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Roars into
Sacramento

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Dixon
Independent Voice

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AUGUST 9, 2024

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From left, Anna Anderson, Jancy Baguhin, Meili Urata-Espinosa, Neyra Sipovic, Sasha Venzon and Elise Beal. Courtesy photo

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The thick row of parents stared intently and quietly through the glass windows dividing them from their children who were competing in the Ramtown Karate Tournament held recently in Dixon. This is the kind of tournament that may draw smiles and possibly hugs, but mostly the large rooms are filled with silence dotted by occasional loud, single-syllable yells.

This shout, commonly known as a kiai, is not just a random sound, but a deliberate expression of energy, power, and



Young karate students demonstrate a kata in the Ramtown Karate Tournament fundraiser held in Dixon recently. Photo by Debra Dingman

focus, according to karate experts. The use of the kiai is an essential part of martial arts practice and has

both practical and psychological benefits.

Sensei Jim Ernest had also noted the many parents present that day and gave credit to them for their students' success.

"Look at the parents," he said. "They've been there for their kids. They've been on time to the practices. They drive them to the tournaments and they cheer them on. They are really, really involved."

Ramtown Karate students were participating in an athletic tournament for the purpose of raising money for the five Northern California Jr. Team USA members

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**Wine and
Art Stroll a
Two-Decade
Tradition**



Inside Dawson's Bar & Grill, this winery was set up for pouring last year. This year's wineries include Berryessa Gap, Wooden Valley Winery, Turkovich, and Caymus. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Ben Edokpayi

DIXON, CA (MPG) - On Aug. 17, wine and food connoisseurs will flock to downtown Dixon.

This event is a two-decade tradition.

"This will be the best Wine and Art Stroll we have ever had," said Downtown Dixon Business Association President Jill Ferguson-Orr.

With wine glasses in hand, attendees visit various businesses to sample wine and appetizers. They will hear live music and see art displays during the visits. Entry tickets are \$35, which includes a commemorative wine glass. Wine tasters must be at least 21 years old.

Participating businesses at this year's event include Kevin Johnson's Remax Gold Real Estate, Bud's Pub and Grill, Busy Bee Yoga, Luke's Lounge, The Moose Lodge, Dixon History Museum, The Creative Space, Cynde's Place and First Northern Bank.

Others include B Street Barber Shop, Barrett-Leber Realty, Every Baking Moment, Dawson's Bar and Grill, Avila Flooring, PIP Wine Bar, Tres Banditas, Century 21 Epic, BobTail Apparel, Sofia Grace Boutique, Art of Touch, All Good Ink, Vida Salon Nino's Cut and Shave, Dixon Frosty, ARCK Loans, Chamber of Commerce, Almond Tree Mortgage, The Farmstead, and Grocery Outlet.

"We are really proud of the quality of vendors and everything we do goes back downtown for Oktoberfest, Halloween, and the Christmas Tree Lighting," Orr said. "These functions are all sponsored by the Downtown Dixon Business Association and are an enduring legacy of former DDBA President Rob Salaber."

The event was first organized by Salaber in 2002.

Salaber died in December 2022, two decades after he birthed this downtown tradition.

"We will be forever grateful to Rob Salaber. He

Continued on page 8

Public Protests Over Water Rate Increase



Resident Richard Ropiak is the first of many residents to object to a water rate increase in Dixon, which will be added to the water portion of the city utility bills.



Residents line up at the July 16 meeting to oppose the water rate increase to protest, with the above resident calling the move unethical and illegal.



The resident above, who works in the medical sector, said the water rate study provided to the public took a lot of work to read, leaving her with more questions than answers.



The resident above expressed concern for group homes affected by the rate increase, citing the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Story and photos
by Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The water rate increase is officially in effect.

"Here is the one I think everyone is waiting for," Mayor Steve Bird said before announcing the adoption of the water rate increase on July 16. The once-looming increase is now a reality after detailed draft studies, creating an ad hoc committee, and holding public workshops and hearings.

The water rate increase is among a few Dixon water issues, including

the city's recent joining of a lawsuit against the state of California over Chromium water levels and the recent approval of \$119,000 for more work on the Valley Glen Well Project in southern Dixon.

With no other way to wipe out the \$417,000 annual operating deficit that includes deferred capital projects, passing the increase meant hearing from the public beforehand. IB Water Rate Study Consultant Habib Isaac made it clear before adopting the increase that he would "not answer any questions from the public," rather only to the council.

Officials contend the increase will help fund critical and near-term projects. A water meter replacement program, a new well, electrical upgrades, and well upgrades and replacement are just a few of the projects totaling \$13.5 million.

Even with an increase, officials pointed out that existing rates remain at some of the region's lowest levels before and after the rise. However, the silver lining seemed to upset resident Richard Ropiak even more, with the local reminding officials, "We are on a water bowl; we better have the

Continued on page 8



When You Know You Can Help, Apply

By Debra Dingman

While at a recent appointment, I shared a conversation with a Dixon teacher. School was due to start shortly and I know those are usually exciting times for teachers as they get their classrooms decorated and stocked for another school year with children.

Since I had been covering the school board and trying to keep up on some of the Dixon plans, I mentioned that I was aware of the numerous openings in our district and that I knew of a few people who were hired without teaching credentials. She said that was no surprise as even our district superintendent didn't have one. That was a source of contention with a lot of Dixon teachers.

For experienced teachers, they have gone through extra education and expense to be able to teach so I can see why there might be some resentment. On the other hand, what an awesome opportunity for those who want to teach—they get to experience teaching while they finish any requirements. It seems to me that those are the people who are truly excited for the opportunity.

Now remember, I'm old enough to have lived through decades of school ups and downs in this state and wanted to remind readers that this is just another change.

Here is some history: Early in California, the responsibility of certifying qualifications for teachers was held by schools and districts. In the late 1940s, there was a movement to increase professionalism in teaching through state standards and uniform governance.

According to an article by Sidney A. Inglis in a government booklet on the History of Policies and Forces Shaping California Teacher Credentialing, it was in the 1950s when growing national dissatisfaction with the public-school curriculum

and the preparation of teachers ultimately fed into politics. A State Senator, Hugo Fisher, pushed for subject matter preparation of elementary and secondary teachers and reduced emphasis of lesson planning and classroom management.

The Ryan Act of 1970 created the first independent standards board in the nation, the Commission on Teacher Preparation and Licensing. The purpose was a step toward establishing teaching as a recognized profession.

Their mission states, "The Commission on Teacher Credentialing is to ensure integrity and high quality in the preparation, conduct and professional growth of the educators who serve California's public schools. Its work shall reflect both statutory mandates that govern the Commission and research on professional practices."

I found an entire chapter about the 1990s when I was back in college where that Commission was highly influential in school reform and pushed for smaller class size, thus creating a demand for teachers. Every young woman I knew at that time wanted to become a teacher, but it took an extra two years of college coursework and apprenticeship. When Covid hit, the world of teaching dramatically changed creating a national teacher shortage that is one of the worst in California. There are three main reasons: 1) Rapid decline in teacher preparation enrollments; 2) New demand for better teacher-pupil ratios in districts seeking to return to recession course offerings and class sizes; and 3) Teacher turnover.

So now is just another wave of change in Dixon's teachers' demand and supply. If you know you can help, apply on EdJoin.com. While some teachers are leaving for more money elsewhere, there are newbies who can't wait to become part of Dixon Unified and educate our students. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Bonanza King is to play some Western Blues at Pardi Plaza on August 15. Courtesy photo

By MPG Staff

Friends of the Dixon Library Bag Sale

The Friendly Bookworm Bookstore is having a Bag Sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10 at 200 North 1st Street, next to the Dixon Public Library. Fill a bag for \$5. Standard-size grocery bags will be provided. The Children's Room will be open at regular prices. Cash or check only, some items are excluded from the sale. All proceeds benefit the programs of the Dixon Public Library.

See Bonanza King at Pardi Plaza

Enjoy some fine live music on a summer evening! The City of Dixon and The Dixon District Chamber of Commerce invite you to an evening featuring Bonanza King playing Western swing, old country, and blues on Thursday, Aug. 15. 6 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Join us on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, 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 at (916)-713-9654.

Dixon's Planning Commission

The meeting scheduled for Tuesday; Aug. 13 has been canceled.

Ribbon Cutting at Solano Life House

Celebrate Solano Life Houses' new ownership with light refreshments. Free admission, open to everyone. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. 575 South Jefferson Street. Tuesday, Aug. 13.

Come and Get some Hummus and Farm Fresh Vegetables

Every Thursday, the Downtown Dixon Farmer's Market takes place. You can indulge in organic fruits and vegetables, ★

freshly 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

It's Fish Friday with Coleslaw on the menu for Friday, Aug. 9, around 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. The hall is located at 1305 North First Street and helps support veterans.

Wine & Art Stroll

Come downtown and enjoy some amazing wine, food, and music Saturday, Aug. 17 from 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.

Don't Forget about Railroad Days

Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 7 and 8, Railroad Days will be here soon. Come enjoy fun for the entire family! Vintage Train Modelers come to town. Gold panning, kiddie train rides, trading post store, live music, and vendors. Local food and drinks. In historic Downtown Dixon, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Jess Jones to Speak at the next Dixon Historical Society Meeting

Come hear Jess Jones talk about the captivating history of the Jones Family on Sunday, Aug. 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dixon United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson Street. Information about the Dixon Historical Society and how to become a member can be found on the website at www.dixonhistorical-society.org.

The Art and Music Center in Rio Vista welcomes the Fabulous Cruise Tones

The Main Street Concert Series by the River continues with its second performance on Aug. 9, from 7 to 9 p.m. Come enjoy The Fabulous Cruise Tones, a popular top 40 cover band at the end of Main Street, next to City Hall. 1 Main Street. For more information, please visit www.artandmusiccenter.com. ★

New California Law Aims to Address Teacher Shortage

California Commission on Teacher Credentialing News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Commission on Teacher Credentialing is optimistic that a new state law intended to address the teacher shortage will help eliminate barriers to the profession and attract more prospective educators into classrooms.

Senate Bill 153, signed by Governor Gavin Newsom on June 29, and effective immediately, allows for a qualifying bachelor's degree or higher in any subject to be all that is needed for an individual to demonstrate basic skills required for admission to most teacher preparation programs.

This means that if an applicant holds a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education, teacher preparation programs will no longer need to verify demonstrated competence in reading, writing, and mathematics through any other options, including passing the California Basic Skills Examination for Teachers (CBEST) or performing a transcript review.

"This change in state educator preparation policy represents a major shift that will benefit the vast majority of prospective educators in California," said Mary Vixie Sandy, executive director, California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

"Now is a great time for anyone with a qualifying bachelor's degree or higher who has considered teaching to take the next step to pursue their passion for education and apply to one of the state's many accredited teacher preparation programs."

The Commission's recent teacher supply annual report to the Legislature tracked

an 11.2 % year-over-year decrease in the number of new teaching credentials issued between 2021-22 and 2022-23. In the most recent 2022-23 fiscal year data, there were 14,636 new teaching credentials issued compared to 16,484 the previous year.

"The CSU greatly appreciates the state's decision to recognize the bachelor's degree as demonstration of basic skills competence for educator credentials," said Commissioner Shireen Pavri, assistant vice chancellor of the Educator and Leadership Program at California State University.

"We believe this is exactly the right move toward reducing barriers for those considering teaching, counseling, and other education professions in California."

The State of California has provided approximately \$1.6 billion since 2016-17 to address the teacher shortage.

The 2022-23 state budget funded eight career counselors staffed at the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to provide one-on-one assistance to anyone interested in becoming an educator.

These experienced staff members serve as career guidance counselors, credential experts, subject matter experts, and resource specialists for individuals seeking to make the transition into a PK-12 educational career.

The Commission on Teacher Credentialing offers the following resources for those interested in pursuing a teaching credential:

Roadmap to Teaching

Career Counselor Appointment Request Approved Teacher Preparation Programs Funding Your Future in Teaching

For additional information on how to become an educator in California, contact credentials@ctc.ca.gov. ★

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Lions Poker Night Fundraiser!



You do not need to be a seasoned player; professional dealers will help you play and have fun. You can also plan a group table with friends. Image by Markus Schwaedt from Pixabay

Dixon Lions Club News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Lions Club 16th annual, extremely popular, Texas Hold-Em Poker Night Fundraiser will be held Saturday, Aug. 17, at the Downtown Olde Vets Hall open to anyone 21 and older.

A no-host bar opens at 5 p.m. and poker starts at 7 p.m.

You do not need to be a seasoned player; professional dealers will help you play and have fun. You can also plan a group table with friends.

There will be a no-host bar, prizes and 50/50 raffle. You can attend the Downtown Dixon Business Association Wine Stroll first and then play some poker.

A \$100 donation per person provides an enjoyable time at the poker night fundraiser while giving back to those in need in the Dixon community. For tickets, contact any Dixon

Lions Club member, buy at Dixon's Grocery Outlet, call 916-713-9654 or buy at the door. Cash, check and credit cards are accepted.

Since the Dixon Lions Club's chartering in 1954, proceeds from past fundraising events have gone to Team Dixon, Dixon Unified School District, Dixon Toys for Tots, Dixon Schools Athletic Boosters, Dixon Relay for Life, Dixon High School scholarships, Remember A-Vet, Dixon Bids for Kids, Dixon Destination Imagination, Dixon Dolphins swim team, Dixon youth sports programs, Dixon Family Services, Dixon High School Open House, Dixon High School Sober Grad Night, Dixon FFA, Dixon Elementary School outdoor education trips and Lions Club vision programs.

For more information about the Dixon Lions Club, visit its website at <http://e-Clubhouse.org/sites/DixonCA> or Facebook page at Dixon Lions Club. ★

More than Farm Fresh

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Where can you find plump produce and community connections while helping sustain local soil? Answer: the Dixon Farmer's Market on Thursday nights.

Becca Bernard and her partner, Ahmad (Simba) Baratti, the farm and market manager, consider it an honor to feed residents the finest fruits and vegetables farmed locally for several reasons, including health.

"There is ample scientific evidence showing that eating healthier correlates with a longer life expectancy," Bernard said, adding that there are worldwide "blue zones" where people live the longest due to diet. "Eating fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, and other natural foods is the secret to a healthier life."

While Bernard said the duo's primary goal is to increase awareness and access to fresh, unprocessed foods, it is also about variety.

"We work with dozens of farmers and vendors to provide a diverse selection of locally grown and made foods," Bernard said.

Diversity breeds connection in the market. According to Bernard, farmers who sell directly to residents receive high-quality feedback from their customers through weekly interactions.

"We love hearing about the delicious recipes our customers create with the ingredients they buy from us," Bernard said. "These relationships lead to many possibilities, including customer suggestions for new crops to grow or introducing you to unique varieties of vegetables."

Beyond local love is cost. Bernard said farmers make only 15 cents per product, with the rest going to retail



Ahmad (Simba) Baratti stands with partner Becca Bernard, local farmers who run the Dixon Farmer's Market from 5 to 7:30 p.m. every Thursday. Photo courtesy of Becca Bernard



Becca Bernard stands with Pal, the honorary farmer's market mascot, and Victoria of Sunflowers and Sage Herb Farm. Photo courtesy of Becca Bernard



A colorful spread of fresh-made focaccia, hummus and dips, cucumbers, heirloom tomatoes and basil can be found at the Dixon Market. Photo courtesy of Becca Bernard

costs. Buying directly from local farmers offers fresher produce while local economic sustainability, especially for

young farmers.

"We're experiencing a

cultural shift, returning to the traditions of our ancestors and

becoming stewards of the land once again," Bernard said. "We must think not just one or two seasons ahead but for our great-grandchildren seven generations down the road, who will rely on this same soil for sustenance."

Doing so entails eating less big-box and more local. By shopping at farmers markets, Bernard said, patrons become a part of the sustainability cycle, stewarding the land.

"The sweetness of a peak-season strawberry or a juicy fig bursting from the skin in summer is unmatched," Bernard said. "Although it can be challenging to adjust to seasonal eating, it makes the return of our favorite fruits and vegetables that much more special."

Along with a longer life and local sustainability, there are undeniable connections among those wandering through the farmer's market on Thursday nights. Bernard will be the first to talk about the serendipitous encounters between marketgoers.

"About 10 years ago, a mutual friend introduced me to Simba at the Davis farmers market," Bernard said. "Over the years, our friendship blossomed into a relationship, and now, seven years later, we work together to connect communities with the farmers who grow their food."

Fast-forward and the couple cannot express enough gratitude to the weekly regulars who support the local small businesses and farmers.

"We love chatting with you, saying hi to your kiddos and dogs, and seeing you interact with each other to foster a community of care and concern," Bernard said. "The community becomes an extended family, allowing us to check in on each other and share life updates about the grandkids or your most recent road trips." ★

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Scammers Target PG&E Customers, Here's What Not to Fall Victim to

PG&E News Release

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG) - Utility scams have continued at an alarming rate during 2024, with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) customers reporting over \$334,000 in losses to scammers. To stop this trend, PG&E is committed to helping customers recognize the signs of a scam and avoid falling victim.

A typical sign of a scam targeting a utility customer includes a caller claiming to be from PG&E and threatening disconnection if immediate payment is not made via a pre-paid debit card, digital payment mobile application, or other methods of money transfer. As a reminder, PG&E will never send a single notification to a customer within one hour of a service interruption and will never ask customers to make payments with a pre-paid debit card, gift card, any form of cryptocurrency, or instant mobile payment applications, like Zelle® or Venmo.

“Scammers seek to create a sense of panic, threatening disconnection of utility services if immediate payment is not made,”said Matt Foley, lead customer scam investigator for PG&E. “If a phone call, visit to your home or email doesn’t feel right, don’t fall for it. Hang up, shut the door or delete it. Remember, PG&E will never ask for your financial information over the phone or via email, nor will we request payment via pre-paid debit cards or other methods of money transfer, including mobile applications.”

During 2024, PG&E has received nearly 15,000 reports of scams targeting residential and business customers with customers reporting losses of over \$334,000. The average scam victim lost over \$600, and over 500 customers have reported falling victim. This number is likely just the tip of the iceberg however, as many scams go unreported.

Business customers also are not immune from scam attempts. In fact, PG&E has received 528 reports of scams targeting small and medium-sized businesses this year, and these attempts frequently occur during busy business hours when scammers hope to catch unsuspecting victims while they are distracted or stressed.

Another recent scam trend involves scammers creating fake websites which provide a fraudulent phone number when you search services related to PGE such as “bill pay” or “start/stop” service. These sites and phone numbers often appear when a handheld device is used to search for and contact PGE. As a reminder, customers looking to contact PG&E should either call our customer service number, 800-743-5000 or by logging into your account at www.pge.com.

Scammers can be convincing and often target those who are most vulnerable, including senior citizens and low-income communities. They also aim their scams at small business

owners during busy customer service hours. However, with the right information, customers can learn to detect and report these predatory scams by visiting www.pge.com/scams or by calling 1-833-500-SCAM.

Signs of a potential scam
Threat to disconnect: Scammers may aggressively demand immediate payment for an alleged past due bill.

Request for immediate payment: Scammers may instruct the customer to purchase a prepaid card, then call them back supposedly to make a bill payment.

Request for prepaid card: When the customer calls back, the caller asks the customer for the prepaid card's number, which grants the scammer instant access to the card's funds.

Refund or rebate offers: Scammers may say that your utility company overbilled you and owes you a refund, or that you are entitled to a rebate, and ask you for your personal financial information.

Scammers Impersonating Trusted Phone Numbers: Scammers are now able to create authentic looking 800 numbers which appear on your phone display. The numbers don't lead back to PG&E if called back, however, so if you have doubts, hang up and either log into your account at pge.com to confirm your bill details or call PG&E at 1-833-500-SCAM. If customers ever feel that they are in physical danger, they should call 9-1-1.

How customers can protect themselves
Customers should never purchase a pre-paid card to avoid service disconnection or shutoff. PG&E does not specify how customers should make a bill payment and offers a variety of ways to pay a bill, including accepting payments online, by phone, automatic bank draft, mail or in person.

If a scammer threatens immediate disconnection or shutoff of service without prior notification, customers should hang up the phone, delete the email, or shut the door. Customers with delinquent accounts receive an advance disconnection notification, typically by mail and included with their regular monthly bill.

Signing up for an online account at pge.com is another safeguard. Not only can customers log in to check their balance and payment history, but they can also sign up for recurring payments, paperless billing and helpful alerts.

Customers who suspect that they have been victims of fraud, or who feel threatened during contact with one of these scammers, should contact local law enforcement. The Federal Trade Commission's website is also a good source of information about how to protect personal information.

For more information about scams, visit pge.com/scams or <https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>. ★

UC Regents Approve New Student Housing at UC Davis

By BreAnda Northcutt

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - UC Davis will break ground on a new residence hall next spring in the Segundo area, following approval this week by the UC Board of Regents. The \$100 million project aims to address the growing demand for on-campus housing and commitments the campus has made with the city of Davis.

The new complex, tentatively titled the “Segundo Infill Project,” will span 118,000 square feet and feature 206 rooms, accommodating 494 students in double and triple occupancy configurations. The residence hall will stand five stories tall, offering students modern amenities, study nooks, social spaces and 600 bike spaces.

The university considered building higher than five floors, but in California, buildings six stories or higher fall under different building codes and incur significantly higher costs. Opting for a five-story structure helps manage expenses and ensure housing remains affordable, while still providing needed supply. The residence hall will feature a concrete



Pictured here is a rendering of what the new student housing building will look like. Photo courtesy of Katherine E Kerlin

podium and steel frame, ensuring durability, longevity and a quieter living environment.

Constructed on what are currently parking lots 22 and 16, the site will also transform its surroundings; parking will be restored in lot 16 after construction is completed.

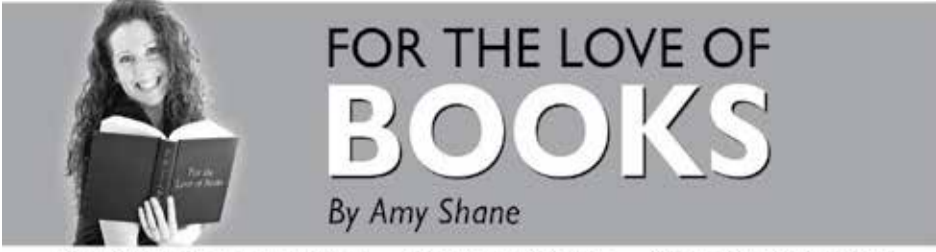
“The UC Davis campus has added 6,500 beds since 2017 to meet demand given undergraduate housing guarantees and enrollment growth and to make progress toward Long-Range Development Plan goals and MOU commitments with the city of Davis,” Chancellor Gary S. May said before the Board of Regents meeting. “We are pleased that the regents have approved this item so that UC Davis can continue to make considerable progress toward

these important housing commitments and goals.”

As of fall 2023, UC Davis provides on-campus housing for 38% of Davis-based undergraduate and graduate students. The new residence hall will help the university move closer to its goal of housing 48% of its Davis-based students on campus, as outlined in the Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP) and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the city of Davis.

The entire project will be 100% electric and will aim for a minimum LEED Gold certification, with a goal of obtaining LEED Platinum.

The residence hall is expected to be ready for occupancy by the fall quarter of 2027. ★



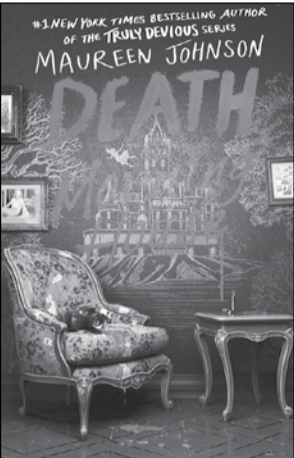
Death at Morning House

by Maureen Johnson

From the mind behind the Truly Devious series comes a whole new mystery ready to be solved.

It all started with a candle. Marlowe Wexler thought her moment was finally here. After years of watching her crush from afar, Marlowe lands the same summer job. Now, instead of hoping to cross paths at school, they work side by side at the local ice cream shop. But then everything goes catastrophically wrong. A simple candle and sweet intentions bring everything down in flames, including her house-sitting job. Now, all Marlowe can do is set out on a new summer job, one that will take her away from the memory of her disastrous date.

The Morning House has always been a local legend. A giant mansion built on its own island in the 20's and owned by the very reclusive and odd Ralston Family. But The Morning House was truly known for its infamous tragedy. With two of the children dying in one day and the family leaving shortly after, the Morning House stood as a beacon of mystery, frozen in time. So, when a



- ♦ Publisher: Harper Teen
- ♦ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ♦ Release Date: Aug.6, 2024

new benefactor decides to open the house for tours over 90 years later, everyone is all buzz. Luckily for Marlowe, they need one more person to live at the house and help lead tours. It was everything Marlowe needed, or so she thought. While everyone was very welcoming when Marlowe arrived, all too quickly, she found out why. Marlowe was working at a house full of secrets, secrets that would soon rise like the tide, and Marlowe was right in the middle.

Death at Morning House is the perfect mystery read of summer vacation. The queen

of mystery, Maureen Johnson, knows how to dangle a mystery right under the noses of her readers. What starts as a fun summer story quickly turns deadly, leaving the main character no choice but to solve the mystery for herself. But why have one mysterious death when you can have four? Just when readers think they are safe and have solved the murders, a whole new case throws itself in the wake, opening more than just a few loopholes to the plan. Grab your favorite Nancy Drew sleuth hat, a notebook, and maybe that magnified glass because it is time to solve the case. But be careful before lighting a candle; they might be more dangerous than you think. Fans of the Truly Devious story will dive head first into this story. And while this is not a continuation of Stevie Bell's exceptional mystery-solving abilities, it is a continuation of the fantastic twists and turns that Maureen Johnson is known for as she keeps her readers on the edge of their seats and constantly surprised. ★

Gang-Related Shooting Occurs

Dixon Police Department News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Police Department is continuing its investigation into a shooting that occurred in the 400 block of West F Street shortly after 3 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31.

The shooting evolved from a verbal dispute, which began when a group of individuals purportedly associated with a local street gang approached another group of individuals believed to be associated with a rival gang. During the dispute, at least one subject produced a firearm and fired several rounds toward the opposing group. The shots struck a member of the other group who was on foot and involved in the verbal dispute, as well as another person in a vehicle also associated with the opposing group. Both the occupant in

the car and the subject on foot sustained non-life-threatening injuries. The injured parties transported themselves to local hospitals for treatment and have since been released. Members of both parties fled the area, both on foot and in vehicles.


There is no ongoing threat to public safety. The Dixon Police Department assures the community that this incident is isolated to the two groups involved.

Investigators have several leads in the case and are reviewing video of the incident.

The investigation is ongoing, and any witnesses or anyone with information regarding this incident is urged to contact the Dixon Police Department at 707-678-7070 or investigations@dixonpoliceca.gov.

Further updates will be provided as the investigation continues. ★

Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.



DIXON POLICE LOG

Thursday, July 25

17:13 - Suspicious person in the 1100 block of Pitt School Road. Jazzcel Evans (18), of Vacaville was contacted and found to have a warrant for Failure to Appear out of Solano County. She was transported to the Solano County Jail.

19:18 - An informational report was taken in the 500 block of East D Street.

22:53 - A vandalism report was taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.

00:20 - A confidential report was taken in the 100 block of Heritage Lane.

Friday, July 26

14:21 - Solicitors reported in the area of Stratford Avenue and Pembroke Way. Willis Nelson, (21) of Sacramento, was contacted and found to have a warrant for Probation Violation and two warrants for Vandalism out of Sacramento County. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

18:01 - A traffic collision report was taken at the intersection of North Lincoln at Regency Parkway.

18:41 - An informational report was taken in the 800 block of Elm Drive.

23:53 - An informational report was taken in the 700 block of East A Street.

Saturday, July 27

18:37 - A warrant arrest report in the 600 block of West H Street. A records check revealed that (S) Mario Suarez had an outstanding warrant out of Solano County. Suarez was arrested and taken to the Solano County Jail.

19:58 - A missing person report in the 1100 block of Cagle Court.

24:49 - A suspicious circumstance report in the 300 block of South 2nd Street.

Sunday, July 28

13:09 - Confidential Report in the 1500 block Valley Glen Drive.

16:45 - Information Report in the 800 block of Newgate Way.

00:12 - Vandalism reported in the 800 block of North Washington Street.

California Has Seen Many Towns Created, But as Population Drops a Big Project Has Stalled



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When California emerged from its colonial beginnings nearly two centuries ago and began coalescing into a distinct society, its towns and villages tended to be located either on navigable rivers, such as Sacramento, or around the 21 missions that Spanish explorer priests had established, such as San Diego.

In the late 19th century, with California having experienced a massive population boom during the Gold Rush and become a state, entirely new communities sprung up. These settlements were often carved out of farm and ranch land by developers and railroads, the small San Joaquin Valley city of Hanford being one of the latter.

For example, the small villages south of San Francisco, such as Hillsborough, were designed as refuges for the wealthy from the noise, pollution and violence of San Francisco — and eventually led to the formation of San Mateo County as a protective bulwark.

The creation of new towns continued for most of the 20th century. In Orange County, the descendants of 19th century ranchers converted chunks of their vast holdings into new towns to absorb the region’s massive post-World War II population growth.

The most spectacular example was — and still is — the City of Irvine, named for a

ranching family, and home to a quarter-million people and a major University of California campus. Dick O’Neill, heir to a huge Orange County cattle ranch, created two cities — Mission Viejo and Rancho Santa Margarita.

On the outskirts of Sacramento, along the Cosumnes River, another ranching family successfully created a stand-alone community called Rancho Murieta.

Creating new towns can be a risky endeavor. Developers can spend millions to plan their new communities and install infrastructure but may wait decades to see a profit.

California City, in the Antelope Valley 100 miles north of Los Angeles, was founded in 1958, but its remote location and somewhat inhospitable terrain and climate made attracting residents difficult. It’s still there and has about 15,000 residents, but that’s way short of the original ambition.

Mountain House, created three decades ago in a corner of San Joaquin County to attract commuters to Bay Area jobs, also struggled, particularly during the collapse of the housing market during the Great Recession. However, it survived: Today it has about 25,000 residents and on July 1 became an incorporated city.

The Tejon Ranch, an immense cattle ranch in the Tehachapi Mountains, has been trying for decades to create a new residential community, but it has faced massive opposition from environmental groups. It is finally beginning construction on an apartment complex.

That brings us to California’s latest effort to carve out a new community, this one in a rural portion of Solano County.

California Forever, a

company backed by Silicon Valley billionaires, quietly — even sneakily — bought more than 50,000 acres of ranchland, after which it finally revealed plans for a new community that would eventually have 400,000 residents.

The secrecy and scope of the project generated immediate opposition, particularly after the company said it would seek approval via a November election ballot measure, bypassing hurdles such as the California Environmental Quality Act.

With approval by Solano County voters in doubt, California Forever has shelved its ballot measure. Company officials say they now will strive to gain popular support before proceeding.

The explosive growth that California experienced in the first 170 years of its existence as a state has now abated, probably for good. California has been losing population in recent years and at best it will probably see population stagnation in the future.

That said, California still has a housing shortage, and state policy is to encourage infill projects in or near cities rather than developing open spaces, which California Forever would do.

The chances for California Forever to join the ranks of new town developers are slim at best.

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

The NBA summer league is over, but changes to the Kings ultimate roster for the upcoming season are not nearly over.

GM Monte McNair has earned his stripes by consistently making solid moves that will give Sacramento Kings fans potentially the best NBA team they’ve seen since the Webber/Bibby era, in which the Kings won a gaudy 61 games in 2021/22.

At this juncture, making predictions that would rival that season seems ludicrous, but make no mistake about it, McNair has his sights on a 60-win season, and he’s scouring the NBA and beyond to find components that will get this franchise to that end.

The power forward position continues to be a point of focus, and although the Kings recently acquired Orlando Robinson, the search continues for a true rim protector that can play defense and add even a modicum of scoring while he’s on the hardwood.

Potentially, that player could be a bench player for the Portland Trailblazers by the name of Robert Williams III. At 26 years of age, Williams’ best playing days are still in front of him, and his seven points and six rebounds a year ago for the Trailblazers doesn’t tell the full story. At 6’9” and 250 lbs., Williams is a true shot blocker, and the thinking here is given more playing time, this young man could become a true double-double threat.

The Kings are all too familiar with a double-double threat, as big man Domantas Sabonis has led the NBA in double-doubles the past two seasons, while leading the entire NBA in rebounding at the same time. Imagine if the Kings could surround this stevedore with just a little more support around the rim!

The only Sacramento King currently playing basketball in the Paris Olympics is none other than Trey Lyles, and although he’s had a less than stellar performance so far for his home country of Canada, I remain convinced that if used correctly for the Kings, Lyles not only could give the Kings a boost in the upcoming season, he could actually break into the starting lineup.

Most pundits think I’m crazy, but I have

always seen a higher ceiling in Trey, and the only way we will ever know if I’m right, is to increase his playing time.

Trey is a consistent three-point shooter and solid rebounder behind Domantas, and I believe as the Kings continue to search for power-forward solutions, they should look no further than their own bench.

I have to believe that Monte McNair shares some of my zeal for this talented big man, or we would have already seen him in either a trade or trade rumors.

The real question is not McNair, but coach Brown. During last season’s campaign, there was no consistent rotation for Lyles coming off the bench, and he went through stretches in which his minutes were sparing to say the least.

For any player, and particularly a big man, there must be that vote of confidence, that is demonstrated by his consistent time on the court, and that includes hardwood time during the last five minutes of a game. Show him that you trust his game when it means the most, and watch his confidence grow.

I give Mike Brown high marks for understanding how to bring along Keon Ellis, but his reluctance to use Trey Lyles when the Kings are starving for front-court players, remains a mystery to me.

The summer league did reveal that the Kings have a burgeoning star in your Boogie Ellis, who did pretty much what he wanted to against opposing summer league players. Boogie has been invited to training camp, and although the Kings remain guard heavy, Boogie’s instant offense and frenetic defense means he deserves a closer look. At only 23 years of age, the Kings want to make sure they don’t pass on a guard that may very well portend happy times for their future.

The big man/power forward rumors are ubiquitous, but I’m convinced that Monte McNair has at least one more notable move to make, and it’s my educated guess it will come in the form of a power forward.

Stay tuned this off-season as its roster moves aren’t over yet!

All the best, Kings fans! ★

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com



Riley Reviews

“DEADPOOL” MAKES SUPERHERO GREAT AGAIN; US OPEN TENNIS FAN WEEK

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE” RATED R

“Make Superhero Movies Fun Again” could be the mantra for “Deadpool & Wolverine,” an R-rated action comedy that leans heavily into the rivalry of two superheroes and their unabashed proclivity for bloody fights and hurling profanity-laced insults.

The long-awaited return of a “Deadpool” film is a saving grace for the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which has received disappointing box office numbers for recent films, including the overly hyped “Captain Marvel.”

But just when it feels like the superhero genre has been exhausted, along comes Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman to deliver a wallop of crowd-pleasing excitement filled with giddy, humorous irreverence and blockbuster humor.

Wade Wilson (Ryan Reynolds), wearing a really bad toupee, has hung up his Deadpool costume to sell used cars. His trademark red ensemble has been retired since he failed to be accepted into the Avengers.

Wade’s ordinary civilian life takes a wild turn when the Time Variance Authority, under the leadership of the officious Mr. Paradox (Matthew Macfadyen), sucks him into a mission. Deadpool’s universe faces extinction, so it is time to suit up again.

An existential threat looms over Deadpool and his friends, including estranged girlfriend Vanessa (Morena Baccarin) and his unsighted roommate Blind Al (Leslie Uggams). This is all the more reason for Deadpool to trade hawking autos to packing his swords once more.

There is not much point in trying to explain the apocalyptic threat that kills timelines. Just know that a place known as The Void, set in a barren landscape reminiscent of “Mad Max,” is run by the villainous Cassandra (Emma Corwin), who looks like an emaciated model minus the hair.

While Wade may not be that thrilled to enter the superhero arena, Wolverine (Hugh Jackman), deep-sixed in “Logan,” is resurrected, so to speak, and still much in need of anger management.

Seemingly endless fight scenes between Deadpool and Wolverine are obligatory until they finally team up against a common adversary. A priceless line is when Deadpool says that Disney is going to make Wolverine do this role until he’s ninety.

At least for now, Deadpool and Wolverine are such a great combo that bringing them back for another superhero adventure would be more welcome than retooling other Marvel films.

At times, the plot gets a little messy or a bit convoluted, but the comical mischief comes so fast and furious that it

would not be surprising that one would want a repeat viewing just to soak in all the wackiness.

“Deadpool & Wolverine” is the best blockbuster movie to come along in a long time. The wisecracks and comic banter are supreme, thanks to great delivery. The action sequences pack a real punch.

The chemistry between Reynolds and Jackman is first-rate, as they know exactly what works best for their respective roles. On top of that, Reynolds is brilliant for breaking the fourth wall when his quips are directed at the audience.

Keep in mind the excess of profanity, so this is not a family film. That said, “Deadpool & Wolverine” it’s awfully damn funny even if the dialogue is not for everyone. Considering Reynolds’ shtick in the two previous franchise installments, all that can be said is what did you expect?

US OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT FAN WEEK

While the actual tennis matches for the US Open Tennis Tournament get underway on Monday, August 26th, fans get to enjoy a host of free admission events on the grounds beginning the week before.

Beginning on Monday, August 19th, both the main venue of Arthur Ashe Stadium and the Grandstand offer the opportunity to watch favorite players and biggest stars practice throughout Fan Week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. as they gear up for the Main Draw.

On Courts 4-17, the US Open Qualifying Tournament will feature 128 men and 128 women competing for a spot in the Main Draw. Witness top tennis players in the world battle for a place in the Main Draw.

Wednesday night, August 21st, a ticket will be required for the “Stars of the Open” at Arthur Ashe Stadium. This tennis exhibition will feature an all-star lineup of top players and US Open legends.

The event is expected to showcase the talents of Novak Djokovic, John McEnroe, Carlos Alcaraz, Andre Agassi, Venus Williams, Gabriela Wozniacki, Andy Roddick, Frances Tiafoe, and more. Participants are subject to change.

All day and every day, you can enjoy the variety of delicious food offerings from numerous restaurants that surpass anything you would ever find at traditional sports venues like football stadiums, baseball parks and hockey arenas.

The US Open American Express Fan Experience offers an array of thrilling activities for fans of all ages. Be sure to visit sponsor booths on the grounds for fun games and giveaways.

There is so much more to learn about what to expect during Fan Week that it would be best to search for “US Open Tennis Fan Week 2024” on your browser, and then look into the Fan Access Pass Experience. ★

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**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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Free Fishing Day: Get Hooked on New Adventure

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - During the second of California's two free fishing days in 2024, which will be on Aug. 31, the public can fish throughout the Golden State without a fishing license.

For those new to fishing, this is an opportunity to explore a rewarding and exciting new hobby. For licensed anglers, this is an opportunity to introduce or reintroduce someone else to the

joys of becoming an angler. Free fishing days are also a perfect time for former anglers to return and reconnect to the activity.

Those interested in fishing California's lakes, streams and rivers can find information about inland fishing locations and species on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website at wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland. Information is also available about year-round free fishing opportunities found on specific piers, jetties and breakwaters along the coast. Other helpful tools for anglers

include the fish planting schedule, fishing guide and Recruit, Retain, Reactivate (R3) Program resources at wildlife.ca.gov/r3#54518718-fishing.

A variety of offerings is also available from California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Fishing in the City program, which focuses on teaching Californians how and where to fish in metropolitan areas. General information about the Fishing in the City program can be found on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website at wildlife.ca.gov/

fishing-in-the-city.

Children 15 and younger can fish for free every day of the year in California but Free Fishing Days offer a time when families and friends can experience the hobby together for free.

All fishing regulations, such as bag and size limits, gear restrictions, report card requirements, fishing hours and stream closures remain in effect. California Department of Fish and Wildlife encourages potential anglers to check rules and regulations for each water they plan to fish at wildlife.ca.gov/regulations.

For new anglers who get "hooked" on fishing, an annual sport fishing license can be bought at ca.wildlifelicense.com/internetsales. Revenue generated from license sales helps conserve fish populations and habitats while supporting California's longstanding angling opportunities for future generations. Annual sport fishing licenses are now valid for a full 365 days from purchase. More information on licenses, validations and fees can be found online at wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing. ★

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15. Soon, to Shakespeare
16. Sheltered, nautically
17. *Abacus user, e.g.
18. *School jacket-wearer
20. TV classic "Happy ____"
21. What hoarders do
22. Speech-preventing measure
23. *Pencil end
26. Deep regret
30. Indian restaurant staple
31. What cobblers often do
34. Mother Earth, to Ancient Greeks
35. Embedded design
37. ____ Khan
38. Contending
39. *Don't forget to cross them
40. Plural of flora
42. Rolodex abbr.
43. Sultry or carnal
45. *Rydell High School movie
47. Defensive one on the gridiron
48. Oodles
50. *Some PTA members?
52. *It involves elements
56. Cuban dance
57. Burkina Faso neighbor
58. Opera solo
59. Boot-shaped European country
60. Oil org.
61. Review a service
62. Say "No!"
63. Animal's nose
64. Perceives with an eye

DOWN
1. Jezebel's idol
2. Beheaded Boleyn
3. Plunder
4. Certain rays
5. Plural of #1 Across
6. Part of an eye, pl.
7. Witnessed
8. *Field of education
9. ____ Walker, American Girl doll
10. *Inspiration for circular charts, pl.
11. Acronym, abbr.
13. Zimbabwe's capital
14. Address to a woman
19. Nail salon file
22. Toothpaste type
23. *Marks in English
24. Hindu queen
25. *Hannah and Her Sisters" director
26. End of line
27. Yogurt-based dip
28. *Opposite side over hypotenuse, pl.
29. Bald symbol
32. * ____ monitor
33. Bigheadedness
36. *All-school get-together
38. Giuseppe ____ of opera
fame
40. Temporary craze
41. Parthenogenetic
44. Recant or retract
46. *English homework, pl.
48. *Circle, e.g.
49. Paparazzi's target
50. Remote control option
51. Middle Eastern sultanate
52. "Follow me!"
53. Genealogy plant
54. Agitate
55. Puppy barks
56. Antonym of keep

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Public Protests Over Water Rate Increase

Continued from page 1
best rates and the best water.”
Ropiak said residents here have “paid our share” for water rates, and the burden should now be on new residents moving in.
“They should pay their share; they have the money,” Ropiak said. “To tell us that we have to pay for other people who haven’t paid their share is lunacy.”

There are two facts officials wanted to assure the public was aware of regarding the water rate increase: the increase only applies to the water portion of the utility bill, not the sewer, and the last rate increase was in 2013, with construction costs now 49% higher more than a decade later.
But those facts are irrelevant to many residents who stood at the podium in protest. The Independent Voice took pictures and heard comments by the public but the City of Dixon was unable to provide resident names for the report.
The first resident called the increase a “sleight of hand.”
“You can’t raise rates on the premise that your wells need to be repaired,” he said. “You want to raise rates, put it out to vote; let the city of Dixon and people decide.”
After he called the move “illegal and unethical,” another resident pleaded for officials not to pass the increase, saying the 35-page document left her with more questions than answers. While holding up the study that she called “very difficult” to read for a layman, the resident said she, even as a medical field analyst, finds it hard to read.
“I went through it with a highlighter and pen, and what I saw I did not care for,” she said before asking about where all the revenue from the new houses built has gone. “I have been here almost 30 years and am well

aware of what was here.”
Another resident brought up the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). She questioned if the water rates go up and someone lives in a group home with incontinence issues, “they are going to need more water in that group home.”
“We have to abide by the ADA right and come up with a rate for people with disabilities,” she said.
Solano County Taxpayer’s Association President Michael Nolan said he was “authorized to deliver several hundred protests” that night, noting he handed them off before speaking.
Holding up the notice letter, Nolan claimed residents were not fully informed that a water rate increase was to take place that evening, except for one mentioned on line 29.
“Quite honestly, a lot of people did not read that line,” Nolan said. “The paper is folded twice, so it is below the third fold.”
Most of all, Nolan was concerned about the increase not being on the ballot. Citing the government code that “basically requires a ballot to be mailed and returned by the voter,” Nolan questioned why the provisions did not apply.
“I think you should find that out before you go any further,” Nolan said.
Officials did not heed Nolan’s warning. Before passing the increase, Vice-Mayor Kevin Johnson said the hardest decision to make is after the public stands at the podium disappointed.
“I spent the last 14 months analyzing the water system,” Johnson said, adding that one of the reasons he ran for office was the water issues. “There was not a moment we were not diligent in what we did.” ★

Wine and Art Stroll a Two-Decade Tradition

Continued from page 1
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Orr said.
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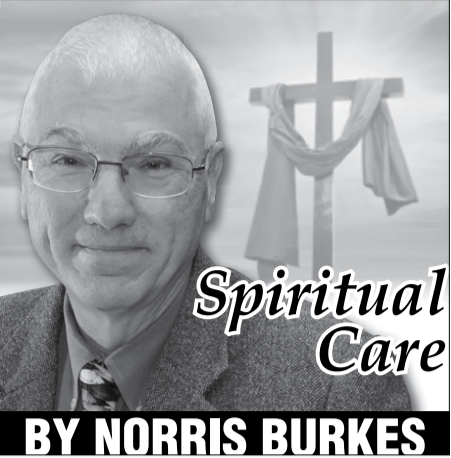
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My Limitless Limitations



“A man’s got to know his limitations,” is the famous advice given by Clint Eastwood in his role as Dirty Harry, in the 1973 movie, “Magnum Force.” As a spiritual columnist, I see some spiritual awareness in those words.
While my limitations are unlimited, I can briefly share three settings where it’s helpful for me to “know my limitations.”
Three Things I’m Too Inept to Manage
I can’t seem to learn Italian so I can order a venti or grande iced tea at Starbucks. I remind the clerk, “This is America, darn it. Give me the Jumbo Super Slurper.”
I’m unskilled in the self-check line at the grocery store. Those computer voices fluster me. They sound too much like creepy Hal in 2001 Space Odyssey, just endlessly repeating, “Unauthorized item in the bagging area.”
I can’t manage accuracy when the grocery store asks for my personal information on the store application for “preferred card.” I don’t need the avalanche of junk mail, text messages or email spam they bring, so I use the name “Ima Snooty.”
Three Things I’m Too Clumsy to Accomplish at Church.
I don’t care to hug strangers. This limitation is a trait of the INFP, a type from the Myers Briggs personality test. The letters stand for “Introverted, Intuitive, Feeling, and Prospecting” and, according to the test, an INFP “tends to be quiet, open-minded, and imaginative, and they apply a caring and creative approach to everything they do.”
As an INFP, I sometimes feel like I’d rather run to my car after my sermon than stay around and hug people.
I’m unable to think of the word that fills in the “fill-in-the-blank” sermon outlines found in many church bulletins. These

outlines are akin to karaoke and were popularized by the now-retired evangelical pastor Rick Warren.
I’m too rhythmically challenged to clap to the beat of contemporary church music. I have to make a choice: sing or clap. And since people tend to get hurt when I clap, I stick to singing.
Three Situations Where my Faith is Stronger Because it’s Limited
On a more serious note, I’m a man who acknowledges his faith limitations.
I cannot, will not, tell you that your faith and beliefs are wrong and mine are right. Some Christians are fond of quoting John 14:6 concerning Jesus being the only way to God. But if you are reciting the verse to other faiths, you are not sharing your faith, you’re shouting your condemnation.
I won’t impose my faith on you in a public situation by giving a public prayer when I know that the audience may not be of my faith. Because, if I only pray what doesn’t offend me and -- you can only hear what doesn’t offend you -- then we dilute both of our faiths.
I won’t debate you. I’m not going to argue religion with you. Neither will I engage in disputes over abortion, the death penalty, theology, politics, evolution or the existence of God. I will, however, engage in a thoughtful examination of the issues. Maybe it’s the INFP personality, but my dad taught me that it can take more courage to walk away from an argument.
That’s enough of the negative limitations. Before I finish, let me tell you where I tend to be limit-less.
I try to be an example of struggling faith. “What is that?” you ask. Struggling faith recognizes that no one has faith completely figured out. God is too big to be contained in one religion. We can learn things about faith from people of other faiths, and even from people who profess no faith at all.
I want to follow the direction of I Peter 3:15: “Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you’re living the way you are and always with the utmost courtesy.”
Finally, if you ask me, I will pray with you without limits. My prayers are voiced in plain English without the “thee” and “thou” from King James’s Old English. However, given my touch of ADD, the prayers won’t be a grande or a venti size prayer, just a small one.
Just don’t ask me to do one of those huggy prayers. After all, a pastor really should know his/her limitations. ★

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Monster Jam Roars into Sacramento

Monster Jam News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Experience big-time family fun at Monster Jam. An unexpected, unscripted and unforgettable motorsports experience for families and fans returns to Sacramento for an adrenaline-charged weekend at Golden 1 Center on Aug. 16 to Aug. 18.

At Monster Jam, world champion athletes and their 12,000-pound monster trucks tear up the dirt in wide-open competitions of speed and skill.

The excitement begins at the Monster Jam Pit Party held in Sacramento prior to the events on Saturday, Aug. 17 and Sunday, Aug. 18. Fans can see the massive trucks up close, meet their favorite drivers and crews, get autographs and take pictures. Activities include the Sand Box play area, UNOH tire demonstration, coloring and temporary tattoo station, and new photo ops, including the chance to take a photo with the Series trophy. This fun-filled experience is the only place that allows people to get up close access to the Monster Jam teams and get an insider's look at how these trucks are built to stand up to the competition.

Fans will be on the edge of their seats as the world's best drivers show off massive stunts, big air, backflips, crazy skills and all-out racing in fierce head-to-head battles for the Event Championship. Engineered to perfection, the 12,000-pound Monster Jam trucks push all limits in Freestyle, Skills and Racing competitions.

Fans are encouraged to get to their seats early to experience Monster Jam Trackside approximately one hour before the event start time. Featured festivities include competition previews, driver interviews, giveaways, opening ceremonies and power rush truck introductions.

Monster Jam drivers are



Driver Fernando Martinez returns to Monster Jam at Golden 1 Center as the El Toro Loco driver from Aug. 16 to 18. Photo courtesy of Monster Jam

trained, world-class male and female athletes. They have mastered the physical strength and mental stamina needed to compete, and the vital dexterity to control 12,000-pound machines capable of backflips, vertical two-wheel skills and racing at speeds up to 70 miles-per-hour to produce jaw-dropping, live motorsports action seen throughout the world.

Enjoy big-time family fun at Monster Jam. The competitions start at 7 p.m. Aug. 16, 7 p.m. Aug. 17 and 1 p.m. Aug. 18.

Also on Aug. 17 is a pit party from 4:30 to 6 p.m., which

requires an event ticket and pit pass for entry.

On Aug. 18, the pit party from 10:30 a.m. to noon requires an event ticket and pit pass for entry.

Golden 1 Center is at 500 David J Stern Walk, Sacramento.

Tickets are affordably priced for the whole family. Tickets and pit passes are available for purchase at the Monster Jam website at MonsterJam.com, which will direct you to Ticketmaster.com. If not sold out, tickets will be available at the door.

For more info about a Monster Jam event near you, follow Monster Jam on its social media

channels: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok. Subscribe to the Monster Jam YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/MonsterJam>.

About Monster Jam

Monster Jam features world-class athletes competing for championships on perfectly engineered dirt tracks that push these ever-evolving, state-of-the-art trucks to the limit. Beyond the 350 global live events each year, the Monster Jam brand extends off the track into the home through products, content and merchandise that keeps the

fun alive year-round. For more information, visit MonsterJam.com.

About Feld Motor Sports

Feld Motor Sports, Inc. produces and presents specialized arena and stadium-based motorsports entertainment. Properties include Monster Jam, Monster Energy AMA Supercross and the SuperMotocross World Championship. Feld Motor Sports, Inc. is a subsidiary of Feld Entertainment, Inc. Visit monsterjam.com, SupercrossLIVE.com and feldentertainment.com for more information. ★

Tournament Benefits Team USA



These three little men got assistance in their karate training from Junior Team USA member from Dixon, Anna Anderson. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1

including Dixon's Anna Anderson, going to the Pan American Championships to be held in Brazil the last week of August.

"We have built a group to help our athletes to get better and they have continuously trained together," said Sensei Kathy Ernest. Anderson joined the team of athletes Elise Beal, Meili Urata-Espinosa, and Sasha Venzon of United Bay Area Karate Club in San Jose and Jancy Baguhin of Tokon Martial Arts in Sacramento.

Anderson started karate when she was about 10 years old. Just last month, she was one of seven Ramtown Karate students who traveled to Lafayette, La., to compete at the US Karate National Team Trials. Senpai Anderson competed in kata (forms) and won the bronze medal. She then fought in the USA 16- to 17-year-old Elite Kumite division and earned a silver medal. As a result, she earned a spot on the USA Junior Team and was honored with wearing the red USA jacket.

"Anna's dream is to compete and then to become a karate coach and even own a karate school after her competition career. She loves karate," said Ernest. "She is

one of the hardest working people and never complains — never says she's too tired or too hot, but 'What are we doing today, coach?'"

Anderson's local coaches and owners of Ramtown Karate, Jim and Kathy Ernest, will not be going to Brazil, though, as Anderson will have a national team coach from the Olympic governing body in Brazil. Fortunately, she was able to pick two national coaches who wanted to train her.

Team members showed their appreciation at the Dixon tournament by coaching and encouraging the young competitors who also aspire to make Team USA and were encouraged by visiting the World Karate Federation 20-year-old team competitor from Bosnia, Neyra Sipovic.

The tournament was a success, gauging from the large turnout of more than 50 competitors and that was over a two-week period of promoting it, organizers said.

The USA Junior Team left this week for Kansas City, where they will train with the entire Team USA. For more information on Ramtown Karate, call 707-678-4899 or go to ramtownkarate.com. ★

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