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Dixon Independent Voice

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**CITIZEN
SCIENCE ON
THE SHORES OF
CLEAR LAKE**



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Pin-a-Go-Go Visits Dixon May Fair



Attendees at the 2019 Pin-a-Go-Go at the Dixon May Fair. The event raises thousands of dollars for the Dixon Teen Center. Photo by Don Highley

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The crazy-fun pinball machine fair called Pin-a-Go-Go is happening this weekend, October 8-10. It is the longest running pinball show west of the Mississippi and is marking its 24th annual event held at the Dixon May Fair in Madden Hall. Proceeds benefit the Dixon Teen Center.

“Our number one goal has always been to make it fun and affordable for Mom, Dad, and the kids,” said founder of the event Don Highley. “I was raised an Air Force brat and I’m the oldest of five so there’s not

a lot of things that a military family can do.” With some pinball-crazed friends and his wife, Ellen, they started the show in 1997 and benefited the soccer league but that group went away and in 1999 they found the Dixon Teen Center and have given thousands of dollars to help support them since.

“I do this business 24/7 now,” he said, and all the people involved are volunteers. He’s had this hobby for 42 years and reports that now that he’s retired, he “gets to play the rest of his life.” On Friday, it opens at 2 pm and closes at 10 pm. On Saturday, hours are 10 am to 10 pm and Sunday

is 10 am to 4 pm.

It is only \$20 to get in the door on Friday and you can play free the whole weekend. All the machines are set on free play so you can spend the day having a great time with people of all ages, he said.

“If you can’t come until Saturday, you pay \$20 to get in and you can play all day and also on Sunday as well, but Sunday is clearly a ‘break down’ day and some people will be leaving early. If you can only come on Sunday, it’s \$10 but remember some machines will be taken home due to long trips back,” he said.

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Local Cautions about Covid and Underlying Conditions

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - When Leah Marlin, 49, was wheeled down the hospital corridor to go home, nurses and doctors stepped out of their stations to clap and cheer. She was a bit embarrassed and asked why they were cheering. He responded because she was alive. That’s when it really hit her how close she came to dying and the significance of her sleep disturbed night after night with dispatches of “Code Blue in this room or that room” that sent nurses and doctors running down the halls, she said.

She is home now but she isn’t alone. She shares her life with a long clear tube that pumps oxygen into her recovering lungs from an oxygen tank in her bedroom after having the Covid-19 Delta Variant and being hospitalized for nine days at Kaiser.

“We were carrying on just like everybody else. We wore masks when we went out but without thinking about it when we got gas or went out to eat. We weren’t really being careful,” said Leah who serves in the American Legion Post 208 Women’s Auxiliary and manages the Veterans Memorial Hall here in Dixon. “It was Aug. 4 when I started getting symptoms. I first noticed a little cough for a couple days. Then, my son came in and we couldn’t smell or taste anything.”

Leah and her family had gotten together with her Mom and Dad for dinner and four days later, everyone but her Dad got sick. At first, she reassured herself that Covid is just like a cold and she’d get through it but hadn’t factored in that she had underlying causes; scar tissue in her lungs from a virus when she was a child resulting in asthma.

“I was the most miserable I have ever been in my life, and it seemed like all I ever did was cough. I could not breathe. I couldn’t even talk. I just wanted to sleep,” she explained.

Her husband, Josh, also got sick as well as their 17-year-old son Andrew. The nurse on the phone heard them coughing and said to go to the ER but just to wait in the car. They were given instant-results tests and told to go home and quarantine. That was a Friday night.

“But then the coughing went full blown,” Leah said. The mucous changed to green and it was hard to cough plus she was aching and had a fever. Andrew got over it after spending three days in bed and just “snapped out of it” by day five.

“But, he’s young and healthy,” she said. Leah was

Continued on page 4

Pumpkin Patches Roll in Fall Fun

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Both pumpkin patches in Dixon offer plenty of fall fun for families this year although COVID-19 precautions are in place including hand washing stations and signs posted to encourage people to stay 6-feet apart. Face coverings are recommended but not required. The pumpkin patch season ends Oct. 31 so don’t delay!

Families have been rolling into Cool Patch Pumpkins and the World Famous Corn Maze for the 2021 season opening at 6150 Dixon Avenue West right at the Pitt School Road/Dixon Avenue exit off I-80. Those cool pumpkins wearing sunglasses are celebrating their 20th anniversary.

“We are looking forward to a fun filled season for our wonderful customers and our goal is for Cool Patch to become an escape from the stress of 2020 so families can enjoy each other’s company and the



UC Davis students Ting Gong and Yaxin Wong tucked their map away as they started to enter the World Record Corn Maze this past Sunday. Photo by Debra Dingman

beauty of the fall season,” posted farmer Matt Cooley who is co-owner in the business.

Jonathan Flores of Vacaville brought his family and his sister Lauren Lawson with her brand-new twin babies to enjoy the “nice and open space” of the pumpkin patch while

the children played on the hay pyramid. His daughter, Catalina (5) and nephew Marcus Lawson (2) were allowed to select a pumpkin each.

“Of course, they got the largest ones they could,” he said with a laugh. They snapped pictures in front of the pumpkins while Amaya

Lawson, the big sister, held her baby brothers.

Across the field, adults lined up outside the giant pumpkin bearing sunglasses waiting to enter the corn maze. Yaxin Wang who attended UC Davis last year, when she discovered the maze, brought her

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Are Vandals in Your Home?



All four corners of Pitt School and A Street are being prepped for stoplights with Evans Road and First Street next. Photos by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

I’ve written about the vandals who enjoyed stealing the large, metal letters that were welded onto the Homestead signs on Pitt School Road. They also broke the glass out of the hanging lanterns. But vandals also made their way into the Village Green subdivision and broke the pool sweep, threw the patio chairs into the pool, and smashed the lights off the walls in the restrooms.

After watching TikTok make the news the other night for the new fad of vandals completely obliterating school restrooms, I called Technology Director Marc Monachello of Dixon Unified School District who is also Rotary Club President and discovered that Dixon also experienced this.

There were two dozen soap dispensers pulled off the walls along with thrown food at Dixon High and John Knight Middle School. After the first incident, the school installed cameras and caught the vandals after the second time.

There were also numerous windows smashed out at the CA Jacobs School site which resulted in approximately \$6,500 in just broken glass, he said. An alert citizen heard the noise and called the police. It was about 8:30 at night. When police got there, there was no one. Did you hear anything? Did you see anything?

“I don’t want to border up that school,” he added. He’s asking for parent’s help. So am I. As a mother of three children and a



survivor of their adolescence, I know that we don’t know everything, and we need to stay on top of our children even when we think they are angels.

Some child somewhere has a particularly large collection of alphabet letters that might possibly be his or her initials that they are proudly displaying in their bedrooms and perhaps, telling you a different story of their origin. I did seek a certificate in teaching adolescents, but nothing taught me better than living through the emotions, the testing, and the peer pressure I witnessed in my own family.

And after watching a study of the effects of television on children in the days of Barney vs. Power Rangers, no one will convince me EVER that watching horror, violence, hoodlums, freaky behavior or stupid Tik Toks are helping our world... Please talk to your students about what they are watching and what they think about it. Then tell them what you think. Please.

In other news, you might have noticed the white trucks working at the corner of A and Pitt School and soon on A and Evans. They are

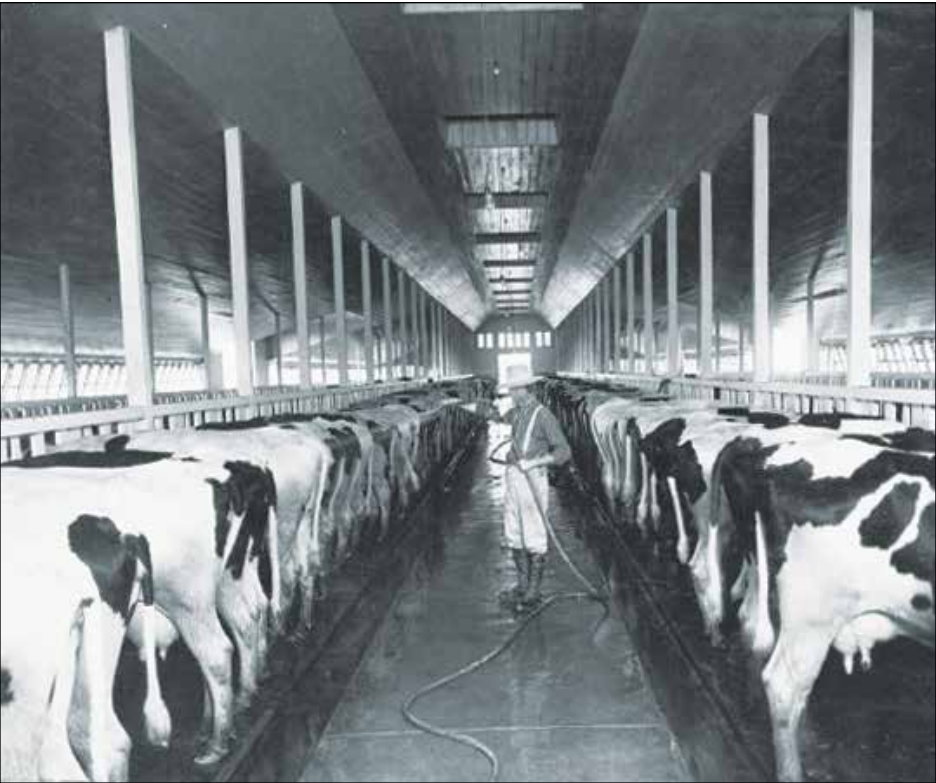
getting ready for stop lights. That will move us to nine if I counted right. With the one to be installed at Evans leading into the new Southwest Development, that will equal ten. When I moved here almost 30 years ago, there was only one (Adams and A Streets.) Count for me – am I right?

I spoke with the construction manager who said they’d be ready in just a few months but that it’s really up to PG&E because they have to get them power.

At the City Planning Commission Meeting, we learned that projects that were previously approved have begun on both the Gateway Shopping Center expansion and the Assisted Living Facility across from Gateway behind Wienerschnitzel. Popeye’s is remodeling and adding another set of gas station pumps soon.

I am finding that Planning Commission Meetings are actually more interesting than City Council as you learn where Dixon is growing. You can watch the meetings, too, without leaving your house through the Granicus service available through the city’s website. ★

Dixon Dairy Farms Topic for October DHS Meeting



Vintage image of a dairy in the Dixon area. Photo courtesy of Dixon Historical Society

By Loran Hoffmann

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Historical Society is meeting Sunday, October 17, from 2 to 4:30 pm at the fellowship hall of the Dixon United Methodist Church at 209 North Jefferson Street. We are pleased to be able to resume our quarterly membership meetings. We will be following COVID-19 guidelines in placing chairs an acceptable distance apart and masks are encouraged. Members are encouraged to attend, and guests are welcome.

Immigrants arriving from Germany, Portugal, Switzerland, and Ireland found Dixon’s temperate climate, with mild winters and sufficient rain, a prime environment for the production of high-quality alfalfa and running successful dairy farms. Because of the size and abundance of working dairy farms, in 1914, Sunset Magazine titled Dixon, “Dairy City.”

The local dairies provided milk and

dairy products to not only local residents but also shipped by train and truck, using ice to keep the products cold, to the growing populations in the Bay Area and Sacramento. Achilles Panizza, a dairyman himself from 1918-1973, listed more than 60 family dairy farms that operated in Dixon during his lifetime.

At the October meeting, members are pleased to welcome descendants of Dixon dairymen to share their family history and memories of life on a dairy farm. The program includes Peter Timm, DVM, Jeanie Vanetti, Stuart Rowe, Rick Sequeira and his sister, Carol, and the Hull Family.

Following our program, President Bill Schroeder will conduct a short business meeting which will include presenting the 2022-2024 slate of officers followed by a Dixon History Museum Update. All members are encouraged to participate.

Light prepackaged snacks along with bottles of water will be available. ★



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Pumpkin Patches Roll in Fall Fun



Jonathan Flores of Vacaville brought his family to enjoy the pumpkin patch recently. Here, his daughter, Catalina, 5 and nephew Marcus Lawson, 2, load up the pumpkins they selected to purchase. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1

friend Ting Gong, a current UC Davis student, to do the maze with her this year.

The 63 acres features the certified Guinness World Records as the planet’s biggest corn maze. But there’s plenty of things to discover other than the maze. Features of this fun place include a children’s Mini Hay Maze, Pedal Cars, and a Hay Ride for small fees but it’s free to come inside the pumpkin patch and hunt for the perfect pumpkin to buy and take home. They also have wonderfully weird-looking gourds and squash to discover. For lunch or dinner on Friday, Saturdays, and Sundays they offer Tri-Tip sandwiches or hotdogs and snacks like Kettle Corn, cold or hot drinks, and ice cream from the Coffee Cart. They’re open 9 am to 8 pm daily. To go into the

Corn Maze, tickets are \$18; Children under 5 are free. For more info, call (530) 746-8725.

Not far away is Silveyville’s Pumpkin Patch. This family wonderland is located at 6248 Silveyville Road in Dixon where hundreds of pumpkins and fall fun will delight all ages and in every corner of this 20-acre property.

Come sit on a bale of hay and watch all the activities around the barnyard, while you enjoy the comfortable music-filled ranch. Maybe you would like to enjoy a leisure stroll along the winding pathway through the animals where you can enjoy our goats, chickens, and sheep. But for the 42 years the ranch has been around, owners Ted and Jeri Seifert never stop adding delightful places and fun activities. This year

it is a Farm Puttin’ 9-hole Golf Course, a 50-foot slide, and a tennis ball sling shot.

Want to get all that extra energy out of those kiddos? Enjoy all the natural surroundings while you walk to the duck pond for feeding time and don’t forget a quarter for a handful of food.

“We strive every year to bring you new activities for every budget,” said Jeri Seifert who is one of several innovative family members that create the annual Pumpkin Patch. “Last year we added many new fun activities for the children. This year we are revamping a few of those and bringing in even more fun activities.”

The Duck Ride is one favorite that is only \$3 per person and takes folks back to where they can visit and feed the many ducks. There is also the very popular ATV ride where a half dozen or more ATVs are rigged together and pulled through the farm on various routes through trees and tunnels.

For those less adventurous, there is plenty to do through the Interactive Self-Guided Tour which includes hay climbing stacks, walking the animal path where you can visit ducks, goats, and other farm animals. There is also pumpkin painting when you purchase a pumpkin or a gourd.

There is free parking and no charge to enter. Note they are closed on Mondays but Tuesday through Friday, they are open noon to 6 pm and on the weekends, hours are 10 am to 6 pm. For more information, call (707) 678-1823. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Neighborhood Christian School Principal Ed Callison (center) honors former school principal Rick Vidmar and his wife Kathy for their nearly 40 years of service and sacrifice to the students, teachers, and staff. There was a special reception held last week at Dixon Community Church to honor the couple. Photo by David Vidmar

MPG Staff

Vidmars Recognized

Rick and Kathy Vidmar were honored at a special reception this past week for their 40 years of service at Neighborhood Christian School; Rick served as teacher then principal for many years and Kathy served as librarian before they retired this year. The school offers preschool through middle school that now shares the site of Dixon Community Church, 955 East A Street.

New Principal Ed Callison presented an etched glass award with the inscription of Luke 6:38-“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again..” A second recognition was also done by Dr. Cecil Swetland of the Association of Christian Schools. There were refreshments and tours of the facility afterwards. For more information on NCS, call (707) 678-9336.

DHS Football

The Dixon High Football Rams will be on their own home turf tonight, Oct. 8, as they play against the Wolves of Woodland High School. JV starts at 5 pm with Varsity at 7 pm. Team will play at Mira Loma High School but mark the calendars for easy attendance next week (Oct. 8) as it will be a home game with the Rams admission prices: Adults \$8; Seniors (55+) \$5; Student \$5; Barnyard Shirt \$2; and, children under age 5 are free.

City Clerk Voting

Another Voting Day will be happening soon that will involve Dixon citizens only—Dixon City Clerk which has only two candidates, Michael Ceremello and Kristin Janisch. ★

Voter information Guides were mailed out beginning September 23, so all registered voters should have received one by now. If you haven’t, you can contact the Solano County Office of Voter Registrar or go online to Solano County. Please note that October 18 is the last day one can register to vote unless you are a new citizen for the Nov. 2 Dixon City Clerk election. Phone is (707) 784-6675 or email elections@solanocounty.com/elections

All registered voters will be receiving vote-by-mail ballots and those will be sent no later than Oct. 4 and will be sent automatically to all active, registered voters in Dixon. Returning ballots via voting by mail deadline is Oct. 26.

There will be drop off voting available Oct. 4 through Nov. 2 at the Dixon City Hall with the City Clerk at 600 East A Street from 9 am to 5 pm. Drop boxes are inside the building. There will also be ‘curbside’ voting at the Dixon Senior Center, 201 South 5th Street Oct. 28, 29, and 30 and Nov. 1 and 2.

All curbside locations are open 8 am to 5 pm, including Saturday, plus 7 am to 8 pm on Election Day. There will be the same four polling places on election day as in the Sept. 14 California Gubernatorial Recall Election.

City Planning

The next City Planning Commission Meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 12, and will be inside the Council Chambers at 655 West A Street beginning at 7 pm. Hybrid meetings have not been worked out completely yet, but one can still watch the meeting live online through the City of Dixon’s website which uses the Granicus system.

Agendas for city meetings are usually posted on the city website, cityofdixon.com on Thursdays before the meetings. You can also view minutes of previous meetings on that site. ★

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Gamer Dreams



Volunteers set up the 60 or so pinball machines at the May Fair event this weekend, Oct. 8-10, but masks and vaccines will be required of all attendees. Photo by Don Highley

Continued from page 1

There will also be a silent auction where the item to bid on is a Paragon, Bally manufactured wide-body solid state pinball machine, Don said. The value is at least \$2,000 and it will go to the top bidder.

They do have strict vaccine and mask requirements.

“We at PAGG are concerned about the health of our attendees. If you do not want to be vaccinated or wear a mask, that is fine, but please do not attend the show,” they posted on social media.

All attendees over 12 years old are required to show proof of full COVID vaccination at least 14 days prior to Oct. 8 (that means second shot or J&J single shot on Sept 24 or earlier.) For children 12 and under, they require a negative test result from a Covid PCR test taken after Oct. 5. They will consider either your filled out

vaccination card or a photo of it on your phone, along with photo ID, to be “proof.”

All attendees are required to wear a mask inside the building at all times, and there are no exceptions. Acceptable masks are surgical, cloth, or (K) N95. Gaiters, bandanas, face shields or masks with an exhalation valve are not acceptable.

“If you are not wearing a mask, you will receive one warning, and after that we will cut off your wrist band and you will be asked to leave, with no refund,” they also posted. The good news is that they will have the traditional food tents outside and there is no mask requirement when one is outside.

For more information, see their Facebook page Pinagogo or call Don Highley at (707) 718-2131. The Dixon May Fair is located at 655 South First Street (Highway 113) and their number is (707) 678-5529. ★

Parks & Rec Commission Seeks Student Representative and Alternate

City of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - 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 in the Dixon City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month. City residency is required.

Interested students may obtain an application by contacting Stephanie Marquez at the Dixon High School. The deadline for filing applications is 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 15, 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. ★

Family Services Readies for the Holidays



Director Cookie Powell is surrounded by (front) Case Manager Crystal Gutierrez, Receptionist Fatima Alvarez, (Middle) Intern Ashley Barber, Case Manager Briana Alvarez, and (back) Pantry Manager Jackie Powell-Hogg and Staff Support Ivan Sandoval. They are now taking sign-ups for holiday services. Photo by Crystal Gutierrez

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Family Services is now offering sign-up dates for their holiday food program from Tuesday, Nov. 30 through Wednesday, Dec. 8. Those interested should call DFS to schedule an application appointment with a DFS case manager. Application assessments will be done on an appointment basis and can take from 20-30 minutes. They ask you to wear a mask and if possible, do not bring children with you to the assessment.

Due to Covid-19 safety concerns, the organization is not accepting walk-in clients, but people can call to make an appointment or to ask any questions. The program is targeted at Dixon families who have children ages 18 and under living in the household. When you call for

an appointment, staff will explain any documentation that one will need to bring to the appointment.

Distribution will take place on Dec. 15 and 16. All food for the program comes from donations by churches, businesses, or individual community members; from local food drives and purchases at the Contra Costa Solano Food Bank with donation checks from people who want to help in stocking the DFS Food Pantry shelves for the holidays.

In November and December, large freezers are plugged in to accept turkeys, hams and other meats that are donated by individuals, businesses, churches, and other groups. Some local businesses have established some very interesting and fun ways for their patrons to participate in the giving spirit, such as the Dixon

Buckhorn and their Annual Turkey Bowl.

Some local large companies, such as Altec, Inc., give turkeys to their employees and also provide them the option of donating their turkey to DFS for our Holiday Food Program. All turkeys, hams and other large roasts are very much appreciated by the families we serve.

“We believe it takes community cooperation by all entities to provide the best service opportunities for those we all strive to serve,” said DFS Director Cookie Powell. “This holiday season is especially important to help families struggling in light of the Covid-19 challenges so many are experiencing.”

Call (707) 678-0442 or email info@dixonfamilyservices.org to find out more about the Dixon Family Services Holiday Food Program. ★

Museum Offers More about Fire Department History

By Loran Hoffman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - After Saturday’s 150-year Anniversary celebration at the Dixon Fire Department, you might want to head down to the museum to see Dixon’s first fire alarm—a large cast iron bell re-purposed from a ship.

Dixon’s first fire bell has an interesting history. It was cast by an iron foundry in England, in 1868, for the three-masted square rigged steel hull “China Clipper” ACULEO, that shipwrecked four years later off the shores of San Mateo while transporting

sheet iron, steel wire, coal, and Christmas gifts to the San Francisco area.

A businessman, T.J.L. Smiley, purchased the wreckage and transported what he had salvaged to Benicia. A group of volunteer firemen from Dixon looking for equipment that could be used or adapted for fighting fires visited Smiley’s Salvage Yard in Benicia, in 1876, and purchased the bell from the ACULEO.

The bell was rung when there was a fire in the area. Hearing the bell, volunteers would immediately stop what they were doing and go directly to the fire station located

on “B” street to hook the team of white horses to the pump wagon, gather the canvas hoses and buckets, along with tools to fight the fire to do the best they could to save homes, businesses, and barns.

Dixon’s first fire bell is on display at the Dixon History Museum, located at 125 West A Street, behind Bud’s Pub & Grill in downtown. Come by and see this unique bell and learn more about its history. The museum is open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 am – 2 pm. Admission is FREE. Bring the children and they will enjoy it, too. ★

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Local Cautions about Covid and Underlying Conditions

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not as fortunate. When her husband said it was time to go back to the hospital on Sunday, it was because he was scared for her. He could see that his wife “was not there.”

“I was not responding. He said my eyes were rolling and I was out of it,” she said. She remembers nothing about that or getting to the hospital, but she does remember being put in a wheelchair and the staff not letting Josh stay. She sat in a corner of the ER for five hours without water—although that tasted like acid anyway—before she called her husband and insisted she be taken home. He said if she got worse, they’d call an ambulance but the nurses warned him that she’d still lose her place in line; the floors were filled and there wasn’t enough room.

“I remember being so mad at him because he said I had to stay. It was 11 hours before I got to lay down and they let me have ice chips but anything that didn’t have a flavor tasted like a chemical and had a metal taste,” Over the next several days doctors and nurses came in and asked questions and it came to Leah that not even the doctors really know what this is, she said.

“They are learning as they go.” She didn’t want to eat or drink and she lost 32 pounds. But, her IV fed antibiotics, D3 and zinc into her continuously. It wasn’t until four days later that she even wanted to be awake, she said. “I wanted all the wires off me but they said my oxygen was still too low and



Leah Marlin and her father, Jack Brown enjoyed a family dinner together and four days later all had Covid except Brown who was vaccinated. Photo by Debra Dingman

they had me doing breathing exercises.”

“They were very careful to put on all the protective gear and changed my bedding every day,” she said. “When I had gone three days with oxygen getting better, they let me go home but only after they delivered oxygen tanks to my house.”

That’s when they wheeled her down that long hallway and everyone was clapping and congratulating her and telling her not to come back. She questioned what the fuss was all about.

“You get to go home but there’s some who we wheel out that are not alive,” said the nurse.

“I wouldn’t want anybody to go through what I went through,” Leah mused quietly. And, now that she was home,

Josh was “really nervous.”

“He laid awake and listened to my breathing. I didn’t care. I just wanted to sleep. But, he lost a lot of sleep,” she said.

“It takes a lot out of me to take a simple shower, and I had to take a nap after sweeping the floor,” she said. “It’s just crazy and I get frustrated real easy because I want to do things like I used to do daily. A million things...but I’m hooked to a 50-foot tube that I’m dragging around the house.”

“Then I think about all that I went through and how sick I really was and it makes me upset because people don’t realize how serious this is,” she emphasized knowing if you have an underlying condition, for example. “The one thing I wish I was more proactive in knowing about Covid and that I blew it off as political crap. I would be more careful. I would have washed my hands more, used sanitizer more and wore a mask more.”

When their family had dinner together, only her Dad was vaccinated.

“He could have been the carrier but he was the only one who didn’t get sick,” she said. People who have been vaccinated can still be a carrier and pass it on so it behooves all to exercise caution and even if you have antibodies, her doctor said she still needs the vaccine.

“As much as we have been against the vaccine, now it’s ‘nope!’ As soon as I am able to get it, I will get the vaccine. It’s not an option. People can think they are good or bad and I completely understand, but we are not going to do this again.” ★



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By Amy Shane

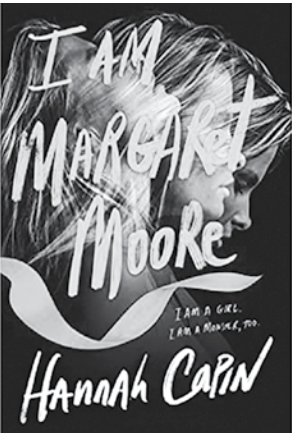
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Young Adult reads to get into the October Season



The Witch Haven
by *Sasha Peyton Smith*
Frances Hollowell feels as if luck has abandoned her at every turn. First, it’s the mysterious death of her brother; then, she finds herself at the cusp of a dark situation when her boss forces himself upon her. Then in the very next moment, he collapses in a pool of his own blood with a pair of sewing scissors plunged in his neck. The thing is, Frances wasn’t the one who put them there. Strangely enough, this is the very moment Frances’ life takes a turn, opening the door to a new life she never expected. What is disguised as a Sanitarium, Frances quickly learns, is an academy for witches, and Frances’s life will never be the same. Now, thrown amid a struggle for magical power, Frances must quickly decipher her newfound magic, the sacred bonds of sisterhood, a budding romance, and the answers behind her

brother’s death in order to decide what truly matters most.
Sasha Peyton Smith whisks readers right into the middle of 1911 while delivering a story of magic, witches, sacrifice, and female power. With a cast of strong female characters and wonderful magic, *The Witch Haven* highlights the lengths one will go for answers while weighing the sacrifices one must make along the way.



I Am Margaret Moore
by *Hannah Capin*
It’s the girls of deck five’s last summer at Marshall Navel school. The last year they get to emerge from their cocoon of ordinary and become one with the lake, the water, and their nautical traditions. But this year, there is a shroud of secrecy surrounding the death of one boy and the secrets Margaret keeps. As Margaret’s friends start to vanish, Margaret must unravel the tangled web

of secrets she is keeping about the truth and the boy she loved.
Get pulled in to the story of Margaret Moore, as the secrets and lies wash over you. Hannah Capin delivers a story that interweaves timelines in a prose-like manner that will keep readers guessing the truth until the very end.
The Splendor
by *Breeana Shields*
Enter the Splendor where all your dreams come true! Juliette and Clare dreamed about staying at the Splendor, a hotel where your fantasies become a reality, but when Clare returns different, Juliette knows she needs to investigate. Then Juliette meets Henri, the illusionist in charge of making her fantasy come true and the one who can unlock the truth. But the truth could prove too much to bear and the cost more valuable than anyone realizes.
A lush, fantastic read, *The Splendor* will tempt its reader with the promise of magic, only to become a warning in the end. Told in dual timelines, *The Splendor* will keep readers intrigued, invested, and entertained, opening their eyes to a world of fantasy and illusion and the price one must pay for a perfect moment, even if it is just an illusion. ★

Janisch: Clerk Seeking Community Involvement



Kristin Janisch
By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The timing of Kristin Janisch onto the Dixon political scene is more coincidental than strategic than some government watchdogs may realize.
Kristin was appointed by Mayor Steve Bird to fill the temporary opening of the Elected City Clerk last spring. She is from Oklahoma where she raised her children and was very involved in their activities and church. Working in accounting and human resources, the company that employed her began to downsize and she knew she'd be leaving.
With both parents who’ve lived in Dixon several years now needing surgery, Kristin’s brother, who works for Apple in Scotts Valley near San Jose suggested his sister move to Dixon to help care for their parents.
“We knew I could help with them so I moved out here just a few weeks

before the Covid shutdown thinking I’d be available for mom and dad at least for a year,” she said. “But I didn’t want to sit around and stare at four walls the whole time.” Covid made it harder with no community events, no gatherings, and no meetings. “Life came to a grinding halt,” she added.
Just needing to get out, the self-proclaimed “do-it-yourselfer” asked for a part-time job at the Ace Hardware because she’d been there and “found it to be such a friendly place” and a few months later saw the application for the City Clerk. She knew she’d have time for both jobs and still have time for family. Her mom, Donna Janisch, who is a busy volunteer through Rotary Club in the community, encouraged her daughter to apply. Mayor Steve Bird appointed Kristin last March to fill the spot of Elected City Clerk until the election Nov. 2.
“I felt very fortunate to receive that,” she said. “For me, it was about getting something important for the citizens off to a good start. I’d also meet staff and meet people in the community.” She had the experience needed through her career in accounting and Human Resources and through her minimal involvement

thus far, she was falling for Dixon and it’s people.
“It’s not a policy position and I find it incredibly interesting. It’s a wonderful way to get to know Dixon and the staff has been great,” she added. After the position officially opened, Kristin watched with anticipation to see who would apply... but no one was putting in for it.
“I’ve invested in helping get the position off on the right foot and kept calling the city up to the Thursday before the deadline to see who applied. I really struggled not seeing anyone. I just didn’t think it should be that way. Someone should care enough [to be there]. People should have a choice,” she said recalling her frustration. “A wonderful group of friends rallied that I should try,” she added.
So she went down and pulled the papers unbeknownst to her that Mike Ceremello, a long-time community activist, was doing the same thing. Now, mail-in ballots have started arriving into people’s homes and citizens have a choice.
No matter if Janisch or Ceremello wins, the position is only filled for one year. In Nov. 2022, the position gets on the regular 4-year election cycle and citizens will have to vote again. ★




The Age of Progressive Misinformation
How does a stupid and ridiculous lie come to be embraced and promulgated by top officials of the United States government?
Well, as it turns out, it's easy.
You start with an easily misinterpreted news photo that seemingly confirms the assumptions of progressive opponents of immigration enforcement that the agents policing our Southern border are cruel racists.
Then, you work up a Twitter mob saying that the photo has captured a tableau of hideous abuse.
You add open-borders advocacy organizations and civil rights groups denouncing the supposed misconduct in the harshest possible terms.
You throw on top a vice president and White House press secretary who have no regard for the truth and are happy to push any narrative convenient to them.
Finally, as the piece de resistance, you deploy a president of the United States who is too cynical or doddering to bother with the facts and is usually following the crowd rather than leading it and get him to make a statement endorsing the ludicrous fictions about the misleading photo.
This was the path to President Joe Biden condemning border patrol agents on horseback for having “strapped” Haiti migrants at Del Rio, Texas,

and declaring that they “will pay” for their “horrible” and “outrageous” behavior.
Never mind that there was no strapping, that the border agents did nothing wrong besides trying to enforce a border crossing while working for an administration fundamentally uninterested in the task, and that there is an ongoing investigation of the agents – itself a travesty –that Biden was pre-judging.
Sawyer Hackett, an apparatchik running Julian Castro's PAC, was an early proponent of the whipping lie on Twitter. He tweeted the picture showing a border agent on horseback grabbing at the shirt of a migrant – his reins flying in the air – and said agents were “rounding up Haitian refugees with whips,” and this represented “unfathomable cruelty.”
It was, to the contrary, entirely fathomable and not the least bit cruel. The agents were, in a common, long-standing practice, using horses because of the difficulty of the terrain and attempting to block migrants from entering the country illegally. They didn’t have whips and were twirling reins to control their horses. Within hours of the photo creating a stir, these facts were readily ascertainable.
Even Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas defended the agents before getting the memo from his superiors that they had become hated figures to be used as punching bags.
Days later, media stories still made reference to the nonexistent whips supposedly wielded by the agents.
Advocacy groups simply willed the whip story

to be true, and for a swath of America – basically anyone foolish enough to take what Harris and Biden say at face value – they have succeeded.
Despite the haze of misinformation, the fact-checkers didn’t descend en masse. No Twitter accounts were suspended. All the people who pride themselves on purportedly defending American democracy from falsehoods and propaganda spreading on social media (and there’s unquestionably a lot of it) stood aside or joined the pile-on.
Press outfits went out their way to label falsehoods promulgated by President Trump as such, indeed gave every indication that they relished doing it.
In contrast, The New York Times story about Biden castigating the agents didn’t suggest that he might be wrong. In fact, the original version of the article reinforced his smear by referring to “the images of agents on horseback chasing, and in some cases using the reins of their horses to strike at running migrants.” The paper had to run a correction.
It’s long been the case on college campuses that woke narratives have the power to trample facts and fairness. This phenomenon has escaped the confines of academe and now plays out at the highest echelons of American political power. Neither hacks on Twitter nor the president of the United States cared what really happened at Del Rio, not when the lie was more seductive and useful.
Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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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.



Friday, September 24, 2021
0648 - Officers conducted a traffic stop at Eastbound I-80 at Meridian Road. The driver Carra Duncan (32) out of Oakland was contacted. Duncan was found to have an outstanding misdemeanor warrant out of San Francisco for 10851 CVC. Duncan was issued a citation and released from the scene.
1028 - Death investigation in the 800 block of North Washington Street.
1136 - Embezzlement report in the 800 block of North Adams Street.
Saturday, September 25, 2021
0925 - Officers conducted a pedestrian stop in the 400 block of North Adams Street. Edward Stroughter (66) out of Vallejo was contacted. Stroughter was found to be out of compliance with his 290 PC registration. Stroughter was placed under arrest and booked into the Solano County Jail.
1715 - Hit and run report that occurred in the 100 block of North First Street.
0110 - A domestic violence and criminal threats arrest report was taken in the 600 block of McKenzie Dr. Officers contacted (S) Maria Silva (33) of Dixon. Silva was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.
0437 - A D.U.I arrest report was taken in the 2800 block of West A. St. Officers contacted (S) Kenneth Ayala (25) of Sacramento. Ayala was arrested and cited and released to a sober adult.
Sunday, September 26, 2021
1819 - Report of domestic violence in the 800 block of North Adams Street resulted in the arrest of Alicia Sanchez (26) of Dixon for misdemeanor domestic violence. She was taken to county jail.
2030 - Battery reported in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive. Victim and suspect got into an altercation over neither party watching where they were walking or driving in the parking lot. Suspect left the area prior to our arrival.
2322 - Vandalism reported in the 100 block of North 1st Street. Victim reported a subject yelling at cars in the street. While the victim drove by, the suspect jumped on the windshield causing it to break. The suspect then drunkenly fled the area where he was stopped in the 200 block of West A Street. Chrisitan Hunter (23) of Dixon was arrested for vandalism and being drunk in public. He was taken to county jail.
0001 - Hit and Run discovered in the 1000 block of North 1st Street. A gray Ford Fiesta was located parked on the sidewalk with heavy front end damage and 3 of 4 tires either flat or broken off. A sprinkler main in the median of North 1st Street and North Adams Street was also broken off during the collision. No occupants were located near or in the vehicle
Sunday, September 26, 2021
1058 - A theft report was taken from the 200 block of Bowden Lane.
1338 - A homeless person was arrested for having an arrest warrant from the 1500 block of N. Lincoln.
1420 - A missing juvenile was found near the intersection Stafford Avenue and Kent Lane. The juvenile was returned home
Monday, September 27, 2021
1055 - A juvenile that was reported missing was located attending class at Dixon High School.
Wednesday, September 29, 2021
1807 - A traffic collision report was taken in the 1300 block of North Lincoln St.
2024 - A theft report was taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr.
0837 - Recovered license plate in the 1200 block of Bello Drive.
1010 - Information report in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.
1336 - Theft report in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue
1606 - Stolen plates report in the 400 block of Morgan Way.

Home and Community-based Care Supports Us All

Commentary
by Angela F. Williams

Every day, millions of workers enter people’s homes to provide care to those with disabilities and the elderly. These “direct-care” workers assist individuals with bathing and dressing, cooking and eating, taking medication, and getting exercise. For the people they help, they are lifelines to health, independent living, and economic stability.

Yet our system for providing this care is in desperate need of repair. Medicaid serves approximately 4.8 million Americans with home- and community-based services, but there are still nearly 850,000 people on waiting lists. They often wait years for crucial support.

At the same time, direct-care workers have been underpaid for decades, causing instability in their own lives. This situation was untenable even before pandemic-induced social distancing kept these workers from fulfilling their jobs.

President Biden proposed a fix for the industry in his infrastructure plan, which would have added \$400 billion in federal spending for Medicaid’s home and community-based services program. This would have provided a sorely needed boost to the caregiving economy.

Yet the president and a group of bipartisan senators dropped this aid from the “compromise” they reached and passed on infrastructure. That’s deeply disappointing. Lawmakers must do everything they can to work this aid back in as a separate bill. Funding home- and community-based care for the most vulnerable Americans



The demand for home- and community-based care will only grow in the years ahead, given that one in four Americans today are living with a disability, and the average age of the U.S. population continues to rise. MPG file photo

shouldn’t be a partisan issue.

The demand for home- and community-based care will only grow in the years ahead, given that one in four Americans today are living with a disability, and the average age of the U.S. population continues to rise. According to Harvard University’s Joint Center for Housing Studies, the U.S. population aged 74 and over is expected to increase by 48% in the next decade. And older Americans are increasingly cost-burdened. Among homeowners over age 79,

just 3% owed mortgage debt in 1989, compared to 27% by 2019.

It all adds up to a situation where more people need services but have fewer options.

The voting public recognizes this. An April poll from Morning Consult and Politico found that 76 percent of Americans support new funding to improve caregiving for people with disabilities and the elderly. And yet, some of our political leaders don’t seem to see the need.

Perhaps they don’t understand that care workers enable people to continue living in their own homes – or how important this is. Aid recipients prefer to be cared for in their own homes and communities, and the law obliges public agencies to do so whenever possible.

Care workers themselves also need help. Though entrusted with their clients’ wellbeing, direct-care workers make \$11 an hour on average. Approximately 15% live in poverty. It’s no wonder that there is 50%

turnover every year among direct-care workers.

The low wages also exacerbate gender and racial inequality, as women of color dominate the ranks of direct-care workers. And when we fail to support direct care, the burden of looking after family members typically falls to women, taking them out of the workforce.

Home- and community-based care makes it possible for millions of families to thrive. But without new expenditures, both

the workers who provide these services, and the individuals and families who rely on them, will not. Our lawmakers need to make this investment now, assuring a sustainable system of services and support for our most vulnerable citizens, their families, and the professionals who care for them.

Angela F. Williams is the president and CEO of Easterseals. This piece originally ran in the International Business Times. ★

California Experiments with Social Democracy



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

California, as everyone should know by now, has the nation’s highest rate of poverty as determined by the Census Bureau when the cost-of-living is included in the calculation.

While family incomes in California are not particularly low vis-à-vis those in other states, our extremely high living costs, especially for housing, mean those incomes do not stretch as far as they would elsewhere.

The Public Policy Institute of California takes the issue a bit further by calculating how many Californians are living in near-poverty, using methodology similar to that of the Census Bureau.

Altogether, more than a third of the state’s nearly 40 million residents experience severe economic distress. They are, for the most part, workers in low-pay jobs and their families, and their plight has been exacerbated by the nearly two-year-long COVID-19 pandemic, which has hit them the hardest both medically and economically.

Backed by unions, Gov. Gavin Newsom and his fellow Democrats have vowed to reduce the state’s high levels of poverty and income disparity and this year generated a bushel basket of legislation they contend will narrow the gaps.

California is, in effect, testing long-held beliefs of those on the political left that America should move closer to the European model of “social democracy” by expanding supportive public services and empowering workers in their dealings with employers.

The former include increasing eligibility for Medi-Cal, the state’s health care system for the poor which already covers more than a third of California’s residents, expanding early childhood education to both improve learning outcomes and free more parents to work, and increasing spending on housing for low- and moderate-income families.

The latter is a variety of bills that impose new workplace and compensation standards on industries that employ large numbers of low-paid workers, most notably garment production, agriculture and the ever-increasing distribution centers operated by Amazon and other big corporations.

“We cannot allow corporations to put profit over people,” Newsom said as he signed legislation to ease production quotas in Amazon’s massive “fulfillment centers.”

“The hardworking warehouse employees who have helped sustain us during these unprecedented times should not have to risk injury or face punishment as a result of exploitative quotas that violate basic health and safety,” Newsom added.

“California is holding corporations accountable and recognizing the dignity and humanity of our workers, who have helped build the fifth-largest economy in the world,” Newsom said later

as he signed a bill banning piecework pay in the Los Angeles-centered garment industry.

Newsom also signed bills to expand protections for household domestic workers, raise minimum pay for disabled workers, increase criminal penalties for “wage theft” by employers, and provide farm workers with protective gear for wildfire smoke.

It has not been, however, a 100% sweep for union-backed legislation. Newsom vetoed a bill to allow mail ballots in elections for union organization of farm workers and another that would have expanded paid family leave.

Expanding government services will, of course, cost the state billions of dollars, which it can afford now as income taxes pour into its treasury, but whether it can be sustained is questionable. California is inordinately dependent on high-income taxpayers, which means its revenues plummet during economic downturns.

New benefits for workers, meanwhile, will increase employers’ costs, which could drive some to shift operations and jobs to lower-cost locales. The garment industry is particularly competitive, which is why so much of it has already gone overseas.

Higher public and private costs are the flip side of California’s experiment in social democracy. Ultimately, Newsom and the Legislature cannot repeal the laws of economics.

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



USDA ‘Equity Commission’ to Address Disparities in Agriculture

The U.S. Department of Agriculture will create an “Equity Commission.” Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said the new panel will work to dismantle “barriers historically underserved communities have faced in accessing USDA programs and services.” The USDA is soliciting nominations for membership on the commission – which is part of a Biden administration goal to address “discrimination and disparities in the agricultural sector.”

Study: Researchers get Seeds to Sprout in Drought Conditions

University of California Riverside researchers are working to minimize effects of a plant hormone that reacts to drought stress. As plants perceive hot, dry conditions, they emit abscisic acid, a hormone that helps them retain water. That can stop plants from germinating, leading to lower crop yields. But in a recent study, UC researchers say a new chemical modulator can disrupt that process so plants can sprout seeds, even in drought. ★




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Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

3	2	8	9	5	7	6	4	1
7	4	6	3	8	1	5	9	2
5	9	1	6	4	2	7	3	8
6	3	9	1	2	8	4	7	5
1	5	4	7	6	9	8	2	3
8	7	2	4	3	5	9	1	6
4	6	5	2	7	3	1	8	9
2	1	7	8	9	6	3	5	4
9	8	3	5	1	4	2	6	7

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Shenanigan

6. "Losing My Religion" band

9. Kind of learning

13. Capital of Egypt

14. Nest egg acronym

15. Cupid's target

16. Bar, legally

17. Indian restaurant staple

18. Kind of committee, two words

19. "Hedge maze, dull boy, redrum, with The

21. "Pretend girlfriend, surgery, body parts

23. Monkey ____, monkey do

24. Post-it message

25. It makes a guitar louder

28. Royal Indian

30. Perfumes

35. Glorify

37. Freeway exit

39. Like today's cell phones?

40. Keen on

41. Like a confection

43. At any time

44. One of the large keys on the right

46. Greek portico

47. Common workday start

48. Former President of Egypt

50. Ancient eternal life symbol

52. "Bathtub, hacksaws, Jigsaw

53. Euphemism for "darn"

55. "Blind violinist, transplant surgery, sees ghosts, with The

57. "Hotel, mother, shower

60. "Count, bite, cross

64. Hot winter drink

65. Aye's opposite

67. Financial benefactor

68. Seize a throne

69. Headquartered in Langley

70. Exclude or omit

71. Done on a Smith Corona

72. Old age, archaic

73. 6666...

DOWN

1. Single pip cards

2. Crosby, Stills, ____ & Young

3. South American monkey

4. Actor Jeremy

5. Xerox machine

6. "Videotape, stone well, seven days, with The

7. Paleozoic one

8. Tropical smoothie flavor

9. Make over

10. Hawaiian island

11. Ragtime turkey dance

12. And so on, abbr.

15. Bias crime perpetrators

20. Closes in on

22. Pilot's announcement, acr.

24. ID badge, two words

25. "Sigourney Weaver, outer space

26. Old Testament miracle food

27. Hits while on the green

29. "Beachgoers, police chief, need for bigger boat

31. "Boy, shadows in photographs, three sixes, with The

32. "Transylvania" daughter

33. Entertainment complex

34. Scatter

36. "Nobody ____ It Better"

38. Low-ranking worker

42. One who accepts the offer

45. Porter's head gear

49. U Rah ____!

51. Seven daughters of Atlas

54. Present

56. Food-borne bacteria

57. One in a pocketful, according to Mother Goose

58. Fish a.k.a. porgy

59. Bygone era

60. Two of a kind

61. Type of operating system

62. Prospector's mother?

63. God of war, son of Zeus

64. Director's cry

66. Be ill

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
19				20			21	22					
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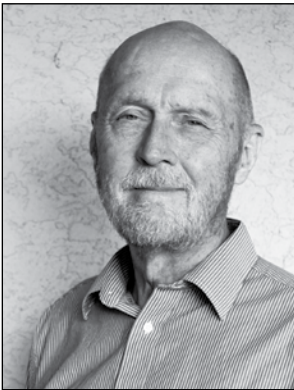
1-855-208-9533

SUDOKU

3	8			7	6			
			3	8	1			
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	3	5			2		7	

Solutions on Page 7

Covid and Beyond



Commentary
by bil paul

I had a nasty virus so naturally I wondered, “What if I have covid?” We had an extra home covid test around that was a little complicated but my wife quickly mastered it and 15 minutes later we learned I was covid-free.

Public health figures again show a gradual decline in Solano County’s covid cases. The only statistic that remains high is the number of covid deaths last week: seven. There were 26 new reported cases in Dixon. The actual number is higher, because many cases go unreported when people are either symptom-free or have a mild version of the disease.

In Dixon’s schools, there were only two newly reported covid cases among students during the week of September 20-24.

I wanted to compare the rate of covid cases in our county compared to other counties near Dixon. Yolo County had a better rate, Sacramento County’s was the same, and San Joaquin County was worse. A month ago, some hospitals down there in the Stockton area

had run out of ICU space. Pfizer vaccine shots for kids and teens older than 12 are available now, and probably won’t be available for those aged five through 11 until next month. The vaccine doses for kids and children are considerably smaller than adult doses and won’t give the kids the disease. Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines have been slower to get approval for those age ranges.

Federal and state governments tried the “encouragement” method (plus providing free shots) to get Americans to get the covid vaccinations. President Biden announced the modest goal of having at least one shot in 70 percent of citizens’ arms by the end of July. That goal wasn’t achieved, and by early September only 75 percent had had one shot. So, it was felt stronger inducements were needed, and federal and military personnel were told to get shots or face dismissal.

Companies with 100 or more employees were told to have all of their employees vaccinated or frequently tested. Many hospitals are firing or laying off employees who refuse the shots, and many colleges are requiring incoming students to be vaccinated. As you can imagine, this is causing pushback and some health workers are leaving their jobs. Personally, I feel that if we’re going to conquer covid, we’ve got to require shots.

The latest is that California is going to require students in all

California public and private schools to be vaccinated following final approval of the various vaccines for their age groups (just as we currently require they be vaccinated for measles). Currently, California has some of the best covid statistics in the U.S., probably due to aggressive approaches to containing the virus.

Fact: Hard to believe, but there have been more covid deaths in the U.S. than all of the American military deaths in the Vietnam and Korean wars and the two world wars combined. The current hot spots for covid deaths in the U.S. are mostly in the southern states, plus Missouri.

Moving on to the other looming threat, climate change, I wanted to see if our current high temperatures are higher than the temperatures from 2009 and 2010. I kept weather records beginning in those years. Current highs (in the shade) in Dixon have been averaging around 80 to 85 degrees. Back 10 years ago, the average temps were about the same. I had assumed they’d be lower.

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



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

The summer television press tour has come to an end and there are plenty of options on cable networks for new shows this fall. Some programs will be very topical.

Take, for instance, the post-apocalyptic saga spanning multiple timelines of “Station Eleven” on HBO Max. This limited drama series tells the stories of survivors of a devastating flu as they attempt to rebuild and reimagine the world anew.

Based on the bestseller by Emily St. John Mandel, “Station Eleven” feels like a prescient cautionary tale of COVID-19, even though the book was published in 2014 and the first episodes were shot in early 2020 just before the pandemic hit.

During the press tour, executive producer Jessica Rhoades may have been wishful in saying this show “speaks to what, hopefully, the audience is excited to watch and see next.” That may true if joy is to be experienced coming out on the other side for the survivors.

Since the passing of Hugh Hefner and lifestyle changes in the sexual revolution, the Playboy empire is not what it used to be. Now along comes the A&E network with the ten-part series “Secrets of Playboy.”

Yes, it sounds like an expose, and during the press tour a network executive noted that the Playboy brand was “a beacon of progress for some, but also a gateway to a much darker world,” and a “toxic environment that became an unchecked playground for nefarious conduct.”

Interesting stories are certain to be heard from former playmates. Sondra Theodore was only 19 when she became Hefner’s girlfriend, then about three decades his junior. During the time of her relationship with the publisher, Sondra became Playmate of the Month in July 1977.

Another participant in the program is Miss January 1973, Mike Garcia, who later became the director of Playmate Promotions. In the past, Miki testified to sordid details of the Playboy empire that may surface in the series.

During the press conference, Miki claimed that while traveling on a promotion, “something terrible happened to me, and you’ll see it in the documentary.” Mike tried to monitor the women, but stated that she “couldn’t really protect them from Hugh Hefner.”

With a premiere date uncertain but a series that should come out near Halloween, AMC’s “Ragdoll” is a modern-day Faustian thriller based on the novel by Daniel Cole about six people that have been murdered, dismembered and sewn into the shape of one grotesque body.

Assigned to the case are London detective Nathan Wolf (Henry Lloyd-Hughes

Riley Reviews

FROM POST-APOCALYPSE TO COOKING WITH A COMEDIAN ON CABLE TV

and his best friend and boss Emily Baxter (Thalissa Teixeira), joined by the unit’s new recruit Lake Edmunds (Lucy Hale).

The “Ragdoll Killer” taunts the police by sending them a list of his next victims, with Wolf’s name among them. And with those victims to protect, the police heroes soon come under intense scrutiny.

The new AMC+ original series “Kin” is about a close-knit Dublin clan that must face the consequences of their choices. It’s more a Shakespearean drama than a gangland crime story.

To be sure, this fictional Irish family is embroiled in a gangland war, and executive Dan McDermott boldly claimed that this “series will engage and resonate with viewers, especially those who love ‘Gangs of London,’ which remains one the top titles on AMC+.”

While we are on the topic of crime, the History Channel’s nonfiction series “Great Escapes with Morgan Freeman” will focus on the most daring convict escapes from some of the most notorious prisons in the world.

Freeman, who famously starred as a wise inmate in “The Shawshank Redemption,” hosts the dramatic re-enactments of escapes from infamous prisons like Alcatraz, with dynamic storytelling and cutting-edge visual effects.

During the press tour, answering a question about whether “Shawshank” resonated with him during the program, Freeman said he doesn’t “have much trouble separating fact, reality, from movies, things like that.”

For a change of pace, Lifetime will launch the movie series “Highway to Heaven,” which follows Angela (Jill Scott), an angel sent back to Earth by God to help others in need.

In the premiere movie, Angela assumes the role of a temporary school counselor and finds herself working alongside principal Bruce (Barry Watson) as she intervenes in the lives of a troubled student Cody (Ben Daon) and his father Jeff (Robert Moloney) after a death in the family.

Have you ever seen comedian Sebastian Maniscalco perform one of his stand-up routines on a streaming service? This guy has a hilarious take on everyday life, pop culture and the Italian American ethos. His facial expressions and body language are brilliantly funny.

Maybe it’s a stereotype that Italians love food, but that would explain the new Discovery+ series “Well Done with Sebastian Maniscalco,” which is about the comedian’s obsession with food, but don’t dare call him a “foodie.”

Sebastian takes a deep dive into the gastronomic world from every angle, blending his curiosity and humor into the mix of a cooking show. His signature social observations and commentary lift “Well Done” into a rarefied space. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

What Do You Want to Be?



“Where your talents and the needs of the world cross, there lies your vocation.”
- Aristotle

When you were young, how many times were you asked, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” As a kid, you would fantasize about the perfect occupation. There were no constraints or limitations. Reality played no role in your choice.

Today, are you doing what you really want to do? Are you in the occupation you fantasized about so many years ago? Unfortunately, a majority would probably answer no. Perhaps you are among the fortunate group that can answer yes.

If you’re not in your ideal job or if you are not happy with what you are doing, there are several possible reasons. You may have been dissuaded by other’s opinions. You may have decided on your own that your dreams and aspirations were not realistic. You may have had outside pressure to pursue a particular occupation.

You may have felt that economic constraints prevented you from the occupation you really wanted. You may have thought you were not smart enough. You may have felt you couldn’t afford the necessary education.

Charles Schulz, the creator of the Peanuts cartoon strip, discovered his passion for drawing at an early age. His high school

yearbook had the “wisdom” to reject his cartoons. After graduation, he was turned down for a cartoonist’s job at the Walt Disney studio.

In 1962 a budding English band was in search of a record contract. The Decca Recording Company had the insight to turn them down with the comment “We don’t like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out.” The rejected band was the Beatles.

In the 1970’s two college students designed a small computer that could fit on a desk. With limited resources they worked in a garage. Excited with their creation, they approached Atari, a leading electronics manufacturer at the time.

Atari had no interest. So they took their proposal to Hewlett-Packard. Again they were turned away with the admonition that they hadn’t even finished college. Undaunted, Steven Jobs and Steve Wozniak went on to start Apple Computer.

Fred Smith, a business student at Yale in 1966, received a poor grade on a research paper. Fred had proposed a revolutionary overnight delivery system. His professor commented, “The concept is interesting and well formed, but in order to earn better than a C the idea must be feasible.” After graduation, Fred went on to found Federal Express.

As you can see, discouragement is not unusual. It is only a roadblock with your consent. You have

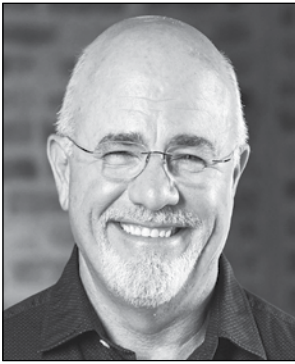
the power and ability to be what you want to be and to do what you want to do. The justifications given for not doing so are all based on false premises.

A person who is truly determined to reach a goal is unstoppable. Perhaps you find yourself unhappy with your current occupation. Why not change? Some common reasons given are time, money, education, age, stability, income, family, location, etc. It’s never difficult to formulate an excuse to justify not taking action. If you really want to change what you do, there is a way. You can overcome any perceived obstacle. The time to begin is now. You will never be as young as you are today. Life is not a practice run.

Why not be what you really want to be? Who wants to look back and lament “I should have done it?” It does take effort to make a change, but it’s worth it.

It’s never too late and you are never too old to be whatever you wanted to be when you grew up. Be creative. Be innovative. Have a great time.

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 ★



Protect Against Inflation?

Dear Dave,

All the talk on the news about inflation is a little scary. Is there any way to protect yourself against it on a day-to-day basis?

– Garret

Dear Garret,

When people start talking about inflation, it seems like there are always some who want to start collecting gold, fill every container they own with gasoline and stick their cash under their mattresses. But listen, you can prepare for inflation and address the results without being panicked.

You are still in control of your money, inflation or not. You’ll be able to make sure your money is going toward the right things, while being able to

Dave Ramsey Says

find places where you can cut spending, if you’re living on a written, monthly budget. If you’re noticing the prices of things like food and gas rising in your area, you’ll need to adjust your budget to account for this. That way, you’ll know exactly what you’re working with, and it will help you avoid any nasty surprises.

If you’re really feeling the pinch and want to save even more, look for specific ways to lower your grocery bill or save money on gas. Maybe it’s time you switched to generic brands, or started a carpool into work. If you find great deals on canned food and things you can stock your pantry with – I’m talking about stuff you’ll actually use – go ahead and buy a little extra. Just make sure you’ve budgeted for it before heading to the grocery store. You’ll want to already know exactly what you’re going to spend, so you don’t get swept up into impulse buying.

Like it or not, inflation is a thing. If you plan on

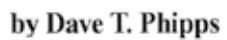
retiring one day, it’s pretty much guaranteed that the cost of a loaf of bread, a tank of gas and even a cup of coffee will have gone up by then. The best way to protect yourself against inflation that’s bound to happen is to invest your money – and the sooner the better. But remember, if you still have debt other than your mortgage, and don’t have an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses, you need to take care of those things first!

– Garret

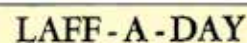
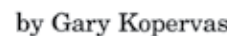
Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has 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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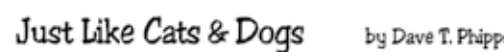


"Then one day I got smart and burned the steaks."



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