



Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 33 • ISSUE 18 Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993 MAY 2, 2025

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VARIETY OF
MUSICAL SHOWS**



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To Learn a New Culture



Dixon Historical Society held a presentation April 27 on American Field Service, an organization focusing on international secondary-school exchanges, volunteering opportunities and intercultural learning. Its foreign exchange program, over the decades, has connected many families around the world. Photo courtesy of the Dixon Historical Society

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Historical Society hosted a presentation on the American Field Service (AFS) Dixon Chapter, started by the Woodman family.

The Woodman family introduced the program to Dixon in 1956. They valued the offerings that a more worldly perspective could provide and Dixon Historical Society President Kim Schroeder-Evans agrees.

“For most students who lived abroad, as well as host families that hosted international students, the common theme is that the experience is life-changing and forms lasting bonds. Those bonds help us learn about and understand one another. We realize we are all the same, no matter where we come from,” said Schroeder-Evans.

According to the American Field Service website, the organization

began as a volunteer ambulance corps in 1914. After wartime, it evolved into its current form, focusing on international secondary-school exchanges, volunteering opportunities and intercultural learning.

The event included various speakers who either lived abroad or hosted foreign students. The first student to participate was Early Timm, who went to Norway.

Other participants included Loren Bennett, who went to France in 1958; Greg Cook, who spent a summer in Uruguay in 1974; and Schroeder-Evans, spending time in Belgium in 1986.

Several host families were also recognized, including the Woodman family, the Kleeberger family and Katrina Coelho Spradling, who hosted three students from Argentina, Denmark and Italy. All three of Spradling’s students attended her daughter’s wedding.

Carol McCaulley, a host-family

coordinator from American Field Service, also talked. According to McCaulley, early in the program, applicants could not choose the country that they hosted students from or were assigned to. In the 1970s, American Field Service changed format and allowed foreign exchange students to visit internationally, not just the United States.

“Things have changed but the point has stayed the same: to learn a new culture, learn a new language and learn about yourself,” said Schroeder-Evans.

The presentation was held from 2 to 4:30 p.m. April 27 at Dixon Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St. International-themed refreshments were provided by Carol and Paul Abrams, including traditional dishes from the Philippines, Mexico and the Mediterranean. Punjabi Dhaba Dixon, 7800 Batavia Road, also provided an Indian dish.

Continued on page 5

Council Considering Cannabis Business Pilot Program Status

By Shaunna Boyd

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon City Council held a special meeting April 7 to discuss the city’s Cannabis Business Pilot Program, which has been in effect since 2017. City attorney Douglas White said it was time to revisit the program and determine if the existing policies need any changes or updates.

White asked council to consider whether the pilot program should now be made permanent. He went over the various application, verification and licensing requirements that the businesses must meet, as well as the Development Agreements and Conditional Use Permits that council must approve.

In addition to local sales taxes and state-imposed taxes, Dixon also requires cannabis businesses to pay a monthly public benefit fee to the city’s General Fund for public safety costs. They pay either 5% of their gross monthly revenue or a set amount up to \$30,000 based on their years in operation, whichever is the greater amount.

Dixon voters approved Measure K in 2016, which allows up to a 15% tax on cannabis businesses. City attorney White said that he would like council to consider imposing that maximum tax so the city would have the ability to tax businesses from outside the city attempting to operate in Dixon without the proper permissions. The local businesses would maintain whatever tax rates are specified in their particular development agreements, White said.

White also noted that the cannabis industry has decreased 20% statewide, mostly due to over taxation, which can drive operators out of business as well as contribute to the increase in black market cannabis sales.

“On a whole, the pilot program has been a success for the city, particularly in light of the revenues that are being produced through the retail component,” said Dixon City Manager Jim Lindley.

Four cannabis businesses are operating in the city, one in manufacturing, one in cultivation and two in retail. In the last fiscal year, Lindley said, the city received more than \$1 million in public benefit revenues from the cannabis industry, with approximately \$900,000

Continued on page 2

Dixon May Fair Almost Here

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon May Fair from May 8 to May 11 is a great value for entertainment in the area.

For the price of admission, Dixon May Fair visitors are treated to live concerts, strolling entertainers, an art and photography show, a garden show, livestock shows, and free entertainment and activities for children. On Saturday, May 10, a Classic Car Show is included.

Fair hours are from 4 to 10 p.m. Thursday, May 8; noon to 11 p.m. Friday, May 9; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, May 10; and noon to 10 p.m. Sunday, May 11. Dixon May Fair is at the Dixon Fairgrounds at 655 S. 1st St.

There are also discounted special days and discounts available in advance. On KUIC Thrifty Thursday, May 8, everyone is admitted for just \$5. For other days, buy tickets online in advance and save \$5 on your adult fair admission tickets.

You can also purchase carnival Pay One Price wristbands by going to DixonMayFair.com or stopping by

the fair box office through Wednesday, May 7.

Friday, May 9 is Kids Day and all children 12 and under are admitted for free into the Dixon May Fair all day.



In addition, children 4 and under are admitted for free into the fair every day.

Seniors and Active Military are offered a \$10 fair admission Friday, May 9 to Sunday, May 11, which is \$5 off of the regular adult ticket.

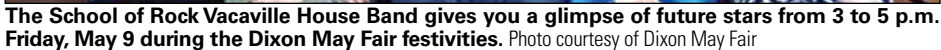
When you purchase Flying U Bull Riding, Maxx Kakl Powersports Truck & Tractor Pulls, and Moon Dog Motorsports Demolition Derby tickets in advance, you will receive free Dixon May Fair admission for the day of the event. All ages are required to have a ticket for grandstand events.

Regular gate prices are \$15 for adults 13 and over, \$10 for children 5 to 12 years old, free fair admission for children 4 and under, \$10 for seniors 65 and over, and \$10 for military personnel with an active duty card.

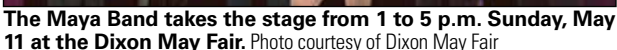
Parking is \$10, cash only, per vehicle

For more information and a complete schedule, visit DixonMayFair.com. ★

Council Considering Cannabis Business Pilot Program Status



On Saturday, May 10, celebrate the classic Country and Western sounds with Robby James and the Streets of Bakersfield from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Leber Garden Stage. The band, influenced by Buck Owens, Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash and others, has developed its own classic sound that have their audiences



The Maya Band performs from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 11 at the Lebar Stage. Maya performs a captivating blend of Latin and English music, specializing in popular crossover well-known hits. Maya pays homage to iconic movie soundtracks, such as Selena and La Bamba, infusing heartfelt tributes to popular legendary acts including Santana, Mark Anthony, Gloria

Also performing on Sunday, May 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. will be the Rhythm Method Trio. The Rhythm Method Trio's repertoire flows from an "Epic 70s Medley" to "Footloose" by Kenny Loggins to more modern hits such as "Ex's & Oh's" by Elle King. TRM4 masterfully performs this diverse array of songs with stylish vocals and elegant harmonies. ★

A Dixon resident said he was concerned that it wasn't a free market with the number of regulations on these businesses. He said restaurants are a frequent robbery target and yet the Dixon Police Department does not mandate any

Staff will take council recommendations into consideration and bring back action items for approval at a future meeting. ★

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Advance Discount Admission

Adult (13-64): \$10 online

(plus processing fee) sold until Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Admission Prices at the Gate

Adult (13-64): \$15, Senior (65+) / Military / Child (5-12): \$10

In the First Northern Bank Grandstand

Friday: Flying U Bull Riding \$40 all ages

Saturday: Maxx Kakl Powersports

Truck & Tractor Pulls \$40 all ages

Sunday: Moondog Motorsports Demolition Derby \$40 all ages

(Includes Fair admission when you buy in advance)

Carnival Pay-one-Price Wristband

Advance Discount Price \$36 including fee

sold until Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 5 p.m.

Wristband Price during Fair \$40 including fee

KUIC Thrifty Thursday:

All Day \$5.00 Open at 4 p.m.

(only available at Fair gates)

Friday Kid's Day: Open at Noon

Kids 12 and under Free admission all day

Family Entertainment

Free Train Rides • Kids Town America • K9 King

Kids AGtivity Area • The Throw Zone

Thursday: Summer of Love

Friday: School of Rock, Unchained Tribute to Van Halen

Saturday: Robby James & the Streets of Bakersfield, Sunset River

Sunday: Maya Band, Rhythm Method Trio,

Banda Zeta, Banda La 8va Maravilla

DixonMayFair.com





Best Entertainment Value in Solano County

Admission

Adult (13-64): \$15

Senior (65+) / Military / Child (5-12): \$10

Carnival Pay-one-Price Wristband \$40 including fee

In the First Northern Bank Grandstand

Friday:

Flying U Rodeo Bull Riding \$40 all ages*

Saturday:

Maxx Kaki Powersports Truck & Tractor Pulls \$40 all ages*

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Moondog Motorsports Demolition Derby \$40 all ages*
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DixonMayFair.com



Schedule Subject to Change without Notice

Dixon News Briefs



Dixon Girls Softball is hosting a parents' softball tournament at 5:30 p.m. May 2. Each softball division will have a team of six men and six women representing it. Participation costs \$20 per player and registration ends May 2. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff

Veterans' Dinner

American Legion Post 208 is hosting a Veterans' Dinner from 5:30 to 7 p.m. May 2. The dinner, held at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St. offers an all-you-can-eat meal for \$12 per guest. Dishes include ham, scalloped potatoes, vegetables and a roll for \$12 per person.

For more information, visit American Legion Post 208's Facebook page or call 707-678-6308.

Mother's Day Celebration at Freedom Church

Freedom Church is hosting a Mother's Day service at 10 a.m. May 11. Held at the church, 470 E. H St., the senior pastor is offering blessings to each mother in attendance. As a token of appreciation, each mother in attendance will receive a gift at the end of the service.

For more information, visit the Freedom Church Facebook page or call 707-693-1774.

The Friendly Bookworm Bag Sale

The Friendly Bookworm Bookstore is hosting a bag sale from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 17. Sponsored by Friends of the Dixon Public Library, 200 N. First St., the event offers the opportunity to fill a bag with books for \$5. Standard-sized grocery bags will be provided, but some items are excluded from the sale. The children's room will be open at regular prices. All proceeds support future Dixon Public Library programs. Only cash and checks will be accepted.

For more information, visit dixonchamber.org or call 707-624-0144.

Scholarship and Community Grants Dinner

Dixon Women's Improvement Club is hosting a scholarship and community grants dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. May 2. Held at Pedro's Cocina, 1425 Market Lane, the event includes a gift basket raffle and silent auction. For \$33, participants can also enjoy a dinner of beans, rice, green salad, chicken chili verde, carnitas, grilled vegetables, tortillas and a non-alcoholic drink. Dinner tickets support scholarships for Dixon and Maine Prairie High School seniors. Gift basket raffle and silent auction items support community grants.

For ticket information, text Teri Brown at 916-601-3371 or Jewel Fink at 510-301-1887.

Dixon Moose Lodge Rummage Sale

Dixon Moose Lodge is hosting its first annual rummage sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 4. Held behind the Moose Lodge, 180 W. B St., this fundraiser offers both a shopping experience and tacos, available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, visit the Dixon Moose Lodge Facebook page or call 707-678-9407.

Dixon Library Book Club

Dixon Library is hosting its monthly morning book club meeting from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. May 8. The morning book club is a monthly, adult-oriented group that will be reading "The House of Eve" by Sadeqa Johnson. Coffee and tea will be provided for attendees, and the meeting itself will be in the library's front room, 230 N. First St.

For more information, visit solanolibary.com or call 1-866-572-7587.

VFW Upcoming Meeting

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8151 will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. May 21. Meetings are held every third Wednesday at The Olde Vets Hall, 231 N. First St. Official business meetings start at 7 p.m., but the hall opens for set-up and socializing at 6 p.m. Socializing will continue after the business portion of the meeting.

For more information, visit vfw8151.org or call 209-395-8019.

Baseball Family Fun Day

Dixon Little League is hosting a fun day for the entire family beginning at 9 a.m. May 3. Held at the Dixon Little League fields, 285 E. Chestnut St., the event will offer raffle baskets, bounce houses, vendors, baseball and much more. Attendees can even meet the Sacramento River Cats mascot, Dinger, from noon to 1 p.m. Tacos will be provided by the Dixon Fire Department.

For more information, visit the Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook page or email support@dixonlittleleague.org.

Under the Lights Parent Tournament

Dixon Girls Softball is hosting a parents' softball tournament at 5:30 p.m. May 2. Held at Hall Park, 450 Hall Park Drive, parents will play while softball players coach. One team from each softball division will be created, with 6 men and 6 women for \$20 per player. Participants should include the names of teammates and the division they represent. Registration closes May 2.

For more information or to register, visit dixongirlssoftball.com.

Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast

The Dixon Rotary Club is hosting its 58th annual pancake breakfast from 7 to 10 a.m. May 10. Dixon Rotary Club sponsors Dixon High School scholarships, Remember-A-Vet programs, Dixon school programs and various community projects. With \$5 per plate sold at the door, guests can continue to support the Rotary Club's endeavors. The event will be held at the Olde Vets Hall, 231 N. First St.

For more information, visit the Rotary Club of Dixon Facebook page or call 916-240-0147. ★

Palomino Hosts Volleyball Tournament



The Reverse-coed tournament was comprised of four divisions based on skill level: B, BB, A and AA. Players of all varieties competed, including University of California at Davis students and Dixon retirees.

Story by Kendall Brown, photos by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - On April 27, 48 teams competed in the 2025 Season Opener Revco Doubles Blast at Northwest Park.

The grass volleyball tournament is held annually for the love of the game, according to Palomino founder Mike Feury.

"I set up open play games all the time, usually in Davis. We have seven to eight nets most nights and a lot of people come out from Sacramento to play after work," Feury said. "Once a year, we run a tournament in Northwest Park to compete, have fun and get new players to engage with volleyball."

Palomino's Volleyball was founded in 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Volleyball tournaments were no longer being held due to social distancing restrictions. Thus, once quarantine ended, Feury got to work. To him, volleyball represents community.

"All my friends are not just volleyball friends; they are family," said Feury. "Volleyball gets people together through competition and a fervor for the game."

The Revco Doubles Blast began at 10 a.m. April 27 at Northwest Park, West H St. and Parkgreen Drive. Captains met at 9 a.m., with first serves at 9:30 a.m. Revco is short for reverse-coed, implying that, in doubles competition, each team is comprised of one man and one woman, and games utilize a women's height for the volleyball net. Men remained behind the 10-foot line marker and were not allowed to block.

The tournament had four divisions based on skill level rather than age. Divisions included B, BB, A and AA. Players of all varieties



The tournament ended at 2 p.m. April 27 with four teams entering the playoffs as first seeds. For more information on the next tournaments, visit palomino.volleyballlife.com or join the Palomino's Volleyball Facebook group.



On April 27, 48 teams competed in the 2025 Season Opener Revco Doubles Blast at Northwest Park, West H St. and Parkgreen Drive. Palomino's Volleyball, a tournament organizer from Sacramento, sponsors the annual event in Dixon.

attended, ranging from University of California at Davis students in their early 20s to Dixon retirees in their 50s and 60s.

Samantha Wheeler, a participant in the Coed A division, has been playing volleyball for years.

"For Palomino's, I have played for eight to 10 years but I have been playing volleyball since I was a small kid and in college," said Wheeler. "I also coached volleyball for a couple of years and wanted to keep playing. With Palomino's, getting games is so accessible now."

The tournament ended at 2 p.m. April 27 with four teams entering the playoffs as first seeds. For Coed B, Franchesca Finnigan and

Eric Long went undefeated in pools. For Coed BB, Jordan Fukui and Brianna Nguyen had two wins and three losses but ended pools as the first seed for their division. For Coed A, Pardeep Sandhu and Nagisa Villa-Ignacio finished with three wins and one loss, and in Coed AA, Edward Falefa and Skyler Takeda were on top.

According to Feury, volleyball is a fountain of youth that keeps players young and brings them together. Palomino's mission is to bring volleyball to the masses.

For more information on the next tournaments, visit palomino.volleyballlife.com or join the Palomino's Volleyball Facebook group. ★

Rob White of Lewis Management Corp. Announced as Guest Speaker

Dixon Women's Improvement Club News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Rob White, vice president of Lewis Management Corp., was the featured guest speaker at the Dixon Women's Improvement Club's April general meeting. He shared information on the proposed development, The Harvest in Dixon.

White has more than two decades of experience in community-focused development engagement throughout California. As vice-president of Lewis Management Corp., White oversees community relations and public affairs initiatives supporting civic, cultural and charitable programs in the company's regions. His insights into building strong partnerships between businesses and community organizations fit well with the club's history and future goals.

"We are honored to welcome Rob White as our guest speaker," said Club

President Teri Brown. "His dedication to public service and community betterment aligns closely with our mission and the spirit of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club."

The Lewis Group currently has a multi-family development project in town on Highway 113 near Rotten Robbie. The proposed Harvest project is slated to include \$200 million in infrastructure, which will continue until scheduled home builds begin in 2031.

The Lewis Group and White have done much engagement and outreach and plan to do so through 2027. The Harvest at Dixon master plan includes about 6,350 residential units to be built out over 20 to 30 years, 18-plus acres of retail, a proposed elementary school, 140-plus acres of green space, some mixed-use areas and improvements to current infrastructure.

White answered club members' questions regarding traffic, transportation, dog parks, water issues and green space. ★

To Learn a New Culture

Continued from page 1
Approximately 25 attendees participated in the day's events.

Throughout March and April, the Dixon Historical Society earned \$505 in school visits, nearly reaching its annual goal of \$800 toward donations or education. The organization has also

started a new donation drive to raise \$2,000 for exhibits and case boxes. Even while adhering to the past, Dixon Historical Society remains focused on the future.

For more information, visit dixonhistoricalsociety.org or visit in person at 125 W. A St. ★

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 Matt at 707-685-1750 or email scoutmaster@troop152dixon.com for more information. Check us out on the web @ 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 4 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 Business Center Drive, Fairfield. For more info, call 707-429-3239.

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

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

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

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

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

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000136
The following persons are doing business as: Peace of Mind Remodels, 267 Cooper School Road, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Mark J Binion, 267 Cooper School Road, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Date filed in Solano County: January 27, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 16, 2025
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 January 26, 2030. 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: April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2025
PEACE 5-2-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000475
The following persons are doing business as: Wild 'N Chic, 910 Norton Court, Dixon, CA 95620.
Donna Lopez, 910 Norton Court, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: March 24, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2025
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 March 23, 2030. 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: April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2025
WILD 5-2-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000538
The following persons are doing business as: Lucky Garden, 860 Tuolumne Street, Vallejo, CA 94590.
V Torres LLC, 860 Tuolumne Street, Vallejo, CA 94590.
Date filed in Solano County: April 2, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration April 1, 2030. 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: April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 2025
LUCKY 5-2-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000366
The following persons are doing business as: Dream Jewelry, 710 West F Street, Dixon, CA 95620.
Andrea Thomas Enterprises LLC, 710 West F Street, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: March 3, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration March 2, 2030. 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: April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2025
DREAM 5-16-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000521
The following persons are doing business as: JFC 107, 430 Epic Street, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Jun Wang, 430 Epic Street, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Date filed in Solano County: April 1, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section

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 March 31, 2030. 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: April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2025
JFC 5-16-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000613
The following persons are doing business as: The Cheese Steak Shop, 284 Sunet Avenue, #A, Suisun City, CA 94585.
FOZN Foods LLC, 612 Citrine Circle, Fairfield, CA 94534.
Date filed in Solano County: April 17, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration March 2, 2030. 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: April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2025
CHEESE 5-16-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000621
The following persons are doing


business as: Wild Harts Tallow, 525 Poppy Court, Dixon, CA 95620.
Ashley Hart, 525 Poppy Court, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: April 18, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 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 April 17, 2030. 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: April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2025
HART 5-16-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000631
The following persons are doing business as: AISH, 250 Fernwood Way, Dixon, CA 95620.
Jonathan Eilers, 250 Fernwood Way, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: April 21, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 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 April 20, 2030. 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: May 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025
AISH 5-23-25

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #CU25-03273
Adriana Velasco Campechano filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Adriana Velasco Campechano to Adriana Velasco. 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. June 25, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room III, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
Judge of the Superior Court: Stephen Gizzi
Dated: April 17, 2025
Publish: April 25, May 2, 9, 16, 2025
ADRIANA 5-16-25





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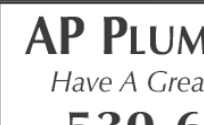
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13. Relating to axis

14. Gershwin or Levin

15. Break of day

16. Repeat, in music

17. Red Cross bed

18. Arm bones

19. *Mother ____, personification of physical world

21. *Mother ____, fictional dog owner

23. Opposite of hence

24. Sleeveless garment

25. Money source

28. Golfer's destination

30. Pass, as time

35. "Metamorphoses" poet

37. *The Beatles: "Mother ____ comes to me"

39. "The Goldbergs" sibling

40. Unacceptable, to a baby

41. Alpine singing

43. Resembling wings

44. Fill with optimism

46. Fill to satisfaction

47. Orion's

48. Like funeral atmosphere

50. Lice eggs

52. Morse code dash

53. Remainder of a cigarette

55. Before skip and a jump

57. *Mother of ____, a.k.a. Daenerys Targaryen

61. *Mother ____, Missionaries of Charity founder

64. Pass

65. Stir or fuss

67. Add together

69. Anomie, alt. sp.

70. Decompose

71. Very angry

72. Puppy sounds

73. "____ no evil, hear no evil"

74. Tennis-affected joint

DOWN

1. Took place

2. Yoked team

3. Capital of Latvia

4. Kind of ray

5. Cast-off skin

6. French Riviera city

7. "To" follower

8. Wood turning device

9. Tulip starter

10. Leo's Karenina

11. ____ gum, food additive

12. Put metal to the pedal, p.t.

15. Difficult to detect

20. With ample space

22. Employ

24. Green and lush, as in trees

25. *Mother ____, investigative journalism nonprofit

26. Convex molding

27. Twofold

29. Cambodia's neighbor

31. A in UAE

32. Heaped

33. Famous Teatro alla ____

34. *Mother ____, personification of planet

36. Shower with affection

38. Abominable snowman

42. River in Hades

45. Personify

49. *Mother Superior is the head one at the convent

51. Foray

54. Former Russian leaders

56. *Mother of ____, a.k.a. nacre

57. June 6, 1944

58. Raja's wife

59. On the surface

60. Emeralds and rubies

61. Carrying bag

62. Hunk of something

63. Lowest female singing voice

66. Female forest ruminant

68. Archery bow wood

CROSSWORD

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FOR THE LOVE OF
BOOKS

By Amy Shane

Book Review & Special Events Editor • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📸 amy_fortheloveofbooks

Something Like Fate

by Amy Lea

Lo Zhao-Jensen has grown up knowing that the women in her family can foresee their soulmates—everyone, that is but one. For some twist of fate, Lo hasn't been bestowed the gift, and now she will have to find her true love the old-fashioned way, which hasn't worked out very well so far.

But everything changes when Lo finally gets the vision she has been waiting her whole life for. As fate would have it, Lo foresees meeting "the one" on her backpacking trip to Italy. With her best friend and confidant, Teller, in tow, nothing can go wrong. Then her moment happens, as "meet-cute" Caleb saves her from a runaway trolley. The moment is just like a scene from a 90's rom-com movie, but Lo can't seem to get her heart to take the leap. While Caleb seems sent by fate, Lo can't help but think of Teller.

With each city they travel through, Lo's feelings become harder to suppress. Could Teller really be the one she is supposed to end up with?



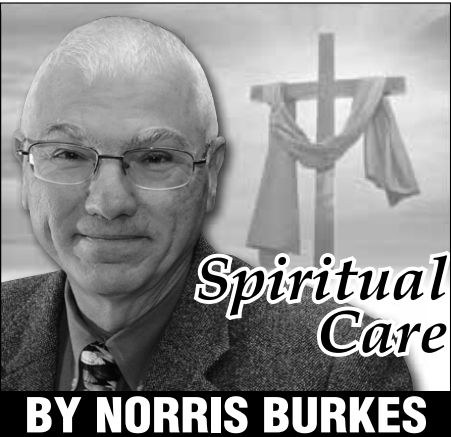
- ◆ Publisher: SkyScape
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult/New Adult
- ◆ Release Date: March 2025

And what about her family gift? All Lo knows is that the more her and Teller travel, the more complicated everything feels, including her feelings. Suddenly, Lo's backing trip with promised true love has turned into a thought-provoking trip where she will have to determine if love is determined by free will or destiny.

A story set to the tempo of a 90's movie, Something Like Fate is

the rom-com, 90's movie mashup readers have been looking for or didn't realize they needed. Amy Lea delivers the perfect mix of destiny and free will while taking the reader through the cobblestone streets and the countryside of Italy. Asking readers if love is worth losing a best friend, and what if your best friend is the one you love? With a favorite book trope of friends to lovers mixed with unexpected romance and the Italian countryside, this book is a great escape, or even the perfect book to grab for that planned summer vacation. Amy Lea delivers a relatable main character who is a little lost and a little flawed but, in the end, dreams of true love. With sweeping scenes, fun side characters, and a main character on the brink of setting out on her life, this book has it all. With the character being 19, this book falls in the wonderful spot of just aging out of Young Adult but not in the adult category, which is a beautiful place of self-discovery and the desire to find true love. ★

When We Haggle Over Integrity, We Risk Everything



In 1995, I was serving as an active-duty Air Force chaplain on Moffett Field in the San Francisco Bay Area.

During my three years there, our chaplain assistant constantly fielded requests from couples wanting to be married in our beautiful WW2 chapel.

Since military members are entitled to the free use of chapel facilities, we got a lot of calls from bargain hunters not much interested in the religious commitment assumed with a church wedding.

So, you might imagine my reserve when my assistant transferred a call from an Army helicopter pilot called, asking if I perform “all weddings.”

At first, I said, “sure,” but circled back to clarify his use of the word “ALL.”

“I’m a Protestant chaplain and I do ALL Protestant weddings,” I said. I’m not sure he heard my limitations because he still wanted to schedule premarital counseling.

The couple came to my office that afternoon holding hands and in good spirits. After a few minutes, they asked to see my menu of ceremonies I offered couples.

As they studied the script together, the pilot blurted out a question. “Would it be possible for you not to talk so much about God?”

When I offered them both a blank stare, the woman added some explanation. “Our friends may be offended to hear so much mention of God and the Bible.”

I wanted to ask if they noticed the Christian cross I wore above my left uniform pocket. Instead, I tried to gently explain that I couldn’t officiate a Christian wedding without using Christian vows because I was, well, believe it or not, a Christian.

At that point, the woman leaned forward in her chair to make a confession. “I should have told you — I’m Wiccan.”

“Yeah,” I said, “You definitely should

have mentioned that.”

Don’t get me wrong. As a group, Wiccans are generally peaceful and tolerant people. They are a nature-based religion. They do have witches, but not witches in the sense of potions and spells. They don’t worship the devil. In fact, they don’t believe in the devil. “I can’t do the wedding,” I said, “but perhaps you can get a Justice of the Peace.”

The woman saw my point and nodded in agreement, but I could see that her fiancé was getting furious.

“But you said you did ALL weddings — no matter what denomination,” protested the pilot.

I reminded him of our phone call when I said my focus was Protestant weddings. I tried to explain that Wiccans aren’t just another division of the Protestant family of churches.

The pilot remained unmoved until the woman confronted her fiancé with a question:

“Dear, don’t you understand? We would be hypocrites for saying the Christian vows and the chaplain would be a hypocrite for officiating a wedding for people he knows don’t believe the Christian vows.”

Wow, I was under her spell. Her words were so profound that I have repeated them to nearly every engaged couple seeking to be married.

This Wiccan had a sense of her own worth, but her fiancé was more interested in bargain hunting – to the point of denying something that was important about who she was.

The pilot was a bargain hunter trying to simulate God into a relationship where God was not wanted. And the truth is that God only comes to marriages, and to your life, as an invited guest.

In my many years of serving as a chaplain, I’ve often recounted this story to those who are tempted to haggle over the price of their integrity.

“It’s simple, really. I tell them. “You will never find a bargain by concealing who you really are. Because when you sell out who you are, it will cost you everything.”

Sign up to receive this weekly column in your email box at <https://thechaplain.net/newsletter/> or send me your email address to comment@thechaplain.net.

All of Norris’s books can be ordered on Amazon. Autographed copies can be obtained on his website www.thechaplain.net or by sending a check for \$20 for each book to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. ★



A Film and TV Review
by Tim Riley

TCM CLASSIC FILM FESTIVAL ROUNDUP

Just like last year, the concluded four-day celebration of film at the TCM Classic Film Festival offered much more than promised with its theme of “Grand Illusions: Fantastic Worlds on Film.

The theme worked well for the opening night gala presentation of “Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back.” No one should question that George Lucas created an enchanted world of fantasy in outer space.

Producing events at TCM’s festival, Bruce Goldstein is a fountain of information and insight on pre-Code films, and fortunately he was the presenter for 1932’s “Me and My Gal,” a comic crime tale starring Spencer Tracy and Joan Bennett.

When the Hayes Code, which set a variety of standards to rid films of such things as profanity and sexual perversion, became enforceable in 1934 “Me and My Gal” was kept out of circulation for decades because it could no longer be released.

Spencer Tracy’s Danny Dolan, a wise-cracking street cop in pursuit of escaped mobster Duke Castenega (George Walsh), initiates an erratic romance with perky waterfront waitress Helen Riley (Joan Bennett).

Over a cup of coffee at Helen’s hash house, Danny proposes to Helen, saying “Will you marry me so I can get some sleep?” After the screening, Goldstein noted this line was deemed ribald enough to get censored in some jurisdictions even before the Hayes Code kicked in.

While “Me and My Gal” was delightfully funny, Goldstein regaled the audience by quoting film reviews of the era that savaged the film for being smutty. Flopping at the box office, the film got pulled from theaters after a week.

The Los Angeles Examiner noted the film was “real entertainment with the highbrow stuff left out.” One could look at this review as a sort of backhanded accolade, if only because so many other reviews were so brutally negative.

With some irony, Goldstein noted the film also got confused with “For Me and My Gal,” a musical released a decade later and starring hoofers Gene Kelly and George Murphy.

Considering the brilliant wit of Noel Coward, notable for being a playwright, director and actor among other talents, the chance to see the 1945 film adaptation of “Blithe Spirit” proved irresistible.

Coward’s bantering dialogue is evident throughout the film, with Rex Harrison’s Charles informing his second wife Ruth (Constance Cummings) in one exchange, “If you wish to make an inventory of my sex life, I think it only fair to tell you that

you’ve left out several episodes.”

Echoing the film’s title, Charles’ flighty deceased first wife Elvira (Kay Hammond) is conjured up during a séance and appears visible only to him, proceeding to hilariously haunt him and induce jealousy with Ruth.

In the role of presenter to the screening, Christine Ebersole, who starred as Elvira on the Broadway stage in “Blithe Spirit,” noted that in the film role Kay Hammond had to be painted a light shade of ethereal green.

The paint job provided the necessary “ghostly quality” needed for a spirit from the beyond, and Ebersole expressed hope that the green coating “didn’t shortened her life” due to the chemicals. Hammond apparently passed at age 71 from undisclosed causes.

“To Be or Not To Be,” a comedy about the Nazi occupation of Poland released in 1942, generated a share of controversy and divided reviews, which are interesting due to the director Ernst Lubitsch coming from a Jewish family and born in Germany.

Jack Benny as Joseph Tura and his wife Maria (Carole Lombard in her last movie role) lead a troupe of Polish actors who turn the tables on Hitler’s lunkheads who have taken control of Warsaw.

Maria copes with her egotistical husband’s comical attempts to play Hamlet on stage and fends off the advances of a lovestruck Polish air force lieutenant (Robert Stack) in her dressing room.

The film turns insanely funny for its sharp dialogue and the clever deceptions against the Third Reich goons by impersonating Nazi officers to save the resistance fighters.

“Jeopardy” host Ken Jennings, who vaulted to celebrity by his record-breaking 74-game winning streak on the quiz show, noted that “To Be or Not To Be” personified the “Lubitsch touch,” which is a sophisticated, cosmopolitan style with an urbane quality.

Jennings observed that the movie raised the question of whether it was in bad taste. At the time, there only two types of films involving Nazis. They were either an “existential threat” or “clowns and buffoons,” and this film straddled the line between these two categories.

A real delight was the 50th anniversary screening of “Monty Python and the Holy Grail,” an irreverent, anarchic take on the Arthurian legends, with Graham Chapman as King Arthur and the Python members playing multiple roles.

Presenter Patton Oswalt showed up for the morning screening wearing pajamas and a bathroom, telling the audience that comedians don’t get dressed before noon. As such, Oswalt captured the spirit of what he called the “wellspring of pure absurdity” that came with “Monty Python and the Holy Grail.” ★



Farm Technology Showcased at Ventura County Field Day

A drone that performs multiple functions on the farm; a self-driving strawberry harvester; smart valves that manage irrigation; a software-powered system for irrigating and weeding; and a machine that weeds, thins and fertilizes. Those are the latest innovations that five agricultural technology companies demonstrated at a University of California field day in Ventura County this month. “We’re trying to pair up growers, startup companies and our academics to trial and validate technologies that will hopefully improve them, get them to stick and the growers to adopt them,” said Gabe Youtsey, UC Davis chief innovation officer.

Ranchers Grapple with Livestock Losses as Wolf Population Grows

With California wolf populations expanding and attacks on livestock on the rise, the state announced this month a new phase of managing the protected species, saying it will consider allowing more aggressive forms of nonlethal hazing to deter the predators. But frustrated ranchers say the new provisions do little to address problem wolves and their most significant cost, which is not from direct livestock kills but from stress-related impacts due to wolf presence, with cattle losing weight and failing to conceive. A new study by researchers at the University of California estimated such indirect losses at \$1.4 million to \$3.4 million in 2023. “This conflict is real and escalating,” said Ken Tate, UC Cooperative Extension specialist. “People are not crying wolf.”

Groundwater Official Calls for Support for Farming Communities

California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act has reshaped groundwater use for many farmers and other groundwater users in recent years. This month, state water agencies signaled their intention to implement even stronger measures to prevent groundwater overdraft and related impacts such as land subsidence. “It’s going to cause a significant ask on land transition, so there will have to be a considerable state effort in these areas because you are dealing with a lot of ag transition, jobs and community impacts,” said Paul Gosselin, Department of Water Resources deputy director for sustainable groundwater management.

Annual Report Shows Major Declines in Farmland Values

The value of much of California’s farmland declined from 2023 to 2024, according to figures published last month by the state’s chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. Authors of the ASFMRA chapter’s annual Trends report attributed the declines in farmland value to multiple factors, including low prices for many crops, high inflation and interest rates, and overall high operating costs. Farmland subject to groundwater pumping restrictions saw some of the steepest value declines, with farmland in parts of the San Joaquin Valley that depend entirely on groundwater losing more than half its value in the space of a year. ★



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Solano County Volunteers Participate in Earth Day Cleanup

Solano Resource Conservation District News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Despite a chilly morning with cloud cover and scattered rain, 212 dedicated volunteers came together across Solano County to make a significant difference at the annual Earth Day Cleanup.

Volunteers spanned 11 sites and covered eight miles across the county, working tirelessly to remove 3,603 pounds of trash and another 135 pounds of recyclables. This year marks the 11th anniversary of the county-wide event and brings the total amount of trash and recyclables collected over the years to a remarkable 63,381 pounds. The cleanup effort showcased the multiplying effect of community collaboration. Marianne Butler, Solano Resource Conservation District Education Director, noted the inspiring scene.

“Downtown Vacaville’s Earth Day cleanup was made powerful by the collective effort of groups from the Academy of the 21st Century Learning, Target, Amazon and many others,” Butler said.

She related witnessing the immediate impact when Gabe A., a young man born and raised in Vacaville, saw the volunteers on the Ulatis Creek bank and didn’t hesitate to put down his coffee, register and join them, sharing that he had been waiting for this opportunity.

“That’s the true spirit of Earth Day,” Butler said. “Let’s make more of these moments happen, together.”

Emma Mendiola hosted the Vacaville site and has been the site captain for more than a decade. This year, as in years past, she handed out Lara bars to all participants, with thanks to the Sierra Club of Solano County and Sprouts Farmers Market for making them available.

Jose, a Vallejo resident, waded right in to collect trash in a storm drain outfall. He has previously volunteered for cleanup events in Solano County (as evidenced by a Coastal Cleanup Day shirt) and was glad to participate again for this year’s Earth Day event. He was happy to utilize a burlap sack from Moschetti Artisan Coffee Roaster in Vallejo for his collection, who donates the sacks to help minimize waste from the event.

The event drew volunteers with a variety of motivations. Marsha, an enthusiastic volunteer at the Grizzly Island Road site hosted by Solano Land Trust, even makes her own trash pick-up sticks to use.

“I have wanted to do a clean-up with a team or group. I was always so busy, was never able to do it and usually clean up when I go fishing. I have never joined an Earth Day team or event before,” she said.

Jane S., a volunteer at the Industrial Pond site in Dixon, expressed her commitment to the community, stating, “I love being able to help my community be a cleaner and healthier place.”

Common finds during the cleanup included discarded recyclable glass and aluminum beverage containers, food wrappers, cigarette butts, and



Pictured are the Fairfield Lower Ledge Creek volunteers. Photo courtesy of Solano Resource Conservation District



Volunteers comb the land at Industrial Pond in Dixon. Photo courtesy of Solano Resource Conservation District



A Vallejo volunteer at Blue Rock Springs Creek in Vallejo. Photo courtesy of Solano Resource Conservation District

single-use plastics. The Earth Day Cleanup is one of three annual county-wide cleanup efforts coordinated by Solano County agencies and cities in partnership with Solano Resource Conservation District. Having consistent annual events such as the Earth Day Cleanup is important as these ongoing efforts provide opportunities for each generation to contribute to a cleaner environment, ensuring that trash is removed before it can pollute local waterways and ultimately reach the ocean.

Those who missed this opportunity or who loved it and want to come back for more can join at Lake Solano for World Environment Day on June 7. The family-friendly event not only focuses on cleaning up the shoreline of a major water source for Solano County, Lake Berryessa, but also includes fun activities for volunteers such as planting grass plugs and forbs and making seed packets to attract pollinators to their gardens.

Lunch and cold drinks will be available June 7 to all registered volunteers, who will also receive a commemorative T-shirt. In addition, there will be guided kayak tours of Lake Solano and the opportunity to meet Bilgee the Bilge Pad, the protector of Lake Berryessa, who will encourage volunteers and pose for pictures. Learn more about these cleanups at cleanupsolano.org.

The 2025 Solano County Earth Day Cleanup is sponsored by Solano County Department of Resource Management with additional support provided by the Sierra Club Solano Group, Sprouts Farmers Market in Vacaville, Solano Volunteers-CVNL, 95.3 KUIC, Grizzly Waters Kayaking, and the California Coastal Commission.

Cleanup partners include Solano County Parks, Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District, Vallejo Watershed Alliance, Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District, City of Benicia, City of Dixon, City of Vacaville, Solano Land Trust and volunteer site leaders. ★



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Dixon Library Supports Military-Connected Children



The Dixon Library staff worked with Nomads and Company events to gather letters for military-connected children, youth and teens. With April, the Month of the Military Child, ending, Nomads and Company will distribute the letters with a lollipop included.

Story and photo by Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - April was designated as the Month of the Military Child in 1986 by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberg.

According to the United States Department of Defense (DOD), more than 1.6 million military-connected children, youth and teens face unique challenges due to their parents' service.

Christina and James LaPorte of Nomads and Company Events, in partnership with Dixon Library, intend to address this demographic.

"Because April is the Month of the Military Child, we wanted to conclude the month with hand-written letters for the kids. In their own way, they serve too," said Christina LaPorte.

Nomads and Company are hosting Letters to Our Military Children, which aims to collect handwritten letters and drawings for the children of reserve families. The LaPortes have already gathered around 4,000 letters from three countries and 14 states.

At the end of April, letters will be dropped off at Travis Air Force Base and

gifted to children from preschool to seventh-grade with parents in the service. Christina LaPorte calls them "lollipop drops," as each will come with a treat.

The LaPortes, a military family, understand the difficulties that military children face and wish to support them in any way they can. Dedicated to the support of this demographic, Nomads and Company contacted the Dixon Public Library, 230 N. First St., to accrue more letters.

According to children's librarian Dionna Campbell, this program is significant because it encourages adolescents during potentially tough times.

"These kids are dealing with emotions that not everyone has to endure. Loss of a parent, either to deployment or worse, can be hard for anyone. Also, regularly moving harms mental health. Having to make new friends and getting used to a new school environment, it's all tough stuff," said Campbell.

Library staff intend to write letters to support military children and ask that Dixonites do the same.

For more information, visit solanolibrary.com or call 1-866-572-7587. ★

Karen Gonzalez is Dixon's April Young Woman of the Month



From left, Jezebel Corona (PE Teacher), Karen Gonzalez, Rosa Gonzalez (Mom) and Principal Angela Brown celebrate Gonzalez gaining recognition as April's Young Woman of the Month. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Dixon

Soroptimist International of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Karen Gonzalez is Soroptimist International of Dixon's Young Woman of the Month. She was nominated by Jezebel Corona, physical education teacher. Principal Angela Brown was also in attendance at the Young Woman of the Month ceremony.

Gonzalez and her family moved to Dixon from Vallejo in the summer of 2024. Gonzalez notes a remarkable, but welcome, difference between living in Vallejo and living in Dixon.

Gonzalez is the daughter of Rosa Gonzalez. She has an older 22-year-old brother and a younger 11-year-old brother who is attending John Knight Middle School.

New to Dixon High School, Gonzalez had no idea that there were so many clubs and teams to join. She decided to dive right in. She joined the Dixon High School Drama Club, where she participated in the school play "Back to

the 80's." She also joined the Barnyard and Key Clubs. She is part of the Dixon High School marching band and color guard. She never had such passion until she joined the color guard and plans to continue this passion in college.

The accomplishments Gonzalez is most proud of include starting a student council at her charter school in Vallejo, winning second place at a recent color guard tournament of the champions competition and getting accepted to colleges.

Gonzalez plans to attend Sacramento State University to study criminal justice. Her dream is to become a criminal investigator. She also dreams of owning her own small bakery shop one day, as baking is something she really enjoys. Most importantly, she wants to be a positive example for her younger brother.

Soroptimist International of Dixon members know that Gonzalez has achieved so much and has much to be proud of. She has already set a positive example for her younger brother. ★

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