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Dixon Independent Voice

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DECEMBER 6, 2024

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The Season of Giving



Pardi Plaza is adorned with Christmas regalia as Dixon residents enjoy a night of fun and festivities. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The season of giving is upon Dixon, and with that comes the opportunity to spend time with family and reflect on the year's events.

Dixon has plenty of events approaching, including Pancakes with Santa on Dec. 7, the premiere of "The Little Town of Christmas" on Dec. 6, 7 and 8, and The Wreath Project on Dec. 14 but several events outside of Dixon's borders can also aid in empowering the spirit of the season.

Vacaville Ice, 551 Davis St., Vacaville, is hosting its annual Winter Wonderland on Ice event from Dec. 13 to Jan. 5. The ice rink, founded in 1999, transforms into a

dazzling winter wonderland, adorned with lights, decorations and holiday tunes. The ice rink will be open every day from 12 to 10 p.m., except on Christmas Eve (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.), Christmas Day (closed) and Jan. 5 (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.). The rink will also have specific themed skate days, including a holiday luau and holiday pajamas day, but Dec. 13, kids can take pictures with Santa for \$5, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Afterward, a Christmas tree lighting ceremony will take place on the ice at 6 p.m. Tickets are available for \$20 per person, so do not miss out on this fun-filled time on the ice. For more information, visit vacavilleicesport.com, or call 707-455-0225.

Suisun City's Western Railway Museum, 5848 CA-12, is hosting a

series of train rides to get patrons into the holiday spirit. Visitors will enjoy a magical winter train ride, where, at the end, they will get to meet Santa; each child will be greeted by Saint Nick personally and given a golden bell to signify the first gift of the Christmas season, in reference to "The Polar Express" children's book and film. Trains will be running every hour, from 12 to 5 p.m. until Dec. 17. Tickets are available for \$28 for adults, \$26 for children, \$15 for adult members, \$12 for child members and all tickets for those under 2 are free. For more information, visit wrm.org, or call 707-374-2978.

For those interested in staying local, Dixon's Annual Christmas Car parade will be making its rounds at

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'Keep People Housed in Solano'

Solano County News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Solano County and Community Action Partnership (CAP) Solano Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is partnering with United Way California Capital Region to help prevent homelessness in area communities. Together, they have launched "Keep People Housed - Solano," a program designed to provide critical resources and support to Solano County residents at risk of losing their housing.

Through this program, eligible households can receive flexible financial assistance to cover essential expenses, including rent, utilities, security deposits and moving costs. Participants will also have access to legal referrals and housing stabilization services tailored to help residents maintain their housing and achieve long-term financial stability.

"Housing stability is important for people's well-being, especially at this time of year when work slows down because of the weather," said Michele Harris, executive director of First 5 Solano. "This program provides valuable support to help Solano County residents stay in their homes. We are proud to offer this help to our community."

The program is funded through a public-private partnership, including from All Home, Season of Sharing, CAP Solano JPA and Community Investment Funds allocated from the Solano County Board of Supervisors. The adoption of the Keep People Housed model in Solano County is part of All Home's strategy to expand a growing regional network of targeted prevention programs in the Bay Area Counties.

How It Works

Solano County residents can apply through the Bay Area Community Services online application portal. The program is completely free, and eligibility is determined by the following criteria: 1) Be a Solano County resident, 2) Household income must be at or below 50% of the Area Median Income and 3) Demonstrate a risk of homelessness or housing loss due to recent financial or other hardships.

Services Offered

Accepted applicants will receive rapid and flexible financial assistance combined with hands-on, individualized

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Delta Restoration Project Launched



Here is an ariel photo showing the Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project area. Photo courtesy of Bureau of Reclamation

Bureau of Reclamation News Release

Editor's note: For more about Chinook salmon, see page 2.

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In November, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and

Bureau of Reclamation broke ground on a habitat restoration project in the Delta that, when completed, will help endangered species such as Delta smelt and Chinook salmon while supporting the long-term operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project.

Led by the Department of Water Resources, the \$69.4-million Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project is located on 1,600 acres in Solano County. Reclamation is contributing \$46 million of the project's total cost. The restoration project

is located in the Cache Slough Complex, in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, approximately 10 miles north of the City of Rio Vista and 26 miles from Dixon via California State Route 113.

The work happening at the site will

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A Third Straight Year with No California Salmon Fishing

Early Fish Counts Suggest It Could Happen



Adult fall-run Chinook salmon congregate near the Nimbus Hatchery Fish Ladder on the American River in Sacramento County on Oct. 15, 2012. Photo by Carl Costas, California Department of Water

By Alastair Bland
CALMatters.org

Farmers can estimate the size of a harvest months in advance by counting the blossoms on their trees. Similarly, salmon fishers can cast an eye into the future by counting spawning fish in a river. Fishery managers are doing that now in the Sacramento River and its tributaries, and what they're seeing could be a bad sign for next year.

The low count of returning adult salmon, made by the federally operated Coleman National Fish Hatchery, is preliminary, with several weeks left in the natural spawning period for the Sacramento Valley's fall-run Chinook, backbone of the state's salmon fishing economy.

There is even some possible good news in the numbers — a large percentage of immature Chinook, called "jacks." This demographic slice of the salmon population can be a predictive indicator of ocean abundance for the coming season, and it could be a sign there are more fish in the ocean than many expected — though officials say it's too early to tell.

Overall, the unwelcome numbers, mirroring similar figures from last year, are alarming to people who fish, for they portend the possible continuation of the two-year-and-counting statewide ban on salmon fishing, imposed in 2023 following a weak spawning season.

Already, the loss of revenue from the fishery shutdown has devastated the coastal fishing fleet, which is still waiting for \$20 million in federal funds allocated for disaster relief early this year.

R.J. Waldron, who took recreational anglers salmon fishing on his Emeryville charter boat Sundance for more than a decade, recently sold his vessel. The reduced income was too skimpy to pay the overhead costs of owning a boat and renting a slip. He said relief funds, had they been portioned out, would have kept him afloat.

"That would have helped me maintain my boat and basically ride the storm out until we get salmon fishing back — if we get salmon fishing back," he said.

Sarah Bates, owner of the San Francisco-based commercial vessel The Bounty, said she drew about 90% of her income from Chinook salmon sales prior to the closure and has helped make ends meet by fishing for other species, like black cod, shrimp and rockfish. Others, she said, have been targeting halibut.

Bates said the uncertain outlook has been disorienting for the men and women who shape their lives around a calendar year of fishing seasons and regulations.

"A lot of us feel a little untethered," she said.

At least six more months may pass before financial relief arrives. Barry Thom, executive director of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission — which has helped facilitate the grant application process — said in an email that the federal funds could be distributed sometime in May and June of 2025.

The odds of whether fishers will be returning to work by then still looks like a tossup. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Brett Galyean, project leader at the Coleman hatchery, described "really low" numbers of 3- and 4-year-old adult Chinook. As of Oct. 29, his staff had collected 4 million eggs from female fish — less than one-third the hatchery's target of 14 to 15 million eggs.

The spawning run is drawing toward the end, too, with new arrivals at the

hatchery now "slowing down," according to Galyean.

At several other Central Valley hatcheries operated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, facility managers have only just started counting salmon, an official said. This means overall numbers could still mount to promising levels.

The low returns to Coleman, the state's largest fish hatchery, reflect a long-term decline in Chinook salmon numbers regionwide. As many as 2 million adult Chinook historically spawned in the Central Valley's rivers, and the fish were a keystone feature of marine and inland ecosystems.

The industrialization of the landscape to produce gold, water, cities, and crops has sent salmon runs tumbling. While the Central Valley's fish hatcheries — built last century to augment the wild stocks — release millions of baby Chinook each year, populations have dropped below fishable levels.

In 2022 officials counted just 69,000 adult fall-run Chinook in the entire Sacramento Valley, with a moderate improvement last year. In the mainstem of the Sacramento River alone, a key spawning destination, annual returns have dropped below 4,000 adults — down from an average of almost 60,000 each year from 1990 to 2009.

What ails California's salmon is perennially debated. Water users lean on explanations such as invasive species, reduced floodplain habitat, and climate change. Fishery advocates often stress the importance of water, especially quantity and temperature.

Bates said the Central Valley needs more aggressive floodplain restoration to provide feeding and refuge habitat for small fish, but that sufficient water is the key.

"It's the water — there's no way around it," Bates said. "The water conditions in the Sacramento River and the Delta no longer support juvenile salmon migrating downstream."

Sometimes, the outflow from Lake Shasta and into the Sacramento River during the spawning season is just a few degrees too warm — conditions that can abort millions of eggs and newly born fish and has become a recurring problem in recent years. Hot weather has played a role, though environmentalists say negligent management of the reservoir — especially failure to keep its water sufficiently deep into the late summer — is just as problematic.

As the young salmon migrate downstream, they face such perils as low flows, high temperatures, water pumps and predators. Thiamine deficiency, a relatively new and emerging ecological hiccup connected to the marine food web, has also impacted Chinook salmon. Climate change is a long-term threat.

Barry Nelson, policy representative for the Golden State Salmon Association, believes the main reason for the Sacramento's salmon collapse has been inadequate river conditions downstream of Shasta, and low smolt survival.

"We sterilized the Sacramento River," he said. "We killed almost all the fish, and rule number one in fisheries management is, if you kill all the baby salmon, three years later you don't have adult salmon."

Alastair Bland lives in Sonoma County, California. He writes about water, climate, marine research, agriculture and the environment, and his work has appeared at NPR, Time, East Bay Express, Audubon, Hakai, Slate, Smithsonian and other news outlets. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Dixon Rotary Club is hosting Pancakes with Santa from 8 to 10:30 a.m. Dec. 7 at Dixon High School, 555 College Way. Tickets are available for \$5. Photo courtesy of the North Pole

By MPG Staff

Community Christmas Gift Giveaway

Freedom Church, 470 E H St., is hosting a Community Christmas Gift Giveaway to support children from families facing financial hardships this holiday season. At 10 a.m. Dec. 20 and 21, families can drop by the church to pick up a gift, but registration is required, and children must be present, accompanied by an adult, to receive their gift.

For more information, or to register, visit Freedom Church's Facebook page, or call 707-693-1774.

The Little Town of Christmas

Dixon Community Theater's "The Little Town of Christmas" will premiere at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 6 at Tremont Elementary School, 355 Pheasant Run Dr. The show will feature 8 short skits set in the town of Christmas; audiences can expect a light-hearted twist on classic Christmas stories like "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and "A Christmas Carol." Tickets are available for \$10 and can be purchased on the theater's website or at the door. There will be two other showings scheduled for 6 p.m. Dec. 7 and 2 p.m. Dec. 8. For more information, visit dixoncommunitytheater.com, or call 707-903-8387.

Wintersongs with Kitka

Kitka, a professional women's vocal arts ensemble and institute, will host a live performance 7:30 to 9:15 p.m. on Dec. 14. Inspired by traditional songs and vocal techniques from Europe and Eurasia, Kitka has earned worldwide recognition for their distinct sound; For more than two decades, Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble's annual "Wintersongs" concerts have explored songs from across Eastern Europe that summon the return of light and hope in times of difficulty and darkness. The inspiring performance will be held at Davis Community Church, 412 C St., for \$31.19. For more information, or to purchase a ticket, visit Eventbrite.com.

Holiday Tree Charcuterie Workshop

Over the Moon Grazing Co., a gourmet catering and charcuterie company, will host a Holiday Tree Charcuterie workshop from 3 to 5 p.m. on Dec. 15. Held at Bud's Pub and Grill, 100 S First St., the festive event will help attendees create their own beautiful holiday charcuterie boards. Prizes and refreshments will be available as well; at \$90 per person, guests will also get a complimentary glass of wine, shared appetizers and a Kraft box and ribbon to take home their creations safely. For more information, visit Over the Moon Grazing Co's Facebook page or call Bud's Pub and Grill at 707-678-4745.

Dixon Library Book Club

Dixon Library, 230 N. First St., is hosting its monthly morning book club meeting from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 12. The morning book club is a monthly, adult-oriented group that will be starting "The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store"

by James McBride. Coffee and tea will be provided for attendees, and the meeting itself will be in the front room of the library. For more information, visit solan-olibrary.com, or call 1-866-572-7587.

Pancakes with Santa

The Rotary Club of Dixon will host a Christmas breakfast meet and greet with Saint Nicholas himself. From 8 to 10:30 a.m. Dec. 7, bring the family to Dixon High School's Multipurpose Room, 555 College Way, for an enchanting morning of holiday cheer and plenty of pancakes. Tickets are available for \$5 at the door, but please leave the pets at home. For more information, visit the Rotary Club of Dixon's Facebook Page, or call 916-240-0147.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Dixon Scouts BSA Troop 152 is hosting a Christmas tree recycling event at 9 a.m. Dec. 28 and Jan. 4. For \$20, Dixonites can drop their trees off at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce parking lot, 220 N. Jefferson St., but registration is necessary ahead of time to schedule pickups. For more information, or to register, visit troop152dixon.com, or call 707-676-6152.

Youth Rugby Camps

Solano-Yolo Rugby Club is looking for 3rd through 12th graders in Solano and Yolo County who want to play rugby, regardless of gender. The Rugby Club will host two rugby camps at Hall Memorial Park, 285 E Chestnut St., at no cost, to allow newcomers to learn the basics and have a good time. Attendees are encouraged to bring cleats and water. The camps will be on, rain or shine, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Dec. 7, and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Dec. 21. For more information, visit soloyouthrugby.com, or contact Kelley Evans at either 916-761-3467, or solanoyolorugbyclub@gmail.com.

Food and Clothing Giveaway

Cornerstone Baptist Church, 185 West Cherry St., is hosting its monthly senior assistance food and clothing giveaway, 10 to 11 a.m. on Dec. 11; giveaways tend to be held every second and fourth Wednesday of the month. General assistance, including those signed up with the United States Department of Agriculture, occurs Friday, with the next event held 10 to 11 a.m. Dec. 6. Donations are also accepted, specifically gently used clothes with no stains or tears, but new clothing is also acceptable; men's clothing in particular is in short supply, so attendees are encouraged to donate what they can. For more information, visit cornerstoneindixon.com, or call 707-678-5234.

Holiday Mingle at the Pip

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a holiday-themed networking event from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 18. Held at The Pip Wine Bar and Shop, 116 N. First St., the occasion will be a festive one, with free admission, no-host bar and food and plenty of opportunities to connect with friends and promote your business. For more information, visit dixonchamber.org, or call 707-678-2650. ★



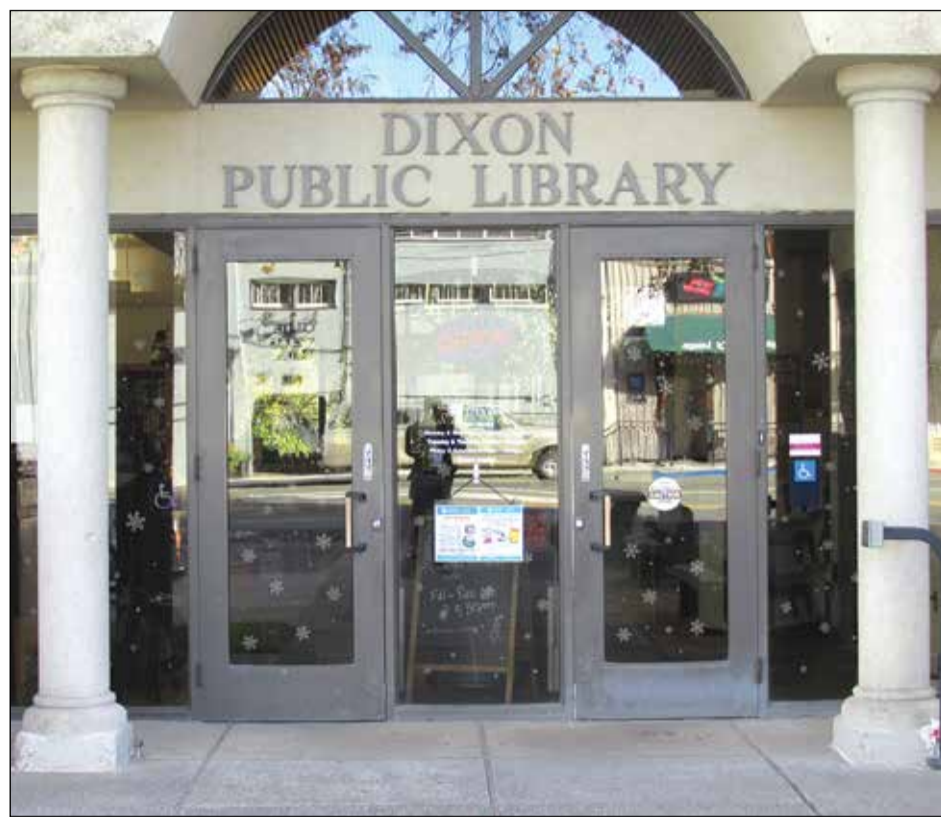
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Dixon Library Offers Holiday Events



Founded in 1912, the Dixon Library is one of the last operating Carnegie Libraries in existence; they continue to use their influence to bring the community together through monthly events.

Story and photos by Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Library at 230 N. First St. is hosting several holiday-oriented events to promote community among Dixonites, something the organization has been doing for more than a century.

Funded by Scottish American businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1912, the Dixon Library continues to serve its community while offering plenty of opportunities to learn, grow and have fun.

The Dixon Library is holding two Christmas Storytimes at 5:30 and 6 p.m. Dec. 5, the day of the Downtown Christmas Tree Lighting Festival. All ages are welcome to attend, and with the Christmas Tree lighting taking place in Women's Improvement Park at 7 p.m., right next to the library, the event is a perfect opportunity to get into the Christmas spirit before attending the tree lighting ceremony.

For those more interested in artistic endeavors, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Dec. 6, the library will host a hot cocoa and art night called #Dixon Rocks. Taylor Morris, a Dixon Library library assistant, is excited.

"We do Dixon Rocks every first Friday but this one is special because we are doing hot cocoa," Morris said. "It's after hours, so it's fun and cozy."

The occasion will see attendees enjoying some rock painting, a hot cocoa bar and holiday music to set the winter vibes. All



Women's Improvement Club Park, located next to the library at 230 N. First St., is where the tree-lighting portion of the Downtown Christmas Tree-lighting Festival will take place at 7 p.m. Dixon Library is hosting two Christmas story times at 5:30 and 6 p.m. on the same day, right next door.



Holiday-themed displays have begun to show up in the Dixon Library, some of which maintain a focus on festive dishes and treats.

supplies will be provided and the event is open to all ages. Attendees are encouraged to wear clothing they don't mind getting paint on.

Another Christmas Storytimes, a Santa Storytime will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dec. 13.

"We are going to have a Santa the kids can tell what they want for Christmas," Morris said. "It's the first time we're doing it, so I'm excited to see how it goes."

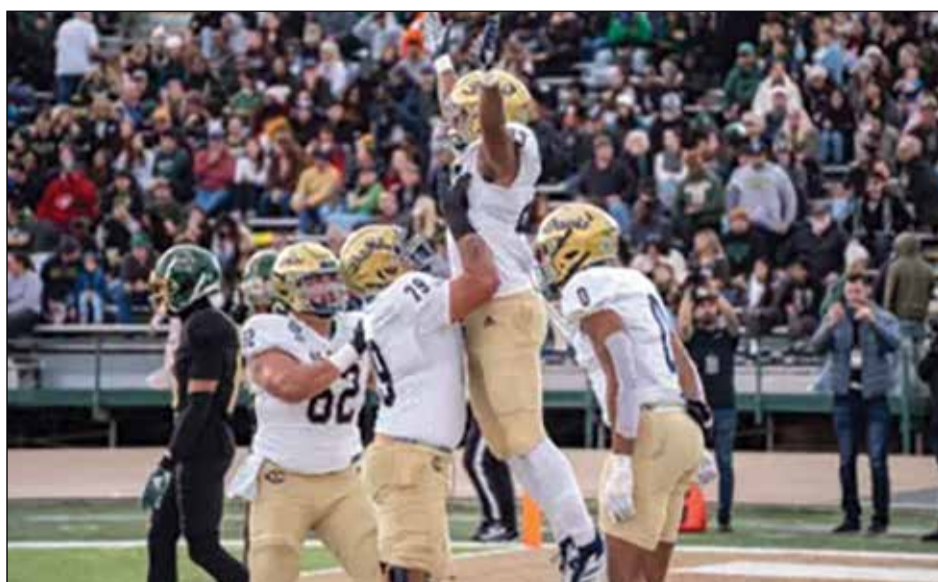
This special story-time event, sponsored by the Friends of the Dixon

Library, will allow children the opportunity to share their wishes with Santa and receive a candy cane from the Friendly Bookworm, located next door at 230 N. First St.

Dixon Library has more activities to offer, including a Teen Holiday Cookie Decorating class from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Dec. 11, a Dixon Community Garden Discussion from 2 to 3 p.m. Dec. 12 and a wrapping paper exchange from 3 to 4 p.m. Dec. 9 and 16.

"We can't wait to see everyone come out," Morris said. ★

NCAA Championship Football Right Next Door



UC Davis Aggies celebrate a touchdown against Sacramento State on Nov. 23.

By Daniel Canfield

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - On Saturday, Dec. 7, the UC Davis Aggies will host the Illinois State Redbirds in a NCAA Division I Championship Second Round game. The game will be played at UC Davis Health Stadium which is a mere eight miles from Dixon. This provides a rare opportunity to see NCAA championship playoff football locally.

UC Davis comes into the game boasting a 10-2 overall record and 7-1 in league play. The Aggies wrapped up their regular season on Nov. 23, beating Sacramento State 42-39, in the annual causeway classic. The Aggies record earned them a bye in the first round of the NCAA championship while Illinois State defeated

Southeast Missouri State on Nov. 30 to advance to the second round and earn a trip to California.

The Aggies will come into the game with a powerful offense that scores on average more than 35 points a game. The Aggies rushing game has posted an average of 4.1 yards per carry and is responsible for 18 touchdowns in the 2024 campaign. The Aggie passing game is just as potent, averaging 324 yards per game and yielding 33 touchdowns in their march towards the playoffs.

Don't miss this opportunity to see NCAA championship football right next door. Tickets for the playoff game which is scheduled to kickoff at 1 p.m. on Dec. 7 are on sale now. Tickets are available to the public, starting at \$15. ★

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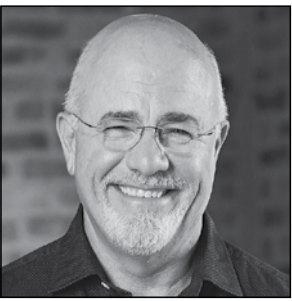
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Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says My Best Piece of Advice? The Unexpected is Always Lurking

you, and anyone else finding themselves in this kind of situation, Bethany, it goes something like this. Stop using credit cards!

– Dave

Dear Dave,

When I leave my job in two or three years, I'll still have a good income of around \$80,000 thanks to my pension. I talked with my wife recently about us not needing an emergency fund with a continuing steady income like this, but she thinks we should still have money set aside strictly for emergencies. I think we would be fine with my pension and our other investments, but she says a fund set aside strictly for the unexpected would make her feel safer. What are your thoughts?

– Barrett

Dear Barrett,

I always recommend folks have an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. Put it in a good money market account with check writing privileges and a decent interest rate. That way, your money will work for you a little bit until it's needed.

I know a good pension can feel really solid. But there's always the possi-

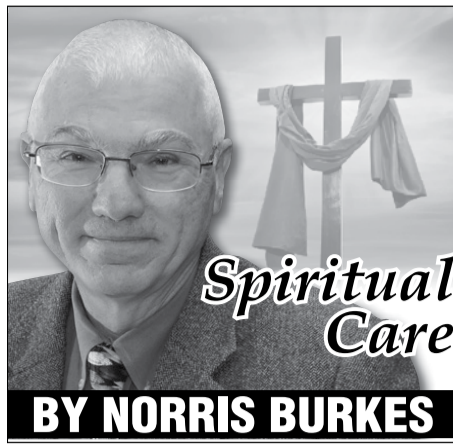
bility of lost income or very large, unexpected expenses. Life can take a big financial chunk out of you at any time. What if one, or both of you, have a major medical event? Even with the other investments you mentioned, you should have an emergency fund. Period.

In your case, you could probably lean toward three months of expenses in your emergency fund. If it were me, I'd go ahead and make it a full six months of expenses. Trust me, a fully funded emergency fund will make both of you feel better. It can turn a disaster into nothing more than an inconvenience.

– 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. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★

Fishy Story Suggests Catastrophic Ending



If you've been watching the news, then you know that the world is going to end soon.

No, I'm not talking about the recent election. I'm referring to the elusive deep-water oarfish.

Superstitious sailors have long considered the spotting of this rare fish a harbinger of bad news. And this past week, on the shores of Encinitas, California, it's been spotted again. This makes three times this year in California and only 22 times in the past century.

Japanese mythology recounts the doom fish as a precursor to earthquakes and tsunamis. More than a dozen were found on Japan's coastline just before Japan's 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami, their largest recorded earthquake.

These kind of scary indicators aren't new. Televangelists have been capitalizing on them for years as they expounded on their version of catastrophic and world-ending predictions.

If you were born before 1960, you'll likely remember that Hal Lindsey co-authored a 1970 best seller with Carole C. Carlson titled "The Late, Great Planet Earth."

Some of us just laughed at him, while others tried to ignore him.

However, when the Yom Kippur War of 1973 sent gas prices soaring, we wondered if the Lindsey scenario was creeping into the nonfiction section. Many began taking Lindsey so seriously that they ran scared into the baptismal waters.

Had we been a little smarter, I'm wondering if we might have seen how religious

history was on a repeating track with Lindsey's approach. He was using the scare-the-hell-out-of-you technique used by centuries of religious thought.

It's a thought expressed on the old bumper sticker: "The good news is, Jesus is coming back. The bad news is, He's ticked." (OK, the sticker doesn't say "ticked" but this is a family newspaper.)

The real problem with Lindsey and people like him is that they characterize the Christian faith as a war between good and evil. Indeed, they demand that the faithful make a choice between spending eternity in a bottomless pit of eternal fire or going to church three times a week.

The fault in this thinking is that it forces faith into an all-or-nothing proposition. Faith isn't that way at all. Real faith is relationship-based, not fear-based.

Faith is more like this: When I met my wife at a Southern Baptist Conference Center, I didn't introduce myself by saying, "Marry me or you'll burn." If I had, she might have hit me with a flame thrower.

God doesn't use that approach either. He doesn't need to scare us into loving him. That's because God is not trying to save us from this world. After all, he created this world for us.

Jesus made the same point quite well, saying, "God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help" (John 3:17, The Message Paraphrase).

God is all about helping us make it through our times of hurt and pain. He's not about inventing painful situations just so he can play the superhero.

I suppose there'll always be fortunes to be made by capitalizing on demise, death and destruction, but I will continue to place my faith in my relationship with our creator.

The Lindsey star eventually faded. The counterculture of the 1960s never became the main culture, and Lindsey's predictions crumbled with the Berlin Wall.

These days, Lindsey is 94 years old, living in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He's still doing video, but now he's predicting the final jihad that will come any day now. Same scared-as-hell program, just a different station. ★

Sacramento Region Gained People but Flubbed Economic Opportunities Over 50 Years



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

Fifty years ago this month I moved to Sacramento and a few months later, just after Jerry Brown became governor, began covering politics for the long-defunct Sacramento Union newspaper.

I have lived in five different homes — soon to be six — and my workplaces have always been in downtown Sacramento, near the Capitol.

That experience, plus research for my 1985 book on California megatrends, forms the background of some observations about the Sacramento region's evolution. So here goes:

In 1974 the six-county region (Sacramento, Yolo, Yuba, Placer, Sutter and El Dorado) was home to barely a million people. However it was on the cusp of explosive growth, as was the entire state, thanks to a wave of migration and a baby boom. Today the region has about 2.5 million residents, making it the nation's 28th largest metropolitan region, equal to the Las Vegas and Austin, Texas areas.

Much of the growth has been in Sacramento's suburbs, so the city now contains just a fifth of the region's population and has ceased to be its economic center, while jobs and businesses have flourished in the suburbs.

As the local economy evolved from state and federal government employment — including four large military

bases — into technology and other fields, voters had two opportunities to merge the city with what were mostly unincorporated communities in Sacramento County.

Merger would have made Sacramento the nation's seventh or eighth largest city, with the economic and cultural clout that comes with size. But voters rejected both proposals, one in 1974, the other in 1990, and several suburbs incorporated into cities.

The consolidation failures reflected historic economic and political conflicts between the city and its suburbs which today still undermine cooperative policymaking and are visible in chaotic responses to the ever-growing homelessness crisis and the perpetual wrangling over transportation issues.

Glen Sparrow, who headed the 1974 consolidation effort, later blamed Sacramento's "civic gentry" — its long-dominant families — for torpedoing its passage because they didn't want Sacramento to grow.

The 1990 effort died because suburban voters saw city officials as incompetent ideologues, while Sacramento's dominant Democrats feared that suburban Republicans would take control.

The failures blocked the city from controlling development outside its borders, and its downtown commercial district, once full of department stores, withered. It regained some momentum after the Sacramento Kings downtown basketball arena opened in 2016. But the proliferation of homeless encampments, a fatal gang shootout, a violent demonstration and the pandemic, which emptied state offices, erased much of that progress.

Meanwhile city government has become a model of

dysfunction, with officials squabbling over mundane issues, chronic budget deficits and ceaseless conflicts with the county government, particularly over homelessness.

The lack of cohesion means that Sacramento has flubbed opportunities to gain status among metro regions.

Two examples involve its unique positioning at the juncture of two major rivers, the Sacramento and the American.

Local officials blocked a canal that would have connected the Sacramento River to the channel that carries ocean-going ships to a Yolo County port and its lake, thereby missing an opportunity for spectacular waterfront development a la Southern California's Marina del Rey.

While the city is redeveloping an old railyard adjacent to downtown, it could have done something truly special by redirecting some American River water through canals, emulating San Antonio's famous Riverwalk.

A third is a failure to fully capitalize on the closure of McClellan Air Force Base in the 1990s. While the base has undergone a workable conversion to civilian use, its unique facilities also could have become another campus of the California Polytechnic State University, fueling off-campus technology businesses.

Regions prosper when they have united and visionary leadership — such as North Carolina's Research Triangle. Sacramento lacks that vision.

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. ★

Delta Restoration Project Launched

Continued from page 1

enhance aquatic food web productivity, create and enhance habitats for many Delta-dependent fish and wildlife species, provide long-term resiliency with climate change, and provide other ecosystem benefits such as water quality and carbon sequestration. A portion of the project acreage closes out the requirement for constructing 8,000 acres of new tidal habitat, with the additional acres supporting the Healthy Rivers and Landscape program.

"This project is an important steppingstone in the overall process of Delta ecosystem improvement and Reclamation is gratified to see it move to the groundbreaking stage," said California Great-Basin regional director Karl Stock. "It is emblematic of our strong working relationship with DWR and represents the type of habitat work we continue to work

on with the state and our local partners."

Said California Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth, "Prospect Island is a great project for the people and the environment of California. The newly restored tidal marsh will clean the water we drink and will help native fish, like salmon and Delta smelt, grow strong. The Department of Water Resources is grateful to the Bureau of Reclamation for its partnership on Prospect Island and we look forward to future opportunities to work together for the benefit of all Californians."

Prospect Island will breach levees at two locations to return tidal-influenced flows to the project site. This project supplements the recent completion of the largest tidal wetland restoration project to date in the Delta. The Prospect Island Tidal Habitat Restoration Project is expected to be complete in 2026. ★

The Season of Giving

Continued from page 1

5:30 p.m. Dec. 14 but the car lineup begins at 4:30 p.m. on East Parkway Boulevard. Several hotspots for prime viewing have been announced recently, including Pardi Plaza, Savannah Park, a Park on Figtree Lane, Patwin Park, Northwest Park, Gretchen Higgins Elementary School (1525 Pembroke Way) and Conejo Park. This year's event will be avoiding neighborhoods and sticking exclusively to Dixon's main streets to keep everything

moving as smoothly as possible. All food and toys donated go straight to Dixon Family Services. For more information, visit Dixon's Calendar and Events Facebook Page or call 707-628-9771.

Solano County has much more available, including photos with Santa at Jelly Belly on Dec. 16 and a Holiday Parade and Market in Benicia on Dec. 14. With the sheer number of holiday opportunities available, the Christmas season will remain alive and well throughout the Dixon area. ★

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

The Holidays Are Here!

The Holiday gift-giving guide returns with a delightful new array of Children's books. Our favorite publishers have curated their top picks for the holiday season and their most beloved reads this year. This week, Simon and Schuster share the Holiday magic, inviting you to embark on a journey of discovery and joy.



The Holiday Break is the perfect time to get lost in a young-adult rom-com with Lynn Painter's stand-alone novels *Nothing Like the Movies*, *Betting on You*, and *The Do-Over*. These stories will whisk readers right into their favorite rom-com trope with lighthearted and fast-to-fall-for characters, separate or altogether. These books are the perfect gift for the romance reader and hallmark movie fan on your list.

For the beginning chapter readers on your list are two fun new series, *Cupcake Diaries-The New Batch Emily's Cupcake Magic* and *Marvel's After School Heroes*. Emily starts a new School in -The New Batch, and she has no choice but to make new friends. Will cupcakes be the answer, or will it turn into a disaster? New York City is crawling with Villains, and now it's time for

young heroes to be put to the test in these illustrated beginning chapter book adventures. See if they have your favorite Marvel superhero.

Prepare little ones for the Holidays with books that spread Holiday cheer. Pull out the CD player. *Cow and Holly* by Sandra Boynton is ready to sing along with the family to 14 Christmas songs. Illustrations, lyrics, and music all pair together for a fun family sing-along.

Get ready for the joys of the holiday and be a helper with - *All By My Elf* by Jeffrey Burton and Nanette Ryan. Feel the cool air as it glides across the page or the lumpy frosting on the gingerbread house. Help wrap the presents with crinkle ribbons and feel the fuzzy stockings in this touch-and-feel board book adventure.

Get Ready for Santa with *Santa Mouse—Plays Reindeer Games*

and *Santa Mouse Finds a Furry Friend* by Michel Brown and Chicka Chicka Ho Ho Ho by William Boniface and Julien Chung. Santa Mouse delights readers with his joyful excitement. Whether he is playing reindeer games or finding a new friend, every Santa Mouse book is filled with happiness and joy. In Chicka Chicka Ho Ho Ho, the Alphabet crew takes readers on a festive holiday adventure that will have them chanting and singing along.

Relish the Season with a *Merry Weenie* book by Katie Vernon for some holiday laughter. Weenie loves the holiday season, and he is ready to celebrate, but what is the merriest part? Find out how Weenie celebrates and dresses up for his favorite holiday to spend it with those he loves, bringing a wave of cheer and laughter to your holiday season. ★



Chicken Little said, "the sky is falling, the sky is falling," but was it? We know of course the answer was no but does this sound vaguely familiar.

Kings fans and supposed experts would have you believe that the current team is in need of an overhaul, as well as a group of new coaches.

I'm the first to say that I'm not pleased with coach Brown's performance thus far, but I'm not clamoring for his job. Coach Brown's rotations have been hard to understand all season, but that is no different than the prior season where continuity was in short supply.

It wasn't long ago the Kings were two games over 500, and suddenly went into a losing tailspin. Losers of five out of the last six games will get people talking, and everyone has an opinion.

On the plus side, no one was casting aspersions when last week the Kings announced the signing of small forward Jae Crowder. Crowder, a free agent, has a history of being on winning basketball teams, and his moniker is his hard-nosed style of play, something the Kings could use more of.

Without question, the current squad plays hard every night, but we are lacking in players that have the dog mentality that can set the bone crushing screens that the Kings seem to see nightly from other teams.

Crowder brings that element, so it remains to be seen in what capacity coach Brown will use his new addition.

Brown chose to put Crowder in the starting lineup without even a single practice, while talented Mr. everything, Malik Monk watched as always from the bench.

Imagine my surprise when not one but two former members of the Kentucky Wildcats were introduced into the starting lineup against the San Antonio Spurs on Sunday, Dec. 1 at Golden One Arena. The arena erupted when Malik Monk was introduced right in back of DeAaron Fox, and I couldn't have been happier for Malik.

Coach Brown and Sacramento Kings fans were treated to the best scoring first quarter of the young season, as the Kings put up a staggering 42 points.

Malik was the spark plug he always seems to be, but despite the auspicious start, the Kings played poorly in the fourth quarter, and although they made it close, came away with a 2-point loss.

As is oft the case, the zebras did not help their cause, and the game was replete with calls that one would expect at a high school game, not in the highest court of basketball.

The last week began on a high note, as the Sactown boys went into Minnesota, and after losing the prior two games to the Wolves this season, the Kings put on a fourth quarter show that was a pure pleasure to watch. Surprisingly, while only connecting on 32% of their 3-point efforts, and scoring only 12 3-point field goals all night, the Kings sent the Timberwolves home with a 115-104 spanking.

For Kings fans, this type of overall efficiency, which included solid team defense all night, is what gives everyone hope that this team can turn things around.

Sadly, after breaking a 4-game losing streak by besting the Wolves, Sacramento could not back it up, losing to both Portland and San Antonio back-to-back.

The bright spot for me this past week was the emergence of small forward Isaac Jones. Nearly forgotten at the end of the bench, the rookie out of Washington State brought energy, spirited defense, and added 12 points that were sorely needed against the young and talented Timberwolves.

Why it's taken this long to give Isaac a look is a hard question to answer but look for coach Brown to move this young forward closer to the top of the bench.

Another bright note is hearing Malik Monk in the post-game interview say it's taken him three years in Sacramento to get a single start, and he likes being a starter where he's spent the majority of his career.

Hang on Kings fans. It's not time to pull your hair just yet. Christmas is right around the corner, and something tells me the Sac Town ballers may have some presents in store for basketball hungry Sacramento fans in the month of December.

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



Riley Reviews

"WICKED" AN IMMERSIVE JOURNEY FROM THE STAGE TO THE BIG SCREEN

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"WICKED" RATED PG

Broadway musicals that become movie musicals have a long tradition that invite debate as to which versions are better. "Chicago" has been a Broadway musical twice, first with a two-year run starting in 1975, and returning to the stage in a 1996 revival still running to this day.

Not surprisingly, "Chicago" inspired a 2002 movie musical of the same name, starring Catherine Zeta-Jones as Velma Kelly and Renee Zellweger as Roxie Hart, both of then scheming vixens ending up in jail on murder charges.

Were the movie stars as good as their counterparts in the original 1975 stage musical? Broadway legends Chita Rivera and Gwen Verdon were the initial Velma Kelly and Roxie Hart, respectively. Both of them won Tony Awards.

The point of this exercise of comparison of the stage versus the big screen is that an argument can be made that what started on the stage is invariably better than a cinematic adaptation. This is something to think about with the release of "Wicked" if you have seen the musical on Broadway or a national tour.

Before you invest time into 160 minutes for "Wicked," a running-time that tests the outer limits of endurance, keep in mind that it ends with a "to be continued" notice for a second part that is reportedly not expected to arrive until about this time next year.

On Broadway, the "Wicked" musical runs for 2 hours and 45 minutes, including a 15-minute intermission. That informs us that the full story could wrap up a lot sooner than a two-part marathon.

From the outset, a drawback of a stage production is the physical inability to deliver stunning visuals of a witch taking flight or computer-generated imagery of an Emerald City. "Wicked" proves to be exquisite in its cinematography.

Comparing favorably to the original Broadway stars Idina Menzel and Kristen Chenoweth, Cynthia Erivo's Elphaba, the future Wicked Witch of the West and Ariana Grande's Glinda, the impending Good Witch of the North, respectively in the same roles, deliver big time on the dancing and singing.

While the denizens of Munchkinland rejoice in the death of the Wicked Witch of the West, Glinda the Good tells the story of the Witch's troubled childhood and her days at Shiv University where they became reluctant roommates.

The backstory then shifts to Elphaba, born with iridescent green skin and mysterious abilities, as she arrives at the university to see her wheelchair-bound younger sister Nessarose (Marissa Bode), and draws the notice of Madame Morrible (Michelle Yeoh), the Dean of Sorcery Studies.

After inadvertently revealing her magical abilities, Elphaba accepts an invitation to be tutored by Morrible, and this is how she comes to know Galinda, the irrepresible pretty blonde and seemingly self-absorbed lightweight hailing from a life of privilege.

With her verdant complexion, Elphaba is an outcast, while Galinda is the complete opposite, more like one of the popular mean girls most likely to be found in high school surrounded by members of a clique, including here the fawning yet amusing connivers Pfannee (Bowen Yang) and ShenShen (Bronwyn James).

Elphaba's notoriety gains her an invitation to the Emerald City to meet with the Wizard of Oz (Jeff Goldblum) and is joined by Galinda, who shortens her name to Glinda as a nod to how it has been mispronounced at college. The trip appears to put some complications into their friendship.

The arrival of Prince Fiyero (Jonathan Bailey), a rebellious carefree player committed to only whatever and whomever may tickle his fleeting fancy, catches the eyes of both girls.

Meanwhile, the school's authoritarian streak leads to discrimination against the anthropomorphic animals and subsequent deprivation of their civil rights and ability to speak.

Affected by this turn of events is Dr. Dillamond (Peter Dinklage), a talking goat who teaches history until he's forced to retire and replaced by a devious professor who lacks any respect for animals.

Taking umbrage at the mistreatment of animals and feeling a growing sense that Morrible and the Wizard are problematic, Elphaba is on her wicked witch trajectory, which is likely to be further explored in the second part, perhaps much like the Broadway show's Act Two.

Undeniably, Cynthia Erivo's Elphaba is at once fierce and vulnerable, and if her rendition of "Defying Gravity" does not result in an emotionally satisfying experience, then "Wicked" will not leave an indelibly curious impression.

While "Wicked" impresses as a solidly designed production with memorable performances, my preference for a musical creation remains immutably fixed on the stage where one's imagination also plays a role.

However, the more thought that goes into the provenance of this film version leads me to reconsider, at least in the limited scope of this one adaptation, that the magic of a stage production can be captured and expanded upon to achieve a richly rewarding cinematic experience.

"Wicked" is an immersive journey through the fantasy world of the witches of Oz as both Elphaba and Glinda will eventually fulfill their destinies, and a year from now we could learn so much more. ★

'Keep People Housed in Solano'

Continued from page 1

housing stabilization services. Services include assistance in developing household budgets and housing stability plans, problem-solving and referrals to community services, such as workforce development, childcare, health or mental health resources, domestic violence support, and legal assistance for

eviction prevention.

TAKE ACTION TODAY

Residents facing housing insecurity are encouraged to apply through the Bay Area Community Services portal as soon as possible. For more information about Keep People Housed - Solano and to determine eligibility, visit www.kphsolano.org. ★

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Cost of Thanksgiving Dinner Declines, Remains Higher Than Pre-Pandemic Levels

Cooking a Thanksgiving feast for your friends and family will cost less than last year but will still be more expensive than before the pandemic. The American Farm Bureau Federation's 39th annual Thanksgiving dinner survey provides a snapshot of the average cost of this year's classic holiday feast for 10, which is \$58.08 or about \$5.80 per person. This is a 5% decrease from 2023, which was 4.5% lower than 2022. Two years of declines don't erase dramatic increases that led to a record high cost of \$64.06 in 2022. The survey also notes that the cost varies by region, with the West significantly higher than the national average, at \$67.05 this year.

Farmers Fought Fire as Insurance Crisis Left Homes at Risk

During the past three weeks, the Mountain Fire has burned some 20,000 acres and destroyed 243 structures, making it Southern California's third-most destructive fire in the past decade. The fire forced evacuations and burned around 12,000 acres of crops and rangeland, causing at least \$7 million in agricultural losses, according to Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner Korinne Bell. California's property insurance crisis, which has left many homes in areas with high fire risk uninsured, prompted some farmers to take it upon themselves to defend property from the blaze.

California Reflects on SGMA 10 Years Later

California water officials, local water agencies and farmers have spent the past decade preparing for the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or SGMA, a historic regulatory framework developed to bring over-drafted aquifers into balance by 2040. As SGMA implementation takes shape, state and local water officials, lawmakers, farmers and association leaders commemorated the 10th anniversary of SGMA last week at the California Natural Resources Agency in Sacramento. The daylong event featured panel discussions on the past, present and future of the regulation.

Increased rodent activity on farms causes damage, losses

Rodents, particularly rats, have wreaked havoc in California orchards and vineyards this year, with some farmers reporting yield losses, damage to trees and destruction of irrigation lines, electrical wiring and other infrastructure. Farmers face soaring costs not only to replace what has been destroyed or damaged but to control populations of the pests. "Rodent damage, if ignored, can lead to substantial losses," said Roger Baldwin, a wildlife specialist at the University of California, Davis. "I think this year is just a good example of how being a little bit more proactive may be beneficial in the long run." ★



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Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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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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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-001669

The following persons are doing business as: X Ray Vision Business Support, 1830 Wilson Court, Dixon, CA 95620. Albert Ray Cortez, 1830 Wilson Court, Dixon, CA 95620.

Date filed in Solano County: November 1, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 9/1/2024

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration October 31, 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: Nov 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 2024
RAY 12-6-24

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-001532

The following persons are doing business as: Child's Lead Speech and Language Therapy, 479 Mountain Meadows Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534. Ma Cristina Peralta, 479 Mountain Meadows Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534.

Date filed in Solano County: October 7, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 02/24/2024

This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration October 6, 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: Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024
CHILDS 12-13-24

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

CASE #CU24-08459

Bridgette Heidi Gifford filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Auriella Evelyn Penisten to Auriella Evelyn Gifford.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. January 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Department 10, Room 305, Hall of Justice, 600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533. Judge of the Superior Court: Christine Donovan
Dated: November 4, 2024
Publish: Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024
GIFFORD 12-13-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU2407240

Samantha Jane Shoultis filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Samantha Jane Shoultis to Samantha Jane Remides.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. January 6, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Department 7, Room 2, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533. Judge of the Superior Court: Tim P. Kam
Dated: November 22, 2024
Publish: Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20, 2024
REIMIDES 12-20-24

SUMMONS

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASE NUMBER (NUMERO DEL CASO): CU23-05432

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): CELIA LOPEZ, AN INDIVIDUAL; and Does 1 through 10, INCLUSIVE, YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO) EL DEMANDANTE: AXOS BANK, A CORPORATION
NOTICE: You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below. You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal

papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de

las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a recopilar las cuotas y los costos exteros por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SOLANO, 580 TEXAS STREET FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA 94533. The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is TODD F. HAINES, Esq. (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Law Offices of Todd F. Haines, 30495 Canwood Street, Ste. 100, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 606-8 (818) 597-2240
DATE (Fecha): NOV 16, 2023
Clerk (Secretario), by S. BRACK, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
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TRUSTEE SALE

T.S. No.: 20-24760 A.P.N.: 0115-108-010 NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 4/29/2015. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor: JOHN M RADULOVICH AND NICOLE M RADULOVICH, HUSBAND AND

WIFE Duly Appointed Trustee: Carrington Foreclosure Services, LLC Recorded 4/30/2015 as Instrument No. 201500036310 in book , page Loan Modification recorded on 2/8/2019 as Instrument No. 201900007447 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Solano County, California , Described as follows: AS FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST Date of Sale: 1/8/2025 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: Vallejo City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$321,186.39 (Estimated) Street Address or other common designation of real property: 700 WALNUT PARK AVE DIXON, CA 95620 A.P.N.: 0115-108-010 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's rights against the real property only. THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance compa-

ny, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (800) 280-2832 or visit this Internet Web site www.auction.com and Tracker.auction.com/sb1079, using the file number assigned to this case 20-24760. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. For sales conducted after January 1, 2021: NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (800) 280-2832, or visit this internet website www.auction.com and Tracker.auction.com/sb1079, using the file number assigned to this case 20-24760 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 11/26/2024 Vylla Solutions, LLC formerly known as Carrington Foreclosure Services, LLC 1600 South Douglas Road, Suite 140 Anaheim, CA 92806 Automated Sale Information: (800) 280-2832 or www.auction.com for NON-SALE information: 888-313-1969 Tai Alailima, Director Publish: 12/6/2024, 12/13/2024, 12/20/2024 DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 12-20-24



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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • HAPPY HOLIDAYS

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- F, unit of electrical capacity
 - *Buche de Noël, e.g.
 - What influencers do?
 - Yemeni's neighbor
 - Another word for Tokyo
 - Singer Ross of "Where Did Our Love Go" fame
 - Laundry room fire hazard, pl.
 - Much of it about nothing?
 - Furnish with a fund
 - *"A Bad Moms Christmas" actress Bell
 - *Tiny Tim creator
 - Tibetan ox
 - Khrushchev's domain
 - *Goo on real Christmas tree
 - Sketch
 - *Poinsettia's motherland
 - "_____ Good Men", movie
 - Brussels' org.
 - Plant fungus
 - Reluctant
 - Klutzy
 - *"It's beginning to look _____ like..."
 - Domains
 - Bog down
 - Oxen connector
 - Under epidermis
 - Mums' mums
 - Over, poetically
 - Alleviate
 - _____ Mahal
 - *Tanne in "O Tannenbaum" (2 words)
 - "It is felix to Feliciano
 - Radiohost: "Hello, you're _____"
 - Knot-tying vow (2 words)
 - Dispatch boat
 - Carthage's ancient neighbor
 - *Egg_____
 - Oil lamp dweller
 - Fishing poles
 - Bigheadedness
 - Painter Degas
- DOWN**
- Lore people
 - Mideast ruler
 - Hindu princess
 - Jittery
 - Farthest from point of origin
 - Ground beef description
 - Like Lemmon and Matthau together
 - Merchandise
 - Swim's alternative
 - Dwyane, once of Miami Heat
 - Any day now, to Shakespeare
 - Swerves
 - King's order
 - Increasing
 - Philosophy ending
 - Undo, as in strings
 - Green side
 - Before, in the olden days
 - J.M. Barrie's Pan
 - "Howdy, _____!"
 - Internal picture

CROSSWORD

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December the Season of Giving

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - On Dec. 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly in Paris drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an impactful document that set out, for the first time, fundamental human rights.

Established by a multitude of people with different cultural and religious backgrounds, the document, having been translated into 500 languages, is a testament to freedom, equality and dignity. Because of this, every year, on Dec. 10, the United Nations renews and celebrates its commitment to this historic declaration.

December has several internationally-celebrated holidays.

For example, Dec. 3 is the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Established in 1992 by the United Nations, its purpose is to promote an understanding of disability issues and accrue support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also aims to foster awareness and emphasize the significance of integrating persons with disabilities into every aspect of life.

Outside of Christmas, many around the world, and within Dixon, might also celebrate Kwanzaa or Hanukkah. Kwanzaa is an annual celebration of African American culture taking place over a week, from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1. The holiday is meant to celebrate unity, creativity, faith and gift giving among

all African Americans, regardless of religious background. The name Kwanzaa itself derives from the phrase “Matunda ya Kwanza,” which means “first fruits” in Swahili. Established by Dr. Maulana Karenga, an African American activist and writer in 1966, Kwanzaa is celebrated with singing, dancing, storytelling and large traditional meals.

On the sixth day of the celebration, Dec. 31, families hold a traditional African feast, called a “Karamu Ya Imani” or “Feast of Faith” in Swahili where guests eat, converse, honor ancestors and drink from the “kikombe cha umoja” (unity cup).

Hanukkah, sometimes called Chanukah depending on Hebrew transliterations, is another annual week-long celebration

celebrating the Jewish faith. Hanukkah, which means “dedication” in Hebrew, is Judaism’s Festival of Light. Established in 164 BCE, the eight-day affair commemorates the reclamation of the Temple of Jerusalem by the Jewish people in the 2nd Century.

During this time, the Seleucid Greek Empire had conquered Jerusalem and outlawed the practice of Judaism. A small army of Jews, known as the Maccabees, banded together and retook the temple. Once inside, they realized they only had enough oil to light their ritual candleabrum, called a menorah, for one day. Somehow, the menorah remained lit for eight days. To honor this miraculous event, a family will light their menorah

each day over the entire holiday and cook dishes primarily using oil, such as latkes, which are fried potato pancakes.

Because the Hebrew calendar is lunisolar, meaning it’s based on the position of the sun and moon, Hanukkah’s start date varies based on the year. In 2024, Hanukkah will be from Dec. 25 to Jan. 2.

December is considered the season of giving because of the prevalence of Christmas but many more factors play a role in its festive air. This period of celebration is also a time of charity, community and conclusions, leading into New Year’s. However you choose to celebrate this year, it is your fundamental right to do so how you see fit. ★

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 St.. 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 St.. 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 St. Email andersonroadrunnerspto@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. St., 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 Rotary President Marlene Vega at 707-678-9368.

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 <https://scotsindixon.us/>.

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 St.

Fairfield/Suisun Bass Reapers – Meets first Tuesday of each month at RoundTable Pizza, 5085 Fairfield Business Center Drive. 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/northernsolanodemods/.

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 St.

Sexual Assault Support Group – Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. at SafeQuest Solano, 1234 Empire St., 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 St. (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 St. 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. ★

COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



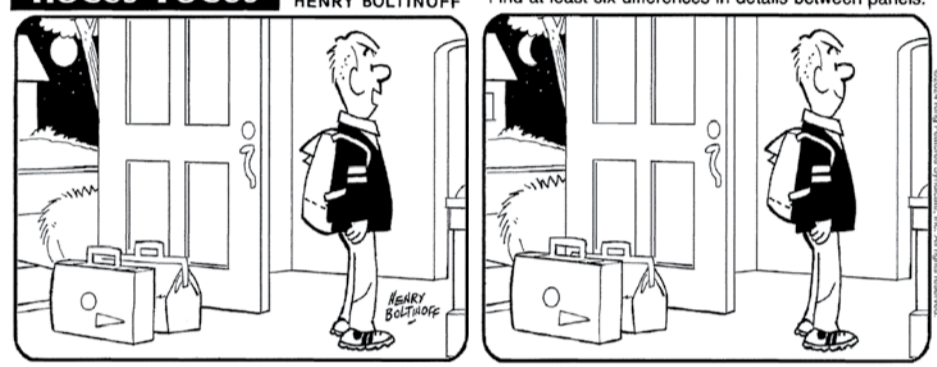
by Jeff Pickering



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Amber Waves



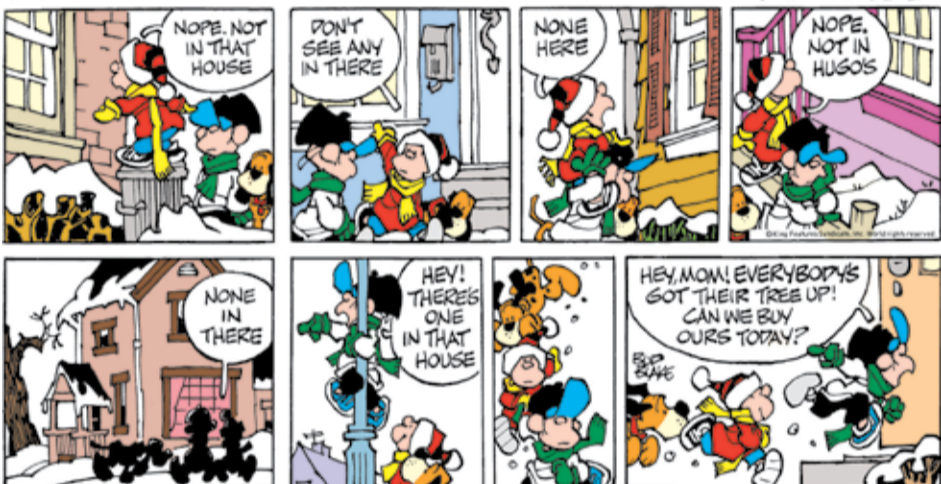
by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN and BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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Mendocino Coast Home to Lesser-Known Gems

Story and photos by Dannah Nielsen

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With whatever route you choose to arrive on the bluffs of the Mendocino coast, there is no escaping the first dance to this weekend romance, which is a slow and winding road through shady, lush, towering redwoods.

If not for nature itself, it could be argued that Mendocino residents designed it intentionally this way: leave your worries inland and enjoy this peace offering thrust toward your windshield as your car breaks through the trees and gives you sweeping views of endless ocean.

When it comes to visiting this region, there isn't a wrong time of year to be here. We pulled up to our vacation rental, The Homestead Mendocino, at the start of fall and it felt like we arrived right on time: the homestead's apple orchard was ripening, leaves were changing and the fog was settling. It was the perfect vibe for what we set out to explore during this particular trip, which were lesser-known gems.

Following are some gems that we found:

Pudding Creek Trestle

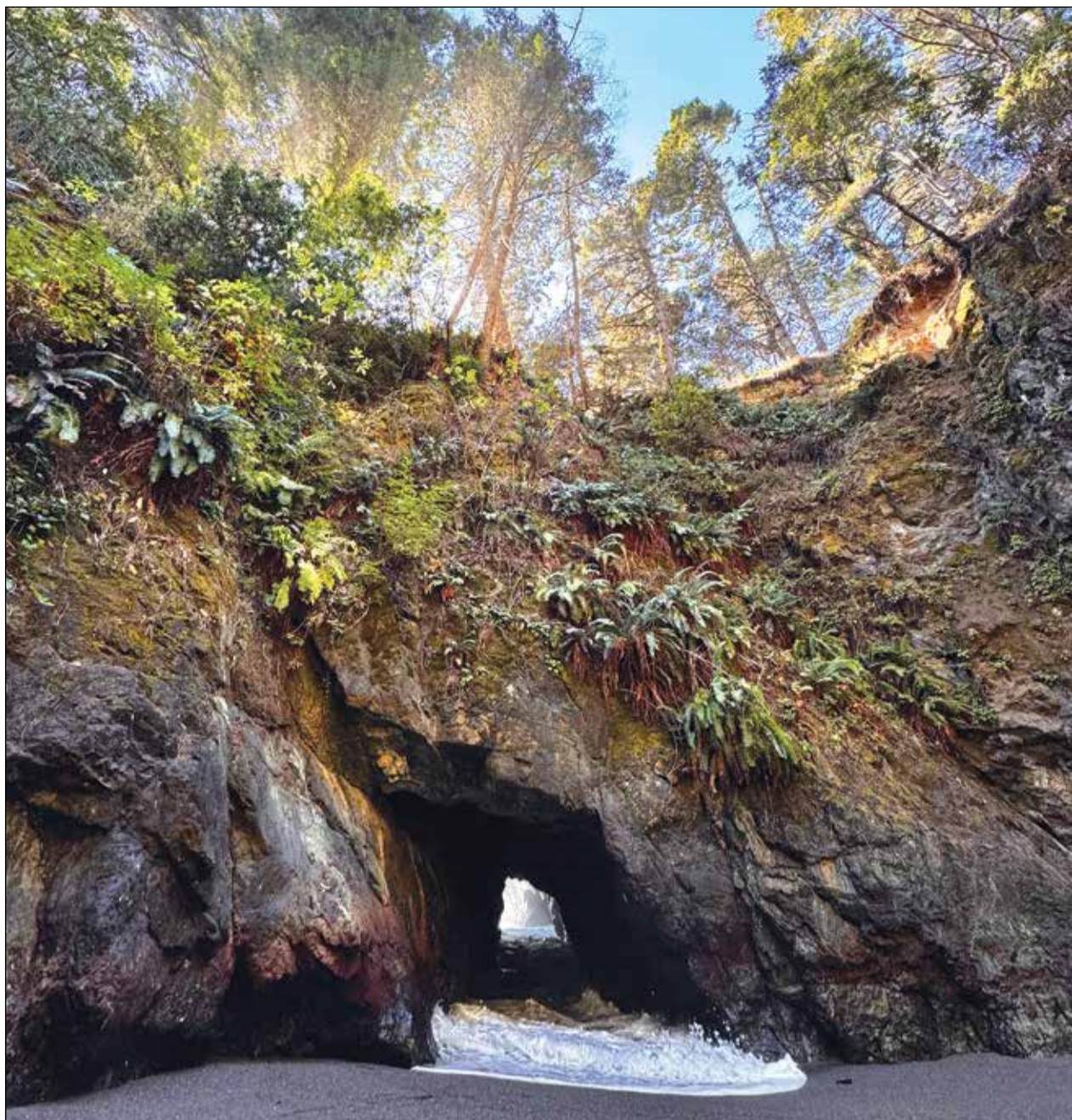
Locks on bridges have only gained in popularity and this Trestle Bridge is currently trending. Stretching 530 feet, there are plenty of unique locks to admire and room to leave your own, all while getting your steps in. The trestle is easily accessible, free to enjoy and comes with sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, unless like us, you arrive on a dense foggy morning in which case it comes with a mind-bending game of matching unseen sounds with unknown distances.

Noyo Harbor

Come for the fresher than fresh seafood, stay for the much-needed walk afterward. We opted for the highly-rated SeaPal Cove lunch spot but also highly rated are the nearby murals, eclectic collections of coastal art, marine life congregating to watch humans congregating and front row seats to our Coastguard and fishermen hard at work. Let's face it, most of us land people don't usually get everyday glimpses into this alternate world and when we do, of course we stop to debate if we could live the ocean life too. Noyo Harbor is perfect for this.

Sea Caves, Tunnels and Blowholes

They are everywhere! Some are easy to stroll to when the tide is low, others come with vista points for everyone's safety. We found a few at the Big River Beach below the town of Mendocino at the Mendocino Headlands State Park



Many sea caves dot the bluffs up and down the Mendocino coast.



The original water tower is a center focal piece at Homestead Mendocino in Fort Bragg.



There is a surprise Tree Tunnel to coast through on your Highway 1 road trip, located in the tiny community of Inglenook, north of Fort Bragg.

and of course the Sinking Whole (yes, spelled correctly) at Russian Gulch State Park that allows you 360-degree views of this massive crater on a bluff. Not to be outdone are the sea caves wanting your attention at Pacific Star Winery; they make for quite a sound bath when the waves hit just right and shoot back out. If you're feeling particularly adventurous, you can also join a kayaking group to explore caves on a calm day at Van Damme State Beach.

And following are a few quick stops to note, as we do love a good roadside attraction:

The Westport Whale

A labor of concrete love, this life-sized whale sculpture is always evolving on the side of Highway 1 in the town of Westport.

The Tree Tunnel heading north of Inglenook

Made up of towering, arching cypress trees, this tunnel stretches a good 400 yards (our guess). Since there isn't a walking path to enjoy the tunnel, slow down so you can catch the sun beams or fog wisps peeking through the branches.

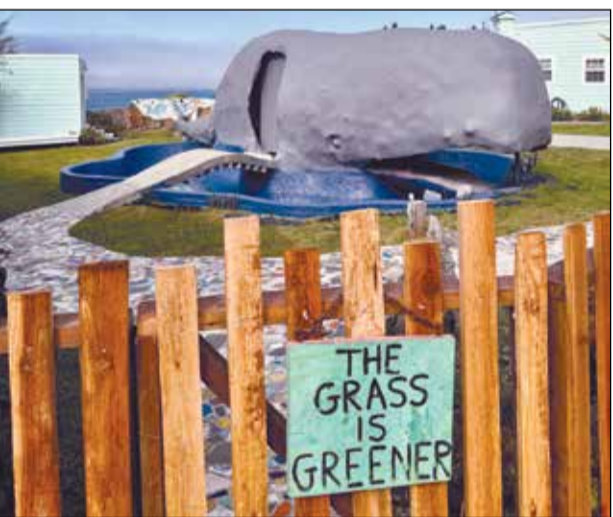
The Lighthouses

Point Cabrillo and Point Arena. Both have museums, tours and souvenirs but can also be admired from afar. Neither one is far off Highway 1 and also comes surrounded by a tiny, charming coastal town.

When it comes to matters of food and lodging, there is no shortage of options. For this particular trip however, our stay at Homestead Mendocino was the highlight of our weekend, being above and beyond noteworthy. The recently remodeled 100-year-old farmhouse sits on its own apple orchard with many historical pieces well-preserved and well-cared for by the hosts. From the outside, the humble character of the Homestead remains untouched. A family of deer shares the property with old growth trees, weather-worn barns and echoing memories of neighborhood ball games. Stepping inside, guests face a unique juxtaposition of upgraded elegance and luxury, all while incorporating restored pieces pulled from the restoration process. Our goal of uncovering lesser-known gems was complete with this vacation stay.

For more ideas on lesser known and well-known gems of the Mendocino Coast, follow @Ca.love.fornia on Instagram.

For experiencing the Homestead Mendocino, book at <https://Clockhouse.hospitable.rentals>. ★



The famous Westport Whale made of cement and regularly refreshed makes for a fun quick stop on Highway 1.



Here is one of many murals that can be found at Noyo Harbor.

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