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Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

JULY 18, 2025

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Independence in Dixon Holds Ribbon Cutting



City officials, business leaders and residents attended a July 8 ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of Independence in Dixon, a new rental community developed by the Lewis Group of Companies. About 22 units are expected to be available by November.

Story and photos by Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - City officials, business leaders and residents attended an afternoon July 8 ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the grand opening of Independence in Dixon, a new rental community developed by the Lewis Group of Companies.

The 4:30 p.m. event marked the official launch and honored several community leaders, introducing them to the Lewis Management staff.

"It's a happy day for us," said Lewis Management Corporation President Richard A. Lewis. "We're looking forward to great opportunities in the city of



Superintendent Brett Barley of the Dixon Unified School District was one of many Dixon leaders who attended the July 8 ribbon-cutting ceremony. Other attendees were the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Councilmembers Kevin Johnson and Don Hendershot, staff for Representative Mike Thompson and Assemblymember Lori D. Wilson, and several local nonprofit and school organizations.

Dixon. We're glad to be Located in the heart of the city, 1905 N. First St.,

Independence in Dixon intends to bring a total of 186 modern rental homes to the area, starting with 22 units in November.

Rob White, Lewis Management's Planned Communities vice-president, said that November is an estimated date and completion times could vary. The property will offer a mix of one-, two- and three-bedroom floor plans. Two-bedroom rentals start around the high \$2,000 range, whereas three-bedroom rentals start at the mid \$3,000 range.

The community features an upscale amenities area, called the impact area. This area includes a resort-style heated pool, jacuzzi, spa, *Continued on page 2*

Police Department Hosts National Night Out



The Dixon Police Department is hosting National Night Out 2025 on Oct. 7. The free, family-friendly event offers citizens opportunities to connect with the community and first responders. Neighborhood leaders, HOAs (homeowner associations) and community groups are encouraged to get involved by hosting their own block party or pop-up activity. Photo courtesy of the City of Dixon

Dixon Police Department News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Mark your calendars for Oct. 7.

The Dixon Police Department is excited to host National Night Out 2025 from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 7.

National Night Out is an annual celebration of community, connection and public safety.

This year, Dixon is joining other Solano County law enforcement agencies in shifting the festivities from August to October, beating the heat and making it more comfortable for families and first responders alike.

The move aligns with National Association of Town Watch guidelines, which allow communities throughout the country flexibility in hosting their events in either August or October, depending on the local climate.

National Night Out is a free, family-friendly evening that brings neighbors together with the people who serve their community.

Past National Night Out events have included food trucks and treats, live music and games, emergency vehicle tours, police and fire demos and giveaways for all ages.

Whether you're new to town or a lifelong resident, National Night Out is an opportunity to connect with Dixon's Police officers, firefighters, city staff and most importantly, each other.

Neighborhood leaders, HOAs (homeowner associations) and community groups are encouraged to get involved by hosting their own block party or pop-up activity. It's a great way to build local connections and show pride in your corner of Dixon.

Applications to host a National Night Out event are available now at dixonpoliceca.gov/nationalnightout.

Let's make this a night to remember with cooler weather, stronger neighborhoods and a safer, more connected Dixon. ★

Grocery Outlet's Food Drive Helps Community

Story and photos by Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Grocery Outlet shoppers are invited to join the 2025 Independence From Hunger Food Drive, a community-centered event aimed at alleviating food insecurity throughout Dixon.

Running through July 31, the drive encourages residents to donate either cash or non-perishable items in-store to directly support local families in need.

The food drive, held on-site at 2400 N. First St., will benefit both the Dixon Rams' Vault and Dixon Family Services.

According to Grocery Outlet owner Joe Bruch, the store has already received a substantial number of submissions.

"So far, we have about 75% cash donations and 25% food," Bruch said.



Grocery Outlet shoppers are invited to join the 2025 Independence From Hunger Food Drive, a community-centered event aimed at alleviating food insecurity throughout Dixon. Owner Joe Bruch (right) and assistant manager Kendra Lindstron are happy to support Dixon families.

"We have about \$800 in donations with a goal of \$2,000 to split evenly between the Ram's Vault and Dixon Family Services."

Donors can either buy pre-filled bags at the store entrance or make cash donations online or at the register. Shoppers who donate \$5 or more online

or in person will receive a coupon for \$5 off of future purchases totaling \$25 or more.

Shoppers can also round *Continued on page 3*

MEMORIAL

FRANCES FLORIDO MARTINEZ • 11/07/1937 - 07/06/2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Frances Martinez on July 6, 2025, peacefully in her home. Frances was born in Malaga, Spain on November 7, 1937. She immigrated to the United States in 1962, got married and started a family in Winters in 1970. She

was a farmwife and a loving mother and grandmother. She is preceded in life by her son, Chris Martinez, and her husband, Tony Martinez. She is survived by her daughter Rose Mary Martinez and son Joey Martinez, daughter-in-law Callie Martinez, and grandchildren Ainsley

and Liam Martinez. **Funeral services to be held at Saint Anthony's Catholic Church, 511 Main Street, Winters, CA at 11 a.m. July 23. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in her name to the American Cancer Society and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.**



Dixon News Briefs



Dixon Library staff members are happy to provide free lunches to children and teens from 11 a.m. to noon through July 31. Held at the library, 230 N. First St., free lunches are available to youth 18 and under with no registration required. Photo by Kendall Brown

Independence in Dixon Holds Ribbon Cutting

Continued from page 1
fitness center and outdoor grills.

“One-hundred-and-eighty-six total units in duplexes, so that makes 93 buildings plus the impact area. We plan to open 22 units a month, called turns,” White said.

White led much of the discussion regarding the new property, addressing attendees and the City of Dixon as a whole. White went on to recognize Lewis staff and various local organizations and representatives that make a difference in the community.

Present parties included the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and president, Councilmember Kevin Johnson, Councilmember Don Hendershot, Superintendent Brett Barley, William Duncan representing Representative Mike Thompson and Mohamed Umbashi representing Assemblymember Lori D. Wilson.

White recognized Dependable Sheet Metal,



Lewis Management provided donations to four Dixon-based organizations. These include \$1,000 to John Knight Middle School, \$1,500 to Dixon High School, \$1,500 to the JA Taylor Foundation and \$1,000 to Dixon High School FFA. Each group represented expressed their thanks for such a generous donation. Photo by Kendall Brown

their partner in Dixon, and provided donations to four Dixon-based organizations. The donations were \$1,000 to John Knight Middle School, \$1,500 to Dixon High School, \$1,500 to the JA Taylor Foundation and \$1,000 to Dixon High School Future Farmers of America (FFA). Each group expressed their thanks for the donation.

Mayor Steve Bird thanked Lewis Management and welcomed them to the community.

“I think this is a momentous occasion in the sense that it is a new, fresh opportunity in the City of Dixon. Thank you, Lewis; you are

officially part of our community,” Bird said.

Board chair Crystal Rico of the Dixon Chamber of Commerce also addressed the crowd, reinforcing Bird’s words. Lewis Management is a generational family business that is now a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Independence in Dixon is the first product of its kind in the Lewis Management portfolio and Lewis staff will operate almost the entire facility, alongside local hires.

For more information, visit <https://referral.lewisapartments.com/independence-in-dixon>. ★

By MPG Staff

Dixon United Methodist Church Garage Sale

Dixon United Methodist Church is hosting a garage sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 19. Held at the church, 209 N. Jefferson St., the event offers participants the opportunity to support Dixon United Methodist Church and get some great deals. Interested parties can also rent a table to sell their wares. Tables cost \$20 for a long 8-foot table, \$15 for a large round table and \$10 for a small round table.

For more information or to rent a table, visit dixonumc.org or call 707-678-2191.

Veterans’ Dinner

American Legion Post 208 is hosting a Veterans’ Dinner from 5:30 to 7 p.m. July 18. 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, scallop potatoes, vegetables and a roll.

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

Dixon Community Theater Presents Treasure Island

Dixon Community Theater will begin hosting auditions for its upcoming youth production of “Treasure Island.” The show will be directed by Angel Gatchel with support from Kelly Pidgeon James. The youth production will have a young cast of actors from 6 to 16 years old. Audition dates will be announced soon. Show dates include Oct. 17, 18 and 19.

For more information, visit the Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook page or call 707-903-8387.

Rec Swim at Pat Granucci Aquatic Center

Pat Granucci Aquatic Center is offering recreational swim from 1 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday throughout the summer. Located at 450 E. Mayes St., the summer pool schedule will be in effect until Aug. 4.

For more information, visit cityofdixonca.gov or call 707-678-7000.

Mixer at Best Western Plus

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking mixer from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. July 30. Held at Best Western Plus, 1345 Commercial Way, the free event is open to the public and offers a no-host bar, snacks and raffle prizes. Attendees can bring a friend to receive a free raffle ticket.

For more information, visit dixonchamber.org or call 707-678-2650.

Free Lunch at the Dixon Library

Dixon Library is offering free lunch to kids and teens from 11 a.m. to noon June

9 to July 31. Held at the library, 230 N. First St., free lunches will be available to youth 18 and under with no registration required. Meals are offered in partnership with local school districts, funded by the California State Library, and must be eaten on-site.

For more information, visit the Solano County Library Facebook page or call 1-866-572-7587.

Dixon Moose Lodge Cornhole

Dixon Moose Lodge is hosting cornhole every Monday at 6 p.m. Hosted by 4bagzin, a cornhole apparel shop, the weekly event offers drinks, snacks, music and competitive cornhole. Held at the Moose Lodge, 180 W. B St., participants can sign in using the Scoreholio app for \$10 per person. Newcomers can expect tutorials on cornhole from on-site personnel. Members and qualified guests are invited to play and support the lodge.

For more information, visit the Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook page or call 707-678-9407.

Freedom Church Birthday Celebration

Freedom Church is hosting a birthday celebration service honoring Senior Pastor Joe Mejia at 10 a.m. July 20. Hosted on-site, 470 E. H St., the event offers a day of worship, praise dancing, fellowship, and an address from guest speaker Pastor Cornelious Dennis. The public is invited to celebrate Pastor Joe and his contributions to Freedom Church and the wider Dixon community.

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

Lambtown Festival Workshop Registration

Lambtown Festival organizers will begin registration for workshops at 10 a.m. July 19. Workshops are varied, offering 31 teachers and 55 subjects. Interested parties can filter out options by craft category or skill level on the website. Information about other aspects of the Lambtown Festival has been updated on the website as of the time of writing (July 14), but many parts are not ready for announcement.

For more information or to register, visit lambtown.org or contact info@lambtown.org.

Backpack to the Future

Dixon Unified School District is hosting its annual back-to-school festival from 9 to 11 a.m. Aug. 2. Held in Pardi Plaza, 132 E. A St., the family-friendly event offers attendees community resources, food, games, music and a free backpack and supplies (while supplies last).

For more information, visit the Dixon Unified School District Facebook page or call 707-693-6300. ★

The Future of Bay Area Housing: Lessons from Lagoon Valley

Lagoon Valley News Release

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - Quality of life, respect for nature, and sustainable building provide impetus for the only conservation community in the Bay Area, Lagoon Valley. This is the first of its kind in Northern California. The Lagoon Valley Conservation Community is easily accessible to Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Sacramento and Silicon Valley, with quick and easy access to freeways I-80, I-680, and I-505. The Vacaville Amtrak station is only 10 minutes away and connects directly to Sacramento and San Jose with a connection to BART for travel to San Francisco.

Walkability fosters a connection between people and open spaces, clustering housing to sit gently in the valley for optimal land and natural resource conservation and hiking connections to surrounding open space. Three distinct neighborhoods, Lilac Ridge by Lennar, Rosemary Grove by Taylor Morrison and Hawthorn Hills by Lennar, are officially open with models available to tour, offering a range of beautiful designs in an unforgettable setting.

“Over the last several decades, many neighborhoods in the United States have distanced themselves from nature, leaving conservation to well-intentioned organizations that are not really equipped to integrate human and non-human ecologies. Conventional development seeks to avoid the obligation for stewardship of sensitive lands. Lagoon Valley turns all of this on its head with a proven model of gracious living that builds upon lessons learned from exceptional conservation communities throughout the world. It is a recipe for great quality of life built upon a foundational respect for biological and cultural resources” said Curt Johansen, Lagoon Valley’s Development Director.

Lagoon Valley is the first Conservation Community in the Bay Area. It will undoubtedly prove to be a model for the future of live-work-play communities in California. Embedded in Lagoon Valley’s project planning are five core principles of sustainability.

Open space and wildlife protection is one of them. 85% of Lagoon Valley’s Specific Plan area is dedicated to open space and recreation. This mindful approach keeps every neighborhood just a

short walk into nature and active and passive recreational parks.

Another core principle is community-supported agriculture. Lagoon’s planned organic farm will facilitate farm-to-table dining and support local food production. The farm will include community gardens and experiential tours for Vacaville school children to learn how food is grown.

Green building design principles that focus on conserving energy and water resources are top priorities. Reduce, repurpose, and recycle are sustainable behaviors that are fostered throughout the community.

Climate resiliency and safety is another core principle. Wildfire buffers and floodwater detention basins are supported through sustainable planning and eco-friendly development practices. Lagoon Valley includes a new 24/7 Fire Station within a few minutes of every neighborhood.

Lastly, housing diversity and placemaking is another priority. Lagoon Valley’s 14 distinctive neighborhoods feature a wide range of elegant yet comfortable homes, affordable residences and age-qualified homes with a retail Town Center, resident Event Center and 445 acres of parks.

The homes range from charming cottage-style bungalows with garages in the rear, to large family homes, many with ADUs in gated neighborhoods. All the homes meet or exceed California’s exceptionally high standards for energy conservation and sustainability, including solar energy production, thermal pane windows, energy-star appliances and options for waste-water conservation.

The thoughtful design of Lagoon Valley has been twenty years in the making. While respecting the land, an incredible lifestyle includes 1,305 acres of preserved open space with miles of hiking and biking trails, a Robert Trent Jones II-designed championship 18-hole golf course, a Swim Club, pickleball and tennis courts, the Town Center and the Farm-to-Table Event Center for Lagoon Valley residents.

Lagoon Valley’s new Visitors’ Center is just off Highway 80 at 200 Mount Royal Road, Vacaville. Guests are welcome Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. To join the interest list and learn more, visit Lagoon-Valley.com or call the Visitors Center at 707-724 6937. ★

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Grocery Outlet's Food Drive Helps Community

Dixon Family Services Pantry Benefits from Community Support



Dixon Family Services is honored to be a beneficiary in the Grocery Outlet Independence from Hunger Food Drive. The nonprofit has also recently partnered with Solano Gleaning and has received donations from the Solano Land Trust and First Northern Bank. Photo by Kendall Brown

Donors can either buy pre-filled bags at the store entrance or make cash donations online or at the register. Shoppers who donate \$5 or more online or in person will get a coupon for \$5 off future purchases of \$25 or more. Shoppers can also round up their purchases if they can only donate a small amount. All in-store donations stay local.

Dixon Family Services New Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Family Services' (DFS) Food Pantry sincerely appreciates being a beneficiary of the Grocery Outlet's Independence from Hunger event, as well as the support from many community members.

appreciate their ongoing partnership.

Currently, thanks to donations from Solano Land Trust and First Northern Bank, Dixon Family Services also offers various types of frozen meat. Both organizations purchased animals from the Dixon May Fair, had them processed and delivered the meat to the Dixon Family Services Food Pantry.

Continued from page 1
up their purchases if they can only donate a small amount. All in-store donations stay local.

about food; it's about dignity, opportunity and hope," Brown said.

To Dixon Family Services Executive Director Cookie Powell, this drive represents the generosity of the Bruchs and the community as a whole.

According to Bruch, Grocery Outlet Dixon has participated in the food drive every year since opening in 2020.

"DFS Food Pantry appreciates being a beneficiary of the Grocery Outlet's Independence from Hunger event as well as the support from so many in the community," Powell said. "As a component of the Independence from Hunger event, Grocery Outlet owners Joe and Christa provide us with grocery gift cards to augment our supplemental grocery bags we give out to people in Dixon in need of food. When we add a grocery gift card with the two bags of supplemental groceries, parents are then able to get refrigerated items they need, such as milk, eggs, etc."

While this is the first year that Rams' Vault was officially included as a food drive beneficiary, Grocery Outlet donates regularly to both the vault and Dixon Family Services.

"We have two great nonprofits in Dixon that need help and the money stays local; 100% of the money goes to them," Bruch said.

With such needed support, both Dixon High School and Dixon Family Services are thankful for the aid. To Dixon High School Principal Angela Brown, this collaboration is about more than just food.

Bruch said the real point of this food drive is the families in need and the Dixon youth.

"We are deeply thankful for our partnership with Grocery Outlet for the Independence from Hunger Food Drive. Together, we are helping ensure that students, families and community members do not go without something so many of us take for granted: the simple, vital ability to eat each day. This collaboration is not just

"Dixon has always rallied behind people in need and this is a great way to support that," Bruch said.

For more information or to donate, visit <https://www.groceryoutlet.com/donate> or call 707-676-5556. ★

As part of the Independence from Hunger event, Grocery Outlet owners Joe and Christa provide us with grocery gift cards to supplement our grocery bags given to people in Dixon in need of food.

Our Food Pantry mostly contains non-perishable food items and household necessities such as diapers and cleaning supplies.

When we add a grocery gift card to the two supplemental grocery bags, parents can also access refrigerated items they need, like milk and eggs. Joe and Christa are also very generous in providing paper bags for Dixon Family Services Food Pantry distributions.

Dixon Family Services has had a strong relationship with Grocery Outlet since before the store opened. During early COVID-19, with many social distancing and safety guidelines, Dixon Family Services provided office space for people applying for jobs at Grocery Outlet, which was soon to be built and opened. Our positive relationship with Joe and Christa began then and we truly

The nonprofit is also pleased to have recently started a partnership with Solano Gleaning. They harvest fruits and vegetables for people with an abundance of produce so it can be donated to local food pantries such as Dixon Family Services.

Those interested in having volunteers pick their fruit trees or gardens can visit forestr.org/gleaning or email gleaning@forestr.org.

Founded in February 1995, the Dixon Family Services Food Pantry's success is thanks to many community contributors. If you would like to learn how you can help, please email Cookie@DixonFamilyServices.org, visit our website at <https://dixonfs.org/> or check out our Facebook and Instagram pages.

If you or someone you know needs food, suggest they call us at 707-678-0442 to schedule a pickup.

Currently, Dixon Family Services does not offer walk-in services and an appointment is required. ★

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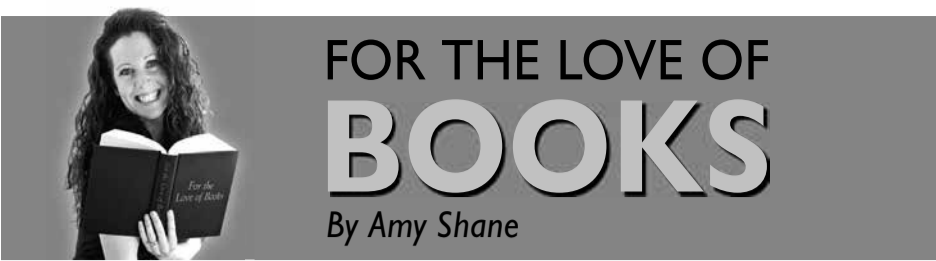
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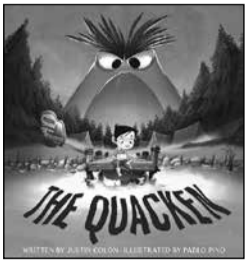
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BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • @ amy_fortheloveofbooks

Perfect Summer Camp Reads

Don't Head into the woods without these perfect spooky camp themed reads.



The Quacken

by Justin Colon, illustrated by Pablo Pino

- ◆ Publisher: Simon & Schuster
- ◆ Intended Audience: Picture Book All Ages

Legend has it that Lake Cucumonga was home to a creature that lived in the lake. The beast even swallowed campers and canoes whole, but Hector wasn't worried. While everyone was worried about the ducks, Hector thought they looked cute. Hector then did the worst thing imaginable and broke the rules by feeding the ducks. Seriously, what is the worst that could happen?

Hector quickly found out that when everything began to shake, it was the Quacken. And the campers weren't lying. The Quacken was huge (he even ate two canoes). Hector ran for his life, but still couldn't evade the Quacken.

What was Hector going to do? Will he be the next to be eaten by the Quacken?

For fans of the Creepy Carrots Series and The Bad Seed comes a whole new, suspenseful, and hilarious book. Helping children face their fears – even if they are standing right in front of them, in giant form. The Quacken delicately dances between hilarious and spooky, teaching the importance and the strength behind facing fear with problem-solving, resourcefulness, and even a bit of unpredictability. Readers will instantly fall for the story and the characters, thanks to the incredible illustrations and Hector's child's perspective. This book is destined to be a new favorite and perfect for the next family outdoor trip. ★



It Came from the Trees

by Ally Russell

- ◆ Publisher: Delacorte Press
- ◆ Intended Audience: Middle Grade ages 8-12

Jenna loved the idea of a three-day summer camping trip with her Scout Troop. After all, the outdoors was in her blood. Jenna even convinced her best friend, Reese, to join the Owllet Scouts so she could also come along. Even though Jenna knew the Owllet Survival guide by heart, nothing could prepare her for the night something ripped Reese right from their tent. A creature that looked just like Bigfoot.

To make matters worse, no one believes Jenna. Between her parents, the media, and the police, everyone is convinced Reese ran away.

So, Jenna does the only thing she can think of: join a new troop and go back into the woods. Almost instantly, everything comes rushing back, but when the troop discovers a giant footprint, Jenna knows the creature

is still out there. Then she hears a distant and familiar thump, branches breaking, and a guttural sound that chills her to the bone. The creature is there, and it might be after her. With her new friends and a troop leader who might actually listen, Jenna must make a decision: trust them and tell them what happened, or take on this creature alone.

Calling Bigfoot fans of all generations, this scary story will send shivers down your spine and reawaken the legend. It Came from the Trees is a chilling new spin on the legendary tale of Bigfoot for middle-grade readers ready to be scared.

Whether you're a fan of scary stories, monster creatures, or even cryptozoology, this story is age-appropriately scary yet also scary enough to have readers pull the blankets over their heads and finish reading with a flashlight. ★

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. ★



A Film and TV Review
by Tim Riley

Riley Reviews

“SHARK WEEK” ON DISCOVERY
CELEBRATES THE OCEAN’S APEX PREDATORS

“SHARK WEEK” ON DISCOVERY CHANNEL

A half-century ago one of the most terrifying films induced enough fright that in the summer of 1975 beachgoers were afraid to enter the ocean. “Jaws” was, and remains, a true blockbuster thriller.

On the Discovery Channel, “Shark Week” is an annual week-long festival about the seafaring apex predators that dates back to 1988. On Sunday, July 20, a jaw-dropping 20 hours of new specials will premiere.

“Dancing with Sharks,” hosted by Tom Bergeron, is a competition show unlike any other. For the first time ever, five divers compete to put together an amazing underwater routine with their toothy partners.

From hammerheads to tigers and nurse sharks, each shark has its own signature dance moves. Not known at this time is whether disco music is part of the score. At the end of the show, a winner is crowned – if all competitors make it that far.

Shark expert Alison Towner teams up with Shark Week legend Dickie Chivell to decode how killer whales take down great whites with ease in “Great White Assassins.” To get answers, the team travels to New Zealand and goes to the extreme, sending Dickie underwater to pose as an orca to see how the great whites react.

In what will they think of next, “Great White Sex Battle” is a Shark Week first, in which male and female great white sharks compete in a series to determine which sex is the superior predator in the waters off the coast of New Zealand. No mention of an awards ceremony for the winner.

“In the eye of the Storm: Shark Storm,” during the summer of 2024, dozens of cameras captured a rare outbreak of shark attacks along America’s gulf coast. Told through first-hand accounts of victims and eyewitnesses, nobody has seen all these perspectives unfold in real time until now.

“How to Survive a Shark Attack” finds shark attack survivor Paul de Gelder attempting the unthinkable – getting attacked by a shark, again. Useful information may come from this if you are in the ocean in Florida’s Volusia County or certain areas of Australia.

Under the supervision of experts, Paul provokes sharks to attack him in multiple scenarios, where they bite and tear off prosthetic limbs to teach life-saving tactics for surviving an encounter with nature’s deadliest predators.

“Great White Northern Invasion” reports on great white sharks finding a new home off the shore of Nova Scotia, Canada, where the water temperature is nothing like that of Australia or Florida.



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

I had an interview for a sales management position. Since then, I've sent two follow-up emails. One was to thank the human resources representative for their time and for considering me for the job. In the second, I reiterated my interest in the position and desire to work for the company. Was this a proper and professional approach? If not, how would you suggest handling things after a first interview?

– Tiffany

Dear Tiffany,

In this situation, I would recommend sending another email. You want to walk right up to that fine line that separates bold and confident from pushy, because that's one of things a good sales manager should be able to do.

With the waters in Canada now frothing with great whites, interactions with humans are on the rise. A team of scientists tracks down and tags the biggest sharks to uncover the sharkiest locations before there's a fatal attack.

In “Expedition Unknown: Shark Files,” global adventurer Josh Gates solves some of the strangest and most disturbing shark mysteries of all time.

One such mystery is the real-life bloody inspiration for “Jaws” and the gruesome case of the Tiger Shark who vomited an arm while in captivity and ultimately helped police solve a murder mystery.

“Alien Sharks: Death Down Under” finds wildlife biologist Forrest Galante injecting himself with shark venom after diving down under into Australia’s dangerous waters, home to some of the weirdest alien-like and deadly sharks.

The biologist hopes this risky and potentially lethal experiment will bypass years of red tape to finally discover the potency of the venomous Port Jackson Shark and Ghost Shark.

We know that fifty years ago “Jaws” changed the beachgoing experienced by striking fear into millions of Americans who vowed never to go into the water again. “Surviving Jaws” will explore myths and facts.

Marine biologist Tom “Blowfish” Hird and predator ecologist Michelle Jewell re-examine the movie and dive with Great Whites to separate fact from fiction by answering questions.

For one, does skinny dipping really attract great white sharks? Good question, but is it really a good idea to swim nude where you may not see what is swimming in the ocean? Also, could a monster shark chew through a boat's hull?

Florida takes another hit with “Florida’s Death Beach,” which indicates that New Smyrna Beach (in Volusia County) has earned the title of “The Shark Attack Capital of the World,” accounting for 30% of the global shark attacks.

But why has popular spring break's party beach become so deadly? Wildlife biologist Forrest Galante (featured in another Shark Week program) and his team investigate before even more blood ends up in the water.

“Attack of the Devil Shark” tales the tale of a rogue Tiger Shark that attacks and kills a person in Saint Martin. Weeks later, the shark strikes again in this Caribbean paradise.

Locals fear it could be the work of the legendary Devil Shark – a massive and ruthless tiger shark who's haunted their shores for decades. When a team sets out to track down the shark responsible for the attacks, they uncover a seismic force that may be triggering aggression in sharks.

There's more to Shark Week than what's reported here. ★

Dave Ramsey Says

Approach it Like a Sales Call

Thank them again for their time, and respectfully tell them you understand any lengthy process, but you'd like to know when you can expect an answer.

I'm talking about using your experience and the idea that you're a great sales person, who has transformed herself into a great sales manager. In other words, treat it almost like a professional sales call. And don't be afraid to have a little fun with it. If you're still under consideration, that means they like you and you have a shot at the position. You might even hint at the fact they don't want to hire a sales manager who doesn't know how to follow up.

You obviously have sales skills if you worked your way up to a manager's position. So, put those skills to work. If you're on a sales call, and the customer needs to perform some due diligence before

deciding, a smart salesperson will request to schedule a follow-up. In your email, ask if checking back on a certain day in the next couple of weeks will work. You don't want to be obnoxious, but you're looking for an appointment of sorts—a time frame—so you'll know when to follow up without seeming pushy or desperate.

I hope this helps, Tiffany. Good luck!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a nine-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★



Community Garden Blooms at Library

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The morning of July 12, the Dixon Public Library grounds came alive with community spirit as local volunteers gathered for the community garden workday from 8 a.m. to noon. The event, held at 230 N. First St., was hosted in collaboration with the Master Gardeners of Solano County and Sustainable Solano.

According to library branch manager Nancy Redfield, this garden is what the community wants.

"This is what the community wants. These beds will be rented to community members to grow whatever they like. Also, the library is going to use the space for children's and adult educational programs," said Redfield.

The July workday marked a milestone in the library's summer-long initiative to bring a community garden to life. The project began with informational sessions led by Sustainable Solano. These sessions invited community input on garden design and stewardship,



According to Dixon Library Branch Manager Nancy Redfield, the community garden offers plots that can be rented by Dixonites and the space will serve both children's and adults' educational programs. Photo by Nicolas Brown

emphasizing its educational and social potential.

A highlight of the day was the presence of Kristin Johns, a Solano County Master Gardeners representative, who worked

side by side with volunteers, including families, students and lifelong residents; to construct rentable garden plots. Dixon Library is partnering with Master Gardeners to further support the

communal garden and the residents who utilize it.

"Master Gardeners work to educate the community about gardening and plants. We put on a lot of free workshops to help

community members learn about gardening. Anyone can join when they go through our educational programs and we offer students community service opportunities," said Johns.

The Master Gardeners of Solano County are a part of the University of California's Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) division.

According to the University of California's Agriculture and Natural Resources's website at ucanr.edu, the organization is committed to research-based education, sustainable practices and an eco-conscious mindset. This mission statement reflects the goals of the Dixon Library: to uplift, educate and empower Dixonites through agriculture.

"Dixon is a farming community, so if you can't do it at home, you can do it here," said Redfield.

For more information about the Master Gardeners of Solano County, visit ucanr.edu.

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

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • AT THE CIRCUS

CLUES

ACROSS

- Jumbo The Elephant or Sirius in space
- "But I heard him exclaim '___ he drove out of sight'"
- Young salmon
- Blood component
- What Lizzie Borden did
- Leather razor sharpener
- "The Famous Five" author ___ Blyton
- Back of the neck
- Letter-shaped girder
- "Feats-of-strength circus performer
- Indian restaurant bread
- In need of a muffler
- Away's partner
- Backward
- Same as ruin
- Greek R
- Net sales minus cost of goods sold
- Europe/Asia mountain divide
- Approximately, as in date
- Overnight lodging
- Inflicted a blow
- Celestial bear
- Goose egg
- ___AFTRA
- Frying pan
- Eating establishment
- Type of English crs.
- Traffic accident
- Wading bird
- "Sara Gruen's novel "Water for ___"
- "Lion tamer's tool or counter seat
- Justice's garb
- Hit it on the head
- Run off, as in couple
- Was in the hole
- Japanese zither
- Something ___
- Movie "Saturday Night" subject matter, acr.
- FedEx, verb

DOWN

- Tom Jones' "___ a Lady"
- "Big Top
- Gulf V.I.P.
- Remodeled
- Tests
- Settle a debt
- Biblical place of bliss
- "The Greatest Showman" protagonist
- Equals length times width
- Multicolored horse
- Dashboard acronym
- Type of heart pain
- Moses' mountain
- Hollywood legend Shearer
- "Like circus audience's experience, hopefully
- Bow-like structure
- Dodge
- Trunks
- "Three-___ circus
- What phoenix did
- Batu Khan's people
- JD Vance's "Hillbilly ___"
- Civil disorder
- African grazer
- Sound of circus

38. Money under mattress, e.g.

40. *Aerialist's bouncy safety device

41. Piled

44. Twisted cotton thread

46. Give it generously

48. *Funny one

49. James Dean's famous role

50. It will

51. *Unwelcome reception, pl.

52. Cupid, to the Greeks

53. Sodium hydroxide

54. ___caca, South American lake

55. Trough stuff

56. Witness

CROSSWORD

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025-000859
The following persons are doing business as: Taco Bell – 41354, 1420 Ary Lane, Dixon, CA 95620. Kumar Management Corp. II, Inc., 1118 Chess Drive, Foster City, CA 94404.

Date filed in Solano County: June 2, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 29, 2025

This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 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: June 27, July 4, 11, 18, 2025
TACO 7-18-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025000939
The following persons are doing business as: Indy Ryan Mukbang/ In Cahoots, 2275 Sacramento Street, Vallejo, CA 94590. In Cahoots Media LLC, 2275 Sacramento Street, Vallejo, CA 94590.

Date filed in Solano County: June 16, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 3/5/25

This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company, State of Organization: CA. 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 June 15, 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: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2025
MUKBANG 8-1-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001010

The following persons are doing business as: The Saini Ledger, 3700 Lyon Road, Apartment 195, Fairfield, CA 94534. Avneet Singh Saini, 3700 Lyon Road, Apartment 195, Fairfield, CA 94534.

Date filed in Solano County: June 30, 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 June 29, 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: July 11, 18, 25, August 1, 2025
SAINI 8-1-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025000994
The following persons are doing business as: BTO Motorsports, 53 B Commerce Place, Vacaville, CA 95687. Nasir Lee, 2842 Montclair Way, Fairfield, CA 94534. Date filed in Solano County: June 26, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 6/26/2025

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 June 25, 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: July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 2025
BTO 8-8-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001071
The following persons are doing business as: Pour Decisions, 1620 Folsom Downs Circle, Dixon, CA 95620. Emma Spitzer, 1620 Folsom Downs Circle, Dixon, CA 95620. Date filed in Solano County: July 10, 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 July 9, 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: July 18, 25, August 1, 8, 2025
POUR 8-8-25

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF THERESA VEKICH CASE NO. PR25-00031

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, and contingent creditors of and persons who may be otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of Theresa Vekich.

A Petition for Probate has been filed by Ryan Andersen, in the Superior Court of California, County of Solano, requesting Ryan Andersen be appointed as personal representative(s) to administer the estate of the decedent.

The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the executor to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the executor will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or have consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: August 7, 2025, 9:00 a.m. in Dept. 5, Room: 301; Superior Court of California, County of Solano, 600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form

is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: Dylan P. Hyatt, 1555 River Park Drive, Suite 108, Sacramento, CA 95815; 916-292-8009

Publish: July 11, 18, 25, 2025
VEKICH 7-25-25

TRUSTEE SALE

T.S. No. 0125002311
Notice of Trustee's Sale
Loan No. NA APN: 0109-190-010
You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated 3/3/2022. 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. On 7/28/2025 at 9:30 AM Santa Clara Street entrance to City Hall 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA, Old Republic Title Company, a California corporation, as the duly appointed Trustee under the Deed of Trust recorded on 3/10/2022, as Instrument No. 202200018148 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Solano County, California, executed by: Suneel Sharma, a married man, as his sole and separate property, as Trustor, Setal Judge, as to an undivided 50% and Rajbinder Singh Liddar, as to an undivided 50%, as Lender/Beneficiary, Will Sell At Public Auction To The Highest Bidder For (payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States by 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 the state) all right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in said County, California, describing the land therein: as more fully described on said deed of trust The street address or other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 5787 Midway Road Dixon, CA 95620 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made is an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by the Deed of Trust, to wit: \$1,481,304.88 (Estimated). Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness due. 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 company, 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 or visit this Internet website <https://mkconsultantsinc.com/trustee-sales/>, using the file number assigned to this case 0125002311. 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 website. 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, or visit this internet website <https://mkconsultantsinc.com/trustee-sales/>, using the file number assigned to this case 0125002311 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. This property which is subject to this Notice of Sale does not fall within the purview of California Civil Code Section 2923.5. Date: 6/25/2025 Old Republic Title Company, as Trustee 1000 Burnett Avenue, Suite #400 Concord, California 94520 (866)248-9598 /s/ by: Debbie Jackson, Vice President Published 7/4/2025, 7/11/2025, 7/18/2025 DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 7-18-25

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY - HARVEST MASTER PLAN

Date: July 18, 2025
To: Responsible/Trustee Agencies, Other Public Agencies, Advocacy Groups and Interested parties:
Subject: Notice of Availability and Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Report for Harvest Master Plan, Southeast Annexation, and General Plan Amendment in Dixon, CA and Notice of Preparation Scoping Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dixon (City), as the Lead Agency, prepared Notice of Preparation (NOP) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Harvest Master Plan, Southeast Annexation, and General Plan Amendment project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Harvest Master Plan, Southeast Annexation, and General Plan Amendment project (Project) site comprises approximately 7,819 acres of land located in unincorporated Solano County, surrounding the City of Dixon just outside the City's existing city limits and Sphere of Influence (SOI), and approximately 39 acres of land located within the City's Pond C stormwater drainage area. The Project proposes the following:

- Expand the City of Dixon's limits by annexing approximately 1,258 acres of unincorporated Solano County land comprised of the Harvest Project, Lombardo Ranch Project, and non-participating parcels. The Project encompasses the Harvest Master Planned Development—a phased, mixed-use community of up to 6,300 residential units, commercial/mixed-use space, public facilities, infrastructure (water, wastewater, stormwater, transportation), and extensive open space—anticipated to build out over 20–25 years. Pond C may be utilized for drainage upgrades and potential community-serving facilities.
- SOI expansion including SOI Area A (1,768 acres), SOI Area B (1,306 acres), SOI Area C (79 acres), the Harvest Project (838 acres), the Lombardo Ranch Project (147 acres), and non-participating parcels (273 acres). The Lombardo Ranch site would maintain current land-use designations pending future project application and non-participating parcels are proposed for annexation with no immediate land-use changes. Proposed SOI Areas A, B, and C would pre-zone in anticipation of future City growth.
- New Areas of Interest outside city limits and SOI (3,408 acres) as potential future growth areas to enhance coordination between the City and other responsible agencies.
- All Project components would be subject to LAFCO approval and municipal services review.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The project level elements of the EIR will analyze potentially significant impacts associated with adoption and implementation of The Harvest-Dixon project. In particular, the EIR will focus on the project's increased development potential. Other project elements, such as the City's proposed changes to the current SOI and the Lombardo Ranch project, will be evaluated at a programmatic level of analysis. The EIR will evaluate the full range of environmental issues contemplated under CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines as set forth in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, except for specific topics identified below as having no impact. Where potentially significant or significant impacts are identified, the EIR will discuss mitigation measures to address the impact. At this time, the City anticipates that EIR sections will be organized in the following topical areas: *Aesthetics; Agricultural Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources; Energy; Geology, Soils, and Seismicity; Greenhouse Gases and Climate Change; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Mineral Resources; Noise; Population and Housing; Public Services and Recreation; Transportation; Utilities and Service Systems; and Wildlife.*

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Notice of Preparation has been prepared in accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines and will be circulated for a 30-day review period during which your comments regarding scope of the Draft EIR are welcomed. The NOP comment period will commence Friday, July 18, 2025 and conclude Monday, August 18, 2025. The NOP may be accessed at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/environmentalreviewdocuments>, under the "Harvest Master Plan, Southeast Annexation, and General Plan Amendment" heading.

Your comments on the scope of the upcoming Draft EIR must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 18, 2025. Comments on the scope of the Draft EIR can be made to the following and any written communication shall include Harvest Master Plan, SE Annexation, and General Plan Amendment - Project - NOP Comments in the subject line:

Raffi Boloyan, Community Development Director
City of Dixon
600 East A St.
Dixon, CA 95620
Email: planningdepartment@cityofdixonca.gov
Phone: (707) 678-7000

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the City will hold a public Scoping Meeting so community members may learn more about The Harvest-Dixon project and provide input on the scope of the EIR. This Scoping Meeting will be held on Monday, August 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm. The meeting can be attended either in-person at City Hall Council Chambers at 600 East A St. Dixon, CA 95620 or via Zoom at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82903716476?pwd=1p6M4naWH5M68g89R5hUKZ9sLGuEz.1>, or www.zoom.com, (Meeting ID: 829-0371-6476, Passcode: 707143).

To join the meeting via phone only, dial (669) 444-9171, Meeting ID: 829-0371-6476, Passcode: 707143.

Dixon Independent Voice 7-18-2025

CITY OF DIXON NOTICE TO BIDDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the City of Dixon that sealed bids will be received online via Blueprint Express on July 31, 2025, until 3:00 p.m. at which time all bids will be publicly opened and read by the City Clerk. All bids will be considered for award by the City of Dixon City Council at their regular meeting on Tuesday, August 19, 2025 for the following project:

HSIP CYCLE 11 PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT #100477

LOCATION OF WORK: The intersection of East A Street and South 5th Street, and in front of 955 East A Street in the City of Dixon, Solano County.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The work includes removing and installing signs, removing and installing pavement markings, installing crosswalks, demolishing existing pavement, demolishing and installing curb, gutter, and sidewalk, installing curb ramps, pavement rehabilitation, installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) system, and traffic control. The Engineer's Estimate for this project is \$147,300.00.

All work is to be done in accordance with said Plans and Specifications. A copy of the Plans and Specifications, including the Contract Documents, may be obtained by logging on www.blueprintexpress.com/dixon or by calling BPXpress Reprographics at (707) 745-3593. Bid sets may be obtained for a non-refundable price of \$60.00 (additional fee if mailed). All bidders must purchase a complete bid set from BPXpress Reprographics in order to be considered responsive and to receive addenda notifications.

All bidders must submit bids online through the bid portal at BPXpress in order to be considered responsive.

The quantities given in the Proposal and Contract forms are approximate, being given as a basis for the comparison of bids only, and the City does not expressly, or by implication, agree that the actual amount of work will correspond therewith, but reserves the right to increase or decrease the amount of any class or portion of work or to omit any portion of the work, as may be deemed advisable or necessary by the City Engineer.

If you desire a copy of the plan holders list, call BPXpress Reprographics at (707) 745-3593 or check online at www.blueprintexpress.com/dixon. If you have questions regarding this project, call Jordan Santos, (707) 678-7030x5311

All Work shall be completed no later than **thirty working days (30)** after the date set in the Notice to Proceed. The City shall assess liquidated damages as provided for in the Contract Documents for delays in the completion of the Project.

Dixon Independent Voice 7-18-2025

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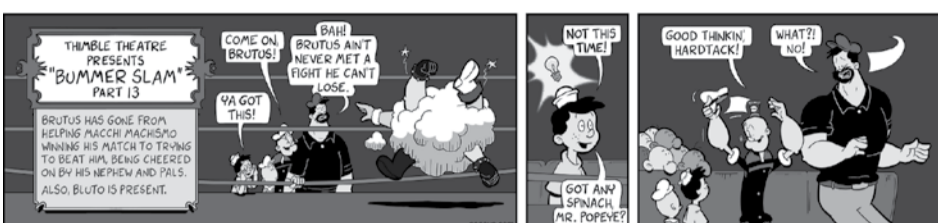
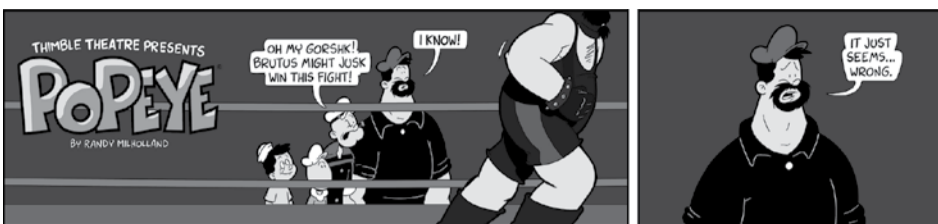
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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

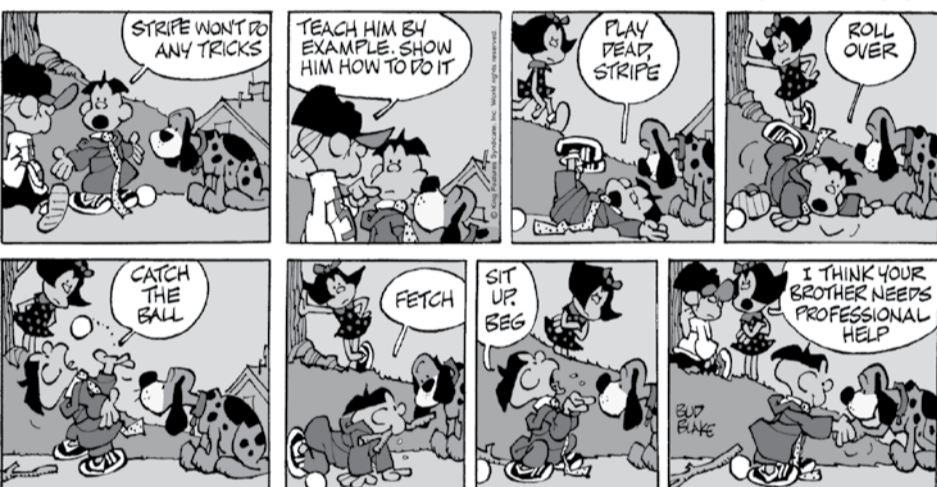


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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



The NBA summer league represents an entertaining time of the year for NBA fans and franchises alike. But for owners, GM's and coaches, it represents much more.

Validation of the thousands of hours of pre-draft work and now it's time to see how the hopeful new members of the team are going to perform.

For the Sacramento Kings, that means particular attention to first round pick Nique Clifford and second round pick 7'1" Maxime Raynaud.

With two games in the books, the Kings are 2-0 and their draft choices are holding up their end of the bargain.

Nique Clifford is averaging 18 points per game while hitting the boards with a level of ferocity that helped him set a Colorado State school record for rebounds just a season ago.

Clifford has shown a level of confidence on both ends of the floor that has raised eyebrows and brings back memories of other standout first round picks like DeAaron Fox and Keegan Murray.

Both Fox and Murray stepped into the starting lineup and never looked back. Clifford may face a challenge, as the Kings' starting lineup is stacked with talent, including Zach LaVine, Keegan Murray, DeMar DeRozan and new point guard Dennis Schröder. One of these four players would have to move to the bench if Clifford is to break into the starting lineup. In addition, last year's first round pick Devin Carter is playing like an NBA veteran and fans wonder if Carter will challenge newcomer Dennis Schroder for the position of starting point guard.

A good problem to have? Not sure, as the Kings have been shopping sharpshooter DeMar DeRozan from coast to coast with no apparent takers.

It's a long way from the start of the regular season, so no reason to spend time worrying about something that may never become a problem.

Clifford isn't the only draft choice raising eyebrows, as second round pick Maxime Raynaud is making his presence felt in Las Vegas. Raynaud, a four-year player out of Stanford, scored 16 and 17 points respectively in the two opening games, displaying his talents around the rim and scoring from

beyond the arc.

After a tepid start in game one with eight points and three boards, last year's rookie guard Devin Carter lit it up against the Bulls, scoring a team-leading 30 points while securing eight boards in the process.

Isaac Jones had identical stats in both games, scoring 11 points while grabbing six rebounds. Jones remains an enigma and at 6'9" with a gigantic wingspan, has the body the Kings are looking to duplicate. A second-year man, Isaac is hoping to find more playing time than last season when he played in just 40 games averaging a paltry seven minutes per contest.

There is a lot of legitimate talent on this team, and summer league is all about showing what you can bring to the table.

The Kings appear to still be high on Devin Carter, despite his name popping up in trade rumors but I would like to see what the Kings can do with Carter in the upcoming season, and at the very least, put him to back up the starting point guard. Carter has shown growth in his ball handling skills, and I believe he can be a strong contributor.

Big man Maxime Raynaud may be a project that takes time, as at 7'1" I would expect to see more rebounding than what he showed us in his first two games. While 6'6" guard Nique Clifford led the team in rebounding with 12 against the bulls, Raynaud had only five boards for the contest. Raynaud had just six boards in game 1 versus the Magic but his penchant for scoring the ball is very apparent.

Domantas Sabonis would love to have a little more company on the glass this season, so time will tell if rebounding is a part of Raynaud's game that just needs time to ferment. What better teacher to school a young big man than the NBA's rebounding champ for the past three seasons?

There are many reasons for optimism, Kings fans, and summer league is just one. Vivek Ranadive, Scott Perry and Doug Christie are smiling like Cheshire cats as their young draft picks show the NBA world what they can do.

Stay tuned and enjoy the NBA summer league!

All the best!

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

showmanship of the Harlem Globetrotters. Twerking and behind-the-back catches are all encouraged.

The Savannah Bananas were originally part of the Coastal Plain League, a summer league for college ballplayers. When the team's exhibition games with modified rules proved more popular than their staid standard fare, they went all exhibition.

We associate baseball with lazy summer afternoons, but there's nothing lazy about Banana Ball.

It takes everything dull or overly subtle about baseball and smashes it underfoot while dancing to a pop song.

At the end of the day, does anyone besides the true connoisseur enjoy seeing a batter try to bunt? In Banana Ball, bunting is strictly prohibited and any attempt will get the offending batter ejected from the game.

Then, there are walks. Who walks in a real sport? What is this, golf? In Banana Ball, after the pitcher issues a base-on-balls, every fielder besides the pitcher and catcher has to touch the ball before the runner can be tagged out. This creates an incentive for runners to actually run out of the batter's box, and very often they reach second base.

Banana Ball, correctly, views incessant and unnecessary delay as the enemy of fan engagement. Batters can't step out of the batter's box. There are no visits to the mound. The game is timed and can't last more than two hours. (MLB has taken steps in this direction with the wondrously successful innovation of the pitch

clock, but can still do more to hustle things along.)

In loud and intense football stadiums, the fans are called "the 12th man." In Banana Ball, the fans are literally the 10th fielder -- if one of them catches a foul ball on the fly, the batter is out.

"Whoever wants to know the heart and mind of America," the French-American historian Jacques Barzun famously wrote, "had better learn baseball."

Intellectuals aren't going to rhapsodize about Banana Ball, but it says something about America, too. Its popularity shows how much we prize speed, constant entertainment and, oh yeah, viral moments on social media (which Banana Ball provides in abundance). Kids, in particular, love it.

Banana Ball isn't a sacrifice against the game, any more than wiffle ball or beer-league softball are. It is a popularization of baseball and advertisement for it, demonstrating how a game that is perceived as dull and uneventful can be the occasion for rollicking fun.

We won't be arguing decades from now about who was the best Banana Ball player of this era. We can enjoy the spectacle all the same.

The supposed inventor of baseball, Abner Doubleday, got much right. So, who can blame him for not realizing how much the game could be enhanced by adding musical numbers and having pitchers throw from trampolines?

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*. (c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

Social Security Matters

Why Can't I get my SS Payment plus my Railroad Pension from my Ex-spouse?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I have a question. I now get a Railroad Pension from my ex-husband. I did not know it was from the Social Security Administration. I want to collect my SS benefits and my Railroad pension. Can I do that? I do not understand why I cannot collect both. Please advise. Thank you. **Signed: Railroad Ex-spouse**

Dear Railroad Ex-spouse: Railroad pension benefits and Social Security benefits are fully coordinated – that is, your Railroad pension payment from your ex-spouse already includes your earned Social Security retirement benefit. That's because the two government agencies (the RRB - Railroad Retirement Board - and SSA (Social Security Administration) work together and pay your benefits in one single

payment, usually managed by the RRB if some of your benefit includes a railroad pension component. The RRB and SSA are two separate government agencies, but they fully coordinate benefits for beneficiaries.

This is exactly the same as if you were collecting regular SS ex-spouse benefits (instead of RR benefits) from your ex-husband; your personal SS retirement benefit is always paid first, and you receive an additional amount (a spousal boost) from your ex-husband. In your case, your "spousal boost" is the difference between your personally earned SS retirement benefit at your full retirement age (FRA) and half of your ex-husband's Tier I Railroad retirement benefit amount at his full retirement age. A railroad pension usually consists of two pieces – a Tier I benefit and a Tier II benefit, with Tier I benefits being the equivalent of the pensioner's Social Security.

Your ex-spouse benefits under the RRB are handled the same way. The two agencies fully coordinate with each other, evaluate your SS entitlement, and then reduce the amount of your RRB Tier I ex-spouse benefit by your

SS retirement amount and pay both amounts together. In this way, you only get one payment, consisting of both your earned SSA component and the RRB component. And whenever there is a railroad component, the RRB (Railroad Retirement Board) is usually responsible for making pension payments.

You may find the information at this RRB website helpful: https://rrb.gov/RRB-9/Social_Security_Benefits and you can also contact your local RRB field office by accessing this link: <https://www.rrb.gov/Field-Office-Locator>.

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California GOP Members of Congress Might Regret Backing Trump's Megabill



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Last Thursday (July 3), just minutes after the House of Representatives passed President Donald Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill" to overhaul federal taxes and health care spending, the National Republican Campaign Committee issued a statement touting Rep. David Valadao's vote for the controversial measure.

"In a major win for Californians, David Valadao just voted to pass landmark legislation that lowers taxes, boosts economic growth, and restores law and order in California," the NRCC declared.

"Congressman David Valadao is doing exactly what he promised: delivering real results, restoring fiscal sanity, and fighting for California families," NRCC spokesman Christian Martinez said. "His vote is proof that strong leadership and commonsense still matter in Washington."

A couple of hours later, Protect Our Care California, a health care advocacy organization with close ties to Democratic Party leaders, announced that it will air video ads criticizing Valadao and nine other Republican congressional members for their votes.

"Representative David Valadao just voted for the largest health care cuts in history in order to fund tax

breaks for billionaires and big corporations, and we're going to make sure that every single one of their constituents knows it," said Matthew Herdman, director of Protect Our Care California.

The ads are aimed at Valadao and other members of California's Republican congressional delegation, including Young Kim and Ken Calvert, because they are considered to be the most vulnerable incumbents as the two major parties battle over control over the House in next year's elections.

Republicans have a paper-thin House majority — as demonstrated by the 218-214 final vote on Trump's high priority bill — and Valadao, Kim and Calvert barely survived past challenges. Valadao first won a congressional seat in 2012, lost it in 2018 and regained it in 2020. He successfully fended off Democrat Rudy Salas in 2022 and 2024.

What happens in the three targeted districts next year could easily determine which party will prevail, with potentially major consequences for the final two years of Trump's presidency.

Valadao's vote for the bill is especially noteworthy because Democratic voters outnumber Republicans by 12 percentage points in the San Joaquin Valley's 22nd Congressional District, two-thirds of his constituents rely on Medicaid (California's version of Medicaid) for their health care, and he had repeatedly promised not to vote for any reductions in the program.

The Fresno Bee's editorial page quickly excoriated him for seemingly abandoning that pledge under pressure from Trump.

"At a height of 6-feet-4, Rep. David Valadao can cast a

giant presence in Washington, D.C.," The Bee's editorial board wrote. "Unfortunately, he doesn't measure up when it comes to looking out for the best interests of his community."

The editorial continued, "The Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan agency, estimated that the Senate version of the bill, which was eventually passed, reduces federal Medicaid spending by \$1 trillion over 10 years and increases the number of uninsured people by 11.8 million.

"What happened to Valadao in five days to change his mind? For one thing, he visited the White House on Wednesday. His office didn't provide details of that reunion, but Trump has used such meetings to pressure reluctant lawmakers to do his bidding over that of the people."

Valadao insists that he received assurances from the White House that the Medicaid cuts will "be structured in a way that benefits our providers and keeps our hospitals and communities running."

Aware of his precarious hold on the seat, Valadao has continuously stressed his independence, even being one of only 10 Republicans who voted to impeach Trump during his first presidential reign.

However, Valadao's vote for Trump's bill undermines that independent image and will almost certainly be weaponized as Democrats try again to capture his seat next year.

Dan Walters is one of the 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. ★



The Joy of Banana Ball

Major League Baseball is currently debating various rules changes to improve the game, when what it really needs is more players wearing capes and doing backflips.

That, at least, is the lesson of Savannah Bananas, the barnstorming team that has come up with a madcap version of baseball that is widely popular and selling out stadiums around the country.

The Bananas, or the Nanners, as devotees call them, sold out Clemson University's Memorial Stadium back in April, with 81,000 in attendance. Tickets for a couple of games at Yankee Stadium in September are selling on secondary sites at rates significantly higher than any Yankee game.

Who's Yankee ace Max Fried compared to Dakota Stiltz, the Bananas pitcher who bestrides the mound standing at 10 feet and 9 inches on, yes, stilts? The Bananas and their handful of spin-off clubs have made the American pastime even more American.

Banana Ball, currently on what it calls a "world tour," is the baseball equivalent of the carnival coming to town. It taps into the barnstorming baseball tradition that goes back to the 19th century, into the antic spirit of minor-league baseball with its corny entertainment between innings, and into the

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Ask DR. UNIVERSE

May I ask how fish breathe?

— Nghi, 11, Vietnam

Dear Nghi,

When you and I take a deep breath, we pull air into our lungs. That's because humans and cats are mammals. But fish aren't mammals. They usually don't breathe air. They usually don't have lungs.

That's what I found out from my friend Michael Berger. He's a biologist at Washington State University.

He told me that you can actually see a fish breathe water. Its face gets bigger when it takes in a big gulp of water. Just like when you take a big bite of food.

When you look at a fish, you can usually see the gill openings—called gill slits. Most fish have five gills on each side of the body, right behind their heads.

If you peek inside the gill slits, you'll see the gill filaments. They're small, thread-like bits that make up the gill. Each filament is full of tiny blood vessels called capillaries.

To breathe, a fish takes in a gulp of oxygen-rich water and pushes the water down to the gills. As it flows over the gill filaments, oxygen in the water moves into the blood-filled capillaries. Then the fish's blood transports that oxygen all around its body.

Animals use oxygen to change nutrients we eat into the energy that powers our bodies. That process makes some waste—called carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide

waste leaves a fish's body through the gills. It flows out along with water that's depleted of oxygen.

Trading oxygen and carbon dioxide like that is called gas exchange.

Berger told me that gills work because a fish's blood flows through its gills in the opposite direction the water flows. That's a counter-current exchange system. It makes the gills work better. So, those fish can take in more oxygen and get rid of more carbon dioxide.

All kinds of water-living animals breathe with gills. That includes many fish, amphibians, worms, mollusks and aquatic insects.

But some fish don't have gills or only use them part-time.

They might breathe air using lungs like us. That's how African Lungfish breathe. They rise to the surface and grab a gulp of air.

Or they could breathe air through their skin or mouth tissue. Mudskippers get about half their oxygen that way. That's handy when they're hanging out outside the water. So long as they stay moist, they skin-breathe just fine.

You could say it's a very useful a-gill-ity.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe

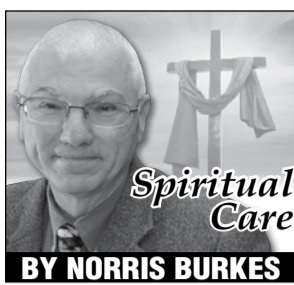


If you look closely, you can see the gills are made of tons of small, red threads. These are gill filaments. Image: ©Uwe Gille



African lungfish have adapted to breathe air. Image: ©Mathae

Speeding Pastor Can't Hide Sins



BY NORRIS BURKES

I want to caution you that if you're driving this summer, be careful out there. The roads aren't just filled with drunk drivers.

Sometimes they're filled with reckless pastors—as they were 25 years ago in Brentwood, Calif. During the late 1980s, I was the pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in town. No, this wasn't the Southern California Brentwood of O.J. Simpson fame. This was the sleepy, rural Brentwood in Northern California where strawberries were first bioengineered.

As our town was somewhat secluded, I would often drive a few hours to attend ministers' conferences in one of the San Francisco area cities. It was on my return from one of those conferences that I found myself on the wrong end of the law.

It was about 2 a.m. one Friday when I drove into the Brentwood city limits. There were no stoplights at the time and thus little to impede my return home. However, the town was full of stop signs.

Before I continue, let me hasten to add I was 27 years old, fresh out of seminary. With somewhat invincible thinking, I reasoned there are only Ten Commandments.

To me, everything else seemed more of a

suggestion. Posted along the final half-mile homeward stretch of Walnut Boulevard was what seemed like three suggestions: stop signs about 100 yards apart.

And at 2 a.m., it certainly seemed as though a young minister, eager to return to his young bride, ought to be allowed passage through the signs at about 25 mph. Not exactly fast enough to be reckless, but fast enough to draw the attention of a fairly sleepy police officer. In a red flash, the officer pulled me over and began to question my memory.

"Do you recall seeing the three stop signs you just blew through?" "Yes," I said, sheepishly producing my license.

For the next several minutes, we played 20 Questions, and he quickly discovered I was a pastor.

"What church?" he asked.

"The Southern Baptist church—but probably not for long."

"Why is that?" he asked.

I reminded him the town newspaper usually published police reports, and it was difficult to imagine my parishioners reacting favorably to the news that their pastor had blown through half the stop signs in town.

He apparently heard my concern because he generously reduced my infraction to running only one stop sign.

But as he did, he posed a question that has guided me much of my career.

"Do you suppose that your church members never been ticketed?"

His question implied

that a church that doesn't realize it has a flesh-and-blood pastor would be a church that has long been asleep.

In the years since, I've come to realize that not only is it a sin to think of yourself as incapable of sinning, but it may be worse to think of yourself as someone who'd never want to be discovered sinning.

No, I'm not suggesting we display our sins in a way that makes us seem more human. I'm only suggesting we don't attempt to hide our sins in a way that makes us less than human.

Because, as my mom always said, echoing Numbers 32:23: "Your sin will find you out."

Not long after that, The Brentwood Press published a story about speeders with a picture of an unsuspecting car driving down Walnut Boulevard.

The story featured a car which very much resembled mine and was headlined "Walnut Boulevard Problem With Speeders."

Guilty, again. *Column excerpted from my book, "Thriving Beyond Surviving."*

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. ★

Food & Farm NEWS

California Farmers Adopt a Southern Staple to Diversify Their Offerings

While most U.S.-grown okra is produced in the Southeast, California farmers such as Andrew and Eric Walker, owners of Farmboy Organics in Yolo County, have found success growing the tropical vegetable in the Central Valley. Okra isn't the primary crop at many California farms, but its appeal to shoppers seeking ingredients for African, Asian and Southern recipes has helped the Walkers attract new customers to their booth at farmers markets. "It adds a nice, little different thing," Andrew said, highlighting okra's role in the farm's crop mix. Eric added, "People who like okra really like it, and they want to find it."

California Farmers Look to 'Liberate the Fig From The Newton'

Most California figs end up as dried fruit, the bulk of which is turned into paste and other food ingredients, perhaps most famously at one time as the filling in fig Newtons. But the fresh fruit—in season now through October or November—is increasingly showing up in different culinary takes on familiar dishes. Figs are featured in sauces, charcuterie boards and grilled pizzas, providing new experiences for diners and marketing opportunities for growers. "We've really seen it go beyond the Fig Newton," said Karla Stockli, CEO of the California Fresh Fig Growers Association.

Sonoma County Farmer Grows Heirloom Apple Varieties

At Gold Ridge Organic Farms in Sonoma County, farmer Brooke Hazen is on a mission to preserve and celebrate heirloom apples. Though only 10% of his apple production is heirloom, Hazen grows 70 varieties, making him one of the largest heirloom apple growers in the country. Some varieties, such as Strawberry Parfait and Pitmaston Pineapple, mimic the flavors of other fruits. "Because heirlooms are not grown on a large scale, they are in danger of being lost," Hazen said. "It's important to preserve them for the genetic diversity that protects us from disease."

Sugar Beet Farmers Grapple with Closure of Processing Plant

There were once dozens of sugar beet processing facilities in California, but earlier this year, Spreckels Sugar announced the closure of its Imperial County plant, the last remaining in the state. The processing plant's closure was due to "rising costs, water challenges, labor pressures and, of course, California's regulatory requirements and costs," Shelby Trimm, executive director of the California Beet Growers Association, said in a recent episode of the Voice of California Agriculture podcast, which is produced by the California Farm Bureau. Trimm spoke with podcast host Gary Sack about the consequences of the plant closure for sugar beet growers in the region. ★

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Two Graduate Nursing Programs Earn Accreditation

University of California, Davis Health News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The first week of June marked the start of a new educational journey for students in two recently-accredited graduate programs at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing at University of California, Davis (UC Davis).

They are members of the Class of 2025 for the University of California Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) Certificate Program and the Class of 2028 Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner (DNP-FNP) Degree Program.

Both programs earned full accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) Board of Commissioners following a site visit and formal review in fall 2024. In addition, the California Board of Registered Nursing approved the School of Nursing's programs, affirming they meet state-specific licensing and practice requirements.

Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education accreditation is a trusted mark of quality for graduate nursing programs. It confirms the program meets national standards, qualifies students for financial-aid and licensure, and enhances its reputation with employers and peers. It also reflects a commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in nursing education.

"This accreditation reflects what we value most, an environment where faculty and staff are deeply



Primary care is delivered by family nurse practitioners for all areas of California. Photo courtesy of University of California, Davis Health

invested in student success, where academic excellence is the standard and where every graduate is empowered to be a change agent in health care," said School of Nursing Dean Stephen Cavanagh. "It's not just about meeting benchmarks. It's about transforming lives and advancing the future of how and where care is delivered to meet the needs of California and beyond."

Primary care is delivered by Family Nurse Practitioners for all areas of California.

Launched in 2022, The Doctor of Nursing Practice - Family Nurse Practitioner program marked the first Doctor of Nursing Practice program at University of California, Davis. Faculty developed the curriculum from the ground up, weaving into every facet the elements of leadership, innovative clinical practice and health equity. The

result: a new curriculum that actively develops meaningful solutions to provider shortages in rural and urban areas.

The hybrid program combines distance-based education with four on-campus immersions across three years. The inaugural cohort graduated June 12, prepared to implement evidence-based innovations and develop expertise in their clinical practice.

Doctor of Nursing Practice program director Charleen Singh suggested that faculty have learned as much from the first students as those soon-to-be graduates have learned through their coursework.

"As a result, we've created not only a program that we are extremely proud of but one that is a rewarding journey that starts with exploring the Central Valley and ends with the DNP symposium to celebrate their

projects with colleagues, family and friends," said Singh. "I often asked myself if I am leading the team in the right direction to fulfill the mission of the school and meet the vision of the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. As the inaugural cohort graduates, I believe we did."

Inaugural graduate Samiksha Dhakal credits the program with transforming her perspective as a nurse and expanding how she sees her future impact.

"This program has been a truly transformative experience, really life-changing," said Dhakal. "This program helped to equip me with the advanced leadership skills, critical thinking abilities and expertise to apply these evidence-based solutions in clinical practice."

Mental care access has expanded through the Nursing Practitioner certification.

While residents in many areas of the state lack access to primary care services, more than half of Californians living with mental illness do not receive the psychiatric care they need. To answer the call, nursing schools at University of California, Davis; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, Irvine; and University of California, San Francisco launched the multicampus, hybrid mental-health certificate program to prepare nurse practitioners across California as psychiatric mental-health specialists.

The one-year program, which welcomed its first class in 2021, grew out of a course of study developed by University of California, San Francisco. University of California, Davis became the administrative home of the program in 2023 with a focus on expanding the

impact on people in desperate need of mental health services and identifying ways to expand the curriculum and placement opportunities.

"This accreditation marks more than a milestone," said Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program director Lynda Creighton-Wong. "It reflects our intentional decision to lead an established program and reimagine its potential. We saw an urgent need in our communities and made it our mission to reach those too often left behind. Accreditation affirms that we're on the right path in building a program rooted in equity, innovation and real-world impact."

More than 120 students from across the state have graduated from the program, including 30 from the first cohort program since University of California, Davis assumed its operations.

Among those graduates is Roxanne Abella. She credits the faculty, preceptors and curriculum with not only preparing her to become a psychiatric mental health provider but a leader in health care.

"Coming from an underserved background and having worked as a nurse practitioner in resource-limited communities, many aspects of this framework initially felt intuitive," said Abella. "However, the program expanded my approach, not just as a clinician but as someone committed to equity, collaboration and lasting impact."

Accreditation for both programs lasts for five years. The next on-site evaluation will take place in fall 2029. ★

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