



Newspaper
Photographer
Wins Award

PAGE 3

Another
Wonderful
Fair Ends

PAGE 10



Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 20

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

MAY 17, 2024

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INSIDE

EDUCATORS OF
THE YEAR WINNERS
CHOSEN



PAGE 3

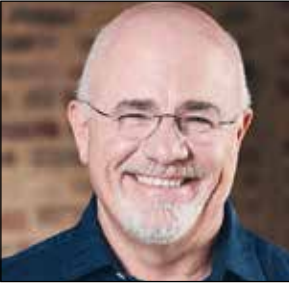
CHP SWEARS
IN 106 NEW
OFFICERS



PAGE 8

THE WALKING
DEBT

By Dave Ramsey



PAGE 4



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Experiencing Fair Fun



Special education students throughout Solano and Yolo Counties took part in an exclusive time to enjoy the May Fair last week. Rotary clubs sponsored the event.

Story and photo
by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Some of the special education students squeezed their eyes closed on the May Fair carnival rides. Others closed their eyes peacefully and looked like they were sleeping. Still others flung their arms and legs out and laughed with pure glee. In their own way, each adapted to Dixon's 147th May Fair.

"The goal is not just for the kids to be here but for the youth to have fun, too," said coordinator Bill Seiden of Vacaville Noon Rotary, about the 31st year of the event where Dixon Rotary Club members also assisted.

Bill and his wife, Karen, started the endeavor for special needs children to experience the Dixon May Fair with their daughter who was

only three years old at the time. They have been doing the event for 30 years now. Their daughter, Kendra, is now 41.

"We have about 80 volunteers which include 45 students from five Rotary-sponsored high school Interact Clubs including Vacaville High School and Buckingham Charter," Seiden said. He reported that there are 280 special needs children, youth, and adults that participate in the annual event.

Dixon Rotarians, President Marianne MacDonald, Jack Batchelor, Mark Monachello, Herb Cross, and Teri Ruggiero were on hand to help students.

"This is what Rotary does," said MacDonald. "We provide service to others. Those kids would not have been able to experience the May Fair

without one-on-one supervision and we were able to help give that."

The students are from Solano County Office of Education, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis and Vacaville school districts plus private schools.

The Seidens worked with Butler Amusements to open some of the rides traditionally on Friday mornings when the fair is closed to exclusively accommodate the large group. The students also got to see the livestock exhibitions as well as experience the carnival. One young man proudly carried around the plush Panda bear he had won tossing ping pong balls in bowls of water.

This year, West Coast Weenies, a hotdog vendor with over 68 years and in its 3rd generation, stepped up to donate 500 hot dogs to everyone. ★

City Council Discusses Budget Deficit

Story and photos
by Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - An approximately \$2-million deficit is in the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25.

Dixon finance director Kate Zawadzki presented the \$30.7-million budget to the Dixon City Council at a special workshop on May 6. The Independent Voice covered the mid-year 2023-24 budget in March, reporting a \$600,000 increase approved by the council.

Not much has changed since then. With the council considering placing a 1% sales tax increase on the November ballot, final figures are hard to calculate. The proposed tax could add approximately \$3 million to the General Fund budget if passed. Councilmember Thom Bogue wanted to know what would happen if it failed.

"If it is not approved and the budget comes in with current projections, then it is a \$2-million deficit," Zawadzki said, noting that is when difficult conversations must begin. "These are not going to be easy conversations because departments have cut 10% over the last two years."

For more than an hour, the finance director detailed dozens of general revenue figures, including property tax, sales tax, transient occupancy tax, other taxes, fees and other revenues, charges for services, and transfers-in, which all fund the General Fund budget.

The General Fund budget disperses between the four largest departments: police at 30%, fire at 23%, general government at 15%, and public works at 12%. Other departments, including finance, engineering, community development, recreation and human resources, fill the rest of the budget at single-digit percentages.

Councilmember Jim Ernest said that \$22 million of the entire budget is for salaries and benefits. While he understands some departments have had to "squeeze down," Ernest said he worries how further decreases could "eventually affect employees."

Fire Chief Todd McNeal was asked to the podium to discuss whether other funding services, including grants, could supplement some fire department budget costs.

"We are exploring every possible program available to us so as not to see the impact we see across the city," McNeal said.

Zawadzki explained the operating budget has both capital and one-time requests. Any project over

Continued on page 3

Healing Grief Through Creativity

Story and photo
by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Valerie Davis set off on a journey to understand her brother's suicide and began a walk toward healing with a self-study into mental health while connecting with her artistic side to ease her agony.

Now, her work has grown out of her home and into a new location. True You Boutique has been established in the Almond Tree Mortgage building, 1115 Stratford Avenue, the commercial building on the corner across from Safeway Plaza.

"I started about four years ago. I really wanted to get into creating products and making products and selling. My brother wound up committing suicide in 2020 and when that happened, I needed an outlet to start healing," she explained. "He had just turned 48 and suffered from PTSD and his



Valerie Davis, owner of True You Boutique, stands with her merchandise.

emotions just overtook him and he could not heal from them. I learned a lot about mental illness and a lot of people suffer but are quiet about it. I wanted to be their voice."

Davis is a mother of three with her youngest

about to graduate from Dixon High School. She also takes care of her own mother so finding time for herself was difficult, but she started slowly. She first created a workbook on 'emotional processing.'

"It takes you through all

your emotions like angry, sad, happy, and walks you through why you feel those emotions and how you can walk through them," she explained. "Even the word 'suicide' has a stigma. I wanted people [who are

Continued on page 3

www.IndependentVoice.com



No Good Deed Goes Unpunished

By Debra Dingman

After typing the phrase, “No Good Deed Goes Unpunished,” in my search bar, a perfectly written explanation popped up from Trial Attorney and Specialist in Evidence Daniel Buttafuoco. This is how it began: “It’s not really a true statement. It just seems true because when it happens, it really stings from the injustice of it all such that you really remember it forever.”

For years people have confused that this was a Bible verse somewhere, but it is not although there is something similar: “Woe unto those who repay evil for good.” Proverbs 17:13.

Buttafuoco said, “It’s what happens when you perform a really good deed or a great service for someone and, instead of responding with intense gratitude, they try to hurt you. They literally repay good with evil.”

Here’s an example. You don’t pay your rent (for whatever reason including job loss) and your landlord extends for 30 days or creates an agreement for partial payment. That goes past a decent amount of time (2 months, for example) for you to find work or move to your parent’s house. (Some people fail to realize that the landlord has a mortgage, taxes, and insurance to pay.) But after you’re evicted, you sue the landlord for a crack in the window.

As life has gone on, it truly amazes me the horror stories that good people trying to help out have experienced.

Someone I know in Vacaville offered a relative a place to live until she ‘got her feet on the ground’ but that person overstayed the welcome because she didn’t

get employed...not because work wasn’t out there but because it wasn’t the ‘perfect job’ so she kept passing on the opportunity to get hired. Where in a very hot job market where if you can fog a mirror, you can get hired at \$20 an hour.

Then you can’t get that person out of your house without a formal eviction process because the law says that a “guest” turns into a “tenant” after 29 days. So, you have to live with someone who is mean and belligerent because she knows she’s being evicted and has to remind you constantly until you live only in your bedroom so there is some peace. That was the case with the Vacaville situation.

So, what do we learn from these kinds of stories? Who wants to be helpful or gracious with the fear of being turned on? When we hosted exchange students—and one for an entire year without reimbursement of any kind—she was the most grateful student ever and was always offering to help with dishes, vacuuming, laundry, etc., etc.

Is there any way to know if you’re going to have a positive experience or a bad one when you are helping someone out? It helps to take an honest look at their history, for one. Has the person got a track record of ‘falling on bad luck’ a lot? Does that person have a job history of several employers in the last few years?

In asking the person you want to help how they got ‘here,’ does he see his role in the problem, or does he blame someone else for all his past woes? The most important characteristic to look for in my opinion is teachability. Is the person teachable? You may have a lot to offer not only in subsistence but also wisdom; but do they want to learn? ★

Dixon News Briefs



Saturday, June 1, will be the shredding event at Atkinson Self Storage, 1800 North First Street. Cash and card payments will be accepted, and pricing will be \$10 per banker sized box. Boxes will be loaded into a toter that will be picked up by mechanical arms and hauled over the top of the truck and into the giant shredder. All are welcome to come to the event whether you rent a storage unit there or not. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Book Bag Sale

The Friends of the Dixon Public Library will host a Bag Sale on Saturday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Friendly Bookworm Bookstore, 200 North First Street next to the public library. The children’s room will be open at regular prices, customers can fill a standard-size grocery bag (that will be provided) for only \$5. Cash or check only and some items are excluded from the sale. All proceeds benefit programs of the Dixon Public Library.

Gone Fishin’ Open House

Boating and fishing are the reason Gone Fishin’ Marine has thrived for 20 years in Dixon and they are ready to celebrate. On Saturday, June 8, there will be food, drinks, and fun with storewide promos, exclusive parts and accessories sale, a raffle and a limited-edition T-shirt giveaway. The address is 1880 North Lincoln Street.

Adult Swim Pilot Program

The Dixon Dolphins are starting a Pilot Swim Program for adult swimmers. The program will include a 2-hour window of use of the training pool. Curated workouts will be provided in order for our team parents and community members to get some exercise while the Dolphins are at practice. The program will be Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. but the time will change in June to adjust to summer swim schedule. Membership cost is \$150 for the season April 22 – July 18, 2024. The pool is at the Pat Granucci Aquatic Center (the 3-lane pool.) Register at www.dixondolphins.org.

Pasta Dinner

On Friday, May 17, the Veteran’s Memorial Hall will feature a pasta dinner with a garden salad and French bread for \$12. It starts around 5:30 and is at 1305 North First Street. All are welcome. You do not need to be in the military or a veteran to attend and it’s an opportunity to meet new friends.

Pardi Plaza Concerts

The Concerts in the Plaza 2024 spring and summer season has started, and the next one will feature the band, ‘Normal Paranormal/Live Wire,’ at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 6. The concerts happen every first and third Thursday of the month at the Pardi Plaza, corner of First and A Streets. Sponsored by the City of Dixon, The Dixon Chamber of Commerce and Kaiser Permanente. For more information, call the Chamber at (707) 678-2650.

Fireworks Booths

The City of Dixon lottery for non-profits to host a fireworks booth and make money for their organizations has been completed. These are the results: Living Hope Church of Dixon will be set up Weinerschnitzel at 2500 West A Street. Dixon Quarterback Club will be at the Dixon Fruit Market, 7808 Batavia Road. The Napa Solano Veteran Riders have their spot in the Safeway parking area at 1235 Stratford Avenue. The Dixon Moose Lodge folks will set up at the Wal Mart location, 235 E. Dorset Drive and lastly, Dixon Montessori Charter School will be at Michael’s Market parking lot at 1100 Pitt School Road.

Senior Center Fun

Every Monday at 12 noon seniors get together for Every Monday at noon seniors get together for the game of Bingo. The cost is a nickel per card, per game and all adults are welcome. There is also a Line Dance Exercise Class on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 9 a.m. at the Senior/ Multi-Use Center, 201 South Fifth Street.

Free Business Course

Learn how to create video for social media by attending a free training course that will equip business owners with the skills to create engaging video content for social media, from planning and recording to editing a video for maximum impact. It will be on May 23 from noon to 1 p.m. Learn all that you can do with a simple set-up and your phone. Sign up at www.solanonapasbdc.org/events/ It is offered by the Solano Napa Small Business Development Center. ★



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Dixon Independent Voice has an immediate opening for an administrative assistant in our office in Dixon.

This position includes customer service, processing payments, following up with subscribers and advertisers, researching local activities and news for creating news releases.

Candidates must have strong communication skills, be able to type a minimum of 45 wpm, good internet skills, social media skills, strong writing skills, and be familiar with Office 365.

General work hours are between 9 and 4, Monday through Friday. Previous office experience required. This is a part-time semi-flexible hourly position.

Check out our company at www.MPG8.com.

Please send your resume and cover letter to Publisher@MPG8.com.



Solano County Educators of the Year Winners Chosen



Chris Bryan and Camila Andaluz pose with their trophies. Photo courtesy of Solano County Office of Education

Solano County Office of Education News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - During Solano County Office of Education’s Educators of the Year celebration May 1, Superintendent Lisette Estrella-Henderson announced Camila Andaluz as the Solano County Classified School Employee of the Year and Chris Bryan, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District’s Teacher of the Year as the Solano County Teacher of the Year.

Andaluz is an exemplary figure within the adult program at the Irene Larsen Center. As a paraeducator, her dedication and hard work resonate with the community as she tirelessly commits to the growth and well-being of young adult students. Andaluz goes beyond conventional teaching methods, creating an environment encouraging students to reach their full potential. She spearheaded the micro-enterprise "Snack Shack," teaching students money management and cooking skills while instilling an entrepreneurial spirit. Andaluz’s multifaceted roles, from classroom engagement to community involvement, showcase her commitment to the holistic development of young adults.

The CSEY Program highlights the contributions of classified school employees who support the education of our public-school students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. The overall purpose is to pay tribute to the tireless efforts of outstanding classified school employees. They are vital members who play key roles in creating a school environment that promotes student achievement, safety and health.

Bryan brings 21 years of education

experience, with 13 years in his current role as a physical education teacher at Fairfield High School. He emphasizes life-long health, positive character and goal setting, going beyond the norm to help students overcome challenges and adopt healthy lifestyles. Bryan advocates against vaping, partnering with Solano County Office of Education’s Youth Development program for additional student education. He believes in supporting students beyond academics by establishing resources such as a clothes closet, washroom, caps and gowns for those in need, and food donations. Bryan identifies student needs and develops comprehensive support systems. Students also acknowledge his positive impact, noting that having Bryan's support brings hope and encouragement.

Since 1978, the Solano County Office of Education has annually celebrated extraordinary teachers who exemplify the dedication and diversity of Solano County's educators. This Teacher of the Year event addresses the challenges in education, promoting teamwork among educators and helping to alleviate the teacher shortage by elevating teaching as a valued profession. A Blue-Ribbon Committee of past winners rigorously reviews applications and interviews candidates to select a nominee who best demonstrates exceptional leadership, commitment and involvement in the school community. The chosen Solano County Teacher of the Year then represents the county in the California Teacher of the Year program, highlighting their excellence in education.

Contact Kelley Birch at 707-399-4806 or KBirch@Solanocoe.net for more information.

Filing Extension for Vacancies on City Commission

City of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The City of Dixon is currently accepting applications for the following vacancies on a City Commission:

Four (4) vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Parks and Recreation Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to recreation and park facilities. Commissioners serve two-year terms, with a maximum of three consecutive terms.

All vacancies are for two-year terms expiring on June 30, 2026. The Parks and Recreations Commission meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of every month. City residency is required. A stipend of \$75.00 per meeting attended is paid to each Commissioner.

Interested Dixon residents may obtain an application at City Hall, 600 East A Street, by calling 678-7000, or by visiting the City’s website at www.cityofdixon.us. The deadline for filing applications is 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 20.

City Council Discusses Budget Deficit

Continued from page 1

\$5,000 is considered capital, and one-time expenses include purchases not made annually. However, one ongoing request has become Pardi Plaza utilities, which are nearly \$25,000.

“When we first accepted Pardi Plaza, we did not break out a budget for it, including lights and water,” Louren Kotow, public works director, told the council.

If Dixon continues to use Pardi Plaza for public purposes, Kotow added, the city might have to supplement costs with a resident rental agreement for site use.

“One of the areas we are seeing revenue increases is building permits and inspections,” Zawadzki said. “We do have robust housing development going on right now that has continued, despite all of the other economic activity we are seeing.”

Zawadzki was asked to address the Solano County accounting snafu, which



Dixon Fire Chief Todd McNeal assures officials his department, which accounts for 23% of the annual budget, is doing all it can to find alternative funding including grants.



City Treasurer Jim Ward requests officials add at least one more position in both the fire and police department for the upcoming budget.

resulted from software that caused many residents not to be appropriately billed on their property taxes. Like residents, the city has yet to see tax revenue for new homes or the sale of large, developed parcels of land. Supplemental taxes have also been delayed but are expected to be recovered in the future.

“They are about nine months behind on recording any changes in property,” Zawadzki said. “And the

auditor- controller office is another three months behind them.”

The only public comment was by Sam Ward, the city treasurer, who said as “a full-service city with residential growth,” he would like to see funding for an additional police and firefighter, grants coordinator, and the senior center.

The council expects a final reading and adoption of the General Fund budget on June 4.

Newspaper Photographer Wins Award



Brown has been doing photography since 2011. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A stunning photo of the sun setting over the vineyards of the Jess Jones Winery here in Dixon has won newspaper photographer Nicolas Brown a \$100 first place award. The organization that sponsored the competition is called Turning Point Community Program and is funded through North Bay Transitional Support Services.

The organization began in 1976 with the unique vision to offer care, hope, respect, and support on the path to recovery and mental health. According to their website, they serve approximately 17,000 individuals annually. Brown, who is a person with autism, has been a part of the program for several years and his photos are often placed in the Dixon Independent Voice

newspaper. He has also won three Dixon May Fair awards and three Solano County Fair awards.

He submitted three photos for the Turning Point competition, but the winery photo was chosen and will be placed on the organization’s website: tcp.org/about/.

“I captured the view during ‘golden hour’ and put it in a high dynamic range in that I typed it at three different values and combined all three to make one picture. That is how I got the sun rays clear,” he explained.

“I have been out there twice and went out in the evening. The time before this shot was of the Ice Bucket Challenge a few years ago and I got a picture of the person getting hit with the ice water,” he said.

Healing Grief Through Creativity

Continued from page 1

hurting] to know I went through the same emotions that they are going through and that they are not alone.”

She then created a ‘prompt’ journal. “Whether you’re walking, driving, or reading, there are prompts for you to journal about what you are doing each day,” she said. Both books are available on Amazon.

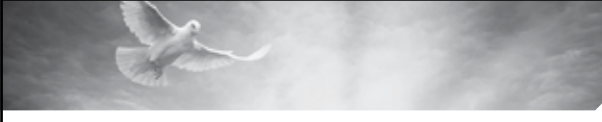
During this time, she learned the importance of positive affirmations and started printing them on quality T-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags. She started connecting with other business owners in Dixon.

“I design the art myself and I have a vendor that puts it on the clothing and ships it out to the customer directly but if I get big enough in the future, I’ll get the equipment myself,” she said. One

of the shirts available has a message on the back that reads: “Dear Person behind me. I hope you know that you matter, the world is a better place with you in it, and everything is going to be OK. Love, the person in front of you.” Another one simply reads, “I am the Architect of my own happiness and well-being.”

Davis recently met Karstin Hickerson, a cancer survivor who also owns Almond Tree Mortgage.


“Karstin’s very supportive and positive because of what I’m doing with my business. She is amazing at all that she does, and we clicked at a Chamber business networking event. She learned I was looking for an office space,” said Davis. To see Davis’ work, go to www.shoptrueyouboutique.com. She is also on Facebook at Truetoyou or you can reach her at (707) 432-8788.



MEMORIAL

BARBARA LONG • 4/22/1943 - 5/2/2024

Barbara Long passed away on May 2, 2024 at the age of 81 after a brief illness. Barbara was born April 22, 1943 in San Francisco. She married Richard Long on June 14th, 1964. They raised their three kids in Petaluma, California where she was involved in all there activities. The place she loved most was being with her family. After retirement, Barbara and Rich enjoyed taking their RV on long trips to explore the country; they had visited 49 out of 50 states; one of their favorite places being Alaska. After moving to Dixon, she joined the Women's Improvement Club and was very active with Dixon Senior



Center where she met many of her good friends.. Her most treasured friend was her sister, Sharon. She lived a beautiful life and leaves behind her daughters Marsha Struzik and Denise (Rusty) Lucchesi, her son David (Andrea) Long; her sister

Sharon (Fred) Diercks, her sister-in-law Priscilla Rodgers (Les); her grandchildren Marisa (Andrew) Meshot, Jason (Brooke) Struzik, Elizabeth (Brady) Penning, Sarah Lucchesi, and Emily, Amanda, and Andrew Long; her great grandchildren James and Amber Meshot, Lane and Baylor Penning, and Nova Struzik. She was preceded in death by her parents, Edith and David, and her husband Richard. A celebration of Barbara's life will be held at the Dixon Senior Center, June 1st, 2024 from 10am - 1pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation are appreciated.



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Messenger Publishing Group

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

California Forever

Dear Solano County residents,

My name is Michael Fortney, and I'm from a third-generation Solano County family. My roots in and love for this place run deep: my great-grandparents first settled in Montezuma Hills in East Solano in 1905, I was born in Fairfield and raised my kids here in Vacaville. My great-grandparents Andrew and Mariangela Baldettamy were from Reggio Calabria, Italy. They moved to Collinsville in 1905 after losing their residence and businesses in the great SF earthquake of 1906.

My great-grandparents' choice to settle down here—and my family's choices since then—have provided me with a wonderful life here in Solano County. To that end, I've been thinking a lot about the future my kids and grandkids can have here moving forward. I am not alone, so many of the people who make Solano County work—nurses, teachers, agricultural workers, business owners, the list goes on—want to continue thriving in this wonderful corner of Northern California.

That is why I chose to join California Forever, the company that's proposing the East Solano Plan, as the Head of Partnerships. I wanted to advocate for the community of people who call Solano County home today.

California Forever had a rocky landing, no question. I wish things were done differently. But, since last fall, I've seen the company learn and change dramatically. Their consideration for Travis Air Force Base was what ultimately tipped me. When concerns with the first version of the initiative were raised, California Forever immediately acted. Within 2 weeks, they redid the entire plan, created a new Travis Compatible Infrastructure Zone, and refiled the initiative with the County. In response, Travis AFB published a press release in February stating:

“California Forever made significant changes to its plans in order to protect Travis' global mission and local flight operations. With this revised proposal, Travis AFB will be able to continue flying its full mission... Travis AFB recognizes California Forever's

efforts to minimize impacts to operations and mission capabilities, as well as their project's potential to improve the wellbeing of our Airmen and families into the future.”

In this new role, improving the wellbeing of Solano County is my top concern. The East Solano Plan can bring good-paying local jobs, homes our kids can afford, and new funding for entertainment and social programs to this county. It speaks to all of the priorities that our Board of Supervisors adopted last April – economic development, agricultural preservation and development, housing, county services, and workforce development.

To share more details about the plan, we have been hosting discussions in small groups at homes across Solano. It's a chance for us to meet as neighbors, answer questions, share feedback, and debate with friends and family about what we need in Solano. If you're interested in hosting or attending one, please reach out to Michael.Fortney@californiaforever.com.

Finally, I want to say thank you. Last week, over 20,000 signatures were submitted to the Solano County Registrar of Voters to place the East Solano Plan on the ballot in November. Vacaville Vice Mayor Greg Ritchie also announced his formal endorsement.

Moving forward you'll see us referring everything to the East Solano Plan [7] until we get a formal initiative letter from the Registrar of Voters. It's an unprecedented moment– the first time in decades that Solano voters have placed something on the county ballot. And each signature was someone saying YES –let's have a voice and a vote in our future. That's what the East Solano Plan is about – taking an active role in improving our county – making it better for all who call it home.

Each week I'll be sharing more on how the East Solano Plan can work for us all. But, for now, I'm excited to open this discussion on Solano County's future with all of you. My inbox is always open.

- Michael Fortney,
Head of Partnerships for California Forever



The Walking Debt

Dear Dave,

A few years ago, I had a real problem with credit card debt. Since then, I've gotten much better at handling my money, and I'm making about \$80,000 a year. Two weeks ago, I received a letter about a credit card I had in 2020. The amount owed is \$7,688. The letter doesn't say I'm being sued, but it says I have to appear before a judge in two months for a pretrial conference. I live in Florida, and I've never heard of anything like this. I only have \$1,000 in savings.

- Damari

Dear Damari,

I'm glad to hear you're handling your finances better now than you did in the past. But at this point, you're learning that old debts don't necessarily die, aren't you? Ignoring debts isn't a good plan, because many times they

Dave Ramsey Says

come back to life like a zombie and come looking for you.

I'm not an expert on Florida law, but a pretrial conference in a case like this—over a \$7,688 credit card bill—is highly unusual. I've been helping people with money problems for 30 years, and I've never heard of anything like this. It could be some kind of new tactic the collections attorney is using to try to intimidate you.

If I were in your shoes, I'd call the attorney who's suing you and try to negotiate a payment plan or settlement. Do you have anything you can sell? Because I've got a feeling if you can come up with \$3,000 or so and offer it as payment in full, they'll take it. I don't mean to be unkind, but these guys figure you're a deadbeat because you've got a 5-year-old debt hanging over your head and haven't tried to pay it. They'll take almost anything they can get at this point.

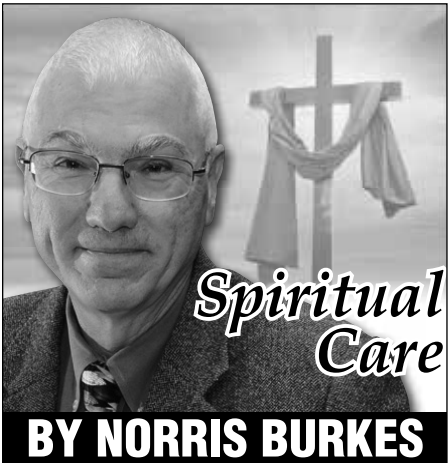
In general, when you go to court over a situation like this, you're going to lose. You have a legal debt, and you haven't paid it. It's that simple. So, if you don't have anything to sell to

make some money that way, you need to get busy working an extra job or two. I'm talking about doing Door Dash or something—in the morning before work or in the evening after work. Kiss those weekends goodbye too. Just go nuts for a few weeks, and make a bunch of extra money fast.

It won't be easy, and you're going to be dog-tired for a while. But you can scrape together \$3,000–4,000 before June easily if you'll just put your head down and make it happen. Then, offer it up to the attorney. Demand a written release, with the debt declared settled and paid in full, and chances are, this thing will be off your back!

- Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling 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 ★



BY NORRIS BURKES

I have a great trivia question to start your weekend.

Do you remember who made famous the catchphrase, “Let’s be careful out there”?

If you guessed Michael Conrad playing Sergeant Phil Esterhaus in the TV show “Hill Street Blues” (1981-1987), you’d be half right. Esterhaus, the desk sergeant, sent his officers onto the street with a heartfelt, “Let’s be careful out there.”

But a little-known fact about that quote is that TV writers got that phrase from my mom.

That’s right. At least twice a week during my adolescence, Mom sent me out into the world telling me, “Be careful out there.”

Your mom probably said the same thing too, but I’m sure you didn’t reply with the sarcasm I did.

“Be careful of what, Mom?” I’d ask. “Be specific. Are you telling me I can’t walk the freeway to school anymore?”

“Why do I have to be careful? I promised my buddies I’d drive them to the beach so we can swim with the sharks.”

I’m sure she got my point. Her admonition was short of specific tips so it wasn’t going to significantly change my plans to do stupid things.

Nevertheless, she’d send me out with a smile, rebuffing my sarcasm, saying, “Just be careful!, OK?”

Still, I loved her concern. She spoke as a person of faith and her warning to “be careful” carried the sentiment of the Apostle Paul.

Whether you consider yourself to be



“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

-- Thomas A. Edison

“Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities. Seize common occasions and make them great. Weak men wait for opportunities; strong men make them.”

-- Orison Swett Marden

Opportunity is sought by virtually everyone. People flock to the United States from all over the world in search of abundant opportunity. In our great country, there is more opportunity than anywhere else. Yet many of those who are born here don't fully appreciate all of the opportunities that surround them each and every day.

There are a couple of misconceptions about opportunity that are unfortunately embraced by too many. One fallacy is “opportunity only knocks once.” Another is that you have to wait for your ship to come in.

The reality is, opportunity exists everywhere. There are new opportunities daily. Waiting for your ship to come in is comparable to playing the lottery; a miniscule percentage of people have a ship that comes in, whereas the vast majority sits at an empty port.

The key to finding opportunity is swimming out and locating your ship. The two essential elements are searching while being proactive. You will never find opportunity if you don't look for it. You will never benefit from opportunity unless you work at it.

The essence of opportunity exists within you. It begins with the control you have over your destiny. You decide what you think about. Your thoughts shape your reality. What you believe to be possible is doable. Whatever you think is impossible will never happen.

After your thoughts, what happens to you is influenced by your behavior. You can have the greatest mindset, but without appropriate action, nothing will materialize. Thoughts without action are fruitless.

religious or not, I think there's good motherly advice in Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus, asking congregants to “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise.”

The passage continues with astonishing specificity, naming four goals to living wisely. (Ephesians 5:15-20)

First, from verse 18, “Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life.”

My mom, a Baptist preacher's wife was definitely a teetotaler. Still, I think she'd like the alternative as it's suggested in The Message – “Drink the Spirit of God, huge drafts of him.”

The latter half of the verse names a second goal: “Become filled with the Spirit of God.”

I'm not sure what kind of spirit my mom saw in her youngest child. But I do know she encouraged me to let God reflect the divine image He placed in me. Even today, I know she sees in me “fightings within and fears without,” much like the hymn “Just As I Am,”

The third goal Paul mentions is “speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit” (v.19).

That's a bit confusing. Are we supposed to sing to one another as if we are characters in a musical?

No. I think Paul is saying, “Speak to each other as if God was speaking his love through you.”

My mom's translation of this – and probably your mom's too -- was, “If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all. But by all means, say nice things!”

Finally, verse 20 tells us to be careful that we are “always giving thanks to God for everything.”

Thank God for everything. REALLY?

No.

Paul's writings, here and elsewhere, emphasize that we take care to maintain the spirit of thanksgiving for all situations, both visible and invisible.

Even now I'm thankful that, at age 91, my mom is still around to tell me to be careful with my grammar, my speech and my posture.

Which proves my last catchphrase for the day: “There's no place like home.”


-The Wizard of Oz, 1939 ★

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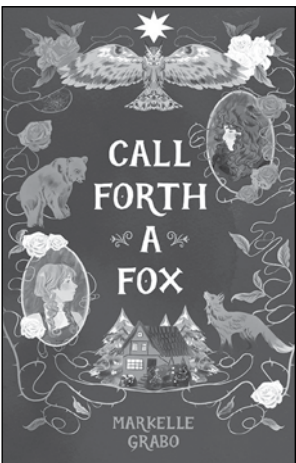
Call Forth A Fox

by Markelle Grabo

Ro has always loved her life in the western woods. Her father taught her to care for their garden and forage mushrooms along the forest floor while telling her grand tales of the faeries who lived amongst them. Her life was filled with so much joy until the day he was gone. With their home quickly falling in disarray and insufficient money to keep the family thriving, Ro's mother has set out to look for work and a new home out of town, leaving Ro and her sister Eirwyn behind to tend the house. While Eirwyn and her mother are excited about the move, Ro can't leave her forest home and all the memories rooted there.

Then, one cold, snowy night, Ro encounters a beautiful fox being chased by a bear and throws herself into its path without a moment's notice. Before her very eyes, the bear turns into a boy who has no memory of who he is. All he knows is he must kill the fox—the very fox that Ro feels she can't be parted from.

Just as everything seems to be spiraling out of control, Ro meets the sweet



- ◆ Publisher: Page Street YA
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Release Date: April 2, 2024

and caring Colette, but even she seems to be keeping her own deep, dark secrets. Now convinced the forest is filled with magic, Ro knows this must be a curse set by faeries, and she is the only one who can break it.

Left with only one choice, Ro and Eirwyn must uncover the forest's buried secrets and the truth behind the stories their father taught them to save her beloved fox and the cursed boy.

Cottage Core meets Fairy Core in the enchanting world of, Call Forth a Fox. Markelle Grabo

weaves a spellbinding tale, blending childhood lore with faerie curses in a way that is both charming and magical. The story, with its echoes of retold fairytales and forest lore, is filled with characters who will find a place not just in the narrative but also in the hearts of readers. The world they inhabit is vivid, atmospheric, and rich in detail, a place that will transport young adult readers into the heart of the forest and the fae world.

Interlaced with faerie lore, secrets, and magic, this story is perfectly suited for a story where readers can take their time being completely immersed in the characters and story.

With a main character that is strong and secure, confident she is the only one who can break the curse, and a sister, that stands tall in her own right, lends to two powerful voices. This captivating story of secrets, faery lore, and magical transformations highlights the powerful bond of sisterhood and confidence, reminding young adult readers the importance of knowing your place in the world. ★



Riley Reviews

“UNFROSTED” SILLY SPOOF OF LOOPY CEREAL INDUSTRY INTRIGUE

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“UNFROSTED” RATED PG-13 ON NETFLIX

Jerry Seinfeld, best known for his eponymous long-running television series, is a man of many talents, including stand-up comedian, writer, actor, and producer. Now he can add director to his list of accomplishments with “Unfrosted.”

His popular series “Seinfeld,” which was a fictionalized version of himself and his personal relationship with three of his friends, was often described as “a show about nothing,” which the star and co-creator with Larry David presumably disagreed was an inaccurate depiction.

Netflix’s “Unfrosted,” written by Seinfeld and a team of collaborators, is also the directorial debut of a talented man who would like his film to be about something, which is a highly dramatized account of the phenomenon of a cereal war breaking out in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Longer than anyone can remember, the Midwest city has been the home of breakfast food titans Kellogg’s and Post. The year is 1963 and the two rivals are scrambling for a new product that could be considerably more revolutionary than just milk and corn flakes.

What possessed Jerry Seinfeld to come up with a project that is undeniably nostalgic for the early years of the 1960s when breakfast cereal reigned supreme and John F. Kennedy was president? Maybe it can be traced to his unabashed love for a bowl of processed grains shown regularly on his TV series.

Keep in mind that some of the characters are based on real persons, while others are fashioned out of whole cloth for comedic effect. Marjorie Post (portrayed by Amy Schumer) inherited the namesake company after the death of her father.

Jim Gaffigan’s Edsel Kellogg III is a buffoonish creation, which is apparent only minutes into the movie when seen in his office stumbling on an item in the newspaper and proclaiming, “Ooh. Vietnam. That sounds like a good idea.”

Seinfeld’s Bob Cabana is a Kellogg’s marketing executive who acquires inspiration from a pair of dumpster-diving kids that discover the tasty possibility of discarded test products. Hence, the concept of the Pop-Tart takes shape, and a full-blown race for a new breakfast pastry ensues.

That Kellogg’s is initially the top dog in the business is illustrated at the annual Bowl & Spoon Awards show, where Cedric the Entertainer’s ebullient host Stu Smiley hands out trophies for the winner of categories like “Easiest to Open Wax Bag” and “Best New Cereal Box Character.”

On a night that every single award is snagged by Kellogg’s, Marjorie Post

and her table party are having a raucous good time, leading to the question of why they are smiling, and Cabana notes that they would “be happy if we were dragged through the streets like Mussolini.”

To feel how absurd is the comedy, look no further than Hugh Grant’s Thurl Ravenscroft, a Shakespearean actor relegated to being Kellogg’s Tony the Tiger in TV ads, and who leads other cartoon characters in a siege of the company headquarters as if it were a full-blown insurrection.

Melissa McCarthy’s Donna Stankowski is lured back to Kellogg’s from her job as a NASA scientist working on food products for astronauts after Bob Cabana dismisses the idea of a mission to the moon.

That the film plays loose on factual accuracy would be caught by a sharp eye of the smallest details in observing a Mustang convertible parked on a street. The first Mustang was the 1964-1/2 model, which according to any one’s math would be a year later than the setting of 1963.

Even more out of tune with the era is the soundtrack that includes singer-songwriter Norman Greenbaum’s hit single “Spirit in the Sky,” that was released in an album of the same name in 1969, which brings it closer to the moon landing.

Doing double duty as Walter Cronkite and Johnny Carson, Kyle Dunnigan portrays the legendary anchor for CBS Evening News as a dimwit for comedic effect, but his impersonation of the late-night TV show host is amusingly uncanny.

Much funnier is when Jon Hamm and John Slattery of “Mad Men” fame, Madison Avenue ad men, pitch an inappropriately provocative “Jelle Jolie” brand illustrated by a sensual pinup girl. Humor is attempted in the oddest places by dragging in political figures like Nikita Krushev (Dean Norris) being pitched Borscht Loops cereal so that Post can get sugar from Cuba.

The Kellogg’s folks meet comedian Bill Burr’s JFK, who’s upset that Post is working with the Russians. The President suggests a cereal named Jackie O’s so that he may be out of the doghouse for Marilyn Monroe singing “Happy Birthday” to him.


Looking at the upside to “Unfrosted” is a calculated appraisal of its comedic value, which in large measure relies more on the supporting characters than what Jerry Seinfeld brings to the table.

“Unfrosted” arrives with a mixed bag of critical acclaim, but one should keep in mind that the story is a ridiculously unserious piece of business, and yet there’s plenty of humor to enjoy as long as you can indulge a nostalgic journey dipping into farcical nonsense. ★



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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Clothing joint

5. *Opposite of good

8. *Pre-

12. Guesstimate (2 words)

13. Sudden impulse

14. Group dice game

15. Stead

16. Naive person

17. Fancy necktie

18. *Compass point opposites (2 words)

20. A pinch between the cheeks

21. Earth tremor

22. Before skip and a jump

23. Constantly worry about something

26. More infinitesimal

30. Catch a wink

31. One weber per square meter, pl.

34. *Pre-recorded

35. Deed hearings

37. Cribbage piece

38. Bread spreads

39. Plural of focus

40. Making the way, in a way

42. "I Like ____," 1952 campaign slogan

43. Of somber color

45. *Like bride's accessories (2 words)

47. 60 mins., pl.

48. Indiana ball player

50. One of Three Bears

52. *Day periods (2 words)

55. Vernacular

56. Part of church

57. Soap bubbles

59. Type of small salmon

60. Bound

61. Domingo, Pavarotti and Carreras, e.g.

62. Nicholas II of Russia, e.g.

63. Key next to spacebar

64. Where users review

DOWN

1. Fa follower

2. Between Ohio and Ontario

3. *Opposite of on land

4. Fluffy dessert

5. Hillside in Scotland

6. Anti-seniors sentiment

7. *Opposite of awakward and clumsy

8. *Door instruction (2 words)

9. Fairy tale opener

10. Flat-bottomed boat

11. Bambino

13. Not like #26 Down

14. Popular breakfast item

19. MCAT and LSAT, e.g.

22. *Hers

23. *Switch positions (2 words)

24. Louisiana swamp

25. Glasses, for short

26. Three biblical sages

27. A logical connection (2 words)

28. Extract a memory, e.g.

29. Stitch again

32. R&R spots

33. Tolstoy's given name, in Russian

36. *Irwin Shaw's title opposites (2 words)

38. Checked out

40. Pimple fluid

41. Marked

44. Speak like Pericles

46. *Not airtight

48. Teacher's pet, e.g.

49. Balance sheet entry

50. *Cons

51. Muslim honorific

52. Facts

53. Donned

54. Nervous biter's victim

55. College assessment test, acr.

58. Janitor's tool

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ITZYS 6-7-24

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Les Papillons LLC, 721 Tregaskis Avenue, Vallejo, CA 94591.
Date filed in Solano County: May 3, 2024. 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 May 2, 2029. 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: May 17, 24, 31, June 7, 2024
LES 6-7-24



DIXON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

BID # 24-0002

RE-BID Transportation for Special Education and Migrant Ed

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Dixon Unified School District ("District") of Solano County, California will receive up to, but not later than **3:00 p.m. on May 30th, 2024 (the “Bid Deadline”)**, sealed bids for the award of a contract or contracts for **BUS TRANSPORTATION AND/OR VEHICLE/VAN SERVICES FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION AND MIGRANT ED**. The bid packet is available on the District's website **dixonusd.org**.

Each bid shall be submitted on the Bid Form. Respondents to this request for bids should mail or deliver three (3) copies of their submittals, as further described herein, to:

Ashley Hague, Accounting Manager
Dixon Unified School District
180 South 1st St
Suite 6
Dixon, CA 95620
Ashley.hague@dixonusd.org

Each bid shall conform and be responsive to this invitation, the Information and Conditions, and all other documents comprising the Contract Documents.

The contract will be awarded to responsive, responsible bidders meeting the criteria set forth in the bid documents, as determined by the District. The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to accept or reject any one or more items of a bid or to waive any irregularities or informalities in the bids or in the bidding, and to award the bid to multiple firms on a non-exclusive basis.

No bidder may withdraw its bid for a period of thirty (30) days after the date set for the opening of bids.

All inquiries and communications should be accessed through Ashley Hague at **Ashley.hague@dixonusd.org**

Dixon Independent Voice 5-17-2024

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Dixon City Council adopted Ordinance No. 24-001, authorizing the levy of special taxes within the City of Dixon Community Facilities District No. 2024-1.

On March 5, 2024, the City Council adopted the Resolution of Intention declaring its intention to form Community Facilities District No. 2024 1 pursuant to the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982, as amended, to levy special taxes within the District, and to designate territory proposed for annexation to the District in the future (the “Future Annexation Area”).

The District is proposed to have the boundaries depicted on the map on file with the City Clerk and recorded with the Solano County Assessor/Recorder on March 19, 2024, as Instrument No. 2024-00011183 in the Book of Maps of Assessment and Community Facilities Districts at Book No. 26, Page Nos. 96-97.

By adoption of Ordinance No. 24-001, the City Council has established Community Services District No. 2024-1, to levy special taxes within the proposed District for the purpose of financing certain public services and administrative expenses and to designate the Future Annexation Area as territory proposed for annexation to the District in the future.

This Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 16th day of April 2024, and adopted at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 7th day of May 2024, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: BOGUE, ERNEST, HENDERSHOT, JOHNSON, BIRD
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

A copy of the full text of the adopted ordinance is available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or at **www.cityofdixon.us**.

Kristin M. Janisch
Elected City Clerk

Dixon Independent Voice 5-17-2024

SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

Notice is hereby given that the Dixon City Council adopted Ordinance No. 24-002, (1) repealing and reenacting Title 18 (Zoning) of the Dixon Municipal Code, (2) repealing and reenacting City of Dixon Zoning Map, and (3) amending various sections of the Dixon Municipal Code (Sections 6.12.040.B.2, 6.12.040.E, 7.03.010, 7.04.050, 9.05.010, 11.14.070, 11.15.040, 12.06.050, 13.05.030, 14.02.275, AND 17.01.040) (Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map Update).

This Ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 2nd day of April 2024, and adopted at a regular meeting of the Dixon City Council held on the 7th day of May 2024, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: BOGUE, ERNEST, HENDERSHOT, JOHNSON, BIRD
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE

A copy of the full text of the adopted ordinance is available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or at **www.cityofdixon.us**.

Kristin M. Janisch
Elected City Clerk

Dixon Independent Voice 5-17-2024

CITY OF DIXON

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the City of Dixon that sealed bids will be received online via Blueprint Express on Thursday, **May 23, 2024**, until 3:00 p.m. at which time all bids will be publicly opened online and read by the City Clerk, for the following project:

HSIP CYCLE 10 PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT #460-503

LOCATION OF WORK: The intersections of East Mayes Street with 4th Street, East A Street with 4th Street, East B Street with North 4th Street, and East A Street and South 7th Street in the City of Dixon, Solano County.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The work includes removing and installing signs, removing and installing pavement markings, installing crosswalks, demolishing existing pavement, demolishing and installing curb, gutter, and sidewalk, installing curb ramps, pavement rehabilitation, installing a raised crosswalk, and traffic control. The Engineer's Estimate for this project is \$252,335.00.

All work is to be done in accordance with said Plans and Specifications. A copy of the Plans and Specifications, including the Contract Documents, may be obtained by logging on **www.blueprintexpress.com/dixon** or by calling **BPXpress Reprographics at (707) 745-3593**. Bid sets may be obtained for a non-refundable price of \$60.00 (additional fee if mailed). All bidders must purchase a complete bid set from **BPXpress Reprographics** in order to be considered responsive and to receive addenda notifications.

All bidders must submit bids online through the bid portal at **BPXpress** in order to be considered responsive.

The quantities given in the Proposal and Contract forms are approximate, being given as a basis for the comparison of bids only, and the City does not expressly, or by implication, agree that the actual amount of work will correspond therewith, but reserves the right to increase or decrease the amount of any class or portion of work or to omit any portion of the work, as may be deemed advisable or necessary by the City Engineer.

Dixon Independent Voice 5-17-2024

LEGAL ADS FOR SOLANO COUNTY?

 916-773-1111



CITY OF DIXON

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
LEGAL NOTICE PUBLICATION SERVICES FOR
THE CITY OF DIXON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dixon (“City”) is requesting sealed bids (“Bid” or “Bids”) from newspapers that are qualified bidders (“Bidder” or “Bidders”) to provide legal notice printing and publishing services for the City for the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year (“Project”), in accordance with this Request for Proposals (“RFP”).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

LOCATION OF PUBLICATION: Eligible Bidders must be qualified newspapers of general circulation in the City.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The printing to be done hereunder will consist of printing and publishing all legal notices for the City required to be printed in a newspaper of general circulation, including, but not limited to, ordinances, resolutions, legal notices, regulations, and advertisements of whatever kind or nature for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

FACTORS CONSIDERED IN SELECTING BIDS:

A successful Bid shall be based upon a weighting, as shown below, of all the following factors (the “Factors”):

(1) Bid price (50%).

(2) Number of days newspaper is circulated per week (50%).

Each factor shall be weighted based on the percentage indicated. In the event of a tie, the City Council will have the absolute discretion to award the bid to any of the bidders who tied.

PROCESS:

SUBMISSION OF BIDS: Qualified and interested parties may submit Bids to the Administrative City Clerk at City Hall, located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California, no later than **3:00 p.m. on May 31, 2024**, at which time all Bids will be publicly opened and read by the Administrative City Clerk. No late Bids will be considered. Bidders may mail Bids at their own risk.

GENERAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS: Each Bid submitted to the Administrative City Clerk must be in a sealed envelope clearly marked as follows:

Proposal for Official City Newspaper for Advertising to be opened at 3:00 p.m., May 31, 2024.

Each Bid must be submitted using the forms provided in this RFP packet.

Once a Bid has been submitted to the Administrative City Clerk, it may not be withdrawn.

QUESTIONS: Questions may be submitted by email to the Administrative City Clerk at **irui@cityofdixon.us** or by mail to City Hall, located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California, until 5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2024. The City cannot guarantee that it will be able to respond to every inquiry it receives.

AWARD OF CONTRACT: The award of the contract will be made to the Bidder who the City determines is most capable of providing services that fulfill all of the listed Factors. Each of the Factors will be weighted by the City Council by the percentages indicated above. The City reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids received in response to this RFP, to negotiate with any qualified source, or cancel, in whole or in part, this RFP if it is in the best interest of the City to do so. Bidders may be required to submit revisions to their Bids, as may result from contract negotiations, or to include additions or deletions to the scope of work. All survey information, data, and material ensuing from the Project shall be the sole property of the City and shall not be reproduced and published without the written consent of the City. The City Council reserves the right to waive Bid errors or to reject any and all Bids and re-advertise for Bids. By responding to this RFP, the Bidder agrees that the City may audit the Bidder's records and files to verify that the information in their Bid is true and accurate. There is no mandatory City audit requirement. In the event of a tie, the City Council will have the absolute discretion to award the bid to any of the bidders who tied.

Dated: May 13, 2024

Lupe Ruiz
Administrative City Clerk

Dixon Independent Voice 5-17, 5-24-2024

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California Highway Patrol Swears in 106 New CHP Officers



The mission of CHP is to provide Safety, Service, and Security. Photo courtesy of CHP

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The newest members of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) were sworn in May 10 during a graduation ceremony at the CHP Academy in West Sacramento. The 106 officers are part of the CHP’s multiyear recruiting campaign to fill 1,000 vacant officer positions by hiring qualified individuals from California’s diverse communities.

“These men and women have chosen to dedicate themselves to a career in public service. They have completed several months of rigorous training at the CHP Academy to prepare them to serve the people of California,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “While this job is one of the most difficult things they will do in their entire life, it is also the most rewarding thing that they will do, and we are proud to have them as part of the CHP family.”

The swearing-in ceremony for the new officers marks the completion of a challenging 26-week journey at the CHP Academy. They will report to one of the 103 CHP Area offices throughout the state to begin serving the people of California.

At the CHP Academy, cadet training starts with nobility in policing, leadership, professionalism and ethics, and cultural diversity. Additionally, cadets receive

instruction on mental illness response and crisis intervention techniques. Training also covers vehicle patrol, crash investigation, first aid, and the apprehension of suspected violators, including those who drive under the influence. Cadets also receive training in traffic control, report writing, recovery of stolen vehicles, assisting the motoring public, issuing citations, emergency scene management, and various codes, including the California Vehicle Code, Penal Code, and Health and Safety Code.

The CHP has seen an outpouring of interest in joining the ranks since the onset of a multiyear recruitment campaign in June 2022. In the first four months of 2024, the CHP received more than 7,600 cadet applications - a more than 100% increase from the same period in 2022. To accommodate the surge of interest, the CHP has been holding three Academy classes simultaneously for the first time in the Department’s history. The next cadet graduation from the CHP Academy is scheduled for July 12, 2024.

For more information about a lifechanging career with the CHP, visit our website and register for our online hiring seminar at 6:30 p.m. on May 22.

The mission of the California Highway Patrol is to provide Safety, Service, and Security. ★

Dixon Residents Spend \$2,749 Per Month

Doxo News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Doxo recently released a report, “2024 Report: Cities in California where Household Expenses are Highest and Lowest.” The report found that in California, the average California household pays \$3,010 a month for the 10 most common household bills, California’s household expenses, on average, are 41.6% higher than the national average of \$2,126, California ranks Number 2 out of 50 states in terms of average monthly spending, and California households spend 36% of their income on household bills. Annually, California

residents pay \$521 billion in household bills.

Doxo also has bill pay data for Dixon, including the average Dixon household pays \$2,749 a month, or \$32,989 a year for the 10 most common household bills compared to the state average of \$3,010 and the national average of \$2,126, Dixon is the 298th most expensive city in California for household expenses, the household expenses in Dixon, on average, are 29.3% higher than the national average of \$2,126, and 8.7% lower than the state average of \$3,010.

Dixon households spend 35% of their income on household bills. ★



New Farm Organizing Rules Lead to Union Wins, Controversy

California’s new farm labor organizing law has delivered union wins and a string of competing allegations from employers, farmworkers and labor organizers. In March, Wonderful Nurseries, the nation’s largest grapevine nursery, claimed United Farm Workers organizers tricked more than a hundred of its workers into unwittingly signing union authorization cards. UFW denied wrongdoing and responded with counter charges against the company. At issue is a new organizing system—called “card check”—that allows collection of signed cards instead if secret-ballot elections

California Cattle Stockyards Gauge Impacts of Bird Flu Testing

Efforts to understand and curb the spread of H5N1 avian influenza in dairy cows have livestock auction yards in a scramble as new federal testing requirements took effect last week. All lactating dairy cows must test negative for the virus before they’re allowed to cross state borders. Businesses that market livestock say they’re trying to adapt to the mandate, which has impacted sellers and buyers of milking cows. Tyson Howze of Overland Stockyard in Hanford estimates that more than 25% of the dairy cows from a typical California dispersal sale goes to out-of-state buyers.

Protections for Southern California Steelhead Trout Could Bring Water Restrictions

A state determination that Southern California steelhead trout merit additional protections could mean tighter water restrictions. The California Fish and Game Commission on April 18 unanimously agreed with a staff recommendation that listing the Southern California steelhead as endangered under the state Endangered Species Act is warranted. Increased protections for the species would affect water users and districts in several Southern California counties. Agricultural groups and water districts argue that there is not enough scientific evidence to warrant the endangered listing.

Beetle, Prevalent in Australia, Targeted as New Pest in California Nut Crops

Researchers are seeking to unravel mysteries surrounding a new beetle pest for tree nuts, but they still have more questions than answers. California researchers are collaborating with counterparts in Australia, who have dealt with the carpophilus beetle for more than a decade in almonds. Damage caused by the beetle, new to California, came to light in 2023 when it was found infesting almond and pistachio orchards in Stanislaus, Merced, Madera and Kings counties. Broader surveys have since confirmed the presence of carpophilus beetles throughout Central Valley nut orchards. ★

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Another Wonderful Fair Ends



This goat was not only shampooed and trimmed, but he was made available for children to enjoy petting him.



Dixon FFA student Gavin Carrion shows his steer at the May Fair.



Dixon High School FFA student Hannah Zindroski unloads her three rabbits for the May Fair judging last Saturday.



Numerous ag students including this 4-H gal seemed to enjoy telling people all about the animals they raised.



Watching over Wilber the pig is Rio Vista 4-H student Belle Teisseire. Wilber is a Yorkshire Cross Breed that weighed 235 pounds.



For many years now, local friends Debee Lamont, left, and Diana Davies act as watchful monitors of the Fine Arts Division in Madden Hall which includes beautiful quilts.



Dixon High FFA sophomore Benjamin Burnett cuddles his gray rabbit and allowed numerous children to pet "Batman."

**Story and photos
by Debra Dingman**

DIXON, CA (MPG) - With the traffic on A and North First Street at a snail's pace leading to the

May Fair Sunday at 6 p.m., it was a good sign that the 147th Dixon May Fair was another huge success. Despite the auto congestion people poured in four and five-people deep to the

main gates well after 6 p.m., and the fair did not end until 10 p.m.

"It was a great fair and we thank all the people who came," said Dixon May Fair CEO, Pat

Conklin. "Every fair is different so we don't know all the numbers yet, but if we're talking attendance, attendance was successful. There were people everywhere."

The grounds were nearly silent by Tuesday morning except for a minimal — and very tired — staff. They did say they were looking forward to seeing us all again in 2025! ★

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