



Ramtown Grapples for Gifts

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Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 1

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JANUARY 5, 2024

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Odd is Optional



Friends gathered to enjoy a steak dinner and support the IOOF Montezuma Lodge #172 fundraising for local scholarships.

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - No one asked another if they had been searching for a way to help others and be part of something bigger than themselves? No one asked anyone if they were odd enough either.

But inside, members of the IOOF Montezuma Lodge #172 reacquainted with loud laughter and firm handshakes, hugs, and slaps on the back showing they were happy to fundraise on behalf of Dixon students who would earn their scholarships.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), chartered in Dixon in 1870,



Bud Fanning stands behind the Odd Fellows podium where members meet twice a month above Bud's Pub & Grill.

is now composed of about 50 members. This was their annual fundraiser where monies go toward

local scholarships. The outdoor grills were aflame while men plopped thick steaks on plates and loud greetings filled the cold night air. The fun of a raffle hadn't even begun.

Who Are Odd Fellows?

Evolving from earlier Orders of Odd Fellows that was first founded in England during the 1700s, the American version was formed in 1819 as a non-political, non-sectarian, co-ed international fraternal order by Thomas Wildey in Baltimore, Maryland.

"It started to take care of orphans and widows at a time when there wasn't government involvement in

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Farmstead Offers Grand Opening

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A long-awaited luxury-style senior community is hosting their grand opening on Thursday, January 11, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at 350 Gateway Dr. in Dixon.

The two-story facility looks more like a new hotel, but offers independent living, assisted living, and memory care living, and is called 'The Farmstead at Dixon.' It was named by Dixon's own Hanna Richardson who is the director of resident development at Rockville Terrace Senior Living in Fairfield, one of several Calson communities.

"Besides coming up with great names, she's also been a tremendous asset to the team," said Jason Reyes, founder of Calson Management LLC. Currently Calson operates seven communities comprised of over 640 units of senior living totaling more than \$150 million in market value.

The Farmstead offers 59 independent living one- and two-bedroom apartments and studios plus 27 memory care apartments.

Included in the monthly rent is the new studio or apartment, three meals a day created by a five-star chef, housekeeping, laundry, and high-speed internet in each apartment. The huge kitchen also has a brick oven for pizza and an ice cream case/freezer. There is an entertainment area with a big screen TV for watching the big football or basketball games, and even has a popcorn nook, but it can also be reserved for birthday parties or family celebrations.

Importantly, one is never alone. There is 24-hour-a-day staffing.

There is also an activity room, a library, and a lush, covered patio and an outdoor bocci ball court. There is a wide concrete walkway around the entire building for getting in one's daily exercise, as well as a "wellness room" where residents are welcome to bring in their own mobile doctor or masseuse. There will be organized activities and excursions, too.

RSVP to Tawsha at (707) 674-7554 or email tawsha@farmsteadatdixon.com. Their website is www.FarmsteadatDixon.com. ★

Planners Hear Gaming Lounge Idea

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Jamie Myers is a long-time resident of Dixon — mother of six and now grandmother — and a teacher at Dixon Charter Montessori School. Myers also worked three years at the Dixon Teen Center from 2012-2015 and subbed at John Knight Middle School. She might have a good understanding of youth.

Her business partner, Jene Owens, is also a teacher who does homeschooling and tutoring. These two mothers have a wealth of experience with children spanning preschool through high-school levels, and now added a new title to their names: Entrepreneur.

Myers opened the last City Planning Commission meeting with an introduction of their plans for a new family entertainment



Playing games can provide a time of fun and laughter, like Telestrations did for a ladies church group with Jennie Bauman and Jamie Myers. Myers is a partner in a proposed local gaming lounge.

center and cereal bar planned between Ramtown Karate and DaVita Dialysis Center on North Lincoln.

"We asked ourselves: what is something that Dixon truly needs that we

currently don't have, but that Dixon could really utilize. We're both teachers and parents...so after one-and-a-half years of research development, training and preparation,

Joystick Gaming Lounge and Cereal Café, LLC, was created," Myers explained. "We plan to offer all things gaming including an arcade with 20 to 25 of the most

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Life's too SHORT

Angels Around Town

By Debra Dingman

Someone might not have noticed, so I'll be blunt. There are all kinds of "angels" in Dixon. They are the quiet folks who do something very special for someone else, or help in some quiet way where most people don't notice.

Suzanne Galloway is a retired Dixon High School math teacher who is also the lead for United Women of Faith of the Dixon United Methodist Church Women. Every year, for at least a decade, she has helped organize the tree decorating for the annual Festival of Trees, led or assisted at the church's annual Women's Tea, and served the church on various committees.

This year she arranged a trip across the nation, where depending on how many extra contributions were coming in to the church, that would move the participants of the trip that much further across in miles. It was not only ingenious — with details of sights, sounds, and weather — it was also imaginary! Some people thought the trip was real.

Gabriel Perez is in the US Air Force and organized the 100th birthday party, with his wife Frances, for Dixon's WWII Veteran Oakley Dexter, as well as the second cleanup which required hefty fees of \$800 for each dumpster, but he garnered support from Scouts and Living Hope Church. He went a step further, and with pals Nick and Liz Jaeger set up a GoFundMe that netted \$2,779 to pay for the renovation of Oakley's yard to make it maintenance free. The details of the birthday party required one-on-one meetings as well as calls for various donations, and it was a huge success. Oakley felt honored beyond words.

Mike Loftin almost always has a smile

or a laugh ready. He seems to never stop moving or helping at Cornerstone Church. Sometimes it's the food pantry loading food in, loading food out, and setting up for the weekly giveaways to the poor, homeless, and needy. Sometimes it's the setup for the Community Christmas Program; just know there is always something and he lends a helping hand.

Sarai Garcia isn't even out of high school yet, but she's added "yes" to serving the community through the high school's Key Club. From her freshmen year, to president this year, Sarai has been organized, helpful, quiet, and talented. She gives her time to organizing help and gives her talent to playing in the high school band. She's a good communicator and cares for her fellow students more than many, helping the students learn the value and joy of community service!

I have known **Linda Barrett** since her dad won this newspaper's "Father of the Year" many moons ago, but I knew little of the extent of her involvement in military matters, serving at Travis. There is always the train at the Dixon May Fair and in the parade, not to mention her numerous window displays of city and school spirit. Most of us know of her through carefully placed American flags every Independence Day, which takes a huge team of volunteers, but unless you're a former Dixon High athletic person, you might not know the humongous commitment she makes to the Dixon Hall of Fame.

I'm sure I'm only touching the tip of the iceberg of volunteerism and contributions and why they made last week's Santa's list — but now when you see the golden glow over people's heads, make sure you thank them for their gifts to Dixon! ★

Dixon News Briefs



Pictured from left to right: Dixon Rotarian Donna Janisch, Joy Carlton, and Dixon Rotary President Marianne MacDonald presenting a \$200 donation to Carlton for books for foster-care children. Photo courtesy of Rotary

MPG Staff

Scout Tree Pick Up

If you have a real Christmas tree this year, the Dixon Scouts Troop 152 are letting folks know that they will be recycling Christmas trees again on Saturday, January 6. The fee is \$20. To request a pickup, go to www.Troop152Dixon.com or call (707) 676-6152.

Students Back in School

Students continue to be out of school! The Dixon Unified School District Winter Break is officially over on Monday, January 8. That goes for Neighborhood Christian School students and Valley of the Sacred Heart Academy. Please drive carefully!

All About the Calendar

"Life is Abundant Perpetual Calendar" is one of several upcoming classes offered at our locally-owned scrapbooking empire on Saturday, January 13, starting at 10 a.m. Instructional fee is \$78, and one can register at It's All About the Scrapbook 1670 North Lincoln, or online (see link below.)

What better way to ring in the New Year than with a class? In this class, you will be making a perpetual calendar using the brand-new Graphic 45 Life is Abundant Collection. This is a great way to remember all those important yearly dates like birthdays, anniversaries, and special holidays you want to send cards for. Each month is housed in a folder that we will decorate and add a calendar to. All twelve months are then stored in an awesome wooden box we will assemble and decorate in class. This is one fun class you will love to have displayed on your desk at home and have a great function, as well!

Can't make it to class? Not to worry! Written instructions and color photos will be available for those that cannot attend and would like to purchase a kit. Shipping is an additional \$10. Please contact Nikki directly by emailing her at nicolesher@gmail.com.

More details and register at: <https://www.itsallaboutthescrapbook.com/module/class/528480/life-is-abundant-perpetual-calendar-by-nikki-sher>

Books for Foster Children

The Dixon Rotary Club made a \$200 donation to Joy Carlton with PaperPie. Ms. Carlton is sponsoring a Foster Care Book Drive for 100 foster children with book bags that include handpicked books for their success and enjoyment. A book bag is \$35 and donations are matched 50%. If you would like to make a donation or would like more information, please contact Joy at Jdietz09@yahoo.com. Look for upcoming information about the Dixon Rotary Crab Feed on February 24, 2024.

May Fair Guidebook

The Dixon May Fair Exhibit Guidebook is officially out, and is available at the Fair office. The May Fair will be May 9-12 in 2024, and though it may seem early, it is giving you plenty of time to get involved and enter one of the many categories and win money and/or a ribbon or both! The office is at 655 South First St.

Winter Sports

On Saturdays, from January 6 through March 9, pickleball will be offered to all ages, adults and accompanying children under age 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through the City of Dixon. It's a pay-at-the-door basis, \$5 drop-in, and is at John Knight Middle School. Also, youth sports, futsal and dodgeball, designed for youths aged 6-13 years will also be offered from 1 and 2 p.m. With open play available, it's a great way to meet new people and stay in shape.

Solano Rugby

Rugby practice begins Tuesday, January 9, at 5:30 p.m. at Hall Park. Practices will run for about one-and-a-half hours. You can email soloyouthrugby@hotmail.com, or call (916) 761-3467. Contact is Kelly Evans. ★

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National Average Price of Gas Projected to See Yearly Decline in 2024

GasBuddy News Release

DALLAS, CA (MPG) - GasBuddy, a PDI company, today released its annual Fuel Price Outlook with some good news for drivers: expect lower gasoline and diesel prices in 2024. The outlook highlights key trends in gasoline and diesel prices, forecasting that, after two years of above average gas prices, 2024 will bring relief at the pump for consumers as several factors contribute to less of a pinch at the pump. GasBuddy expects the yearly national average will drop from \$3.51 per gallon this year to \$3.38 in 2024.

Highlights from GasBuddy's 2024 Fuel Outlook:

Gas prices still could fall below a national average of \$3 per gallon this winter before starting to rise in late-February, getting close to \$4 per gallon as summer approaches, then mildly declining into summer, with hurricane season presenting uncertainty in late summer.

Drivers in some California cities could again briefly see prices above \$6 per gallon if major refinery issues develop during the summer, although most major U.S. cities will see prices peak at or slightly below \$4 per gallon in 2024.

Americans are expected to spend a combined \$446.9 billion on gasoline in 2024. Average yearly spending per household will fall to an estimated \$2,407, down 2% from 2023, and over 12% less compared to 2022.

Electric vehicles (EVs) and the 2024

presidential election have the potential to impact fuel prices in the year ahead, with a potential slowdown in the EV transition at stake.

Memorial Day will be the priciest 2024 holiday at the pump, with the national average price of gasoline expected to be \$3.56-\$4.04 per gallon on the holiday.

"As 2023 fades away, I'm hopeful those \$5 and \$6 prices for gasoline and diesel will also fade into memory," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. "The global refining picture continues to improve, providing more capacity and peace of mind that record-setting prices will stay away from the pump in 2024. I anticipate that we'll still have some volatility, unexpected outages and disruptions, and potentially weather-related issues, but I do not expect it to lead to record prices. Offsetting OPEC+'s production cuts is contributing to the rise of U.S. oil production, which now stands at record levels. Combined with Canada, North American oil production could further stabilize countries that have decided to curb oil production."

The outlook forecasts the highest prices will be seen at the peak of the summer driving season in May, with the national average potentially rising as high as \$3.89 per gallon. More uncertainty is expected with hurricane season in late summer. Diesel prices are also predicted to fall incrementally from 2023, peaking at \$4.13 per gallon in March 2024. ★

Ramtown Grapples for Gifts

Odd is Optional



Plenty of toys were collected for children in need at the recent karate tournament.

By MPG Staff, photos by Sherri Wentworth

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Ramtown Karate got in some extra mat time grappling for toys this past week. Students were allowed to enter the "Grapple for

a Great Cause" tournament if they donated a toy, book, or other gift for children less fortunate. The beneficiary was the Toys for Tots (a.k.a. Community Christmas Program.) The event was held on

Thursday, December 21, and about 50 participated. "Parents loved it," reported Ramtown's Mario Leon. "They enjoyed watching and supporting everybody." He said they collected lots of toys.

"There was a good mix of all students," he said. "We had a good portion of little guys, almost teens, teenagers and even adult so there were people of all ages." Leon has been doing karate for about 24 years since he moved to Dixon and started at Ramtown.

"I like to give back to the community and thank them for supporting us," he added. "I like to make sure people are safe, and if I can do anything to help aid people to defend themselves, I'm all for it." Ramtown Karate was established in Dixon years ago and is located at 1680 North Lincoln St., Suite A. Phone is (707) 678-4899, and their website is RamtownKarate.com. ★



Bud Fanning overlooks one case of several that are full of ribbons, awards, and photos of the past 100 years of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

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that," said Cherie Fanning. The 'command' of the IOOF is to "visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead, and educate the orphan." The mission is to "improve and elevate the character of mankind."

Dixon's Montezuma Lodge #172 was organized in 1870 with 10 charter members. It soon ballooned to 150 members over the next several decades. The walls inside the IOOF Building at the corner of First and A Streets are full of pictures of the galas and gatherings.

"Everybody in Dixon belonged to it," said Cherie. "The whole hall is full of pictures, and to have that many people in Dixon in one club, you know it was all of Dixon." Now, there are Odd Fellows in all 50 states, with 108 in California, and there are only 25 of those with memberships as high as Dixon's.

The building has been well preserved by Dixon's Odd Fellows who oversee the building that also houses a pool table and card room upstairs. When Bud and Cherie Fanning purchased the restaurant in the bottom part of the building for Bud's Pub & Grill in 1996, IOOF Board member Charlie Peters approached Bud about joining the Odd Fellows.

"When Bud joined, he was the baby," said Cherie.

"I made the fifth member, and one soon died," Bud said. "What I saw was a few old guys and wondered what would happen if the club died? They are our landlords." If the club dissolved, Bud explained, it would revert to the control of an international office, most likely, far away from Dixon, or it would be sold. So Bud went to work to grow the club. He recruited friends as well as co-workers from Albertson's where he worked at the time. One was Dixonite Ed Nishizaki who

joined about 25 years ago. He is the club's secretary.

"I like the camaraderie," Nishizaki said. "We're friendly, and get along, and we all enjoy doing things for the community."

Grand Efforts

The meeting place is up above Bud's Pub and Grill. It is an unusual space — a large square lined with one or two rows of seats. The chairs face a podium that has an emblem of a linked gold-colored chain with the letters F, L, and T centered in them. That stands for friendship, love, and truth.

They meet twice a month and still do a traditional initiation for new members. Their titles sound formal like "Noble Grand and Vice Grand." Ken Middleton is this year's Grand Noble. And, they are reverent unlike the annual fundraiser that exudes all the fun of a post-football win. Dues are \$75.

"We raise about \$10,000 a year," Bud said, sounding proud. "I just like to do things for the community."

The group gives away eight to ten \$500 or \$1,000 scholarships annually.

"I like knowing there's a young kid out there that you're helping with a nudge up," said member Tommy Raycraft.

The members have also spent their time doing repairs and upgrades to the building, including new carpet, paint, and installing a motorized chair lift that carries someone up the 25 steps. And there is the endearing contribution of Bud's pocketbook, like when he personally paid for all the new plumbing throughout the entire building.

"I like to keep the history going," said Bud showing off original documents and photos from 100 years ago.

If you are interested in joining the organization, contact Nishizaki at (916) 837-6865, or by email at elnish@wavecable.com. ★



Ramtown karate students grapple in a special holiday tournament benefiting Toys for Tots (a.k.a. Community Christmas Program).

Looks Can Be Deceiving



The Quick Quack Car Wash on Stratford and Lincoln may seem perfectly poised to open its doors for business, however, the Stratford one has to do some testing of the car wash equipment to confirm it meets noise levels as was required by conditions of approval by the City of Dixon.

The other location, at Dorset Drive by Cattlemen's, might open sooner even though it doesn't appear nearly as ready as the one above (Stratford).

"Even though the buildings and sites are almost done, they are both currently held up waiting on permanent power from PGE," said City of Dixon Community Development Director Raffi Boloyan. "PGE is really delayed, and I think last we heard from the contractor they were told it was still a few weeks to a month before getting permanent power installed, but once the permanent power is installed, the Dorset one should be quicker to open than the Stratford."

Photo by Debra Digman

Planners Hear Gaming Lounge Idea

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popular arcade games, console gaming with Xbox, PlayStation®, and Nintendo, computer gaming options which we're finding is increasingly on the rise with our students, and also board games." Because, she added, not everyone wants to play on computers.

"We will have a wide variety of cereal selections, as well as soft-serve ice cream, a gourmet coffee bar, and hot foods such as pizza, hotdogs, and nachos. There will be comfortable seating for parents to hang out with free Wi-Fi," she told the commissioners. "Patrons will enjoy really comfortable seating for parents so they can sit back and relax with free wi-fi and know their kids are safe."

The business will offer private parties and also game rooms for rent, plus

they foresee school field trip packages for STEAM technology experiences in the future.

"We hope to partner with Read-Ride for kids for after school," she said. The two were poised to sign a lease but learned the zoning isn't set up for "Indoor Entertainment," and interestingly, no where in Dixon is, so they will be applying for a conditional use permit.

"We love our town. Families can come at an affordable price, and there is a need that the business will fill. We're really excited about that," she concluded, thanking the commissioners for their service and their consideration.

Planning Commissioner Chair Jack Caldwell thanked Myers for her presentation. To see more about their business, go to joystickdixon.com. ★

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CHP New Traffic Safety Laws

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As we head into the new year, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) is educating the public on traffic safety laws that were passed during this year's legislative session and signed by Governor Gavin Newsom. The laws referenced below take effect on Jan. 1, 2024, unless otherwise noted.

Vehicles: Registration - AB 256 (Dixon)

Existing law requires current month and year tabs to be displayed on the registered vehicle's rear license plate. Beginning July 1, 2024, and until Jan. 1, 2030, a violation of vehicle registration shall not be the sole basis for any enforcement action before the second month after the month of expiration of a vehicle's registration. However, if a vehicle is stopped for any other Vehicle Code violation, enforcement action for a violation of vehicle registration may be taken before the second month following the month of expiration. Late registration fees from the Department of Motor Vehicles will still apply.

Vehicle Removal: Expired Registration (AB 925, Ta)

Requires a peace officer or traffic enforcement official to verify the lack of current vehicle registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles before towing a vehicle for expired registration longer than six months and prohibits the vehicle from being towed if the officer or traffic enforcement official does not have immediate access to those records.

Vehicles: Speed Safety System Pilot Program - AB 645 (Friedman)

The cities of Los Angeles, Oakland, San Jose, Glendale, Long Beach, and the City and County of San Francisco may install a limited number of cameras to enforce speed limits for a five-year pilot period in school zones and designated "safety corridors" – locations that have a high occurrence of fatal and injury crashes – and areas known for illegal street racing. Recorded violations will be subject to a civil penalty.

Vehicles: Stopping, Standing, and Parking - AB 413 (Lee)

Designed to increase visibility at crosswalks, this law prohibits parking or stopping a vehicle along a curb at least 20 feet from a marked crosswalk or 15 feet of a crosswalk where a curb extension is present. The regulation only applies to the side of the road of the vehicle's approach to the crosswalk. Local jurisdictions may establish different distances through local ordinances by marking areas with signs or paint.

Cruising - AB 436 (Alvarez)

The law removes city and county authority to regulate cruising via local ordinances. Additionally, the law legalizes "lowrider" vehicles to cruise California's streets, by removing the height restriction on lowered vehicles.

Automobile Dismantlers: Catalytic Converters - AB 641 (Fong)

This law redefined an automobile dismantler to include individuals in possession of nine or more catalytic converters. Additionally,

the law creates penalties for individuals illegally acting as an automobile dismantler. Individuals and businesses who have a legitimate purpose for having catalytic converters, such as repair shops, will be excluded from penalty.

Vehicles: Catalytic Converters - AB 1519 (Bains)

This law makes it illegal to remove a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) marking from a catalytic converter. It also makes it illegal to possess three or more catalytic converters that have had their VIN markings removed.

Vehicles: Catalytic Converters - SB 55 (Umberg)

This law requires a motor vehicle dealer or retailer to have the catalytic converter engraved or etched with the VIN before a new or used truck or car is sold. The law does allow for the purchaser to decline having the VIN etched or engraved on the catalytic converter.

Emergency Notification: Ebony Alert: Missing Black Young - SB 673 (Bradford)

This legislation establishes the "Ebony Alert," which allows law enforcement agencies to request the CHP to activate an alert for Black youth, including young women and girls between 12 to 25 years of age, who are reported missing under unexplained or suspicious circumstances, at risk, developmentally disabled, cognitively impaired, or who have been abducted.

Emergency Services: Endangered Missing Advisory - AB 946 (Nguyen)

This new law will aid in the recovery of missing persons who do not meet the age restrictions associated with the AMBER and Silver Alerts. The new law authorizes law enforcement agencies to request the CHP activate the "Endangered Missing Advisory" for public distribution of missing person information within appropriate geographical areas when specific criteria is met.

Vehicle Safety Regulations - SB 68 (McGuire)

This law authorizes the CHP to establish rules and regulations allowing commercial vehicles capable of carrying more than 500 gallons of fuel to exceed the standard 10 hours-of-service limit during Governor-declared State of Emergencies. The exception only applies for the purpose of vehicles transporting fuel for refueling aircraft used in emergency-related activities, including fire suppression.

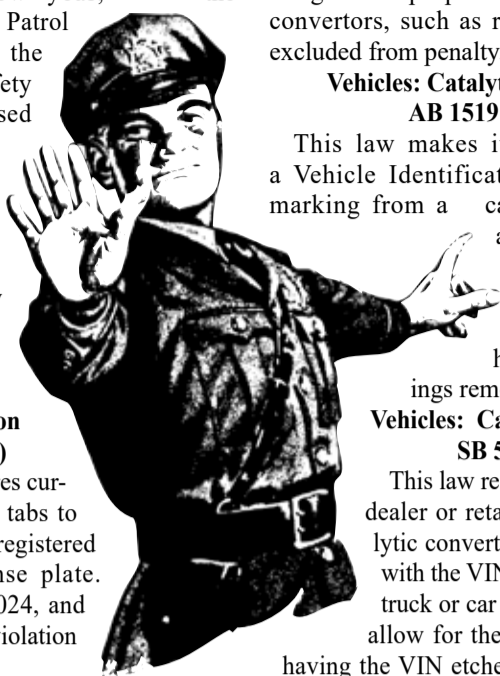
Pupil Transportation: Driver Qualifications - SB 88 (Skinner)

This law will require drivers and their vehicles which are used by a local educational agency to provide pupil transportation for compensation, to meet certain safety requirements.

Vehicles: Zero-Emission School Buses: Signage - SB 775 (Padilla)

This law authorizes a school district, county office of education, or charter school using a zero-emission school bus to transport pupils at or below the 12th-grade level to place signage on the rear of the zero-emission school bus that identifies the school bus as a clean air zero-emission bus. It also authorizes the CHP to issue guidelines governing the size and placement of that signage.

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



The IRA Kills Incentives for Medical Innovation; Hardly a Win for Americans



Commentary by Sally C. Pipes

The Biden administration recently announced the first 10 drugs that will be subject to price controls under Medicare as part of the Inflation Reduction Act. The president celebrated the occasion, saying, "We took on Big Pharma and special interests... and the American people won." "Won?" The next generation of American patients will not feel like they "won" when they're stuck waiting even longer for effective treatments -- if those treatments ever materialize.

Price controls invariably lead to shortages in the short term – and warp the financial incentives that underpin drug research and development in the long term.

Historically, drug companies have worked to bring medicines to market as quickly as possible. The sooner patients started taking a drug, the sooner the drugmaker could begin to recoup the more than \$2 billion, on average, it spent developing it.

After a treatment hit the market, firms routinely conducted additional

research to see if it was effective against diseases other than the one it was approved to treat. If that research proved successful, companies applied for approval to treat these additional "indications" and marketed the drug to additional groups of patients.

This strategy helped bring countless new treatments to patients who didn't have any other options. Since 2003, the Food and Drug Administration has approved more than 90 follow-on indications for orphan drugs, which treat rare diseases. The majority of cancer treatments from 2006 to 2012 were approved for at least one follow-on indication – roughly 40% of which were a different cancer subtype.

Unfortunately, thanks to the IRA, discoveries like these may soon be fewer and farther between.

The law's price controls are dressed up as "negotiations" between Medicare and drugmakers. If a drugmaker declines to accept the government's offer, then it faces an excise tax of up to 95% on the drug in question's sales or must withdraw all its products – not just the one subject to negotiations – from Medicare and Medicaid.

These price controls will significantly shorten the period in which pharmaceutical companies can recoup their investments in research and development. That's particularly true for small-molecule drugs – typically pills

– which can be hit with price controls under the IRA after just nine years on the market.

Biologics – usually injections or infusions – aren't subject to price controls until 13 years after approval.

Roughly half of a medicine's sales are made after year nine, in years 10 to 13. So it's only rational that some drug companies would adjust their research, development, and launch strategies accordingly.

Some may wait to seek approval until they've zeroed in on the largest patient population possible – even if they're confident they could get approval faster for a smaller group of patients with a different disease.

The IRA is also scrambling drug companies' incentives to do further research into follow-on indications. Devoting time and money to find out if a drug can treat another disease may not make financial sense once the nine-year price-control clock has started.

Patients will be the ones who pay the price for treatments delayed or never developed in the first place. That's not a win for the American people.

Sally C. Pipes is President, CEO, and Thomas W. Smith Fellow in Health Care Policy at the Pacific Research Institute. Her latest book is False Premise, False Promise: The Disastrous Reality of Medicare for All (Encounter 2020). Follow her on Twitter @sallypipes. ★

NFIB Releases Top Five Compliance Headaches for 2024

NFIB News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California's leading small business association today released its list of the top five compliance headaches hitting small business owners in 2024.

"California small business owners are no different from their counterparts elsewhere in the nation in struggling to find qualified employees and in dealing with inflation," said John Kabatek, California state director for the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). "What does separate them from other small business owners in other states, however, is having to live with a Legislature that takes an almost sadistic delight in hamstringing them further with more and more regulatory compliance, and 2024 shows no letting up."

The five soon-to-be laws are:

SB 553 (Cortese) - Workplace Violence Prevention Plan. Effective July 1, 2024.

This bill requires employers to establish, implement and maintain a workplace violence prevention plan and record information in a violent incident log, the post-incident response and internal workplace violence injury investigation. The log must include: the date, time and location of an incident, a detailed description of an incident, a classification of who committed an incident, the type of incident, including whether an incident involved physical, verbal, sexual or animal attacks, the consequences of an incident such as medical treatment received, whether security or law enforcement was contacted and the contact information of the individual completing the violent incident log.

AB 2188 (Quirk) - Discrimination in Employment: Use of Cannabis. Effective January 1, 2024.

Passed last year but going into effect on January 1, 2024, this bill amends California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) by making it unlawful for an employer to terminate, penalize or otherwise punish an employee for cannabis use outside the workplace. Existing law prohibits an employee from being impaired by cannabis in the workplace. One of the challenges for employers, however, is that since there is currently no reliable testing method for

determining if an individual is impaired by cannabis, the thresholding for proving such impairment is extremely difficult to meet.

SB 700 (Bradford) - Discrimination in Employment: Use of Cannabis. Effective January 1, 2024.

This bill amends California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) by making it unlawful for an employer to request information from an applicant for employment pertaining to the applicant's prior use of cannabis unless obtained from the applicant's criminal history. Takeaway from a recent NFIB California Podcast guest: Don't ask about an applicant's cannabis usage history. (NFIB does not provide legal advice. For legal advice about compliance with these or other laws, we recommend consulting with an attorney or human resource specialist.)

SB 616 (Gonzalez) - Paid Sick Leave. Effective January 1, 2024.

This bill increases paid sick leave from three to five days a year. Paid sick leave can still be front loaded and the current accrual methodologies remain in place.

SB 848 (Rubio - Reproductive Loss Leave. Effective January 1, 2024.

This bill amends California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) by making it unlawful for an employer to refuse to grant a request by an eligible employee to take up to five days of reproductive loss leave. The leave must be taken within a three-month window from the time of the loss. A reproductive loss event can include a failed adoption, failed surrogacy, miscarriage, stillbirth or unsuccessful assisted reproduction.

Keep up with the latest on California small-business news at www.nfib.com/california or by following NFIB on Twitter @NFIB_CA or on Facebook @NFIB.CA.

For 80 years, NFIB has been advocating on behalf of America's small and independent business owners, both in Washington, D.C., and in all 50 state capitals. NFIB is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and member-driven association. Since its founding in 1943, NFIB has been exclusively dedicated to small and independent businesses and remains so today. For more information, please visit nfib.com ★

Electronic Logging Device Required for Drivers of Regulated Commercial Vehicles

CHP News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In an effort to create consistency between state and federal regulations while simultaneously enhancing commercial vehicle safety across California, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has amended the California Code of Regulations (CCR) to require *intrastate* motor carriers and drivers to use an electronic logging device (ELD) to record a driver's record of duty status (RODS) when operating commercial motor vehicles subject to hours-of-service regulations.

Since Dec. 18, 2017, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations have required interstate motor carriers and drivers to use an ELD to record a driver's RODS in accordance with Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 395, Subpart B, unless otherwise exempted. Since then, the CHP has worked to align state regulations with federal ELD regulations and has engaged with a variety of interested parties, including motor carriers, commercial motor vehicle drivers,

media, and public interest groups. The CHP received significant input during three separate public comment periods and conducted numerous presentations, which included the 2019, 2021, and 2023 Commercial Vehicle Safety Summits, to advise the affected industry of the upcoming changes.

The regulations, which will be effective Jan. 1, 2024, outline the applicability, requirements, and exceptions to the use of ELDs for *intrastate* motor carriers and drivers. Affected parties are encouraged to review the applicable sections, specifically Title 13, CCR, Division 2, Chapter 6.5, Sections 1213 and 1213.3, by visiting the official CCR website.

Additional information is available on the CHP's website under *Regulatory Actions* and an *Intrastate Electronic Logging Devices webpage* under Programs and Services. Questions regarding the ELD regulations may be directed to the California Highway Patrol, Commercial Vehicle Section, at (916) 843-3400. ★

The Paid Sick Day Dilemma



The National Federation of Independent Business lists the new law among its top five "compliance headaches" for California's small business owners. Photo courtesy of Marcus-Aurelius Pexels

By Sameea Kamal,
Calmatters.org

California workers will be guaranteed five paid sick days a year starting Jan. 1, up from the three days that employers are currently required to provide, thanks to Senate Bill 616.

The bill, authored by Long Beach Democratic Sen. Lena Gonzalez, also extends protections against retaliation to workers who are in a union, but excludes provisions that would have granted railroad employees access to unpaid sick leave.

It was a significant, but partial victory for proponents, including

advocacy groups for families and women and dozens of unions. They originally sought seven days, but the final version was reduced in negotiations during the legislative process.

The California Work & Family Coalition hailed the law — one of several measures last session aimed at improving work-life balance — as "a commonsense change."

But trade associations representing various industries such as the California Grocers Association and California Hotel & Lodging Association, as well as chamber of commerce groups throughout the state, argued that

the law would hurt small businesses that have not recovered from the pandemic, are now dealing with inflation and can't afford the additional cost of covering for sick workers.

The National Federation of Independent Business lists the new law among its top five "compliance headaches" for California's small business owners in 2024, along with SB 848, which makes it unlawful for employers to refuse as many as five days of "reproductive loss leave" for miscarriages, failed adoptions and other events.

The state Chamber of Commerce had the sick leave law

on its "job killer" list and recently issued guidance for employers to navigate the law's complexities.

There's no federal law that requires employers to give workers paid sick leave. California became the second state in the nation to adopt a paid sick leave policy in 2014, but now provides less time than 15 states and many of its own cities, including San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley.

Upon signing the bill on Oct. 4, Newsom said too many people were still having to choose between skipping a day's pay and taking care of themselves or their family members when they get

sick. "We're making it known that the health and wellbeing of workers and their families is of the utmost importance for California's future," he said in a statement.

This isn't the first time a sick leave expansion has been introduced, but the COVID-19 pandemic amplified the need. In March 2021, a new law required larger employers to provide as many as 10 more days for quarantines or vaccine side effects. But that benefit went away, along with federal tax credits that paid for it, six months later. ★



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Riley Reviews

“BOYS IN THE BOAT” SPORTS TRIBUTE; ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL ON TCM

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“THE BOYS IN THE BOAT”
RATED PG-13

When thinking about the 1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany, the American accomplishment that most readily comes to mind is the triumph of African-American track and field gold winner Jesse Owens.

Winning four gold medals in sprints, relay, and long jump, Owens was not just a hero of the Games but a symbol that belied the Nazi theory of Aryan superiority, even though Germany won the most gold and total medals.

George Clooney’s “The Boys in the Boat,” based upon the best-selling non-fiction novel of Daniel James Brown published a decade ago, brings to wider public awareness the improbable story of nine working-class college boys becoming champion rowers at the 1936 Olympics.

At the height of the Great Depression, Joe Rantz (Callum Turner) symbolizes the struggle of those on the lower rung of the economic scale. Abandoned by his father during childhood, Rantz was on his own as a teenager but he overcame the odds to make it to the University of Washington.

Faced with the prospect of losing his place in college unless he could come up with tuition money, the jobless Rantz was attracted to rowing because a spot on the team would offer a place to live and financial support.

It’s one thing to want to join the team, and it’s quite another to qualify for what is truly a team sport where each member of the crew must work in unison and be able to survive the rigorous training and regimen.

Aside from coxswain Bobby Moch (Luke Slattery) and nervous introvert rower Don Hume (Jack Mulhern), Rantz stands out as the heart of the junior varsity team that would soon best the varsity team to complete with more elite schools.

Under the tutelage of head coach Al Ulbrickson (Joel Edgerton), a man almost of few words as his star rower, the JV team beats the better-equipped University of California team in a regional competition.

The bigger challenge comes when the team travels to the East Coast to face Ivy League teams in qualifying for the Olympics. It’s a case of “no money versus old money,” and the underdog Washington Huskies prevail.

When informed by the U.S. Olympics committee that the Huskies must pay their own way to Berlin, one more challenge is overcome when the community rallies in fundraising. A touching moment arrives when an unexpected donor helps them to meet their financial target.

When it is said that “rowing is more poetry than sport,” that sentiment seems to apply to the crew’s shell builder George Pocock (Peter Guinness) who enlists Rantz’s help in sanding and applying finish to the hull. A bond is formed between the two, adding a grace note to the development of Rantz’s character.

The big moment for the Americans comes in Berlin where the omnipresence of Nazi flags and banners, along with an appearance by Adolf Hitler and a German populace enthralled by the Fuhrer, does not deter them from their mission.

Knowing the outcome, the race itself must have enough drama to be entertaining. As usual, the Huskies get off to a slow start from a disadvantaged position on the water, and eventually prevail in what is as thrilling as a photo finish at the Kentucky Derby.

Cynics may dismiss “The Boys in the Boat” as an underdog sports drama we’ve seen too many times before. A conventional formula works here to deliver a pleasurable old-fashioned inspirational story that is extremely well-crafted.

To the untrained eye, rowing looks like a very mechanical sport with the coxswain and eight rowers propelling the racing shell in a straight line. In the film, the cinematography captures the tension and taxing physical nature of the sport in a very thrilling way.

Above all else, “The Boys in the Boat” is about scrappy team spirit overcoming all odds for the rowers to be heroes to their school as well as the nation. That this film is based on a true story makes it all the more remarkable.

TRIBUTE TO COLUMBIA PICTURES ON TCM CHANNEL

During the month of January, Turner Classic Movies (TCM) will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Columbia Pictures. TCM host Ben Mankiewicz’s month-long showcase of the studio’s films with a different decade from the 1920s and 1930s with “It Happened One Night” all they through to the 2000s.

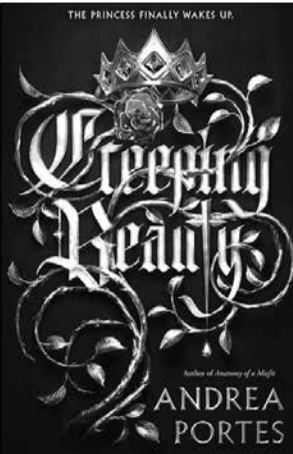
Other great films from the first night include the classic 1937 screwball comedy “The Awful Truth,” starring Cary Grant and Irene Dunne, and the 1938 comedy “You Can’t Take It With You,” starring James Stewart and Jean Arthur.

The second night includes Elia Kazan’s masterpiece “On the Waterfront,” starring Marlon Brando and featuring Eva Marie Saint in her film debut. “On the Waterfront” won eight Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Actor for Brando and Best Director for Kazan.

Over other Wednesday nights, the tribute includes “Taxi Driver” with a young Jodie Foster, “Lawrence of Arabia,” “Funny Girl” starring Barbara Streisand, and ending with 2006 “Marie Antoinette.” ★

Creeping Beauty

by Andrea Portes



◆ Publisher: Harper Teen
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
◆ Release Date: Aug. 22, 2023

What if Sleeping Beauty wasn’t really asleep?

Bitsy has always been the plain, lacking Princess whose only worth was waiting for a prince to come and sweep her off her feet or, at the very least, marry. Bitsy’s royal life was lackluster, sheltered, and protected, not allowing her to have a thought or action of her own. Then, one day, in a panic, Bitsy tries to flee from the castle, her responsibility to marry, and the vile price who demands her hand in marriage, only to find a strange door, hiding away a spindle.

As if called to the spindle, Bitsy follows, pricking her finger. But it’s not a golden slumber that overcomes the Princess; it’s a kingdom. The moment Bitsy pricks her finger, she falls deep down into another world, another time, and another place. Bitsy is no longer a princess waiting for a prince. Bitsy is now trapped in a world where beauty rules, truth is hidden at all costs, and a dark evil rules at the forefront. In order to have any hope of finding her way home, Bitsy must now fight to survive.

Royalty means

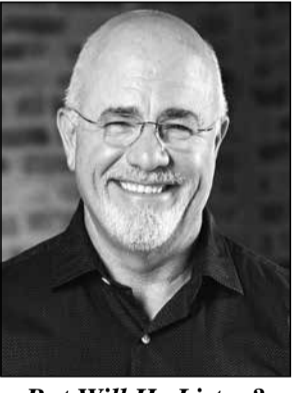
nothing, but beauty is a currency. Now fighting for survival and finding a way home, Bitsy learns the power and sharpness of her own mind. The only way to survive this world is to be cunning, deceitful, and quick, all attributes Bitsy never knew she possessed.

Yet, in a land ruled by greed and possession, Bitsy must still learn who is there to help and who is there to profit, opening the door to more questions than there are answers. Ultimately, this poses the true question: At what point is the Princess’s true awakening?

The Princess finally awakens in this twisted, retold story of Sleeping

Beauty. While giving the illusion of sleeping in a deep slumber, Sleeping Beauty is actually very awake, living an alternate reality in a strange new world. A world that is meant to challenge Sleeping Beauty in every facet of her life, ultimately forming its own awakening.

While the preface of this Sleeping Beauty retelling is alluring, readers will uncover a confusing plot line that tackles weighty, sensitive issues. With the princess landing in a kingdom where most of the inhabitants die, to narrowly escape only to be sold to the highest bidder, readers will be left questioning which direction this story is headed. However, the story’s saving grace is that the main character has quite the growth, learning to use her mind, skills, and wit to survive. This story’s quick ending is left to readers’ interpretation, but also is the subtext. Andrea Portes doesn’t serve the story or its meaning on a silver platter; instead, it allows the readers to ponder and think for themselves the true meaning and message behind the real awakening of Sleeping Beauty. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

to be practical and realistic at the same time.

This next part is more observation than insult, so I hope you’ll understand. Your friend sounds to me like he might be a little impulsive and unrealistic. When it comes right down to it, maybe a touch immature, too. So, I think what we’re talking about here is how to give your friend a gentle, well-intentioned nudge in a more realistic direction. He needs to open his eyes to some positive financial realities of life—like living on a written, monthly budget—and not making a habit of chasing rainbows and making excuses.

If he came to me for advice, the first thing I’d tell him is that the most employable people are ones who aren’t broke. When you go into a job interview and you’re broke, it’s easy to come off as desperate and tense. That doesn’t make for a very good interview.

The answer to that, when you’re essentially unemployed, is to work any legitimate full-time job. At the very least, two, three or even four part-time jobs. Deliver pizzas, wait tables

and mow yards. It’s doesn’t matter what you’re doing, as long as you’re generating a livable income for yourself. Smile and be professional at whatever you’re doing, too. You never know when you might come face-to-face with your next real employer. But none of this will happen if you’re working three or four hours a day, and spending most of your time at home in front of the television.

I hope this helps. I hope your friend will listen to you and understand you have his best interests at heart. But if he doesn’t, all you can do is hope for the best and pray for him.

Best of luck, Garrett. You’re a good friend.

— 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 Ramsey Solutions ★

But Will He Listen?

Dear Dave,

My best friend is having financial problems, and I’m worried about him. He’s “between jobs” now and making less than \$600 a month through a part-time job. He says he’s holding out for his dream job, which is about ten hours away, but even when he’s working full time, he always asks to borrow money or says he’s running low. He interviewed for his dream job several months ago, and I haven’t got the heart to tell him he was probably passed over for the position. Is there anything I can do to help him?

— Garrett

Dear Garrett,

I assume that since you’re good friends, he’s willing to listen to what you have to say. There’s absolutely nothing wrong with having a dream job. You just have

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P.O. Box 1106, Dixon, CA 95620
Subscription rate is \$42 per year within Dixon and Solano County. \$62 per year (Mail only).
Main Office Address: 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The *Dixon Independent Voice* is published weekly on Friday.
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MPG, ENPA, CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL
Publisher, Paul V. Scholl
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001877
The following persons are doing business as: Acorn Financial Solutions, 2625 Ascot Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534. Sievers Enterprises, Inc., 2625 Ascot Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534. Date filed in Solano County: December 4, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. 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 ficti-

tionous Business name statement must be filed before the expiration date on December 3, 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: Dec 15, 22, 29, 2023 Jan 5, 2024 ACORN 1-5-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001943
The following persons are doing business as: Mirador Construction, Mirador Energy, Mirador Solar, 1652 W Texas Street Suite 101A, Fairfield, CA 94533. Mirador Construction Inc., 1652 W Texas Street Suite 101A, Fairfield, CA 94533. Date filed in Solano County: December 19, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: May 31, 2018 This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. 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 December 18, 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: January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024 MIRADOR 1-26-24



DWR Announces Initial State Water Project Allocation of 10 Percent for 2024

DWR News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On December 1, 2023, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an initial State Water Project (SWP) allocation forecast of 10 percent of requested supplies for 2024. The SWP provides water to 29 public water agencies that serve 27 million Californians.

The December 1 initial water supply forecast is the first allocation of the new water year and is based on current reservoir storage and an assumption of very dry conditions. So far in October and November, storms have not brought as much rain and snow.

"California's water year is off to a relatively dry start. While we are hopeful that this El Niño pattern will generate wet weather, this early in the season we have to plan with drier conditions in mind," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "California's water supply continues to benefit from our aggressive efforts last season to capture record rain and snow melt in our reservoirs and groundwater basins."

The initial SWP allocation forecast is looking ahead to 2024 and only applies to water deliveries in the year ahead. The allocation is calculated based on October and November precipitation, dry soils, runoff, and storage in Lake Oroville. It has no bearing on current water supplies or water captured in 2023. Most reservoirs in the state remain above average for this time of year.

Highlights of California's Water Supply Storage

Last winter, a total of 3.5 million acre-feet of water was captured in SWP reservoirs. The SWP delivered 2.7 million acre-feet in allocated water plus an additional 400,000 acre-feet of supplemental water to SWP contractors in 2023;

To date, Lake Oroville, the SWP's largest reservoir, is at 133 percent of average.

San Luis Reservoir, jointly operated by the SWP and Central Valley Project, remains at 109 percent of average. Water stored in San Luis also includes water from 2023 being stored by water contractors for use in future dry years;

In coordination with the Metropolitan Water District (MWD), DWR provided water to fill up Diamond Valley Reservoir for the first time in three years. The facility is a critical part of the Southern California water delivery system;

California was also able to redirect excess storm water for groundwater recharge. DWR has estimated more than 3.8 million acre-feet of recharge capacity in 2023, including more than 1.2 million acre-feet of groundwater recharge permitted by State agencies, 390,817 acre-feet of flood water recharged using the Governor's Executive Orders, and millions more acre-feet of managed and naturally occurring recharge.

It is not uncommon for the initial allocation forecast to be low following very wet years. For Water Year 2018, the initial allocation was 15 percent following an 85 percent final allocation in 2017. Water Year 2020 started with a 10 percent initial allocation following a 75 percent final allocation in 2019. Both 2017 and 2019 were very wet winters. More historical data on SWP allocations is available at water.ca.gov/programs/state-water-project/management/swp-water-contractors.

As the winter progresses, if California sees an increase in rain and snowfall, the allocation forecast may increase.

Each year, DWR provides the initial SWP allocation by December 1 based on available water storage, projected water supply, and water demands. Allocations are updated monthly as snowpack, rainfall, and runoff information is assessed, with a final allocation typically determined in May or June. ★

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.



DIXON POLICE LOG

Thursday, December 28, 2023

- 1117 - Found property turned into Dixon Police Department.
- 1259 - Agency assist for Woodland PD for a fraud being reported in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.
- 1352 - Fraud reported at the Dixon Police Department

Wednesday, December 27

- 0717 - Non injury traffic accident in the 2000 block of Lark Way.
- 0907 - Report of stalking in the 1100 block of Dawson Way.
- 1329 - Burglary reported in the 300 block of North Almond Street. On Christmas Day, an unknown subject broke into a school storage container and stole all of the children's soccer balls and basketballs. The suspect was a WMA with a facemask.

Monday, December 25

- 1840 - Hours- Assisted Vacaville PD with pursuit.
- 2230 - Hours- Welfare check in the 200 block of S 1st St.

Tuesday, December 26

- 1215 - Found credit card reported in the 700 block of North Adams Street.
- 1721 - Theft report taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.

Monday, December 25

- 0225 - Hours- Welfare check in the 300 block of E Mayes St.
- 1504 - Late report of a battery in the 1000 block of North 1st Street.
- 1721 - Missing person report taken in the 600 block of West F Street.

Sunday, December 24

- 1130 - Late report of domestic violence in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.
- 1209 - Hit and run accident reported in the 1100 block of Dawson Drive.
- 1452 - Petty theft reported in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 1650 - Non injury traffic accident reported at West A Street and Evans Road.

Saturday, December 23

- 2026 - Hours- Misty Webb (45) of Winters was contacted in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive and later arrested for shoplifting.
- 0140 - Hours- Theft from a business in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 0200 - Hours- Missing person report.
- 1636 - Wanted vehicle located unoccupied in the area of Sievers Road and Pedrick Road. A loaded handgun and marijuana for sale was located.

Friday, December 22

- 1755 - Vandalism report was taken in the 400 block of North Adams St.
- 2041 - Theft report was taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr.
- 2352 - Burglary report was taken in the 500 block of North Almond St.
- 1154 - Residential burglary in the 200 block of Sanborn Lane. Jerrell Jordon (37), of Oakland, was arrested for Burglary, Vehicle Theft, Conspiracy, Driving on a Suspended License, Possession of Stolen Vehicle, Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Obstruction. He was transported to the Solano County Jail. Albert Avalos III (38), of Dixon, was arrested for Possession of Stolen Property, Conspiracy, and PRCS Violation. He was transported to the Solano County Jail. Tamara Weaver (41), of Davis, was arrested for Possession of Stolen Property, Conspiracy, Unlawful Possession of Tear Gas, 3 Failure to Appear warrants out of Vacaville PR, and a Failure to Appear warrant out of Santa Roda PD. She was transported to the Solano County Jail.

Thursday, December 21

- 1851 - Shoplifting, possession of burglary tools, and parole violation arrest report was taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr. Officers contacted (S) Katia Welding (26) of Vacaville. Welding was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.
- 1057 - Late report of a traffic collision on private property in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

Wednesday, December 20

- 0750 Vehicle vandalism reported in the 600 block of Calmace Drive.
- 0909 Missing person reported in the 1200 block of Weyand Way.
- 1032 Stolen vehicle reported in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.

Tuesday, December 19

- 2345 - Hours- Michael Carter (42) of Fairfield was contacted in the 1000 block of North Adams Street and later arrested for public intoxication and resisting a peace officer.
- 0929 - Burglary reported in the 2600 block of Plaza Court.
- 1006 - Report of trespassing at Hall Park. 1347 Investigations report taken in the 1300 block of Ferrero Drive.
- 1601 - Non injury traffic accident in the 200 block of West A Street.
- 1633 - Report of an intoxicated subject in the 1100 block of Afton Way. Della White (53) of Sacramento was arrested for public intoxication and taken to county jail.

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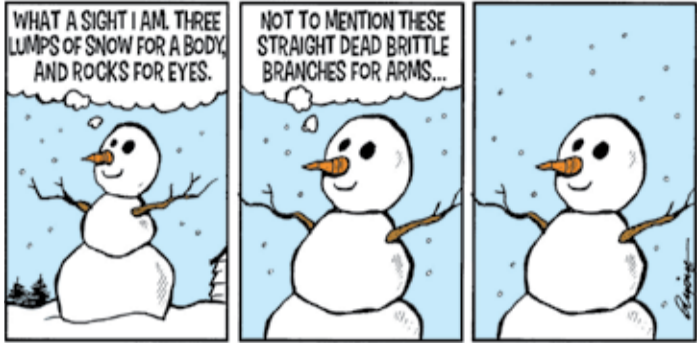
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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Ottoman is turned. 2. Drawer is added. 3. Phone is moved. 4. Legs are shorter. 5. Hat is turned around. 6. Boy is moved.

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Unlocking a Long-Hidden Mystery of a Virus That Attacks Ag Crops

By Kathy Keatley Garvey, UC Davis

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - When UC Davis distinguished professor Diane Ullman of the Department of Entomology and Nematology headed to France on a 2018-19 Fulbright grant to conduct research on tomato spotted wilt virus (TSWV) with her colleagues, she hoped it would lead to important discoveries to help combat plant viruses that attack agricultural crops.

It did: their research revealed how TSWV (family *Tospoviridae*, order *Bunyavirales*) packages its RNA genome, a crucial step in virus infection.

Their newly published research, "The Genome of a Bunyavirus Cannot be Defined at the Level of the Viral Particle But Only at the Scale of the Viral Population," appears in the current edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS).

The 18-member research team included scientists primarily from the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE) at the Campus International de Baillarguet, Montpellier; Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin; and the Department of Entomology and Nematology, University of California, Davis.

"Our work showed the genome of TSWV can only be defined at the population level, pointing at emerging properties when viral particles infect plants in groups," said a key author Stéphane Blanc, research director of INRAE's Biology and Genetics of Plant-Pathogen Interactions. "As most virions contain an incomplete genome, TSWV is a multi-component viral system, where co-infection and complementation are key in the life cycle. These findings open a myriad of possibly distinct properties depending on the genetic composition of the group of virions co-infecting a cell."

"The most challenging part of this work was to create a protocol reliably quantifying the two polarities of each segment," said lead author Michel Yvon of INRAE. "The next important advance will be to demonstrate that co-infection of cells by a group of particles is key to the spread of infection."

Ullman, an international authority



UC Davis distinguished professor Dianne Ullman, outside Sauve, France. Photo courtesy of UC Davis

on orthospoviruses and one of the four main authors, took a sabbatical to work on the project. "My interest was in understanding how TSWV packaged

its RNA genome," she said. "While this sounds like a simple goal, it is quite complex because TSWV has negative sense and ambisense viral strands and

many research tools common to studying other viruses, such as infectious clones were not available."

TSWV is transmitted by thrips, tiny insects with fringed wings. "Orthospoviruses cause serious damage to many important crops, including tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, peanuts, and many others," Ullman said. "The orthospoviruses are enveloped negative or ambisense single stranded RNA viruses with a genome divided into several segments. For many years, graphical views of viral particles have shown a virion packaging one copy of each genomic segment in a polarity named the viral strand. Various observations suggested this scenario may not represent reality, but these studies were often focused on other questions or did not use accurate quantitative methods."

"It was a delight to work with the fantastic team of scientists that Stéphane assembled, all very talented with skills in virology, cryoelectron microscopy and nanopore PCR," Ullman commented. "I cannot imagine a more talented and diverse group of people to conduct this difficult work. I learned a great deal about virus purification from Michel Yvon, whose leadership, skills in virology, and patient teaching really moved our project forward."

"The intellectual and research contributions of our colleague, the late Thomas German of the University of Wisconsin (second author) were too numerous to recount," Ullman said. "His cloning of the six possible RNA segments made reliable quantification of the two polarities of each segment, key to this research, possible. In addition, his enthusiasm for science motivated the entire research team and propelled us all forward. The outcomes of our collaboration challenge dogma around how these viruses infect plants and insects, how their populations evolve, and even the terminology describing their biology."

German, professor emeritus and former chair of both the Departments of Plant Pathology and Entomology at the University of Wisconsin, died Aug. 27, 2023 at age 82.

See more at <https://tinyurl.com/yeuxy5b>

See PNAS paper at <https://tinyurl.com/5hj5a2tv> ★

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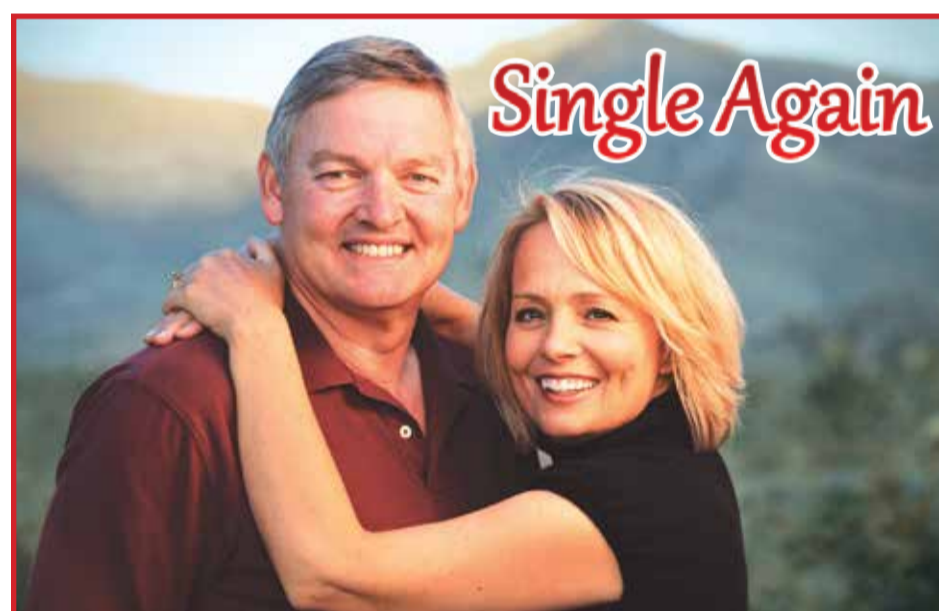
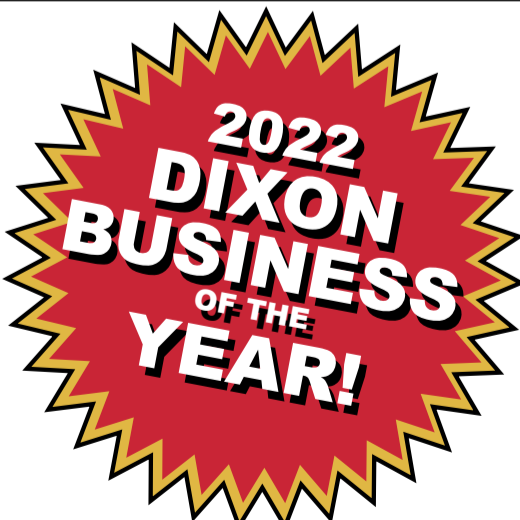
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