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Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 31 • ISSUE 43

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

OCTOBER 27, 2023

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Fun for All Ages on Halloween



Costumed children cross the street in downtown Dixon during last year's Halloween Treat Trail carrying their bags of goodies. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Even churches are getting in on the fun for a holiday that used to be taboo for faith-goers. The trend helps keep children safe while participating in this annual candy extravaganza, they say. Freedom Church presents 'Jesus Fest on Tuesday, October 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be the "biggest scarecrow," jump houses, cake walks, candy, and plenty of family fun at 470 East H Street in Dixon. Call (707) 693-1774 to learn more.

Living Hope Church is also doing a 'Trunk or Treat' from 5 to 8 p.m. in the LHC parking lot from 5 to 8 p.m.

They are located at 410 Gateway Drive. Call (707) 693-1512 for more information.

There is still a chance to also visit the Pumpkin Patch Festival at the Western Railway Museum which is co-hosted by local Rotary Clubs including Dixon's. You can take a scenic train ride down to our famous Gum Grove Farm for the best patch in Solano County. We are excited to bring back all of your favorite entertainment and activities, such as pumpkin chucking, tractor rides, a giant hay fort and more. They are open this weekend, October 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with tickets available at wrm.org/events.

The Dixon Senior Club will be hosting a Halloween Senior Social on Tuesday, October 31, and invite folks to join them for coffee, pumpkin pastries, and a pumpkin flower arrangement contest. Time will be noon to 2 p.m. at the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 South Fifth Street. RSVPs are encouraged but not required at (707) 678-7022.

Double the fun will be downtown on Tuesday, October 31. The long-time favorite, especially of merchants, will be the Downtown Dixon Business Association's Halloween Treat Trail starting at 1:30 p.m. with the Chamber's Trunk or Treat starting

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School Board Recognizes Girls Flag Football Champions

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - This is the first year that Dixon Girls Flag Football became an official sport at Dixon High School, and they've won the Championship for the Golden Empire League, so it was exceptionally appropriate for the entire team to be present at the last Dixon School Board Meeting last week.

"We have a great group of young women who have done exceptionally well," said School District Superintendent Brian Dolan turning the mic over to be recognized further by DHS Principal Stephanie Marquez.

"I haven't been more proud as a woman principal and the new administrator in charge of Athletics to bring these women forward," DHS Principal Stephanie Marquez said. "They've had the full support of their male counterparts. They won 11 games and lost



The first year team of Dixon High School Flag Football are Golden Empire League Champions. Photo Courtesy of Dixon High Athletics

one. They have this way of playing where [when they start,] they think they're not going to win, then they win," she said drawing a laugh from the audience. A play-off game was to be played this coming week, but details were not yet

determined upon press time.

"We are just super proud," Marquez said before the girls introduced themselves by name and position, they play and posing for family and friends in front of the

School Board.

Dixon School Board Rep Kirsten Donovan took a moment to thank the Parent Teacher Associations which have assisted at various school's Fall Festivals. There was nothing new to report from

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**L.E.A.D.
Supervisor
Certification
Series
Available Free**

**Solano Workforce
Investment Board
Press Release**

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Workforce Development Board of Solano County is partnering with California Employers Association and the Solano-Napa SBDC to offer a six-week L.E.A.D. Supervisor Certification Course at no-cost to Solano County businesses. The virtual classes will be held once a week, on Tuesdays, for six consecutive weeks beginning Oct. 31 and ending Dec. 5, from 9:30 am to 12 pm. This course is designed for both new supervisors and seasoned managers to help them gain the tools they need to be successful and impactful leaders. This is a great opportunity to educate, support and empower new supervisors and it's available FREE to our Solano County businesses.

This certification course, valued at \$995, is being offered complimentary at no-cost to Solano County businesses by the Solano WDB utilizing Solano County ARPA funding. Space is limited and businesses must be an employer in Solano County to register and attend.

Registration includes trainers with real world experience; practical course materials and the California HR 'Quick Reference Guide; Certificate of Completion, and discount on continuing education opportunities.

The course is designed to improve their leadership qualities.

The Course Curriculum covers everything a new supervisor should know:

Class 1: Know Your Organization and Your Role as a Leader - Tuesday, October 31 | 9:30am - 12pm; Class 2: Strengths Finder Assessment to Build Strong and Engaged Teams - November 7 | 9:30am - 12pm; Class 3: Communicate Effectively/Manage Conflict - Tuesday, November 14 | 9:30am - 12pm; Class 4: Performance Management/Leading Changes - Tuesday, November 21 | 9:30am - 12pm; Class 5: Coach for Results/Delegate and Empower - Tuesday, November 28 | 9:30am - 12pm; Class 6: Creating a More Inclusive Work Culture: Your Role as a Supervisor Review - Tuesday, December 5 | 9:30am - 12pm

For more information, call (800) 399-5331, email CEAinfo@employers.org, or go online to employers.org. ★



Dixon News Briefs



Only a few days left before Cool Patch Pumpkins ends another season of family fun at 6150 Dixon Avenue West. They are open, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily (weather permitting!) This family took advantage of good weather last week. They are L-R: Gina Guiterrez, Alyssa Gutierrez and kiddo plus Hailey Hames and her children, and Julia Oesterwind. Photo by Nicolas Brown

MPG Staff

Chamber Recognized

The Workforce Development Board of Solano County in partnership with the Solano-Napa SBDC and Travis Credit Union celebrated Solano's Workforce at a special gathering and recognized Shauna Manina, Dixon Chamber CEO/President as a Workforce Partner. The award was based on the contributions to companies and the support the organization brings to businesses and employers in Dixon, according to Brianna Boyd of the Napa-Solano Small Business Development Center. Large and small businesses, microbusinesses, young adult job seekers and adult job seekers were other categories where recognitions were made that evening. Congratulations Shauna!

Farmers Market

The last Farmers Market of the season for the Downtown Dixon Business Association is Thursday, October 28, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Dixon Women's Improvement Club Park on the corner of First and C Streets.

DUSD Schools Close

Friday, October 27 there will be NO SCHOOL for Dixon Unified School District due to teacher workday. Also, be aware that the week of Halloween, Oct. 30 through November 3, students/schools will have half days due to parent-teacher conferences. Take note school is also out on Friday, November 10, for Veterans Day and all of Thanksgiving week.

Neighborhood Christian School

Watch for vehicle congestion due to Neighborhood Christian School hosting their annual Harvest Festival noon to 3 p.m. on Friday, October 27, at the school located at 955 East A Street. For more information, call (707) 678-9336.

Valley of the Sacred Heart

If you noticed some strange dress up near St. Peter's Catholic Church this past week, it was because the students were having some fun during their 'Spirit Week.' There were Hawaiian costumes on Wednesday, sports jerseys on Thursdays, and Friday is Character Day. The school there, Valley of the Sacred Heart, will be hosting an Open House on Sunday, October 29, and begin Parent-Teacher

conferences on Thursday, November 2.

City Council

This coming Tuesday, October 31, there will be no City meetings. Happy Halloween!

Dixon Little League

Dixon Little League has division play for league ages 5-14. And parents can take advantage of early bird pricing: \$150 per player during this time. Thereafter, registration increases to \$175 per player. Registration fees include a jersey, belt, socks, and hat. For specifics on league/ ages, go to www.littleleague.org/dow.../2024-baseball-age-chart/

Ryukyukan International Karate

The 22nd annual Ryukyukan International Karate and Kobodo Tournament will be held at Dixon High School, 555 College Way, on Saturday, November 4, beginning at 9 a.m. It is hosted by Ramtown Karate in Dixon that teaches Shorin Ryu Karate and Self Defense for children age 4+, teens, and adults at 1680 North Lincoln Street in Dixon. Call (707) 678-4899 for more information or email ramtownkaratefrontdesk@gmail.com.

Veterans Hall Dinner

The dinner at the Veterans Hall this Friday, October 27, starting around 5:45 p.m., will be Chicken with scalloped potatoes, veggies, and roll for \$10. They are located at 1305 North First Street and the public is welcome.

Dog Fanciers Show

The Dixon Fairgrounds will be home to a variety of pure-bred dogs October 27-29 thanks to the Sacramento Valley Dog Fanciers, LLC. On Friday, enjoy over a dozen specialty groups and ten more specialties over the weekend. Dogs will be dressed up for the costume parade and contest. The organization has been around since the 1940s. For more information, go to sacvalleydfa.com. The fairgrounds are at 655 South First Street.

Girls Softball

Registration for spring Girls Softball is now open for girls ages 4 to 18-years-old. In person registration will be Nov. 8 at Pizza Guys from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information, go to www.dixongirlssoftball.com. ★

June 2024 Will Be Insane

By Debra Dingman

I know there are people who live day to day, and they are probably smarter for it – definitely more relaxed anyway. I'm having stress just thinking about next June after attending the City Council Meeting this past week and knowing what is already on the calendar for June 2024.

The speakers, Meagan and Allen Nieto, were thankful for the City's support and requested the new date for Grillin' & Chillin' as well as the supportive Council discussed the collaboration between the Dixon Action Team and the City to shut down the Highway for the annual Rib & Chili Cook-Off and Car Show for the earlier date of June 29. Traditionally, the G & C has been in July and we – vendors, a hundred volunteers, barbecue teams, and even attendees, all bake terribly from the heat during that event.

Finally, it will be moved to hopefully, a cooler time, although I realize there are no guarantees. But what folks might not realize is that the Downtown Dixon Business Association

already booked a weekend event called Train Days to consume all of downtown for June 22-23. And, only 5 days after the Grillin' & Chillin' event will be the 'new and improved' city-sponsored 4th of July celebration.

That means three weekends in a row there will be plenty of activities, but I can assure you, there will be slim volunteers unless local leaders get busy now and grow their service clubs and organizations.

This is not to mention that June begins with a plethora of large-scale events like Dixon High, Maine Prairie, and John Knight Middle School graduations. Every one of these activities takes volunteers – and LOTS of them. From guiding parking to ushering to running booths, to handling permits and paperwork. I was completely overwhelmed with the thought that we might not have enough volunteers.

But then I remembered that I'm an older person. One or two days a month I can be really busy and afterwards, actually keep going – to work, to church, to meetings. (Although I like to think

my organization skills easily extend my abilities.)

Young people, on the other hand, can go clean up a jungle of a backyard and do other volunteer work the next weekend – and the next weekend. Even young parents who have children's sports and birthday parties seem to have unlimited energy. I do remember those days...

Here's the thing: Meagan and Allen were volunteers last year and got bit by that great feeling of seeing so many people having fun and prospering from your volunteer efforts! And, the great feeling of working as a team for your community.

This town has always been one for very active clubs and organizations, but we are really going to have to reach out better to get new people involved with serving Dixon.

If we start now with a GIANT MEMBERSHIP DRIVE and perhaps a large service club TRADE SHOW marketed especially to new residents showing the differences in the clubs and what their focus is, maybe we'll be prepared as a town to thrive next spring! ★

Cal Water Receives Excellence Award

Cal Water News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - For its commitment to – and partnership in – helping customers become more water-efficient, California Water Service (Cal Water) has earned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2023 WaterSense® Excellence in Promoting WaterSense Labeled Products Award.

The national award recognizes a partner that goes above and beyond to help consumers understand the value of water use efficiency and aligns with EPA's focus to aid in those efforts. WaterSense® labeled devices installed in customers' homes and businesses in 2022 through Cal Water's conservation programs are estimated to save 579 million gallons of water over the lifetime of the devices.

"At Cal Water, we are committed to being a responsible steward of our planet's limited resources through a multipronged approach to efficiency, conservation, and sustainability," said Marty Kropelnicki, Cal Water Chairman and CEO. "An important part of those efforts is our valued partnership with EPA WaterSense®, which helps validate the importance of conservation and bolsters our efforts to help our customers and communities save water every day."

At the annual American Water Works Association's WaterSmart Innovations Conference in Las Vegas this month, WaterSense® recognized Cal Water for its work to partner in its promotion of water use efficiency and conservation, including:

Offering rebates and installations of WaterSense® labeled toilets, weather-based irrigation controllers, and spray sprinkler bodies. 2) Incentivizing customers to be more water-efficient during periods of drought by increasing rebate amounts for high-efficiency toilets. 3) Providing rebates and direct installations for 240 toilets, more than 1,600 weather-based irrigation controllers, and over 8,000 spray sprinkler bodies. 4) Giving customers nearly 7,500 free water conservation kits with WaterSense® labeled showerheads and faucet aerators, along with toilet leak detection dye tablets and hose nozzles.

California Water Service provides high-quality, reliable water utility services to about 2 million people statewide through 496,400 service connections. What sets Cal Water apart is its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for its customers and communities. Guided daily by their promise to provide quality, service, and value, the utility's employees lead the way in working to protect the planet, care for people, and operate with the utmost integrity. Integral to Cal Water's strategy is investing responsibly in infrastructure, sustainability initiatives, and community well-being. The utility has also been named one of "America's Most Responsible Companies" and the "World's Most Trustworthy Companies" by Newsweek and a Great Place to Work®, and is No. 1 in Customer Satisfaction Among Large Water Utilities in the West Region by J.D. Power. More information is available at www.calwater.com. ★

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Commissioners Hear Projects Update

Fun for All Ages on Halloween

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Plenty of development projects in Dixon were laid out for the Planning Commissioners this past week by Community Development Director Raffi Boloyan.

Popeyes was due to open "any day." The Whiskey Barrell at 171 North First Street was approved months ago but is still going through an Alcohol Beverage Control Appeal. The current application for the Lombardo/Brookfield residential subdivision/annexation across from the former Dixon Community Church (now Revive Church) has been put on hold.

If you noticed the brown paper in the windows of the former Mary's Pizza Shack restaurant, you'll be happy to hear that the Buckhorn Barbecue & Grill is moving into that location, 1460 Ary Lane, and are busy on interior renovations. Now is it affiliated with the Buckhorn on Adams Street or the Buckhorn Steakhouse in Winters you may ask, so we did ask. But the answer could be 'neither.'

We know it is not connected with the Dixon Buckhorn Bar and calls to the corporate office of the Buckhorn Bar & Grill in Winters have not yet been returned.

"While I have heard the same rumor about the Buckhorn Grill coming to Dixon and spoken to the property owner itself on a few occasions with questions he had, there are still no building permits in for doing the work to change it from Mary's into a Buckhorn Grill," said Scott Greeley, Associate Planner, City of Dixon.

Funding is still being sought for the Capital Project, the Parkway Boulevard Overcrossing over the railroad at Pitt School Road, and the large Milk Farm Travel Center at North I-80 and Curry Road is on hold. However, the Dixon Innovation Center which is zoned light industrial and the Dixon 257/The Campus, a mixed use with residential, commercial and parts on 257 acres are under review.

Lastly, there was a public hearing for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a towing business at 500 West Chestnut Street (Randall Rose Project.) The business would have four trucks and ten employees. Towing operations are 24 hours a day, seven days a week, office hours will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Business operations do not include the use of large trucks, semis, construction equipment, or forklifts. Approximately 60 percent of business is anticipated to be conducted during the daytime. The anticipated number of towed vehicles on-site is between 10 and 30 and will be stored inside the existing building or towards the northern end of the lot. Other than aerosol cans, motor oil, and antifreeze, no hazardous wastes will be kept on-site.

With exception to a proposed 6-foot-tall wrought iron gate and an 18-foot-wide rolling gate to be located in the middle of the lot and a 2-foot by 8-foot sign, no other site improvements are proposed. The General Plan land use designation is Industrial, and the Zoning District is Light Industrial.

The City does not build or develop properties, that is a function of the private market to find and bring projects to a City that they believe are financially viable and find a location where it can be allowed in a City, according to the City of Dixon website, cityofdixon.us.

The City is responsible for reviewing the zoning regulations, plan checking, issuing building permits, and inspecting construction of all buildings and structures. As long as the business meets the general plan and zoning code regulations and all building, fire or other codes, the city cannot legally deny them the right to operate. This is to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams and contribute to the local economy.

The next Planning Commission Meeting will be Tuesday, November 14, at 7 p.m. in the Council chambers at City Hall, 600 East A Street. ★



Local businesses such as Basalite participate in the Dixon Chamber's 'Trunk or Treat' in the Dixon Transportation Center's parking lot in front of the Chamber/ReMaxGold office. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Continued from page 1

at 2 p.m. All COSTUMED CHILDREN are invited to businesses in downtown Dixon who will be handing out safe treats, according to DDBA organizers.

Schools are slated for half days so children can go to the many participating merchants in the downtown core before heading through the train tunnel

which will lead them up the stairs to the Chamber of Commerce's Trunk or Treat.

The Treat Trail starts at 1:30 and goes till 4 p.m. with the Trunk or Treat starting at 2 and lasting till 5 p.m. at 220 North Jefferson Street. Parents are encouraged to keep a tight grip on their small children's hands. ★

Thompson Highlights Economic Devastation Caused by Wildfires



Office of Congressman Mike Thompson News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - Today, Rep. Mike Thompson

(CA-04) released the following statement after a new study by the Joint Economic Committee showed that the economic cost of climate-exacerbated wildfires cost the United States between \$394 billion and \$893 billion per year.

"Our communities have seen firsthand the devastation caused by wildfires, and this new study makes clear the urgent need to address the climate crisis to mitigate future wildfires," said Thompson. "We simply cannot afford the increasing risk of

climate-related disasters. The Inflation Reduction Act is going to help reduce the impact of wildfires but we have a lot of work to do to help prevent these disasters and protect our economies."

The cost range was calculated by combining estimates from the existing research on the specific costs related to property damage, direct and indirect deaths and injuries, health impacts from wildfire smoke, income loss, watershed pollution, and a range of other factors. ★

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Welcome to **DIXON** CA 1888
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Dixon's Annual 'Trick or Treat' & 'Trunk or Treat' HALLOWEEN ~ TUESDAY, OCT. 31st

Costumed Children are invited to Businesses in Downtown Dixon who will be handing out Safe Treats

'TRICK OR TREAT' at Businesses
 1:30 to 4:00 pm

Then, head through the **'Halloween Haunted Tunnel'** to **'TRUNK OR TREAT'** at Dixon Chamber - RE/MAX Parking Lot
 220 N Jefferson Street
 2:00 to 5:00 pm

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All Aboard the 45th International Railfair

By Thomas J. Sullivan

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - All Aboard the 45th Annual International Railfair (IRF), coming to Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd in Sacramento, on Veteran's Day weekend, Saturday, November 11 and Sunday, November 12. It's the first time IRF has been in Sacramento County since its earliest when it was held at Sacramento City College.

The annual International Railfair show is run by members of the Sacramento Modular Railroaders, the Sacramento chapter of the European Train Enthusiasts, Roseville Roundhouse Model Railroad Association, and the Sierra Division of the Pacific Coast Region of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA), said IRF spokesperson Tom Campbell.

"We display operating model railroads to the public at the International Rail Fair and educate the public about model railroading, railroad history, and prototypical railroad operations," Campbell said.

This year, IRF guests will be able to enjoy more than 28,000 square-feet of model railroad fun, explore over 100 vendor tables, and swap goods at a TrainMart consignment store as they see over 12 operating model train layouts in action ranging from Z to G.

"The two-day show is called 'International Railfair' because one of our sponsor clubs, European Train Enthusiasts, specializes in building and operating European model railroads," Campbell said.

A children's layout returns this year where children can run a scale model locomotive and earn a Junior Engineer badge.

The popular "Square Foot Challenge" also returns this year - with a holiday theme. Attendees are invited to vote for



A BNSF engine model on a track. Photo courtesy International Railfair

their favorite holiday diorama with the highest number of votes named a People's Choice winner. The winning diorama builder will receive a custom trophy based on a machinist's square and a \$50 gift card to RC Country Hobbies.

The individual model railroad layouts which are seen at the International Railfair are modular railroads. A typical modular layout consists of transportable individual modules which are clamped together to create a single model railroad, Campbell said.

Modules are typically lightweight, and are about 30" wide and four feet long, and packed with a lot of scenic detail. Legs fold out from underneath the module and the required electrical wiring drops down at both ends of the module.

General admission, ages 13 and up, good for both days, is \$12. Admission on Sunday,



Supplies for the IRF Square Foot Challenge. Photo courtesy International Railfair

November 12 is reduced to \$10 per person. Youth admission for ages 13-17 is \$5. Children ages 12 and under are free both days.

Active and retired military members receive a \$2 discount on event admission at the gate. For more information email

Tom Campbell at tom.c.irf@gmail.com. To purchase advance tickets, visit www.international-railfair.com. ★

Sacramento Zoo Says Goodbye to Chimpanzees



Dougie. Photo courtesy of The Sacramento Zoo

Sacramento Zoo News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - After 75 years of housing chimpanzees, The Sacramento Zoo shares that in participation with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan (SSP), our four individuals have settled in wonderfully at two new homes. Dougie and Pablo have fully integrated into the troop housed at the Kansas City Zoo in Missouri. Amelia and Maria have arrived safely at an accredited zoo. In both cases, the duos have relocated to new habitats that are much larger and give them greater socialization opportunities with other chimpanzees. Current AZA standards recommend a minimum of eight chimpanzees to a troop. The

chimpanzee SSP consists of 229 animals distributed among 33 AZA facilities.

"The Sacramento Zoo collaborated with colleagues throughout the AZA and specifically members of the Chimpanzee SSP to identify the best new homes for our individuals, and to work, plan for, and ensure, a safe and successful transfer," states Matt McKim, Director of Animal Care, "Although it is difficult to see these beloved animals leave the Sacramento Zoo, their new homes and troops will provide excellent well-being for many years to come."

"We are excited to welcome Pablo and Dougie to the Kansas City Zoo and our existing troop of nine chimpanzees," said Courtney Murray, Animal Curator with the Kansas City Zoo. "Our Zoo's chimpanzee habitat is about 3 acres and

encompasses a forested section with large, mature trees for climbing and plenty of territory for the troop to carry out natural behaviors and social interactions. The addition of Pablo and Dougie will be beneficial to balance out troop dynamics and increase the diversity of the troop's gene pool."

Female chimpanzees, Amelia and her daughter, Maria, have moved to another AZA-accredited zoo that has cared for chimpanzees for more than 20 years. Their new zoo home is eight times larger than Sac Zoo's, and includes a waterfall, stream, and a variety of climbing structures. The habitat also has trees and more than 40 edible plants for foraging, as well as rocks that are cooled in the summer and warmed during the winter. The pair are currently undergoing a quarantine period while under the care of the primate and vet health teams prior to their introductions to their new troop.

"Chimpanzees have been some of our most popular animals for generations at the Sac Zoo," states Sacramento Zoo Director Jason Jacobs. "While we will certainly miss these charismatic apes, it is important for the community to understand the context in which these decisions are made. Advances in the care of great apes in zoos clearly demonstrate that these animals thrive in social troops in larger habitats. I commend our incredible team of passionate caregivers for coordinating these transfers to new facilities." ★

New Interim CEO to Lead Sutter Davis Hospital



Michael Cureton, interim chief executive officer of Sutter Davis Hospital. Courtesy photo

Sutter Health News Release

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - Longtime Sutter leader Michael Cureton will step into the role of interim chief executive officer of Sutter Davis Hospital, effective Oct. 2, 2023.

Cureton has led teams across Sutter Health's integrated, not-for-profit network for years supporting hospital administration, patient care programs and patient experience efforts.

He currently serves as chief administrative officer of Sutter Amador Hospital; a leadership role he will maintain when—starting next month—he will serve as interim CEO of both Sutter Davis Hospital and Sutter Amador Hospitals. Prior to his CEO roles, he served as Sutter Amador Hospital's director of ancillary services, where he oversaw the non-nursing departments and patient experience initiatives. Cureton's other roles inside Sutter's system include cancer center manager and radiology manager at Sutter Solano Medical Center in Vallejo. He originally arrived at Sutter Health as an administrative fellow supporting a variety of projects at Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento.

Cureton is a graduate of Brigham Young University's Marriott School of Business and received a master's degree in healthcare administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"Sutter Davis Hospital is a well-regarded and well-respected part of the Yolo County community, and I am humbled to join their team," Cureton said. "The hospital is about to embark on a new chapter with its expansion of key services, helping enhance even greater access for patients and their families. It is a privilege to help support Sutter Davis during this exciting time."

Cureton assumes the leadership role at Sutter Davis Hospital from Tammy Powers, who was named CEO of Sutter Roseville Medical Center and will begin her new post Oct. 2, 2023.

"Michael is a driven and compassionate leader, with a well-earned understanding of our not-for-profit health system," said Powers. "Additionally, he recognizes the important role our community hospitals play and how they help support life-changing care close to home for many of our patients." ★

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School Board Recognizes Girls Flag Football Champions

Continued from page 1

the Citizen's Oversight Committee nor the Employee Association.

Nick Girimonte, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, reported on test scores on the Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessment Results Information. "We are a little lower than California as a whole," he said. "We are leading the County in English Learners. A significant portion of our student body, 47%, at one time were ESL (English Learners.) He wanted to "undo" some of the assumptions of race and ethnicity in the reports.

"It doesn't matter about race or ethnicity. What they are measuring is when they are low income AND one of the members in one of those groups," he emphasized. The percentage of Hispanic in Dixon that are also low income is 64% and if you are white, 37% are also low income. Sadly, he reported that 5.77% of our students are classified as homeless.

"This is not to rationale for the scores that are coming but to conceptualize...." he said. All the information is available

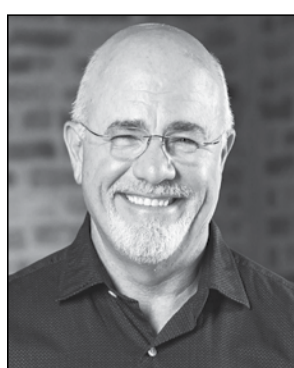
on the website.

"Brass tacks is that the majority of our Dixon students are low income," commented Board Representative David Bowen. "That's what helps us get concentration dollars." Girimonte continued with several more spreadsheets and analyzed data.

"We grew more than anyone else in Solano County and at every grade except 4th grade," he said. "Scores are now at 40 which had increased more than 2 percent. But we are still not at the 2018-2019 level which was 43," he added.

In other news the search will begin for a new Superintendent by Jose Banda for Sacramento schools and Mary Lou Wilson a former superintendent from St. Helena School District. By November, they should be able to make a presentation in December and plan to make selections after the new year. January would be interviews with someone in place by late February, Banda said. It will be a nationwide search.

A long discussion of the future of the Dixon Teen Center will be reported in the next edition. ★



When You Nickel and Dime Things, Nothing Gets Done Well

Dear Dave,

I'm 67, and I've been wondering what your position is on preplanning for a funeral versus prepaying. Is one a better idea than the other, or should you do both?

- Shannon

Dear Shannon,

This is a great question. I wish more folks would think about these kinds of things ahead of time.

Preplanning a funeral is truly a gift to your family. But if you prepay, it's a gift to the funeral home. Doing the legwork and setting things up ahead of time so your family doesn't have to make a lot of financial decisions in the middle of an emotional situation

Dave Ramsey Says

shows them respect and consideration.

When you buy a prepaid plan, you could be years or decades away from needing it. Plus the inflation rate on funerals is about 4%, so in essence, you'd be making 4% on your money. And, of course, you're locked into everything at that point. If you took the cost of a funeral and invested it at age 30, instead of 4% on your money, you'd get an actual investment return. By the time you're 80, you'd have about \$600,000. So prepaying in your 30s or 40s is mathematically ridiculous. Now, if you're in your 60s, like you and me, there aren't as many years for that money to grow. You wouldn't see a huge return on investment, but it would still provide for a nice service.

Believe it or not, it took me a while to figure out that the funeral world is an industry—an extremely profitable industry. And like with many things, when you add on stuff like financing or prepayment to a purchase,

you're adding to their profits. Most funeral providers make as much money on prepayment plans as they do in actual margin on the goods and services that go along with this kind of thing.

That being said, I've got no problem with a business or industry making money. If they treat their customers well, no one's taken advantage of, and a quality product or service is provided, it's all good. But when it comes to funerals, I tell people to preplan. Don't prepay.

- Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show." He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company Ramsey Solutions. ★

Climate Credit Helps PG&E Customers Transition to Low-Carbon Future

PG&E News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - For the second time this year, more than five million Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) customers will automatically receive the California Climate Credit on their energy bill.

The California Climate Credit is part of California's efforts to combat climate change and distributed by PG&E to customers. This credit is from the California Cap-and-Trade Program, which requires power plants, fuel providers, and large industrial facilities that emit greenhouse gases to buy carbon pollution allowances. The credit on your bill is designed to help utility customers during the transition to a low-carbon future.

Residential electric households will receive a credit of \$38.39 on their October bills, the same amount provided during March. Residential natural gas households also received a credit of \$52.78 earlier this year. Combined-use customers' total bill credits for 2023 is \$129.56.

Residential households receive the electric credit two times each year, while the natural gas credit is issued once a year. Eligible small business customers receive the same electric credit, in the same amount as residential customers, twice a year.

For more information about additional programs that are funded by the California Cap-and-Trade Program to reduce carbon pollution, improve public health and the environment, and provide meaningful benefits to the most disadvantaged communities,

visit www.caclimateinvestments.ca.gov/.

PG&E Financial Assistance Programs

In addition to the California Climate Credit, customers are encouraged to explore other ways to save energy and money including financial assistance and other programs:

California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program: Provides a discount of 20% or more each month on gas and electricity bills.

Family Electric Rate Assistance Program (FERA): Offers a monthly discount of 18% on electricity bills for households with 3+ people.

Medical Baseline: For eligible residential customers who have additional energy needs due to certain qualifying medical conditions. Customers can get an additional monthly allotment of power, or a discount based on your rate.

Budget Billing: Averages out energy costs for more predictable monthly payments and eliminates big spikes in bills due to seasonal changes.

Bill Forecast Alerts: Notifications sent by email, text or phone notifying the customer if their monthly bill is expected to exceed a specific amount set by the customer.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is a combined natural gas and electric utility serving more than 16 million people across 70,000 square miles in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit pge.com and pge.com/news. ★

Bonta Praised Fentanyl Murder Case But Ducked Legislation On Deadly Drug



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Something unusual – perhaps even historic – happened this month in Placer County, in the foothills northeast of Sacramento.

A man named Nathaniel Evan Cabacungan was sentenced to 15 years to life in state prison after pleading guilty to second degree murder in the death of Jewels Marie Wolf, a 15-year-old girl he had supplied with a fake Percocet pill containing a lethal dose of fentanyl.

Cabacungan is the first person to be convicted of murder for a fentanyl death – a milestone that the victim's family and law enforcement officials somberly marked in a post-sentencing news conference.

"This is not an honor we wanted, nor one that Jewels' family deserved," Placer County District Attorney Morgan Gire said. "I think for those of you that witnessed in court the impact statements of Jewels' parents and loved ones, we truly saw the strength of the human spirit today."

Prosecutors said that after Cabacungan gave the girl the fentanyl-laced tablet, he left her alone dying in her bed without calling for help and later sold the deadly pills to someone

else. "He had the opportunity to intervene. He had the opportunity to save her life, and he chose to watch her die instead," Gire said of Cabacungan.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta was one of the officials who spoke at the news conference, telling reporters, "This historic sentencing, again not something that we wanted to happen here, but it is historic. And to me, it's an example of good law enforcement at its finest, working together, following the facts, building the case."

Bonta cited the alarming increase in fatal fentanyl overdoses among young people, saying, "It's cheap, it's potent and it's lethal."

Superficially, having Bonta, the state's top law enforcement official, at the news conference was quite understandable, even commendable.

However, it had the trappings of publicity-mongering and image-building by an ambitious politician who wants to become governor because Bonta was missing-in-action this year when the Legislature was considering bills to crack down on fentanyl abuse – and rejecting many of them.

Bonta's praise of Placer County's fentanyl murder conviction implied that he supports tougher sentences for those who distribute the deadly drug, but neither he nor his office supported bills that would have implemented even lesser punishment.

In April, the Assembly Public Safety Committee considered seven fentanyl bills and rejected three that would have increased

penalties for fentanyl suppliers. One would affect dealers whose customers die or are seriously injured such as Wolf, one that would punish using social media to sell fentanyl, as Cabacungan did, and a third that would increase penalties for possessing large amounts of the drug.

The committee, which is notorious for rejecting legislation to enhance criminal punishment, shunted aside broad support for the measures from law enforcement groups and emotional pleas from families of fentanyl victims.

Bonta could have appeared to voice his support for the bills, but did not. Nor did he list himself as a supporter.

The committee passed four bills, only one of which would increase penalties for fentanyl possession by raising its classification to that of heroin and other deadly drugs. It was later signed by Gov. Gavin Newsom.

Placer County is trying to crack down on the deadly fentanyl trade.

"Let me be clear: For those that come into our county and knowingly sell their poison, we will come after you," District Attorney Gire said. "We will prosecute you, and we will do our best to separate you from society for as long as we possibly can."

Bonta apparently wants the voters to know that he supports that get-tough attitude, but so far he's been all talk and no action.

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

Mayor Cited for Hit and Run

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In a recent crime report that was posted on IndependentVoice.com, Steve Bird, age 64, was listed as "Arrested" on September 27, 2023, for penal code 20002(A) – Hit and Run Resulting in Property Damage.

A hit and run was posted in this newspaper's Police Log in the October 13 edition, at 2021 on that same day but no "arrest" was stated so a call to confirm or deny was triggered to Dixon Police Chief Robert Thompson who said Steve Bird was not arrested.

The crime report is provided by LOCAL CRIME NEWS, 'California's leading source for Arrest News' with reporters who collect arrest news which is gathered and published daily. It is provided as a courtesy resource for the general public, Neighborhood Watch Groups and Crime Stoppers.

The source for this particular post was provided by Solano CHP and upon this paper's request, Public Information Officer Jason Tyhurst released the

following statement:

"On September 27, 2023, the California Highway Patrol Solano Area responded to investigate a hit and run traffic crash which occurred near 220 North Jefferson Street, in Dixon."

The subsequent investigation revealed Mr. Steven Bird, 64 years old, of Dixon, had backed his vehicle into a parked vehicle, causing damage to the parked vehicle. Mr. Bird subsequently left the scene and failed to attempt to locate and notify the owner of the damaged vehicle. A crash investigation was completed and forwarded to the Solano County District Attorney's Office with recommended charges of 20002(A)VC, Misdemeanor Hit-and-Run. No physical arrest was made."

According to a CHP source, to avoid any improprieties, if an employee of the city is involved in an alleged crime, an outside agency will assist to avoid a conflict of interest. This would explain why Dixon Police Department did not handle the situation despite it being within the city. ★



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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE 1940s

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- Sylvester Stallone's "___ King"
 - And so forth, abbr.
 - Mongolian desert
 - Uniate church member
 - Additionally
 - Modified "will"
 - Heart surgery prop
 - Remains container
 - Follow
 - *Thor Heyerdahl's raft
 - *Jackie Robinson's new team, 1947
 - *Cassius Marcellus Clay, Jr., born in 1942
 - Animal prod
 - Give a nickname
 - Dwarf buffalo
 - Edible corn part
 - Functions
 - *___ Strip on Mediterranean Sea, 1948
 - Roman goddess, patroness of hunters
 - *Moscow ___ cocktail, created in 1940s
 - Beach souvenir
 - Inspiring horror
 - Not long
 - Home to Bryce Canyon
 - Smoothie bowl flavor
 - Become available (2 words)
 - Links hazard
 - Mozart's "L___ del Cairo"
 - Back of the neck
 - Transgression
 - *Carmen of "The Gang's All Here"
 - *United ___ established 1945
 - Popeye's sweetie
 - *The BAA and NBL merged, forming this ball org., 1949
 - Battle royal
 - Denigrating statement
 - What divots and divas have in common
 - Audience's approval
 - Lad's counterpart
 - Number on a birthday cake
 - Not o'er
- DOWN
- Poacher's trophy
 - "Do ___ others..."
 - Bank claim
 - *1947's "Here Comes ___ Claus"
 - King of the Huns
 - Purse for the red carpet
 - High craggy hill
 - Type of dwelling
 - "The ___ Show" (1976-1980)
 - Yorkshire river
 - Hangover memory?
 - 15th of March
 - Tied the knot
 - *Leopold III of Belgium and Christian X of Denmark, e.g.
 - Acorn producer
 - Common newspaper name
 - *"When I See an Elephant Fly" elephant, 1941
 - Steal a throne

CROSSWORD

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The Superpower that Can't Arm Itself

No matter how much we'd like to believe in the inevitability of human progress and the spread of enlightened norms, we've learned the past couple of years that we still need artillery shells – lots of artillery shells.

The Hamas terror attack, together with the ongoing Ukraine war and the looming Chinese threat to Taiwan, is putting a spotlight on the pitiful state of our capacity to manufacture the weapons necessary to the defense of our allies and ourselves.

According to a CNN report, an Israel ground invasion of Gaza would "create a new and entirely unexpected demand for 155 mm artillery ammunition and other weapons at a time when the U.S. and its allies and partners have been stretched thin from more than 18 months of fighting in Ukraine."

We are learning to our regret that we are using an attenuated post-Cold War, "end of history" defense-industrial base to try to meet the security needs of a newly threatening international environment with the real risk of Great Power conflict.

As it turns out, the peace dividend was very expensive.

It now should be a matter of the highest national priority to use every lever of government and

the private sector to bolster the defense-industrial base in all its aspects.

The Biden administration should care about this at least as much as incentivizing the production of electric vehicles most people don't want to buy.

We aren't being asked, by the way, to fight a three-front war in Europe, the Middle East and Asia ourselves. No, the call is simply to provide arms to allies under attack or threat. If we can't do that, what does it say about our status as the world's pre-eminent power?

In Ukraine, the hopes of Moscow for a lightning victory and of the West for a sweepingly successful Ukraine counteroffensive both appear to have come a cropper. Now, it's a grinding artillery war.

Ukraine is estimated to need 1.5 million shells a year, and has been firing as many as 6,000 a day. Russia was firing even more at the peak of its offensive.

The U.S. had supplied 2 million artillery shells to Ukraine as of July, and has been scrounging around – along with other Western powers – to feed whatever supplies it can find into the maw of the war.

It's not that we have been completely asleep. The U.S. was making 14,500 shells a month at the beginning of 2023, and has roughly doubled that. We hope to get to 100,000 a month in 2025. Still, highly sanctioned Russia is more proficient at producing shells.

If we can't supply Ukraine, what if we be-

come embroiled in a major war with China?

War games conducted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies have the U.S. firing 5,000 long-range missiles in the first weeks of war, instantly depleting our stocks. According to CSIS, the U.S. would expend all its Long-Range Anti-Ship Missiles within the first week of a conflict – when it requires almost two years to manufacture one of the missiles.

We are also in the bizarre position of being dependent on our potential enemy for the materials we'd need in a war with that enemy. China has a dominant position in the market for rare earth metals – so important to the production of high-end weapons – and is the world leader in cast products.

There is no easy way out of the hole we've dug ourselves. It will require more spending on defense; more reliable, long-term contracts for the production of key weapons; a focus on securing the supply chain necessary to the production of high-tech munitions; and assistance to manufacturers in training workers, among other things.

The history of empires and nations that don't mind the need for up-to-date weapons at the scale necessary to defeat or deter adversaries isn't a happy one. It's in our power to avoid this fate – if we have the will and don't waste more time.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★



Riley Reviews

HALLOWEEN BRINGS OUT A CORNUCOPIA OF FRIGHT PROGRAMS ON TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

Halloween is not just for kids dressing up and knocking on doors for candy. This is the time for anyone willing to enjoy the scary thrills of series and movies on television and streaming services.

The Turner Classic Movie (TCM) channel has been showing an abundance of Creepy Cinema for the whole month, but it is Halloween day when all the chills and frights are going to be released for a 48-hour Terror-thon – 31 films with the most fear-inducing stories.

The early 1930s was indeed a golden age of great horror and monster movies. Universal Studios founder Carl Laemmle struck gold for his struggling studio by adapting classic Victorian novels into cheaply made, but enormously popular horror films.

One of the first and best was the original "Frankenstein" (1931). Colin Clive plays Dr. Henry Frankenstein, the mad scientist obsessed with bringing people back from the dead.

Frankenstein manages to assemble a being made entirely of human body parts who then comes to life as a homicidal maniac set on killing his creator. The ensuing sequences are as terrifying today as they were over 90 years ago.

Boris Karloff gives one of the most chilling performances in all of film as the monster, a role he would recreate in two equally frightening sequels, "The Bride of Frankenstein" (1935) and "House of Frankenstein" 1944.

Mel Brooks' 1974 "Young Frankenstein" is a classic in the genre, even though it is a comedy, and it would be nice to find it on a streaming service. Peter Boyle could not be any better as the tap-dancing monster.

Gene Wilder's Dr. Frederick Frankenstein is a treat as the American grandson of the infamous scientist ending up in Transylvania, where he discovers the process to reanimate a dead body that goes all kind of wrong.

As its title suggests, Tod Browning's "Freaks" (1932) is like nothing else you've ever seen. This peculiar film tells the story of a group of sideshow performers in a seedy carnival.

Olga Baclanova plays a scheming trapeze artist set on stealing a small inheritance from one of the little people performers, played by Harry Earles of the famous Dancing Dolls.

Drawing on his own experience as a carny and circus performer, Browning made the wise, though risky decision of casting the film with real side show performers; people

with real physical disabilities, including conjoined twins and amputees.

The aptly-named "Freaks" is a bizarre and gritty film with the kind of stark realism that is highly unlikely to be made by any major studio in today's

world. Imagine the controversy it would generate.

Fans of the anthology series from Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk will find four intriguing episodes of "American Horror Stories" third season having premiered on Hulu on October 26 that is being promoted as a Halloween extravaganza.

While some of the stories tie back to the main series, others provide distinct horror tales by interconnecting storylines from earlier seasons. Watching the horror anthology series FX's "American Horror Story Four-Episode Huluween Event" on Hulu should do the trick.

On Hulu and Disney+, "Goosebumps" is a horror comedy series developed by Nicholas Stoller and Rob Letterman based on the popular book of the same name by R.L. Stine. The series stars Justin Long and Rachael Harris.

In the "Goosebumps" series, a group of high school students embark on a journey to investigate the tragic death of a teenager named Harold Biddle. While unearthing dark secrets surrounding the mystery, they unwittingly unleash supernatural forces on their town.

Notwithstanding their personal issues and rivalries, the teenagers must all work together to finish what they started. In doing so, they begin to learn more about their families' secrets, which eventually leads to the answers to their questions.

AMC Networks' annual "FearFest" is whipping up scares that started the beginning of the month, and every week AMC+ and Shudder have rolled out a new horror movie which began with the fan favorite "V/H/S" franchise.

"V/H/S/85," the next installment in the infamous found footage anthology series, is an ominous mixtape blending never-before-seen snuff footage with nightmarish newscasts and home video to create a surreal mashup of the forgotten Eighties.

In the Shudder Original "The Puppetman," a convicted killer on death row maintains his innocence saying it was an evil force controlling his body as he slaughtered his victims.

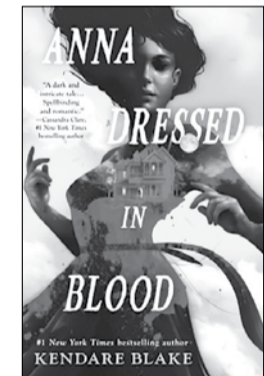
The killer's daughter begins to suspect that there may be some truth to her father's claim when those around begin to die in brutal ways. All hope rests on her shoulders to break The Puppetman's curse.

The night before Halloween brings "Hell House LLC Origins: The Carmichael Manor," wherein a group of cold case investigators stay at the Carmichael Manor, the site of the unsolved murder of the Carmichael family in the Eighties.

After four nights, the group was never heard from again. What is discovered in their footage is even more disturbing than anything found on the Hell House tapes. It seems Shudder lives up to its name for the frights of its Halloween films. ★

FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS
By Amy Shane
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • amy-shane@att.net • amy_fortheloveofbooks

Ghostly Encounters and Chilling Reads Just in Time For Halloween



Anna Dressed In Blood
by Kendare Blake;
For Teen

Anna Dressed in Blood returns just in time for Halloween with a whole new cover and added novella.

With athame in hand, Cass slices through the neck of the hitchhiker; black blood pours from his thick wound, spewing over his vintage jacket. He doesn't scream as he shrivels up, and within a minute, he disappears.

Cass Lowood's world has been centered around killing things already dead. Since his father's death, the weight has fallen upon his shoulders to continue the family tradition of ghost hunting, sending Cass and his mother to the shadowed and sinister places that call to him.

However, the one thing Cass was not prepared for was the parchment paper letter with the blood-etched name Anna Korlov, murdered 1958, and the horrors that awaited him.

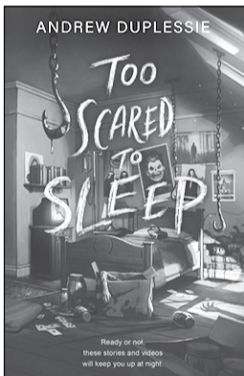
A famed local legend,

Anna Dressed in Blood was known to be horrifically violent, taking no mercy on anyone who dared to cross her home's threshold. However, once Cass's eyes fell upon Anna, everything changed. Anna was captivating with her midnight black hair floating around her and her black pool eyes. Her white dress, saturated in blood, dripped along the floorboards as she approached, which only added to the horror behind her name.

Every bit of normalcy quickly fell out of place as Cass found himself in a whirlwind that would be Anna. Now surrounded by new friends, Cass must uncover the power that binds Anna to the house in order to release her. But unlocking the dark recesses of what lies below might be more than Cass can handle.

Blood pours from the pages of this atmospheric ghost story; *Anna Dressed in Blood* is as gorgeous as it is gory. Kendare Blake captures her reader's hearts with a truly mesmerizing story and takes them on a heart-wrenching tale of a boy, a legend, and discovering a love that was never meant to be.

Captivating you with writing that tangles you up in a blood-soaked tale, Kendare Blake leaves readers with so many questions about love, ghosts, and the ultimate question: can a ghost have a soul? ★



Too Scared to Sleep
by Andrew Duplessie;
Clarion Books

For readers looking for a small-bite horror story, *Too Scared To Sleep* merges truly terrifying short stories with "pulse-pounding" videos generated to enhance each horrific tale. With a simple click of a cell phone's camera on the included QR code, readers will be thrown straight into the middle of over thirty spine-tingling moments straight from each story.

Throwing the lid off of everything readers have heard about interactive stories, Andrew Duplessie delivers a first-ever reading experience combing short stories with interactive videos, leaving readers wondering who they can trust. No matter what keeps you up at night this bite sized book is jammed packed with stories including everything from the paranormal to technology, monsters, supernatural, and more. Just make sure to keep the lights on! ★

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Thank A Veteran Today

End Run Around the Rules

California lawmakers: 'any flavor of affordable housing you could possibly want'

By Ben Christopher, CALMatters.org

You may not have seen the headlines (there weren't any). You may have missed the raucous debate (there wasn't much of one). But with the end of the legislative session last week, California is now on the verge of laying down a welcome mat for most major affordable housing projects across the state.

That's not because of a single bill, but a patchwork of current and former legislation that, taken together, "basically covers any flavor of affordable housing you could possibly want to build," said Linda Mandolini, president of Eden Housing, an affordable housing development nonprofit.

Homes designated for low-income occupants, like all housing projects, face a gauntlet of potential challenges and hold-ups that add to the already exorbitant cost of affordable housing in California. Those hurdles include lawsuits filed under the wide-ranging California Environmental Quality Act, extensive public hearings and other forms of opposition from local government.

Now, affordable housing projects — in most places and most of the time — may soon be exempt from all that, fitted out in a suit of procedural armor made up of some half a dozen bills and laws.

A bill now sitting on the governor's desk would cover up one of the last chinks in that armor. Assembly Bill 1449, authored by two Democratic Assemblymembers, David Alvarez of San Diego and Buffy Wicks of Oakland, would exempt certain affordable apartment developments from review under CEQA. To qualify, projects would have to be located in dense urban areas, set aside each unit for someone earning less than 80% the area median income and abide by stricter labor standards, among other requirements.

Though modest and technical sounding, that's unusually broad for new construction in California.

"I do think it's gonna be very consequential but it's kind of flown under the radar," Alvarez said. His explanation why: "The politics of where Californians are and certainly where the Legislature is — we want to see results. We want



A patchwork of bills are giving housing developers and local governments more options to reduce red tape for housing projects. Courtesy photo

to see housing being produced."

Taken together with a handful of other bills and current laws, said Mark Stivers, a lobbyist with the California Housing Partnership, which co-sponsored AB 1449, the new legislation "effectively make it possible for affordable housing providers to develop nearly all viable sites in California by-right and exempt from CEQA review."

Speeding up approval for these projects comes with a trade-off. Environmental justice organizations, labor unions and various opponents of new development see CEQA as a vital tool to weigh in on what gets built, where and under what terms.

"Our communities rely heavily on CEQA to be able to get more information about proposed developments that might be contributing to further pollution," said Grecia Orozco, a staff attorney with the nonprofit Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment.

Local activists also often flood the public meetings of city councils and planning boards to pressure elected officials to block unpopular projects or extract concessions from developers.

Whether AB 1449 and a handful of similar bills become law is now up to Gov. Gavin Newsom. Supporters have reason to be optimistic. The Newsom administration is pushing local governments to approve an unprecedented 2.5 million additional homes by 2030, he called the CEQA process "broken" and

in the spring he rolled out a package of bills aimed at speeding up environmental challenges to projects — though housing was not included.

He has until Oct. 14 to sign or veto the bills now sitting on his desk.

The Alvarez-Wicks bill isn't the first legislative effort to grease the skids for new affordable housing.

Two others, both authored by San Francisco Democratic Sen. Scott Wiener, would force local governments to automatically approve apartment buildings in housing-strapped parts of the state and most affordable housing projects on the properties of houses of worship and nonprofit colleges, so long as they comply with a list of zoning, affordability and labor requirements.

A third piece of legislation by San Jose Democratic Sen. Dave Cortese exempts the decision by local governments to fund affordable housing projects from environmental challenges, too. Newsom already signed it.

Still awaiting the governor's pen are a handful of bills that make it more difficult to stall housing projects through environmental lawsuits in general. That includes a bill by Sen. Nancy Skinner, a Berkeley Democrat, that would make it easier for courts to toss out environmental challenges they deem "frivolous" or "solely intended to cause unnecessary delay." Another by Assemblymember Phil Ting, a San

Francisco Democrat, would give local officials a deadline by which to approve or deny a project's environmental review.

The Ting proposal was fiercely opposed by many environmental activists and the State Building and Construction Trades Council, an umbrella group that represents many unionized construction workers. The bill would also make it more difficult for courts to award legal fees to groups that sue to block projects through CEQA.

J.P. Rose, a staff attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, which regularly brings such suits, called that provision "the largest weakening of CEQA in recent history."

The fact that this long list of bills passed the Legislature — some by healthy margins — amounts to a notable political shift, said Christopher Elmendorf, a law professor at UC Davis who advised Ting on the bill.

"I think it illustrates that a sea change is underfoot in how people are starting to think about these environmental review laws," he said, though he noted that the shift in California is still modest compared to those underway in other states.

Earlier this year, the Washington legislature nearly unanimously passed a law to exempt virtually all new urban housing from that state's environmental protection law.

Many of the California bills build on a law passed last year that streamlines affordable housing

construction along commercial corridors.

In cobbling together the law, its author, Wicks, struck a compromise: In exempting certain housing projects from environmental challenge and other local hurdles, developers would pay workers a higher minimum wage, provide them with health care benefits and abide by other stricter labor standards. That trade was the key to winning the support of the state carpenters' union and breaking up a legislative logjam that had stymied housing production bills for years.

It also provided a template for Wiener's two streamlining bills this year, along with the Alvarez-Wicks CEQA exemption proposal.

"That really laid the foundation for those of us who did work in the housing space this year," said Alvarez.

"Our communities rely heavily on CEQA to be able to get more information about proposed developments that might be contributing to further pollution."

Not every pro-housing advocate or CEQA critic is so content with the bargain.

"A lot of these bills help a little," said Jennifer Hernandez, a land use attorney at the law firm Holland & Knight, who has catalogued CEQA challenges to housing projects for years. But she notes that swapping out the threat of environmental litigation with higher payroll expenses just replaces one cost with another.

In practice, she said, these exemptions are only likely to clear the way for substantial new housing construction in higher cost areas where developers can make up the difference by charging higher rents to non-subsidized residents. "You really need premium rentals to pay for those higher labor standards," she said.

But for many affordable housing developers, it's still a trade worth making.

"You've got really strong laws, clear exemptions, and an attorney general who's willing to step up and say you got to build it," said Mandolini with Eden Housing, who has been working on housing in the state for more than two decades. "This is the best it has been in California...If this had all existed 20 years ago, we might have built a lot more housing a lot faster." ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001324
The following persons are doing business as: La Quinta Inn, 316 Pittman Road, Fairfield, CA 94534.

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Date filed in Solano County: August 22, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration August 21, 2028. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.) Publish Oct 13, 20, 27, Nov 3, 2023
LAQUINTA 11-3-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001566
The following persons are doing business as: BD Publishing, 2757 Ambrosia Way, Fairfield, CA 94533.

Matthew Macias, 2757 Ambrosia Way, Fairfield, CA 94533. Date filed in Solano County: September 29, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of

section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration September 28, 2028. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.) Publish: Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 2023
PUBLISHING 11-10-23

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF KIMBERLEE JEZEL HUNTER AKA KIMBERLEE J. HUNTER AKA KIMBERLEE HUNTER CASE NO. PR23-00287

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Kimberlee Jezel Hunter aka Kimberlee J. Hunter aka Kimberlee Hunter.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Eldred Hunter, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Eldred Hunter be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed

action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: December 11, 2023, 8:30 a.m. in Dept 4; Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 600 Union Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Edward W. Goldkuhl, 2315 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95816; 916-422-3000

Publish: October 13, 20, 27, 2023
HUNTER 10-27-23



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL

The Dixon City Council will hold a hybrid PUBLIC HEARING to consider the following project:

PROJECT: Master Fee Schedule Update – Consideration of updates to the Citywide Master Fee Schedule, specifically for Building, Fire and Technology fees, based on an updated cost of service (user fee) study prepared by Matrix Consulting Group.

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15061(b)(3), since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of changes to the fee schedule would have a significant effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15061(b)(3), 'general rule' provision).

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm at Dixon City Hall, City Council Chambers, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

MORE INFORMATION: Contact Larry Paisley, Chief Building Official at (707) 678-7000 or lpaisley@cityofdixon.us. You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also view the staff report 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing, in person or remotely, to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to making any decision on the matter.

The meeting will be physically open to the public and all persons attending the meeting must abide by all State rules and public health guidelines, regarding masking and social distancing in City Council chambers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to CityCouncil@cityofdixon.us or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, City Council, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the City Council and will become part of the official record, but will not be read aloud at the meeting

You may also attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above or participate remotely, to provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments remotely during public comment period, you may: 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand," or 2) via teleconference press *9.

At the above time and place, all letters received will be noted and all interested parties will be heard. If you challenge in court the matter described above, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the above referenced public hearing (Government Code Section 65009 (b)(2)).

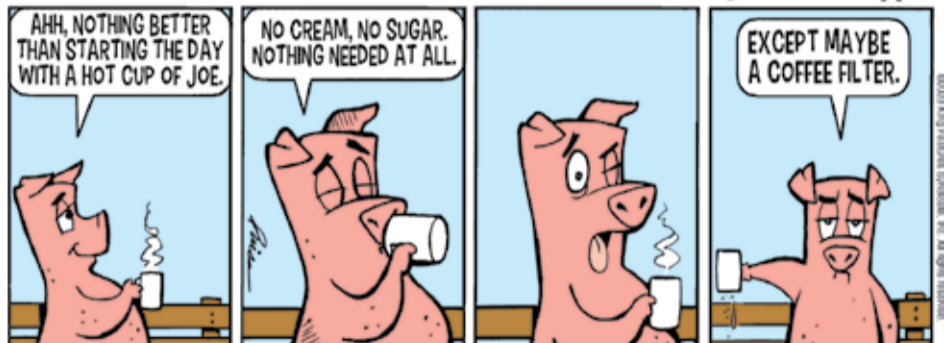
Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



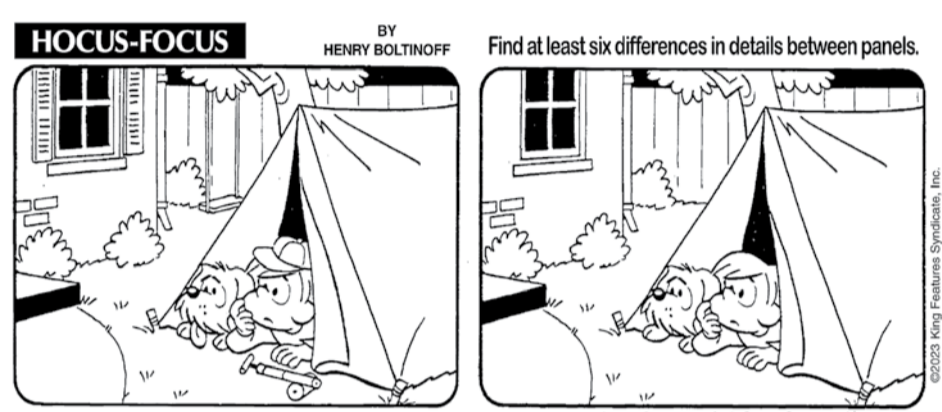
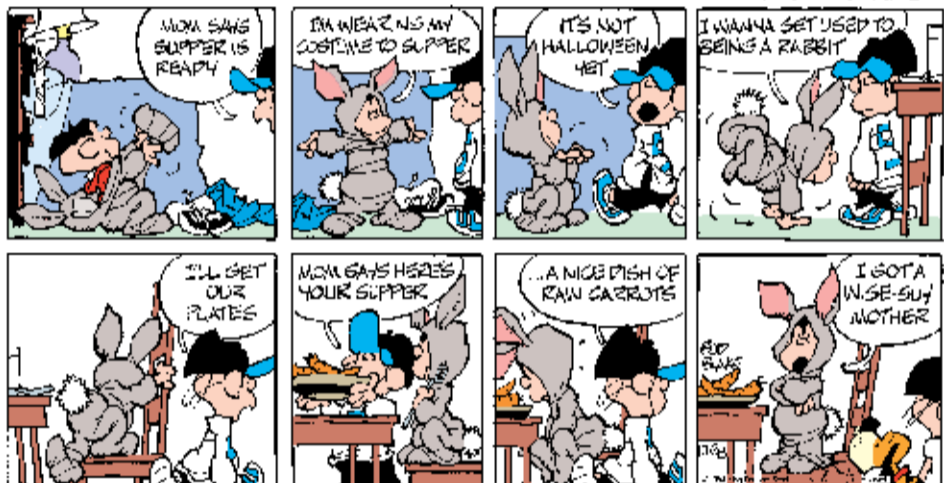
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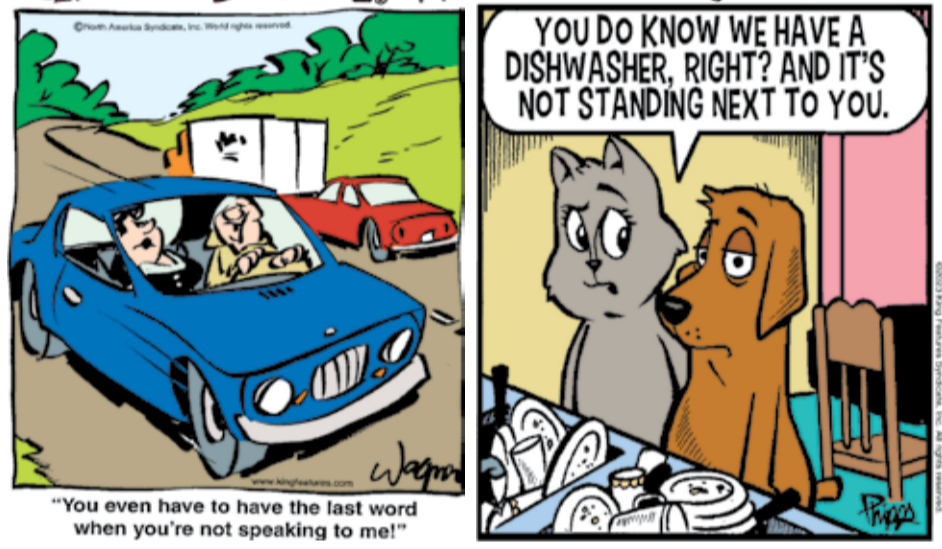
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A Solar Nightmare

By Ben Christopher,
CALMatters.org

California isn't short on lofty goals: Lawmakers have vowed to zero out the state's carbon emissions by 2045, build 2.5 million new homes by the end of the decade and swap gas-burning appliances with electric ones in 7 million homes over the next 12 years.

Now California's chief utility regulator is considering a new rooftop solar policy that a chorus of critics say will make it harder for the state to meet any of those ambitious targets.

On Oct. 12, the California Public Utilities Commission will vote on whether to reduce the payments that owners of solar panel-equipped apartment buildings receive for the electricity they generate on their rooftops. The decision could mirror an overhaul that the commission adopted late last year for sun-powered single-family homes and is part of a larger battle among environmentalists and energy policymakers over the role that individually-owned solar panels should play in the state's planned divorce from fossil fuel-derived energy.

In both cases, the new rules only apply to new customers.

Supporters of the rule change — the state's major electric utilities chief among them — argue that the new proposed rates, which vary over the course of a day, better reflect the actual value that rooftop solar panels provide to the electrical grid while offering a fairer shake to customers who don't have the luxury of living beneath solar panels.

The new pricing system is also designed to encourage property owners to pair solar panels with batteries, which can store up solar energy in the middle of the day when it's abundant and cheap and dispatch it when the grid needs it most after the sun sets and when the CPUC's proposed adjusted rates are higher.

But a notably diverse coalition of California interest groups have banded together to argue otherwise. Landlords, tenant rights organizations, affordable housing advocates, environmental nonprofits and the building industry — which rarely all agree — now say that the policy would only "eviscerate" the multifamily solar market.

What's more, they argue, the proposed change runs counter to a host of ambitious policy goals that California lawmakers have set out to combat climate change, air pollution and the affordable housing crisis.

"This proposed decision seems to go right in the opposite direction," said Bob Raymer, technical director at the California Building Industry Association, a lobbying group that opposes the regulatory overhaul. "It's nuts. I've been doing this stuff for over 40 years and this one is just baffling."



Now California's chief utility regulator is considering a new rooftop solar policy that a chorus of critics say will make it harder for the state to meet any of those ambitious targets. Photo courtesy Kindel-Media

If this argument sounds familiar, a version has played out in public once before.

In December, the commission cut the payments that homeowners with rooftop solar arrays receive by roughly 75%. The decision came after months of debate, with both sides claiming to speak in the interest of clean energy and economic justice.

Previously, utilities were required to pay homeowners roughly the retail rate for electricity produced by a photovoltaic array and exported back to the grid. Utilities have long chafed at that arrangement, joining organized utility workers and even some environmental groups, in arguing that the more cost-effective way to supercharge clean energy production is to focus on utility-scale (read: big) projects. That's opposed to the disaggregated fleet of photovoltaic arrays, found disproportionately on the homes of the well-to-do, who were able to skimp on the costs of grid maintenance and upgrades, effectively shunting that onto everyone else's monthly bills.

The CPUC agreed with that argument and replaced that retail tariff with a much lower, adjustable fee.

That's more or less what is being considered this time around for apartment building owners, but with one highly contested difference.

Even with these lower payments, single-family homeowners with solar can still boost the benefit of their array by using the electricity they generate on site. Every kilowatt hour "self-consumed" is a kilowatt hour that the homeowner doesn't have to pay in high retail prices. That can add up to significant savings.

But under the proposed overhaul for *apartment dwellers*, no such savings would be allowed. All of the electricity generated would count as an "export" to the grid and get compensated at the lower wholesale rate. Likewise, all electricity used by the residents of that apartment building would need to

be purchased from the utility at retail. For accounting purposes, there would be no "self-consumption" allowed.

For rooftop solar companies, the lack of a "self-consumption" provision for apartment buildings amounts to an existential threat.

Ivy Energy, a San Diego company that sells software to multifamily landlords hoping to offer their tenants solar power, argued to the CPUC that the rule, if adopted as proposed in August, "would eviscerate the economic value proposition" for multifamily solar "rendering all new projects infeasible and unfinanceable, and effectively result in a collapse of the multifamily solar market."

Both the state's major investor-owned utilities and the CPUC say that coming up with a way to account for self-consumption to apartment buildings, where different residents are using different amounts of electricity at different times and would require different levels of compensation, would be a technical nightmare to administer. They argue that it would be costly to build out, raises potential privacy concerns between renters and their landlords and would result in billing so convoluted that no resident could possibly use it to predict the cheapest time to run their dishwasher.

"Illogical and convoluted" is the term used in a joint letter to the CPUC by Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas & Electric and San Diego Gas & Electric.

But just because such a system would be hard to implement doesn't warrant upending the entire industry that has built itself up around the old system, said Bernadette Del Chiaro, executive director of the California Solar & Storage Association.

She pointed to the single-family solar market as a telling example. Since the new policy went into effect, she said, the number of residential solar

projects in the pipeline has dropped at least 40%.

"But we've gotten ourselves in this situation where we're almost touting the single family version" of the policy, she said. "It's still not going to be a great thing, but at least it's not sudden death. Which is what this is."

As the CPUC mulled the decision over the summer, a disparate collection of interest groups flocked to the rooftop solar industry's defense, but for different reasons.

Builders oppose anything that makes solar less financially attractive because the California Energy Commission, another state agency, now requires virtually all new residential construction to come equipped with solar panels.

Throwing a wrench into the economics of rooftop solar also complicates the statewide push to go electric, to the chagrin of property owners and the entire electrification industry.

"Solar is one of the biggest revenue streams for a landlord asking 'Why should I invest all this money in a heat pump, a new hot water system?'" said David Chanin, co-founder of FutureFit Partners, a company that helps house and apartment owners make those investments. "Under these new rules I have pretty serious concerns that entire building electrification projects just won't pencil out anymore."

And while the overhaul for single-family solar users mostly directly affected homeowners, it's apartment-dwelling renters who are likely to be most affected by the current decision.

The current system "really is the only mechanism we have for a lot of low-income people living in multifamily housing to get solar and clean energy," said Andrew Dawson, a lobbyist with the California Housing Partnership, a nonprofit that advocates for affordable housing. "For electrification purposes, solar is really important to make sure that people's bills don't increase significantly."

"As climate impacts like rising heat continue to increase, there is an ongoing need for grid independence."

Other programs do exist to help lower income Californians go green. The state's Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing program provides financial incentives for property owners to invest in new panels and is funded under a different formula. But that program's coverage is patchy across the state, said Dawson.

Andrea Barnier with Self-Help Enterprises, a low-income housing provider in Visalia, said only 15 of the organization's 40 multifamily projects will be insulated from the policy change through that state program. For the remaining sites, and all future apartment projects, she called the new rule a potential "deterrent to all-electric design."

In a filing with the CPUC, the state's three investor-owned utilities note that multifamily solar is still a relatively rare phenomenon in California. At last count, just 217 residential facilities across the state make use of the program, along with 513 other mixed residential and commercial sites.

But with the state vowing to simultaneously turbocharge apartment construction, electrical vehicle purchases and the jettisoning of gas stoves and hot water heaters, critics say that while supporting distributed solar may not be vital now, it will be in the near future.

"As climate impacts like rising heat continue to increase, there is an ongoing need for grid independence and alternate energy solutions from batteries during rolling blackouts and emergencies, so this also impacts our ability to develop resilient communities," said Barnier.

It may only be a matter of time before this argument gets dragged out of the highly-technical and mostly overlooked corridors of the CPUC and into the broader realm of partisan politics.

In July, the California Democratic Renters Council, a coalition of tenant rights, pro-housing and environmental justice advocacy groups, sent a letter to the CPUC's five commissioners. It decried the proposed regulatory change that "would force renters to buy all of their power from the utility even when it is generated on their own rooftop" and "discriminate against renters by not giving them the same fair treatment as single-family homeowners."

Though many observers expect the CPUC to ultimately vote for the overhaul next week, the breadth of the coalition that has mobilized against it might be difficult for other state lawmakers to overlook, said Raymer with the building industry.

"From a political standpoint, if this gets passed the way it's proposed, I think the Legislature will be right back in 2024 addressing this," he said. ★

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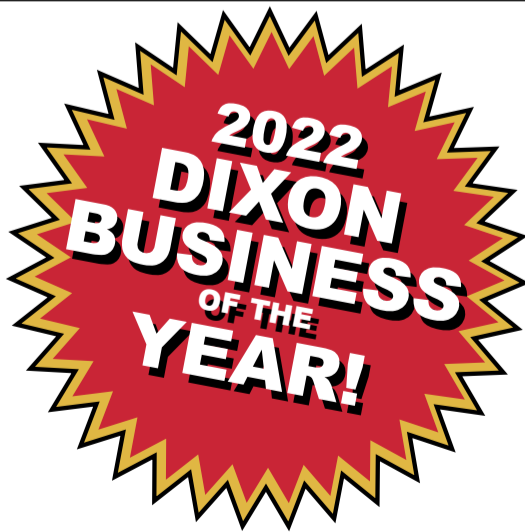
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