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Airshow Returns
with Dazzling
Night Show**
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Fair Much to See
and Enjoy!**
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Dixon

Independent Voice

VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 28

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

JULY 12, 2024

**SEE
INSIDE**

NATIONAL NIGHT
OUT DECLARATION



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IMPRESS DRAMA
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HEY JUDE TO
PERFORM



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Little League Creating Champions



Back row: Coach Ryan Habbeshaw, Coach Ernesto Ramos, (player) Ben Boekee, Manager Josh Puch, and Coach Perry Settlemoir III. Middle row: Alex Hurtado, Logan Keiser, Alan Campuzano, Brenden Guzman, Xzavier Puch, Gavin Guzman, Perry Settlemoir IV, Brayden Prescott, and Logan Perasso. Front row: Julian Mendoza, Carson Ramos, and Declan Habbeshaw. Courtesy photo

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A year ago, Dixon's Little League's 8-10 All Star Team made the front page for being the first to ever make District 64 Champions and their winning streak continued into this season. They may have moved up into the next age group, 9-11, but have kept the same spirit of teamwork, nabbing District 64 All Star Championship again.

They will now play in the Sectionals; the double-elimination tournament in American Canyon beginning July 11.

"I think we have a really good chance," said Coach Josh Puch, who has son Xavier on the team. "They are smart baseball players and are aggressive when they hit the ball. I absolutely think we have a shot to make the sections."

Puch, who grew up in Dixon and graduated from Dixon High, is in his third year of coaching. He reported what makes this team really special is most of the team is the same boys who have played together for years.

"They are not selfish. They play the game the right way. Teamwork is a big thing with them, and they are all excited when one kid makes the play," he added. "The parent support has been outstanding in everything, too, from getting them to practice to getting them to the games early."

Sarah Settlemoir agrees.

"We have great parents, even with the heat. They just roll with it. They move or find shade and do anything to make it less miserable," she said. "One parent even went on Amazon and found a large fan that gets attached to a bucket of ice, so it becomes an automatic mist cooler."

She talked of her pride when looking out at "a sea of green in the stands" parents and family who attend the games. One of the most exciting moments, especially for her, she said, came at the end: the bases were loaded; it was the 7th inning; and the teams were tied 7 - 7. Her son, Perry Settlemoir IV, got the walk off single, making them two-time District 64 Champions!

Puch has a team of coaches including Ernesto Ramos, Ryan Habbeshaw, and Perry Settlemoir III.

"There were other guys that came out and helped get the team ready, too," Puch said. "Coaching has been great to build an even stronger relationship with [my son] and working through times when it's not going our way. It's taught me a lot." The coaches work on motions

Continued on page 3

Police Department Adds to the Force

**Story and photos
by Angela Underwood**

DIXON, CA (MPG) - I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Three new members of the Dixon Police Department affirmed the above and more on July 2, when they officially joined the force after being sworn in by Chief Robert Thompson.

Police Officer Gavin Brown, Community Services Officer Claudia Maciel and Police Records Technician Yareli Alvarado also swore that they bear true faith and allegiance to state and federal governments and "take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion."

"I will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which I am about to enter," the recruits said in unison, closing the oath.

"As I have had the opportunity to do so many times, I bring you



Chief Robert Johnson shares his enthusiasm for adding more personnel to the police force, especially considering to statewide officer staffing shortages.

new personnel to our police department," Chief Thompson said. "It is always exciting, especially as trying as police staffing can be."

Thompson's words are evident in the numerous media reports on the Golden State's police officer shortage. CalMatters, a nonprofit policy and political news media outlet, reports that low pay and a

higher bar are two reasons. One elevated bar on the rung requires officers to be at least 21 years old to serve. The recently-passed law also mandates any California police officer support their title with a degree. CalMatters reports a "modern policing" degree program by 2025, laying the groundwork for a statewide officer education minimum."

Smiling wide, Thompson said how exciting it was "to see the beginning of a new career and to feel the energy and enthusiasm" in the police department. However, enthusiasm does not prevail statewide, with CalMatters reporting declining police certifications.

"Since 2012, the Commission on Police

Continued on page 3

Dixon to Purchase New Read-Ride City Bus



The CalTrans graphic shows Dixon Read-Ride Charging Cabinets that can charge one car 100% or two cars 50%. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Councilmember Jim Ernest wants all-electric city buses.

At the July 2 council meeting, Public Works director Loren Kotow asked the Dixon City Council to approve nearly \$130,000 in partner funds to replace a Read-Ride bus, prompting Ernest's environmental concerns.

"The City of Dixon routinely applies for federal transit funding to supplement other funding sources for the operation and capital needs of our local transit system, Read-Ride," Kotow said.

This time, the Solano Transportation Authority (STA), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), contributed \$129,906. According to Kotow, replacing the bus that has reached its "useful life" includes holding a public hearing, to which no one objected.

However, Ernest said a California Air Resources Board (CARB) report is the main reason he would rather purchase an electric than a gas vehicle.

"I was just reading the CARB rules, and they are pushing really hard to replace these government vehicles in the next ten years," Ernest said, noting since funding is in place, he approves Kotow's recommendation but will not in the future. "I would suggest this is the last gas vehicle we buy."

Regarding funding, Ernest said all-electric vehicles offer more grant opportunities. They also outweigh gas vehicles' 10-year useful life benchmark, ULB, leaving Dixon with unusable vehicles after a decade.

According to a city staff report, "the decision to use funding to replace one bus was based on the fact that Read-Ride currently has four buses that have exceeded their useful life benchmark, ULB."

According to a Solano Transportation Authority report, Dixon's Read-Ride fleet consists of eight vehicles with a future goal of 10. Of all area fleets,

Continued on page 2



Dixon Has a Cool Cooling Station

By Debra Dingman

Just to check it out, I went to the library on 4th of July knowing I posted it on the newspaper website and social media about it being open as a Solano County “Cooling Station.” It would be open on the holiday, and I wanted to know if people were taking advantage of it.

When I came in from the very warm outside weather, the library was wonderfully cool. In fact, very cool. I thought I might need a sweater!

The women staff were visiting around the counter and told me there had been a few that came in earlier and there was at least one guy while I was there. They were all helpful and kind. I spent about an hour perusing newspapers (of course,) magazines, movies, and books.

I was thoroughly relaxed, completely cooled, and got some great ideas where to take grandchildren from the Sacramento Magazine--like the upcoming Sacramento State Fair and Food Festival that starts July 14 through July 30.

I even read about a couple places hubby and I could go for fun, too. Did you know there is an entertainment place where people pay to go in and smash things?

They advertise that one can smash plates, beer bottles, or destroy some printers. They also offer axe throwing to “help get rid of stress.” I wondered if it was as air conditioned as our library.

According to a KTVU Channel 2 news report, PG&E is planning public safety shutoffs in the Bay area and Northern

California—including Solano County--amid the heatwaves to prevent wildfires when temperatures reach 100 degrees or more. So, we might be experiencing more stress because our air conditioners won’t work.

I remember a power outage a couple winters ago that blackened half of Dixon. It was in the evening, so it was dark and hot. I was miserable and decided I’d drive over to Walmart and shop to get out of the heat. But I couldn’t get my garage door up.

Hubby was in southern California, and I couldn’t reach the emergency door-opener-pull. The ladder was trapped on the other side of the car so I couldn’t move because it was also stuck in the garage. So, I had to just endure the heat.

I cooled down in the shower and went to bed to read by candlelight. It was off for nearly two hours. (We are all wimps, aren’t we?)

I suggest everyone make a plan and try not to get hysterical. I’ve heard some people (no names here) think the world is coming to an end and we’re all going to fry but remember the world (or mother nature) has been here a lot longer than us and it’s all about adapting to her whims.

Just get ready: Fill at least a couple gallon size Ziploc bags with ice cubes and that way, if you do lose power, your fridge can keep meat from thawing and keep your milk cold. Always have a working flashlight and oh, make sure the emergency-garage-opener-rope is long enough for you to reach. ★

National Night Out Declaration

By Scott Mullins

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon City Council declared that the City of Dixon will participate in National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 6 during the July 2 City Council meeting.

“National Night Out provides a unique opportunity for the city of Dixon to join forces with thousands of other communities across the country in promoting cooperative police community crime prevention efforts,” Mayor Steve Bird said.

“It is essential that all citizens of the city of Dixon be aware of the importance that crime prevention programs can have on reducing crime, drugs, and violence in the city of Dixon.”

What is National Night Out and why is it important for Dixon?

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. One of the primary goals of National Night Out is to enhance public safety by encouraging communities to come together and take a stand against misconduct.

National Night Out also builds trust



between residents and law enforcement. Trust between law enforcement and their communities is the basis for effective policing. By engaging in open dialogue, sharing concerns and working together on community issues, residents and police officers can develop a mutual understanding and respect. Public support for National Night Out is crucial in facilitating these interactions and building a foundation of trust that is vital for community safety and well-being.

Bird finished declaring National Night Out’s importance by adding, “NNO is a great night to get to know people in your neighborhoods.”

Millions of citizens take part in the National Night Out in every state on the first Tuesday in August. (Texas celebrates the first Tuesday in October). Neighborhoods host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts, other community events and visits from emergency personnel.

If you would like to register for a block party for your neighborhood, register at www.dixonpolice.org/nationalnightout If you would like more information about National Night Out, visit the official website at www.natw.org. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Hey Jude will perform in Dixon on July 18. Photo courtesy of Hey Jude

MPG Staff

Family Storytime at Dixon Public Library

Looking for a fun, engaging and educational activity for the whole family? Join us at the Dixon Public Library on Tuesday, July 16, 10 to 11 a.m. Come and be a part of our vibrant storytime community. Bond with your kids while promoting a love for reading. 230 North 1st Street.

Hey Jude performs at Pardi Plaza

Join this fun Beatles tribute band from 6 to 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 18. Bring your picnic blanket or folding chairs to Pardi Plaza. You may bring a picnic dinner or order take-out from one of our many fine downtown restaurants. Please note – no alcohol, per city ordinance. Corner of South 1st Street and West A Street.

Come Downtown and Get It Farm Fresh

Every Thursday is the Downtown Dixon Farmer’s Market. Enjoy organic fruits and vegetables, fresh baked bread, nuts, homemade salsa, tamales, hummus, olive oil, sweets and more. From 5 to 7:30 p.m. through September 26 at Women’s Improvement Club Park, 230 North First Street.

Veterans Dinner

Fish and Hushpuppies will be featured on the menu for Friday dinner around 5:30 p.m. on July 12. The cost is \$12 per person. The hall is located at 1305 North First Street and helps support veterans.

Tortilla Making 101

Learn how to make homemade tortillas with

local experts from La Familia Tortilla. This event is for teens and adults and will take place at the Dixon Public Library, located at 230 North First Street. Save the date: Tuesday, July 23, at 4 p.m.

Register to Vote

If you have not registered to vote and want to be counted in the November 2024 election, you will find Voter Registration Forms at these places: The Dixon Public Library, Dixon City Hall, and inside the Dixon Post Office. Or, to find out more info, go online to: SOS.CA.GOV. You must register at least 15 days before the election on November 5.

Food and Clothing Assistance

Cornerstone Baptist Church has new hours of operation for their Food Pantry/Senior Assistance Program. It will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday days of the month from 10 to 11 a.m. For general assistance including clothing for those signed up for USDA, that will be on Fridays from 10 to 11 a.m. The church is located at 185 Cherry Street in Dixon.

Downtown Wine and Art Stroll

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 17, from 4 to 8 p.m. in downtown Dixon for the umpteenth annual Wine Stroll. If you are interested in volunteering to pour or assist, please contact Jill Orr at (916) 416-2876 immediately with any questions and/or to opt in.

Feria Artisanal

An Arts & Craft Fair will be held Sunday, July 28, at the St. Peter’s Catholic Church parking area at 105 South Second Street from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be more than 20 vendors so please come out for this unique shopping experience. ★

New Read-Ride City Bus

Continued from page 1

Dixon will receive the fewest electric buses compared to Rio Vista Delta Breeze, which has four vehicles with a future goal of eight; SolTrans, which has 56 vehicles with a goal of 70; and Vacaville City Coach, which has 25 vehicles with a goal of 31.

Furthermore, according to the Solano Transportation Authority report, Solano County’s “small transit agencies,” of which Dixon is one, “must ensure that 25% of new bus deliveries between 2026 and 2028, and 100% beyond 2029,” are electric. However, the lack of funding to purchase the battery electric buses, BEB, or supply charging stations is an issue, according to the Public Works Director, who said the “unfunded mandate by the state of California” must be met by 2024.

Solano Transportation Authority reports, “The Dixon Read-Ride facility concept supports ten charging positions planned for zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs) that will

replace the existing eight cutaway vehicles while also leaving room for two additional vehicles in the future.”

According to the Solano Transportation Authority, sequential and concurrent charging stations “can be beneficial for an agency to adopt.”

“For Dixon Read-Ride and Vacaville City Coach, the BEBs are assumed to be charged sequentially, while at Rio Vista Delta Breeze, the BEBs are charged concurrently,” Solano Transportation Authority reports.

Kotow told the Independent Voice that over the next 16 years, city staff will continue to work to identify funding for this transition and work out the logistics of moving towards electric buses.

“We are currently working with PG&E on installing another transformer,” Kotow said. “The statewide mandate is to be electric by 2040, so we are still in the early stages of this process.” ★

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Dreamland to Impress Drama Lovers at Dixon High School Theater



“Dreamland” will be performed throughout late July. Poster courtesy of Sachi Denison

By Sachi Denison

DIXON, CA (MPG) - “Dreamland” is an adaptation of Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” with the added fun of music, comedy, and performance arts! Star-crossed lovers and mischievous fairies chase through an enchanted



From L-R, Titania and Oberon, Queen and King of the Fairies – (Played by Angi Wolf and Robert Williams) and the prankster Puck (Played by Matt Fantastic). Photo courtesy of Sachi Denison

forest during one magical night of revelry! Shows held at the Dixon High School Theater: Friday and Saturday, July 19 and 20 at 7 p.m. Sunday, July 21 at 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 26 and 27 at 7 p.m. Sunday, July 28 at 4 p.m. Tickets are available on [eventbrite.com/o/dixon-community-theater-87699125493](https://www.eventbrite.com/o/dixon-community-theater-87699125493) or at <https://www.dixoncommunitytheater.com/tickets>. ★

City Astounds Fourth of July Revelers



A parent entertained children who seemed to enjoy chasing bubbles in the cool grass at Dixon’s Hall Park last week. Despite the heat, the city-sponsored day-long celebration was well-attended and provided a safe, family-friendly way for the community to celebrate the holiday with others. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Prior to the firework displays, a concert by Helios was enjoyed by local residents at the Fourth of July festivities. The five-member band was sponsored by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. There were also popular food trucks. Photo by Nicolas Brown



A wildly-exciting free firework show concluded the annual Independence Day celebration at Dixon’s Hall Park which included recreational swimming and pickleball. Photo by Nicolas Brown

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205 Stratford Avenue, Dixon

Little League Creating Champions

Dixon Little League District 64 All Star Juniors are Champions. Courtesy photo

Continued from page 1
as well as leadership, knowing that they won’t always be their son’s coach. There will be middle school and high school coaches next. Coaches want the boys to have discipline and leadership, Puch explained. “On a personal level, coaching gives an opportunity to bond [with your son and their teammates] and helps the community as a whole because they get stronger and better,” he said, encouraging other fathers to step up. “You don’t have to have the knowledge, but you have to put the work in at the end of the day.” Chad Peppers certainly put in the work. He’s managed or coached all of his son’s teams over the years. He managed this year’s Little League All Stars Juniors which are ages 12-14 with plenty of help from coaches Mike Pothier, Pat Callen, and Bebo Torres. This age group is the last age group

in Little League, and they ended also as Champions. “We played a District Tournament with three teams, and we won all three games to win the Championship with great pitching, followed by great defense, and great, aggressive base running,” Peppers said. “Lots of the boys grew up in Little League either playing on the same teams or against each other. It was our goal to set the example of what to expect at the next level for high school. I think they are pretty prepared.” It’s rewarding, he explained, to see the boys playing well together and he enjoys the other coaches. It’s even better they also became Champions. The team players are Jayson Callen, Iziah Campos, Gavin Peppers, Armondo Lizzaraga, Gabriel Villasenor, Giovanni Gutto, Brandin Victorine, Albert Galindo, Cyrus Pothier, Sunny Medina, Luka Vaupotich, Tommy Skeeahan, Ethan Lyda, and Corbin Thomason. ★

Police Department Adds to the Force

Right to left, Chief Robert Johnson swears in Police Records Technician Yareli Alvarado, Community Services Officer Claudia Maciel, and Officer Gavin Brown at the July 2 council meeting.

Continued from page 1
Officer Standards and Training, or POST, has certified on average about 3,200 officers each year,” according to CalMatters, noting the two-year process includes field training and a probationary period. “In 2022, however, the agency issued just 2,424 basic certificates as of Dec. 13, the lowest number of basic certificates issued since 2013, and well below the 10-year high of 4,530 issued in 2020,” CalMatters reports. Based on the noted numbers, adding Officer Brown to the force is exceptional, especially since he is “continuing the tradition of academy recruits we send

through the police academy,” Thompson said. “I had the privilege of attending his graduation a couple of weeks back and it is always very rejuvenating to see people enter this profession anew and not burdened by all the things that come later,” he said. After asking permission from the council to swear in the three new personnel together, loud applause arose after they lowered their raised right hands and council members welcomed them to the government family. “I love it,” Vice-Mayor Kevin Johnson said. ★

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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



Monday, June 24

12:27 - Abandoned vehicle in the 600 block of Rossi Drive.

14:47 - Confidential report taken in the 300 block of West H Street.

16:47 - Hit and Run reported in the area of South Jackson Street and West A Street.

16:55 - Vandalism reported in the area of Stratford Avenue and North Lincoln Street.

Tuesday, June 25

05:36 - Vehicle burglary reported in the 800 block of Merrill Drive.

11:36 - Parking violation in the area of Linford Lane and Justin Way.

12:10 - Suspicious circumstance reported on the 500 block of College Way.

14:15 - Graffiti located in the 900 block of North Adams Street.

14:20 - Graffiti reported in the 1000 block of North 1st Street.

18:21 - Information report in the 1500 block of Patton Court.

22:29 - Confidential report in the 1600 block of Blossom Way.

Wednesday, June 26

11:54 - Missing person reported in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue. MP was located later in the day.

14:59 - Found property located in the area of Regency Parkway and Kingston Drive.

01:17 - Anicia Genelmayze (32) from Rancho Cordova was contacted in the 1700 block of N 1st St. during a traffic stop and found to have an outstanding bench arrest warrant. Genelmayze was transported and booked at Solano County Jail.

05:03 - Petty theft report in the 1400 block of Goldfield Lane.

Thursday, June 27

09:06 - An informational report was taken in the 600 block of Evans Road.

16:14 - A traffic Collision report was taken at Pitt School Rd. at W/B I-80.

16:56 - A vandalism report was taken in the 1300 block of Business Park Drive.

23:49 - An officer located a disabled vehicle blocking the #2 lane of EB Hwy 80. The elderly driver appeared to be suffering a medical emergency. The driver was taken to a nearby hospital by ambulance, and the vehicle was towed away from the scene.

Friday, June 28

05:59 - An informational report was taken in the 200 block of East D Street.

07:43 - A stolen vehicle recovery report was taken in the 400 block of Gateway Drive.

10:44 - Vehicle towed at the intersection of Parkway Boulevard at South 1st Street. The vehicle was parked and unoccupied. It was towed for 22651 (o)(1) V.C., Expired over 6 months.

11:47 - A warrant arrest and possession of drug paraphernalia arrest report was taken in the 100 block of Dorset Dr. Officers contacted (S) Andrew Valle (34) of Citrus Heights. Valle was detained and a records check revealed he had an outstanding felony warrant out of Placer County. The warrant was confirmed, and Valle was taken into custody. Valle was transported to the Solano County Jail and released to their staff.

14:06 - A burglary report was taken in the 1500 block of North 1st St. Unknown suspect(s) cut a hole in a fence at Ace Hardware gained access to the property and stole power tools and other miscellaneous items.

15:02 - A criminal threats report was taken in the 800 block of North Adams Street.

16:23 - Vehicle towed for no parking zone for 22651(n) V.C. in Pardi Plaza.

Saturday, June 29

18:57 - Richard Muller (40) was contacted during a traffic stop in the 1900 block of N 1st Street. During a probation search, Muller was found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia, a controlled substance, and brass knuckles, in violation of his probation reports. Muller was booked at Solano County Jail.

00:50 - Traffic collision report in the 700 block of West F Street.

01:12 - Report of a battery in the 800 block of North Adams Street.

Sunday, June 30

13:23 - Informational report taken in the 500 block of Schooner Ridge Drive.

19:10 - Information report taken at the PD.

Monday, July 1

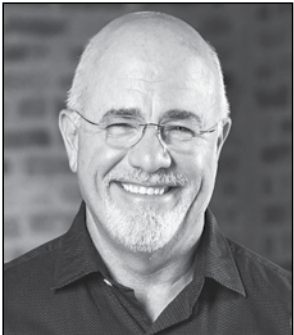
09:00 - Vehicle versus pedestrian report East A Street at South Fourth Street.

10:45 - Information report in the 1400 block of Ingrid Drive.

13:00 - Suspicious incident report in the 1600 block of Fanning Court.

14:30 - Vehicle accident West A Street and South Almond Street.

21:15 - Domestic violence report in the 700 block of West Creekside Circle resulted in the arrest of Christen Farrell (40) of Dixon for misdemeanor domestic violence. She was taken to jail.



That's Not Okay

Dear Dave,

My husband and I own a small business. We've been open for 12 years, and fortunately we've been very successful. We made the decision when we first opened to run the business debt-free. Along with that, we only accept cash, checks and debit cards for payment. Recently, we've had a client become very insistent that we start accepting credit cards. Our relationship with this client is becoming a little contentious over the issue. How should we address the situation?

— Debra

Dear Debra

Like we, as entrepreneurs, don't have enough things to worry about every, single day, right?

As you might imagine, I have a bunch of people who are mad at me all the time because I don't accept credit cards. But in my case, it's not just a business decision. I teach people all the time

Dave Ramsey Says

not to use credit cards, and why they shouldn't. So, I can't very well go around encouraging folks to just swipe their credit cards when they buy from my company.

For starters, that client is way out of bounds. It's not their place to tell you how to run your business. But you're lucky to only have one person getting pushy about the whole credit card deal. Everything about the credit industry today is out of control. But even though your case is a little different than mine, you have every right to not accept credit cards—especially if you have a moral or values-related issue with the product.

As time goes by, you'll probably have a few other people turn up their noses at the idea of not being able to pay with a credit card, but if you consistently offer great services or products at great prices, those experiences will only be a bump in the road. You don't want to be argumentative when things like this happen, so maybe you can just smile, and let them know you always appreciate input from your clients.

I'm sure you and your husband work hard to make your business the best it can

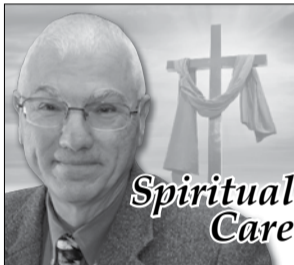
be. The fact that you're still around over a decade after opening up shop is proof of that. You've probably realized, too, that being in business for yourself isn't all sunshine and rainbows every day. Regardless, no one has the right to get in your face over how your business is structured or try to push you into doing things differently. Listening to, and evaluating, suggestions from clients only makes sense. It's a smart thing for any business owner to do. But this one client is saying you should change a long-standing operating principle based on a whim—their whim.

And that's not okay

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time No. 1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★

“Forced Worship Stinks in God’s Nostrils”



Spiritual Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

Under a new Louisiana law, every public school from elementary to college will be required to post the Ten Commandments by the end of this year.

If Jesus were around today, and I believe he is, I think he'd find the new law reeking with hypocrisy.

He'd likely question the irony of enforcing Commandment No. 2 in a state that still carries the stench of 130 graven images of confederate “heroes.”

He'd likely call “foul,” as the LSU Tigers, the eighth-best team nationally, dishonor the Sabbath with Saturday games.

But worst of all, he'd ask if the state legislature planned to include the fine print of Mosaic law with 248 do-this commandments, and 365 definitely-do-not-do-this commandments.

For instance, will the posted commandments include Exodus 21:29, that says if an ox gores someone to death, both the owner and the ox must be executed?

I'm not trying to villainize the Pelican State, but I am trying to prove a point during this season of patriotism about the principle of separation of church and state.

The principle has taken some hits in recent years.

Opponents make two points. First, the separation idea is not in the constitution. Second, they say our founding fathers would have never favored such a

split because they sought to make the USA into a Christian nation.

The first argument is true. Separation of church and state is only an interpretation of the First Amendment which clearly forbids our government from establishing a religion. Additionally, it's interpreted to mean the government can't favor any single religion.

The second point is decidedly untrue.

Thomas Jefferson, the primary author of the Declaration of Independence was “not a God-fearing humanitarian but rather a slaveholding epicurean deist,” says Tim Alberta in his latest book, “The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism.”

“Jefferson was not an earnest follower of Christ but was known to mock revivalists and rarely attend church,” Alberta writes.

I gained some understanding of Jefferson's view during my visit to Roger Williams National Memorial last summer. It's possible that Jefferson's understanding of the church and state issue was forged from Williams's.

Living 100 years prior to Jefferson, Williams was excommunicated from the Anglican Church for blasphemy. Banished from his home in 1636, he was forced on a most horrendous walkabout through a blizzard to present-day Rhode Island. It was there he established a Baptist community free from puritanism.

According to a National Park Service article, Roger Williams believed government-established religions were “...responsible for the death of millions of innocent souls whose only crime was having their own,

unique conscience.”

Williams added with succinct clarity, “Forced worship stinks in God's nostrils.”

Alberta notes that Jesus himself “physically ran and hid from the people who desired to make Him king. Jesus dismissed his critics by telling them, ‘Give back to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.’”

Alberta concludes this thought with an interpretation from a modern-day preacher who gained fame in 1965.

“In other words, pay your taxes, forget politics, and serve God with all your heart.”

That man was the late Jerry Falwell – before he successfully revived his failing college through a political arm called, “The Moral Majority.”

Imagine what might happen if a different religion wanted to post their treatise.

Visualize a Baptist mom in New Orleans whose job transfer takes her family to Dearborn Michigan. Once there, she will likely enroll her Baptist son in a school belonging to the largest Muslim-populated school district in the US.

Once in class, Mom will need some assurances that her son can enjoy his religious freedom without being required to memorize the Five Pillars of Islam.

As you approach the voting booth this fall, let's keep church and state separate. But most of all, beyond November, I encourage people of faith to, “Serve God with all your heart.”

Currently, the Louisiana law is being legally challenged. In the end, I suspect Louisianans will find, as did a dozen other states, that their law won't pass the “the sniff test.” ★

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Quinn and Martinez Elected to Lead the Board of First Northern Community Bancorp

First Northern Bank News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - First Northern Community Bancorp (OTCQX: FNRN), holding company for First Northern Bank, announced that Sean Quinn was elected to a three-year term as Chairman and Rick Martinez was elected to a one-year term as Vice Chairman at its recent 2024 Organization Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Together, Quinn and Martinez bring over 20 years of First Northern directorship experience to their leadership positions.

Sean P. Quinn joined First Northern’s Board of Directors in 2016 and will also serve on the following committees at the Bank: Audit, Compensation, Loan, Nominating and Corporate Governance, and Profit Sharing. Quinn is the former City Manager for the City of Fairfield, where he served from 2007 to 2014 (and as Interim City Manager in 2019). Prior to that, Quinn was the Director of Community Development for the City of Fairfield, where he oversaw planning, economic development, redevelopment, real estate, housing, business financing, and development planning/review. Quinn has owned his own small business and worked for a firm that provided small business lending and industrial, commercial, and residential development. Quinn has also worked in economic forecasting. In 2021, Quinn served as the Interim President/CEO of Solano Economic Development Corporation.

Quinn received a



Sean P. Quinn was elected as chairman. Photo courtesy of First Northern Bank

Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Economics from University of California, Santa Barbara and did his graduate work in business at California State University, Chico. He is a founding member and past president of the California Association for Local Economic Development, past chair of the State of California Economic Development Loan Advisory Committee and past president of the Solano Land Trust. He is the past chair and current board member at Paradise Valley Estates and is a past president and current board member of the Fairfield Community Services Foundation and serves on the North Bay Health Advantage Board. Quinn’s experience as City Manager and service on boards of both private and public sector companies has provided him with broad financial knowledge, and experience in housing and real estate development, economic development, and risk management.

Richard M. Martinez joined First Northern’s Board of Directors in 2011 and most recently served as Chairman of the Board from 2018 to 2022. Martinez is a member of



Richard M. Martinez was elected as vice chairman. Photo courtesy of First Northern Bank

the following committees at the Bank: Compensation, Loan, and Nominating and Corporate Governance. Martinez is a partner in Triad Farms, a diversified row crop farm that operates property in Solano and Yolo Counties. He has been responsible for the financial management of the farming operations for over 30 years. From 1981 to 1985, Martinez was employed by the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District in Yolo County and served as Division Manager for the Irrigation and Flood Control operations.

Martinez received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from California State University, Chico. He served for 20 years as a director for the Dixon Resource Conservation District and also served as the Chairman for the Dixon Joint Powers Authority for regional drainage. Martinez remains active in many agricultural and natural resources related associations and advisory committees. His experience in the management of both private and public sectors in the region has provided him with extensive knowledge of the local agriculture community. ★



Riley Reviews

“BEVERLY HILLS COP” BACK FOR MORE;
“LEONARDO DA VINCI” ON PBS

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“BEVERLY HILLS COP: AXEL F” RATED R

Sequels run the risk of ruining what was once a good thing. You could say “Beverly Hills Cop III” did a disservice to the budding franchise, but it has taken thirty years to get back on track, and that’s the good news.

“Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F” demonstrates that Eddie Murphy’s Axel Foley, a Detroit beat cop, has regained the spirit and enthusiasm of his witty, iconoclastic character that he showed us forty years ago.

That this film is streaming on Netflix and not running in theatres is a bit of a surprise. “Beverly Hills Cop IV,” to coin a reference for chronology, would be just right as a summer release at the multiplex.

The film opens with Axel Foley conning one of his colleagues into thinking they are at a Red Wings for the enjoyment of hockey, but there’s more to it than that when he drags Detective Moody (Kyle More) into breaking up a robbery.

What follows are typical Axel mischief as he hijacks a snowplow to chase the bad guys while mowing down an untold number of vehicles and property, which is his usual modus operandi that leads to trouble with the brass. Bucking for promotion, poor Moody is just collateral damage.

Axel’s former partner in the police department is Jeffrey Friedman (Paul Reiser), now the Deputy Chief, who is turning in his retirement papers and won’t be able to shield his colleague from scrutiny from higher-ups.

This matters little as Axel is called back to Beverly Hills when his estranged daughter, lawyer Jane (Taylour Paige), is nearly killed for getting too close to a police corruption case.

Most of the old gang is still around. Billy Rosewood (Judge Reinhold) is now a private detective after a fallout with his former cantankerous partner John Taggart (John Ashton), who became the police chief.

New to the scene is Joseph Gordon-Leavitt’s detective Bobby Abbott, the ex-boyfriend of Axel’s daughter who becomes a natural ally. Kevin Bacon’s Captain Cade Grant is an entirely different story, whose questionable motives are readily apparent to any sentient being.

“Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F” is a lively and cheerfully resilient entertainment that finds Eddie Murphy in fine comedic form. The only complaint would be the repetitious arguments that Jane brings to bear on the estrangement with her father, when we can guess how this will end.

“LEONARDA DA VINC” SET FOR THE FALL ON PBS

The word of the day is “polymath” because it has been applied to 15th

century renaissance man Leonard da Vinci. Derived from Greek words, a polymath is basically a person of great and varied meaning.

For the first time, legendary documentary filmmaker Ken Burns explores a non-American subject in the two-part, four-hour “Leonardo da Vinci” scheduled to air in mid-November on PBS.

Set against the rich and dynamic backdrop of Renaissance Italy, at a time of skepticism and freethinking, regional war and religious upheaval, the film brings the artist’s achievements to life through his personal notebooks as well as primary and secondary accounts of his life.

“No single person can speak to our collective efforts to understand the world and ourselves,” said Ken Burns with his usual insight to a subject matter in the PBS news release.

“But Leonardo had a unique genius for inquiry, aided by his extraordinary skills as an artist and scientist, that helps us better understand the natural world that we are part of and to appreciate more fully what it means to be alive and human.”

The film weaves together an international group of experts, as well as others influenced by Leonardo who continue to find a connection between his artistic and scientific explorations and life today.

As the filmmaker and Leonardo admirer Guillermo del Toro says at the beginning of the film, “the modernity of Leonardo is that he understands that knowledge and imagination are intimately related.”


Born out of wedlock to a notary and a peasant woman, Leonardo distinguished himself as an apprentice to a leading Florentine painter and later served as a military architect, cartographer, sculptor, and muralist for hire.

His paintings and drawings, such as the “Mona Lisa,” “The Last Supper,” and the “Vitruvian Man,” are among the most celebrated works of all time and his art was often equaled by his pursuits in science and engineering.

“Leonard da Vinci” follows the artist’s evolution as a draftsman and painter, scientist and engineer, who used notebooks to explore an astonishing array of subjects including painting, philosophy, engineering, warfare, anatomy, and geography, among many others.

Though Leonardo intended to publish his writings, he never did, but the film delves into those he left behind to get inside his mind as he strove to master the laws of nature and apply them to his endeavors.

Leonardo’s personal story is shaped by the Italian Renaissance, and the Ken Burns documentary film will almost certainly bring true meaning to the word “polymath” as applied to the quintessential Renaissance man. ★



FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

By Amy Shane

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

Grab the Perfect Book For Your Next Hotel Stay!

Get caught up in the magic, mystique, and ghostly encounters during your next vacation hotel stay. But watch out—things aren’t always as they appear.



Midnight at the Houdini by Delilah S. Dawson

When a strange tornado hits Las Vegas, Anna, her father, and his two business partners seek refuge at their run-down hotel, The Houdini. But the moment Anna enters, nothing is as it seems. It’s as if the lobby is a complete ghost town, transporting her to another time and place, with its opulent golden chandeliers and old music piped through the walls. Then she meets Max, the handsome and alluring sixteen-year-old trapped in the hotel his whole life, but feels like he has always known her. But Anna quickly learns a horrible secret. The Houdini, while able to grant every wish and desire, also wants to keep its guest forever, and if she doesn’t find the key to release her by midnight, she will be trapped there forever.

Like stepping through the doors to the past, Midnight at the Houdini enchants its readers by every turn of the page. No one will be able to resist the magical pull of the Houdini with its solid characters and intriguing storyline, leaving readers enchanting by its own unique allure.

Hotel Ruby by Suzanne Young

When Audrey and her family unexpectedly find themselves at the doors of Hotel Ruby, they think their luck has changed. They only planned to stay the night, but the Hotel Ruby can be intoxicating, and they quickly fall for the allure of its lush amenities. Now, the only thing left is for Audrey to receive an invitation to the grand ball like her brother and father have. But the Hotel Ruby is hiding secrets of its own; the more Audrey realizes that the Hotel Ruby might want more for its guests to be happy but to be one of its

elite guests permanently.

Suzanne Young spins a haunting tale of mystery and intrigue with a hotel that is more than meets the eye while whisking readers into the beautiful grand ballrooms of the 30s. With its fun characters and those with sinister motives, Hotel Ruby delivers its own haunting tune, just shy of being scary but still allowing readers to experience a story of life, death, and the delicate in-between.

Horror Hotel

by Victoria Fulton and Faith McClaren

With the perfectly matched ghost hunting team, Chrissy, Chase, Kiki, and Emma have figured out the keys to success known as the famed Youtube sensation- Ghost Gang. But what lies just beyond the elevator doors at LA’s infamously haunted Hearst Hotel is more than they ever expected. Faces of ghosts appear at every corner, and more than a few secrets within its peeling wallpapered walls. What starts as a ghost-hunting adventure quickly turns deadly, and no one is safe, not even the ghosts.

This book’s ghostly twists and turns down every blood-drenched hallway will leave readers with their hearts racing, unable to put down this book even as darkness creeps into the late hours of the night.


Fulton and McClaren are a power duo that readers will want to follow into any haunted location, even if it is just through the pages of their next book. Although you think twice before bringing this book on your next vacation, Horror Hotel will have you looking down the hall, in the closets, and thinking twice before you step into the elevator or grab that bucket of ice. ★



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Environmental Opposition to Vital Sacramento Area Highway Project is Ridiculous



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Some things are just so ridiculous that they demand critical attention. One of them is the opposition from environmental groups to widening the Interstate 80 freeway between Sacramento and Davis.

For years, motorists have complained about what has been dubbed the “Davis bottleneck” that often backs up traffic for miles. What should be no more than a 10- or 15-minute drive can often take 45 minutes or more.

The state Department of Transportation wants to convert median strips into new traffic lanes that would require a toll payment to traverse. Environmentalists, who are trying to block the project in court, contend that it would merely encourage more drivers to use the stretch of freeway and therefore relief from congestion would be only temporary.

Opponents also complain that Caltrans and local officials are using the subterfuge of improving pavement to widen the freeway, and that the project runs counter to official state policy of reducing vehicular traffic as a way to reduce greenhouse gasses.

“These projects are being oversold to the public as a way to reduce congestion; they are not,” Susan Handy,

director of the National Center for Sustainable Transportation, told the Los Angeles Times. “A court decision is going to be very important.”

Ironically, Handy’s organization is housed in the UC Davis campus, where the chronic congestion spills over.

The complaints might have some validity if this stretch was merely another local commuter route, but it isn’t. Interstate 80 is one of the nation’s most important transcontinental arteries, running 2,901 from San Francisco to the New York City metropolitan area with much of its route in western states following 19th-century immigrant trails.

The only other east-west interstates are either hundreds of miles to the north or hundreds to the south. That makes I-80 an extremely important route for interstate cargo, a fact evident to anyone who shares the freeway with an endless stream of large trucks.

Moreover, there are no alternative routes because the eastern portion of the freeway is a causeway over a marshy area that’s home to wildlife and is often flooded during winter and spring months. Water is diverted into the “Yolo Bypass” from the Sacramento River as an important element of the Sacramento region’s flood protection system.

Simply put, trucks and cars must either use I-80 between Sacramento and the Bay Area or not move at all. The notion that widening will increase traffic is ludicrous: The traffic will be there regardless because it has nowhere else to go.

“We experience some of

the most severe congestion in California seven days a week,” Autumn Bernstein, executive director of the Yolo Transportation District, told the LA Times. “We have more than five hours of congested traffic in the eastbound direction and (in) Davis every afternoon.”

The ultimate fate of the project is not certain. The California Transportation Commission gave its approval in May and allocated money to begin work, but the environmental groups are suing, characterizing it as a showdown over the state’s official policy of avoiding projects that increase carrying capacity and lead to more traffic.

It’s unfortunate that Caltrans officials decided they needed to hide expansion of the freeway as a pavement improvement project and make it a joint project with local officials — with some token funding for mass transit — to sidestep a direct confrontation over environmental impacts.

In a more rational world, the need would be obvious, and officialdom would be criticized for waiting so long to do something about a bottleneck.

Dan Walters is one of most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state’s political, economic, social and demographic trends. He began covering California politics in 1975, just as Jerry Brown began his first stint as governor, and began writing his column in 1981. ★

Social Security Matters

Will IRA Withdrawals Affect My Medicare Premiums?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I am a member of AMAC and learn so much from the Ask Rusty column. I hope you can give me some information about a question that has come up in my family. My husband is retired and has reached full retirement age. He is considering withdrawing money from an IRA to pay off our mortgage. We are wondering what, if any, penalties may be incurred on Social Security, Medicare, and income tax. Thank you for your help in this matter. **Signed: Concerned Taxpayer**

Dear Concerned: Thank you for contacting the AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisory Service. Regarding your question on the impact of withdrawing IRA funds, there is no impact to your husband’s gross Social Security benefit. The amount withdrawn, of course, is considered ordinary income for federal income tax purposes,

and will need to be included as such on your federal income tax return and will therefore affect your federal income tax liability when you file the return.

Depending on the amount withdrawn, there could be an impact to the Medicare premium due to the Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) provision. Assuming you file jointly, you will pay a higher Medicare Part B premium if your modified adjusted gross income is above certain thresholds (i.e., more than \$103,000 for an individual and \$206,000 for a married couple). Please note that Medicare’s procedures will not note this income change for two years, so if you make the withdrawal in 2024 it will not trigger the increases until your 2026 Medicare premiums. A change to your Medicare premium might also result in a change to your net Social Security payment at that time (since Medicare is automatically deducted from your Social Security payment).

Also depending on the amount withdrawn, you may have to pay an additional amount on top of your Medicare Part D premium. The Part D adjustment amount is calculated based on a

percentage of the Part D national base beneficiary premium, not on a percentage of the plan premium.

The Social Security Administration mails letters to beneficiaries who currently pay a Part B Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA) and, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), are in a Part D plan. The letter explains the additional Part D amount, and how exactly Social Security will collect it. You can contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or your local SSA agency if you have any further questions about your Part D IRMAA premium.

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Croat or Moravian, e.g.
5. Paid player
8. Not Miss or Ms.
11. First-rate
12. Mattress with memory?
13. Be of use
15. "It's time!" signal
16. ____-de-camp
17. Like an unhealthy dog
18. *First one to circumnavigate globe, almost
20. March Madness org.
21. Bring upon
22. Orange Lavaburst drink
23. *Rita ____, first Latina to win Academy Award
26. Winter rides, in Russia
30. Brewery order
31. Unties or unbuttons
34. Nearly
35. One born to Japanese immigrants
37. Good times
38. Rheumy
39. Tel ____, Israel
40. Bequeath
42. Once known as
43. West African country
45. *Chuck ____, first to break speed of sound
47. Genetic info carrier, acr.
48. City near Düsseldorf
50. Short for Dorothea
52. *First artificial satellite (2 words)
55. Clay and silt deposit
56. Marine eagle
57. Mercantile establishment
59. Singer Piaf
60. Concert series
61. Indian nursemaid
62. Craggy peak
63. Little troublemaker
64. Solitary

DOWN

1. Give in to gravity
2. Weaver's apparatus
3. The "I" in "The King and I"
4. Carrots or peas, slangily
5. French soldier in WWI
6. Speed gun
7. *First horror film about Damien Thorn, with The
8. Supernatural life force
9. Capital of Latvia
10. Canny
12. Han Solo's "Millennium"
13. Prenatal test, for short
14. *The first one helped combat smallpox
19. Tedium
22. 120 mins.
23. #8 Down, pl.
24. Martini garnish
25. Pine product
26. Midterm, e.g.
27. a.k.a. Tibetan wild ass
28. Feel the same
29. Timider
32. Deadly challenge
33. Military moves
36. *Mount first conquered by Hillary and Norgay
38. 10 to 12-year-old
40. Ewe's cry
41. Half-shell delicacy
44. Grind with teeth
46. Fauna member
48. Erasable programmable read only memory
49. Break of day
50. List of chores
51. Prince of Wales to King
52. Searching for E.T. org.
53. Boxer's last blow
54. Azerbaijan's southern neighbor
55. "____ the wild rumpus begin!"
58. "____ one and only"

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Friends of the Fair Award \$26,000 in College Scholarships

By Kathy Keatley Garvey

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Nine Solano County residents majoring in an agricultural field will share \$26,000 toward their college educations, thanks to the Donnie and Tootie Huffman Scholarship Program of the Friends of the Dixon May Fair.

The scholarship program is named for the Vacaville couple who set up the program. It memorializes founding president Donnie Huffman (1940-2023), who died June 17, 2023, of cancer, and honors his wife, Claudia (Tootie), the founding treasurer, who continues as a scholarship committee judge.

Since 2000, the Friends of the Dixon May Fair has awarded a total of \$274,750 to Solano County residents majoring in agriculture, announced Carrie Hamel of Dixon, the scholarship chair.

For the second consecutive year, Sam Esperson, a 2022 graduate of Rio Vista High School and a student at California Polytechnic University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo, won the \$5,000 Donnie Huffman Presidential Scholarship, the highest award the program offers. He is majoring in agricultural systems management.

Massimo Menicou of Vacaville, a 2024 graduate of Vacaville High School won the \$4,000 JoAn Giannoni Award, honoring a Dixon resident who is the founding secretary of the Friends. Menicou received an early acceptance to the University of Nevada. He plans to major in animal science (pre-veterinary medicine path).

Natalie Victorine, of Dixon, a 2021 graduate of Dixon High School and a student at Cal Poly, won the \$3,500 Ester Armstrong Memorial Award. The award memorializes a former director of the California Division of Fairs and Expositions, who died in May 2009 of cancer. Armstrong, a Rocklin resident served as interim chief executive officer of the Dixon May Fair from 2006 to 2009.

Elena Mendonsa of Vacaville, a 2024 graduate of Vacaville

Christian High School, won the \$3,000 Joe Gates Memorial Scholarship, memorializing the longtime auctioneer of the Dixon May Fair Junior Livestock Auction. Gates, a Rio Vista resident, died of COVID in February 2021.

Others winning \$3,000 scholarships in the university category:

Megan Kett, a 2021 graduate of Dixon High School and a student at Oklahoma University; Bridget de Flores, a 2023 graduate of Rio Vista High School, and a student at Chico State University; Maya Ferris, a 2024 graduate of Vacaville High School with plans to attend Cal Poly; and Trevor de Rosier, a 2024 graduate of Angelo Rodriguez High School, Fairfield, enrolled at UC Davis.

In the community college category, Cole Jacobson, a 2024 graduate of Dixon High School and an incoming student at Woodland Community College, won the \$1,500 Jack Hopkins Memorial Scholarship. Hopkins (1922-2009), a life-long resident of Fairfield and Suisun and a fruit rancher, was a strong support of the Junior Livestock Auctions at the Dixon May Fair and Solano County Fair.

Capsule information about the recipients:

Sam Esperson

Esperson, interested in an agricultural engineering career, seeks expertise “in agricultural engineering, financial management, personnel administration and an overall agricultural systems management to uncover fresh opportunities within the industry,” he wrote in his application packet. His letters of support praised his leadership, professional development, work ethic, and collaborative spirit. He interned at Pacific Southwest Irrigation the summer of 2023 and was described as a “rising star” in the industry.

Massimo Menicou

Menicou wrote that his end goal is to “become a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine...As of now, large and small animal medicine are of interest to me. I attended a summer

youth camp for veterinary care at Texas A&M the summer of 2023 and loved the exposure to cattle and swine.” He was both an athlete and a scholar at Vaca High. A member of the Future Farmers of America Veterinary Science Career Development Team, Menicou captained his high school football team and the Solano-Yolo Rugby Club. “Massimo is the type of student every teacher dreams of having in their class,” a teacher wrote in her letter of recommendation.

Natalie Victorine

Victorine, majoring in agricultural communication, seeks a career in digital media management production. Her decision to major in ag communication was “spurred by my involvement in youth agricultural leadership organizations such as 4-H and FFA, combined with my strong familial roots in agriculture,” she wrote. Last November at the national FFA convention, she received her American FFA Degree, the highest award an FFA member can achieve. Her letters of recommendation praised her as a leader, and as “a hard-working, genuine and enthusiastic.”

Elena Mendonsa

Mendonsa wrote that she seeks an animal science degree at UC Davis and hopes to attend the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. She served as president of her school’s Environmental Club and won the top student award in anatomy and physiology and biomedical sciences. She interns at a local veterinary clinic and also with the Solano County SPCA. Her letters of support praised her academic excellence, leadership and social responsibility.

Megan Kett

Kett, who seeks a career as a veterinarian, is a first-generation college student majoring in animal science, with a concentration in pre-veterinary animal science. She worked as an animal caretaker for the Oklahoma State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Stillwater, Okla. At Dixon, she raised market swine in the 4-H and FFA programs and was a member of the water polo

and swim teams all four years of high school. “I am currently pursuing a position in the undergraduate scholar’s program, with a focus on research with swine,” she wrote. Agriculture has always been a part of her life. She helped her father plant and grow a walnut orchard on the Kett family farm in Dixon.

Bridget de Flores

De de Flores is majoring in agricultural business at California State University, Chico. As a 10-year 4-H club member, she won a number of awards, including Supreme Grand Champion Turkey and Reserve Grand Champion Turkey. “My experience in 4-H has helped to better prepare me for my future career,” she wrote, adding that she plans career as a farm/ranch manager or as a farmer or rancher. Her letters of recommendation praised her as an outstanding leader and student, and “well-rounded.”

Maya Ferris

Ferris plans to attend Cal Poly with a career goal of becoming a veterinarian. “I’ve always had an affinity for animals,” she wrote in her application packet. “Since I was a little girl, I’ve always had the precarious habit of seeking out animals an trying to bring them home, much to my parents’ displeasure...Over the years I have had the chance to shadow my local large animal veterinarian, Jason Bravos.” Her letters of support praised her as an outstanding leader and scholar, and active in FFA. She won the title of Miss Teen California and is a recipient of a FFA State degree.

Trevor deRosier

He plans to major in wildlife biology at UC Davis. “I hope to learn as much as I can about wildlife biology and I would like to specialize in my primary interest, which is birds.” For his Eagle Scout project, he chose the California Raptor Center at UC Davis. “I led a group of Scouts in creating life-sized wooden cutouts of seven silhouettes of birds they have at the facility,” he wrote. “I displayed them on a wall at the Center to encourage more community members to visit the facility.” His letters of

recommendation praise him for his diligence, leadership, and as a persistent hard worker.

Cole Jacobson

Cole plans to major in agricultural business at Woodland Community College. In his application packet, he related “With agribusiness, I can tap into this industry from a financial or entrepreneurial perspective, two things that I am very interested in.” He added that “learning how to drive a tractor...(was) a huge stepping stone in my life.” His letters of recommendation described him as “a thoughtful, kind and a strong leader in our school and FFA community” and that “he never shies away from challenges, and new opportunities for learning.”


The Friends, an all-volunteer, service-oriented organization, is the fundraising arm of the Dixon May Fair. Headed by President Gilbert "Gil" Molina of Vacaville, the organization raises funds through the sale of beverages at the four-day fair, and donates the proceeds for building and grounds improvements, college scholarships and exhibitor awards.

Applicants are scored on personal, civic and academic experience; academic standing; personal commitment and established goals; leadership potential; and civic accomplishments. Most applicants have experience in 4-H, FFA or Grange--criteria desired but not mandated.

Continuing scholarship winners may apply up to four times, Hamel said. Scholarship checks can be used only for tuition, fees, books, materials and supplies, housing, and meals purchased on campus.

The scholarship committee, chaired by Hamel, also includes Tootie Huffman, Kathy Keatley Garvey and Linda Molina, all of Vacaville, and Sue Miracle and Michelle Robinson of Dixon.

The deadline to apply for the annual scholarships is March 1. In the past, rules mandated that the applicants "be attending a college or university within California." As of 2024, the rules expanded to “a college or university within the United States.” Hamel said. ★



Employment Opportunities

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Email your resume to Publisher@MPG8.com

Circulation Manager – We are seeking a full-time Circulation Manager to oversee our 18 local newspapers. Duties include managing the weekly reporting of distribution, preparation for weekly audits, managing and recruiting our carrier staff, preparing and reporting postal statements, customer service support, physical labor repairing and replacing newsstands, setting up new locations, and other related duties needed to run the circulation department. This position works primarily in Carmichael but will require some local travel to our other offices in the Sacramento region. The hours may vary but are flexible due to the nature of the duties.

Office Administration – We are seeking a full-time administrative support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Office Manager. Work hours are between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office experience is required. Primary duties are working with customers and assisting with weekly legal advertising filings. We also have a part-time position available in West Sacramento available in August.

City Reporter - We are seeking a full-time City Reporter for our newspaper group. This position may be assigned to work in the Carmichael office or another area office and works directly with the Managing Editor. Work hours are flexible depending on assignments. Previous reporting experience is required.

Copy Editor - We are seeking a part-time copy editor for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Managing Editor. Work hours are flexible between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous editing experience is required.

Delivery Driver – Weekly Hauling to Marysville- We are seeking a part-time Delivery Driver for our newspaper group. This position would transport newspapers from our Carmichael office to our offices in Marysville and Gridley. Work hours are from 8:30 to 4:00 every Thursday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. Must have your own reliable cargo van. This is an independent contractor position and pays a flat rate for your service.

Newsstand Delivery Driver/Local - We are seeking a part-time Newsstand Deliver Driver for our newspaper group. This position works from the Carmichael office and delivers to our locations in the West Sacramento/Sacramento Region. Routes also available in Elk Grove, Pocket, East Sacramento, Arden Arcade. Work hours are from 8:30 to 5:00 Thursday and/or Friday. Must be able to lift and move bundles of newspapers without assistance. You must have a reliable vehicle. This is an independent contractor position. Previous experience preferred.

To find out more or to apply:
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California Capital Airshow Returns with Dazzling Night Show

California Capital Airshow News Release

MATHER, CA (MPG) - The 18th annual California Capital Airshow, presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova, runs from 3:30 to 9:30 p.m. July 13 and 14 at Mather Airport in Sacramento.

The two-day event will feature an extraordinary lineup of performers, including the Italian jet team, Frecece Tricolori, and the United States Air Force Thunderbirds, plus miles of ground attractions and the return of nighttime aerial performances concluding with a massive pyro-musical fireworks and 500-drone show.

The Airshow is part of Frecece Tricolori's first North American tour in more than 30 years and is the only location in the Western United States where spectators can witness its full performance. Frecece Tricolori consists of 10 high-flying Aermacchi MB-339 aircraft, making it the Guinness World Record holder of the most jet aircraft in a military aerobatic display team.

Aerial performances will run 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. both days and will begin with the United States Air Force Thunderbirds, followed by Frecece Tricolori, U.S. Navy F-18 Super Hornet, U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightning and C-17 Globemaster demo teams, and an impressive roster of highly-skilled civilian performers.



California Capital Airshow will offer four hours of non-stop aerial performances from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. July 13 and 14. Photo courtesy of the California Capital Airshow

Tickets are still available for purchase at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com and will not be sold at the gate. Adult General Admission tickets start at \$42.50 and each ticket includes free admission for up to six youth (ages 15 and under) and free parking. A variety of upgraded tickets and experiences are also available for purchase.

California Capital Airshow gives special thanks to generous partners Sacramento County, the City of Rancho Cordova, Modern Aviation, Keurig Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, Visit Rancho Cordova, Folsom Lake Dodge, Donaghy Sales, SMUD, Thunder Valley Casino Resort, Kaiser Permanente, Atlas Disposal, Sunbelt, Teichert, Elite Power, FOX 40, iHeart Media, and UPS.

In addition, the Airshow team is grateful to its 1,000 passionate volunteers, a long list of committed community supporters, as well as the teams of law enforcement and emergency services that give their time and energy to keep everyone safe.

Tickets and more information can be found at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com.★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024000953

The following persons are doing business as: U Save Speed Wash, 1227 Tabor Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533.

U Save Laundries LLC, 1227 Tabor Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533.

Date filed in Solano County: June 12, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: December 23, 2019.

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 June 11, 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: June 21, 28, July 5, 12, 2024

USAVE 7-12-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-000985

The following persons are doing business as: Powered Collaborations, 320 Bam Owl Lane, Dixon, CA 95620.

Laurie Power, P.O. Box 983, Dixon, CA 95620.

Date filed in Solano County: June 20, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual.

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 19, 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: July 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024

POWERED 7-26-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-001053

The following persons are doing business as: Guacho's Moving Service, 870 E. Travis Boulevard Suite 1, Fairfield, CA 94533.

Joaquin Hernandez Castillo, 870 E. Travis Boulevard Suite 1, Fairfield, CA 94533.

Date filed in Solano County: July 2, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: An Individual.

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expira-

tion July 1, 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: July 12, 19, 26, August 2, 2024

GUACHOS 8-2-24

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF JULIETA L. MAYORAL

CASE NO. PR24-00340

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Julieta L. Mayoral.

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

The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under

the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: July 25, 2024, 9:00 a.m. in Dept 10; Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 600 Union Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.

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

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of

the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Angela C. Thompson, 1555 River Park Drive, Suite 108, Sacramento, CA 95815; 916-920-5983

Publish: July 5, 12, 19, 2024

MAYORAL 7-19-24

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(TFN)

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(TFN)

Suzuki XL-7 SUV: Perfectly maintained family car, 7-passenger with two rows of folding seats; luxury interior; no accidents 135K miles; 2006. Asking \$4,900. Call (707) 678-9198.

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(7/12/2024)

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THIS STINKS. MY DAD TOOK ME TO HIS BARBER TODAY FOR A HAIRCUT.

I LOOK RIDICULOUS. EVERYONE IS GOING TO TOTALLY MAKE FUN OF ME.

MOM, LOOK AT ME. YOU ARE ALWAYS SAYING TO "BE POSITIVE." WELL...?

IT WILL BE NICE AND COOL IF IT GETS HOT OUT.

by Dave T. Phipps

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THAT'S ALL I'VE EVER WANTED.

WELL, IT'S STILL NICE TO FEEL WANTED.

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SAME WITH THE POPCORN—AND NO SHARING

I'LL BUY MY OWN TICKET AND YOU BUY YOURS

—AND WE'LL MEET RIGHT HERE AFTER THE MOVIE'S OVER

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California State Fair Honors the State’s Agricultural Industry, with Much to See and Enjoy!

By Carol Feineman

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The 170th California State Fair offers 17 days of old-fashioned fun for the whole family, from July 12 to July 28.

Lucky for us that we don’t have to drive too far; the first state fair sponsored by the California State Agricultural Society, was held in San Francisco on Oct. 4, 1854, and rotated to different cities for the next six years. In 1861, however, Sacramento became the permanent location for the extravaganza.

While today’s California State Fair still honors the state’s agricultural industry, there is much more to see and enjoy at the annual event.

There are plenty of activities for all ages. That

includes eating funnel cakes, waffles to sliders; listening to top musicians; riding Butler Amusements’ thrilling Zipper to the classic and calmer Crown Merry Go Round; and checking out competitions and exhibits that feature our neighbors’ talents and skills.

Besides the nightly concerts, entertainment is ongoing each day. For starters, there’s the Tanzanite African Acrobats, the Stilt Circus and the Salsa Steel Band.



What would a fair be like without going on rides at the carnival? There are rides for the thrill-seekers as well as for those who want a tamer but just as fun experience. Photo courtesy of California State Fair



The many competitions include the Open Livestock Show with beef cattle, sheep, Boer goats, dairy cattle, dairy goats, Nigerian dwarf goats, pygmy goats, angora and fiber goats, longhorn cattle, llamas and alpaca.

And the always popular Junior Livestock competition spotlights the dedicated youth FFA members with their beef cattle, sheep, swine, goats, dairy cattle and dairy goats.

Exhibits range from a Candy Maze Selfie Exhibit, a Student Showcase & CA Crafts Exhibit, Animation

Academy to a fine art and photography exhibit.

The California State Fair is open different hours of the week.

Main Gate and Blue Gate hours are from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Green Gate opens at 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Carnival and Skyride hours are from 2 to 11 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesday, Saturday

and Sunday.

Kids Park hours are 1 to 11 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Exhibit Building hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

The Monorail opens at 11 a.m. Monday through Thursday, and at 10 a.m. Friday through Sunday.

Tickets can be bought online at <https://calexpostatefair.com/tickets> or at the fair’s box office. Several ticket prices and packages are offered. Daily tickets to the fair and food festival

start at \$16 for adults (\$14 in advance), \$12 (\$10 in advance) for seniors 62 and older and \$10 (\$8 in advance) for children ages 5 to 12. Fair admission is free for children 4 and under.

In addition, a Family Fun Pack is \$49.99 and includes four single-day general admissions, four ride tickets (each good for one ride in the Carnival or on the Monorail), and a parking pass.

The Toyota Concert Series is free with fair admission ticket in the area behind the General Admission seating area to the first 700 concert-goers. Seats can also be reserved, starting at \$25.

Parking is \$15 a day or three days for \$30.

There are also different prices for the carnival rides, starting at \$1 per ticket and carnival fast passes from \$10 to \$15. An Unlimited Ride Wristband bought at the Carnival is \$39 Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and \$44 Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Cal Expo is at 1600 Exposition Blvd. in Sacramento, northeast of the American River.

For more information about the California State Fair, go online to cal-expostatefair.com, call 916-263-3000 or email info@calexpo.com. ★



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