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Dixon

Independent Voice

VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 38

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

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Fifty-Year Class Reunion Happening



The Dixon High School Class of 1974 celebrates at a previous reunion. Courtesy photo

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you noticed some new faces in Dixon this past week that bear a few wrinkles and maybe silver hair, you might have spotted folks in town who will attend the 50th class reunion of Dixon High School’s Class of 1974 this Saturday, Sept. 21.

The class members had so much school spirit that there are actually two groups that they are part of, although this group is exclusive to the year 1974 that had about 100 graduates.

“For some reason, our class was actually kind of small,” said alumni Shane Taber whose “claim to fame” was that she was



The Dixon High School Class of 1974 Reunion Committee started working on their 50th Class reunion last fall. They are Shane Taber, James Bounds, Jr. and Lynne (Hanna) Lincoln in back with Christina Cerna and Jill (Ferguson) Orr in front. Courtesy photo

the first female class president elected at Dixon High. Now living in Arizona, Taber is helping with the reunion. Some of the locals helping to plan are Lynne (Hanna) Lincoln, James Bounds, Jr., Jill (Ferguson) Orr, Phyllis (Kleeberger) Seelye and Christina Cerna.

The other group is an all-70s Class and that group will hold one in a couple of years, Taber added. This exclusive to 1974 gathering will be in the private event room next door to Pedro’s Cocina which includes a lighted patio area and a full bar at 1425 Market Lane.

“I think we are really fortunate to have such a wonderful group of kids
Continued on page 10

Planning Commission Discusses Security for Business



Dixon Wellness Collective Cannabis owner Haley Andrew points to her husband in the crowd, who she notes supports her but is not a partner in the all-female-owned business. Photo courtesy of the Territorial Dispatch

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Cannabis commerce contains specific security measures.

Dixon Wellness Cannabis Collective was up for discussion at the Planning Commission meeting on Sept. 12, with elected officials discussing amending a previously approved conditional-use permit that first required bulletproof glass.

“We do not eliminate the bulletproof glass component but there are acceptable alternatives such as a pony wall,” associate planner Scott Greeley said.

Before reviewing the application, Planning Commission Chair Jack Caldwell and Commissioner Randy said they toured 1150 N. 1st St., suites B and C. A staff report cites the 2018 permit allowing the business to open and the early 2024 Dixon Police Department security inspection.

Along with police department compliance, the report cites “a few issues related to their approved security plan, explicitly citing the lack of security, ballistic, and glass around the reception station.”

Before discussing any matter, Commissioner Frank Drayton wanted to know how the business could go nearly six years without an inspection.

While Community Development director Raffi Boloyan, who quickly reviewed documents, could not find mandated annual inspections, Police Chief Robert Thompson cleared up the matter virtually.

“I am not going to discuss our inspection schedule or regime in specifics,” Thompson said over the phone. “I am sure you can understand that for security reasons, those are not things we want in the public space.”

The store owner, Haley Andrew, said the last time that her all-female-owned business was inspected was in 2023.

However, due to “bad
Continued on page 6

Making a Life-Saving Technology Purchase



Dixon Fire Department Battalion Chief Nick Warren said the new fire department technology offers better response time in life-saving situations. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A fire can double in size in 30 to 60 seconds.

Dixon Fire Department Battalion Chief Nick Warren said that is one reason public safety technology advances exponentially.

For that reason, elected officials approved a new Tablet Command software

being implemented here now. Staff reports show that the Vacaville, Suisun and Montezuma Fire Protection Districts and the City of Rio Vista are the only remaining agencies within Solano not utilizing the software.

“The current timing is quite advantageous as our mutual aid partners both in Solano and Yolo counties have or are currently

adopting Tablet Command as part of their operations,” Warren said. “This allows us to develop and grow concurrently with our partners and ensure our technological capabilities for today and beyond.”

The battalion chief said that the Dixon Fire Department, like all Solano County fire agencies, provides automatic and mutual aid to each other.

“Interoperability must be a core priority for all agencies through common language, communications and technology,” Warren said, adding that Tablet Command’s ability to drop jurisdictional boundaries between agencies is an advantage few products have.

Warren used real life as an example.

Continued on page 6



Life's *too* SHORT

Outside or Inside?

By Debra Dingman

Moving to a new community is hard. You don't know where to get your hair done, your nails done or who is a reputable plumber. You're not sure where to get your tires rotated or the shortest route to say Travis Air Force Base or UC Davis when Interstate 80 is clogged and where doctors, dentists or medical centers are.

Often, newcomers feel like they are outsiders in our wonderful little but growing town of Dixon, even though they chose to move here.

I remember some friends who moved to Dixon from San Jose who commuted back to San Jose for everything. "Why live here?" I once asked them. They liked all their "old" contacts, they said.

It is my opinion that life is more exciting when you step out of your ruts or grooves or old ways and try something new. And the sooner the better because it takes time to get to know all these things. But Dixon has almost everything anyone could need!

Fortunately, there is an upcoming meet-up that can help a lot of newcomers get to know the ins and outs of Dixon and it is the Chamber of Commerce's nonprofit meet up on Wednesday, Sept. 25. It is free and will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Train Depot building across from the Dixon United

Methodist Church. They will also offer root beer floats...

Getting involved in one's community gives you opportunities to meet other local people who will gladly "advise" or share with you which are the best restaurants and which times to stay off A Street due to students going to and getting out of school.

They can also invite you to attend the Rotary pancake breakfast, take part in the May Fair Parade, enjoy the Dixon May Fair, go to Pardi Plaza concerts and movies, and don't miss the Hall Park fireworks or Lambtown.

But I warn new people in Dixon that they might want to "settle in" because when I moved to Dixon in 1992, I thought I'd just stay at the newspaper for a few years until I found a better job. But then I got hooked on the friendliness of Dixonites and fell in love with the opportunities to serve a community which made me feel valuable and helpful. It was also wonderful to easily get around the town's triangle of roads. It has been great to raise a family here and live on the "inside" of life.

Whether you moved here to be closer to your children or closer to a job, please step in. Of course, those who know me know that I believe that attending a church is the very best way to cover all the bases. Thanks for reading! ★

Dixon News Briefs

By MPG Staff

Away Game

Dixon High School Football on Sept. 20 will be played at El Camino High School in Sacramento with JV at 5 p.m. and Varsity starting at 7 p.m. The following week, Sept. 27, the Rams will play against Sutter on their Dixon home turf at 5 p.m. for JV and 7 p.m. for Varsity. Mark your calendar for Oct. 11 for our homecoming game against Woodland. Come out and support our Rams!

Parks and Recreation

The City Parks and Rec Commission will be meeting this coming Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street. All city agendas are available on the Thursday before the scheduled meeting on the city website at cityofdixon.us.

POW Recognition Day

On Friday, Sept. 20, there will be a National POW-MIA Recognition Day Closing Ceremony at the Solano County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Hall at 10 a.m.

The Solano County Board of Supervisors recognized this date as National POW/MIA Recognition Day in Solano County and will honor Prisoner of War and United States Air Force Lt. Col. Richard C. Brenneman (Ret.) for his unwavering patriotism and distinguished service to our country. It is sponsored by numerous agencies but is put on by a private organization and is not part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and it has no governmental status. (Supervisor Vasquez)

Library Soccer

The Dixon Public Library has announced that through the whole month of October, children are invited to learn new soccer skills and make new friends at the Dixon Library Outdoor Patio. Minis – ages 2 and 3 will start at 3:30 and run until 4 p.m. Classic group for ages four and five will be from 4:10 to 4:55 p.m. Then, Premiere ages, which are six to eight will be from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Sign-ups are required. Visit solanolibrary.com/events. The library is located at 230 North First S. in downtown Dixon.

Grace Kids Club

Grace Fellowship Church has kicked off their Grace Kids Club on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 535 West



There will be no veteran's dinner on Friday, Sept. 20 due to the annual veteran's fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 21, where there will be plenty of raffle items. The special dinner offers tri-tip or roasted chicken thighs, potatoes, salad, rolls and a dessert auction. Tickets are \$30 each or \$55 for two. The Veteran's Memorial Hall is located at 1305 North First St. next to the newly reopened Napa Auto Parts. Courtesy photo

H St. This is for children kindergarten through fifth-grade. We will explore the mysteries of the Bible and discover God's love and promises. Call 707-678-5700 or email DxonGraceFellowship@gmail.com. They will explore the mysteries of the Bible and discover God's love and promises.

Catholic School Gala

The Valley of the Sacred Heart invites the public to its annual Gala of dinner, dancing, student displays plus live and silent auctions to be held Oct. 19 at the Olde Vet's Hall, 231 North First St. across from the public library. It will feature Dale Ahlquist as the keynote speaker.

Dr. Ahlquist is an American author and advocate of the thought of G. K. Chesterton, which is the foundation of Dixon's Catholic School, Valley of the Sacred Heart. He is the president and co-founder of the American Chesterton Society. Tickets are now on sale for couples at \$120 and singles at \$65 with tables sold for \$700. All proceeds benefit the building and scholarship fund. St. Peter's Catholic Church is home for Valley of the Sacred Heart Academy and more information is available at 105 South Second St. or call 707-678-9424. ★

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Meet the Nonprofits



Several nonprofit organizations were represented helping a local 100-year-old veteran in the past year. Nonprofit organizations serve the Dixon community in a myriad of ways. Photo by Debra Dingman

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The upcoming Nonprofits Mixer sponsored by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce will be on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at the Chamber office, 220 North Jefferson.

Attending events in downtown Dixon is a fun way to stay connected to what is going on and visiting with long-time friends or making new ones. Another opportunity is on its way.

“Going downtown for public events is exciting, isn’t it? What I enjoy most is running into old friends and colleagues and chatting to catch up. I also enjoy meeting new people and telling them all about what’s new at Dixon Family Services and one great opportunity coming very soon for information, socialization, refreshments and networking is the Nonprofits Mixer,” said Cookie Powell, Director of Dixon Family Services.

“Many local non-profits organizations, including Dixon Family Services, will have tables set up and will talk to anyone interested in learning more about us. The local nonprofit organizations will have representatives to answer questions, give brochures and lots of freebies. Best of all, you’ll get to meet lots of nice people who serve worthy functions for people of all ages in our community,” she added.

Other nonprofits participating are: American Legion; Change and New Beginnings; Community Medical Centers; Dixon High Athletic Association; Dixon Historical Society; Dixon Lions Club; Dixon Rotary Club; Habitat for Humanity; Kiwanis Club; Solano Black Chamber of Commerce;

Solano Library - Dixon Branch; Travis Credit Union; Vaca Jazz Society; and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The idea of the Nonprofit Mixer came up at one of our Nonprofit Roundtable meetings that the Chamber hosts monthly.

“The thinking was that if we could get some of them together, they could share information and resources, and build relationships,” said Chamber CEO/President Shauna Manina. “They would also have the opportunity to let members of the public who attend know what they do. Each group will have a table with their information.”

If you’re new to Dixon and want to know how you can join a service organization, a human services agency, church, club, or any number of groups that will enable you to get involved in our lovely community, this is a good place to start your search, she reminded.

The Sept. 25 mixer is free and will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Train Depot building next to the railroad track and tunnel.

In Other News about Dixon Family Services

Established in 1984, Dixon Family Services has been responsible for thousands of improved lives, and healthier, safer households in this community. Dixon Family Services has tickets for the 40th Anniversary Celebration Comedy Night 2024 featuring comedian David Studebaker from 6 to 10 p.m. Sept. 28. Admission includes dinner catered by Bud’s Pub & Grill with a no-host bar and dessert auction.

Tickets are on sale at the Dixon Florist and the Dixon Chamber of Commerce ★

CHP Swears in Largest Class of New Officers in Over Two Years



CHP welcomed 119 new officers at the Sept. 13 ceremony in West Sacramento. Photo courtesy of CHP

California Highway Patrol News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Sept. 13, 119 new officers took their oath to serve and protect the people of California during a graduation ceremony at the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Academy in West Sacramento.

This latest class represents a significant step forward in the CHP’s ongoing effort to hire 1,000 officers as part of a statewide recruitment initiative to attract diverse and qualified candidates.

“I am grateful to these officers for their service and commitment to protecting Californians and our neighborhoods. As this class advances to posts throughout the Golden State, they should do so with pride, knowing that they represent the best of California as public servants dedicated to making a positive difference in their communities,” said Governor Gavin Newsom.

“These individuals have chosen a path of public service and have undergone months of intense training to prepare,” said CHP Commissioner Sean Duryee. “This career is one of the biggest challenges they will ever undertake, but it is by far the most rewarding. We are honored to welcome them into the CHP family.”

The swearing-in ceremony marks the conclusion of a rigorous 26-week training program at the CHP Academy. The new officers will soon begin their assignments at one of California’s 102 CHP Area offices, serving communities

throughout the state.

Training at the CHP Academy is comprehensive, beginning with a foundation in nobility in policing, leadership, ethics, and cultural diversity. Cadets also receive specialized instruction in responding to mental health crises, vehicle patrol, crash investigation, first aid, and apprehending impaired drivers. Additional training covers traffic control, report writing, stolen vehicle recovery, assisting motorists, emergency scene management, and mastery of the California Vehicle Code, Penal Code, and Health and Safety Code.

The CHP has seen an outpouring of interest in joining the ranks since the onset of a multiyear recruitment campaign in June 2022. Last year, more than 19,500 applications were submitted to the Department by people interested in a career serving the public as an officer. With more than 16,000 applications submitted in the first eight months of 2024, the CHP is on track to surpass the total from last year. To accommodate the increased number of applicants, the CHP began conducting three concurrent cadet classes at our live-in training facility, resulting in six classes graduating per year. The next cadet graduation from the CHP Academy is scheduled for Nov. 15.

For more information about a life-changing career with the CHP, visit our website or join us at the upcoming hiring seminar on Saturday, Sept. 21.

The mission of the California Highway Patrol is to provide Safety, Service, and Security. ★



Solano County HOME SHOW

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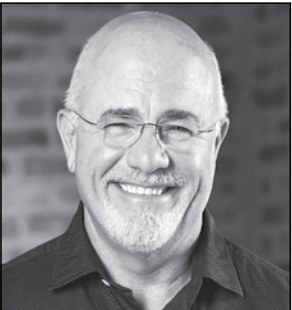
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- Solar & Lighting
- Arts & Crafts
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- Games & More

The original host of HGTV's "Yard Crashers" will host demos/workshops and Q&A both Saturday and Sunday.

AHMED HASSAN

CELEBRITY LANDSCAPER





Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

I'm pretty responsible with finances, but my girlfriend is in a bad situation with her money and her career. She has a huge car payment, and lots of credit card debt. On top of this, it takes almost 40% of what she brings home each month just to pay rent, and she quit her job because she decided she didn't like it anymore. She's been floating lots of ideas, like filing bankruptcy or moving in with me. She thinks us living together will help her learn to be more responsible with her finances. I'm concerned that if she can't handle her finances on her own, what will happen if we move in together? Your advice would be appreciated.

– Dan

Dear Dan,

I can't say if she's technically bankrupt at this point. But for starters, she definitely needs to sell the car and find a cheaper place to live. I'm also not

Dave Ramsey Says A “Heart Problem”

sure how long you two have been seeing each other, but this is someone to keep dating, not marry or let move in.

The hard reality is that bankruptcy's not going to solve anything if she's got a heart problem. By “heart problem,” I mean if she buys things thinking stuff will make her happy and living way beyond her means in the process. Lots of folks mistakenly think they are where they live or what they drive. Those are the kinds of heart problems I'm talking about. And it's the way I was years ago before going broke knocked some sense into me. It wasn't until then I realized I had to make some serious changes in my life.

Don't get me wrong. What I've just said doesn't mean this lady's a bad person. It just means she's got some growing up to do. And all the money matters aside, you don't just up and quit your job without a solid plan in place unless there's a serious matter of principle at stake, or you're the victim of abuse or harassment. Leaving one job for another is fine. But the idea of suddenly deciding you

just don't like something, then walking away from it when you've got a bunch of financial obligations, is just plain irresponsible. You don't jump off the dock until the boat arrives!

Again, I don't know all the details behind her finances, but chances are she's not bankrupt. There are some character issues in all this that need to be addressed, though. If it were me, I'd suggest she spend some time seeing a good financial counselor—one with the heart of a teacher. Then, you can act as her support system to help keep her on track, and encourage her to keep moving forward toward getting control of her money.

– 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. ★



Avian Flu Cases Put Three California Dairies Under Quarantine

Three Central Valley dairy herds remain under quarantine after cows in the herds tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza. The positive findings, which the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed on Aug. 30, mark the first time highly pathogenic avian influenza, or HPAI, has been detected in California dairy cows. Since March 25, 13 other states have detected HPAI in dairy cows, with a total 197 confirmed cases as of Sept. 9. The sick cows have been isolated, CDFA said, and healthy cows have been cleared to continue shipping milk.

As Prices Drop, Almond Growers Diversify to Other Crops

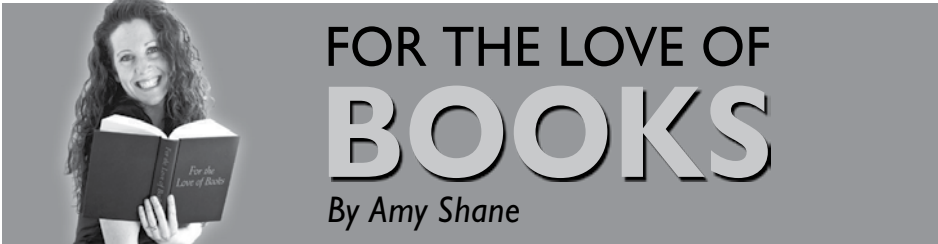
As almond prices have dropped, growers say they are focused on their bottom lines, looking for ways to diversify their crop portfolios and identify other income to shore up narrowing profit margins. Fresno County farmer Matt Efird, who grows almonds, pistachios, walnuts, canning peaches and feed crops, said, “If a grower can have a diversified portfolio, that's the way to go because you can hopefully cover the lows with income from other crops.” The average almond price per pound has fallen from \$2.45 in 2019 to \$1.40 last year.

Biotech Wheat Variety Gets USDA Approval for Cultivation

A transgenic wheat variety with increased drought tolerance and resistance to the herbicide glufosinate has been given the green light for cultivation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In its review of HB4 wheat, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service last month determined the wheat “is unlikely to pose an increased plant pest risk” compared to similar wheat plants. Completion of the regulatory review paves the way for HB4 wheat to be grown for food and feed, though other steps are needed before the product can be brought to market.

House Panel Hears Concerns Over Water Supplies for Agriculture

California's role in U.S. food security took center stage last week at a hearing in the Central Valley, where lawmakers and industry experts discussed impacts of environmental regulations on agricultural water needs. Jason Phillips, CEO of the Friant Water Authority, said regulatory decisions and legislative inaction have forced the state away from water abundance. “These decisions have been taking water away from farms and communities,” Phillips testified at a Santa Nella hearing of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries. ★



The Thirteenth Child

by Erin A. Craig

Hazel Trepas was born the thirteenth child. Castaway and discarded as if her presence didn't mean anything until the day she was promised to the Gods and sold like a piece of cloth. Hazel waited every year for her godfather to come and collect her. Merrick, the God of Death, was the only one who wanted her, but even following Death himself was a better option than staying with family. Years passed as Hazel slept in the barn, watching her siblings receive the last scrap of food and sleeping as siblings in the house. As the years dragged on, her mother became angrier that the God she sold her daughter to wouldn't come to collect his ware. Then, on Hazel's birthday, as she sat cast the shadows, Merrick arrived, promising her greatness and a full life. However, even the life he set before her wouldn't be easy.

Now blessed with being a notable healer, Merrick gifts Hazel the ability to render the cure for any sickness. But with a great gift also comes a great sacrifice. Hazel



◆ Publisher: Delacorte Press
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
◆ Release Date: Sept. 24, 2024

can also see the mark of Death on those patients, and it is up to her to end their suffering. Yet those souls are permanently marked to forever follow Hazel in their ghostly forms. Both blessed and cursed, Hazel finds solace in her new purpose until the day, it leads her to the royal court. The King is deathly ill, and his sickness has no cure, but what if Hazel defies Death and saves him anyway? To make matters even more confusing, she meets the King's arrogant, defiant

son, Leopold, who has a disdain for everyone and everything but Hazel. Now left with an impossible choice, Hazel must decide between what she is sent there to do and what her heart might be leading her towards.

What happens when you defy Death himself and choose your own path? In a story of life and death and the fragile existence in between, Erin Craig once again takes her readers to the edge of storytelling only to show them what lies just beyond the cliff. Gripping, intense, and even dark, Erin Craig's story of Hazel and Merrick will creep around readers like a low, dense fog, lulling them into its fold. Like stepping into the pages of a new version of Grimm's fairy tales, this enchanting story is the perfect addition to her other beautiful retellings. With strong characters that readers cannot help but want to follow and a love story that awakens hope in the most unlikely places. The Thirteenth Child is the perfect read for a fall night, which is best read under a blanket by the light of a candle. ★



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, Sept. 3
09:30 - School-related incident.
10:00 - Domestic violence-related incident.
12:20 - Information report.
14:20 - Vandalism to a parked vehicle in the 700 block of West D South. 1450 Hours- Fraud report in the 1800 block of North Lincoln Street.
15:20 - Found ammunition turned in for destruction.
16:10 - Burglary to a business in the 1400 block of North First Street.

Wednesday, Sept. 4
18:04 - Information report taken in the 1300 block of North Lincoln Street for some turned over marijuana that was booked for destruction.
03:05 - Abandoned vehicle located in the 200 block of North 2nd Street.

Thursday, Sept. 5
10:26 - A found bicycle report was taken in the tunnel near the 200 block of North Jefferson St.
10:37 - A driving while suspended and possession of suspected narcotics arrest report was taken at the intersection of North Jefferson at West C St. Officers made an enforcement stop and contacted the driver (S) Daniel Figueroa of Dixon. Figueroa was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department where he was cited and released.
11:02 - A confidential report was taken at Maine Prairie High School. 1412- A confidential report was taken in the 200 block of South 2nd St.
18:31 - Vandalism report in the 200 block of South 8th St.

Friday, Sept. 6
10:33 - Child Welfare Services report was taken in the 500 block of College Wy.
11:22 - Battery report was taken in the 500 block of College Wy.
13:47 - A fraud report was taken in the 400 block of La Esperanza Dr.
14:30 - An informational report was taken in the 200 block of North Lincoln St.
15:13 - A found property report was taken at the Dixon Police Department.

Saturday, Sept. 7
07:20 - Fraud report in the 600 block of Alma Court.
07:30 - Vehicle accident in the 100 block of West A Street.
10:00 - Domestic violence incident in the 1100 block of Homestead Way.
19:43 - Battery report in the 1000 block of N 1st St.

Sunday, Sept. 8
13:00 - Battery report in the 1300 block of North Lincoln Street.
21:39 - Restraining order violation reported in the 800 block of West B Street.
22:45 - Information report taken in the 800 block of Camelia Drive.

Monday, Sept. 9
12:00 - Fraud report in the 1200 block of Utah Court.
13:20 - Fraud report to a business in the 1000 block of Business Park Dr.

Tuesday, Sept. 10
07:30 - Brandishing a weapon report in the 2500 block of North First Street.
08:16 - Vehicle accident in the area of South First Street and Valley Glen Drive.
12:00 - School-related incident.
12:17 - Harassing text message report.
13:45 - A vehicle accident in the 400 block of Stratford Avenue led to the arrest of Susan Ortiz (28) of American Canyon for DUI.

Wednesday, Sept. 11
08:35 - Domestic dispute reported in the 600 block of East Creekside Circle.
10:35 - Intoxicated subject reported in the 2500 block of North 1st Street. Xavier Camacho (25), of Sacramento, was arrested for DUI. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.
11:36 - Fraud reported in the 100 block of Dorset Drive.

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California Schools Face Twin Perils: Chronic Absenteeism and Declining Enrollment



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California’s public schools have a numbers problem — and it’s not just that their students don’t score very highly in national tests of mathematics ability.

Their other numbers problem is the financial squeeze posed by declining enrollment, especially in large urban districts, compounded by apparently growing levels of chronic absenteeism, or truancy.

“Thirty percent of California public school students were chronically absent from school in 2021-22 — a near tripling of the percentage in 2018-19,” the Public Policy Institute of California declared in a recent report. “Although we do not know if this stark increase in chronic absenteeism, defined as missing at least 10% of the school year or at least 18 days, will continue, the data from last year raises concerns about the pace of students’ learning recovery after the educational setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

California is one of just seven states that base state financial support of local school systems on attendance, rather than enrollment, so the declines in enrollment and attendance comprise a double financial whammy, one of the reasons many school districts are facing budget deficits.

Enrollment is an immutable effect of demographic change,

both the out-migration of young families to other states and lower birth rates. Chronic truancy, on the other hand, first became notable during the COVID-19 pandemic, when schools were closed for months and many students were unable to keep up with studies via the internet.

Another report from the Public Policy Institute of California found that “schools with greater increases in chronic absenteeism saw steeper drops in proficiency rates on the Smarter Balanced (SBAC) English and math tests, when comparing pre-pandemic levels (2018-19) to 2021-22.”

During the pandemic, the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom temporarily deviated from basing state aid on attendance, given the massive dislocation of school closures. The situation also reinvigorated an old debate over whether using attendance is outmoded and California should shift to an enrollment-based system.

Policy Analysis for California Education, a think tank maintained by the state’s major universities, chimed in with its own take on the issue, to wit: “We find that about 90 percent of districts would receive more funding under an enrollment-based formula than they would under the current ADA-based system, with the biggest boost going to high school districts and districts with more low-income, English learner, and foster youth students.”

ADA refers to average daily attendance.

The analysis estimated that switching to enrollment would cost about \$3.4 billion a year, since truant students would still qualify their schools for aid. It cautioned, however, that while “switching

from attendance to enrollment may help districts gain greater fiscal stability and may shift more resources to school districts with greater student needs,” on the other hand, “the current system includes a fiscal incentive that, most agree, encourages higher attendance, even if that attendance definition is relatively weak.”

In other words, switching to enrollment would take schools off the hook in battling truancy.

Last year, Anthony Portantino, a Democratic state senator from Glendale, introduced legislation, backed by the public education establishment, including state schools Supt. Tony Thurmond, to make the change.

“Enrollment-based funding ensures that California schools are funded more equitably and have greater financial stability and predictability,” Portantino said.

However, with the state facing chronic budget deficits of its own and barely able to supply schools with their constitutionally mandated levels of money, Senate Bill 98 faltered. It eventually morphed into merely an instruction to the Legislative Analyst’s Office, the Legislature’s budget advisor, to study the effects of changing to an enrollment-based system and report on it by Jan. 1, 2026.

That’s known in political circles as kicking the can down the road, a time-dishonored way for officials to avoid making decisions.

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. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

As I begin this column, I’m sobered by the recent happenings in our country. Without question, as I think about the upcoming NBA season, I find a sense of gratitude that within minutes of my home I have the privilege of witnessing 41 professional basketball games, that temporarily remove me from the vagaries of day-to-day life.

Unfortunately, another assassination attempt was made on the life of one of our political candidates running for the highest position in the land. An attempt that should give every American pause, and if anything should unite us all in the contempt for an action that has no place in our country.

As a people and a nation, we can celebrate the sports teams we love with fervor, but let’s stop for just a moment, and come together with the overriding thought that our differences should be carried out at the ballot box. Let your voice be heard in the way that our forefathers intended, and on November 5th be that American that proudly helps America decide who should be the next commander in chief of this nation.

By now you know how thrilled I am to have DeMar DeRozan as a part of the Kings family, and I have little doubt that this most capable all-star will help the Kings reach the next level they’ve been seeking. But more than DeMar’s ability on the hardwood, I’m heartened by the many NBA players that have commented on his leadership abilities and the harmony he brings to the locker room. There is no question, that just as I have celebrated the leadership of De’Aaron Fox, Domantas Sabonis, and Malik Monk, the Kings have added one more valued role model that young players can appreciate.

As the preseason approaches, I at times feel like a young boy waiting for Christmas, but just as you do, I have to rise each morning and brave the storms of the day.

The Sacramento Kings provide a moment in time that I can completely escape from the stresses and responsibilities that life brings, and a time when I can sit next to a fellow Kings fan, and not even care what his or her political leanings may be.

I have been high on Kings GM Monte McNair, and I couldn’t begin to tell you whether he’s a democrat, a republican, or an independent. What I appreciate is his dedication to hard work, albeit with a stoic disposition, and his ability to a steadiness that brings with it a confidence that I have gradually grown to appreciate. Monte has proven to me, that like so much I’ve seen in our political arena, he will not fall victim to a knee jerk reaction in the Kings arena.

Most importantly, I recognize leadership. Monte McNair isn’t just responsible for framing the team we witness on the floor each night, he’s given the charge of managing basketball operations in general, and that includes putting the right coaches in place.

Welcome Riccardo Fois and Jim Moran to the Sacramento Kings coaching family. Both men come with a litany of NBA coaching experience, and with the departure of much acclaimed Jordi Fernandez who is now the head coach of the Brooklyn Nets, these men add capable talent to the coaching ranks.

Yes, the Sacramento Kings do more for our community than just play basketball, and for fans like myself, they will always bring a moment in time that I can spend time with my family, and escape to a place of pure entertainment.

I have commented in this column in the past that one of most compelling reasons I am such a die-hard fan of the Kings rests in the pure pleasure they have in playing together. Their camaraderie as a team is obvious and contagious.

It’s entirely possible that the team as you assembled today may very well start the season, but it’s just as possible that our GM will find a diamond in the rough. Although I’m not against adding a power forward to the lineup, I’m just as curious to see what we have right now.

The preseason will bring some answers for coach Brown and the Sacramento Kings fans as well.

So, I say to this splendiferous team we call the Sacramento Kings, bring it on!!

If you have comments, please send them to vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. All the best Kings fans!! ★



Riley Reviews

“BEETLEJUICE 2” HALLMARK ANARCHY; TELEVISION NOMINEE LOUNGE

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

BEETLEJUICE BEETLEJUICE”
RATED PG-13

Arriving 36 years later, the “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” sequel serves to allow Michael Keaton, originally named Betelgeuse, to be as demented and mischievous as he was originally in haunting the Deetz family.

In 1988’S “Beetlejuice,” the young married Maitland couple (Alec Baldwin and Geena Davis) end up being killed in a car crash and awoken to become aware that they are ghosts in their own home.

Taking possession of the Maitland house was Charles Deetz (Jeffrey Jones), his wife Delia (Catherine O’Hara), and teenage daughter Lydia (Winona Ryder), and the ethereal Maitlands were unsuccessfully determined to scare away the Deetzses.

For the sake of continuity, Keaton’s demonic ghoul is reunited with Catherine O’Hara’s Delia and Winona Ryder’s now middle-aged Lydia, the latter the mother to her own teenage daughter, Astrid (Jenna Ortega).

The death of Charles Deetz brings Lydia back to Winter River. Lydia is now the host of her own paranormal reality TV series, which her estranged daughter Astrid thinks is a lame attempt to communicate with her deceased father, Richard (Santiago Cabrera).

Delia, Lydia and Astrid represent three generations of Deetzses, and their return to the Connecticut town where they previously resided is for the funeral of Charles, who turns up in the afterlife as a headless body.

Meanwhile, Lydia is apparently looking at tying the knot with her unctuous boyfriend Rory (Justin Theroux), the producer of her “Ghost House” TV show who uses grief counseling as the occasion to plant the idea of marriage.

Filling the void of missing characters from the original film are several types of weird and interesting persons one would expect to emerge from the vivid and bizarre imagination of Tim Burton.

Most peculiar, Monica Bellucci’s Delores turns up as Beetlejuice’s estranged wife, who pulls herself together by using a staple gun to reassemble her severed body parts so that she can proceed as a soul-sucking stalker.

While out riding a bicycle, Astrid stumbles upon the Maitland house after crashing into the backyard’s tree house, where she meets Jeremy (Arthur Conti), a teen for whom she develops a crush.

Jeremy is not exactly the innocent boy-next-door that he appears to be, as he literally has a closet in the attic that opens the portal to another world that puts Astrid in the kind of danger that Lydia fears.

“Beetlejuice Beetlejuice” allows Tim Burton to unleash his playful sense of the macabre and madcap anarchy that is sure to delight his die-hard fans, who should

enjoy Michael Keaton still rocking his persona with the pasty ghoulish complexion of a disheveled vampire.

THE TELEVISION NOMINEE LOUNGE EXPERIENCE

Swag is a big deal in the entertainment world. Gifting suites connected with industry award shows provide opportunities for companies to shower guests with products ranging from cosmetics and accessories to clothing and the latest gadgets.

An invite landed in our inbox from Secret Room Events to attend a gifting suite party on the rooftop of the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. Having never been asked before, how could this experience be resisted?

Celebrities and media were invited, and my guess is that a lot of visitors were influencers and bloggers, as well as talent that was likely TV actors.

Interestingly, the products on display were not familiar. That’s not surprising, because the purpose of what was billed as the “Television Nominee Lounge” is the introduction of new brands.

A product being promoted doesn’t necessarily have to derive from a large corporate entity. Local artist Rachel Tribble displayed her dreamlike paintings suitable for hanging on walls, and handed out greeting cards with her artwork.

In the gadget department, Scosche was the standout. Their catalog highlights gear for off-roaders, race car drivers, sports fishermen, rodeo riders, and rock crawlers. For the rest of us, a useful gadget is a cell phone power bank that also functions as a flashlight and jumper cables.

Tea Voila is a unique concept in that the product is packaged in a box with 6 biodegradable cups with built-in tea leave infusers that eliminate tea bags. Each cup may be used three times, and the cup may be disposed with no worry that it harms the environment.

Watching a subpar film or TV show may induce pain in the cranium, and MiGuard comes along to provide samples of its eponymous product for migraine and headache relief with an organic, vegan, and non-GMO over-the-counter supplement containing vitamins, minerals, and herbal compounds.

After feeling better, you could try Andersen’s Crazy Candy which transforms classic sweets into crunchy, freeze-dried candy that is touted as turning “favorite treats into a party in your mouth.”

Poppin’ Love, an online only gourmet popcorn shop, redefines the staple of a movie theater concession with a range of incredible flavors, from a caramel favorite and cheddar jalapeno to garlic parmesan and cookies & cream.

I passed on samples of skin products and lip balm, but it was interesting to see a company coming from Australia to promote their SenQuil line of moisturizers and face cleansers. ★

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Making a Life-Saving Technology Purchase



The Dixon Fire Department will soon be able to share dispatch information, data layers, resource locations and critical checklists across all agencies in Solano County with the new Tablet Command system. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

Continued from page 1

“If the Dixon Fire Department responds to an incident in Fairfield, for example, the responding engine will have immediate access to all of Fairfield's computer-aided dispatch data, fire hydrant data, and key mapping components,” Warren said. “All agencies will be able to utilize Dixon's information when providing aid to us.”

According to the battalion chief, immediate mutual aid reduces response time in a structural or wildland fire setting.

“With an individual experiencing a critical medical emergency, seconds not receiving life-saving aid can mean the difference between life or death,” Warren said.

Real-time information available instantly via Tablet Command enables fire engines to receive information while traveling and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping allows the crew to route to the call seamlessly.

“The common operating picture that Tablet Command provides allows all responding resources to an incident to see the same data, notes and assignments by dispatch and the incident commander,”

Warren said. “All of these provide a faster and much more efficient response.”

As for cost, the staff report and Warren said the City of Dixon is the sponsoring agency but does not provide the final price, including invoicing other agencies for their proportionate share.

“The Dixon Fire Department is extremely excited to bring Tablet Command online,” Warren said. “We are also excited to bring all our mutual aid partners on board and to work collaboratively with our partners both in Solano and Yolo Counties currently using the software.”

Warren stressed that while many software products aim for excellence, Tablet Command's reputation has demonstrated exceptional “response times, common operating picture between agencies and operational efficiency” in all jurisdictions.

The battalion chief thanked elected officials and city staff for their support, which he said is “bringing the department into a new technological era that serves to better its own operations and service to the community.” ★

Planning Commission Discusses Security for Business



Here is the outside of 1150 N. 1st St., suites B and C, a location that calls for enhanced security measures, according to Police Chief Robert Thompson. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

Continued from page 1

actors,” the police chief added that publicizing security plans can be detrimental since “they can learn how to exploit security” at a business, specifically cannabis commerce locations.

“Each of these locations and premises are evaluated on unique characteristics of their business,” Thompson said.

As currently configured, the police chief said, “security protocols in place would prevent someone from effectively ceasing control of the facility.”

While the plan is not his preference, Thompson said he agrees “to live with” creating a pony wall that provides a degree of separation from danger.

“That will give staff in the interior of the building time to react to the threat that is presented because the pony wall creates a natural delay,” Thompson said, adding that the department uses a subject matter expert who provides recommendations for specific sites.

“One business that



Dixon Wellness Collective Cannabis's front lobby, where further security measures are mandated, includes constructing a pony wall around the reception desk. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

operates in a stand-alone building, for example, might have very different conditions than one that shares walls with other businesses,” Thompson said.

Andrew discussed her own conditions and upgrades at length from the podium.

“Now we have active man traps and a completely-updated whole alarm system,” Andrew said, adding that other upgrades included six panic buttons at each register and reception desk and a ring camera

at the front door.

Andrew called her relationship with the police department “great.”

“This is just a little hiccup we had to get through,” Andrew said, adding the store might have to alter hours just for the day to make the improvements.

Associate planner Greeley said, “If there are any future changes to the plan or modifications, the applicant must provide those plans and materials to the State Department of Cannabis and inform the city of those changes.” ★

Blind Seniors Enjoy Tasty Visit to Brazelton Ranch in Vacaville

Lions Center for the Visually Impaired News Release

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - A group of 21 clients, volunteers and staff from the Pittsburg-based Lions Center for the Visually Impaired (LCVI) visited the historic Brazelton Ranch fruit stand and were greeted by a smiling host William Brazelton.

He explained the farm’s history, founded in 1921, and shared some of the ins and outs of the fruit growing business. Brazelton patiently answered the inquisitive seniors’ questions and one of the clients, Mac Coates, was inspired to share an acapella version of the Carpenter’s “Sing A Song” in appreciation for the welcome.

The group then joined the line of customers who had arrived to buy fresh peaches, nectarines, pluots, plums and other stone fruit in the roadside fruit stand.



The group from Lions Center for the Visually Impaired listen to William Brazelton (off camera) to learn about Brazelton Ranch on Aug. 27. Photo by Darlene Riddle

“Brazelton’s peaches are the absolute best!” commented Lions Center for the Visually Impaired Activities Coordinator Richard Grange. “They are juicier, sweeter, and riper freshly

picked. Thank you, Brazelton Fruit Farm, for an awesome experience for our seniors, and for producing the juiciest fruit in Solano.”

The group continued over to Fenton’s Creamery and Restaurant (Vacaville) for a special lunch, including an ice cream sundae – a delightful sticky mess. The seniors then split up to explore the Nut Tree Plaza, See’s Candies, and Best Buy or just hang out and chat before departing back to their homes in Alameda, Solano and Contra Costa Counties.

Lions Center for the Visually Impaired provides free supportive services for blind and visually impaired seniors in Contra Costa, Alameda and Solano counties, and Dixon residents can call 925-432-3013 or visit levi.org for more information or to schedule a home visit. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024001309

The following persons are doing business as: North Bay Speech Masters 3038, C/O Cogir of the North Bay, 2261 Tuolumne Street, Vallejo, CA 94591.

California Maritime Academy Toast Masters, 512 Fortuna Court, Suisun City, CA 94585.

Date filed in Solano County: August 22, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2023

This Business is conducted by: An Unincorporated Association other than a Partnership. 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 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)

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.

Date filed in Solano County: August 15, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. 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 14, 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.)

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Controller Cohen Issues August Cash Report

California State Controller's Office News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - State Controller Malia M. Cohen Sept. 10 released her monthly cash report covering the state's General Fund revenues, disbursements and actual cash balance for the fiscal year through Aug. 31, 2024.

Receipts for the fiscal year through August exceeded estimates contained in the 2024-25 Budget Act by approximately

\$2.3 billion, or 8.3 percent. Fiscal year-to-date disbursements were \$10.8 billion, or 35.1 percent, higher than anticipated in the Budget Act.

“This cash report shows the welcome news that through the first two months of the fiscal year, revenue collections were ahead of budget projections,” said Controller Cohen. “While expenditures have exceeded estimates, spending variances early in the year are often

related to timing. The continued high level of unused borrowable resources is also a positive sign as it reflects our continued ability to meet payment obligations as they come due.”

As of Aug. 31, the state had \$104.9 billion in unused borrowable resources. These resources are from internal funds outside of the General Fund that are borrowable under state law and that the State Controller's Office uses

to manage daily and monthly cash deficits when revenue collections are lower than expenditures. Internal borrowing from special funds is short-term and is repaid so that borrowing does not affect the operations of the special funds.

As the chief fiscal officer of California, Controller Cohen is responsible for accountability and disbursement of the state's financial resources. The Controller has independent

auditing authority over government agencies that spend state funds. She is a member of numerous financing authorities, and fiscal and financial oversight entities including the Franchise Tax Board. She also serves on the boards for the nation's two largest public pension funds. Follow the Controller on X at @CAController and on Facebook at California State Controller's Office.

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1. Fountain order
5. Christian minister, abbr.
8. Betelgeuse or Deneb
12. Isaac's firstborn
13. Senegal's neighbor
14. Nobody (2 words)
15. Bangladeshi currency
16. Chopin's creation, e.g.
17. Like thick smoke
18. *Greek goddess in 1995 Woody Allen movie title
20. *Mars, to the Greeks
21. Ooze out
22. Edible tuber
23. *Poet of "Aeneid" fame
26. **Pair of writing tablets*
30. Outrage
31. A small part
34. European currency
35. Jousting pole
37. B & B
38. Sunni religion
39. Et alibi, abbr.
40. Newspaper VIP
42. First woman, Biblically-speaking
43. Return of disease
45. Washer, during a certain cycle
47. Last month
48. Belittle
50. Taro plant
52. *Athenian Acropolis tourist attraction
56. Anticipate
57. Black-and-white cookie
58. Small European freshwater fish
59. *#18 Across, to Romans
60. Big cat sound
61. Future atty.'s exam
62. Work units
63. Tight one, in football
64. Sunrise direction

DOWN
1. Facebook owner
2. Quickly, acr.
3. Hundred thousand, in India
4. Sahara's Berber people
5. R in R.E.M.
6. Wash out with solvent
7. Workbench holding device
8. *Plato's famous teacher
9. Ripped
10. Black tropical cuckoo
11. *Not black-figure, but _____figure
13. Spacecraft's detachable unit
14. W.E.B Du Bois's org.
19. Oxygen-containing compound
22. *Olive derivative
23. More reprehensible
24. About to explode
25. Kidney-related
26. Exertion
27. Christmastides
28. Have a hankering
29. *Poet of "Iliad" fame
32. Ocean motion
33. "Wheel of Fortune" request (2 words)
36. *, I, _____
38. Like Bushmills whiskey
40. Boston time

41. *Demosthenes of Cicero
44. Land parcels
46. Conifer's leaf
48. New York Jets' quarterback
49. Bakery offering
50. Pitcher
51. "Shoot!"
52. Minute opening
53. Civil space org.
54. #22 Across, pl.
55. Left after deductions
56. Map abbr.

CROSSWORD

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Assembly Majority Leader Aguiar-Curry Applauds Governor’s Regulations to Protect Public from Intoxicating Hemp Products



Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry. Courtesy photo

Office of Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D- Winters) and key stakeholders, including the California Cannabis Industry Association and United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), applaud the Governor’s proposed emergency regulations to protect the public from

intoxicating hemp. The emergency regulations issued on Sept. 6 by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will explicitly ban synthetic tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in hemp products, limit serving sizes, and implement other restrictions on hemp products. “I want to thank Governor Newsom for moving aggressively to keep these intoxicating products out of the hands of California’s kids. We have worked together since the 2018 Farm Bill legalized industrial hemp nationwide. We collaborated on my Assembly Bill 45 in 2021, which created the strongest legal structure in the nation for regulating these products, registering companies to fund enforcement against illegal products, and implementing needed guardrails,” said Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry (D-Winters). “The Governor and our

coalition have consistently made it clear that our efforts were meant only to legalize non-intoxicating hemp products, that synthetic intoxicants are illegal, and that the only place to get intoxicating cannabinoids would be in dispensaries,” added the Majority Leader. “I am thrilled to see the Administration using emergency regulatory authority, including the authority granted in AB 45, to crack down on intoxicating products. The bottom line is that products that can get you high should not be available to youth and should not be sold outside a dispensary. Period.” “UFCW has always led the nation in promoting and legitimizing the cannabis industry and it’s high time our state curbs intoxicating hemp, an unfettered and dangerous sector of the industry,” said Mark Ramos, President of the United Food and Commercial Workers

Western States Council and United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1428. “It’s UFCW members who see how without proper age verification and testing for dangerous substances such as fungus or pesticides – and being sold without serving size and per package caps – the hemp-sourced THC products being sold in gas stations; convenience stores and wine shops are a direct threat to confused consumers and children. “The Governor’s regulations will further protect the legal, licensed and unionized cannabis industry that has invested time and money into building and maintaining a legal cannabis commerce framework and UFCW members applaud his actions today,” continued Ramos. “Governor Newsom is on the right side of this fight by demanding that something be done to protect public health and we’re pleased to

stand in partnership with him to ensure profit is no longer put over our kids’ or public safety.” “We commend Governor Newsom’s decisive action to address intoxicating hemp products in California, protecting public health and ensuring that harmful, unregulated products no longer undermine our state’s rigorous cannabis laws,” said Amy Jenkins, Legislative Advocate for the California Cannabis Industry Association. “These emergency regulations will create a safer, more transparent marketplace while safeguarding our youth and preserving the integrity of — and critical tax revenues from — California’s cannabis legalization framework. To be clear, we believe there is a place for hemp-derived products in the cannabis ecosystem, once we establish parity and regulate cannabinoids based on intoxication, regardless of their source.

We look forward to working with Majority Leader Aguiar-Curry to advance meaningful reforms next year.” The emergency regulations were issued weeks after AB 2223 (Aguiar-Curry, 2024) was held in suspense in the Senate Appropriations Committee. AB 2223 would have protected public health by eliminating access to intoxicating hemp products while providing a pathway for well-regulated hemp and cannabis industries to participate in the federal and state legal hemp marketplace. The Majority Leader intends to continue her work on this issue by introducing new legislation in the next legislative session. Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry represents the 4th Assembly District, which includes all of Lake, Colusa, Napa and Yolo Counties, and part of Sonoma County. ★

Conference Offers Hope, Help for Marriages

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - For more than a million people, the Weekend to Remember conference has been a turning point in their marriage. After several years of hosting the popular marriage conference online, the organization is returning to an in-person gathering not far from Dixon and reservations are now being taken. “We had roots of bitterness that were growing deep,” said one wife. “Marriage is super tough but the

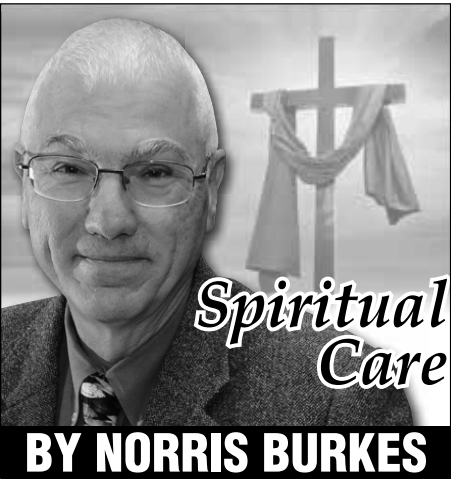
most gratifying experience you can have,” one husband said. “We now have a vision of what marriage is supposed to be,” said another husband, then added, “We didn’t have the greatest parents to show us what a good marriage looked like.” Whether simply looking for a deeper purpose for life together or hovering on the brink of disaster, here is good news: There is a plan for hope and love for couples at the upcoming ‘Weekend to Remember’ marriage conference in Sacramento. “For many couples, weekly

counseling sessions do not provide assistance fast enough for the sense of urgency that people feel when their marriage is in trouble,” said Debra Dingman, who has volunteered for Weekend to Remember for more than a decade. “For marriages that seem on the verge of divorce, this conference is like six months of marriage counseling power-packed into one weekend that gives foundational tools for healing.” Couples learn how to communicate more effectively, resolve

conflict, develop greater intimacy, and renew the excitement they first felt in their marriage through presentations from speakers who have had similar experiences yet garnered strength through Biblical principles. Engaged couples are also welcome. This year’s retreat, sponsored by FamilyLife, will be held Nov. 8 through 10, Hilton Sacramento Arden West in Sacramento. The cost of the three-day conference is \$175 per person or \$350 per couple but if signing up through a Group

Coordinator, there is a savings of \$100 per couple. For Dixon group information, call (707) 301-0795 or visit <http://www.familylife.com> for detailed information. Military rates are significantly reduced, and the Pastor rate is free. It will be held at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard Street in Sacramento and rooms there will be \$159 per night if couples choose to stay there but attendees are not required to. Parking is an additional \$6 per night. ★

Chaplain Rewrites Ten Commandments



“Why did God have to make his Ten Commandments so negative?” I asked my wife as I drove her to the airport for her flight to St. Louis. “Pardon me?” she replied. My non sequiturs confuse most people, but Becky plays along. “When we were raising kids, you taught me to use affirming directions rather than negative ones,” I said. “For example, you suggested I not say, ‘Don’t run,’ but instead say, ‘Please Walk.’ We also replaced, ‘Don’t yell,’ with, ‘Use your inside voice.’” Becky seemed pleased that I remembered her advice and allowed me a bit more latitude to express my thoughts. “God should have been more affirming with his commandments.” “You think you can do better?” she asked. “Maybe. I’ll write a positive list and ask my readers what they think.” “You do that, but in the meantime, I think I’ll be safer in St. Louis,” she said as we pulled up to the terminal for our curbside kiss. I went home and checked my yard for an inspirational burning bush but found none. Just a lot of dry shrubs. But fortunately, I did have an iPad. So, I sat down to wordsmith the commandments into something short and easy for all faiths to understand. “You shall have no other gods before Me.” In my new-and-improved version, God would say, “I’m the only one.” The declaration worked well for Tigger in “Winnie the Pooh” when he said, “The wonderful thing about Tiggers is I’m the only one.” “You shall make no idols.” “Stay focused on Me” might have

made a more optimistic rewrite for God’s idea of discouraging theological adultery. “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.” “I’m God, not Santa,” is my paraphrase for God. The original intention wasn’t to forbid swearing but to dissuade folks who vainly used God’s name to force him to grant their whims. See my past columns on this commandment. “Keep the Sabbath day holy” is positively worded, but I think God would be OK to add, “Find holiness in all your days.” “Honor your father and your mother” is sufficiently upbeat, so I probably needn’t add, “and pay for your parents’ cruise.” “You shall not murder.” “Make life matter.” Respect each life as if it were all lives. And respect all life as if it were one life. “You shall not commit adultery.” “Dance with the one that brought you.” I can almost hear God humming Shania Twain’s song of that title, “Don’t let the green grass fool you Don’t let the moon get to you Dance with the one that brought you and you can’t go wrong.” “You shall not steal.” “Give with all your heart to those in need” may honor God’s intention here. “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.” “Find truth and nurture it.” Share it with the powerful and the powerless. “You shall not covet.” “Yearn for all things that will help others.” Desire only what helps your neighbor, your partner, your family and our world. A few days later, I emailed Becky the column proof so she could suggest changes. Her comments didn’t come until I returned to the airport a week later to pick her up. “How was your flight?” I asked. “Good,” she said, “but I’m not sure that column is going to fly with your readers.” “What makes you say that?” I asked. She smiled before answering. “As usual, when you are quoting me, you often break the ‘false witness’ commandment.” “I prefer the more positive way to describe those quotes – “creative attribution.” “I’m really not sure I should be leaving you alone again,” she added. I smiled. Mission accomplished. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

What If Nothing Works?



As a reader of this column, you are striving to improve your life. You want to attain your goals and bring your dreams into reality. You want to break through your self-imposed limitations. So you follow all of the advice in this column. But you think nothing is working. You are doing all the right things. Your attitude is positive. You are motivated. You have specific goals and a plan to reach them. You are taking action. Yet, still you feel as if you are not making the progress you had hoped for. Perhaps you are frustrated, discouraged, and disheartened. You see others who are successful and wonder why you can’t make things work. You start to doubt yourself and wonder if your goals are unobtainable. Have faith. Even if you have not yet seen results, you have put things into motion. It’s only the timeframe that causes frustration because it is unknown. Never give up hope. Besides, what is the alternative? To do nothing or give up hope? If you regress to inaction, it’s guaranteed that you will not get the results you seek. Major goals are not realized overnight with one simple step. The distance you have to travel on the road to success is not known. But you will never arrive if you lie down along the side or turn around and go back to where you started. With each step you take you make progress. Your journey is filled with many benefits. On your way to the big goals, you are improving your life in numerous smaller, but no less significant, ways. You are getting rid of your mental garbage. Clearing out your mind enables you to intensify your focus. Squeezing the most out of each day becomes easier. Prioritizing how you spend your time increases your productivity. Your ability to get through tough times improves. Every road to success is filled with obstacles, challenges, and adversity. Only those who

become adept at dealing with whatever lies ahead maintain their forward motion. You are learning how to deal with conflict and to manage stress. Controlling your thoughts becomes more of a habit. It is your thoughts that attract what you want. By keeping your mind on your destination, you avoid becoming a magnet for undesirable situations. You develop immunity to what others say, think, or do. On your journey you will encounter many who seek to discourage you. Regardless of their motivation, you must ignore the naysayers. Your future is in your hands, not theirs. Rather than being consumed by the past or apprehensive of the future, you are living in the present. The past is over. The action you take today determines your future. Worry is useless. By increasing the belief in yourself, you are overcoming fear of failure and becoming more self-reliant. Within you lies more potential than you realize. You have a very deep well to tap into when the going gets tough. Clearly, the journey to success is fueled by your self-development. We experience frustration when we focus on our destination without appreciating our growth along the way. So when you feel nothing is working, give yourself encouragement by recognizing the progress you are making. Don’t loose faith in your efforts. You don’t know how long your quest will take. The reason more people fail than succeed is because so many get frustrated and give up short of attaining their goals. Just keep going and you will succeed. 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@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. ©2024 Bryan Golden★

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Fifty Year Class Reunion Happening



The Dixon High School Class of 1974 celebrates at a previous reunion. Courtesy photo

Continued from page 1

that grew up together,” Jill Orr said. “We are all still very close. It’s a special bond that’s hard to explain.”

Orr reported that the best memories and the best part of their lives came from growing up as classmates in Dixon. “They’re not just my memories but I think everybody else feels that way. I guarantee we all feel the same way about each other,” Orr said.

Maybe it was the music that brought them close. “Midnight at the Oasis” by Maria Muldaur, “I’m Leaving It All Up to You” by Donny and Marie Osmond and “Sunshine on My Shoulders” by John Denver were just a few of the popular tunes back then.

James Bounds said it’s because they’ve kept in contact. “We have a lot of locals but I think we’re close because we kept in contact. We had small gatherings, nothing big, but little things that brought people together over the years,” Bounds said. “I think I made it to all of them and some were put together really fast and weren’t really a reunion ...but like one.”

Bounds listed some of the details that the organizers are working on that will help continue the bond, such as having the seating in a horseshoe, so no one is looking at another’s back and a fundraiser to help out a classmate who recently lost a family member.

For more information or to connect, see Dixon CA High School Class of 1974 on Facebook. ★



The Dixon High School Class of 1974 celebrates at a previous reunion. Courtesy photo

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