



Impromptu
Car Show

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Nishikawa Family
Presented at
Historical Meet

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Dixon
Independent Voice

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KIDS' LIVES



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Capturing the Spirit of Homecoming



New principals and staff enthusiastically displayed the banner for the school's 'Beat All Cancer Walk' that happened recently and lead into Homecoming Festivities this week supported by (L-R) Assistant Principal Fletcher Riches, Athletics/ASB Secretary Jennifer Roman, Nicole Hough of Pupil Services, Office Manager Olivia Wasser and Principal Angela Brown.

Story and photo
by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Time to sport Dixon High School colors of green and white as next week, Oct. 7 to Oct. 11, is Homecoming Week for the Dixon High School Rams.

Starting Monday, downtown merchants—and many other local businesses—are encouraged to garb their storefronts in Ram décor in celebration of Homecoming Week.

“We want to paint the downtown and show our support,” said Jill Orr, Downtown Dixon Business Association president. “The kids work really hard and we want to celebrate them.”

The public is encouraged to come out and watch the Friday, Oct. 11, games at the high school

stadium, according to enthusiastic new Principal Angela Brown and new Assistant Principal Fletcher Riches when the Rams will try to womp the Woodland High School Wolves. The JV will be starting at 5 p.m. on Finney Field and Varsity will be at 7 p.m. Tickets are available online for \$11 for adults and \$7 for students or they can be purchased at the gate.

There is a planned Powder Puff game scheduled for Thursday evening, Oct. 10, at 5 p.m. and it is open to both boys and girls in grades 9 through 12. This is the fun game where the girls are the football players, and the boys are the cheerleaders or coaches. There is the traditional Friday afternoon rally where the Homecoming Court will be crowned. This year, the Associated Student

Body will renew the parade of floats through Hall Park. It will be at 3 p.m. Students will compete for best class float and will win monetary prizes through the DDBA.

“We’ll have a couple judges to judge the floats this year and we’re going to have awards of First place \$100, second place will be \$75, and third place will be \$50 because we’re fully supportive of it and it helps defray their costs,” said Orr.

“The floats will be on display at the end of the football field for the public to view. During the Varsity half time, there will be the announcement of Homecoming King and Queen with photo ops,” said DHS Office Manager Olivia Wasser.

The crowning of the Homecoming Queen and King is still popular. It’s

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Budget 101



Dixon public information officer Madeline Graf will be the newly created Fiscal Sustainability Outreach Program liaison. Photo courtesy of the Independent Voice

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - There is no longer an excuse to say the city budget is confusing here.

A newly created Fiscal Sustainability Outreach Program is now the direct conduit to the city budget process, which many call confusing. Public Information Officer Madeline Graf detailed the program before city officials adopted the plan involving community outreach, communications, and engagement.

The program comes after the nearly \$2 million budget deficit reported for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 noted in May. The Independent Voice reported that the council is considering placing a 1% sales tax increase on the November ballot.

If voters approve, the proposed tax could add approximately \$3 million to the General Fund. Graf said the idea of creating a program began in 2023 when the city council had a goal-setting session.

“One of those goals was to build relationships and strengthen our public engagement,” Graf said. “In order to meet this goal, we have developed an outreach and education program that will focus on the city’s fiscal sustainability.”

However, sustaining an understanding of fiscal sustainability is challenging. The new outreach program details the city’s budget process, including the relevance of revenues, expenditures, enterprise funds, and reserves.

“They would learn about the budget process and how they can get involved,” Graf said. “I would work closely with our finance team to provide this information.”

The program comes with a cost of \$75,000.

Along with videos, three informational brochures will be mailed to all Dixon residents. Graf said all graphic design, printing and mailing are contracted, with the city creating all the content in-house.

“Digital media would include infographics that can go on the website and also on our social media,” the public information said, adding a few short videos will also explain the budget process.

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New Superintendent Shares Route to Dixon

Story and photos
by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - New Dixon Unified School District Superintendent Brett Barley has only become more diversified in knowledge and skills as he wound his way toward a career in school administration. After being raised by both parents in teaching and school administration, it was likely he’d pursue education.

“The Barley family barbecues were always ‘teacher talk’ so it made sense for a small-town Michigan kid in search of better work to get into teaching,” Barley shared at a recent meeting about his path that led him to Dixon and why he thinks he can make it a “Destination District.” This father of two elementary-age sons seems to have a gift for understanding the complex and finding positive, workable solutions.

From Teacher to Law
Barley’s list of occupational successes may



New Dixon Schools Superintendent Brett Barley shared about his path leading him to Dixon at a recent meeting.

be short term but using today’s technology and with a seemingly strong quest to solve problems, he’s made strides in double-time. After earning his bachelor’s degree from

the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications, he taught a couple years, then earned a law degree from the University of San Diego that would

ultimately prepare him for a job as a Public-School Superintendent.

In law, for example, he was researching legal questions and writing legal

Continued on page 3



The Brett Barley family poses for a photo.

Life's *too*
SHORT

Districting Is Failing Dixon

By Debra Dingman

Now that we are in full swing of an election cycle, and we have (seriously) only one contested seat and that is for the mayor who is facing one opponent. The incumbent council members for District 3 and District 4 are not facing any challengers and as a result will be re-elected by default.

I will be the one person who speaks loudly that dividing this small town into Districts (a City Attorney-propelled move) was a colossal mistake being that no minority candidates have run or been elected for the last two elections (eight years.) There have been fewer people running for council seats, and incumbents are practically guaranteed re-election. This courtesy of prior council members (one of whom is your mayor) who failed to perform their due diligence research on the districting issue, but instead were covered by the city's attorney's scare tactics about the issue.

Why does it matter? Because I feel it obviously limited those—no matter what ethnicity--who might have wanted to run. Looking at the past, there have always been several candidates--both Hispanic and women--and this year we have NONE.

But if you have ears and live in Dixon, you know there are at least 200 active citizens who really do watch and care about our City Council decisions. They may not attend them, but they care.

I wrote a few years back about how 68% of Dixon residents were represented at a City Council meeting where the council was to give our City Manager an interest-free home loan in addition to a \$60,000 raise and a caveat on his contract that he would

receive 18 months' pay if he was terminated. The council had numerous residents present who opposed the deals and yet, the council approved it unanimously.

And, if you walk precincts like I have done in the last four election cycles, you would know that there are plenty more local residents who have intelligent opinions. Some may have run—but the seat wasn't open in their District.

Surprisingly, no woman stepped up. In covering the last half decade of school and community activities, I have been so impressed with women who are businesswomen, non-profit organizers, club Presidents and more who would make excellent Council reps.

It has long been said that if you want something done, ask a busy person. What mother isn't busy these days of carry-your-cell-and-answer-your-phone-where-ever-you-are?

I would have run except my time is past for handling that kind of stress. My six grandchildren are my priority.

On a completely different note, I do want to encourage people to support our students—especially for Homecoming Week Oct. 7-11. When writing about Dixon Unified School District Superintendent Brett Barley, I was surprised to learn we have about 3,000 students in our public schools and those numbers do not reflect the Catholic School, Valley of the Sacred Heart, nor include Neighborhood Christian School's numbers. (That is why there is such traffic congestion on school mornings!) That is a lot of children we should be helping along the way with encouragement and support. Wear green! ★

Dixon News Briefs



The last of the local Farmers Market in the Dixon Women's Improvement Club Park and hosted by the Downtown Dixon Business Association happened last week but was well attended with patrons seeking fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables along with a variety of vendors offering sweet and tasty goodies. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff

Planning Commission

The next City meeting will be the Dixon Planning Commission on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at Dixon City Hall, 600 East A Street at 7 p.m. Established by state law, the Planning Commission's primary function is to study proposed developments that may have an impact on the community's growth and environment. There are seven Dixon residents currently serving: Chair Jack Caldwell, Vice Chair Loraine Hernandez-Covello, Mark Cooley, Randy Davis, Baudelio Diaz, Frank Drayton, and Rubi Medrano.

Reading Volunteers

According to Solano County Library system, there are over 70,000 adults in this county who cannot read, and they need help to learn to read and write. When they do, they stay healthier, find and keep jobs, contribute to their community and help their child do well in school. The staff will help train people to help someone improve their skills so please call (707) 784-1526 about volunteering or contact Literacy@SolanoCounty.com.

Senior Resource Fair

The advocates for Dixon Seniors will be presenting their 24th annual Senior Resource Fair on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This annual event features a variety of information and resources on safety, health care, transportation, utilities, fitness, nutrition, recreation and many local resources available for senior citizens.

The event is free to the public and will be held at the Dixon Senior and Multi-Use Center at 201 South Fifth Street in Hall Park. There will be light refreshments, raffle prizes, and lots of fun honoring Dixon seniors.

Know Your Propositions

Carole Peterson from the Solano League of Women Voters will be the guest speaker at the next Dixon Women's Improvement Club (DWIC) meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 1 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall of the Dixon United Methodist Church.

Founded in Benicia, the Solano County League wants voters to know the facts behind the propositions the Dixon citizens will be voting on Nov. 5. Guests are welcome. The DWIC meets monthly, and the 2024-2025 membership is \$40.

Veterans Dinner

This Friday, Oct. 4, at about 5:30 p.m., the veterans will offer pork chops with gravy, oven-fried potatoes, vegetables, and a dinner roll for \$12. The Greg Coppes Veterans Memorial Hall is located at 1305 North First Street. Proceeds help keep the Veterans Hall open.

Dia De Los Muertos

Mark your calendars for Sunday, Oct. 27, from 1 to 5 p.m. for Dia De Los Muertos will be celebrated in the streets of the Silveyville Cemetery, 800 South First Street. It is a free community event and will feature mariachis, food, vendors, and community ofrenda. It is presented by the Silveyville Cemetery and the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call (707) 369-0467.

Grupo Hispanico

A Hispanic group meets on Wednesdays at the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center at 10 a.m., They talk about current events, play Loteria, and enjoy the company of friends. It is at 201 South Fifth Street near the public pool in Hall Park.

Show School Colors!

There are no JV or Varsity football games for Dixon High this Friday due to a BYE but the following Friday, October 11, it will be Dixon's Homecoming which will feature a Powder Puff game on Thursday, Oct. 10, a Rally and Parade through Hall Park on Friday, Oct. 11, the games Friday night, and the Homecoming Dance will be held on Saturday.

DHS 20th Class Reunion

The Dixon High School Class of 2000 is holding its 20th Class Reunion on Saturday, Nov. 9, at Ruhstaller's Brewery, 6686 Sievers Road in Dixon from 4 to 7 p.m. More information is also listed on their Class Reunion website. ★



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Capturing the Spirit of Homecoming

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been a faithful tradition for so many years that it was found in every yearbook at the Dixon History Museum.
What is also the same is the stadium filled with a zealous pep squad, lots of cheerleaders, the high school band, and hundreds of families and friends to cheer on the Dixon Rams football players.
There will also be a Homecoming dance on Saturday, Oct. 12, at the school, from 8 to 11 p.m. For more info, contact Olivia. wasser@dixonusd.org. Dixon High School is located at 555 College Way. ★

Budget 101



Budget 101 is a graphic design software that simplifies the city budget process using pie charts, graphs and videos to quickly explain to the public how their tax dollars are spent. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

Continued from page 1
Graf used Texas as an example, showing how some areas of the Lone Star State break down the city finance numbers with Budget 101.
“It is a short video that explains that in the City of Dallas where their money comes from, and it is a little infographic and a short one-minute video in a way that people can understand it easily,” Graf said
Graf pointed to graphics including a \$1 bill, with line markings breaking down how each part of the dollar gets spent.

More “in-depth” graphic examples break down property taxes and offer pie charts explaining city department funding.
“I would like to note that nearly half of that budget is for the cost to print the mailers, so that is a pretty large portion if you are thinking it may be a little high, that's why,” Graf said.
“There is currently, I believe, \$28,000 already in that budget for other projects that were already approved, so the amendment would be \$75,000 for this project, leaving a total of \$103,000,” Graf said. ★

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Arrest Logs updated daily

New Superintendent Shares Route to Dixon

Continued from page 1
memorandum for criminal felony cases; being a Governmental Agency Overseer for the Center of Public Interest Law; and being a research assistant for the book titled Racial Justice in the Age of Obama.
He also worked for the Santa Clara County's District Attorney's office as a Post Bar Law Clerk as a member of the gang and juvenile units where he spearheaded a research project on juvenile competency.

Law to Education Policy
For two years after that, he put his energy into the role of Education Policy Director for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group and focused on education and health policy at the local, state, and federal level working to spur reform. He coordinated with local education service providers, foundations, and businesses to build a 16-million-dollar Educare facility.
He played a significant role in advocating for and passing SB 1381, a bill that changed the kindergarten age requirement date from December to September giving the youngest, most at-risk learners an additional year of kindergarten.
Policy to Superintendent
For five years, he served as superintendent of a K-12 District in Delano, a small ag town with low statistics for college admissions. He researched and discovered a nearby district had 88-percent and then facilitated internships and mentorships for the Delano students.
Because he and his wife,



A posterboard of the new Superintendent was made by School Board Trustee Jewel Fink, who organized his presentation for the Dixon Women's Improvement Club.

also a teacher, have a child with autism, Barley was then exposed to a whole new tangent of the education system.
“I wanted to be that lawyer that came in with the big stick and tells the state ‘you got’ta get this right,’” he admitted.
He read about a case Williams vs. California where parents of low-income students were suing because their children were not getting taught state standards. “Because of a group of parents, they were able to make change all across the state,” he said and that is inspiring.
Dixon Checked All Boxes
When he and his wife researched where to get support for raising their son with autism, they were led to the MIND Institute in Sacramento, so he began seeking work in Sacramento.
Before becoming Dixon's choice for Superintendent, he led the Montessori Project, a system of public schools serving some 3,000 students across the greater Sacramento region where

he managed a \$40 million annual budget and oversaw the growth of student scores on the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress.
Barley said he really enjoyed his work there but there are no sports.
“In 2001, we asked ourselves what is the school district that checks all our boxes, and it was Dixon. Then it was just a matter of waiting for Brian Dolan to retire,” he said with a laugh. “It has now been two months and ten days in the community, and it has blown my mind. People are really excited and passionate to support DUSD and it also has great staff members. A wealth of opportunities exists for us if we have the passion and grit to pursue it.”
He added that he didn't like it when people asked him about his vision.
“It shouldn't be about one person. The district is to serve the community and the children. [A vision] should be what we collectively believe.” ★

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City Reporter - We are seeking a part-time City Reporter in Dixon and in West Sacramento. This position works directly with the Managing Editor in our main office. Work hours are flexible depending on assignments. Previous reporting experience is required. We are also seeking freelance writers in both cities.

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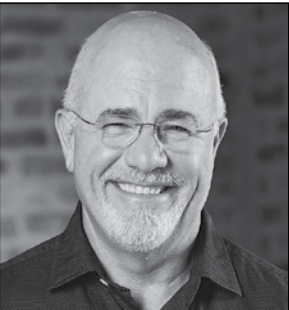
Two large glasses of beer, one slightly behind the other, both filled with golden beer and topped with thick white foam. The glasses are clinking together.

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Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are trying hard to get out of debt and start controlling our finances. We’ve always given our kids allowances in the past, but we’ve been considering putting their allowances on hold until we pay off our debt and get in better shape financially. What do you think about this idea?

– Cody

Dear Cody,

I’m glad you two are making smart changes in your lives, but I wouldn’t stop what you’ve been doing where your kids are concerned. It can be a series of great teachable moments for them. I would, however, stop calling it an allowance. In my mind, there’s a victim mentality attached to word “allowance,” and that’s not something you want taking root in their minds.

Kids should learn at an early age that money is connected to work. Even a kid who’s in kindergarten is old enough to begin doing some age-appropriate chores around the

Dave Ramsey Says

Rewarding Success and Planning Ahead

house. So, let’s start calling it a “commission” instead of an allowance. Why? Because in situations like these shouldn’t be viewed as “allowing” them something. It should be looked at—by you and by them—as rewarding success.

My wife and I did this very thing with our kids as they were growing up. Each of them had a list of chores that were expected of them each day. If they did their jobs, they got paid at the end of the week. If they didn’t, they didn’t get any money.

Some people may look at this method and call it “tough love.” But it’s really not. It’s just love. It’s something you do when you’re trying to teach your children, and guide them toward becoming independent, responsible adults.

– Dave

Planning Ahead

Dear Dave,

I was wondering if you recommend including future purchases, especially major purchases, into your monthly budget. If so, how far in advance should you do this?

– Andie

Dear Cody,

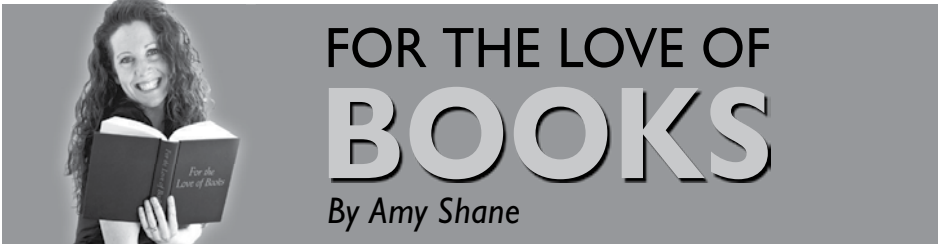
When you wait until things go wrong or something breaks down, you’ll find yourself in a mess and the victim of your own poor planning. That’s why I’d start putting money aside in my budget as soon as I saw signs there would be a need for whatever item it may be.

Let’s say you’re pretty sure you’ll need a newer vehicle in a couple of years. Go ahead and start putting the money aside now. Decide on a reasonable, affordable ballpark price, then do the math to see how much you’ll have to save every month to make it happen. And if you can make it happen faster than two years? Great!

And remember, this kind of stuff is a whole lot easier when you don’t have things like car loans and credit card payments hanging around your neck!

– 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. ★



Preparing for Spooky Season

Spooky Season is quickly approaching, and readers will be armed and ready with these great books.



From department stores to movies and everything in between, Monsters seem to be around at every corner. So, this is the perfect time to catch up on the origin monster stress that is still a timeless classic today. The Monstrous Classics Collection from Aladdin Publishing, all with newly imagined and eye-catching cover art. One of the first classic monsters featured is Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, first published in 1818. Most people know the Monster, but do they know the story? How about the Monster’s name not being Frankenstein? Victor Frankenstein spent his life obsessed with creating life from lifeless body parts. Yet, what the scientist creates is more than he ever bargained for; instead of human likeness, Victor Frankenstein created a hideous beast of patchworked parts with an intelligence that blurs the lines between human and monster. Repelled by his own creation, Victor casts out the Monster, but the consequences of his actions turn into tragedy.

Follow the story of the

scientist, the man, and the Monster.

Follow the story, the letters, and the diary entries in the most notorious vampire story, Dracula, by Bram Stoker. English solicitor Jonathan Harker visits the Transylvania castle of Count Dracula, only to realize he has entered into a place frozen in time. He quickly finds himself under attack while also witnessing an unnatural transformation by the Count. Lucy Westenra is suffering from a weird illness that causes weird fits of sleepwalking and presents with two puncture marks on her neck. To uncover the truth of these strange happenings, readers must delve into the world of the unbelievable and the world of vampires.

Another infamous monster family is the pop culture icon from the 60’s, the Addams Family, with the all-new reawakening of this family through the Netflix film Wednesday. Readers can peek inside her library with “Delightfully dark quotes and gothic takes from one grim girl,” in The Addams Family: Wednesday’s Library. Readers will

get an inside look at the books that might grace the shelves of Wednesday Addams library. This book is filled with quotes and antics from famous poets and writers, complete with graphics and illustrations. A fun gift for any show fan or to add to any Halloween shelf.

Tim Burton’s The Nightmare Before Christmas is back with a new board book called Everybody Scream by Evie Dayne. This delightful pop-up book takes an all-new twist as it takes readers into Halloween Town. Meet each character From Jack to Oogie Boogie and be able to slide them to the top of the book for a fighting and delightful Halloween display that is Jack Skellington-approved.

Follow the journey of one little pumpkin as it dreams of becoming a jack-o-lantern in Stumpkin by Ruth Cummins. Stumpkin found himself different from all the other pumpkins; instead of a stem, he only had a stump, but he dreamed of being carved into a jack-o-lantern. Will he ever get his dream? ★

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

Sunday, Sept. 15

04:00 - On-view burglary in the 100 block of East Dorset Drive.

Monday, Sept. 16

08:18 - Suspicious Circumstances report 400 block East A Street.

09:30 - Found property report 800 block South First Street.

09:50 - Confidential report 500 block West C Street.

10:18 - Vandalism report 2500 block North First Street.

13:45 - Court order violation 200 block South 8th Street.

Tuesday, Sept. 17

09:06 - Suspicious Circumstances report 1800 block Gold Street.

12:00 - Hit and Run collision 1100 Syracuse Lane.

12:07 - Restraining order violation 200 block Schooner Ridge Court.

12:10 - Fraud report 200 block North Lincoln Street.

15:40 - Battery report 1000 block North First Street. Christen Farrell (40) of Dixon was arrested for battery. She was cited and released from the Dixon Police Department.

21:55 - Theft report taken in the 100 block of East Dorset Drive.

23:34 - Traffic stop in the 1700 block of North 1st Street resulted in the arrest of Judith Harris (53) of Virginia for driving under the influence of alcohol. She was later cited and released to a sober person.

Wednesday, Sept. 18

08:00 - Hit and Run collision 1500 Valley Glen Drive.

09:50 - Battery report 1800 block Gold Street. Georgina Ramirez (44) of Dixon was arrested for battery and booked into the Solano County Jail.

11:15 - Threats report 1500 block Valley Glen Drive.

Thursday, Sept. 19

19:10 - A traffic collision report was taken at the intersection of North 1st St at Dorset Dr.

16:13 - Late report of vandalism in the 400 block of Coleman Drive.

17:00 - Found property in the area of Gold Street and Sword Court.

Friday, Sept. 20

07:29 - Missing juvenile reported in the 200 block of South 8 Street. The juvenile was located safely moments later.

11:38 - Informational report taken in the 400 block of East A Street.

14:38 - Suspicious circumstance in the 200 block of Stephens Street.

15:42 - Agency assist in the 1100 block of Valley Glen Drive.

15:50 - Two-vehicle non-injury traffic collision in the 700 block of East A Street.

Saturday, Sept. 21

22:16 - A warrant arrest report was taken in the 100 block of North 1st St. Officer Hollingshead made an enforcement stop and contacted the driver and the passenger (S) Michahela Faulkner (27) of Sacramento. A records check revealed Faulkner had two misdemeanor warrants out of Sacramento County. Faulkner was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail where she was released to their staff.

Sunday, Sept. 22

06:50 - Vandalism report 500 block North Lincoln Street.

11:44 - Vehicle Burglary report 1500 block Juno Court.

12:00 - Vandalism report 300 block Manning Way.

20:11 - Report of a reckless driver in the 2800 block of West A Street resulted in the arrest of Angel Levario (35) of Antioch for driving under the influence of alcohol. He was later taken to county jail and his vehicle was left on scene.

00:38 - Hit and run accident reported in the 400 block of West Chestnut Street.

Monday, Sept. 23

11:09 - Trespassing 1300 block Revelle Court.

14:24 - Burglary Report 400 block Buckeye Street.

16:00 - Vandalism report 500 block College Way.

Tuesday, Sept. 24

07:00 - Agency assist 200 block East Chestnut Street for Public Works. Officers contacted Oscar Orozco (33) of Dixon, and he was arrested for an outstanding bench warrant. Orozco was booked into the Solano County Jail.

09:10 - Vandalism 400 block East Mayes Street.

09:15 - Theft report 200 block East Dorset Drive. 1051 Harassment report at Dixon PD.

11:06 - SRO call for service 500 block College Way.

13:11 - Confidential report 200 block North Lincoln Street.

16:52 - Hit and Run collision report West A Street at North 1st Street.

22:06 - Confidential report taken in the 600 block of Peachtree Court.

Wednesday, Sept. 25

08:21 - Two-vehicle non-injury traffic collision reported in the 300 block of West Chestnut Street.

09:08 - Found property turned into the Dixon Police Department and booked for destruction.

16:05 - Found child in the area of Devonshire Court and North Almond Street. Child was reunited with their family.

20:06 - A false imprisonment report was taken in the 400 block of Hillcrest Dr.

21:52 - A violation of a court order report was taken at the Dixon Police Department.

00:57 - A stolen vehicle report was taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr.

Food & Farm NEWS

Brutal’ Wine Market Leaves Farms in Peril

State Water Board Agrees on Probation for Tule Subbasin

Certifiers Among Those Affected by New Organic Rules

Wolves and Mountain Lions Prey on Livestock

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Hitch In Higher Ed Master Plan: California’s Colleges Still Don’t Work Well Together



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California’s Master Plan for Higher Education, adopted 64 years ago, envisioned that three systems — the University of California, California State University and dozens of community colleges — would cooperatively, seamlessly and inexpensively generate the educated citizenry and workforce a rapidly growing state needed.

The plan assumed that community colleges — eventually numbering more than 100 — would provide sub-professional job training to some students while preparing others for transfers to four-year schools.

The state colleges (later state universities) would train teachers, engineers, accountants and other professionals and award master’s degrees in some fields.

The University of California would admit students with especially high potential, educate them in scientific and other complex fields up to the doctorate level and conduct research.

It didn’t quite work out that way.

The three systems often have been more competitive than cooperative, particularly when vying for money from governors and state legislators. They’ve erected barriers that make transfers

difficult and squabble over academic turf.

Community colleges, for instance, have encountered stiff opposition from the state university system as they sought legislative permission to award four-year degrees in some fields, while the state universities have faced equally tough resistance from the UC system to their efforts to award doctorate degrees.

The master plan’s assumption that higher education in California would be inexpensive to students also has taken a beating as other programs and services claimed ever-larger shares of the state budget.

That’s been particularly true since 1978, when the passage of Proposition 13, California’s iconic property tax limit, forced the state to become the major source of financing for K-12 schools, a role that a 1988 ballot measure, Proposition 98, lodged into the state constitution.

The current state budget allocates more than \$81 billion to K-12 schools while higher education would get less than \$24 billion. UC estimates that a year of attendance at one of its campuses costs about \$45,000.

Finally, students who seek to transfer from community colleges to either a UC campus or a state university face daunting barriers because the three have differing notions of how that should occur, as a new report from state Auditor Grant Parks underscores.

“Although most transfer students who applied to CSU and UC gained admission to at least one campus in those systems, CCC students still struggle to transfer,” Parks said in a letter summarizing

his agency’s audit. “Only about 1 in 5 students who began community college from 2017 to 2019 and intended to transfer did so within four years, and transfer rates were even lower for students from certain regions and demographic groups. The vast majority of students who did not transfer never reached the point of applying to CSU or UC, mainly because they had not earned enough units.”

Parks suggests that community colleges could make transfers easier with counseling and giving students “a clear roadmap,” but he points out that “another barrier to transfer is the variation in transfer requirements across and within the three systems, which makes the process difficult for students to navigate.”

There’s nothing that would prevent the three systems from reducing the barriers to transfer that Parks cites, but they have taken only fitful and obviously inadequate steps in that direction.

Parks’ report is only the latest bit of evidence that the 1960-vintage master plan never worked out as planned and needs a thorough overhaul if its rosy vision is to even approach reality.

Although the plan’s deficiencies have been obvious for years, neither governors nor legislators have expressed interest in making needed changes, because the politics of dysfunction are so daunting.

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

Sacramento Kings fans will be watching with great interest, as training camp begins Oct. 1, and there will be long shots looking to make the team. Names like Terry Taylor, Skal Labissiere, Jalen McDaniels, Colby Jones, Boogie Ellis and recent invitee Justin Powell are but a few of the players with aspirations of making the big club roster.

Add Orlando Robinson’s name to the list, but Orlando could potentially have a good chance of making the opening day roster because of his NBA experience with the Miami Heat, and his size. Robinson at 6’10” represents the type of front court player the Kings are in desperate need of, and he showed flashes with Miami that give the Kings hope that this aspiring 24-year-old may be able to provide some valuable minutes off the bench.

Without question Sacramento will be leaning on the talents of power forward Trey Lyles, who at 28 is in his prime, and showed Kings fans last year that even coming off the bench, Trey can be an impact player. Like his teammates De’Aaron Fox and Malik Monk, Lyles came to the NBA from the Kentucky Wildcats and was drafted twelfth overall in the 2015 NBA draft by the Utah Jazz. Trey spent time with the Denver Nuggets, San Antonio Spurs and Detroit Pistons, before being acquired by the Sacramento Kings in February of 2022.

Lyles found a home in Sacramento, and his production immediately took a jump, as the Kings gave their young big man an average of nearly 23 minutes per game. Showing this kind of confidence led to Lyles most productive season as a pro, and in 2022 Trey averaged 10.6 points per game.

The last two seasons, for reasons that are difficult to understand, Lyle’s time on the hardwood has diminished, and with it his scoring as well. Averaging seven points per game, Lyles has struggled to get the consistent playing time he needs to be a double-digit contributor, and I am hopeful, that coming into his prime and going into his fourth season as a Sacramento King, coach Brown will give this talented forward more

time on the court.

As fans we each have our favorites, but in Trey Lyles I see a player that needs to feel the confidence of his team and his coach, and I would like to see how he would produce in a starting role.

The Kings have been unable thus far to land an impact power forward, and it may be inevitable that they may have to look from within or continue to build this roster via the draft.

Without question Monte McNair has had opportunities to land an impact forward, but I give him great credit for passing up on trades that would have sent the Kings in the wrong direction. Too many NBA general managers are looking for steals, and I love the fact that McNair has kept the fabric of today’s team intact.

Many pundits and I could myself as one, feel that with the addition of DeMar DeRozan the Sacramento Kings have arrived, and without that elusive forward they have been seeking, I want to see what the team we have assembled can do.

In just a little over a week the Golden State Warriors come to town, and thirsty for basketball Kings fans will get their first taste of the new look Kings.

I can’t deny that I will miss Davion Mitchell, but I am also very curious to see what newcomers like Orlando Robinson or Boogie Ellis may contribute. Is there a diamond in the rough on this team?

I don’t know that I ever expected to read or hear that NBA pundits would rate the Sacramento Kings as the best basketball team in the state of California, but that is exactly what is occurring.

The LA Lakers, Golden State Warriors, and LA Clipper do not represent bad basketball teams, so to be touted as the best of them, should be something to make every Sacramento fan smile.

So, break out those cow bells Kings fans, and get ready to light the beam 50 times or more! It can happen and I expect it to happen!

Enjoy the preseason. This is going to be fun!

All the best Kings fans!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★



Riley Reviews

“WOLFS” UNITES KNOWN COMMODITIES FOR AN OFFBEAT THRILLER

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“WOLFS” RATED R on Apple TV+

As some may surmise that the incipient decline and potentially eventual doom of network and cable television might actually be a thing, streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime may strive even harder to satisfy the need for home entertainment.

These two behemoths of streaming options may be challenged to a greater extent in the future, but for now Apple TV+, approaching the fifth anniversary of its launch in 2019, is impressive for its catalog and ongoing production of original television and films.

During television press tours, critics have witnessed Apple TV’s presence at our biannual meetings to tout their new programs, and only this past winter was there an ostensible “executive session” that served not much greater purpose other than to recap past hits and provide a quick preview.

But who really needs executives spewing the party line like Baghdad Bob when the product speaks for itself? Apple TV+ has delivered popular hits like “Ted Lasso” and “Slow Horses” along with Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks’ limited series “Masters of the Air.”

What could Apple TV+ do to generate more traffic than pick up the crime thriller film “Wolfs,” starring Brad Pitt and George Clooney in roles as incognito fixers who seem to require little more than acting like they did in “Ocean’s Eleven” and the two sequels that followed?

Apparently, “Wolfs” had a very limited theatrical run that seemed to escape widespread public notice, at least because of the telltale sign that the box office receipts weren’t found on a website devoted to imparting that information.

Would signing up for Apple TV+ be worth the cost just to view “Wolfs” at home? The answer depends on how much you want to see Brad Pitt and George Clooney as rivals who wink, banter and trash-talk for just shy of two hours.

“Wolfs” is a bit convoluted in its plot and storyline of a thriller tinged with comedic elements that come from Pitt and Clooney, whose characters’ names are never revealed, bickering over their assigned roles in a messy clean-up operation.

The film opens with Amy Ryan’s Margaret, a district attorney with a public image to protect, distraught over the fact that she’s in a luxury New York hotel suite with the body of a half-naked, presumably dead young man.

In a situation like this, high-profile people resort to hiring a professional to clean

up the mess to cover the tracks of what would be a scandal not only for Margaret but also a hotel seeking to avoid bad publicity.

Enter Clooney’s fixer with a luggage cart and a duffel bag of considerable size to save the day. Wearing surgical gloves, Clooney seeks to calm his client with a stiff drink, reassuring her that he has everything under control.

But then things get interesting when Pitt’s nameless character shows up, knocking on the door, at the behest of the unseen hotel owner, Pam (the voice of Frances McDormand), as a matching fixer. That the situation was captured on a hidden camera creates another puzzle.

The hotel room scene includes blood and broken glass, with the body of a character only referred to as Kid (Austin Abrams) on the floor, who is presumed to be a male prostitute, contrary to the protests of Margaret who insists otherwise.

Awkwardly, Clooney and Pitt have no choice than to work together, which results in two leading men with easy charm to trade oblique glances and sarcastically whimsical insults.

The body disposal gets more complicated in a number of ways, and more so than the discovery that Kid had a backpack with bricks of heroin presumably belonging to some crime lord.

As the action goes, a chase through Chinatown is exhausting for everyone, followed later with Clooney and Pitt crashing a wedding party. An intense shootout with Albanian or Croation (who can be sure?) gangsters a burst of unexpected violence.

For lack of a better description, “Wolfs” is disposable entertainment, one that has a glossy superficial appeal but ultimately is as forgettable as watching a Chicago White Sox game as the team flails away at setting a record for the most losses ever in a season for a major league baseball team.

The best bet for watching Brad Pitt and George Clooney at their finest as a team for a thriller is to watch “Ocean’s Eleven” for their gold standard of a snarky buddy film. You can skip the sequels.

Nevertheless, it’s fair to say that Pitt and Clooney acquit themselves decently enough as their initial hostility, driven by some nice rebukes, gradually fades to a grudgingly joint effort that makes the whole enterprise reasonably watchable.

A nice touch comes near the end when Clooney says to his fellow fixer, “I never did catch your name,” and Pitt’s reply about surviving a shootout hints a sequel could be in the works. Nothing is certain, but if there is a next installment, it should be a more sophisticated caper. ★

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It is the intent of the *Dixon Independent Voice* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

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We are proud members of these newspaper associations.

Community Calendar

Ongoing Activities:

Alcoholics Anonymous – If you want to drink, that’s your business. If you want to stop drinking, we can help. Call Alcoholics Anonymous at 800-970-9040 for either local meeting information or to speak to someone.

American Legion Dinners – Every Friday night at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St. Prices range from \$12 to \$17 depending on menu. Live music every Friday. Live band first and third Fridays.

Bingo – Is played every Monday and Wednesday at the Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 S. 5th St., beginning at 12 p.m. Call 707-678-7022 for more information.

Friendship Services of Solano County – Do you spend a lot of time alone? Would you like a telephone companion? Call Friendship Service at 707-644-9062 x242 or 707-644-8909 and ask Cyndi about becoming a client. It’s free. A program of Catholic Social Services. A provider of the Napa-Solano Area Agency on Aging. Email: friendship@csssolano.org.

Meals on Wheels – Homebound seniors can receive meals delivered to their homes by calling 707-425-0638. Lunch also served at the Dixon Senior Center, 201 South 5th St. at 11:30 a.m. M-F. Reservations required – call 707-425-0638 one day in advance.

Regular Meetings:

Al-Anon – Family and friends of alcoholics can get support through Al-Anon, which meets Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St.

American Legion – Dixon Post 208 meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First Street. For information, call 707-678-6308. Also visit us online at www.dixonveterans.org/Legion.

American Legion Auxiliary – Dixon Post 208 meets at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First Street. For information, contact Pat Holland (President) at 707-678-3685 or Leah Marlin (Vice President) at 530-304-5385. Visit us online at www.dixonveterans.org/Legion.

Anderson PTO – Meets monthly at 7 p.m. at Anderson Elementary School, 415 East C Street. Email anderson-roadrunnerspto@gmail.com for dates.

Bids For Kids – Is a volunteer organization created to promote and foster youth participation in agriculture. Anyone interested in this endeavor is welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly meeting. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month. For more information, please contact secretary, Lisa Dage at 707-246-5623, fivedages@sbcglobal.net or president, James Fuller at 916-952-0167, jameskfuller@yahoo.com.

Boy Scout Troop 152 – Meets Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Social Hall at United Methodist Church, 209 North Jefferson. Scouts is for boys 11 to 18 years old. Contact John at 707-678-9693 or email Scoutmaster152@gmail.com for more information. Check us out on the web: <http://www.troop152dixon.com>.

Chief Solano Kennel Club, Inc. Meetings – at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday at the Elmira Fire Station. Call Linda at phone below to RSVP. Open to everyone. No July meeting. For info call 446-7492 or visit www.chiefsolanokennelclub.org.

Chief Solano Kennel Club, Inc. Classes – Puppy Socialization 6:20 to 6:50 p.m. (4 to 12 mos), Beginning Obedience 7 to 7:40 p.m. (4 mos & older) indoor training classes on Wednesdays at the Elmira Fire Station, as well as Conformation classes at 7:50 to 8:30 p.m. for those who show dogs or are interested in showing their dogs. Classes are open to everyone and their canine companions. Classes are not appropriate for aggression issues. Discounts for Seniors 55 and over, Juniors under 16, and those who have adopted a dog from the Humane Society, a breed rescue group, or your local shelter. Bring adoption certificate when you register. Visit www.chiefsolanokennelclub.org.

CITY OF DIXON: The following meetings are held in the Council Chamber at 600 East A St. The agendas are available before meetings at www.ci.dixon.ca.us. For further information, call 707-678-7000 and ask for the City Clerk’s office, Planning Dept., Parks & Recreation Dept., or Transportation Dept.

City Council – Meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission – Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission – Meets the

fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Transportation Advisory Commission – Meets the third Wednesday of every EVEN month at 7 p.m.

Dixon Adult Literacy Program – Solano County Library Adult Literacy Services is seeking volunteers to help an adult with their reading, writing, or English-speaking skills at the Dixon Public Library. No experience necessary, flexible hours. All training and materials are provided. Contact: Literacy@solanocounty.com or 707-784-1526.

Dixon Boat Club – Meets first Thursday of the month. For more information, call Butch at 707-678-3622.

Dixon Downtown Business Association – Dedicated to enhancing the business environment and promoting the revitalization of downtown Dixon as the cultural center of the community. Merchant meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at various locations. Log onto www.downtowndixonca.com, email DDROAC@yahoo.com, or call 707-678-8400 for more information.

Dixon Game & Conservation Club – Meetings on second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Game Club Building on East Mayes. For more information, contact John Kett at 916-284-4683.

Dixon Historical Society – Meets quarterly on the third Sunday of Feb., Apr., Aug., and Oct. from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dixon United Methodist Church Social Hall located at 209 N. Jefferson St. in Dixon. Meetings include a historical representation and announcements of upcoming events. Anyone interested in the history of Dixon, and its surrounding areas, is welcome! You do not need to be a member to attend, and all presentations are free to the community. The Dixon History Museum is open for visits, Thursdays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information, please contact us at www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org. Email dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or call 707-693-3044.

Dixon Kiwanis Club – an International civic organization serving the community through enhancing children’s lives meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. Call Kristin Janisch at 918-840-0785 for more information.

Dixon Lions Club – Since 1954, the Dixon Lions Club is a group of local people who identify needs within our Dixon community and work together to fulfill those needs. Internationally our 45,867 clubs & more than 1,347,322 members make us the world’s largest service club organization. We meet first/third Wednesdays at Bud’s Pub & Grill from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Website: <http://e-clubhouse.org/sites/dixonca>. Facebook page: Dixon Lions Club.

Dixon Rotary Club – Meets on most Wednesdays at noon at The Creative Space, 160 West A. Street, Dixon. Rotary is the world’s first and oldest service club organization with over 1.4 million members working locally and internationally to improve health and sanitation, combat hunger, provide education, and promote peace. For more information and meeting confirmation, contact Marianne MacDonald, 2023-2024 Rotary President, at 707-696-3384.

Dixon Scottish Cultural Association – Open to anyone who is interested in celebrating Scottish culture. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 1305 N. First St. For details, visit www.scotsindixon.org.

Dixon Senior Club – Meets the second Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Dixon Senior Multi-Use Center, 201 S. Fifth St. For more info, call 678-7022.

Dixon Toastmasters/Public Speaking Club – Need to speak in front of people? Want to improve your communication skills? Want to have fun learning? Check us out! We meet Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Living Hope Church. For more info, call or text Lynda Mendez at 530-665-0948 or Rose Cooke at 707-297-0918.

Dixon Women’s Improvement Club – From September through May of each year, the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club dedicated to the betterment of Dixon, meets on the third Wednesday of the month for stimulating presentations, activities, and friendships. Meetings are held at the Dixon United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Call 707-678-9198 for more information.

Dixon Youth Soccer Board Meetings – The board will meet the third Tuesday of each month, except for December, at the Sutter West Medical Center

Conference Room, at 7 p.m.

Domestic Violence Support Group – Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. at SafeQuest Solano, 1234 Empire St., Fairfield. Info 707-422-7345.

Dry Dock – This Alcoholics Anonymous group meets Mondays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m. at Dixon United Methodist Church, corner of B and N. Jefferson streets.

Fairfield/Suisun Bass Reapers – Meets first Tuesday of each month at Jack & Linda’s Country Cafe, 2390 N. Texas, Fairfield. For more info, call 707-429-3239.

Friends of the Dixon Public Library – Meets at the library on the second Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. For more information, call 707-678-5447.

Gretchen Higgins Parent Teacher Organization – We meet the second Monday of each month in the library at our school. Email ohpto1525@gmail.com for more information.

Independent Order of Oddfellows Montezuma Lodge #172 – Meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 111 West A. St., Dixon above Bud’s. For more info, call Jason 530-400-0281 or Ed 916-837-6865.

Lambtown Committee – Meets third Monday each month at 6 p.m. at Veteran’s Hall. Email John Knight at johnknightpto@gmail.com

Living With Cancer – Support Group for people who have or have had cancer meets the first, third, and fifth Tuesday of every month, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Dining conference room at Woodland Memorial Hospital, 1325 Cottonwood St., Woodland. Free.

Narcotics Anonymous – Open meetings are held every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Dixon United Methodist, 209 N. Jefferson St. (Corner of West B and N. Jefferson). For helpline information and other meetings, go to www.napasolanona.org.

Northern Solano Democratic Club (NSDC) – Meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at IBEW, 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville (behind Home Depot). For more information, contact Jeanie White 615-260-7896 or email pres.nsdc@gmail.com. Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northernsolanodem/s/.

NSDC Democrats in Action – Monthly lunch meeting is every fourth Thursday at noon at Fuso Italian Restaurant at 535 Main St., Vacaville. Meet to discuss actions that can be taken towards local, state, and national political issues. See above for contacts.

Promises AA Group – Meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson Street.

Sexual Assault Support Group – Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. at SafeQuest Solano, 1234 Empire Street., Fairfield. Info 707-422-7345.

Solano County Mental Health Education – Monthly presentations on various topics will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 2101 Courage Dr., Fairfield. Call Rachel Ford at 707-784-8362 for more information and monthly topic.

Sons of the American Legion – Meet every second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Dixon American Legion Post 208 Hall. For information, call Wayne Holland at 707-301-0941.

Soroptimist International of Dixon – Meets Thursdays at noon at the Dixon United Methodist Church (20 N. Jefferson). Call President Brenda Walker at 707-688-1367. Mail: P.O. Box 472, Dixon, CA 95620.

36th District Agricultural Assn. – Board of Directors meet the second Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. in the board room located at 655 S. First Street. (Dixon May Fair)

Tremont Teachers and Parents Association – Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Tremont School. For more information contact 678-9533.

Toastmasters – Meets every other Monday from 7 to 8 p.m. Contact Lynda Mendez at 530-665-0948 or email her at mendezlynda55@yahoo.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) – Dixon Post 8151 meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Olde Vets Hall, 231 N. First Street. For information, contact Cecil Dennings (Commander) at 209-395-8019. Also visit us online at m.facebook.com/DixonVFW.

Young Ladies Institute of Dixon – Meets the third Thursday of the month at St. Peter’s Parish Hall, 105 S. 2nd St. All Catholic women are invited to attend. For more information, call Virginia Fletcher at 678-5145. ★

Nishikawa Family Presented at Historical Meet

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) – Rod Nishikawa will give a historical presentation about his family at the next Dixon Historical Society Meeting from 2 to 3:15 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20 at the Dixon Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 209 North Jefferson St.

The Nishikawa Family of Dixon was one of many second-generation Japanese American farmers in Dixon after World War II and made many friends through their company, Nishikawa Farms, Inc. The farming operation became one of the largest tomato growers for the Dixon Cannery during the 1980s.

Kurakichi Nishikawa first immigrated to the United States in 1919. His sons, Hiroshi and Yutaka, moved to Dixon and bought their first property off Vaughn Road in 1955. Nine children grew up in Dixon from 1957 to 1986.



Here is a recent photo of Nishikawa family members. Courtesy photo

Nishikawa Farms retired from farming in 1991, ending their stay in Dixon.

This will be the Dixon Historical

Society's fourth and final presentation for 2024 and there will be refreshments served afterward. The historical society will

have four new presentations for 2025. If your family would like to present their history, email the Dixon Historical Society at www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org

For more information on the Dixon Historical Society & Museum, check out their booth at this weekend’s Lambtown Festival from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 5 and Oct. 6 at the Dixon fairgrounds. You are always welcome to visit the free museum, 125 West A St., in downtown Dixon from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

The museum changes or enhances displays regularly so there is always something new to discover. They also sell Milk Farm hooded sweatshirts, coffee cups and books. Sales help support museum operations and donations are welcome.

For school or special museum visits, openings can be privately arranged by calling 707-693-3044 or emailing dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com. ★



Impromptu Car Show

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Nobody seemed to know who organized the large car show that happened at Walmart this past Saturday but plenty of vehicles showed up and many visitors saw some beautifully-restored old cars. One person said there was a car show in Woodland all day Saturday and this might have been a pit stop for some drivers on the way back home.
Photo by Nicolas Brown

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Announcement

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Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605 (Cal-SCAN)

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GoGo. Live and age your way. Get help with rides, groceries, meals and more. Memberships start as low as \$1 per day. Available 24/7 nationwide. BBB Rated A+ Business. Call GoGo to get started. 1-855-476-0033 (Cal-SCAN)

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Struggling with debt? If you have over \$10,000 in debt we help you be debt free in as little as 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call Now: 1-877-435-4860 (Cal-SCAN)

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ACROSS

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5. Tire meas.

8. Flock member

11. Hollywood sidewalk mark

12. Architect's drawing

13. Muhammad's teachings

15. *Leaning Tower city

16. Co-eds' military org.

17. a.k.a. Pleasant Island

18. *Angkor Wat country

20. Like some Christmas sweaters

21. Walt's Mickey

22. Blunder

23. Emerge

26. *Midsommar' flower arrangements

30. *Avenue des Champs-Élysées, technically

31. Plural of stria

34. Prescribed food selection

35. On pins and needles

37. Knee-related acronym

38. Fur of the marten

39. Hissy fit

40. Political "shelter"

42. The night before Christmas

43. Eyewash vessel

45. Food tester

47. King Kong, e.g.

48. Milk quantity

50. * _____ Verde National Park

52. *Black Hills' Mount _____ National Memorial

55. Short-trunked ungulate

56. Geometric calculation

57. Barbequed anatomy

59. Not upright

60. Mountain lake

61. *Easter Island statues

62. Short for detective

63. Follow ems

64. "Mr. Roboto" band

DOWN

1. Recipe amt.

2. Related to ear

3. U.S. space agency, acr.

4. Gram, in Great Britain

5. Walks weary

6. Composer of "Gymnopédies" fame Erik _____

7. *Machu Picchu empire

8. Twelfth month of Jewish civil year

9. On one's guard

10. Ostrich-like bird

12. Marcel of "Remembrance of Things Past" fame

13. Harden

14. * _____ Familia, Spain

19. Autocratic

22. Earlier in time, archaic

23. Use blunt end of pencil

24. Sack fabric

25. Change shoelace knot, e.g.

26. *China's Great attraction

27. *Mt. Everest's northern slope location

28. Tool handle

29. Ranch grazer

32. Poison ivy woe

33. * _____ Strait, Alaskan cruise destination

36. *Famous onion-domed cathedral's namesake in Russia

38. Ingratiating behavior

40. Gobbled up

41. Relating to Utah

44. Like exes

46. Violent weather, pl.

48. #13 Across' sacred writings

49. Site frequenters

50. First one on a ship

51. Long narrative poem

52. Loan attribute

53. Heavy metal's Quiet

54. E-commerce website

55. Sylvester, to Tweety

58. Broadway musical about wives of Henry VIII

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Library Program a Plethora of Fun

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The local library sets the bar high for innovative events and programs.

The Parks and Recreation Commission's Sept. 24 meeting allowed Dixon Public Librarian Ricky Gjertsen to detail the creative library curriculum for all ages. The partnership between the Solano County Library System branch and local commerce makes a few of the programs unique.

The innovative readings and programs improve each day of the week, starting with Monday's "Read to Dog" at 3 p.m., where furry friends are welcome. Monday also offers more adult content, including "Home Finance" at 4:30 p.m.

"This is for homebuyers or people who are prospective homebuyers or people in the midst of their mortgage," Gjertsen said of the program led by Paul Smith, an Edge Home Finance mortgage broker.

Tuesday's schedule goes on all day long, beginning with "Storytime" at 10 a.m. and "Chess Meet-Up" midafternoon at 3:30 p.m., followed by "Switch for



The local school district partners with Dixon Library, a Solano County Library System branch. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

Twins" at 4 p.m.

Wednesdays start the day in Spanish with a 10 a.m. story time, followed by "Kid's Yoga" at 11 a.m.

"That is brought to you by our local business here in Dixon Busy Bee Studios," Gjertsen said of the class offered at the library, followed by "Afternoon Adventures" at 2 p.m., including cards and board games, crafts and Legos.

The middle of the week also offers "Soccer Shots," a sports-related learning activity.

"Soccer Shots has multiple age groups," Gjertsen said of the program that runs throughout the day on Wednesdays.

Thursday's "Barbies and Toy Cars" at 3:30 p.m. is one of the library's most unique programs, allowing boys and girls to play with

staple childhood toys.

If you don't own a Barbie or a Hot Wheel, "you can use our Barbie dolls and toy cars to play around and use your imagination," Gjertsen said.

"Switch for Teens" at 4 p.m. is available a second time during the week and the "Dixon Community Garden Convo" is at 6 p.m. Thursdays.

Friday ends with a few hands-on activities, including "Puzzle Therapy Day" and "Build-it Club" at 3:30 p.m., after the 10 a.m. "Storytime Theater" on the first and third Friday of the month.

Saturday's "Kanopy & Chill" at 9:30 a.m. sets the stage for a relaxing weekend with complimentary cereal and milk while watching classic kids' programs, including "Reading Rainbow," before starting the schedule all over again on Monday.

That's just the regular monthly calendar that Gjertsen detailed.

Special events fill up even more of Dixon Library's schedule, including the upcoming "Teen Indian Cuisine with Currey Express" at 4 p.m. Oct. 29 an the "Teen Halloween Cookie Decorating" on Oct. 31.

A mini health fair takes place Nov. 6, when residents can receive free diabetes and blood pressure checks, and information concerning access to mental and emotional health services, Gjertsen said before informing officials on the Oct. 19 "Teen Pokémon Trading with the Collector's Corner." ★

Governor Signs Sen. Dodd's Generative AI Accountability Act

Office of Senator
Bill Dodd News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Gov. Gavin Newsom on Sept. 29 signed legislation from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that will build upon recent directives from President Joe Biden and Gov. Gavin Newsom addressing the unprecedented growth of generative artificial intelligence technology by encouraging continued innovation while ensuring the rights and opportunities of all Californians are protected.

"Today, we take a big step toward identifying potential problems with generative AI and developing appropriate guidelines to protect our state and the public as we take advantage of this transformative technology," Sen. Dodd said. "Because we know AI has tremendous potential to

improve our lives and the functioning of government. But we also know it presents risks, specifically the threat to consumer privacy, transparency and fairness. This new law will help us address many of these concerns."

The 2023 White House Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights, in addition to recent executive guidance from Gov. Newsom, establish a framework for addressing concerns including AI-driven algorithms that discriminate against people based on income levels or race, and the effects of the technology on our workforce. Additionally, the president and governor have underscored threats posed by AI to data and consumer privacy, and the potential for misusing the technology to deceive and defraud.

Sen. Dodd's California Generative AI

Accountability Act, also known as Senate Bill 896, will guide the decision-making of state agencies, departments and subdivisions in the review, adoption, management, governance and regulations of AI technologies. One provision in the bill would require state agencies to notify users when they are interacting with AI. Further, the act encourages the state to invest in AI education and build AI competency in the state's workforce. It also requires state agencies to consider opportunities in which generative AI can improve the efficiency, effectiveness, accessibility and equity of government operations.

The bill was approved with unanimous Assembly and Senate support before being signed by the governor.

"SB 896 codifies several

important aspects of this EO, including direction to CalOES to perform risk analyses on potential threats posed by the use of GenAI to California's critical infrastructure," wrote Governor Newsom in a signing statement on the bill.

"Under this direction, CalOES has been working with frontier model companies to analyze energy infrastructure risks and convened power sector providers to share threats

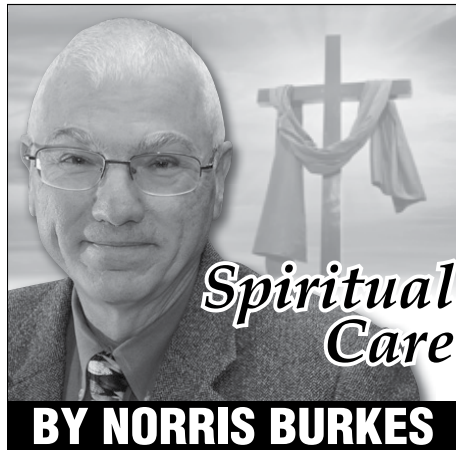
and security strategies. Building on this work, and in signing this bill, I am further directing CalOES to undertake the same risk assessment with water infrastructure providers in the coming year, and the communications sector shortly thereafter."

"In this era of disinformation, it is critical that guardrails be in place for the use of generative AI," said Brian Hofer, executive director of the nonprofit Secure Justice, a

bill supporter. "By addressing procurement, use, and training, Sen. Dodd's SB 896 will help California mitigate risk from using AI, while allowing for careful exploration and appropriate uses of this fast-emerging field."

SB 896 is a follow-up to Sen. Dodd's Senate Concurrent Resolution 17, adopted last year, which sets forth many of the ideas and was the first AI-drafted state resolution in history. ★

Your Sentiments Exactly



For the past 23 years, I've written this syndicated column about my adventures, misadventures and philanthropic ventures. During that time, you've responded to my commentary with hundreds of emails.

Since I've not always answered those emails, I'm taking a moment today to give a summarized response to several concerns. And even if you've never written, you may likely share the sentiments of those who have.

Grammar/Spelling

Some readers gently chastise me for my lack of a comma or overuse of commas. Sadly, I also battle with when to use "me" or "I." Or I misspell something, usually a homophone, words that sound the same but are different, like two, to and too.

Theology

Every once in a while, someone writes trying to convince me that there is no God. They have as much chance of persuading me of a godless world as the white-shirt fellas do who knock on my door trying to convert me though their Bible studies.

Some folks want me to explain God, as to why he did something in the world. I'm not too good at explaining God. Sometimes I gently remind them that I'm in sales, not the service department.

I get the theology critics from both sides. Pluralistic liberals sometimes read my column as being too limited to Christianity while fundamentalist Christians have suggested I might be working for the "enemy."

Politics

Readers have asked me to avoid politics and keep to my religious lane. I usually respond by saying, "I'm in good company with the prophets of old in talking about social injustice."

I once had a reader who seemed convinced that I was wisest-of-the-wise, but he turned on me when I wrote against the hate speech of Rush Limbaugh and Howard Stern.

"Your column is no longer fit to line my bird cage," he wrote. I wanted to tell him

that birdcage is a single word, not two, but I thought better of it.

Life Advice

But it has been the tragic emails that have broken my heart. Those from readers seeking solace over their lost child or spouse, or their broken marriage. Victims seeking escape from abuse at home or at church, both sexual and psychological.

Many other readers are lonely, like the elderly or terminally ill or the imprisoned population.

How could I possibly give so many people the specific help they seek?

First of all, the only advice I give is to refer people to their local clergy or therapist. I can't give advice by email any more than I can discuss theology by email.

However, I have been known to respond with a few guiding principles.

When readers share their life tragedies, it feels empty to promise "thoughts and prayers." These readers aren't seeking a fix, but rather to make their hurt known to someone who cares. So I begin with, "I've read your email, and I hear your unimaginable pain."

In relationship issues, it's impossible to know all the sides, so I ask them to consider two things.

Listen to understand before insisting that you be understood. Identify the emotions. Fear? Hurt? Embarrassment? Proverbs 18:13 says, "A person who answers without listening first is foolish and disgraceful" (ICB).

I challenge them to consider what part they may have played in the hurt. I try to avoid prescribing a one-size-fits-all Bible verse, but I do hear wisdom in the Psalmist's prayer, "Search me, O God, and examine my heart. Test me and know my anxious thoughts" (139:23-24 NIV).

Finally, there is a little piece of advice I admittedly pass on from the Lord's prayer: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." Forgiveness is the most powerful force in the world. But we must do it first for ourselves.

Sadly, I can't satisfy all my readers, such as the professor from a prestigious New York seminary. She had nearly the entire alphabet following her name, yet saw nothing socially redeeming in my writing.

"Your columns are nothing but drivell!" she told me.

I'm grateful for her comment, because ever since I looked up the word drivell, I take great delight in including a little bit of "hogwash" or "gibberish" in my columns now and then. ★

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