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Dixon Independent Voice

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ANOTHER TULEYOME TALE!



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FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

By Amy Shane



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October Family Fun Events



Downtown Dixon is hosting a trick-or-treating event from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 31. Concurrently, the Dixon Chamber of Commerce will host Trunk or Treat in the chamber parking lot from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 31. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The city of Dixon will be home to a variety of community events throughout October, ranging from dog shows and theater performances to holiday celebrations and public safety outreach.

At the Dixon May Fairgrounds, 655 S. First St., the Pin-A-Go-Go Pinball Show will return Oct. 10 to Oct. 12, featuring hundreds of pinball machines for public play. Hours vary by day and more information can be found online at pin-a-go-go.org.

The fourth annual



Alongside hosting National Night Out Oct. 7, Dixon Police Department will also participate in Downtown Dixon's Trick-or-Treating event. Photo by Nicolas Brown

Bobtail Apparel Truck Show will also take place at the fairgrounds from 4 to 9 p.m. Oct. 17 and from

10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 18. The event showcases custom semi-trucks and offers activities for all ages. Details are available online at bobtailapparel.com/pages/truck-show.

The Sacramento Valley Dog Fanciers Association will host an American Kennel Club All Breeds Dog Show from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 25 and Oct. 26 at the fairgrounds. For more information, visit online sacvalleydfa.com.

Dixon Community Theater will present an original musical adaptation of "Treasure Island" from Oct. 17 to Oct. 19 at the

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'Imagine This...' Student Writing Competition Underway

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Aspiring young authors with great stories to share about agriculture are encouraged to enter the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's annual "Imagine this..." Story Writing Contest.

Entries are due Nov. 1. Last year, more than 500 students submitted stories and six state-winning entries plus one honorable mention were published in the "Imagine this..." Stories Inspired by Agriculture 2025" book. The fifth-grade winner last year who wrote "The Little Farm Dog" was Josephine Slattery from the Twin Rivers Charter School in nearby Yuba City.

The "Imagine this..." Story Writing Contest invites students in third-through eighth-grades from public, private, charter and home schools throughout California to submit original fiction or non-fiction stories highlighting agriculture's positive impact.

"Agriculture is all around us," said Amanda Fletcher, the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom's executive director. "We encourage students to get out their pencils and think creatively about an experience they've had that involves food, fiber or any topic related to agriculture."

Regional and state winners will be announced Dec. 1. The six state winners, one from each grade level, will have their stories illustrated by high school art students and professionally published in book form. Along with their teacher and parents, each will also receive a trip to Sacramento for an awards ceremony at the Capitol that includes medals, e-readers and classroom resources.

Regional winners will receive plaques, books and teacher resources for their participation.

"The 'Imagine this...' contest helps students and teachers see just how connected we all are to the farmers and ranchers who keep California growing," Fletcher said. "It's a fun way for students to explore the world around them while also meeting Common Core writing and literacy standards for grades three through eight."

Entry forms, contest rules and tips on incorporating "Imagine this..." into the classroom can be found at LearnAboutAg.org/programs/contest.

The organization is dedicated to educating youth throughout California about the importance of agriculture in their daily lives. ★

Rams Raise Funds



The Dixon Quarterback Club is reaching out on behalf of Dixon High School Football to request community support in helping the organization replace an essential piece of equipment that was recently stolen: a golf cart. The Besseghini family has provided funds to purchase a new golf cart for the program but funds need to be raised to support costs associated with the golf cart. Photo courtesy of Isabella Quiniola/Dixon Unified School District

Dixon High School Football News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Quarterback Club is reaching out on behalf of Dixon High School Football to request community support in helping the organization replace an essential piece of equipment that was recently stolen: a golf cart.

This cart was more than just a convenience; it played a vital role in the day-to-day operations of the football program as well as game day support. From transporting equipment and supplies to assisting field setup, it allowed the coaching staff and volunteers to focus on the players and the game itself.

In addition to supporting Dixon

High School Football, the cart is also shared with Dixon Youth Football, ensuring that the community's younger athletes benefit on their game days as well.

By investing in this replacement, community members not only support today's student-athletes but also help strengthen the pipeline of future

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Dixon News Briefs

Lambtown Festival Returns

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Lambtown Festival, California's largest celebration of sheep, lamb and wool, returns to the Dixon May Fairgrounds on Oct. 4 and Oct. 5 for its 39th annual event.

The weekend festival will feature more than 50 hands-on workshops, expanded educational programming and more than 80 vendors from across Northern California and beyond. Workshops begin Oct. 2 and continue through the weekend.

"Our mission is to celebrate all things sheep, lamb, wool and fiber arts," said Roy Clemes, festival president since 2018.

This year's 55 workshops mark a notable increase from 45 in 2024 and just six in 2018. Topics include spinning, weaving, felting, knitting, dyeing and flock management. A new producer-focused session on sheep health, led by University of California, Davis professor Dr. Rosie Busch, debuts this year.

Instructors are selected through a year-round application process. The lineup includes local and national experts such as



The Lambtown Festival, California's largest celebration of sheep, lamb and wool, returns to the Dixon May Fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct. 4, and Sunday, Oct. 5 for its 39th annual event. Photo courtesy of Lambtown Festival/Roy Clemes

Jacy Faulkner, founder of "Ply Magazine," and rare breed specialist Amy Manko, who will also judge the wool show.

Workshop registration is open at lambtown.org, with prices ranging from \$40 to \$170. Materials might be included, depending on the session.

General admission is \$25 for a weekend pass,

\$20 for Saturday only and \$15 for Sunday. Admission is free for children 12 and under.

In addition to workshops, the Lambtown Festival features live music, food trucks and the "Make It With Wool" fashion competition.

For more information, visit lambtown.org or email info@lambtown.org. ★



The city of Dixon will be home to a variety of community events throughout October, ending with Downtown Dixon Trick-or-Treating from 1 to 4 p.m. Oct. 31., followed by Trunk or Treat hosted by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce from 2 to 5 p.m. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By MPG Staff

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. Oct. 4. 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 Oct. 4, "Wild Robot" will be shown. The final showing will be Oct. 11.

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

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.

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 the market is Oct. 22.

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

Veterans' Dinner

American Legion Post 208 is hosting a Veterans' Dinner from 4 to 9 p.m. Oct. 3. The dinner, held at Veterans' Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St., offers an all-you-can-eat meal for \$12 per guest. Dishes include meat loaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, vegetables and a roll. The bar opens at 4:30 p.m. with dinner served by 5:30 p.m.

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

Moose Lodge Monster Bash

Dixon Moose Lodge is hosting a Halloween event at 6 p.m. Oct. 25. The Monster Bash, held at the lodge, 180 W. B St., will include a costume contest and a no-host bar. For the \$25 entry fee, guests will also receive appetizers and one alcoholic drink included in the ticket purchase.

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

Dixon Prawn Feed

The Dixon Firefighters Charitable Fund

is hosting a prawn feed from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Oct. 18. Held at Dixon Fire Station 81, 205 Ford Way, the event offers all-you-can-eat prawns, ravioli, salad and rolls for \$70 per person, plus an additional \$4.02 fee. Organizers will also host a raffle. All proceeds will benefit the community, supporting local events, assisting other nonprofit organizations and helping families and individuals who have faced tragedy or hardship in Dixon.

For more information, visit the Dixon Firefighters Facebook page or call 707-678-7060. To purchase tickets, visit events.humanitix.com/2025-annual-prawn-feed.

National Night Out

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. 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. Applications to host block parties or gatherings must be submitted to the Dixon Police Department by Friday, Oct. 3, either in person or via email at specialevents@dixonpolice.org.

For more information, visit www.dixonpoliceca.gov/nationalnightout or call 707-678-7070.

Trunk or Treat at the Chamber

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting Trunk or Treat from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 31. Held in the Chamber parking lot, 220 N. Jefferson St., the event will offer free candy, glow sticks, pumpkin decorating, music and more.

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

Dixon Youth Basketball Registration

Dixon Youth Basketball has opened registration for its winter season. Kids from 5th to 8th grade who are interested in playing youth basketball should register online by Nov. 2. Notably, game days have been moved to Saturdays for the Winter 2026 season.

For more information or to apply, visit dixonyouthbasketball.com or email secretary@dixonyouthbasketball.com.

Dixon High School Football

The Dixon High School Rams Football Team has a Bye week as they prepare for an away game Oct. 10. Hosted at Woodland High School, 21 N. West St., Woodland, games will begin at 5 p.m. for Junior Varsity and 7 p.m. for Varsity. The Rams will take on the Woodland High Wolves.

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

Rams Raise Funds

Continued from page 1
Rams players.

The Besseghini family has generously provided funds to purchase a new golf cart for the program. Fundraising will continue to support costs associated with the golf cart, including initial preparations to make it game-day ready, ongoing maintenance needs and future upkeep to ensure it remains safe, reliable and available for use by the Dixon High School Football program and the Dixon Youth Football.

Donations of any amount are welcome and sponsorship recognition can be tailored to the level of support. Options can include announcements at home games

and features on the team's social media pages. Your generosity will directly support Dixon's student-athletes and youth by providing an essential tool needed to keep football operations running smoothly on the field.

"On behalf of the coaches, players and families, thank you for considering this request and for your continued support of Dixon High School Football," coach Jim Besseghini said. "Together, we can ensure that our teams have what they need to succeed."

For more information, visit dixonrams.com, call 707-685-4166 or email jimwbesseghini@yahoo.com. ★

Dixon United Methodist Welcomes New Pastor

Dixon United Methodist Church News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The members and friends of Dixon United Methodist Church invite the community to an afternoon of fun, food and conversation as the newly-appointed pastor, the Rev. Cathy Love, is welcomed. Join the church from 11:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 12 in the Church Fellowship Hall, 209 N. Jefferson St.

Ice cream sundaes will be served and family-friendly activities will engage everyone during this time. Meet Pastor Cathy Love and enjoy an afternoon interlude of good conversation and friendly interaction.

Rev. Love comes to Dixon United

Methodist from serving most recently at the Quincy Community United Methodist Church and the Greenville United Methodist Church. She is a graduate of Claremont School of Theology and came to the ministry from a long career as a public-school teacher.

Traveling, the outdoors, meeting people and sharing her faith are key joys in her life. Rev. Love is beginning to settle into ministry in Dixon with great enthusiasm and is eager to learn about the community and meet its people.

Dixon United Methodist Church is at 209 N. Jefferson St., Dixon.

For more information, call 707-678-2191 between 9 a.m. and noon Mondays to Wednesdays. ★



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WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

Solano First Responders Honored

Sara Echarte Named New Chamber Manager

By Kendall Brown



The Dixon Chamber of Commerce has named Sara Echarte (right) as its new chamber manager following the retirement of longtime leader Shauna Manina. Echarte has been a Dixon resident for four years. She lives in Dixon with her two children and husband, Anthony Echarte (center). Photo courtesy of Sara Echarte

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Chamber of Commerce has named Sara Echarte as its new chamber manager following the retirement of longtime leader Shauna Manina. Echarte, a Dixon resident for the past four years, steps into the role with deep ties to the community. She lives in Dixon with her husband, Anthony Echarte, and their two children. Her family's local involvement, from school parent-teacher organizations to her husband's catering business, Pun vs. Food, has helped shape her community-focused vision for the chamber.

"I really have a heart for service," said Echarte. "Dixon is very rooted in tradition, which isn't a bad thing, but there's so much room for improvement. I want to bring the community together and be a positive force."

Echarte previously served as a chamber ambassador for two years and her familiarity with the organization helped guide her transition into leadership. She cited her availability, strong community ties and relationships with small businesses as key reasons for being selected for the position.

Although the transition came with challenges, Echarte expressed gratitude for the support that she has received.

"I was a little nervous at first because Manina is a machine, so I have some big shoes to fill," said Echarte. "But everyone has been so gracious and kind. We just want to continue her legacy."

Professionally, Echarte brings experience from Sutter Health, which she said has prepared her for transparent and empathetic leadership.

"I think it will help my leadership style with transparency and the empathy I have with the community but the thick skin I've gained working with providers should come through," said Echarte.

Echarte identified economic concerns and state-level challenges as key issues facing Dixon's small business community. She aims to build stronger ties between the Chamber and the Dixon Downtown Business Association.

"It's a mission of mine right now to bridge the two. There are a surprising number of businesses not in the chamber and I want to understand why," said Echarte.

While no major operational changes are planned, Echarte emphasized improving visibility and outreach.

"A lot of people don't know what the chamber is or does. We intend to be more present in the community," said Echarte.

She also hopes to enhance community events, including Trunk or Treat and concerts in the plaza, with expanded offerings and new ideas.

Echarte's first initiative as manager will be a mixer and ribbon cutting at Anderson Elementary on Oct. 23 to launch the Road Runner Nest, a new student support resource.

"Being a leader in Dixon makes me proud," said Echarte. "We can do some great things here."

With the transition of chamber manager also comes a shift in operational hours. The Dixon Chamber of Commerce, 220 N. Jefferson St., is now open from 8 to 11 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays, by appointment on Fridays and closed on weekends.

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



The Solano Family First Responders hosted its annual Field of Dreams BBQ from 5 to 11 p.m. Sept. 20, bringing together families, first responders and community members. The event was catered by Back Forty Texas BBQ, based in Pleasant Hill. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Solano Family First Responders hosted its annual Field of Dreams BBQ from 5 to 11 p.m. Sept. 20, bringing together families, first responders and community members for an evening of food, fun and fundraising at Cool Patch Pumpkins, 6150 Dixon Ave. W.

According to Solano Family First Responders President Jason Brackett, the event featured live music, fall-themed activities and a full barbecue dinner catered by Back Forty Texas BBQ.

More than 30 volunteers, including first responders, their family members and community partners, staffed the event to ensure a smooth and engaging experience for attendees.

"Field of Dreams is unique because it combines a family festival with a tribute to first responders," said Brackett. "Attendees can expect delicious barbecue, live entertainment, games for kids and opportunities to connect with wellness resources."

Back Forty Texas BBQ, based in Pleasant Hill, served a menu of award-winning smoked meats and traditional sides. Brackett called the meal "a highlight every year" and credited it as part of what makes the event "such a memorable community event."

Founded in 2019, Solano Family First Responders aims to support the wellness of first responders and their families

throughout Solano County by providing access to mental health services, peer support and family-oriented programs.

"Our goal is to make sure the men and women behind the badge and their loved ones have the tools they need to thrive both on and off duty," said Brackett.

Proceeds from the event will be used to expand mental health and wellness programs for law enforcement, fire personnel, EMS, dispatchers, emergency room staff and corrections officers. These services include counseling, peer support and family outreach tailored to the challenges of public safety work.

"When first responders are supported, the entire community benefits," said Brackett. "We help ensure they're healthier, more resilient and better equipped to serve."

Field of Dreams is an annual event and Solano Family First Responders plans to host additional gatherings, workshops and training sessions in the future. Community members interested in supporting the organization can attend events, volunteer, donate or sponsor programs.

"First responders give their all every day, often at great personal cost," said Brackett. "This event is about showing them that our community stands with them."

For more information about future events, visit solanofamilyfirstresponders.com or email Solanofamilyfirstresponders@gmail.com. ★

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MEMORIAL

JUDY ANN KITCHEN • 10/13/1941 – 09/21/2025

Judy Ann Kitchen, of Dixon, passed away at her home on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025. She was 83.

Judy was born on October 13, 1941 in Miami, Oklahoma to Robert (Bob) and Edna Stuart. She spent her early years in Oklahoma with her younger sister, Mary. In 1957, the family packed up and traveled cross-country to join relatives in California. Originally headed for the Bay Area, they made a pitstop in Dixon, where her dad was offered a job by somebody at the local John Deere, and the rest was history.

Judy attended Dixon High School, where she met her high school sweetheart and soon-to-be husband, Elmer Kitchen. The two fell in love



and married just a couple short years later in 1959. Together they had 3 children: twins, Melinda and Glenda and son, Robert. Elmer and Judy were married for 61 years until his passing in 2020. Their marriage was loving, unwavering and inspiring to all who were lucky enough to witness it.

Judy's greatest life work was being a mom, wife, grandma and great grandma, building a home full of love and laughter where everyone was welcome. Her family would describe her as fierce, loving, spunky, stylish and a little sassy. Judy found joy in concerts, people-watching, jewelry, fresh flowers and collecting as many nicknacks as she could fit into her house (even McDonald's Happy Meal toys).

Judy is survived by her children Melinda (Pernell) Colter, Glenda (Randy) Briggs, Robert B. Kitchen and far too many grandchildren and great grandchildren to list here. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bob and Edna, her sister, Mary and finally, her husband, Elmer.

Riley Reviews

CBS FALL SCHEDULE SEEKING CLAIM TO BE MOST WATCHED NETWORK



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

When announcing its primetime programming lineup for the 2025-2026 season, CBS claimed to be on track to win its 17th consecutive season as the most watched network. One new comedy, four action-packed dramas, and three unscripted series might be enough to push them to the top once more.

Everyone knows that a trip to the Department of Motor Vehicles is more of a horror show than a laugh-filled adventure. CBS aims to change the image of one of the government's least popular agencies with its comedy series "DMV."

Based on award-winning author Katherine Heiny's short story, "DMV" is a single-camera workplace comedy set at the place everyone dreads going most. The site is supposedly filled with quirky and lovable characters, which explains this is pure fiction.

The idea is that these minimum wage workers are doing a thankless job where customers are annoyed before they even walk in the door. Apparently, it's a good thing the staff have each other, and certainly not the public that cools its heels with insufferable wait times.

"Blue Bloods," a police procedural starring Tom Selleck as New York City Police Commissioner Frank Reagan, had a long run of fourteen seasons, which came to an end in December last year.

The police commissioner's eldest surviving son, Danny Reagan (Donnie Wahlberg), will now be the star in the new spin-off series "Boston Blue," where he's taken a position with the Boston Police Department.

Once in Boston, Danny is paired with detective Lena Peters (Sonequa Martin-Green), the eldest daughter of a prominent law enforcement family who is considered a "rising star" in the police department.

Another police procedural arrives with "Sheriff Country," starring Morena Baccarin as straight-shooting sheriff Mickey Fox, the stepsister of Cal Fire's division chief Sharon Leone (Diane Farr in CBS's "Fire Country").

Sheriff Fox investigates criminal activity while she patrols the streets of small-town Edgewater, contending with her ex-con father, Wes (W. Earl Brown), who is an off-the-grid marijuana grower, and a mysterious incident involving her wayward daughter.

"Sheriff Country" is considered to be an expansion of the universe of the hit drama "Fire Country." The latter stars Max Thierot as a convict seeking to redeem himself and shorten his prison sentence by volunteering as a Cal Fire firefighter.

Dick Wolf, best-known as the producer of the "Law & Order" television franchise, should also be familiar for creating other law enforcement series like "Chicago P.D." and the "FBI" show that resulted in

two spinoffs with "FBI: Most Wanted" and "FBI: International."

What's next for Dick Wolf is an expansion of the "FBI" series into new series "CIA," a one-hour drama centered on two unlikely partners. Tom Ellis stars as a fast-talking, rule-breaking loose cannon CIA case officer.

Ellis' CIA officer is teamed up with a by-the-book, seasoned and smart FBI agent who believes in the rule of law. When this odd couple are assigned to work out of CIA's New York Station, they must learn to work together to investigate cases.

There may be challenges ahead for these disparate characters as they lean into ferreting out criminals posing threats on U.S. soil, but then they find their differences may actually be their strength.

The unscripted series "The Road" offers viewers a backstage pass into the gritty and unforgiving life of a touring artist. With exclusive access to behind-the-scenes workings of the music industry, viewers will see what happens when performers pile into a tour bus and tackle a grueling schedule.

The documentary format trails Grammy Award winner Keith Urban on his journey to discover the next big artist alongside Grammy Award winner Gretchen Wilson, who acts as the "tour manager."

Singers will join the headliner on tour, performing as opening acts in venues across the country. They will compete over local fanbases to secure a spot in the next city and remain on the tour.

During the mid-season, "America's Culinary Cup" unscripted series from Emmy-nominated food expert Padma Lakshmi ("Top Chef") is a new cooking competition series. Not all cooking shows can belong to Gordon Ramsay.

Show creator Lakshmi serves as host of this new culinary showdown featuring a cast of the nation's most decorated chefs as they embark on a one-of-a-kind, high-stakes competition designed to challenge their creativity, endurance, presentation, leadership, and more.

The working title of "Y: Marshals" will come to fruition in some form during the mid-season where Luke Grimes stars as Kayce Dutton, leaving behind the Yellowstone Ranch to join an elite unit of the U.S. Marshal.

ombining his skills as a cowboy and Navy SEAL to bring range justice to Montana, Dutton and his teammates must balance family, duty and the high psychological cost that comes with serving as the last line of defense in the region's war on violence.

Another midseason show is "Harlan Coben's Final Twist," which brings the world's best-selling mystery author into the true-crime television genre for the first time. In each episode, Coben will guide audiences through gripping tales of murder, high-profile crimes, and life-altering surprises. ★



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

A Little Too Haunted

by Justine Pucella Winans

It's hard enough to be 13 without having to deal with an influencer mom's scandal and a house full of real ghosts. Luna Catalano doesn't have the average childhood; she has the social media sensation "ghost-hunter" parents, which has her moving from one haunted house to the next every few months. If that wasn't bad enough, discovering her moms were complete frauds was enough to ruin her life, as well as make her IBS completely flare up.

Known as the paranormal house flippers, Luna's mothers bought haunted houses, using their supposed psychic powers and amazing interior and exterior design skills, to flip the houses and rid them of their "pretend" ghosts, revealing a modern home for a profit. Luna wasn't the greatest fan of moving from haunted house to haunted house. But when Luna discovered that her moms were frauds, lying to her the whole time, she was furious. If only they could live in an actual haunted house.

Little did Luna realize that her wish was about to come true. Their new home felt oddly different. Lights flickered, strange noises echoed around the house, and things started to catch on fire, but no one believed her. What's even worse, her so-called friends were too busy to take a call, isolating Luna even more. Luckily, there were other kids in the neighborhood, but would they even believe her? Then Luna meets a helpful neighbor woman, who has



◆ Publisher: Random House Children's Books
◆ Intended Audience: Middle grade (ages 9-12)
◆ Release Date: September 30, 2025

more history to share about her house. It's haunted history. And things finally start to turn around when she meets the cute neighbor girl and her kitty, Kana.

All too quickly, Luna realizes there is more at stake with living in a genuinely haunted house, with a vengeful fire ghost, and ghost-hunting mothers who don't believe her. Now, it's up to Luna to enlist her new neighborhood friends, the helpful woman, and the cute neighbor, armed with the online ghost hunter kit to try and clear the

house of its ghosts. Proving once and for all her home might be "a little too haunted."

Start the season with the perfect dose of ghost stories and haunted houses. Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret meets Not Quite a Ghost, in this middle-grade coming-of-age story combined with a perfectly told ghost story. Justine Pucella Winans helps readers navigate the trials and tribulations of puberty, first crushes, and a multitude of confusing feelings. Authentic, raw, and full of teen emotions, A Little Too Haunted highlights a home that has two moms, a girl who struggles with IBS and moving all the time, with the genuine emotions behind always being the new girl, as well as the rise and fall of being a family whose finances depend on being social media influencers. Asking readers what they would do when life gets a little too scary, and if they discover their house is just a little too haunted. ★



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



Wednesday, September 17

- 1032 Found bicycle report taken at the Police Department.
- 1100 Follow up at the Police Department.
- 1334 Petty theft report taken in the 1500 block of Sword Street.
- 1421 Battery report taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 1534 Fraud report taken at the Police Department.
- 1859 An informational report was taken in the 1100 block of North First Street.
- 0225 An informational report was taken in the 200 block of East D Street.

Tuesday, September 16

- 0935 Suspicious circumstance in the 100 block of Pegord Avenue.
- 1117 Hit and run report taken at the Police Department.
- 1559 Fraud report taken at the Police Department.
- 1834 An assault with a deadly weapon report was taken in the 1300 block of West H Street.

Monday, September 15

- 0723 Stolen truck and trailer reported from the area of West A Street and Batavia Road.
- 0908 Non injury traffic accident reported in the 100 block of South Jackson Street.
- 1218 Follow up in the 100 block of North First Street.
- 1306 Confidential report taken at the Police Department.
- 1556 Battery report taken in the 600 block of South Almond Street.

Sunday, September 14

- 1730 Report of an intoxicated subject causing problems in the 100 block of North First Street. Joseph Langi (41) of Winters was arrested for trespassing and taken to county jail.
- 2141 A warrant arrest report was taken in the 700 block of North Adams Street. Officers contacted (S) Humberto Herrera-Rangel (49) of Dixon. Herrera-Rangel was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail and released to their staff.
- 2346 A domestic violence and parole violation arrest report was taken in the 1200 block Stratford Avenue. Officers contacted (S) Charles Silva of Fairfield. Silva was arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail and released to their staff.

Saturday, September 13th

- 0938 Found property report taken at the intersection of South Almond Street and Sunset Drive.
- 2320 Vandalism to a residence in the 1300 block of Jacobs Street.
- 0010 Vehicle towed in the 1700 block of Honeysuckle Way.

Friday, September 12th

- 1007 Vandalism report taken in the 200 block of West H Street.
- 1301 Missing person report taken in the 200 block of West A Street.
- 1452 Possession of an unregistered firearm report in the 600 block of Sierra Drive.
- 1802 Jose Solorio (38) of Dixon was arrested for an outstanding warrant in the 1100 block of Pitt School Road.
- 1903 Alexander Leon (24) of Dixon was arrested in the 1500 block of West H Street for public intoxication and resisting arrest.

Thursday, September 11th

- 0812 Fraud report taken in the 600 block of Sierra Drive.
- 1501 Information report taken in at the police department.
- 1740 Fraud report in the 400 block of La Esperanza Drive.

Wednesday, September 10th

- 1033 Petty theft report in the 900 block of East A Street.
- 1206 Information report in the 200 block of West A Street.
- 1525 Fraud report taken in the 1300 block of Commercial Way.
- 2040 Male placed on mental health hold.

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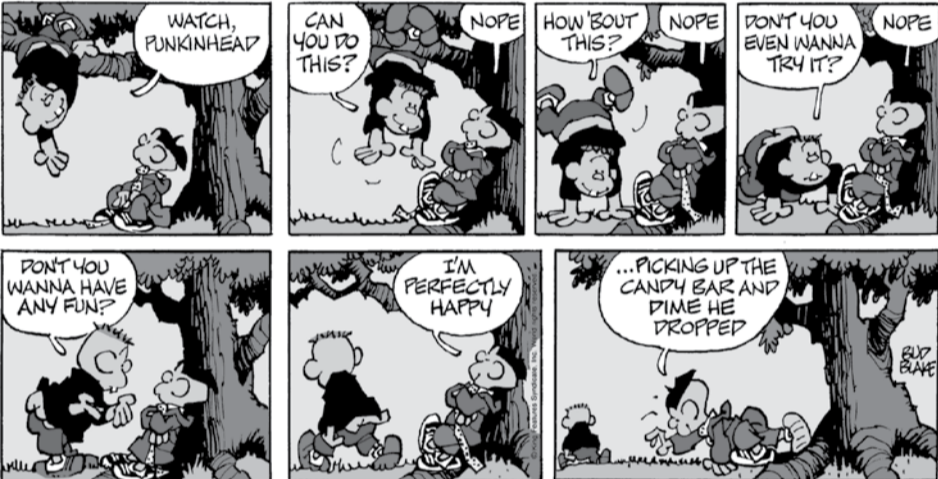
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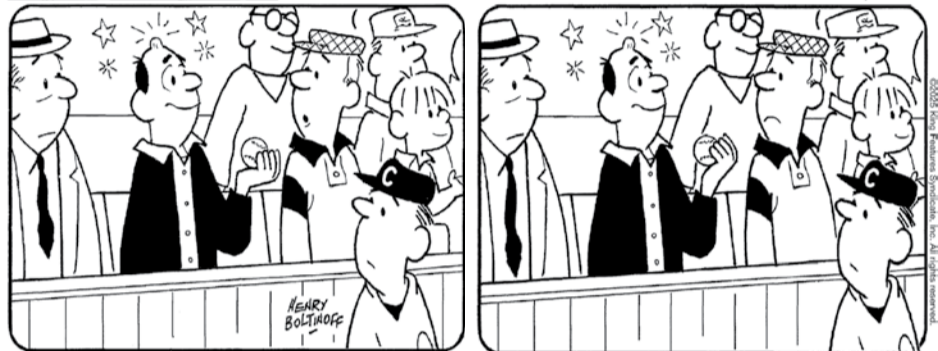
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bump on head is moved. 2. Mouth is different. 3. Tie is longer. 4. Hand is moved. 5. Player is moved. 6. Cap is larger.

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CLUES

- ACROSS**
- *The Big Bad Wolf: "I'll _____ your house down"
 - Edgar Rice Burroughs' Kerchak or Kala
 - Cosine's buddy
 - Target of grand theft
 - Influencer's journal
 - Food-grinding tooth
 - Bear's hang-out
 - Like a maxi skirt
 - Get up
 - *Robert McCloskey's "Make Way for _____"
 - March Madness org.
 - Expenditure, in the olden days
 - *"Four and twenty blackbirds baked in a _____"
 - Turn pale
 - Lachrymatory agent (2 words)
 - Swimmer's distance
 - Rinse and _____
 - Consequently
 - Join forces
 - Bruin legend Bobby
 - Jury duty event
 - Per person
 - Hockey player, e.g.
 - Approximated landing time
 - What naughty children do
 - Fortification made of wagons
 - Preceding month
 - Unnecessary embellishment
 - Customs document
 - *"He had a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day"
 - Popular pie nut
 - Not final
 - Just a little
 - Choice dish
 - _____-do-well
 - Sudden and brilliant success
 - Doofus
 - Is, in France
 - Fail to mention
- DOWN**
- Like a certain eagle
 - Oahu shindig
 - Related to ear
 - Expert persuasive powers (2 words)
 - Jennifer Aniston's movie "_____ Came Polly"
 - *Canine father in Dodie Smith's "The Hundred and One Dalmatians"
 - *Dr. Seuss: "I do not like green _____ and ham"
 - *Philosopher in American edition of "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone"
 - Hipbone
 - U.S. space agency, acr.
 - **"I heard him exclaim, _____ he drove out of sight, Merry Christmas..."
 - Not serious
 - Bipolar disorder phase
 - Filthy cabbage
 - Favorite student from rust with coating
 - Hawaiian veranda
 - Long stories
 - *The Queen of Hearts baked more than one of

CROSSWORD													
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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 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 Kernen 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.
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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE 2025001394
The following persons are doing business as: Whipd., 1641 Youngstown Lane, Suisun City, CA 94585.
Naomi Carter, 1641 Youngstown Lane, Suisun City, CA 94585.
Date filed in Solano County: September 15, 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 September 14, 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: October 3, 10, 17, 24, 2025
WHIPD 10-24-25

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

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
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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. Email dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or call 707-693-3044.

Dixon Kiwanis Club

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

Dixon Lions Club

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

Dixon Rotary Club

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

Dixon Scottish Cultural Association

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

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

Dixon Senior Club

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

Dixon Toastmasters/Public Speaking Club

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

Dixon Women's Improvement Club

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

Dixon Youth Soccer Board Meetings

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

Domestic Violence Support Group

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

Dry Dock

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

Fairfield/Suisun Bass Reapers

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

Friends of the Dixon Public Library

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

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

Farm Bureau President Urges Rural Voters to Reject Redistricting Measure

In a special Ag Alert® commentary, California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass this week called on the state's farmers, ranchers and rural residents to reject Proposition 50. If passed, the ballot measure, which goes before voters in a special election Nov. 4, would give partisan lawmakers permission to gerrymander California's congressional map. The new map would break up rural districts and dilute the voting power of their constituents by appending parts of those districts to urban-dominated constituencies. "Proposition 50 poses a threat to Farm Bureau members because it will undermine rural representation in Congress," Douglass said in the commentary. "California leads the nation in agricultural production thanks to the hard work our farmers and ranchers put in every day. Protecting the people who supply our food is critical to our state's future. With countless challenges facing agriculture, this is not the time to weaken our representation and our ability to enact policy solutions."

California Farm Bureau Leaders Seek Results in D.C.

With Congress facing end-of-fiscal-year funding deadlines and the expiration of the farm bill extension, a delegation of California Farm Bureau leaders traveled to Washington, D.C., last week to advocate on behalf of the state's farmers and ranchers. Farm Bureau officers, board members and policy advocates met with members

of Congress to discuss issues such as the farm bill, agricultural labor and international trade. California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass said the face-to-face meetings, during which farmers and ranchers share real-life experiences, play an important role in educating federal policymakers and informing their decisions. "Oftentimes, our elected representatives pass a bill, and they can be very well-meaning but don't realize the impact it would have on the ground," Douglass said. "They have to hear from us." ★

Negotiations Stall as Colorado River Crisis Looms Again

Time is running out for the seven states in the Colorado River Basin, as well as 30 tribes and Mexico, to reach a long-term deal for managing the overtopped river, which supplies water and hydropower to 40 million people in the West and irrigates more than 5 million acres of farmland. The current guidelines and drought contingency plans for the river expire at the end of next year, and negotiations have until Nov. 11 to reach a new agreement or risk intervention by the federal government. Meanwhile, after one of the region's driest years on record, reservoir levels on the river have again declined, prompting warnings from federal officials and hydrological experts. "The fundamental problem we're contending with is declining hydrology with no end in sight," said JB Hamby, president of the Colorado River Commission of California and the state's lead negotiator. "How do we adapt to live with less?" ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



For the diehard basketball fan, Sept. 29 is highlighted on the calendar. Training camp marks the beginning of a new season and brings bright eyes and hope to fans that love the home team.

This season will be no exception, despite the lack of moves on the part of the Kings brain trust.

New G.M. Scott Perry has proven to be a patient man, even if the Sacramento fans are not.

Many teams view the Kings as desperate, after what can only be called one of the biggest gaffes in franchise history, when Sacramento let DeAaron Fox bolt the team in midseason in favor of the San Antonio spurs.

True, Scott Perry was not the G.M. at the time, but Sacramento has a history of poor trades. It will be up to Perry to change that tenor with the league and hopefully regain some respect.

As training camp begins, the name of Jonathan Kuminga continues to resonate, and how Kuminga comports himself at training camp will play a role in the likelihood of a forthcoming trade.

The Warriors are in no mood for anything disruptive as camp begins, so how Kuminga responds to coaches and teammates could be a catalyst for a sudden move. Something to keep an eye on, as Steve Kerr has demonstrated little patience with Jonathan, and perhaps this week will be a springboard for the Kings.

Other names have surfaced, among them 5'8" guard Yuki Kawamura, who impressed the Memphis Grizzlies so much during the summer Olympics, that they gave him a contract and introduced Kawamura to the NBA. Currently on a two-way contract with the Chicago Bulls, Kawamura is lightning quick, handles the ball deftly and is a steal monster on the defensive side of the ball.

Whether the Kings would have room for another guard is questionable, but it comes down to what area of the court needs the most attention.

I remain in shock that Scott Perry could even begin to think that letting big man Jonas Valanciunas walk out the back door was a good idea, and most basketball minds were of the belief that Valanciunas could have easily been the best back-up center in the entire league.

What this has created is a vacuum where

once the Kings were in the catbird seat. Now, they are forced to either play an unproven rookie or bring in Dario Sarik from the bench. Neither of these options will likely produce much in the way of points or a defensive presence, so Kings fans are left to wonder who can capably backup Donantas Sabonis.

It appears to be backup the number 5 by committee, and this is something the Kings have tried many times before without success.

Coach Christie is more likely to play small ball when Domantas is off the floor, and I for one think that is much more likely the result.

Wings, wings, wings, and Sacramento simply does not have enough of them!

We didn't have to watch the NBA finals to know that the long forwards of today's NBA are what makes the train run, and there are far too few of these diamonds in the rough to go around.

I believe that the Kings possess three players that could pass the length test in Keon Ellis, Keegan Murray, and Isaac Jones. What remains to be seen is how Doug Christie will use them, will they log regular minutes every game and know their role?

For certain, Keegan Murray will get all the playing time he can handle, but Jones and Ellis are a question mark.

The Kings signed Doug McDermott to another year, and this guy shoots 3's like most players shoot free throws, so once again, can coach Christie find minutes that are not just garbage time for this talented long-range specialist?

Devin Carter has great length for a guard and is my candidate to back-up Dennis Schroeder at the point. Carter acquitted himself well last season, albeit in limited action, and came out firing in the recent NBA summer league.

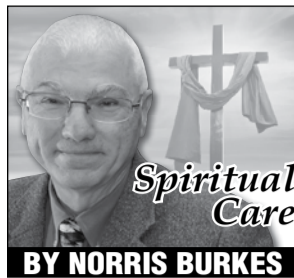
Question marks, there are more than a few, and from such quandaries great coaches are born.

If anyone thinks there is not already a bevy of talent on this team, you need to get your eyes checked. They are here, and it matters now, in what way they come together as a team.

Stay tuned Kings fans, because it's heating up right now, and real basketball is right around the corner!

All the best!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgarrisingsfan@gmail.com. ★

Finding New Challenges in Retirement



BY NORRIS BURKES

In October 2001, Florida Today editor Tom Clifford asked me to write a spiritual response to the 9/11 tragedy.

"That's easy," I told him. "I'll whip that right up."

NO, I did not say that.

I struggled and dug into my soul that week and was overwhelmingly humbled by the response. Two weeks later, Tom officially began publishing my weekly column he titled, "Spirituality in Everyday Life."

Within six months, national editors at Gannett liked my combination of humor and spirituality enough to syndicate it in over 50 papers, landing weekly on nearly a million kitchen tables. And, a year later, I moved to Elk Grove and began running in the Citizen.

During the past twenty-four years of writing, this column has survived the layoffs of hundreds of editors and staff writers. I've pushed fourteen years past the ten-year average of most columnists.

So, maybe it's time to retire.

But how do you know when it's time to retire?

That question haunts a lot of professionals as they wonder just how much greater they can become.

For a print columnist writing in the post-covid world of dwindling circulation, the answer comes

a bit easier. Retire yesterday.

I say "yesterday" because, after COVID, many of my newspapers were unable to pay this columnist. Fortunately for us both, they accepted my offer to continue pro bono.

But pay has not influenced my desire to retire. That guidance comes from Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Mary Schmich who recently retired from the Chicago Tribune after 23 years. She advises fellow columnists to ask themselves, "Do I feel lucky to write a column this week?"

Or do I often say, "I have to write a column this week, again?"

For the past few years, it's often been the latter. And, if I'm being honest, I've been rerunning several old columns, something I like to call, "Self-plagiarizing."

Still, I've learned a great deal from both critics and champions of this column.

Schmich says that "No matter what you write, there will be people who love it and people who hate it. Only the ratio changes."

My love/hate ratio has changed over recent years, especially as I endorsed vaccines and spoke against Christian Nationalism.

But I do think I've followed Schmich's best advice: "Be careful not to pointlessly—I emphasize pointlessly—alienate the people who care about what you write."

And now my wife, Becky has only one question. "Is your retirement for real this time?"

She watched as I

"retired" from the military but went to work for the VA hospital.

She engages the quotation marks as she recalls how I "retired" from hospital chaplaincy, only to go into hospice work.

"Retired" from hospice and currently pastoring a church.

SO, I guess I'm not fully and completely "retired."

The cliché has some meaning, when I say "God ain't finished with me yet."

I'll remain as pastor of my small church in the California foothills, even as attendance soars past 22 people. In some form, I'll continue to email both old and new writing to readers who've signed on. And of course, I'll redouble my efforts with Chispa Project.

For now, I have two favors to ask of you.

First, sign up to receive my weekly muse by sending me a quick email to comment@thechaplain.net. Or just sign yourself up at www.thechaplain.net/newsletter. Remember to spell chaplain correctly, not chaplin. We've talked about this.

Second, consider helping Chispa Project either by donating or volunteering for a trip in 2026 as they get ready for the next Honduran school year. Find info at chispaproject.org.

See you next week as I return for my swan song. Sign up to receive this column by email at [thechaplain.net/columns](mailto:comment@thechaplain.net/columns). Contact Chaplain Norris at comment@thechaplain.net or 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602 or voicemail (843) 608-9715. ★

Insurance Commissioner Targets Consumer Watchdog Fees



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The horrific string of wildfires that has plagued California in recent years, taking dozens of lives and destroying many billions of dollars in property, also created a crisis in property insurance.

Some insurers have abandoned California altogether, some have refused to take more clients, many have sought premium increases and the state's insurer-of-last-resort, the FAIR plan, has seen so much new business that its long-term solvency is in doubt. Meanwhile, fire victims often complain that insurers and their adjusters are low-balling settlement offers.

Obviously California's property insurance market needs reform of some kind to improve its viability, but it's an infinitely complex mélange of financial risks and rewards, truly understood by only a few experts.

Ricardo Lara, a former state legislator, happened to be California's elected insurance commissioner when the crisis hit home, so by default he had to develop a response while simultaneously fielding complaints from victims and dealing with insurers' demand for premium increases to cover mounting losses.

Lara has proposed a major overhaul in how insurers calculate their potential losses, seeking premium adjustments and a shift from using only past experience to projecting future losses, which is called "catastrophe modeling"

It is necessary, he said, to persuade insurers to keep writing policies in California and stave off a collapse of the market.

The proposal has heightened Lara's feud with Consumer Watchdog which began even before his 2018 election.

The organization had sponsored the 1988 ballot measure that converted the insurance commissioner's position from an appointed job to an elected post and laid down a new set of rules for regulating premiums.

Thereafter, Consumer Watchdog enjoyed close relationships with elected commissioners and was awarded many millions of dollars in "intervenor fees" for participating in premium-setting cases in the Department of Insurance. The nonprofit organization contends that its participation has saved consumers many more dollars than it has collected in fees.

From the onset of Lara's bid for the office, Consumer Watchdog was critical of him, alleging he was too friendly with insurers. When Lara unveiled his overhaul of the premium setting process, adopting an approach insurers supported, the feud escalated.

Nevertheless, throughout Lara's tenure, Consumer Watchdog has continued to receive large intervenor fees paid by insurers. However, that may not be true in the future.

Last week Lara proposed another procedural overhaul, this time changing how intervenor fees are calculated and awarded, saying "these reforms will, for the first time, protect consumers from hidden fees, establish clear guidelines for intervenor participation and strengthen oversight of the administrative hearing system to prevent unnecessary delays."

Lara's proposal includes redefining the "substantial contribution" standard for awarding

intervenor fees, requiring more public reportage of intervenor activities and compensation, requiring officials who preside over rate cases to file regular reports on pending cases and requiring the Department of Insurance to post rate case documents online.

The proposal's "substantial contribution" element is the one that could affect Consumer Watchdog's finances. Lara left no doubt it is aimed at the organization.

Lara described the current process, created by the first elected commissioner, John Garamendi, in the early 1990s as lacking transparency and "dominated by a small number of recurring participants."

To punctuate that characterization, Lara released a list of 28 rate cases this year, 26 of which resulted in nearly \$1.4 million in intervenor fees for Consumer Watchdog.

Consumer Watchdog, not surprisingly, opposes Lara's new rules.

"If the goal of Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara's new intervenor compensation regulations is to bring in new intervenors into the process, his regulations will do the opposite," Jamie Court, president of Consumer Watchdog, said in a statement. "By making it harder for intervenors to be paid, he will discourage intervenors from participating."

Thus the feud, already 6 years old, will continue, at least until term limits end Lara's tenure and another commissioner is elected next year.

Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★



Why Can We Sometimes See the Moon During the Day?

- Eli, 7, Texas

Dear Eli,
I love to go for a walk with my dog roommate. Sometimes we see the moon in the sky—even though it's daytime.

I asked my friend Michael Allen why that happens. He's an astronomer at Washington State University.

He told me that we have to ask "what is a day" to answer your question.

"The sun lights up the earth," Allen said. "Since the earth is a round ball, only half of the ball can ever be lit up at any one time."

The side of the earth that the sun shines on experiences day. The side that faces away from the sun experiences night.

The earth spins on its axis over the 24 hours that make one day.

So, let's imagine I'm stuck to the Earth in one spot. Allen calls me a "prisoner of gravity." At midnight, my spot faces away from the sun. Its light can't reach me. So, it's dark. I'm probably sleeping.

As the Earth rotates, my spot moves toward the sun. Morning comes. More and more of the sun's light reaches my spot. By noon, my spot faces the sun, and it's super bright.

While all that's happening, the moon orbits around the earth.

The moon doesn't make its own light. It reflects the light of the sun shining on it. So, if the sun's light can't reach part of the moon, that part will be dark. We can only see the lit-up part of the moon that faces us.

So, the whole moon is always there. Whether we can see it or not depends on where it is in its orbit and where we are on Earth. We can only see some or all the moon when it's in the right part of the sky and

reflecting enough light.

That's true at night and during the day. The shape of the lit-up part of the moon depends on the moon's phase. The moon

goes through eight phases over its 28-day trip around the Earth.

When the moon is full, its whole face is lit up. At midnight, I can see it in the sky. Or I may see a nearly full moon.

But I can't see the other phases at midnight because they're below the horizon. The Earth blocks them from my view. I might be able to see them at other times.

I can't see any of the moon during the new moon—no matter what time it is. The lit side faces away from the Earth.

But I may be able to see the moon during the day just before or after the new moon.

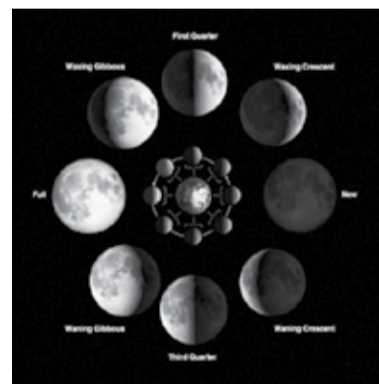
"This all assumes clear skies," Allen said. "But, otherwise, all the moon phasing and visibility is due to one word: geometry."

If you want to see the moon during the day, follow the moon's phases on a calendar. Look for the first quarter moon in the afternoon about one week after the new moon. Or the third quarter moon in the morning about one week after the full moon.

Hopefully you'll find it illuminating.

Sincerely,

Dr. Universe



Here are the eight phases of the moon. We say the moon's orbit takes about 28 days, but it really takes the moon 27.3 days to travel around the Earth. And, because of the angle of the sun's light, there are 29.5 days between new moons. Remember: The moon's shape stays the same. But the amount of the moon we can see changes. Photo courtesy of NASA/Bill Dunford

Another Tuleyome Tale!

Getting Up Close and Personal with Alkali Milkvetch

By Kristie Ehrhardt

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Alkali Milkvetch (*Astragalus tener* var. *tener*) is a member of the legume or pea family. The pea family is the third largest family of flowering plants with about 750 genera and well over 19,000 species identified worldwide.

In California alone, there are more than 3,000 recognized species. They can range from diminutive herbaceous annuals to woody vines and shrubs to statuesque trees. Commonly recognized members of this large family range from important agricultural crops such as alfalfa, beans, clover, peanuts, peas and soybeans to the California native Western Redbud and the pretty, yet toxic, wisteria vine.

Many members of this family have a symbiotic relationship with nitrogen-fixing soil bacteria making them vital to agricultural soil health and quality. The family is characterized in part by their distinctive flower parts and shapes and compound leaves but are probably most recognized by their fruits which resemble peapods or beans. Some species of milkvetch (*Astragalus* sp.) that occur in California thrive in habitats that would be inhospitable to most other plants.

As the name suggests, Alkali Milkvetch is associated with alkaline or saline soils and can tolerate a higher PH level than many other species. Alkali Milkvetch is endemic to California which makes it extra special because it only occurs here.

It is a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B species, a plant that is rare, threatened or endangered in California (and in other parts of its global range, however Alkali Milkvetch occurs only in California).

California Native Plant Society List 1B species have endured significant population plunges and might meet the criteria for special-status species



Alkali Milkvetch is a small, wispy-looking herbaceous annual herb. It is a California Native Plant Society List 1B species, or a plant that is rare, threatened or endangered in California. Photo courtesy of Tuleyome

listing under the California Endangered Species Act. Alkali Milkvetch is also listed as a federal Species of Concern under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

Alkali Milkvetch is a relatively small, wispy-looking herbaceous annual herb. It ranges from about an inch and a half to nearly 12 inches tall. The leaves are pinnately compound (structurally like a feather) and they have three to 12 densely arranged pink to purple pea type flowers with elongated pea-shaped fruits that are about an inch long at maturity.

Historically, Alkali Milkvetch occurred in vernal pool regions from the Central Coast, Sacramento, Salinas and San Joaquin Valleys and the Bay Area. Frequently, other associated special-status plants and wildlife species also occur where Alkali Milkvetch is present which often affords the

surrounding vernal pool landscape conservation protection.

Alkali Milkvetch is not only endemic to California but also to its habitat of alkaline vernal pools from Sacramento to the Bay Area. Vernal pools are depressions in the landscape underlain by a hard, impermeable layer of soil.

During the rainy months these depressions fill with water as the surrounding landscape becomes saturated – picture a hole in a waterlogged sponge. During the cooler winter months, these ponded depressions support many miniscule but very significant common and special-status invertebrate species such as fairy shrimp, clam shrimp, seed shrimp, copepods, aquatic beetles, aquatic snails and more.

These invertebrates provide a major food source for amphibians, shore birds and waterfowl migrating through the Pacific

Flyway. As the weather warms up, the ponded pools gradually dry down leaving behind vibrant concentric rings of stunningly colorful (and often endemic) plants and flowers. During the hot and dry summer months, vernal pools dry out completely leaving the once inundated and chromatic depressions barren, cracked and sunbaked.

However, the dehydrated soil at the pool bottoms is deceptive because it is packed with cysts and seeds for the next rainy season's crop of tiny but mighty fauna and flora. One of the special adaptations of vernal pool species is that cysts and seeds can remain dormant in the soil for years upon years until the necessary habitat conditions arise, a drought avoidance strategy beneficial to short-lived species. Although other global Mediterranean climates also maintain vernal pools, California's vernal pools

support an immense diversity of plants and animals making them extraordinary. It is believed that historically, California supported seven million acres of vernal pools, however today our state hosts less than ten percent of the original density as a result of land use changes and habitat fragmentation and degradation.

Although Alkali Milkvetch population numbers have been significantly reduced due to land use changes and loss of pollinators, there is a bright spot for the species. And it is nearly in our own backyards! Alkali Milkvetch was discovered in the vernal pools protected within the Woodland Regional Park Preserve (WRPP) boundaries.

Special care and consideration have been taken, and will continue, to ensure that the Woodland Regional Park Preserve design and encompassing walkways avoid the species and its habitat to preserve the populations on site. It is also believed that the species may benefit from managed grazing and other light land disturbances to help control competition from non-native species.

Recently, a relatively large Alkali Milkvetch population was discovered in vernal pools that are also known to support Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), a federally endangered species near the city of Davis. Additional extant populations have been documented in Alameda, Napa, Merced and Solano Counties. Some of these populations are quite large and occur on protected land.

Conserving vernal pool landscapes preserves many endemic plant and wildlife species while also protecting an important part of California's ecosystem.

Kristie Ehrhardt is Tuleyome's Land Conservation and Stewardship Program Director. Tuleyome is a non-profit conservation organization based in Woodland. For more information, go to www.tuleyome.org ★

October Family Fun Events

Continued from page 1

Dixon Performing Arts Center, 555 College Way. Performances are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17 and Saturday, Oct. 18. The final showing will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19. Tickets go on sale Oct. 1.

The Dixon Community Theater will also partner with Dixon Historical Society to host haunted history walking tours in downtown Dixon. For \$20 per person, attendees can learn the spooky stories and

unexplained occurrences that haunt the city of Dixon. The tour begins at the museum, 125 W. A St. and takes approximately one hour. Tours will be hosted at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Oct. 24 and 25. For more information, visit dixoncommunitytheater.org.

Dixon will participate in National Night Out on Oct. 7, with events planned citywide. The Kiwanis Club will host a booth at Northwest Park from 6 to 8 p.m., while Farmstead

at Dixon, 350 Gateway Drive, will offer a family-friendly celebration from 4 to 7 p.m. with food, vendors, entertainment and community resources.

On Oct. 11, the Dixon Fire Department will host an open house at Fire Station 81, 205 Ford Way, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Oct. 11 event will include fire engine tours, safety demonstrations, giveaways and kid-friendly activities as part of Fire Prevention Week, a nationwide campaign

sponsored by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA). For more information, visit online nfpa.org/events/fire-prevention-week.

Halloween festivities kick off Oct. 31 with Downtown Dixon Trick-or-Treating from 1 to 4 p.m., followed by a Trunk or Treat event hosted by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce from 2 to 5 p.m. The chamber event will include free candy, glow sticks, pumpkin decorating, music and more.

In early November, the Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Nov. 2 at Silveyville Cemetery, 800 S. First St., featuring music, dancing, food, vendors and remembrance activities.

With so many events on the horizon, from holiday festivities to community celebrations, the city of Dixon continues to pursue events that engage the community and connect its citizens. ★

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