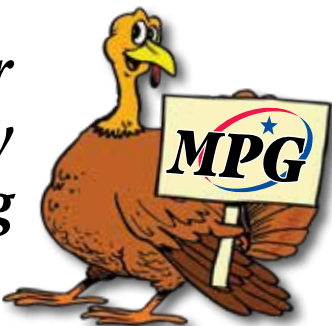




Police Officer of the Year

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We Wish Our Readers A Happy Thanksgiving



Dixon Independent Voice

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MASEDA, BOWEN ELECTED TO SERVE DIXON SCHOOLS



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COMMUNITY CONTINUES SUPPORT, CONDOLENCES



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Cultures Deliciously Converge at Bangkok Garden



Suchada Fox and Co-Owner of Bangkok Garden Jane Paksee are cousins who share a passion for preparing Thai cuisine and Sushi dishes.

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Over in the corner of a beautifully decorated Thai Restaurant is a petite woman dressed in a Her unassuming form would never suggest that hers is a story not unlike the one Americans celebrate with Turkey and stuffing. Immigrants in a nation of immigrants, a restaurant with delicious food is the apparent evidence of a family not only making it to America to make their way in a new world, but making it to Dixon. They are people who are celebrating

the land of opportunity that America was and still is and the resilience they hold internally to make their journey a success. Their restaurant, Bangkok Garden, is in downtown Dixon at 119 North First Street.

Waitress to Owner

Out of the kitchen from behind her came Jannette Paksee. Paksee grew up in Thailand and studied engineering at Suranaree University of Technology where she got an internship at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA.) She didn't leave the states after that, working as a waitress for ten years

in the Bay Area and meeting her husband who was a partner in a Dixon restaurant. Now the couple own and run it together.

In fact, it was her husband, Boonyarit Suthammarit, who created the Asian night-life-inspired decor that can give a patron the feel of sitting in the open market places of Bangkok, Thailand. They bought a house in rural Vacaville not far from Dixon city limits so they wouldn't have to commute. For the past three years, the couple have prepared traditional Thai dishes for local residents.

Continued on page 2

CHP Ramps Up Efforts to Reduce Impaired Driving

By Jaime Coffee, California Highway Patrol

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is launching a new education and enforcement campaign to reduce the number of crashes caused by impaired drivers in California. Efforts associated with the yearlong Safer Highways Statewide grant will continue through September 30, 2021.

The Safer Highways Statewide grant provides the CHP with funding to conduct additional driving under the influence (DUI) saturation patrols, DUI checkpoints, and traffic safety education efforts throughout the state. Additionally, the CHP will participate in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign.

"DUI is the result of poor decision-making, and too often, it has tragic consequences," said CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley. "If you drive while impaired, you could be arrested, or worse, involved in a crash."

In 2018, there were 566 deaths and 11,298 injuries associated with DUI crashes within the CHP's jurisdiction. Each one of these injuries and deaths represents a preventable tragedy and a continued need to focus efforts on reducing impaired driving.

The CHP reminds the public, "DUI Doesn't Just Mean Booze." Alcohol, cannabis, prescription medications, illegal drugs, or any combination of these, can impair your ability to drive and will result in an arrest if you are under the influence. Always designate a sober driver, take public transportation, or call a taxi or a ride-share service. There is always a better option than getting behind the wheel while intoxicated.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the Office of Traffic Safety, through NHTSA.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★

COVID Christmas Cruise Drives to Keep Dixon Festive

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - There are some people who absolutely refuse to let the Coronavirus take away Christmas. There are actually dozens of different businesses putting on their elves ears right now and getting ready for next Thursday, December 3, for a COVID Christmas Cruise & Tree Lighting, 6 - 8 pm, the traditional time for the downtown Christmas Tree Lighting.

"The community is so sad that we will not have our annual Tree Lighting on Thursday, December 3, because we are back to purple but we can do some things that will still be fun and memorable," said Karstin Feinhandler of Almond Tree Mortgage. Contacting a small army of civic club, Chamber, and Downtown Dixon Business Association leaders to participate and employing an energetic intern, Hayley Pruett, to get the wheels turning (pun intended) the plan jelled.

Even the big jolly fellow dressed in red velvet finery was contacted and agreed, of course, to help brighten the smiles of the many in Dixon



Hayley Pruett and Karstin Feinhandler of Almond Tree Mortgage are busy coordinating a Christmas Cruise with local businesses to replace the annual downtown tree lighting that would normally take place on Thursday, December 3. The cruise will happen between 6 and 8 pm. Photo by Debra Dingman)

stuck in a purple restrictive phase to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. He will be at Almond Tree Mortgage parking lot on the corner of Lincoln and Stratford Avenue and Steph Riedel Photography will be taking pictures.

Businesses will adorn their windows or shops with holiday lights and festive decorations. Some will have holiday music or performances and some will give

away candy canes or other Christmas treats via long poles to keep the distance for vehicles who drive by.

The local car club, Dixon Kar Kulture, will be doing a car cruise in conjunction and they are looking into plans for a decorated tree to be pulled on the back of a flat-bed truck to lead the caravan all around town.

A map will be published online and in newspapers including the Independent

Voice Friday, November 27 edition, that will help guide travelers around town to the various decorated sites.

For more information, contact Hayley Pruett at HayPruett@gmail.com or Karstin@AlmondTreeMortgage.com. Updates will be posted on the Live in Dixon Facebook page and/or the DDBA website. You can also call (707) 678-2800. ★

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Coronavirus Makes Thanksgiving More Meaningful

By Debra Dingman

Solano County COVID Deaths Now 80

My fingers took leave of absence when typing the death toll for Solano County COVID and what appeared on the front page was the whopper figure of 790 deaths. No, that is seriously incorrect and I soooo apologize. I had added a zero and didn't catch the error in proofing but a reader did. The correct number was 79. As of Monday, the number of deaths is 80 out of 9,354 cases.

The cases have been on the steady rise since October 18.

November 8 through 21, there were 1,217 new cases in Solano, according to the Google search for Solano County COVID statistics, which is why we are in the Purple Tier. I noticed my go-to information page on the Solano County website is no longer available and I have to get used to reading the new one. They have combined in with the whole state and you have to be a little particular to find the local data. A sincere thank you to the newspaper caller who made me aware of my mistake.

I'm sure you join me in hoping a vaccine will be available soon although I have read some things online that indicate we should have reached "herd immunity" in May of next year. My best pal in Tennessee and I had a standing weekly check in for the first few months of the pandemic and we never knew anyone nor knew someone who knew someone with Coronavirus. Over the months we had pretty much stopped checking in until recently. It went from "now we know someone" to "almost everyone we know got it or is getting it" including our

friends and our families.

So this year my Thanksgiving prayers start with gratitude that my siblings and friends who got this terrible thing have survived. I'm glad they shared their stories with me so I can kind of brace myself for it. I'm keeping my pantry full and have vitamins and medications ready. I re-ordered a fresh inhaler and the rest is up to God. I'm trying NOT to live like I'm waiting for a boot to drop on me and keep filled with hope as we celebrate a very precious Thanksgiving. Hope yours is full of gratitude as well.

Small Business Saturday

Small Business Saturday is the Saturday after Thanksgiving, on November 28. It was started in 2010 by American Express and is actually a world movement to encourage holiday shoppers to support small, local, and brick and mortar businesses.

At Uptown Collective, Vintique Marketplace is offering a special discount on all of their Dixie Belle furniture paints on Small Business Day only.

Some of the great reasons to shop small and local is you help create jobs in the community; your tax dollars stay local; small businesses give back to the neighborhood; small businesses offer more unique products; it helps keep the communities diverse.

You can purchase almost your entire Christmas shopping list right here in Dixon between gift certificates to restaurants, cake or cookie decorating classes, and a plethora of services from massage to facials. Mostly all of these things can be done online or with a phone call although there is also retail open downtown just limited capacity inside. ★

Kiwanis Offers Holiday Ham Drawing

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Since Kiwanis was not doing the Festival of Trees for it's premier fundraiser this year due to the pandemic shutdowns and resulting economic struggles, I was brainstorming on how we could do a different fundraiser.

"What I really want to do is something big like raffling off a car," I said to my youngest son.

"We could raffle off a '98 Honda Civic," he said. What flashed through his head was the movie 'Employee of the Month' where they had a 'beat up Honda' that was on the second shelf of the Costco-style warehouse store.

So I open today's Messenger Publishing Group's website to take a peak at the recent publications. I always like to see what other communities are doing when I see the headline 'Congregation Raffles off SUV for Fundraiser.' Apparently the members of Our Lady of the Rosary Maronite Catholic Church in Carmichael is among many local non-profits forced to think outside the collection box, according to the

This particular church is home of worship for scores of Middle Eastern Christian families and they had to cancel their 9th annual October American Lebanese and Middle Eastern Festival which has been a

high point for thousands of supporters

They decided to raffle off a 2020 Chevrolet Equinox (value approximately \$28,000). Their second prize is \$5,000 in cash. Anyone may participate for a \$100 a chance and sales are limited to 500 tickets. The drawing will be in December.

Just because we're a small town, doesn't mean we can't think big, I called and told him. Maybe I should just call DuPratt Ford and see...

"We could try raffling off another hog since we raised some good money with that a few years ago," he reminded me. "That was donated by Mike Hamilton but it's the wrong time of year for that." Then he thought of the expensive but totally worth it Honey Baked Hams.

With the grace of Dustin Kaiser of Allied Propane, the Ham Raffle has started.

The standard half-ham sized hams which are six or seven pounds are valued at \$65. The grand prize one runs about \$105 as it is a whole ham and is about 15 pounds.

Kiwanis members will be selling tickets and they are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.

They are also available at the newspaper office, Dixon's Independent Voice, 100 North Adams in the Motley Realty building or at Allied Propane, 1700 North First Street next to Dollar Tree. For more information, call (707) 301-0795. ★

Cultures Deliciously Converge

Continued from page 1

"The first year was very tough," Paksee said "People in Dixon did not know Thai food. There was only American or Mexican here so it was really hard in the beginning." They decided to add the Sushi bar into the name and menu as that was and remains very popular across the nation.

"We had never run a Sushi place before but it got people in and then they started trying Thai food," Paksee said. They were the only restaurant at that end of the block and it did help that their second year, Dawson's opened nearly next door and Rosemary's soon followed on their other side.

The best thing for Paksee is getting to create the dishes she wants using the best food she can buy. Their menu has about 50 plates and assorted appetizers and desserts. One choice was the Pad Baby Corn – a dish with fresh carrots and baby corn, bamboo shoots and chicken strips in a not-too-salty, but flavorful chicken base. Another one was the Green Curry made with pork that offered a sweet coconut-milk-curry with basil, bamboo shoots, carrots and other vegetables perfectly served with a mound of white rice to pour over.

"We can create the best food but if you're not the owner, you can't," she said of her many years waitressing and why she is grateful she is the co-owner now. The menu was expanding and the company which they co-founded, Buri Tara Thai Inc. USA, was seeing patrons returning time and again. Enter a favorite cousin Suchada Fox, and her husband, Tom, to help.

Cousin Arrives in Time

The Foxs' met at the Thai Embassy while working on a humanitarian effort 27 years ago.

"It was called Orderly Departure Program and was supported by the International Catholic Migration in response to the hundreds of thousands refugees who fled communism in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand," Tom explained adding that one might recognize the term, "Boat People." It was a humanitarian crisis as people fled communistic control of their land. They fled by overcrowded boats and ships with many perishing at sea following the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

"Since Tom was an American from Virginia, when they married, they agreed they would only live in two countries: Thailand or the United States," Suchada said. Over 27 years, they raised their two children in Thailand, and although they travelled many times back and forth to the states, it wasn't until both children were grown and moved permanently to the states, that "it was his turn," she said with a laugh.



Sticky rice with mango is a dessert that continues the intricate displays of food and used at Bangkok Garden and Sushi Bar in downtown Dixon. The restaurant continues to thrive due to take out order during the pandemic and also offers outdoor dining in the newly built pergola behind the restaurant.

Their son became a Sushi Chef and their daughter moved to attend Washington State University. Left with an empty nest, Suchada became restless and knew her cousin – who she fondly recalled growing up together in Thailand, could use help at the restaurant.

"I wanted to have something to do," said the business woman who sold books and toys in Thailand. "I wanted to introduce my culture here. I really enjoy talking to people," she said. Paksee was happy to have her help.

"We were lucky because at the beginning of the year, my cousin came and she wanted us to do more delivery so we started promoting to all the neighborhoods and passed out menus. People started calling," said Paksee. The take-out business was helping to spread the news about the beautiful Bangkok Garden and Sushi Bar downtown.

This was a very good thing because then the pandemic hit.

"It didn't affect us a lot because orders increased for take out," Paksee explained, "We still had a lot of contacts." But, what did take them all by surprise was the support of the community. "They tried to help us. They told others about us. We didn't even ask them to but they advertised for us." she said.

"Dixon people are friendly and very nice. During this pandemic, the community felt more like a family," Paksee said. Thailand does not celebrate a Thanksgiving holiday but this family is especially thankful for being in Dixon. Under her dragon-smile mask, Suchada wears a very authentic smile.

For more information on Bangkok Garden and Sushi Bar, call (707) 693-3331 or see their website, bangkokgardenthai.com. ★

Community Continues Support, Condolences for Couple

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Beautiful flowers, candles, and a poster of sweet sentiments written in Spanish and English have been outside the Taqueria Adelina since last week after a hit and run driver struck the owners of the Taqueria Adelina Mexican Restaurant next door to First Northern Bank in downtown Dixon.

Adelina Rendon Diaz, 70, died after she was struck by a vehicle that left before authorities arrived and her 71-year-old husband was hospitalized with serious injuries but is now home recovering from surgery. The couple had just closed up their restaurant on a Sunday evening and were heading home, crossing North First Street.

The couple were the owners of the restaurant for many years and their granddaughter, Atzimba Bocanegra, set up a GoFundMe page to help pay for her grandmother's funeral and memorial services. She said their family was going through a very difficult time and expressed sincere appreciation to her grandmother's friends, family and loyal customers who have supported them throughout the years.

"My Grandmother was mostly known as a sweet hardworking lady who cooked at Taqueria Adelina," Bocanegra wrote on the GoFundMe page. "Our family is beyond grateful for all the prayers



Sentiments from customers, family, and friends line the entry of the Taqueria Adelina in downtown Dixon. The family expressed deep appreciation for the community's support. The taqueria reopened the restaurant this week. Photo by Debra Dingman

and contributions from the community." The contributions at press time are nearly double the requested funeral expenses with many of them contributing anonymously.

"The money will be used for (my grandmother's) funeral/memorial expenses as well as any related expenses like medical bills for my grandfather who is now recovering from surgery. We appreciate everyone who's supported us. She will now forever be in our hearts," Atzimba wrote in a follow up.

The family has just reopened the little restaurant at 183 North First Street and will be offering take-out orders, said Julio Bocanegra, son of the couple who was struck. He also expressed appreciation to the community for their outpouring of kindness. For placing take-out orders, please call (707) 693-8989.

The Dixon Police Department is continuing its investigation into the fatal hit and run collision that occurred on November 8, 2020, at about 8 pm. The Dixon Police Department thanked the public on its Facebook page for their assistance in locating the vehicle which has been identified as the involved vehicle and towed as evidence on November 9.

They have identified the driver of the vehicle as Jose De Jesus Arauza-Ortiz (31) and obtained a warrant for his arrest. The Dixon Police Department has received information Arauza-Ortiz may be en route to Southern California or Mexico at this time.

If anyone has information regarding this incident or Arauza-Ortiz's whereabouts, they are asked to contact Dixon Police Detective Oliveira at 707-678-7080. ★

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Maseda, Bowen Elected to Serve Dixon Schools

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) -With votes finalized, Melissa Maseda will return to the Dixon Unified School District Board and newcomer David Bowen III will join her.

Melissa Maseda, a former preschool teacher who “chose to stay home” and raise her children, was re-elected to the DUSD Board seat with 5,125 votes which is more than 40% of the voters. She attributes serving the community over the past 20 years and being involved with her four children age 13 to 21 to why she was re-elected by such a large margin. Maseda was first appointed to the Board and ran at the end of that term unopposed so this time involved campaigning.

“I think people recognize I really care about the community,” she said. “I want to thank the community for believing in me. It’s important to be trusted.” Under her leadership, more transparency was created and there were surveys done each year for the staff, including the principals and superintendent, she said.

“I ask the tough questions and accountability is big for me,” she said , adding that seeing things from a parent’s perspective is one of her biggest attributes to the Board. She serves on the Budget Committee and also the School Bond Oversight Committee.

Her goal is to “get our students safely back to school,” she said. Amazingly, Maseda is dealing with her own personal crisis as her husband is fighting cancer. “We’re blessed that he’s still here,” she said, fighting back tears.

The older two children had to move out because they both work and they had to minimize Coronavirus exposure, she added.

“We can’t get sick. We have protocols and tons of hand sanitizer,” she said. “I knew we had to find a safe way to continue our lives.” She feels the same way about Dixon schools and recently toured a charter school in Vacaville that is making it successfully and would like to see Dixon implement their ideas.

After watching numerous Fairfield Unified School District Board Meetings because he was part of the contract negotiation team, David Bowen, who was also just elected to the DUSD Board, decided he was “possibly better qualified” to serve as a Trustee.

“I was seeing things come to the table and I wondered where they were coming from. I began feeling like I was qualified to give my input in the negotiations that would help everyone – teachers, students, and parents understand issues better. I want to be a clear communicator and contribute to the community,” he said. Bowen garnered 4,260 votes or 33% to win his seat on the Dixon Unified School Board.

Bowen, who moved to Dixon two years ago with his fiancé who is a 5th grade teacher at Travis, built a simple campaign, placed some signs around town and used a video on social media to promote



Newly elected Dixon Unified School Board member David Bowen with fiancé Heather Van Zile and their daughter. Courtesy photo



Melissa Maseda was re-elected to the Dixon Unified School Board. Courtesy photo

himself. He earned his BA in math with a minor in Economics at St. Mary’s College and also has a teaching credential.

“I’m super type A organized...I’m a maniac now!” he said with a laugh. “I have a masters in education, worked as a teacher assistant, coached students for ten years, and I hoped residents would figure, ‘This guy has got to know something.’ One of the first comments on Facebook was the question, ‘Why shouldn’t I just vote for the incumbents?’ I had to basically give him the facts with the district. There are going to be teachers and school staff cut. At some point I have a unique perspective from working in the class,” he said.

Although he hoped he’d win, he didn’t think he’d win over incumbent and President of the Board Luke Foster as he is “very qualified and is very respected,” Bowen said.

“I was up on election night hitting ‘refresh’ after 8 pm to see what was going to happen. I wouldn’t be surprised if I lost by 1,000 votes but at first I was up 500 over Luke Foster and I was surprised the lead didn’t shrink,” he said. Bowen remembered the excessively long school board meetings when the pandemic hit and the school closed.

“People were upset with the way things were going on and he was seen as the main person (to blame) so there was a target on his back and probably was disproportionately negative because he talked the most as president of the Board,” Bowen added.

His goals as DUSD Board Member are to address the problem of lost ADA due to students dropping out during the pandemic. ADA is the time students are in class that equates to state derived income for the district. Although it is difficult to plan for the future when you’re in a crisis, he said, he has several solutions to help repair the problems.

“We have to take action for the future,” he said. “In terms of how people are looking at that budget problem, we ask what can we do to increase revenues? I’ve addressed programs that can be implemented like offering a more robust education, for example.” Attracting students back to Dixon who have left with inter-district agreements; bilingual education; an early college program so that when a student is finished with high school, they also have an Associate of Arts degree; and offering a virtual academy for parents, teachers, and students who do not want to return to the campus are some of his ideas.

“Dixon also has the farm and we can expand on offering career-technical education. I’m looking forward to using some of my research and being able to communicate that to students,” he said.

Both Maseda and Bowen will join Caitlin O’Halloran, Jewel Fink, and Lloyd McCabe on the DUSD Board of Education on December 10 via Zoom. For more information, call DUSD at (707) 693-6300. ★



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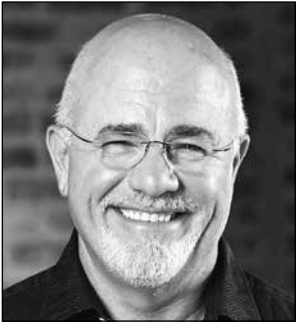
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Will my Mother-In-Law be Okay?

Dear Dave,

My mother-in-law is 60. She works hard and has no debt, but she also has no savings or retirement accounts. However, she owns a couple of paid-for rental properties that are worth about \$350,000 each, and her home is worth \$700,000. What can I do to help her plan for the future?

–Paul

Dear Paul,

The best plan would be to first see if she’s already got a plan. I understand you’re worried about her not having any savings or retirement. That makes you a good son-in-law. But it sounds to me like she’s got the makings of a pretty good retirement situation lined up, even if she didn’t go the traditional route to get there. You just told me she’s sitting on nearly \$1.5 million in paid-for real estate. Dude, she’s a millionaire!

If the time comes where she decides she doesn’t like landlording anymore or just wants to retire, she can always sell the rental properties, invest that big pile of cash in mutual funds, and live off the income. I’ve got a feeling this lady isn’t going to be starving or depending on Social Insecurity.

Dave Ramsey Says

If you’re concerned about things, just sit down with her and let her know. Ask her if she needs any help with her money situation and plans for retirement. If she doesn’t want to talk about it right now, that’s fine, but making the offer shows you care. And, having a good, strong game plan means fewer worries!

–Dave

Get Dialed In

Dear Dave,

My wife and I have two kids and one on the way. We’re debt-free except for our home, and we have our emergency fund in place. We’ve also been saving for retirement, with me putting 15% into a 401(k) and her putting 10 percent into her retirement account. On top of all this, we’re putting a little money toward college funds for the kids. We talked the other night, and after that we started thinking about pulling back from retirement saving and getting the house paid off. What do you think about that?

–Callen

Dear Callen,

I teach people to start investing 15% of their household income for retirement after they’ve completed Baby Step 3, which is saving three to six months of expenses for an emergency fund. Baby Step 4 would be both of you putting 15% of your income into retirement, and you’re not quite doing that yet. Saving for college comes next in Baby Step 5.

I don’t teach people to

put less than 15% of their income into retirement in order to pay off the house a little earlier. It’s tempting when you’ve got the debt-free bug, but it’s not the shortest distance between where you are right now and wealth. The average person who follows my plan – the Baby Steps – can pay off their home in about seven years.

You’ve got offense and defense to think about, Callen. Defense is getting rid of debt, and the offense is building wealth. You don’t want to let your guard down on offense in order to just play defense and get the house paid off. What you’re talking about is a normal reaction for lots of folks in your position, but it’s not what I would recommend right now.

I love your fire, but follow the Baby Steps as they’re laid out. My goal isn’t just helping people get out of debt. It’s to teach people how to become wealthy as a result of being out of debt and encouraging them be outrageously generous along the way!

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #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 has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

FBI Encourages Businesses to Guard Against Email Compromise

From FBI Sacramento Office of Public Affairs

SACRAMENTO, CA. (MPG) - During National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Sacramento Field Office is reminding the business community about Business Email Compromise (BEC). BEC is a sophisticated scam targeting anyone who performs legitimate electronic payments such as wire or automated clearing house transfers. In a typical BEC scheme, the victim receives an email they believe is from a company they normally conduct business with, but this specific email requests funds be sent to a new account or otherwise alters the standard payment practices.

BEC has been a major concern for years. In 2019 the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) recorded 23,775 complaints and more than \$1.7 billion in losses due to BEC fraud schemes. In April 2020, the IC3 issued a public service announcement alerting the business community about an anticipated rise in BEC due to uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, IC3 had seen an increase in BEC frauds targeting municipalities purchasing personal protective equipment or other supplies needed in the fight against COVID-19.

“Business Email Compromise is a serious, ever-evolving cyber threat that can have a serious impact on any business but can be particularly devastating to small businesses,” said Special Agent in Charge Sean Ragan of the FBI Sacramento Field Office. “Every business

should take steps to protect itself against BEC, train employees to recognize the ‘red flags’ that communication may be part of a BEC scheme, and immediately report any BEC incident to aid recovery and help identify cyber criminals to protect other businesses from victimization.”

BEC scams generally fall into three main categories: spoofing, spearfishing, and malware.

Spoofing an email account or website involves the use of slight variations of legitimate addresses to fool victims into thinking fake accounts are authentic (e.g. john.kelly@examplecompany.com versus john.kelley@examplecompany.com).

Spearfishing email messages look like they’re from a trusted sender such as the CEO or finance manager to trick victims into revealing confidential information. This information then enables criminals to access company accounts, calendars, and data that gives them the details they need to carry out the BEC schemes.

Malicious software, also called malware, is often installed via links or attachments in unsolicited email. The malicious code infiltrates company networks, gaining access to legitimate email threads about billing and invoices. That information is then used to time requests or send messages so accountants or financial officers don’t question payment requests. Malware also lets criminals gain undetected access to a victim’s data, including passwords and financial account information.

The FBI advises businesses and their personnel to be on the lookout for the following red flags:

unexplained urgency, last minute changes in wire instructions or recipient account information, last minute changes in established communication platforms or email account addresses, communications only in email and refusal to communicate via telephone or online voice or video platforms, requests for advanced payment of services when not previously required, requests from employees to change direct deposit information.

The FBI recommends the following tips to help protect yourself and your assets: enable multi-factor authentication for all email accounts that allow it and do not disable it, be skeptical of last-minute changes in wiring instructions or recipient account information, verify any changes and Information via the contact on file—do not contact the vendor through the number provided in the email, ensure the URL in emails is associated with the business it claims to be from, be alert to hyperlinks that may contain misspellings of the actual domain name, verify the email address used to send emails, especially when using a mobile or handheld device, by ensuring the sender’s email address appears to match who it is coming from.

If you discover you are the victim of a fraudulent incident, immediately contact your financial institution to request a recall of funds and your employer to report irregularities with payroll deposits. As soon as possible, file a complaint with the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at ic3.gov or, for BEC and/or email account compromise (EAC) victims, bec.ic3.gov. ★

Police Officer of the Year



To keep safe distance, Dixon Police chief recognizes Officer Andrew Carella as Dixon’s Officer of the Year. Dixon Police Department photo

Dixon Police Department

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Police have announced Officer Andrew Carella has been selected as the Officer of the Year. Officer Carella was chosen by his supervisors and peers for his hard work and dedication to the people of CA Officer of the Year. Officer Carella led all officers in the Dixon Police Department in impaired driving arrests. He also created

training materials to assist his fellow officers in identifying and arresting impaired drivers.

“Officer Carella consistently engaged in proactive policing to protect public safety,” Chief Robert Thompson said. “He has shown tremendous determination and skill in protecting the people of Dixon.”

Officer Carella recently received a Letter of Commendation for his efforts to reduce impaired driving in Dixon. ★

Proposition 15's Defeat a Victory for California's Future



Commentary by Ted Gaines

As the media focuses overwhelmingly on the drawn-out presidential election, we shouldn’t ignore the defeat of Prop. 15, a massively consequential outcome for Californians. Even in this most liberal state, where sales taxes, income taxes and gas taxes march ever upward, Prop. 15’s loss shows that Prop. 13 taxpayer protections remain important, popular, and necessary.

Once again, Prop. 13’s deep roots proved tough to tear out. Prop. 15 was the latest of many attempts to dismantle the state’s most famous taxpayer reform. Prop. 15 would have eliminated a key business property protection by subjecting these properties to reassessments at least every three years, exposing them to massive tax increases far above the 2-percent cap guaranteed by Prop. 13.

It would have gutted the agricultural industry by requiring reassessments of barns, silos, processing facilities, mature fruit and nut trees, and other property that currently falls under Prop.

13’s protections. Small business owners with “triple net” leases, already reeling from COVID, would have faced a wave of property tax increases as they look to rebound.

California’s business climate is already terrible – it’s earned CEO Magazine’s worst place to do business “honor” for a decade straight – and Prop. 15 would have certainly made it worse. But besides avoiding the direct damage Prop. 15 would have inflicted on business, its election day defeat is important for the precedent it continues.

Prop. 13 is the single most important tax law in California and must be defended completely. Voters sent yet another signal that it cannot be weakened. It can’t be torn down piece-by-piece. It can’t be carved up for special exemptions supposedly aimed only at big business.

Voters know that once Prop. 13 suffers a single chip in its exterior then the entire pillar is primed for collapse. This time it was big (and small) businesses in the crosshairs, but next election cycle it will be homes worth more than \$2 million, then homes worth \$1 million, then assessments every 20 years, then they will be coming after YOUR home. A Prop. 13 patchwork of gradually shrinking exclusions would soon exist only as a memory.


I’ve spent nearly two decades in public service as a taxpayer advocate and champion of Prop. 13. The law is a savior for over-taxed Californians. It’s saved

homeowners and business property owners billions over the past 42 years and provided them with a stable, predictable bill every year, allowing for planning and budgeting and eliminating the tax spikes the led to closed store fronts and seniors losing their homes in the 1970s. Prop. 13’s enduring effectiveness is what makes it a constant target.

A check on taxes is also a check on government growth and a boon for the economy. Defeating Prop. 15 will keep more than \$11 billion a year out of government slush funds and in the pockets of business owners who can use it to expand, invest, and hire more employees. That is critical as California businesses scramble to stay alive and rebuild out of the pandemic.

To create a vibrant post-COVID economy, we must be partners in prosperity with our private sector. Defeating Prop. 15 stops our tax climate from getting worse and everyone interested in a thriving California economy should celebrate its loss, for now, but be ready to defend Prop. 13 again in 2022.


Senator Ted Gaines (Ret.) was elected to represent the Board of Equalization’s First District. He is a leading taxpayer advocate and is committed to providing trustworthy and transparent representation for nearly ten million constituents in 30 counties of northern, eastern, and southern California. For more information, visit www.boe.ca.gov/Gaines. ★



Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl

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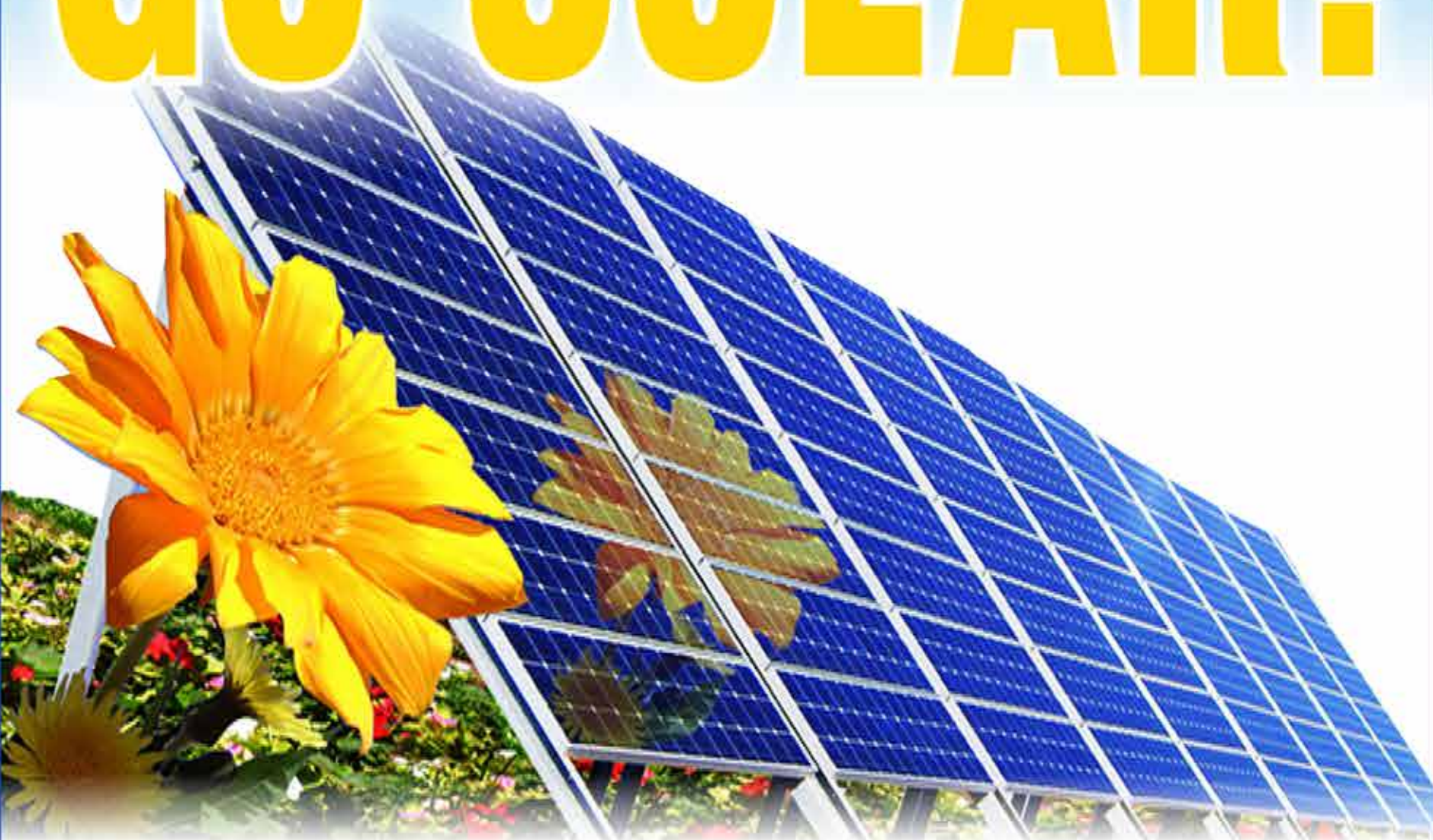
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Newsom Displays Hypocritical Arrogance



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

Gov. Gavin Newsom wasn't born to wealth and privilege but as a youngster he was enveloped in it as the surrogate son of billionaire Gordon Getty. Later, Getty's personal trust fund – managed by Newsom's father – provided initial financing for business ventures that made Newsom wealthy enough to segue into a political career as a protégé of San Francisco's fabled political mastermind, Willie Brown. Getty and Brown personify San Francisco's unique culture, one that not only tolerates raffish personal behavior but celebrates it, which is why Newsom's political career didn't suffer when, as mayor, he had an affair with his campaign manager's wife. It would have been a career-buster almost anywhere else. When Newsom became governor two years ago, after a stint as lieutenant governor under Jerry Brown, he brought his bubble of wealth and privilege with him to Sacramento. He and his "first partner," Jennifer Siebel, shunned the state's Victorian governor's mansion that Brown had renovated, moved into a multi-million-dollar home in the suburbs and enrolled their children in a tony private school.

Newsom tries, in his public appearances, to associate himself with the lives of ordinary Californians and talks a lot about closing yawning economic gaps. Nevertheless, he still comes across as someone unbound by the usual conventions. That attitude became jarringly apparent last week when the San Francisco Chronicle revealed that although Newsom had publicly beseeched Californians to avoid social gatherings to battle COVID-19, he attended a birthday party at the very expensive French Laundry restaurant in Napa for a long-time advisor, lobbyist Jason Kinney. At first, Newsom's office insisted that no social distancing rules were broken, which might have been technically true. Belatedly, however, Newsom recognized that to Californians who are sacrificing social lives, family contacts and often their jobs to fight the pandemic, it was what political types call "bad optics." On Monday, he said "I made a bad mistake... I want to apologize to you, because I need to preach and practice, not just preach and not practice... We're all human, we all fall short sometimes." The French Laundry incident came just days after Newsom revealed that his children were back in classes at their private school while millions of other California kids are confined to homebound classes via the Internet. It's the sort of hypocritical arrogance that drives voters up the wall. As Kevin Faulconer,

the outgoing mayor of San Diego and a potential Newsom challenger in 2022 tweeted, "His kids can learn in person. But yours can't. He can celebrate birthday parties. But you can't. He can dine on a \$350 meal at one California's fanciest restaurants during the worst recession in generations. But you definitely can't. Can you believe this? I can't." The incident also earned Newsom a tongue-lashing about "layers of bad judgment" in the Sacramento Bee, a newspaper that shares the governor's liberal political leanings. "He just handed more ammunition to Republican leaders who have decried the state's emergency shutdowns of restaurants, gyms and churches," the Bee editorial said. "If the governor can eat out with friends – and if his children can attend their expensive school – why must everyone else sacrifice?" "Two years into his first term, and nine months into the COVID-19 pandemic, Newsom still can't get his act together. If Newsom can't get his head into the game, perhaps he should make this governor thing a one-term affair and leave the job open for someone with a desire to lead." Consider what Faulconer and the Bee said as the opening salvoes of the 2022 campaign for governor. If Newsom continues to ooze hypocritical privilege, his first term could be his last. Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers ★

CLG NEWS UPDATES

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

Pennsylvania congressman claims state's mail-in ballots are unconstitutional - suit | 21 Nov 2020 | Congressman Mike Kelly of Pennsylvania, one of President Trump's top House allies, filed a lawsuit Saturday aimed at throwing out 2.6 million mail-in votes in his home state – claiming the state law allowing them is unconstitutional. Meanwhile, Republicans in Michigan are attempting to delay that state's scheduled Monday certification, days after a dramatic battle over the election results in Detroit's Wayne County drew Trump's attention. The Kelly lawsuit seeks to halt the certification of the results of the Nov. 3 election in the Keystone State, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. Joe Biden's 81,000-vote victory (sic) in Pennsylvania is set to be officially declared on Monday. The case parallels a Friday filing by the Trump campaign itself that asked a federal court to halt statewide certification so that 1.5 million mail-in ballots in seven disputed Pennsylvania counties can be examined for evidence of the fraud and irregularities that Trump insists occurred there. **Nevada: Total Ballots Cast: 1,327,394, Total Presidential Election Votes: 1,405,376** | 21 Nov 2020 | More votes were cast in the 2020 presidential election than there were ballots cast. From Nevada's own state election site: Total Ballots Cast: 1,327,394. Total Presidential Election Votes: 1,405,376. **Evidence Shows 'More Than Double' the Vote Margin in Swing States Is From Illegal Ballots** | 19 Nov 2020 | Trump campaign lawyers Rudy Giuliani, Sidney Powell, and Jenna Ellis gave a blockbuster press conference on Thursday in which they ran down the legal case for the president's repeated claim that he won the 2020 presidential election. Giuliani insisted that the evidence the campaign has collected suggests that "more than double" the margin of votes required to flip the election in six swing states are provably illegal, meaning Trump will have won them when only legal votes are counted. Ellis insisted that the legal challenges are not aimed at reversing the preliminary election results, however, but at restoring election integrity. "In the states that we have indicated in red, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nevada, and Arizona, we more than double the number of votes needed to overturn the election in terms of provable, illegal ballots," Giuliani, the former mayor of New York, said. Giuliani insisted that the amount of evidence Team Trump has compiled suggests that Democrats cooked up a voter fraud scheme across the country. **Trump Campaign Lawyers: There is a Pattern of Planned Voter Fraud in Multiple States** | 19 Nov 2020 | Speaking to reporters from the Republican National Committee in Washington D.C. Thursday afternoon, Trump campaign attorney Rudy Giuliani presented evidence he says suggests a pattern of planned voter fraud that was perpetrated in multiple states. "As we started investigating, both our investigations and the very brave and patriotic American citizens that have come forward, extraordinary number of people, extraordinary number of witnesses, and what emerged very quickly is it's not a singular voter fraud in one state. This pattern repeats itself in a number of states. Almost exactly the same pattern, which to any experienced investigator, prosecutor, would suggest there was a plan from a centralized place to execute these acts of voter fraud specifically focused on big cities and big cities, as you can imagine, big cities controlled by Democrats and particularly focused on big cities that have a long history of corruption. The number of voter fraud cases in Philadelphia could fill a library," Giuliani said, flanked by Attorneys Sidney Powell and Jenna Ellis. **In sworn statement, prominent mathematician flags up to 100,000 Pennsylvania ballots** | 19 Nov 2020 | In a sworn declaration, a respected mathematician says his analysis of election data and phone interviews with Pennsylvania voters raises questions about as many as 100,000 absentee ballots requested in the key battleground state where President Trump and Joe Biden are separated by just about 82,000 votes. Williams College Professor Steven Miller, a Yale and Princeton trained math expert, said he analyzed Pennsylvania ballot data collected by former Trump campaign data chief Matt Braynard as well as 2,684 voter interviews conducted by a phone bank and found two concerning patterns. One involved possible votes that were not counted, the other ballots that appeared to be requested by someone other than a registered voter. "I estimate that the number of ballots that were either requested by someone other than the registered Republican or requested and returned but not counted range from 89,397 to 98,801," Miller said in the sworn statement provided to Just the News. ★

CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

What Happened Along The Way?

Those of us that are over the half century mark have had moments when we reflect on our lives and ponder all that has happened on this journey. Reflections can be pleasant leading one to believe that that have lived a happy life, while other reflections can cause pain and make one doubt how they got through something so horrible. Our reflections are unique to each of us and guide our path as we move through life. A new book has been published by a local author who shares his collection of 70 years of reflections.



Although Dan had considered writing a book at different times in his life, the project took shape when Dan enrolled in a UC Davis Senior Club Memoir Writing class offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute(OLLI) for adults 50 years of age and up at University of California at Davis

And if you lived in Dixon anytime over the past 70 years there is a strong possibility that you know or grew up with educator, Dan Rott, who spoke at the Dixon Women's Improvement Club last week about his new book, *What Happened Along the Way?: A Memoir 1948-2018*. Dan was born in 1948 in, Susanville, California, to Emer and Borghild (Bea) Rott. A few years later his sister, Dian, was born and the family moved to Dixon in 1953 where his father was a teacher and then principal at West Dixon Elementary (Silveyville) for many years before retiring. His mother worked for our local dentist, Dr. Knight, and his sister, Dian, worked for the University of California - Davis. During the years of 1978 - 2015 Dan married Joan Brugh, had three children: Eric, Ivan, and Tara and his family settled down in Dixon. Dan's time as an educator in Dixon was spent as the principal at East Elementary (Anderson) and Tremont. He retired in 2008. Dan told the group that he was not a trained writer, but he set out to write a book for his three children about his life in Northern California. Many parent and grandparents have stories to tell, but don't necessarily share them with their children. He thought his kids would be interested in reading humorous family tales and personal musings of growing up in Dixon at another time when the culture was different and society was transitioning from agriculture to building infrastructure and production and later technology research and development. Although Dan had considered writing a book at different times in his life, the project took shape when Dan enrolled in a UC Davis Senior Club Memoir Writing class offered by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute(OLLI) for adults 50 years of age and up at University of California at Davis in 2011. He learned the structure of writing a good memoir which starts out with a problem in the beginning, then a couple of story arcs where the problem is solved, then a reflection as to the reason what was learned is important. With that Dan began writing down his ideas and those contributed by friends in a notebook so when he sat down he could begin

the development process. Although he has finished his first book, which is made up of 46 chapters with each chapter approximately 1000 words in length, he continues writing and has 15 or 20 more chapters completed. We look forward to a second collection of Dan's memoirs. Dan has enjoyed the response from his family and friends and the sales are beyond his expectations. He wrote the book for his children and family but the memoir is touching hearts of "Baby Boomers" who grew up in the same era in rural communities, small towns, and big cities across America. The book speaks to first dates, accordion solos, marriage proposals, dance cards, car culture, family and friendship. This memoir will bring a smile to your face and tears to your eyes as you turn the pages and reflect on "what has happened along the way." The title again is *What Happened Along the Way (A Memoir 1948-2018)* and can be ordered from Amazon in paperback or Kindle version for \$7.99. Great holiday gift! We received a letter from one of our readers, Ed Heeney, who wrote to us regarding our column about the trains passing through Dixon. He sent us this amazing photo with the train, transit center, and new steeple belonging to the Dixon Methodist Church with a beautiful blue sky in the background.

WE GOT MAIL!

**"HERITAGE HARMONY"
Church Bells and Train Whistles**
By Ed Heeney

When I was a young lad growing up on a farm in Kansas, I always looked forward to Sundays. This was one day in the week when we dressed up and went "to town" to attend church and see our neighbors. I remember traveling the 4 miles, usually by Model A Ford, but when the Model A wouldn't run we harnessed up the team of horses and even a few times we traveled by Farmall tractor. The highlight of these trips was hearing the church bells ring out over the town. There were three churches and sometimes they would all ring in unison, creating a kind of harmony that made the day a bit festive. An if we were really lucky the daily train would add its half dozen "toots" to the impromptu symphony. When our family moved to Dixon in the early seventies, we were excited to find a new "hometown" so similar to our small rural town back in the mid-country. And when we found the historical Methodist Church right next to the railroad tracks we knew we were "home." It has been gratifying to watch and be a participant in the ever-changing silhouette of our city as it continues to be the center of a vibrant, growing agricultural area. As I was taking my daily walk "downtown" this past Monday morning, I snapped this photo of the historic Methodist Church with the new steeple/bell tower, the new historically designed train depot, and the cab of the train giving a "shout-out" with its whistle on its way through Dixon. As I sit in the pew at church on Sundays, the bell peals forth at 11 o'clock and about 6 minutes later during announcements, the train adds its encore of whistling. To me it sounds like....."WAY TO GO!" We have a favorite old hymn which we sing frequently entitled "And Are We Yet Alive?" I would submit..."YOU BETCHA!!!" Thanks Ed for sharing the beautiful photo and your story! ★



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FOR THE LOVE OF
BOOKS
By Amy Shane

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

Holiday Gift Giving Guide Begins

The Holiday gift-giving guide is here. While Holiday shopping might look a little different this year, one fact remains the same, the gift of a good book is timeless. This year, For The Love Of Books will be sharing the best Holiday books of the season, as well as publisher’s top picks. This year there are so many exciting new books being featured in this month-long gift-giving guide that there is sure to be a perfect gift for any reader on your list.

Small Walt Spots Dot
by Elizabeth Verdick,
illustrated
by Marc Rosenthal;
Simon & Schuster BFYR

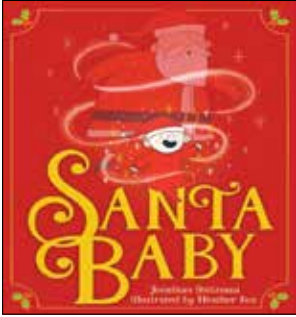
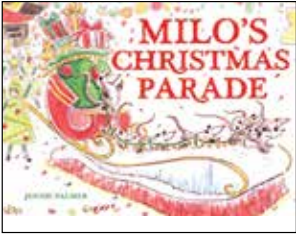
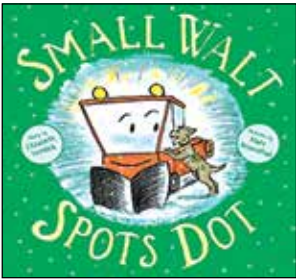
Small Walt returns in this charming series with his pal Gus and a furry new friend. As Gus and Walt sing and plow together, they make sure to keep the roads safe for everyone. Then with a whoosh and a blur of fur, they discover a lost dog and the chase is on. Will this stray dog find a home? Of course, with Gus and Walt there’s room for three!

Small Wal Spots Dot charms his readers with his determination and heart, and now with a new friend. Small Walt’s bold charcoal-like drawings, simple caricatures, catchy jingle, and simple, easy to read sentences makes this story a perfect read for beginning readers.

The Merry Christmas Mittens
by Sarah Janco illustrations by Blayne Fox;
Brown Books Kids

When a pair of mittens accidentally get left behind, they get taken on an unexpected Christmas journey. From being hung by the fire, to the delights of holiday baking, the mittens witness the joy of families coming together.

Celebrating all the joy and sights of the holiday, *The Merry Christmas Mittens* will warm your hearts as it celebrates Christmas’s



meaning through the heart-felt memories that we make.
Milos Christmas Parade
by Jennie Palmer;
Abrams Books for
Young Readers
Every year, Milo watched the Christmas parade and

dreamt of riding on a float. And this year, Milo is going to make his dreams come true. With a little help from his opossum family, Milo painted, trimmed, and fringed the most fantastic looking float. When Milo’s float gets destroyed, will his dreams get shattered, or will his family band together to help him make his dreams come true?

Milo’s Christmas Float is the perfect celebration of following your dreams and the power of having a family that believes in you.

Santa Baby
by Jonathan Stutzman,
illustrated by Heather Fox; Henry Holt

When Santa’s wish goes horribly wrong, he turns himself into a baby. As the elves scramble to fix things, they fear that Christmas may be doomed.

Little ones will laugh-out-loud as they read, *Santa Baby*. With Santa not even able to say Ho, Ho, Ho everyone fears the worst. All Santa wants to do is yell; NO, open the gifts, eat his naughty and nice list, and instead of filling stockings, he fills his diaper. Will the elves be able to turn Santa back before the big day? *Santa Baby* is the perfect read for any family with a baby sibling or wants a hilarious new holiday read. ★



Riley Reviews

THRILLER “BIG SKY” INSTILLS FEAR ON DESOLATE HIGHWAYS

A Film and TV
Review by Tim Riley

“BIG SKY” ON ABC NETWORK
A visionary storyteller, former practicing lawyer David E. Kelley got his start in the entertainment business as a writer for Steven Bochco’s “L.A. Law,” which led to a career as creator of several networks series, including “Picket Fences” and “Boston Legal.”

In recent years, Kelley created series in cable television with HBO’s “Big Little Lies” and “The Undoing.” Cable offers more latitude than network television, and so his latest entry of “Big Sky” for ABC may lack the lurid edginess that comes with more creative freedom.

At the core of the “Big Sky” story is the kidnapping of young girls by a psychopath whose motive is not clearly in focus at first. Could it be a weird sexual fetish that may not play out too well on a network series?

Appropriate to the show’s title, the setting is Montana, known for its wide vistas and open spaces. The first scene is at the Dirty Spoon diner in Helena, a casual place with signage proclaiming “You Kill It! We Grill It!”

Sitting alone with a cup of coffee, Jenny Hoyt (Katheryn Winnick) suddenly rushes out of the joint after hearing a love song, heading off to her office to confront Cassie Dewell (Kylie Bunbury) with the question, “Are you sleeping with my husband?”

Jenny’s husband, from whom she is actually separated, is Cody Hoyt (Ryan Phillippe), but together along with Cassie they own a private detective agency, thus creating an awkward situation that soon erupts in a saloon brawl between the two women.

Meanwhile, two teenage sisters Danielle and Grace Sullivan (Natalie Alyn Lind and Jade Pettyjohn) have the hit road from Colorado so that Danielle can visit her boyfriend in Montana who just happens to be the son of the Hoyts.

A long-haul trucker, Ronald Pergman (Brian Geraghty), a 38-year-old man still living at home, is being mocked by his domineering mother (Valerie Mahaffey) for being a failure, if only for the reason that her friends boast of kids with important white-collar jobs.

Lecturing her son about not cleaning up after himself in keeping with her “my house, my rules” edict, Ronald’s mother exhibits attitudes that would cause any child to have “mommy issues,” which seem to cast Ronald into a Norman Bates mindset.

Local law enforcement appears primarily in the form of state trooper Rick Legarski (John Carroll Lynch) who is harried by a spouse feeling romantically

neglected. That Legarski has a lot of quirks is first revealed in an oddly weird exchange with a stranded out-of-state visitor.

The nettlesome love triangle between the Hoyts and Cassie has to be put on hold when it becomes apparent that the arrival of the two sisters is long overdue, and the private eyes are engaged to help solve the mystery.

If you have seen any advertising for the show or even read the brief synopsis about young girls being kidnapped by a truck driver on a remote highway, then there is really no spoiler being revealed here.

An accident on the interstate takes the two sisters to a backroad where they narrowly miss being hit by Ronald’s rig. Angered by the incident, Danielle unwisely decides to pass the trucker to hurl profane insults, not knowing how-damaged he is.

Apparently, the girls are too young to know about Steven Spielberg’s “Duel,” a cautionary tale about offending a psychotic truck driver who gives perilous chase to someone with the audacity to race ahead.

As misfortune goes, the sisters run out of gas on the desolate highway, and now along comes Ronald seeking twisted vengeance for hurt feelings, or something. But why kidnap the girls? Is it some sort of sexual perversion or just Norman Bates-like derangement?

The end of the first episode has a shocking twist that will not be divulged with even any vague hints of the big surprise. That’s the way David E. Kelley would like to tantalize the audience with a real cliff-hanger series.

During ABC’s virtual press tour in late September, Kelley proclaimed that “at the end of each episode, I think the audience should be leaning in and say what’s going to happen next?” I’m not sure how he tops the first shocker in the episodes to follow.

“Big Sky” is a tantalizing thriller, but it is one where any layer of mystery is undercut to a degree in that Ronald is so transparently evil from the start. However, keep an eye on some of the other players for their motivations that might come out of left field.

Apropos of almost nothing, a quick mention of the pandemic here and there makes the story contemporary, but it appears nobody is adhering to protocols. Perhaps “Big Sky” seeks to offer much-needed escapism from our woes, or unbeknownst to the CDC the virus skipped over Montana.

At this early stage, deciding to invest time in this twisty thriller requires viewing at least a few episodes and see if the series lives up to the expectations of surprises in store according to the show creator. ★



Alliance Makes Climate-Policy Recommendations

In an effort to guide development of federal climate policy, groups from the farm, food, forest, environmental and governmental sectors have allied to offer recommendations intended to support positive change. Known as the Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance, the group released a set of more than 40 recommendations Tuesday. The recommendations stress voluntary, incentive-based programs to promote adaptation in rural communities.

Survey Shows Strong Trust in US Farmers

Trust in American farmers has increased during the pandemic, according to survey results released by the American Farm Bureau Federation. The nationwide survey showed nearly nine in 10 respondents trust farmers, up 4% from a survey taken earlier in the year. The survey also gauged Americans’ attitudes about agricultural sustainability practices, and found nearly 60% rated farmers’ practices positively.

Winemakers Expect Smaller 2020 Vintage

While they continue to evaluate the impact of wildfire smoke on crop yields, California winemakers say they expect high quality wines from the 2020 vintage. A new report from the Wine Institute describes this year’s harvest as “challenging,” with smaller-than-average yields due to an August heat spell and the intense wildfire season. Vintners in several regions say wildfire smoke ruined some grapes, but report high quality on the grapes that were harvested.

USDA Reports on Turkey Production, Consumption

Americans will eat about 16 pounds of turkey per person this year, an average the U.S. Department of Agriculture says has remained fairly stable for the last few years. California ranks eighth in the nation in turkey production. Most California turkeys are marketed fresh. The USDA says wholesale prices for frozen birds have risen this year, though retailers often offer special prices on turkey for the holidays.★

Ask Toni Medicare Rule ... No One Remembers!



Toni King

but no concussion. Very weak, so we are asking that she be placed into rehab/skilled nursing to build her strength backup.

She changed from her company retirement Medicare Advantage PPO plan this summer to her new Medicare Supplement Plan G. I know that the Medicare Supplement pays if Original Medicare pays.

I cannot remember specifics about a Medicare rule you wrote regarding skilled nursing. I know the inpatient/outpatient rules have changed. Please explain what her options can be? Do not want my mother to pay more than she must.

~ Thanks, Tom from Tampa, FL

Hi, Tom:

The Medicare rule is explained in the Medicare & You handbook titled, “Am I an inpatient or outpatient?” Learn how a hospital stay does not always mean you are an inpatient and may have to pay more or all your skilled nursing facility care.

This **Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON)** went into effect a few years ago and applies to those with an Original Medicare hospital stay. It does not apply to those with Medicare Advantage plans. Medicare Advantage plans have different rules regarding rehab/skilled nursing stays.

The MOON rule is explained with more detail in the Medicare & You handbook and most who are enrolled in Original Medicare may have missed this information. The handbook states “*Staying overnight in a hospital doesn’t always mean you’re an inpatient. You only become an inpatient when a hospital formally admits you as an inpatient, after a doctor orders it. You’re still an outpatient if you haven’t been formally admitted as an inpatient, even if you’re getting emergency department services, observation services, outpatient surgery, lab tests, or X-rays. You*

or a family member should always ask if you’re an inpatient or an outpatient each day during your stay, since it affects what you pay and can affect whether you’ll qualify for Part A coverage in a skilled nursing facility.”

America needs to be aware that a family member who is having a hospital stay is provided the **MOON** (Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice) in written form that is signed and dated with an oral explanation from the facility no later than 36 hours from the time the Medicare patient begins receiving outpatient observation services. This time limit is considered the new two midnight stay observation policy.

Tom...this means that you should have received the **MOON** (Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice) within 36 hours that your mother entered the hospital.

Below is what you, your family members or caregivers need to know when having a hospital stay:

1. Remember the **MOON** rule applies to those on “**Original Medicare**” and not Medicare Advantage plans, as Medicare Advantage Plans have their own rules and options regarding inpatient/outpatient services.
2. Discuss the hospital procedure with your physician/surgeon regarding whether this will be an inpatient or outpatient stay.
3. Remember you only become an **inpatient** once the **hospital**, not your doctor, “**formally admits**” you or your family member with a doctor’s order.
4. You or a family member should ask every day if you or your loved one is an “**inpatient or an outpatient.**”

Not enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug Part D plan and the hospital stay falls in “Under Observation” or MOON, you may also have to pay for the drugs administered because the outpatient stay is under Part B which does not cover prescriptions given orally.

Toni King, author of the *Medicare Survival Guide®* is giving a \$5 discount on the *Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced* book to Toni Says® Medicare column readers. Email Medicare questions to info@tonisays.com or call 832/519-8664. ★



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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. "Back to the Future" antagonist

5. Government Printing Office

8. Frugal driver's acronym

11. 1952 Olympics site

12. Afghanistan's neighbor

13. Letter-shaped girder

15. Wing-shaped

16. Narcotics agent, for short

17. Call it quits

18. "One way to improve health

20. She played a TV genie

21. Cunning

22. Golfer's goal

23. "Kiss the Cook" garment, pl.

26. Keyboard instrument

30. Prefix for before

31. Greek god's libation

34. Door-stopping wedge

35. Full of meaning

37. Fleur-de-_____

38. Do penance

39. Type of parrot

40. *Ask for procaine when at this office

42. *Unavoidable risk factor for many diseases

43. Rock grinding

45. *Take a spoonful of sugar to avoid this taste

47. Genetic info carrier

48. Aqua-lung

50. Criticism

52. *Annual _____

55. Fill with spirits

56. First rate

57. Purl partner

59. Vandalized a car

60. Coconut fiber

61. Bulgarian money

62. Filling station filler

63. More of the same

64. Water carrier

DOWN

1. Featherly scarf

2. _____ of Man

3. Linseed

4. Do without

5. Last Supper cup

6. Break down or analyze

7. Fairy-tale beginning

8. Internet share-able

9. Stepping stone to gain

10. Greenwich time

12. *Use a scalpel

13. Like the Vitruvian Man

14. *Stay in bed

19. *Take antihistamines to avoid this kind of nose

22. A pop

23. *Eat one a day?

24. Rap sheet listing

25. So out it's in

26. *Worn until a bone heals

27. Piglet

28. Lightly color

29. Different spelling of emir

32. Horselfy

33. "Wizard of Oz" man

36. *Increase fluid intake

38. Elsewhere, in a courtroom

40. *_____ test

41. Maltreated

44. Tattooed

46. Gridiron position

48. Record a movie

49. Diogenes, e.g.

50. _____ market

51. Big name in chips

52. Show worry

53. All over again

54. In real-time

55. *It checks your heart health

58. Road crew supply

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 8

1	2	3	4		5	6	7			8	9	10
11					12					13	14	
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55						56				57		58
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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

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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

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