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Banning Artificial
Food Dyes in School
Snacks and Drinks

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Construction
Begins Soon
as SMF Closes
Hourly Parking

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Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 41

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OCTOBER 11, 2024

SEE
INSIDE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS
MONTH



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PEDESTRIAN
CROSSINGS
ENHANCED



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KINGS
KORNER
By V.G. Harris



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Take Fire Prevention Steps



Members of the Dixon Fire Department stand proud with Sparky, the mascot, the face of the National Fire Prevention Association, which promotes Fire Safety Week annually. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In 1883, a roaring blaze of fire ripped through Dixon, utterly destroying the entire region.

In a few hours, churches, businesses and homes burned to the ground from one ember that started in the kitchen of the Centennial Hotel, now the Moose Lodge. The Dixon disaster came after the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 when President Calvin Coolidge declared Fire Safety Week in 1925.

A year shy of a century, the annual Fire Prevention Week is the longest-running health observance in the U.S., with the Dixon Fire Prevention Week



Sparky, the mascot for Fire Safety Week, will make a special visit on Saturday, Oct. 12, at the Dixon Fire Department between 9 a.m. and noon. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

joining in. Mayor Steve Bird officially proclaimed Oct. 6 through Oct. 12 as a week of fire safety with the rest of the nation.

“Resolving fire is a serious public safety concern both locally and nationally, noting roughly three out of five fire deaths happen in homes with either no smoke alarms or with no working smoke alarms,” Bird wrote in a decree.

Every year, new statistics and themes come out on Fire Safety Week. This year, the theme “Smoke alarms: Make them work for you” was promoted by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA).

In a video, Casey Grant, Continued on page 4

Dixon Coastal Cleanup Gathers County Volunteers

By Angela Underwood

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A black plastic garbage bag dropped far into Pond C land was an eye-sore and a detriment to the environment until a resident picked it up.

The 40th anniversary of Coastal Cleanup Day, a massive statewide event, amped up residents to tidy up on Sept. 21, when up to 1,420 Solano County volunteers collected and disposed of 22,963 pounds of trash and another 1,706 pounds of recyclables and beverage containers.

“This was an increase of more than 200 additional volunteers county-wide compared to last year,” Madeline Graf, Dixon public information officer, said of the event at Pond C. “We had volunteers of all ages and many families came out to help with the cleanup effort.”

Dixon is one of 48 sites in Solano County that “account for an impressive 5% of the just over 1,000 cleanup locations throughout the state and are found in creeks, marshes, and open spaces in every city,” according to the Solano Resource Conservation District (Solano RCD).

Dixon Junior Engineer Leland Markusen said Dixon partners with the district and Cleanup Solano on events throughout the year, including Coastal Cleanup and Earth Day.

“We partner with Solano RCD on a variety of projects that restore our natural resources,” Markusen said.

Coastal Cleanup Day is funded by the cities and Solano County and coordinated by Solano Resource Conservation District. The county event coordinator said she was pleased to see so many residents who care about the health of local watersheds out on Sept. 21.

“These waterways are all connected to each other and to the oceans, so we have a great opportunity to step in and intercept trash and pollutants before they flow from Solano and points further inland to the sea,” Stephanie Stock said.

Graf said Coastal Cleanup plays a crucial role in protecting marine ecosystems by removing tons of debris and pollutants that can harm wildlife and disrupt natural habitats, ensuring the preservation of biodiversity along the coastline.

“This event raises public awareness about the environmental impact of littering and pollution and fosters a sense of community and environmental stewardship, bringing together

Continued on page 2

Mayor Candidates Share Views

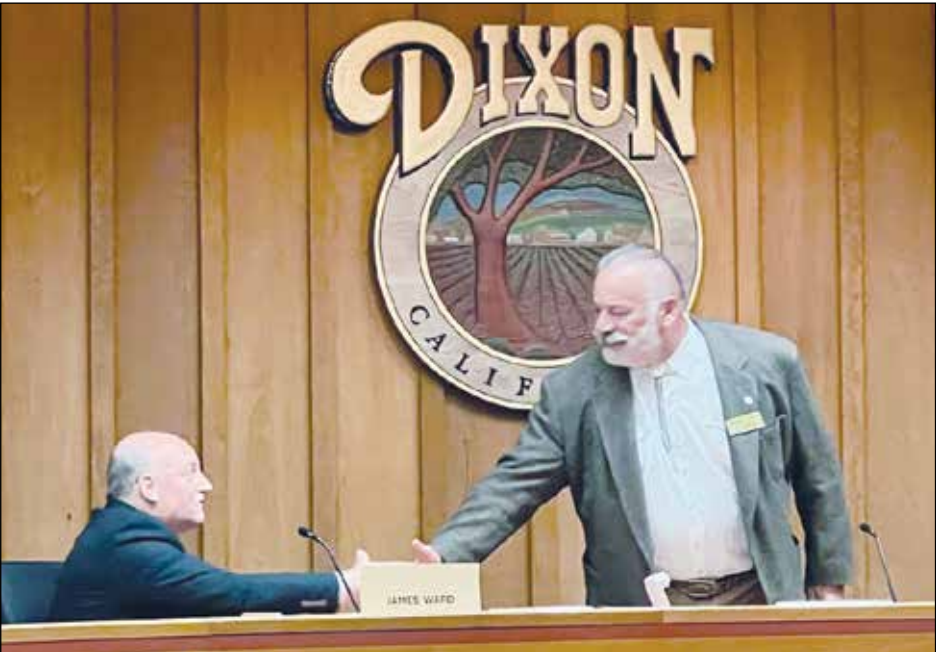
Story and photo
by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - School partnerships, a budget deficit, how to attract and retain police officers and firefighters, and tax increases were just some of the topics covered at last week’s Mayor Candidates Forum hosted by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce and held at City Hall. Herb Cross served as Moderator and Tiffany Fabiani-Renger served as Timer.

Mayor Steve Bird and City Treasurer Jim Ward, who are both running for Dixon’s top spot on the City Council, answered a myriad of questions from citizens during the nearly two-hour presentation although during the first half, there were technical difficulties for those watching online via Zoom, which were about a dozen. About 40 residents attended in person.

School Partnership

When asked how the



City Treasurer James Ward, left, shakes hands with Mayor Steve Bird after the Mayor Candidates Forum sponsored by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce.

future looked for shared facilities with Dixon Unified School District, Bird said a lot of trouble started with the theater not being taken care of when the city has a joint shared agreement. He blamed the former administration, labeling them as

“dysfunctional” but was cautiously optimistic about recent staff changes.

“Now, it is a new beginning, and the relationship is very positive now. We’re working together on the shared facilities use and I’m looking forward to shared opportunities,”

he said.

Ward said there was a need for one more School Resource Officer and was concerned about social media, bullying, and weapons on campus.

“We need to work together and expand

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www.IndependentVoice.com



Fall Means Fun

By Debra Dingman

Thank God the weather will be cooling down this weekend. As a woman from the south recently told me, “It’s been hotter than wearing cotton socks in a parade!”

I’m not sure how long it will last, but according to my weather app set to Dixon, it will be a nice week-long reprieve from the blazing heat. I can’t imagine a Homecoming where we didn’t turn to our blankets by the end of the games, nor do I recall a Halloween that was miserable for trick or treating. Not that I’m a weather woman, but I am usually dramatic about being cold or hot so my memory in this area is usually good. Fall—according to nature—is forthcoming.

But on that note, I want to remind folks of all the fun that is available at the annual Pin-a-Go-Go this Friday thru Sunday at the Dixon fairgrounds, Oct. 11 through Oct. 13. This is so much fun if you take your same-age friends who love pinball machines. It’s a benefit for local youth charities and is affordable entertainment. Go to <https://www.pin-a-go-go.org/> for day prices or all-weekend pass.

More fun is brewing for Halloween on Thursday, Oct. 31, in the downtown core from 1 to 4 p.m. as well as the Dixon Chamber parking lot, 2 to 5 p.m. I took photos last year and as usual, was really surprised at how many parents are part of the fun. They push strollers, weave toddlers through masses of other children, and often parade with spouses in matching-themed costumes from one end of downtown to the other. It always amazes me at the huge turnout.

Please don’t try to drive anywhere near which means listen up retirees: don’t schedule your salon appointments or your trip to the bank during that Thursday’s afternoon.

I don’t want to forget a thank you to Dist. 3 Council Rep Kevin Johnson for reaching out to me about last week’s column. We mostly agree on things and for the few we don’t, at least I know he’s reading and caring enough about what’s being said. I have been preoccupied with a writing project that will take me at least another couple months and of course, it is election season in the middle of that project, so it is hard to be split-minded. But isn’t that the way all of life is? I thought that in my retirement I could be single-subject focused and that would be on grandchildren, but then life happens and unless you are a lizard trapped between the window and the screen, you will experience usually too much of life to handle.

It does not help that my phone must have had an update and good reception on it is impossible for any length of time. We use T-Mobile. My youngest son, who was exasperated at having bungled our way through a brief conversation said, “Mom, I’m not doing this. Take your phone to a store and get help.” Although it actually sounded like, “Ma, not ing is. Take pho a store.”

This is another thing I must fit into a schedule that was supposed to be filled with swimming peacefully in the community pool after a morning of writing on my project, and being what I hoped was at least semi-retired. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Anderson Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization hosted a Color Run fundraiser recently with hopes to raise \$10,000. The event was held at the John Knight Middle School Track and was attended by new Dixon Unified School Superintendent Brett Barley and Board Trustee Julian Cuevas plus a host of staff, family, and friends. Lindsay Snyder, organizer of the run, was happy with the tum out. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff

All-School Fall Festival

Presented by the Parent-Teacher Organizations, Dixon High and Maine Prairie High Schools, John Knight Middle School, and Tremont, Anderson, and Gretchen Higgins Elementary Schools, a Fall Festival will delight on Saturday, Oct. 25 starting at 3 p.m. at the Dixon High School campus, 555 College Way. There will be food, vendors, games, raffles, local guest appearances, and family fun for all.

Teen Halloween Cookie Decorating

After school on Thursday, Oct. 31, come and decorate free Halloween cookies with your favorite toppings to make them even tastier at the Dixon Public Library. This event is geared towards tweens and teens ages 10 to 18. All ages are welcome. However, children under 10 years of age must have a parent or guardian with them to attend. The time will be 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Know Your Propositions

On Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 1 p.m., Carole Paterson of the Solano County League of Women Voters will present a talk on the current Propositions that Solano residents will be voting on Nov. 5. The talk is for the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club members and guests that will be held at the Dixon United Methodist Church in the Fellowship Hall, 209 North Jefferson.

Youth Basketball

Yes, it’s now time to register for basketball season with Dixon Youth Basketball and registration ends Oct. 25 and there are no late registrations for any reason. Games take place on Sundays beginning in January with the season ending in March. League is open to players that will turn 5 by Dec. 31 through eighth-grade. Stay tuned for info about the upcoming skills clinic that will take place for all registered players on Oct. 27. Price is \$150 and more information is available on www.dixonbasketball.com.

dixonyouthbasketball.com.

Ruhstaller Farm

If you haven’t ever been to Ruhstaller Farm, you are missing something! Unique, relaxed ranch where delicious meals are available from a food truck and one can purchase cold, locally brewed beer. Located at 6686 Sievers Road, there is almost always live entertainment including Saturday, Oct. 26, the ‘Deadbeats—Grateful Day of the Dead’ starting at 3 p.m.

Karate & Kobudo Tournament

Ryukyukan 23rd annual international Karate and Kobudo Tournament will be held at Dixon High School Gymnasium, 555 College Way, on Nov. 2. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. and competitions begin at 9:30 a.m. At 12:30 p.m. there will be the Knockdown Weigh-In. For more information, call Ramtown Karate in Dixon at (707) 678-4899.

Downtown Halloween Treats

The annual trick or treat extravaganza will be held on Halloween, Oct. 31, starting at 1 p.m. in downtown Dixon. Children are encouraged to dress up and have fun getting treats from the local merchants and then travel through the tunnel to the Dixon Chamber of Commerce for their ‘Trunk or Treat’ festivities from 2 to 5 p.m. at 220 North Jefferson Street.

Senior Social Dining

Thanks to Innovative Health Solutions providing healthy and nutritious lunches, the Dixon Senior Center is offering ‘Congregate Dining’ at 11:30 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. For a full listing of activities also for seniors, go to cityofdixon.us and click on the government tab, then scroll to Parks and Recreation, then click on ‘Seniors.’ The monthly newsletter will then appear. Or you can drop by 201 South Fifth Street and pick up a copy. There are many wonderful activities for seniors either free or low cost. ★



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Dixon Coastal Cleanup Gathers County Volunteers



On Sept. 21, two Dixon residents walk far into the bushes and grass to pick up a plastic bag filled with trash on Coastal Cleanup Day. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

Continued from page 1

volunteers to collaborate on a common goal,” Graf said.

The California Coastal Commission, which governs statewide events including Solano County and Dixon, keeps the day going, offering gratis chips and guac from Rubio’s if volunteers fill out a survey.

Survey participation also provides the chance to enter a drawing for a \$250 VISA gift card and other fabulous prizes on the commission’s website.

Graf pointed out that Dixon residents get their hands dirty other days of the year to help.

“Solano Resource Conservation District does host other clean-up days throughout the year, including on Earth Day,” Graf said of the April 2025 event. “Residents can visit cleanupsolano.org or the city’s social media accounts to stay up to date on volunteer clean-up days.”

Graf said Dixon’s Pond C cleanup would not have been as successful without the Solano Resource Conservation District.

“Volunteers throughout the county partnered to collect over 22,963 pounds of trash and make our community cleaner and safer,” Graf said. ★

Mayor Candidates Share Views

Continued from page 1
services,” he said.

Local Business

One question from the audience was how they saw helping local businesses.

Ward pointed to the voluminous City Code as a deterrent to investment and expressed concern about the vast development planned for the Northeast Quadrant that could possibly force out the Campbell company which he noted had just purchased several other major companies. He specifically wanted to encourage the expansion of the Campbell company.

Bird instead focused on the consumer side and encouraged being a “good ambassador and selling Solano.”

“Events like concerts at the Pardi Plaza and various community events like the Wine Stroll and the Beer Fest draws not only our own residents but out of town residents to local businesses like Winters does,” he added.

Both men were asked about their vision for the future and did not seem much different from each other but to finish current projects, bring in a new grocery store, and completion of the Parkway Overpass, for example.

Where for Windfall?

When Ward was asked if the city received a hypothetical \$10 million “windfall,” what he would do with it, he echoed a refrain from his time as City

Treasurer, saying he would rebuild the city reserves which have been depleted over the last several years.

“You never know about a natural disaster and keeping reserves at a higher level gives you a cushion. We don’t want to go bankrupt like Vallejo did,” he added. “Some would have to go to new fire department staff.”

Bird responded that with a \$10 million windfall, he’d like to see something like “an indoor sports arena...more entertainment...funding for the fire department...and finishing the Parkway overcrossing.”

Sales Tax Increase

Both men had answers to whether or not they supported the one-cent sales tax measure and where the sales tax money should go if Measure J passed in November.

Bird said it was up to the voters and he supports it. He pointed to the need to increase wages for City jobs, mainly police and fire.

“We have some serious issues to deal with...We must be prepared for our future in all facets of our governance,” said Ward who also agreed it was necessary and he supports it but repeated twice that it should have been a “restrictive fund.”

For a full recording of the forum, Tiffany Fabiani-Renger posted it on her Facebook site. Election Day will be Tuesday, Nov. 5. ★

Pedestrian Crossings Enhanced



DIXON, CA (MPG) - The wide, bright yellow stripes are clearly marking the pedestrian paths around John Knight Middle School and Anderson Elementary School. The crossings have been in the City of Dixon’s plans for about a year after hordes of middle school students started on the newly renovated campus. Some drivers have noted the wide turn necessary to go from South 4th Street onto A Street toward Pedrick Road and might prefer to use South 5th St. instead. Photo by Debra Dingman

Predator from Fairfield Pleads to Child Molest and Child Pornography Charges

Butte County District Attorney’s Office News Release

BUTTE COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A 21-year-old Fairfield man pleaded guilty in court Sept. 25 to two charges stemming from his online actions involving a then 10-year-old Butte County girl in 2022.

Ethan James Alfonso, 21, of Fairfield, pleaded guilty in Butte County Superior Court Sept. 25 to one count of child molestation for his remotely directing a 10-year-old girl to disrobe and touch herself while on a computer chat program with him. He also pleaded

guilty to one count of possession of child pornography stemming from his contact and downloading of photos and videos of the girl.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said Alfonso met the girl on Roblox, a worldwide gaming platform. He chatted with the girl over their computers during gaming sessions. Their conversations then moved to Discord, a chat and messaging program. During their conversations, Alfonso was made aware of the girl’s age but nonetheless persuaded the girl to create and send him nude photographs and videos of herself. At one point, Alfonso made threats

to the minor that he would release the nude images to the internet if she did not continue to supply him with more. The girl, however, finally told her mother what was happening and the mother reported it to the Chico Police.

Ramsey said Chico police detectives investigated the digital footprint left by Alfonso and eventually traced him to Fairfield. The Chico detectives, along with the Fairfield Police detectives, served a search warrant and arrest warrant in Fairfield on July 7, 2022. At that time, Alfonso was apprehended and transported to the Butte County Jail.

The case was filed by the Butte County District Attorney’s Office in July of 2022 but was prolonged for several years when the defense claimed that Alfonso was mentally incompetent to stand trial. In June of this year, Alfonso was found competent to stand trial on the underlying charges by a jury, whose sole purpose was to determine whether or not Alfonso was competent. Alfonso subsequently pleaded guilty Sept. 25 in court.

Ramsey noted this case highlights a very real danger that lurks for children behind every gaming and chat service where they can interact with strangers. Ramsey

said it was clear in his messages to the young girl that Alfonso subtly “groomed” her for a few weeks before taking advantage of her immaturity and gullibility. Ramsey cautioned that crimes of this nature often progress quickly and can spin out of control for the victims just as fast.

Alfonso has been held in custody at the Butte County Jail since July 2022 in lieu of \$700,000 bail. His next court date and sentencing is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 9:30 a.m., where he faces a maximum term under the law of eight years and eight months in state prison. ★



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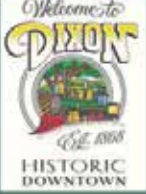
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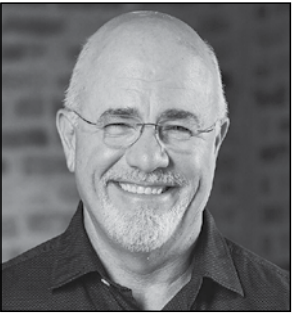
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Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

I follow your advice and live on a budget, but it’s really hard to save up for a down payment on a house because property is so expensive on the West Coast. My family thinks I should buy a cheaper property back home, fix it up and flip it to get the extra money I need. How do you feel about this?

– Alan

Dear Alan,

When you take on this kind of work, you need to oversee what’s happening every step of the way. You’re working out details, keeping an eye on the crew and it’s all on you to make sure everything’s being done right.

It’s not unusual for pros who flip houses to look at 100 or more properties to buy just one. It’s not an easy way to make money, and it’s definitely not something to consider doing from a distance. All that being said, can you guess what my answer’s going to be? Fixing and flipping properties in the area where you live is hard

Dave Ramsey Says Wait and Save Up

enough work. Trying to do it from hundreds of miles away would be a nightmare. There’s no way I’d sign on for something like this.

Keep working on your budget, and start saving as much money as you can. You might even consider getting a part-time job for a little while to bring in some extra cash for your house fund. But waiting and saving up is a lot smarter than trying to fix and flip a house in another state.

– Dave

Eliminate the Confusion

Dear Dave,

I work for a construction company. The closer we get to winter, the more I think about work slowing and my income dropping. I’ve had couple of winters in the past where things were pretty lean. Do you think I should begin building an emergency fund for the slow times?

– Carl

Dear Carl,

I love that you’re thinking about the future. I also think it’s great that you’ve learned from past mistakes and are determined not to repeat those mistakes.

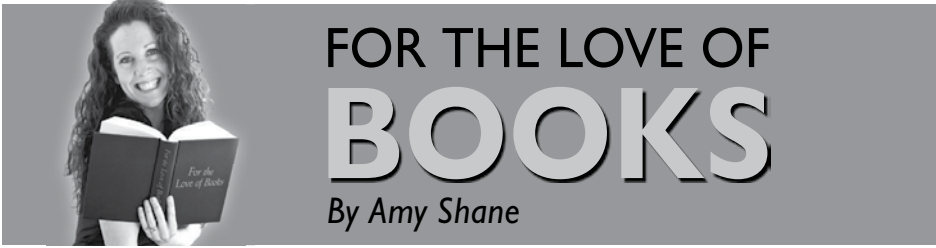
You’ve got a smart idea,

but you’re going to have to get on your horse to make something happen for this winter. Also, you might want to think about calling it something other than an emergency fund. How about your “Offseason Fund”? You might think I’m being silly playing with the name, but hear me out. This sort of saving isn’t really for emergencies, is it? It’s a budget issue, because you’re planning and setting aside cash leading up to something you know is coming.

Remember, we’re not talking about some random amount of money. It’s an exact amount that you can budget for accordingly. This winter you may have to think about picking up a side job, depending on the weather and other circumstances. But after that, it’ll be a simple matter of planning ahead for the down time and setting aside something each month to see you through!

– 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. ★



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

Spooktacular Middle Grade Reads

Spooky season is upon us and these haunting new reads are perfect for the middle grade reader



The Old Willis Place
by Mary Downing Hahn, adapted by Scott Peterson, Meredith Laxton, Sienna Haralson

From the wonderful spooky mind of Mary Downing Hahn is the graphic novel adaptation that will captivate a whole new audience. Diana and her little brother love living in the old Willis place, even though people say it is haunted. They revel in the freedom to run and play, with no bedtime or teeth-brushing rules. The only restriction is they can’t leave the grounds. Their excitement peaks when Lissa’s father becomes the estate’s caretaker, offering the possibility of a new friend. But there’s a catch – no friends allowed.

But what happens if they do?

This is a ghostly, great story, with excellent illustrations and even full-page letters.

The Creepening of Dogwood House
by Eden Royce

Everything in his life changes when Roddie gets sent to live at Dogwood house. The house is creepy and weird, and the Spanish

moss reminds him of his hair, which makes him think of his mom. But one thing his mom didn’t teach him is hoodoo, and as he learns more about the secrets hidden within the house-secrets that are reaching out to Roddie.

Exit Nowhere
by Juliana Brandt

When Barret embarks on a group project to research a historical landmark, she suggests the abandoned Raithfield manor. Little did she know that she would soon find herself in the midst of a genuinely haunting situation. As the sun sets, the mansion locks them inside, turning into a thrilling game of childhood games. The only way out is to win the game. Now, the group must learn to work together or risk disappearing in the process!

The October Witches
by Jennifer Claessen

Clemmie has always loved October, but this October will be different. Now that Clemmie is twelve, it might be time to receive her October power like her mom, aunt, and cousin, but magic with her family can get messy. However, some want to try and harness the

magic to last more than just a month, which could put her coven in mortal danger. What would people pay to have magic all year or even to have magic, and what is the ultimate price they will pay?

Grab a blanket and a cup of hot cocoa for this fun fall read.

Tales From Cabin 23
by Justina Ireland

Everything in Tasha’s life has changed. After her mother’s death, Tasha is sent to live with her grandmother in the middle of nowhere, Georgia. What makes matters even worse is that one of the neighbors mysteriously passes away. Then, she meets Ellie. Ellie is certain she knows who is responsible for the death- a weird shadow creature that stalks the trailer park at night. It all seems made-believe until Tasha discovers a book filled with old Southern hoodoos. Could Ellie actually be right?

Filled with all the bumps in the night, readers will be able to Follow along as Tasha and Ellie try to solve the mystery and their trailer park. ★

Take Fire Prevention Steps



Mayor Steve Bird encourages residents to come out and support the first responders and learn more about the safety of smoke alarms during Fire Safety Week 2024. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

Continued from page 1

former National Fire Prevention Association executive director, details the Great Chicago Fire, noting the blaze-inspired life-saving redesign.

“We build cities with fire protection in mind that people don’t even realize it,” Grant said. “The width of streets are put in knowing the convenience of vehicle, but they are natural fire breaks, and the exterior of buildings are much more fire resistant in terms of design.”

Dixon did the same. “After the building material of choice became brick or tin, as part of a new city ordinance,” according to a city history report.

As for smoke alarms, the mayor said, they “sense smoke well before you can, alerting you to danger in the event of a fire in which you may have as little as 2 minutes to escape safely.”

Bird reminds residents they should test smoke alarms at least once a month and plan and practice a home fire escape plan so citizens “are more prepared and will therefore be more likely to survive a fire.”

Additionally, the mayor said Dixon’s residents are

SMOKE ALARMS
Make Them WORK For You!™

October 12, 2024
9:00am-1:00pm

Dixon Fire Department
205 Ford Way
Dixon, CA 95620

fpw.org

Dixon Fire Department

Open House

Open House Saturday, Oct. 12 at the Dixon Fire Department. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

responsive to public education measures and can take personal steps, pointing to the last day of Fire Safety Week, Saturday, where Sparky, the mascot, will make an appearance from 9 a.m. to noon at the Dixon Fire Department, 205 Ford Way.

The annual event gathers young and old to meet and discuss fire safety

with Dixon’s first responders, who, if called to do so, would sacrifice their safety for the residents they meet.

Bird urges “all the people of Dixon to make sure their homes have working smoke alarms” and to come out on Saturday to support “the many public safety activities and efforts of Dixon’s fire and emergency services.” ★

Ballot Measure Threatens Sonoma County Dairies and Poultry Farms

As voters cast their ballots in the coming weeks, farmers in Sonoma County say the future of the region’s dairy and poultry farms is on the line. Measure J, a ballot initiative in Sonoma County, would within three years cap the number of animals each farm can raise, banning larger farms or forcing them to downsize. “If some of the larger farms in our community are no longer able to operate, it may lead to a collapse of the entire sector,” said Albert Straus, owner of Petaluma-based Straus Family Creamery.

Irrigation Districts Work to Enhance Tuolumne River Salmon Habitat

Partnering with fisheries agencies, Central Valley irrigation districts, whose water users face flow reductions under the state’s Bay-Delta water quality plan, are enhancing habitat along the Tuolumne River to improve conditions for struggling fish. The \$7.8 million habitat restoration project, happening downriver from the La Grange Dam in Stanislaus County, includes a \$5.5 million grant from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and \$2.3 million invested by Turlock Irrigation District, Modesto Irrigation District and the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

How Bird Flu Spreads Among Dairy Cows Remains a Mystery

With cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy cows rapidly rising in California, animal health officials continue to try to contain the spread, even as they remain flummoxed by how the virus moves among herds. “The truth is that we don’t really know how this virus spreads exactly,” said Deniece Williams, head clinician at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. As of Sept. 30, 43 dairy herds in the state—all in the Central Valley—have been confirmed with H5N1.

Input Costs Cut Into Ranching Profits as Beef Prices Hit Record Highs

The Voice of California Agriculture podcast, produced by the California Farm Bureau, discusses conditions that have caused the U.S. cattle inventory to decrease to its lowest levels in more than 70 years. Drought, deteriorating pasture conditions, inflation and high costs for feed and other inputs reduced herd sizes in recent years, causing beef prices to hit record highs, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The episode also covers a rise in bird flu cases in Central Valley dairies, challenges related to new regulations for organic livestock certification and date harvest in the Coachella Valley. ★

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ROSEMARIE (ROSE) GNOS • 11/7/1932 - 9/30/2024

Rose, at the age of 91 , passed away on September 30, 2024. Rosemarie was born to Emil and Anni Kaelin in Einsiedlen, Switzerland, on November 7, 1932. Rose grew up and attended school in Einsiedlen and Apprenticeship in business administration at the Diocese there for two years and then went to the Diocese in London, England for 2 more years. During this time she also took violin lessons and became an accomplished violinist playing in the symphony orchestra in the city of, Einsiedlen, many church activities, as well as numerous community events and activities. Rose was a multi linguist speaking German, Swiss German, French, Italian, Spanish, as well as English, as well as new languages. She really excelled in learning new languages. Rose loved to hie with her friends around Europe.

Rose immigrated to the United States on August 21, 1959, on a Greek Liner T.S.S. to New York, and then flew to San Francisco. While there, she found employment as a house maid for the Lom family.

It wasn't long before that an Aunt of the Gnos family told Ernie about the cute Swiss girl in San Francisco, so he headed to San Francisco and that meeting was the turning point in Rose's life. Shortly after that Rose and Ernie were married in a small church in Switzerland in 1960. Rose always wanted to marry a farmer so she could have all the butter and eggs she wanted. Rose was an excellent cook, seamstress, and homemaker. Rose was a accomplished business woman and bookkeeper. Putting her business knowledge to work, she became a partner in the farming operations with Ernie and his brother Herman Gnos.

Rose and Ernie loved to travel. They traveled to almost every state in the US, Canada, México, throughout Europe, the Mediterranean, China, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, and South America. She loved to hike the hills and mountains, and ski, in the US and Europe, especially Switzerland and Squaw Valley which was close to their second home at Donner Lake.

Rose was precede

in death by her parents, sisters Pia, Cathy and Louise, her beloved husband Ernie, Sister-in-laws Marie Bunch, Greda Hebrard, and brother-in-law Joseph Gnos. She is survived by her sons Hans and Victor, grandson Chase (Sharon) Gnos of Modesto, grand daughter Victoria Gnos of Sacramento, and great grand daughter Ember Rose of Modesto, Sister-in-law Joan Giannoni, and Brother-in-law Herman (Lucy) Gnos of Dixon, and numerous great and even great-great nephews and nieces.

A viewing and Rosary will be held at the Carpenter Funeral Home on Monday, October 14, 2024, from 5-8 pm, with Rosary at 7pm. A Mass will be held at St. Peters Catholic Church in Dixon, at 10 am, and a celebration of Life at 11 am at the Olde Vets Hall in Dixon at 11 am.

Internment for Rose will be private at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery on the 16 of October.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers that contributions in memory of Rose be made to your favorite charity.

Riley Reviews

CW FALL SCHEDULE SEEKS TO BUILD ON ITS BRAND OF TELEVISION

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

The President of Entertainment at the CW Network, Brad Schwartz, would like us to know that their Fall season is “another leap forward in the transformation” of the network as it continues “building a media brand with broadcast at its core.”

His optimism is to be admired because there are conflicting views on the future of broadcast television. There was a time, in a galaxy long ago, when three major networks, ABC, NBC and CBS, dominated and we mostly watched the same shows, some good and others eminently forgettable.

The Detroit Free Press published an article earlier this year noting that the answer to the question of the future of television was a “one-way ticket down a rabbit hole of potential outcomes.” During the latter part of last century came the rise of cable TV, and now the hot market is streaming.

Mondays will be game show night with two new series based on familiar names. First up is “Trivial Pursuit,” reimagined in a question-packed entertainment format. Gameplay takes place on a giant version of the iconic game board, as contestants fight it out.

Participants battle over a range of play-along question categories to win wedges and beat each other to the center. The victor then takes on a dramatic finale against the clock to claim the jackpot. “Trivial Pursuit” is hosted by Emmy Award-winning actor LeVar Burton.

Hosted by fan-favorite actor and singer Raven-Symone, “Scrabble” is a captivating, fast-paced take on the global board-game phenomenon. In each episode, wordsmiths skirmish over a series of addictive word games of skill and strategy to win points and master a giant Scrabble board.

Ten years ago, TNT debuted “The Librarians” series that featured a diverse group, including a skilled thief and art historian, working below the public library in order to protect mystical artifacts.

“The Librarians: The Next Chapter,” a spinoff of that original series, follows the adventures of the custodians of a magical repository of the world’s most powerful and dangerous supernatural artifacts.

This new series centers on Vikram (Callum McGowan), a “Librarian” from the past, who time-traveled to the present and now finds himself stuck here. When he returns to his castle, which is now a museum, he inadvertently releases magic across the continent.

Vikram is given a new team to help him clean up the mess he made, forming a new team of Librarians. Alongside McGowan, the series stars Jessica Green as Charlie Cornwall, the Guardian; Olivia Morris

as Lys Pascal, the Scientist; and Blueey Robinson as Connor Green, the Historian.

In new series “Joan,” Sophie Turner stars as notorious jewel thief Joan Hannington in this story set against the vibrant backdrop of the 1980s, an era known for its bold fashion trends, iconic music, and cultural shifts.

The series opens with Joan, a fiery and uncompromising woman in her twenties who is deeply scarred and vulnerable. She is a devoted mother to her young daughter, but is trapped in a disastrous marriage with a violent criminal named Gary.

When Gary goes on the run, Joan seizes the opportunity to create a new life for herself and her daughter. She becomes a masterful jewel thief and embarks on a thrilling, high-stakes journey that challenges her every limit.

Through her sharp intelligence, charm and talent for impersonation, we track the twists and turns in Joan’s life, the ups and downs, the heartache and joy that makes this story of “Joan” so compelling to follow.

Frank Dillane is London antiques dealer Boisie. Joan’s older sister and salon worker Nancy is played by Kirsty J. Curtis. Gershwyn Eustache Jr. portrays Albie, an old acquaintance of Boisie who’s made a new life in Spain with his wife Val (Laura Aikman).

Mid-season series on the horizon include “Good Cop/Bad Cop,” a one-hour procedural dramedy centered around Lou (Leighton Meester) and Henry (Luke Cook), an odd couple sister and brother detective team in a small Pacific Northwest police force.

They must contend with colorful residents, a lack of resources, and their very complicated dynamic with each other and their police chief, Big Hank (Clancy Brown), who happens to be their father.

The mystery thriller “Sherlock & Daughter” puts Sherlock Holmes (David Thewlis) out of his comfort zone, mysteriously unable to investigate a sinister case without risking the lives of his closest friends.

Enter young American Amelia (Blu Hart), who learns her missing father may be the legendary detective. The pair must work together to solve a global conspiracy and find out if she’s really related to Sherlock.

Back to the Detroit Free Press by Julie Hinds, the article noted that the “seismic shifts in television platforms over the past decade are pointing toward a brave new world of viewing, but what wil it be?”

Since we don’t want to plunge down a rabbit hole, the answer will not be found here, nor with a network executive. Like the start of a baseball season, it’s good to be hopeful, and the CW may have put together a slate for continued growth. ★

California’s Expensive Explosion of Real Estate Fraud Hits Home



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Rana Robillard came very close this year to losing her life’s savings and with it her dream home, when she wired nearly \$400,000 to an internet scammer.

Robillard, ironically, is an experienced veteran of the Bay Area technology industry, but when she received what she thought was a request for her down payment on a home in Orinda, she sent the money, only to learn that she had been tricked.

“That’s when I went into a full panic,” Robillard, 55, told CNBC, the cable channel devoted to financial matters, which chronicled her terrifying experience.

Robillard was not alone in being victimized.

The real estate industry has fully embraced online transactions, thus eliminating the hassle of having buyers, sellers, real estate agents, mortgage lenders and title company employees shuffle through dozens of paper documents that must be signed or initialed to complete transactions.

It’s made the process of buying and selling houses much more convenient, but it’s also given scammers an opening for fraud that has cost home buyers many millions of dollars.

The request for down

payment that Robillard received was virtually identical to the many email messages she had exchanged and, in fact, was the only bogus one, which is why scammers have been so successful.

Cyber crooks have mastered the dark art of mimicking legitimate messages, complete with the real names of title company employees and authentic-looking logos, and artificial intelligence could make their scams even more successful in the future.

FBI data, CNBC reported, reveal that real estate fraud involving bogus emails has risen from less than \$9 million in 2015 to \$446.1 million in 2022.

A study of real estate fraud commissioned by Anidjar and Levine, a Florida law firm, found that California’s 1,583 cases in 2023 far surpassed those of any other state, as did its \$24.8 million in losses.

Robillard is one of the lucky victims. She quickly reported her loss and her \$398,359.5 was tracked through several banks as the thieves shifted it around to avoid detection. Five months later, after CNBC began making inquiries, she received \$150,000 from one bank and then the remaining nearly \$250,000 from another.

Robillard contacted CNBC about her case both to help her recover the money and bring more attention to the real estate fraud explosion.

“This is not what I thought my public representation would look like, which is that I’ve lost all this money,” Robillard told

CNBC. “If it helps other people, I’m happy to do it, even though it’s obviously not my proudest moment.”

I take a particular interest in Robillard’s case not only because it’s important but because I came within a whisker last week of also becoming a victim.

I, too, received a very authentic-looking instruction from the title company handling my purchase of a smaller home for downsizing, seeking down payment and closing costs to complete the purchase. It seemingly came from the title company employee who had been handling my transaction and had all of the appearances of a legitimate communication.

I intended to comply with the request a few hours later, but then received a phone call from my lender about closing the transaction. I told him of the request and he immediately smelled a rat.

That phone call was a lifesaver. A few days later, I presented a valid cashier’s check to the title company employee whose identity had been borrowed by the scammer and signed the legitimate paperwork to finalize the purchase.

One of the documents I signed was a warning about phony payment instructions. Perhaps it should have been one of the first documents I was given, rather than one of the last.

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. ★

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

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.

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/northernsolanodems/.

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. ★

How to Keep Teachers from Leaving their Jobs

Commentary by Emily McGinnis

There's never been a more stressful time to be a teacher. I say that as someone who worked in K-12 schools for more than 20 years, first as a teacher and then as a principal. Educators enter the profession out of a passion for teaching and helping kids. But today, they're leaving in droves. Between 2020 and 2022, about 300,000 public school teachers and staff quit. K-12 teachers have the highest burnout rate of any profession. Nearly a third are considering leaving the profession. For the sake of the next generation, school districts and local governments need to figure out how to keep teachers in classrooms. Improved salaries would help -- teachers

are underpaid. But even that wouldn't entirely solve the problem. We need to turn schools back into places where teachers want to be. Many of these institutions are no longer havens for learning. Pressure on teachers has mounted over the years as society has made them scapegoats in cultural and political battles. They face unprecedented criticism from parents and governmental officials. Stressors are also increasing inside. Schools are growing more violent. Since the pandemic, 38% of K-12 schools have seen an increase in physical violence between students, 45% have seen an increase in threats, and 37% report an increase in bullying. The teacher shortage, along with staff cuts, force those who remain to take on more responsibilities -- supervising morning

drop-off, recess, or afterschool programs. Most teachers can't afford to spend more time on the job. Already, more than 80% of teachers have worked a second job to help make ends meet. Burnout is a downward spiral. It drives teachers away, which increases the workload -- and burnout -- of those who stay. Of course, the elephant in the classroom is money. Local and state governments must allocate more funding to their public schools. Instead, states like Connecticut and Utah are slashing education budgets. Tennessee, South Carolina, and Oklahoma are considering rejecting billions in federal education funding. Nearly \$200 billion in Covid-era federal aid is set to expire soon. In Texas, lawmakers failed to approve teacher pay increases despite a \$38.7 billion surplus.

We need to increase school funding to retain and attract more teachers. But how we go about using funds is just as important. Schools should prioritize hiring assistant teachers and tutoring services. Even schools dealing with budget cuts can make changes to support their teachers. For instance, administrators can show teachers they value their expertise by standing behind their decisions when dealing with quarrelsome parents. It also makes a difference to respect their time. When I was a teacher, I'd often be up by 5 a.m., at school by 6:30 a.m., and home at 6 p.m., all while juggling family responsibilities -- and preparing the next day's lesson on my own time. It doesn't cost any money to have administrative staff take turns covering morning drop-off

or lunch supervision. As a principal, I provided teachers with meals donated by local restaurants, freeing up time after work so they could enjoy dinner at home with their families. If we care about children, we have to nurture their teachers. Too many have lost the joy of educating. By respecting their time and improving their workplaces, we can bring that joy back. *Emily McGinnis is the K-12 education market manager at KI, a global furniture manufacturer in Green Bay, Wis. She previously spent 21 years as a teacher and principal in the Charlotte, N.C. area and holds master's degrees in teaching and school administration from Wingate University. This piece originally ran in the Dallas Morning News.* ★

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Solano County District Attorney's Office News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - We invite you to join the Solano County District Attorney's Office in conjunction with Fairfield, Vacaville and Suisun City Police Departments on Oct. 17 at 12 p.m. at the courthouse steps located at 530 Union

Avenue, Fairfield, where we will recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

We will honor this time by recognizing the impact that domestic violence can have on all our homes, families and communities. We would like to recognize all the survivors and those whose lives have been affected by domestic violence and remember those whose lives

were lost to domestic violence.

We thank all of our first responders, county partners, non-profit organizations, and all the individuals who work every day towards ensuring that victims of domestic violence are able to escape their abuse.

"Our priority at the District Attorney's Office is to ensure victims are safe, their voices are heard and rights preserved in the

criminal justice system, and that their offenders are held accountable. We must continue to work tirelessly towards removing any and all barriers that stand in the way of victims' rights, safety and justice," said District Attorney Krishna Abrams.

The District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Unit is available to support victims with a wide variety of services.

If you or someone you know has been a victim of domestic violence and need the assistance of an advocate, please call 707-784-6827. If you have an emergency, please call 911.

Let's all challenge ourselves to be more proactive by reporting what we see and reaching out to those in need so together we can break this cycle of violence. ★

Local Classifieds

Advertise in your local community newspaper
Call 916-773-1111

Announcement

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (Cal-SCAN)

Advertising Works!

Autos Wanted

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR MISSING CHILDREN. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 1-877-434-6852 (Cal-SCAN)

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. All 50 States. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-855-408-6546 (Cal-SCAN)

Tiene un vehiculo no deseado? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-855-408-7368 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN)

Autos Wanted

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-491-2884 today! (Cal-SCAN)

Business For Sale

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CLUES

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1. End of WW2 conference location
6. No longer is
9. Cake with rum
13. * _____ Asinoff, author of "Eight Men Out"
14. Invoice qty.
15. Fox crime drama, 2005-2017
16. *Baseball player's representative
17. Pastrami's partner
18. With irregular edge
19. "Last year's World Series winners
21. "Brave contender
23. Certain tray content
24. Fail to mention
25. Nocturnal flyer
28. Team homophone
30. "Last year's MVP Corey _____
35. Iranian monarch
37. Proactiv target
39. "Superman" star
40. Head of family
41. Button-up or button-down
43. Singles
44. Graduates
46. Symphony member
47. "Number in a baseball lineup
48. Say again
50. Brezhnev's country
52. PST plus three
53. Mouth off
55. Brewed beverage
57. *Fall _____
61. *Two-time World Series MVP winner in 1970s
65. Two under on one hole in golf
66. Brewed alcoholic beverage
68. Grind down
69. #72 Across, in the olden days
70. *2003 World Series winner or Marvel leader, Stan
71. Plural of #62 Down
72. Eject
73. _____ excellence
74. Noise of contempt

DOWN

1. 1984, e.g.
2. Pond plant
3. Right to a property
4. Polynesian kingdom
5. Affirm to be true
6. TV's "Storage _____"
7. Comedian Schumer
8. Iron setting
9. Bora _____
10. Any day now, formerly
11. Superlative of better
12. Not in port
15. Loud singer
20. Actress _____ Perlman, pl.
22. _____ the season!
24. Double-decker
25. Wilde of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" fame
26. Blue or gray swimmer
27. Drink like a cat (2 words)
29. Reply from a tunnel
31. Eon, alt. sp.
32. Robin Williams in "Aladdin"
33. 0 and 2, e.g.
34. Set to zero
36. *Touch to score

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California Is Banning Artificial Food Dyes in School Snacks and Drinks



The foods that contain the most dye are poor quality junk food. Photo by Ylanite via Pixabay

By **Kristen Hwang**
CALMatters.org

Many brightly colored kids’ snacks and beverages will disappear from California schools under a new law Gov. Gavin Newsom signed on Sunday that bans certain artificial food dyes from K-12 campuses.

Starting in 2028, six common food dyes will no longer be allowed in food sold at schools because of concerns that they cause behavior and attention problems in some children. The banned dyes are: Blue 1, Blue 2, Green 3, Red 40, Yellow 5 and Yellow 6.

Artificial food coloring production in the U.S. has increased more than six-fold since the Food and Drug Administration first issued safety regulations in the 1930s. Although initial studies indicated that artificial colors were nontoxic, recent research has linked eating foods containing synthetic dyes to hyperactivity and trouble concentrating, particularly among children.

This legislation builds on a first-in-the-nation law Newsom signed last year to ban the sale of food containing four food additives common in candies and baked goods, and are thought to be harmful. That law applies to food sold anywhere in California, while this year’s legislation focuses solely on school nutrition.

“The reason it makes sense to focus on schools is because that’s where a lot of those behavioral and hyperactivity issues are going to compound,” Melanie Benesh, vice president for government affairs with Environmental Working Group, a national advocacy group that co-sponsored the legislation. “If you know there are kids in these schools that have a sensitivity to these dyes, and it makes it harder for them to concentrate, then you are not creating the most conducive learning environment for those kids.”

Several state legislatures are considering bills similar to California’s. The federal government, however, has not updated its safety standards.

“California is once again leading the nation when it comes to protecting our kids from dangerous chemicals that can harm their bodies and interfere with their ability to learn,” said Assemblymember Jesse Gabriel, the Democrat from Encino who authored the law.

Packaged food manufacturers opposed the food dye restrictions, saying that the FDA — not California — is the appropriate food safety regulator.

“The approach taken by California politicians ignores our science and risk based process and is not the precedent we should be setting when it comes to feeding our families,” said John Hewitt, a senior vice president at Consumer Brands Association, which opposed the measure. The organization represents major food manufacturers, such as Coca Cola and J.M. Smucker.

What does the science say on food dyes?

Managing risk of harmful chemicals can be tricky, and California is no stranger to considering controversial legislation that attempts to reduce exposure.

An early version of the law Newsom signed last year to ban certain food additives was derided by critics as a “Skittles ban” before lawmakers amended it in a way that excluded the dye in the popular candy. Meanwhile, cancer warnings

that are required by a 1986 law known as Proposition 65 are often criticized for creating consumer confusion and spurious lawsuits.

But advocates say federal regulations don’t move as quickly as science, requiring state lawmakers to take initiative.

California’s environmental hazard research agency published a 300-page report assessing the risk of synthetic food dyes in 2021. The conclusion: The studies used by the FDA to develop safety standards did not assess neurological outcomes that have since been associated with food coloring. Those papers, which are between 35 to 70 years old, instead looked for physiological toxic effects, such as weight gain or decreased liver function in animals.

More recent research, including clinical trials, show links between eating dye and behavioral problems in children at much lower doses than the FDA’s current allowable limit.

“We all agreed that the weight of evidence supported an association, and that the current acceptable daily intakes for some of the dyes set by FDA may not adequately protect against behavioral or neurobehavioral outcomes,” said Asa Bradman, a public health professor at UC Merced who worked on the state’s risk assessment. “And you know, that’s kind of a bombshell.”

Hewitt from the Consumer Brands Association said packaged food manufacturers stand by the FDA guidelines.

“It’s unfortunate the scientifically proven, safe ingredients have been demonized without a scientific basis,” Hewitt said.

But Bradman said the industry hasn’t been able to discredit any of the newer research — it has only pointed to the original studies, which are outdated and not appropriate for assessing behavioral changes.

Dyes in Juice, Soda and Ice Cream

Children are the most vulnerable to the adverse effects associated with food coloring, in part, because they’re more likely to eat foods and beverages that are dyed. Even medications for children, such as cough syrup and vitamins, are manufactured with synthetic dyes. Kids are also more susceptible because their brains are still developing, and their body weight is smaller compared to the amount of dye consumed, research shows.

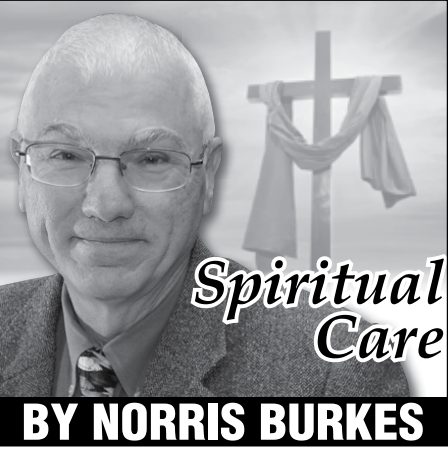
Juice, soda, icing and ice cream cones are major sources of exposure among kids.

Poverty and race also increase exposure risk, the state’s report found. Black children and women of childbearing age ingested significantly more food coloring than other ethnic groups.

The foods that contain the most dye are “poor quality junk food,” Bradman said. Most schools already have healthy food programs aimed at reducing them on campus. This legislation would help encourage schools to serve even healthier foods, he said.

Kristen Hwang is a health reporter for CalMatters covering health care access, abortion and reproductive health, workforce issues, drug costs and emerging public health matters. Her series on soaring rates of maternal and congenital syphilis won a first place award from the Association of Health Care Journalists. ★

Don’t Talk About God Behind his Back



Last Sunday, I admitted to my Nevada City congregation that I sometimes, feel like the man who had had enough with life’s difficulties, so he went to live in a monastery.

The abbot restricted the man’s spoken words to only two words every year.

After his first year, he reported to the abbot to share his first two words – “Bed hard.”

On his second annual opportunity, he pronounced, “Food bad.”

Finally, on his third year, he came to the abbot’s office to proclaim, “I quit.”

“I’m not surprised,” said the abbot. “You’ve done nothing but complain since the day you arrived.”

Well, I don’t want you to think I complain too much, but I once spent a few days fretting over lost keys, car repairs and my daughter’s somewhat risky international travel to Honduras.

On those occasions, “Mrs. Chaplain,” (that’s what I call her when she’s not around) asked, “Have you prayed about it?”

“At this point,” I said, “honestly, my prayers would sound more like complaining.”

“What’s wrong with that?” she asked.

I took a few minutes to think about her challenge when I remembered a guy who did a fair bit of complaining himself: Moses.

You remember Moses. He’s the one who bugged, literally bugged, the Egyptian Pharaoh to free the Jewish people from slavery. Once the people were liberated, Moses ran his egress route through the oppressive heat of the Sinai Desert.

The people quickly forgot their wonderful freedom and started whining about the lack of good Chinese takeout. (OK, maybe they weren’t that picky, but they were a bit famished. Read the complete story in Numbers 11.)

So Moses, also resenting his situation, asked God, “Why are you treating me this

way? What did I ever do to deserve this? Where am I supposed to get meat for all these people?”

He continued. “If this is how you intend to treat me, do me a favor and kill me. I’ve had enough.”

Just an observation here – I don’t recommend daring God to kill you; it’s not a prayer for the faint of heart.

Nevertheless, God threw down a challenge of his own and said to Moses, “Gather together 70 men from among the leaders of Israel, men whom you know to be respected and responsible. . . (and) you won’t have to carry the whole thing alone.”

In the end, Moses wasn’t struck dead for his audacious request. Quite the opposite. God answered the prayer – providing a little help from Moses’ friends.

Now, I don’t pretend to know how prayer works, but I think Moses’ prayer was effective for two reasons.

First, the prayer was simple and direct. It wasn’t a flowery prayer packed with analogies, metaphors or obtuse tangents.

God likes direct words. (He also dislikes dictionary words like “obtuse.”)

Whenever I encounter someone complaining about their raw deal, I’ve always told them: Stop gossiping about God. Talk to God directly, not behind his back.

Go right up to God (wherever you talk to God) and say, “Hey, God! My life stinks!”

Then turn it into the prayers Anne Lamott describes in her book, “Traveling Mercies.”

‘Here are the two best prayers I know: ‘Help me, help me, help me’ and ‘Thank you, thank you, thank you.’”

Moses’ simple prayer worked because God heard the heart of the prayer — honesty.

In the midst of the griping, God heard a confession known by anyone in a 12-step recovery process.

It’s a prayer that has various wordings, but the gist is, “I’m powerless to do anything by myself. I need help.”

It was the same kind of prayer my wife was challenging me to pray.

A little later, she asked, “Find your keys yet?”

“No, but I think God’s given me a plan to find them.”

“Really?”

“Yeah. How do you feel about having 70 readers come over and help me look for my keys?”

“Really? After 23 years of column writing, do you still claim to have at least 70 readers?”

I think I’ll start calling her “Mrs. Moses.”

Just not to her face. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024001416

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Date filed in Solano County: September 13, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. 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 September 12, 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: Sept 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 2024

BRISTOL 10-18-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024001461

The following persons are doing business as: Disciplelife, 2051 Rustic Oak Lane, Rio Vista, CA 94571.

Joseph Njoku Obi, 2051 Rustic Oak Lane, Rio Vista, 94571.

Date filed in Solano County: September 25, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

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Publish: October 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024

DISCIPLELIFE 10-25-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024001302

The following persons are doing business as: Bellator Pest & Termite Control, 7342 Timm Road, Vacaville, CA 95688.

Bellator Pest & Termite Control, 7342 Timm Road, Vacaville, CA 95688.

Date filed in Solano County: August 21, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

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Publish: Sept 27, Oct 4, 11, 18, 2024

BELLATOR 10-18-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024001425

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Jacob Sanders, 795 Wiegand Way, Dixon, CA 95620.

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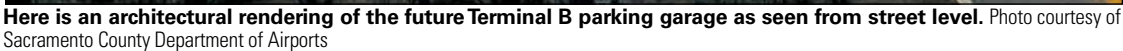
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By Daniel Canfield

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Airport officials, along with local dignitaries, break ground for the new Terminal B parking garage. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County Department of Airports

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Association News Release***

The bill creates a special exception allowing Solano County and every city in Solano County to exceed, by 25%, the

By undermining the protections currently in place to prevent excessive taxation, this bill sets a concerning precedent for future legislation. When

The signing of AB 3259 into law will have significant and far-reaching consequences for Solano County. It will put businesses in Solano County and its cities at a competitive disadvantage, stifle economic growth, limit job opportunities, drive up the cost of goods, and reduce the spending power of local family incomes, undermining the quality of life for our residents.

“We are extremely disappointed that the Governor has chosen to sign this bill into law, despite our repeated warnings about its devastating impact on Solano County,” said Michael Nolan, Solano County Taxpayers Association

The Solano County Taxpayers Association will continue to fight for the rights of Solano County taxpayers and will oppose efforts by the county and by any city in the county to increase their sales tax under this bill's authorization. ★