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School Pictures,
and First Days Set**
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Big Tree of Life**
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Dixon **Independent Voice**

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**SEE
INSIDE**

**DOGS AND
MORE DOGS**



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**SUMMER
MOVIE
NIGHT**



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Teamwork Through Touchdowns



Youth plow into yellow pylons as they take part in a free football clinic hosted in Hall Park by Dixon Youth Football and Cheer. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - “Umph!” and “oomph!” might normally be accompanied with groaning or discomfort but that wasn’t the case last week at the free football camp held at Hall Park by the Dixon Youth Football and Cheer organization. Dozens of exuberant and energetic children of all ages turned out for the last of two football training sessions and in time for the official season to begin.

“They had a ton of fun,” said one mother of three who has a child in each of three different divisions. “They said it was the hardest workout they have had in their lives but were so happy to start practicing. They slept good, too” she added.

The children were excited and the Board members were too.

“It was funny because you wouldn’t think the adults would be so excited but we skipped a year and it was surprising to see how much they’ve grown. We really missed

it,” said Misty Dalton, who serves as Secretary on the Board.

Ultimately, about 175 youth from age 5 to 14 will be organized into Mighty Mights, Pee Wees, Junior Midgets, and Midgets and play weekly at Hall Park, practicing every night for three weeks straight before playing other teams three days a week after that.

The end zone may be important but the real goal is to expose the children to the fun of the game and give them some exercise. If they join the teams, they will have games every Saturday through October. Their playoffs and Championships are early November.

This non-profit organization has been around for more than 20 years and utilizes every parent in some way for running the program from coaching, manning the gates or snack bar, to inventorying equipment.

“We have parent volunteers for each division and each family volunteers eight hours,” said Dalton. “It’s per family so it’s not too hard for

them,” she explained, adding that the coaches are full time volunteers.

“It is a commitment but I love it,” said first year parent Jesika Lindemann, mother of three. “They welcomed the kids and everyone got treated like family. I could not be more thrilled!”

It makes for great family bonding they say but also many of the students go on to play in their schools on junior varsity and varsity teams. Dalton started with her first daughter in cheer and that daughter is now 26. There have been five more children.

“I have a son who played Mighty Mights all the way through Midgets and who played high school his last two years and quarterbacking for the Dixon High School Junior Varsity Team. And, I have a mascot. She is three,” she added.

Tyler Randall who has served as President for three years also grew up through the program, coached all levels for many years, and now has two

Continued on page 3

SCWA Offers New Instant Rebate on Leak Detection Sensors

By Christine Kohn,
IN Communications

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) is offering a new rebate on Flume Smart Home Water Monitors, a tool that allows people to monitor their water use in real time from their smart phone and can alert them to potentially harmful leaks.

The Flume Smart Home Water Monitor includes three parts – a battery-operated device that attaches to your water meter with a tough rubber band, a bridge that plugs into an outlet and relays the radio signal to your Wi-Fi network, and the Flume mobile app. The sensor can help identify common household leaks that might otherwise go undetected.

“Household leaks not only can waste a tremendous amount of water, they also can damage your home and garden,” said SCWA Water Conservation Coordinator Andy Florendo. “And leaks are more common than many people realize.” It’s estimated that 10 percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Many people discover leaks within the first few hours of using the device, according to the manufacturer.

The Flume Smart Home Water Monitor normally retails for \$199, but with the rebate is available to Solano County residents for a third of the cost - \$65 (plus tax and shipping). To be eligible, participants must reside in Solano County and purchase the device directly through the rebate program. Rebate participants purchase the device for \$90 and will receive a \$25 refund of once the monitor is installed. Solano County residents can apply for a rebate at flumewater.com/solano.

Device requirements include having access to a wireless (Wi-Fi) network and an iOS (Apple) or Android device. Quantities are limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Residents can learn more at Support@flumewater.com or flumewater.com/solano. ★

DDBA Pushes Restart in Time for Wine

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - An informal gathering of a half dozen business people called together by Dawson’s restaurant owner Jill Orr, met this past week to discuss re-awakening the Downtown Dixon Business Association that came apart during the long span of the pandemic.

Orr, who currently also serves on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, stepped back into leading the DDBA last year in a “survival capacity” due to almost all the leaders in the organization stepping out to work their own business strategies dealing with the stressful virus impacts.

However, some committed past Board Directors, Susan Motley and Debra Dingman, along with downtown newcomers Rebecca Robinson from the Uptown Collective and Karstin Hickerson from Almond Tree Mortgage threaded decorations, events, and promotions together to keep



Kiffany Hoffman of ARCK Home Loans in downtown Dixon poured wine for strollers at a previous DDBA Wine and Art Stroll. Photo by Debra Dingman

community spirits up during outdoor dining and gathering restrictions.

“We want people to know we’re coming back strong and we’ve got great plans for downtown,” Orr said.

The group made plans to send out emails to all past members letting them know the DDBA was coming

back together, collect a half year of dues, and needs new board members who are business owners in the downtown core.

During the gathering, the group learned of the DDBA’s 501c(3) status from Orr, decorator street-light banners, plans for the Pardi Market Plaza for

Christmas, and a financial report.

Discussing the popular DDBA events with high hopes that a mask mandate will not happen, Orr announced that the Wine Stroll was set for September 25; the Beer Stroll for October 16, and the Downtown Trick or Treat Trail will be on Friday, October 29, 1 to 4 pm.

In the past years, the DDBA always met on the first Thursday of the month but when a new Board is organized, one merchant suggested they might change that to quarterly. There is a website that needs to be updated, social media to be handled, and lots of downtown supporters--be it merchants or associate members of the community to become official members and help organize upcoming events.

The mission of the DDBA is enhancing, promoting, and revitalizing downtown Dixon. For more information, call (707) 678-8400. ★



One Way the City Could Save Money

By Debra Dingman

There is a significant question Dist. 3 Council Representative Kevin Johnson and City Treasurer James Ward has asked on behalf of the rest of Dixon that has not been answered well: Why aren't we using local vendors?

New City Public Works Director Louren Kotow explained at the meeting to Johnson that the reason was the City has "experience" with vendors who they know are solid. The announcements requesting bids aren't even made available to anyone but those on the government-created list. I couldn't help but wonder about intangible kickbacks that I know happens in government. Why aren't we at least allowing our local businesses to compete?

This is a systemic problem with the mindset of people who have served or are still serving in a government position, who have enjoyed being able to spend other people's hard earned money. The option of a bottomless source of money (courtesy of tax dollars) can easily carry that mind away from the real struggles of the working class and certainly less empathetic to those who are self-employed.

I recently talked to the owner of a small franchise here in Dixon interrupting her cleaning of the restroom. She works at her place of business almost every day doing the bookkeeping, ordering, keeping track of government regulations that seem to constantly change, not to mention solicit, train, supervise, and sometimes, let go employees.

She has to ensure the shop windows are clean and attractive and makes sure

that all the supplies inside are ready to sell. Her income is *after* everyone else is paid. This is all true for anyone who is running a small business in Dixon and life depends on you getting more work/sales. That is why Dixonites are fiercely loyal to local businesses. We know these people. Their children are in our Sunday classes, Scouts, Karate, Little League, schools, and swim lessons together. In a small town, you cannot be unaware of your contribution to shop or do business with them.

Most of the City Councilmen have lived in Dixon for many years. Johnson, for one, is a realtor who has pushed the 'shop local' mantra the entire time. The City Treasurer was doing his job to oversee the monies of our city when he was elected but not even the long-time Sheriff Department/policeman, Mayor Steve Bird, can see the value in his request, advising Ward to "stay in his lane."

So let me put this on a more personal level so you see why I have issues with this. My neighborhood homeowners association is run by a large corporation. When we needed a small fence built, they called on their company and the bid was \$2,500. When I saw the bid, I knew the price was super high as we had just put in an entire backyard fence for \$3,000.

I called Nick Avila of Dixon Fence Company – although he was not on the "list of approved vendors" held by the Roseville-based HOA Management firm. He built it within a couple weeks at the cost of \$500. I can only imagine how many thousands of dollars this Roseville company was paid over the past many years because we didn't "shop local." ★

Dixon News Briefs



Justina Salinas of Araceli Farms does more than just sell lavender. She is creating some community fun by holding a movie night featuring the movie Grease and will award a prize for appropriate-themed attire. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Summer Movie Night

Araceli Farms is offering a Summer Movie Night on Saturday, August 14, 8-11 pm. They say nothing beats seeing a great movie among six acres of lavender with friends and family. "Grease" will be featured and a dressed best in the 1950s attire will win a prize.

Tickets are \$10 but there is popcorn and other treats special, too, including lavender lemonade. Bring your chairs and blankets but be sure you purchase your tickets in advance at AgAndArtFilmFestival.com. They are located at 7389 Pitt School Road in Dixon and reservations are always required.

City Meeting

The Dixon Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, August 10 at 7 pm but not in the Council Chambers yet. This advisory body to the City Council is always on the second Tuesday of the month. This meeting is still being planned for Zoom and word now is that meetings in the council chambers won't be until September. There is a link on the city website (cityofdixon.com) or you can call (707) 678-7000 for information. You can also call in via your phone if you do not have computer access. The agenda is posted on the Thursday before the

meetings on the City of Dixon website.

Redistricting Meeting Options


This is the year for Solano County to redraw District lines for supervisors who represent various Solano County cities. This happens every 10 years to ensure equal representation by each elected official in each agency. Community members have the opportunity to define their communities by telling their own stories and describe their concerns to policymakers. Without this dialogue, those who may not be aware of a community's best interest might decide for them, according to the County Board of Supervisors.

From the Solano County Redistricting page, you can now watch videos of the past meetings or, you can participate in one in person for District 4 which includes Dixon: Saturday, August 14, 2021 starting at 9 a.m. at the Community Event Center, 601 Texas Street, in Fairfield. See more at: <https://Redistricting.SolanoCounty.com>

Pip & Pizza


The Pip Wine Bar & Shop is offering another Pizza Night on Saturday, August 21, 4 - 9 pm. "Chef Jodie is back! She manages all-things-pizza and we manage all-things-beverage. Come join us for some killer awesome pizza at 116 North First Street in downtown Dixon," said Owner Amy Grabish. ★





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Orientations, School Pictures, and First Days Set



Parents and their students leave Anderson Elementary School after a recent day of summer activities. Dixon Unified School District schools will be starting the 2021-2022 year on Wednesday, August 11. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Although all students and staff are required to wear masks per the California Department of Public Health guidelines, the closest thing to a normal school year begins next week for Dixon Unified School District.

Principals and Vice Principals will be greeting approximately 3,030 local students as they enter campus for their first day of school on Wednesday, August 11.

For elementary schools, Anderson Elementary, Gretchen Higgins Elementary, and Tremont Elementary, that will be a short day as Wednesdays are short days year-round.

Those three sites will follow the Wednesday schedule of 8:15 am to 12:10 with lunches provided after school as they are traditionally on Wednesdays. The other weekday school hours are 8:15 am to 2:40 pm.

Prior to the big day, students should have started receiving information this past week through the school’s websites, mail, and phone calls but elementary school schedules will be posted Friday, August 6, by 4 pm according to Shawntel McCammon, Coordinator of Outreach, Engagement, and Innovation for the District.

John Knight Middle School will host a Grand Opening on Saturday, August 7, noon to 4 pm and the public is invited. DUSD Superintendent Brian Dolan, JKMS Principal Kamillah O’Conner and Assistant Principal Jodie Stueve will be welcoming guests.

School schedules can be picked up for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders on August 9,

from 2 to 6 pm.

Dixon High School has Freshmen/ Sophomore Orientation on August 6 with a separate Parent Orientation on August 9. Students and families should check their emails for the latest RAMPage Newsletter from Principal Stephanie Marquez.

On Tuesday, August 10, all students are invited to come to campus to take their picture for the yearbook at their assigned time by grade level and last name which can also be found in the RAMPage Newsletter.

Main Prairie High School students will get their schedule on the first day of school when they arrive on campus by 8:30 am.

McCammon reported that this year’s numbers are: Gretchen Higgins and Tremont both having about 400 students; Anderson has about 450; the middle school has about 600; Dixon High School has 1,070 and Maine Prairie has about 90.

“We currently have less than 100 students considering the option of the Independent Learning Program which will be completed online,” she said. “There is no hybrid or homeschool option. These numbers are changing as we have new families to Dixon still enrolling. We hope to keep seeing this as we get closer to opening.”

McCammon, who is the former Principal of Gretchen Higgins, is being replaced by newcomer Martha Salazar, along with 25 new teachers.

“We still have vacancies in our credentialed and classified units and encourage folks to check out www.edjoin.org,” she added. ★

Touchdown! Learning Teamwork

Continued from page 1

sons following his lead.

“There are so many rewards,” said Dalton. “They learn when you’re working hard and playing for each other, it’s for your whole team. The coaches are amazing and it’s not just a sport to them but growing the kids as people. They ask how school is going and how you are doing. They’re not just

there playing the sport. They invest in the children and their futures,” she added.

Registration for girls is only \$100 but parents have the added cost of a cheer uniform which they keep. Cheer season is already closed because they have to order the uniforms. For future reference, Cheer usually opens early in the year and closes somewhere

in June.

Registration is still open for football until August 8 on their website: DixonYFC.com. Cost is \$275 for the season and includes the uniform but not including shoes and mouthguard. They also get a team picture. September 11 is the first official game.

For more information, see above website for contacts or see their Facebook page. ★

Dogs and More Dogs at Fairgrounds



The 2021 Golden State Summer Sieger Winner was a Black Russian Terrier female owned by Greg Avakian who said it was an “amazing show, fabulous judges, and a wonderful experience.” (L-R) A group of winners and their show dogs including Gene Avakian & his Russian terrier, Natalia.

Megan’s Morton was ready to strut his stuff at a recent dog show held at the Dixon May Fair sponsored by IABCA, International All Breed Canine Association. This group began more than twenty years ago with the intent of making an International Championship Title available to the American public while not exposing the dogs to the danger and inconvenience of international travel. They usually come to Dixon once a year. Photos by Nicolas Brown



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Council member Scott Pederson responded to the question asked “Why is City Landscaping Neglected and Shameful?”

“We need more money” he said. Of course that’s their plan. They want to raise the Lighting and Landscaping fee that half of the homeowners in Dixon are paying on their property taxes. The fee increase of the Lighting and Landscaping District has to go on the ballot, so how can they convince the citizens of Dixon to vote to give them more money? They let things go to hell and then they tell you “we need more money to take care of your parks and the landscape, please vote yes to give us

more of your hard earned money.” In the mean time they have sold their souls to the developers that run rapid in this city.

Maybe we need a City wide L & L District!! Don’t you think it would be nice if your elected officials and the high paid City Manager pay for the landscaping too? I am not aware if Any ONE of them are in the L & L District, but I know Scott Pederson is not. What is good for the goose is good for the council. It seems as though as they are only interested in cooking the residents of Dixon the source of their Golden Egg.

Michael A. Jones

MEMORIAL NOTICE

Keith Wilhite

November 24, 1949 - July 11, 2021

Keith Wilhite, age 71, passed at home with his wife of 52 years and daughter by his side on July 11, 2021. He was born in Lodi, CA Thanksgiving Day, Nov 24, 1949. Son of Ivan and Verona Wilhite, Keith grew up in Dixon graduating high school in 1968. That year he joined the U.S. Air Force Reserves and was honorably discharged in 1974 as a Tech Sergeant. In 1969 he married his high school sweetheart, Maralyn Wilbanks, and they had two children. Keith had two rewarding careers, one at Procter and Gamble and the

other as a certified welding inspector for Bay Area refineries retiring July 2017. He also enjoyed wood working and learned most all building skills.

Keith leaves his wife Maralyn, son Mark (Keri), daughter Ginger Bernard (Aric) and grandchildren; Sean, Hailey, Kristin, Scott, and Grace Wilhite, Evan Chase, Braiden and Sarah Bernard, and a sister Shirley.

Interment was July 26, 2021 at Silveyville Cemetery, Dixon CA. Forever loved and remembered.

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Dixon's Independent Voice *Adjudicated For and By the County of Solano, Adjudication No. FCS030046--November 24, 2008*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DIXON
CONFIRMING THE ASSESSMENT FOR DELINQUENT REFUSE
COLLECTION ACCOUNTS
AND DIRECTING ASSESSMENTS TO BE PLACED ON THE NEXT
PROPERTY TAX BILL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the City of Dixon (“City”) City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on August 17, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620 to discuss placing past due Recology Dixon accounts on property tax bills. Government Code Sections 38790.1 and 25831 and Dixon Municipal Code Section 9.06.110 give the City the authority to collect past due refuse collection accounts by placing an assessment/lien in the amount of the past due balance on the annual property tax rolls. This process makes the past due amount subject to the County’s property tax collection methods and late property tax fees.

The resolution to be considered will authorize the Finance Director, or her designee, to request that the Solano County Auditor enter each assessment on the tax roll against the respective property and to collect the assessment at the same time and in the same manner as ordinary municipal and county ad valorem taxes and to further subject the property to the same penalties and the same procedure of sale in case of delinquency as provided for such taxes. Upon receipt of said funds from Solano County, funds will be remitted to Recology Dixon.

Notices were mailed to all delinquent accounts during the week of 6/7/21, providing an opportunity for clarification, payment options and date and time for the public hearing.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES: are invited to attend the August 17, 2021 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence of why you feel the billing is in error or why you feel you should be exempted from the lien process. At the above noted time and place, testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking action or making any recommendation on the resolution. 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 special 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 at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be viewed by interested individuals at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. 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 resolution will be available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. If you have any questions, please call the City Clerk at (707) 678-7000, or stop by the office at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620.

Dixon Independent Voice August 6, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the City of Dixon (“City”) City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on August 17, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620 to consider Planning Application (21-09) requesting a Rezoning of the vacant lot, immediately north of 805 North Lincoln Street, from Professional and Administrative Office – Planned Development (PAO-PD) to Single-family Residential – Planned Development (R1-PD). The property is further identified as Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 0113-290-100. The Planning Commission reviewed and recommended approval of the Rezoning request to the City Council at their July 13, 2021 meeting, with a recommendation that the proposed R1 Zoning also include the Planned Development (-PD) overlay. This notice has been sent to property owners within 300 feet of the project’s location.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend the August 17, 2021, public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed Rezoning of this property. At the above noted time and place, testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking action on the Rezoning. Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. The agenda and summary report for this item will be available for review on the City’s website 72 hours prior to the meeting and can be found online at: www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos.

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 at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be viewed by interested individuals at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. 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 for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Greeley, Associate Planner at (707) 678-7000 x1115 or sgreeley@cityofdixon.us or stop by the office at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620.

Dixon Independent Voice August 6, 2021

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2021-001385

The following persons are doing business as: : SWEETVDEPOSITORIES
235 Larissa Lane, Vallejo, CA 94590
Yolanda Amos, 235 Larissa Lane, Vallejo, CA 94590
Date Filed in Solano County: June 25, 2021
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is Conducted by: an Individual

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 25, 2026. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)
Publish: July 16, 23, 30 & August 6, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

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City of Dixon
Unclaimed Funds Notice
2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, the Finance Director of the City of Dixon, County of Solano, State of California, declares that the following monetary sums have been held by the Finance Director and have remained unclaimed in the funds hereafter indicated for a period of over three (3) years and will become the property of the City of Dixon on the 20th day of September, 2021, a date not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than sixty (60) days after first publication of this Notice.

Any party of interest may, prior to the date designated herein above, file a claim with the Finance Director which includes the claimant's name, address, amount of claim, the grounds on which the claim is founded and the date, name, amount, and heading shown in this notice. The Finance Director may accept or reject the claim. If rejected, the party submitting the claim may, within 30 days of receiving notice of rejection, file and serve on the Finance Director a verified complaint seeking to recover all, or a designated part, of the unclaimed funds. This information and the stale dated check claim form are also available on the website of the City of Dixon at cityofdixon.us.

Contact Senior Accountant, Melissa Welch-Ramirez at 707-678-7000 ext. 1108 for further information.

Payee	Check Number	Issue Date	Amount	Fund
Southgate Glass and Screens Inc.	68754	6/4/2018	\$29.70	General
Dustin Siebert	67445	11/20/2017	\$40.00	General
Regina Espinoza	5235	5/25/2018	\$46.17	General
Garrett Willingmyre	67332	10/27/2017	\$50.00	General
Solano-Yolo Rugby Club	67120	9/22/2017	\$59.03	General
Lightning Demolition and Hauling	68729	6/4/2018	\$59.40	General
Jeremy & Kesiah Brown	67629	12/22/2017	\$71.23	Waste Water
Lloyd Green	5149	4/6/2018	\$137.75	General
Pacific Pavement	68606	5/30/2018	\$311.85	General
Stion Corp.	67434	11/17/2017	\$700.00	Water

Dixon Independent Voice July 30 and August 6, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL
APPROVING ENGINEER’S REPORT FOR THE DIXON
LANDSCAPING AND LIGHTING MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT
DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 INCLUDING CONFIRMING
DIAGRAM AND ASSESSMENTS AND ORDERING LEVY OF
ASSESSMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the City of Dixon (“City”) City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on August 17, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620 to consider the adoption of a resolution approving the Engineer’s Report for the Dixon Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance Assessment District for Fiscal Year 2021-22, including confirming diagram and assessments and ordering levy assessment.

The resolution to be considered by the City Council approves the City Engineer’s Report which recommends levying an assessment on each of several lots and parcels of land within the Dixon Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance Assessment District, each of which will be specially benefited by the maintenance of the improvements at least in the amount of the assessment apportioned against the lots and parcels of land, respectively.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES: are invited to attend the August 17, 2021, public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the approval of the resolution. At the above noted time and place, testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking action or making any recommendation on the resolution. 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 special 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 at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be viewed by interested individuals at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. 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 resolution will be available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. If you have any questions, please call the City Clerk at (707) 678-7000, or stop by the office at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620.

Dixon Independent Voice August 6, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DIXON APPROVING A
CORRECTION TO THE MASTER FEE SCHEDULE BASED ON THE
FEBRUARY 2021 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the City of Dixon (“City”) City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on August 17, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620 to discuss a correction to the Citywide Master Fee Schedule based on the February 2021 All Urban Consumers Price Index (CPI).

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES: are invited to attend the August 17, 2021 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the a correction to the Citywide Master Fee Schedule based on the February 2021 All Urban Consumers Price Index (CPI). At the above noted time and place, testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking action or making any recommendation on the potential updates to the Citywide Master Fee Schedule. 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 at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be viewed by interested individuals at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. 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 agenda packet and supporting documents will be available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620, at least three (3) days before the meeting. If you have any questions, please call the Deputy City Clerk at (707) 678-7000, ext. 1116. BY ORDER OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL, KRISTIN M. JANISCH, INTERIM ELECTED CITY CLERK

DATED: August 2, 2021 Dixon Independent Voice August 6, 2021



FOR THE LOVE OF
BOOKS
By Amy Shane

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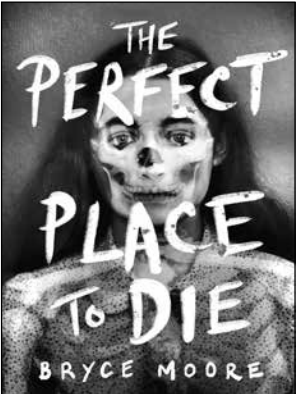
The Perfect Place To Die

by Bryce Moore

In the stunning allure of the 1893 World’s Fair, the Castle Hotel stands out like a thorn amongst a sea of white roses. With its odd shape, weirdly protruded windows, and maze-like interior, the Castle quickly became the place travelers visited but promptly left.

Zuretta never thought she would ever find herself traveling to Chicago or even purposely taking residence at the Castle. But when her younger sister goes missing after running away to the World’s Fair, Zuretta knows she is the only one who is willing to look for her. However, the moment she arrives in the big city, Zuretta is suddenly aware that in a city filled with travelers, thieves wait on every corner for their moment to strike. Still, something even more sinister lies just beyond the city streets.

Within days of working at the Castle, Zuretta quickly discovers that her sister isn’t the only one who has disappeared. Within the dimly lit halls of the Castle, maids have been disappearing at an alarming rate, and Zuretta is certain she can hear women crying out for help. However, uncovering the truth might be more challenging than



- ◆ Publisher: Sourcebooks Fire
- ◆ Hardcover, 384 pages
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥♥

expected when trapped within a hotel built for secrets. The Hotel’s dimly lit hallways lead in maze-like paths, locked doors lead to brick walls, laundry chutes fell nowhere, and stairways were forbidden to climb. Zuretta knows that in order to uncover the truth, she will have to imbed herself in the path of a killer, but what she uncovers is more terrifying than a killer at large.

A masterful reimagined story of one of America’s most infamous serial killers, *The Perfect Place to Die* captures the allure of the World’s Fair paired with murderous intentions. Delivering a strong

female lead who is both smart and cunning, Bryce Moore mixes the detective skills perfect for a Pinkerton detective with the ideal breeding ground for a serial killer. Filled with historically accurate information, names, and landscapes, Moore perfectly outlines a story while people unknowingly flocked to their demise in a hotel designed to be a house of horrors.

Perfectly enticing his readers to fall under the allure of a missing sister and a mysterious hotel, readers are caught unaware of the masterful trap he has set. *The Perfect Place to Die* is a gripping, fast-paced story that will keep readers up late at night, reading with the lights on scrambling to discover who the killer is before it’s too late. However, readers will still be pleasantly surprised by this book’s storyline if previously aware of the historical events. For any reading fans of Jack the Ripper style mysteries, Historical retellings, or gothic style horrors, this book will take you by surprise and leave you scrambling to read more about this notorious killer. ★



Farmers Denied Insurance after Fires Now Eligible for New Coverage

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed legislation to enable farmers and ranchers to use the state’s insurer of last resort. Senate Bill 11, sponsored by the California Farm Bureau, is intended to help farmers who lost insurance coverage due to wildfires. After record-setting fires, many found that obtaining new coverage was extremely costly or impossible. They can now be insured under the California FAIR plan, a fire insurance pool for high-risk properties.

California Cracks Down on Insect Harmful to Agriculture

California is imposing a quarantine against an invasive insect harmful to agriculture and natural resources. The state Department of Food and Agriculture announced the quarantine this month to prohibit entry into California of plants, materials or containers infested with the spotted lanternfly. The insects, first detected in Pennsylvania, produce a mold from feeding that can threaten grapes, apples and numerous plant and tree species.

Western Farmers, Ranchers Thin Herds, Destroy Crops Due to Drought

Farmers in California and a dozen other states are increasingly selling livestock and letting fields go fallow due to severe drought in the western U.S. According to an American Farm Bureau survey, 85 percent of ranchers reported selling off portions of livestock herds due to drought impacts on water supplies and grazing lands. Some 77 percent of growers were destroying crops due to water shortages. Nearly 80 percent of the West is in severe drought.

USDA Offering Grants to Timber Businesses Hard-Hit by Pandemic

Timber harvesting, hauling and processing businesses can now apply for grants to offset financial losses suffered during the pandemic. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is providing up to \$200 million in total relief to help timber businesses. Firms that suffered revenue losses of 10 percent or more in 2020 may apply for grants between July 22 and October 15 this year. ★

Are You Interested in Dixon’s Elected City Clerk Position?

Commentary By Shirley Humphrey

If you are interested in Dixon’s Elected City Clerk position, you must file the necessary paperwork by Friday, August 6, by 5 pm as indicated below. If you are not interested, please think about who would make a good city clerk for Dixon and give this person a call to encourage s/he to run for city clerk.

We are voting now because in November 2020, Dixon voters approved Measure T, a ballot initiative to change the city clerk from an appointed position to an elected one. So, residents are interested in electing Dixon’s City Clerk.

Forms to file for city clerk are available at City Hall, City Clerk’s Office, 600 East A Street, Dixon, California. The nomination period for these offices began on July 12, 2021 and closes on August 6, 2021 at 5 pm. Candidates must be 18 years old or older, reside in and be registered to vote in the City of Dixon.

Due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, candidate filing is by APPOINTMENT ONLY. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (707) 678-7000. Candidates are encouraged to call as early as possible to ensure candidacy nomination paperwork is completed prior to the filing deadline. Candidates will need to pay a filing fee and know folks who will sign their paperwork.

If no one or only one person is nominated for an elected office, appointment to the elective office may be made as prescribed by section 10229 of the Elections Code of

the State of California.

The statutes of the State of California recommend the basic functions and duties of a City Clerk, with the Government Code and the Election Code stipulating precise and specific responsibilities and procedures to follow. The City Clerk serves as the liaison between the public and the City Council and provides related municipal service.

The City Clerk is the local official for elections, local legislation, the Public Records Act, the Political Reform Act, and the Brown Act. The City clerk administers Federal, State and local procedures through which local government representatives are selected.

What characteristics/skills would you like to see in our city clerk? A good candidate should know their job and do their best to serve the public. This is the difference between business and bureaucracy. Citizens in Dixon deserve a government which should serve and protect the citizens rather than looking at the public as a necessary evil. The person needs to be forgiving, patient, and dedicated to the professional position.

A great professional clerk has excellent qualities including these top five: Reading comprehension, active listening, speaking, writing, and coordination, whether they be a man or a woman. The City Clerk also ensures that other municipal records are readily accessible to the public. The public record under the conservatorship of the City Clerk provides fundamental integrity to the structure of our democracy. ★

California Educators Battle Over Woke Math



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

The modern world runs on mathematics.

From balancing a checkbook to calculating rocket trajectories, human beings rely on their ability to understand and use mathematical tools, and we expect our schools to develop those tools in their young charges.

But how and when?

For the past eight months, a philosophical war has raged in California education circles over a plan to sharply, even radically, change math instruction at all grade levels.

In January, the state Instructional Quality Commission released a draft “mathematics framework” that would shift instruction from the traditional, and somewhat linear, approach to one steeped in race and culture, or “woke” in contemporary parlance.

The draft declares that traditional math instruction, in which students progress from counting and simple arithmetic into geometry, algebra, trigonometry and eventually calculus as they advance through the grades, “has much to correct (because) the subject and community of mathematics has a history of exclusion

and filtering, rather than inclusion and welcoming.”

“There persists a mentality that some people are ‘bad in math’ (or otherwise do not belong), and this mentality pervades many sources and at many levels,” the draft continues. “Girls and Black and Brown children, notably, represent groups that more often receive messages that they are not capable of high-level mathematics, compared to their White and male counterparts.”

To counter that perceived shortcoming, the proposal would have students of all innate abilities remain together well into high school, essentially eliminating accelerated moves into higher-level mathematics, such as calculus, by those who exhibit desire and aptitude.

Moreover, math instruction would be reoriented from the linear manipulation of numbers into a tool for social justice.

“Mathematics educators have an imperative to impart upon their students the argument that mathematics is a tool that can be used to both understand and change the world,” the draft declares.

The draft generated a backlash from advocates of traditional math, including an open letter signed by hundreds of academics.

“California is on the verge of politicizing K-12 math in a potentially disastrous way,” the letter declared. “Its proposed Mathematics Curriculum Framework is presented as a step toward social justice and racial equity, but its effect would be the opposite – to rob all Californians,

especially the poorest and most vulnerable, who always suffer most when schools fail to teach their students. As textbooks and other teaching materials approved by the state would have to follow this framework and since teachers are expected to use it as a guide, its potential to steal a promising future from our children is enormous.”

Rather than reframe math in social justice terms, the critics contend, California should do a better job of teaching math skills that students will need in the real world, particularly students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The conflict mirrors a previous dustup over an ethnic studies curriculum as well as the current nationwide debate over whether “critical race theory” should be taught in school or banned.

Advocates of the new curriculum are playing with the lives of millions of children and the state’s economic and societal future. Implicitly they are shifting blame for the state’s embarrassingly low scores in nationwide math achievement tests from themselves to the traditional way math has been taught.

How, then, do they explain why kids in other states and nations are thriving with traditional math? Can they prove that their proposal will improve real world outcomes, or are they just indulging their ideological fantasies?

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

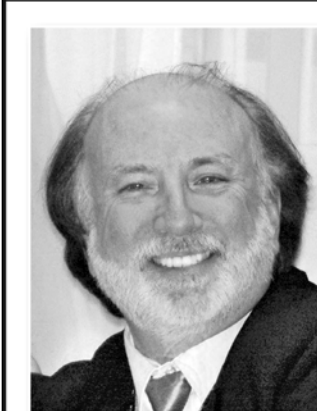


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Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

M	A	S	T		A	B	V		M	E	L	T			
O	L	I	O		F	L	E	E		B	A	R	O	N	
M	U	L	E		U	G	L	I		E	R	G	O	T	
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L	E	V	I		G	A	R	D	E	N		E	R	E	
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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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CLUES

CROSS

1. Sail support

5. *Percentage of alcohol, acr.

8. Cheesy sandwich

12. Oil, in Italy

13. What refugees do

14. Noble one

15. *Moscow ____

16. Wrinkly fruit

17. Cereal killer

18. *Non-alcoholic cocktail

20. Elementary particle

21. Old and feeble

22. American cuckoo

23. ____ tunnel

26. Create a misnomer

30. *Tap choice

31. Tooth cover

34. A wedge in golf, e.g.

35. Wesley Snipes' 1998 movie

37. Notable time

38. Fancy neckwear

39. Denim innovator

40. *Beer ____, or biergarten

42. Before, archaic

43. Particular marking on a butterfly

45. Neuter in language, e.g.

47. Red Cross bed

48. Ile de la Cite river

50. Lump of stuff

52. *18th Amendment, a.k.a. ____ Act

55. Assemblage of members

56. D'Artagnan's weapon

57. Freight horse cart

59. "It's Always ____ in Philadelphia"

60. Wooden pegs

61. *Margarita garnish

62. Lend a hand

63. *Not sweet

64. Sun rising direction

DOWN

1. May honoree

2. Homecoming guest

3. Farmer's storage type

4. Steel on a work boot

5. Relating to aquarium scum

6. Misrepresent

7. Bride screen

8. *Often served dirty, pl.

9. Cogito ____ sum

10. Rumpelstiltskin's weaver

11. *Half whiskey, half absinthe cocktail

13. Pointless

14. Chili con carne legumes

19. Between 10 and Queen

22. Breathing matter

23. C in CNN

24. Stray cat's home

25. Plunder

26. *Fermented honey and water

27. Formed a curve

28. "Fahrenheit 9/11" documentary director

29. Go in

32. *Straight from the bottle

33. Make a blunder

36. *One appeal of happy hour

38. About or concerning, archaic

40. " ____ Milk?"

41. Knights' breastplates

44. Dorothy's sleeping aid

46. Conifer attribute

48. Deep sleep

49. Lament for the dead

50. ____hub food takeout service

51. Solitary

52. Hawk or peddle

53. Toreador Song from "Carmen," e.g.

54. River obstructions

55. Geological Society of America

58. Thus far

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7

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

Solutions on Page 7

CONVERSATIONS

By Shirley Humphrey

Horse History: A Look at Dixon’s Past

By Loran Hoffmann

In reviewing sporting events of early Dixon, besides having winning baseball teams, horse racing attracted a lot of attention. Many of the local farmers outside of town established racetracks on their farms.

In 1885 a racing association was formed in Dixon that constructed a half-mile oval track and horse barns at the current location of the Dixon May Fairgrounds. The area had been previously used for family picnics following the annual May Day parade. The Dudley Family’s ranch had a racetrack as well as the Cooper Ranch south of town. The Robben family were horse enthusiasts and were known for raising fine horses and held matches at the local track.

One of the most famous horses from Dixon was raised by a gentleman named Jack Liter. Later he sold the horse to the local rural route postal carrier, Winnie Udell. Winnie drove the horse on the local roads delivering mail to those living outside of town on the rural route. The horse was a roan gelding foaled by a mare called “Peanuts” that was blind.

Sam Silvey, who was the local barber, and a son of Elizah Silvey, founder of Silveyville, admired the horse pulling the mail delivery cart and convinced Winnie Udell to sell him his horse for 10 twenty-dollar gold pieces.

Sam took the horse to the local trainer, Lou Mativa, and in a short time the big

roan was winning races. Sam’s horse won the State Fair races and all local and county races. Sam sold his business and took his horse east to compete in the harness racing circuit. The horse was a great competitor and won or placed in the money 20 straight races.

On the final day of the race circuit, the other drivers told Sam he had to race “out of the money.” Meaning that they wanted Sam’s horse to finish worse than third place. Sam was reluctant but they told him they would not enter the race against him. He finally agreed and his horse raced “out of the money.” The horsemen all placed their bets on other horses as Sam’s horse was the favorite and the other horsemen cleaned up.

This was a bad omen for Sam’s horse, for when shipping to Florida for the winter circuit, his horse was injured. Sam sold the horse and all his racing equipment for \$10,000 and returned to Dixon. The horse never fully recovered as its record does not indicate it winning many more races.

For almost 80 years Dixon was known for its thoroughbred horse racing and harness racing held at the racetrack where the Dixon May Fairgrounds is located. Solano County held their first county fair at the Dixon May Fairgrounds in 1916 that included horse racing until 1950 when it was moved to Vallejo. Horse racing and harness racing were both major events at county fairs and at the California State Fair until the late 1970’s. ★



Riley Reviews

“JUNGLE CRUISE” WILD ADVENTURE; “HOOCH” A TV REBOOT

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“JUNGLE CRUISE” RATED PG-13

Anyone who has been to Disneyland since 1955 has probably been on the Jungle Cruise adventure ride where young tour guides take passengers on a tongue-in-cheek journey through treacherous rivers.

Disney’s “Jungle Cruise,” starring Dwayne Johnson as skipper Frank Wolff, takes a cue from its theme-park attraction. Naive tourists around the time of World War I are either amused or terrified by Frank’s Amazon River excursions during which he delivers corny jokes.

Meanwhile, in London Emily Blunt’s Dr. Lily Houghton confronts a male chauvinist scientific group with a vain pitch to explore the rain forests to obtain a flower petal from a fabled tree found in the Amazon that supposedly is a cure for all diseases.

Close on the heels of Dr. Lily is the villainous Prince Joachim (Jesse Plemons) who seeks the petal for nefarious purposes for Germany long before Hitler launched his quest for world domination.

With her stuffy, uptight brother MacGregor (Jack Whitehall) in tow, Lily ends up hiring Frank after a series of amusing deceptions that involve taming a jaguar named Proxima and deceiving riverboat bigshot Nilo (Paul Giamatti).

Operating a rickety tour boat, Frank has to rely on guile and his charm, plus the fact that he’s a cheap hire, to take Lily and MacGregor on a trip that is dangerous not just for the rapids but for encounters with snakes and cannibals along the way.

The gruff, wisecracking Frank quickly starts bickering with Lily, calling her “Pants” because she wears trousers, and in turn Lily derisively calls him “Skippy.” The bantering continues throughout the journey, with an outcome you might suspect.

There’s also perilous danger at every turn when the trio is captured by a tribe of apparent headhunters led by a formidable woman, Trader Sam (Veronica Falcon), but that’s hardly the worst of it.

The supernatural comes into play with undead Spanish conquistadors who have been trapped in the Amazon for four centuries after a failed quest to retrieve a petal from the tree that is known as the Tears of the Moon.

As leader of the undead, Aguirre (Edgar Ramirez) and his crew, who have been cursed to remain stuck in the rain forest forever, bring a supernatural element to a climactic final confrontation.

Above all else, “Jungle Cruise” is really inspired by the classic Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn film “The African Queen.” Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt update the premise for a fun adventure the whole family may enjoy. ★

“TURNER & HOOCH” ON DISNEY+

At first blush, the new series that remakes a 1989 Tom Hanks movie for the family-friendly Disney+ looks like it’s trying to determine whether it’s intended for a younger audience despite some of its edgier content.

The similarly named “Turner & Hooch” pays homage to Tom Hanks in that Josh Peck’s Scott Turner, the son of his film character, is now an uptight Deputy U.S. Marshal who inherits a giant unruly dog from his recently deceased father.

Based in San Francisco, the meticulous Scott finds his ordered life upended when his sister Laura (Lyndsy Fonseca) shows up at his door with the drooling Hooch, a massive junkyard dog who proceeds to destroy his tidy apartment.

Laughs ensue, of course, because Hooch chews more than the scenery as he moves about Scott’s immaculate abode with the destructive power of a Category 5 hurricane obliterating everything in its path. Well, so far so good for tame entertainment.

Since Scott is clueless on how to handle the French mastiff, he enlists help from attractive K-9 trainer Erica (Vanessa Lengies). Scott’s also oblivious to the signals from Erica of her interest in him, and that’s the way it goes for at least the first three episodes.

Rambunctious fun with the canine soon gives way to a more serious tone when Scott shows up at the office with Hooch, and a case of guarding a witness set to testify in a criminal trial goes awry when the subject of the Marshal’s protective detail is kidnapped.

While wrangling with his boss James Mendes (Anthony Ruivivar) for an opportunity to join the A-team led by Trent (Matt Hamilton), Scott is saddled with his pregnant partner Jessica (Carra Patterson) for more mundane assignments.

In one of the episodes, Scott’s involvement in the security detail for a hotel gathering of an Olympic Games delegation has him babysitting the young daughter of a diplomat.

But Hooch proves, even with his love for donuts, that he may more intuitive and effective at police work in tracking down the criminals that abducted the witness than the veteran Marshals that are dismissive of Scott’s involvement.

Though the dad’s career was no more taxing than writing parking tickets, Scott and his sister discover a mysterious case file that their father was secretly investigating which may lead to a recurring subplot.

“Turner & Hooch” offers a mix of comedy and action, and yet there are times the level of violence, with shootouts and fist-fights, feels out of place for the Disney family universe. ★

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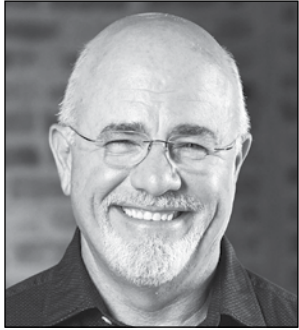
Biden orders federal workers, contractors to get vaccinated or submit to testing | 29 July 2021 | Joe Biden on Thursday is directing all federal employees and onsite contractors to show that they are vaccinated or otherwise submit to regular coronavirus testing, a major step that will likely cause other private sector businesses to follow suit. Biden is also instructing his administration to apply similar standards to all federal government contractors. The White House is also encouraging private sector employers to follow his lead. “If you want to do business with the fed government, get your workers vaccinated,” Biden said in remarks from the White House Thursday afternoon... According to the White House, the federal government will ask employees and onsite contractors to attest to their vaccination status. Those who do not show that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will need to mask, socially distance and submit to weekly or twice weekly coronavirus testing. Biden also said that workers who are not vaccinated “generally will not be allowed to travel for work.”

Postal workers union bristles at Biden’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate | 28 July 2021 | The influential American Postal Workers Union on Wednesday said, at this point, it opposes a coronavirus vaccine mandate from the Biden administration but encouraged workers to voluntarily take the jabs. “While the APWU leadership continues to encourage postal workers to voluntarily get vaccinated, it is not the role of the federal government to mandate vaccinations for the employees we represent,” the union said in a statement obtained by Fox News. The union said in the statement that the safety of its workers is “of paramount importance” but “at this time the APWU opposes the mandating of COVID-19 vaccinations.”

Vaccinated individuals who become infected with Covid have just as much viral load as the unvaccinated - CDC director | 28 July 2021 | The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new guidance on Tuesday recommending indoor mask use in areas with high transmission rates after new data suggested fully vaccinated individuals are not just contracting Covid-19 but could potentially infect others. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said recent studies had shown that those vaccinated individuals who do become infected with Covid have just as much viral load as the unvaccinated, making it possible for them to spread the virus to others. Based on that finding, Walensky said the CDC is also recommending that all school children wear masks in the fall. “We’re seeing now that it’s actually possible if you’re a rare [sic] breakthrough infection that you can transmit further, which is the reason for the change,” Walensky said.

CDC New Mask Guidance Based on ‘Vaccine Not Approved in America’ - GOP Leader | 29 July 2021 | House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) noted that the Centers for Disease Control’s (CDC) recent mask guidance update is based on a study that evaluated the efficacy of a COVID-19 vaccine that is “not approved in America.” “I just left speaking with Dr. Monahan from the House. He said he used the CDC recommendation on a report that hasn’t been printed yet,” McCarthy said on the House floor, referring to Dr. Brian P. Monahan, the attending physician of Congress. “He did not know that the report is based upon India, about a vaccine that’s not approved in America, and now he did not know that it didn’t even pass peer-review,” the GOP leader said, referring to a CDC study published July 27.

Twitter Suspends All Election Audit ‘War Room’ Accounts | 28 July 2021 | Earlier today, Twitter permanently suspended all nine of the official ‘Audit War Room’ accounts from its platform. The accounts were a main source for breaking updates and were banned as part of big tech’s continued attempt to shield the public from the stunning revelations being found regarding the fraudulent 2020 election. Twitter provided no reason for the suspensions. The ban was issued just weeks before Arizona’s final audit report is set to come out and as multiple states are getting ready to start audits of their own. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

If you Need a Co-signer, You’re Not Ready

Dear Dave,

My fiancée and I want to make an offer on a house. She has a lot of late payments and a bad credit record, though, but she is working hard to manage her money better and get out of debt. I don’t make enough money to get a home loan by myself, and I have some debt to pay off, too. In order to help us out, my aunt and uncle said they are willing to co-sign a mortgage loan for us. What do you think of that idea?

— Evan

Dear Evan

Here’s a simple, solid piece of advice for anyone looking to make a purchase of any kind. If you need a co-signer, you’re not ready to make

that purchase – period. I’m not trying to beat you up or anything, but it’s way too soon for you two to be thinking about buying a home. I mean, for starters you’re just engaged right now.

When a lender requires a co-signer, it basically means they don’t believe you’ll pay back the money. And besides, you two don’t need a house now or right after you get married. The two of you should get married, and live in a decent, inexpensive apartment for a while. During that time, you both need to work hard on paying off all your debt. After that, save up an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. Then, start setting aside cash for a down payment on a modest home.

When it comes time to buy a home, I recommend a 15-year, fixed rate loan with a down payment of at least 10%. Twenty percent is better, because it will help you avoid having to pay PMI (private mortgage insurance). Make sure

the monthly payments on the loan are no more than 25% of your combined take home pay. Keeping the payments at 25% or below will make it easier to address other important financial issues, like saving and investing.

Your aunt and uncle are obviously generous people, Evan, but they’re a little misguided in their offer. At this point, helping you two buy a house – something you obviously can’t afford – would be a huge burden instead of a blessing.

— 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. ★



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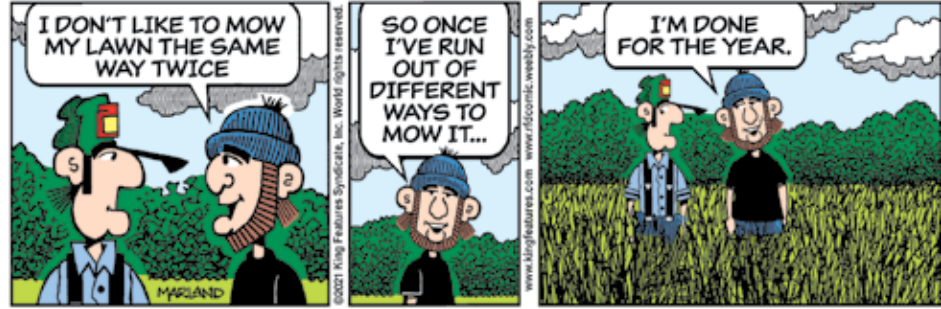
Amber Waves



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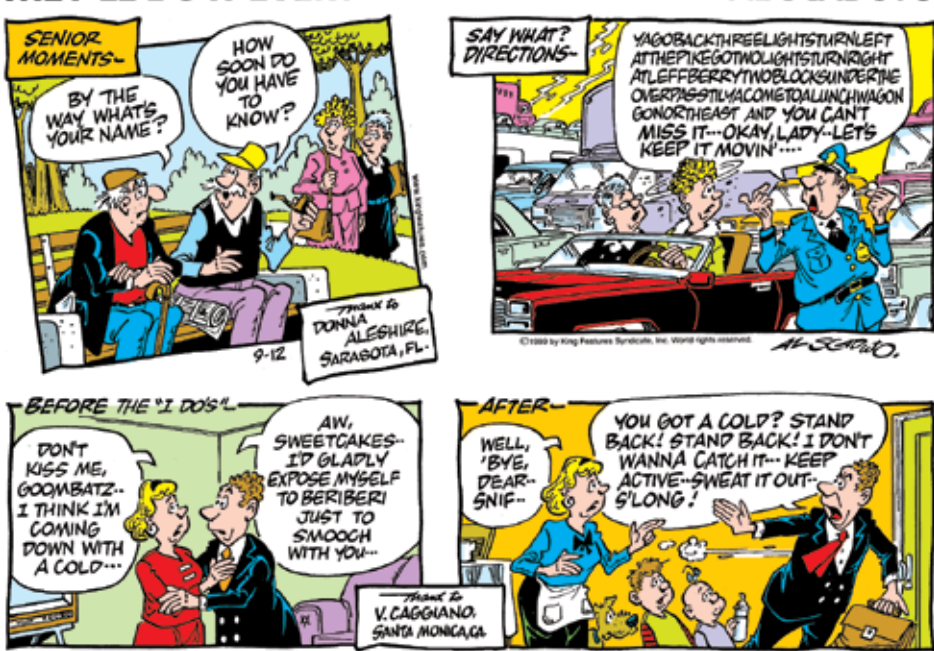
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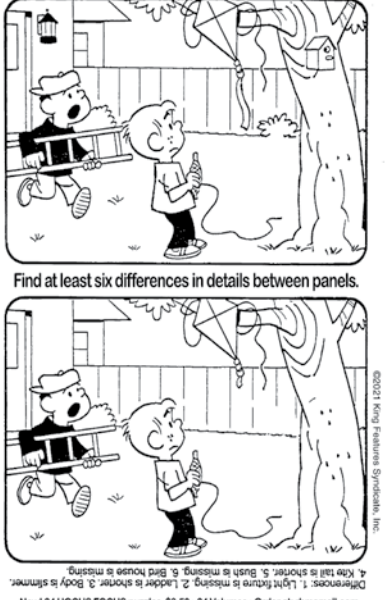
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Finally, A Really Big Tree of Life

Written for Tuleyome
by Dr. Glen Holstein

When Charles Darwin created modern biology with his theory of evolution, he used the term “tree of life”. For many years after scientists speculated on how species were related and evolved by looking for similarities in looks and lifestyle. Now, however, guessing is over since we can now read and follow changes in the DNA uniting living things. This supported some past speculation but there were big surprises. Botany once included algae and mushrooms with higher plants, but we now know from DNA that mushrooms share a common ancestor with animals and are unrelated to plants while “algae” lumped plant related photosynthesizers with others unrelated including some bacteria. DNA even showed a surprising relation between hippos, dolphins, and whales.

Complete trees of life for large groups are now possible and we finally have one. A new book *The Largest Avian Radiation* by Fjeldsa, Christidis, and Ericson provides just that for the 6,200 perching bird species, which are 60% of all birds.

Perching birds are tiny dinosaur descendants that survived the catastrophe that killed off their larger relatives, and their tree of life tells how that happened. The big dinos were wiped out 66 million years ago when an asteroid hit what’s now Yucatan in the northern hemisphere. Consequently, the southern hemisphere was where its devastation was least intense and where much more good habitat was present than exists there today because we know from fossils that large parts of Antarctica were forested then, rather than covered by ice.

No perching birds live there today but the most ancestral ones are in a suborder now confined to New Zealand, where the kind of southern hemisphere forests once present in Antarctica survive today. Such forests are also present at the southern tip of South America, and that’s where evolution of the next most advanced perching bird suborder exploded into 1,350 species. Its two largest groups clearly evolved in South America, and while one of these extends only north to tropical Mexico, the other reaches Alaska and includes our flycatchers and kingbirds. The suborder’s



Image of an Acorn Woodpecker an Inner Coastal Range perching bird. Photo: Tuleyome



Image of a Bullock's Oriole. Photo: Tuleyome

third and smaller group is most diverse in southeast Asia, but its most ancestral species is confined to South America’s wettest rain forest, and some intermediate species in Africa suggest this group may have reached Asia through there by crossing a then narrower south Atlantic.

That suborder is known as the suboscines because it lacks anatomy for producing complex songs. All other perching birds are in a more advanced suborder called oscines or songbirds, and its most ancestral members are 322 species found in and near Australia, which can proudly call itself the “continent where song began”. Families of these basal oscines likely most familiar to non-Australians are lyrebirds, bowerbirds, and honeyeaters.

New Guinea, a land mass north of Australia created when that continent collided with volcanic islands as it drifted north from Antarctica, gave rise to the first group of songbirds that invaded the rest of the world. It consisted of around 800 species and even included three families that reached the Americas: shrikes, vireos, and the crow and jay family, which includes ravens, the biggest perching birds. One



A pair of Lesser Goldfinch. Photo: Tuleyome



The Marshwren is a local perching bird. Photo: Tuleyome

family in this group remained in New Guinea, however, the spectacular birds of paradise.

By far the largest group of perching birds are the 3,900 species of higher oscines that also spread from New Guinea to first the Old World and then the Americas. Older groups among them are less diverse and widely scattered around the world but some are familiar here: kinglets, waxwings, and phainopeplas.

More recent higher oscines are in several superfamilies, the smallest of which has just 2 families. The larger of these consists of tits and chickadees, and the smaller has only one American species, the verdin of our deserts. A much larger superfamily, the Old World warblers, has few families that reach the Americas but exceptions are larks, swallows, bushtits, and wrentits. A smaller superfamily better developed in the Americas includes nuthatches, tree creepers, gnatcatchers, and wrens, but another large one, Old World warblers, includes starlings and 3 families that naturally reach the Americas: dippers, mockingbirds/thrashers, and thrushes.

The last of these superfamilies is largest,

with 1,500 species. It began in the Old World but achieved some of its greatest diversity in the Americas. An innovation helping it reach this success was a conical bill enabling grass seeds to be cracked and eaten acquired 10 million years ago just when climate change caused grass to replace many forests. Its early members lacking this bill were all Old World except the olive warbler, a one species family living from Arizona to Nicaragua. Early conical bill families began in the Old World and included our familiar introduced house sparrow, but two of them extended naturally to the Americas: pipits and finches. Seven groups of the latter provide our finches, crossbills, and many of our grosbeaks and another that reached Hawaii provides its diverse honeycreepers.

That superfamily has an advanced group of 16 families that includes 5 families providing much of our perching bird diversity: 142 species are our American sparrows; 111 are our wood warblers, which switched back to insects from grass; 108 are our blackbirds, orioles, and meadowlarks; 52 are our cardinals; and, largest of all, 327 are our tanagers. Reading DNA finally sorted out this complex pattern and provided some surprises: yellow-breasted chats are with orioles, not wood warblers, and our tanagers, like the western, are actually cardinals. The huge tanager diversity is mostly in South America, and a surprise inclusion are the Galapagos finches made famous by Darwin. The only true tanager reaching the United States and just barely is the white-collared seedeater.

In addition to ten chapters constructing the perching bird tree of life in detail, the book has range maps of their many families, beautiful accurately colored paintings of many, and ten other chapters and two appendices on subjects explaining these birds’ evolution and often useful for other species. The first appendix, for example, summarizes ecological information quite relevant to California as well as the rest of the world. This is by far the best and most useful one volume biology book I’ve ever come across.

Dr. Holstein is a retired consulting ecologist who worked in much of California, a long-time conservation activist with the California Native Plant Society, and a board member of Tuleyome, a Woodland based non-profit conservation organization. ★

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