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Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

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AND TEACHERS**



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KORNER**

By V.G. Harris



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Home & Garden Show Returns



The annual Solano County Home & Garden Show on Sept. 21 and Sept. 22 at the Dixon Fairgrounds is designed for all ages. The show started in 2015. Photo courtesy of Shawna Arzadon

By Shawna Arzadon

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Solano County Home & Garden Show is back on Saturday, Sept. 21 and Sunday, Sept. 22.

That means the Dixon Fairgrounds at 655 S First St. will be transformed for home and garden enthusiasts from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days and this family-friendly event will offer something for everyone.

The home and garden show has been a tradition since 2015.

This year's Home and Garden Show features a special guest appearance by Ahmad Hassan, who is the original host of HGTV's "Yard Crashers." Hassan will share his expert knowledge in a

special "Landscaping 101" session. This is a rare chance to gain insights from a true industry professional who knows how to turn any yard into an outdoor paradise.

In addition, discover the latest products and services from top home-improvement professionals and get hands-on advice to tackle your next project. Stroll through and show with unique, handcrafted items that will add a

special touch to your home. Vendors offer a wide range of products and services on upgrades, repairs for heating and air, solar, kitchen and bathroom, doors and windows, screen, garage flooring, alarms, electrical and more.

On Sept. 21, groove to the sounds of Johnny and the Be Goods Band, providing high-energy music throughout the day. Enjoy a perfect mix of tunes while you explore

the show.

Bring the whole family and let the little ones enjoy the Kids Korner, where children can engage in fun activities while you gather ideas and inspiration for your home and garden projects.

There will also be arts and crafts vendors, Bingo scavenger hunt and food trucks.

General admission is \$8 and \$5 for seniors and military. Admission is free for children 12 and under. Free parking is across the street.

The Dixon Fairgrounds is at 655 South First St.

For more information about the Home & Garden Show on Sept. 21 and Sept. 22, visit online www.solanohomeshow.com. ★



Stay Safe from Rattlesnakes

By Judy Andrews

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Although wildlife sightings are typically more common near rivers, creeks and open spaces, this year's extreme heat has forced the local wildlife, including many unwelcome visitors such as venomous snakes, to seek food, water and shelter in populated areas, sometimes right into our backyards.

The California Poison Control System receives hundreds of rattlesnake exposure calls every year, especially from April to October. Although rattlesnake bites are rarely fatal, they can cause severe injury or death, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and prevention is the key to human safety.

"Snakes start roaming around when they get desperate for water," said Jake Molieri, owner of SNAKEOUT, Inc. "They can die if they



Northern Pacific Rattlesnakes are recognizable with their distinct triangular heads and dark brown blotches running down their backs. Photo courtesy of National Park Service

become overheated, so it's not unusual to find them on hot days near water sources like sprinklers, fountains, pools, pet water dishes and inside flowerpots," Molieri said.

Molieri's business provides humane snake removal services, educational resources and canine rattlesnake

aversion clinics.

He's one of a handful of local snake removal companies specializing in removing rattlesnakes from businesses and homes. Molieri sees a growing need for public education and awareness of wildlife behavior, especially as more people from other areas move into

Sacramento County and the foothills.

"Rattlesnakes are important to our ecosystem. We don't need to live in fear of them. But we need to be vigilant and respect them for their role in the environment like we do for other wildlife," Molieri explained.

Continued on page 2

Brians Way Traffic Slowing Soon

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The third time was almost a charm for chief engineer Christopher Fong when presenting three suggestions on Brian Way traffic calming.

"I am back here again," Fong said on Aug. 20 to the Dixon City Council. "It's been a long time; I know this issue started in December last year."

A staff report shows Transportation Engineering firm OKS & Associates study showed Brians Way "does not meet the criteria to install speed humps per established criteria, and they do not meet the thresholds for traffic calming measures."

However, according to the staff report, Brians Way's speed and volume data are close to the thresholds.

"After some time, if the less intensive measures proved not to work, or the speeding and traffic volume increased after further data collection, the installation of speed humps could be reconsidered," the staff report reads.

After "several meetings and discussions," Fong said he was back with various options and costs.

"In total, we are talking about a cost of \$6,000 for installation of these things that could be done by city staff," Fong said. "It can be done relatively quickly, once it is ordered."

Fong used an aerial view of Brians Way, detailing each type of marker by color. Marked in red, Bot Dots are \$80 per box, with six boxes needed. Marked in yellow, lane delineators range from \$20 to \$100, with 15 needed. Marked in green, solar speed feedback signs cost between \$2,700 and \$5,500 for two.

"They are both going to be placed on the west side of the street because that is where streetlights are located, but the way the curves are located, going in both directions," Fong said. "You will be able to see so that way we can save costs in terms of not having to buy new poles; we will just put on existing streetlights."

Councilmember Jim Ernest suggested eliminating the one in the south and spreading out further in each direction.

"That way, we get a little more coverage over by the park, and at the same time, we are getting a little more coverage going into the turn without the additional cost of the more southern one," Ernest said.

Fong said he could change locations but he did need to settle on a consensus of funding that even, which is what Vice Mayor

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Stay Safe from Rattlesnakes



Northern Pacific Rattlesnakes are common in this area. Photo by Judy Andrews

Continued from page 1

Depending on the county, this region is home to between 10 and 13 different species, including the venomous Northern Pacific Rattlesnake, which is often the target of fear and misconception.

Sacramentan Michael Starkey supports snake conservation worldwide through his nonprofit Save The Snakes organization.

“We haven’t solved the problem by killing and removing them,” Starkey said. “Rattlesnakes are simple creatures with survival needs similar to ours. They are much more afraid of you than you are of them and won’t strike unless provoked.”

Starkey’s organization provides training courses that teach students about venomous snake behavior and how to safely handle them.

“Empowering individuals to learn about snakes helps conserve their population in the ecosystem,” he said.

Keeping your home snake-free

Rattlesnake sightings and encounters can occur at any time of year in this area but are more frequent as the snakes become active when temperatures rise above 70 degrees. Should you find one in your yard, don’t panic. Follow the experts’ advice to keep your property snake-free.

“Understanding their behavior and habits is the first step in safety and prevention,” said Ben Nuckolls, Wildlife Capture Specialist and owner/operator of California Wildlife Encounters. With 30 years of experience, Nuckolls is trained to safely work with all types of wildlife, often including venomous snakes.

“The important thing to



Save The Snakes teaches students and wildlife professionals how to handle venomous snakes safely. The organization accepts donations to keep their work going. Photo courtesy of Save The Snakes

remember is that rodents attract snakes,” Nuckolls said. “Removing a snake’s food source is crucial to keeping your home snake-free.”

Nuckolls frequently responds to calls from livestock owners and residents in rural communities who find rattlesnakes in the loose straw where rodents burrow or near chicken coops where rodents eat the feed.

Homeowners can reduce snake encounters by keeping their yards, sheds and garages clutter-free. This involves cleaning up all birdseed from the ground, trimming weeds, grass and overgrown foliage—and conducting regular home perimeter inspections, including checking woodpiles and areas near water sources.

Snake experts also advise homeowners near open spaces and greenbelts

to invest in rattlesnake fencing installed by a professional to minimize snake entry points.

Should you encounter a rattlesnake in your yard, it’s recommended that you call a professional to safely and humanely remove it. Don’t try to remove it yourself or kill it unless you’ve been trained in handling venomous snakes. A scared, provoked snake will try to defend itself.

Experts recommend having a plan in place and keeping the phone numbers of local snake removal companies or your local county Animal Control handy in case you need them at any time. Check with your nearest hospital or emergency facility to ensure they carry the antivenom. A rattlesnake bite is a medical emergency for humans and pets. ★

Dixon News Briefs



The Pub Kats will perform Sept. 5 at Pardi Plaza. Courtesy photo

By MPG Staff

Mural Ribbon Cutting

Please join the Dixon Historical Society for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its new historical mural. Artist Colleen Gnos will be there to answer questions. The mural tells the story of Dixon’s history, the establishment of the railroad, the Dickson Pioneer Family, and the various cultural groups who have contributed to the land over the decades. Also present will be the new museum curator from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5 at 125 West A St.

Veterans Dinner

It is a full meatloaf dinner on the menu for Friday, Aug. 30, around 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person and is all you can eat! The hall is located at 1305 North First St. and helps support veterans.



Friday Night Football

It’s the Dixon High School Rams

hosting the Winters Joint High School Warrior at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30 at Dixon High School. Come out and support your local team. Unfortunately, the Rams lost to the Woodland Pioneers 0-35 in their first game of the season.

Pub Kats at Pardi Plaza

The Pub Kats will mix it up throughout the night with classic rock, funk grooves, country twang and even some oldies from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 5. Come and enjoy free music in Pardi Plaza. Bring folding chairs or a blanket. No alcohol per city ordinance. The fun is at the corner of South First Street and West A Street.

Take advantage of the Farmer’s Market

There are only a few more weeks until the Farmer’s Market closes for the season. Come get your fresh fruits and vegetables and everything else this public market has to offer before it’s too late from 5 to 7:30 p.m. every Thursday through Sept. 26 at the Women’s Improvement Club Park, 230 North First St.

Railroad Days

Are you ready for Railroad Days on Sept. 7 and 8? Mark those calendars for food, drinks, trains and fun in downtown Dixon. ★

Dixon Unified School District Secures Temporary Power Solution

Dixon Unified School District News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Unified School District (DUSD) is excited to announce that Anderson Elementary students will be able to return home to Anderson Elementary this fall.

The Dixon Unified School District has secured a power panel from the San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD), enabling Anderson Elementary School to receive temporary power until its new electrical panel is delivered. This critical development allows Dixon Unified School District to plan for the return of Anderson Elementary students to their campus from their temporary locations at Tremont Elementary and Gretchen Higgins Elementary.

This past spring, Dixon Unified School District ordered a new replacement power panel for Anderson Elementary, with an estimated lead time of 10 to 12 months. While this timeline remains in place, securing the temporary power panel from San Juan Unified School District is a significant win for Anderson students and families, as it accelerates the return to Anderson Elementary. Previously, the district estimated that students would not be able to return until the spring of 2025 or the beginning of the 2025/26 school year.

“After starting as Superintendent in July, my top priority was returning our displaced students, families, and staff back to their home at Anderson Elementary. We worked diligently over the summer to secure a temporary power solution to ensure that the Anderson Elementary community would not be displaced any longer than necessary,” said Brett Barley, Superintendent of Dixon Unified School District. “Thanks to the support and generosity from San Juan Unified, we are hopeful that we can move students back to Anderson this fall, rather than waiting until next year. This is a tremendous achievement for our students and families.”

“We want to thank the entire Anderson Elementary community for their support and perseverance these past few months while we worked to identify and resolve the electrical issues at the school,” said Julian Cuevas, President of the Dixon Unified School District Board. “We also want to thank the Tremont and Gretchen Higgins Elementary School communities for welcoming Anderson students, families, and staff onto their school sites. These past few months have showcased for all to see the strength of the entire DUSD community.”

“We are immensely proud of our teachers who, despite the challenges presented by the unforeseen electrical panel failure, demonstrated unwavering commitment to their students and families,” said Wes Besseghini, President of Dixon Teachers Association. “Their adaptability and dedication ensured that our students continued to receive a quality education, even while being relocated to different school sites. Their resilience during this time truly exemplifies our collective commitment to the Dixon community.”

“Our SEIU members went above and beyond to support students, staff, and families during this difficult period. From ensuring safe and seamless transitions between campuses to providing essential services that kept the school running smoothly, their hard work was instrumental in navigating this complex situation,” said Andrew Rathjen, President of Service Employee International Union Local 1021. “We are grateful for their dedication and proud of the crucial role our members played in maintaining a positive and productive learning environment for our students.”

Dixon Unified School District hopes to announce a more definitive timeline for the move back to Anderson Elementary soon. The district is working to finalize the necessary arrangements for a safe and timely return. Parents, students, and staff will be kept informed of any further developments. ★

Rotary Club Welcomes New Administrators and Teachers



Pictured are school administrators and teachers at the welcome event, including Dixon Rotary President Marlene Vega on the far right. Photo courtesy of Janice Beaman

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - On Aug. 2, the Dixon Rotary Club welcomed the new school administrators and teachers from the Dixon Unified School District, including Dixon Montessori Charter School and Maine Prairie School. Fifty-dollar Wal-Mart gift cards were presented to the 30-plus new teachers to start their new classrooms and approximately 10 new administrators were presented boxes of candy. About 70 people attended the luncheon at Dixon High School, hosted by Dixon Rotary, catered by Food and Familia, at 171 West A St. ★

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City Water Issues Boil with Controversy

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Councilmember Tom Bogue shut down a resolution to seek bids for a new city water system.

On Aug. 20, city attorney Douglas White said since officials met last, the city has gone through the Proposition 218 process, and the new water rates are being implemented and put in place.

"In terms of going out and finding out what entities might be interested in operating our water system and what the value of that might be to the city in general," White said, bringing attention to the Rate for Proposal (RFP) in front of them.

According to the city attorney, the unbinding Rate for Proposal is a means to attain information from companies on "what they would do and how they would operate to begin a discussion."

But there would be no discussion, according to Councilman Thom Bogue.

"Does the city even have the authority to sell this water district without the approval of the ratepayers?" Bogue asked.

Said White, explaining it cannot go to vote unless the council approves, "No, this would just be the process of getting proposals. The vote would be the essential sale of a water system."

Bogue posed a question for consideration: since the Proposition 218 process passed was a minimal challenge and rates went through, why would the city actually consider selling that water system?

"That's a real question because it is going to take time for that district to raise the money to start doing actual repairs to it," Bogue said. "Do we really want to continue going through this, draining that fund more than it is now?"

Now that the rates are in place, Bogue said officials have no business selling the system, calling it "pointless to continue spending money and time on this."

White did not see it that way, saying he sees "no reason we should not be exploring all possibilities."

White's opinion became mute when Bogue denied the resolution altogether, with council members agreeing with their peers.

With no public comment, which was the opposite of the last meeting regarding the water rates, officials shut the matter down before addressing Valley Glen. What Vice-Mayor Kevin Johnson called a repeat problem is costing the city hundreds of thousands to fix again.

In May, Johnson and other officials were told the well installed in 2003 needed to meet its 80- to 100-year guarantee, costing the City of

Dixon more than a quarter of a million dollars to fix.

Since Johnson said he "doesn't feel right" about spending more money on the well in May, city officials passed a controversial water rate increase, causing a public protest at a July 16 council meeting.

At the podium again, Dixon's Water Distribution Division Operations maintenance supervisor Josh Hudson told officials the fix would cost more than \$500,000 from reserves, including the \$456,000 in Valley Glen well repairs that come with a \$12,000 inspection and a \$70,000 contingency fee.

Johnson was not present at the Aug. 20 meeting; however, officials heard Hudson say, "I know most of you are familiar with the ongoing woes we have been having at the Valley Glen facility."

However, time is of the essence, according to Hudson, who said

emergency repair must occur.

"We must get it back online and up and running," Hudson said. "We are very vulnerable right now."

Hudson offered a brief and costly background beginning in 2022 when issues began to rise. Though planning to address the problem by repair or replacement to no avail, Hudson said as the project continued, it was realized some of the system's older parts would not comply with newer adjustments.

Bottom line: immediate repair is needed.

Officials must act now while the other three water districts are running "hard" with the Valley Glen well pump down.

"If we were to lose another site, there is a pretty good possibility we would buy water from Cal Water," Hudson said.

Mayor Bird and the council unanimously passed the immediate improvements. ★

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Office of Education to Host Annual Early Childhood Education Conference

Solano County Office of Education News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) will host the 2024 Quality Counts Solano Early Childhood Education (ECE) Conference on Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Solano Community College, 4000 Suisun Valley Road, Fairfield, beginning at 7:30 a.m. This year, conference organizers invite teachers to join in an educator wellness event, including a full day of workshops from professionals skilled in early childhood education.

The Quality Counts Solano Early Childhood Education Conference has been an annual event in Solano County for over 30 years hosted at Solano College every September and welcomes the attendance of all educators supporting children from birth to age eight years.

This annual event reflects our ongoing collective commitment to furthering the growth

and development of our youngest learners. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners for their dedication and support in making this conference a reality. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for our children," Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson said.

Topics will be of interest for all early learning professionals ranging from: preschool, kindergarten, and transitional kindergarten teachers, infant/toddler teachers, family childcare providers, center-based directors, and supervisors, as well as anyone working with young children.

Participants will enjoy engaging topics, including supporting children with special needs, early literacy, and a variety of wellness workshops for teachers and childcare providers. A For more information on registration please visit the Solano County Office of Education website at www.solanocoe.net or contact Breana Marino at bmarino@solanocoe.net or (707) 399-4471. ★

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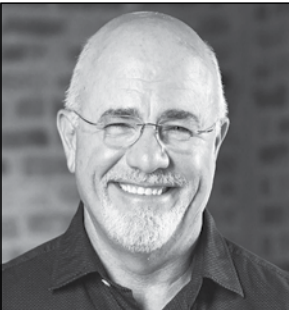
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Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says What's Best for Me?

simple will is all you need to establish a solid estate plan that protects your family if something happens to you.

Trusts tend to be geared toward people with more assets and unique or complex estate issues. They also come in lots of different forms like, living trusts, revocable and irrevocable trusts and special needs trusts, just to name a few. In my mind, if you have less than \$1 million in assets—and your financial world is pretty simple and straightforward—a will gets the job done just fine.

One of the most important differences between wills and trusts is the ability to name a guardian for your minor children. You *can* name a legal guardian in your will, but you *can't* in a trust. So, even if you have a trust, you'll still need a will to make sure your kids are taken care of after you die.

Another important distinction between the two is that a trust lets you skip probate court—a will doesn't. Probate court cases can drag on forever. Plus, they can be expensive. If your estate gets mixed up in probate court because someone challenges the will, it could mean your family has to spend months in court while grieving. No one wants to go through that.

Basically, a will is a legal document that explains what you want to happen with your stuff when you die and puts it all in writing. There are many different types of wills, but for most people a

While we're on the subject of probate court, let's talk about another sticky subject.

There's a little bit of crazy in every family. You probably know who they are in your family, but if you don't, it might be you. Seriously, though, we all know some families that seem to have more than their fair share of crazy and drama, and wills are best for families that struggle with these issues and tension between family members. Probate court can resolve those problems. On the other hand, families who can handle healthy conflict, and who trust each other, are better off with a trust, since they don't need a probate court to babysit them.

And if you're wondering if you can have both a trust and a will, the answer is yes. In fact, most people who have a trust have a will, too.

I hope this little bit helps
— Dave

Dave Ramsey is a national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. 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. ★

MEMORIAL WILLIAM FREDRICK ANDREWS • 1955 - 8/11/2024

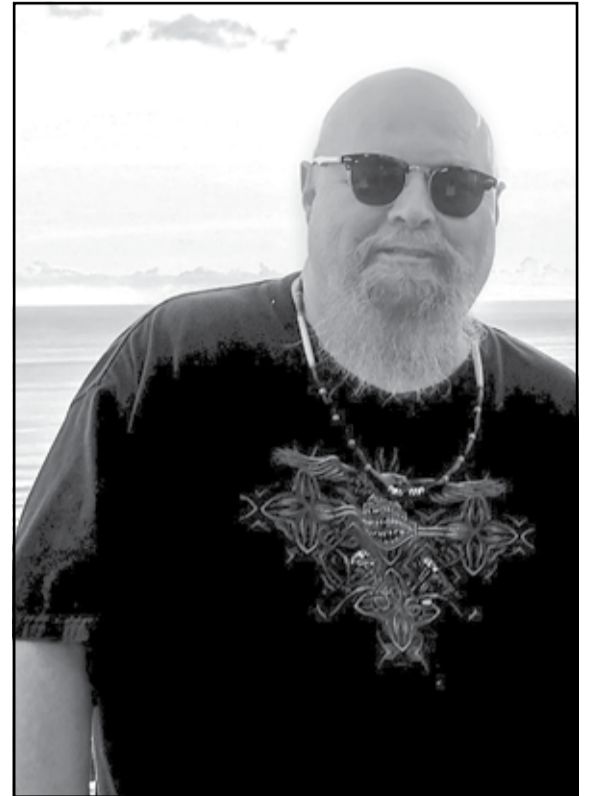
William Fredrick Andrews, affectionately known as Bill, passed away on August 11, 2024, in Reno, Nevada, at the age of 68. He was a man of remarkable generosity, always willing to lend a hand to those in need, and he leaves behind a family who will miss him dearly.

Known for his humor and outgoing nature, Bill never met a stranger—everyone he encountered quickly became a friend. A passionate sports enthusiast, he was a dedicated fan of the Raiders, cheering them on through their days in Oakland and Las Vegas.

Music was the soundtrack of Bill's life. His love for classic rock bands like U2, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Tesla, and Creedence Clearwater Revival led him to attend countless live concerts and shows. He was an avid Harley Davidson fan and an all-weather barbecuer. He also found joy in outdoor adventures and caring for his beloved pets, especially his dogs.

Bill retired after a dedicated 45-year career in the grocery industry, most recently with Scolari's Grocers in Reno. He excelled in customer service, where he built lasting relationships with locals and visitors alike—many of whom he considered extended family.

Bill shared a special



bond with his brother, Scott, with whom he moved to Reno in 1976. Together, they embarked on a life full of family, fun, and shared passions.

A 1974 graduate of Dixon High School, Bill was an accomplished athlete, earning varsity letters in both football and baseball.

Bill is survived by his loving partner Cheryl Kelley and her daughter Lisa; his daughter Tiffany Andrews and her partner Pat Talley, with grandchildren Tyler, Katie and Tristan; his best friend and brother Scott Andrews and his wife Norma; and his brother Cameron Andrews and his husband Jimmy Chapman. He also leaves

behind his nephew Matt Andrews and wife Becky, along with great-nephews Rio and Rhys. Additionally, he is survived by stepson Roland W. Ortiz and wife Elaine with grandchildren Cadie E. Ortiz and Roland Z. Ortiz, as well as stepdaughter Carmen Ortiz and grandchild Daniel Ortiz. He will also be remembered by Paul Andrews' wife, Lorenia, and their son Kai Andrews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Bill Andrews; mother, Shirley Andrews; nephew, Paul Andrews; and his first wife, Cynthia Lee Alvarado (later Wristen); and second wife, Merit Ortiz.

Memorial services will be held in both Reno and Dixon at a later date.

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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, Aug. 13

- 08:30 - Traffic Collision North First Street at East Dorset Drive.
- 09:50 - Stolen Vehicle report at 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.
- 13:45 - Court order violation at 200 block of South 8th Street.
- 14:00 - Lost property report at 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 15:00 - Information report at 500 block of College Way.
- 01:45 - Train versus pedestrian accident in the 400 block of Porter Road.

Wednesday, Aug. 14

- 09:02 - A fraud report was taken in the 1200 block of Baylor Way.
- 09:15 - A stolen vehicle recovery report was taken at the intersection of Newgate Way at Stratford Avenue.
- 10:32 - A traffic collision report was taken at the intersection of Newgate Way at Stratford Avenue.
- 18:08 - Traffic collision report in the 2200 block of North 1st Street.
- 19:05 - Information report in the 1600 block of West H Street.
- 20:35 - Traffic collision report in the 400 block of Gateway Drive.
- 22:05 - Confidential report in the 500 block of Morgan Lane.

Thursday, Aug. 15

- 09:39 - A School Resource Officer report was taken at Dixon High School.
- 12:14 - Provide false identification to a police officer, identity theft, possession of suspected narcotics, and drug paraphernalia arrest report was taken in the 800 block of North Adams. Officers contacted (S) Pursilla Martinez, 38, of Vacaville. Martinez was arrested and taken to the Solano County Jail. Martinez's vehicle was towed.
- 18:51 - Alexis Leon, 23, from Dixon, was arrested in the 900 block of Newgate Way for criminal threats. Leon was booked into the Solano County jail.
- 01:39 - Vehicle tampering report in the 600 block of Industrial Way.

Friday, Aug. 16

- 12:02 - A suspicious circumstance report was taken at the Dixon Police Department.
- 13:21 - A public nuisance arrest report was taken in the 100 block of Dorset Drive. Officers contacted (S) Myron Sandefur, 47, of Richmond. Sandefur was arrested and brought to the Dixon Police Department where he was cited and released.
- 16:05 - A vandalism report was taken at Hall Park.
- 18:00 - Theft report in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 20:35 - Anthony Rubio, 30, of Vacaville was contacted in the 1400 block of Ary Lane and found to have an outstanding arrest warrant. Rubio was transported without incident to the Solano County Jail for booking.
- 02:19 - Anderson Clinton, 46, from Vacaville, was arrested in the 600 block of Evans Road for false imprisonment and booked at the Solano County Jail.

Saturday, Aug. 17

- 07:27 - An informational report was taken in the 100 block of Heritage Lane.
- 09:35 - Informational report taken in the 100 block of Morning Glory Lane.
- 01:52 - Battery report in the 1200 block of North Adams Street.

Sunday, Aug. 18

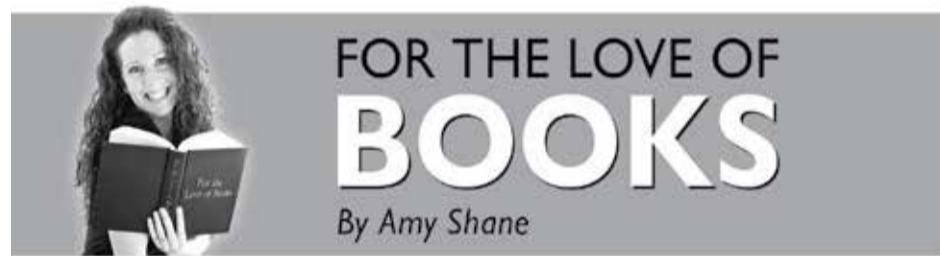
- 10:20 - John Bahel, 37, of Santa Rosa was contacted in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive and later arrested for an outstanding misdemeanor warrant and possession of drug paraphernalia.
- 18:16 - Suspicious person report in the 500 block of Songbird Court resulted in the arrest of Cristian Bojorquez Gastelum, 31, of Dixon for a misdemeanor warrant. He was taken to county jail.
- 20:15 - Hit and Run traffic accident in the 2200 block of North 1st Street.
- 00:51 - Battery report taken in the area of Evans Road and Rehrmann Drive.
- 01:40 - Information report for a car fire in the 7800 block of Batavia Road.

Monday, Aug. 19

- 09:00 - Confidential Report.

Tuesday, Aug. 20

- 22:14 - Domestic violence report taken in the 400 block of West Chestnut Street.

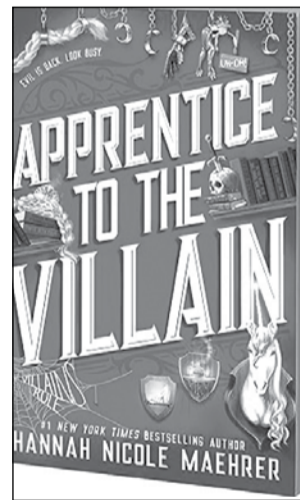


Apprentice To The Villain by Hannah Nicole Maehrler

When Evie Sage landed a job with the Kingdom's most notorious Villain, she knew her life would be different but never expected it to change so drastically. Besides heads strung across the ceiling, screams coming from the dungeon, and a crown-wearing frog who expresses his unwanted comments through signs, this was just a typical assistant job. Unless, of course, you count that impossible, temperamental, and slightly sexy boss.

But as with all great jobs, there were some setbacks, and somehow, Evie always found her life or the Villains hanging in the balance. After the last catastrophe, they definitely need to get their act together—or maybe just they should get together. One thing is for certain: Evie has definitely saved the Villains' lives a few times, and he can't forget.

However, there's more at play than Evie and the Villain's secret desire for each other. Rennedawn's magic is in jeopardy, leaving them vulnerable to attack. But Evie never anticipated the true source of the problem, or how personally she would be involved. The only certainty is the hidden feelings and desires



- ◆ Publisher: Red Tower Books
- ◆ Intended Audience: Adult
- ◆ Release Date: August 6, 2024

that could erupt at any moment between Evie and the Villain.

Evie may have started as an assistant, but now it's her time to step into the light and take charge. With her quick wit, training, and a touch of evil, it's time for Evie to transition from Assistant to Apprentice. After all, she's always wanted to wield a dagger.

Readers beware: the smoldering evil Villain is back; this time, he's looking for an Apprentice. Do you have what it takes?

With quick wit and can'tor around every corner, readers will instantly fall for this fairytale turned on its head as they get an inside look at just how hard it is to be a notorious Villain and the one who

assists him. A Unique, refreshing series full of wicked intent and picking up right at the cliffhanger ending of Assistant to the Villain.

This binge-worthy series is taking the reading world by storm and leading readers straight into a villainous trap—a sexy villainous trap. Told in dual perspectives and a few additions, readers will have a chance to delve straight into Evie and the Villain's minds, allowing a glimpse of their subtle feelings and the slow burn of unknowing desire. The continued slow build of feelings only adds the adventure and storyline but will only make readers yearn for one of them to slip up and finally throw themselves at one other, but who will be the first to break? Readers will be screaming for Evie and the Villain but secretly enjoying the villainous way the author keeps them apart. In true villainous fashion, Hannah Nicole Maehrler steals her readers' hearts with this wonderfully villainous tale. Apprentice to The Villain is a fun, satisfying read for fans of twisted fairytales and even a little forbidden office romance with side characters you can't help but love and a cute price frog that steals the show. ★

California Sued Twice After Enacting a Corporate Tax Law with Billions at Stake



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

During Jerry Brown's first stint as governor of California, he became enmeshed in a very complicated dispute over how the state should tax the incomes of multinational corporations.

More than four decades later, the issue has resurfaced in a corporate tax case involving Microsoft, one of the nation's largest corporations, a legislative bill that was semi-secretly attached to the state budget in June, and two subsequent lawsuits.

The outcome could reopen tax returns from past years and potentially force companies to pay billions of dollars in retroactive taxes, or alternatively could eliminate a windfall of corporate taxes that Gov. Gavin Newsom is counting on to help close the state's budget deficit.

The issue that Brown faced in the 1970s was whether corporations should report their global incomes to California and have a calculated percentage subjected to state taxes, or could confine their taxable income reports to actual activities within the state.

At the time, the first methodology, called "unitary taxation," was used by the Franchise Tax Board, which is California's

version of the Internal Revenue Service. However, foreign corporations, particularly those based in Japan and Great Britain, were adamantly opposed and sought the alternative, dubbed "water's edge."

Brown initially supported the tax board but after visiting Japan did a 180-degree flip, while accusing the board's executive officer, Martin Huff, of giving him "flaky data." Huff responded by essentially accusing Brown of lying, which led to Brown and legislative leaders quickly changing a unique state law that had protected the tax board's executive from political interference.

Huff had also alienated legislators by publicly suggesting that their "per diem" expense payments be subject to income taxes. After the law was changed to make it easier for Huff to be fired, he resigned.

The infighting over corporate taxation continued. At one point it even became an issue in a tax treaty that the U.S. government was negotiating with the British government. Eventually, in the 1980s, corporations were given the option of using either the unitary or water's edge method. Microsoft adopted the latter for its 2017-18 tax return, but found itself in a dispute with the tax board over how dividends from foreign subsidiaries should be treated.

The dispute jelled when Microsoft sought a \$90.9 million refund, the tax board rejected the claim and the company appealed to the Office of Tax Appeals, which is essentially a tax court. Last year, after extensive trial-like hearings, a three-member

appellate panel unanimously ruled in favor of Microsoft.

It could have forced the state to refund \$1.3 billion immediately and perhaps more as the decision trickled through the state's corporate tax process. But the tax board did not concede defeat and instead turned to Newsom and the Legislature for a rescue.

It came in the form of Senate Bill 167, one of the dozens of "trailer bills" attached to the state budget. It declares that the Franchise Tax Board's position on the dividend issue is state law, regardless of how the appellate panel ruled.

This month, two lawsuits were filed to challenge the constitutional validity of SB 167, one by the California Taxpayers Association in Fresno, the other by the National Taxpayers Union in Sacramento.

"This legislation imposes a retroactive tax hike that would reach back several decades, allowing California's tax collectors to go after companies that already paid every cent of the taxes owed under the laws that were in place at the time," CalTax president Robert Gutierrez said. "This egregious violation of taxpayers' rights cannot go unchallenged."

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. ★



JOY AND DUBIOUS HOPE RUN THE SHOW AT THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

A Special Article by Tim Riley

Chicago has hosted many national political conventions for both parties, with the most recent being 1996 when Bill Clinton was renominated on his way to a second term in office.

Entering the 2024 Democratic National Convention in the Windy City, there was much speculation that tens of thousands of pro-Hamas, pro-Palestine protesters descending on the city would be shades of the riots and turmoil by anti-Vietnam War protesters in 1968.

To be sure, protesters of that ilk, advocating for an end to U.S. to Israel and an unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, marched through streets near the United Center's site of the convention.

With these far left-wing protesters, there was the obligatory (on their part) burning of the American flag. And yet, the ranks of those marching in the streets were far from the numbers hyped-up in the media.

During the 1968 Democratic convention, Mayor Richard Daley wasn't in the mood for the police department to hold back on repelling the activists, which ended up in a lot of violence and chaos that proved a detriment to Hubert Humphrey's campaign to replace President Lyndon B. Johnson.

The political climate in Chicago is no longer the Tammany Hall-type days of the Daley era. Mayor Brandon Johnson, who has turned out to be even worse than former Mayor Lori Lightfoot, considers himself an activist.

The mayor, who appeared on the convention podium the opening night, finds himself, as the result of the ongoing crime wave and violence in his city, to be about as popular as skunks and fire ants at a picnic.

Apart from pushing "joy" as a pervasive talking point, the speakers seemed to focus on abortion-on-demand and allusions to class warfare. Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, better known as "AOC," was there to take on corporate greed, apparently forgetting so many billionaires are in her party's donor class.

The obsession of advocating for abortion right up to the point of conception, or even beyond, is a far cry from the Bill Clinton-era mantra of "safe, legal and rare."

Planned Parenthood was on hand outside the convention perimeter with a mobile unit offering free abortions and vasectomies. One humor website had a brilliant fake story about a man thinking he was in line for a food truck accidentally getting a vasectomy instead of a burrito.

The abortion topic was not confined to just about every speaker. A twenty-foot inflatable IUD was near the convention site. Protesters were found dressed as abortion pills as MIFO and MISO, shorthand for the medical names that end a pregnancy.

On the first night, President Joe Biden showed up for his farewell speech to pass the torch to Vice President Kamala Harris. He didn't talk about how he was pushed aside from running for re-election, a process which can rightfully be called a "coup."

The President talked about his administration's so-called "accomplishments," ignoring the disaster of the Afghanistan withdrawal, the crisis of illegal aliens pouring into the country, the crushing jump in the inflation rate that has burdened the working and middle class, just to name a few.

For every speaker, Donald Trump was always a target, with President Biden turning divisive in claiming that the former president called white supremacists "very fine people" at the 2017 Charlottesville, Virginia rally, something that has been debunked many times, even by liberal media sources.

Oddly enough, in his convention speech, Biden went off-script momentarily when, in reference to the pro-Palestine protests, he claimed that "these protestors out in the street,

they have a point." What exactly is the point if you chant "From the river to the sea?" It's the destruction of Israel.

Aside from abortion, just about everyone loved to talk about Trump being a "threat to democracy," while ignoring that former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, abetted by the elite donor class, stuck it to Biden like a prison yard shanking.

Due to a schedule conflict, this columnist was unable to attend the final day of the convention, at which time the coronation of Kamala Harris was complete with her acceptance speech.

Something that seemed to fail to be noticed is that the presidential nominee of a major political party was nominated and approved by the assembled delegates without having won a single primary or even just one delegate.

Memory is short in politics, but this just seems to be a unique outcome. Remember as well that Kamala Harris's presidential candidacy in 2020 also ended without garnering a single delegate vote.

Alas, I wish that I could claim to be the one to have referred to this gathering in Chicago as the "Seinfeld" convention. But all the talk of "joy" and "hope and change" amounts to little more than being something about nothing.

What's next in the remaining two months before Election Day that should be watched is whether Kamala Harris finally sits down for an unscripted interview and what will the debate(s) reveal for the policy positions of both candidates.

Usually, the debate between the vice-presidential candidates carries less importance, but this year could be different.

Senator Vance is most likely to go on the offensive with Governor Walz for a myriad of issues. And the issues ripe for the Senator to exploit involve the stolen valor allegations, the strict COVID lockdowns (made worse by the Governor having set up a Soviet-style snitch line so people could rat on their neighbors) and the slow response to dealing with the BLM riots in Minneapolis.

Another interesting phenomenon at the convention was the idea

that Harris is running as an outsider, as if for the past almost four years she had no role to play in what was always billed as the "Biden-Harris Administration."

At what point, will it become clear that she was really tasked by Biden to be the Border Czar, a failed assignment resulting in millions of illegal immigrants, largely unknown and unvetted, roaming unchecked through the land and reaping benefits?

Has everyone forgotten that Harris, in her role as President of the Senate, cast the tie-breaking vote to adopt the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act (a misnomer if there ever was one), which led to trillions added to debt and a high rate of inflation not seen in decades?

Brace yourself for an interesting presidential general election campaign season that may hold surprises. What twists and turns may happen in the Israeli-Hamas War? How will that affect the vote in places like Michigan and Wisconsin with the pro-Palestine crowd?

Even though we were not there to cover the final night, Harris is quoted as saying "I will always stand up for Israel's right to exist and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself."

Threading the needle, Harris went on to say "President Biden and I are working to end this war – such that Israel is secure, the hostages are released, the suffering in Gaza ends, and the Palestinian people can realize their right to dignity, security, freedom, and self-determination."

Does this satisfy the extreme left of her party? Can someone tell me why there was a group called "Queers for Palestine" protesting? Are they unaware of what fate befalls gay people in that part of the world? ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Monday morning as I was writing this column, I tuned into a local sports talk radio station that will go nameless, and listened to the two hosts as they discussed the top 40 Sacramento Kings players of all time.

What was most interesting, as I listened to their personal choices, was who they put in the top 10 since the Kings came to Sacramento.

Conspicuously missing from that list from both hosts were the names Domantas Sabonis and De'Aaron Fox. Neither could make their top 10 list.

Bench players Doug Christie and Brad Miller made the list, but not the rebounding champ for the past two seasons, or the fastest man in the NBA in our own De'Aaron Fox.

Call me a homer, and I'll be proud to wear the title, but I will tell you without a shadow of a doubt, Domantas Sabonis and De'Aaron Fox have already acquitted themselves honorably to make the top ten list of all time for the Sacramento Kings.

Argue where you place Chris Webber, Vlade Divac, or even Demarcus Cousins, but please show some small modicum of basketball acumen and place Mr. Sabonis and Mr. Fox on the list of the top 10!

Did I get a little fired up? You bet I did. I enjoy talking about the stalwarts of the past as much as the next Kings fan, but I am all about the team as represented today!

Let's spend our time on whether Keegan Murray can elevate to the next level, and garner talk as an all-star candidate someday. Or perhaps whether the Kings will have multiple players with a 20-plus scoring average this season.

Maybe we should discuss how many former Kings have ever led the NBA in rebounding. Names like Wilt Chamberlain, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Charles Barkley, Elvin Hayes, and yes, Sacramento's own Chris Webber have worn that title, but surprisingly none of the aforementioned ever did it two years in a row.

Oh, did I mention a candidate for the triple-double title? Perhaps because it never happened before Domantas Sabonis

did it last season, along with the double-double title as well.

OK, I got that off my chest, but I hope you are coming away with the impression that I am high as a kite on the existing squad as represented today. I'll go into the 2024-25 season and stare at a team that will challenge 50 wins and then some.

Newcomer DeMar DeRozan was recently quoted as saying, "I want to be one of the guys that hits the beam."

Domantas Sabonis said, "DeRozan makes us much harder to guard."

I could not agree more, and I will tell you without a doubt that if you get an invite to a Kings game this season, take it, and take it quick. Seats at Golden 1 are going to be scarcer than hen's teeth, and if it's pure entertainment you're looking for, just hang with the Kings this season.

One of the compelling things about the Kings that continues to bring me back again and again is the obvious delight they have playing together.

When a King hits the hardwood on their back, it's a mad scramble to see who will get there first to help the player to his feet.

I hear no acrimony from the bench as it relates to playing time, which is somewhat uncommon.

I'm particularly proud of the way Malik Monk has conducted himself coming off the bench for the past two seasons, when this talented player could easily be starting for any other team. Regardless of whether Malik remains the Kings' sixth man, or breaks into the starting lineup, he has my never-ending support.

Truly, this team has so much talent up and down the lineup, I could poll 10 season ticket holders, and get five to 10 different names as to who is their favorite.

Acquisition discussions have been quiet, but it's always quiet before the storm. Know that Monte McNair is showing up to work each day, and much is happening behind the scenes.

I hope you're looking forward to the upcoming season as much as I am, and especially opening night! ★

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com

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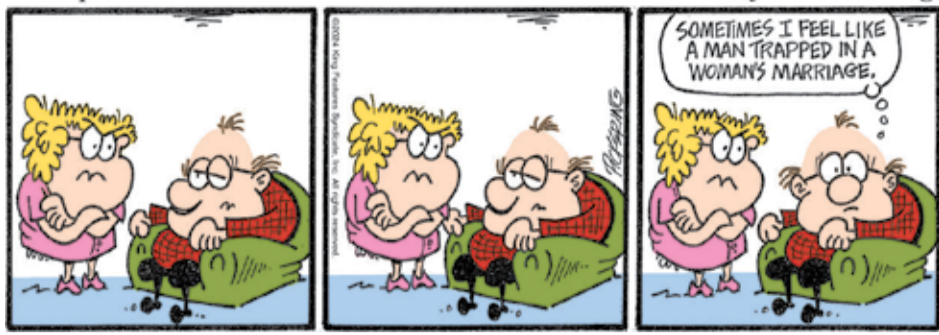
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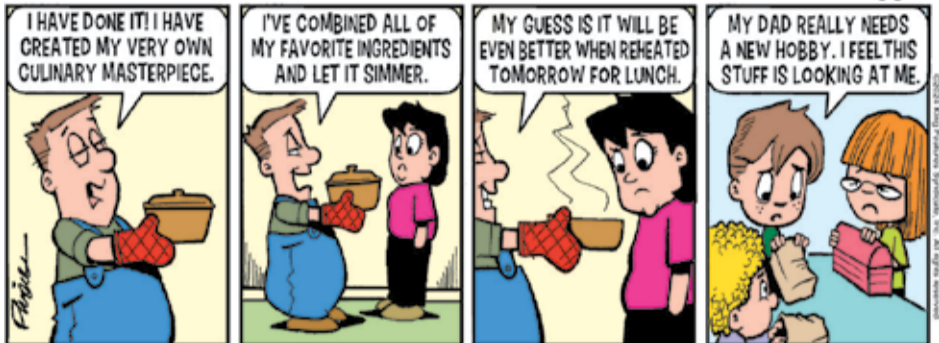
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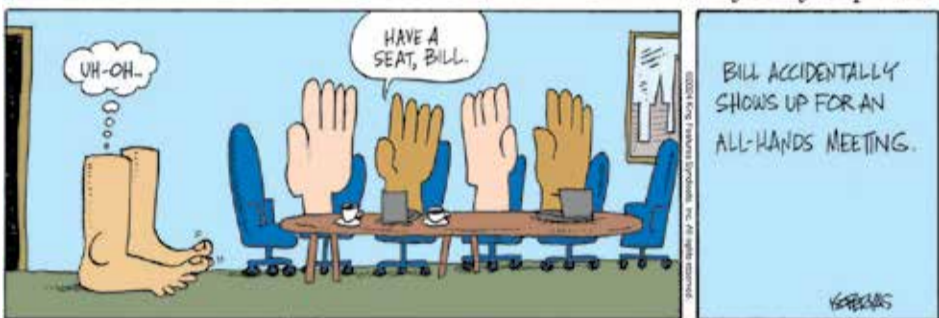
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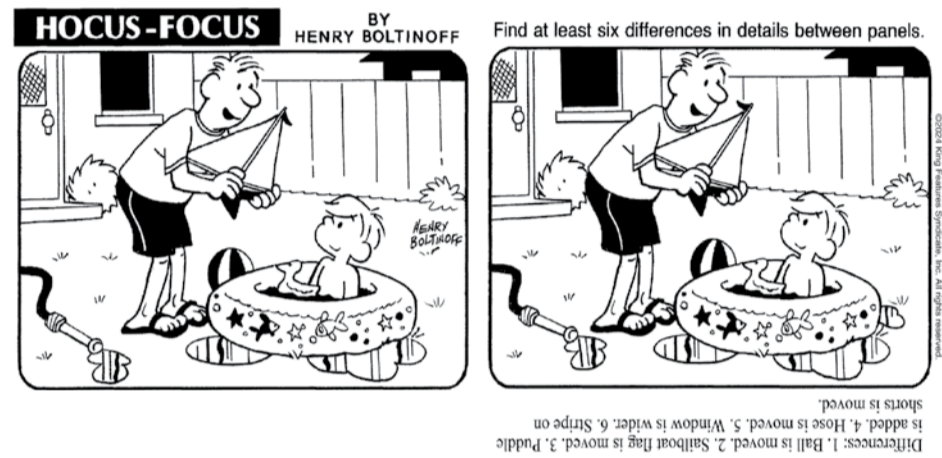
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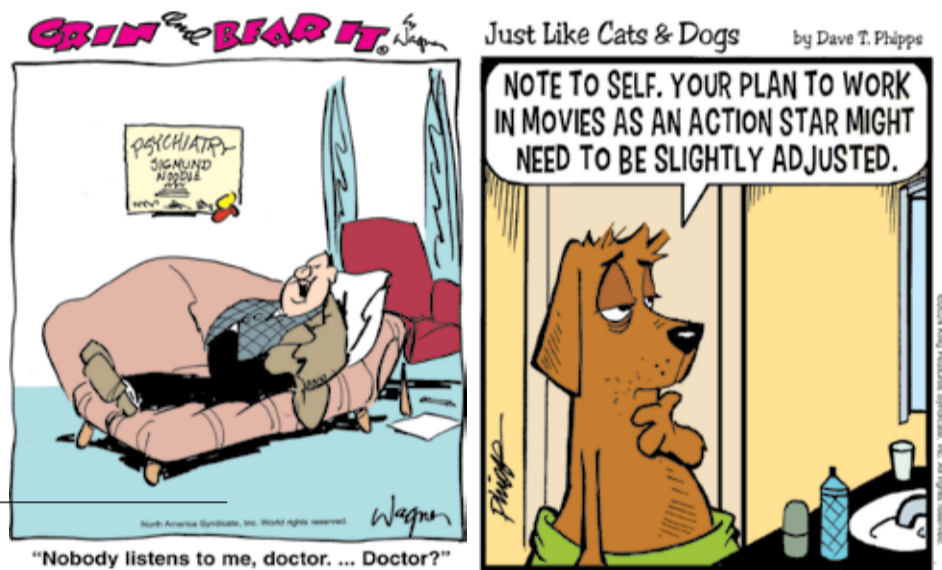


Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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by BUD BLAKE



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

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Tuleyome Tale – Safe Summer Hiking



Light colors and loose-fitting clothes help keep hikers cool even in areas with little shade. Photo by Nate Lillge

By Kristie Ehrhardt

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Technology and fast-paced living are part of our everyday world, but spending time in nature can help neutralize the tension and flurry that has become commonplace for us. Heading outdoors, even during the heat of summer, is not only possible but with a little preparation it can be safe, enjoyable, and fulfilling. Although the summer is ending, temperatures can still be high. Here are some tips to stay safe while hiking in high temperatures.

Keep an eye on the weather.

We are all painfully aware that our region gets HOT during the summer months and although the forecast doesn't really change all that much, in certain areas it

can fluctuate more than at your house so keeping an eye on the weather where you're headed is important.

Head out early to take full advantage of the cooler morning hours. Being at the trailhead at sunrise not only avoids some of the heat of the day, but it will likely also avoid crowded parking situations and traffic jams on the trail.

Some areas in our region may experience more wind than others and when the wind is from the north it is typically hot and dry which can rapidly increase the risk of dehydration while hiking. Along with the gusty north winds come "fire weather" which is often indicated by a Red Flag Warning, meaning that there is an increased risk for fire danger because of high temperatures, low humidity and strong winds. If you smell smoke while you're hiking, it's always best to immediately evacuate the area. Failing to leave not only puts you at risk, but it also puts emergency personnel that may have to come to your aid at risk as well.

Stay hydrated and fuel up. Carry and drink plenty of water during your hike, in fact, bring more than you think you'll need. A good rule of thumb is to drink a half to a full liter of water every hour depending on the temperature and your level of exertion. Be sure to drink often, sipping water helps you maintain hydration much better than chugging a bunch of water once or twice during your hike. You'll feel a lot better too. If you get distracted by the scenery and forget to sip, set a timer

to remind you to take a drink about every 20 minutes. If it's really hot or you'll be working really hard, pre-hydrate. Drink about 16 ounces of water two hours before you hit the trail.

Remember to bring some snacks even if you're not planning on being out on the trail all

extra sodium and potassium can also help keep you happy and feeling well. A quick way to replenish electrolytes is to drink a sports or recovery drink.

Know your limits

Pay attention to your body and any aches and pains you may be experiencing. Consider fatigue,

like poison oak and ticks and keep in mind that snakes may also be out enjoying the day. If you encounter one, please just allow it to pass, it doesn't want to engage with you either. Wear sunglasses and a wide brimmed hat or get a backpack umbrella to attach to your pack to ensure

And as
always
- if you
pack it
in, pack
it out!



Wide brimmed hats can help prevent sunburn – wear sunscreen. Photo by Nate Lillge

day. Finding the perfect spot to sit and journal or sketch for a while, unexpected difficult terrain or even possibly an injury or getting lost can keep you out on the trail longer than expected and having extra food with you not only keeps your energy up but also your morale. Perspiring causes your body to lose not only water but also electrolytes so packing snacks with a little

strained muscles, a cranky ankle or even blisters and how those will make you feel if you continue hiking. The trek out may be downhill, but it'll be hotter than when you started. Turn back or head out before your water supply is half gone and don't hike beyond your ability.

Hiking is more fun with company. Having others with you to share the joy and experiences of the day is fabulous but having friends with you also lets you check on one another and, if necessary, help with important decisions should there be an injury or a need to call for help. Tuleyome, the Sierra Club and other "meet up" groups often offer group hikes where you can learn the terrain and meet fellow hikers.

Make a Plan and Be Prepared

Check the weather forecast and trail conditions before you go and bring appropriate clothing. Be sure to let someone know where you are heading and about how long you expect to be gone, especially if you are hiking alone. There's a good possibility that your cell phone may not have service on the trail so attaching a whistle to your pack should you need to call for help is a smart idea. Stay on the trail to help avoid things

that you'll always have shade. Sunscreen is an absolute must and should be reapplied often, especially after swimming or excessive sweating.

Getting a sunburn is not only miserable and risky, but it can also add to the risk of dehydration. Some essential items to pack include a headlamp or flashlight, a knife or multipurpose tool, and a first aid kit that includes duct tape and super glue. Bonus points for taking a first aid course before hiking season, especially if you like to hike alone. If you're hiking with your canine pal, please be sure to take notice of their physical ability and demeanor. Dogs heat up and cool down differently than people and outdoor activity during the heat of the day can be extremely uncomfortable or even dangerous for them. Heatstroke can be life threatening to a dog and breaks with extra water and shade are essential for them; don't base their health level on how you're feeling.

Hiking can be done safely in our region any time of year. Some forethought and precautions can help avoid unnecessary calls to our first responders and help you enjoy the outdoors.

And as always - if you pack it in, pack it out! ★



Hydration and frequent breaks are important when hiking, especially when temperatures soar. Photo by Nate Lillge