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Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 31

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

AUGUST 2, 2024

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Dixon Mourns Officer Bowen



At the Lincoln Medical Center, this banner and two blue flags were posted in honor of Officer Bowen. Photo by Scott Mullins

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon has long been known for being a special town. As a community, we have come out to support our residents in hundreds of ways who have been devastated by cancer, by loss of a child, or a tragic death.

When our town learned of a Vacaville Police Officer killed during a routine traffic stop last week who lived in Dixon and who had a young family, even those who did not know him were gravely saddened and support began to pour out for Matthew Bowen.

First, the “Blue Lives Matter” flags began to pop up on street corners near his house. Then the Downtown Dixon Business Association covered downtown with them, along with posting a banner at the Pardi Plaza honoring the officer. On the main intersection in town a sign read, “Rest in Peace



This memorial with a flag was placed at the corner of South Lincoln and A Streets for Officer Bowen. Photo by Scott Mullins

Officer Matthew Bowen” underlined with hearts.

Within days, a beautiful floral memorial was placed at South Lincoln and another banner adjacent thanking him for his service.

The public was invited via social media to line up

with their flags on A Street early Tuesday morning, the expected procession route for the Dixon family to the Vacaville services. People lined from South Lincoln and along West A Street to nearly I-80 with flags in hand. One of Dixon’s firetrucks was parked at the end.

“I was not surprised by the incredible turnout along our local roads during the procession. This is what makes Dixon special. Our community stands united in support of its police, fully appreciating the dangers and sacrifices our officers make to protect us. We are heartbroken at the loss of Officer Matthew Bowen, and we are committed to honoring his legacy by showing unwavering support to his family,” said Dixon Police Chief Robert Thompson.

Seeing a procession gives the broader community an opportunity to share a powerful experience to honor an officer, according to Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt in his article on how actions help us heal found on FuneralBasics.org. Communal mourning is important as all are affected in some measure

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Dixon Hosts July 4 Briefing



Police Chief Robert Thompson presents a post-operational briefing on July 4, comparing staffing, citation and service calls for the event this summer holiday. Photo by Angela Underwood

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - America's birthday was the subject of a post-operational briefing here.

The second annual city-hosted event in Hall Park included concerts, open swim and food trucks, gathering hundreds together for the celebration. Per City Council's request, Police Chief Robert Thompson and Fire Chief Todd McNeal gave just that on July 16 at the regularly scheduled council meeting.

“I think we come to the communal Mandela effect every year that it is the worst year for fireworks in Dixon,” Thompson said while yearly figures were posted on the screen. “All we can give you is the numbers, which show you that it wasn’t actually the worst year.”

Far enough away from Covid to present “meaningful data,” Thompson showed the entire Fourth of July weekend, July 1 through July 4. Calls for service decreased in the last three years. Total calls for service were 259 in 2022 compared to this year's 189. Officer-initiated calls were also down to 71 in 2022, compared to this year's 52.

After that, Thompson focused solely on July 4, noting the total number of calls from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., which totaled 69. Disturbance calls not related to fireworks were the lowest this year, with only 41 compared to 71 in 2022 and 39 this year.

Patrol staffing comparisons between 2023 and 2024 show a decrease in police and community service officers, primarily for the Hall Park detail.

“It’s a little bit down from where we were last year,” Thompson said, noting the decrease was related to scheduling and staffing.

Thompson said drones will assist in 2025.

“If you recall, last year we had tried a drone pilot program,” Thompson said. “It was effective but it's just that we did not have drone pilots available this year, so we were not able to replicate that program.”

The only figure that did not decrease was response time. This year, the average response time was 13:03,

Continued on page 4

City Joins Lawsuit Against State



Here is an aerial view of a special July 25 council meeting, during which Dixon City Councilmembers approved joining a lawsuit against the State of California over Chromium 6 levels. Photo by Angela Underwood

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Water issues here continue to rise as the city joins a lawsuit against the State of

California over Chromium 6 levels.

At a special meeting on July 25, Dixon City Councilmembers were briefed by deputy

city attorney Nubia Goldstein on the joint litigation efforts with the California Association of Mutual Water Companies (CalMutuals)

to sue the state.

Councilmember Kevin Johnson initiated the fight that now starts while the city continues to consider a

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Solano EDC Has Limited Funds for Small Business Loan Program

Solano Economic Development Corporation News Release

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) - The Solano County Economic Development Corporation (Solano EDC) is encouraging small businesses to apply for the limited funds still available through the Solano Biz-Grow program. The Solano Biz-Grow loan program offers loans at 6% interest, fixed, for five years, to eligible small businesses and non-profits. The Solano County Economic Development Corporation, with American Rescue Plan Act funding made available by the Solano County Board of Supervisors, launched the program in February 2024. Designed to assist small businesses and non-profits affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, this \$4 million loan program, has provided loans in all seven cities and in unincorporated Solano County.

Limited funds are still available, so businesses are encouraged to apply now. The loan process includes a free assessment by the Solano-Napa Small Business Development Center and is in partnership with three local lenders. The lenders are First Northern Bank, Travis Credit Union and Valley Strong Credit Union.

“The Solano Biz Grow loan program has been crucial in supporting small businesses and non-profits, helping them mitigate the financial impact of the pandemic. We are grateful to the Board of Supervisors for allocating American Rescue Plan (ARPA)

funds. We encourage small businesses and non-profits still needing assistance to contact us” said Chris Rico, Solano County Economic Development Corporation President and CEO.

Solano Biz Grow enables small businesses and non-profits to access capital with more favorable terms than traditional lending, including lower credit score requirements. This program aims to enhance the survivability, stability, and expansion of small businesses and non-profits.

“Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, fostering job creation and economic growth within the community. Non-profits play a crucial role in providing needed services and programs. Together, they help Solano County prosper,” added Chris Rico.

In partnership with the Solano Small Business Development Center (SBDC), Solano Biz-Grow loan program offers business assistance and capacity-building support. Eligible applicants must demonstrate a pandemic-related impact and meet specific criteria related to their business type and location within Solano County. Eligible businesses or non-profits must have been operating on or before December 31, 2021.

Loan amounts range from \$25,000 to \$125,000.

For more information about the program, including eligibility and how to apply, please contact Wendi Reed, Solano EDC Loan Program Manager, at 707-864-1855, ext. 21 or Wendi@SolanoEDC.org; or visit <https://solanoedc.org/solano-biz-grow-1/revolving-loan-fund/>.

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Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

Showstoppers – A Broadway Musical Revue – One Night Only!

Join hosts Cheryl Sommers and John MacKenzie at this Benefit Concert for the Dixon Community Theater. Featured performers include Ramana Vieira, Erika Harrison, Linda Sikes, Angi Wolf, Pam MacKenzie, Sofia Jackson, Bentley Abrew, John MacKenzie and many more. Thursday, Aug. 8, doors open at 7 p.m. Show time: 7:30 to 9 p.m. Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First Street. Tickets are \$20 and are on sale now. For more information, please visit www.dixon-communitytheater.com.



Dixon Community Theater will host the Broadway Musical Revue. Courtesy photo



Wine and art lovers unite. Photo provided by Jill Orr



The weekly Dixon Farmer's Market is every Thursday. Courtesy photo

Your Dixon Farmer's Market Awaits

Every Thursday, the Downtown Dixon Farmer's Market takes place. You can indulge in organic fruits and vegetables, fresh baked bread, nuts, homemade salsa, tamales, hummus, olive oil, sweets, and more. The market runs from 5 to 7:30 p.m. until Sept. 26 at Women's Improvement Club Park, 230 North First Street.

Veterans Dinner

Spaghetti & Meatballs with French Bread will be featured on the menu for Friday, Aug. 2, around 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. The hall is located at 1305 North First Street and helps support veterans.

Dixon Lions Club 16th Annual Texas Hold 'em Poker Fundraiser

Join us on Saturday, Aug. 17. Cocktails begin at 5 p.m., poker starts at 7 p.m. No host Bar. Must be 21 or older to attend. Fundraiser proceeds benefit youth sports and activities, Dixon High School Scholarships, Lions Club Vision Program, Elementary and Middle School Programs. Downtown Olde Vets Hall 231 North First Street. For more information, please call Chris Ford @ (916) 713-9654.

Grand Reopening of Cornerstone Baptist Church

Join us as we thank our first responders and everyone who helped us out after the devastating fire. Waterslides, bounce houses, generous raffle prizes, cotton candy, popcorn, snow cones, police and fire, free lunch for all and fun for kids of all ages. Aug. 4, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Cornerstone Baptist Church, 185 West Cherry Street. Must be present to win raffle.

It's All About the Art Journal/It's All About the Scrapbook

Friday night, Aug. 23, 6 to 9 p.m. This workshop is designed to have NO RULES, share fresh ideas, demonstrate techniques, and then set you free to play with assorted mediums on the journal, canvas, or surface of your choice. Everything you learn will be useful from card making to art journaling, mixed media canvases and all kinds of other paper crafts.

Different products will be used at each class, and no two will be the same! Join in for any that fit your schedule and come enjoy a relaxed art journaling workshop full of fun and inspiration with no rules! Limited to 12 spots.

For the Aug. 23 class, see more details and register at <https://www.itsallaboutthescrapbook.com/module/class/362101/its-all-about-the-art-journal>.

1670 North Lincoln Street, Suite B (707)-676-5252

Wine & Art Stroll

Come downtown and enjoy some amazing wine, food, and music Saturday, Aug. 17, 4 to 8 p.m. Tickets purchased before Aug. 8 are \$30. After, they become \$35. Each comes with a commemorative wine glass! This event will happen rain or shine! Visit www.downtowndixonca.com for more information. Must be 21 years old or over to attend.

National Night Out

Join your neighbors and make your community a safer, more caring place to live on the 41st annual National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 6. This special event brings the community together in a nationwide effort to promote crime and drug prevention. For more information, please visit www.natw.org.

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Tortilla Magic with the “Queen of Corn”



Mafer Evans assists Riley pressing a blue corn tortilla.

Story and photo by Scott Mullins

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Mafer Evans was born and raised in Mexico City. Mafer Evans loves tortillas. Mafer Evans loves talking about tortillas. Mafer and her husband Kevin own La Familia Tortilla shop in Dixon, close to Safeway.

Mafer insists that corn and tortillas do not receive the kudos they should. “Tortillas are a big part of Mexican culture, and Hispanic culture. Now it’s part of your culture. I know how much you all love Mexican food,” said Mafer in her introduction to the appreciation of her audience.

Common while growing up in Mexico, families send their children to the Tortilleria to purchase kilos of Tortillas for nightly dinners. Now, Dixon residents and visitors have that same option close to their homes. According to Mafer, La Familia Tortilla Shop uses the same corn used in Conquistador times. They use imported heirloom corn (from Mexico) that is organic and not genetically modified. They grind the corn on their premises.

Mexican culture teaches us “Corn is us. Corn is everything,” said Mafer. It was discovered over 9,000 years ago and initial farmers deserve major recognition

for discovering wild Teosinte, an inedible precursor to what we recognize today as domesticated corn or maize. There are more than 200 varieties of corn worldwide. Sixty varieties are grown in Mexico. Interesting to note, per Mafer, is that 1/3 of all of Mexico’s cropland is corn.

Although corn tortilla making is pretty simple, the finished product varies greatly depending on the ingredients used. Nixtamalization is the traditional Mexican process where corn is treated with lime, and dried and ground to produce the flour used to make a tortilla. Water is added to this flour to make the tortilla. “To make the perfect tortilla, it must be turned three times,” Mafer said.

After hearing all of this history about corn and tortillas, it was time to make your very own corn tortilla with Mafer’s assistance. Mafer then showed the audience how to press a tortilla, then cook it on a griddle.

La Familia Tortilla Shop is located at 1285 Stratford Avenue, Suite C in Dixon. Their phone number is 707-401-6100. They specialize in yellow corn, chipotle, spinach and jalapeno tortillas and homemade tamales. For more information, please visit www.lafamiliatortillashop.com.

City Joins Lawsuit Against State

Continued from page 1

water rate increase.

In 2024, the California State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) adopted a proposed regulation to establish a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 for hexavalent Chromium 6. A similar maximum contaminant level for Chromium was introduced in 2014 and overturned in 2017.

The water board held public comment in 2023 when the City of Dixon submitted written comments twice, saying the city was against the unfunded mandate for making the level 10.

However, those comments were not considered, according to Dixon officials, which led to the lawsuit.

The proposed law is pending review with the Office of Administrative Law, with an October effective date, according to Goldstein.

The pros of the lawsuit outweigh the cons right off the top, according to Dixon officials.

Although there is a \$25,000 fee to join the suit, if not challenged, the mandate could cost the City of Dixon more than \$2 million annually to monitor and maintain to meet maximum contaminant levels.

That does not include the estimated more than \$7,000 needed to create a compliance and operation plan and the up-front investment needed for well-head treatment.

Why the \$25,000 fee to join the litigation?

According to Goldstein, lawsuit participation is based on tiers, the size of a city’s water system and a community’s ability to absorb the cost of maintenance.

“Based on Dixon and Dixon’s capacity size, it’s about \$25,000 to participate in

the lawsuit,” Goldstein said, adding that Dixon will be a claimant/petitioner in the legal documents.

Mayor Steve Bird called the mandate level 10 “ridiculous.”

“It’s out of the question,” Bird said. “The expense and burden of this unfunded liability put on small cities are absolutely unreasonable and unacceptable.”

While he is “frugal” about many items that come before the council, Bird said, “this item here would give us some leverage and a voice with others to fight and stop this.”

Councilmember Don Hendershot agreed.

“I don’t believe the state has done the due diligence, nor do I truly believe that they have done a complete investigation of resources,” Hendershot said.

Calling the maximum contaminant level 10 mandate “an astonishing overreach by the state,” Councilmember Johnson said he has had conversations with Community Water Systems Alliance representatives who also protest the proposed law.

“They definitely would like us to be involved,” Johnson said.

Johnson sighted the dawn of creation to prove his point about water here.

“Since Adam and Eve, we have been drinking the water here in Dixon with no medical report,” Johnson said.

The bottom line is that it’s all about responsibility, according to Johnson, who said the council has a “responsibility to our water ratepayers and not to sit back.”

Johnson approved the \$25,000 to join the suit, adding that there might be some additional costs if the city partners with the Community Water Systems Alliance.

“I want our public to know I am serious about it,” Johnson said.

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Dixon Mourns Officer Bowen

Continued from page 1

and people need to give special support to the families involved, it read.

“As a retired law enforcement officer, I’ve been to a lot of these services and it is a way of paying respect,” said City Treasurer Jim Ward who contacted numerous people about attending the line-up that morning.

There was also an opportunity for residents to watch the service later that morning via a livestream as the services were closed to the public.

These kinds of tragedies encompass not only the grief and mourning of the individual families, close friends and neighbors, but of entire communities. Without externally expressing our internal feelings of grief, emotions can become internalized and remain inside us, unaddressed.

Other actions residents can take are to participate in a social media fund drive

created for the family, take part in a company or service-related fundraiser for the family, donate blood to the local blood bank, visit the memorial to offer a token of mourning such as flowers or a note, and/or say prayers for the family. These are all ways to show support and grief.

For Dixon, the outpouring was touching and an example of togetherness.

“Dixon is a unique and special place, and this community’s strength and solidarity are part of the reason so many police officers choose to live here. Even police officers who work in other jurisdictions know they can leave their families in Dixon, and they will be protected and safe. It’s safe, it’s supportive, and it truly values the men and women who dedicate their lives to service,” said Chief Thompson. “We will continue to uphold these values and demonstrate our commitment to Officer Bowen’s family and to each other.”

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James P. Ward

For
Dixon Mayor

A message to Dixon's Voters

For those who don't know me, my wife and I have been blessed with living in Dixon for 25 years and having 7 children and many grandchildren. I am active in St. Peter's Catholic Church, Kiwanis, and veteran's activities. I am a retired CHP officer and Army Veteran. I have attended almost a decade's worth of City Council meetings. For the past four years, I have been serving as your elected Dixon City Treasurer.

From all those nights at City Hall, I know that a mayor should do more than attend ceremonial events and dinners. A mayor should lead the City Council in overseeing the City Manager and department heads, recommend and vote on changes to the city code, and see that the priorities of the community are reflected in the annual budget. Most fundamentally, our mayor should be someone we can be proud to have representing us and who cares enough to listen. No elected official should be above the law.

I'm proud to call Dixon home. I want to see our city stay a prosperous one— a gem that stands out on the I-80 corridor with thriving businesses and a strong sense of community. To do that, we must support our local businesses, preserve our surrounding agriculture by supporting our local farmers, and foster deep intergenerational ties by making Dixon safe and supportive for families.

After thinking long and hard, I decided I cannot sit by and not run in this upcoming election. It's time for Dixon to have a Mayor with an ethical and moral foundation—a mayor who does what they should. To sum it up in one important phrase, “Ethics Matter!” That’s why I am announcing my bid to be your Mayor.

I humbly ask you all to vote Ward for Mayor because ethics matter!

James P. Ward Jr.
Dixon City Treasurer 2020-2024

Ethics Matter!

Paid for by Ward for Mayor 2024. FPCC# Pending.

Dixon Hosts July 4 Briefing

PATROL STAFFING FOR 4th OF JULY

2023 vs 2024

Regular Patrol Shift

• 1 Sergeant

• 4 Police Officers

Additional Staffing

• 7 Police Officers

• 1 Pilot

• 2 Community Service Officers

Total Overtime: 38 hours

Regular Patrol Shift

• 1 Sergeant


• 4 Police Officers

Additional Staffing

• 5 Police Officers

• 1 Community Service Officer

Total Overtime: 31 hours



This graphic shows the Dixon Police Department staffing for July 4 in 2023 and 2024. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

Continued from page 1

compared to 10:57 in 2023. The average response time between 6 p.m. and midnight was 12:36 this year, compared to 12:15 in 2023.

Thompson said emergency call response time for emergency calls is “generally four to six minutes,” but not on July 4.

“When everyone is calling in at the same time, you can see the effect that it has to stretch out,” Thompson said, adding that, unlike other jurisdictions, Dixon always responds. “It may take us a while to get there but we will stack them up and get to it.”

Administrative citations were also down this year.

“No question about that and I will take responsibility for it,” Thompson said. “It is an issue of ensuring we align with priorities.”

That priority includes a firework ordinance that entails visually seeing fire spark a fuse.

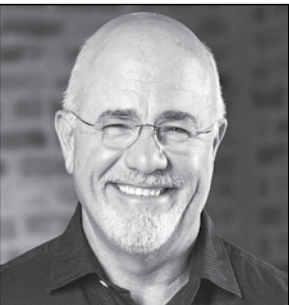
“We have to see the person detonate the fireworks; it’s not enough to turn the corner and have five people and a smoking shell,” Thompson said.

Ending on a “personal note,” the police chief said Dixon is one of the two cities in Solano County with extra firework displays.

“We continue to see that trend,” Thompson said, compared to Oakland, Napa and West Sacramento.

Fireworks in Vacaville and Valeo are illegal. To make the officer’s job easier on the holiday, definitive types of fireworks could be classified illegally. Assuring types of fireworks “are safe and sane,” per the ordinance, is time-consuming, according to Chief Thompson.

Fire Chief McNeal kept it short, stating staffing consisted of nine personnel on duty, seven of which are typically scheduled. The average number of calls in 2023 was eight a day. On this Fourth of July, there were 19 calls, “12 of which were smoke or fire-related calls.” ★



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

I’m beginning to feel some bitterness and resentment towards my parents for their recent decisions and financial irresponsibility. Fifteen years ago, while I was still in school, they left good-paying jobs to enter the ministry. They both took pay cuts when they made this decision, and they’ve been regularly asking for money for living expenses from my husband and I ever since. Sometimes, they even try to make us feel guilty if we can’t give them the amount they ask for. My mom, especially, constantly brings up their call to the ministry, adding that we should want to help them. We believe in their calling, but we also feel they knew they would have to live on less money, and they’re being irresponsible with the money they make. What should we do?

– Abigail

Dear Abigail

What I’m hearing is giv-

Dave Ramsey Says Right Heart, Wrong Actions

ing money to your parents isn’t necessarily a financial hardship for you and your husband, but that by consistently giving or loaning your parents money you’re losing respect for them. This is not a healthy situation. Your relationship has become strained, and that’s a tough thing for anyone to deal with—especially in a parent-child scenario.

Make no mistake, going into the ministry with the right heart is an admirable thing. However, in the Bible, Paul made tents while he conducted his ministry. I’m paraphrasing, of course, but his line was to the effect of, “If you don’t work, you don’t eat.” He had a job. So, I don’t think suggesting your folks think about working outside the ministry while trying to do God’s work is unfair in a situation like this.

I’m sure your mom is a good person, but no one should do this to their child. On top of it all, she sounds like a travel agent for guilt trips—like she’s working you over while implying it’s all really for God. That’s not only toxic, it’s just plain wrong.


It’s going to be hard to

unravel it all and turn this into a respectable situation where they’re not constantly asking for money, and you’re not feeling pressure and falling victim to the guilty feelings that enable this behavior. I hope all of you will consider sitting down with a reasonable, objective third party and talking things through. I also hope you’ll take some time to read a book called Boundaries by Dr. Henry Cloud. It will open your eyes to a few things.

God bless you and your family, Abigail.

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time 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. ★



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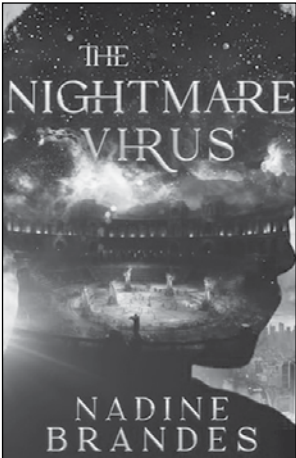
The Nightmare Virus

by Nadine Brandes

“Once you catch the Nightmare Virus, you have 22 days until you die.”

The only thing for certain is the Nightmare Virus will come for everyone, and there is no cure. That is exactly what Nole and Cain are determined to figure out. Since the outbreak of the nightmare virus, Cain and Nole have been working on a cure, lining their tiny house with equations, scribbles, and the few meager scraps of food they have left. However, the clock is ticking. Nole only has 19 sleeps left until the Virus takes him, and there is no way Cain can figure this out on his own.

But when Nole unexpectedly dies before his twenty-second day, Cain is left to his own devices. He can dissect the chicken-scratched notes and discover a cure, or die, because he, too, has the Virus. Just when Cain thinks he’s on the edge of the discovery, the mist takes him, whisking him into the darkness of the Nightmare Virus. But the Nightmare is more than utter darkness; Cain breaks through the darkness only to discover the world of Tenebra. In



- ♦ Publisher: Enclave
- ♦ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ♦ Release Date: July 16, 2024

a fantasy world of life, death, and night beasts, Cain must fight for his freedom within the arena. All too quickly Cain realizes he is different than all the others. He has found a way to manipulate the Nightmare World. Now it is up to Cain to navigate the world of Tenebra and battle the nightbeasts, the Spores, and the Emperor, all while on a dangerous quest in the Real World.

But Cain will quickly learn that everything is not as it was once presented. Now it is up to Cain to navigate the truth, the lies, and who is out to deceive him at every turn before

his time runs out.

Fall into the world of The Nightmare Virus. The Last Of Us meets Hunger Games in this dystopian, fast-paced fantasy. Nadine Brandes knows how to throw her readers right into a story, delivering a high-stakes fantasy world that is thrilling, dark, and immersive. A battle against time where life and death hang in the balance, where the need for faith and hope in the darkest of times is the one shining ray of light. Brandes delivers characters you love to love and love to hate, taking readers on a thrill ride wondering who they can trust and who has betrayed their trust. Told from a male character’s perspective, this story opens the door to all reading audiences, including young men.

The Nightmare Virus instantly catches the reader’s attention with its dynamic cover, thrusting readers into a story whose unrelenting tempo will propel readers into the narrative, leaving them unable to put it down and asking for more. Available in both paperback and ebook formats, this is a must-read for fans of dystopian fantasy. ★



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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

Tuesday, July 16

No activity to report

Wednesday, July 17

10:08 - A missing person’s report was taken in the 1300 block of North Lincoln Street.

11:46 - A lost property report was taken at the Dixon Police Department.

15:21 - A coroner’s report was taken in the 100 block of Lynd Way.

20:01 - Confidential report taken on the 1400 block of Reed Drive.

Thursday, July 18

18:56 - Report of an adult male annoying/harassing a minor in the 800 block of North Lincoln Street.

Friday, July 19

11:19 - A fraud report was taken in the 1500 block of Eisenhower Court.

12:22 – Annoying/harassing a minor arrest report was taken in the 600 block of Amesbury Drive. Officers contacted (S) Rangel Humberto Herrera (48) of Dixon. Herrera was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.

Saturday, July 20

20:56 - Information report in the 200 block of Carpenter Court.

21:08 - Michael Akers (56) was arrested for misdemeanor domestic battery in the 200 block of South 7th Street. Akers was booked at the Solano County Jail without incident.

21:25 - Hit and run report at the intersection of Berkshire Drive with North Almond Street.

Sunday, July 21

14:03 - Parking Violation 1700 block Orchard Avenue.

16:45 - Theft report 1000 block Newgate Way.

20:26 - Animal cruelty report taken in the 700 block of Cahill Court.

01:23 - Restraining order violation in the 200 block of Carpenter Court resulted in the arrest of Stephanie Rhodes (41) of Vallejo for violating a domestic violence restraining order. She was taken to county jail.

Monday, July 22

08:30 - Burglary Report 2200 block North First Street.

13:00 - Lost property report 500 block South First Street.

13:30 - Battery report 400 block South Adams Street.

18:00 - Confidential report taken at the Police Department.

19:03 - Domestic violence report in the 1700 block of Winfield Street resulted in the arrest of Dayron Fernandez (30) of Dixon for felony domestic violence. He was taken to county jail.

22:18 - Theft report taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.

Tuesday, July 23

07:40 - Bike stop 500 block Priddy Drive. Oscar Orozco (33) of Dixon was arrested for an outstanding bench warrant and possession of a controlled substance and booked into the Solano County Jail.

16:00 - Burglary 400 block Ellesmere Drive.

16:12 - Collision report East C Street at North First Street.

22:16 - Vandalism reported in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue.

Wednesday, July 24


13:55 - Burglary 700 block North Adams Street.


20:20 - Restraining order violation reported in the 800 block of West B Street.

21:20 - Death investigation in the 300 block of West C Street.

22:02 - Suspicious vehicle report in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue.

04:17 - Vandalism report taken in the 1000 block of West B Street.





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Subscriptions should be mailed to:
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Subscription rate is \$52 per year within Dixon and Solano County. \$72 per year (Mail only).

Main Office Address: 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The *Dixon Independent Voice* is published weekly on Friday.

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Eye-Popping Construction Costs Intensify California’s Chronic Housing Shortage



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

It’s not hyperbole to declare that California’s most serious economic, social and political issue is its chronic shortage of housing, particularly for families in the lower income brackets.

As the yawning gap between demand and supply, especially in urban areas, pushes costs upward, it drags down the economy by discouraging investment in job-creating businesses; it drives employers and their workers to other states where they can afford housing; it fuels the nation’s highest level of functional poverty and it’s the major factor in California’s worst-in-the-nation homelessness.

The state has pushed local governments to reduce impediments to housing construction, setting a goal of 2.5 million new units over the current eight-year planning cycle, or an average of more than 300,000 units a year, “and no less than one million of those homes must meet the needs of lower-income households.”

At best, California’s private and public housing developers are meeting a third of that goal, and the recent trend is downward. The state budget notes that in 2023 residential permits declined by 2.9% from 2022 to about 110,000 permitted units, and it projects that

while single-family housing construction will probably pick up this year, multi-family units are expected to contract 5.5%, the largest annual decline since 2020.

The budget cites high interest rates, imposed by the Federal Reserve to combat inflation, as a major factor in the state’s stagnant housing picture. But inflation itself — the rising costs of building materials and construction labor — also is a problem, as is the tangle of red tape that projects must endure.

A project now underway in downtown Sacramento, just a couple blocks from the state Capitol, illustrates how high development costs affect supply. The decrepit Sequoia Hotel, originally built in 1906, is being transformed into 88 tiny units of housing — 150 square feet each — for homeless people, at a total cost of \$50.1 million, with most of the money coming from the state. That’s nearly \$600,000 per unit, more than enough to buy a detached single-family home in one of Sacramento’s middle-class neighborhoods, and close to \$4,000 a square foot.

Sacramento is by no means an isolated example of the eye-popping costs of building housing for low-income Californians.

A similar project in downtown San Francisco, converting a fire-damaged building into 35 low-rent apartments, is costing a million dollars a unit, the San Francisco Chronicle revealed this week.

“Just five years ago, the cost to build affordable housing in San Francisco was only about \$740,000 a unit, according to the Bay Area Council Economic

Institute. But these days units are clocking in at \$1 million or even higher, prompting the question of what can be done to bring down costs,” the Chronicle reported.

What indeed?

Governmental projects, such as those in Sacramento and San Francisco, tend to have the highest costs because they must include all sorts of mandates, such as union-scale labor, and they depend on a pastiche of financing sources.

Private projects that needn’t follow those mandates can be done much less expensively, particularly if they consist of modules that have been assembled in factories and then joined together on the site. However, construction unions bitterly oppose such innovations and flex their political muscles to minimize their use.

A new \$50 million housing fund created by Apple and private philanthropists will only finance projects that meet strict cost limits — less than \$550,000 for studios and less than \$700,000 for larger units. That’s still a lot of money, but it’s a step in the right direction.

California will never solve its housing crisis if it doesn’t get more — much more — bang for its bucks.

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. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

If there are any Kings fans left that have any doubts about the veracity of talent and basketball savvy as it relates to the Sacramento Kings general manager Monte McNair, it should be put to rest once and for all.

McNair has shown acumen beyond his years, as he embraces the competitive arena of trades and acquisitions with the senior GMs of the NBA.

Time and again, McNair has passed on trades that would have been a band-aid solution, while waiting for a better opportunity has proven invaluable to the team we see represented today.

There are undoubtedly trade opportunities that the fans will never know about, but take it from this writer, McNair has shown a level of patience that is rarely seen in young GMs.

The resigning of Malik Monk will probably fly under the radar for the casual fan, but make no mistake about it, locking up Monk for the next three years was a real feather in Monte McNair’s cap.

When multiple high-priced and acclaimed free agents were signed by other teams, fans waited and scratched their heads, wondering why the Kings weren’t in the mix.

Finally, when the naysayers had all but given up, came the signing of DeMar DeRozan, perhaps one of the top three free agent players available in this off-season.

Only time will tell what the resigning of Monk, and acquisition of DeRozan will do for the Kings, but hold onto your seats Kings fans, because the Kings GM is not done yet.

Just last week the Kings acquired 24-year-old big man Orlando Robinson who was recently released by the Miami Heat. On the surface this would appear to be a tepid acquisition at best, but at 6’10” this undrafted young man out of Fresno State deserves a closer look.

I reached out to a 40-year alum and booster from Fresno State, and this is the response I received after asking what we should expect from Orlando:

“He is great! A 6’10” true four. Could easily be a 20/10 guy with playing time. I have visited with him a few times. No behavior trouble. He is an essential-type player in today’s NBA...who for a reasonable price is good.”

These comments from a true basketball aficionado should at the very least raise some eyebrows and give Kings fans a reason to pay attention to Mr. Robinson.

Robinson played sparingly for the Miami Heat, but when he did play, he was productive, and I for one will be paying close attention to his progress in the preseason.

The signing of Robinson, for me, simply points out the fact that Monte McNair is scouring the league and beyond, to find another big man to complement Domantas Sabonis.

There remain several power forwards on the free-agent market, and I am confident that just as McNair was able to attract DeMar DeRozan, he will find the Kings the elusive big man they’ve been looking for.

Drew Timme impressed me with his summer league play, and at 6’10” he may yet impress the Kings front office. It would not surprise me to hear that Timme receives an invite to training camp.

The current team as it’s assembled, barring any additions, will be a high-octane machine that will literally wear the competition down. Older teams will put Sacramento on the calendar as a place they would least like to play.

In the past teams have put a W on the calendar when looking at Sacramento, but those days are gone.

This season’s ticket will be a coveted one, and don’t look for any empty seats this year.

If you’re not excited yet, please check and make sure you have a pulse. This team is going to amaze you, with lightning quick De’Aaron Fox, and Mr. double-double and triple-double Domantas Sabonis just reaching the prime of their careers.

Give Sabonis just a little more help on the boards, and it’s anyone’s guess how far this team can go. Fans are looking at a bonafide playoff team, and on the surface this squad could easily surpass the totals of two years ago when the Kings reached the playoffs for the first time in seventeen years.

Cross your fingers Kings fans, because this writer believes Monte McNair has yet another rabbit in his hat!

All the best! ★

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“TWISTERS” RATED PG-13

The premise of a disaster movie with an adrenaline-pumping thrill ride of storm chasers bravely venturing into the eye of a tornado turned 1996’s “Twister” into a spectacle of special effects.

“Twisters” basically follows the same path across the Oklahoma plains. In the original, Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt are two storm chasers on the brink of divorce. Now we get Daisy Edgar-Jones’ Kate Carter, a former chaser, and Glen Powell’s reckless adventure-seeking cowboy Tyler Owens.

Her storm-chasing days behind her after a devastating encounter with a tornado during her college years resulted in the death of friends, Kate now she studies storm patterns on computer screens in the safe confines of a weather service in New York City.

Kate is lured back to Oklahoma by her surviving friend Javi (Anthony Ramos) to test a groundbreaking new portable radar system that can better study how tornadoes form and allow for the release of polymers into the funnel’s eye to diminish its power.

Kate must also overcome her reluctance to return home where her mother Cathy (Maura Tierney) still lives on the family’s rural homestead, a place that holds painful memories of lost loved ones.

While Javi’s enterprise is funded in part by a dubious real estate developer with his eye of snatching up distressed properties, he’s not alone in the business of chasing storms for fame or profit.

Tyler Owens, a social media star who calls himself a “tornado wrangler,” has a huge following if for no better reason that he’s a charming hustler and reckless thrill-seeker who once got his kicks as a rodeo cowboy.

As the story moves along, it seems hardly a day goes by before another tornado touches down to disrupt a street festival, a rodeo, an oil refinery, and an entire town, with explosive results and widespread destruction.

The storm chasers are evidently fearless in the face of extreme danger. Tyler’s ride-along nervous British journalist Ben (Harry Hadden-Paton) would appear to be the surrogate who represents the audience’s vicarious fear of the monster in the sky.

Above all, “Twisters” is truly a wondrous exploration of a wild subculture of exhilarating storm-chasing, populated by a mix of professional meteorologists, hardcore weather enthusiasts and thrill-seeking adventurers.

For most of us, living outside of America’s “tornado alley” means that a film like “Twisters,” as awesome it is with its rousing depiction of a tornado’s destructive power, is as close as we want to get to the terrifying action.

Office of Rep. Mike Thompson News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - On July 5, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04) announced his co-sponsorship of H.R. 8560, The End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2024. This legislation, introduced by Reps. Mark Takano (CA-39), Maxine Waters (CA-43), and Mike Levin (CA-49), seeks to address casework backlogs and expand the eligibility for the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, which would allow more veterans who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness to access permanent housing.

“Our district, like much of California, is experiencing a serious housing crisis,” said Thompson. “Too often, veterans experience housing insecurity and homelessness at a higher rate than others. Nearly one-third of all homeless veterans live in California. We have an obligation to ensure our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for our country, have roofs over their heads.”

In particular, the End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2024 will:

- Close the gap between the nearly 30,000 existing, unused HUD-VASH vouchers and the homeless veterans still in need of housing.
- Expand HUD-VASH eligibility and the permanent housing and supportive services it provides to thousands of veterans and their families who are

Riley Reviews

“TWISTERS” REPRISSES TORNADO FEARS; “MY SPY” MARKS NEW ESCAPADE

“MY SPY: THE ETERNAL CITY” RATED PG-13

Only four years ago, “My Spy” featured the burly Dave Bautista, former professional wrestler, in the role of hardened CIA operative JJ tangling with a precocious ten-year-old girl during his undercover role of surveilling her family.

Now along comes the sequel, “My Spy: The Eternal City,” streaming on Prime Video, and JJ remains at the mercy of the now-young teen Sophie (Chloe Coleman) during a trip of her high school peers to Italy.

But first, the film opens with a scene that emulates the prologue to either a “Mission Impossible” or “James Bond” film. Bodyguard to teen idol Ryan (Bill Barratt) on a private, JJ is attacked by a flight attendant before a bomb blows out a window and everyone falls from the sky.

Sophie comes to the rescue in a jet-pack with parachute, or this just a dream? Whatever the case, now married to Sophie’s mom, JJ is a desk jockey at the CIA and filling in as the spouse who bakes scones, forsaking field duty, much to the chagrin of his agency boss David Kim (Ken Jeong).

In his stepdad role, JJ presses Sophie to keep up her physical training so that she can become an agent, which may have been her dream at one time, but she also claims wanting once to be Dora the Explorer.

As part of his domestication and hoping to bond with s disgruntled stepdaughter, JJ volunteers for chaperone duty for Sophie’s high school choir’s trip that includes performing for the Pope at the Vatican during a G7 summit.

Of course, there’s more to the trip than wrangling juveniles who want nothing more than to break loose from the nightly curfew. For one thing, Sophie is now more interested in boys, while oblivious to her friend Collin (Taeho K) being smitten.

Some bad guys, most notably the requisite villain Crane (Flula Borg), have a nefarious plan to blow up the Vatican with nuclear weapons unless the G7 nations pony up millions in ransom, which seems reminiscent of the nuclear extortion plot in the James Bond film “Thunderball.”

While serviceable in some regards as a weird amalgam of teen comedy, spy film and action thriller, the storyline is so scattershot that it doesn’t measure up to the same charm of the original.

One might get the idea that “My Spy: The Eternal City” might be trying a little too hard, amidst the car chases, fight scenes and more adult dialogue, to be more mature than what would be expected for the younger targeted audience of “My Spy.” ★

Thompson Cosponsors Bill to Reduce Veteran Homelessness

experiencing or at risk of homelessness and are currently ineligible for the program.

Promote efficiency and improve resource management in HUD-VASH by enabling full voucher utilization and ensuring veterans who need case management receive it.

Allow veterans who currently receive housing assistance through other federal programs, like the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, to transfer into HUD-VASH to receive supportive services provided through the VA, thereby freeing up HCV vouchers or other subsidies for non-veterans in need.

Continue to prioritize chronically homeless veterans and veterans with chronic disabilities for HUD-VASH support.

Adopt flexibilities from the Emergency Housing Voucher program to allow public housing authorities to cover administrative fees to facilitate leases for veterans.

As a Vietnam combat veteran and Co-Chair of the Military Veterans Caucus, Rep. Thompson is a longtime advocate for veterans. Rep. Thompson recently held veteran town halls in the Fourth District to support local veterans in accessing health care services, including PACT Act benefits.

To read more about the End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2024, visit <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/8560>. ★

Can’t Find a Doctor? California Bill Would Punish Insurers for Giving Customers Outdated Info

By **Ryan Sabalow**
CALMatters.org

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Over the years, licensed therapist Sarah Soroken has heard from her patients again and again about what a miserable experience it can be to find a mental health provider who actually takes their insurance. But one patient stands out.

Soroken said she was working at Kaiser’s Vallejo Medical Center in 2022 when a college-aged woman was admitted to the hospital’s emergency room after she attempted suicide.

The patient, Soroken said, gave up and tried to take her own life after she called a list of 50 mental-health providers who were listed as taking Kaiser’s insurance plan, but none would see her, or they didn’t actually take her insurance.

“This patient now has the traumas of a suicide attempt and having been harmed by our health care system to add to their treatment needs,” Soroken told the Senate Health Committee earlier this month.

Soroken, who no longer works for Kaiser, testified in support of Assemblymember Chris Holden’s Assembly Bill 236. The legislation from the Pasadena Democrat would give state regulators authority to fine insurers if their lists of in-network doctors, hospitals, mental health workers, labs and imaging centers aren’t up-to-date and accurate.

The bill tackling what are disparagingly called “ghost networks” has so far passed the Assembly and the Senate Health Committees with only Republicans in opposition, and despite the lobbying powerhouses representing California doctors and insurers fighting the bill every step of the way. Doctors and insurers blame each other for problems in the directories, but they argue the bill is unnecessary, burdensome on them and that laws on the books already address the problem.

Combined, the groups have given at least \$4.7 million to California legislators since 2015, according to the Digital Democracy database.



The California Medical Association, representing the state’s physicians, is fighting a bill that would fine insurers for having inaccurate provider networks that lead to confusing doctor referrals. Photo by Anne Vernikoff for CalMatters.

State Health Agency Cites Huge Costs

Along with opposition from influential lobbyists for doctors and insurers, the measure also received a lukewarm response from the state agency that would enforce the bill if it becomes law.

As the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom sought to address a \$30 billion budget deficit this year, the Department of Managed Health Care estimated that the bill would cost \$12 million to bring on “additional staff.” According to the bill’s analysis, the new employees are needed to develop regulations, forms and to monitor “provider directory accuracy.”

The estimate of \$12 million is the equivalent of 80 employees each making \$150,000 a year – figures that could alarm Newsom’s budget team and the lawmakers who dole out cash to state agencies on the Senate Appropriations Committee, where the bill will be considered in the coming weeks.

The department didn’t respond to CalMatters’ request to explain its estimate. In a one-paragraph emailed statement, Kevin Durawa, a department spokesperson, said the estimate may be out of date since the bill was recently amended.

“The department is reviewing the amendments to the bill and how they may impact the fiscal estimate,” Durawa said.

Ken Cooley, a former Democratic Assembly member from Sacramento County who sat on the Assembly Insurance Committee, said he wouldn’t be surprised that the department analyzed the bill “with a vengeance” to possibly overestimate the costs.

“If they don’t like it, if they think it’s the wrong priority, whatever it is, they would be remiss if they didn’t try to lay out every argument,” he said.

But Cooley said solving the problem of inaccurate provider lists is worth fighting for.

“I’m not familiar with the specific bill, but I certainly understand what it means to be a consumer of health care,” he said. “And having accurate lists is actually pretty damn vital to the wellbeing of people.”

Why ‘Ghost Networks’ are a Problem

Holden, the bill’s author, didn’t respond to multiple interview requests. He told the Senate Health Committee that a law on the books since 2015 requires insurers to maintain accurate directories of providers in their networks,

but they haven’t been doing it, leading to “rampant directory inaccuracies.”

His office told legislators that recent studies found that some smaller health plans have inaccuracy rates as high as 80%, and some major plans have inaccurate information for 20% to 38% of providers.

Holden’s bill would require an insurer’s provider directory to be at least 60% accurate by this time next year and 95% accurate by July 1, 2028. The insurers would face fines up to \$10,000 for every 1,000 enrolled customers each year if they didn’t hit the benchmarks. Kaiser, for instance, says it provides care to 9.4 million Californians.

The bill also says patients who mistakenly use an out-of-network doctor due to inaccurate information from provider lists cannot be charged out-of-network rates.

Doctors and Insurers Oppose the Bill

At the Senate Health Committee earlier this month, the insurers weren’t thrilled with the proposal. They blamed doctors for the inaccuracies in their provider lists.

“The accuracy of each individual provider directory is reliant upon practitioners and medical groups

maintaining accurate records,” Jedd Hampton, a lobbyist for the California Association of Health Plans, told the committee.

The California Medical Association, representing the state’s physicians, argues that insurers – not doctors – are the ones responsible for maintaining their directories and ensuring they’re up-to-date. Doctors fear that if insurers are fined, the costs could be passed to them. They’re also concerned about losing out-of-network payments due to inaccurate lists provided by insurers.

The group’s lobbyist, Brandon Marchy, said those requirements would absolve health plans “of their requirement to maintain accurate directories ... by paying not what an out-of-network rate would be.”

Soroken, the therapist who saw the suicidal Kaiser patient, said that Californians pay their insurers and health care providers well. They deserve to have accurate, up-to-date lists of those who’ll take their insurance, she said, especially when they’re at their most vulnerable.

“We would be negligent if we didn’t do everything in our power to ensure patients get the health care they need ... and are legally entitled to,” she said.

Kaiser hasn’t taken position on the bill, and a spokesperson declined to address Soroken’s testimony about her suicidal patient.

The Oakland-based health care giant is already under scrutiny because of patient complaints about delays in obtaining mental health care. Last year, it agreed to pay a \$200 million settlement to resolve a state investigation into its behavioral health system. In 2022, about 2,000 of its mental health workers went on strike over high caseloads and what they described as unreasonable working conditions.

“We at Kaiser Permanente are working hard to ensure that we are meeting the mental health care needs of our members and our communities,” Kaiser spokesperson Kerri Leedy said in an email. “Over the past several years, we have increased our staffing and facilities to help meet the growing need.” ★

County Celebrates Child Support Awareness Month

Solano County News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - During the month of August, the Solano County Department of Child Support Services (DCSS), in recognition of Child Support Awareness Month, will coordinate with the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), to donate 125 back-to-school ready backpacks for children. Additionally, DCSS, in partnership with the Solano County Family Justice Center (SFJC), will work together to distribute back-to-work professional clothing for parents entering or re-entering the workforce.

The backpacks are intended to help support children and their families as they return to school this fall. Each backpack will come with several essential school supplies, including crayons, rulers, pencils, erasers, spiral notebooks, scissors, and glue sticks. Providing the essentials needed to start the school year off on the right foot is a shared goal between the County Department of Child Support Services, the Solano County Office of Education, and the Solano County Family Justice Center.

Getting A Free Backpack
Solano County Office of Education Foster and

Homeless Youth Services will work with school districts and partner agencies to directly distribute backpacks and school supplies to children in foster care, and to children who are experiencing homelessness. The Solano County Family Justice Center will provide backpacks to customers beginning Aug. 7 at 604 Empire Street in Fairfield between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, while supplies last. One backpack per child will be provided. There are a variety of colors of backpacks to choose from.

Back To Work Clothing Drive
Department of Child Support Services, in coordination with the Solano County Family Justice Center, will be participating in a back-to-work professional clothing drive to assist parents entering or re-entering the workforce. Donations of gently used business casual and business professional clothing can be dropped off at the Department of Child Support Services, 675 Texas St, STE 5700 in Fairfield. We recognize that it can be expensive and overwhelming when preparing to enter or reenter the workforce, so we are hoping to help ease some of that burden for individuals.

About Child Support Awareness Month
Solano County Department of Child Support Services joins all of California’s 58 counties and the nation in recognition of August 2024 as Child Support Awareness Month. This year’s theme is Shelter, Safety and Solutions. During Child Support Awareness Month, it is important to remember that every family, in all their diverse shapes and sizes, can access resources to provide shelter and safety to their kids. The Solano Department of Child Support Services is here to provide the solutions and support to help make that happen.

Interested In Donating / Getting Involved
If you are interested in donating to either initiative, contact Tara Knobbe, Child Support Specialist, Supervising, at (707) 784-3788 and/or TLKnobbe@SolanoCounty.com.

Accessing Services / Questions
Visit the Solano County Department of Child Support Services website at <https://www.SolanoCounty.com/Depts/DCSS> for more information and for clients to link directly to DCSS support professionals. Direct any questions to ChildSupport@SolanoCounty.com, text (707) 241-4201 and by phone at (866) 901-3212. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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 expiration 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
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-001101
The following persons are doing business as: Northstar Painting, 506 Cottonwood Court, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Jose Manuel Espinosa Narvaez, 506 Cottonwood Court, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Date filed in Solano County: July 12, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business un-

der the above business name on: July 12, 2024
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 July 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: July 26, August 2, 9, 16, 2024

NORTHSTAR 8-16-24
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-000993
The following persons are doing business as: Backroad Sales, 6955 Cypress Trail, Dixon, CA 95620.
Reliance Investments LLC, 6955 Cypress Trail, 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: 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 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 26, August 2, 9, 16, 2024
BACKROAD 8-16-24
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024001159
The following persons are doing business as: Barrera's Tile, 824 Osprey Way, Suisun City, CA 94585.
Luis Barrera, 824 Osprey Way, Suisun City, CA 94585.
Date filed in Solano County: July 24, 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 July 23, 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: August 2, 9, 16, 23, 2024
BARRERAS 8-23-24

Thompson Secures \$1,105,800 for Water System Improvements

Office of Rep. Mike Thompson
News Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. (MPG) - On July 23, Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-04) announced he secured \$1,105,800 in community project funding for the Solano Irrigation District’s (SID) Vaca Valley Public Water System Consolidation project.

“Every resident in Solano County deserves reliable access to clean water, and this project will help ensure that access. I’m proud to have secured over \$1.1

million in funding to support the Solano Irrigation District in improving and updating our community’s local water system and I thank local Solano officials for working with me to identify the need for these funds,” said Rep. Thompson.

“The Solano Irrigation District would like to extend its sincere thanks to Congressman Mike Thompson for his critical role in securing funding for Phase 1 of the Vaca Valley Public Water System Consolidation Project for FY2025. The Project will

consolidate two water treatment plants and bring potable water service to numerous homes currently on non-compliant point of entry treatment systems. The Project wouldn’t be possible but for the help of Congressman Thompson and his Staff,” said Cary Keaten, General Manager of the Solano Irrigation District.

Funding will go towards Phase 1 of the Solano Irrigation District’s Vaca Valley Public Water System project. The project will consolidate two existing local public water systems,

connecting homes to the new system that currently rely on point-of-entry treatment and bottled water for drinking because the existing supply does not meet drinking water standards. It will also increase the system’s reliability and harden its infrastructure to ensure a consistent and reliable supply of water and improve firefighting capabilities.

Rep. Thompson requested funding for the project through Congress’ Community Project Funding (CPF) process. His request was included in the

Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which passed out of committee recently. The bill must now pass both chambers of Congress and be signed into law.

To date, Thompson has secured a total of \$2,379,205 in funding for three Community Project Funding requests submitted on behalf of Solano County and a total of \$15,304,205 for projects across California’s Fourth District for 2025. ★

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1. Genoa or storm jib
5. Pouch
8. Support for #1 Across
12. Gaelic language
13. Big-ticket ____
14. Flowerbed cover
15. Western Samoan money
16. Agrippina's slayer
17. Literature class homework
18. *"The Curious Case of ____ Button"
20. God of thunder
21. Tight or rigid
22. Blunder
23. * ____ control
26. *Alarm clock delay
29. Edible tuber
30. Racecourses
33. Crew propellers
35. Often follows dark or back
37. ____-Town, or Chicago
38. Friend, south of the border
39. Singular of #25 Down
40. Containing uranium
42. Rip off
43. Sleeping sickness vector
45. Che Guevara's hat, pl.
47. Roman road
48. "And Then ____ Were None"
50. Hillside, in Scotland
52. *Home ringer
55. Raccoon's South American cousin
56. Debate side
57. Spring in a mattress
59. Ar, atomic number 18
60. Black-tie occasion
61. Golfer's aim
62. Group with pressure
63. Stallone
64. Semiprecious variety of agate

DOWN

1. Collector's goal
2. Kuwaiti, e.g.
3. ____ of Man
4. Shanty
5. Flower trunks
6. American Eagle's intimates brand
7. "Oh ____!"
8. *Edible button
9. "The Sun ____ Rises"
10. "The Lion King" villain
11. Olden day "your"
13. More asinine
14. City area
19. Bulwark
22. Ems follower
23. Aimless walk
24. "Bravo! Bravo!", e.g.
25. Pall ____ and ____ of America
26. Largest organ of human body
27. Mobutu Sese Seko's nation
28. Cereal killer
31. Land measure
32. ____-cha-cha
34. Wails
36. *Tall building people-mover
38. Of sour taste
40. All 50 states
41. Spanish airline
44. Make a logical connection (2 words)
46. Repeat an echo
48. Opposite of atonal
49. In a heated manner
50. Dull one
51. Angry display
52. Entertainingly eccentric people, Down Under
53. "On Golden Pond" bird
54. ____ of the valley
55. *A baseball one has a button on top
58. Lexington airport code

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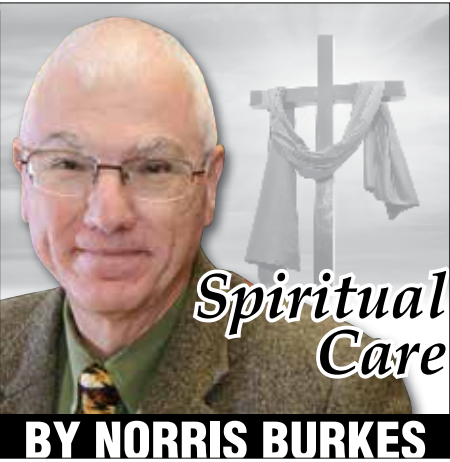


Office address:
P.O. Box 1106, Dixon, CA 95620
Dixon Independent Voice is published weekly on Friday.
*Subscription rate valid only within Solano County



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The Tale the Dead Man Told



According to the animatronic skull at Disneyland’s “Pirates of the Caribbean” ride, “Dead men tell no tales.”

The saying didn’t prove so true some years ago when I received a phone call from the director of a funeral home in Stockton, Calif.

The director asked if I was available to conduct the funeral of a person unknown to me. Honestly, these were welcome requests in my early pastoring days as they supplemented my modest pay while demanding little from my emotional bank.

I told him I’d be happy to do it, so he launched into the background story of how a local man had visited the funeral home a few months prior to make advance preparation for his own funeral. The director was happy to oblige and helped the man make his plans, choose a casket and select the music.

“There would have been nothing odd in this man’s request,” the director said, his voice trailing. “Except for his modest prediction.”

“Don’t expect a crowd,” the lone man told him. “In fact, probably no one will be here at all.”

With that, the director approved the plan and accepted payment.

“Perhaps my visitor was only being modest with his attendance prediction,” the director said. “But no matter, we will provide what he paid for.”

I agreed and hung up the phone to write a short sermon outline tailored to what I expected to be a handful of mourners.

A few days later, the director greeted me inside the funeral chapel, handing me a business-size envelope containing an obituary and my honorarium. We took our seats in the front row and over background music speculated how one approached life’s end with the expectation that no one would attend your funeral.

At twenty-five minutes past the hour, I stood to signal the director I was done with our chit-chat. I thanked him and turned to

walk toward the exit.

“Aren’t you going to preach your sermon?” he asked.

“Really?” I asked, waving my hand over the vacant pews.

“The man paid for a funeral. You and I agreed that he should get one.”

I nodded and took my spot before the empty chapel pews and preached a cookie-cutter sermon about God’s love for every man.

Later, back in my office, as I considered the deceased’s predicament. I began to see the similarities to the biblical parable from Matthew 25.

It’s a story Jesus told about a king who’d entrusted three servants to make investments on his behalf. Apparently, the king had a reputation for rewarding people by letting them keep their heads.

The first two servants did well. One doubled the king’s investment and the other increased it by half. Both were rewarded with their own kingdoms.

However, the focus of the parable is on the third man. Fearful of his king, this tightwad buried the treasure so as not to lose a cent.

When that servant offered the king only his original principal, the scripture implies that the king executed the man.

I won’t presume to say that this man whose funeral I performed was just like the scaredy cat in the parable. I won’t speculate, judge or even pretend to know his life.

Perhaps this fella simply outlived everyone he knew.


However, if you forced me to guess, I’d say I have to wonder if the no-show funeral meant that this guy never gave to anyone. Did he ever help out in a food kitchen?

Or I might say that the biblical servant and the guy who advanced planned his funeral were trying to live their lives dodging the risk of failure. They worked hard to avoid disappointing people by steering clear of meaningful relationships.

I’ve done many funerals since that day — some for saints and a few for scoundrels.

But this funeral has always reminded me that life is not without risks and those who seek to evade risk are often sentenced to a solitary existence. This is certainly not the way I want to live, and I’m convinced that it’s not the way God wants his investment returned.

Fun Fact: “Dead men tell no tales,” was first attributed to a 16th century English clergyman named Thomas Becon. Of course, it was easy for him to make that claim because his day was never interrupted by phone calls. ★



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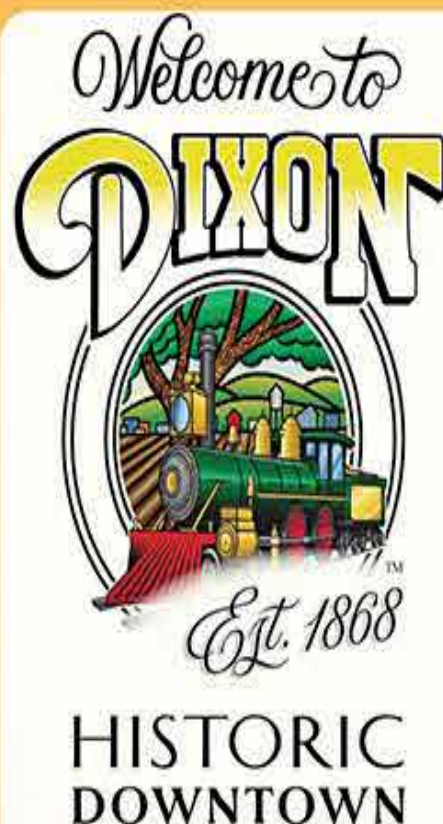
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