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Dixon Independent Voice

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Sacramento Volunteer Jessica Taxara and Hearts for Paws Founder Samantha Camarra of Davis hold puppies that need homes at a recent community event at Mother House Plant Boutique in downtown Dixon. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The dogs and pups seemed happy to be around so many people who offered pets, strokes, and affection at the 'Heart for Paws' Meeting and Greeting event held at Mother Houseplant Boutique in downtown Dixon. They looked healthy and happy, and one would not know these eleven were rescued from euthanizing because they were classified as "unadoptable."

You'd think that meant they have a serious issue or maybe they bite, but that is not the case. It just means that the animal's time is up. They are on the schedule to be euthanized.

Like California, there are 30 states with 'holding laws,' the time determined to keep a dog for the sake of an owner searching for it or for it to be rescued. For California, that is six days, not including the day of impoundment unless the animal is microchipped; then it can be extended to 120 days.

The decision of what happens to the animal after that time has passed is left solely up to the animal shelter or organization that has impounded the animal. Some are turned over to rescue organizations or pet adoption agencies. Sadly, most are not.

For Samantha Camarra of Davis, that time wasn't long enough. She had

volunteered to foster a dog, but he was moved to the back of the pound and without her knowledge, he was put down.

"It was devastating and heartbreaking. I asked if there was any way to save him, and they said only if I was a 501C3 because then, they could donate him to me," she explained. "So, I started one: Heart for Paws." She thought with her friends and contacts they might be able to rescue about 25 dogs a year but that was not at all the case. At the end of their first year, they had rescued 250 dogs.

"The need is so great," she said, adding that more dogs are getting euthanized because of lack of time

and space. The group travels as far down as Ceres, Modesto, and Fresno where they have "high-kill shelters," she said.

"These pups need a good head start," said Jessica Taxara of Sacramento about why she fosters for the organization. She played with five German-Shepherd-looking pups along with Jackson Gross who with his wife, Mary McMullen, fostered the fluffy guys. They're from Woodland and have fostered two litters of several pups each.

Some people are so stung by the idea of an animal being killed, they want to save all of them, but even if they could, California law limits each home to

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School Starts August 11; Offers Hybrid Learning Options

Dixon Unified School District

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In this great summer weather, students are hardly thinking of school, but it's still a good time to have them mark their calendars for August 11 as thankfully, Dixon Unified School District will fully re-open at full capacity for the 2021-2022 school year and will offer hybrid learning options.

DUSD will still have to follow all CDPH guidance in regard to safety protocols required at that time which at press time includes masks and there will also be additional support for students for mental health.

Something new for students and parents who want to continue with on-line instruction, the district is exploring an Independent Learning Program model. Families have expressed interest in having their child(ren) continue to learn at home after experiencing distance learning and return to hybrid in the 2020-2021 school year. Other families shared that they have ongoing concerns about health and safety due to COVID-19. As a result, Dixon Unified wants to offer a choice and provide families with flexibility.

An initial interest survey was sent out to all families via email to gather feedback. Nick Girimonte, Assistant Superintendent, Coordinator of Outreach, Engagement, and Innovation, Shawntel McCommon and Principal of Maine Prairie High, Yvette Ramos conducted a Zoom meeting on June 29, to facilitate an overview of the Independent Learning Program and answer the most asked questions. The meeting is available for viewing on the District website by clicking the Board Meetings tab and then Virtual Board Meeting Info.

Here are some highlights of the meeting:

DUSD is currently in the planning stages of an Independent Learning Program. Curriculum materials will be provided and aligned with District programming, but it is important to note that this program is guided, but self-directed. There will be a large amount of technology use and online learning including, but not limited to projects, accessing Google applications, etc. This program is NOT what students had in the 2020-2021 school year which included Zoom and daily interaction/instruction with teachers;

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Youth Groups Blast Boredom Away!

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If energy can be felt, it certainly can raise the roof at the new DC Youth Center at 700 North Adams Street at one of their weekly meetings for middle school and high school students.

Inside this unremarkable church building is a movie theater, stage, a dazzling stage lighting system, refreshment booth, loud music, and games galore. There is no room for boredom for Dixon youths here despite a long, hot summer.

"When I first met my husband, I didn't like this. I used to think this was all showy," said Youth Ministry Director Kim Johnson about when she met her husband Kevin Johnson, when he was a Youth Minister in Missouri. She was raised in a "Pastor's home" and attended a small church without "bells and whistles" but Kevin was raised in a large church also in Missouri, that even had a rock wall.

"You don't change the gospel, you change how you deliver it," said Kevin who changed her mind as they spent the last decade ministering in their home state. Kevin is the new Senior Pastor at Dixon Community Church and by the way, is no relation



Kim and Kevin Johnson both have a heart for youth at the new DC Youth Center on Adams Street. Kim is the new Youth Ministry Director and Kevin is the Senior Pastor at Dixon Community Church. Photo provided by Kevin Johnson

to Councilman Kevin Johnson who is a realtor. After COVID, the couple was hired for Dixon Community and asked themselves "How do we minister now?"

"The students had been apart for so long," Kevin said. "So, we started a small group once a week until we were all feeling okay and knew they felt safe."

"No matter what we're teaching, we know they have to know the word of God," added Kim. "Feelings change but the Word doesn't. They

have to read the [Bible] so they know how to live. Everyone has different styles and different personalities, but worship always comes from the heart."

When they located here, they learned there are not a lot of places for youth to go and wanted to create an environment for youth to meet with friends, plus feel loved and cared about while learning about God, the couple said.

The DC Youth meet on

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‘Camp Nana’ Brings Special Moments

By Debra Dingman

It was several years ago when I started ‘Camp Nana’ with my two granddaughters and enjoyed swimming in the pool, baking cookies, playing in the house tent on the patio and polishing our nails.

Then came grandsons and we did all the things that boys like to do like crash cars, race boats in the pool, build Tinker Toy towers and play with squirt guns.

Last year, we added S’mores with a small fire pit in our backyard. This year, I decided it was time to take one at a time. After reading Becoming Grandma: The Joys and Science of the New Grandparenting, by famed journalist Lesley Stahl, I wanted to cherish them, hear their adorable voices, and really study their little faces.

The first week was with the 8-year-old granddaughter and we had a wonderful time but boy, the looks she could give me if I had a business call I had to take. I thought only parents could give disapproving looks like that!

We swam every day, did her nails sunflower yellow and went shopping at the SPCA thrift store in Davis so she could buy several books. We also shopped at Walmart for baking supplies and had a treat at Starbucks.

I know this one doesn’t eat much so when she chowed down the Taco dinner, I thought she was overeating but I was so pleased she finally was eating, I didn’t stop her. I should have. At 2 am this Nana was cleaning up a terrible mess in the bathroom and sterilizing every square inch of porcelain and tile.

Afterwards, I pulled her slim body close to me in the big bed and stroked her hair

and kissed her forehead. My little sweet bug fell asleep in my arms and I stayed awake for a long time thinking of how lucky my daughter is to have three beautiful children and how blessed I am.

The following week was one of the grandson’s turn. He created bubble bushes with his bubble gun, did puzzles, played cool math games, played beach ball catch, swam daily, read books, and watched the stars with me.

There are always teachable moments with children. It came when I was rummaging through my closet saying I needed to find something black to wear to a funeral and he wanted to know why. I told him people wear black or dark colors because we are mourning, not ‘morning’ like breakfast, but ‘mourning’ like feeling really sad someone left the Earth (died) and we wouldn’t get to see him again until Heaven. He wanted to know how long that would be. I said, “Well, we never really know.”

I explained how most people die when their bodies are old and worn out but some people die in accidents or get a terrible disease. “I don’t want you to die,” he said with sadness in his voice as he leaned against the edge of the bed. I told him all things have a life cycle and talked about the flowers in the back yard and animals, too.

Then I assured him that is why I take good care of myself so I can stay alive a long time and see him graduate from school. But, I said, “Only God knows when it is our time so that is why Nana loves you ALL the time!” And with that I grabbed him and kissed him all over and we laughed until he pushed me away and the subject was done. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Roger Schaller, who does a pretty good Elvis Presley impression, entertains with live music each Friday night at the American Legion Post 208 dinners that are open to the public and that help support our local veterans. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

City Planning

Since the last City Council Meeting was changed to a Zoom Meeting without enough notice for publication, be advised to call the City of Dixon at (707) 678-7000 to find out if the meetings are in-person or not. They were supposed to be in person on Wednesday, June 16, but due to the air conditioning breaking, and with last minute notice, the Wednesday, June 16 Transportation Advisory Commission and the Tuesday, June 22 Parks & Recreation Meetings were not held in-person either.

We published in our July 2 issue that the July 6 City Council Meeting would be in person but when we also received a Legal Notice about a July 13 Planning Meeting that would be on Zoom, the Editor called Mayor Steve Bird to learn what’s up. Apparently, there was a leak in a bathroom and due to flooding, they were getting new carpet so that’s why there is now no meeting planned back in the Council Chambers

this week either. Unfortunately, we could not get this news to our readers with enough notice and apologize if you showed up at City Hall. We do strive for up-to-date and accurate information, and we have repeatedly asked the Council to give at least a 7-day notice for meetings for the sake of the population that does not do online connections.

Mayor Bird said they were aiming for July 20, to be back to in-person meetings inside the Council Chambers.

Girls Softball

Fall Ball Season is coming up fast and registration is now open. You can register now online as registration fees are not collected yet. Organizers will collect fees later but there is a need to start organizing the teams now so don’t wait! Potential players are encouraged to register now for the Fall Ball Season is coming up fast!

Fall ball consists of an opening season tournament followed by five or six weeks of games, double headers on Sundays, and then a closing season tournament. This will be different from spring in that teams will travel in the Sacramento area for games and all games will be on the weekend. We will not play any weeknight games.

The divisions will be divided into five age groups: 8U (ages 7-8), 10U (ages 9-10), 12U (ages 11-12), 14U (ages 13-14), 16U (ages 15-16). Please help make this Fall Season a success and get these youth back out on the fields. Go to dixongirlssoftball.com to register.

Hall Rental

For those who have put off big celebrations due to pandemic restrictions, you will be happy to know the Veterans Memorial Hall at 1305 North First Street is now open and taking reservations for quinceañeras, wedding receptions, 80th or other large birthday celebrations, trade shows, and business meetings or parties.

Contact Wayne Holland at (707) 301-0941 or email alp208@gmail.com to reserve your date now.

You may also want to attend one of their Friday evening dinners. They start at 6 pm. It is informal with good visiting and live music by veteran Roger Schaller. On July 9, there they will be serving their ever so popular fish dinner that sold out last month and on July 16, they’ll be serving chicken. Cost is \$10 and all donations are happily accepted. ★

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Registration Open for Neighborhood Christian School

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Neighborhood Christian School announces its 2021-2022 enrollment is now open and minimum spots for Preschool through 8th grade are available after current students were registered.

Founded in 1979 and many years at the Dixon fairgrounds, the school recently moved to a new location at Dixon Community Church, 955 East A Street and will be open with in-person instruction five days a week with full days.

After the retirement of long-time teacher/administrator Rick Vidmar, the school awarded Eden Callison, a business analyst and application engineer whose children also attended NCS, the post of Principal beginning in January of this year. Over the spring and summer, the school relocated entire classes and portable buildings from the fairgrounds to the church grounds and held a well-attended

open house last month.

There will be a Kindergarten Welcome Day on Tuesday, August 17, from 10 am to noon but all other classes will run a half day from 8:30 to noon on the first week, August 18-20.

CS believes in educating students for life. Children from Solano and Yolo Counties are nurtured with a solid Christian education so that they are growing spiritually, excelling academically, maturing socially and developing physically.

Call today at (707) 678-9336 for registration information or visit the website neighborhoodchristian.org for more details. NCS is a long-standing member of Association of Christian Schools, Inc. (ACSI). It is registered with the state of California as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. ★

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Retiring Old Faithfuls



The outgoing and incoming commanders of the VFW and American Legion came together recently to perform a flag retirement ceremony behind the Dixon Fire Station. In the photo are (L-R): Outgoing VFW Commander Nelson Reyes, Incoming ALP Commander Robert Strong, Outgoing ALP Commander Wayne Holland, and Incoming VFW Commander Cecil Dennings. Photo by Lindsay Remer

Council Chambers Undergoes Upgrades and Repairs

City of Dixon

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In an effort to return to normalcy after the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Dixon is planning to reopen the Council Chambers to in-person meetings. City Hall reopened the lobby for in-person business interactions on June 16, 2021.

During the chamber’s closure, the Council Chambers has undergone some upgrades. New audio-visual equipment

has been installed including new digital broadcasting capability. New carpeting is being installed soon as well.

Yet to complicate matters, the 40+ year-old air conditioning system at City Hall is failing and cannot cool City Hall and the Council Chambers simultaneously. The City has contracted for an HVAC replacement and we are anticipating reopening the Council Chambers to the public for the July 20, 2021 meeting. We will keep the public updated as events develop. ★

School Starts August 11; Offers Hybrid Learning Options

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Families will be required to complete a Master Agreement which will outline the roles and responsibilities of the student, family, teacher advisor and District for the Independent Learning Program. Students will not be supervised throughout the day by a teacher advisor and encourage families to ensure that students are completing assigned work;

Student progress will be measured and monitored. Students will follow the same curricular outlines as students who are attending school in-person. This includes assessments; Students can switch back to in-person/regular program at any time;

DUSD encourages students with disabilities to return to in-person instruction

to receive their legally mandated specialized services. DUSD encourages English Learners to return to in-person as well. If your child is not at grade level, Independent Learning would not best suit him or her as this program is guided, but self-directed. Any student that falls behind regular coursework will be returned to the regular program.

The District’s next steps are to have families formalize their interest by July 10, via completing the Master Agreement which is available on the District’s website. There will be an update to program development on July 15 at 6 pm to the School Board. For more information, call DUSD at (707) 678-5582. ★

MEMORIAL NOTICE

Vickie Hamby

April 9, 1953 to July 1, 2021

Vickie Hamby of Dixon, California died July 1st 2021, at Marin General Hospital. She was born April 9th 1953, in San Francisco to Jackie and William Reese.

She enjoyed arts and crafts, gardening, cooking, sewing, playing Jeopardy, caring for her family and spending time with her 2 grandchildren.

She is survived by her son, Jason Hamby 46, of Vacaville, daughter, Michelle Austin 45, of San Rafael, grandchildren Merik and Nathan Austin of Dixon, sister, Christina Latorre of Reno Nevada, and brother Steven Reese of San Rafael.

She was preceded in death by her husband Roger Hamby.

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Youth Groups Blast Boredom Away!

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Wednesdays with some “hangout time” at 6:15 and then service ending at 8:30 pm. During the hang out time, they can buy almost anything from the snack bar for a buck. The kitchenette is well supplied with a hotdog machine, a fridge, and prices “as cheap as possible,” Kim said.

There are two small basketball hoops, a large shelving unit loaded with all kinds of board games, and a separate area beholding a contemporary couch, chairs, and coffee table. There are black window coverings, colorful stage lighting, and an excellent sound system for the stage where praise music as well as skits are performed by the students.

“We get the youth really involved and we have teams that run Sunday School, the church coffee center, and create drama. We have our own worship team,” Kim said. “It’s very high energy and has a camp atmosphere so they really get to know each other.” They report most of their attendees are from middle school, but their high school students are increasing.

Youth Groups Team Up

Similarly, Calvary Chapel, Grace Fellowship,

and Living Hope Church provide students with great summer meetups too, only on Tuesday nights. Their youth groups joined for the summer under Calvary Chapel’s Youth Pastor Matthew Signorello.

“One of the beauties of our group and being in a small town is that we can combine efforts and I believe everyone genuinely feels welcome,” he said. He was excited to report they raised enough money at a recent rummage sale to send ten of about 45 youth to Cazadero Camp near the coast.

This group has between 25 and 35 middle school and high school age kids meeting together every other week and on alternating weeks, being led in small groups at various times.

“I was so blessed to have a community that I could call my own and it gave me leaders to look up to,” said Conner Millard who regularly attended youth groups through high school and is now part of Living Hope’s Worship Team.

“School teachers want to impart a standard of information and push you to that standard but in the youth group, expectations of you are open. They want to teach you about God,

but they want to be your friend even before they want to be a spiritual mentor,” he said, admitting that he was crazy, loud and annoying a lot but that no one pointed that out to him. “When you’re around people that you love and enjoy, it doesn’t really matter what you do. I would not be the same person without my overall youth group experience,” he said.

While summers usually have more activities like pizza nights, sock wars, or knockout basketball, outreach might actually be better during the school year as friends will invite friends more easily, youth leaders said.

“The Lord can use us later, but we want them to live in a way now that shows God’s heart for everybody. We want them to uncover the truth of the scriptures and not be afraid to share [their faith,]” Signorello said.

For more information on Living Hope, Grace Fellowship, or Calvary Chapel Youth Groups, phone Signorello (707) 474-2528. For Dixon Community Church, call (707) 678-1981 and choose Youth Pastor to reach Kim Johnson. ★

Firefighters Fight Two Fourth of July Fires



This fire destroyed homes on North Washington and is still under investigation. No one was injured although it displaced at least two different families and burned their cars. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Fourth of July kept Dixon firefighters busy with two fires that occurred in the middle of families setting off fireworks for their Independence Day celebrations. One was at 9:27 pm at 231 West Mayes Street and the other was at 10:16 pm at 275 North Washington Street.

The West Mayes fire was caused by an electrical issue and was a “working structure fire,” according to the Dixon Fire Department. Dixon responded with two engines and one Battalion Chief, with approximately eight personnel, with Medic Ambulance also on scene for any possible injuries. UC Davis responded to the Dixon Fire Station for additional coverage.

The cause of the fire at 275 North Washington Street, a 2 or 3-unit apartment building near the corner of C Street, was still under investigation at press time. Dixon responded with three engines and one Battalion Chief, with approximately 10 personnel. Mutual aid was received from Winters, UC Davis, Vacaville,

Fairfield, Montezuma Fire Protection District and Vacaville Fire Protection District. Medic Ambulance was also on scene for possible injuries.

One family that was displaced was a single mom with three daughters and the other was a single woman and her dog. Two separate GoFundMe accounts have been created online to help each of them.

“On the night of 4th of July, Diane was dog sitting for her daughter at her apartment. The dog started barking and she realized that she could smell smoke. She was able to grab the dog and run outside before the apartment was engulfed in flames. We are so VERY thankful she was able to get out! She lost everything in the fire including her car,” posted by Ashley Larcom, a friend of Diane Brandt.

“I am raising money to help ease the financial burden for Melissa (Alexander) Courville and her three daughters after a fire destroyed her apartment and her car on 7/4/21. We are so thankful that everyone in the complex is safe. Please consider donating and sharing,” Amanda Crisman shared. ★

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Rescued for a New Leash on Life



To help re-introduce reluctant dogs to water, food chips are dropped into this pool and the dog can smell it and wants to eat it so attempts to--cautiously at its own comfort level--get into the water to retrieve the chip. Photo by Debra Dingman

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four dogs or cats over the age of four months. If you have five or more, you are required to obtain a special permit.
“We rescued one [dog] after I was taken by Samantha’s story,” McMullen said. “I said we have to help.” Besides, she had the time, and the couple enjoyed the puppy stage although admittedly, it’s a lot of work.
“I only do one at a time,”

said Taxara, who quickly added, “but we have two of our own dogs.” The goal of a foster situation is to help the dog present its “most-adoptable self,” explained Camarra on her website. That means working on house-training, basic manners, commands, and providing controlled and positive exposure to new places and people but keeping in mind that most of the animals come from high-stress situations

and have been in multiple homes with different rules and schedules.
“We expect fosters to be patient and understanding, using positive reinforcement only and never excessive force or physical punishment,” Camarra said. For more information on Hearts for Paws, go to their website HeartsforPawsRescue.com or call (530) 400-0330. ★



Survey Shows Cost of Cookout Foods
With food prices stabilizing, an annual American Farm Bureau survey shows little to no change in the average cost for items featured in a summer cookout. The survey tracks retail prices for a dozen popular cookout items, and shows them down less than 1% from a year ago, but up 8% compared to 2019. A Farm Bureau analyst says the food system continues to adjust after disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

USDA Urges Americans to Reduce Food Waste
Four steps can help people reduce food waste at home, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. USDA has released new resources to show people how to prevent food waste. The resources stress planning for food purchases, controlling food portions, properly storing leftovers and composting food scraps. USDA says an average family of four wastes almost \$1,500 worth of food each year.

Specialist Provides Drought Tips for Landscaping
When water supplies run short, homeowners should concentrate on keeping trees healthy. A University of California specialist describes trees as “our most valuable landscape resource” because of the shade, cooling and other benefits they provide. Other drought tips include irrigating landscapes in the morning, to reduce evaporation; using mulch; and controlling weeds that compete with other plants for water.
Study Indicates Heart-Health Value of Prune Consumption
Eating prunes appears to help women improve their cardiovascular health. A study by San Diego State University showed that prune consumption raised antioxidant capacity and reduced inflammation among healthy, postmenopausal women. Those factors are associated with lower risk of cardiovascular disease. Volunteers in the study ate the equivalent of six prunes a day for six months. ★

Sen. Dodd: Statement on Wildfire Preparedness and Investment

By Ezrah J. Chaaban, Esq.,
Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Senator Bill Dodd (D-Napa) made the following statement regarding the state of progress and investment in wildfire preparedness:
“It’s no secret that climate change has created critical wildfire risk that has devastated our state in recent years. Investing in wildfire preparedness has been a top priority for me in the legislature, and Governor Newsom has been a key partner since day one. While our progress in recent years is substantially greater than we’ve seen in recent decades, we all know more needs to be done. The reality is that

we didn’t get into this problem overnight, and it will take sustained investment and implementation to make our communities safe. Governor Newsom’s leadership has been critical in slating a record \$2 billion investment in the budget for wildfire preparedness. And I’m confident that working together, we will continue to build on this and get projects completed that protect California.”
Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Yolo, Sonoma, Solano, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties. More information on Senator Bill Dodd can be found at www.senate.ca.gov/dodd. ★



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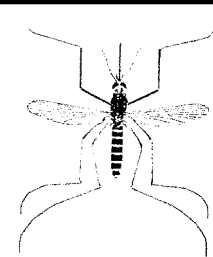


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A number of types of sources found within residential neighborhoods are capable of producing enough adult mosquitoes to bother not only the residents of one home but a number of homes in the area. These mosquitoes are also capable of transmitting West Nile virus! Water left standing for seven to ten days can produce mosquitoes during warmer weather. There are a number of simple precautions that can be taken to prevent this from happening...

TYPE OF SOURCE	WHAT TO DO...
Leaking faucets and broken pipes:	Repair or replace defective parts immediately.
Water under buildings:	Install sump pump and provide drainage if possible.
Roof gutters:	Maintain roof gutters and down spouts clear of debris.
Septic tanks:	Seal and cover all openings and screen vents.
Impounded water:	Fill if possible or provide adequate drainage.
Flower pots:	Drain-off excess water or invert if not in use.
Swimming pools & Hot tubs:	Use filter and skimmer daily to remove egg rafts and larvae. Chlorine will not kill mosquito larvae. Provide drainage for filter and sump pumps. When not in use, cover tightly.
Wading pools:	Change water weekly. When not in use turn upside down.
Swimming pool covers:	Tighten cover to prevent sagging.
Ornamental ponds:	Stock with mosquito fish and remove excess vegetation such as leaves, and thin pond lilies occasionally. Maintain even water level. Screen inlet on recirculation pump. When cleaning pond, transfer to glass bowl - chlorine kills fish. If pond is no longer desired, make holes in bottom and fill with dirt or sand.
Bird baths:	Change water frequently, preferably every 2-3 days
Lawns:	Avoid over watering.
Tree holes:	Fill with a polymer such as Soil Moist or Broadleaf P4 granules which absorb water - can last for years, available at garden supply stores, sand or dirt, drain if possible - when in doubt, call a tree surgeon.
Water troughs:	Change water weekly or stock with mosquito fish.
Boats:	Use a water tight cover or store upside down.
Containers:	Dispose of all unused containers that can collect rain or irrigation water such as tin cans, jars, barrels, buckets, old tires and tubs. Gardening containers such as vases and buckets should be stored upside down.

Solano County Mosquito Abatement District

707.437.1116

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Dixon Independent Voice

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FOR THE LOVE OF

BOOKS

By Amy Shane

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

Small Favors

by Erin A. Craig

Amity Falls lives by its seven rules; however, it is the last one that strikes fear into their hearts: “Enter not the forest deep. Beyond the Bells, the dark fiends keep.”

It was believed that the early settlers of Amity Falls chased the devil's monsters deep into the forest, where they remain, unseen just past the forest's edge. However, for Ellerie Downing, life in Amity Falls felt suffocating. It wasn't just the fact that the woods entirely surrounded them, cutting them off from the world; it was the simple fact that being born a woman made her life one of waiting. She was supposed to sit and wait to be a wife and a mother, never to be free to explore or follow her dreams like her twin brother.

Then one day, it all changed. First, a supply team is killed by unmentionable beasts, and then a handsome traveler appears, catching Ellerie's eye. Without warning, crops begin to wither away in rot, and animals start to emerge from the forest with unsettling deformities. It's as if an invisible plague has fallen across the land.



- ◆ Publisher: Delacorte Press
- ◆ Hardcover, 480 pages
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Rating: ♥♥♥♥

As the seasons turn, so do the hearts of the townsfolks, forcing them to turn on one another. All the signs quickly add up to one possibility, the monsters have returned, and they are granting the town's deepest desires for one small favor. As Ellerie watches the town crumble around her, she knows that she needs to stop them if only she can discover the truth behind the creatures and the boy who has captured her heart.

What are you willing to give for your deepest desire? Erin A. Craig once again delivers a masterful retelling that is delectably dark and twisted, but also surrounded by the gentle hum of beauty and

love. *Small Favors* is the atmospheric read of the summer, luring in readers with a story that delicately unfurls like a tempting bloom. It is a story that poses as being soft and delicate on the outside but quickly whisks readers into a town harrowed by the forest surrounding them and the sinister secrets that they keep.

With dark echoing's of Rumpelstiltskin and Stephen King's *Needful Things*, readers will be back into a simpler time where monsters dwell and your deepest desires are granted. But be warned, Erin Craig gently lulls in her readers, then leaves them at the edge of their seats, waiting for the truth to emerge from the shadows, fearful that the answer will shatter the very existence of those that lie within her story. A true master of retellings, Erin Craig, delivers another book that delicately tiptoes on the edge of horror while allowing the truth to dangle just out of sight. *Small Favors* releases July 27 and Craig's prior *Twelve Dancing Princesses* retelling, *House of Salt and Sorrows* is out now. ★

Data Undercut Newsom's 'Roaring Back' Claim



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

Virtually any utterance from Gavin Newsom's mouth these days, as well as those from his press office and other outposts of his administration, contains the phrase "roaring back."

When, for example, the Legislature passed a state budget to meet the June 15 constitutional deadline, Newsom issued a statement declaring that "California's economy is coming roaring back."

Not surprisingly, it's also the key slogan in his resistance to a campaign to recall him, something voters will decide later this year.

"Gov. Gavin Newsom has California roaring back," the announcer in one of his campaign spots declares. "Newsom is delivering money to your pocket. Plus an extra \$500 bucks for families with kids – \$4 billion straight to small businesses through the nation's largest grant program – cleaning up our streets and getting 65,000 homeless Californians into housing – and free pre-K for every California child, regardless of income."

To some, it might appear somewhat unseemly that Newsom so obviously merges his official actions – and taxpayers' money – with

his political campaign, but the once-discernible line between politics and policy vanished long ago.

That said, do the facts support Newsom's repetitive "roaring back" claim?

To be sure, some Californians have prospered in the 15 months since Newsom declared a public health emergency due to COVID-19 and imposed restrictions on personal and economic activities.

Those who could continue to work at home maintained their incomes and those on the top rungs of the economic ladder were enriched as the values of their investments such as stocks expanded, thanks largely to the Federal Reserve's cheap money policies.

Newsom has a multi-billion-dollar revenue surplus mostly due to taxes on the affluent, money he's now spending on the wide array of new benefits he's touting in his campaign ads.

However, broader economic data offer scant support for the "roaring back" mantra the governor is chanting these days. It's more like creeping back – slowly.

The state's monthly report on employment, issued on June 18, frames the glacial pace of improvement. The state lost nearly 3 million jobs after Newsom ordered widespread business closures in March 2020, and since then we've recovered roughly half of them. Our 7.9% unemployment rate is still twice what it was before the shutdown and is the third highest of any state, slightly under Hawaii and New Mexico.

In addition to the official

unemployment rate, the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics makes other calculations, including an important one on underemployment, called U-6, which includes not only workers without jobs but those who are only marginally attached to the labor force and those working part-time.

California's U-6 rate through the first quarter, 18.4%, was four percentage points above the national figure and the third highest of any state, behind Hawaii and Nevada. Even more disturbingly, the U-6 rate in Los Angeles County, 24.1%, is higher than that of any state.

The federal Bureau of Economic Analysis reported this month that during the first quarter of this year, California's economic output increased by 6.3%, slightly lower than the national rate and in the lowest third of the states.

The federal bureau also reported that California's personal income grew by 42.8% during the first quarter, which sounds impressive until one looks at the nation as a whole and learns that California's growth was the second lowest of any state. The bureau notes that nationwide, "transfer payments" – mostly federal aid programs rather than earned income – accounted for virtually all of personal income growth.

California's economy is recovering, to be sure. But "roaring back?" Hardly.

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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Trump's Huge 2023 Decision

Sometime in 2023, Donald Trump will presumably make the most momentous decision by a single person affecting the fate of the Republican Party in decades.

He will decide whether to run for president again, and that will determine who's the frontrunner (Trump, if he's a go) and the contours of the race.

If Trump runs, he will, one assumes, blot out the sun. Everything will be about him – his record, his pronouncements, his animosities. Much of the conservative mass media will get on board, while the mainstream media – inadvertently aiding him, yet again – will be even more intensely hostile.

The choice between this and a more "normal" nomination battle is Trump's alone.

Perhaps not since Dwight Eisenhower turned aside Harry Truman's entreaties to run for president as a Democrat and threw his hat in the ring as a Republican has someone had such "yea or nay" influence over the nation's politics.

Trump's continued sway has been a boon to his most hardcore cadre, but it is a problem for Trumpism, at least if that term is to mean anything more than personal loyalty to him. In particular, his staying power risks overshadowing and distorting

the development of the populist wing of the party, which should be about more than "Stop the Steal" and adherence to one man, even if that man has defied political gravity.

Trump lost last November and contributed more than his share to the Georgia Senate losses that have added trillions of dollars to what Joe Biden can plausibly spend.

He no longer has any formal power, whereas six months ago he could move aircraft carrier groups.

He's off social media and is not nearly as omnipresent on traditional media as when he was holding impromptu press conferences on his way to Marine One.

And yet, his grip on the party has barely loosened, if at all.

Why?

Most important, he avoided the stigma of a loser by falsely claiming he really won.

He connected with his voters at a cultural level deeper than any of his policies, creating an enduring bond.

His voters still think he's the only one who truly gets the threat from the left, and the only one willing to fight with the requisite ferocity.

Finally, they think Trump is being persecuted by social media companies and worry they could be next.

The lesson of the defenestration of Liz Cheney is that you can't run headlong into these sentiments and expect to survive in leadership.

Mitch McConnell, who has made his disdain for Trump clear, has taken the more prudent course of declining to elaborate on

his well-known views, and isn't going anywhere.

But there's no doubt that what it means to be a populist in the Trump mode is overly determined by Trump himself.

Until recently, Elise Stefanik was a moderate Republican from New York state. She became the alternative to Cheney for the party's populists by toeing the line on Stop the Steal, an issue that isn't liberal, conservative or populist, but pure Trump.

The Trump effect is stark in Ohio Republican politics. One would think Rep. Anthony Gonzalez, a featured speaker last year at an event of the populist policy shop American Compass, would have more populist credibility than Senate primary candidate Josh Mandel, a run-of-the-mill establishment Republican. Yet Gonzalez voted to impeach Trump, so Mandel is earning populist points by calling him a "traitor."

On the other hand, another likely Senate candidate, J.D. Vance, who represents a sincere, thought-through populism, will have to answer for his lack of enthusiasm for Trump in 2016.

If Trump does decide to run, even if he's less dominant than advertised, he'll squeeze out potential candidates like Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, who are most determined to run as his direct successors.

They, like most everyone else in the party, will have to hold their breath until Trump comes down one way or the other in 2023.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.
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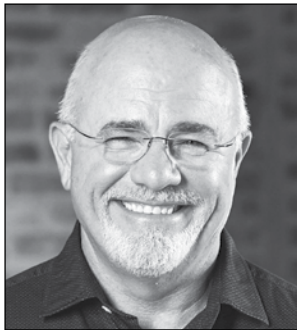
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Dave Ramsey Says

Honesty Matters

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are in our late 20s, and we're on Baby Step 6. Recently, my mom reached out to me for help. She has a car lease that ends next month, and she asked to borrow \$2,000 so she can pay it off. It's a weird situation, because my parents keep separate accounts and don't combine their finances. My mom also asked me not to tell my wife about all this. What's your advice?

– Daniel

Dear Daniel,

I don't do anything I can't tell my wife about – ever. If I'm in a meeting, and someone tells me what's said in that room has to stay in that room, that I can't talk to anyone else about it under any circumstances, I'll get up and leave. In my mind, keeping things from my wife is against the law.

Your mom is out of control to even think about asking you to do this, and you need to have a serious talk with her. Let her know you love her, but she has no right to ask this of you, and

it's not something you'd do. Let her know, too, that she's never to ask for anything like this again.

If she needs \$2,000, she should be talking to her husband about the idea. They should be living with combined finances anyway. So, it sounds like they've got issues to straighten out between themselves.

It's time folks started laying their cards on the table and stopped sneaking around. That's no way for a husband and wife to live, and your mom has no business trying to drag you into all of it behind everyone's back!

– Dave

They'll Play on your Emotions

Dear Dave,

I'm on Baby Step 2. I've paid off almost all my debt, and I'm living on a monthly budget. Recently, I got a call from a debt collection company about an old medical bill. They threatened to garnish my wages, and from the way they talked I'm afraid they may actually do it. How should I handle this situation?

First of all, they won't garnish your wages. They can't. For that to happen, they would have to go through all the formal, legal steps of suing you, and then they'd have to win the case. Debt collectors like to play with people's emotions because, many times, folks will give in and do whatever

they want—whether they can afford it or not.

The worst thing you can do in these situations is react with panic or fear. Talk to them calmly and rationally, and explain your financial situation. You may be able to reach a compromise that works for both of you. If they get nasty, or continue to lie to you, let them know you'll file a complaint with the FTC (Federal Trade Commission). Pushy debt collectors have a habit of getting polite and reasonable in a hurry when faced with the possibility of the federal government stepping in.

Do everything you reasonably can to pay your debts, Gwen. You owe the money, and that means you have a legal and moral obligation to pay them. But you don't have to put up with a collector's lies and harassment!

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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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 2021-001290

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5556 Burgundy Court, Vallejo, CA 94591

Alfredo Lozano, 5556 Burgundy Court, Vallejo, CA 94591

Date Filed in Solano County: June 14, 2021

The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2021

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 13, 2026. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)

Publish: June 25 and July 2, 9, 16, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

CASE #FCS056561

1. Petitioner Kristina Grace filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name	Proposed name
Aliah Celeste Monroe	Aliah Celeste Grace

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. August 13, 2021, 9:00 a.m. Department 8, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533

Judge of the Superior Court: Wendy G. Getty

DATED: June 3, 2021

Publish: June 25 and July 2, 9, 16, 2021 (The Dixon Independent Voice)

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

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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 July 20, 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 July 20, 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 July 9, 2021

Request for Proposals For Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map Update

City of Dixon Community Development Department

7/9/2021

The City of Dixon has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) and invites proposals from qualified firms with expertise in zoning code preparation and updates to lead a process resulting in the preparation of a comprehensive new Zoning Ordinance and Map for the City, including any necessary environmental (CEQA) clearances. Proposals received through the RFP process will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of City staff and appointed officials in the City of Dixon and final firm will be forwarded to City Council for review and approval of a Professional Services Agreement.

Proposals shall be submitted no later than 3:00 pm on August 13, 2021. Questions related to the RFP may be submitted in accordance with the procedures identified in the RFP, no later than Friday, July 23, 2021. The City will post a written response to any questions received at https://www.cityofdixon.us/ZoningOrdinance by Friday, July 30, 2021.

The RFP has been distributed to firms who have previously submitted requests to be included on the City's RFP list. Any other firm(s) interested in submitting an RFP, may view the RFP and procedures on the City's web site (identified above)

To submit a Proposal, you must submit five (5) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy of the proposal by the deadline, following the procedures identified in the RFP. Details on the background, scope of work, RFP schedule, compensation, proposal requirements, evaluation criteria and process, resources, RFP terms and contract conditions are all contained in the RFP.

The successful Proposer will be asked to enter into an agreement with the City reflecting the terms and conditions of the Proposal based on the City's Professional Services Agreement requirements. A copy of the Agreement template is included as Attachment 1 to this RFP. Submittals should include a list of any proposed modifications to the Agreement by the Consultant. Award of an agreement is subject to approval by the City Council of the City of Dixon.

All questions regarding this RFP should be directed to Raffi Boloyan, Community Development Director, via electronic mail at rboloyan@cityofdixon.us. Inquiries shall contain the firm's name, contact person, and email address and be titled “Zoning Code Update – RFP”

Dated: July 9, 2021 By: Lupe Ruiz, Administrative City Clerk Advertisement Dates: July 9, 2021 and July 16, 2021 Dixon Independent Voice July 9 and 16, 2021

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

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K	A	R	A	T	E		W	A	U	L		T	H	O		
				U	K	E	S		R	U	E					
			P	O	M	M	E	L		F	E	N	C	I	N	G
J	U	L	E	P			I	C	E		G	O	R	A	L	
A	L	I	A	S			T	I	E		E	L	O	P	E	
B	L	O	T				E	S	T		R	I	N	S	E	

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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CLUES

ACROSS
1. Welsh dog breed
6. With juice, or au ____
9. Pirate's yes, pl.
13. What a subordinate does
14. Cigarette residue
15. Chimney cleaner
16. Coffin holders
17. "Sheep be true! -ram-ewe!"
18. Poisonous Christmas berry
19. *First U.S. city to host Summer Olympics
21. *Swimmer with most Olympic medals
23. Part of a min.
24. *Field hockey's stick and ball, e.g.
25. Gayle King's network
28. Capital of Latvia
30. *Canoeing: slalom and

35. Rhine tributary
37. Building annexes
39. A in AV
40. Three-ply cookie
41. *Madison cycling, e.g.
43. *Light ball tap, in volleyball or tennis
44. What hoarders do
46. Not happening (2 words)
47. Half-rotten
48. *Martial art debuting in Olympics in 2021
50. Make a plaintive cry
52. Short for although
53. Luau instruments
55. Street in Paris
57. * ____ horse in gymnastics
60. *One of pentathlon events
64. Kentucky Derby drink
65. Rock in a glass
67. Small Asian ungulate
68. Spy's cover
69. Not a win nor a loss
70. Run off to marry
71. Pat dry
72. Eastern Standard Time
73. Between shampoo and repeat

DOWN
1. Corn units
2. Final notice?
3. Rod attachment
4. Greek sandwiches
5. Federal Reserve in relation to U.S. currency
6. *Boxing moves
7. *All-time Olympic record holder in medal count
8. Popular fitness magazine
9. Military no-show
10. Crowd-sourced review platform
11. Mature elvers
12. I do this with my little eye
15. Tibetan mountaineer
20. Slipperier
22. ____-been
24. London's Tyburn Tree, e.g.
25. Kick the bucket
26. Thailand's neighbor
27. Give sheep a haircut
29. A valley in Scotland
31. "Ant-Man" leading actor
32. Dostoevsky's "The ____"
33. Beethoven's famous symphony
34. *2021 Olympic host
36. Civil Rights icon
38. Long adventure story

42. ____ welcome!
45. Tree cutters' leftovers
49. ____ out, as in victory
51. One suffering from tuberculosis
54. Chosen few
56. Food safety threat
57. *Threat to muscles
58. Mixture
59. Source of protein
60. Pedal pushers
61. Golf club
62. Midday slumbers
63. High school club
64. #6 Down, sing.
66. Post-Soviet Union union

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
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	57	58	59						60			61	62	63
64						65	66			67				
68						69				70				
71						72				73				

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8		2		9		5		
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	2				7			
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1	7	9					8	
9			6	7				1

Solutions on Page 7



The Impending Crisis: The Censored Truth

Commentary by Harold Pease, Ph.D.

A strange eerie silence stalks the land somewhat similar to that after Abraham Lincoln was elected president. The nation had already divided choosing sides. Everyone knew that electing Lincoln would be too much for the South and an impending crisis would break any time. It was on everyone’s mind just below the surface and no one wanted to admit that it existed, but it did.

Senator John J. Crittenden had two sons each a general on each side of the Mason Dixon Line who stood on opposite sides. They would be fighting each other. In Congress he offered the Crittenden Compromise dividing the nation on that line and extending it west with slavery permitted south and prohibited north. No one cared.

Northern newspapers censored the southern view and the South the northern view. Only in the middle states, where a military conflict was most likely to occur, could the people get some semblance of both sides. The nation held its breath but still Fort Sumter came and thereafter 620,000 soldiers lost their lives.

Today, 161 years later, the major difference is that there exists no geographical line. Its rural vs. urban, neighbor vs. neighbor and family members vs. family members. Now the division line is socialism vs. freedom, globalism vs patriotism. The censorship of the patriot side by the globalist controlled media is almost total—still everyone feels it. One side hates our flag, our anthem, our Constitution, our history, our national heroes, our police and seemingly our country itself, anxious to destroy it all. They also call everyone but themselves racist but are themselves the first to use race to define and divide others.

How do we defuse our impending crisis so that we too do not reach a point of no return as they? Truth Hammer of We the Media has the only real answer. In an email addressed to “Any honest people left...on the political left,” he asks.

“As you know we are severely divided.... To avoid actual war we MUST have free and fair elections... and 1/2 of America really does believe the other half is now rigging elections. **Take a moment to allow this to sink in.**

“We really do believe YOUR chosen leaders colluded with the mainstream media Big Tech Censorship and rigged the election.

“If you really understand this, you’ll be feeling some chills about now. How do you want to resolve this “powder keg” moment in American (and world) history?

“Will future generations look back with gladness that we found a civil way to work together? Or will this generation end up as a cautionary tale of how not to let political division progress to the point of no return?

“YOU have the power to play a role in the solution. If you are confident the election was not rigged, then you should

be EAGER to prove that, no matter how many audits are needed because audits are cheap compared to the actual conflict that might emerge. If half the country comes to believe it has been backed into a corner by the other side with no way out.

“FACT. We’ve seen case after case dismissed by controversial decisions of technicalities or courts that straight up refused to take a case. Not one swing state case has been cited on the merits.

“You have weaponized our records against us and are blocking every effort to open up the election and even look on how it went down.

“Look forward, where do you think your present course of action leads? HINT the answer is right in the Marxist playbook, your leaders often quote from (We the Media, Ep. 2467b - Soon They Won’t Be Able To Walk Down The Street, Election Fraud Panic Intensifies, X22 Report, May 2, 2021).

But unfortunately the globalists oppose the ongoing Arizona audit and any other examination of the election of 2020 with passion and their media networks censor any info regarding such. Why? An old adage comes to mind, “Thou protests too much.” Only those who know they cheated and that the outcome would show such, would protest with such vehemence.

If you know that you won honestly the normal response would be. “Please do it. Here are all our records. Examine our voting machines. Take all the time you need.” “Let this issue be resolved forever.” The Left have everything to gain by the audits. If vindicated their accusers would look like fools. Their media would have a field day with election fodder for years.

This is why you don’t support audits. Over a thousand witnesses with sworn affidavits, under penalty of perjury, testifying they witnessed you cheat.

In August the Arizona audit will be released showing you cheated. Arizona will rescind its previous vote for Joe Biden. Other swing states will follow with audits of their own showing the same with their rescinding also. You will have to give the election back to its rightful winner. The vast majority of Americans will support this action not only because they respect free and fair elections and law and order but because they love our flag, our anthem, our Constitution, our history, our national heroes, and our police.

This is the only way to prevent a new civil war. Let us support the audit together. You can’t censor away the eerie feeling of an impending crisis without it.

Dr. Harold Pease is an expert on the United States Consitution and a syndicated columnist. He has dedicated his career to studying the writings of the Founding Fathers and applying that knowledge to current events. He taught history and political science from this perspective for over 30 years. Newspapers have permission to publish this column. To read more of his weekly articles, please visit www.LibertyUnderFire.org. ★



Riley Reviews

“ICE ROAD” A PERILOUS THRILLS TRIP; RANDOM TV PREVIEW

A TV Review by Tim Riley

“THE ICE ROAD” RATED PG-13 ON NETFLIX

Befitting his status as the B-movie action hero, the latest Liam Neeson adventure thriller actually has a rating, but “The Ice Road” would really qualify as a straight-to-video film.

Enter Netflix, a streaming service that arguably has a fondness for entertainments in this genre, to deliver since the studio pipeline to local cinemas at this point in time is not back up to pre-Covid glory days.

In a nutshell, the premise of “The Ice Road” can be deduced from the opening credit sequence which informs the viewer that 65,000-pound trucks traversing frozen lakes and rivers can be dangerous and result in fatalities.

Also noted in the credits is this kicker: “Some drivers describe (these treks) as suicide missions.”Right away, we know the stakes are going to be high for traveling on the ice roads.

Okay, who’s either crazy or incredibly brave enough to take on this driving assignment? Well, this is a Liam Neeson movie after all.Three guesses and the first two don’t count.

As it happens, Liam Neeson’s long-haul driver Mike McCann and his brother Gurty (Marcus Thomas), a skilled mechanic and war veteran suffering PTSD and aphasia, are based in North Dakota and looking for work in Canada.

An explosion at a diamond mine in northern Manitoba traps about two dozen miners underground.A rescue mission must be accomplished within 30 hours due to the limited supply of oxygen, but the site is remote and hard to access.

The heavy equipment needed to save the miners can’t be airlifted, and spring weather is making thinning ice roads even more precarious to travel. A convoy of three rigs will be needed for the sake of redundancy, allowing for at least one truck to make it all the way.

Expedition organizer Jim Goldenrod (Laurence Fishburne) needs a crew yesterday, so he takes on the team of Mike and Gurty and posts bail for rebellious young Native activist Tantoo (Amber Midthunder), whose brother is one of the trapped miners.

Along for the ride is the mining company’s actuary (Benjamin Walker), an obnoxious fellow who may have more on his mind than crunching the numbers for an insurance risk analysis.

Tension on the road trip comes from racing against the clock with suspected sabotage of an engine, perilous frozen cracks, rippling sheets of ice, a storm and an avalanche.

A conspiracy is afoot that may or may not be fully revealed or understood. The

trapped miners bicker over the idea of thinning the herd to conserve a dwindling oxygen supply. Some people turn out not to be what who you thought they were.

With the help of some mercenaries, the corporate bad guys prove to be even worse than thought possible. A key player is also unjustly maligned before becoming key asset at a critical juncture in the mission’s journey.

Liam Neeson is still working at being the oldest actor taking the tough guy roles, whether in a B-movie or not.Though “The Ice Road” is far from one of the better films in the action genre, it’s not an altogether misfire.

RANDOM TV PREVIEW

Netflix announced it’s working on an untitled workplace comedy series inspired by the front office of the Los Angeles Lakers, an iconic franchise with 17 NBA championships to its credit.

Jeanie Buss, owner of the team that she inherited from her father Jerry Buss, famously posed for Playboy back in 1995 as a younger sports executive in the front office.

Since this series is inspired by the personal and professional dynamic between the family owners and front office team, will the fictional team governor Eliza Reed navigating NBA ownership and family drama have to deal with lingering fallout from posing in the buff?

Will the front office deal with the poor sportsmanship often displayed by the team’s superstar LeBron James?Is there room for satire of a player who leaves his team hanging with almost six minutes to go in a crucial playoff game?

AMC Networks announced that it has greenlit Anne Rice’s “Interview with the Vampires” as a new series for AMC+ and AMC based on the bestselling novel that will premiere next year.

In a major acquisition, the company acquired the rights to Rice’s iconic works, encompassing 18 titles including the “Vampire Chronicles” and “Mayfair Witches” series.

Rice’s first novel “Interview with the Vampire,” in which Lestat was the central character, was nearly two decades later turned into a movie of the same name with Tom Cruise as the French aristocratic vampire.

The Anne Rice fan base is massive, and the fact that the famed author and her son Christopher Rice will serve as executive producers on all series and films should draw interest to AMC’s ambitious plans.

AMC has scored a coup with holding the rights for the world renowned and globally coveted intellectual property to develop its own Anne Rice franchise. Together, the “Vampire Chronicles and the “Mayfair” book series have sold more than 150 million copies worldwide. ★



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Missing A Diamond

This is Diamond Steve, an 8-year-old cat that has been missing from the Northwest Park area (Berkshire and Almond) since a month ago with owner Rosa Anaya terribly concerned since he would come to sleep with her son every night without fail. His tailbone was broken some time ago so has no use of his tail. It may wobble but it stays down, she said. If you see this fur friend, please call (707) 689-6696. Photo by Rosa Anaya





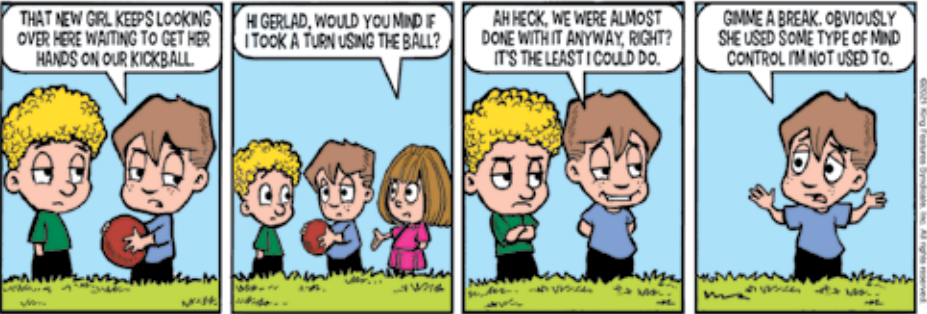
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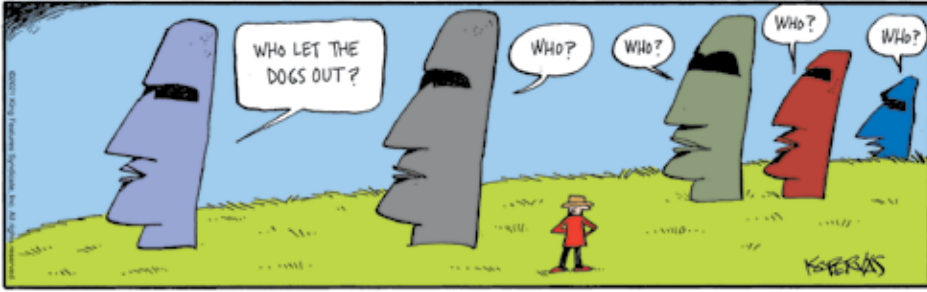
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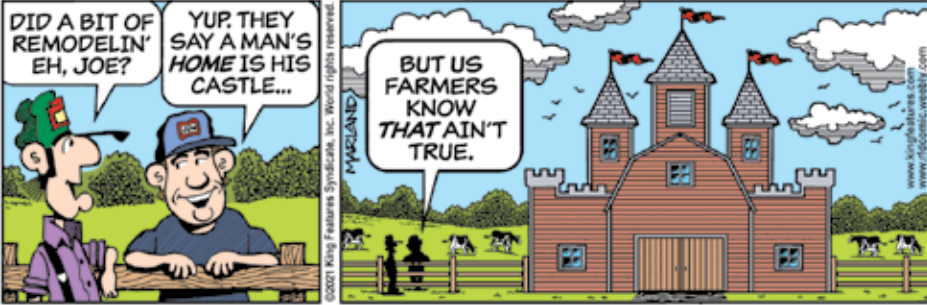
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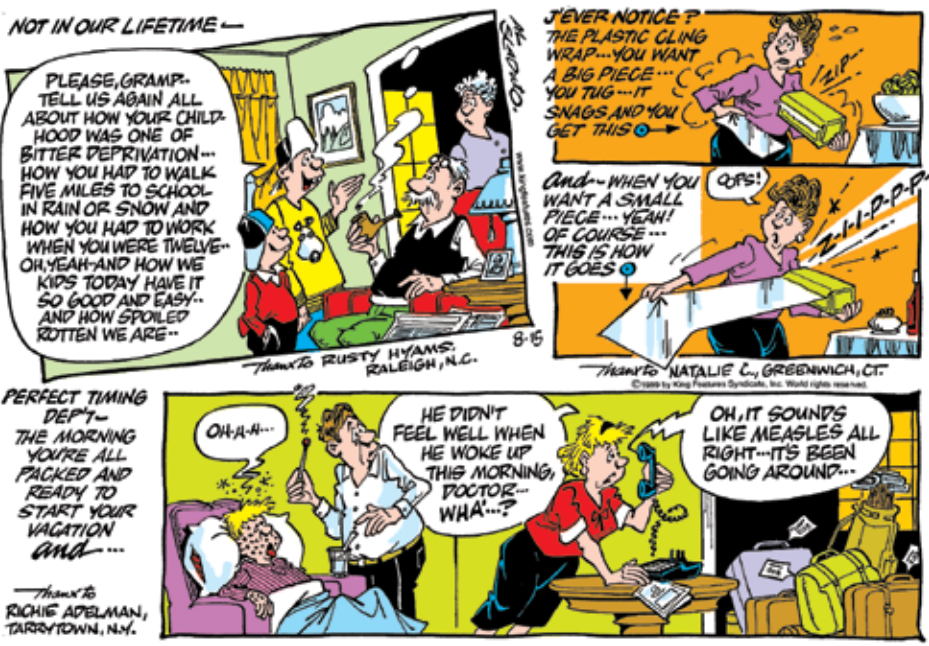
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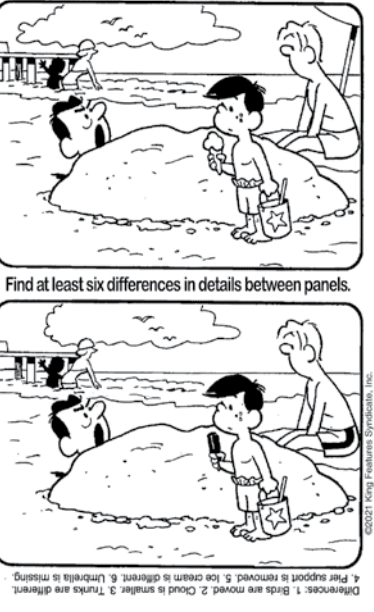
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Humble Sky Lets Your Imagination Run Wild



Stuart Greenbaum, book author and editor.
Photo: Greenbaum Public Relations

Greenbaum Public Relations

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - If you have never looked skyward into the deep blue yonder and given a second thought to just how far outer space really goes, the new book *Humble Sky* cautions, you should make more of an effort to let your imagination run wild.

In the 72-page novella such inspired thinking produces astonishing, if virtually incomprehensible, results courtesy of the similarly uninhibited minds of the main characters: Henry Bakersfeld, an ingenious old man living with dementia, and Sherman, a curious young boy living in the Bronx. Together the intergenerational odd couple not only imagine but ultimately discover the essence of farthest outer space.

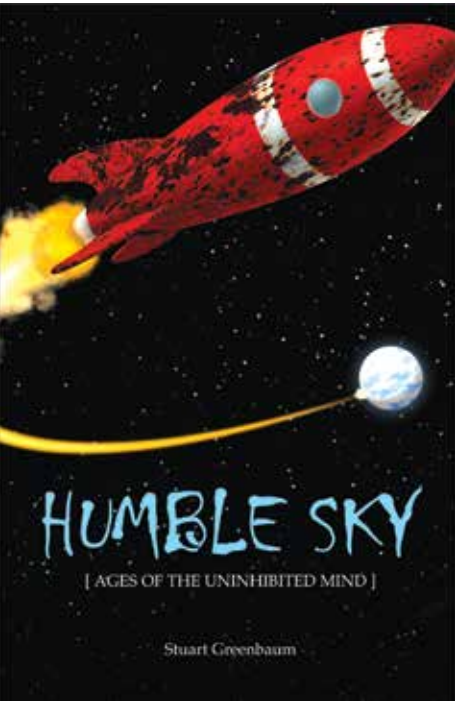
“The characters are beautifully rendered, and the story unfolds with great wit and pathos,” said Carla Gardini, executive producer of “The Hundred-Foot Journey” and numerous other films and TV shows with “coming of age” themes.

Through the back-and-forth of their life stories readers learn to appreciate the intersection of cosmology and philosophy, as well as that of curiosity, humility, and the range of ages of the uninhibited mind.

“This is a wonderfully thought-provoking, sobering tale that offers plenty of space for interpretation,” said James M.

Berklan, executive editor of *McKnight’s Long-term Care News*, a leading national source of information on healthy aging. “I was engrossed with every shift of focus and subplot – from authentic to surreal.”

Author Stuart Greenbaum is a veteran public relations professional who has directed numerous statewide and national initiatives to influence public behavior on social concerns involving health, education, environment, safety, and most recently longevity. He is the author or editor of multiple books, including *Longevity Rules*, *Media Takes: On Aging*, *Before the Age Boom Goes*, *Educated Public Relations*, and *Set Straight on Bullies*. *Humble Sky* is his first work of fiction. Additionally, he writes regularly for professional journals, newspapers, and his online culture blog, also titled *Humble Sky* (www.humblesky.net). He recently con-



cluded his second term as a Governor’s appointee to the California Commission on Aging. Greenbaum, 67, lives in Sacramento, California.

Purchase *Humble Sky* for \$10 at <http://book.humblesky.net> ★



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