



Women's Improvement Club Invites Public to Meeting

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FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

By Amy Shane



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Florist Continues Family Legacy Serving Generations Since 1962



Courtney Kett, alongside her sisters, Melissa Taylor and Dana Martin, own and operate Dixon Florist. According to Kett, the shop was originally opened by her parents, Joe and Jean Williams, in 1962, making it the city's oldest single-family-owned business.

Story by Kendall Brown and photos by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Florist, a family-run flower shop located in the heart of downtown Dixon, has been serving the community for more than six decades.

Located at 150 E. A St., the shop was originally opened by Joe and Jean Williams in 1962 and, according to co-owner Courtney Kett, remains the city's oldest single-family-owned business.

"We were all brought up down here in the shop," said Kett. "Our father, with his friend Mel List, helped design this shop so he could have his own space to work."



Dixon Florist offers consultations, same-day delivery for most local orders, and seasonal displays for holidays and events. A popular feature for families is the affordable bouquet options, with prices ranging from \$20 to \$100.

Kett runs the business alongside her sisters, Melissa Taylor and Dana Martin. The Williams family first opened the shop across the street at the

and a "renaissance man," according to Kett.

The florist offers full-service floral arrangements for all occasions, including weddings, graduations, anniversaries, funerals and holidays.

"It all starts with a single red rose," said Kett. "We follow families throughout their lives. Sometimes, it's multigenerational. We're now doing weddings for the children of couples we helped decades ago."

Dixon Florist also serves clients beyond city limits, covering events in Sacramento, Fairfield and occasionally Napa.

"It really depends on our clients' needs," said Kett. "We've been fortunate this

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Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, is being observed in Dixon with a focus on honoring the contributions and history of the Hispanic and Latino communities that have shaped the region for generations.

According to the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Latino, the month-long holiday was first established as a week-long celebration in 1968 by President Lyndon B. Johnson and expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. Notably, Hispanic Heritage Month aligns with the independence days of several Central American nations, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, all of which celebrate Sept. 15.

In Dixon, Hispanic history reaches back to the early California period when the area was under Spanish and later Mexican rule from 1769 to 1846. According to the Dixon Historical Society, notable land-grant families such as the Peñas, Vacas, Armijos and Vallejos were among the early settlers in what are now Solano and Yolo counties. The region transitioned to U.S. control during the Bear Flag Revolt, and California achieved statehood in 1850.

The city's Latino and Hispanic population began growing significantly in the 1940s, driven by agricultural labor opportunities. The Bracero Program, a U.S.-Mexico agreement that brought temporary workers to American farms, drew many Hispanic families to Dixon. Another key development was the Dixon Migrant Camp, which opened in 1967 and relocated to Radio Station Road in 1984, providing seasonal housing and childcare for migrant farm workers.

Cultural visibility has been a mainstay of Dixon's public life, including the annual May Fair Parade, where Las Charras, or "Mexican horsewomen," participated in the 2000s.

Local institutions and landmarks also reflect this heritage. George's Orange, a former roadside stand on West A Street, transitioned from selling orange juice and hamburgers in the 1920s to offering Mexican cuisine under the ownership of the Lozano family and later, Pedro Torres.

Today, Hispanic and Latino-owned businesses continue to thrive in Dixon, including Super La Favorita Meat Market, La Cocina Mexicana, Avila Flooring and Jacky's Mexican Restaurant.

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Girls Encouraged to Play Flag Football

Story and photos by Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A small group of young athletes gathered the morning of Sept. 7 at Game Fit Dixon for the Girls Flag Football Elite Team Training Camp, a skills evaluation session aimed at developing competitive all-girls teams in the Yolo and Solano county areas.

Hosted at 6248 Silveyville Road, the camp cost \$60 and ran from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Sept. 7.

According to head coach Leslie Lucero, the first step in building this foundation is through exposing more young women to the sport.

"A lot of them have played softball, basketball and volleyball but may not know much about flag football," Lucero said.

Five athletes participated in the evaluation session, led by Lucero, a certified sports performance trainer and fascia stretch



A small group of young athletes, led by coach Leslie Lucero (right), gathered the morning of Sept. 7 at Game Fit Dixon for the Girls Flag Football Elite Team Training Camp. Five girls tried out, including Lucero's daughter Kavena (left).

therapist with 15 years of experience.

Lucero trains athletes at Game Fit, owned by Lemuel Adams and located on property owned by the Sievers family. The session opened with warm-up

stretches and explosive movement drills, including pogo hops, broad jumps and 40-yard dashes. Lucero used cones to track personal records and worked individually with each athlete to make adjustments.

Lucero encouraged and challenged these athletes to improve their overall performance.

"That's alright. We get better every time," Lucero said during the broad jump

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Dixon News Briefs

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month



Dixon Family Services is hosting a comedy night in honor of its 40th anniversary from 6 to 10 p.m. Sept. 27. Held at Olde Vet's Hall, 231 N. First St., the event offers a no-host bar, dessert auction and dinner catered by Bud's Pub & Grill for \$65 per ticket. Tickets are on sale now. Courtesy photo

By MPG Staff

Comedy Night with Dixon Family Services

Dixon Family Services is hosting a comedy night in honor of its 40th anniversary from 6 to 10 p.m. Sept. 27. Held at Olde Vet's Hall, 231 N. First St., the event offers a no-host bar, dessert auction and dinner catered by Bud's Pub & Grill for \$65 per ticket. Tickets are on sale now.

For more information, visit givebutter.com/DFScomedyevent or call 707-678-0442.

DMCS 20TH Anniversary

Dixon Montessori Charter School is hosting a 20th anniversary celebration from 4 to 7 p.m. Sept. 13. Held on school grounds, 355 N. Almond St., the free event offers families food, limited anniversary swag, prizes and live entertainment.

For more information, visit the Dixon Montessori Charter School Facebook page or call 707-678-8953.

Dixon High School Football

The Dixon High School Rams Football Team has a home game Sept. 12. Hosted at Dixon High School, 555 College Way, games will begin at 5 p.m. for Junior Varsity and 7 p.m. for Varsity. The Rams will take on the Liberty Ranch Hawks.

Dixon High School will also host its homecoming parade at 5 p.m. Sept. 18 in the Dixon High School parking lot. The annual powderpuff game will take place at Finney Field at 6 p.m.

For more information, visit dixonrams.com or call 707-693-6330.

Movies in the Park Returns

The Movies in the Park series returns in September, beginning Sept. 13. Hosted by the City of Dixon in Hall Park, 450 Hall Park Dr., the event offers a night under the stars with friends and family. This year, Dixonites can vote for what movies play each night. Updates will follow soon, but listed dates include Sept. 13, Sept. 20, Sept. 27, Oct. 4 and Oct. 11.

For more information, visit the City of Dixon, CA Facebook page or call 707-678-7000.

Farmers' Fall Market

The Downtown Dixon Business Association (DDBA), in partnership with Dixon Library, is hosting Dixon Farmers' Fall Market from 5 to 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday beginning Sept. 3. Hosted in Women's Improvement Club Park next to the library, 230 N. First St., the event offers a wide variety of locally grown produce and vendors. The final Wednesday of the market is Oct. 22.

For more information, visit the Dixon

Calendar and Events Facebook page or call 707-678-8400.

Lunch Bunch at Dawson's Bar and Grill

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a lunch bunch networking event from noon to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 16. Held at Dawson's and Grill, 105 N. First St., the free event offers guests a no-host lunch and networking opportunities.

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

Live Solano Give Solano

Friends of the Dixon Public Library are hosting a Live Solano Give Solano Fundraising event all day Oct. 1. Donations to the organization will support programs and services provided by Dixon Public Library, directly benefitting the local community. To donate, visit livesolanogivesolano.org and search for "Friends of the Dixon Public Library" on Oct. 1.

For more information, visit livesolanogivesolano.org or email friendsofdixonlibrary@gmail.com

Auditions for the Christmas Express

Dixon Community Theater will begin auditions for its production of The Christmas Express from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 29 and 30. Hosted at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St., the theater is looking to cast actors 18 and up. Show dates are listed as Nov. 28, 29, 30 and Dec. 5, 6 and 7. The production will be directed by David Cripe.

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

Concerts in the Plaza

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce hosts Concerts in the Plaza from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Sept. 18. The free event, hosted at Pardi Plaza, 132 E. A St. features Whiskey & Honey. Whiskey & Honey has been performing country hits and classic rock for over ten years across Solano, Napa & Sonoma counties. Folding chairs and picnic blankets are recommended, but alcohol is not allowed as per city ordinance.

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

VFW Upcoming Meeting

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8151 will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Sept. 17. Meetings are held every third Wednesday at The Olde Vets Hall, 231 N. First St. Official business meetings start at 7 p.m., but the hall opens for set-up and socializing at 6 p.m. Socializing will continue after the business portion of the meeting.

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



Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, is being observed in Dixon with a focus on honoring the contributions and history of the Hispanic and Latino communities that have shaped the region for generations. Photo courtesy of Maria López/Dixon Historical Society

Continued from page 1

The Solano Hispanic Chamber of Commerce supports more than 300 Hispanic-owned businesses in the region and advocates for economic development, education and civic engagement across Solano County.

To further support this air of culture and history, the Dixon Public Library is hosting a wrestling event called Lucha Libro at 4 p.m. Sept. 20. The free event,

in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, will introduce many Dixonites to the Mexican tradition of Lucha Libre, which literally translates to "free fight" in English. The show will be held at the library, 230 N. First St.

With events, partnerships and a growing legacy, Hispanic Heritage Month in Dixon highlights the lasting impact and ongoing contributions of its Hispanic community. ★

Girls Encouraged to Play Flag Football

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drills. Lucero emphasized fundamentals throughout the session, particularly the importance of teaching proper running and jumping mechanics at a young age.

"That's why we do speed work with the girls, really focusing on basic mechanics," said Lucero. "The boys receive that training early but many girls don't get that until high school. If they don't learn how to run and jump correctly, they have a higher chance of injury later in life."

An hour into the evaluation, flags and footballs were introduced. The girls practiced catching drills and ran pulse routes, which involved sprinting straight and then cutting diagonally. The camp ended with L-drills and scrimmage-style flag runs.

Lucero's long-term goal is to form 10U, middle school and high school girls' flag football teams to compete in regional tournaments. The fall season is expected to begin with the Under



The session opened with warm-up stretches and explosive movement drills, including pogo hops, broad jumps and 40-yard dashes. Coach Leslie Lucero used cones to track personal records and worked individually with each athlete to make adjustments. Photo by Kendall Brown

the Lights Tournament in Vacaville. With four children, three of whom are girls, Lucero is excited to bring more opportunities to play flag football for young girls throughout the county, especially as a female coach in a predominantly male-dominated space.

"Youth sports teach a foundation of teamwork, accountability and personal dedication," Lucero said.

One of the youngest

participants, Lucero's 6-year-old daughter, Kawena Lucero, was excited to play. Notably, her interest in flag football inspired Lucero to pursue this endeavor, as there were no girls' teams available for girls of Kawena's age.

"I'm really excited to play," Kawena Lucero said.

For more information about the program, visit lesmarieperformance.com or call 801-861-7674. ★

MEMORIAL

ARDETH (SIEVERS) RIEDEL • 1934 - 2025

Ardeth (Sievers) Riedel, a lifelong Dixon resident, passed away at her home on August 7, 2025. She was 91. She was the daughter of John L. and Muriel (Tupper) Sievers. She was active in numerous organizations over the years and, in 1978, Ardeth and her

mother Muriel were jointly honored as Citizens of the Year for their contributions to Dixon. As President of the Dixon Historical Society, she spent countless hours helping to preserve and share Dixon's history. She is survived by her children: Kurt and

Marcey Riedel, Wendy Riedel, Karen and Ken Emigh, and Robin and Stephanie Riedel; her six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A celebration of Ardeth's life will be held on Friday, October 17 at 2:00 pm at Milton Carpenter Funeral Home.

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AHMED HASSAN
CELEBRITY LANDSCAPER

Council Approves Salary Increases for Police Officers and Sergeants

By Shauna Boyd

DIXON, CA (MPG) - During the Sept. 2 meeting, the Dixon City Council reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Dixon and the Dixon Police Officers' Association, which represents 26 employees serving as police officers and sergeants.

Dixon Human Resources director Rachel Ancheta said respectful and productive negotiations began in March, resulting in an agreement that reflects "a shared commitment to public safety."

The agreement will cover a three-year term from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. Highlights include revisions to the step schedule and salary schedule, including an 11% base salary increase for officers and a 14% increase for sergeants. In July 2026, the employees will receive an additional 2.5% increase, with another 2.5% increase in 2027.

To incentivize retention, longevity pay is recommended after 10 years of service, with a 5% base pay increase. Special assignment positions, such as canine division, school resource officers, and motorcycle officers, will receive an additional 5%. Another 2.5% will be applied to bilingual employees and those who serve on the night shift.

The city will contribute 85% of health insurance premium costs through Kaiser and 100% of dental and vision premiums.

The total contract cost for the memorandum of understanding is \$1.2 million for the three-year term.

While not involved or impacted by these negotiations, Police Chief Robert Thompson called into the meeting to say

that he has a personal and professional interest in the health and welfare of his officers and sergeants. Thompson thanked the negotiating team for finding ways to retain and recruit police department employees. He said that this contract was both fiscally responsible while also providing "long-term sustainability" for the department.

All council members agreed that maintaining competitive salaries and benefits is vital to ensuring a well-staffed police department, which benefits the whole community.

"It's our job as councilmembers to watch the budget but also to make their wages, salaries and benefits reasonable and competitive to the areas around us," Mayor Steven Bird said.

Councilmember Kevin Johnson added that this contract wouldn't be possible without the 1% sales-tax increase approved by the public.

The council voted unanimously to approve the memorandum of understanding and the associated budget amendment.

Next, the council considered a recommendation to partner with the Downtown Dixon Business Association for the annual Dixon Christmas Tree Lighting event in downtown Dixon on Dec. 6.

Public Works director Louren Kotow said this event, beloved by the community, has been getting bigger each year, with entertainment, decorations, live music, visits with Santa, train rides, animal exhibits and street vendors.

Historically, the city has supported the event with a \$5,000 contribution from the Community Support Fund. This year, staff recommended the city take on the role of co-sponsor, with additional costs including \$17,480 for staff overtime

(police, fire, emergency medical services and public works), \$4,500 for equipment rentals, and \$1,400 for road barricades and sign boards. The requested budget amendment would total \$28,380.

The city would also not charge rental fees for city equipment or facilities used for the event. In addition to downtown road closures, the city will request Caltrans approval to close Highway 113 for the event. Previously, the event was held on a Thursday, since daily commutes did not allow for a major road closure on a weekday. Moving the event to a Saturday and closing the road will ensure a safer and more expansive event experience.

Vice Mayor Thom Bogue said most of the events held downtown are fundraisers and the tree lighting is one of the few that's just for the enjoyment of the citizens. Having the Downtown Dixon Business Association continue to manage the event, Bogue said, "saves the city a lot of money and staff time."

The council members all agreed that it's a wonderful event and they unanimously approved the agreement and the budget amendment.

Finally, the council considered possible changes to the city's nuisance ordinance and policies, with the discussion initiated by Vice Mayor Bogue.

Bogue said that there is an ongoing situation in the city with neighbors weaponizing the city's nuisance policies against each other as part of ongoing feuds. He gave an example of one resident making more than 300 calls against a neighbor in just one year. Bogue asked if there was a way to update the code so the police department could penalize

residents for making unfounded reports.

The city attorney said it wouldn't make sense legally to add something like that to nuisance code, because it would be extremely difficult for the city to prove the calls had no merit, rather than that the violations just weren't occurring at the time of investigation. She added that falsely reporting a crime is already illegal under state law, so the city could codify that somewhere within their code.

Bogue then brought up the topic of garbage carts, which city code says must be screened from view behind a fence. He said many residents don't follow that rule, leaving their totes near their house where they can be seen from the street. Currently, these code violations are investigated based on resident complaints but Bogue said this system leads to unfair and uneven enforcement, since some residents submit frequent complaints as part of ongoing disagreements with neighbors.

Bogue suggested that either the code be changed so garbage carts don't have to be screened from view or code enforcement officers should patrol the city and issue fines for every single violation.

Most of the other council members didn't see a need to change the code. Keeping the carts out of view contributes to Dixon properties looking clean and well-maintained and they wanted residents to have recourse to address issues as needed. And with a limited number of code enforcement officers, ongoing patrols were not feasible.

Councilmember Johnson said he was more concerned about residents who receive multiple

code violations but are physically or financially unable to make the required improvements. He said the third violation results in a \$500 fine, which many residents will have trouble paying, especially if they are elderly or disabled. Johnson suggested a compassion clause through which the city could contact local service clubs to help these residents bring their properties into compliance.

During public comment, Mark Cooley, a Dixon resident and a Dixon Planning Commissioner, agreed that neighbors shouldn't have to "tattle on each other" regarding code violations. He suggested making the fines even higher to cover the cost of increased enforcement.

Bogue reiterated his concerns, stating that the city should hire an additional code enforcement officer specifically to drive around the city to look for violations.

The city attorney said that the current complaint-driven system avoids legal issues of selective enforcement, in which the city could be accused of discrimination if certain persons or groups feel they have been unfairly targeted:

"It's my legal opinion that unless you have a much, much more robust code enforcement department, you will be subject to more legal implications related to selective enforcement than you do with your complaint-based protocol," the city attorney said.

The council consensus was for staff to research how other communities enforce their nuisance codes and bring this topic back for further discussion and review.

The next Dixon City Council meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Sept. 16. ★

Florist Continues Family Legacy

Continued from page 1
year with a variety of events."

The team has a strong connection with the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, located just outside Dixon.

"The cemetery is a tremendous gift to the city," said Kett. "Our father was a veteran, so honoring veterans through floral arrangements is very important to us."

Despite the challenges of running a small business, the florist remains committed to sustainability, sourcing 90% of its products within a 90-mile radius.

"We were raised on the concept of having a green business," said Kett. "It

allows us to provide the freshest and highest quality flowers for our clients."

The shop also offers consultations, same-day delivery for most local orders, and seasonal displays for holidays and events. A popular feature for families is the affordable bouquet options, with prices ranging from \$20 to \$100.

The shop's resident dog, Archie, is also a familiar face.

"He's here most days," said Kett. "We have people who come in just to see him."

For more information, visit online dixonflorist.net or call 707-678-4432. ★



The Williams' family first opened the shop across the street at the print shop before moving into its current location. The iconic storefront still features the original sign, designed by their father, who was also a veteran and a "renaissance man," according to Kett.

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



How important is it to have a capable if not notable point guard on an NBA team?

Ask Magic Johnson, John Stockton, Steve Nash, Jason Kidd, Stephen Curry, Oscar Robertson or Isiah Thomas and you will get an overwhelming consensus.

Even though hall of famers, John Stockton and Steve Nash have never won a championship, having a top caliber point guard does not come with any guarantees.

Nonetheless, having a court general that can distribute the basketball, all the while controlling the tempo and avoiding needless turnovers, is a recipe for winning a lot of NBA games, and that is what every one of these stalwarts were good at.

The Sacramento Kings find themselves in an uneasy position as the regular season looms just weeks away, as for the past 7 years the point guard position was the one area that provided great optimism and not concern.

Drafting DeAaron Fox will be remembered as one of the more erudite maneuvers that the organization has ever made, and as the 2025/2026 season approaches, fans and pundits alike are watching to see how the next floor general will compete and lead the Sacramento Kings.

By reaching into the trade market and acquiring journeyman Dennis Schroder, the Kings are providing the team with a proven point guard that can not only be counted on night in, and night out but also provides young players like Devin Carter and Nique Clifford, a player that can mentor their young careers.

Dennis Schroder deserves no criticism, and it's my hope that not only will he find a team that can provide him with a long-term home, but that he will flourish in his new city.

It has been difficult for fans to let go of DeAaron Fox, and I completely understand. The situation was badly handled last season, and it left a bad taste. But as the new season begins, it's critical that the fan base gives the new floor leader a vote of confidence, and I believe that is just what we can expect to see from the Sacramento base.

So, just who is Dennis Schroder? Born in Braunschweig Germany, Dennis Schroder found basketball at the age of 11, and by the age of 19 was playing professionally in Germany. Showing an entrepreneurial spirit at an early age, Schroder became the owner of the Loewen Braunschweig, a professional

team in Germany.

By 2013 Schroder had gained the attention of the NBA and was drafted 17th overall by the Atlanta Hawks, where he would carve out his young career for the next 5 years. In his last season with the Hawks Schroder scored a career-high 19.4 points per game while contributing 6.3 assists.

Over the next 7 seasons Dennis would go on the play for the Thunder, Lakers, Celtics, Raptors, Nets, Warriors, and Pistons, finally arriving in Sacramento to start the 2025/2026 campaign.

This much movement begs the question, is there something wrong, or is he just an immensely intriguing player with a wealth of experience?

I don't have the definitive answer, but I would say to those who ask, buy a ticket and come see this guy. For me he represents a complete ball player, expert at handling the basketball, able to score when needed, and an excellent passer with an unselfish spirit.

Do I think he can fit in with the Kings and provide the leadership needed to be the starting point guard. I absolutely do, and I think where other teams moved on, the Kings struck gold!

There remain many question marks as the upcoming season nears, but for me Dennis Schroder is not one of them. I believe in short order he will win over the naysayers in the cheap seats and may very well find a destination spot in Sacramento.

Defense has long been a thorn in the side of Sacramento, and Schroder has a reputation for playing tough defense. Not known for being a lock-down defender, Dennis has quick lateral ability, and his long wingspan helps make him a deflection specialist.

Keegan Murray made noticeable improvements in his defense last season, and Keon Ellis has developed into a tenacious defender. Adding a point guard that can complement these two will undoubtedly make a positive impact.

The preseason is almost upon us Kings fans, and I can't wait to see what this point guard in the prime of his career can give the Sacramento Kings.

Stay positive, because I feel that more moves are coming soon!

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



Riley Reviews

“LIFETIME CHANNEL” CHILLING CRIME STORIES RIPPED FROM HEADLINES

A Film and TV Review
by Tim Riley

CRIME STORIES ON LIFETIME CHANNEL

During the month of September, the Lifetime Channel delivers three new “Ripped from the Headlines” movies for Saturdays, kicking off on September 13th with “A Husband to Die For: The Lisa Aguilar Story (working title).”

This first film follows Lisa Aguilar (Keana Lyn Bastidas), a bright and loving woman who is newly married and expecting her first child with husband Darren (John McLaren).

Life seems picture-perfect as Darren, who dreams of becoming a professional golfer, appears devoted and driven. But Lisa soon discovers he's living a dark double life. When she is viciously attacked in her own home, she and her unborn baby are left for dead.

Yet, Lisa miraculously survives and begins to unravel a horrifying truth: the man she trusted most may have tried to kill her. A cheating husband who doesn't want to be a father may go to extreme lengths.

With the help of her grandmother Gabrielle (Marilu Henner), her devoted parents, and a determined legal team, Lisa embarks on a courageous journey to protect her child, seek justice and rebuild her life from the ground up.

Darren ultimately pled guilty for attempted murder. The biggest surprise for this film, however, might be Marilu Henner playing a grandmother to an adult woman. It's a credit to the actress that she does not seem to be of that age.

A week later, on September 20th, the based on a true story “The Girl Who Survived: The Alina Thompson Story” trails 15-year-old Alina Thompson (Brielle Robillard), an aspiring model in Los Angeles during the '80s, who gets caught in the dangerous web of a serial killer.

Without the knowledge of her parents, Carl (Sam Trammell) and Nancy (Ashley Jones), Alina sneaks off to attend an amateur photo casting call to meet up-and-coming photographer William Bradford (Steve Byers).

Unbeknownst to Alina, William is a serial killer hiding in plain sight, using his charms to lure aspiring young women into secluded photo shoots that end up in unspeakable violence.

After their meeting, William becomes obsessed with Alina and her beauty and ultimately sets his sights on her as his next victim. But thanks to the protective instincts of Carl and a series of fateful twists, Alina manages to survive, where many others did not.

Though other young women were not so fortunate, “The Girl Who Survived: The Alina Thompson Story” has a happy ending for a teen saved by a caring father's quick instincts. ★

For the final Saturday of September, “I Was a Child Bride: The Courtney Stodden Story” movie is part of Lifetime's provocative I WAS/I AM franchise which spotlights the untold stories of women reclaiming their narratives.

“The Courtney Stodden Story” dives into the controversial story of Courtney Stodden (Holly Barrett), a teenager catapulted into international notoriety after marrying 51-year-old actor Doug Hutchison (Doug Savant) at just sixteen years old.

Narrated by the real-life Courtney Stodden and told through her perspective, the deeply personal biopic chronicles the controversial and emotionally complex journey of Courtney.

Encouraged by her mother Krista's (Maggie Lawson) dreams of fame for her, Courtney was thrust into the spotlight when she married an actor who is more than three decades her senior.

The movie is a story of resilience and survival of a young girl coming of age under a harsh public eye whose voice was nearly lost, despite her mother's own fractured dreams and decisions that shaped the unfortunate path Courtney was pushed to follow.

More than a retelling of sordid tabloid headlines, “I Was a Child Bride: The Courtney Stodden Story” is an exploration of child exploitation, trauma and transformation.

Hulu streams the ABC News “IMPACT x Nightline: Confessions of a Child Bride: Courtney Stodden's Story,” which relates that now she's divorced from Doug, she's claiming to be a crusader for other young vulnerable women.

The Hulu program features interviews with Courtney and snippets of stories about how a sophomore in high school in Ocean Shores, Washington ended up meeting Doug Hutchison.

Courtney's mother signed over consent to allow marriage to a man three times her age, and more astonishingly that the nuptials took place at Chapel of the Flowers in Las Vegas only two weeks after they met when Courtney wanted to take acting lessons from Doug.

Clips from the time Courtney was getting married revealed a young girl who looked much older than her age with the physique of a buxom Hollywood starlet like Pamela Anderson when she modeled in Playboy magazine.

Courtney also pushed back on being described as a “child bride,” preferring instead to being a “child who was exploited.” She also revealed being a virgin when married to a man older than her father when the marriage was consummated.

Not surprisingly, the Hulu program takes note of the “morbid curiosity” that everyone had about her wedding night at the Chateau Marmont hotel on the Sunset Strip. ★



BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 [amy_fortheloveofbooks](https://www.instagram.com/amy_fortheloveofbooks)

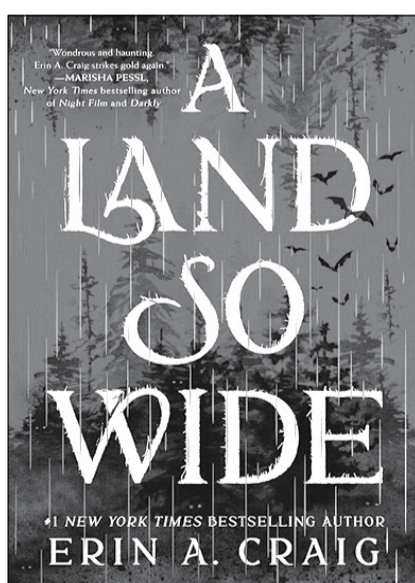
A Land So Wide

by Erin A. Craig

Once, there was a lumber merchant driven by a strange hunger to discover new lands and new lumber, but not cherry, maple, or a special pine. When the man finally discovered a tree so unique, he knew he could build fleets and be wealthy beyond means, he quickly moved a fleet of families to this new land. A new land hidden deep within the Canadian wilderness, and cursed with the unspeakable.

Greer has grown up living within the confines of the Warding Stones that surround her town of Mistaken. A promise and a curse both bind and trap anyone who steps within Mistaken's boundaries. For anyone who leaves the boundaries falls to the indescribable monsters — called the Bright Eyed. However, Greer has always dreamed of crossing the boundaries, seeing life beyond the town's edge, and even spent her days dreaming, sketching, and making maps of Mistaken's boundaries. But Greer wanted more. Then the day, the man whose heart Greer desires steps beyond the Warding Stones and disappears, Greer knows she is the only one brave enough to search for him, as she knows the one place she can slip free of the boundaries. However, there is more to defying the boundary and the curse, as the Bright-Eyeds now hunt Greer.

All too quickly, Greer realizes that there is more to Mistaken's curse,



◆ Publisher: Pantheon
◆ Intended Audience: Adult
◆ Release Date: September 9, 2025

more than she could ever have imagined. Hidden truths lie deep within the cold and brutal wilderness. Truths that want to remain secret, at any cost.

Erin A. Craig launches her adult debut with the atmospheric and eerie fantasy A Land So Wide.

A story of love, hope, dark secrets, and truths that long to be uncovered, this book will not only bind the reader's heart but also their emotions, pulling them into the dark, hidden wilderness of Mistaken. Truly unique and interlaced with love, romance, and a woman's fierce independence, this story is not just about the curse and the monsters, but also about the human spirit and the power of love and hope in the face of darkness.

With her ability to write a story that combines tangible magic with echoes of Scottish folklore, Erin Craig's rich imagination pours off the pages in beautiful, lyrical writing that is as bewitching as it is dark.

But be warned, Erin Craig gently lulls her readers, then leaves them at the edge of their seats, waiting for the truth to emerge from the shadows, fearful that the answer will shatter the very existence of those who lie within her story. A true master of retellings, Erin Craig, delivers another book that delicately tiptoes on the edge while allowing the truth to dangle just out of sight. ★

Solano County Probation Seeks Representative

Solano County News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Solano Community Corrections Partnership has an opening for a committed and passionate individual to serve as a committee member representing Community Based Organizations (CBO's).

The Solano Community Corrections Partnership is a collaborative effort aimed at enhancing public safety and improving outcomes for individuals involved in the adult criminal-justice system.

By uniting key stakeholders, including law enforcement, local government and community organizations, the Community Corrections Partnership works to implement effective strategies for rehabilitation, reintegration and long-term community wellness.

As part of its commitment to inclusive and community driven solutions, the partnership is seeking a representative from a community based organization to bring forward the perspectives, needs and innovative approaches of grassroots groups working directly with impacted populations.

Key responsibilities of the committee member representing a community based organization are to collaborate with other Community Corrections Partnership members to design and implement community informed policies and initiatives; share insights on the challenges and opportunities faced by community organizations in supporting adult justice involved individuals; and serve as a bridge between the Community Corrections Partnership and local community-based service providers, fostering strong partnerships and communication.

Individuals interested in this opportunity are encouraged to submit a statement of interest, highlighting relevant experience and motivation for serving on the Solano Community Corrections Partnership to Tami Robinson, administrative secretary at TRRobinson@solanocounty.gov by Sept. 19.

For more information about Solano County Probation Department, visit/follow the department at Instagram @SolanoCountyProbation and Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/SolanoProbation>. ★



County's First 'Trashure Hunt' to Clean Up Waterways

Solano Resource Conservation District News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - For 41 years, California Coastal Cleanup Day has been a major volunteer event, bringing thousands of people together to clean up our state's waterways.

This year, organizers will put a new spin on the search for trash: a scavenger hunt. Volunteers at this year's Coastal Cleanup Day will participate in the world's largest "trashure hunt" and might come across prizes hidden by site captains while picking up trash and recyclables. Here in Solano County, prizes range from tote bags to gift cards to the grand prize: two season passes to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom.

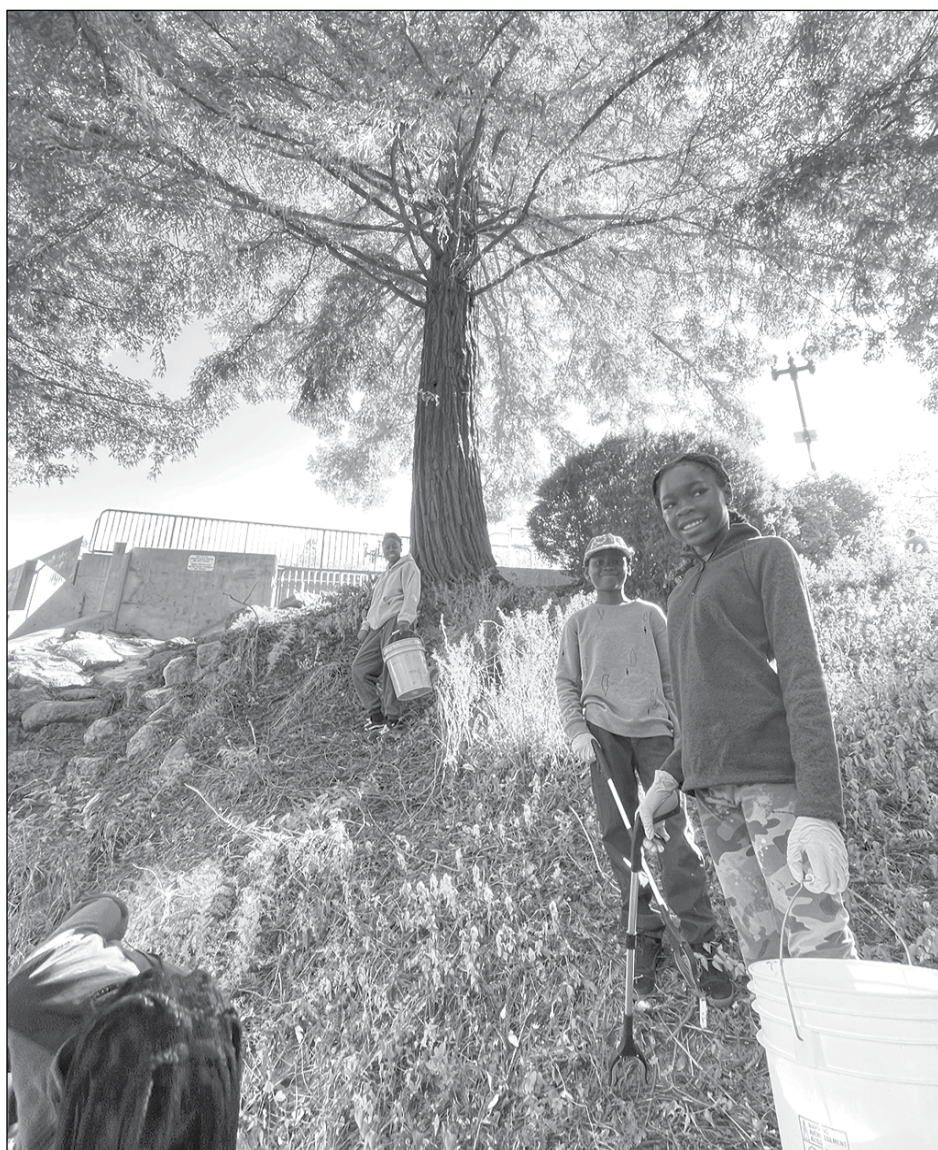
Coastal Cleanup Day will run from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 20, when volunteers can join their neighbors to clean up their communities. There will be 43 sites around the county with at least one in every city. Volunteers should bring their own work gloves, trash pickers, buckets and reusable water bottles and sites will have some of these supplies on hand. Locations are listed at cleanupsolano.org, and some sites require or encourage

pre-registration.

Keeping trash out of our waterways in Solano County is incredibly important for preventing further pollution of our oceans. Waste in our creeks and streams eventually flows out into the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. In 2024, food and beverage packaging was the largest category of debris, making up 37.55% of what was collected by volunteers statewide. Recyclables collected will also contribute to California's goal of an 80% recycling rate for all aluminum, glass, plastic and bimetal beverage containers sold in California.

Community members can do their part in preventing ocean pollution by joining a cleanup event and bringing their friends and family. Data collected on Coastal Cleanup Day contributes to the world's largest database on plastic pollution that, in turn, has been used to help policymakers find solutions to help prevent such pollution.

The event is made possible by the cities and County of Solano, local wastewater agencies, and the Solano Resource Conservation District. Visit the event website at cleanupsolano.org for cleanup locations and updates about the event. ★



Coastal Cleanup Day will run from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 20. Volunteers at the cleanup day will participate in a "trashure hunt" and might come across prizes hidden by site captains while picking up trash and recyclables. Photo courtesy of Solano Resource Conservation District

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Call 916-773-1111

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

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • COMBO WORDS

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Wood file
 - Pick up a perpetrator
 - This and that
 - Title for Turkish leader
 - Tarantino's "Bill: Vol.1"
 - Ten million, in India
 - Type of word
 - Kent State state
 - Oohed partner
 - *Sleeping in a very fancy tent
 - Board game of diplomacy
 - Canada's favorite tree?
 - Long time
 - Asian wild sheep
 - Galilei's first name
 - Ever, to a poet
 - Lease giver
 - Hokkaido native
 - Sends unwanted emails
 - Charlotte's creation
 - "Bravo! Bravo!"
 - Roughly (2 words)
 - Common spa treatment
 - Gobbled up
 - *Movie theater snack
 - Infer using data
 - Entrepreneur Mary Ash's middle name
 - Wiser
 - Decomposes
 - *Communication device
 - Veranda, in Honolulu
 - Rum-soaked cake
 - Shades of color
 - Those against
 - Tehran location
 - Small island
 - Violin's Renaissance predecessor
 - Cloud's domain
 - Left after deductions, in U.K.
- DOWN**
- Escaped
 - Bug-eyed
 - Synagogue
 - Wide-brimmed straw hat
 - Nothing, in Latin
 - Skirt shape
 - *Online journal
 - *Exceptionally intelligent one
 - Aahs' partners
 - Hiker's journey
 - He had
 - Small hill rising up from veld
 - Classic TV's "lovely lady"
 - Pall ___ and ___ of America
 - ENT's first concern?
 - "The Fox and the Grapes" storyteller
 - Copy, slangily
 - Get the picture
 - Desert in China and Mongolia
 - Jasmine's kin
 - Related on mother's side
 - Revealed
 - Zeus in disguise
 - Not min or hr
 - *Nonalcoholic drink
 - LDS missionary
 - Cook in a skillet

CROSSWORD

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1	6	4	5	2	7	8	9	3

- Sea in the Mediterranean
- Desert mirage
- Prickly marine invertebrate
- *Scornful remark
- Keep someone ___ or away from causing harm
- Indian princess
- On top of
- Wading bird
- Yorkshire river
- Patty follower
- Abbreviation on a bathroom door
- Part of tennis match

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats



by Jeff Pickering



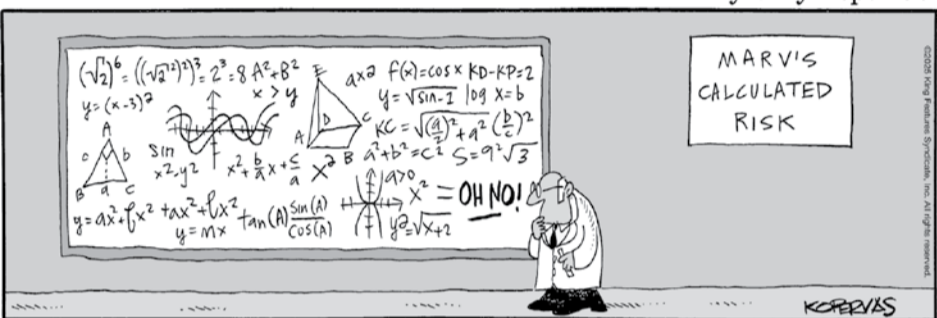
Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

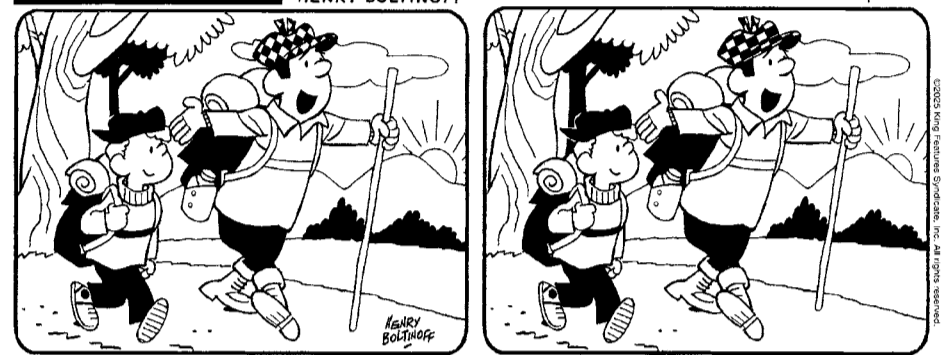


Out on a Limb



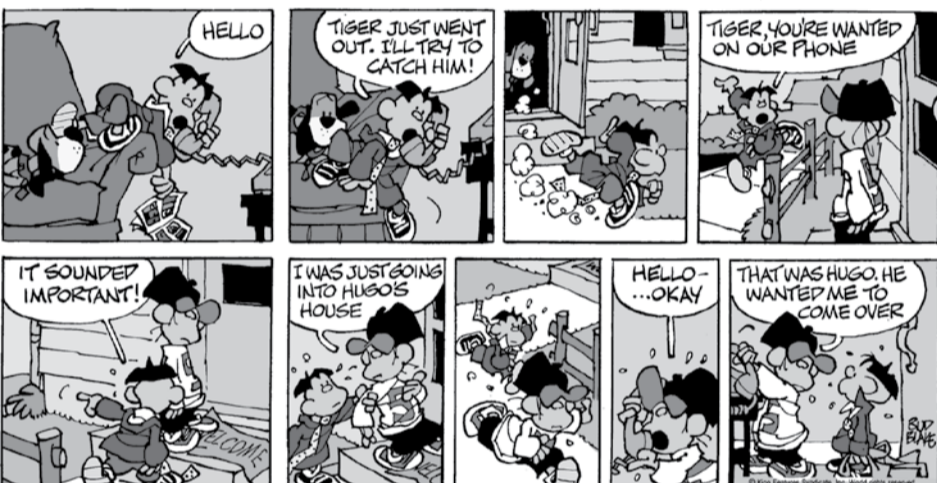
by Gary Kopervas

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Tree trunk is wider. 2. Sun is smaller. 3. Walking stick is shorter. 4. Cap design is different. 5. Thumb is moved. 6. Cloud is not as large.

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

GRIN and BEAR IT. Wagner



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

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

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We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



Community Calendar

Ongoing Activities:

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

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

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

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

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

Regular Meetings:

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

American Legion – Dixon Post 208 meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First 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 andersonroadrunner-spto@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@sbeglobal.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@troop-152dixon.com for more information. Check us out on the web @ troop-152dixon.com.

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

Chief Solano Kennel Club, Inc. classes – Puppy Socialization 6:20 to 6:50 p.m. (4 to 12 mos), Beginning Obedience 7 to 7:40 p.m. (4 mos & older) indoor training classes on Wednesdays at the

Elmira Fire Station, as well as Conformation classes at 7:50 to 8:30 p.m. for those who show dogs or are interested in showing their dogs. Classes are open to everyone and their canine companions. Classes are not appropriate for aggression issues. Discounts for Seniors 55 and over, Juniors under 16, and those who have adopted a dog from the Humane Society, a breed rescue group, or your local shelter. Bring adoption certificate when you register. Visit www.chiefsolanokennelclub.org.

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

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

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

Parks & Recreation Commission – Meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

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

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

Dixon Boat Club – Meets first Thursday of the month. For more information, call Butch

at 707-678-3622.

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

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

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

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

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

Dixon Rotary Club – Meets on most Wednesdays at noon at The Creative Space, 160 West A. St., Dixon. Rotary is the world's first and oldest service club organization with over 1.4 million members working locally and internationally to improve health and sanitation, combat hunger, provide education, and promote peace. For more information and meeting confirmation, contact Rotary President Marlene Vega at 707-678-9368.

Dixon Scottish Cultural Association – Open to anyone who is interested in celebrating Scottish culture. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall,

1305 N. First St. For details, visit <https://scot-sindixon.us/>.

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

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

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

Dixon Youth Soccer Board Meetings – The board will meet the third Tuesday of each month, except for December, at the Sutter West Medical Center Conference Room, at 7 p.m.

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

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

Fairfield/Suisun Bass Reapers – Meets first Tuesday of each month at RoundTable Pizza, 5085 Business Center Drive, Fairfield. For more info, call 707-429-3239.

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

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

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

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

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

Narcotics Anonymous – Open meetings are held every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Dixon

United Methodist, 209 N. Jefferson St. (Corner of West B and N. Jefferson). For helpline information and other meetings, go to www.napasolanona.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Soroptimist International of Dixon – Meets Thursdays at noon at the Dixon United Methodist Church (20 N. Jefferson). Call President Barbara Rigdon at 408-306-7390. Mail: P.O. Box 472, Dixon, CA 95620.

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

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

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

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

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



Hit New Record in California

Increased demand for strawberries in the fall and winter has driven summer plantings, which have reached a record high of 11,503 acres this year, according to the California Strawberry Commission. This year's summer acreage represents about a quarter of the state's total strawberry acreage, which stands at 42,885, the commission said. This is an increase of 1.3% from last year. Second-year acres—strawberry plants kept alive for more than one growing season—have increased nearly every year since 2021 due to the rising cost of planting new berries. Since 2018, second-year acres have increased sixfold.

Engineered Wheat Could Cut Costs for Farmers

Farmers could soon benefit from wheat engineered to stimulate the production of its own fertilizer, turning nitrogen from the air into a usable form and reducing the need for synthetic fertilizer. With about 500 million acres of U.S. farmland planted with cereal crops each year, researchers who made the breakthrough in wheat estimated it could generate significant savings for farmers. "Imagine, if you could save 10% of the amount of fertilizer being used on that land," said Eduardo Blumwald, professor of plant sciences at the University of California, Davis. "I'm calculating conservatively: That should be a savings of more than a billion dollars every year." In 2023, American farmers spent roughly \$36 billion on fertilizers, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

New Initiative Aims to Help California Farmers Confront Challenges

The University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources has been awarded \$15 million from the state of California to establish an innovation network—UC ANR Innovate—that aims to help farmers solve problems related to water scarcity, labor shortages and other challenges. "This award allows us to do something California has never done before: build a single, state-wide engine for agricultural innovation," said Gabriel Youtsey, chief innovation officer at UC ANR. Youtsey added that the initiative will ensure "that every farmer—from small specialty growers to large scale producers—benefits from the tools needed to stay competitive." The program will help farmers by expanding access to emerging tools and by providing tailored support and upskilling opportunities for employees.

Mountain Lion Attacks Take Toll on Lake County Livestock

California farmers and ranchers continue to suffer losses due to apex predators, with mountain lion attacks in Lake County affecting some ranchers. "The mountain lion seems to be the biggest issue here right now, and they are killing a good number of animals in one night," Lake County Supervisor Helen Owen said in a recent episode of the Voice of California Agriculture podcast, which is produced by the California Farm Bureau. Owen said the county lost 16 sheep and 25 goats. "It's just really heart wrenching," she said. "The emotional factor is just horrible." ★

Ask DR. UNIVERSE

Why do dogs have pads on their feet?

- Izzy, 10, Louisiana

Dear Izzy,

My coworkers sometimes forget that I'm a cat—until I reach out a paw to shake their hand. At first glance, cat and dog paws seem very different from human hands and feet.

I talked about that with my friend Natasha Hottmann. She's a veterinarian at Washington State University.

She told me that a dog paw is actually super similar to a human foot. Dogs just walk on their toes—like they're wearing invisible high heels. That's called digitigrade locomotion.

"People think, 'Oh, their knee is backward' or something—but it's not their knee," Dr. Hottmann said. "It's the point of their heel, which is basically the same as ours. It's just up in the air because they're walking on their tippy toes."

If you look at the underside of a dog's paw, you'll see four digital pads near the tip. There's a bigger metacarpal pad below those. Most dogs have a fifth digital pad just on the front paws. It sits to the side like your thumb does.

The digital and metacarpal pads cover a dog's toe bones. Those are the pads they walk on.

Most dogs have a furry space after the metacarpal pad on the front paws. Then they have carpal pads above that. They're on a dog's wrist. The bone under that pad is the same knobby bone you have in your wrist. You can feel it on the outside of your wrist. That bone is called the accessory carpal bone in dogs and cats.

Remember the dog's heel bone that gets mistaken for a backwards knee?

There's no paw pad there. It's the same bone you have in your heel—called the calcaneus. You can't feel yours because, unlike dogs, you have thick fat on top of it.

A dog's pads are objectively cute, but they're not there just to make us squee. They do some big jobs.

Paw pads protect a dog's feet.

The pads are fat and connective tissue covered with thick, durable skin. So, when the dog's paws hit the ground, the pads absorb the shock. That keeps the bones safe.

If the ground is sharp, the tough pads protect the paws from damage. They also provide traction. They help dogs walk or run without slipping on wet, smooth or uneven surfaces.

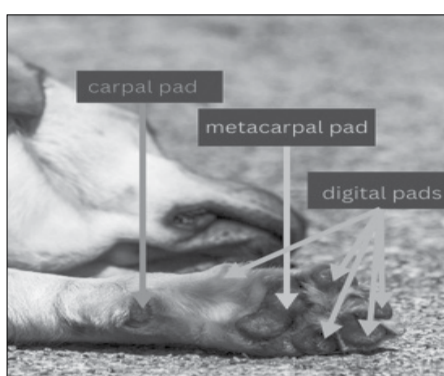
Paw pads also help keep dogs cool. Dogs don't sweat like you do. Sweating works because the liquid evaporates from skin, taking body heat with it. A dog's fur would just soak up that sweat. So, they mostly stay cool by panting.

But they do have sweat glands on their noses and paw pads. Those hairless spots ooze little bits of sweat that help keep them cool. Sometimes hot or nervous dogs leave wet footprints behind.

In case you're curious, cats like me have the same bones and pads that dogs have. But we sometimes call our pads "toe beans." Because they're paws-ively adorable.

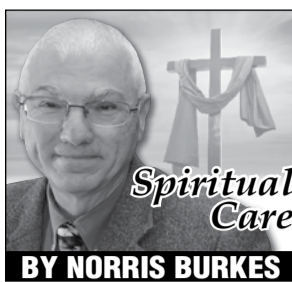
Sincerely,

Dr. Universe



Here's a dog's front paw. The back paw has only four digital pads and no carpal pad. Courtesy photo

What if You Knew How You Were Going to die?



BY NORRIS BURKES

If you knew what you were going to die from, would that change the way you live?

That's the question I faced in my next assignment in 1999 at Patrick Air Force Base, That's the year my Air Force doctor, a graying 50-something flight surgeon brought me in for my pre-deployment physical.

I had mixed emotions about the physical. After all, if he pronounced me healthy, I'd leave my family to go to Saudi Arabia for four months. If he declared me unhealthy, I might face a medical evaluation board and soon find myself unemployed.

During my 15-minute office visit, he hammered on my boney knees, peered into my uncertain brown eyes and shined his flashlight into the airfoils I call ears. He'd put a tongue depressor in my upper orifice and a gloved finger in its southern cousin.

Just as I was refastening my shiny belt buckle, his assistant knocked on the door.

"Enter," the doctor barked.

A balding young airman appeared, handed the doctor a manila folder and was quickly dismissed with a perfunctory, "Thank you." "Ahh. Your test results," he said.

The doc put on the eyeglasses dangling from his neck and flipped through pages of blood tests, pee

tests and vision tests. All the while he was nodding, spouting numbers and mumbling approving words like "good" or "OK."

He closed the file with a smile, so I ventured a guess.

"Am I good to go to Saudi?"

"Yes, but there's been a recent increase in your blood pressure, so I'm prescribing some medications."

My face flushed with obvious concern, so he took a more optimistic tack.

"Look at it this way," he said. "At least you know how you're going to die."

"Excuse me?" I begged. "Most likely a doctor will one day write 'hypertension' on your death certificate," he declared.

I rubbed my eyes, in hopes of dismissing the grim reaper I saw draped in a white lab coat.

However, not to be dissuaded by my shaking head, Doc assured me that any thoughts I was having of an early demise were "greatly exaggerated."

With some enthusiasm, he added that my problem would be defined as "service-related. That means that one day your wife, Becky, will get a nice death benefit — all because of your hypertension."

"Bless your heart!" I said. (Southerners know what this means.)

He was predicting a silver lining in my death, but I didn't want to hear it. After all, I was planning to live a long life in a beachside home with my officer's retirement.

My thinking was much like the greedy farmer Jesus mentioned in the parable found in Luke

12:16–21.

The farmer was so successful that he built new barns to store his abundant crops. With his retirement set, the farmer told himself, "Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."

The story concludes with God prematurely calling the farmer to the pearly gates, leaving all his crops to spoil in the cavernous barns.

Then Jesus added his punch line: "That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."

These days, nearly every time I strap on a blood pressure cuff, I think about the survival odds quoted by that doctor. That cuff reminds me that although my earthly life is finite, God's love is infinite, and God always gives better odds.

However, knowing how I might die has changed the way I live. I exercise regularly, eat better and take my medications. But most importantly, Becky no longer has to see me as a potential dollar sign from a VA pension.

CORRECTION: Last week, I misspelled the Amazon website where you can donate supplies to Chispa Project. Our Amazon Wishlist for the back-to-school season is <https://go.chispaproject.org/supplies> (Do not use "WWW.")

Email me with questions or comment at comment@thechaplain.net. Sign up to receive this column by email at thechaplain.net/columns/

Contact Chaplain Norris at comment@thechaplain.net or 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602 or voicemail (843) 608-9715. ★

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Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.

DIXON POLICE LOG

Tuesday, September 2

1040 - A theft report was taken in the 200 block of West A Street.
1123 - A found property report was taken in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

Monday, September 1

1313 - A D.U.I arrest report was taken in the 800 block of South First Street. Officers contacted (S) Marcelino Oliva-Guerrero (44) of Dixon. Oliva-Guerrero was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.
1404 - An informational report was taken in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.
1843 - Robbery report taken in the 100 block of East Mayes Street.
0311 - Burglary reported in the 1300 block of West H Street.

Sunday, August 31

1211 - Burglary to a commercial business in the 400 block of Industrial Way.
1219 - Stolen motorcycle in the 500 block of Brians Way.
1434 - Confidential report in the 1100 block of North First Street.
1919 - Hit and run accident reported in the 1300 block of Ingrid Drive.

Saturday, August 30

1125 - Vandalism to a mailbox in the 900 block of Newgate Way.
2010 - Death investigation in the 100 block of Heritage Lane. The Solano County Coroner's office was contacted, responded to the scene and took custody of the decedent.
0253 - Agency assist for California Highway Patrol, in the 200 block of South Third Street. Suspect was detained and held until California Highway Patrol responded.

Friday, August 29

1223 - Stolen trailer recovered in the 2000 block of North First Street. The trailer was released to the truck driver at the victim's request.
1529 - Information report taken for a mutual combat fight in the 100 block of Pegord Drive. Both parties declined prosecution and EMS.
1736 - Traffic stop in the 1700 block of North First Street resulted in the arrest of Raymond Wisniewski (63) out of Dixon for an outstanding warrant and possession of a controlled substance.
1721 - Mental health hold at the intersection of Yale Drive and Parkway Boulevard.

Thursday, August 28

0744 - Tristan Harvey (43) of San Francisco was contacted in the 1400 block of Ary Lane and later arrested for possession of a prohibited weapon and burglary tools.
0900 - Allen Epperson III (38) of Dixon was contacted in the 100 block of East Mayes Street and later arrested for possession of a controlled substance and violation of probation.
1630 - Found narcotics at a business in the 1600 block of North First Street.
1900 - At risk missing adult report taken in the 100 block of Heritage Lane.
1948 - Petty theft report taken in the 2000 block of North First Street.
0022 - Warrant arrest in the 400 block of North First Street. Suspect Oscar Orozco (34) of Dixon was taken into custody without incident and transported to Solano County Jail.

Wednesday, August 27

No Reports Made



Women's and Children's Center Celebrates Decade of Care

More than 61,605 Babies Delivered There So Far

Sutter Health News Release

Editor's Note: The Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center's patients are from throughout Northern California and beyond, including from Sacramento, Yuba/Sutter, Yolo, Placer, El Dorado and Stanislaus counties. The center held a 10th-anniversary celebration on Aug. 21.

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - When Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento's new Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center opened in Midtown on Aug. 8, 2015, expectant mothers and new families were welcomed with the highest standard of maternity and pediatric care in Sacramento.

From beginning to end of the birth plan, parents received care in spacious suites with their newborn on the top patient floor of midtown Sacramento's tallest building with great views. Then, as their child grew up, parents knew that they could continue to receive exceptional care in the same facility.

In the past 10 years, Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento has welcomed more newborns than in any decade of its 100-year history: 61,605 babies, to be exact.

But the Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center is far more than a place to welcome new life. It houses Northern California's largest and most advanced neonatal intensive care unit and a high-risk maternity ward where mothers receive round-the-clock care to give their babies a healthy start. It also includes a comprehensive pediatric hospital within its walls, treating children facing complex, cardiac, oncological, neurological and other serious conditions.

"We're proud to provide not just advanced medical treatments but a healing environment where mothers and children feel supported, safe and truly cared for every step of their journey," said Rachael McKinney, president of Sutter Health's Greater Sacramento Division and interim CEO of Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento.

In 2005, the Anderson and Lucchetti families generously committed \$18 million to Sutter Health to support the Women's and Children's Center's construction. A decade later, in August 2015, the Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center opened as a 395,241-square-foot, 242-bed acute-care hospital where patients and their families could obtain the highest level of neonatal and pediatric intensive care services, pediatric cardiac, neurological and cancer services, and high-risk and conventional maternity



The Bradley family of Manteca and their 10-year-old triplets help celebrate the 10th anniversary of Sutter Health's Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center in midtown Sacramento on Aug. 21. The triplets were born premature at Sutter Memorial Hospital in East Sacramento and were transferred on Aug. 8, 2015 to the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) at the new Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center. In front are the triplets, from left, Carly, Ally and Sydney; holding photos of the day they were born. In back, from left, are parents Wendy and Todd Bradley, Sutter Children's Center Medical Director Craig Swanson, Sutter Health Greater Sacramento Division President Rachael McKinney, and Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento Women's and Children's Services executive Whitney Clark. Photo courtesy of Sutter Health

services, as well as other services. Construction costs totaled \$821 million.

In its 100-year history, from the original Sutter Hospital to Sutter Memorial Hospital to the Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center, the number of babies born total 417,428, more than the city of Sacramento's population circa the year 2000.

In Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center's first 10 years, there have been 1,152 sets of twins, 35 sets of triplets and one set of quadruplets. The smallest baby weighed 13.6 ounces and the biggest baby weighed 15 pounds, 7.3 ounces.

"Every baby born here represents a unique story of hope, resilience and the extraordinary care that our team is dedicated to providing," said Whitney Clark, women's and children's services executive for Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento. "From the tiniest premies to the biggest bundles of joy, we are honored to support families through every miracle and milestone."

For 50 years, Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento has been on the forefront of care for women with high-risk pregnancies and their babies, who often need the advanced care of a NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). To help ensure these babies are delivered as healthy as possible, the high-risk maternity physicians (known as perinatologists) help mothers carry their pregnancies as long as medically safe. Extended hospital stays are common for these mothers, sometimes lasting

many weeks or even months, making the hospital their home away from home.

The Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center was built with a special unit designed especially for them. The 21 all-private, spacious rooms allow mothers to relax comfortably, welcome visits from family and even personalize the space to feel like home.

"Our goal is to support both mother and baby through every step of their high-risk pregnancy, giving them the best chance for a healthy delivery," said Dr. William Gilbert, Sutter Health's longtime perinatologist and women's service line medical director. "The private, comfortable rooms at Anderson Lucchetti provide a nurturing environment that helps reduce stress and promote healing, making a challenging time a little easier for families."

When planning the new hospital, leadership was adamant that a helistop for medical emergency helicopters be included. The Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center helistop has been a lifesaver for hundreds of families. To date, more than 1,500 babies and expectant mothers with complicated pregnancies have been transported by medical helicopter to the facility.

"Having the helistop right on the roof means we can get critically-ill babies and moms the care they need faster than ever before," said Dr. Gustavo Sosa, neonatologist and medical director of the NICU. "It's made a huge impact on how quickly we can respond in

emergencies and that speed can be life-changing. For families facing high-risk situations, this facility offers hope and reassurance when every second matters."

The Sutter NICU began 51 years ago to provide high-quality care to fragile infants. But as more babies needed the advanced services offered at Sutter Memorial Hospital, the NICU outgrew its location. The Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center's NICU has 61 beds, each in an area that provides privacy for families.

Even after 10 years, Wendy and Todd Bradley of Manteca, who had triplets, talk glowingly about the center's NICU.

"We were really impressed by the cutting-edge technology and the family-friendly atmosphere at the Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center," Wendy Bradley said. "The new NICU's modern design and spacious rooms gave our family so much more comfort and privacy, which made a world of difference during a stressful time. It truly felt like a place built with families like ours in mind."

The new NICU was the first in Northern California to be outfitted with Angel Eye, a camera system that allows parents to check in on their little ones remotely via smartphone or computer and was a game changer during the COVID-19 pandemic. The system was made possible through donations to a nonprofit organization started by a Sutter NICU family.

The facility made national

headlines when its pediatric heart program successfully performed the first minimally-invasive surgeries on little patients. Instead of opening the chest and cracking the sternum, heart surgeons use a pioneering technique that accesses the heart through a small port underneath the armpit. This method helps children grow up without a long chest scar and recover much faster.

It is one of the many innovative approaches that pediatric interventional cardiologists and heart surgeons have been using at the new Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center.

Kristal Imbric's daughter, Ariel, who has Down syndrome and has appeared in several advertisements, was the first in the nation to undergo the minimally-invasive surgery.

"That approach avoided so many complications during recovery: no need to stay still as long, no ribs being cut," Imbric said. "Especially for a child with special needs, it meant she could bounce back faster. It was like she was on espresso."

The pediatric intensive care unit is equipped to handle a wide range of complex medical conditions, including respiratory failure, sepsis, trauma and complications from chronic illnesses. This specialized unit ensures that children receive the highest level of care during critical times, which includes 20 beds and an additional 10 beds dedicated to pediatric cardiovascular care.

The pediatric ICU also collaborates closely with other specialized departments within Sutter Children's Center, such as pediatric neurology and oncology.

"At our pediatric ICU, we focus on giving each child the care and attention they need when it matters most," said Pediatric Critical Care Director Dr. Daniel Falco. "From breathing problems to complex conditions like cancer or neurological issues, our team works closely together to make sure every child gets the right treatment. By teaming up across specialties, we're able to provide seamless care that supports the whole child and their family through tough times."

Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento, which consists of the Ose Adams Medical Pavilion and Anderson Lucchetti Women's and Children's Center, is Sutter Health's flagship hospital and includes nationally-renowned institutes for cardiac, neurosciences and oncology care. Sutter Health is a not-for-profit healthcare system. Learn more at sutterhealth.org and vitals.sutterhealth.org. ★

Sign Up for School Pesticide Notifications

California Safe Schools News Release

CALIFORNIA STATE (MPG) - California Safe Schools, a nonprofit organization dedicated to children's environmental health and safety, reminds parents, guardians, teachers and school staff at all California K-12 public schools and childcare centers to file the Right to Know Pesticide Use Notification form at the start of the school year.

This form is mandated under California legislation, the Healthy Schools Act.

Filing this form with your school office ensures that you receive advance notification of any pesticide applications in or around the school site. It is a critical safeguard and part of each school's commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment.

Under the Healthy Schools Act, a "school site" is defined as any facility used for public day care, kindergarten, elementary or secondary school purposes. The term includes the buildings or structures, playgrounds, athletic fields, school vehicles or any other area of school property visited or used by pupils. "School site" does not include postsecondary educational facilities attended by secondary pupils or private day care or school facilities.

The Right to Know Notification requires schools to provide at least 72 hours' advance notice before any pesticide application on a campus.

In rare cases when pesticides must be used immediately to address a health or safety emergency, schools can apply them without the standard 72-hour advance notice.

However, the Healthy Schools Act requires that the school district designee make every effort to provide the required notification, even under emergency conditions.

Filing the Right to Know Pesticide Use Notification with your school's Main Office ensures that you will receive alerts before applications occur.

This allows parents, guardians or teachers to make informed decisions on application days. Notification can be requested for any reason, not solely for known health concerns.

The Right to Know Pesticide Use Notification program began with the Los Angeles Unified School District's groundbreaking Integrated Pest

Management (IPM) Policy in 1999. This policy embraces the precautionary principle, the idea that if an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or environment, precautionary measures should be taken, even without conclusive scientific evidence. As part of this approach, Los Angeles Unified School District has not used Roundup for more than 20 years, setting an important precedent in protecting children's health. The success of the Los Angeles Unified School District's

Integrated Pest Management policy led directly to the passage of the California Healthy Schools Act of 2000.

The "Right to Know" notifications are a critical tool that ensure parents, guardians, teachers and staff remain informed, connected and empowered within their school community.

"For more information about pesticide application policies at your school, visit your school's website or contact the school or school district directly," said Robina Suwol, founder and executive director of California Safe Schools.

Learn more about the California Healthy Schools Act at https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/hsa_factsheet.pdf and see the full text at http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/99-00/bill/asm/ab_2251_2300/ab_2260_bill_20000927_chaptered.pdf.

The California Safe Schools website is <https://www.calisafe.org/> and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's website is <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/>.

California Safe Schools is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of students, teachers, and school staff through education, advocacy, and policy initiatives that promote safe learning environments across California. California Safe Schools spearheaded the effort to create the Los Angeles Unified School District's celebrated Integrated Pest Management Policy in 1999 that led to California legislation such as the Healthy Schools Act. ★

