



Fall Home and Garden Show Returns

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Dixon Independent Voice

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Dixon Celebrates Homecoming Win



Students participated by building class floats to match the week's overall theme of "Adventure Awaits." This would all culminate on Sept. 20 for the high school's Homecoming Dance, themed around "A Night in Rio." Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon High School's Homecoming Week brought together students, staff, families, and the wider community in a spirited celebration of school pride. The week's events culminated in a dominant football win, a vibrant parade and a festive dance that left lasting memories.

On Sept. 18, citizens gathered at the Dixon High School parking lot for the annual Homecoming Parade, which kicked off at 5 p.m. The parade featured class floats, the Homecoming Court, sports teams, school clubs and youth organizations from across the city.

"This year's Homecoming parade was truly special," said Principal Angela Brown. "It was wonderful to see



The Dixon High School Rams played the El Camino Eagles Friday, Sept. 19, for their homecoming game. During halftime, the homecoming court was announced, seeing Seniors Daniel Perez (Left) and Sophia McNaughton crowned as the King and Queen, respectively. Photo courtesy of Isabella Quiniola/Dixon Unified School District

our students, staff, families, and community come together to celebrate school spirit. I noticed even more energy and involvement than last year, which really shows how strong our sense of community has grown. I'm proud of the way our students represented themselves and their school. It was a moment of pride for everyone."

Following the parade, students participated in powderpuff football games. The seniors played the sophomores at 6 p.m., while the juniors took on the freshmen at 7 p.m. The winners of those matches advanced to the championship game at 8 p.m., continuing the evening of spirited competition.

The excitement carried into Sept. 19, when the Rams varsity football team took the field for their

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West Nile Virus Detection Update

Solano County Mosquito Abatement District News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - On Sept. 12, the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD) detected West Nile virus in mosquitoes near Robben Rd. in Dixon, this is the second detection made in this area this year.

Residents in the area are advised to take necessary precautions to avoid mosquito bites, especially if planning to spend time outdoors in and around the detection area. Recommended measures include using EPA-registered repellents containing DEET, Picaridin, Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus or IR3535, and wearing long-sleeved shirts and pants during peak mosquito activity hours.

Solano County Mosquito Abatement District technicians are conducting targeted control efforts in the affected area to reduce the mosquito population and will continue to monitor this area.

A mosquito becomes infected by biting a bird with West Nile virus, then spreads it by biting a person. Most people show no symptoms. Some may develop a fever, headaches, or body aches. Severe cases can lead to hospitalization or, in rare instances, death. If symptoms occur, contact your healthcare provider. Older adults and individuals with chronic conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, cancer, or kidney disease are most at risk.

It's important to eliminate standing water; empty flowerpots, buckets, pet dishes, and old tires; clean bird baths and pet bowls weekly; avoid over-watering lawns and gardens; fix leaks; repair broken sprinkler heads and leaky faucets; secure your home; check window and door screens for holes and proper fit; maintain pools & pondskeep pools clean and circulating; and request free mosquito fish for neglected pools, ponds, or water troughs.

The Solano County Mosquito Abatement District has served the community since 1930, covering more than 900 square miles of both incorporated and unincorporated areas of Solano County.

The Solano County Mosquito Abatement District can be contacted at 707-437-1116 or by email at solmad@solanomosquito.com. The district's website is www.solanomosquito.com. Sign up for email notifications at www.solanomosquito.com/stay-in-touch and follow the district's Instagram page.

Dixon to Host National Night Out

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Police Department will host National Night Out from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 7, joining communities nationwide in a campaign aimed at strengthening police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

National Night Out, organized by the National Association of Town Watch, is held annually on the first Tuesday of August or October, depending on local climate. This year, Dixon is among several Solano County cities shifting the celebration to October to avoid summer heat.

The event is free and open to the public, offering residents an opportunity to connect with law enforcement, firefighters, emergency personnel and fellow community members in a positive, informal setting.

Past events have included food trucks, live



The Dixon Police Department will host National Night Out from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 7, joining communities nationwide in a campaign aimed at strengthening police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Photo by Nicolas Brown

music, games, giveaways and demonstrations by police and fire personnel. Emergency vehicle tours and public safety exhibits are also part of the evening's activities. Neighborhood groups,

homeowner associations, and residents are encouraged to participate by hosting block parties or pop-up gatherings. Applications to host must be submitted to the Dixon Police Department by Friday, Oct. 3, either in person or via email at specialevents@dixonpolice.org. Guidelines for hosting include neighbor consent, appropriate street selection, and adult supervision during the event.

National Night Out was first introduced in 1984 and has since grown to include millions of participants across all 50 states, U.S. territories, and military bases worldwide. It aims to foster safer, more connected neighborhoods by bringing communities and law enforcement together under positive circumstances.

For more information or to access a block party application, visit www.dixonpoliceca.gov/nationalnightout or call 707-678-7070. ★



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Dixon News Briefs

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.

Dixon High School Football

The Dixon High School Rams Football Team has an away game Sept. 26. Hosted at Sutter Union High School, 2665 Acacia Ave, Sutter, games will begin at 5 p.m. for Junior Varsity and 7 p.m. for Varsity. The Rams will take on the Sutter High Huskies.

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

Movies in the Park Returns

The Movies in the Park series has returned, with the next film scheduled to play at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27. 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. On Sept. 27, "Inside Out 2" will be shown. Updates will follow soon, but future dates include Oct. 4 and 11.

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

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.

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 until Oct. 22. 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



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. Photo courtesy of David Studebaker

the market is Oct. 22.

For more information, visit the Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook page or call 707-678-8400.

Assemblywoman Wilson at City Hall

The Office of Assemblywoman Lori D. Wilson is hosting an event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 30. Held at City Hall, 600 E. A St., the event offers constituents the opportunity to schedule one-on-one meetings with Assemblywoman Wilson. Interested parties can RSVP and schedule their meeting at tinyurl.com/ad11atcityhallrsvp.

For more information, visit <https://a11.asmdc.org/> or call 707-438-7359.

Dixon Chamber Connections Networking

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking event from noon to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 2. This free in-person event, held at The Farmstead at Dixon, 350 Gateway Drive, allows local professionals to connect. Offering a diverse range of potential connections, attendees are encouraged to bring business cards.

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

Dixon Library Book Club

Dixon Library is hosting its monthly morning book club meeting from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 9. The morning book club is a monthly, adult-oriented group that will be reading "Unmasked" by Paul Holes. Coffee and tea will be provided for attendees, and the meeting itself will be in the library's front room, 230 N. First St.

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

Dixon Community Blood Drive

Vitalant is hosting a community blood drive from 2:30 to 6 p.m. Sept. 29. Held at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St., citizens can make appointments online to donate blood in the bloodmobile. For appointments, visit donors.vitalant.org and enter blood drive code SMFM014.

For more information, visit vitalant.org or call 877-258-4825. ★

Teen Rises to National Rank in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu



At just 13 years old, Abby Landeros (left) has become a standout in the world of Brazilian jiu-jitsu, earning the No. 1 national ranking in her age and belt division by the World League of Jiu-Jitsu. Photo courtesy of Luis Landeros

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - At just 13 years old, Abby Landeros has become a standout in the world of Brazilian jiu-jitsu, earning the No. 1 national ranking in her age and belt division by the World League of Jiu-Jitsu.

Training out of Team Alpha Fabio Prado Academy in Dixon for the past year and eight months, Abby has competed in more than a dozen tournaments, 17 to be exact, and brought home gold in each one.

"I used to do karate and my dad told me to give Jiu-jitsu a shot," she said. "I tried it from there and really liked it."

A seventh-grader at John Knight Middle School, Abby trains under Fabio Prado, a respected coach whose academy has produced several professional MMA fighters. Landeros, however, may be the first from the school to reach a national top ranking at such a young age.

Her father, Luis Landeros, who has lived in Dixon for 30 years, said his daughter's success even surprised him at first.

"She's No. 1 in the whole nation, so it was crazy to me when they sent the ranking," Landeros said. "At her age, you don't see that often."

Despite facing economic hardship, the family has found creative ways to support Abby's training and travel.

"We made T-shirts with her logo, her coach calls her 'the baby monster,' and sold them to help fund her tournaments," said Landeros. "I'm going to continue to search for sponsors, because I think Abby could be big."

Abby has fought competitors from across the country, including boys who weigh up to 30 pounds more than she does but that never stops her or diminishes her determination.

"Typically, when I go to tournaments, some people feel nervous but when I'm on the mat, I have to keep going," Abby said. "If I lose, it's fine, but I'm not going to give up."

A strong student with a GPA approaching 4.0, Abby balances school with her rigorous training schedule. She hopes to one day earn a red belt and inspire other youth in Dixon to pursue martial arts.

"Just chase your dreams. It's not all about winning, it's about the experience," Abby said.

Her father sees Abby's journey as part of a bigger message.

"Dixon kids have a lot of potential," Landeros said. "We need to



Abby Landeros has been practicing Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu for about a year and eight months. Abby attended her first tournament a month into her training and has earned gold at 17 consecutive tournaments since. Photo courtesy of Luis Landeros



A seventh-grader at John Knight Middle School, Abby Landeros trains under Fabio Prado, a respected coach whose academy has produced several professional MMA fighters. Abby, however, might be the first from the school to reach a national top ranking at such a young age. Photo courtesy of Luis Landeros

support them."

For more information about Team Alpha Fabio Prado Academy, visit teamalphabjiipointarena.com

or call 707-353-0442.

To follow Abby's jiu-jitsu journey, follow her on Instagram at @abbythebabymonster. ★

Teen Center Needs Recreation Coordinator

Dixon Teen Center News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Teen Center Board of Directors is recruiting for a recreation coordinator (part-time) to operate and supervise recreational and social activities for the Dixon teen community of seventh- to 12th-graders.

The Teen Center is a free drop-in program that provides personal, social and recreational programs for teens in a safe and welcoming environment. The program will operate from 4 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.

The coordinator will supervise and lead activities in sports, crafts, music, table games, computer room, homework space, special events and provide a positive environment for teens to develop and create new friendships.

Other responsibilities include coordinating volunteers, working with the Youth Center Council, opening and securing



The Dixon Teen Center Board of Directors is recruiting for a recreation coordinator (part-time) position to operate and supervise recreational and social activities for the Dixon teen community of seventh- to 12th-graders. Photo courtesy of Dixon Teen Center

Teen Center Facility, supplies and equipment, leading and communicating center rules, regulations and safety procedures, providing written and verbal feedback to the Board of Directors, and complying with city and school district rules and regulations in the use of such facilities.

Qualifications are any

combination of education, experience and community service that provides the required knowledge in working with youth. Interested candidates can contact Julia Lopez at 707-695-2724 or visit the Dixon Teen Center Facebook page for additional information and applications.

The deadline for applications is Oct. 3. ★

Dixon Celebrates Homecoming Win



The Dixon Rams defeated the El Camino Eagles 44-6, bringing the Rams to a 2-3 record overall and a 1-0 record in league play. The Rams will hit the road to take on the undefeated Sutter Huskies Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. Photo courtesy of Isabella Quiniola/Dixon Unified School District



On Sept. 18, citizens and supporters gathered at the Dixon High School parking lot for the annual Homecoming Parade, which began at 5 p.m. The event featured class floats, the Homecoming Court, sports teams, school clubs and youth organizations from across the city. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Following the Homecoming parade, a series of powderpuff flag football games were held, pitting the different classes against each other. In these games, the boys cheerlead and coach while the girls play on the field. Photo by Nicolas Brown



According to Dixon High Principal Angela Brown, events like homecoming remind Dixonites the school is about more than academics, it's about creating memories, building connections and fostering pride. Photo courtesy of Isabella Quiniola/Dixon Unified School District



Marching band performs at the Dixon High School Homecoming. Photo courtesy of Isabella Quiniola/Dixon Unified School District

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Homecoming game against the El Camino Eagles. Both teams entered the contest with 1-3 records, but Dixon dominated from the start, securing a commanding 44-6 victory.
"I feel like the players performed really well," said Coach Wes Besseghini. "They executed on offense, defense and special teams. They were really positive with each other and encouraged each other throughout the whole course of the game."

The win brought Dixon to a 2-3 overall record and 1-0 in league play.
"My thoughts going into the first league game were that this team is young and they've worked really hard to try to improve every week," added Besseghini. "I hope that that can be evident by how they play."
The Rams now turn their attention to a tough road matchup on Friday, Sept. 26, against the undefeated Sutter Huskies (5-0).

"Sutter is an extremely good team, the number one team in the section," said Besseghini. "Our plan is to go in and try to spread them out, move the ball around, attack them from different angles and try to keep their offense off the field."
During halftime of Friday's game, the Homecoming Court was announced. Representing the underclassmen were Princes Jaden Valenzuela (freshman), Donte Brown (sophomore), and Andres Mendez (junior),

along with Princesses Amiyah Lizarraga (freshman), Savannah Graef (sophomore), and Cynthia Moon (junior). Seniors Sophia McNaughton and Daniel Perez were crowned Homecoming Queen and King, respectively.
The week's festivities concluded on Saturday, Sept. 20, with the Homecoming Dance held on campus. This year's theme, "A Night in Rio," was part of the broader "Adventure Awaits" Homecoming concept that tied the week together.

"I'm grateful for the support of our families, staff, and community," said Principal Brown. "Events like this remind us that school is about more than academics... it's about creating memories, building connections, and fostering pride in who we are. I'm excited for what's ahead this year and thankful for the opportunity to serve as principal."
For more information, visit dixonrams.com or email dixon-footballcoachwes@gmail.com. ★

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When We Were Monsters

by Jennifer Niven



- ◆ Publisher: Random House Children's Books
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Release Date: September 2, 2025

As tension, fear, and isolation begin to peak, so does the overwhelming realization that their safety is also at risk. Asking the real question behind Meredith Graffam's motives. Is this class here to unlock what is holding them back, or is there something even more devious at play? With a storm approaching and fear at an all-new peak, the first line of the story plays out. Turning those who were once students into the masters. Asking one true question- who is the

true monster of this story?

Return to the school season with the dark academia, psychological thriller, *When We Were Monsters*, by Jennifer Niven. A story that combines hidden pasts, dark secrets, competition, dark ambition, and the dark side of human nature. Hidden in the dark forest of a New England boarding school, this story takes place in the perfect setting: unsettling, seaside cliffs with turbulent water, one road that leads in and out, and an old mansion called the "Moss," which has a dark past of its own. Written in dual perspectives, Sixteen days will change everything.

Jennifer Niven spins a story that will have readers plummeting through the storyline, trying to guess who can really be trusted and who will be taken to the point of no return. But also having readers questioning the motives of the instructor, who is so quick to put everyone against each other. Ultimately asking readers who is truly the monster- the monster within, or the one that is created? ★

September Speaker Event with Chad Bianco



The Solano County Republican Party invited citizens to its September Speaker Event featuring Sheriff Chad Bianco (left), a candidate for California Governor. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Solano County Republican Party News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Solano County Republican Party invited citizens to its September Speaker Event featuring Sheriff Chad Bianco (left), a candidate for California Governor. Hosted at Ruhstaller Farm, 6686 Sievers Road, the event, held at 5 p.m. Sept. 19, gave voters the chance to meet the

Riverside County sheriff and learn about his platform for governorship. Bianco discussed topics such as public safety, economics, state policies, education and homelessness. Food trucks were available at the event, and donations toward Bianco's campaign were accepted.

For more information, visit biancoforgovernor.com or email info@biancoforgovernor.com ★



Riley Reviews

"THE LOWDOWN" NOIR SERIES WITH A TOUCH OF DARK COMEDY

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"THE LOWDOWN" ON FX

FX's new series "The Lowdown" wastes little time setting up the noir atmosphere of the dusty, hardscrabble landscape of Tulsa, Oklahoma, starting with the apparent suicide of Dale Washberg (Tim Blake Nelson), the black sheep of a prominent local family.

Sitting at his desk, penning a mystery letter that will get tucked away inside a paperback book to be hidden on a shelf with several Jim Thompson crime novels, Dale ends up with a bullet hole at his right temple.

While the apparent suicide happens within the first minutes of the first episode, it won't be the last time that Dale makes an appearance. One might question whether he is truly deceased, and if he is, then Ethan Hawkes' Lee Raybon occasionally conjures up his spirit during another quest for truth.

What we have in creator, writer and director Sterlin Harjo's ("Reservation Dogs") gritty exploits of his central character's search for veracity is a hunt across a trail of breadcrumbs through the underbelly as well as the upper echelon of the Sooner State's second largest city.

Calling himself a "truthstorian," citizen journalist Lee Raybon is also the purveyor of rare books at Hoot Owl Books, where his lone underpaid employee Deidra (Siena East) keeps her boss and everything at the store in line one eye-roll at a time.

Raybon's curiosity with the death of Dale, which he suspects as something other than suicide, is that the Washberg family is well-heeled and powerful. Moreover, Dale's brother Donald (Kyle MacLachlan "Twin Peaks") is campaigning for governor.

Does that fact that Raybon has written an unmasking of the Washberg family having anything to do with Dale's demise? Obviously, a family member running for office has reason enough to squash any skeletons escaping from the closet.

Donald Washberg is connected to unsavory characters, including Tracy Letts's Frank Martin, owner of Akron Construction that is buying up distressed property all over town, and Allen Murphy (Scott Shepherd), who handles the dirty work for the construction company.

Persistent sleuthing has intruded on Raybon's personal life, to where his ex-wife Samantha (Kaniehtiio Horn) is frustrated by his incessant stalking of corruption and deceit, even if she grudgingly admires his dedication and fears for his innate ability to place himself in danger.

What about Keith David's Marty, a mysterious private investigator hired by the gubernatorial candidate to tail

Raybon? Does he pose any threat? He keeps showing up at the same diner frequented by the citizen journalist.

Violence comes for Raybon when a pair of skinheads break into his bookstore's upstairs quarters and beat him to a pulp for what he wrote about the them setting fire to a synagogue. What's surprising is that these dimwits had enough brain cells to read a newspaper.

However, Raybon is devoted to his wise 14-year-old daughter Francis (Ryan Kiera Armstrong), who shares her father's curiosity and adventurous spirit so much that she's always eager to tag along on his escapades.

Despite being mostly a loner, Raybon has support from friends and colleagues, like the antique dealer Ray (Michael Hitchcock) who helps with clues, and Cyrus (Michael "Killer Mike" Render), editor of the crime newspaper "Tulsa Beat" who publishes some of his work.

Film noir is a popular genre that's also had a storied history in television. Personal favorites on the small screen include the "Mr. Lucky" and "Peter Gunn" series when television was black-and-white, and thus all the better for authentically depicting the harsh noir atmosphere.

The interesting thing about noir over time, whether in film or television, is that the settings are typically in big cities like Los Angeles, in particular, or New York, Chicago, and even New Orleans, where crime rears its ugly head in the dodgy parts of a city.

During a press conference with television critics, Sterlin Harjo, who has called his show "Tulsa noir," explained that the Oklahoma town has "the right amount of grit, the right amount of history, the right amount of secrets to set the story in," to fight for the truth.

Ethan Hawke let it be known that he loved the expression "truthstorian" because "it's not a really a word," and furthermore, it expresses "the intersection of truth and history," and then he finally admits it's "also sloppy and kind of a trainwreck of an expression."

The most fun part of "The Lowdown" is that just about everyone in Tulsa, with the possible exception of Raybon's precocious daughter, is either a trainwreck or on the verge of becoming one.

In the role of Dale Washberg's widow Betty Jo, Jeanne Tripplehorn let it be known that her character may or may not have been a stripper, but she was "definitely a rodeo queen" and "kind of a hellcat."

If anything, "The Lowdown," in the fine tradition of noir with a touch of dark comedy, is deliciously character-driven, with so many of the players proving to be eccentric, none more so than Ethan Hawke's Lee Raybon constantly engulfed in all sorts of problematic situations ★

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Emily A. Hook Memorial Archives Dedicated

Western Railway Museum News Release

SUISUN CITY, CA (MPG) - The Bay Area Electric Railway Association dedicated the new \$1-million Archives Building in a ceremony at the Western Railway Museum Visitor's Center on Sept. 20.

The new 2,500 square-foot building is an extension of the current 3,300-square-foot Library and Archive Building established in 2002.

In 2022, the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association (BAERA) determined additional space was needed and a building capital campaign was initiated.

Lead gifts were donated by museum member Ronald Hook and the Candelaria Fund of Little River.

Other gifts came from volunteers and friends

of the Bay Area Electric Railroad Association Archives.

The new temperature and humidity-controlled facility was opened for archival storage and preservation this past March. The building has been named in honor of Hook's mother, Emily A. Hook.

The public can browse the collection of more than 250,000 items cataloged and 150,000 items digitized at the Western Railway Museum off Highway 12 in Suisun City. These items comprise a collection of negatives, slides, movies and documents from the electric railroads of North America.

This unique historical collection, along with a bountiful display of rail cars and train rides, is meant to preserve the history of electric railroading and its impact on transportation, societal change,



The new archives building at the Western Railway Museum was dedicated during a Sept. 20 ceremony. Photo courtesy of Western Railway Museum

technological advancements and economic development.

Western Railroad Museum is open from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekends and prices start at \$16 for youth and \$19 for adults. Prices, hours and more info can be found at WRM.org. ★



Western Railway Museum's unique historical collection, along with displays of rail cars and train rides, is meant to preserve the history of electric railroading. Photo courtesy of Western Railway Museum



The public can browse the collection of more than 250,000 items cataloged and 150,000 items digitized at the Western Railway Museum in Suisun City. Photo courtesy of Western Railway Museum

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Another Successful Coastal Cleanup Day in Solano County



Winco volunteer group in Vacaville at the Solano County's Coastal Cleanup Day volunteer event. Photo courtesy of the Solano Resource Conservation District

Solano Resource Conservation District News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Community members gathered Saturday morning and picked up more than 21,827 pounds of trash and 903 pounds of recyclable beverage containers over the course of three hours as part of Solano County's Coastal Cleanup Day volunteer event.

Approximately 1,197 total volunteers in all seven cities in the county showed up to the 40 Coastal Cleanup Day sites. Individuals, families and groups from local schools and community organizations spent the morning making sure that pollution from our cities didn't flow into our waterways. Cleanup sites ranged from local parks, like Sandy Beach in Rio Vista, to smaller creeks, like Rindler Creek in Vallejo.

This year, the California Coastal Commission's theme for the statewide event was "The World's First Trashure Hunt," which encouraged participants to not only go out in search of litter, but to also search for prizes hidden at cleanup sites. The Solano County grand prize of two season passes to Six Flags Discovery Kingdom was discovered by Kimberly, a volunteer at the Lower Ledgewood Creek site in Fairfield.

"It's amazing to see volunteers eager to participate in cleanups like this, willing to sacrifice parts of their day to make a difference in the world. Kimberly, who won the grand prize, was really excited the moment she found the "trashure chest." She was speechless!" said Assistant Engineer at the Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District, Melvin Aquino, who coordinated the Fairfield and Suisun City sites. "It

seemed like a great opportunity to be with my friends and do something positive and impact change in our community."

California Coastal Cleanup Day is the largest single volunteer event held in the country each year. This is the event's 41st year, and over that time, over 1.5 million volunteers have participated. Not only does Coastal Cleanup Day prevent waste from entering our waterways and flowing into the Pacific Ocean, but it also acts as a valuable data collection opportunity. Volunteers record the type of litter they collect either by hand or in the CleanSwell app. This provides local and state-wide officials with valuable information that can inspire new policies to help prevent litter getting into our waterways.

Robyn Slater, Lead Educator at Solano Resource Conservation District and the coordinator for the Vacaville city cleanup sites, noted the immediate impact the event had on the community, saying that "several people attending the regular farmers market downtown thanked volunteers for their hard work cleaning up Andrews Park; they were amazed at what a difference just a few hours of picking up litter can make."

Similarly, Chris, a volunteer at the nearby Winco site, said, "It's nice that almost everyone who passed by on a walk or bike ride thanked me!"

In Solano County, Coastal Cleanup Day is coordinated by Solano Resource Conservation District on behalf of the cities and County of Solano and local wastewater agencies. The next county-wide cleanup event will be held in April 2026. Keep an eye on cleanupsolano.org for more information in the spring. ★

MEMORIAL

DENNY EUGENE KIDWELL • 11/08/1944 - 09/14/2025

Denny Eugene Kidwell, aged 80, lost his nine-year battle with cancer. Never a quitter, he fought the disease with everything he had. Denny passed away at his home on the Kidwell Ranch in Dixon, CA on September 14, 2025.

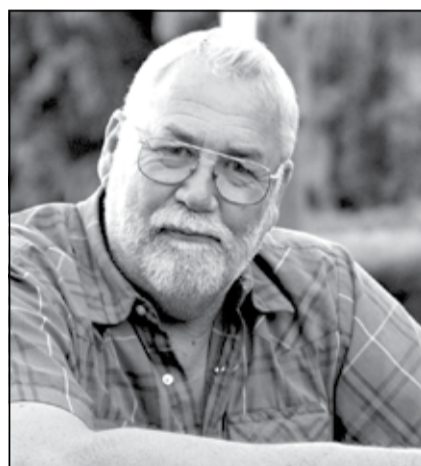
Denny was born on November 8, 1944, in Bakersfield, CA to parents, Homer Eugene Kidwell and Ruby Edith Kidwell (nee Denny). Denny's father, Homer Eugene Kidwell had a hay baling business and his mother Ruby, was a homemaker.

The family moved to Dixon in 1955 to help Homer's ailing uncle, Claude Kidwell, run the family farming business on the Kidwell Ranch. Denny attended Dixon schools and graduated from Dixon High School in 1962 where he lettered in basketball, baseball, and track.

Denny received his B.S. degree in Ag. Econ from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1966. Following his college graduation Denny returned to Dixon and worked for various ag businesses in the area until he took over the family farming operation in 1985. Denny loved everything about farming. It was his true passion in life. He farmed a variety of crops over the years, including tomatoes, wheat, corn, various vine seed and in the last 15 years planted walnut orchards. Denny took great pleasure in driving around the family ranch at sunrise and sunset seeing the progression of the crops.

Denny's lifelong love of sports and his competitive nature led him to participate in Dixon and Woodland area recreational league basketball and softball teams. Denny suffered from bad knees and hated to run the bases, so he was known to hit the long ball, often resulting in home runs. He also played rugby and coached women's softball.

Denny's hobbies included stargazing and astronomy, watching sports and old western movies on TV, and listening to recordings of old radio shows that he enjoyed as a kid, like Amos & Andy and The Lone Ranger. He loved family dinners when his niece and great-nieces made all the dishes he grew up with—he especially loved fried okra and fried green tomatoes, always leaving room for desserts. He loved the music of the 50's and 60's. Favorites included Frankie Laine and the Everly Brothers. Denny was a member of the Dixon Freemasons Lodge #134. Denny also served on the Dixon May Fair board where he was pleased to bring big name entertainment to the Dixon May Fair. Denny was a complicated man; a bit difficult to some, but to many he was a kind, caring and generous person. He loved to tease his nieces and nephews and could always be counted on to tell a funny or embarrassing story about something someone did



and bring laughter to any family gathering. Throughout his battle with cancer Denny remained positive and upbeat, never feeling sorry for himself. He was dearly loved by his family, and his guiding presence and quick wit will be sorely missed.

Denny is survived by his life partner of 48 years, Sylvia C. Darrough. Denny was preceded in death by his parents, Homer Eugene Kidwell and his mother Ruby Edith Kidwell as well as his older sister Barbara Jean Kidwell Hays Martinez. He is also survived by his niece Leslye Jean Hays (Tony Lopez) of Dixon, and nephews William Bradley Hays of Sacramento and Stewart Eugene Hays of Hayden, Idaho; great-nieces Veronica Nicole Freitas (Matt Freitas) and Alexandria Justine Lopez (Alexander Kaufmann) and great-great niece Haylee Nicole

Freitas and great-great nephew Brandon Matthew Freitas all of Dixon. He is also survived by his life partner Sylvia's family, including her sister Anita Sorum (Dave) of Rocklin, CA; niece April Sturdivant (Mark) of Bluffton, SC and nephew Matthew Thompson (Diane) of Ray, North Dakota as well as numerous nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Mr. Denny Kidwell will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 10:00am at the Milton Carpenter Funeral Home, 569 North 1st Street, Dixon, CA. Burial will follow at the Dixon Cemetery. In addition, friends are welcome to pay their respects during visitation on the evening of Wednesday, September 24th from 5pm to 8pm.

In lieu of flowers mourners may donate to the UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (<https://cancer.ucsf.edu/support/immunotherapy/donate>) or a charity of their choosing.

COMICS & PUZZLES

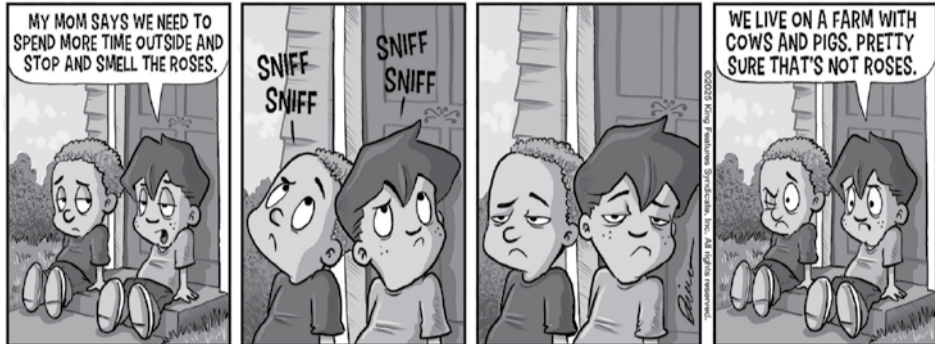
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



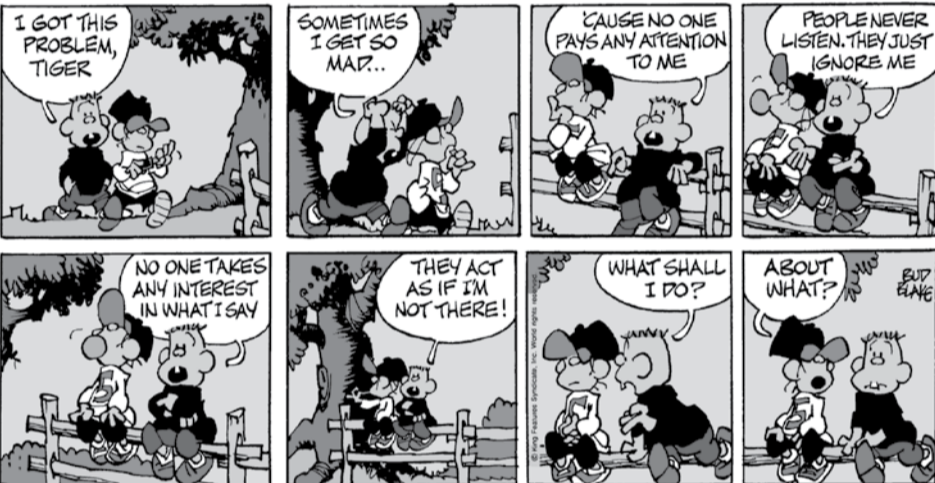
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



GRIN AND BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • PERIODIC TABLE ELEMENTS

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
1. "___ of New York," 2002 movie
 6. That guy
 9. Extinguish birthday candles
 13. Impolite dinner sound
 14. Division of time
 15. Forgo
 16. On the move
 17. Lake, in France
 18. Alaska native
 19. *The heaviest metal
 21. *Inert gas of balloon fame
 23. *Jersey Shore* network, acr.
 24. Move like parasailor
 25. Pick up, as in a criminal
 28. Z, NATO phonetic alphabet
 30. "A ship without ___," or one without purpose
 35. Paella pot
 37. Nessie's turf
 39. Sweating room
 40. Cyberspace soliloquy
 41. *Gold
 43. Foul substance
 44. Ruled
 46. Dish out
 47. Belgium's currency
 48. Lands (2 words)
 50. Indira Gandhi's dress
 52. ___ Without Hats, band
 53. Sheltered nook
 55. Gross National Product
 57. *Majority of elements on periodic table
 60. *Iron
 63. Fortune teller's card
 64. Anger
 66. Saharan rest stop, e.g.
 68. Venerated paintings
 69. Acquired
 70. Beside, archaic
 71. Curious
 72. Professional basketball league, acr.
 73. Paterfamilias, tenderly
- DOWN**
1. General Services Administration
 2. Additionally
 3. Common allergens
 4. Tale-spinning brother
 5. Prosecco cocktail
 6. Position of leadership
 7. George Gershwin's brother
 8. Village People's "___ Man"
 9. Island near Java
 10. Stead
 11. Reproductive cell
 12. Kind of nurse
 15. The Beatles' "I Am the ___"
 20. Throat lobe
 22. "Lend me your ___"
 24. Glucose+fructose
 25. *Like Ar, Xe and Ne
 26. Completely dedicated (2 words)
 27. Hair color
 29. High in decibels
 31. Small European freshwater fish
 32. Pasta wheat
 33. Accustom
 34. *Rn, known for seeping into homes
 36. Forever and a day
 38. Dance with leis
 42. Join companies
 45. Old European coins
 49. D.C. mover and shaker, for short
 51. Encroachment
 54. Victory hand gesture
 56. Life force, in Sanskrit
 57. Type of shark
 58. Aphrodite's son
 59. Broadway recognition
 60. Greek salad ingredient
 61. Not mint
 62. This over matter?
 63. *Sn, element in bronze
 65. "To ___ Peter to pay Paul"
 67. Pig pen

CROSSWORD

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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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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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: September 5, 12, 19, 26, 2025
SHURI 9-26-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001341
The following persons are doing business as: Tenbrink Farms, 5340 Thissell Road, Winters, CA 95694.
Charlene Harriett Tenbrink, 7056 Gibson Canyon Road, Vacaville, CA 95688.
Date filed in Solano County: August 27, 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 August 20, 2030. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious

tious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration August 26, 2030. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: Sept 12, 19, 26, Oct 3, 2025
TENBRINK 10-3-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001342
The following persons are doing business as: Diane Kemena Home Care, 112 Saybrook Avenue, Vacaville, CA 95687.
James Aaron Allen, 112 Saybrook Avenue, Vacaville, CA 95687.
Date filed in Solano County: August 27, 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 August 26, 2030. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business, and professions code.)
Publish: Sept 19, 26, Oct 3, 10, 2025
DIANE 10-10-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2025001372
The following persons are doing business as: Jasper Old Girls Alumni – USA Association, Jogs-USA, 500 Evans Road, Dixon, CA 95620.
Jasper Old Girls Alumni – USA Association, 500 Evans Road, Dixon, CA 95620.
Date filed in Solano County: September 9, 2025. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: July 19, 2025

This Business is conducted by: An Unincorporated Association other than a partnership. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name

Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration September 8, 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: Sept 19, 26, Oct 3, 10, 2025
JASPER 10-10-25

NOTICE OF HEARING

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD, COUNTY OF SOLANO
Estate of SAMUEL MICHAEL KLEIMAN, decedent) No. FPR048079
NOTICE OF HEARING
Petition to confirm sale of real property, as-is and without contingency, between 8A Properties

LLC (buyer) and the personal representative of the Estate, SCOTT TALBOT, FOR \$350,000 under limited authority of the IAEA CONFIRMATION SUBJECT TO PRIVATE AUCTION: minimum overbid \$358,500 Notice is hereby given that SCOTT TALBOT, personal representative,, has filed herein a petition to confirm the sale of 1632 Ontario Street Fairfield, CA 94533, reference to which is made for further particulars, and that the time and place of hearing the same has been set for October 16 (date) 2025, at 9:00. am., in the courtroom of Department No. 5, of said court, at 600 Union Avenue, in the City of Fairfield County of SOLANO, California. Contact SCOTT TALBOT, personal representative, at 707-242-1877 for requirements regarding the overbid process.
Publish Sept 26, Oct 3, 10, 2025
KLEIMAN 10-10-25



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Main Office Address: 2508 Garfield Ave., Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The Dixon Independent Voice is published weekly on Friday.
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@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@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.

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

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

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

Dixon Scottish Cultural Association – Open to anyone who is interested in celebrating Scottish culture. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month

at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 1305 N. First St. For details, visit https://scotsindixon.us/.

Dixon Senior Club

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

Dixon Toastmasters/Public Speaking Club

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

Dixon Women's Improvement Club

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

Dixon Youth Soccer Board Meetings

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

Domestic Violence Support Group

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

Dry Dock

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

Fairfield/Suisun Bass Reapers

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

Friends of the Dixon Public Library

– Meets at the library on the second Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. For more information, call 707-624-0144.

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.nsdcc@gmail.com. Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northernolanodemts/.

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 mende-zlynda55@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. ★

Food & Farm NEWS

Record High Last Year

The value of California's agricultural production hit a record high last year, according to data published last week by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. In 2024, farmers and ranchers in the Golden State produced \$61.2 billion worth of agricultural commodities, an increase of 3.6% from 2023. California led the nation in overall production value as well as in dairy and many types of fresh produce. The state's top agricultural commodities, ranked by economic value, were dairy products followed by almonds, grapes, cattle and calves, lettuce, strawberries, pistachios, tomatoes, carrots and broilers.

Harvest Begins for "Exceptional" California Walnut Crop

As California's walnut harvest begins, market conditions remain strong after improving last year following multiple years when growers struggled with low crop prices. With inventory from last year's crop nearly sold out, "the industry is well positioned to start shipping new harvest California walnuts immediately," said Robert Verloop, executive director and CEO of the California Walnut Board and Commission. This year's walnut crop is projected at 710,000 tons, an 18% increase from last year, even as the state's bearing acreage declined from 370,000 last year to 365,000 this year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Favorable weather conditions helped produce a large crop of "exceptional" quality, Verloop said. "I think international markets will be very pleased."

California Table Olive

Growers Expect a Light Crop

California table olive growers are expected to harvest a smaller crop this year. The 2025 forecast is 44,000 tons, down 10% from last year's crop of 48,634 tons, according to a survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Manzanillo olives make up the vast majority of California's table olives, with Sevillano olives comprising less than 6% of the state's crop. Some farmers grow other varieties in small quantities. The USDA report, which surveyed 242 growers, found that the sector struggles with many of the same challenges plaguing farmers of other crops: insufficient labor, increased input costs and weak markets.

California Sheep Ranchers Help Solar Projects Reduce Fire Risks

Large-scale solar projects face an ongoing challenge in managing vegetation to reduce fire risks. In California, they're getting help from a humble farm animal. "We're the most environmentally friendly vegetation management tool out there," Ryan Indart, a Fresno County farmer and sheep rancher, told Ag Alert® in a field report. This month, Indart's sheep were wrapping up a busy season grazing utility-scale solar projects across the state before returning to their home ranch in Kerman. When they graze solar projects, "The sheep are sequestering carbon, reducing wildfire risk and making the soil ecology a lot more healthy," he said. "They're Mother Nature's best firefighters." ★

Fall Home and Garden Show Returns to Fairgrounds



Attendees participated in a bingo scavenger hunt, collecting stamps from each booth for a chance to win prizes. Melina Arzadon, the event organizer's daughter, helped at the entrance, passing out bingo cards and explaining the rules of the hunt. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Story by Kendall Brown and photos by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Solano County Fall Home and Garden Show returned to the Dixon Fairgrounds last weekend, drawing thousands of visitors to explore more than 75 vendors offering products and services ranging from home improvement and solar energy to handcrafted art and gourmet food.

Running Sept. 20 and 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the annual event provided a family-friendly environment with live music by local musician Alan Brownlee, activities for children and hands-on demonstrations.

Attendance is typically between 2,000 and 3,500 over the two-day event, according to organizer Shawna Arzadon.

"We always expect around 3,500," said Arzadon. "The beautiful weather and all these awesome vendors create a wonderful atmosphere."

Vendors included national and regional companies such as Northwest Exteriors, NRG Pros and Batteries Plus from Pleasant Hill, which offered \$5 battery replacements for key fobs.

Other booths featured custom furniture by Custom Barrel Designs, solar systems from Future Energy Savers and fencing and deck solutions by California Fence Builder.

"This is personally my first time," said William Brooks, a Depot service provider. "It's smaller, so it's a little more intimate than, say, Cal Expo."

Local artist Diane Burnette showcased her handcrafted wood and oil paintings at the event for the third time.

"All our pieces are solid wood, so you can put them inside or outside," Burnette said.

Guest speaker Ahmed Hassan, original host of HGTV's "Yard Crashers," drew a crowd with his live garden demo and Q&A session.

"My job is to bring the garden to the home and garden show," said Hassan. "Home shows? Boring. Home and garden shows? Fantastic."

Attendees also participated in a bingo scavenger hunt, collecting stamps from booths for a chance to win prizes.

Melina Arzadon, the event organizer's daughter, helped at the entrance, passing out bingo cards and explaining the rules of the hunt.

"Every year, my main job is the ticket booth," she said.

For younger guests, Kelly Martinez, also known as "Kelly the Clown," of Unforgettable Foamtastic offered bubble play and foam cannon activities on Saturday.

"Arzadon contacted us so that kids can have something to do while the adults are talking business," said Martinez.

One young guest, Ryan Thompson, considered the foam to be the best part of the event.

"Look, I made a cloud!" said Ryan.

Ryan's mother, Danielle Thompson, works for Greiner Heating and Air, another vendor. According to Thompson, she and her family attend the home and garden show every year, twice a year, making time for both the spring and fall shows.

"I love the different vendors. I



The Solano County Fall Home and Garden Show returned to the Dixon Fairgrounds last weekend, drawing thousands of visitors to explore more than 75 vendors. Jeff Peikin (left) of Reliable Home Improvement was one of these vendors.



The event had several amenities, including a foam area for kids, a booth selling fair food and a succulent bar.



Whereas general admission was \$8 and military and seniors got in for \$5, admission was free for children under 12. Alongside the foam, a clown offering facepainting and glitter tattoos also attended on Sept. 20.



Patrons were entertained by the musical stylings of Alan Brownlee, who played a variety of songs, from '80s love ballads to '90s country.

have a weakness for trinkets and things, so seeing all the cool stuff that people have is exciting," said Thompson. "I normally work in the office rather than the field, so it's fun to interact with our customers directly. And it's great for our son."

Overall, the event featured a wide variety of home improvement and gardening resources.

"I'm enjoying myself," said attendee Gwen Black. "I've even gotten so many new ideas for my home."

For more information, visit solanohomeshow.com or call 707-655-8439.



According to event attendee Gwen Black, the Solano Home and Garden Show has given her so many new ideas for her home and she considers it a great event.