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Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 29 • ISSUE 26

JUNE 25, 2021

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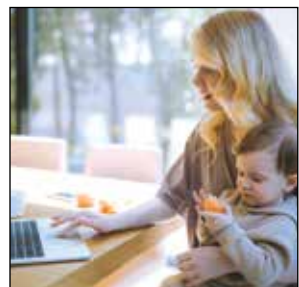
SEE INSIDE

WARDING OFF THE FINANCIAL ABUSE OF THE ELDERLY



PAGE 4

REMOTE WORKERS: OUT OF SIGHT COULD MEAN OUT OF JOB



PAGE 9

47¢

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*****ECRWSS*****

Local Postal Customer

A Man and a House

The Amazing Restoration of the McCune Manor



Elena and Wes Standfill of Standfill Custom Construction pose in front of the restored Victorian Row Home originally built about 1887 for the Senator McCune family. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The thick fingers of the burly man stroke the 1-inch-wide bright gold strip--showing that if you feel it, you can make out a sandy texture. Upon closer inspection, a small pattern is visible on the ribbon that outlines the entirety of the bay window, a distinctive feature of Victorian-style "row" homes. The hand-created stencil was applied more than a century ago.

"Row" homes were built side by side with no space in between them and bay windows created the feeling of extra interior space and allowed more light into the building. Beneath this Dixon window are three bordered

panels. Each has a different painting of redwood trees, a valley, and mountains in the background--like one might have viewed from the home built in 1873 by the McCune family before other Dixon buildings lined the railroad. Each small horizontal picture is surrounded by pale blue walls lightly dusted with white looking exactly like a blue sky on a spring day.

On the right and left sides of the window are embedded 3-foot beveled dowels painted a celery green and are trimmed with white and brown creating a buffer of sorts from the sharp corner of the walls.

The paints are the original colors discovered from ever-so-slowly scraping seven layers of paint or

precipitously removing layers of wallpaper. These are all slow and gentle processes and finding the perfect paint match by helpful hardware stores to create history again is often difficult.

Days stretch into months of labor that only one enamored by history would sacrifice. That one would be Wes Standfill, 55, who has spent most of his working life building or remodeling homes and on the side, restoring the ones he loves. He boasts of being a "3rd-generation construction guy" and credits his father and grandfather passing down the skills. He worked with his dad when he was young, and they built more than a hundred homes. When Wes was 26, he started his own

Continued on page 2

Citizens Needed for Traffic Advisory

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City of Dixon needs you - especially if you care about traffic safety like how long it takes your high school student to have emergency vehicles get to them, downtown parking, or the speed demons showing up on Pitt School Road, for example. This is a board of local residents who learn to navigate the legalities of traffic ebb and flow inside city limits.

The bulk of those requirements are supplied by City staff, led by Deborah Barr, City of Dixon Senior Civil Engineer but there is still a needed consensus as not all city staff may live in Dixon and may not be familiar with the reality of our town.

This reporter served a term on TAC and was amazed at the complexities that are involved and learned much not only about traffic and parking but also about local government - despite not being an engineer nor an elected official. Citizens bring up concerns and possible solutions are found and discussed then forwarded to the City Council. The Commission meets every other month inside the Council Chambers.

After several deadline extensions, the City is still looking to fill three open positions and the application deadline has been extended to Friday, June 30, by 5 pm. You do have to live in Dixon, but you do not have to have any experience - just a willingness to serve your community.

The TAC is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to traffic, transportation, and parking issues. Commissioners serve 4-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. All three vacancies are four-year terms expiring on June 30, 2025. The TAC meets at 7 pm on the third Wednesday of even-numbered months. A stipend of \$75 per meeting attended is paid to each Commissioner.

Interested Dixon residents may obtain an application at City Hall, 600 East A Street, by calling 678-7000, or by visiting the City's website at www.cityofdixon.com. For more information or questions, contact: Lupe Ruiz, Administrative City Clerk at (707) 678-7000, Ext. 1116. ★

Christina Garcia Chases Crime Data

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - From an interest in law enforcement inspired by watching television shows like Law & Order, America's Most Wanted, and C.S.I., Christina Garcia climbed her way to a place she's always wanted. She's the new Police Services Analyst with her own office inside the Dixon Police Department.

Starting with the City of Dixon as a part-time Recreation Specialist and working part time in the after-school kids camps while going to college, she got her foot in the door, she said. Watching for opportunities, after graduating, she moved up to Recreation Coordinator, then Community Service Officer, then cross-trained in Code enforcement.

"Chief pushed for this position because he knew we needed it. We need the statistics to convince the



Christina Garcia is Dixon's new Police Services Analyst. Photo by Debra Dingman

need," she said, referring to Chief Robert Thompson's department overhaul to prepare for a "period of exceptional growth."

"We have to make smart decisions based on data," Thompson said. "We have

to be leaner and more aggressive. We've never had to forecast before." Some of the things that Garcia does is look for trends and activities on social media. If people in Fairfield and Vacaville

have posted about robberies, for example, she can put out bulletins to Dixon's officers as it will most likely happen here.

"Criminals have a tendency to do similar kinds

Continued on page 2



See my Smile and Read my Lips

By Debra Dingman

This may seem like I'm a heretic but think what you will. I have my own way of dealing with life after weeks of craziness about who can be mask-free and who cannot, Cal-Osha saying one thing, and the governor saying another. Here it is: I'm living free. I'm not looking for trouble with anyone but I'm not wearing a mask anymore. I'm not wearing a green band or tattooing my forehead with the letter V to show I'm fully vaccinated. I'm going to behave like a free woman and you will see my smile.

I want to also personally address my nation by saying thank you for being number one and getting us vaccinations if we wanted them. When I saw a few students proudly waving a flag from a different country at graduation, I was slightly agitated to stand and say "Yay America!" who gave a free education, free lunches, and free vaccines! But instead, I did not. I think there is enough division in our country right now, enough fighting on the beaches and in airplanes, etc. and

I expect that someday in a few short years, they will figure out how great America is as well.

My take on all this is that we have forgotten how to be social, accept differences, and by not being together, we have failed to see the humanity in each individual. Take a long breath and slow down into the immersion of freedom.

Forgive me if I ask you if you've gotten your vaccine when you're talking to me through your cloth covering. Things have changed too quickly from being concerned to now I'm prying into a personal choice not to get the vaccine. That's not so. It has been my habit over the past many months to express concern and it will probably take me a couple months to lose the social greeting from my lips.

At the last Chamber Lunch Bunch, I sat across from Ted Jorgensen (Dixon Tire Pros) who has the happiest smile I've ever seen and visited with Raffi Boloyan, Dixon's Community Development Director. After saying that I could not hear anything anyone was

saying a few times (it was loud and echoing inside Bud's Pub,) Raffi said he thought people don't realize how much we read lips and we haven't been able to study them for a year and a half. When we talk to each other and see lips move, you can figure out what you can't hear. Makes perfect sense! Of course, that is the problem. We are all going to have to learn these vital communication skills all over again.

I know I can never hear my husband but that's okay; I had my hearing checked and the doctor told me I can hear great except for one low decibel level – the exact level that David's voice is at. The good news is that when you know the problem, you're halfway to solving it. I make sure if I want to have a conversation with hubby that is meaningful, I cannot be near the dryer or have the dishwasher running.

So, if you see me staring at your lips while we visit over the next several weeks, don't freak out. I'm just getting back some lip-reading skills so I can start hearing every word again. ★

A Man and a House

Continued from page 1 construction company – and developed the love to restore.

"I get my joy from repurposing or recycling. When I do a job, I feel like I saved something," he said. His wife of 34 years, Elena, knows this.

"They become his treasures," she said, adding the wifey comment that he does bring his work home. "He brought the wood slats for the porch home and cut each 'S' design at our kitchen table. He is a perfectionist and his eye is very attuned to what other people don't see." She does give her suggestions but leaves it up to him whether or not he'll use them.

This particular home is a bit shrouded in the trees that look like the ones in the paintings and is located on North First Street next to the railroad crossing. It is known to this generation as the Kilkenny house but only because the once prominent McCune family has faded from memories. Although you can read about Lady Jack (Sadie McCune) in the new Dixon History Museum being the first North American woman to fly on a plane. She grew up in that house.

But, back to Wes, who is renowned in Solano County for restoring old homes since doing Vacaville's Buck Mansion in 1996 and who is First Northern Bank's go-to construction expert, has been painstakingly restoring this one-of-a-kind Dixon home for the past two years of his 3-year ownership. His daunting first year experience involved removing suspected drug users and vagrants living on the property, a fire, and the ever-so-prohibitive Dixon permit process. Most thought it would be scraped off the earth, but Wes had seen it for years, knew the fire battalion



John and Deal Kilkenny and their children Kathryn, James, Watson, Leo, and Ed in front of their home circa 1913. Photo provided by Dixon Historical Society

would love to burn it all down, he said, and his heart woke with a passion to save it.

"I don't know why everyone wanted to burn it down," he shook his head sadly. "It's odd to me that people don't respect history. It's not a remodel; it's a restoration. It is the ultimate recycling as this home is really old."

There had been rooms rented out and there were trailers and campers too. It took 18 dumpster loads to clean it up. There was even one person living in a hidden brush pile. Wes was clearing the grounds when his tractor caught an extension cord so he followed it from the house to a stack of wood covered with brush. It wasn't a stack of wood. It was actually a hidden burrow with a little couch and a coffee maker inside.

"It was a great fort--the nicest homeless camp I ever saw," Wes said. After cleaning up, Wes began by rebuilding what was destroyed in the fire that included a garage, then making things safe and up to codes. He also added central heat and air, sprinklers, and restored a bathroom that had been changed into a closet.

The large parcel holds three homes. The front row house was built prior to 1880 and is a 2-story house of 1600 sq. ft. that has

three bedrooms and two baths; a back residence that had numerous additions built between 1884 and 1895 and is 2400 sq. ft. and a 2-bedroom, 2-bath cottage built around 2010.

The restoration which involved hoisting the house and rebuilding the underground support as well as building a concrete basement is complete. Each room is exquisite with details from the past seen throughout such as the rebuilt stove, knobs on the kitchen cupboards, an 1871 kitchen door, brass kitchen hinges and handles. There are sconces and medallions (decorations that surround a ceiling light) that were rescued from the Fountain House before it was burned in a Fire Department training several years ago. The home stands tall and appears to have regained her statuesque beauty under the tender hands of her man. Wes will now turn his focus to the landscape.

Wes and Elena Standfill haven't made up their mind for what they'll do with the near two acres once they're done, but they don't plan to sell it. There are simply too many details that involved labors of love. It's priceless now and may become the Standfill Manor for their two sons, they said, who both contributed to the restoration romance. ★

Garcia Chases Crime Data

Continued from page 1 of neighborhoods," she explained. "We can put on extra patrols or watches. We can watch for information circulating in the county and we can start seeing the same kind of activity. My position will be very useful to the investigating unit. We can make sure we are fully staffed and have resources."

Garcia said the biggest crime in Dixon right now is shoplifting.

"Our commercial is growing. A lot of people who commit crimes here don't live in Dixon," she said, adding that it's too easy for thieves to hop on the freeway. But, with more surveillance – like the cameras on top of the intersection street lights, that gives them

a head start by checking license plates and can help lead to arrests.

"We need more of this equipment or more officers on patrol," she said and explained that with hard data, they can go to the city and get what they need to protect our citizens. Because Garcia is raising her family nearby, she has a vested interest in the community.

"Crime has evolved the way the city has evolved," she said. "It used to be that everything was closed by 10 and it was a 'silent night.' But there are some ugly circumstances and the reality is things can happen. I'm a big believer in home surveillance. Even if [a crime] isn't experienced directly, I might be able to help my

neighbors."

A big problem here is what Garcia calls 'hometown mentality' like not locking your doors on your home or your cars.

She reminded that people can register their security system – like 'Ring,' and even register their bicycles with the department which helps in recovery or solving crimes. You can even register an "at risk" grown-up or child so in the event they wander or become lost, the police can help get them back home. A recent call resulted in finding a woman with dementia, for example.

For questions or more information, contact the Dixon Police Department at (707) 678-7070 or email cgarcia@dixonpolice.org. ★

MEMORIAL NOTICE

Lina Mercedes Centeno

July 16, 1931 to May 27, 2021

Lina Mercedes Centeno, 89 of Dixon, California, passed away on May 27th, 2021 with many family members by her side. She was born in Merida, Yucatan on July, 16th 1931. She went on to marry Rudy Centeno in 1951. They came to Dixon, California in 1960. She is survived by her 5 children; Rudy Centeno Jr., Mercedes Parker, Manuel Centeno, Leticia Centeno, and Sylvia Centeno. One of her greatest treasures was her family. She had 17 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great-grandchildren.



over 30 years, finally retiring in 1993. She loved to travel and spent much of her time in Yucatan, going back and forth to Merida and Halacho with her second husband, Jose Gutierrez. Lina also enjoyed going on cruises. She would go on 1-2 cruises every year. She enjoyed cooking for her loved ones as her house was the family gathering place for the holidays. Novembers were also spent making dozens of tamales for Christmas time.

Lina was the root of the Centeno family and will be missed beyond measure. We love you mom, grandma, grammy Leeny, Chula.

Lina worked for Hunt's Cannery for





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Dixon News Briefs



Say Hi to Sparkles

Kitten Party

Partying like it's 1776... Little kittens Sparkles, Katy, Glory, Cherry, and Betsy posed wonderfully and worked diligently at looking extra adorable rocking red, white and blue for their 4th of July photo shoot. Their modeling careers are now coming to an end as they prepare to look for their forever families!

Available for pre-adoption, these 5 sisters will come spayed, FVRCP vaccinated, combo



Give Glory a Hug

"We rescued seven kittens, a litter of five girls from a homeless Benicia man who lives in a tent. It was a litter of five females



Isn't Katy Cute

tested, treated for parasites, microchipped and *purrfectly* litterbox trained. Please adopt one of these babies. Visit solanokittennetwork.com/forms/ to complete an adoption application for one of these lil' firecrackers.

and two other little boys that were half dead," said Volunteer Trina Shaw. "It's a constant battle. Rescue is so not what people think. It's a nightmare daily – especially during kitten season."

The females are all available and there is a 4th of July special running. Instead of the normal fee which just recoups costs at \$200, they are cawting that in half.

"We have so many right now, and they all need to get to homes right away," said Shaw.

No Hall Park Display

Rotary Club has announced that they will again forego the Fireworks Show normally held in Hall Park due to Coronavirus concerns. They reported that after consulting with City staff and carefully considering logistical and safety mandates, that the event be postponed but are hopeful for a future date as state restrictions continue.

Library Visits

The Dixon public library no

longer requires appointments, and you are welcome to come browse books for your favorite reading. You still need to wear a mask at this time and practice social distancing. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 6 pm and Fridays are 9 am to 5 pm. They are not open on Saturdays yet.

DMCS Fireworks

The Dixon Montessori Charter School Parent Teacher Organization is looking for volunteers to man their 4th of July fireworks fundraising booth from June 28 through July 4. For the schedule and to volunteer, go to: www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4ca9ab2aa6fc1-dmcs5 online. ★

MEMORIAL NOTICE

Colonel Olin R. Mooy, USAF Ret.

Colonel Olin R. Mooy, USAF Ret., 87, of Dixon passed away on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. He was born and raised in Indiana. He graduated from Earl Park High School, earned his Bachelor degree from Ball State University and a Master's degree from Baylor University.

Olin met his wife, Mary Ellen Kimes, when they were both teaching in the Earl Park area the year before he entered the Air Force and they have been married for almost 63 years. Olin had a lauded and varied military career, including bases from coast to coast and two remote tours overseas.

After retirement from the service, he worked in computer sales in Sacramento. He was a long time member of the Masons in Indiana and the Yolo Lodge locally, where he was honored with the Hiram Award for service to the organization and community. A longtime volunteer with Faith in Action, he was also an active member of the Dixon Community Church, Theta Chi, and helped start the first Computer Club at Solano Community College.



Olin enjoyed playing basketball in high school, college and for various Air Force teams. He became an avid Kings fan once the family settled in this area. In addition to basketball, airplanes and computers, he enjoyed gardening, flowers, photography and reading.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Mary and Evert Mooy, daughter Beth Mooy Durkin and brother-in-law Norman East. He is survived by his wife, sons Brian (Dixon) and Brad (North Little Rock, AR), and grandson, Jake Durkin, son in-law Michael Durkin and his daughter Kaley Durkin, all of Buffalo, NY. Also surviving Olin are his sister, Audrey East, Kentland, IN and his brother Bruce (El Paso, TX), and his beloved niece, nephews and sisters-in-law Kay Mooy (El Paso, TX) and Marjie Kimes, (Carmel, IN).

Funeral services will be held on Monday, June 28, 11 am at the Dixon Community Church with burial to follow in the Dixon Silveyville Cemetery. Funeral arrangements are through Carpenter Funeral Home.

Slip in Small-Business Optimism Draws California Comment

By John Kabateck, National Federation of Independent Businesses

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Small-business optimism hit a bump in the road in May, according to the release of the National Federation of Independent Business' Small Business Economic Trends report, also known as the Optimism Index.

"May saw a slight pause in the recovery of small business optimism after steadily increasing each month in 2021," said a national news release issued by NFIB. "As reported in NFIB's monthly jobs report, a record-high 48% of owners reported unfilled job openings."

Commenting locally, John Kabateck, NFIB California's state director said, "This is not the type of news we would have preferred hearing heading into the vacation months in our state's tourist-heavy economy. I think some warning lights, if not alarm bells, should be raised especially for our State Legislature. Let's hit the pause button on the many proposals to increase regulations long enough to let the economy sort itself out

– Not that I'm expecting them to do so, but California is the land of dreams."

From NFIB Chief Economist Bill Dunkelberg - "The labor shortage is holding back growth for small businesses across the country. If small business owners could hire more workers to take care of customers, sales would be higher and getting closer to pre-COVID levels. In addition, inflation on Main Street is rampant and small business owners are uncertain about future business conditions."

Other key findings include: Five of the 10 Index components improved, three declined, and two were unchanged. The NFIB Uncertainty Index decreased one point to 79. Job creation plans over the next three months rose to a net 27%, up six points. Owners expecting better business conditions over the next six months fell 11 points to a net negative 26%. Earnings trends over the past three months declined four points to a net negative 11%.

Keep up with the latest on California small-business news at www.nfib.com/california, where this release can also be read, or by following NFIB on Twitter @NFIB_CA or on Facebook @NFIB.CA. ★

Your kids are home. You're not. Where's the alcohol?

Keep your kids safe. Lock up your liquor. Keep track of your wine and beer.

With teens spending more time at home, the temptation to have a few sips of liquor or sneak a beer is ever present.

The best way to stop youth alcohol abuse, drunk driving and other risky behavior is prevention.

Secure your alcohol in a locked cabinet, keep track of what's in your fridge and talk to your kids about the consequences.



Learn more tips on how to keep your family safe at:

vibesolano.com/alcohol

Warding off the Financial Abuse of the Elderly

By **Jaclyn Pogoloff,**
AIG Life & Retirement

NEW YORK, NY (MPG) - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched on June 15, 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations.

The purpose of WEAAD is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

According to research from AIG Life & Retirement, almost half (47%) of seniors 65 or older manage their finances – from paying bills to handling investments – entirely on their own. As a result, many seniors leave themselves at risk to financial abuse, whether through financial scams perpetrated by strangers or financial exploitation conducted by family or friends. With 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day, the number of people living with cognitive decline is reaching unprecedented heights, leaving many vulnerable to manipulation, deceit, and abuse.

“Fear is a powerful motivator. Seniors have adopted valuable defense mechanisms to shield themselves from strangers looking to take their hard-earned savings,” said Michele Kryger, head of AIG’s Elder and Vulnerable Client Care unit, among the first of its kind in the financial services industry.

“But when the financial abuser is someone who knows you – a friend, caretaker or even a family member - then you need an additional line of defense: a financial professional who can help safeguard your interests.”

Given the difficult reality of cognitive decline, financial isolation comes with real risks. Through building a system of checks and balances, seniors (together with



Families should consider having conversations as early as possible. Image by Sabine van Erp from Pixabay

their families and financial advisors) can more effectively protect their finances from exploitation, manipulation, or financial imprudence. Kryger recommends:

Families should consider **having conversations** as early as possible and involve several parties to build an infrastructure of protection; **Financial professionals** can serve as an added line of defense, by acting as an impartial third party, staying alert for red flags, facilitating family conversations, and using protective tools like trusted contact and power of attorney; **Employers can educate** employees and retirees to protect against the threat.

Some common types of elder financial exploitation to look out for include:

IRS Impersonation Scams: calls from the IRS claiming that you will be arrested if you don’t pay up on missing taxes. Keep in mind that government agencies

rarely call people. If they do it will be only after sending you a letter first or calling you back. If the alleged government agency calls and asks for sensitive personal information or a wire transfer, it’s a scam. Also remember not to trust caller ID – scammers can disguise their number;

Robocalls and Unsolicited Phone Calls: According to the Federal Communications Commission, there are nearly 2.4 billion robocalls made every month. Today, phone calls can be digitized and routed from anywhere in the world. Don’t give out personal information unless you initiated the call;

Lottery/Sweepstakes Scams: Seniors are made to believe that they have won a lottery and need to pay a fee to collect their winnings. After seniors send the money via prepaid debit card, electronic wire transfer, money order or cash,

they get 50-100 phone calls a day demanding more money;

Grandparent Scams: Imposters pretend to be your grandchild or an authority figure holding your grandchild. They claim the grandchild is in trouble and needs money to help with an emergency, tricking grandparents to wire them money. Scammers say not to alert the grandchild’s parents. Ask some simple questions that only your grandchild would know the answer to;

COVID-19 Scams: The Federal Trade Commission has sounded the alarm on products falsely claiming to treat or prevent the novel coronavirus, as well as fake charities. Be wary of alleged government calls to set up COVID-19 tests and avoid phishing emails touting vaccinations and home test kits.

Kryger adds, “Whether a family lives close together or is scattered across the country, staying in touch

with an aging loved one can help prevent senior isolation, reassure the senior that they can rely on family if they become victimized by fraudsters, and help family members spot signs of cognitive decline that can lead to financial abuse.”

American International Group, Inc. (AIG) is a leading global insurance organization. AIG member companies provide a wide range of property casualty insurance, life insurance, retirement solutions, and other financial services to customers in approximately 80 countries and jurisdictions. These diverse offerings include products and services that help businesses and individuals protect their assets, manage risks and provide for retirement security. AIG common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Additional information about AIG can be found at www.aig.com ★

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Our sermon topic for this week is

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“Facing the Giants in My Life”
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Small Groups meet throughout the week.
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Frank Salamone - Pastor/Teacher
Sheila Dybdahl - Children’s Minister

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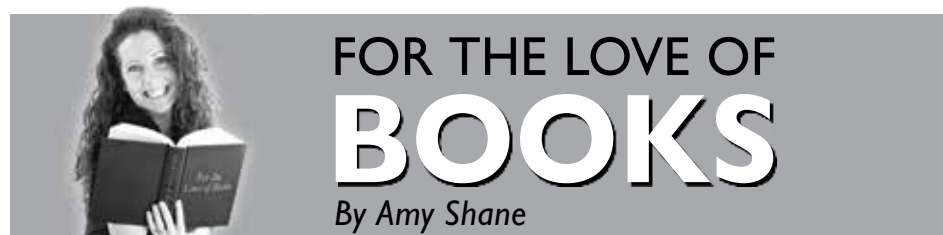
REDUCE THE RISK

of Becoming Infected with the West Nile Virus

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
solanomosquito.com



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

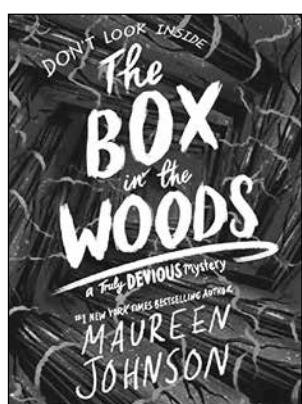
The Box In The Woods

by Maureen Johnson

Stevie Bell is back, and this time it's to solve a whole new set of murders.

After solving one of the most notorious unsolved crimes of the century, while also attending Ellingham Academy, Stevie is back home. Now, she is stuck living an unprecedented, boring summer working behind the deli counter at the local grocery store. It's not that Stevie wants there to be murders. She just likes to solve them, especially cold-cases that no one has been able to figure out for decades, and working behind the deli counter was not solving crimes. So, when Stevie receives a letter inventing her to stay at Sunny Pines Summer Camp to help solve the notorious 1978 'Box In the Woods Murders,' Stevie doesn't hesitate. With just a few negotiations, Stevie and her friends were on their way, posing as counselors by day and crime fighters in their spare time.

Nothing could be better than a summer spent investigating a decades-old murder, or at least that's what she thinks. The



- ◆ Publisher: Katherine Tegen Books
- ◆ Hardcover, 400 pages
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Rating: ★★★★★
- ◆ Released: June 15, 2021

moment Stevie arrives, she knows things are a little off, and it isn't just the quirky, eccentric camp owner; it's as if the town is frozen in time, holding onto the past that sent shock waves throughout it. But, just as much as the town wants answers, there are those that want the truth to stay buried. As soon as Stevie starts investigating, she quickly realizes that once you take the top off the box, there is no putting it back on, and those that want the truth to stay hidden will do anything to keep her quiet.

Maureen Johnson returns and this time with a whole new cold

case to solve. *The Box in the Woods* is a beautifully crafted murder mystery with interweaving timelines between the present and 1978, highlighting the casual and free decade of the '70s along with the ease of small-town rumors, misguidance, and coverups. Maureen Johnson takes readers back to the days of summer camp, along with a few nods to the 80's classic movie *Sleepaway Camp*. Readers will be left with the desire to grab a hot dog and a soda and read this one out by the campfire. This book delivers just what readers want, another perfect page-turning mystery, this book keeps the same thrilling tempo as the prior series without being scary. While this book may have the same cover as the *Truly Devious* series, this is a true stand-alone and can be read without reading the previous books. Fans of Stevie Bell will be delighted that the same amount of detective work, mystery, and overall shock carries throughout this book, making fans of the current day Nancy Drew shout for more.★

How Should California Confront Wildfire Threat?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

Physicist Albert Einstein is widely, albeit erroneously, thought to have said that "insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results," but regardless of its source, the aphorism accurately reflects California's attitude about wildfires.

Year after year, destructive fires whip through communities in the "wildland-urban interface," often killing those who cannot or will not leave their homes and causing untold billions of dollars in property losses.

The frequency and severity of wildfires appear to be increasing as our climate changes, droughts persist and greenery dries and becomes explosive fuel. What was once a relatively brief fire season in late summer and early fall has morphed into a year-around peril.

And yet, more often than not, burned-over land soon sprouts new housing whose owners and tenants once again place themselves in harm's way.

A new study by UC Berkeley's Center for Community Innovation, commissioned by the think tank Next 10, attributes this seemingly loony practice to misguided state and local policies that incentivize reconstruction in

fire-prone areas.

"Wildfire threatens the lives and homes of more than one-quarter of California's population," F. Noel Perry, the founder of Next 10, said in a statement that accompanied the report. "We must overhaul local and state policies and planning procedures to ensure that we are not incentivizing actions that elevate wildfire risks."

The study found that replacing current homes in high-risk areas would cost at least \$610 billion and that huge number scares insurers. As they pay out huge sums to burned-out policyholders and the danger of future catastrophic losses increases, insurers either shun coverage altogether or impose steep hikes on premiums.

"With climate-fueled wildfires scorching hundreds of thousands of acres, causing the loss of life and property, wildfire insurance availability has shrunk while the premiums charged have increased," a commission appointed by Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara declared recently.

Insurance is required by mortgage lenders and many property owners, unable to purchase coverage in the private market, have turned to a statewide insurance pool of last resort that has high premiums and limited coverage.

The Next 10 study recommends that the wildfire risk be approached by overhauling land use policies that lack "incentives to avoid building in fire-prone areas" and thus are "contributing to the persistent and increasing risk of significant economic and human costs associated with wildfires."

Land use in California is

largely controlled by state and county governments through zoning and construction permitting. The state's housing crisis has demonstrated that those governments are often reluctant to approve high-density housing, especially that meant for low- and moderate-income renters, within urban areas.

However, as the Next 10 study points out, they tend to be more supportive of housing, especially single-family homes, in urban peripheries, which also tend to be the areas of the highest wildfire risk.

The report proposes "moving homes out of the WUI (Wildlands-Urban Interface), incorporating greenbelts and wildfire buffers, increasing density in existing commercial cores, adding gentle density in the form of 'missing middle' housing and accessory dwelling units to areas not in the WUI, and embracing manufactured housing as an affordable-by-design approach."

Lara's commission, meanwhile, suggests insurance premiums based on forecasts of future peril, rather than past experience, blanket policies that spread risk, rewards for making homes more resistant to damage and other steps that can mitigate not only wildfire impacts but the less obvious risk of destructive flooding.

Both studies underscore a fact we ignore at our existential peril: Despite its many attributes, living in California means living with constant threat of catastrophe.

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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CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See legitgov.org

Moderna Sent Coronavirus Vaccine to North Carolina University Weeks Before Pandemic, Secret Documents Reveal | 20 June 2021 | A confidentiality agreement shows potential coronavirus vaccine candidates were transferred from Moderna to the University of North Carolina in 2019, nineteen days prior to the official emergence of Covid-19 pandemic. The confidentiality agreement states that providers 'Moderna' alongside the 'National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases' (NIAID) agreed to transfer 'mRNA coronavirus vaccine candidates' developed and jointly-owned by NIAID and Moderna to recipients 'The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill' on the 12 December 2019.

Hawaii military base mysteriously launched three F-22s in response to unknown incident - The incident came less than a week after another unspecified incident prompted the base to issue a lockdown order for several hours. | 20 June 2021 | Three F-22 fighter jets were launched from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii by an apparent request from the Federal Aviation Administration, but the details are shrouded in mystery. The military has remained tight-lipped about what prompted the patrol but did confirm it was not a training exercise and came at the request of the Federal Aviation Administration. Two F-22 Raptors took off from JBPHH around 4 p.m., followed by a third F-22 about an hour later, Hawaii News Now reported.

Joe Biden is not physically or cognitively fit to be our president': Ex-White House doc Ronny Jackson and 13 GOP reps. send president a letter urging him to take mental test - | 18 June 2021 | Texas Republican Rep. Ronny Jackson, who served as Donald Trump's White House physician, on Thursday night called on Joe Biden to take a cognitive test to prove that he was capable of leading the country. 'We can't sit on this any longer,' Jackson told Fox News host Sean Hannity. He said Biden's performance overseas this week with world leaders was 'embarrassing'. Jackson told Hannity: 'He's not physically or cognitively fit to be our president right now.' Jackson said he had been saying this for years... It was addressed to the president [sic], his physician Dr. Kevin O'Connor and Chief Medical Advisor Dr. Anthony Fauci, and called on the Biden to share the results with the country 'The American people deserve to have absolute confidence in their president,' it read.

Biden Administration Asks Americans to Report 'Potentially' Radicalized Friends and Family | 15 June 2021 | Joe Biden's administration announced its plans to create ways for Americans to report radicalized friends and family to the government, in an effort to fight domestic terrorism. In a conversation with reporters, one senior administration official explained the importance of stopping politically fueled violence before it started. The Biden administration said it would also work with large technology companies on "increased information sharing" to help combat radicalization.

Media hushes up report suggesting FBI involvement in Capitol riot as White House turns anti-terrorism efforts on American people | 17 June 2021 | Court filings suggest that FBI operatives were among the mob who stormed the US Capitol in January and may have set up the riot. With the riot used as justification for new terrorism policy, the media is downplaying the story. Fox News broadcast possibly the most consequential report in recent cable news history on Tuesday night. Fox host Tucker Carlson alleged that the Capitol Hill riot on January 6 - dubbed an "insurrection," an "assault on our democracy," and "domestic terrorism" - may have been, at least partly, an inside job.

Supreme Court sides with Catholic foster agency that excludes same-sex couples in 9-0 ruling | 18 June 2021 | The Supreme Court sided unanimously with a Catholic foster agency in a dispute against the city of Philadelphia over whether it should be banned from participating in the city's foster program because it excludes same-sex couples. The group, Catholic Social Services (CSS), claimed that "Philadelphia's attempts to exclude the Catholic Church from foster care" violated the First Amendment. Lawyers for the city, meanwhile, said that CSS "lacks a constitutional right to demand that DHS offer it a contract that omits the same nondiscrimination requirement every other FFCA must follow when performing services for the City." In a 9-0 ruling, the justices sided with Catholic Social Services. ★

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China Leapfrogs U.S. on Defense Spending

Joe Biden isn't known for his austerity, except when it comes to the nation's defense.

As part of his welcome emphasis on competition with China, the president cajoled reluctant European countries at the G-7 summit into releasing a statement critical of China, on top of the announcement of an infrastructure program meant to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative.

That's all fine as far as it goes, but a glaring omission from Biden's campaign is a defense budget that reflects the growing challenge from Beijing.

Indeed, Biden justifies almost any increased domestic spending as designed to check China's ambitions, at the same time he neglects what is most useful to keep China from dominating its region and waging war on our allies or perhaps the U.S. itself.

If we can deter China from taking Taiwan with subsidies for electric cars, Biden is inarguably the Churchill of his time.

If we can counter China's defense buildup with more funding for affordable housing, Biden deserves to take his place beside Alfred Thayer Mahan or George Kennan as great strategic thinkers.

Otherwise, his approach is lacking, and disturbingly so.

Biden's infrastructure plan, a sprawling proposal that would spend \$2.3 trillion on everything from roads and bridges to affordable housing and elder care, is about the "global competition with China," the president insists.

By Biden's way of thinking, whatever progressives have wanted to do for years is suddenly a priority in the new Cold War. The left-wing "explainer" website Vox now claims, "Improving domestic infrastructure and investing in new and emerging technologies, especially clean energy technology, is the best way the U.S. can challenge China for supremacy on the world stage." The publication quoted a Democratic congressional aide, "The best way to enact a progressive agenda is to use China [as a] threat."

There are indeed areas of advanced technology that we need to invest in, especially semi-conductors and artificial intelligence (a \$250 billion Senate bill passed last week is an imperfect step in this direction), but it's not true that we can simply windmill our way to victory over China.

Although you might miss it listening to Biden, there are threats from China that don't involve infrastructure spending or clean energy initiatives.

China has been growing its annual defense spending by more than 6% a year.

It has now surpassed the U.S. and technically has the largest navy in the world.

It is on pace to double its nuclear weapons over the next decade.

It has flown hundreds of sorties near Taiwan this year, and a top U.S. admiral warns that it could invade in the next six years.

Given all that, one might expect the openhanded Biden to invest substantially in a stronger, more advanced U.S. military, but his profligacy doesn't extend so far. He increased defense budget spending by about 2%, which won't even keep up with inflation.

This doesn't come close to what we realistically need. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Mark Milley said at a U.S. Naval Institute event late last year, "We're going to have to have a much larger fleet than we have today, if we're serious about great power competition and deterring great power war." He called for a 3-5% increase in the budget every year but didn't think that was plausible because of fiscal constraints (little did he know, the \$6 trillion blowout to come in every other area of the budget).

We should be spending more on defense, and spending differently. With an eye to deterring conflict with China, we need to recalibrate in a serious way to focus on advanced technologies and weapons systems for the Navy and Air Force, and in space. Hypersonics, directed energy, and control of the electromagnetic spectrum should be particular priorities.

Biden has no excuse for not pursuing this. It's not as though he can say we can't afford it.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Riley Reviews

"KEVIN" CAN DO THE UNTHINKABLE ON AMC; NBC FALL TV REVIEW



A TV Review by Tim Riley

"KEVIN CAN F**K HIMSELF" ON AMC

The shopworn premise of the sitcom that involves a loutish husband with a beautiful, long-suffering wife has been a staple of network television forever, but AMC network's "Kevin Can F**K Himself" turns that on its ear.

In style alone, this series differs from tradition as it alternates between multi-camera sitcom (complete with laugh track) and single-camera drama when the focus is on the beleaguered wife's simmering despair.

While the husband in this new series, Kevin McRoberts (Eric Petersen), is a jackass man-child, his wife Allison (Annie Murphy) becomes increasingly desperate to escape from a marriage that seems to have doomed her to a life of servitude.

In the blue-collar McRoberts household, Kevin is a cable guy whose aspiration is to move into fiber optics, while Allison works at a liquor store and dreams of becoming a homeowner in a better neighborhood.

At their home in Worcester, Massachusetts, Kevin is so obsessed with Boston sports teams that he auditions candidates for a Tom Brady look-alike for an anniversary party and hangs out all the time with his dimwitted best friend Neil (Alex Bonifer) and his dad (Brian Howe).

Joining the men for much of the time spent in the McRoberts living room and kitchen is Neil's hairstylist sister Patty (Mary Hollis Inboden), who seems more tolerant of the Neanderthal men.

The tone of the series takes a darker turn when Allison is alone, either at home or wandering around town and going to work. Acquiescence to Kevin's whims and reckless choices is replaced by acts of defiance and expressions of seething rage.

Learning from Patty that Kevin has depleted her savings account and lied about their finances, Allison begins to plot revenge that is either wishful thinking or could lead down into a very dangerous rabbit hole.

"Kevin Can F**K Himself," much like the show's racy title, is outside the norm of a comedy centered on the oafish husband and the perfect housewife; it's more like social commentary on how a scorned wife can deliver the middle finger to convention.

NBC FALL TV REVIEW

Information about the upcoming NBC fall season remains less than complete in its details, and maybe we can blame that on the pandemic as one more reason the natural order of things has been upended.

Looking at the fall schedule, if it were not for legendary television producer Dick

Wolf, who has created enough franchises for more than one network, NBC would have a gaping hole in its weekly lineup.

Wolf's "Law & Order" franchise, with its 30-year history, is the most successful brand in television. Thursday nights will run "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and "Law & Order: Organized Crime," with "Law & Order: For the Defense" joining as the newest entry.

"For the Defense" takes an unflinching look inside a criminal defense firm. The series will put the lawyers – and the criminal justice system – under the microscope like only "Law & Order" can, delivering hard-hitting stories that provide a new vantage point on justice.

A massive sinkhole in Los Angeles that pulls hundreds of people and buildings into an abyss is the premise for "La Brea," where the victims find themselves in a perilous and mystifying primeval land.

While the rest of the world is trying to solve the mystery of this catastrophe, one family that is torn apart by separating mother and son from father and daughter will have to figure out where they are and how to get back home.

Life is a series of choices, some good, some bad and others that could go either way. The heart-warming drama "Ordinary Joe" explores the three parallel lives of the main character (James Wolk) after he makes a pivotal choice at a crossroads in his life.

"Ordinary Joe" poses the question of how different life might look if you made your decision based on love, loyalty, or passion. We don't know if the series would expect the audience to ponder their own choices, but maybe it will stimulate some self-reflection.

For decades, NBC ran a comedy block on Thursday nights, but come this fall not only are Thursdays now in the Dick Wolf drama orbit but the network will not be filling any other nights with comedy series.

Does this mean comedy is DOA at NBC? Not at all. The laughs are on hold until the midseason, at which time "Mr. Mayor," "Kenan," and "Young Rock" are expected to return. As a bonus, the final season of "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" drops after the flame goes out on the Summer Olympics.

One new midseason series is the workplace comedy "American Auto," where the executives at a Detroit automotive company flounder as they try to rediscover the company identity amidst a rapidly changing industry.

The aptly named "Ground Crew" is an ensemble comedy about a group of young Black friends trying to navigate the ups and downs of life and love in Los Angeles while spending a lot of time at their favorite wine bar. ★



Drought Brings New Focus on Water Facilities

Canals that stay dry due to drought may be more prone to cracking, intensifying calls for federal and state investment in water facilities. Water district officials say the drought and resulting water shortages have further exposed weaknesses in water systems. A national coalition has urged U.S. Senate leaders to boost funding for water facilities in any infrastructure package, while the state Legislature also considers water investments.

Dry Pastures, Wage Rule Threaten Sheep Ranchers

Pastures have dried out much earlier than usual, leaving California sheep ranchers having to decide how to sustain their operations. Many have thinned flocks by selling lambs early. Ranchers who offer targeted-grazing services to reduce wildfire fuel say demand for their services has surged. But all ranchers say an impending state overtime rule for sheepherders threatens to undermine the entire sheep business.


Analysts Expect Strong Beef Demand This Summer

The economic reopening of the country appears to be contributing to strong demand for beef. An American Farm Bureau economist says restaurants and other food-service establishments have been trying to secure beef supplies in anticipation of pent-up demand. Grocery stores are also competing for beef supplies, because as more people cooked at home during the pandemic, they may have become more comfortable in preparing different cuts of meat.

Almond Sales Establish New Record

Despite disruptions caused by the pandemic, trade disputes and port slowdowns, sales of California almonds have reached record levels. The Almond Board of California reports annual sales establishing new highs with two months remaining in the crop's marketing year. The board attributes the increase to people's interest in plant proteins and the almond's versatility in a range of products and cuisines. ★






Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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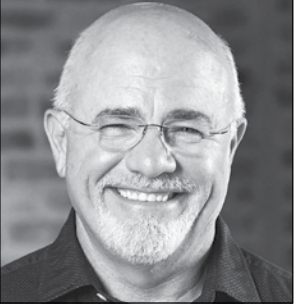
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 Subscription rate is \$32 per year within Dixon and Solano County.

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

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Clean 'em Out, and Move Ahead!

Dear Dave,

I'm 22, and I just recently graduated from college. I'm lucky enough to be walking into a job making \$60,000 a year with a company I interned with during school, and I'll be living with parents for the next few months. I have about \$50,000 in student loan debt, but I also have \$25,000 in savings, along with an E-Trade account with two single stocks that was given to me a couple of years ago. Those stocks are now worth about \$13,000 combined. Should I

Dave Ramsey Says

sell the stocks to help pay off debt, or put the money from their sale into mutual funds?

– Tyler

Dear Tyler

In situations like yours, I teach folks to pull out any money they have that's not in retirement plans, and use it to pay off debt. The shortest distance between where you are now, and wealth, isn't a couple of stocks in an E-Trade account. The shortest distance between you and wealth is becoming debt-free and taking control of your largest wealth-building tool – your income.

If I'm you, I'm going to clean out everything, including my savings – down to \$1,000 – and throw it at debt. After that, I'm living on a strict budget with no unnecessary spending until that debt is all

gone. Man, with the money you'll make right out of college you can be debt-free, and on your way to building a fully-funded emergency fund and wealth, so fast it'll make your head spin.

Get this done, Tyler. Today!

– 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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New Home Sales in Sacramento Region Ease Back in May

North State Building Industry Association Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - New home sales in the Sacramento region eased back during May from the frenetic pace reported during the past 12 months, but still were well above historical averages for the month, the North State Building Industry Association reported.

During May, area builders reported selling 570 new homes in the greater Sacramento region, including Sacramento, Placer, Yolo, Sutter, Yuba and Nevada counties. That is the lowest number since November, when 523 sales were reported and down sharply from the 760 sales reported in April, said Michael Strech, the BIA's president and CEO.

"Despite the modest drop-off in sales last month, the demand for new homes in our region remains incredibly strong," Strech said. "Sales during the month were far above the 448 builders have seen on average during May since 1997, and historically, March and April have been

the strongest months for sales, which then gradually fall off through the rest of the year."

"It's also important to note that last month's sales were higher than all but one May's figures since 2006 and that year - 2019 - was a five-week month." Sales that month totaled 585.

Strech said that even as pandemic restrictions are easing, many buyers are still looking for homes that provide the space and amenities they need, and today's new homes - particularly in the Sacramento region - meet those needs.

Still, builders are seeing headwinds, including the high price of lumber, other supply chain constraints and now a growing concern about available lots in the region as builders have ramped up production. It can take years to get government approvals to build new communities which hinders builders' ability to keep pace.

In addition, he said the excessive fees charged to builders in the Sacramento region mean some communities simply aren't feasible.

"The fee study we released last week shows

that government fees average \$95,000 per home in our region, which is \$40,000 more than comparable fees in the Central Valley and the Inland Empire region in Southern California. These other jurisdictions have cracked the code and everything should be on the table. We will work closely with local officials around the region in the months to come to find ways to reduce these fees and still ensure that new communities include needed amenities."

May sales were above the monthly average. New home sales in the region were comparable to May sales totals in recent years, but still far above average for the past decade.

Placer County sales just ten fewer than in Sacramento County. Buyers were particularly interested in new homes in Placer County communities as sales totaled 246 - just ten fewer than in developments in Sacramento County.

Buyers continue to purchase higher-priced homes. The vast majority of purchases continued to occur between \$401,000 and \$750,000 during May. ★

CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann

COVID-19 Impacts 4th of July



Fireworks prices in Dixon stands are going to be higher this year due to the fireworks "shortage." This could ultimately diminish fundraising for various nonprofits who operate them. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Loran Hoffmann

The Dixon Rotary Club and City of Dixon have announced they will not be offering the fireworks spectacular that is usually held in Dixon on the 4th of July. I don't remember seeing the reason for the cancellation other than because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It appears that many cities have cancelled their annual 4th of July Firework shows as well. A shortage of manufactured firework products, along with shipping challenges have caused consumer costs to skyrocket!

It seems that during the COVID lockdown, U.S. consumers shifted their spending habits. The fireworks industry, like MOST industries, depend on CHINA for their finished goods or components. We were not spending our money on going out to dinner or to the movies or on vacations. Many of us spent money on purchasing new products that created a surge in exports. A trade bottleneck was born out of the pandemic that includes disruptions in firework production and freight container shortages. Every day off the coast of California dozens of container ships sit anchored, unable to unload their cargo because the spike in imports has overwhelmed California's three ports.

As a result of port delays and global container shortages, customers for

many consumer products—fireworks is just one such product—are facing rising product prices and limited product choices. What does that mean to local consumers wanting to purchase fireworks?

There will be less firework products available to purchase for the 4th of July and we can expect to pay much higher prices. We are not talking a few cents or possibly a dollar higher. As an example, a couple of years ago, TNT Fireworks carried a variety package of fireworks with the name of "The Forty-niner" and the cost was \$49. This July, "The Forty-niner" will remain the 49 pieces, but the cost will be \$79. The BIG BANG which was \$550 two years ago will have a price tag of \$699. Prepare yourself for the sticker shock you may experience when visiting a local fireworks booth. You may want to leave the kiddos at home when shopping for fireworks as it can be difficult to tell them "no" and you will need to reserve enough money to make your July house payment!

It is recommended consumers shop early, because there will be fewer firework products on the shelves and once the inventory is sold there will be no way to replace it. The fireworks industry is working to address these product limitations and shipping problems, but time is running out. Will this year's 4th of July turn out to be a dud? ★

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This Business is Conducted by: an Individual

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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

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Proposed name

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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Warning to Remote Workers: Out of Sight Could Mean Out of Job

Commentary
by Rod Robertson

Although debate continues about whether the business world will return to normal even after most people have the COVID-19 vaccine, the expectation is that many companies will soon call employees back to the office.

Some workers may still get to work part-time from home, and some businesses will make remote work permanent. But tension between owners and workers is building as it becomes evident many employees are resistant to giving up working from home. In a survey, 65% said they want to work remotely full-time after the pandemic. And in a poll conducted by LiveCareer, 29% of working professionals said they would quit if they couldn't continue working remotely.

But those who push back against ownership's preference to return to the office might paint themselves into a corner, especially if they aren't in a position to quit, says Rod Robertson, Managing Partner of Briggs Capital (www.briggscapital.com), international entrepreneur, and author of *Winning at Entrepreneurship: Insider's Tips on Buying, Building, and Selling Your Own Business*.

"The expected stimulus money will dissipate by the third quarter and as companies continue to struggle, the cuts will begin," Robertson says. "Once we reach herd immunity, companies will be deciding whether it makes sense to keep expensive office space.

"Corporate gravity will begin to pull key workers back to the office, and there will be resistance from employees. And those companies that do choose to go remote at least part of the time may still downsize. The bottom line for workers is, if they want to work remotely, they



The bottom line for workers is, if they want to work remotely, they would be wise to take the extra steps to ensure they stand out. Photo courtesy Anastasia Shuraeva Pexels

would be wise to take the extra steps to ensure they stand out."

Robertson says employees who continue to work mostly from home should do these things to keep their performance and communication levels high:

Show up. Even if a company allows employees to work from home permanently, Robertson says they would be wise to go to the office at least one day each week. "Out of sight might also mean out of mind, or out of job, when it's time to trim the roster," he says. "Working from

a distance all the time is going to lower your skill level, your engagement, and your productivity. Employees need to make the time to have facetime in the office and stay in the groove with ownership and management. You can't do that as well at home relying on technology."

Show the human touch. "When we achieve herd immunity, face-to-face meetings with co-workers, managers and clients should be 20 to 25% of someone's portfolio of time," Robertson says. "Zoom meetings are a pain because you

have to set them up. Remote employees should prioritize live voice communication with colleagues, managers, and clients in order to stay in the game. Picking up the phone to talk with someone keeps the relationship alive and brings more clarity than constantly texting or emailing."

Push your boss to measure you quantitatively. "Woe to the remote employees who believe they are not under increasing scrutiny – downsizing is on the way," Robertson says. "The good employees working at home will

have more reporting mechanisms in place. Show your boss your genuine enthusiasm by being proactive and coming up with more measurables for your performance."

Do extracurricular work. "The question is, how can you be front-and-center with the boss?" Robertson says. "One way is to do extracurricular work by bringing relevant and helpful articles to ownership. Develop a thesis for those articles to show that you're a thought leader. Executives and managers are flooded with emails, so the smart employees send a synthesis of an article that's to the point.

"Businesses can't afford slip-page," Robertson says. "Once there is herd immunity, the remote work issue shouldn't be just about where employees feel they are most comfortable, but how they can be the most valuable and effective."

Rod Robertson (www.briggscapital.com) is an international entrepreneur and author of *Winning at Entrepreneurship: Insider's Tips on Buying, Building, and Selling Your Own Business*. Robertson is the owner of Briggs Capital, a boutique international investment bank. He has conducted business in over 15 countries while focusing on developing small-to-medium-sized businesses and taking them to market worldwide. Robertson's 20-plus-year career in transaction experience and entrepreneurship includes guest lecturing around the globe at institutions such as Harvard Business School and other top-flight MBA schools as well as business forums and news outlets worldwide. He sits on numerous boards, guiding firms to streamline operations and make businesses more profitable before selling. ★

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FIREWORKS BUYERS GUIDE

Get the Most Bang For Your Buck!

By David Dickstein

Fireworks are a symbol of America's independence, but with so many state and local limitations placed on them it's hard for Californians to feel all that liberated when celebrating Independence Day.

Reasons for that generally pertain to safety concerns. Authorities contend that injuries and fires are minimized by allowing the sale and use of only safe and sane fireworks in certain communities and for no

more than seven days a year. Not helping matters is the fact that our founding fathers signed the Declaration of Independence during one of the hottest months of the year.

"With California entering warmer weather with drought conditions in place, it is important to remember that fireworks are illegal in certain areas of California," State Fire Marshal Mike Richwine told Messenger Publishing Group. "Each year serious injuries and millions of dollars in property loss occur

from wildfires sparked by fireworks."

Adding to this season's challenges, the domestic fireworks industry is dealing with another type of drought – as in the potential lack of product due to unprecedented delays in receiving ordered products from suppliers in China, maker of nearly 100 percent of product for the U.S. market.

As a result, according to Linda Hass, Sacramento-based Phantom Fireworks West Coast operations manager, "Our industry shipping costs have dramatically increased

from a year ago. In addition, space on the container ships is limited, and we are experiencing delays and backlogs in the Western U.S. ports."

Phantom and its largest California competitor, TNT Fireworks, which also owns most Discount Fireworks Superstore stands in the state, are expecting product to arrive much later than usual at their distribution centers.

"This is a very challenging year for the entire industry," Hass said. "Fingers crossed! Shop early!"

Prices, promotions and product new for the 2021 season will likely not be determined until right up to when non-profits kick off their fundraisers where fireworks are allowed. Due to all the uncertainty and lack of new product to test by press time, our 20th annual buyer's guide covers the highest-rated fountains likely to return this season at TNT, Phantom and Discount Fireworks Superstore locations in this region. Listed alphabetically by recommended show order are state-approved fireworks that have earned at least 4 1/2 stars on a 5-star scale judged on performance, duration, distinctiveness and value.

Opening Acts

- **Crickets** (DFS) – If hearing crickets indicates silence, this colorful little powerhouse is sorely misnamed. Has more snap, crackle and pop than a milky bowl of Rice Krispies. 42 seconds.
- **Flaring Stars Fountain** (Phantom) – Virtually noiseless beauty featuring swarming fish effect in red, gold and green. 54 seconds.
- **Kool Kat** (TNT) – Pint-sized dynamo is packed with crackle, color and longevity

for the price. 43 seconds.

- **Luck of the Irish** (TNT) – Performance of gold and silver spray, red and green balls, crackles and four super-loud whistles. 75 seconds.
- **Main Squeeze** (TNT) – Rookie sensation from last season sports insane sparks at the 1-minute mark. 83 seconds.
- **Phantom Dragon Slayer** (Phantom) – Solid pick with white, blue and lemon chrysanthemums, rowdy crackles and red stars. 66 seconds.
- **Retro** (DFS) – Former "Best in Show" and "Best New Fountain" winner is perhaps the most exciting one minute in fountains ever. 58 seconds.
- **Serenity** (Phantom) – Noiseless fountain opens with lovely lava lamp-like lumps and peacefully pleases with seven colors and white chrysanthemums. 59 seconds.
- **Toxic Barrel** (TNT) – Green toxic sludge blobs and loud crackles make this pretty poison despite the fleeting duration. 45 seconds.

Middle Acts

- **Crazy Bug Fountain** (TNT) – Amazes with triple swarm



Fiery Meadow is a wise buy if your legally lit fireworks show needs a solid fountain-novelty hybrid item; photo courtesy Phantom Fireworks. TNT Torch is one of the best fountains being sold this season along with Kool Kat, a pint-sized dynamo for the price at TNT Fireworks stands; photos courtesy TNT Fireworks.

- effect. Great crackles, reds, greens and palms. Was 2020's "Best New Fountain" runner-up. 95 seconds.
- **Flower Pot Fountain** (Phantom) – Low-noise fountain enralls with multicolored droplets against a near-constant shower of silver glitter. Use of blob-producing nitro-cellulose reduces burn time, but worth it. 52 seconds.
- **Illuminati Triangle** (Phantom) – Long-lasting fountain features multi-color pearls, sprays, flying stars and titanium crackle. 184 seconds.
- **Moondance Premier** (Phantom) – Super-sized version of Phantom's little Moondance Fountain. 100 seconds.
- **Power On** (TNT) – Former

- "Best New Fountain" electrifies with towering crackling sparks and unique fusing that moves from end to end. 85 seconds.
- **Psychedelic** (DFS) – Non-stop crackle, ice-white palms, multi-colored showers – crowd-pleasing fan fountain. 96 seconds.
- **Quiet Riot** (DFS) – This oldie but goodie features a rainbow of colors, crackles and boisterous finish. Long lasting and 500 grams, but not enough oomph for finale status. 180 seconds.
- **Red White & Blue Jubilee** (Phantom) – Patriotically pleasing with white chrysanthemums, and red and bluish fish and pearls. 110 seconds.

- **Tasmanian Cyclone** (TNT) – Crackling sparks, lots of reds, greens, blues and yellows, fish effect, smokeless globs and wide and wild finish. 106 seconds.
 - **TNT Torch** (TNT) – Shimmering golden stars are reminiscent of cones from the early 1970s. Earned "Best New Firework" honors last season. 72 seconds.
 - **War Fountain** (Phantom) – Colors change with each stage of fiery crackles. Great duration and intensity. 82 seconds.
 - **Wild Side** (TNT) – Like watching the super-charged final half-minute of TNT's Opening Show for a full minute. No climax because it's all climax. 60 seconds.
 - **Whimsy** (DFS) – Identical to TNT's Power On.
 - **Wicked Wizard** (DFS) – Love the height, purple droplets and titanium added for sharper crackles and a brighter white. 74 seconds.
- Finales**
- **Brew Haha** (Phantom) – Let's toast to this beer stein-shaped fountain with vibrant colors, wide spread and loud opening whistle. 145 seconds.
 - **Coral Reef** (Phantom) – Must-buy 500-gram fan emits radiant colors and clamorous whistles and crackles. 105 seconds.
 - **Delirium** (TNT) – Granddaddy of California's fan fountains, it's the must-buy senior identical cousin of Phantom's Coral Reef.
 - **Fiery Meadow Flower Fountain** (Phantom) – Proving that hybrid fireworks often make for big crowd pleasers is this combo fountain-wheel featuring titanium crackles and spinning finale. 68 seconds.
 - **Living the Dream** (TNT) – Like ordering TNT's exquisitely named Wild Side (see above) and saying, "make it a double." Super-charged crackles give punch to this 500-gram winner. 120 seconds.
 - **Opening Show** (TNT) – Budget permitting, this envy-inducing finale is a 500-gram must-have. Back up a few feet at the minute-40 mark. Trust us. 130 seconds.
 - **Pyrotastic** (DFS) – Five-hundred grams are brilliantly distributed among 12 tubes bearing diverse effects and memorable performance. 181 seconds.

For stand locations and additional product information, visit the retailers' websites: tntfireworks.com, fireworks.com (Phantom); and dfsfireworks.com (Discount Fireworks Superstore). Check local laws and take all safety measures before buying and lighting.

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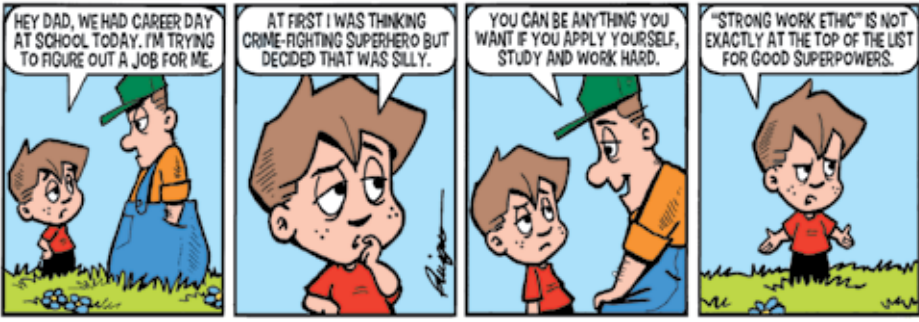
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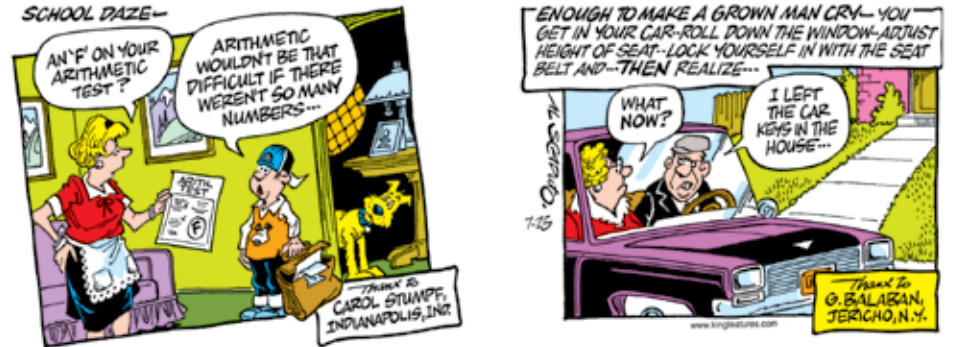
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Out on a Limb



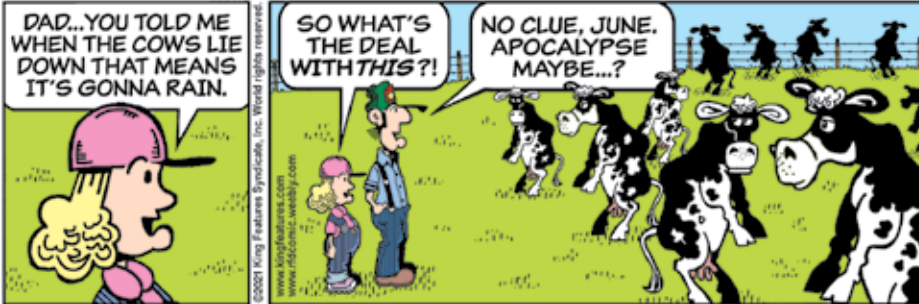
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THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO

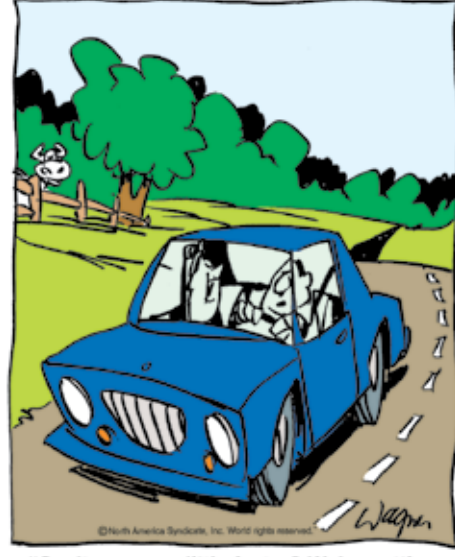
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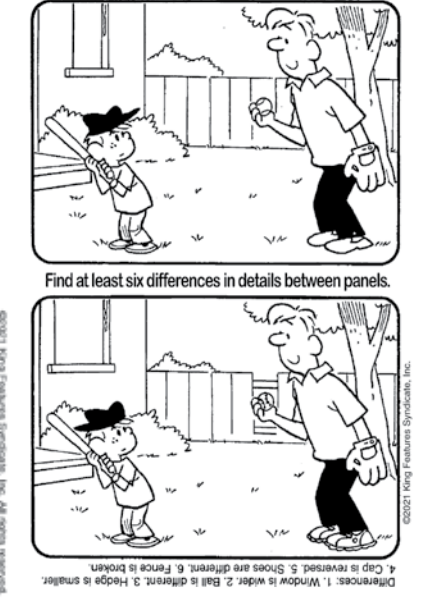
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