

Women's *Improvement* Club Reports Success

Tuleyome: Online Nature and You Lecture **PAGE 10**

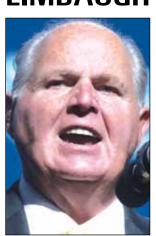




VOLUME 29 • ISSUE 9 FEBRUARY 26, **2021**

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A TRIBUTE TO **RUSH** LIMBAUGH



PAGE 6

PROSECUTORS FEUD **OVER CRIMINAL SENTENCING LAWS**



PAGE 10

plus Calif. Information Tax (Sales Tax) PRESORTED

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City Presents General Plan



in residential and business that will be impacting the future of Dixon in a variety of ways. The Dixon General Plan 2040 is available to the public for review and comment. Photo

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7 pm to review the Final EIR and Draft General Plan 2040 and make their recommendations to the City Council. For now, citizens can review it for themselves online.

The Dixon General Plan 2040 is a comprehensive update to the City's General Plan 1993 and as such affects property throughout the City's General Plan area. The General Plan 2040 establishes goals, policies, and implementing actions pertaining to the development of the City's General Plan area. The Plan revises

land use designations and establishes new land use categories.

The Plan provides the Elements required by State Law for General Plans, including Land Use, Circulation, Conservation, Open Space, Safety, Noise, and Environmental Justice, as well as optional Economic Development and Community Character Elements.

In July 2020, the City released for public review and comment the Draft General Plan 2040 along with the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) (SCH #: 2018112035).

A 45-day public review and comment period was provided for the DEIR, ending on August 24, 2020. Since that time, the City and its General Plan/Environmental Consultant have reviewed and responded to the comments received.

In addition, the Final EIR and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) have been prepared along with final edits to the Draft General Plan 2040.

Continued on page 10

Overpass from 'Someday' to 'Now'

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - At the end of the last City Council meeting and after an unusually heavy agenda, Dist. 3 Council Representative Kevin Johnson floated the idea of a one cent sales tax rate to "make the Parkway Overpass go from 'someday' to 'now.' "

Johnson said that although [the idea] is far from being ready to present to the public, he believed "if we could get this to the point for a city slogan, like 'yes for Parkway,' that would be a great start," he said and requested the subject be put on a future agenda. "We have a community that can be informed of the critical importance of this capital improvement and if presented in a very transparent way, a future project for 14 years could be change to a planned start date.'

There was a half-cent sales tax increase voted down a few years back but he argued that was poorly presented and was to go straight into the general fund. This would be different, he explained, with an end date and specific to the Parkway Overpass Fund.

"At the end of the day, it's all about public safety and the Dixon Police Department and Fire Station [are currently] not accessible to the other side of town. If we ever have a catastrophic train accident that blocks both crossings..." he said and added that the actual citizens of Dixon would probably pay less than 40% as out of town sales tax would cover the bulk of the costs.

"Yes for Parkway; I believe we can do it and it would be built and it would create a huge amount of safety component," he said. And, since the discussion had just ended on a sour note after learning the special election would cost thousands more than they thought, the proposal could go to the voters on that same special election for about \$15,000 or \$20,000. It would, however, require a 2/3 vote to pass.

"One hundred percent of the funds would go to the Parkway Overpass," explained Johnson and it is a fact Dixon has the lowest sales tax of 7.375 around. "The idea is after a full evaluation of what's been done so far, what's been paid for, and what is in the Parkway account now, what can be reasonably be expected from Developer fees, possible grants, etc. but it will allow us to put

Continued on page 5

City's Public Works **Engineer Leaving**

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - After eight years as City Engineer/Public Works Director for the City of Dixon, Joe Leach will be leaving Dixon for a new position in Richmond and will finally not have a slash in his title. He will serve as Public Works Director and his last day in Dixon will be April 2.

"Over the last year or so, I started getting that sense of maybe it's time. It had been eight years; the longest I've been in a job so that speaks to the joy of working here," he said. After discussions with his wife and considering their home life with three teenagers, they decided it was time to explore other options.

"During my tenure with the City of Dixon, I'm most proud of the opportunity to work alongside some incredibly talented and dedicated people," he said. "Working for this community has been incredibly rewarding and challenging and has left an indelible imprint on my life."

Leach learned early a "working dynamic" with City Manager Jim Lindley that grew and the challenges the city has gone through gave them a mutual respect for each other, he said. "He's given me opportunities to grow and stretch and I credit him a lot and I'm



start the first of April as City of Richmond's Public Works Director. Photo by Debra Dingman

leaving on really good terms." The most challenging by far for his

career at the city was the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

"To go from nothing to what we have today is pretty cool. It involved a high level of a lot people's effort and work to make it run like it is now. Since December 2012, we were able to deliver an award-winning, state of the art Wastewater Treatment Facility; assume water system operations, including recruitment and development of industry-leading water operations staff," he said. "The

water rate will be addressed and I see that as a lesson learned and an opportunity to build bridges with the community but doing the water system and getting over the hump on the wastewater treatment is pretty fulfilling. I just played a part in the role, ushering both projects all along."

The City Manager holds Leach in

equally high regard.

"Joe was a really 'can-do' guy and that shows through what he has been able to do for the city," said Lindley. "I believe that we supported Continued on page 3 2 • FEBRUARY 26, 2021 Dixon Independent Voice

Life's too SHORT

What is the future Culture of Dixon?'

By Debra Dingman

Recently, new Dixon Museum Director Gary Erwin said he wanted to preserve the culture of Dixon. That really pushed me into the fascinating abyss of old and new of this community. He may have been talking about arts and institutions but I considered the other spectrum of the definition - the customs and collective mentality of our citizens.

This small town has always been a unique blend of ag and bedroom community in Solano County and a town known for coming together for our people from children suffering from cancer to those killed in shocking accidents. Memories of the sweet fundraiser with huge turnouts to help a 5-year-old boy dying of cancer to a fire truck with a black drape across its engine slowly trudging through the center of town emerge in my mind. We've rescued those from nearby fires and corralled helpless animals at our fairgrounds.

Our parent-teacher organizations have worked to send children to camp. Our Pastors have rescued teens from the depression of losing fellow students. Our civic clubs have pushed our students to reach higher goals with our scholarships.

My heart soars with gratitude that I've had the privilege to live in Dixon. When I drive down the streets and I see all the electrical wires overhead and the many messy yards below, I could think otherwise but I'm reminded that collectively, almost everyone has been involved to some degree in the kindness of our small town - even if it's buying cookies we know we shouldn't eat from a neighbor's Girl Scout

The people here know each other. They know their neighbors because Dixon is a small town. At stop signs, people wave each other on. Our grown children either stay or come back to raise their families. The question is: Can we keep this culture? Some people I talk to acknowledge that

Dixon is growing and we will change. So I ask, can we change into something better by keeping our culture of kindness? Or, will masses of new Dixonites change the way people treat each other?

In a bigger city, you can do substandard labor and never see that contractor again. You can flip someone off at a stop sign and never consider that might be your friend's grandma who simply has slowed down a bit. I am shocked at 'professionals' I've talked to from bigger communities who lie. Like, really lie - through their teeth with no consideration they will get caught in it

In Dixon, you will - somehow, and almost inadvertently, find out the truth. The Dixon rumor mill is real. Living with such close contacts forces us to rise above the ugliness of not being accountable. It forces us to be better people. Of course I'm not living in a bubble of fantasy but I have truly observed this behavior over the 30 years I've lived here and I am worried about all the influx of newbies bringing a different mindset.

Our City Attorney is a good example of someone who comes in from a big city and changes the culture of Dixon from trusting and neighborly to suspicious and fearful. What about the new police department that was just recently reformed under a Chief from the FBI in Sacramento? I agree with what he said that Dixon was now ready to grow. But in what way? There have been at least four cruisers on at any moment of my day and officers are young and would not think of a warning.

They even stopped someone at the corner of the major intersection in town, causing a much more dangerous situation with traffic and big rigs. An officer of the past would have allowed the driver to move further down the street before pulling him over and maybe even gave a warning. It made me see this chasm between new and old and, I ask: In our growth, can we preserve our sense of community and save our culture of kindness?

Vaccine Misinformation Can Overwhelm; Consumers Must Be Vigilant

Commentary by Karen Nikos-Rose, UC Davis

There is strong consensus and medical evidence that COVID-19 vaccines — as with other vaccines — are safe and effective, but negative comments on social media, which sometimes migrate to traditional media, can overwhelm majority opinions, said communication researchers from University of California, Davis.

"Repeated media coverage of myths is like giving minority opinion a megaphone in a crowd. People are very vulnerable to negativity and myths in media, and soon, the negative opinion becomes what people believe," said Jingwen Zhang, assistant professor of communication.

It's human nature to fall prey to novel and emotionally charged claims, the researchers agree, and also to share these claims on social media. False information, therefore, travels fast.

"It's so important to emphasize facts and give facts more attention than falsehoods," said Zhang Zhang and Professor Magdalena Wojcieszak have been researching communication issues and human behavior for many years. Wojcieszak, additionally, is part of a team of researchers nationwide analyzing the effects of Facebook and Instagram during the 2020 election, the results of which are being compiled and will be released soon.

They recently co-authored a study on how social media myths about vaccines can be diminished with credible fact-checking. The researchers encourage everyone who searches for and identifies vaccine facts, and research evidence that backs them up, to spread the facts to overcome the majority illusion of misinformation.

"We need to be vigilant about this," Zhang said. "There will always be some myths but the myths are such a small part of the overall information and communication environment on social media," Wojcieszak said. "As such, it is important for journalists and legacy media to not repeat the myths in their reporting, as this only disseminates misinformation further and gives it greater visibility than would otherwise be obtained on social media alone. The myth should not be the story."

Responsibility falls to platforms

Both researchers recognize the need for social media platforms to do their part in moderating false messaging. Not everthing can be caught before misinformation spreads, but Facebook, Twitter and other social media stepped up the vigilance themselves, for example, late in the election and inauguration cycle. This was especially apparent as social media was used to organize a frenzy of demonstrations at state capitol buildings and an insurrection at the U.S. Capitol a week before inauguration, resulting in deaths, injuries and property destruction. In some instances, misinformation was corrected. Some people who spread misinformation lost their posting privileges.

People who receive vaccines

People who get vaccines will eventually become social media influencers, perhaps reducing some of the misinformation spread.

"As more people get vaccinated, their personal stories on social media may influence their friends. We are already seeing this," said Wojcieszak. "People post photos of themselves on social media saying, 'Look, here I am, getting my shot. I am fine.' These kinds of personal posts are bound to lower vaccine hesitancy over time."

Early in the COVID-19 shutdowns, long before anyone knew if or when a vaccine would become available, another communication professor addressed the problem of lingering misinformation. Social media researcher and Associate Professor of communication Cuihua (Cindy) Shen saw a breakdown with public health messaging early on, which she discussed in multiple media interviews.

At that time, she offered advice to individuals and organizations in assessing information's veracity. She urged people not to act right away on information they see. Do research. Ask a doctor. Talk to people you trust, she said. And, she added, remember that information is ever-changing.

The advice still holds true: (1) Check the source (2) Cross check from multiple sources (3) Ascertain on what date the information was published (4) Rely on expert and scientific sources for information about the vaccine.

Published in Society, Arts & Culture on February 9, 2021 ★

Sen. Dodd: Legislative Stimulus Package Approved

By Paul Payne,
Office of Senator Bill Dodd

Office of Senator Bill Dodd
SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -

Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, issued the following statement today upon the passage by the Legislature of a \$9.6 billion economic stimulus package to help California families and businesses struggling because of the coronavirus pandemic:

"I am proud to be a coauthor of this legislation to bring immediate and muchneeded relief to the people of California," Sen. Dodd said. "The pandemic has caused untold hardship, and this stimulus is what's needed to help get our state back on its feet. But the work is not done, and I will continue to advance policies that support workers, small businesses and families."

The package first introduced by Gov. Gavin Newsom in January and approved in the Assembly and Senate provides immediate relief for individuals, families, small businesses and other key programs.

Among the highlights are: 5.7 million people who earn less than \$30,000 a year, were excluded from the federal stimulus or are elderly and disabled will receive \$600 one-time payments; \$2.1 billion in small business grants and \$2 billion in small business tax cuts; \$115 million in business fee reductions; \$400 million in childcare funds for working families; \$120 million in college student assistance

Sen. Dodd Introduces Elderly and Disabled Assistance Bill

By Paul Payne, Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With high COVID-19 infection rates at California nursing homes, Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, introduced legislation to expand a successful program that allows low-income seniors and people with disabilities to receive care in the safety of their own homes.

"We must continue to allow our most vulnerable the choice of staying in their homes to avoid potential exposure to the coronavirus and also improve the quality of their lives," Sen. Dodd said. "This program protects people who would be most at risk while saving taxpayer dollars that would be spent on outside care. It builds on my commonsense proposal from last year that was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom."

The California Community Transitions program has transitioned 4,300 people from institutional settings over the past 12 years for an average savings of \$60,000 per person per year. Last year, Sen. Dodd wrote Senate Bill 214, which helped the program assist people during the pandemic. Today, he introduced follow-up legislation, SB 281, to ensure California conforms with updates in federal law,

expanding eligibility to even more people.

The bill is co-sponsored by Disability Rights California and East Bay Innovations.

"Older adults and people with disabilities are at high risk of contracting COVID-19 and becoming critically ill, especially those individuals residing in a nursing home or institutional setting," said Andy Imparato, DRC executive director. "Now more than ever it is vitally important that individuals who reside in institutional settings are allowed access to transition services to assist them to move back home and into the community."

"It is imperative that we use every tool in the toolbox available during COVID to get vulnerable people out of nursing homes. Providing long term care in the home costs less and improves the quality of life. Sen. Dodd's bill not only helps people live outside of institutions, it also saves the state money," said Tom Heinz, executive director of East Bay Innovations.

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Solano, Yolo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, and Sacramento counties. You can learn more about the district and Senator Dodd at www.sen.ca.gov/dodd.

Independent Voice

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Women's Improvement Club Reports Success



DWIC Members pictured are: (L to R) Ramona Todd, Loran Hoffmann, Teri Osterman-Brown, Darla Wear, Donna Armstrong, and Mary Kay Callaway. DWIC Photo.

By Loran Hoffman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Members of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club thank the community for the overwhelming success of their scholarship fundraising dinner hosted by Bud's Pub and Grill last Monday evening. Bud and Cherie Fanning, owners of Bud's Pub and Grill, have consistently supported community groups in their

fundraising activities and this year was no different. In spite of the pandemic, Bud's prepared the same delicious meals we have enjoyed in the past and allowed the DWIC to raise money to provide scholarships for 2021 graduates of Dixon and Maine Prairie High Schools to continue their education.

Covid-19 restrictions altered the method of service from a sit down meal

to a drive-thru and pick up your dinner. Members transported the meals from the kitchen to the city parking lot located by the Dixon Unified School District Office where ticket holders drove through and picked up the meals they had ordered by phone. A big THANK YOU to all that purchased dinner tickets! We appreciate your support!

"Teamwork made the dream work!" ★

City's Public Works Engineer Leaving

Continued from page 1 each other through that [wastewater] process and he never questioned the need or the method we were using and just pushed through it and it was a very good addition to the city. We would have never had this growth were seeing without that facility. It was a big step forward for Dixon."

Leach was also instrumental on other key projects for the community including the Hall Park Phase 3 all-weather surface turf field and the Pardi Phase 1 Project. He supports the idea of a 1-cent sales tax for the construction of the Parkway Overpass noting that without it, there would be a shortfall even with funding through the public utilities commission, railroad commission, state and federal monies, he said.

"I am really sad to see him go," said Lindley. "He was a terrific employee and I think we both grew through his service with the city. The most important important aspect of Joe as a manager--especially with all the difficulty to get projects done--is that he has a very positive attitude."

The recruitment process to replace Leach will take approximately three months and the city is still working through the details of possibly adding additional staff to fill his shoes temporarily.

"I will truly miss the people here," Leach said.★





This weeks sermon is as follows:

Transformation "From Stressed To Blessed"

Psalm 23

Sunday - Bible Study 9:00 am • Worship 10:00 am

Small Groups meet throughout the week. Tuesday Children's Adventure Bay - 6:30 pm

Frank Salamone - Pastor/Teacher Sheila Dybdahl - Children's Minister

185 W. Cherry Street • Dixon • 707-678-5234 CornerstoneinDixon.com

Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

Parks and Rec Meeting

The Dixon Parks and Recreation Commission Agenda and Summary Reports for the Regular Meeting of Tuesday, February 23, 2021, are now available for review on the City's website: www.cityofdixon.us – see "Agendas, Videos, and Live Streaming."

The meeting is not in person but all members of the public may participate in the meeting via video conferencing by going to the city website and clicking on the zoom link and "raising your hand" for questions or comments. Or, by calling (669) 900-6833, meeting ID: 862 895 1302, passcode 102120 and you will be given the opportunity to provide public comment. To speak during the public comment via video conferencing, press *9 or you can email questions and comments to publiccomment@cityofdixon.us.

Dixon Montessori Reads

Do you have a favorite children's book you enjoy reading aloud? Dixon Montessori Charter School is celebrating Read Across America and inviting local business owners to record themselves reading a favorite children's book and submitting it for their students.

"Last year we invited local politicians, police officers, and firefighters to read to students," wrote Executive Director Ben Ernest in an email to Chamber of Commerce members. "This year we would like to invite Dixon business owners to participate."

It can be a book that is meaningful to the reader, a life lesson, or something of a cultural significance, for example.

Submissions are due Friday, March 5, and will be shared the following week with their students. Video submissions should include name, title/role in the community and the reason the book is important to you. Email your video to admin@dixonmontessori.org or call DCMS for more information.

Virtual Teen Summit

Young people are invited to a presentation on 'Healthy Love.' The Vacaville Youth Roundtable is hosting a virtual teen summit on Saturday, February 27 at 10:30 am - 2:30 pm centered on healthy relationships, youth leadership, mental wellness resources, the impact of Covid-19, and making positive life choices.

The event will consist of educational panels, workshops, raffles, and a musical performance. Open to youth ages 11+ throughout Solano County as well as those interested in the health and well-being of our young people.

The first 50 to pre-register will be entered to win a gift card. There will also be a special musical performance by 'The Color Wild.' For more information go to VacavilleYouth.com. ★







LEGAL ADVERTISING

Dixon's Independent Voice Adjudicated For and By the County of Solano,

Adjudication No. FCS030046—November 24, 2008

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-000252

The following persons are doing business as: : SUSAN'S JEWELS OF THE SEA

1305 Rehrmannn Drive Dixon, CA 95620

Susan J. Rosten, 1305 Rehrmannn Drive Dixon, CA 95620

Date Filed in Solano County: February 2, 2021 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is Conducted by: An Individual

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration February 1, 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: February 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2021

(The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-000219

The following persons are doing business as: : MOTEL 6 VACAVILLE

107 Lawrence Drive Vacaville, CA 95687

D Vaca Hotel, LLC, 8762 Preston Trace Blvd. Frisco, TX 75033 Date Filed in Solano County: January 28, 2021

The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/27/2021 This Business is Conducted by: A Limited Liability Company

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 January 27, 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: February 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2021

(The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-000218

The following persons are doing business as: : MOTEL 6 Vallejo

1455 Enterprise Street Vallejo, CA 94589

D Vaca Hotel, LLC, 8762 Preston Trace Blvd. Frisco, TX 75033

Date Filed in Solano County: January 28, 2021

The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/27/2021

This Business is Conducted by: A Limited Liability Company

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 January 27, 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: February 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2021

(The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-000283

The following persons are doing business as: : PERCIVAL CUSTOMS AND FABRICATION 6104 Chicorp Lane Elmira, CA 95625

Wayne Percival, 1005 Weyand Way Dixon, CA 95620, Houston Percival, 1005 Weyand Way Dixon, CA 95620

Date Filed in Solano County: February 3, 2021 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is Conducted by: A General Partnership 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 February 2, 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.,

Publish: February 19, 26, March 5, and 12, 2021

(The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)





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Tearing Down Systemic Barriers to Black Entrepreneurship

SBDC Press Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- The Solano Small Business Development Center announces the 'Inclusivity Project.' They are connecting 1000 Black entrepreneurs and Black-owned small businesses in underserved and socially disadvantaged communities with lifetime business mentorship and \$100 million dollars in capital to start their very first business or take their existing business to the next level.

Starting with the Truth

Every entrepreneur needs supportive conditions to flourish. One of the pillars of the proverbial American Dream is the opportunity to leverage the entrepreneurial spirit, energy, and infrastructural support to make a better life for oneself.

Every day, Black business owners and entrepreneurs make invaluable contributions to communities across the State of California. Their success is essential to California's economy

but more importantly, is the future prosperity of Black communities in California.

The leadership at NorCal SBDC has launched this firstever Black Entrepreneurship Initiative with a more holistic approach to addressing three factors significantly impact the success of a business – human, financial, and social capital.

The Problem is Real

In addition to the lack of mentorship, Black entrepreneurs lack access to funding and other resources critical to building a successful business. Almost no one gets to start armed with a check for the full amount they need to get things off the ground. With black business owners specifically, the most popular financing methods were cash and help from family and friends.

Without proper financing, it is difficult to get the employees needed, to advertise, and to purchase the equipment and materials needed to start scaling the business. Black creatives start their businesses on lower funding because of these socioeconomic barriers, which has an adverse effect on starting and growing their companies.

Doing Something About It SBDC is committed to working closely with Black businesses and Blackled organizations so that the 22nd Century Black Capitalism Movement will become a symbol of meaningful, transformative economic equality within our generation.

The Inclusivity Project is made possible by a strategic partnership between the Northern California Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) and the Nor-Cal Financial Development Corporation (FDC). Special thanks to our supporting partners: Humboldt State University's Sponsored Programs Foundation, in partnership with the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, and the United States Small Business Administration.

Attorney Firm Bids Adieu to Steve Churchwell

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Profits are looking up for the new partner of Dixon's City Attorney firm. Formerly Churchwell-White has become Brenner-White.

Steven Churchwell is moving to a new firm to expand into national law and Barbara Brenner, who specializes in State, Local & Municipal, Environmental, Energy & Natural Resources and Environmental Litigation has joined with Doug White in the firm of approximately a dozen other attorneys.

Brenner is a top-rated attorney practicing in Sacramento. After completing undergraduate studies, she attended law school at University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law and earned a juris doctor degree in 1989. She was selected to Super Lawyers for 2018 - 2021.

Perhaps to the detriment of the Dixon tax payer, the city attorney contract has normally been lucrative for Churchwell-White. But after months of Dixon's small businesses suffering from forced closures or shutdowns, there is a recent boost in City Council closed session agenda items forcing a half hour earlier start and a full additional page of existing and new litigation.

Since Churchwell-White was hired to represent the legal needs of the City of Dixon in 2012, there was a private investigator hired at least twice--once for a case against Police Chief Jon Cox and another for a Quo Warranto case against City Councilman Devon Minnema; Neither resulted in a judgment favorable to the City.

There have been letters issued to at least one key city staff based on an "anonymous" complaint of racism that resulted in the person leaving the city's employment; a suit against a non-profit organization which was the Solano County Taxpayers Association; and a suit that has been ongoing for several years with a local newspaper where the Council has neither accepted or refused the mediator's recommendations.

Now, there is new litigation against two other small businesses owners, Excel Fitness and CrossFit ASAP, for opening during pandemic restrictions. The state is not explicitly requiring municipal police departments to enforce these restrictions but Dixon City Council created an ordinance in 2020 establishing fines for violations and passed 3 to 2 with now-Mayor Steve Bird, District 1 Council Representative Scott Pederson and now-Vice Mayor Jim Ernest assenting. The gyms, after losing thousands of dollars for being closed, will now incur legal expenses.

These cases are in addition to three individual cases listed on the Closed Session Agenda on February 16, involving Debra Barnes, Michael Ceremello, and Lamika Wright.

In the cases where the local small business owners have large fees to pay, those business owners are now getting double trouble if they don't pay the fees within 30 days.

Police walked into Bud's Pub & Grill and without warning, issued \$1,000 fine to owners Bud and Cherie Fanning (later changed to \$500 after one of the charges

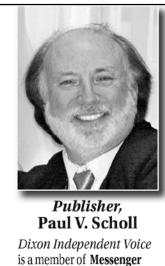
was contested.) Now, they have been turned over to collections--this is after receiving an additional \$100 "late fee" for not paying that \$500 fine.

But, the police walked into two other downtown restaurants and simply issued a warning and other exercise facilities in town were allowed to stay open. This leaves many unanswered questions but because these are all considered legal actions, the public is kept uniformed. While the City Attorney can only take action if given direction from the City Council, in the past, Churchwell-White was able to take preliminary actions without Council approval or Council knowledge.

With Brenner as the new partner with White, the cost of retaining the Dixon City Attorney could increase or decrease significantly while the shutdown of the local economy has deeply affected the City's budget.

It will be interesting to see how much money the Dixon taxpayers are paying monthly to our City Attorney (in addition to two "Deputy City Attorneys," quite a large retinue for such a small City) for these multiple failed lawsuits. The City Attorney himself appears to be pushing the litigation. We will be able to report on this shortly once we receive the requested information.

The amount being spent on the City of Dixon's legal fees is not being regularly reported at City Council meetings. Instead, the City council votes monthly on an aggregate "general fund" line item instead of providing actual invoices for the public's review.



Publishing Group

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher." If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.



Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1994

It is the intent of the Dixon Independent Voice to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our

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Continued from page 1 together a 'Now Plan' verses always a 'Future Plan.' "

According to the Solano Transportation Authority, this key safety project In Dixon will improve Parkway Boulevard from Valley Glen Drive to Pitt School Road. The \$15.8M project, which has been a priority for the City of Dixon since 1997, will construct a new 4-lane roadway and a new overcrossing of UPRR & Porter Road, as well as widening shoulders and reconstructing the roadway on Pitt School Road from south of Hillview Drive to Porter Road.

That last City Council meeting was held on February 16 and began with an hour and a half closed session on seven litigation items--six existing and one new one. The six involve local business Excel Fitness: Denova Homes; Dave Scholl: Michael Ceremello: Lamika Wright; and Debra Barnes. "Anticipated Litigation" was the new one involving Government Code 54956.9 and all were initiated or authorized by Dixon City Attorney Doug White.

When the regular meeting opened at 7 pm, the first item up for vote was item 10.2 which added Cross Connection Control and Prevention of Back flow Standards to the Municipal Code. This is a system that prevents the mixing of sewer with drinking water and is required by the State to keep community water safe.

A thorough presentation was made by Senior Civil Engineer Deborah Barr and is available by watching the recorded meeting via Zoom on the City of Dixon website. It passed 5-0. There were no fees connected to this item as there was not enough time to do cost calculations but there will be. That discussion/decision will be brought to the next meeting and will impact citizens and business owners.

Mayor Steve Bird asked for approval for his appointments of Loraine Hernandez-Covello and Rubi Medrano-Sanchez to the Dixon Planning Commission. They were approved unanimously.

In other decisions, the Council learned from City Attorney Doug White that the cost of a special election

for the new elected City Clerk had been wrong. Originally, they were told the cost of the special election would only run about \$70,000 but since they have learned it will be \$175,000 due to the proponents request for a "special election" and not tying into the regular election cycle. The Council also learned that whoever is elected then will only serve one year. Then, there will be a 2024 regular election cycle where the elected person will serve a 3-year term thereby putting the position onto its regular, 4-year election cycle.

The Councilmen voted a "reluctant" 5-0 as the City Attorney explained there were no other options.

"It is a complete waste of taxpayer's dollars," said Dist. 1 Council Representative Scott Pederson.

"Aye; only because our hands are tied," said Mayor

For the minutes of this meeting and/or to watch the meeting online, one can go to the City of Dixon website or call (707) 678-7000 for additional help.

Overpass from 'Someday' to 'Now' Be Post-Fire Flood Ready

Solano County Water Agency Press Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - In August-2020 the LNU Complex burnt over 363,220-acres of land in Solano, Yolo, Napa, Lake, and Sonoma Counties (an area 14 times the size of San Francisco). As residents begin postfire recovery, it will be important to also be flood prepared, as large-scale wildfires can increase the risk of flooding. Solano County residents living in or downstream of fire impacted regions should be aware of the flood hazards, especially in steep-mountain areas like Mix and Gates Canyon, as well as fire impacted watersheds including Ulatis, Alamo, Encinosa, Sweeney, Pleasants Creek, and others. To reduce the potential impacts of flooding, residents should know if they are in or near a flood zone. Residents in flood prone areas should consider a Flood Insurance Policy as standard Homeowner Policies do not cover flooding. Residents can also actively monitor local rain and stream gages throughout Solano County. Rural residents living along creeks, should keep their creek or waterway well maintained and free of dead/downed debris that could lead to flooding (more information below). For additional resources on being Storm Ready, please see the links: www.scwa2.com/about-us/floodpreparedness/www.solanocountv.com/ depts/oes/storm ready/default.asp

Creek Management on Private Lands: Rural properties that border a natural creek or waterway bring a suite of rights and responsibilities unique to this landscape feature. If you are fortunate enough to own or manage a streamside property, you have probably grappled with questions about pulling vegetation out of the creek, what permits may be required, and who to approach with questions. A quick summary of the rules around riparian areas may be helpful.

Ownership: Most parcels that border a creek run to the centerline of the creek (unless the parcel clearly includes both sides of it). Check your official Assessors Parcel Map to verify your property line if you have questions:

www.solanocounty.com/depts/ar/ viewpropertyinfo.asp

Responsibilities: The vast majority of streams are private property, and as such, are the responsibility of the landowner to maintain. This includes activities such as controlling soil erosion, removing dead/downed vegetation

that may cause flooding, controlling highly invasive species, etc. In most areas, there are no laws that dictate what maintenance must include, but problems that are left unsolved (such as excessive vegetation clogging the waterway) leave the landowner open to litigation from affected neighbors downstream.

Exceptions to the landowner's responsibility to perform stream maintenance occur in areas where a public agency has a maintenance easement. These areas are relatively rare. Examples of maintenance easements that may exist on your property include:County Roads – it is common for the County to have a maintenance easement for approximately 10' on either side of a County road where it crosses a stream. This allows the County to maintain their roads and bridges and ensure that vegetation does not cause flooding in those areas. Anything up or downstream of that limited easement remains the responsibility of private landowner. Utilities - stream areas that are crossed by a utility line, or have one running close to the water's edge, usually include an easement for the utility to access their lines and maintain vegetation beneath them. Irrigation district or other water conveyance facilities – some areas have delivery lines for irrigation districts running parallel to, or beneath, streams or waterways. The district may have an easement on that area only to perform maintenance on their lines.

Permits: Despite being the responsibility of private landowners to maintain the streams on private property, any activity in those streams still falls under the jurisdiction of regulatory agencies that are charged with maintaining water quality and protecting wildlife throughout the State. It is therefore likely that a permit from one or more of those agencies is required before doing any significant work in a stream or riparian area, particularly if the work requires the use of heavy equipment. Information can be found from the regulatory agencies: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/ LSA; Regional Water Quality Control Boards: https://www.waterboards.

ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/ Note that Vacaville, Dixon, Rio Vista areas are in the Central Valley Region, and Fairfield, Suisun-City, Vallejo, Benicia are in the SF Bay Region.

Details on permit requirements can be difficult to interpret, and landowners are encouraged to contact Solano RCD (707-678-1655 x3) if they have any questions about this process.

Solano County Office of Education Assisting Vaccination Planning



Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-**Henderson.** Courtesy photo.

Jennifer Leonard, Solano County Office of Education

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- As Solano County Public Health department progresses through COVID-19 vaccination rollout Phase 1B, Tier 1, Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) is providing logistical and data collection support for the vaccination planning involving Solano educators. Vaccine supply is currently limited, requiring a phased approached to vaccination rollout for Solano school employees.

Education sector vaccinations will begin in coming weeks, beginning with 19 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in Solano County. These schools and programs are currently registered with the California Department

of Public Health's Safe Schools for All website as having an instructional status of "in-person" or "hybrid" learning models. The initial stage of the Solano educator vaccination plan also prioritizes school employees who are currently providing in-person instruction or learning/service support

directly to students. Solano County has reached the COVID case rate reduction threshold that allows elementary schools that have not already reopened campuses to do so now with COVID Safety Plans (CSPs) that are approved by Solano Public Health and the California Department of Public Health

"We must do all we can to provide in-person interaction, social and emotional supports and academic engagement that students need. Vaccinations for educators will provide additional reinforcement to the COVID Safety Plans created by local schools to maintain healthy learning environments," commented Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson. "SCOE is committed to our partnership with Solano Public Health and will provide any support and resources needed to assist with vaccination rollout for educators."

SCOE recognizes there are many moving parts and considerations involved in vaccination planning countywide. The details of future phases of vaccination planning for educators will likely be influenced by vaccination supply available to the county, local population needs and state directives. Solano County Office of Education is pleased to support the vaccination process over the next several months and is excited about this initial first step in vaccinating Solano County school employees.

Solano County Office of Education, (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo City school districts, which serve approximately 63,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.

Chamber Partners for Quarterly Magazine

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Members of the Dixon Chamber of Commerce will be getting a new service thanks to a recent partnership with MetroMedia which will build a new quarterly magazine and Membership Directory.

"We are pleased to announce a new partnership with MetroMedia who is also a new Dixon Chamber member," said Dixon Chamber President Shauna Manina. "This agreement will help spotlight our Chamber's members, activities, and leadership in our new quarterly digital magazine scheduled to launch in June 2021."

MetroMedia falls under the direction of Town Square Publications, a division of the Daily Herald Media Group, a custom publishing group that specializes in developing partnerships dedicated to creating relevancy for local chambers of

"We are a leading publisher in the nation and have been doing digital and print publications for years," said Tommy Stroup, the local representative. "We're basically trying to take Dixon into the new age. The main goal is to drive business to the membership and boost the economy."

In addition to the Membership Directory in every issue, each publication will include feature articles about member's businesses and organization's members, upcoming events and other topics of interest to the community.

"This added benefit of membership will be a new way to gain exposure, attract more customers or clients, and generate more income for your business or organization," explained Manina. "The magazine will be a welcome enhancement to our E-newsletters, our Facebook page, and the other ways that the Chamber utilizes to promote its member businesses and organizations. We will be sending the magazine to our entire email database, posting on our website, and sending out through all our social media."

In addition to the online publication, there will be printed copies that will be distributed at the Chamber office and other select locations in Dixon. Advertising space will also be available in each edition. For more information, contact Stroup at tstroup@tspubs.com or call (408) 858-5418. You can also call the Chamber at (707) 678-2650 Monday through Thursday, 8 am to 4 pm and 8 to noon on Friday. The office is located at 220 N. Jefferson Street in Dixon.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

About Reopening Local Schools

Dear Editor,

No one wants to be back in the classroom more than educators. I want to welcome every one of my students back to my classrooms in a way that keeps everyone safe: students, their families and staff.

As California continues to struggle to control the pandemic, which is still impacting many communities disproportionately, a phased-in approach that responds to local conditions and transmission rates has to be part of a responsible return to in-person instruction.

Any path to bringing students back to campuses will require implementing multi-layered mitigation strategies that consider community conditions and include robust cleaning and updated ventilation systems, asymptomatic testing of students and school employees, six-feet social distancing and enforcement.

To reopen schools for in-person instruction, the state must ensure all employees required to report in person have been provided the opportunity to be vaccinated before students return to campus. The vaccine distribution should prioritize educators in schools already open and schools in communities with high transmission

We must take a comprehensive and datadriven approach to reopening schools that includes addressing community spread. After all, no matter how safe of a bubble we put around our schools, the students and staff inside go home at the end of the day. If mitigation efforts are inadequate in the community, the risk of it being brought back to school increases significantly.

Sincerely, Debi Thomas



A Tribute to Rush Limbaugh Rest in Peace

Dear Reader,

It's hard to believe he's gone, and it's hard to imagine the last 30 years of my adult life without Rush.

I can distinctly recall the first time I heard Rush on the radio. It was 1990, and my wife and I had just relocated to Virginia for graduate school. I was driving down I-64 when I stumbled upon this voice... that resonated inside of me... a voice of reason in a world of chaos and confusion.

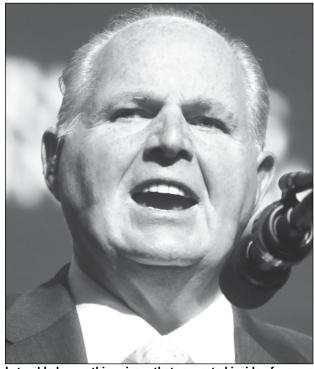
That voice was the voice of Rush Limbaugh.

Soon thereafter, my lunch breaks were consumed with sitting in my car and listening to Rush. I hadn't listened to much AM radio since I was a young boy listening to baseball games late into the evening. Now, in the middle of the day, there I was having lunch "with" Rush.

For the next three decades, Rush has been the "background music" always playing in my conservative world. He always made me smile and laugh. Yet he always brought a keen insight that I couldn't find anywhere else. And every time there was a seemingly earth-shattering political story, me and millions of conservatives would have our radios tuned to Rush as the intro music played.

What would Rush say? How will he interpret the events? And most importantly, what will Rush say we need to do next?

It wasn't even so much that Rush would tell us what to do. Instead, he



I stumbled upon this voice... that resonated inside of me... a voice of reason in a world of chaos and confusion. Photo courtesy Gage Skidmore from Surprise, AZ

disaster in a larger context and give us a reason to hope, along with confidence that we would find our way forward.

Right through the 2020 elections, I would tune into Rush - now through his podcast as I took my daily walks. Rush always had the best and clearest perspective. He made things understandable. And he somehow always had insight into what was just around the bend.

In these final weeks and month, he reminded us all about what's just around the bend for each of us. Rush was unashamed about his gratitude for each day and unashamed about his faith in Christ which guided him, I'm sure to his final breath.

Rush, thanks. You truly would put the political have been, as you often

said, our "guiding light through times of trouble, confusion, murkiness, tumult, chaos, misdirection, and even good times." Well done.

Steve Elliott, Grassfire

P.S. Please visit our tribute page to share how Rush Limbaugh impacted you personally and how grateful you are for the way he has impacted our nation to share your "Rush Story" with Grassfire Nation at www.grassfire. com/rushtribute

Grassfire, a division of Grassroots Action, Inc., is a million-strong network of grassroots conservatives dedicated to equipping you with the tools that give you a real impact on the key issues of our day. © 2021 Grassroots Action, Inc. ★



Biden Is Too Timid on School Reopening

It's an old political trick to make an easily achievable goal sound vauntingly ambitious in order to brag about it when it's inevitably met.

It takes another level of chutzpah, though, to set out as a target something that has already happened.

The press has portrayed President Joe Biden's goal of reopening the majority of K-12 schools in his first 100 days as so far-reaching that the timeline might have to be extended.

Enter White House press secretary Jen Psaki, who explained on Tuesday that the administration defines in-classroom instruction at least once a week.

By this metric, the goal isn't really having more than half of schools open -it's having more than half of schools still 80% closed.

Not only is this a ridiculous standard, schools have already cleared the bar. According to Burbio, which runs a schoolopening tracker, about two-thirds of K-12 students are attending in-person or hybrid schools.

This goalpost moving exemplifies how the Biden team isn't pushing nearly hard enough on school reopening.

The issue has gone from being something of a red vs. blue battle line last year to a cross-partisan area of

over reopening schools has been won, but political progress has been slow, mainly because powerful teachers unions are standing in the way.

touch of unity to his governing agenda, he'd call out the unions for being an obstacle to educational and economic progress at a challenging time for the country.

The science is clear enough, if that matters.

Experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention wrote in the Journal of the American Medical Association, "There has been little evidence that schools have contributed meaningfully to increased community transmission."

This makes the costs of school closures and remote learning all the harder to

A McKinsey estimate a school as open if it holds from June concluded that students may have lost three months to a year of learning, depending on the exact circumstances. Then, there are the social costs for children, among them higher rates of depression and anxiety.

> School closures have pulled women out of the labor force to bear the brunt of all the juggling that has to go on at home.

Nonetheless, teacher unions have fought reopening and helped stymie reopening in cities and blue states. Most schools in California have been remote. Elementary schools reopened in New York, but not middle schools or high schools.

School districts in the Washington, D.C., region consensus. In intellectual are floating a parodic Features Synd., Inc.

and moral terms, the debate solution to reopening – have kids return to the classroom so they can gather to watch remote teachers on computer screens.

Somehow private schools If Biden wanted to add a have largely managed to stay open, in part, because if they don't, no one gets paid.

> In contrast, public school teachers are in a position to make demands even to consider coming back and doing their jobs.

> After intense lobbying by the unions, most states have put teachers near the front of the line for vaccines (even though Biden's CDC director has said teacher vaccination isn't necessary for reopening).

As David Zweig points out in a piece at Wired, many union officials still insist that even vaccination won't guarantee a return to the classroom. This would be like surgeons demanding to be vaccinated, then not showing up for operations anyway.

The Biden team contends that more spending is necessary for reopening. Biden is proposing another \$130 billion in education funding in his COVID-19 bill, but as Dan Lips of the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity notes. states still have tens of billions in unspent funds from last year's relief packages.

No, this is a question of political will. Biden's goal should be to exert every ounce of influence that he has to get kids back in the classroom -- for their own good and that of the country's parents.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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DIXON FIRE LOG

The Dixon Fire Department's mission is to proudly community and our citizens.



Sunday, February 14, 2021 EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury

Midway Rd., Vacaville W. Chestnut St., Dixon Ary Ln., Dixon N. Lincoln St., Dixon

E. D St., Dixon W. F St., Dixon Sommer Dr., Dixon

Meridian Rd. N., Vacaville S. Jefferson St., Dixon

W. H St., Dixon S.113, Dixon Fountain Way, Dixon S. Jefferson St., Dixon Gold St., Dixon Ellesmere Dr., Dixon Sommer Dr., Dixon S. Jackson St., Dixon

EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with Injury

Monday, February 15, 2021

EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury **Assist Invalid**

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury **Assist Invalid**

EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury Smoke Scare, Odor Of Smoke Outside Rubbish Fire, Other

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

S. Jefferson St, Dixon N. Lincoln St, Dixon E. A St., Dixon Hillview Dr., Dixon E. Creekside Cir., Dixon Gold St., Dixon

Assist Invalid Dispatched & Cancelled En Route False Alarm Or False Call, Other EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury Public Service Assistance, Other

Thursday, February 18, 2021

N. Lincoln St., Dixon E. D St, Dixon Dorset Dr., Dixon W. H St., Dixon W. H St., Dixon W. F St., Dixon Silveyville Rd., Dixon E. D St., Dixon Commercial Way, Dixon

EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury Assist Invalid

EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury

Dispatched & Cancelled En Route

EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury Dispatched & Cancelled En Route

EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury

EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury Ems Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury

Friday, February 19, 2021

W. B St., Dixon

EMS Call, Excluding Vehicle Accident With Injury

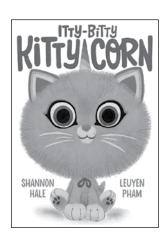
Dixon Independent Voice FEBRUARY 26, **2021 · 7**



BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ☑ amy-shane@att.net • ◎ amy_fortheloveofbook

Cuddle up with February's Round Up

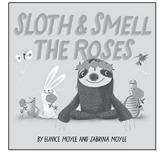
Cuteness abounds in these adorable reads, perfect for cuddling up with your little reader.



Itty-Bitty Kitty Corn by Shannon Hale and Leuyen Pham

Kitty believes that she is a unicorn. When Kitty looks in the mirror, she sees her horn and how tall she stands, and knows in her heart that she is a beautiful, tall unicorn. Kitty can neigh, gallop, and has the perfect tail; but her friends remind her that she is just a fluffy, fuzzy, teenie, tiny kitty. Until, a real unicorn shows up and brandishes his magnificent horn and tail. Suddenly, Kitty realizes she is not a unicorn and feels really small. Then, Unicorn shows Kitty his fluffy pink ears, and together they realize that they are both kitty-corns and together is the best

place to be. In this beautiful story of love, friendship, and finding where you belong, readers will be enchanted by this fluffy, pink, adorable story. Shannon Hale and Leuyen Pham come together to bring a dynamic tale that will be an instant classic.

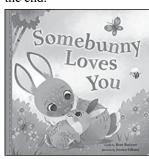


Sloth & Smell the Roses by Eunice and Sabrina Moyle

"When everything is Go! Go! GO! Say hello to Mindful Mo."

The world around you might be overwhelming, but Mindful Mo is here to help you feel your feelings and let them go. Take it slow, use your words, love yourself and let it all go.

Mindful Mo guides everyone through the acts of slowing down and experiencing mindfulness in, Sloth & Smell the Roses. Think, Feel, Act, and let go! We should all take some lessons to slow down from Mindful Mo. Eunice and Sabrina Moyle share a wonderful story allowing readers to learn how to recognize their emotions and feelings, then let in mindfulness and meditation, complete with an author's note on self-awareness at the end.

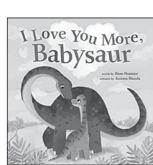


Somebunny Loves You by Rose Rossner and Jessica Gibson

All the animals on the farm are here to tell you how much they love you. Whether it's giving "hogs and kisses, "they "wooly love you," and no matter what, you "bee-long together."

A fun play on words while expressing words of adoration, Somebunny Loves You is a fast, fun

read for little ones.



I Love You More, Babysaur by Rose Rossner and Junissa Bianda

These dinosaurs are here to let you know how much they love you with a roar and a saur.

The perfect introduction to dinosaurs, I Love You More Babysaur opens the door to dinosaur sounds and where they live, along with proper names and pronunciations at the bottom of each page. Whether you are already a fan of dinosaurs or ready to introduce dinosaurs to your favorite little reader this is the perfect first book to introduce into your reading library. ★



Riley Reviews

"BLITHE SPIRIT" MISCARRIES AND NOEL COWARD WOULD BE AGHAST

ATV Review by Tim Riley

"BLITHE SPIRIT" (Rated PG-13)

Anyone that is an aficionado of stage productions is well aware of the prolific nature of noted playwright Noel Coward, with many of his works such as "Present Laughter," "Hay Fever," "Private Lives;" and "Blithe Spirit" regularly staged for revivals.

Known for a wide range of styles that included farce and drawing room comedy, Noel Coward's work displayed a casual ease with witty dialogue and biting humor that infused the insults and banter of his upper-class characters.

Coward's high comedy was evident in "Blithe Spirit," a comic play that was first staged on London's West End in 1941 and then adapted for film starring Rex Harrison a few short years later.

One could easily lose count of the number of times "Blithe Spirit," befitting its ghostly nature, has been revived on the West End and Broadway as well as in several film iterations, with the latest starring British actor Dan Stevens as leading character Charles Condomine.

Taking liberties with its source material, the newest "Blithe Spirit" concerns wealthy socialite and novelist Charles flailing in his attempts to adapt one of his bestselling books into a movie script for a Hollywood production of his impatient father-in-law.

The setting is the late Thirties in the gorgeous English countryside at an elegantly-appointed Art Deco mansion that might make one think of "Downton" Abbey" if only because Dan Stevens had a central romantic role in that British period drama television series.

A love story is not really in the cards for Stevens this time around because it's not just his writing that has been obstructed. His libido has faltered to the point that he whines, "Big Ben's stopped chiming." Such pedestrian wit would not likely escape Noel Coward's lips.

Life would otherwise be grand for crime fiction novelist Charles with his second wife Ruth (Isla Fisher) if his writer's block wasn't so terrible that he could only type the word "HELP" followed by chewing madly on wadded-up sheets of paper.

Charles' increasingly eccentric behavior proves to be a source of annoyance for Ruth because her father, a producer at the famous Pinewood Studios, gave her husband the job of turning one of his award-winning books into a ticket to fame and fortune in Hollywood.

For a temporary escape, Charles and Ruth choose an evening at a London theatre to enjoy a performance by the medium Madame Arcati (Dame Judi

Dench), who ends up being exposed as a fraud by a failed rope trick.

Needing some inspiration to get back on track with his screenplay, Charles, his wife and two friends invite Madame Arcati to their country home for a séance that might help the writer inject an element of the occult into his script.

What could not have been foreseen is that the fake psychic conjures up Charles' late wife Elvira (Leslie Mann), a vivacious American and his muse who died in a riding accident seven years ago.

None too happy that she's been replaced in Charles' life with another woman and visible only to her husband, Elvira decides to be a disruptive presence by tossing dishes, scaring the help and destroying garden plants.

That Ruth has also redecorated the house has caused Elvira great displeasure. With her devilish nature and spiteful streak, Elvira seeks to undermine the second wife's superficial social affairs.

Elvira's aim may be to drive Ruth from the arms of Charles to have him all to herself. In any event, Charles needs her inspiration as he's been unable to write in the years since her death.

A clash between the earthly and astral planes is inevitable. Unlike the proper Ruth, Elvira is wildly passionate, unpredictable and so seductive that Charles succumbs to her bewitching

What's the end game in store for a supernatural battle to rid the couple's home of an increasingly unhinged ghost? Will Madame Arcati be able to send the unwanted apparition back to her spectral resting place?

The resolution of these dilemmas would matter little if director Edward Hall and the three writers had employed the services of a clairvoyant to conjure up Noel Coward himself for help on the proper mix of dry wit and farce.

At its screwball core, "Blithe Spirit" is supposed to be a comedy of manners that should elicit plenty of laughs, which are unfortunately in relatively short supply in this newest adaptation.

With a cast as suffused with comedic talent normally evinced by Dan Stevens, Leslie Mann and Isla Fisher, one would have expected a charming comedic romp instead of a flaccid remake.

That "Blithe Spirit" has the fizzle of stale champagne must ultimately rest at the feet of the three writers that took license with Coward's comedic gem. Perhaps they too suffered writer's block in trying to channel the spirit of Noel Coward.



Rising Interest in Home Gardening **Boosts Seed Sales**

As Americans have renewed their interest in gardening during the COVID-19 pandemic, farmers who grow seeds for home gardeners have seen demand increase. Farmers and seed companies say the more-popular seeds include specialty vegetables and herbs, pollinator-friendly plants and crops that grow well in small spaces. Farmers who grow seed for commercial-scale farms say that side of the business has been less stable because of pandemic-related uncertainties.

Vegetable Report Shows **Production Losses**

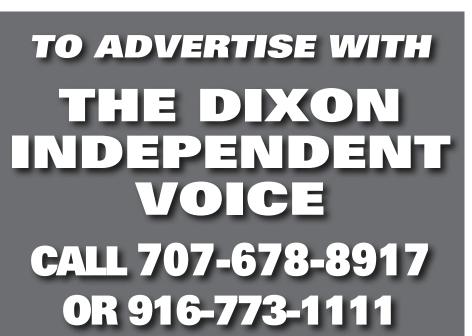
A new report says the value of most California-grown vegetable crops declined in 2020, as pandemic impacts echoed through markets. In an annual report, the U.S. Department of Agriculture says farmers of a number of vegetables found themselves unable to sell some of their crops, when sales to restaurants or other customers abruptly changed or ended. California remains the leader in U.S. vegetable production.

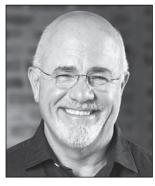
UCPublishes Food-Safety Guide for Urban Farms

Urban farms and community gardens that sell or donate food need to know about how food-safety laws apply to their operations, and the University of California has produced a guide intended to help. The free publication includes information on rules that pertain to urban agriculture in California. Along with explaining regulations, UC says the guide lists best practices to assure food safety for produce grown in urban settings.

Analysis Points to Farms' Role in Reaching Climate Goals

Forestland and farmland already contribute to carbon sequestration, and the American Farm Bureau says those contributions can rise as climate-smart farming practices increase. A Farm Bureau analysis of federal data shows reductions in agricultural emissions and the importance of finding new ways to capture more carbon in cropland and pastureland. Farm Bureau says climate goals need to be achieved without harming agricultural production.





Mortgages and Baby Steps

Dear Dave,

We'd like to own a home someday, but we know we're not ready for that kind of financial commitment yet. Where does buying a house fit in your Baby Steps plan? Heather

Dear Heather,

you're broke is the easia foreclosure statistic. is a blessing and not a I'm glad you two are financial curse! being thoughtful and sensible about taking such a big step.

If you remember, in Baby Step 1 I advise people to save up a beginner emergency fund of \$1,000. Baby Step 2 is paying off all consumer debt from smallest to

Dave Ramsey Says

largest using the debt snowball method. Then, Baby Step 3 is where you go back and grow your emergency fund to a full three to six months of living expenses.

With all this in mind, let's call getting ready to buy a home Baby Step 3b. Save up for a down payment of at least 20 percent to avoid PMI (private mortgage insurance). Also, make sure any mortgage loan is a 15-year, fixed rate loan, where the payments are no more than 25 percent of your monthly takehome pay.

Doing it this way may delay your dream of Buying a home when being a homeowner for a while, but it will help est way I know to become ensure your new home

-Dave

Planning for Future Purchases

Dear Dave,

How far in advance do you recommend figuring future purchases into your budget? - Robbie

Dear Robbie,

I recommend starting to put money aside, and including it in your budget as soon as you know the need for an item is a real possibility. Waiting until things go wrong or something breaks down will leave you in a real mess, more times than not.

For example, if you're pretty sure you'll need another vehicle in a year or two, the smart thing is to start putting money aside now. Do some research on prices, then do the math to see how much you'll need to set aside each month.

And remember, it's a whole lot easier to save money when you don't have things like credit card payments and other debt hanging around your neck. That's one of the big reasons I want to help people learn to live debt-free!

Dave Ramsey is a seventime #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Dave Ramsey Show, heard by more than 16 million listeners each week. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8 Ε В В С ElWl R G Ν F В Α $P \mid A$ R Ε Ε D Ε С Ε Ρ Ε Ε Х O Ν D Ν S R G Α R Κ Т R 0 Η Ε Ε Α S Ε R Ε R С Н D G Α Α О Ε Ε С S D 0 R R Н O R Ε S S Ε Т 0 R 0 D S C S Ε Ε D 0 D Ε Т L Ε R С В R С Α F Α Т Ν Μ ı О G 0 Ε С Ρ 0 R O S O 0 U Т Α R Υ Т Ε S O M Α

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

2	5	3	4	1	6	9	7	8
7	9	1	5	2	8	6	4	3
4	8	6	7	3	9	1	2	5
8	1	2	3	6	4	7	5	9
6	4	7	9	5	1	8	3	2
5	3	9	2	8	7	4	1	6
1	7	5	6	9	2	3	8	4
9	2	4	8	7	3	5	6	1
2		٥	4	1	-	2	$\overline{}$	7

|3|6|8**|**1|4|5**|**2|9|*1*|

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CLUES

ACROSS . À la mode

Westminster broadcaster 8. Lamb's momma

11. Depression drifter

12. Alternative to truth 13. Like a Druid, e.g.

15. Verify

16. Flair 17. Avoid paying taxes

18. *Same as power in math 20. Surrender territory

21. Mini, midi or maxi 22. Longnosed fish

23. *Round #23 Down 26. Adverb derived from zone

30. Miner's bounty 31. Curved like a foot

34. Mother Earth to Ancient Greeks 35. Truck amounts

37. "____ the land of the free..."

38. Hitler's Third

39. Capri, e.g. 40. Walked

42. Grande, e.g. 43. Remove scales

45. Accustomed, two words 47. Like arctic air 48 More canable

50. Tibetan priest

52. *Part of a whole number 55. Grinding tooth

56. Stare amorously 57. Hoofbeat sound 59. Garlic mayo

60. Kick out 61. Gossamer

62. *Pi's second digit 63. High 64. "Brave New World" drug

DOWN 1. Half a particular dance

2. Past tense of heave 3. Type of mountain goat

4. Body six feet under . Harvest helpe 6. Small goose

7. Abe's coin 8. Exclamation of surprise,

archaic 9. Do like fly fisherman

10. Between northeast and east 12. One who denies

13. Popular pie nut 14. *Sum divided by count

19. Southern cuisine pods 22. Apollo to ancient Greeks

23. *Three-dimensional object 24. Not poetry

25. Mends 26. *Whole number between -1 and 1

27. Scottish landowner 28. In accordance with law

29. Search engine pioneer 32. Pigeon's home

33. H in British HMS 36. *Kind of point 38. Set to zero

40. Cunning 41. Pleasing to the ear

44. Ticks and mites, taxonomically speaking 46. Short for Fredericas

48. Lock horns 49. Popular craft wood 50. Under a fig leaf?

51. Gel producing plant 52. *0.3048 meters 53. Pasta with ____ and alio

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Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 8

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6 4 Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every

row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9. **Solutions on Page 8**

6

4

WEEKLY COMICS





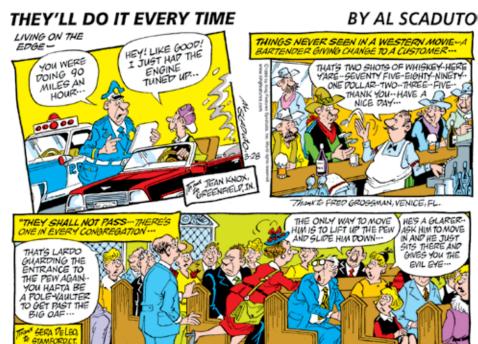


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JOE

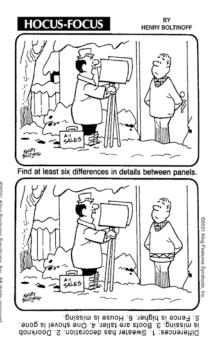


by Mike Marland



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Dixon Independent Voice 10 • FEBRUARY 26, 2021



By Dan Walters **CALMatters**

The starkest aspect to California's evolution from a relatively conservative state into a blue bastion has been an evolving attitude toward crime and punishment.

In the 1980s and 1990s, California became a national leader in increasing penalties for crimes large and small, symbolized by a three-strikes-and-you're-out law calling for life imprisonment of repeat offenders. Not surprisingly, despite construction of many new prisons, they became horrendously overcrowded with inmates.

However, as California made its almost 180-degree political turn to the left over the last couple of decades, attitudes about crime also evolved, culminating in legislative acts, ballot measures and administrative policies that repealed or softened the state's sentencing laws. The number of felons locked up in state prisons has dropped by at least one-third in recent years.

That said, what supporters call "criminal justice reform" is not universally accepted. Some law enforcement officials believe it's gone too far and like-minded district attorhas contributed to recent upticks in violent crime — a conflict now rippling through the state's local district attorneys.

In 2020, George Gascón,

who had been district attorney of San Francisco, challenged and defeated Los Angeles District Attorney Jackie Lacey and immediately issued new operational rules that downplayed punishment.

He prohibited his deputies from seeking the death penalty, prosecuting juveniles as adults, attending parole hearings or seeking "enhancements" that increase a defendant's prison term. The union representing those deputies sued, alleging that Gascón was ordering them to violate criminal laws, and won an initial judgement.

What really blew up the conflict politically was support from the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA) for the union position. In its supporting brief, the District Attorneys said Gascón's orders meant that "the voices of victims fall silent and the might of the state has failed its most vulnerable."

Last week, Gascón resigned from the organization with a two-page letter that he posted on Twitter, accusing the association of being racially insensitive, closed-minded about criminal justice reform and even corrupt.

"CDAA continues to be a member organization solely for those willing to toe the 'tough on crime' line," Gascón wrote. "For the rest of us, it is a place that fails to support us, our communities, or the pursuit of justice."

Gascón and several other neys have founded their own group, the Prosecutors Alliance of California, to push for criminal justice reforms. It includes Gascón, San Joaquin County's Tori newspapers.

Salazar, Chesa Boudin of San Francisco and Contra Costa County's Diana Becton.

Gascón's election and the burgeoning conflict with more traditional prosecutors is part of a larger phenomenon – a nationwide effort by left-of-center organizations to change criminal justice policies one election at a

Billionaire businessman George Soros is a major figure in the campaign, having donated millions of dollars to reform-minded candidates. The movement has scored some victories, such as Gascón's election, and also suffered some losses, such as a failed challenge to Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert.

The conflict also colors Gov. Gavin Newsom's selection of a replacement for Attorney General Xavier Becerra if he is confirmed as the federal health and human services secretary.

Newsom seemingly supports the criminal justice reform movement. He sponsored a ballot measure to make marijuana legal, has sped up reductions in prison populations and declared a moratorium on executions.

He could appoint a new Attorney General sympathetic to the Gascón-led faction, such as Oakland Assemblyman Rob Bonta, but such a move would carry some political risk. Were Newsom to face a recall election this year, as seems likely, opposition from police and prosecutors could be a critical factor.

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

Prosecutors Feud over Criminal Sentencing Laws Tuleyome: Online Nature and You Lecture



Once believed extinct, the Tule Elk is now a great success story of conservationism. Photo: Tuleyome

By Bill Grabert, Tuleyome

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - "Tule Elk in the Berryessa Snow Mountain Area and Across California" Dates: 7:00 PM, Thursday, February 25th, 2021 Location: Online via a Zoom Meeting Cost: Free Website: http://tuleyome.org/events/2021nature-and-you-lecture-tule-elk/ The tule elk, an endemic California subspecies, has a complex natural history intertwined with the activities of both native and immigrant peoples. Presumed extinct by the mid-19th century, tule elk have since received over a century of intense management. Joint efforts between public and private entities have resulted in remarkable increases in tule elk abundance and distribution across California, representing one of the greatest conservation success stories of our time. At 7:00 PM on Thursday, February 25, Dr. Tom Batter (UC Davis/CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife), discusses the ecology, natural history, and modern management practices of California's tule elk.

This lecture will be ONLINE in a Zoom meeting. You must register on the event page from http://tuleyome.org/events/ (be sure to include your email address) and download Zoom. (There is no need to create an account.) After registering, participants will be sent an email with login information. Attendees will be able to ask questions via Zoom's chat feature. For questions contact bgrabert@tuleyome.org.

This lecture is part of the free monthly "Nature and You" lecture series sponsored by Tuleyome, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit conservation organization based in Woodland, California. The word "Tuleyome" (pronounced too-leeOME-ee) is a Lake Miwok Indian word that means "deep home place". The term "deep home place" exemplifies our deep connection to our environment, our communities and our regional public

A \$10 donation to Tuleyome is requested, but is not required to participate

Disclaimer: The views expressed by the speaker are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the views, perspectives or policies of Tuleyome.

Tuleyome is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that engages in advocacy and active stewardship with diverse communities to conserve, enhance, restore, and enjoy the lands in the region.

City Presents General Plan



The new Dixon General Plan 2040 will be updating the City's General Plan from 1993. Photo by

Continued from page 1 This notice is to inform all responsible/trustee agencies, public agencies, advocacy groups and interested parties and organizations of the availability of the Hearing Draft General Plan 2040 and the Final EIR. These documents can be viewed at www.ci.dixon.ca.us/438/

General-Plan-Update. Planning However, all members of

Commission meeting will be conducted in accordance with Executive Order N-29-20, issued by California Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54950 et seq.), and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act. This meeting will not be physically open to the public.

the public may participate in the meeting via Zoom video conferencing at us02web.zoom.us/j/988621 1137pwd=r2dxz3rkbu9sqx dluvllrkc0qlqwzz09 or via Teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128, Meeting ID: 988 621 1137, Passcode: 604754 and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment. For more information, call the City at (707) 678-7000.





