



Women to Become Visionaries

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“ I HAVE A DREAM THAT MY FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A NATION WHERE THEY WILL NOT BE JUDGED BY THE COLOR OF THEIR SKIN BUT BY THE CONTENT OF THEIR CHARACTER. ”

— MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., A TESTAMENT OF HOPE: THE ESSENTIAL WRITINGS AND SPEECHES



Dixon Independent Voice

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JANUARY 13, 2023

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FLOODING CONTINUES



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New Councilman, Officers Sworn In



Thom Bogue gets sworn in for District 2 Representative before taking his seat at the last City Council meeting on Tuesday, January 3. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The January 3 City Council Meeting was a full house as the family of newly elected Dist. 2 Council Rep Thom Bogue, along with families of four new police officers were there to watch the swearing in ceremonies.

First up was the formal oath and swearing in for Councilman Bogue and after a brief pose for the cameras, he headed to the dais. There had been a ‘welcome back’ reception for him prior to the meeting. The officers were next.

“I’m losing my voice from singing my praises for this fine council for making this place where people want to come and work and that we are able to attract the caliber of not

only police officers but also the professional staff that I have before you tonight,” said Dixon Police Chief Robert Thompson. “We are witnessing the beginning of two law enforcement careers – our community service officers provide a very important role to support police operations in the city.” He was referring to new Community Service Officers Valerie Hogg and Juan Cardenas.

In addition, Thompson explained that police recruit Jake Curry was particularly special.

“He is our very first police recruit we sponsored all the way through the Sacramento Police Academy,” he said. Thompson was equally proud to welcome Aaron Goodenough, a 10-year veteran of a large police department in the valley who has

come to work here. He then administered the oath to all four and a family member pinned them.

In other news, Dist. 4 Rep Don Hendershot, although absent, was selected to be Vice Mayor for one year.

City Treasurer Jim Ward spoke about his third request to have a traffic study done at Regency and North Lincoln and noted that his request was also made by a Councilman but that he had not heard anything.

“It is a dangerous intersection. There is a crosswalk but nothing else and cars zoom past there. I was wondering since it’s a year later if that was done,” he said. “I’ve seen several people with children and animals almost hit.” Deborah Barr, City

Continued on page 4

Fighting Crime and Theft

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Downtown businesses and all Dixon merchants are invited to attend an informational meeting on how they can prevent crime at a special meeting hosted by the Downtown Dixon Business Association. It will take place on Thursday, February 2, at The Creative Space, 160 West A Street, starting at 8:30 a.m. to about 10 a.m.

“As an association, we proactively support our members and our businesses within our downtown and we’re there to give them the tools that they need,” said DDBA President Jill Orr in response to the police report of an attempted burglary at a nearby restaurant.

“People are changing and stealing. We have to change too. We have to be better at securing our buildings and having cameras up. It’s about being able to recognize that there might be a problem in our small town,” she said.

Orr has lived in Dixon her whole life and was a Citizen of the Year. She remembers when “people didn’t lock their doors” and has been the DDBA President for several years. With her husband Greg, they own Dawson’s.

The speaker will be Matthew K. Olsen, Lead Deputy District Attorney and Community Prosecutor for Solano County District Attorney’s Office. His presentation will offer a discussion about local law enforcement and offer ways to work together to prevent retail theft in Dixon and in Solano County. Topics will include prevention, identification, apprehension, and prosecution.

A representative from the Dixon Police Department will also offer localized information and tips.

“We have to consider what resources we can use to stop these issues we are being faced with that we didn’t have to face before?” Orr asked. “People come in and take stuff. We can’t just leave things out.”

The presentation is free, there is free parking, and coffee will be provided. For reservations, please leave a message at the DDBA phone (707) 678-8400. ★

Rains Drench Dixon

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Rain and strong winds caused power outages across Solano County this past week and forecasters report we are not done yet. The series of storms we are experiencing are described by weather experts as an ‘atmospheric river’ and dropped a welcomed amount of rain.

From Tuesday through Thursday, Fairfield got a little over two inches and Travis Air Force Base got nearly one, according to the National Weather Service. And it was cold enough for the nearby mountains to get light snow.

All that mattered to Wayne Holland, 72, of the American Legion Post 208, though, was that the roofer could not come more quickly. Holland was seen vacuuming the Memorial Hall’s own river of water that swelled in through the special alcove for the Unknown Soldier table setting, ballooning the paint



Row crops disappeared into lakes and ditches filled even with the roads in rural Dixon areas.

with captured water and streaming across the width of the hall to the door leading into the back room’s museum.

The door was propped open by a large industrial-sized fan aimed into the back room and blowing at soaked carpet raised over chairs to dry the floors. A large pile of a dozen or

more full-sized bath towels rested on the stage. The helpers were taking turns running them through the spin cycle of the hall’s small stacking washer/dryer to ring them out.

“I’ve used all the garbage cans and every bucket,” he said. “It’s also coming through the (baseboards.) With the constant

soaking, the floor is going to start buckling.” He did call for help through the Solano County reps in charge of the veteran’s property but it’s like playing ‘Whack-a-Mole’ because one area gets repaired, and another place starts leaking. The roof is only 15-years old but it’s a

Continued on page 3





Life's too SHORT

Taking the Parent Test

By Debra Dingman

For Better or for Worse is a cartoon strip about family-hood by Lynn Johnston that appears in many newspapers. The strip last Sunday showed a parent bringing in a tub of popcorn and settling in to watch television with the children. The TV screen then shows all kinds of violence, brutality, screams, stabs, chokes, foul words, sensual sounds and kissing.

Later, the father points out to the mother an interesting article in the newspaper that says violent behavior, bad language, and poor attitudes about sex are generally learned in the home. The mother responds, "Really, well... thank heavens it doesn't apply to us!"

The world seems to be getting more depraved, and we can thank the internet for that as well as what we allow into our living rooms. In the evening, when I am tired and want to watch television, it alarms me how many channels show someone involved in violence.

However, there's a new reality show about parenting styles that seems worth watching. It's called The Parent Test and it's on Thursday nights at 9 p.m. on ABC. The goal is to provide insight into how each family can obtain their goal of "raising happy, healthy children."

There are 12 parents selected with a variety of different backgrounds and cultures with different parenting styles from "Way Out" where the children swing from ropes in the living room to "High Achiever" where Asian parents drill their young daughter in math and music to "Natural," where children are raised on a farm, play outdoors, and take part in chores/feeding animals.

The program is hosted by two people. Actress and comedian Ali Wentworth who is a mother of two teenagers (but not a child expert) and who helps the parents talk—and Dr. Adolph Brown. He and his wife, Maria, have eight children and they are grandparents as well. He is a world-renowned parent educator and abides by his four F's for parenting success: Fairness, firmness, flexibility and fun. The show provides tips for what other parents are doing and what may or may not work.

We've already learned a few things about how to get a child to try something, like new foods or challenging tasks like jumping off a diving board. That is, leading by example and encouragement.

I don't like that there is a "winner" because that means there is a loser and in parenting, it is all about loving your child. This is straight from my child development minor but also from being observant over my many years. You can be permissive or strict but as long as you sincerely love your child, you will win.

The parents range from a mixed-culture couple, mixed race, mixed faith, single father, and single mother so it's showing great diversity. The families have to vote on the parenting style they felt was most likely to bring about responsible, happy, emotionally strong and healthy children.

The season will be a short one according to television experts and will last only through February when a previous show will return. But so far, it's educational and touching. Maybe it will help parents/grandparents learn how to prevent children in our circles from growing up to be sassy, rude, mean-spirited, selfish, or violent. ★

Dixon News Briefs



A man loads up sandbags that are made available at the Dixon Fire Department (for the bags.) The City of Dixon provides the sand in the lot across from the Post Office. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Fundraising Dinner

Mark your calendars for Monday, February 13, 2023, for the annual Dixon Women's Improvement Club Scholarships and Grants Fundraising Dinner. At Bud's Pub & Grill, 100 South First Street in downtown Dixon. Tickets are now on sale and are \$30 per person. Dinners can be eaten inside or taken home from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Call to pre-order at (707) 678-4745 after 4 p.m. on Monday, February 13, if you want to do a pickup.

Entrée choices are Prime Rib or Tri-tip, Chicken, Salmon, Pasta, or Vegetarian dish. They also will include dinner salad, garlic roasted red potatoes, and bread. There will be a huge raffle drawing of all kinds of goods and services during the evening. Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased by any of the DWIC members or call the newspaper office at (707) 678-8917.

Sandbags Available

About a 50 percent chance of showers will persist through January 19 of next week. Sandbags are available at the Dixon Fire Station, 205 Ford Way, Monday through Friday 9am-5pm. Sand is available on the Northwest corner of A Street and Jackson Street. Please bring your own shovel.

For your general understanding of rain/water warnings: Flood WATCH means to be prepared because flooding is possible. Flood WARNING tells you to take action; flooding is imminent or already occurring. Flash Flood WARNING also means to take action because flash flooding is imminent or already occurring. You can sign up to receive alerts via your phone at www.AlertSolano.com.

New Area Code

Beginning February 1, customers in the 707-area code region may be assigned a number in the new 369 area code when they request new service or an additional line. Customers receiving the 369-area code will be required to dial 1+10 digits

for all local calls, just as customers with telephone numbers from the 707 area code of today. Mobile phone customers receiving 369 numbers may dial either 10 digits or 1+10 digits.

Fish Fry

This Friday, January 13, the Veterans Dinner will be its popular fish fry with delicious fried cod, fries, hush puppies and coleslaw, starting at 6 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street. Cost is \$12 but tips are always welcome. Monies go to support the veterans and the facility. The bar will be open and Roger Schaller plans to provide live entertainment with his guitar and singing.

Senior Fitness

Seniors can get fit at the Line Dancing Class on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. Join this fun class anytime! Learn steps and dance to a variety of music all while getting exercise. Low impact fitness class is on Tuesdays 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. First class is free and 10 Class Pass - \$75 Five - Class Pass - \$40 Low impact sitting and standing workouts. Improve strength, balance and more.

Blood Drive

Donate your most valuable offering: Your blood. On Monday, January 16, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. there will be a blood drive at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street. To schedule your appointment, call Vitalant at (877) 258-4825 and mention blood drive code SMFM014 to sign up and receive instructions. All donors 21 or older will be entered into a drawing to win a trip to the Big Game, a trip valued at \$27,400. For complete rules and details go to vitalant.org/biggame.

Trivia at Museum

Need to get out of the house? Take in some new friends and fun at the Dixon Historical Museum's Trivia game this coming Wednesday, January 18, 3-5 p.m. at 125 West A Street. Together you'll answer questions from Solano's past in a fun-non-competitive Trivia session. There'll be light refreshments and there's no charge. ★



DIXON POLICE LOG

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.

Thursday, January 5, 2023

- 1321 - Information report in the 300 block of North Almond Street.
- 1450 - Late report of a hit and run which occurred on 12/31/22 in the area of North Lincoln Street and Regency Parkway.
- 1513 - Found property in the area of West A Street and North Jackson Street.
- 1854 - Lost wallet report was taken in the 400 block of North Adams St.
- 1902 - Grand theft report was taken in the 2500 block of North 1st St.
- 1904 - Confidential report was taken in the 100 block Lynd Wy.
- 2100 - Confidential report was taken in the 1400 block of Ary Ln.
- 2210 - Warrant arrest report was taken in the 1200 block of Stratford Av. officers (S) Gursharandeep Singh (36) of Fairfield. A records check revealed Singh had 3 outstanding misdemeanor warrants out of Solano County. The warrants were confirmed and Singh was transported to the Solano County Jail.

Wednesday, January 4, 2023

- 0813 - Report of graffiti in the area of West B Street and North Jefferson Street.
- 1014 - Theft report taken in the 1300 block of West H Street.
- 1234 - Officers saw Jesus Ascencio-Avila (36) of Dixon walking in the 100 block of North Adams Street. They knew he had a warrant for his arrest from prior contacts. After confirming the warrant via dispatch, they contacted and arrested him. He was transported to the Solano County Jail and booked for the warrant without incident.
- 1749 - Informational report was taken in the 600 block of Amesbury Dr.
- 2348 - Vehicle towed on Parkway Bl. At South 1st St. for obstructing traffic. The vehicle was a gray 2019 Honda Civic The vehicle was towed by All About Tow.

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

- 1740 - Hours- Attempted Burglary to a business in the 100 Block of North First Street.

Monday, January 2, 2023

- 0540 Hours - Vehicle Accident no injuries in the area of Pitt School Road and Goldfield Lane.
- 0704 Hours - Officer responded to a business in the 1200 Block of Stratford Ave for a report of a Male harassing customers. Nathan Moreno (Age 40) of Dixon was cited for possession of drug Paraphernalia.
- 1000 Hours - Found Property Report.
- 1240 Hours - Officers responded to a theft in progress in the 200 Block of East Dorset Drive. Officers made contact with Jose Avina-Cruz (Age 32 of Woodland) and Ronald Bell (Age 59) of Woodland. Both Avina-Cruz and Bell were arrested for shoplifting, conspiracy to commit crime, possession of a controlled substance. Bell was also found to have an outstanding warrant for his arrest.
- 1400 Hours - During a follow-up investigation it was determined Jose Avina-Cruz (Age 32 of Woodland) had committed shoplifting at a business in the 2000 Block of First Street.
- 2230 - Suicidal subject reported in the 600 block of North 2nd Street. The subject was taken into protective custody.
- 2300 - Suicidal subject reported in the 900 block of Orchard Drive. The subject was taken into protective custody.
- 2359 - Battery reported in the 1400 block of Ingrid Drive.

Sunday, January 1, 2023

- 0840 Hours - Violation of a court order in the 600 Block of West C Street led to the arrest of Christopher Ledbetter (Age 50 of Dixon) for violation of a court order.
- 1150 Hours - Report of vandalism in the 100 Block of North 2nd Street led to the arrest of Jose Alvarez (Age 18 of Dixon) for misdemeanor vandalism.
- 1600 Hours - Welfare check in the 1300 Block of Revelle.
- 1720 Hours- Information report taken in the 1500 Block of Valley Glen Drive.

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Citizen, Business of the Year Nominations Open

Dixon Chamber of Commerce News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is now seeking nominations for Citizen of the Year for 2022.

The winner will be honored at our Annual Awards Banquet, 'Celebrate Dixon' scheduled for March 11, 2023. For information on criteria and the nomination process, please see below.

For 2022 Citizen of the Year, the criteria for nominating is first, the nominee must live in Dixon.

Participation in all-around community activities and civic enterprise will consider:

Evidence of lasting contribution to community welfare; Evidence of leadership ability; Cooperation with individuals and civic organizations; Unselfish devotion and contribution without thought to personal gain; Nominees cannot be prior Citizen of the Year winners; Contributions and community activities must have taken place within the City of Dixon.

*Non-Profit Clubs & Organizations are Ineligible for this Award.

Please submit a letter of recommendation explaining why you believe this person is worthy of this prestigious award. Please list, as completely as possible, the

nominee's past activities, as the award is based on an individual's cumulative service to the community. Include the nominee's involvement with business, professional, civic, and/or religious committees and any offices held.

Recipient of this award will be chosen based on the criteria above, NOT on the number of nominations received. Petitions will not be accepted. Nominees must be nominated by an individual.

Please include the following information or the nomination will not be considered: 1. Nominee's name, address, phone number, spouse's name, years of residency in Dixon and occupation.

2. Your name, address, and phone number.

All letters submitted must be signed and dated. All Nominations must be received at the Chamber office no later than 3 pm on Thursday, February 9, 2023. You can mail, email or drop-off your nomination to the Chamber. Submit to: Dixon Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 159, 220 N. Jefferson St., Dixon, CA 95620 or info@dixonchamber.org. Call (707) 678-2650 with any questions.

This award is traditionally a surprise to the recipient. Therefore, nominees should not be aware that their name has been submitted. ★

Women to Become Visionaries

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Taking time out for oneself to think about the things you want in life and/or the things you most enjoy is therapeutic and just a small part of why Teri Brown will guide the Dixon Women's Improvement Club members into creating Vision Board. Their meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18 from 1 to 3 p.m.

'Looking to the Future' is the theme for the monthly meeting held at the Dixon United Methodist Church social hall, 209 North Jefferson Street. Vision boards are a collection of images arranged in a way to show personal goals for the future. Members are asked to use magazine clippings and photos to represent their goal(s) for 2023 and make a collage.

Studies have shown that vision boards help people get clear on goals and can be a helpful tool to help you grow, get motivated, shift your mindset, feel happy, connect to other areas of your life, improve chances of successes, and can also increase productivity.

After vision boards are created and at the business portion of the gathering, the discussion will turn to the plans for the annual



Teri Brown will be leading Dixon Women's Improvement Club members in creating Vision Boards at their January 18 meeting. Photo Courtesy of DWIC

DWIC Fundraising Dinner at Bud's Pub & Grill, 100 South First Street in downtown Dixon. This year it will be on Monday, February 13, 4:30 to 8 p.m. and will feature a choice of Prime Rib, Tri-tip, Chicken or Salmon, Pasta or a Vegetarian dish. Tickets are now on sale from members or call (707) 301-0795. They are a \$30 donation and take out will be available. There will be about 40 raffle items that will be awarded that evening as well.

The DWIC was

established in 1899. The founders were women from families that had settled in the Dixon area following the Gold Rush of 1849 and were interested in beautifying and improving the town of Dixon. The club is open to anyone who is interested in joining and guests are welcome. From September through May, the club meets the third Wednesday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall at the Dixon United Methodist Church. To become an active member, dues are \$35 annually. ★

Rains Drench Dixon



Winds tore off even heavy branches in this past week's wind storms.

Continued from page 1 flat roof, he explained.

"It takes daily checking," he said, expressing calm and patience. "I'm not the only county building. The County can only do what it can do. I'm sure there are many buildings leaking like we are." Contractor Craig Mahoney came to see if he could help, but the County has to approve everything, Holland added.

"I've seen worse," said Mahoney. "You chase the leak. And, nine times out of ten, it isn't where you think it is." Someone suggested a tarp, but Holland said they'd have to tarp the whole building.

"It's still settling," he said. The fans have been running since New Year's, and he was more concerned about the electrical bill, or worse, their industrial

dishwasher that just "died." He went back to vacuuming.

Outside of town, farmers were watching their neat rows of crops slip into vast shallow lakes and irrigation ditches run level with roads. Across town, neighbors watched curbs disappear and their long-dried out lawns and plants get drowned.

"I've lived here in our community since 2008... We have those retention ponds everywhere, and I've never seen them more full," said Barbara Brady who lives in the Village Green subdivision. "It makes me glad that the original developers here put them in. Off Pitt School Road behind Redwood is a lake. I'm thrilled we're getting all this water, though. Our trees were really struggling." ★

Veterans Receive Gifts



Before Christmas, the Dixon Rotary Club passed out gift cards and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8151 presented stockings with goodies and gift cards to the veterans residing in the veteran homes in Dixon. In addition, Janet and Rick Fuller provided large holiday cookies trays and the Chamber of Commerce provided evergreen boughs to each home. Representing Dixon Rotary were: Steve Beaman, Marianne MacDonald, Herb Cross, and Marc Monachello with Baby Jacqueline. Commander Cecil Denning (center) represented the VFW. Photo courtesy of Rotary

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Snow Survey Shows Storms Provided Big Totals

DWR Special Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted the first snow survey of the season on January 3 at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 55.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 17.5 inches, which is 177 percent of average for this location. The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of DWR's water supply forecast. Statewide the snowpack is 174 percent of average for this date.

California is expected to see continued rain and snow over the next seven days, with the threat of flooding in parts of California. Conditions so far this season have proven to be strikingly similar to last year when California saw some early rainstorms and strong December snow totals only to have the driest January through March on record.

"The significant Sierra snowpack is good news but unfortunately these same storms are bringing flooding to parts of California," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "This is a prime example of the threat of extreme flooding during a prolonged drought as California experiences more swings between wet and dry periods brought on by our changing climate."

One year ago, the Phillips survey showed the seventh highest January measurements on record for that location. However, those results were followed by three months of extremely dry conditions and by April 1 of last year, the Phillips survey measurements were the third lowest on record.

More telling than a survey at a single location are DWR's electronic readings from 130 stations placed throughout the state. Measurements indicate



Despite heavy rain and snow, relief from drought conditions still depends on coming months. Photo courtesy of needpix.com

that statewide, the snowpack's snow water equivalent is 17.1 inches, or 174 percent of average for this date. This January's results are similar to results in 2013 and 2022 when the January 1 snowpack was at or above average conditions, only for dry weather to set in and lead to drought conditions by the end of the water year (September 30). In 2013, the first snow survey of the season also provided promising results after a wet December similar to today's results. However, the following January and February were exceptionally dry, and the water year ended as the driest on record, contributing to a record-breaking drought. In 2022, record-breaking December snowfall was again followed by the driest January

through March period on record.

"Big snow totals are always welcome, but we still have a long way to go before the critical April 1 total," said DWR's Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit Manager Sean de Guzman. "It's always great to be above average this early in the season, but we must be resilient and remember what happened last year. If January through March of 2023 turn out to be similar to last year, we would still end the water year in severe drought with only half of an average year's snowpack."

On average, the Sierra snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California's water needs and is an important factor in determining how DWR manages the state's water resources. Its

natural ability to store water is why the Sierra snowpack is often referred to as California's "frozen reservoir." A below-average snowpack impacts water users across the state, putting further stress on the environment and critical groundwater supplies.

Due to these increasing swings from dramatically wet to dry conditions, Governor Newsom's recently released "California's Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future" calls for investing in new projects and technologies that will modernize how the state manages water. In alignment with the Administration's strategy, the recently adopted 2022 Update to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan identifies actions needed to

adapt much of California's flood infrastructure to a rapidly changing climate. Current climate research indicates the state will see bigger swings from extreme heat and dry conditions to larger and more powerful storms that deliver temporary large boosts to the state snowpack as well as flood risk.

DWR encourages Californians to visit SaveOurWater.com for water saving tips and information, and to continue to conserve California's most precious resource, rain or shine.

DWR conducts five media-oriented snow surveys at Phillips Station each winter near the first of each month, January through April and, if necessary, May. The next survey is tentatively scheduled for February 1. ★

New Councilman, Officers Sworn In

Continued from page 1

Engineer/Director of Utilities approached the podium and responded.

"We have looked at the area and we are looking to bring a 4-way stop. We will bring it back to the council to move forward with design but we need to get the funding to do those site improvements so now we are working on that process," she said.

Under items from City Council, Mayor Steve Bird informed that Dixon's "Parkway Boulevard is number 4 on the big list of Federal and other grants." He also reminded all that the meeting was dedicated to Rob Salaber, a former Councilman and founder of the Dixon Rugby Club, who died from a heart attack in Idaho this Christmas.

New Dist. 2 Council Rep Bogue, also a former Councilman and a former Mayor, was quick to put in requests to catch him up to issues facing the City. He asked for a line-item budget and expenditure report on Dixon's potable water; a list of code

enforcements and fine amounts for the last 12 months; a copy of the credit card processing agreement with the City of Dixon; and, lastly, a copy of the agreement between the City and the shredding company the City uses.

Closing items from the City Manager Jim Lindley included recognition to staff for saving the City a million dollars. He explained there was a controversy between PG&E and the City over who would be responsible for the utilities on the Parkway Boulevard Overpass. PG&E decided they would look into it, but the City had to place a \$60,000 retainer for legal services if PG&E was correct.

"With Barr's diligence and the City Attorney's office, we got the notice that the electricians are indeed their responsibility. They refunded the \$60,000 but also because of that, it saved the City a million dollars," Lindley said. "I want to give Deborah a kudo for that one. We are very diligently trying to get that project done." ★

States Must Do Better Protecting Unborn Life

Commentary by
the Liberty Counsel

Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has overruled the *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* abortion decisions, several states had ballot measures involving abortion. Three states added abortion provisions to their state Constitutions. Two states voted down measures that would restrict abortion.

California voters approved Proposition 1, introduced by Gov. Gavin Newsom, which explicitly protects abortion and contraceptive rights in the state Constitution.

Michigan voters also passed a ballot initiative to fortify abortion rights. Proposal 3 affirms a woman's right to make decisions "about all matters relating to pregnancy," including contraception, fertility, abortion and childbirth.

Vermont's Proposal 5 overwhelmingly passed and creates a constitutional right to "personal reproductive autonomy."

Regarding states attempting to protect unborn life, Kentucky's Amendment 2 was defeated which would have amended the state Constitution to explicitly state it doesn't "secure or protect a right to abortion or require the funding of abortion."

In addition, voters in Montana voted against Legislative Referendum 131 which would expand rights for infants who are "born alive" after failed

abortions, and allow healthcare workers to face punishments if they don't give them proper medical treatment.

Liberty Counsel has filed amicus briefs at the state Supreme Courts in Indiana, South Carolina, Kentucky and Oklahoma on behalf of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference (NHCLC) and the Frederick Douglass Foundation to uphold there is no right to abortion within the states' Constitutions and defend pro-life laws that limit the killing of innocent unborn children.

The NHCLC and Frederick Douglass Foundation represent millions of African Americans and Hispanics. These minority communities have been the direct target of abortion, and most Planned Parenthood's abortion clinics are in black and Hispanic neighborhoods. Liberty Counsel also filed an amicus brief on behalf of the NHCLC and the Frederick Douglass Foundation at the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Dobbs* abortion case. In overturning *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the High Court cited to this brief acknowledging that abortion has disproportionately impacted the black community.

Liberty Counsel's Founder and Chairman Mat Staver said, "It is shameful that any state would vote to kill innocent unborn children in the womb. We must do better and make the womb a safe place — once again." ★

Oneto Honored with Farm Bureau's Hometown Heroes Award

California Farm Bureau
News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Ken Oneto, a past president and 28-year board member for the Sacramento County Farm Bureau, has received the California Farm Bureau's inaugural Hometown Heroes Award for his support of the Young Farmers & Ranchers program.

The award, recognizing Farm Bureau members for outstanding service to the YF&R program, was presented at the California Farm Bureau's recent Annual Meeting in Monterey.

Oneto, president of KLM Ranches, was lauded for his support of YF&R members who raise crops and provide food for the

Harvest for All campaign, a program that contributes millions of pounds of food and thousands of volunteer hours to support local food banks and needy families.

The Hometown Heroes Award was created in honor of Fresno County farmer Randy Rocca, who died in April. The owner of Rocca Ranches and a field representative for Sun-Maid Growers, Rocca was a state YF&R Discussion Meet champion and he remained a devoted supporter of the program after graduating.

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 29,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.3 million Farm Bureau members. ★

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What Taxpayers Need to Know about Unemployment



Commentary by Jon Coupal

I sincerely hope that readers aren't turned off by the title of this column. While most taxpayers aren't directly responsible for paying unemployment insurance taxes, the truth is we all pay and, in California, we pay a great deal more than we should.

Last week I received an email from a dentist who operates a small dental office and is required to pay the unemployment insurance tax and, sadly, is paying much more than he should because our unemployment insurance program is insolvent. Like so many other measurements of California's performance relative to other states, our businesses – both large and small – are paying a penalty for the incompetence of our elected officials and bureaucrats.

Here's what taxpayers should know about unemployment insurance.

California's unemployment insurance program (UI) is funded by a tax imposed on employers. The proceeds are deposited in the Unemployment Trust Fund of the U.S. Treasury Department. States may withdraw funds from their accounts to pay unemployment benefits.

Here's the kicker: If a state's trust fund does not have adequate funds to pay benefits, it must borrow money from the federal

fund to satisfy unemployment claims. But if a state's UI Fund is insolvent for more than two years, that tax rate increases each year. The tax can be hefty, as much as \$420 per employee per year.

Like other states, California was slammed by the pandemic. Low unemployment quickly became unprecedented levels of high unemployment. While few dispute the need for workplace closures early in the pandemic, California was much slower in reopening than more freedom-oriented states like Texas and Florida. This had a direct impact on the further decimation of the UI fund.

That's just one reason why, by the spring of 2020, California's UI Fund was depleted and continued to fall further behind. This required even more borrowing from the federal government.

Even worse, California was suffering from a second epidemic: an epidemic of massive fraud in the administration of unemployment insurance claims. On Gov. Gavin Newsom's watch, the Employment Development Department (EDD) failed to process a backlog of claims for hundreds of thousands of unemployed Californians while sending out as much as \$30 billion in unemployment benefits for phony claims, including fraudulent claims paid to death row inmates.

Much too late, after several legislative hearings on the lack of oversight of EDD, there were modest corrective actions taken. But this was the epitome of closing the barn door after the horses bolted.

If anyone believes that the massive EDD fraud didn't impact ordinary taxpayers, they couldn't be more wrong. California's employers are directly responsible for the cost of

EDD providing benefits on fraudulent claims, which means that all of us must absorb the cost of this inexcusable lack of oversight.

Perhaps the most important thing for taxpayers to know about California's unemployment insurance program is how insolvent it is. EDD itself projects that at year's end the UI Fund's total debt will exceed \$19 billion. Moreover, the U.S. Department of Labor confirms that California's debt problem is the worst of any state, with an accumulated debt that exceeds the debt of all other states combined.

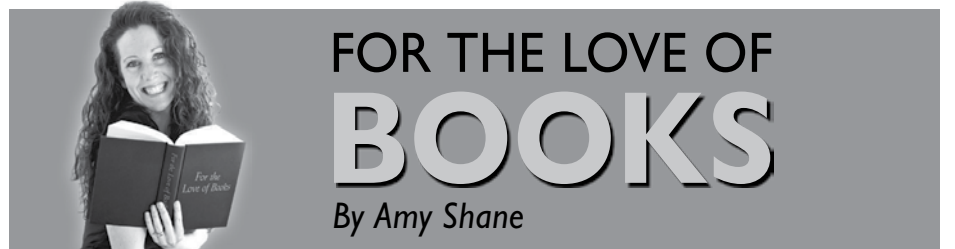
Again, in the competition between states, it is notable that most other states have no outstanding debt because they used Covid relief funds from Washington to pay down their UI loans. For example, Texas approved a \$7.2 billion payment and has eliminated its UI debt entirely.

What about California? Because of its insolvency, it must pay \$470 million in interest payments alone to the federal government. That's nearly half a billion that could otherwise go to education, transportation, or public safety. Worse yet, this is an annually recurring expense.

Remember just last June when California had a \$95 billion surplus? That would have been the time to increase the payments to the federal government to reduce our UI debt. But now, the LAO tells us we have a \$25 billion deficit "problem."

So let's just chalk this up as another missed opportunity for the Golden State. And citizen taxpayers, as well as California's beleaguered business community, are paying the price.

Jon Coupal is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association. ★



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

New Year, New Children's Books

Welcome in the New Year with these special children books celebrating family traditions, love, and kindness.

Snow Horses

by Patricia MacLachlan and Micha Archer

Every year Ren's family eagerly anticipates Lunar New Year. With everyone helping in their own unique way, Ren can't wait to help. But once again, everyone tells her she is still too little. Then Ren's brother comes home, and together they make the most wonderful treat.

A darling story celebrating a little girl's journey to be part of a family's New Year tradition. Complete with a recipe in the back for readers to cook their own sweet treat.

A Sweet New Year for Ren

by Michelle Sterling and Dung Ho

Follow the story of two horses Tim and Tom, as they bid farewell to the previous year and spread light and love into the next. As snow falls around them, they pull their sleigh through town, carrying everyone, young and old. After a long night, they return to the barn, knowing their night was filled with spreading joy.

The Best Kind Of Mooncake

by Peal Auyeung

On a bustling day in the alley of Tai Yuen, Hong King, a little girl is promised a yummy mooncake to share at the end of the day. Then a man enters the market exhausted and hungry, sharing how he swam, ran, and stowed away on a ship to get there. The people turned their backs upon the man, but the little girl's mother encouraged her to share her mooncake, even though it was the best kind. The moment of kindness ripples out as others turn to help, and years later, the little girl discovers how that one moment of gratitude changed his life.

A Story of compassion and kindness will have readers thinking about



moments when they might be able to do the same, while also wanting to try a yummy mooncake. This true story is wonderfully portrayed with darling illustrations that depict every emotion of the little girl.

Mending the Moon

by Emma Pearl and Sara Ugolotti

One night there was a loud tearing noise as the moon ripped away from the sky, shattering on the earth below. That night Luna watched and knew she had to help. The moon's powerful force affects everything on earth. As Luna and her grandfather quickly get to work, the forest animals all join in, bringing pieces far and wide to piece together. But Luna quickly realizes she will need even more help to glue the pieces together and put the moon back into the sky.

This beautiful story captures all the magic and beauty of the moon and the power of coming together. A story that is sure to be a nighttime classic, Mending the Moon showcases the moon, its beauty, and its power while creatively explaining all the craters and colors that make it unique. ★



"Yellowstone" Is Not a Show About Race

Long after it has run its course on TV, the show "Yellowstone" will provide fodder for countless Ph.D. candidates in whiteness studies.

In certain precincts, the verdict about the smash hit that has spawned a cottage industry of spin-offs is in: The show is about whiteness, and particularly white grievance.

In a recent podcast about "Yellowstone," Sam Sanders of New York Magazine said, "Kevin Costner sets up the imagery of conservative white grievance without any of the negative baggage."

His interviewee, New York Times critic Tressie McMillan Cottom, added that the context is a "show in post-Trump America, the political backdrop of white grievance and white reclamation that we are undergoing, trying to claw back to a sort of mythical 40, 50 years ago, when our systems worked better for white Americans than they did for non-white Americans."

Got that? Another piece at New York Magazine a couple of years ago observed that the show advances "a desperate and threatened appeal to American identity and white masculinity."

The debate over "Yellowstone" isn't new; the show is in its fifth season, and after a brief hiatus, the latest episode drops on January 8. But the debate matters. As the

most popular scripted show on cable TV, it is a significant cultural phenomenon.

So, is the hostile and racially reductive critique of the show accurate?

It is certainly true that the protagonist (and anti-hero of the show), John Dutton, is white. The family patriarch and owner of the Rhode Island-sized Yellowstone ranch in Montana, Dutton fights off hostile forces threatening his land-empire through political subterfuge and murder -- you know, the way all white people do.

That you can't help but sympathize with Dutton, despite his loathsome methods, is a count against the show, although too much shouldn't be made of this.

Dutton has charisma on his side -- he's played by big-time star Kevin Costner, who looks like the Marlboro Man and sounds like Clint Eastwood.

Taylor Sheridan, the show's creator, has been at pains to deny "Yellowstone" is a conservative show.

About this, he is correct. It has no sympathy for capitalists, corporations or economic development. But it is decidedly populist -- and right-leaning populist -- in its disdain for these things. By skewering assorted coastal elites while taking an unsentimental view of Native Americans, it steadfastly refuses to bend to contemporary progressive pieties.

In its appreciation for land, place, family and tradition, the show channels Wendell Berry via the ethos of the Wyatt Earp vendetta ride.

There's nothing particularly "white" about this. Protecting and valuing what's yours is a universal American, nay, human, quality.

Then, there's the notion of "white" because the white man stole it from the American Indians. The show doesn't have any problem acknowledging Native American claims. The chairman of the local tribe, Thomas Rainwater, has a vision of buying back all the land with the profits from a casino project.

Kathryn VanArendonk of New York Magazine maintains that Rainwater is "an otherness to Dutton's whiteness."

Yet, Rainwater is less of an "other" than someone who wants the same thing as Dutton -- namely, the land -- and who schemes and maneuvers to try to get it.

The true hero of "Yellowstone" is traditional masculinity as reflected in the ideal of the American cowboy. Of course, there's an exaggerated emphasis on fisticuffs and violence. But in a show where most people are unhappy, the grace notes tend to come via the bunkhouse, where the ranch hands socialize among themselves, and in honeyed moments of appreciation for the outdoors and for horses.

In a culture that relentlessly boosts college degrees and other credentials, "Yellowstone" at its best is an oasis of a different way of looking at accomplishment and value.

This aspect of "Yellowstone" must account for a large part of its appeal. The progressive critics who see the show through the prism of "white grievance" are only proving that they, not Taylor Sheridan, are the ones obsessed with race.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2023 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

Dare to Live Without Limits Archiving Your Goal is a Journey



by Bryan Golden

Archiving Your Goal is a Journey

When a ship leaves its home port for a transoceanic voyage, the captain cannot see the arrival port for more than 99% of the journey. Yet, the captain has no doubt that he will be able to successfully arrive at his desired destination.

When an airline pilot takes off, he or she understands the arrival airport won't be visible until the end of the trip. Yet, the pilot knows how to navigate to the selected destination.

Both of these examples illustrate the fact that a goal is achievable, even though you might not be able to see it immediately. The key to goal achievement is knowing where you want to go and having a precise plan to get there.

A goal can be achieved by following a simple, proven strategy. Start by clearly defining your goal. Your goal should really appeal to you and be yours, not imposed on you. Describe your goal in specific terms. For example, instead of saying you want to be happy, identify exactly what makes you happy.

Once you have identified your goal, formulate a manageable step by step plan to reach your goal. Before taking off, the pilot creates a detailed flight plan and the captain has the route plotted on navigational charts.

Your plan is the map which guides you toward a goal far off in the distance. Make each step small enough to be

readily manageable. Small challenges are far less intimidating while large steps feel overwhelming. Your plan is useless if you won't use it.

Now you are ready to take action by taking the first step. Without action, nothing happens. If the captain doesn't leave the dock or the pilot won't take off, it's guaranteed they won't reach their destination. After your first step, take the next one, and keep going until your goal is achieved.

As you move forward, keep your goal in mind along with the benefits you'll achieve.

Seek help or advice from those who have successfully gone before you. Maintaining a burning desire to reach your goals keeps you motivated to solve problems and overcome obstacles.

As the airline pilot and the ship captain are in charge, so are you. Take responsibility for your life. Make any changes as needed to keep you on course. The pilot and captain don't waste time complaining or making excuses, and neither should you. If your progress doesn't go as planned, do what is necessary to get back on track.

Expect challenges. They are part of your journey. Both the pilot and captain understand that encountering bad weather is part of their job. They don't fear adverse conditions. You can also get through whatever difficulty you encounter.

Not everything you do will

work out as expected. When this happens, identify what went wrong, make the necessary changes, and keep moving forward. Failure only occurs when you give up. So, whenever you stumble and fall, get right back up.

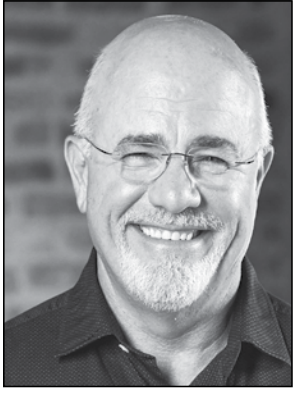
Make your goal your priority. Don't get distracted. Don't waste time. Eliminate activities which don't move you towards your objective. You are productive when making progress to your goal. Everything else is just activity.

Never, ever give up. Even though your ultimate destination may not yet be in view, recognize that each step gets you closer. Every journey is a series of steps which ultimately get you where you want to be.

Your journey of goal attainment only begins when you start taking action. Putting off your goals until some future date greatly diminishes the chances of you ever starting. The schedules for the ship and airline have precise departure and arrival dates and times. Stop procrastinating. Begin your journey today.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2022 Bryan Golden ★





Managing A Friend's Will

Dear Dave,

Our next-door neighbor was an older single man with no family, and my wife and I always tried to look out for him and help with things. He died recently, and in his will, he left us his home, his car and the money he had in his bank account. The will was handwritten, and it said the house was worth around \$350,000, with \$150,000 left on the mortgage. The car is worth about \$10,000. Officials at our county office building said the money in the bank account wouldn't have to go into probate since I was listed as the beneficiary, and I was given a check for that amount. We've just never handled

Dave Ramsey Says

anything like this before, and my wife and I were hoping you would help us navigate things.

– Steven
Dear Steven,

There are a couple hundred thousand dollars in equity involved here. The fact that the will is handwritten doesn't necessarily invalidate it, but it does increase the possibility of encountering some bumps down the road.

I'm not a lawyer, so the first thing I'd do is talk to a couple of probate attorneys in your county. Find out what they'd charge to handle things. I wouldn't spend thousands of dollars to get this done, but I would pay \$500, maybe \$1,000, to let someone who knows what they're doing handle things. If your county affairs people are right and everything's easy and straightforward, it's not a lot of legal work for an attorney.

On top of that, if the attorney you work with

knows folks at the courthouse and is familiar with how things work there, then it's kind of like traffic court, you know? It's almost automatic. I mean, we're only talking about three assets here—a bank account that's already been handed off, a car and a house that's mortgaged. For me, it'd be worth a little money to have someone on my side who knows the path through the woods.

I'm sorry to hear your friend and neighbor passed on, Steven. But I hope I've been able to help.

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show," heard by more than 18 million listeners. He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions. ★



Riley Reviews

'BABYLON' A DEPRAVED, DEBAUCHED SLOG; EPIX BECOMES MGM+

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"BABYLON" A DEPRAVED, DEBAUCHED SLOG;

In the Paramount Pictures production notes for "Babylon," this epic film is described as a tale of outsized and outrageous excesses that traces the rise and fall of multiple characters during an era of "unbridled decadence and depravity in early Hollywood."

This description of the period in 1920s Los Angeles is on the mark as well as oddly candid for the usual adulatory promotion that oozes out from a studio's publicity machine. In fact, absorb the idea of rampant decadence and depravity as a warning.

From the beginning moments when an elephant defecates on a worker transporting the animal to the debauched party set for that evening at the mansion of a Hollywood mogul, you should know it's not the only grotesquerie that awaits.

The party scene introduces the primary characters whose lives will intersect in different ways as the silent film era transitions to the talkies. The top star is dashing Jack Conrad (Brad Pitt), who evokes the likes of Douglas Fairbanks, John Gilbert and Rudolph Valentino.

Jack arrives at the party with his soon to be ex-wife Ina (Olivia Wilde) and partakes in so much alcohol that he needs a ride home from Manny Torres (Diego Calva), a wide-eyed dreamer desperate for a spot in the film industry.

As a Mexican-American outsider, Manny needs all the help he can get for a break, but a series of circumstances will find him reaching the upper levels of studio management.

Another partygoer is Margot Robbie's free-spirited Nellie LaRoy whose rise to stardom will be marred by her gambling addiction and inability to maintain a sense of dignity and poise in certain social situations.

Intriguing minor characters include Jean Smart's gossip columnist Elinor St. John, Tobey Maguire's creepy gangster and Eric Roberts as Nellie's dodgy money-grubbing father who fights rattlesnakes.

Writer and director Damien Chazelle ("La La Land") spent years researching the darker side of the story of the shift from silent film to the talkies, and what he delivers in his film causes one to wonder what was his target audience.

"Babylon" revels in the depraved, hedonistic folly of the movie business in a way that will disturb many. The opinion of the critics as well as the audience seems to be split, at least according to Rotten Tomatoes.

In my view, "Babylon" is a three-hour-plus slog that is such a struggle to endure that if it had an intermission the temptation would have been to leave and cut my losses.

EPIX REBRANDING AS MGM+

The premium and commercial-free linear and streaming service EPIX is rebranding as MGM+ with a launch on January 15th timed with the Season Three premiere of the acclaimed series "Godfather of Harlem."

MGM has always been an archetypal brand in the world of cinema, and Michael Wright, head of MGM+ stated that the streaming service is a place for viewers to "find television that reflects and celebrates the legacy of the iconic MGM brand."

Simply stated, "MGM is television for movie lovers," according to the streaming service's desire to trade on its legendary brand to deliver "cinematic programming with sophisticated storytelling." Current EPIX subscribers will be transferred to this new platform.

One of the first programs to air on February 5th is the new true crime four-part docuseries that pulls back the curtain on America's most infamous jewel thief Jack Roland Murphy in the provocatively titled "Murf the Surf: Jewels, Jesus, and Mayhem in the USA."

In October 2019, the New York Times published an article celebrating the 150th anniversary of New York's American Museum of Natural History. One of the most momentous events to take place on site was an epic jewel heist.

This was the biggest caper in American history, mastered by a band of "surfer dudes" from Miami in 1964. The key to the operation was Jack Roland Murphy, otherwise known as Murf the Surf, whose name was propelled into pop culture after the heist.

The heist created a notoriety that would stretch far beyond the caper. What followed Murf's meteoric rise is a spiraling tale of unspeakable crime, murder, deception and mayhem which, to this day, remains shrouded in mystery.

The documentary series explores the tumultuous life of the man behind the legendary nickname. Featuring exclusive access to Murphy himself prior to his death in 2020, the series addresses the blurred line between fact and fiction, faith and delusion, sanity and madness.

The six-episode series thriller "A Spy Among Friends," based on the New York Times best-selling book written by Ben Macintyre, dramatizes the true story of two British spies and lifelong friends, Nicholas Elliott and Kim Philby.

Intelligence officer Philby became the most notorious British defector and Soviet double agent in history. His deeply personal betrayal, uncovered at the height of the Cold War, resulted in the gutting of British and American intelligence.

Although a premiere date for "A Spy Among Friends" has not yet been set, it's good to know that the cast features Emmy-winning actors Damian Lewis ("Billions") and Guy Pearce ("Mare of Easttown"). ★

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**CITY OF DIXON
NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the City of Dixon that submittals for a requests for qualification (RFQ) will be accepted online via Blueprint Express until Thursday, **January 26th** at 3:00 p.m., at which time all bids will be considered received and final by the City Clerk, for the following contract:

"On-Call" Backflow Prevention Assembly Testing And Repair Services

DESCRIPTION/LOCATION OF WORK: Within the City-owned water system, annual testing of approximately 425 backflow prevention assemblies, with the possibility of additional testing, service, repairs and/or device replacement.

All work is to be done in accordance with the posted RFQ and City Engineering standards and specifications. A copy of the RFQ may be obtained by logging on www.blueprintexpress.com/dixon or by calling BPXpress Reprographics at (707) 745-3593.

All questions prior to the deadline for bid submission shall be directed to the attention of Josh Hudson, Water Operations Supervisor via email at: jhudson@cityofdixon.us. The deadline for submission of questions and clarifications regarding the Contract Documents is **3:00 pm, Friday, January 20, 2023**. Only Addenda issued by the City are binding.

Dixon Independent Voice 1-13 - 1-20-2023

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Food & Farm NEWS

Strawberry Growers Increase Acreage to Meet Record Demand

California strawberry growers are projected to plant record strawberry acreage in 2023. According to the California Strawberry Commission, farmers are planting more strawberries this year "to meet record consumer demand." To satisfy that demand, California growers are expected to plant 41,570 acres of strawberries this year. That would be up from 40,714 acres last year. Of the 2023 total, 31,852 acres are already in the ground. Fall strawberry plantings produce fruit during the winter, spring and summer months.

New Lws May Ease Export Fees, Create Farm Workforce Challenges

New California laws, which went into effect New Year's Day, are expected to impact farm operations and exports. Key legislation passed last year includes Assembly Bill 2406. That law is intended to keep international ocean carriers from imposing onerous cargo detention and demurrage charges on farm goods delayed at California ports. Meanwhile, AB 2183 will allow labor unions to organize agricultural employees by collecting signatures instead of holding secret-ballot elections. Agricultural groups say it may lead to union intimidation.

Research Project Seeks to Sustain Pistachio Production in Warmer Climates

University researchers from California and other states are joining in a four-year research project that seeks to improve pistachio production as growers face warmer winters and water shortages. California grows 99% of America's pistachio crop and nearly 60% of the world's crop. Researchers at University of California, Davis, UC Merced, New Mexico State University and Purdue University are conducting research to aid pistachio pollination and to develop rootstocks that can thrive despite increasing water scarcity.

Report: Dairy Farmers are on Track to Meet Methane Emission Reduction Goals

California dairy farmers are making progress in reducing methane emissions. According to a new report, the state's dairy industry is on track to meet a goal of reducing methane emissions by 40% by 2030. The report was produced by the California Dairy Research Foundation and the University of California, Davis, CLEAR Center. The report notes that dairies' use of feed additives is expected to have a positive impact in curbing enteric methane produced by livestock. Several new feed additives are expected to become commercially available soon. ★

Dixon Independent Voice
Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

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WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

Flood Risk and Preparedness

Commentary by Thomas Slater

In California, extreme weather patterns are cyclical, with floods often following a drought. Over the last 20 years, every county in California has been declared a federal disaster area at least once. With climate change, we anticipate extreme weather events will be more frequent and intense. A study released by scientists at UCLA in August 2022 shows that climate change will make catastrophic flooding twice as likely, and they predict that extreme storm sequences are projected to generate 200% to 400% more runoff by the end of the century. Contemplating these higher risks is timely as October 22-29 is California Flood Preparedness Week.

In the early part of the 20th Century, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed a vast flood protection system in the Central Valley, comprised of 1,600 miles of levees, seven relief bypasses, and numerous pumps to efficiently evacuate floodwater from the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and tributaries out to the ocean. Turned over to the State of California in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s for ongoing operation and maintenance, these now aging State Plan of Flood Control (SPFC) facilities require constant work to maintain the original design standards, deal with seasonal levee repairs after storms, and in recent years levee improvements in order to meet modern design standards and to protect against larger flood events than the original system was intended to handle.

The flood risk in the Central Valley has long been recognized as being amongst the highest in the nation. We have been fortunate to have avoided the flooding disasters experienced in Louisiana, Texas, and Kentucky. After witnessing the devastating impacts of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, voters in California subsequently approved \$4 billion in bond funding for improved flood management in the Central Valley. In 2012, a Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) was adopted to guide flood risk reduction actions, and a deadline was set to achieve

the new standard of 200-year level of flood protection for urban communities with more than 10,000 residents.

A flood control system is only as strong as its weakest link. The majority of the 1,600 miles of SPFC levees are in rural areas protecting small disadvantaged communities and habitat for terrestrial, avian, and aquatic species. Most small communities protected by SPFC levees do not meet FEMA 100-year standards, and this rural levee system is in need of significant investment to meet U.S. Army Corps standards necessary to be eligible for federal levee repair funding after storm damage. Currently, only two of the eight urban metropolitan areas protected by SPFC flood control system meet the State's 200-year urban levee requirements; and five of these do not meet the state urban levee standard or the federal FEMA 100-year requirements, and one has only a 7-year level of flood protection.

The Newsom Administration has taken the first step in recognizing the state's vulnerability to natural disasters under climate change when it hosted a "Drought to Flood Symposium" on October 17, 2022. Now it is time for us to take the next step and seize the opportunity to mitigate impacts anticipated from more intense atmospheric river events, before disaster happens in a changing climate. We need to be proactive and increase the pace of implementing shovel-ready flood risk reduction projects, but multi-year flood control construction projects cannot start and stop due to changing political priorities or lengthy bureaucratic permitting processes. Local flood management agencies hope the Administration's recent formation of a Climate Executive Team will lead to expedited implementation and increased, consistent State Budget appropriations to advance flood risk reduction priorities outlined in the state's 2022 CVFPP Update.

Thomas Slater is an Elected Trustee and Acting Manager of Reclamation District 999, and President of CA Central Valley Flood Control Association Board of Directors. ★

Intellectual Property Protections Will Decide Control of the Global Economy

Commentary by Andrei Iancu and David Kappos

America is the world's most innovative country. Or at least it was.

By many measures, that title now belongs to China. The authoritarian powerhouse issued more patents than the United States for the first time in 2019, and it has left us in the dust ever since.

In recent years, China has also outpaced the United States in the number of scientific publications published in peer-reviewed journals, the number of scientists and engineers graduating with advanced degrees, and other similar metrics.

The trends all point in the same direction: China aims to out-innovate the United States in the most critical technologies of the future.

Worryingly, those innovations will very likely determine control of the 21st-century global economy. In the past decade, China accounted for nearly three-quarters of all patents related to artificial intelligence. In biotechnology -- Chinese firms now account for about 18% of cancer drugs in the early stages of development worldwide, triple their share in 2015.

Our economic and national security depend on retaking the lead -- and keeping it. Unfortunately, instead of promoting policies that support and protect American innovators, many in Washington fail to acknowledge the inextricable link between innovation and intellectual property protections.

Strong IP protections deserve much of the credit for transforming the United States from a colonial backwater into the richest nation in the world. Our Founders saw patents and other IP protections as so important; they embedded IP protection into the Constitution itself.

It was a wise move. IP rules protect inventors -- and their investors -- from others stealing their work. Without copyrights, few authors or artists would pour their sweat and tears into creating masterpieces, since others could undercut them with impunity.

The same dynamic holds true across

every IP-intensive industry. Broad fields of invention are highly risky, expensive, and failure-prone, yet easy to copy once the investment is made and the failures overcome. Without the temporary exclusivity afforded by intellectual property rights, America's best and brightest would have no incentive to create new breakthroughs.

Historically, American workers and consumers have reaped rich rewards from America's strong IP system. Our IP-intensive industries accounted for \$7.8 trillion of GDP in 2019. And over the next decade, job creation in IP-intensive industries is expected to outpace other industries.

But this forecast is hardly guaranteed. Americans' intellectual property is under attack from abroad and here at home.

This past summer, the Biden administration helped push through an initiative at the World Trade Organization to waive IP protections for the mRNA vaccines that saved millions of lives around the world.

In Congress, meanwhile, lawmakers have called on President Biden to effectively nullify the intellectual property of our nation's top research universities -- a move guaranteed to chill research benefiting many industries including climate, energy, and pharmaceuticals.

Weakening IP protections, or even stoking doubts about America's commitment to strong IP rights, will hurt innovators raising venture funding, whether that innovator is an individual developing new cybersecurity tools, or a clean energy startup working to fight climate change.

We come from opposite political parties -- but we've both dedicated our adult lives to promoting and protecting intellectual property. It's the lifeblood of our economy. Any lawmaker who wants to increase innovation in the United States must understand the need for strong IP rights. They are inextricably linked.

Andrei Iancu and David Kappos are former Under Secretaries of Commerce for Intellectual Property and former Directors of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Both serve as board co-chairs of the Council for Innovation Promotion. ★

Has the Ukraine War Been Worth It?

Commentary by James D. Veltmeyer, MD

By the time this column is read, Congress and the White House will have sunk nearly \$100 billion of tax money down an endless Ukrainian rathole. That figure is an enormous sum of money, roughly equal to what it cost to run the entire federal government when John F. Kennedy was President. In fact, it seems as if Senile Joe Biden believes there should be an endless spigot of American money flowing to the corrupt regime in Kiev while he gleefully shuts off the spigots of cheap energy to the American people.

This war in Ukraine was unnecessary from the beginning and could have been ended months ago. Various proposals were advanced from numerous parties which could have led to a negotiated settlement between Putin and Zelensky, yet the U.S. State Department would have none of it. Think of the tens of thousands of lives that could have been saved, the physical destruction to a country avoided, and the devastating global impact (especially to Western Europe) of energy and food shortages that could have been prevented had the globalists simply sought a just peace.

Instead, the New World Order crowd in Washington and London was determined from the outset to allow this conflict to bring the planet to the edge of nuclear war. The sheer insanity of Biden depleting America's own military stockpiles to bolster an authoritarian dictator on the other side of the world is virtually treasonous. America has no treaty with Ukraine. Ukraine is not a member of NATO and the Zelensky regime is neither democratic nor free. Little different from Vladimir Putin, the tee-shirted president of Ukraine shuts down his political opposition, censors the press, and persecutes ethnic Russians in the eastern territories. The cross-dressing Zelensky demands America write him a blank check (regardless of whether it leads to World War III), hobnobs with military contractors, and declares his allegiance to the woke-LGBTQ agenda of the New World Order. He has permitted his nation to become the playground and playpen of the global elites, a money-laundering operation and cash cow for the likes of the Clintons, Bidens, and Pelosis. He himself has ripped off millions from his own people and sent them to his Swiss bank accounts.

The constant media drumbeat for Zelensky and disinformation about Ukraine "winning the war" against Russia is laughable. It is beyond ridiculous to believe a poor, economically struggling former state of the old Soviet Union could defeat Moscow and its vast arsenal of deadly, civilization-annihilating nuclear weapons, some more sophisticated than anything the United States possesses. What has happened is the non-ending flow of American money and weapons to Kiev has just dragged out and prolonged a war that could have been settled in weeks with a pledge by Zelensky not to join NATO and his agreement to allow the Russian-populated eastern regions to unite peacefully with Moscow. Putin wants a "buffer zone" to

protect his country from the advances of NATO, a military alliance which should have been dissolved thirty years ago when the Cold War ended and the Red Army went home.

Biden, a decrepit and demented puppet of the Deep State and the military-industrial-banking complex, has vowed to keep the war going in Ukraine for "as long as it takes." This means more deaths, more destruction, and more despair for Western Europe facing a brutally cold winter without food or energy. Say it ain't so, Senile Joe! Of course, this war could not continue if the United States did not persist in funding it and enriching the defense contractors eagerly salivating for the new multi-billion-dollar Pentagon contracts required to restock all the military hardware we have shipped to Zelensky.

The peoples of Germany, France, the UK and Italy can only pray for an end to this war and the useless sanctions against Russia which have cut off their energy and fertilizer while subsidizing Putin's ability to wage war by boosting the price of oil. Sanctions -- as usual -- don't work and end up hurting the very people they are supposed to help. Now, Germans are cutting down the forests in order to obtain firewood necessary to survive the coming winter freeze. Stores are cutting back hours, companies and plants are closing, gas rationing is looming, and Western Europeans are preparing for more frequent blackouts and brown-outs in the coming months. The cutoff of natural gas to Europe could easily lead to the rapid de-industrialization of those nations. Is propping up a kleptocracy in Kiev worth that?

Had a hard-nosed negotiator like a Nixon, Reagan, or Trump been in the Oval Office, this war would have never occurred, or it would have ended in a settlement. Nixon brought about peace agreements with the Soviet Union and in the Middle East. Reagan brought down the Soviet Empire without firing a shot and Trump was the first president in decades not to involve the United States in a new war while getting us extricated from the Bush-Clinton wars and negotiating the Abraham accords in the Middle East.

The Democrats, of course, have always been the party of war. A Democrat, Woodrow Wilson got America into World War I. A Democrat, Franklin D. Roosevelt got us into World War II. A Democrat, Harry Truman, got us into Korea and two Democrats -- Kennedy and Johnson -- got us into Vietnam. A Democrat, Bill Clinton, invaded Haiti and bombed Serbia for 78 days and his foreign policy became known as "drive-by shootings with cruise missiles." It is true that the Bushes -- ostensibly Republicans -- got us into thirty years of wars in the Middle East but those RINOs were the exceptions that prove the rule.

Vladimir Putin, whatever his flaws and sins, is a patient man. He has permitted the West to break all its agreements with Russia and encircle his nation with missiles, military bases, and client states, but he has not yet reached for the nuclear button. The question now is how long will his patience hold out? ★

PG&E Pays over \$339 Million in Property Taxes in Counties

PG&E News Release

OAKLAND, CA (MPG) - During the second half of 2022, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) paid property taxes of over \$339 million to the 50 counties where it owns properties that support gas and electric service to 16 million Californians.

"Property tax payments are just one of the many ways PG&E helps drive our hometown economies and supports essential public services like education, public health and public safety," said Chris Foster, Executive Vice President, and Chief Financial Officer for PG&E. "These payments reflect the substantial local investments we are making in our gas and electric infrastructure to create a safer and more reliable system, and to better mitigate against wildfire risk."

PG&E's payments of more than \$339 million covers the period from July 1 to December 31, 2022. Total payments for the fiscal property tax year of July 1, 2022, to, June 30, 2023, will be more than \$678 million -- an increase of more than \$57 million, or 9%, compared with the prior tax year.

The increase in property tax payments

reflects PG&E's continuing investments to enhance and upgrade its gas and electrical infrastructure for safety, reliability, and wildfire mitigation across Northern and Central California.

PG&E supports the communities it serves in a variety of ways. In 2022, PG&E and the PG&E Corporation Foundation contributed \$25 million to communities throughout Northern and Central California to enhance educational opportunities, preserve the environment, and support economic vitality and emergency preparedness. This included more than \$1 million in relief to communities impacted by emergencies like severe winter storms and wildfires. PG&E employees provide volunteer services in their local communities. The company also offers a broad spectrum of economic development services to help local businesses grow.

PG&E's First Installment of Property Taxes Paid by December 12, 2022

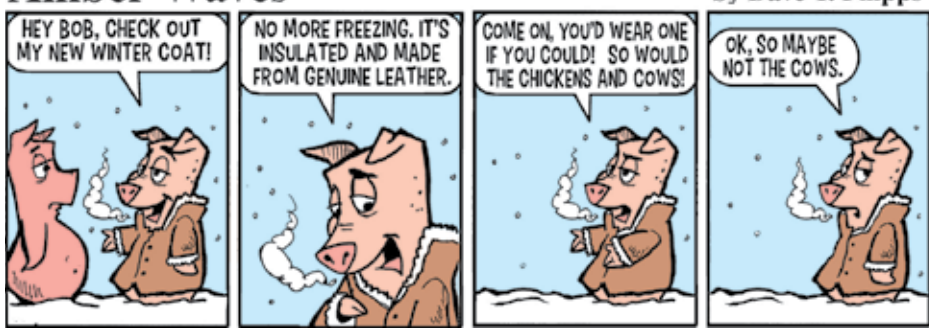
Payments made in counties include:
Butte - \$7,176,104; Sacramento - \$10,130,645; Solano - \$8,591,176; Sutter - \$1,903,727; Yolo - \$3,905,974; and Yuba - \$1,964,641. ★



WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

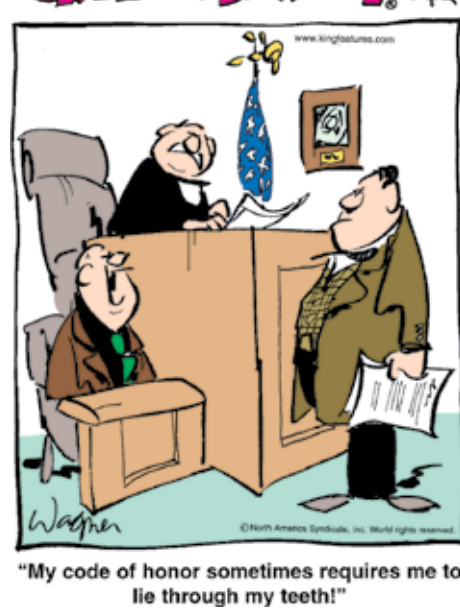
by Mike Marland



CRIN and BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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Choosing Your Future
Hebrews 11:24-27

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Small Groups meet throughout the week.

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Flooding Continues

By Julie Cart and Alastair Bland,
CALMatters.org

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA - Raising questions about whether California's elaborate system of flood protections will hold, another dangerous storm is barreling toward the Sacramento Valley, where rains already punched through some levees and floods killed at least one person.

Last weekend's storms have already tested the flood-prevention infrastructure across the region, which sits at the confluence of two major rivers and bears the brunt of heavy rains. "It's a bathtub, basically," said Beth Salyers, deputy district engineer for the federal Army Corps of Engineers in Sacramento.

An estimated 1.3 million people and \$223 billion worth of property in the Central Valley are protected by the state-federal systems of levees, dams and other structures.

California spends \$48 million annually for operating flood protections but needs much more — "\$3.2 billion over the next five years of implementation," according to the state's Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, a document produced in 2012 and updated last month. Of that, the state's responsibility ranges from \$1.8 billion to \$2.8 billion.

An estimated \$25 to \$30 billion in funding over 30 years could help the state "avoid the astronomical cost of catastrophic flooding in the Central Valley estimated to be as high as \$1 trillion, in addition to an incalculable toll on lives and public well-being," the plan says.

So far, this winter's storms have been severe but not catastrophic: The New Year's Eve storm "stalled out" over the watershed of the Cosumnes River. Portions of privately owned levees on the river gave way, flooding nearby areas. The levees, constructed to reclaim the land for agriculture, are generally rated only to handle a 10-year flood, according to Sacramento County officials. The breaching of the levees shut down Highway 99 and stranded motorists.

But the region's two major reservoirs held, and the Sacramento and American rivers did not experience major floods.

"The investments we've made to the flood system have absolutely helped," said Gary Lippner, the Department of Water Resources' deputy director of flood management and dam safety. "At the larger scale, our system is much more ready for high-water events."

The Central Valley has a long, painful history of deluges: The Great Flood of 1861-2, triggered by weeks of rain and snow, is still remembered as the worst disaster to ever befall California, inundating the entire valley, killing thousands of people statewide and devastating the economy.

The state's capital city was built in a floodplain and requires an extensive system of dams and levees to protect it. Even now, federal, state and local authorities are in the midst of upgrading those defenses, particularly in the Sacramento region, where multi-year, multi-billion-dollar projects are underway.

Major improvements have been made in the region and more are underway, thanks to about \$1.8 billion in state and federal funds. The Army Corps and state have been upgrading about 45 miles of levees over a 5-year period, and work on the final 2.8 miles is scheduled to begin in the spring.

Among the structural upgrades are raising levee heights, boring as deep as 150 feet to reinforce levees to prevent seepage and piling rocks on riverbanks to reduce erosion.

"All of the work that we've done along the American and Sacramento Rivers are helping the current situation. We are not seeing flooding off these rivers," Salyers said. The completed projects are now weather-tested, she said, and "performing the way we wanted them to."

State officials expressed confidence that the Central Valley's levees and bypasses will contain the deluges coming tonight and next week.

"We do have a significant amount of capacity within the bypass system in that 1,600 miles of levee, and I don't anticipate ... there to be emergency management needs," Lippner said.

But every flood-protection system has its limits.

Michael Anderson, a climatologist with the California Department of Water Resources, noted that impacts from the upcoming storm system could escalate to a "worst-case scenario" if it "becomes

an unrelenting series of storms."

Forecasters are warning residents in the Sacramento region and the Bay Area to prepare today and Thursday for yet another assault, this time from a "bomb cyclone" spinning in the Pacific that will not make landfall but will amplify rain, wind and frigid temperatures along the coast and foothills.

Forecasters are expecting more atmospheric rivers — the powerful streams of tropical moisture that deliver most of California's winter rainfall.

In the mountains that supply California's reservoirs, snow levels are now above average. The Department of Water Resources' first snow survey of the season took place on Tuesday at Phillips Station, in the Sierra Nevada, west of Lake Tahoe. Scientists measured 55.5 inches of snow and a snow water equivalent of 17.5 inches. That's 177% of average for this location. Statewide, snowpack levels are at 174% of average for that date.

Statewide, this is the best start to the snow season in 40 years, according to Department of Water Resources officials.

It would be hasty, though, to assume the ongoing storms and wet forecast mark an end to the prolonged drought. In 2021, record rains and heavy snowfall arrived between October and December. Then, California experienced its driest January-through-March — typically the state's wettest months — in recorded history.

Experts say consecutive storms are made more dangerous by an already-soaked landscape's inability to absorb more water. In addition to creating swollen creeks and mudslides, incessant rain reduces soils' ability to hold vegetation, and California's millions of drought-ravaged trees can easily fall over. Areas with wildfire burn scars are at risk of flash-flooding, officials said.

The state has established emergency shelters in Sacramento and San Mateo Counties and has stockpiled 3.7 million sandbags.

Some experts think the flooding from the incoming storms could be tempered by the fact that the developing system is relatively cold. This will translate into more snow and less rain, at least at high elevations.

Last weekend's storm was relatively warm and produced rainfall at high elevations, where the liquid water fell on several feet of snow, melting it and magnifying the runoff into streams and rivers.

The flood board updated Central Valley Flood Protection Plan, released last month, warns of "1,000-year storm events ... and the need to act with renewed urgency and purpose before the next large flood event occurs in the Central Valley."

The plan calls on nature-based solutions, like restored floodplains, and infrastructural improvements, like fortified levees near urban areas, to help reduce the impacts of higher-energy storm systems expected as a result of the warming climate.

Most of the historic floodplains along the Central Valley's rivers have been separated from the water by levees. Scientists now say that restoring floodplains can be an effective flood control strategy by allowing surging rivers to spill their banks and shed their energy on unpopulated flatlands, rather than bursting through aging levees surrounding populated areas. Floodplains also provide fish and wildlife habitat and serve as groundwater percolation beds.

"It takes a lot of time for that water to find a way out," said Mark Dickman, associate director for data at the U.S. Geological Survey in Sacramento. "There's just nowhere for it to go."

It's a persistent and familiar challenge: What to do with water when there's too much and how to manage when there isn't enough.

"We are built for this," said Jeffrey Mount, a water specialist at the Public Policy Institute of California. "We built the system around the notion that we get occasionally wet years and mostly dry years. But, unlike the Colorado River Basin, where they can capture and control four years of runoff, we are full after one year. Our ability to store surface water is limited."

The ongoing rains are already boosting California's water storage system. Major reservoirs are rising, some rapidly. Folsom Lake was 29% full on Dec. 20, and as of Jan. 2 it jumped to 61%. The much larger Lake Oroville jumped from 29% to 38% in the same window — an increase of more than 300,000 acre-feet. ★



The state has established emergency shelters in Sacramento County and has stockpiled 3.7 million sandbags. Photo courtesy of DWR



A car stops on a flooded Lambert Road off Interstate 5 in Sacramento County on Jan. 3, 2023. Northern California was hit by a major rainstorm that caused power outages, landslides and flooding over the New Year's holiday weekend. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters



Another dangerous storm is barreling toward the Sacramento Valley, where rains already punched through some levees. Photo courtesy of DWR



An aerial view shows flooded fields off River Road near Locke on Jan. 3, 2023. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters