refuse, of Title 9, Health and Safety, of the Dixon Municipal Code to regulate the disposal of recyclable and organic materials (the “Ordinance”).

Recently, the State passed Senate Bill 1383 (“SB 1383”) that requires the City to reduce organic waste in landfills. In compliance with SB 1383, the Ordinance will regulate the disposal of recyclable and organic materials in the City. Specifically, the Ordinance will require contractors providing solid waste collection services within the City to comply with standards for the disposal of recyclable and organic materials. The Ordinance will also establish standards for the disposal of recyclable and organic materials by City residents and businesses.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend the on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the approval of the Ordinance. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking action or making any recommendation on the Ordinance. Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the regular meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

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

Copies of the proposed Ordinance will be available, upon request. If you have any questions, please call the City at (707) 678-7000.

Dixon Independent Voice 11-5-20221

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL

REDISTRICTING CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dixon (“City”) City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620, in accordance with the Fair Maps Act (Elec. Code, § 21600 et seq.), the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54950 et seq.), and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, to receive a report on the redistricting process and permissible criteria to be considered to adjust City Council district boundaries, and receive public input on potential City Council district boundaries.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend the Tuesday November 16, 2021 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence on the adjustment of City Council district boundaries. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking any action or making any recommendation on potential City Council district boundaries. Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Any person requiring language interpretation services should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting.

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

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

Dixon Independent Voice 11-5-20221

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Covid and Beyond



Commentary
by bil paul

New covid cases continue to fall in Dixon, with only 11 new cases reported last week. Three covid deaths were reported in the county.

Exactly what causes a covid surge and its end? Sure, we know that areas with low vaccination rates and lack of mask wearing are prone to outbreaks. New covid mutations which spread faster play a part. There have to be other factors in play too. Now the speculation is that with colder weather, people will spend more time indoors, sparking a new surge.

All the news now is about covid booster shots and vaccinating school-age kids. I'll say one thing – if I originally got the one-shot Johnson and Johnson covid vaccine, I'd look for augmenting that with a Pfizer or Moderna booster shot for better protection.

Sometimes J&J, Pfizer and Moderna seem like knights in shining armor, riding in to end the pandemic. But having worked in the medical field, I know that making money is not at the low end of the equation. These companies are raking in the dough.

Who ever thought covid would divide our country so much? Many police officers and nurses, among others, are refusing to get vaccinated, saying it's their right to choose. Pro-vaccine people often see them as ignorant, selfish and believing rampant misinformation.

On the other hand, anti-vaccine people often see the other side as goody two-shoe types doing whatever the government tells them to do without question. They probably think the provaxers are ignorant as well! Some seem to feel government officials take sadistic delight in laying down mask and vaccine mandates.

I have this to say: We've had over 700,000 covid deaths in the U.S. so far. What would the death count be if no one had been vaccinated? Two or three times that number?

Those who chose not to be vaccinated left the job of cooperatively ending the pandemic to everyone else. Non-vaccinated police and nurses have shirked their duty to protect others. It takes courage for a big-city mayor to say to his or her police officers: "vax-up or lose your job."

Governor Newsom has waffled before on the covid issue, and now he's waffled again. He and the California health apparatus issued a mandate directing all students to be vaccinated, once their age groups received a vaccine go-ahead. The catch is that he will allow students/parents to decline the vaccine based on personal beliefs. That's despite the

long-running requirement that all California students be vaccinated against measles, mumps and rubella with no personal exemptions allowed.

We've heard that the federal government has been throwing a lot of money at the pandemic. A lot of it flowed through the American Rescue Plan Act. Here's how some of the money is being spent: A Colorado city started paying homeless residents to clean city streets. Even though a county in Florida already has 160 golf courses, a city there is using the federal funds to help build yet another one. Other cities have used the money for employee bonuses.

In a note about politics in general, the Democratic party seems to be ineffectually spinning its tires in Washington, trying to fund broad new social programs. Because the Senate is split 50-50 between the two parties, two rebel Democratic senators have accumulated too much power in holding legislation back. Biden is looking more and more old and ineffectual. Both parties have been guilty of massive deficit spending. Not good.

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

"LAST NIGHT IN SOHO" AND "ONLY THE ANIMALS" ELICIT MYSTERY

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"LAST NIGHT IN SOHO" RATED R

A trippy homage to swinging '60s London and twisted tale of time-travel to a horrific nightmare, Edgar Wright's "Last Night in Soho" often seems like the polarized world of the dark side of sex and graphic violence that would be the hallmark of a David Lynch film.

As a country girl from Cornwall with dreams of becoming a fashion designer, Ellie (Thomasin McKenzie) is about to venture forth to the big city of London, leaving behind her doting grandmother (Rita Tushingham).

Orphaned at a young age, Ellie aspires to follow in her late mother's footsteps. That may explain why her bedroom, complete with posters and ephemera from the 1960s, looks a shrine to a bygone era.

The unsophisticated Ellie proves to be an outcast to the hip other girls at the fashion school. Her mean-girl roommate and the other party girls are so obnoxious that she leaves her dorm for a Soho rooming house run by Ms. Collins (Diana Rigg in her last movie role).

While Ellie's designs show promise, they are fittingly retrograde to the '60s era. Her obsession with the past soon thrusts her into that Carnaby Street period as she dreams of a stunning blonde named Sandie (Anya Taylor-Joy) who sings Petula Clark and Dusty Springfield tunes.

Any doubt that Ellie has ventured into the mid-1960s is dispelled when emerging onto a street where a movie theater's marquee hosts an oversized poster of Sean Connery as James Bond in "Thunderball."

As Sandie's carefree lifestyle in Soho looms large in Ellie's mind, the fashion student becomes so increasingly fixated on her alter ego's world that she dyes her hair blonde and dresses in vintage clothes.

At times it seems like Ellie is inhabiting Sandie's body, but soon recoils at the advances made by Sandie's pimp Jack (Matt Walsh), a slick scoundrel with an ugly streak of thuggish behavior. The glamorous world of Sandie is a total illusion.

"Last Night in Soho" is ultimately a psychological thriller that offers more style than substance, and that would not be so bad but for the increasingly repetitive nature of the horror elements of ghoulish men as disturbing visions.

On the other hand, while the Sixties nostalgia of great music and fashions delights, Anna Taylor-Joy brings the era so vividly to life that one wishes her screen time would have been even greater.

"ONLY THE ANIMALS" NOT RATED

The French mystery thriller "Only the Animals" is an art house film that made its

mark at the 2019 Venice Film Festival and is now making its way to limited theaters.

A blurb on the poster calls it "A French Fargo," which might be a stretch but for the film's quirkiness and the fact that a snowstorm in rural France reminds one of a cruel winter in North Dakota.

How do five characters on two continents factor into the death of one socialite woman in the highlands of southern France where one can drive for miles and see nothing but snowdrifts and occasional livestock?

For one thing, director Dominick Moll may have been inspired by Kurosawa's "Rashomon" in that the film's structure of adopting successive points of view creates mystery and suspense.

In the press notes, the director disabuses that notion, observing that everything revolves around the mystery of Evelynne Ducat (Valeria Bruni Tedeschi) where "the points of view of his characters are incomplete, intertwined, and do not necessarily cover the same period."

Switching viewpoints, "Only the Animals" reveals the secret connections between a reclusive farmer, an unfaithful husband and wife, a lovelorn waitress and an African internet scam artist, exposing a world of greed, lust, betrayal, and loneliness.

The film opens in the shantytowns of Ivory Coast's capital city where Armand (Guy Roger N'drin), a young black man, is seen riding a scooter with a goat on his back. Your first thought is how does he figure in the story?

From coastal Africa, we move quickly to a frigid winter in rural France where married social worker Alice (Laure Calamy) is having an affair with morose farmer Joseph (Damien Bonnard).

Alice is the first to spot Evelynne's abandoned car on the side of a desolate road. The police question Joseph who claims to know nothing about the driver but why are strange things happening on his property?

Shifting back in time, the bisexual Evelynne strikes up a tempestuous relationship with young waitress Marion (Nadia Terezhkiewicz) during a visit to a coastal Mediterranean city.

Tension arises when Evelynne, who's just looking for sexual gratification, rebuffs Marion's professed love. Does this make the young woman a suspect for murder?

What about Alice's husband Michel (Denis Menochet), so desperate for an affair that he falls victim to Armand's cyber-scam posing as the sexy Amandine who keeps asking for money?

What binds everyone in "Only the Animals" are deep, dark secrets and a search for love, often in the wrong places. Well, there's also the tale of murder and intrigue to hold one's interest. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Play Your Hands



You have to play the cards you are dealt. Although you can exert control over many of life's aspects, there are factors beyond your control. Any reaction of anger, blame, or regret will be self-defeating and counterproductive. You've got to take what you've been given and create a strategy to get the most from it.

Of course, who wouldn't want to have everything perfect? No one wants to deal with unpleasant or unfortunate circumstances. But they occur. Once they are present, you have no choice but to make the best of the situation.

Each person has their own idea of what defines a "good hand." The winner of a card game is not necessarily the one who had the best cards. The skilled player knows how to make the most of what they are dealt. Anyone who drops out of the game, when they get a bad hand, will rarely win and often stops playing altogether.

Similarly, winning in life requires the same approach. Every situation you face, and each set of circumstances you encounter, contains one or more opportunities to turn a bad hand into a winning one. It's not the cards you are dealt but how you play them that determines the outcome.

Life is a mix. Everyone gets both good hands and lousy hands. No one is singled out for all good or all bad. What matters is

how you react when your cards are less than ideal. Don't fall apart. Don't get angry. Don't blame others. Don't act like a victim.

You can't go back in time. There is no way to redo or undo events. You are where you are and circumstances are what they are. The only option is to work with what you have to move forward.

There are some simple things you can do to mitigate a bad hand. One option that produces absolutely no positive results is worry. Worry is a totally useless, unproductive, waste of time. Instead, identify what options are available. Evaluate each to determine the pros and cons. You are looking to see what you can do to get the most from what you've got.

Not all action you can take will be productive. Avoid activities that will make matters worse. Don't act impulsively with a knee jerk reaction. Always think before you act. Actions taken and words spoken can not be recalled once launched. Devote your time to only those actions that move you in a positive direction.

Every adversity carries with it an equal or greater seed of opportunity. The challenge is identifying and cultivating it. The opportunity is usually not obvious. Tenacity and determination are required to uncover it.

Fight any tendency to become overwhelmed or negative. Each time you

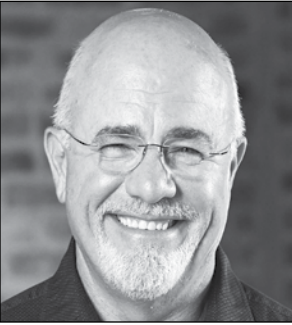
successfully play your hand, your self-confidence grows as well as your ability to successfully handle whatever comes next. As with anything, your skill level improves with practice.

With the right attitude, things often happen for the best. What initially appears as a bad hand may turn out to be the proverbial blessing in disguise. You've probably experienced this phenomenon. So why not learn from your past positive experiences where things turned out better than you initially thought?

Within you exists more strength, ability, and determination than you realize. It is from this vast well of internal resources that you can draw whatever is needed to get the most from each hand you are dealt.

So sit confidently at the table of life knowing that you can play any hand you are dealt. Every hand is a potential winner. Leave the game and there is no chance of winning. The more you play, the better you become at maximizing the potential of your cards.

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@columunist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2021 Bryan Golden ★



Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Crislyn,

My guess is the guy's not really bankrupt, but it sounds like he has some maturity and character issues that need to be addressed. I'm not saying things can't change, but this is not someone to move in with or consider marrying anytime soon. You two would have a hard time as husband and wife unless he makes some real course corrections in his attitudes about money and life.

For starters, he needs to get another job, sell the expensive car and find a cheaper place to live. Leaving one position for another is okay, but deciding you just don't like something and walking away from it without another job waiting – especially when you've got bills and a bunch of debt – is just plain irresponsible.

Lots of people identify too strongly with what they drive or where they live. They come to

believe those things are indications of their value or worth, and that's sad. It means something inside them is broken, and bankruptcy isn't going to fix that.

All this doesn't mean he isn't basically a decent guy, but it does mean he needs to get control of his finances – and that he's got some soul searching and growing up to do.

– 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. ★

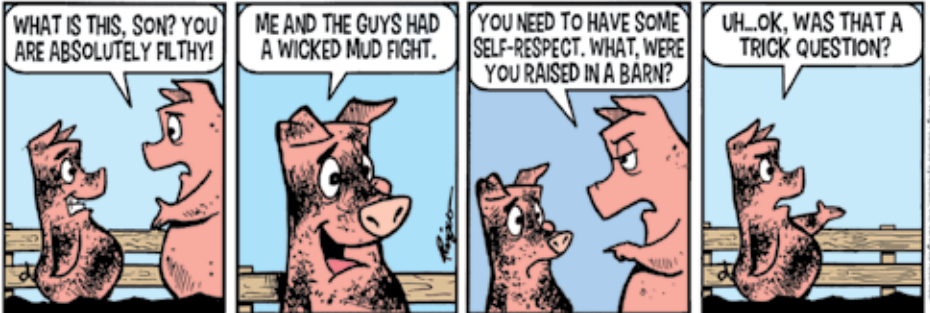


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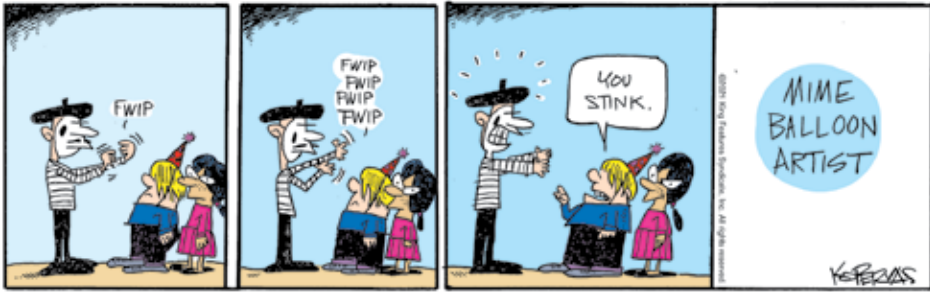


WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



Out on a Limb



R.F.D.



CRIM BEAR IT



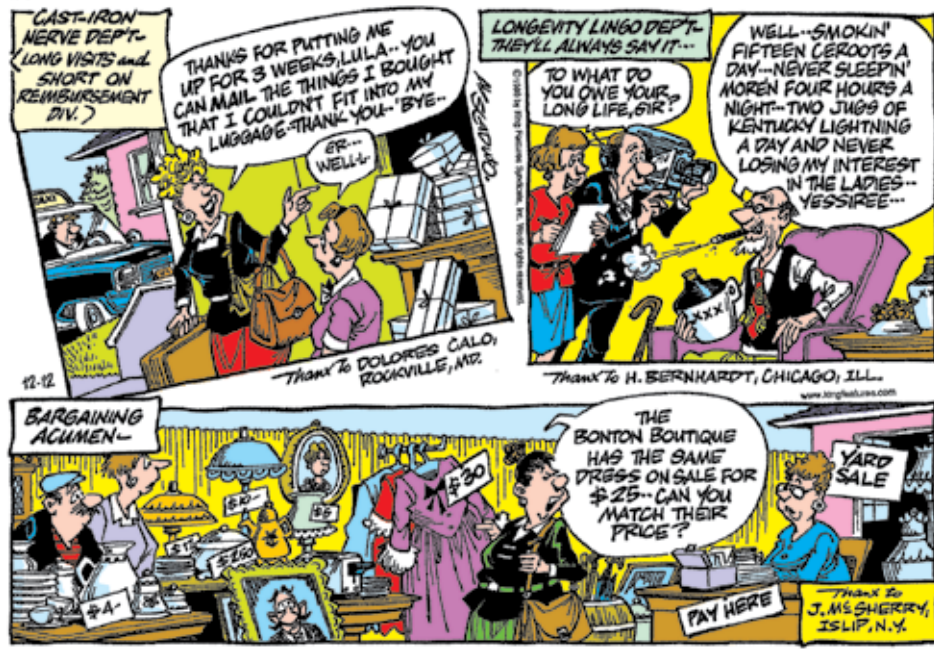
LAFF - A - DAY



The Spats



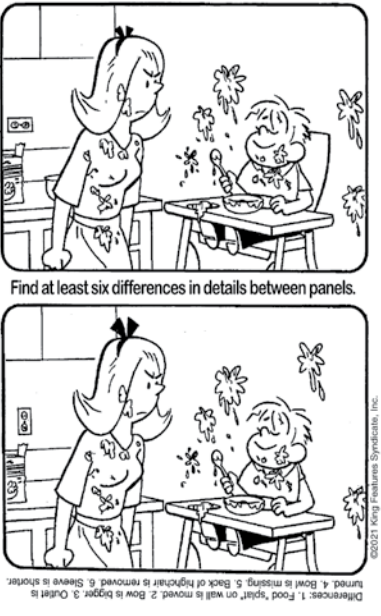
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Families Now Receiving October Child Tax Credit Payments

Dive into Aquatic Ecology, Climate Change, and Ecology Research

IRS Media Relations

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - The Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department announced that millions of American families are now receiving their advance Child Tax Credit (CTC) payment for the month of October.

This fourth batch of advance monthly payments, totaling about \$15 billion, is reaching about 36 million families today across the country. The majority of payments will be issued by direct deposit.

Under the American Rescue Plan, most eligible families received payments dated July 15, Aug. 13 and Sept. 15. Future payments are scheduled for Nov. 15 and Dec. 15. For these families, each payment is up to \$300 per month for each child under age 6 and up to \$250 per month for each child ages 6 through 17. The vast majority will be issued by direct deposit.

Here are more details on those payments:

- Families will see the direct deposit payments in their accounts starting Oct. 15. Like the prior payments, the vast majority of families will receive them by direct deposit.
- For those receiving payments by paper check, be sure to allow extra time, through the end of October, for delivery by mail. Those wishing to receive future payments by direct deposit can make this change using the Child Tax Credit Update Portal, available only on IRS.gov. To access the portal or to get a new step-by-step guide for using it, visit IRS.gov/childtaxcredit2021.
- Payments went to eligible families who filed a 2019 or 2020 income tax return. Returns processed by Oct. 4 are reflected in these payments. This includes people who don't typically file a return but during 2020 successfully registered for Economic Impact Payments using the IRS Non-Filers tool on IRS.gov or in 2021 successfully used the Non-filer Sign-up Tool for advance CTC, also available only on IRS.gov.
- Payments are automatic. Aside from filing a tax return, including a simplified return from the Non-filer Sign-up Tool, families don't have to do anything if they are eligible to receive monthly payments.
- Families who did not get a July, August or September payment and are getting their first monthly payment this month will still receive their total advance payment for the year. This means that the total payment

will be spread over three months, rather than six, making each monthly payment larger.

The IRS is currently sending letters to some Americans reminding them it is not too late for families who haven't filed a 2020 income tax return – including those who are not normally required to file because their incomes are too low – to sign up for advance CTC payments. Most low-income families can get these monthly payments. The IRS urges families who normally aren't required to file a tax return to visit IRS.gov for more information on how to file a return and receive their credit.

In September, the IRS successfully delivered a third monthly round of approximately 36 million Child Tax Credit payments, totaling more than \$15 billion. Given the new components of this program, the IRS continues to work hard to make improvements and deliver payments timely.

After the September payment was issued, the IRS resolved a technical issue, which the agency estimates caused fewer than 2% of CTC recipients not to receive their September payment on the scheduled payment date. Payments have since gone out to affected individuals.

The impacted group primarily included taxpayers who recently made an update to their bank account or address information using the IRS Child Tax Credit Update Portal. In particular, the issue affected payments to married taxpayers filing jointly where only one spouse made a bank account or address change, which usually results in payments being split into two (between the existing account or address and the new account or address).

In some of these cases, the split payment caused a delay in making payments, and further caused individuals to receive slightly more than the correct payment in September. To address this, the payment that each spouse receives in October, November and December will be reduced slightly to adjust for the overpayment. For each taxpayer receiving a payment, the typical overpayment was \$31.25 per child between 6 and 17 years old and \$37.50 per child under 6 years old. This will result in about a \$10 to \$13 reduction per child in the three remaining monthly payments.

Find out more at IRS.gov/childtax-credit2021. ★

Yolo Basin Foundation Press Release

YOLO REGION, CA (MPG) - Three UC Davis graduate students are using their skills to take a closer look at the Yolo Bypass and Putah Creek. Join them to hear about “Current Research Studies in the Yolo Bypass” at Yolo Basin Foundation’s Flyway Nights speaker series via Zoom on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 7 p.m. These three students received support from the Kulakow-Julian Graduate Student Fellowship and will discuss their scientific projects in the Bypass.

Mattea Berglund, Ecology graduate student at UC Davis, focuses on how human-driven change impacts aquatic ecosystems, with the goal of informing effective and equitable management strategies. Mattea uses genetics to learn how juvenile Chinook salmon microbiomes differ between floodplain, agricultural, and river habitats.

Clancy McConnell, 4th-year Ph.D. candidate in Geography at UC Davis, is studying the historical ecology and restoration of lower Putah Creek and the Yolo Basin. He examines how the pattern of riparian vegetation changed due to the creation of Monticello and Solano Dams. Clancy uses that information to model



Junna Wang, Ph.D, is Graduate Group in Ecology at UC Davis with a broad interest in aquatic ecosystems, e.g., rivers, lakes and estuaries. Photo provided by Yolo Basin

effects of large restoration projects on habitat connectivity along lower Putah Creek and the western edge of the Yolo Basin.

Junna Wang, Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate Group in Ecology at UC Davis, focuses on how land cover affects physical, chemical, and biological processes in streams, lakes, and wetlands. She studies how climate change interacts with hydrology to influence species interactions and community structure in freshwater ecosystems and specifically, what supports aquatic food webs in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area .

The Kulakow-Julian Graduate Student Fellowship supports graduate students who are conducting research in the areas of environmental education, public use, environmental sciences, or environmental or conservation policy related to the 16,800-acre Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area or the 60,000-acre Yolo Bypass.

Flyway Nights is a monthly speaker series highlighting environmental issues, natural history of Northern California, and current research topics in conservation. Yolo Basin Foundation hosts Flyway Nights the first Thursday of the month from November to April through virtual presentations.

A \$10 donation to support the Foundation’s wetland education programs is suggested. For the complete schedule and to register, visit www.yolobasin.org/flywaynights or call Yolo Basin Foundation at (530) 757-3780. ★

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