



Dixon's Independent Voice

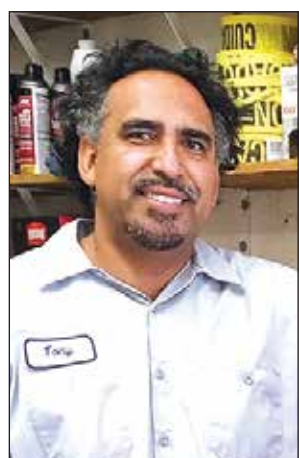
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MECHANIC**



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**TAMIKA
HAMILTON
FOR CONGRESS**



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Busting Out of the Box



During the COVID shutdown Mike and Samantha Scott resell returned merchandise as people shift to online purchasing and companies are flooded with returned merchandise. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - There were too many times Mike Scott was away from home due to construction work, leaving his wife, Samantha, and their daughter at home. But on the side, he was accustomed to spend his time reselling merchandise through his company Charity Shop Wholesale. Then, the pandemic came and as people flooded online to purchase almost everything, they also returned tons of merchandise which created an amazingly large uptick in Mike's liquidation endeavor.

People were losing their jobs and they were looking for ways to make money so reselling merchandise online is one way to do that. He stopped doing construction altogether as this gig soared.

"Most of our customers are mom and pop businesses and minimum-wage earners," Mike said. "They

resell on Facebook's Marketplace, eBay, OfferUp, or at flea markets." It's a great way to bring in some extra money but some people can make a living at it. He told of one of his customers who handles just furniture and now makes \$20,000 a month out of his garage.

The popularity of this kind of business might have been fueled by a Netflix show called Extreme Unboxing. The show follows a group of larger-than-life personalities from across the country as they buy liquidated merchandise for pennies on the dollar and unbox it with hopes for big profits. A pallet at the Dixon business can range in price between \$200 and \$600 depending on the company it's from.

As Mike spoke, he sat on the seat's edge of a forklift like someone who doesn't sit still for long. In the background were dozens of pallets piled high with what appeared to be brand

new merchandise and a man and a woman looking over them. The pallets take up a large parking lot at 529 North Adams, next to Fisk's Cyclery.

"We started here with about four trucks a month and now we have 12 trucks a month. Each truck has roughly 20 to 26 pallets and typically by the end of the week we sell through everything we have," Mike said. He quickly rattled off that 30 percent of returns are from buyer's remorse, 20 percent are returned because something didn't fit and 15 percent are other reasons; so it's a very small percentage that are damaged but stores never put it back in inventory. That creates an opportunity for re-selling through liquidators. Add that companies are wanting the tax write-off if they donate the unwanted items to a non-profit or charity.

The suppliers for the Scotts' *Continued on page 2*

Optimism Index Findings



John Kabateck, NFIB

NFIB Special Release

SACRAMENTO, CA, (MPG) - Were California able to leave well enough alone, today's release (September 8, 2020) of NFIB's latest monthly Small Business Economic Trends report would give our state's Main Street entrepreneurs more than just hope that economic recovery is gaining real traction, but – uniquely – our Legislature's recent actions are doing their best to slow things down – with one more expected action adding to the down-shift.

"Coming right on the heels as it does of the promising news from NFIB's latest Jobs Report and the U.S. Labor Department's latest Jobs Report, today's SBET findings that its Optimism Index increased to 'a reading slightly above the historical 46-year average' would make for a nice trifecta that in measurable ways, real economic recovery is underway," said John Kabateck, California state director for NFIB. "But California of late goes out of its way to be the big asterisk to any good national trends."

Kabateck pointed to the passage of Assembly Bills 685 and 3216 as two examples of his point, and the expected signing into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom of Senate Bill 1383 greatly expanding employee leave time, an issue that particularly rankles, according to Kabateck, because leave time is something 73 percent of small-business owners have been providing for years and in the best possible way: tailored to the need of the employee not forced into an ill-fitting suit of a state law. Brief descriptions of the bills, and even some ones that were mercifully derailed can be found here.

"You don't need a degree in economics to know what it takes to turbocharge our state's economy, you just need an ounce of common sense," said Kabateck. "The common sense to know you don't lure small businesses to re-open or stay open by adding more costs, rules, and regulations on them. In addition to doing things counter to common sense, our Legislature took a few extra steps in not providing some liability protection against COVID-19 lawsuits, which other states made a priority, and it failed to relax its 'Sue Your Boss' law for even the best of reasons. Fine message we're sending the state's No. 1 job generators." ★

Mayor Candidate Accuses Mayor of Impropriety

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The last City Council Meeting, during the open comment period began with Rick Fuller, former Dixon Police Chief who is also a former City Councilman, accusing Mayor Thom Bogue of interfering with police activity at an evening party on Sunday night, August 16, on South Lincoln Avenue.

Apparently, the property is an AirBnB and was rented out under the guise of a baby shower with about a dozen people to stay for two days but when the owner came by to check on the property, he discovered approximately 400 to 600 people there and called the police.

While Fuller did not have all the facts, he said he had enough information



Vice Mayor Steve Bird during a City Council meeting. MPG file photo.

to request the council to investigate.

"The party was never broken up and my

understanding is that the mayor was involved in that particular event and came to some understanding on

the premises," he said. "I find it disconcerting that the mayor is intervening in police activity, one which could result in serious problems. We've seen those Airbnbs go sideways quickly with people being shot and even killed. My understanding is that we have a new ordinance that requires that people wear masks and self-distance and so on and my understanding is that they were also in violation of that ordinance."

Fuller continued, "It seems the mayor intervened with the owner of the property to negotiate some kind of settlement which allowed that venue to continue. Police officers left the scene, and nothing occurred. I have a problem with that kind of action and I'm wondering *Continued on page 3*



Candidates Response to Coverage Shows Much

By Debra Dingman

It is unfortunate that some of the candidates are not taking part in our free, 200-word with photo Forum because they think there is a conflict of interest because I have a son running for office. I just can't help but feel if I was a man, this would be a non-issue.

I could write volumes about this but what our readers need to know is that I was already aware of this potential perception and had met with the publisher and our two columnists who graciously volunteered to take on the tasks of getting questions and collecting answers without me editing. My only task was to get them to the Publisher ready for print in the proper format. We informed each candidate the plans, but you know, some people just presume the worst, don't trust anyone, and want to believe everyone is out to get something over them.

Here's what I learned from Entrepreneur Magazine on how to deal with their negative presumptions: Wisely distance yourself emotionally and approach your interactions like they are a science project: Don't respond to their chaotic emotions and illogical behavior, only to the facts.

If you recognize that someone is pushing your buttons, take the time to step out and regroup. When emotionally intelligent people feel good about something that they've done, they won't let anyone's opinions or snide remarks take that away from them.

When you fixate on the difficult or toxic person, you are giving them power over you. Focus on solutions. Be quick to forgive but successful people

don't forget. I am pleased there are candidates who see the value in sharing their views with the voters – especially those who are reading this newspaper.

Opportunity to Re-frame September 11

Never stop aspiring to be inspired. This was recently told to a group seeking leadership training. I loved that they said to not use the word "problem" but use "issues, challenges, and opportunities" instead. Okay, I can do that.

I normally have a "challenge" with September 11 in any given year. It was a horrible day. One that I'll always remember as: Horrible. Life changed for us all in so many ways. On that day for years now, I've felt sad all day. So, I looked up some other thing I could remember on this day...

Did you know that we actually have a 'National Make Your Bed Day?' Like, who thought of that one and walked it all the way through the processes to have someone make a bed on a national level? I have always said Americans have way too much time on their hands....it falls on Friday, September 11 so I thought I'd better let you know.

According to the National Sleep Foundation, making your bed can help improve your sleep by reducing the amount of tossing, turning, and restlessness we experience. Reducing all that turmoil in the bedroom offers great returns, such as good health.

Since my nights seem to be more of just a long, dark period of restlessness, I read up on this and found out that "sleep environment" plays a major role in our good night's sleep. So how your sheets, pillows, and blankets feel

make a difference. Also, the low lights or cool dark bedroom can call your name.

According to experts, the visual appeal of a well-made bed "invites us to slumber" much like a canvas invites the artist.

I'm pretty sure the National Sleep Foundation wants us to share this so I will: Here are other ways to celebrate the day: Shopping for new bedding; Sharing tips for making a bed; Posting photos of your well-made bed; Make it a competition! Set a timer and have the whole family race. The fastest and best bed makers win; Challenge others to make their bed – whether they live with you or not; After making your bed, try bouncing a quarter off your bed after it's made – military style.

Another date to remember is Sunday, September 13. It is National Grandparent's Day. My funniest memory of my grandparents was when I was standing next to my grandpa at the guest closet near the front door of the old bungalow, 2-bedroom house that they bought for something like \$3,000 somewhere around 1935. The minimum wage law was enacted in 1938 so workers made 25 cents an hour and bread was 8 cents a loaf.

Grandpa was showing us his gun and how to keep it safe. Grandpa was a hunter and avid fisherman. My grandmother came around the corner from the kitchen in her dress and apron and once she caught sight of Grandpa talking to us, she said, "Oh Frank, put that away!"

Grandpa immediately responded as he lowered the barrel toward the floor. "Oh Beulah, it's not loaded." And, in that split second of those words leaving his lips, a humongous blast roared through the house and after everyone regained some kind of composure, there we all saw it: a small round hole through the braided carpet right next to our feet. I think there was a small tuft of smoke coming out of it.

The look of Grandpa's face was terror. Was it because he knew what would be coming from Grandma or was it pure shock? We'll never know, but I will tell you that we all laughed so hard we had tears in our eyes and I've enjoyed the story telling again and again over the years. It was just so classic. My grandparents were awesome. Happy Grandparent's Day to all of those Nanas and Papas out there! ★

The Inspired Mechanic



New Streets and Utilities Maintenance Supervisor for the City Engineer/Public Works Department Melesio (Tony) Perez stands by at the toolbox. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If there is one thing Melesio (Tony) Perez is not, it is uninspired. Perez is the new Streets and Utilities Maintenance Supervisor for the City Engineer/Public Works Department of Dixon after only a decade of working in the field. One might have heard the term bi-vocational, which means people have had two different careers but Perez is tri-vocational, taking each area of a career to the top.

"I read a lot of books on leadership," he said with enthusiasm. "You have to be ready for opportunity and if you help pull people up, you all do better." That's his motto and it seems to be working.

He grew up in Vallejo and wanted to be a music producer. He established a music business that was growing and becoming more and more popular over the years--but with the wrong crowd, he said. He had a wife and three young children when he realized the direction was not the best path for a family man. He's married 19 years now and has two grown daughters and a teen son.

Perez began work for the Contra Costa Road Crew and saw life-changing tragedies that seriously impacted how he works. One co-worker was killed when he was ejected from a rollover and would have

most likely survived if the man had been wearing a seatbelt, for example.

"I'm heavy on safety in a normally relaxed atmosphere," he said. "We do vehicle inspections, wear hard hats when applicable, and I share my stories and experiences with them so they know why." Perez has also worked for the City of Benicia, the City of Sacramento, and then Suisun.

He has learned to come into a job situation and "try not to change things for the first six months," using the time to observe procedures and get to know staff. He has taken over for retiree Pernell Colter and he oversees a small crew and there are two departments that fall under Public Works. One side is streets and the other side is sewer and stormwater.

"So much is happening in Dixon," he said. "We get hundreds of utility service alerts and have to do markings so workers won't damage our utilities. Last week, we got a call for a sink hole on East H Street and both crews were out there." He used it as a teachable moment to search what might have caused the problem and discovered it was a broken storm drain pipe. He gave credit to Lonnie Begrin, Hector Garcia and new hire Barret Edon for their good work on the project.

"It was safely and properly repaired in-house,

allowing us to be good stewards of funds," he posted on Facebook. Perez also likes to read Dave Ramsey's books about saving money and the IV publishes Ramsey's weekly columns.

"On a different project, we were looking at an expensive bid to make a repair that I knew we could do for significantly less in-house," he said. It did require the purchase of new safety equipment but the new Deputy Public Works Director Loren Kotow agreed and the total cost of the project came in thousands under.

"When we do things ourselves, it saves us money, keeps us busy, and keeps us sharp," he said. Perez also wants to see backhoe training for everyone, emphasizing that the City needs to be ready for emergencies.

His third vocation: Perez and his Dad own Bowtie Specialties. His Dad is a mechanic and likes to rebuild engines--especially hot rods and low-riders, and they work together on this hobby along with a little help from Tony's son. Perez hopes to move their business from his home in Winters to Dixon. But, in the meantime, they want to introduce themselves and some pretty cool cars at an upcoming event, Cars & Coffee at Hall Park, September 27, 285 East Chestnut Street from 8 to 10 am. Social distancing and masks required ★

St. Peter's Catholic Church News

The Gospel and Scriptures this 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time concentrate on forgiveness. In Matthew 18:21-25, Peter asked Jesus, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" We know of course Jesus says it endless times. God forgives our debt when we ask, and we must forgive others. Unforgiveness is a killer to our soul and well being. The first reading at Mass, Sirach 27:30-28:7, gives us this truth. "Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the Lord's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail. Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven. Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord? Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins? Remember your last days, set enmity aside...., think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor, remember the most High's covenant, and overlook faults."

As we contemplate the state of our world, we see the fruit of unforgiveness: families in turmoil, cities in flames, churches, government, nations divided. No

doubt the worst hurt, though, comes from those closest to us, the ones we love, count on the most: parents, spouses, children, friends. But there is an answer: God created us with free will, and we can choose and will ourselves to forgive. When we do this, even if the one who hurts us doesn't seek forgiveness, it is possible to "let go" of the offense. We go from angry victim to peace. Of course the adversary of our soul wishes us to stay in unforgiveness and our human weakness so the memories roll around in our brain, and we must work again on forgiveness. But like any exercise the repeating makes us stronger. And of course, there is God's grace assisting us! The key is prayer. We ask God's help to forgive another and He will always work for our goodness to prevail.

St. Peter's First Holy Communion celebrations are completed and Confirmations are ongoing. Daily Mass is celebrated at 8 am outdoors M, W, F in English and T,Th in Spanish. Sunday Masses are 7am in Spanish, 8:30, 10am in English and 1pm in Spanish. All following the safety protocols. For more information check www.stpeterschurchdixon.com God bless you all! ★

Dixon Churches Invite You To Worship

You Invited To

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Our sermon topic this week will be as follows:
"Becoming a Peacemaker"
Matthew 5:9

Sunday - Bible Study 9:00 am • Worship 10:30 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 St. • Dixon • 707-678-5234
www.cornerstoneindixon.com

Fr. Hector Monotya
Pastor
Deacons
Daniel Blanton, John Fio

Confessions
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
6:00 - 7:30 pm

Youth & Teen Groups
Bible Study
Religious Education
Holy Sacraments
Please call the office for more info.
www.StPetersChurchDixon.com

Mass Schedule
Saturday
7:30 pm Spanish
Sunday
8:30 am and 10 am English
6:30 am and 7:30 pm Spanish
Weekday Masses
M-T-F 8:00 am English
T, TH 8:00 am Spanish and Friday 7:30 pm
First Saturday
First Saturday Bilingual Mass at 8:00 am

Every First Friday of the month, Adoration from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm and Bilingual Mass at 7:00 pm

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Mayor Candidate Accuses Mayor of Impropriety

Continued from page 1

where he gets the authority to intervene in a police activity. That's interfering with an officer's performance of duty." He then requested an investigation which was echoed by Councilman Steve Bird after a lengthy reprimand toward the Mayor.

"I'm lucky they did not destroy my home," said Kuldeep Grewal, owner of the AirBnB, who said he called the police when he arrived and found the large number of people but the police took 30 minutes to arrive, he said, so he called the Mayor.

"Normally, we do not have a problem, but we did once, and because of that, I keep an eye on things now," said Grewal. "Most mayors don't want to get involved but Thom has been my friend for 25 years. Our Mayor really cares so I called him."

At the Council meeting, Mayor Bogue stated what transpired and that after he met Grewal on the premises, he also called the police and informed them of what was going on.

"We had approximately eight law enforcement officers. They said they would go in if necessary, but they really did not think it was a good idea and considered what it would take to corral that many people to leave nonviolently," Bogue said. "I asked the officers if they would prefer if I talked to the person who rented the place. They were not being loud, they were not being aggressive in any manner. It was actually very calm, which was beyond my expectations, but still there was concern with that many people and they said yes, it would be a good idea."

"If we go by the legal contract, only those eight people could stay and all else had to leave," said Grewal. "We spoke to the lady and she told us she didn't know who the rest of the people were. I care about my property and it cost a lot of money and I didn't want any problems or a fight."


At the council meeting during the discussion of the item, Bird repeatedly asked two questions of Bogue: "One, were you involved with financial bartering and two, was there a citation issued by the police? I'm concerned with what I'm hearing and what I heard the speaker say," he said. Bogue answered no to the first question and "I don't know" to the second one. City Attorney Doug White said the item needed to be put on an agenda for a closed session.

"I'm fully cooperative of whatever you want to do," said Bogue.

"I just hope this doesn't cost us \$50,000 in legal fees," said Councilman Devon Minnema. "We have been through that before. I hope the facts get brought out in closed session."

Although Chief Robert Thompson did not return request for comments by press time, it has been learned that the Dixon Police Department forwarded the matter to the Solano County District Attorney's Office for a courtesy review. ★

Tamika Hamilton for Congress



for Congress Campaign announced the endorsement of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association Political Action Committee (HJTA PAC).

"I'm proud to receive the endorsement of such a prestigious organization that has done so much to protect taxpayers from politicians and bureaucrats who have an unending desire to raise taxes," said Hamilton.

"My opponent, who is one of the wealthiest members of Congress, has spent his career finding ways to extract dollars out of working-class people and it's definitely time for a change. Californian's deserve better."

For more information and the full endorsement letter from HTJA PAC about the Tamika Hamilton for Congress Campaign, visit VoteTamika.org or contact Janae Grant at janae@mbainc360.com. ★



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Busting Out of the Box

Continued from page 1

company are no small names in retail: Lowe's, Amazon, and Home Depot. The couple is already negotiating a larger space out on Pedrick Road. Their fast growth is the result of people being forced to shop online where they can't see, touch, or try on merchandise due to the pandemic, but it definitely helps that Mike has an extensive background in sales and marketing.

"I've worked for companies like Apple computers, Hollywood video, GNC, and 7-Eleven as district manager or in regional sales director roles, but I've always been an entrepreneur at heart. I've always had some kind of side hustle like consulting, Internet businesses, or construction business," he said. "Let's just say I've had some successes and a lot more failures, but I've learned from them. I would say wow, we've had quick success – but this is a combination of twenty-plus years of working hard and figuring things out."

He's had a lot of support by Samantha, his wife of ten years, who used organization skills as a Veterinarian Technician at UC Davis for several years until coming home full time to help with the business and their daughter's schooling. Their daughter, who attends Neighborhood Christian School, works on her school tasks in the office close where mom or dad can help. The couple also have family in Dixon, too.

"It's all been a humbling experience," said Samantha. "It feels good to help people. Mike would be out in the fields and was never home. Now, we work together and complement each other. If he's upset, I can calm him down and tell him it's going to be okay. We also bounce ideas off each other."

"I really attribute a lot of our success to my wife because she's always stood by me and put up with all my hair brain ideas. She is vital to making this business a success," said Mike. This week, they opened their online auction. Read more on their Facebook page: Charity Shop Wholesale LLC or call (916) 844-9108. Sales are by appointment only due to COVID restrictions. ★

Who Are They Voting For?



There is no doubt who these Dixon residents are voting for in this year's presidential elections. This home near Dixon High School is clearly showing their favor and patriotism. According to the Office of Voter Registration, we are all getting ballots in the mail no later than October 3. We will have the option of mailing them in as usual or we can drop them off with the City Clerk at Dixon City Hall, 600 West A Street, 9 am - 5 pm. Or, voters can drop off ballots "curbside" (stay in your car and hand ballot to poll workers) on October 29, 30, 31, Nov. 2 and Nov 3 at the Dixon Senior Center, Located on 201 South 5th Street, 8 am to 5 pm including Saturday, plus 7 am - 8 pm on Election Day. Polling places will be at the Dixon Senior Center; CA Jacobs Middle School at 200 North Lincoln; Veterans Memorial Hall at 1305 North First Street; and the Dixon Moose Lodge at 180 West B Street. Photo by Debra Dingman

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Dixon Candidate Forum, a Service to the Public not the Candidates

By Paul Scholl, Publisher
Messenger Publishing Group

To the Good People of Dixon,

A few weeks ago we held a meeting in my office with Loran Hoffman, Shirley Humphrey and Debra Minnema-Dingman to discuss offering the voters of Dixon an opportunity to get to know the candidates for the current election through a series of questions and answers to be published in the newspaper.

The intent was to have a group of taxpayers come up with the questions that are front and center in importance to the City of Dixon. Loran and Shirley would organize the questions on a weekly basis and present them to each of the candidates through email and gather and organize their responses so they would be submitted for publication well before our deadlines so they could be produced in a timely manner.

At that time I stated that we do not endorse any candidate through the newspaper. We

would provide information and let the voters decide. I stated that we would not edit their material, no matter how badly written. The general public had to see how they present their thoughts on paper and how they articulated the questions.

The rules were set that no candidate, or our city editor, would be allowed to see the questions in advance. The questions were not sent to me in advance either. There was planned autonomy for the taxpayers to generate the questions and compile the responses. They knew the deadlines and the space requirements for each candidate weekly. The word count was set at a maximum of 200 words per answer so that each candidate would have to be succinct.

Good luck with all that good intention. The first responses from most of the candidates were not timely, they exceeded the word count (by hundreds of words), were sent in the wrong format, were sent via unreadable email sources, and it was a mess. Loran and Shirley were

having problems trying to get everything processed by deadline. The natural thing to do was to ask the newspaper employee for help in getting things in by deadline. That employee, the city editor, was to get the content to us in time for publication so that we could best serve the reading public.

Some candidates cried foul. They questioned the process and that there was a conflict of interest by having the city editor assist them in getting their responses into the newspaper when her son was running for one of the positions. Granted, if the city editor had written the questions, or provided them to her son in advance, or had any control over the process I would agree.

“A conflict of interest is a situation in which a person or organization is involved in multiple interests, financial or otherwise, and serving one interest could involve working against another.”

However, that city editor was actually working to get all responses into the newspaper,

even those running against her son. There was an email paper trail of the responses and the oversight of the process was by the two people who created the questions and gathered the responses. Without the help of the city editor no responses would have been published.

Some candidates chose to withdraw from the process. Some claimed an unprofessional process, a lack of credibility, altered statements (due to one candidate trying to get free advertising of their website to attract donations in their response – they call that cheating), while another presented mainly repeated vile comments and is hereby disqualified from participating.

There was nothing wrong with the first publication of the candidate’s comments. It was just a lot more work to herd the political cats than it was worth. The public should know, not one candidate paid any funds in any way for the free publication of their responses. I paid all costs as a service to the community.

This week we are holding a

place for the individuals who chose not to participate for one more week so the public can see who made the choice to drop out of our forum. After this week we will determine if the process will continue and be a free service to the community.

As the owner of eight community newspapers and a long-time veteran of the newspaper business, I want to express to the good people of Dixon to become very educated on the choices for your local offices this election. Never, in any other election process in any of the other communities we serve have there been such unprofessional responses from candidates. We will retain their comments and be sure to hold them accountable to the same standards they claim while they serve in public office.

We hereby publish the responses from the candidates after week one so the general voting public can read for themselves after knowing the story of what happened in trying to get the forum up and running. ★

Candidate Emails Concerning Forum Rules

Steve Bird’s response to Shirley on Thursday, August 27 at 2:48 pm:

Shirley,

You also stated that what was submitted would be printed in its entirety as long as the text was kept to 200 words of less. I reviewed the IV just now. You did NOT print the entire text I submitted. I included my website at the end (BirdforDixon.com) and the paper did not include this. You are breaking the terms of what you assured us would or would not happen. That was edited out.

Disappointed, Steve

Jerry Castanon’s response to Shirley on Thursday, August 27 at 3:02 pm:

Shirley,

I feel that one of the women on your panel should recuse herself and as much as she is the mother of one of the candidates. I will email only to you through this conflict of interest.

Jerry Castañon Sr.

Don Hendershot’s response to all on the email chain on Thursday, August 27 at 4:34 pm:

I concur with both Steve and Jerry. Thanks-Don

Ted Hickman’s response to Loran and Shirley on Sunday, August 30, at 2:56pm:

“I withdraw my statement for this week DO NOT publish it. Please delete it and return the copy I sent to you. I will replace it with one more appropriate for your next go around ok?”

Jerry Castanon’s response to Shirley on Sunday, August 30 at 6:00 pm:

This letter is to inform you that I will not be participating in your candidate weekly questions from the independent voice. All candidates were provided with rules via email. First, all candidates were to submit a 200 word statement with picture and due Sunday evening at 6:00pm. deadlines were moved, to accommodate certain candidates who did not submit their statement on time, along with errors from the IV. Second, wrong email was given to us to submit. Third, statements altered. Forth, we have a serious conflict of interest with Debra Minnema-Dingman editor of the Independent Voice, the fact that her son is a candidate for mayor, yet having access to all candidates answers. I feel she needs to recuse herself completely in this election cycle. The IV has failed the candidates of Dixon California by not adhering to standard ethical practices.

Steve Bird’s edited (for public release to other news outlets) response to Shirley Humphrey, Loren Hoffman Sunday, August 30 at 5:47 pm:

It is with a heavy heart and great disappointment that I will not be participating any further with the IV 2020 Candidate Question Series for the following reasons.

1. When I was initially contacted by Ms. Humphrey for the series, I was instructed to send an email with my response to question # 1 of the series to her and Ms. Hoffman. I did so and was told by Ms. Hoffman that my materials did not come through. She later advised me that she had been “hacked” and to send it to another email address she provided. I did so, and again was told that my materials failed to come through. She then instructed me to send my email to Ms. Hoffman and later Ms. Debra Minnema-Dingman. I found this extremely troubling that it took me a minimum of four attempts to get my materials to the IV staff. This is neither professional nor appropriate for a publication of any credibility.
2. In relation the above comments, I also found it extremely unethical for a publisher to expect any candidate to send their platform material to the mother (Ms. Dingmans') of a candidate in the same 2020 election race (Devon Minnema). What precludes Ms. Dingman from sharing the questions with her son (my opponent) prior to the deadline of the article? Ethics you would think, however if ethics were truly a part of this, Ms. Dingman would have to recuse herself before the series was ever presented to the candidates. Additionally, Ms. Humphrey and Ms. Hoffman are also vocal supporters of Mayoral Candidate Devon Minnema, which further raises concerns.
3. When I was initially contacted by Ms. Humphrey, I was informed that all questions would be sent to the candidates on the Tuesday prior to the following week's publication, with the Sunday before (at 6pm) being the deadline for that week's article. The articles would be limited to 200 words or less, with no editing and printed as received. I did so with my first article. To my dismay two things happened. First, the second question was not sent to me until the following Wednesday afternoon, almost an entire day and a half later than the previous request and instruction. Additionally, when I reviewed the article I had submitted, it did not include the complete text I had sent, specifically my web site information at the end of the article, still within the 200 word limit. When I inquired about this I received a general email to all candidates (not to me personally), that unfortunately my web site information had been at the end and was “accidently” cut off.

In summary, I find these matters inexcusable and extremely suspect for any publication that seeks serious participation from candidates in this local race. The lack integrity and professionalism demonstrated by the IV staff in this circumstance is extremely suspect.

Very Disappointed, Steven C. Bird, Vice Mayor, Dixon

It should be noted that this letter has been provided to other sources to include media outlets to ensure your response(s) is on point.

Kevin Johnson’s response emailed to Shirley and Loran on Sunday, August 30 at 7:37 pm:

It is with regret that “at this time” I have decided to not participate going forward as planned with the City Election 2020 / Candidates Q & A weekly to the Independent Voice.

Your email requested my response to be EMAILED to Shirley Humphrey & Debra Dingman.

After much thought and consideration, I need to express my concerns related to Debra Dingman being a part of this process. This is not intended to be directed at Debra personally. This is a sincere concern that I express with a serious conflict of interest with Debra being involved (with her Son being a participant in this Candidates Q & A and running for Mayor). There should have been much more thought and preparation given to involving Mrs. Dingman and, knowing of the significant participation by Mrs. Dingman with both the Independent Voice and Devon’s Campaign – how could you not recognize this conflict and how this might impact other Mayoral Candidates. It is also not a secret the Mr. Logan Legg, running for District 4 City Council, is running side by side with Devon. Therefore, there is a conflict of interest that could be inferred directed to other District 4 City Council candidates as well.

I would very much like to participate in the IV Q & A process. However, at this time and until sufficient modifications to the process have been address – I will not be participating.

Suggested sufficient modifications...

1. Debra Dingman formally recuse herself from the City of Dixon Election 2020 Q & A process.
2. IV City of Dixon Election 2020 Q & A process Organizers to create an environment of trust and transparency sufficient to allow all Candidates to feel safe, secure related to the purity of the process (Protocols).


Couple parting comments ...

1. This Thursday, Sept 3 – after 4pm, before 9pm... I will POST my answer to THIS Week’s Question to FACEBOOK: Dixon 411 – Political. I want to communicate with the Public. I want to answer your question this week and through to the end. I just feel it correct and appropriate do so in a manner that is pure from any possible advanced information to other Candidates.
2. I want to make it perfectly clear that under no circumstances am I saying the any improper, advanced information IS IN FACT being provided to other candidates. For me this is all about it looks and feels to me BUT also to other Candidates running against Mr. Minnema and Mr. Legg.

I will be next available beginning Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

Respectfully, Kevin Johnson
City of Dixon, City Council Candidate, District 3

Ted Hickman sends another inappropriate and totally unprofessional email out to everyone on Monday, August 31 at 11:58 am.



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CANDIDATE FORUM

Comments by
Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

The first Weekly Candidate Forum appeared in the August 28th issue of the Dixon Independent Voice. The page introduced the nine candidates running for positions on the Dixon City Council in November. All candidates fully participated by submitting their introductions along with a photo. We received many favorable remarks from our readers who said they were looking forward to reading the candidates answers to a wide variety of topical questions submitted by local residents over the next seven weeks.

The second week of the *Weekly Candidate Forum* all candidates were e-mailed a question to be answered in not more than 200 words. Their responses were to appear in the September 4th issue of the Independent Voice.

To our surprise, minutes before the submission deadline, five candidates notified Shirley by individual e-mail that they were not going to participate in the *Weekly Candidate Forum* as they perceived there was a conflict of interest. i.e. they saw Debra Dingman's position as Editor of the Dixon Independent Voice in conflict with the fact that she is the mother of one of the candidates for Mayor. We explained

that Shirley and I are exclusively in charge of the "Forum" project and that Debra Dingman was not involved with the *Weekly Candidate Forum* in any other way than to forward the finished content to the publisher at press time.

With a combination of technical mishaps, the finished file containing the responses of the four candidates that responded to the question did not reach the publisher by the press deadline and were not included in the September 4th IV issue.

To eliminate any possible conflict of interest, perceived or real, with the *Weekly Candidate Forum*, we altered our method

of operation, bypassing the Dixon city editor, sending our text directly to the publisher in Sacramento. Some candidates chose not to answer the question while others provided thoughtful responses.

We feel it is vital that the Dixon voters get to know who the candidates are and their approach to handling local issues and their priorities.. We thought all the candidates would welcome the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas with the general public and allow themselves to be more recognizable on the ballot. We were wrong! We will continue with the *Weekly Candidate Forum* until the week before the election. ★

This week’s question: The median Solano County household income conveyed in the 2018 USA Data Report is \$84,000 per year. The City of Dixon pays the City Manager, Chief of Police, Fire Chief and other managers more than double or close to double the median household income of the public they serve. What would you do to lower salary expenses and long term retirement obligations of the City of Dixon?



THOM BOGUE
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

This is an age old question many in Dixon have struggled with for many years, as have I. First, we have to acknowledge this pay appears ridiculously high for the public sector. Second, how did it get this way? Third, what can we do about it?

Starting with the Second, I had to acknowledge, accept, and make decisions based upon regionally these positions now pay well over \$100k

per year and rising. If a city doesn't keep up they lose their Staff, Police Officers, Fire Personnel, and Maintenance personnel to other areas, as we have learned the hard way.

Some would say we could just make our city a training ground and therefore pay less. But with that comes other issues; less experience creates costly mistakes, liability issues, and potential loss of life. It is the equivalent to having someone fresh out of school, no hands on experience build your home, house falls down, the inexperienced contractor says "look at how much money I saved you." Not a good idea.

There are some other creative ways we can keep some of the cost down and some we are experimenting with. Sorry, not enough room to continue expanding on this.



STEVE BIRD
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

Chose not to participate



DEVON MINNEMA
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

While it would be expected to some extent that the salary of a department head would be higher than the median household income, it is absolutely true that there is a problem with out-of-control wage inflation amongst public employees in the state of California. This is in part an unintended consequence of the standardized CalPERS retirement system, and many cities are trying to find a long-term solution to this issue.

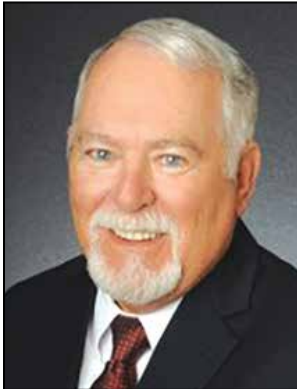
A more pertinent

question to Dixon and local elected officials is why our City Manager was given a 5- year contract with an 18-month golden parachute. The contract included a city-backed loan in which the city took second position on his home and a generous salary with automatic raises with absolutely no performance-based requirements or incentives.

I voted against this contract and alerted residents to the situation.

This was a clear political move to discourage future councils, elected by the people, to change the direction of the city. This whole debacle has made it clear just how swampy Dixon politics can be and how staff taking aim against minority councilmembers is incentivized by the council majority.

Break free from the muck, and elect new leadership for the journey ahead.



TED HICKMAN
Candidate for Dixon Mayor

Disqualified from participating



JERRY CASTANON
District 4 Council Candidate

Chose not to participate



LOGAN LEGG
District 4 Council Candidate

Well, to be fair, this median household income is not representative of Dixon. Solano county includes larger more affluent towns (i.e. Vallejo, Fairfield), who can afford to pay competitive salaries above the median household average. Unfortunately, Dixon is on the lower end of the

economic spectrum within Solano (meaning for the most part, had Dixon not been included in Solano, the median household average would be higher) therefore paying Salaries comparatively affects the economy of Dixon in a greater capacity. I think a proportional salary to that of Dixon's median household salary, while taking into account Solano's costs of living should provide a much more palatable salary domestically. I think the retirement question is important to distinguish as well, there needs to be a form of community reciprocity in which those who work and live in town can afford to stay after they have retired and not deal with the burden of high costs of living.



DON HENDERSHOT
District 4 Council Candidate

Chose not to participate



KEVIN JOHNSON
District 3 Council Candidate

Chose not to participate



JAMES P. WARD, JR.
Candidate for Treasurer

The median Solano County household income conveyed in the 2018 USA Data Report was \$84,000 per year. However, the information obtained was

the average Dixon resident median income is \$48,100 in 2018.

As a City Treasurer, you can only make suggestions with the City Council and not change existing contracts or Memorandum of Understanding's. This is not a voting position with the City Council.

I can protect, preserve, and maintain assets placed with the Treasurer on behalf of our residents. One must function within the existing legal guidelines and maintain clear lines of communications between citizens and elected officials and employees.

Social Security Matters

Should We Get Married or Just Live Together?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

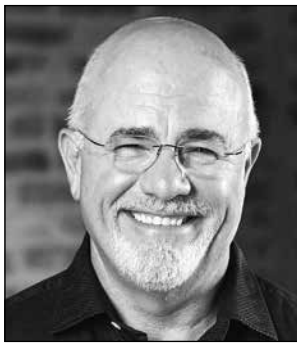
Dear Rusty: My question is about benefits and getting married. I am a retired man, 65-years-old, and collecting Social Security plus 2 pensions. My girlfriend will turn 62 in October of 2020 and plans to apply for Social Security benefits on her 62nd birthday. If we were to get married, would we be affected money wise? Or should we just live together?

Signed: Contemplating Marriage
Dear Contemplating Marriage: Your own Social Security benefit will not be affected in any way if you get married, unless your potential new bride is a very high earner and her Social Security entitlement at her full retirement age (which is 66 years and 8 months) is more than twice the full benefit amount you were entitled to at your full retirement age (even though you claimed your SS earlier). In that case, you would become eligible for a spousal benefit from your new wife after you are married for one year.



If, however, your potential bride is the lower earner and claims at 62 but is entitled to a Social Security benefit at her full retirement age (FRA) that is less than 50% of your FRA benefit amount, your new wife may be entitled to a “spousal boost” from you after you are married for a year. I cannot tell you the answer to those questions without knowing your respective benefit amounts at each of your full retirement ages. You may also wish to consider potential survivor benefits. If you are married and one spouse dies, the surviving spouse is entitled to 100% of the amount the deceased spouse was collecting at their death, if the surviving spouse has reached full retirement age (otherwise the survivor benefit is reduced for claiming it early). The surviving spouse gets the survivor benefit if that benefit is more than they are entitled to on their own. In any case, neither of you would be eligible for a Social Security spousal benefit or survivor benefit from the other unless you are married

(you must be married for at least one year to get a spousal benefit and at least 9 months for a survivor benefit). Note that so-called “common law” marriage isn't recognized in most U.S. states, and Social Security goes by state law on that topic. The only states which currently recognize common law marriage are Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah (and the District of Columbia). So, unless you were to live in one of those states, or in D.C., cohabitating would not be considered a "marriage" for the purposes of Social Security benefits, and no spousal or survivor benefits would be available to either of you. *This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.* ★



Dave Ramsey Says

Simple Steps

Dear Dave,
With COVID-19 and all the resulting economic problems, do you have any advice for what a young person can do to prepare for the future?

– Kyle

Dear Kyle,
Regardless of the coronavirus or any economic situation that might arise, there are always a few smart, simple things people can do to protect themselves financially. The number one thing is to live on a written, monthly budget. When you give every dollar a name, and write it down on paper, you're telling your money what to do, instead of scratching your head and wondering where it went. Staying out of debt and saving as much money as possible are two other

great ideas. Remember, your income is your biggest wealth building tool. If you're saddled with a bunch of debt, your money goes to creditors – not into your pocket. Saving prepares you for the future and all the unexpected things, both good and bad, life will throw at you. Even though you're young, investing is a key component in creating a stable financial outlook for yourself. In your twenties, just \$100 a month invested properly in good growth stock mutual funds can make you a millionaire by the time you're ready to retire. Like I said, these are all simple things. But they'll make a huge difference in your financial situation now and in the years to come!

– Dave

Pay That Thing Off!

Dear Dave,
My only debt right now is a car payment. I still owe \$12,000 on the vehicle, and currently I have \$25,000 in

savings. I'm in a very stable line of work, but my income can vary somewhat from month to month. Should I hang on to my savings, or pay off the car?

– Erik

Dear Erik,
Debt is a bad thing to have in your life, especially when your income can vary from paycheck to paycheck. You're in good shape, except for the car note, though. It's like a ball and chain around your neck. You'd still have \$13,000 left if you paid off the car. And with the money you'd free up, you could rebuild your savings in no time. Pay off the car, dude!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey. ★



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Miscellaneous

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I do garage and house organizing, cleaning, and de-cluttering. Pruning and weeding. I will juice fruit and vegetable juices in your home. **Serving Sacramento, Sutter, and Butte counties.** References, College grad, security and Health background. **Tim, 916-370-0858. (MPG 12-31-20)**



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FOR THE LOVE OF
BOOKS
By Amy Shane

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

september CHILLING READS

While we continue these unprecedented times where wearing masks have become the normal attire, school is set up at the dining room table, and for some, the home office has become the daily commute, one fact still remains, books are always the perfect escape. No matter what is happening beyond our thresholds, a book’s unique ability to transport us into new lands and adventures can be the escape that we all need. These spine-tingling new releases are the perfect way to help welcome in some chills and ward off summer’s remaining heatwave.



Don't Turn Out the Lights
Harper Teen

Get ready to stay up late and keep the lights on. Almost any child from the 1980s to today will recognize the iconic stark white cover and terrifying pencil sketched image on the cover of Scary Stories To Tell In The Dark. Just the illustrations by Stephen Gammell alone were

enough to induce nightmares, but paired with the truly terrifying tales was enough to keep children screaming at sleepovers for decades. In this tribute to one of the most popular collections of scary short stories, *Don't Turn Out The Lights*’ 35 spine-tingling tales delivers just the right amount of creepy and frightening tales to keep you up at night.

From well-known and beloved horror authors such as Amy Lukvics, Kami Garcia, Brenna Yovanoff, Madeline Roux, Brendan Reichs, and horror legend R.L. Stine there is a perfect tale for anyone. With new frightening stories that explore everything from haunted houses, life-sized baby dolls, giant ogres, and ghostly visitors these terrifying haunts will send shivers down your spine; as readers of all ages will be able to find the perfect story to keep them up way past their bedtimes. Paired with the same stylized pencil sketch drawings, Iris Compiet delivers haunting images that perfectly pair each tale. Whether you are a fan of the original series or ready to dive into something new, these frightening tales’ rich imaginary will find a way to seep into your bones, lingering just long enough to feel real. So, grab a blanket, a flashlight, and maybe a friend and ward of the summer heat with some genuinely scary stories.

Harrow Lake
by Kat Ellis;
Kathy Dawson Books

“He’s Been Expecting You.” After her father was attacked, Lola Nox is sent to live with her grandmother in the iconic town of Harrow Lake. Famed for being the setting for her father’s famous slasher film, Lola quickly realizes there is more to this town than the stories, and Mr. Jitters is waiting, and he’s hungry.

In a story that will have readers staying up late and flying through the pages. Kat Ellis knows how to deliver all the creeps and haunts to make a psychological thriller that will keep her readers guessing until the very end. A town trapped by its own urban legend and a girl anchored by her family’s past, *Harrow Lake*’s atmospheric story explores what happens when a whole town is obsessed with a forgotten time. A creepy, spine-tingling read filled with twists and turns at every turn of the page. ★



**A Film and TV
Review by Tim Riley**

“DANGER MAN” ON AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

“Every government has its secret service branch. America, the CIA; France, Deuxieme Bureau; England, MI5. A messy job? Well, that’s when they usually call on me or someone like me. Oh yes, my name is Drake, John Drake.”

That’s the introduction, voiced by Patrick McGooohan, to each episode of the early Sixties spy thriller series “Danger Man,” also known as “Secret Agent,” now streaming on Amazon Prime Video.

It’s interesting how McGooohan introduces himself as Drake, John Drake, in the style of James Bond before Agent 007 introduced himself in 1962’s “Dr. No” at a gambling table to the fetching Sylvia Trench (Eunice Gayson).

Before achieving cult status as Number Six in the series “The Prisoner,” Patrick McGooohan carried out espionage exploits in exotic locales around the globe in “Danger Man.”

A charismatic agent much like Roger Moore’s Simon Templar in “The Saint” series, McGooohan’s John Drake relied even more on his ability to be quick with his sharp wit and innate intelligence to deal with a variety of intense conflicts on the international scene.

A fascinating aspect to this spy series that predates James Bond and the plethora of films and TV series that followed in the same genre is that John Drake would routinely resolve any problems without the use of a gun.

The absence of personal firepower in no way turned Drake’s exploits to be devoid of action. On the contrary, Drake is very adept with his fists when necessary, while others may resort to shooting one another.

Another consideration is that the John Drake adventures are straight secret agent stories that forego the tongue-in-cheek facets that crept into the Bond films and defined TV shows like “The Man From U.N.C.L.E.”

An appealing aspect of each standalone half-hour episode is that Drake is assigned a mission that gets settled with tidy resolution involving a compelling cast of international characters.

The fast pace of each episode, imaginative plots, snappy dialogue and credible characters for the most part makes “Danger Man” must-see television for anyone that would enjoy serious spy escapades.

Besides, Patrick McGooohan is so perfect for the role that binge-watching “Danger Man” is not an unreasonable proposition.

NOTES ON THE US OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The annual US Open grand slam tennis tournament that takes place in New York’s

Riley Reviews

CLASSIC TV WITH “DANGER MAN;” US OPEN TENNIS WITHOUT FANS

Flushing Meadows is underway this year, albeit without some major players like Rafael Nadal, the 2019 US Open men’s champion, and Ashleigh Barty, last year’s French Open women’s champion.

Due to pandemic concerns, Nadal and Barty opted out of traveling to the United States, and so did other lesser known players. A major star and winner of five US Open titles, Roger Federer is not playing because he’s rehabbing a knee injury.

For the past fifteen years, we have covered the US Open in person, but that was not to be this year. The only media personnel in attendance are apparently the few working for broadcast entities that televise the matches, including ESPN here at home.

In the past we have focused in large measure on the wonderful fan experience of the US Open, noting the excitement of tennis activity on various courts and the culinary delights not found in other sports.

The experience is just not the same watching matches on television. Being there in person has so much energy that even the players are certain to get a vigorous boost from spectators.

We can be grateful that the US Open has not resorted to having idiotic cardboard cutouts of fans. Yet, there are a few lucky spectators, namely family members and tournament workers who might otherwise have been pressed into service for the fans.

Not surprisingly, the pandemic not only deterred a number of players from entering the tournament, but contact tracing created a bit of a stir for French player Adrian Mannarino who had been in contact with fellow countryman Benoit Paire, who tested positive for COVID-19.

Mannarino, ranked 35th for the Open, was scheduled to play German Alexander Zverev, ranked 5 th , for an afternoon match, until apparently New York State health officials said the Frenchman shouldn’t play.

Meanwhile, the USTA public relations department issued an email statement on the situation that was rather cryptic, “The Zverev-Mannarino match was delayed while a collaborative dialogue with health officials was conducted today.”

The enigmatic part of the message was stated in these terms: “Given the sensitivity of medical issues involved, the USTA is not able to provide further details.” It was left to the players themselves to fill in the blanks, as if anyone couldn’t guess it was virus-related.

The American men are not off to a good start. John Isner, ranked 16 th , did not survive the first round. Taylor Fritz, was bounced in the third round.

As for the American women, last year’s teen sensation Coco Gauff, who amazed with a third-round victory, faltered right out of the gate. At this writing, Serena Williams, win or lose, is the one to watch. ★

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Ask Toni

Are You Prepared for An Unexpected Accident or Illness?



Toni King

Hi Toni:

Recently, I had a bad car wreck and ended up in the hospital with only a minor-concussion from hitting the windshield and my wife was not hurt at all. I was surprised when the hospital asked for my medical power of attorney. I am 64 years old and have not even thought about long term care or end of life planning. Now with COVID-19, it seems like everything medically, legally, and financially is upside down.

I work for an energy company with an average 401K and have always felt as if I could take care of me or my wife if a serious health issue occurred. I am not sure what I should do financially or insurance wise. The financial company which handles my 401K has never discussed these types of issues with me. What do I need to do? ~ Steve from Tulsa, OK

Steve:

Great question because America is now realizing how fast our lives can change with the coronavirus issues that we are experiencing. Now is the time to begin putting a plan together for future long-term care needs for both you, your wife and family while one is in good or average health.

Let's discuss what financial and legal documents

you will want to have in place to protect yourself, your spouse, and your family.

Legal documents to protect yourself, your spouse, and your family:

1. **Power of Attorney** for you and your spouse is the cornerstone of a financial management plan. It ensures that a person's wishes will be respected if there comes a time when he or she is unable to act. It is a written document whereby someone is appointed to manage that person's financial affairs in the event of illness or incapacity.

2. **Medical Power of Attorney** (known as a Health Care Power of Attorney) gives someone you trust the legal authority to act on your behalf regarding health care decisions if you ever become incapacitated or unable to communicate.

3. **Living Will** is a written statement that details the type of care you want (or do not want) if you become incapacitated. A living will bear no relation to the conventional will or living trust used to leave property at death; it is strictly a place to spell out your health care preferences or wishes.

Long Term Care and Insurance Planning:

1. **Long-Term Care plan options** for you and your spouse:

a. Traditional Long-Term Care: Many insurance companies have changed underwriting rules due to COVID-19. Search

for a policy while under 65 and in relatively good health. Make sure that the policy covers care at home and facility care. Over 65, long term care plan underwriting has changed with various long-term care insurance plan available.

b. Hybrid Life and Annuity Policies: Many life/annuity insurance policies have a provision if you need long term care. Maybe a good option if past 65 with changes to long term care plan's underwriting due to COVID-19.

2. Life Insurance for you and your spouse: Term, Universal or Whole life as coverage if you are losing your life insurance from your employer benefits when you retire. Many only have life insurance with work and cannot qualify due to health issues when they retire and lose their company group life insurance plan. Additional life products outside of work may be a good option.

Remember, Christopher Reeves did not think he would fall off a horse. Even Superman can have his life changed in a split second. Always be prepared!

Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® is giving a \$5 discount on the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book at www.tonisays.com. Have a Medicare question? Email Toni at info@tonisays.com. ★



The Trump GOP Isn't All That Different

Donald Trump took over the Republican Party, but it's still discernibly the Republican Party.

The Republican National Convention was obviously very Trumpy. At least one member of the family had a slot every night, and it featured theatrical touches worthy of reality TV.

There also are notable differences of substance. Trump's party has reversed itself on trade and jettisoned concern over deficit spending. The party is much less hawkish than George W. Bush's GOP and much more skeptical of immigration than Ronald Reagan's. It doesn't have the focus of the 2004 Republican convention on terrorism or the 2012 Republican convention on out-of-control entitlement spending.

And yet there is a clear throughline between today's Republican Party and the GOP of the past several decades. Someone transported from the floor of a Republican convention in the 1980s, 1990s or 2000s to the Mellon Auditorium would unquestionably have known where he or she was.

Take Don Trump Jr.'s forceful speech, which by lineage and inclination should be most representative of the Trump GOP.

Sure enough, on trade and immigration, Trump Jr. hit distinctively Trumpian notes. But much of what he said echoed high-profile speakers at past Republican conventions.

Trump Jr. argued that "Biden's radical left-wing policies would stop our economic recovery cold," in part by raising taxes.

This contrast with Democrats is a GOP commonplace. The keynote at the 1984 convention during the high tide of Reaganism, Katherine Dávalos Ortega, then treasurer of the United States, hit Democratic nominee Walter Mondale for his long record "based on the idea of high taxes, big spending and more government regulations."

Trump Jr. called the former vice president "Beijing Biden" and said he's "weak on China."

Harsh? Yes. But name-calling aside, Republicans have been hitting Democrats as weak for decades.

In his acceptance speech as vice president in 1984, George H.W. Bush referred to the "Carter-Mondale era of vacillation, of weakness, of lecturing to our friends and letting them down."

At the 2004 convention, Democratic Sen. Zell Miller scorned John Kerry as "more wrong, more weak and more wobbly than any other national figure."

Trump Jr. declared that "in the past, both parties believed in the goodness of America. We agreed on where we wanted to go. We just disagreed about how to get there. This time, the other party is attacking the very principles on which our nation was founded."

In her famous 1984 foreign policy speech, Jeane Kirkpatrick hit a similar note, saying that Democrats once "were not afraid to be resolute, nor ashamed to speak of America as a great nation."

Republicans have long promoted national pride and national strength, or as Trump Jr. put it, "this land of promise and opportunity — of heroes ... and greatness." In 2012, Chris Christie ended his keynote speech by declaring, "together, we stand up for American greatness."

This perspective sheds some light on the future of a post-Trump GOP. In the main, it's not likely to be radically different from the current one. As Michael Barone argued in The Wall Street Journal, America's political parties are great institutions that change gradually, while preserving an identifiable DNA.

If the convention again demonstrated Trump's personal grip on the party, it also showed that the Republican Party as it has existed for decades isn't going away.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Domenikos Theotokopoulos, a.k.a. El

6. Org. striving to attain "the highest possible level of health" for all

9. Faculty member, for short

13. Rekindled

14. Western omelet ingredient

15. Trailblazer Daniel

16. Not a minor

17. Spud bud

18. Nonsense

19. "Colorful autumn attraction

21. "Popular fall decor item, pl.

23. Leave speechless

24. Thailand money

25. Belfry dweller

28. Dwarf buffalo

30. Eccentric one

35. 2nd word in fairytale?

37. Overnight lodgings

39. Marilyn Monroe's given name

40. Between a trot and a gallop

41. "Pressed beverage

43. ____ Blanc

44. Type of saltwater fish

46. Like a broken horse

47. Larger-than-life

48. Sound setup

50. "CliffsNotes," e.g.

52. Fifth note

53. Genuflecting joint

55. "____ he drove out of sight..."

57. "Back to what?

60. * ____ weather

64. Cell dweller

65. Tokyo, pre-1868

67. Out of the way

68. Be needy

69. Sticky stuff

70. Conical dwelling

71. Heidi's shoe

72. Asian capital

73. Move furtively

DOWN

1. Famous Steffi

2. Do over

3. Twelfth month of Jewish year

4. Locomotive hair

5. Canadian capital

6. Cry of glee

7. "Wagon "cushion"

8. Last letter, to Homer

9. Standard's partner

10. Crucifix

11. Change for a five

12. Funny Poehler's funny friend

15. Himalayan kingdom

20. Relating to genes

22. Unit of electrical resistance

24. Boo-boo wrap

25. *Next spring's flowers

26. To the left, on a boat

27. Safari hat

29. Fonzie: "Sit _____!"

31. Top of the Capitol

32. *Fall bounty

33. Prenatal test, for short

34. *Pumpkin garden

36. Not far

38. Big rig

42. Stitch again

45. Vietnam river

49. Lennon's widow

51. *Celebrant's bagful

54. Lament for the dead

56. Artist's tripod

57. Exchange for money

58. Greek muse of history

59. Before Kong

61. Any time now

61. #70 Across, alt. sp.

62. Biblical paradise

63. Stink to high heaven

64. Broadband access overseer

66. Unidentified John

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 8

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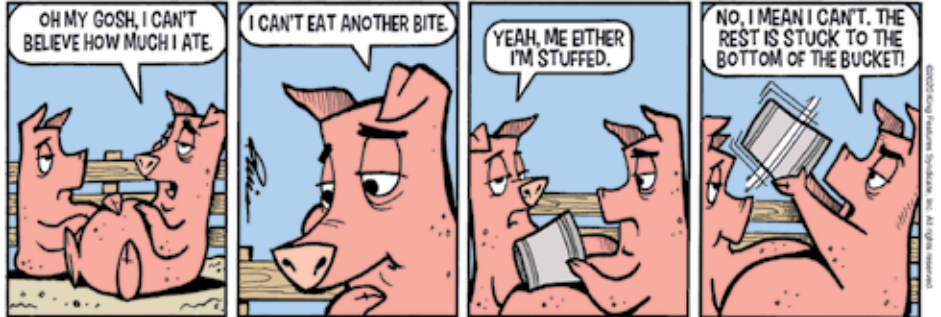
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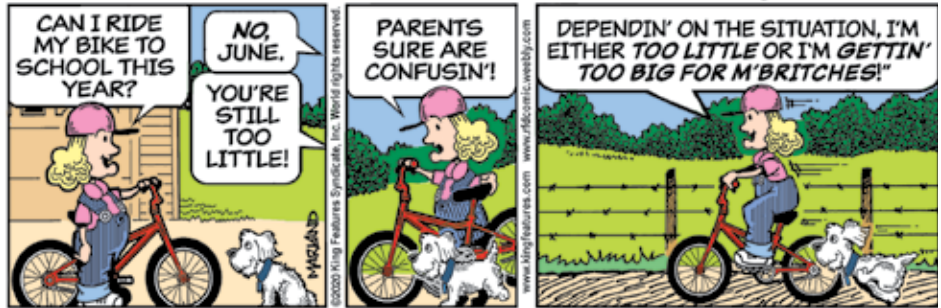
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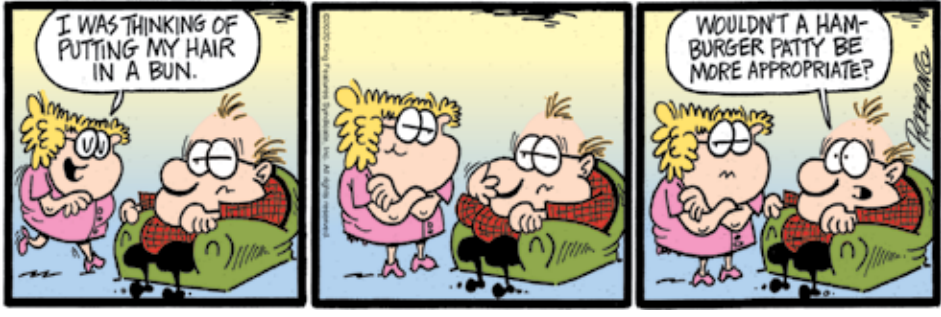
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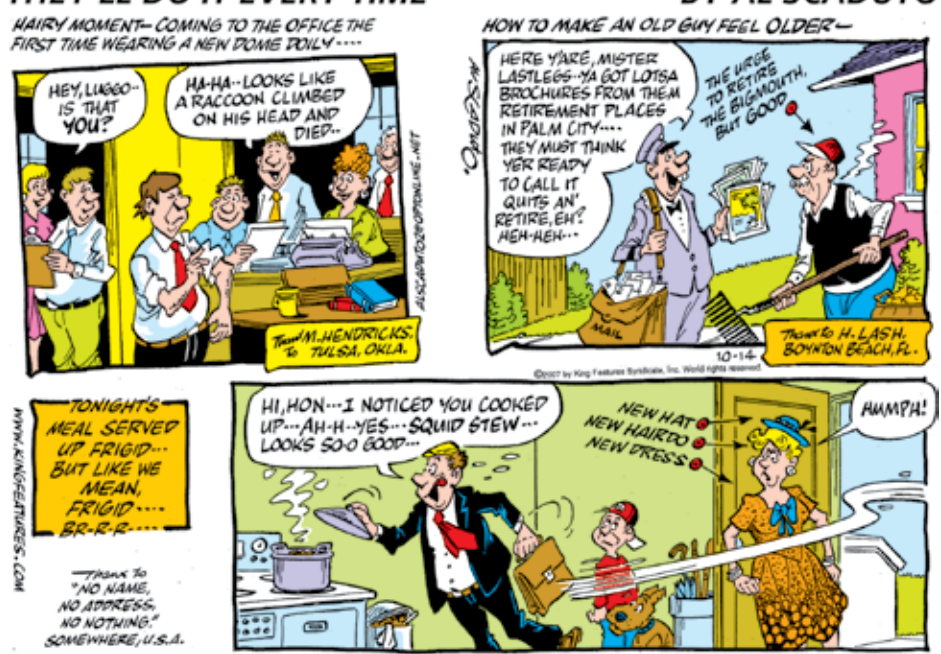
R.F.D.



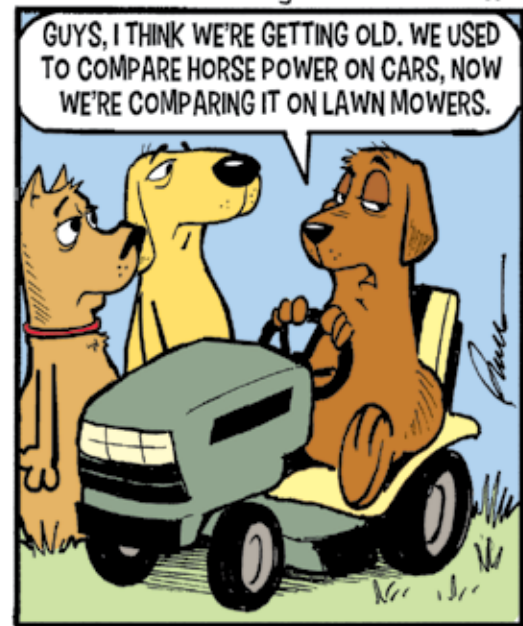
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Legislature Ignores Fire Insurance Crisis



By Dan Walters
CAL Matters

As wildfires of record magnitude swept through Northern California last week, destroying thousands of homes and other structures, the Legislature closed its 2020 session without doing something about the fire insurance crisis that afflicts fire-prone areas.

It ranks near the top of a long list of legislative failures this year, right up there with housing shortages and police reforms.

Insurers have sustained massive losses, tens of billions of dollars, from wildfires in recent years and are increasingly reluctant to continue coverage in fire-prone communities, even threatening to quit the market if they cannot increase premiums enough to cover projected future liabilities. Often, homeowners can only buy coverage through the state’s FAIR plan, which is bare-bones and expensive.

The ultimate solution would be to stop building and rebuilding homes in the “wildland-urban interface” – essentially the outer suburbs of major metropolitan areas – where the risk of catastrophic losses is highest. However, for the foreseeable future, much of California’s population will continue to live in those communities,

such as Sonoma and Napa counties, the Sierra foothills and the mountain ranges ringing Los Angeles.

We need a new approach. A truly comprehensive solution would be layers of coverage, beginning with a basic statewide policy financed by mandatory fees on all residential property, adjusted by region. The statewide policy would be backed by reinsurance from the global market and, by covering the first layer of fire losses, would make private insurers more willing to offer additional layers.

The national flood insurance program more or less takes that approach. Homeowners in designated flood-prone areas must buy it, but it has limits, so they can purchase supplemental insurance to fill the gap between coverage and loss.

The insurance industry itself took a stab at a solution this year with legislation, Assembly Bill 2167, allowing insurers to include the cost of reinsurance in their rates, as well as allowing them to base premiums on calculations of future losses – two aspects banned by current law.

The shorthand for what insurers proposed is a “market assistance plan” that would make insuring homes in fire-prone areas less risky.

However, AB 2167 drew fierce opposition from consumer groups, saying it undermined Proposition 103, the 1988 law that imposed direct regulation on premiums by an elected insurance commissioner. And the current commissioner,

Ricardo Lara, joined the opposition.

“In an era where climate change is contributing to more severe and frequent wildfires, homeowners need more protection – not less,” Lara wrote in an op-ed article. “COVID-19 might be the Legislature’s primary focus, but we cannot let the insurance industry use it to gut important consumer protections that have existed for decades.”

Last December, after several years of wildfires, Lara barred insurers from refusing to renew policies in ZIP codes where fires were common, but that order expires in a few months and cannot be renewed.

Although rural counties endorsed AB 2167, the opposition prevailed. In its last incarnation, the bill merely ordered a study by Lara’s Department of Insurance – the time-dis-honored way politicians duck tough issues. But even that version died without a vote when the legislative session ended.

Obviously, the crisis will not solve itself. Insurers are facing many more billions of dollars in losses from this summer’s fires – and the traditional autumn fire season hasn’t even begun. When Lara’s order expires, we probably will see insurers refuse to renew policies in the wildland-urban interface or even pull out of California altogether.

The status quo may be unsustainable, but the men and women in the Legislature can’t be bothered to change it.

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

Dixon Rotary Awards \$14,000 in Scholarships for 2020

By Janice Beaman,
Dixon Rotary Club

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Rotary Club is an international service club with an objective of service in the community and around the world. This year the Dixon Rotary Club increased the number of scholarships to nine, totaling \$14,000. With numerous applications received, the Scholarship Committee was tasked with selecting the recipients. It is with great honor that the Dixon Rotary Club presented their scholarships to: Hannah Duncan, Alejandro Hernandez, Gabriella Miller, Tatiana Navarrete, Imarhia Okhomina, Joseph Perez, James Rogers, Annabel Rubio, and Natalie Stalie.

Hannah Duncan plans to become a Dental Hygienist and has been accepted to University of the Pacific. Overcoming many life challenges, she has become a better student and carried a 4.0 GPA. She is also looking forward to a brighter future. Hannah received a \$2,000 scholarship.

Alejandro Hernandez plans to be a Civil Engineer and has been accepted to UC Davis. He has maintained a 4.01 GPA while being honored as top scorer at Varsity Soccer multiple years. He was also the debate competition winner for 2 years in a row. Alejandro received a \$2,000 scholarship.

Gabriella Miller will be making a stop at Sacramento City College and continue to a four-year college to major in Physiology. She has maintained a 4.6 GPA while in her leadership roles in FFA and California Scholarship Foundation and playing water polo. Gabriella received a \$2,000 scholarship.

Tatiana Navarrete plans to become a Veterinarian and will be attending Woodland Community College. She was able to graduate early from Maine Prairie and took a leadership role in several projects while there. Tatiana has received a

\$1,000 scholarship. **Imarhia Okhomina** plans to become a nurse and has been accepted to several California State Universities. She maintained a 3.8 GPA with a 30 hour work week, working many community service hours and enjoying her passion for basketball. Imarhia has received a \$2,000 scholarship.

Joseph Perez is enrolled at Solano Community College and plans to become a mechanical engineer. He graduated Dixon High School with a GPA of 3.18 and has accomplished this through many family hardships. Joseph has received a \$1,000 scholarship.

James H. Rogers is enrolled at Solano Community College and plans to continue to a four-year university. He was a Distinguished Scholar with a 4.0+ GPA. He hopes to become self-employed as a financial advisor and real estate investor. James has received a \$1,000 scholarship.

Annabel Rubio plans to become a doctor. She will be attending the University of California, Berkeley. While holding a GPA of 4.3, she was Interact Club President and first chair in the Wind Ensemble. She was also in the marching band, water polo, swim team and a member of the California Scholarship Federation. Annabel has received the \$2,000 Interact scholarship.

Natalie Stalie plans to pursue a career in public service and will be attending American River College. While maintaining a GPA of 3.8, Natalie was awarded the DHS Women’s Athlete of the Year. She was also Varsity Team Captain for water polo, was on the Public Service Academy Leadership Board and participated in numerous volunteer efforts. Natalie has received a \$1,000 scholarship.

The Dixon Rotary Club is honored to present their 2020 Scholarships to these successful students and wish each of them congratulations. ★



A Veteran Thank Today



DIXON POLICE LOG

Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.



Friday, August 28, 2020

0720 – Suspicious circumstance reported in the 1700 block of North Lincoln Street. A male with a backpack was seen around a closed business. Kevin Austin (30), of Vacaville, was arrested for possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Burglary Tools, and Probation Violation. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

Saturday, August 29, 2020

1202 – Agency assist for Dixon Fire Department in the 200 block of Archer Pl.

1459 – Traffic enforcement stop in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive Camelia Johnson (36), of Vallejo was arrested for probation violation, conspiracy, shoplifting, and possession of stolen property. Martisha Ann Munoz (32), of Sacramento, was arrested for the same charges along with an outstanding misdemeanor warrant out Napa County. They were both transported to the Solano County Jail.

1119 – Possession of narcotics arrest report was taken in the 1100 block of Pitt School Rd. Officer’s contacted (S) Karen Burton (28), of Dixon, was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department. Burton was cited and released.

Sunday, August 30, 2020

0730 – Restraining order violation reported in the 1000 bock of Jeffrey Lane.

Monday, August 31, 2020

1100 – Non injury traffic accident reported in the 300 block of Industrial Way.

1450 – Battery reported in the 400 block of East Mayes Street.

1500 – Theft reported in the 600 block of North 1st Street.

2107 – Jose Manuel Anaya Jr (10/13/1987) of Dixon was located and arrested in the 1300 block of Stratford Avenue with Probable Cause from a vandalism and theft case which was reported on 8/26/20. He was booked into the Solano County Jail on charges of felony vandalism and misdemeanor theft without incident.

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

1230 – Stolen vehicle report taken at the PD lobby.

1347 – Court Order Violation report taken in the 400 block of Kings Court.

1528 – Officers conducted a pedestrian stop in the 100 block of East Mayes Street. Robert Spicer (49) was contacted and had three outstanding warrants for his arrest. Spicer was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail for the warrants.

2021 – A subject was taken into protective custody for a mental health evaluation in the 300 block of Grove Court.

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

0715 – Pedestrian stop in the area of South Lincoln Street and Camelia Drive. Figueroa-Rios, Daniel (46), of Dixon, was cited and released for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Probation Violation.

1236 – Shoplifting reported in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.

1333 – Domestic dispute in the 100 block of Dorset Drive. Antonia Blackwell (25), of Sacramento was arrested for Domestic Violence and Probation Violation. Anton Jefferson (24), of Sacramento, was arrested for a Parole Violation. They were both transported to the Solano County Jail.

1400 – Theft report taken in the 1500 block of North 1st Street.

1457 – Theft report taken in the 100 block of Heritage Lane.

1815 – Traffic collision report was taken on W. H. St at North Adams St.

2323 – Providing a false name to an officer arrest report was taken on W. E. St. at North 1st. St. Officers contacted (S) Taylor Mariah Tinsley-Richardson (22) out of Fairfield. Tinsley-Richardson was cited and released from the scene.

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