



SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Colleen Gnos
Brings Dixon's
History to Life
in New Mural

PAGE 10



Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 36

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

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Dixon Scouts Ascend Mt. Baldy



Seven Scouts and three leaders from Dixon's Troop 152 hold their "bragging rights" banner atop Mt. Baldy, New Mexico last month. Courtesy photo

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Blisters were not mentioned but a friendly burro seemed to be a definite highlight for the boys of Dixon's Troop 152, who recently returned from a 10-day hike in the Northern New Mexico mountains.

The team of seven boys and three leaders conquered the 12,441-foot Mount Baldy, the highest peak in the Cimarron Range of New Mexico last month with a little help from Churro the Burro. They got to pick



The boys got a daily reprieve from the heat of hiking, thanks to daily afternoon rain. Courtesy photo

him at the famed Philmont Scout Ranch where 14,000 Scouts began their trek covering 75 long, rugged

and wet miles of terrain. In return for the burro's aid in carrying camp necessities, the boys fed and cared for the animal.

"It was an amazing trip," said Tyler Collins, the 16-year-old Scout crew leader who sported braces and a head of blond curls. "It rained every day and about the same time each day. That's why I tried to wake them early."

Corey Patrick, a Dixon High School freshman, added that it hailed three times.

"It was peaceful. It
Continued on page 3

Unlicensed Commerce Here

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Nearly 40 businesses operate here without a license.

As of Aug. 13, the amount owed by 38 businesses is \$3,129. The annual report for past due city business licenses raised some issues at the last regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

On Aug. 20, City of Dixon Finance Director Kate Zawadzki gave the annual report of unpaid licenses. According to the finance director, past due notices and telephone calls to the business are to no avail.

"They do receive a form with all of these notices that they can fill out and return to us if they are no longer in business," Zawadzki explained of the 38 unlicensed outstanding businesses in town. "We come to you each year with direction on how you would like us to proceed."

There are a few remedial measures based on the municipal code. The first is an official violation letter, which Zawadzki said officials have hand delivered.

"There are some operational challenges for that," Zawadzki said. "Usually, when they enter these locations, the actual business owner isn't the one there that is receiving that."

One option is collections.

"That is the option we have used in the last few years," Zawadzki said, adding the last measure, which included a \$500 penalty.

The finance director said suspending the license is mute, with many businesses still continuing to operate as they are, which prompted Police Chief Robert Thompson to the podium, reminding council code enforcement falls under his department, leaving them the job to deliver the \$500 penalty.

"I have come to you in the past and asked you not to ask us to do that, but we certainly will if that is your direction since there are several challenges with it," Thompson said.

Un-sworn in code enforcement officers are often unprepared for the "very heated and dramatic" process of serving, according to the police chief, who said he would prefer not to put code enforcement staff in "negative" public situations when they can.

"In lieu of sending a code enforcement officer, we are sending a police officer to do that," Thompson said, adding from his perspective, it is a "borderline and questionable use of police power."

The intimidation factor of "sending cops to my
Continued on page 4

Dixon's Past Has Bright Future

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Frank McKinney always liked history.

As a child, the new curator of the Dixon Historical Society Museum did not know how his love of the past could play out in the career field while attending Iowa State University. Although his major was forestry, McKinney realized he took more history classes than forestry ones.

"So, I ended up majoring in history and receiving a B.S. in history," McKinney said, adding he remained "clueless" on how to earn money from his knowledge. "A friend told me about job openings at Historic Fort Snelling in St. Paul, Minnesota, and I was able to get a job there and finally had my foot in the door."

After attending several museum management graduate programs and receiving his master's in history from Western Illinois University, McKinney enjoyed his career until 2004, when he began a horseshoeing business.

"I did that because I



Dixon Historical Society Museum at 125 W. A St. has one of the original Milk Farm restaurant signs from the iconic I-80 eatery. Photo courtesy of the Dixon Historical Society

didn't want to move the kids around for higher jobs around the country and I had learned a good deal about blacksmithing while at Fort Snelling," McKinney said of the business he sold in 2022 when his family moved to California.

Now a part-time blacksmith shop manager in

Coloma for state parks, McKinney spends the other time at the museum.

"My hope is that people will look at history by studying and reading about it, learn from what they have read and then apply those lessons to make decisions about the future," McKinney said. "Unfortunately, that does

not happen in most cases but I still have hopes."

Historical Society President Kim Schroeder-Evans hopes that "history helps us to learn from the past and make better decisions going forward."

"Having a local historical society is important in order to preserve and
Continued on page 3



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Life's too SHORT

By Debra Dingman

Did you hear that there is going to be a kids' activity for the Dixon United Methodist Church Sunday School kick off on Sept. 8? Who wouldn't want to play on tons of bubbles? If you have little or school-age children, this is something you will want to take them to.

I learned of this through the United Methodist Women group because they will be donating some funds to purchase bubbles....lots of bubbles!

The Youth Director/Children's Ministries will host a Foam Party and block off an area filled with foam bubbles for children to play in. It is happening over Downtown Dixon Business Association Railroad Days when families will want to come downtown and enjoy all the wonderful sights and sounds of historic days of the past in Dixon.

The Railroad Days will be this weekend, Sept. 7 and 8, and there is no excuse not to catch it since it is a two-day event! I wanted to help with the inaugural event last year and begged organizers to avoid that one day in June if at all possible but that is exactly when it got scheduled and I missed it. For six months, I had worked on a "first" family reunion for my own family and it was held at the Railroad Park Resort in Dunsmuir. I had done my pre-visit and research and fell more in love with trains and their history! I've been a member of the Train Museum in downtown Sacramento for several years and enjoy taking my grandchildren there.

So I had a friend take photos and she did such a great job that I thought I was

actually in both places at once! We ran her photos with a follow-up story on the one-day event last June.

Trains and how they have helped develop our country is a fascinating learning experience and I won't miss it this year. Whether you have children or grandchildren doesn't matter though because anyone will enjoy the sights and the numerous model trains to see.

This year, the event is two days and will take up all of downtown, so come down and check it out. This is another one of the many benefits of living here: We have dedicated leaders and volunteers with the Downtown Dixon Business Association who graciously give their time and energy to events such as this one.

I'd like to particularly call out deep appreciation to Jill Orr and Suzie LaChance who could be seen hunched over Downtown Dixon Business Association plans inside Dawson's Bar and Grill more than a few mornings.

The Downtown Dixon Business Association (DDBA) is in more need of help, however, and a new board is being sought to help build the foundation. The Downtown Dixon Business Association also hosts the annual Wine Stroll, Brewski Fest, Halloween Treat Trail, Holiday Open House and of course, Downtown Dixon's Christmas Tree Festival.

Please leave a message on the Downtown Dixon Business Association phone at 707-678-8400 or go to its website at www.downtowndixonCA.com (not "org") if you are looking to get involved in one of the most fun organizations in town. ★

Dixon News Briefs

By MPG Staff

Veterans Dinner

It is a full pork dinner on the menu for Friday, Sept. 6, around 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$12 per person. All you can eat! The hall is located at 1305 North First Street and helps support veterans.



Friday Night Football

It's the Dixon High School Rams hosting the Lindhurst Blazers on Friday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m. at Dixon High School. Come out and support your local team.

Railroad Days

Are you ready for Railroad Days on Sept. 7 and 8? Come for the food, drinks, trains and fun. Downtown Dixon. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Fresh Local Food

Is what you'll find at the Dixon



The Farmer's Market is only here for a little bit longer. Courtesy photo

Farmer's Market, but just for a few more weeks. The last one is scheduled for Sept. 26. Then it will go away and hopefully return next year.

Dixon Library Book Club

Meets the second Thursday of each month (Sept. 12) from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Dixon Library, 230 North 1st Street, Dixon. ★

Mayfair Vet Care Opens



Jodie, MayfairVet Care's patient and employee coordinator, instructs us to stay away from "Dr. Google."

Story and photos by Scott Mullins

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon now has an Urgent Care facility for pets.

Open Fridays to Mondays, no appointment is required, so bring your cats and dogs to Mayfair Vet Care for their urgent care needs.

"Imagine waiting for over five hours with your dog with a foxtail in his ear," said Jodie, a patient and employee coordinator at Mayfair. "That's the typical wait time for most veterinarian's emergency care."

Mayfair's goal is to eliminate that wait time.

Mayfair currently specializes in cats and dogs but will consider exotic pets if the need persists and they can find the right vet for the job. When asked what the best advice she gives to new pet owners, Jodie exclaimed, "Try to stay away from Dr. Google!"

We all have a tendency to use "Dr. Googl," but should not because we tend to misdiagnose using search engines with incorrect information.

At Mayfair Vet Care, they embrace the philosophy that owners are integral members of a pet's care team and they



A busy veterinarian is hard at work at Mayfair Vet Care.

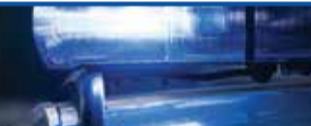
encourage you to remain with your pets whenever possible. When you can't, rest assured they will provide exceptional care in your absence.

The primary services that they provide are pet urgent care, pet laboratory work, pet surgery, pet X-rays

and ultrasounds. They also provide an online pharmacy.

Mayfair Vet Care opened on Aug. 9 at 105 Dorset Drive, Suite D near Walmart in Dixon. Their phone number is 707-828-0048. For more information, visit <https://mayfairvetcare.com>. ★

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Dixon Scouts Ascend Mt. Baldy



The Dixon Scouts trekked a total of 75 miles over 10 days and experienced "amazing" views of nature. Courtesy photo

Continued from page 1
 was the best of experiences even though I was at the brink of exhaustion," Corey said. "I was proud of myself."

His father, Jeremy, was one of the adult leaders.

Fourteen-year-old Jack Latham, the one who named Churro, admitted he almost didn't make it, being twice overwhelmed with exhaustion.

"It was really challenging and the day before we got to the top, I wanted to give up. But they helped me and it was amazing, the highest I've ever been other than being

on an airplane," Jack said with enthusiasm.

Jack's dad is Scoutmaster Matt Latham, who was an Eagle Scout and almost 32 years ago to the day, had hiked Mt. Baldy.

"It was a really important and great experience for me," Latham said. "The boys that started on day one are not the same boys that ended the trek."

After the boys had met up with thousands of other Scouts, the troops were given a "sister crew" which had been given the same destination but would take a different route. At the end of each day,

they would meet up and together share dinner and stories of their trek.

They also learned backpacking skills, leadership skills and how to navigate extremely difficult terrain, the Scoutmaster explained.

When they reached the peak, Tyler called his family in Dixon on his cell phone.

"It was such an amazing thing that you got to call home from the top of the mountain and share it with someone important," Tyler said.

Tyler added that he doesn't get out much and found the experience

refreshing to be away from home, school and phones.

"The air is cleaner and it was nice to be away and make amazing friends," Tyler said.

The troop had trained, fundraised and prepared for the trip for 18 months, according to Scoutmaster Latham, who added that the Dixon Scouts "do a lot for Dixon," including working with civic clubs to benefit the community.

"They were ready. They've all done a lot," Latham said.

Mt. Baldy is one of four 'Peak Challenges' required by the Boy

Scouts of America.

"We did really well and that made me feel really great," Tyler said.

Boy Scouts of America is committed to creating a welcoming, safe environment where Scouts can freely express themselves, share their experiences and become the best version of themselves by learning from and respecting each other.

Since 2016, girls are now welcome and can participate. For more information, see the website at <https://www.troop152dixon.com/> or call Latham at 707-685-1750. ★

Dixon's Past Has Bright Future

Continued from page 1
 protect local history for future generations," Schroeder-Evans said.

The Dixon Historical Society works hard to keep the past available to the public.

Residents and visitors can flip through decade-old yearbooks, watch a city walking tour on video or read up on Dixon's divine buildings, including the First Baptist Church and St. Peter's Catholic Church, all on the society website, which features other historic places and events.

The Dixon May Fair Parade, one of California's longest-running parades, began in 1875 and reveals the 1960 Rainbow Girls float in 1960. The girls were taught leadership training through community service, confidence and citizenship, and they wore a rainbow of colors to project beliefs, including love, religion, service and patriotism.

Relics, including an original Milk Farm restaurant sign from the iconic 1-80 eatery, are at 125 W. A St. Museum, where you can also purchase some of the iconic brand swag and tour ongoing exhibits.

"My vision is to make the Dixon Historical Society a successful historic preservation and education agency," McKinney said, adding he brings much to the table. "I have lots of experience in grant writing and fundraising, and I've managed volunteer programs."

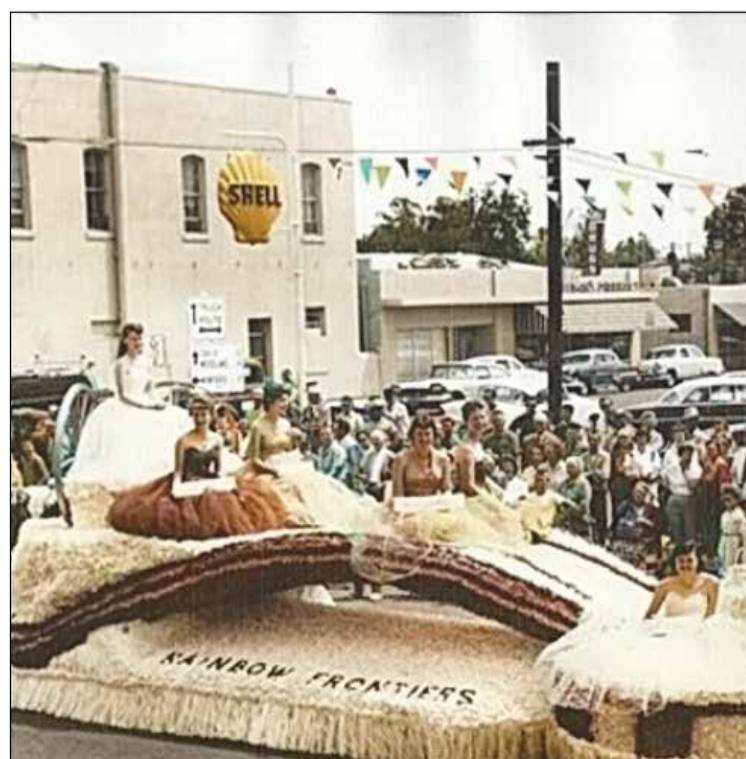
McKinney is already thinking big, noting his ultimate goal, with the "board focus and strategic planning," to have Dixon's site accredited by the American Alliance for Museums.

"I'd like to say that I'm very excited to help the DHS create a top-notch community resource that will last well into the future and preserve many of the things that mark Dixon's past," McKinney said.

Between the new curator's passion and Schroeder-Evans's passion, Dixon's past has a



Only some Dixon residents can remember dining at the old-school restaurant. Photo courtesy of the Dixon Historical Society



Pictured here is the Dixon May Fair Parade 1960 Rainbow Girls Float. Photo courtesy of the Dixon Historical Society

various cultural groups who have contributed to the land over the decades."

Both the curator and the society president encourage residents' involvement.

"The multiple projects, research, presentations, school visits, walking tours, living histories, interpretive histories and historical plays have been informative and fun," Schroeder-Evans said. "Our museum is a beautiful place to be."

There is free admission to the museum, which also accepts donations and welcomes relics on loan.

"We currently have a strong group of volunteers with a variety of talents and we are always looking for more people who bring new skills, ideas and perspectives to our group,"



The Dixon Historical Society sells Milk Farm swag, which can be seen here, along with sweatshirts, mugs and more. Photo courtesy of the Dixon Historical Society

bright future.

"My passion for language, culture, and history made me want to explore Dixon's history at a deeper level," the society president said. "I have always wanted

to understand who was here before my family arrived."

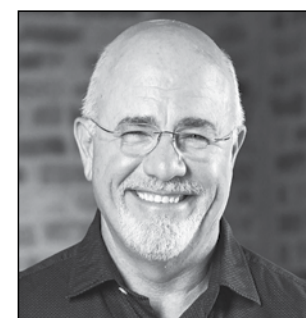
Schroeder-Evans said that questions concerning how they lived, what was important to them and what languages they spoke

inspired her to know more.

"Why did my family and so many other immigrant families choose to settle in this area?" Schroeder-Evans said. "My passion has also been to learn about, embrace and share all of the

Schroeder-Evans said. "We welcome those who love history, enjoy greeting the public and who wish to learn more about California and local history."

For more information, visit www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org.



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says Don't Crack the Foundation

it's left me firmly convinced it's better to be the tortoise than the hare.

Think about this. When you sell a piece of your ownership to people who are looking for a return, instead of caring about your dream, you're creating the potential for a big mess. A lot of times, these folks will seem like silent partners—which is an oxymoron in small business. They might even present themselves that way in the beginning. But the truth is most people who've put money into your business won't keep silent. They're all going to have different opinions and ideas, and there's a strong possibility these are going to clash at some point with the vision you have for your company.

In short, I would not recommend a fledgling small business, even one that's doing well, to seek out investors. Period. Cash flow your growth, Trey. Cash flow your equipment purchases, and

the markets you enter, also. Does this mean you might miss a good opportunity here and there? Sure, it does. But it also means you'll be missing opportunities to fail. Too much success too soon is one of the biggest reasons why small businesses shut down. When you grow too quickly, you run the risk of outgrowing your financial resources, your infrastructure and your human resources.

Do what you can to ensure growth is steady, but play it smart. Don't grow so fast that you crack the foundation of your company.

— 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

PATRICIA RENÉE WILLIAMSON • 12/31/1950 - 8/17/2024

Patricia Renee Williamson, aged 73, passed away August 17, 2024, Riverdale, UT. Born December 31, 1950, Patricia was known for her radiant love, laughter, and generous spirit. She owned Patricia Renee Interiors. She is survived by her daughter, Tina (David) Tompkins; son, Scott Williamson; sisters, Carol Roles and Jacquelyn Powell; brothers, Michael (Debby) Coogan, and Thomas (Maria) Coogan. Patricia was preceded in death by husband, Roy (Willie) Williamson, and parents, Ann and Harold Coogan.

Please join them in honoring Patricia's life. Services will be September 27, 2024, 2pm at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, Dixon. A celebration will follow at Grace Fellowship, Dixon. Patricia's memory will be cherished in the hearts of her family and friends forever.

Phone-Free Schools Act Clears Legislature, Heads for Signature

Office of Assemblyman
Josh Hoover News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Aug. 29, the Legislature passed landmark legislation authored by Assemblymembers Josh Hoover (R-Folsom), Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), Josh Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), and David Alvarez (D-San Diego) to limit the use of smartphones in schools. Assembly Bill 3216, also known as the Phone-Free Schools Act, requires school districts in California to adopt a policy no later than July 1, 2026, that limits or prohibits the use of smartphones by students during the school day.

"Today, the Legislature took meaningful action to support students and transform schools across California," said Assemblyman Josh Hoover. "As a parent and former school board member, I am incredibly grateful for this bipartisan effort to put kids first and improve their academic and mental health outcomes. I thank the Governor for his leadership on this issue and urge him to sign this bill to create phone-free schools across our state."

"Research continues to demonstrate the potential harms of smartphone use among children. The growing use of these devices in a child's everyday life can contribute to lower test scores, anxiety, depression, and even suicide. I am grateful for the Legislature's leadership on limiting the use of smartphones during the school day and I look forward to working with the Governor," Hoover added.

The bill now heads to Governor Gavin Newsom's desk for signature, who has signaled support for the legislation in recent weeks.

Many school districts have already limited or prohibited smartphone use in schools and have seen resounding success. Administrators have reported increased social interaction among

peers, decreased instances of bullying on campus, and improvements in academic outcomes. A 2016 study found that when smartphones were removed from classrooms standardized test scores increased by an average of six percent, with even greater improvements among low achieving students. The Phone-Free Schools Act will continue to build on this success by expanding limitations on smartphones statewide.

A piece published in The Atlantic earlier this year by NYU social psychologist Jonathan Haidt described a number of the potential harms that smartphone use is contributing to in children:

Grades suffer when learning is disrupted as a result of smartphone distractions in the classroom

Up to 15% of teenagers engage in "problematic social media use," which includes symptoms such as preoccupation, withdrawal symptoms, neglect of other areas of life, and lying to parents and friends about time spent on social media

The latest Gallup data found that American teenagers spend around five hours per day on social media platforms alone.

As smartphones have become ubiquitous since 2010, we have seen a 70% increase in the number of high school seniors expressing that "life often feels meaningless (now more than 1 in 5 seniors express this).

Rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide are on the rise among young people.

Poor mental health outcomes and smartphone use are most strongly correlated in kids under the age of 14.

Josh Hoover represents Assembly District 7, which includes the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova and the unincorporated communities of Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms, Gold River, Mather, McClellan Park, North Highlands, Orangevale, and Rosemont. ★

Unlicensed Commerce Here



Finance Director Kate Zawadzki and Police Chief Robert Thompson advise the City Council to send all unlicensed business fees to collections. As of Aug. 13, unlicensed fees are more than \$3,000. Photo courtesy of the Dixon Independent Voice

Continued from page 1
business to shake me down for the money I may or may not owe the city" causes challenges, according to the police chief. While the options remain at the council's pleasure, Thompson said he would do "as instructed," but advises officials to send the unmet fines to collections to "play itself out in a more passive way."

Councilman Thom Bogue called the fee

for doing business "minuscule."

"Give me a break; if you can't afford to pay the 78 bucks, then get out of business because you are not actually in business," Bogue said, adding that Dixon is one of the fairer cities statewide regarding business license fees.

No public comment was provided before officials approved collection efforts rather than police enforcement. ★

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

Wednesday, Aug. 21

- 10:30 - Abandoned bicycle booked for safekeeping.
- 10:40 - Vehicle towed for expired registration in the 300 block of North 2nd Street.
- 13:30 - Vehicle Towed in the 600 block of West A Street.
- 16:50 - Juvenile report.
- 19:53 - Theft report taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 20:28 - Information report taken in the 600 block of Devonshire Drive.
- 02:17 - Theft report taken in the 2500 block of North 1st Street.

Thursday, Aug. 22

- 06:49 - Welfare check in the 1300 block of North Lincoln Street for a subject yelling. John Bordenkircher (44), of Dixon, was arrested for Court Order Violation, Probation Violation, and Resisting Arrest. He was transported to Solano County Jail.
- 03:35 - Jesus Ramirez-Maravilla (27) from Dixon was arrested in the 2500 block of North 1st Street for domestic violence and probation violation. Ramirez-Maravilla was transported and booked at the Solano County Jail without incident.

Friday, Aug. 23

- 08:31 - Informational report taken in the 500 block of College Way.
- 16:54 - Informational report taken at Northwest Park.
- 19:49 - Pedro Tejada (39) from Dixon was arrested in the 700 block of East Creekside Circle for misdemeanor vandalism. Tejada was cited and released without incident.
- 22:10 - Andrey Gutierrez (28) from Dixon was arrested in the 700 block of West H Street for driving under the influence. Gutierrez was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail.

Saturday, Aug. 24

- 14:05 - Court order violation in the area of Northwest Park.
- 16:31 - Verbal dispute in the 900 block of Regina Way.
- 22:43 - Ratu Mawi (40) from West Sacramento, was arrested in the 1300 block of West H Street for assault with a deadly weapon not firearm, and criminal threats. Mawi was transported and booked at the Solano County Jail.

Sunday, Aug. 25

- 11:40 - Dorothy Riley (52) of Dixon was contacted in the 400 block of West Chestnut Street and later arrested for disturbing the peace, resisting a police officer, violating a court order, and brandishing a knife.
- 13:10 - William Franco (27) of Napa was contacted in the 2500 block of Plaza Drive and later cited for possession of drug paraphernalia.
- 17:20 - CWS confidential report.
- 01:22 - Stolen Vehicle Report 1300 block of Commercial Way. The vehicle was later found parked in a different parking space than normal in the lot.
- 03:15 - Suspicious Circumstances, North First Street at Vaughn Road.

Monday, Aug. 26

- 06:00 - Burglary to a business in the 100 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 06:20 - Burglary of a business in the 1200 block of Market Lane.
- 11:30 - Grand theft report in the 300 block of Victoria Drive.
- 10:00 - Vehicle towed in the 400 block of Porter Road.
- 15:00 - Grand theft report in the 800 block of Elm Road.
- 15:10 - Abandoned property report in the 300 block of North First Street.
- 17:10 - Hit and Run accident in the 2800 block of West A Street.

FOR THE LOVE OF
BOOKS
By Amy Shane

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

Fairy Godmother: An Enchanters Tale by Jen Calonita

Everyone remembers the story of Cinderella and her fairy godmother. But who was the fairy godmother, and how did she become just that?

The enchanting backstory of the fairy everyone has come to know and love is here, along with her magical beginning. From human to fairy and all the magic in between, it's time to fall in love with the fairy godmother all over again.

Renee Dubois has always been fascinated with fairies and was determined to prove their existence. When she wasn't a governess to her cousins, she spent every moment studying books and fashioning fairy slippers to leave as offerings. Even though her life is a challenge, she loves caring for her cousins and singing her way through all the day's trials.

Then, one night, her young cousin slips out looking for fairies, and the unthinkable happens. At the moment, Renee thinks everything is lost, an unlikely duo saves her. Now thrown into the fae world, Renee quickly realizes that magic isn't what she thought it to be and is more dangerous than she could have ever imagine. Renee would do anything to return to the mortal realm to check on the children she left behind,



- ◆ Publisher: Disney Hyperion
- ◆ Intended Audience: Ages 12-18
- ◆ Release Date: Sept. 3, 2024

even for a moment, but time runs different in the two worlds, and the only ones allowed to cross the portal and work with humans were fairy godmother. So that's what she would be!

However, fae rules are strict, and the queen is even more stringent. After all, being half fae and half human was a fearsome combination. But Renee was out to prove them all wrong. With her errant magic and strong determination, Renee grew, and one day, she would finally have her moment. While all things happen as they should, sometimes a little fairy magic can change the course of time and grant the most desired of wishes. And sometimes one girl's determination,

is all that's needed for everything to all magically falling in line for one of the greatest fairy tasks of all time.

Grab your wands and look for a fairy circle of mushrooms. It's time to enter the magical world of Fae. While many might not have thought about Cinderella's fairy godmother past the stroke of midnight, her story is one to be cherished and celebrated because, without her, Cinderella would have never made it to the ball. This charming origin story answers all the questions: Why is she so old? Why is she so forgetful, and why are the magic words Bibbidi-bobbidi-boo?

Readers will Fall for the tragic and enchanting tale and root for Renee all along the way. With the promise of magic, wishes, and even fairy godmothers, many readers will be left wanting to leave a fairy gift amongst the forest edge. Jen Calonita once again delivers a strong and unique storyline with faint echoes of the original tale. Magical, powerful, and equally heartwarming, this magical tale will stick with its readers long past the last page and maybe spark the desire to carry a magical wish for their own fairy godmother. ★

Fast Food Workers Got a \$20 Minimum Wage, But Is It Working? It's Debatable



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Every session of the California Legislature seems to produce at least one bill that generates high-octane political debate and media attention.

As the 2023-24 session winds down this week, Senate Bill 1047, which would impose rules on artificial intelligence developers, is generating fierce lobbying and drawing global interest.

During the final days of last year's session, the focus was on a very different issue — whether the state should impose a \$20-per-hour minimum wage for fast food workers and create a Fast Food Council to oversee working conditions.

A year before, Assembly Bill 257 created the council and empowered it to set an initial minimum wage of at least \$22 an hour, while assuming that franchised fast food outlets were subsidiaries of the parent company, rather than independently owned.

The fast food industry responded with a referendum that, if ratified by voters, would cancel out the new law, thus renewing the debate in the 2023 session. A last-minute deal repealed AB 257 and substituted another measure, AB 1228, that dictated a \$20 minimum wage and removed what the industry considered to be a threat

to the franchise system. In return, the referendum was dropped.

The \$20 wage took effect last April, but only after a new squabble erupted over which sellers of food would be covered, colored by a Bloomberg article alleging that Newsom had demanded an exemption to benefit a campaign donor who owns two dozen Panera locations in California.

Newsom declared that the story was "absurd" and gave assurances that Panera and other similar businesses would be covered. The businessman, billionaire Greg Flynn, also said he would honor the \$20 wage.

End of fast food angst? Of course not.

Six months after the \$20 wage took effect there's a new debate in political, media and academic circles over its impact.

Fast food prices have been increasing, but how much higher wages are driving the rise and how fast food operations have changed are two new issues.

This month, Newsom declared that California fast food outlets had created 11,000 new jobs since the law was signed.

"What's good for workers is good for business, and as California's fast food industry continues booming every single month our workers are finally getting the pay they deserve," Newsom said. "Despite those who pedaled lies about how this would doom the industry, California's economy and workers are again proving them wrong."

The industry didn't agree.

"Every day you see headlines of restaurant closures, employee job losses and hours cut, and rising food

prices for consumers," the International Franchise Association said in a statement. "Local restaurant owners in California are already struggling to cope with the \$20/hour wage, as the Fast Food Council considers additional wage increases. All the while, workers and consumers are feeling the pinch."

Brooke Armour, president of the California Center for Jobs and the Economy, an adjunct of the Business Roundtable, criticized Newsom's declaration as reflecting just one month of preliminary data and concluding, "Despite what some are saying, the data are clear: newly passed fast food minimum wage laws are leading to job losses in California."

Christopher Thornberg, founding partner of Beacon Economics, also was critical in an analysis of the state's economic trends. "California's well-intended push to reduce income inequality via wage floors is beginning to have a significant negative impact on some of our most vulnerable workers — our youth, particularly those from lower income households," Thornberg wrote.

What California has wrought in the fast food industry could be the harbinger of more direct regulation of other industries, and not just in California, for better or worse. It's not surprising, therefore, that its effects will be debated ad nauseam.

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. ★



Riley Reviews

US OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT ALWAYS HOLDS SOME SURPRISES

A Special Article by Tim Riley

The annual two-week run of the US Open Tennis tournament consists of day and night sessions, and it stands to reason that the crowds pour in during the early rounds as 128 men and 128 women compete for their respective singles titles before eliminations thin the competitors.

The US Open is the final leg of the four major annual tournaments that begin with Australia during the first of the year before the early summer of the French Open and the mid-summer of London's Wimbledon.

The New York-based US Open keeps achieving attendance records as it caters to an upscale crowd that is most noticeable from the dining options to the type of popular world-class merchandise unlikely to be found at a major league baseball game or NFL game.

This year's opening day drew the biggest single-day crowd in event history of 76,641, with the day-session crowd of 42,886 being the second-highest day attendance in history, while the night-session crowd of 31,776 set an all-time night-session crowd.

What other sport has Ralph Lauren polo shirts for men and women priced at \$148? The US Open's polo shirts go for \$128, while their hoodies fetch \$168 and a nice canvas tote bag comes in at \$78. The wide selection of baseball caps priced at \$40 is a relative bargain.

Considering the standard fare at ballparks and stadiums, fine dining and high-end adult beverages stand out for the unique experience of enjoying tennis in its more refined environment.

Before the tournament got underway, the United States Tennis Association (USTA) announced a multi-year partnership with the iconic champagne house of Moët & Chandon as the Official Champagne of the US Open.

Moët & Chandon was available at locations across the grounds, including the Moët & Chandon Clubhouse bar, open to all attendees. The Moët & Chandon Imperial Brut was priced at \$32, an offering exclusive to the US Open.

Meanwhile, the Open's signature Honey Deuce cocktail, priced at \$23 and consisting of Grey Goose Vodka, raspberry liqueur, lemonade, and honeydew melon balls is so iconic that it earned its own baseball cap on sale this year.

Besides the fancy cocktails, what other sporting event features a star-studded line up of world-renowned celebrity chefs that reflect New York City's dazzling culinary scene?

Teaming up again in the Aces restaurant are Michelin-starred Chef Ed Brown, Iron Chef Masaharu Morimoto, and James Beard Award-winning Chef Kwame Onwuachi. The Aces seafood spot offers popular seasonal seafood specialties.

Michelin-starred and Iron Chef Alex Guarnaschelli returns for the fourth year, bringing dishes from her Mediterranean bistro, Fare. Also returning is Chef David Burke's popular Cuban-American fusion spot, Mojito by David Burke.

New to the Open is restaurateur Simon Kim with the Open debut of COQODAQ, where fans could enjoy signature dishes from the Korean-inspired Better Fried Chicken restaurant, including The Golden Nugget, an iconic chicken nugget and caviar pairing.

When the curtain went up on opening night, it wasn't a Broadway show, but the USTA and ESPN partnered with Alicia Keys' new hit Broadway musical "Hell's Kitchen" for a music collaboration that was aired around the world.

The star of "Hell's Kitchen," two-time Tony Award and Grammy nominee Shoshana Bean, performed the National Anthem, while

her fellow actress in the musical, Kecia Lewis, who won the Tony for Best Featured Actress in a Musical, narrated a video remix of songs from the show.

Celebrities in attendance at the US Open include regulars like fashion designer Vera Wang and actors Alec Baldwin, Ben Stiller and Taye Diggs, along with models that remain unknown to me unless Claudia Schiffer drops in.

Opening night found Andy Roddick, the last American to win the men's US Open title in 2003, sitting with Lin-Manuel Miranda, songwriter and actor best known as the creator and titular star of the Broadway hit musical sensation "Hamilton."

It would be nice if Andy Roddick's presence could bring fortune to any number of American men who are among the top-seeded players in the tournament, including Frances Tiafoe, Taylor Fritz, Ben Shelton, Tommy Paul, and Sebastian Korda.

The main stage of the US Open is the Arthur Ashe Stadium, which most fortunately has a retractable roof to handle inclement weather, which came in handy on Wednesday night as thunderstorms hit the venue.

Opening day at Arthur Ashe featured defending US Open women's champion, American Coco Gauff, who as the third-seeded player and fueled by the energy of the raucous New York fan base, easily dispatched France's Varvara Gracheva in two straight sets.

The headliner for opening night was second-seeded Serbian Novak Djokovic, the defending men's US Open champion, who cruised to three straight set wins over Moldovan Radu Albot.

In his quest to win a record-breaking 25 Grand Slam victories, Djokovic came up short in the third round by losing to Australian Alexei Popyrin, while managing only to win one set to his opponent's three sets.

Upsets can occur in the first round, and probably the most noticeable one happened on opening night at Arthur Ashe Stadium, when American Sloane Stephens annihilated Clara Burel of France in a shutout in the first set, only to drop the next deciding sets at 5-7 and 5-7.

At the age of 31, Stephens is no longer a youngster, and winning the women's US Open title in 2017 seems almost a distant memory. However, give Stephens her due for achieving a career-best world ranking of number 3 after Wimbledon in 2018.

Billed in the local press as the "Homecoming Queen," Japan's Naomi Osaka, formerly ranked number one in the world, returned to defeat tenth-seeded Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia, to pick up her first top-10 victory in four years. But Osaka's run ended in the second round.

As it turns out in the round of 16, Coco Gauff, who has not won a tournament this year, found herself once again losing to fellow American Emma Navarro as she did last July at Wimbledon in the very same fourth round.

After a good start on opening day, Coco Gauff, at 20-years-old, has a long career ahead of her that bears watching, along with other young American players like Taylor Fritz and Ben Shelton.

Being young is not necessarily the key to success in tennis. Just ask Spain's third-seeded 21-year-old Carlos Alcaraz, the winner already of four Grand Slams, who lost in the second round in three straight sets to Dutchman Botić van de Zandschulp.

Like everything in sports, the best players may rebound from losses and return to fight another day, and we hope to see them again at the US Open in 2025. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

It's well known that the Sacramento Kings have gotten little love over the years from the NBA pundits, and almost everyone outside of the city of Sacramento for literally decades. We can argue the merits, but imagine my surprise when of all people, I hear Stephen A. Smith recently come to the Kings defense.

Stephen A. was asked the question, "are there any surprises that we can look for in the upcoming season?" His response was, "the sleeper team in the NBA this year is the Sacramento Kings."

Now as elated as I was to hear something positive about our hometown team, Stephen A. didn't go on and on about the merits of the team. He simply believed that a lot of people have it wrong, and that with the recent addition of DeMar DeRozan, the Kings are going to surprise a lot of people.

No surprise to Kings fans I can assure you. Sacramento embraces their team with a fervor that most cities could only hope for and is rarely seen. I think of the Seattle Supersonics and realize that many cities don't appreciate what they have, but I have never seen that behavior in the city of Sacramento.

Yes, we are proud of our Kings team, and the expectations for the upcoming season are reaching a fever pitch. If you have a seat for opening night, you're holding a valuable commodity, and whatever you do, don't sell it.

I believe that the introductions alone for the starting lineup are worth the price of admission, and this team will undoubtedly get a standing ovation that is well deserved.

Excluding the Sacramento River Cats, and the offing of the Oakland A's coming to town next year, the Kings have been the sole representative of major league sports for Sacramento and the surrounding region for over 35 years.

For many years the hope of a season ticket was a pipe dream, and you could count on waiting 3-5 years. Sold out crowds every night would eventually translate into the Kings setting attendance records, and that with teams with a subpar winning record.

DeMar DeRozan cannot come to town

and do it alone, and he isn't expecting to!

De'Aaron Fox and Domantas Sabonis are not the only Kings that will vie for a spot on the all-star team this year, and I look for former NCAA scoring champ and three-point specialist Keegan Murray to put a stamp on his lofty #4 pick by the Kings two seasons ago.

Many were critical of Murray's selection, but a credible rookie season silenced most critics. Last season was a bit of a mixed bag, but I saw a young NBA player adding to his repertoire by developing his mid-range game and interior play significantly. Add to that rebounding at a higher clip and becoming more defensive minded, it makes me think Keegan is about to put it all together.

Everyone knows what we have in De'Aaron Fox and Domantas Sabonis, so while they consistently live up to expectations, have they reached their ceiling yet? I don't think so, but let's wait and see how much Mr. DeRozan can tip those scales.

Is there a number of wins that Kings fans are wanting, or even expecting? I hear the number 50 all the time and if that number is right, Sacramento fans are in for a real treat this year.

Recent acquisitions and trades have been tepid at best, but I am excited about the team assembled right now.

Little has been said about Orlando Robinson since he was acquired as a free agent, but at 6'10" and 235 lbs., I'll be watching intently as he interns under Mr. double-double Domantas Sabonis, and at the ripe old age of 24, Orlando has plenty of time to show Sacramento fans what his upside looks like.

Many players, some future hall-of-famers such as Kawhi Leonard, came into the league but took several seasons to find their stride, so I am hopeful that Orlando's time in Miami has been well spent, and what he needs now is a team that will give him the floor time he's looking for.

As always, stay tuned Kings fans. Training camp is less than 30 days away and the action is about to begin.

All the best!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com ★

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

Publisher,
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Subscription rate is \$52 per year within Dixon and Solano County. \$72 per year (Mail only).

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

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Food & Farm NEWS

California Fig Sector Hopes to Raise Profile of the Fruit

Figs are in peak season, and California growers say they have a quality crop this year that more retailers should promote for fresh eating, even if most of their production still ends up going to make dried fruit. They have been trying to change that for years by promoting fresh figs while they're in season and educating consumers, who may know the fruit only as a filling for a certain cookie. "We're really trying to liberate the fig from the Newton," said Karla Stockli, CEO of the California Fresh Fig Growers Association and the California Fig Advisory Board.

Imperial Valley Farmers Reduce Forage Crop Production to Save Water

Irrigators cut off water to a huge portion of the Imperial Valley's half-million acres of farmland earlier this month after the federal government approved a long-awaited program designed to bolster water levels on the Colorado River. The conservation agreement, authorized Aug. 12 by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Imperial Irrigation District, pays farmers to stop irrigating forage crops such as alfalfa for a period during the summer. Farmers participating in the "deficit irrigation" program will be compensated to sacrifice one or two hay cuttings.

Water-right Hearing Could Advance Long-planned Sites Reservoir

The plan to build California's first new major reservoir in decades is advancing as the state considers whether to issue a water-right permit for the proposed Sites Reservoir, an off-stream water storage project that could store up to 1.5 million acre-feet of annually. The California State Water Resources Control Board last week began a public hearing process on the project's water-right permit application. Representatives of agriculture, water districts and government agencies are urging the state water board to approve the water-right permit to advance the project.

UC Davis, Other Institutions to Study Seaweed as 'Sustainable' Specialty Crop

A multi-state grant has been awarded to help develop Pacific dulse seaweed as "a sustainable, nutritious specialty crop," the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced last week. The project is being undertaken by University of California, Davis, Oregon State University, University of Alaska Fairbanks and Kelp Line LLC. The effort is one of 65 projects to share in \$82.3 million in funding from the USDA's Specialty Crop Multi-State Grant Program. More than \$23.3 million in funding was awarded for specialty crop programs in California. ★

Ballot Initiatives Become Pawns in Democrat Schemes



Commentary by Ted Gaines

The shocking national political events have rightfully dominated the news of the past few weeks. But in relative obscurity, governments everywhere are still working, and the California political establishment has been busy waging a war of deception and disempowerment against our citizens. This time, they're targeting the ballot initiative process, an important form of direct democracy.

First is the death of the Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act (TPGAA), a voter-rights initiative aimed at putting the brakes on runaway taxes and fees plaguing our famously expensive state.

The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act would have put the tax- and fee-increase reins in voter hands, as summarized by the Wall Street Journal: "The initiative would require a majority of voters to approve taxes adopted by the Legislature. Both the Legislature and voters would have to approve regulatory action that increases state revenue. Charges for specific government services or products like fishing licenses would have to reflect the actual cost of providing the service or product. The initiative would also raise the threshold for localities to pass all special taxes to two-thirds."

When the initiative qualified to be placed on the ballot this November, what did Governor Newsom, the man who supposedly represents all 40 million

Californians, do? He sued to get it removed from the ballot, and a hyper-partisan California court sided with the Governor and removed the measure. The Governor and Legislature can't let anything disrupt their endless taxing and spending. The people won't even have a chance to tighten the reins on government growth. So much for democracy.

Next up are two cynical, pro-crime smokescreens floated by the Legislature and Governor Newsom to cloud the result of an actual tough-on-crime initiative on the November ballot.

The initiative, Prop. 36, would undo some of the infamous Prop. 47, which essentially legalized shoplifting under \$950 and gave blessing to open-air drug markets, turning California into a criminals' paradise and pushing retailers to the brink.

Prop. 36 will put some teeth back into the criminal justice system, protect businesses and families, punish criminals for a change, and mend the social fabric weakened by rampant crime and drug-den takeovers of our public spaces.

But the California Legislature is sadly and shockingly pro-criminal. To them, "the system" is always the problem, never the people who are filling up shopping carts and walking out of stores in broad daylight, with no fear of punishment.

So, they sprang into action by drafting a package of bills that sounded tough-on-crime but included "poison pills," meaning the bills would be voided if Prop. 36 passed. Voters reading the ballot summary for Prop. 36 could have been confused, thinking they were weakening law enforcement by voting for the measure.

Thankfully, this shameful deceit eventually collapsed under a massive outcry by

law enforcement and a public weary of crime.

After the bills failed, Governor Newsom floated another initiative to compete with Prop. 36, again to soften and undermine the commonsense changes found in the people's initiative. That last-minute effort cratered as well because even legislative Democrats refused to support a competing proposition to Prop. 36, leaving the people with an honest chance to change the course of the state this coming November.

Sacramento Democrats also understand that having Prop. 36 on the ballot hurts their chances in November. Their efforts to thwart the reforms in the initiative are as much political as they are philosophical.

Instead of obsessive politicking, the Democrats should look at their own policies and try to understand why a measure that punishes criminals, creates safe neighborhoods and businesses, and closes drug markets is considered an electoral threat to them.

The capitol is the people's building, not a walled fortress to protect incumbents and special interests, and voters are not an inconvenience to be shooed away by the courts or by trickery.

Despite the worst efforts of Sacramento Democrats, the people still have a chance to support Prop. 36 in November and build a brighter future for our state.

Senator Ted Gaines (Ret.) was elected to represent the Board of Equalization's First District. He is a leading taxpayer advocate, defender of Prop. 13, and is committed to providing trustworthy and transparent representation for nearly ten million constituents in 34 counties of northern, eastern, and southern California. For more information, visit www.boe.ca.gov/Gaines. ★

Assembly OKs Sen. Dodd's Defensible Space Bill



Office of Senator Bill Dodd News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, announced on Aug. 29 that the California Assembly has approved his measure to enhance wildfire safety by improving standards for creation of defensible space. "With more destructive and frequent wildfires, we must take every opportunity to protect ourselves and our communities,"

Dodd said. "One of the best things we can do is to clear the space around our homes of combustible brush and other flammable material. This bill will save lives by improving on my previous legislation on defensible space."

Dodd has long been a leader in wildfire legislation, authoring more than a dozen bills signed into law. This year, he continued with more bills, including Senate Bill 504. The proposal establishes more robust standards, especially for new construction and home upgrades, with the creation of an ember-resistant zone between five and 30 feet of a dwelling.

SB 504 was approved by overwhelming Assembly vote Aug. 28 and heads to Gov. Gavin Newsom for a signature following a

Senate concurrence vote. The bill is supported by local government including the city of Santa Rosa.

"Local firefighters know that in an emergency, every inch of defensible space counts," Santa Rosa City Councilmember Chris Rogers said. "This bill prioritizes resources to cities like Santa Rosa that have set safety standards and helped homeowners protect their properties. I look forward to my community benefiting when this bill is signed into law."

Senator Bill Dodd represents Senate District 3, which includes all or portions of Napa, Yolo, Sonoma, Solano, Sacramento and Contra Costa counties. More information on Senator Bill Dodd can be found at www.senate.ca.gov/dodd. ★



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Nellie Langley and Gregory Langley, 360 S. 3rd Street, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: June 25, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Married Couple. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 24, 2029. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: August 16, 23, 30, Sept 6, 2024
NELSONS 9-6-24

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Briarwood Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Lavona A. Hamilton, 107 Briarwood Drive, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Date filed in Solano County: August 5, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
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Publish: August 16, 23, 30, Sept 6, 2024
AMORETTE 9-6-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-001268
The following persons are doing business as: Jackys Mexican Restaurant & Bar, 127 North First Street, Dixon, CA 95620.
Maria Plascencia, 2205 Sweeney Drive, Woodland, CA 95776.
Date filed in Solano County: August 13, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section

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Publish: August 23, 30, Sept 6, 13, 2024
RAYS 9-13-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-001256
The following persons are doing business as: Ray's Kitchen, 645 N 1st Street, Dixon, CA 95620.
Rehman Saeed, 645 N 1st Street, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: August 12, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
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Publish: August 23, 30, Sept 6, 13, 2024
RAYS 9-13-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-001272
The following persons are doing business as: King of Pottery, 320 E Tabor Avenue Apt 09, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Alejandro Comelio Victoria, 320 E Tabor Avenue Apt 09, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Date filed in Solano County: August 14, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: August 14, 2024
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration August 21, 2029. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section

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Publish: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
NORTH 9-27-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024001277
The following persons are doing business as: Ryan's Automotive Service Center, 1203 North Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Ryan's Automotive Center, 1203 North Texas Street, Fairfield, CA 94533.
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Publish: September 6, 13, 20, 27, 2024
RYANS 9-27-24



California Seizes More Than \$120 Million in Illegal Cannabis

Office of Governor Gavin Newsom News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In strong support of California's legal cannabis market, Governor Gavin Newsom announced that since January, California's Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force (UCETF) has seized more than \$120 million worth of illegal cannabis, destroyed nearly 37 tons of unlicensed cannabis, including 122,914 illegal plants. As part of these operations, state law enforcement officials have also seized 22 firearms.

brings billions of dollars to our state's economy, helping to sustain California's position as the fifth largest economy in the world. We will not tolerate illegal operations that threaten our economy and the health and well-being of California communities," Governor Gavin Newsom said.

In recent months, the task force conducted operations in 11 California counties, including Mendocino, Tuolumne, Shasta, Orange, Kern, Alameda, Yuba, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Butte and Trinity.

"UCETF's efforts are continuing to break new ground in unlicensed

cannabis enforcement by leveraging the expertise and knowledge of its diverse group of partners to disrupt the unlicensed market," said Bill Jones, Chief of the Law Enforcement Division with the Department of Cannabis Control.

Taking Down Illicit Cannabis

Governor Newsom has directed state agencies to aggressively target the organized criminal enterprises involved in the illicit cannabis market. These illegal schemes not only threaten California's legal cannabis market, but the use of illegal pesticides and unregulated practices harm California's environment and water

quality. California is also focused on ending the exploitation of vulnerable workers at these sites, who are often victims of labor violations and human trafficking.

"The continued success of UCETF is a testament to the collaboration between its partner agencies. Due to the high level of engagement from each of the agencies involved, we are able to move swiftly against those who choose to continue to grow cannabis illegally," said Nathaniel Arnold, Chief of the Law Enforcement Division with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and co-lead of the Unified

Cannabis Enforcement Task Force. A Unified Strategy Across California

In 2022, Governor Newsom created the Unified Cannabis Enforcement Task Force to further align state efforts and increase cannabis enforcement coordination between state, local, and federal partners. The enforcement actions protect consumer and public safety, safeguard the environment, and deprive illegal cannabis operators and transnational criminal organizations of illicit revenue that harms consumers and undercuts the regulated cannabis market in California. ★

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- ACROSS**
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 - Lockheed Martin Corporation @NYSE
 - Desert in central Asia
 - Tinder user?
 - Distinctive period in history
 - Munchausen's title
 - Likewise
 - Campfire leftover
 - Jason Bateman/Laura Linney TV drama
 - *Traditionally clipped
 - *OS in POS at the supermarket
 - Bro's sibling
 - "... there, done that"
 - T in Greek
 - FBI's cold one
 - Windshield ____, pl.
 - "The ____ for Red October"
 - Coach of Dallas Mavericks
 - Bow's partner
 - Black and white killer
 - Be in accord
 - First word in fairy tale
 - Formerly known as Pleasant Island
 - Long-lasting Steelers coach
 - TV's "man named Brady"
 - "GO in BOGO
 - French "place"
 - 6th sense
 - Adored one
 - What cruelty and crush have in common
 - *Dairy aisle package
 - *S&H Green ____
 - Non motorized vessel
 - I have
 - Nev.'s neighbor
 - Offspring, collectively
 - Rank above maj.
 - Visual
 - QBR in football, e.g.
 - Will Ferrell's Christmas classic
 - Like a gymnast
- DOWN**
- *What registers do
 - Nonclerical
 - Football legend Graham
 - Unborn vertebrate
 - ... of Cancer
 - *Like freezer aisle "Cuisine"
 - *"Robinson" by Simon & Garfunkel
 - California/Nevada lake
 - Mediterranean Strip
 - Not written
 - Dull one
 - Pen juice
 - Home to Sarajevo
 - Port city in Japan
 - Like marines in slogan
 - Cowboy's bedding
 - Flip-flop
 - Plural of aura
 - Adam Sandler's " ____ Gems"
 - Manual communication gesture
 - High school ball
 - Bert's TV buddy
 - Ice in a cocktail
 - TV's "Supermarket

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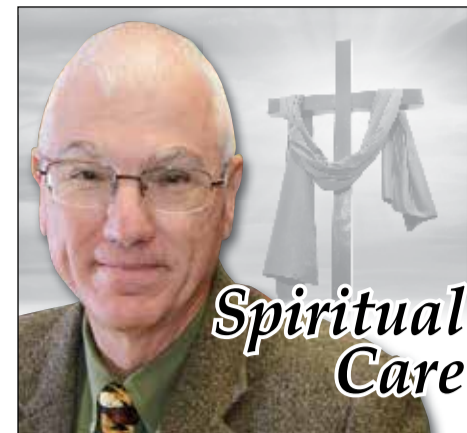
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Labor Day Reading Needn't be Laborious



Spiritual Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

Early September, just after Labor day, I share my annual book recommendations as well as shamelessly plug my own four books. So if you read only one book this year, read all four of mine.

But after that, please read "The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism" by Tim Alberta. (Harper Books, 2024.)

The title may sound a bit like a political argument, but it recounts the heartfelt struggle by a journalist who suddenly loses his beloved pastor dad. He's honored to preach his father's funeral, but he's soon lambasted by family friends for his journalistic coverage of the political machinery that has crept into the church.

The situation sends Alberta on a journey to understand the tension between his professional responsibilities as a journalist and his deeply personal, conservative, Christian faith.

The book's main strength is Alberta's storytelling. Each chapter employs biblical insight and shares stories of everyday pastors who struggle to understand their role in contemporary politics.

Spoiler alert: Alberta deeply believes that God calls his followers to obey Jesus, not politicians. His conclusions are so biblically-based that I read the last chapter aloud as my sermon a few months back.

Also mentioned in some of my past sermons is the book "An Immense World," by Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist, Ed Yong.

The book challenged my human-centric perspective, the tendency to limit my views to only what I personally can make out with my own eyes.

Yong bases his book on the Umwelt Concept, a theory that differentiates how creatures perceive their environs in ways that are often unimaginable to humans.

For example, bats use echolocation to navigate in complete darkness, while certain fish can detect electric fields in the water. These abilities demonstrate the vast diversity of sensory experiences across the animal kingdom.

By simplifying complex scientific concepts, Yong makes them understandable for readers of all backgrounds. Anecdotes and interviews with researchers bring the science to life, highlighting the astonishing diversity of perception in the animal kingdom.

Whether you're a science enthusiast or simply curious about the natural world, "An Immense World" is a must-read that will leave you marveling at the unseen wonders of God's world.

The next book on my list, "The Demon of Unrest," by Erik Larson, may evoke images of the Jan. 6 attack on the nation's capital and those who sought to circumvent the certification of the electoral college.

Well, not quite. But almost. This insurrection began 164 years ago, November 6, 1860, after congress peacefully certified the election results for Abraham Lincoln.

Drawing on diaries, secret communiques, slave ledgers and plantation records, the book focuses on a lonely federal fortress in Charleston Harbor: Fort Sumter.

The fort becomes a helpless pawn, as South Carolina leads one state after another to secede from the Union. Within six months of the election, the Confederacy opens the Civil War by shelling the U.S. garrison of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.

At the heart of this battle is Major Robert Anderson, Sumter's commander and a former slave owner sympathetic to the South but loyal to the Union.

In the middle of it all, the overwhelmed Lincoln must deal with his double-dealing Secretary of State, William Seward, as he tries to avoid a war that will eventually kill 750,000 Americans.

Erik Larson's sharp prose and keen insights have caused me to read all his books. But "Demons of Unrest" is a definite read for anyone interested in how history can repeat itself.

After reading these, I hope you'll consider reading one of my books: "Tell it to the Chaplain," "Thriving Beyond Surviving," "Hero's Highway" and "No Small Miracles."

Finally, if you happen to be the romantic type, check out Davalynn Spencer's books. This award-winning Christian romance writer has edited my column for 15 years and is clearly a good judge of great writing. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

There are No Shortcuts



When someone is successful, they are more visible than when they were struggling along their path to attain their goals. Few people draw much attention while they are confronting challenges and overcoming numerous obstacles.

When a person has reached the top of the mountain and is standing on the summit, they are much more visible than when they were climbing up the side. We all desire success, however we define it.

However, very few of us relish the time and effort required to bring our dreams to reality. Our fantasy is to be instantly successful, living happily ever after, forever. Therefore, the possibility of any type of shortcut has a certain innate appeal.

The reality is that shortcuts typically don't produce the desired results. In fact, shortcuts invariably extend the journey towards success and may even derail it. Rewards come to those who are willing to expend the required energy.

Reaching your goals is like climbing a ladder. The only way to get to the top is to climb one rung at a time. A ladder with missing rungs is unsafe. In order to reach a summit, a mountain climber starts at the bottom and takes as many steps as needed to arrive at the peak.

On your journey to success, there are certain steps you must go through. Any shortcut will attract what you don't want. Before becoming reality, a goal requires a specific mix of components.

You must have enough desire. The higher the goal, the stronger the desire required. There is a big difference in results between someone who says, "I'd like to do that, it would be nice if it happens," and another person who exclaims, "I want that more than anything else, I'll do whatever it takes to make it happen."

A burning desire keeps you going in spite of setbacks, obstacles and challenges. Unless you want it bad enough, you are likely to give up when the going gets tough. Successful people

have a laser like desire that keeps them focused on their destination.

Effort is also essential. Anything worthwhile takes effort. Being successful takes a lot of effort. Working hard while working smart is essential. Not only is the easy road not a route to success, the so-called easy road isn't that easy or rewarding.

Successful people never take the path of least resistance. They are more noticeable once they have attained their dreams than when they were trudging up the mountain. There may be envy of success, but never of the hard work.

Success also takes time. Exactly how much time is needed is never known. Subsequently, many people give up when they are right around the corner from succeeding. Since you don't know how long your path is, you never know how close you are to your destination, and therefore you should never give up, believing you have failed.

Shortcuts are appealing because they offer the illusion of success without effort. Again, there is no such thing. Shortcuts are in reality, pitfalls. Common shortcuts are cheating, stealing, deception, profiting while causing harm, unethical behavior, taking advantage of others, and illegal activities.

All of the above shortcuts will attract negative, rather than positive outcomes. There may be some very short-term gains, but the long-term journey of those choosing this path will be filled with undesirable consequences.

Don't look for shortcuts and don't take them if offered. Shortcuts have never worked for others, and they won't work for you. You will achieve your dreams if you are willing to take the journey. Once you reach your goal, you will be glad you avoided shortcuts.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@cornerstoneindixon.com or write him c/o this paper. ©2024 Bryan Golden ★

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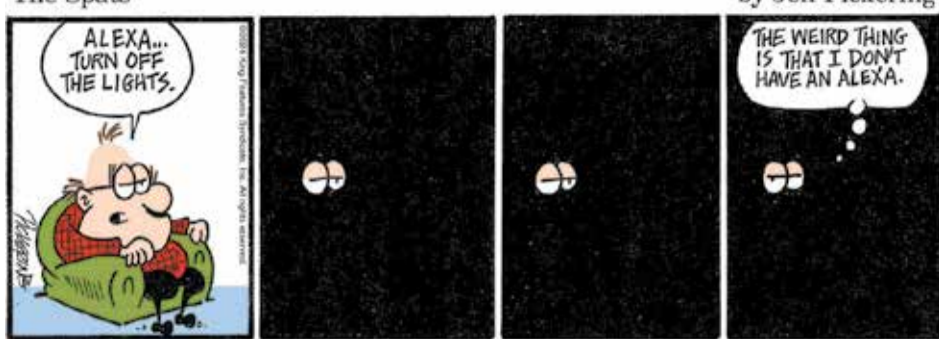
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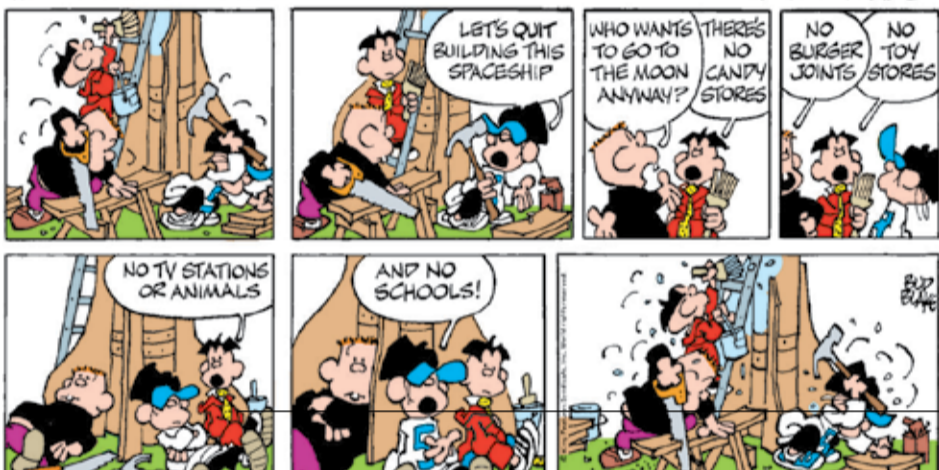


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Colleen Gnos Brings Dixon's History to Life in New Mural

Dixon Historical Society and Museum News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon native and artist Colleen Gnos has spent months to research, plan and paint the region's rich legacy in her latest 14' x 14' narrative mural, "A History of Dixon," commissioned by the Dixon Historical Society and Museum.

It's the most intricate mural Gnos has painted to date, with in-depth back stories, symbolism and cultural references that she investigated and collaborated on with Museum Board members.

Museum leaders Kim Schroeder-Evans and Diane Schroeder coordinated their original mural vision with Gnos. They shared hundreds of reference photos as the complex project evolved. They requested representations of the area's indigenous Wintun/Patwin tribe, Los Californios land grant families, the California Pacific Railroad expansion, the Dickson family and the naming of Dixon and the presence of the Pony Express and Los Braceros program in the region.

Gnos also included pictorial vignettes of first settlers, business owners, wildlife, historic medicinal plants, landmarks such as the local Milk Farm and Dixon United Methodist Church, and agricultural industries, such as sheep ranches, dairy farms, former beet fields, and tomato crops. Gnos grew up watching her father harvest tomatoes, and she has included a similar memory in the mural in tribute to her heritage and local farmers.

The artist shared, "I enjoyed diving into the history of the town where I grew up, and bringing Dixon's story to life! It was exciting to learn about the Wintun Nations that lived on the land where my family now farms. I was fortunate to work with an elder, Pam Gonzales who grew up in the Wintun culture. I feel privileged that she entrusted me with this important depiction of her tribal story."

This week, the San Luis Obispo, CA award-winning muralist will install eight sections to complete Dixon's latest public art. She will share her inspiration and process to create "A History of Dixon" at a public celebration of the mural's unveiling and ribbon-cutting, 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sep. 5 at the Dixon Historical Society and Museum, 125 West A Street, Dixon, CA, (707) 693-3044.

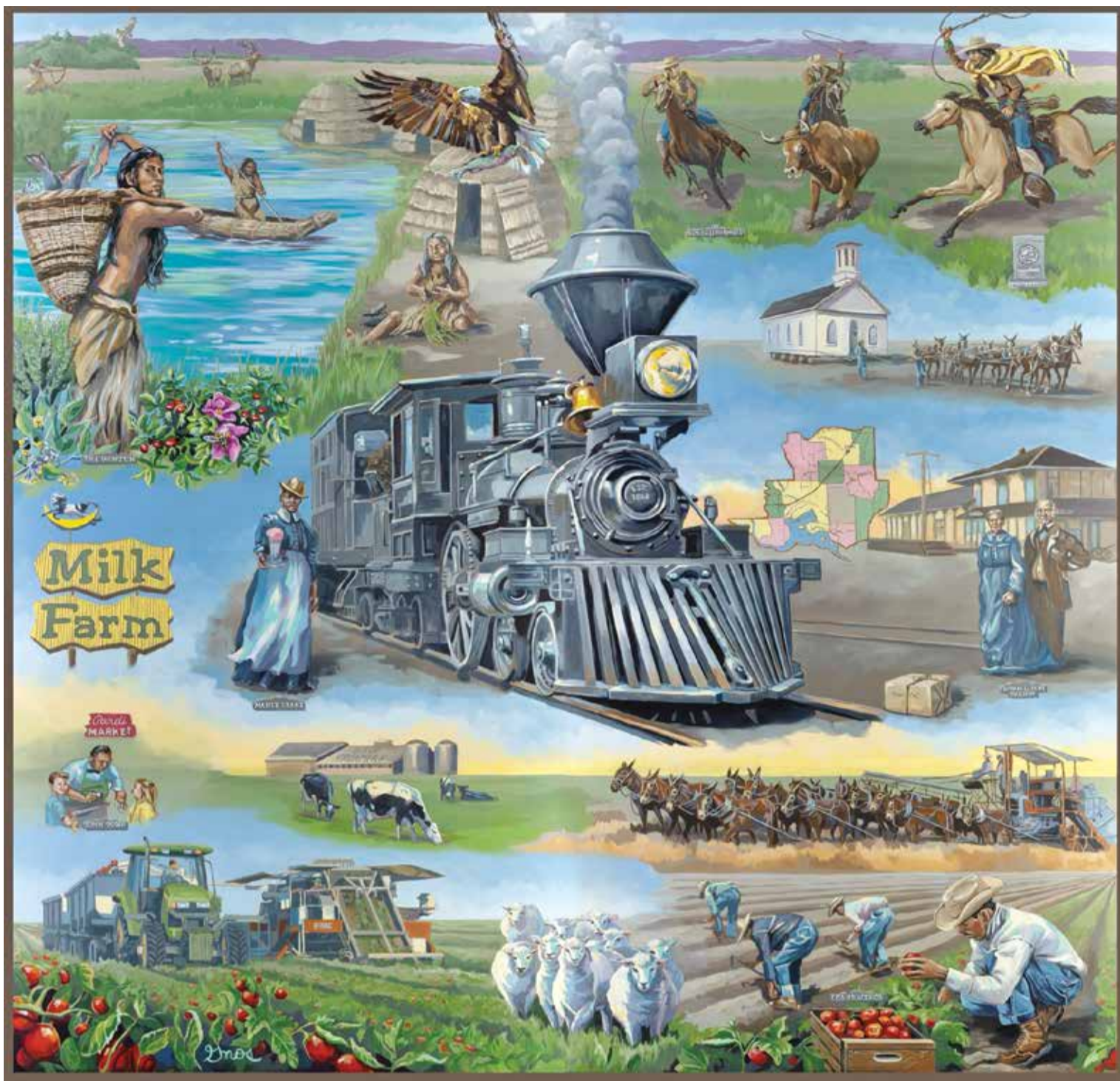
Board members will describe more of the mural's background. The Museum's new curator will also be introduced, along with some of the town's historic families. <https://www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org/>

Schroeder-Evans is excited to include the public in the unveiling of their new art.

"This mural captures the various histories of the diverse cultural groups who contributed to both agriculture and business. I'm amazed at how Colleen squeezed so much into this mural and appreciate the time it took to do this. This will become a wonderful teaching tool for our school visits to the museum, and it will beautify downtown Dixon," Schroeder-Evans said.

To document the mural's creation and progress, Gnos shared a series of time-elapsd videos and work-in-progress photos on social media of this large painting. Her posts show dozens of brainstorm sketches. She made larger, more intricate renderings to present for Museum Board approval, which can be seen at <https://www.facebook.com/colleen.gnos>.

Whenever possible, Gnos prefers to prepare and paint her murals in her studio for efficiency and quality control. Then she and husband Che Miller transport the art and scaffolding to the site and install finished painted panels onto custom-built aluminum frames created by metalsmith Rick Gordon. For "A History of Dixon" Gnos will touch up painting details, then apply two layers of clear surface protection to handle Dixon's year-round weather conditions, and to elude future



The ribbon cutting for the unveiling of "A History of Dixon" will be held Sept. 5. Photo courtesy of Dixon Historical Society and Museum



Colleen Gnos poses with her many sketches in preparation of the mural. Photo courtesy of Dixon Historical Society and Museum



Colleen Gnos' mural will pay tribute to the rich history of Dixon. Photo courtesy of Dixon Historical Society and Museum

graffiti damage.

The Dixon Historical Society and Museum was eager for Gnos to paint their mural based on her other local works in the

region, and due to her standing as an acclaimed artist. In September 2023, California Arts Council selected Gnos as one of Central California's established

artists. They presented her with an esteemed "Individual Fellowship Award & Grant" for her decades of dedication to her art practice. San Luis Obispo

New Times also awarded their "Best Visual Artist" Reader's Poll several years to Gnos.

Gnos has painted several murals in Solano County in recent years. Her 20-foot free-standing "Stewards of the Soil" off Interstate 80 honors Dixon farmers and California's agricultural communities. "Remembrance: Life's Seasons" is a 3.5' x 60' tribute mural at Dixon High School that honors the lives of three students and a teacher who died in 2019. Dixon's St. Peter's Catholic Church showcases Gnos' altar backdrops and extensive marbled columns and wood grain detail. "Gazing into Infinity" in Woodland, CA shows the story of a hardworking man connected to his farm, reflecting the industrious lifestyle of families who work their own land.

Closer to her current Shell Beach, CA home, Gnos' well-regarded eight-panel mural on two Avila Beach lifeguard towers celebrates her family's personal legacy, including the beach town's local history. "Avila Beach Ocean Stewardship: Past & Present" is Central Coast Aquarium's commissioned mural. It portrays the adjacent ocean's biodiversity with two panoramic views: historical sea life images, and preservation concerns for today's marine life. There are several other private residences and small business murals that Gnos' neighborhoods enjoy, too.

The busy artist, surfer and mother of two grown sons is also a bassist in her husband Che Miller's band, The Mother Corn Shuckers. The public is invited to see Gnos' art in person during San Luis Obispo County Arts Council's annual "Open Studios Art Tour," Sunday, Oct. 12 through 13 and 19 through 20. Find more information at <https://www.gnosart.com/events/2024/10/12/2024-open-studios-art-tour>.

Gnos' love of storytelling, her skill to reflect the human form, and her fascination with history is clear in her artwork that she creates with reverence. Her art is a meaningful & magical mirror of the world we live in.

"I guess that's what motivates me to pick up my paintbrush every week, no matter the size of the work I'm creating. My mission is to make art that touches people, to connect and heal communities," she said.

Explore more of Gnos' art at <https://www.gnosart.com>. ★