



**Festival of Trees People's Choice Winners Announced**

PAGE 3



# Dixon Independent Voice

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DECEMBER 30, 2022

**SEE INSIDE**

**FORMER COUNCILMAN SALABER PASSES**



PAGE 4

**NEW YEAR'S EVE DAY DINING**



PAGE 5

**WATER PROVIDERS STILL PREDICT SHORTAGES**



PAGE 10

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## City Gathers Parks and Rec Ideas



Brian So holds up the last tally board for John Courtney at the last Masterplan for Parks and Recreation meeting with residents.

**Story and photos by Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Proof that one person can have an impact on city plans happened at the last Parks Master Plan Meeting when local mother of four Nicole Bennett asked for a splash pad to be put on the list of desires at the final community workshop. Only one other participant was familiar with the latest rage in children's park entertainment, so some explaining was necessary.

Although water fun is not new to America by any means with the public pool craze starting in the early 1920s and 1930s, the splash pad became popular around 2012 and has spread into parks all over California. There is no standing water, so they

eliminate the need for a lifeguard as there is little risk of drowning. They have been sought after by many parents over the past couple years due to the drought and water conservation efforts.

Did we mention they are usually free play, too? After the explanation and support from another participant who was a grandmother and familiar with the sought-after summer heat relief amusement, more of the group added that to their top items they wanted in Dixon.

Getting a local splash pad was the number one reason Bennett came to the meeting, she said, and why she was adamant the item be a stand-alone and not coupled with the public pool where the city charges \$4 for a child to enter locked gates and enjoy

swimming.

"Our group brought it to the forefront in a strong way," she said. "There was obvious community support that needed to be addressed." Bennett moved to Dixon from Portland, Oregon, in 2019 and her children are between age 20 to a new baby. She was participating along with about 15 other local residents grouped at tables who were asked to offer ideas for their ideal recreation areas and ultimately prioritize them.

Sponsored by the City of Dixon, the project's objectives were to build a community-based assessment of needs that included input from local citizens, sports leagues representatives, and city planners.

Dixon's eight parks, from  
*Continued on page 3*

## Buddies Needed for TEAM Dixon



High school students are matched with Dixon's special needs friends to assist with Challengers baseball. Photo courtesy of TEAM Dixon

**TEAM Dixon News Release**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Calling all baseball buddies and new or interested buddies. Guess what's coming up right around the corner? Challengers baseball. This is one of the favorites for buddies and our special needs friends, and we are looking to add more buddies to our teams of Power Rangers and Superheroes.

Buddies are students who will assist and guide the special needs children of Dixon through TEAM (Together Everyone Always Matters) Dixon, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building bridges between challenges and opportunities by offering a variety of social experiences for children and teens with special needs. Thus, they gain confidence and participate in supported activities in a welcoming, inclusive, and accessible environment.

The group will be having a buddy orientation after the first of the year and at that time, will go over details, scheduling, and basic buddy info for all events, not just baseball, so stay tuned for that info soon. In the meantime, here are some facts about Challengers baseball:

To be a Buddy, no baseball experience is necessary. They operate a very loose version of baseball, focusing on the general object of the game, safety, and fun. The game involves two innings only and they are usually about an hour and a half long.

Buddies are expected to make a once-a-week commitment. Practice usually begins mid to late Feb and is during the week, evenings around 5 - 6 p.m. Then, once the games begin in March there is no practice, just the games. Games are mostly Friday nights, 6-7 p.m. and a few Saturday mornings at 10 a.m.

The leaders look for two types of buddies for baseball - steady buddies, meaning this buddy is paired permanently with a special needs friend and can commit to making at least 75% of the games. Sub-buddies are the buddies who do not make the commitment but show up when they are able and can be paired anywhere there is a need.

*Continued on page 3*

## Burkhardt Hangs Up His Coat

**Story and photo by Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Not too many city employees would say that COVID was a good thing for their job but administering COVID Relief Funds to local businesses who lost sales and employees is at the top of Larry Burkhardt's list of feel-good accomplishments. Burkhardt, the Economic Development/Grants Manager for the City of Dixon, is retiring after nearly five years.

"I was happy to provide the COVID Relief Funds," he said. "It was the most impactful thing I've done here."

He takes with him a wealth of experience that started with eleven years on the elected side of city administration as a City Councilman then Mayor in Longmont, Colorado. He attributes his success as a "Community Builder" to his ability to know and understand both views: from the elected



Larry Burkhardt, Dixon's Economic Developer/Grants Manager was bid farewell Wednesday by staff, council, and friends. He is retiring.

perspective as well as the city management side.

His first major success in economic development was at Upstate Colorado, a Greely-based firm that recruits companies, where his career was cemented with a monumental success. It came when he

assisted in getting Vestas America, the world's largest wind turbine manufacturing plant, in selecting Weld County in Colorado, to build their three manufacturing plants there after the company had considered 70 other locations.

"It was a huge project

and required coordinating with state and regional officials," he said. The company brought in 100 people to do a job fair, and Burkhardt was late. When he opened the doors and walked in, he was astonished. There were dozens

*Continued on page 3*



# Life's too SHORT

## Extreme or Normal Weather?

By Debra Dingman

As I opened the top of my Blistex® Medicated Lip Balm this morning, I took a double look at the tip. It was mal-molded, bumpy, and 1/4th of it gone entirely. “Oh, right,” I thought to myself, remembering the scorching heat of summer when it was kept on the console of our car and melted. I was relieved – and reminded – that weather can be ‘extreme’ in California and that it is normal. I had been thinking it was colder than I ever remember and surely something is wrong which usually results in my catastrophic thinking that the future is over.

But then I remembered when my little brother – five years younger than I – was born and we lived in Fresno. The three older siblings will never forget that day because it snowed. In Fresno. Valley hot Fresno. Snow.

There are pictures of us and the white lawn and snow-covered car somewhere in my late grandmother’s photo albums. The biting cold I was fighting this past week by bumping our thermostat up is not

unusual, I realized.

I have pictures in my albums of snow at Dan O. Root Park in Suisun where we lived when the children were in elementary school. (That was a great house that was only two houses down from the park and the long-promised elementary school that took five years to get built and finally finished just as we were moving away.) The children and all the neighborhood children rolled enough of the white fluff to make a snowman, believe it or not!

Just four months ago, I read that climate change was making most places warmer and with more greenhouse gases insulating the planet, we were going to continue to see higher temperatures year-round.

As I watch the blizzards and white-out conditions on the nightly news, I’m thinking: so much for that theory. Maybe we just don’t remember... or maybe it’s the news people that dramatize everything.

When we were temporarily assigned to Dallas and I didn’t have enough to do, we’d watch the nightly news and one

night I made a list of all the adjectives news people used to grab our attention. I’m here to tell you, no normal person talks with that many adjectives!

I’m certainly not advising anyone to ignore the weatherman, but I am suggesting that you don’t get anxiety over what may be a ‘regular’ rainstorm. And, be thankful for it, too, because Lord knows, California needs the rain.

Recently as we went on an overnight trip to Dunsmuir past Shasta Lake, California’s largest reservoir, I was alarmed at how much red shoreline we could see. Our family used to regularly visit my sister’s clan in Redding and enjoyed seeing the lake full and beautiful. It was reported about 150-foot down in November, but I searched the record low and learned in 1977, it was actually down 230-feet.

We really do live in a great place here in Dixon. A place where my lip moisturizer will reform and be reusable for the winter. I whined to my honey, “But, it is really cold...” He responded, “It’s wintertime. What do you expect?” ★

# Dixon News Briefs



The Dixon Women’s Improvement Club members and their guests filled the social hall at the United Methodist Church for their annual Christmas Banquet last week. The luncheon was catered by Matt Andrews of Food & Familia Catering. Pictured left to right are: Mary Ellen Jones, Cindy Heene, Mary Heene, Roxie Sanders, and Kitty Lockwood. Photo by Debra Dingman

### MPG Staff

#### Tree Pick-up

You can sign up now to have Scouts from Dixon Troop 152 recycle your Christmas Tree!

We wanted to let you know that there will be two opportunities for Christmas tree pick up dates this year: Saturday, December 31, and Saturday, January 7.

Some options for letting Scouts know that you’d like them to pick up your tree include the following: Fill out our Google Doc request form. <https://goo.gl/PsEgIZ> or visit [www.troop152dixon.com](http://www.troop152dixon.com) and click on the Christmas Tree. You can also send an email to [fundraising@troop152dixon.com](mailto:fundraising@troop152dixon.com). Lastly, you can always call (707) 676-6152 and leave a message.

#### Bogue Swears

Former Councilman and former Mayor Thom Bogue will be officially sworn in as District 2 Council Representative on Tuesday, January 3 at 7 p.m. at the Dixon City Council Meeting, 600 East A Street. After taking his seat on the dais alongside District 1 Rep Jim Ernest, District 3 Rep Kevin Johnson, and District 4 Rep Don Hendershot the regular City Council meeting will proceed under Mayor Steve Bird. The agenda is available online at [cityof-dixon.us](http://cityof-dixon.us) usually the Thursday before the meeting.

#### Coaches Needed

Dixon Youth Basketball (DYB) needs head coaches for Division 2, Division 3 Boys, and Division 4 Boys, as well as assistant coaches for all divisions. If you have a child playing this season, please consider signing up to coach. No experience is necessary. Complete a coaching application at [dixonyouthbasketball.com](http://dixonyouthbasketball.com).

#### Special Month

Just so you know, the month of January has several ‘observations,’ and the ones

worth mentioning are Oatmeal Month, Slow Cooking Month, and Soup Month. This info is straight from the National Day Calendar.

#### Meals Delivered

Meals on Wheels of Solano County offers meals delivered to Seniors ages 60 and older. The suggested contribution is \$4 per meal; however, no senior will ever be denied a meal based on their ability to contribute. Deliveries are normally made Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. but not the Friday before New Year’s Day. For more information and to order, call (707) 425-0638.

#### Scam Alert

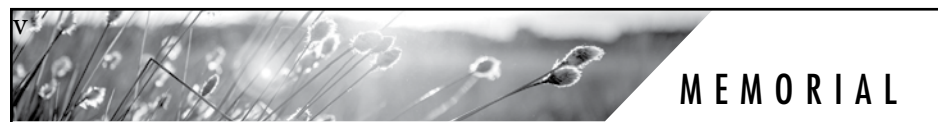
The Solano County Sheriff’s Office has received reports of a phone scam involving someone impersonating a member from SCSO. Unfortunately, they are using a phone number that appears to come from the SCSO. The phone scammer then leaves a call back number and answers as a SCSO member. THIS IS A SCAM. The Solano County Sheriff’s Office will not ask to collect any debts or payments over the phone or offer to clear up any pending legal action for payment. Stay safe and secure this holiday season.

#### Hobo Dinner

Mark your calendar for the American Legion Auxiliary, Dixon Unit 208, annual Hobo Beef Stew Dinner & Raffle on Saturday, January 21, 2023. This is always a whole lot of fun and there are plenty of raffle prizes, too. Tickets are \$10 each. There is a no-host bar that opens at 4:30 and dinner is at 6 p.m. For tickets, please call (707) 592-0991 or inquire at the Veterans Hall.

#### Downtown Meeting

The next Downtown Dixon Business Association Meeting will be on Thursday, January 5, at 8:30 a.m. inside Dawson’s Bar and Grill, 105 North First Street. ★



### MEMORIAL

**DOLORES LOUISE UHLIK**  
9/19/1935 – 12/11/2022

Dolores “Dee” Uhlik, 87, passed away on Sunday, December 11, 2022, peacefully in Dixon, CA, of Parkinson’s disease.



Camp Fire Girls, and the Cub Scouts. She also volunteered her time at Sutter Memorial Hospital in East Sacramento with the Ladies Auxiliary.

Dolores’s most noteworthy professional accomplishment was serving as a Labor Relations Specialist for the California Highway Patrol (CHP) headquartered in Sacramento. She was incredibly proud to be a non-uniformed member of the CHP and assisted in preparing the Woman Traffic Officer Project.

Dolores was always loving, welcoming, and inviting to those she encountered at both her home and in the workplace. Her greetings always included a warm hug, and there was always ice cream at the house for whoever was craving dessert.

Other family members who Dolores loved with all her heart, and who referred to her as Nona, were Patrick Keelan; Christina, Marshall, and Mars Keelan-Cottrell; Alana, James, Sawyer, and Jay Robinson; Ryan Hamilton; and Kaci Leinbach.

A special thanks to all the caregivers who loved mom and cared for her when she could no longer care for herself. They are truly the angels here on earth.

Dolores will be laid to rest at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, CA, on January 27, 2023, at 2:30 pm. Friends and family attending the service are asked to arrive 20 minutes prior to the commencement of the service.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Parkinson’s Association at [www.parkinson.org](http://www.parkinson.org).

Dolores was born in Sacramento, CA, to Oscar Hollan (aka Holen), raised in Galesburg, ND, and Lana Hollan (Granucci), born in Port Angeles, WA.

As an adolescent, she attended public and parochial schools in the heart of Sacramento. She graduated from St. Francis High School. Her father passed away when Dolores was 12 years of age, at which time she was raised by her mother with the loving influence of her Uncle Walter.

Dolores worked at IBM in Sacramento, where she met the love of her life, Victor M. Uhlik, to whom she was married for 63 years. During this time, Dolores was a loving wife, mother to her children Cathy (Bill) and Doug (Carmen), Nona to her grandson Matthew, and great-Nona to her granddaughter Aubrey.

The holidays were always a special time in Dolores’ life. She would always beautifully decorate her home and gather the family together to share in traditional meals. She was also masterful at playing the piano and would regularly fill her home with music and song. She loved to travel with her husband Victor, grandson Matthew and good friends Bill and Mary. She collected plates and spoons during their travels and proudly displayed them in her home for others to enjoy.

She was always very active in the community with the PTA,

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# City Gathers Parks and Rec Ideas



These women talk about the ideas they want offered in Dixon parks and activities through the City's recreation department.

Continued from page 1

largest to smallest, are Hall Memorial Park, Northwest Park, Patwin Park, Veterans Park, Conejo Park and the two newest small parks are Southwest Neighborhood Park and Southwest Community Park. Currently, there are five acres for every 1,000 people in Dixon with a total of 96 acres of park for 19,000 residents.

"Those are good numbers," said John Courtney of LPA Architecture and Engineering, who tallied large sheets of results along with coworkers Brian So and Andrew Wickham.

The first questions on the survey were where, in the last 12 months, have you or your family participated at and what activities did you do? Choices included fitness classes and senior programs. Another tally for facilities resulted in better maintenance, lighting, restrooms, then shade structures and lastly benches.

Residents brought forth desires for having something more for the youth to do in town, sports fields, wider use

of the swimming pool and/or an aquatic center for competitions, a larger gym facility, bike paths, exercise paths, bocce ball courts, pickleball facilities, tennis, golf, group picnic areas, and lighted sports fields for soccer and softball. It seemed every participant had ideas.

LPA leaders then narrowed the ideas to more general areas and repeated that task until the top answers were: 1) Aquatics Center for large multi-purpose recreation and competition with Splash Pad, 2) Trail System, and 3) Pickleball Courts. Those results will be added to the existing top figures, which included a soccer field, playground, and shade.

The company will now gather and analyze the conclusions from all three meetings, the phone surveys, and the personal meetups with league representatives and report back to the city in a couple of months.

"I'm delighted at the amount of enthusiasm that people have for their recreation facilities in Dixon," said Courtney. ★

# Burkhardt Hangs Up His Coat

Continued from page 1

of tables set up for the various departments and he felt the enormity of it.

"They were bringing 2,000 blue- and white-collar jobs and here were all these people who were going to be able to support their family, buy a home, and send their kid to college—and I had a hand in it," he said. "It was my best day ever."

This grandfather of three has not limited his professional interests to just growing communities, however. He is an author, accomplished musician and singer and even had a regular radio program for local, regional, and national audiences. His hobbies include singing, playing guitar, gardening, and he wants to learn how to play the Banjo.

"I sang the national anthem at the Colorado Rockies vs. Tampa Bay Rays game, and we sang at our daughter's wedding," he said as he stood in front of what most would call a 'wall of fame.' The large plaque featured a color photo of him at the mic with an engraved date of June 16, 2009.

Also on the wall is recognition for being a blood donor—that was when it was at 50 gallons in 2009. The awareness of the need came from his working 11 years in a small Colorado hospital when he was younger. He gives donations every couple of weeks.

"My goal is 100 gallons," he said. "I'm at 96."

Burkhardt is planning to do a lot more traveling in retirement.

"I've been to 35 countries and would love to get to the southern hemisphere like New Zealand and Argentina," he said. "I have plenty to do. I've worn many hats and enjoyed it very much. I've enjoyed advancing the businesses of Dixon. Dixon has a lot going for it and it has very committed citizens to improving and advancing it."

What he certainly won't miss: the hour-long commute to and from Dixon from his Roseville home.

Burkhardt received only praise and accolades for his work in Dixon at the last City Council Meeting. ★

# Festival of Trees People's Choice Winners Announced

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Tree Decorators did some of their best work offering a wide variety of themes from elegant to whimsical at the recent Kiwanis Festival of Trees but the visitors had no doubt of their favorites which included a tree filled with bright red and white ribbon and another had a cup of coffee pouring decorations from the top of the tree.

The People's Choice honor is the result of visitors voting for their favorite trees while at the 13th annual event and tallied by Dixon High School Key Club students. All of the winning trees had an element of one-of-a-kind work and craftsmanship, which made the winners unique.

"We thank the decorators for helping Kiwanis Club of Dixon spread Holiday Cheer this holiday season and beyond," said FOT Co-chair Brandi Proffitt in an email. "We all thought that the decorators brought their creativity and spirit to the FOT! We were also very pleased with the quality of first year decorators as well as our seasoned ones."

The People's Choice winner for the large tree was sponsored by Jacob Cole Schneider Family Foundation and was named, *All Spruced Up*. It was filled with large white bells, shimmering snowflakes, red and white balls, sparkling lights, and red and white plaid ribbon folded into the branches. It was decorated by Andrea Barry.

The medium tree category winner is a second-time winner as her tree with Mermaids won in last year's competition. Crystal Rico Farmers Insurance Agency sponsored the tree that she also decorated with family members, Amaya and Justine Rico along with Nancy Riley titled *Cup 'O Christmas*.

The tree was covered with brown and gold ribbon flowing from a large styrofoam cup appearing to pour coffee. There were two loving gnomes under it, each holding a miniature coffee mug and interlocking their legs. There were also numerous brown and gold ornaments.



All Spruced Up was the People's Choice winner for the large tree decorated by Andrea Barry. Photo by Debra Dingman



Cup 'O Christmas was the medium tree category winner decorated by Crystal, Amaya and Justine Rico, along with Nancy Riley. Photo by Debra Dingman

decorated with the tree leaning over the cab from the back of a child-size red pick-up truck. It was decorated with a pretty gold, red, and black plaid ribbon and glittery red bells. The endeavor was sponsored by Future Ford Lincoln out of Roseville and was decorated by Tonyah Everhart who is also a veteran decorator and People's Choice winner.

"We're looking forward to seeing what our community comes up with next year," Proffitt said.

If you are Facebook friends with Dixon Kiwanis, you can see pictures of the other beautifully-decorated trees on the Kiwanis of Dixon Facebook page.

The winner's names will be engraved on the Kiwanis perpetual plaque soon and will be on display inside the Dixon Chamber of Commerce and/or at Kiwanis events such as the spring's Breakfast with the Bunny.

At Saturday evening's close, Kiwanis President thanked everyone for the sake of Dixon's children and especially brand-new co-chairs Brandi Proffitt and Kristen Janisch for their volunteerism. For more information on Dixon Kiwanis, call Membership Chair Patti Sousa at (707) 635-3303 or email [kiwanisofdixon@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanisofdixon@gmail.com) ★



The tabletop winning tree, *Home for the Holidays*, was decorated by Tonyah Everhart. Photo by Brandi Proffitt

Underneath the tree was a Godiva Coffee Bar and other goodies as gifts.

The tabletop winning tree was titled, *Home for the Holidays*, and was

# Buddies Needed for Team Dixon

Continued from page 1

There is never a cost to being a buddy. Leaders greatly appreciate the

awesome young men and women who show up for these special children. For more information [http://](http://www.teamdixon.org/)

[www.teamdixon.org/](http://www.teamdixon.org/) or contact President Miranda Shelcon on the TEAM Dixon Facebook page. ★

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# Allowing Hallucinogenic Drugs Can Lead to More Violent Crime

CDAA News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Prosecutors in California strongly object to SB 58 (Senator Wiener), which seeks the wholesale decriminalization of many dangerous hallucinogenic drugs.

“This proposal recklessly puts policy before science for numerous psychedelic drugs that have proven to be highly unpredictable and have even been connected to violent crimes,” said Greg Totten, CEO of the California District Attorneys Association (CDAA).

Unfortunately, the

authors of this bill are charting a path that would allow these dangerous hallucinogenic drugs to be legalized before they have been fully understood by the scientific and medical communities.

“If the proponents want more research, that’s one thing,” Totten said. “And if they are advocating for therapeutic use under medical supervision, that is also worth considering. But science does not fully understand these drugs and that’s why this bill is so reckless, because it advocates for skipping that scientific scrutiny altogether.”

“As for dealing with

drug cases involving users of hallucinogens, as prosecutors our focus has long been to seek treatment, not jail,” Totten said. “We know that we can help people get on the right track by compelling them into treatment for drug addiction, and that is only possible if there are laws that govern these controlled substances.”

The California District Attorneys Association is a statewide training and advocacy organization representing elected district attorneys, city attorneys with criminal divisions, and more than 3,500 prosecutors. ★

# Former Councilman, Rugby Enthusiast Rob Salaber Passes



**Rob Salaber.** Photo courtesy of the Salaber Family

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Dixon community learned this week that Rob Salaber, 58, passed suddenly on Christmas Day from a heart attack, one day before his birthday.

Rob was part of Cal Bears rugby teams winning national championships three times in the 1980s and graduated from the University of California Berkeley in Civil Engineering in 1987.

He spent seven years with the Caltrans Office of Structure Construction becoming familiar with local, State and Federal procedures and requirements, served five years with a private construction management firm, and established his own engineering firm, Salaber and Associates, in 1999 in downtown Dixon with a philosophy of ‘Principles Before Profits.’

Married to Mary, the couple bought a lot in Dixon in 1991 near Tremont Elementary where he built their custom home and moved in at the end of 1992.

The couple raised their four children here while both owning businesses – hers was ‘Glory,’ a high-end home décor retail and online store – and also while they renovated downtown buildings.

After being elected in 1992 to City Council, he worked with then Mary Ann Courville and then Police Chief Rick Fuller to establish the Dixon Community Crime Watch Plan thus getting citizens to be the eyes and ears for the police department, said Courville.

“The Neighborhood Watch was created, Community Policing, and the officers became more involved and engaged with the community,” she added.

While serving as President for the Downtown Dixon Business Association, he was instrumental in starting the Downtown Revitalization Plan which used Federal, State, and City money to develop new streets, sidewalks, landscaping, Highway 113 repaved and making downtown more ADA compliant, she reported.

But perhaps most notable to the community was starting the Solo Rugby Club in 2006.

“Rob was the catalyst who started rugby in Dixon and brought the team to the Championships where they won. He worked hard and believed in his community, investing countless hours of

dedication to it and his family. Dixon was lucky to have someone like him who cared,” said DDBA President Jill Orr in a social media post that quickly attracted nearly a hundred responses.

Local real estate agent Angela Meisenheimer worked heavily with Salaber and his wife, Mary, in the promotion of their businesses through DDBA.

“All the countless volunteering hours were absolutely remarkable,” she posted on social media. “Rob and Mary set the state and direction for Dixon and our community was so fortunate because of you. Rob’s passion will always live on through those who knew him and all those he inspired!”

Rob was beloved by hundreds of families who played for the Dixon team that earned them the USA Rugby Boy’s High School National Championship in 2012. Many of the Rugby boys went on to earn degrees and have successful careers under his mentorship, parents said.

“Rob was such an incredible advocate, coach, and involved citizen. Dixon benefitted so much from his time here,” said Julie Mustard. “The lives of young people he coached in Rugby is immeasurable.”

The Salabers sold their properties and retired, moving to Idaho about four years ago.

No funeral plans have been set at press time. ★

# Free Classes to Grow Your Business

SBDC Press Release

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Solano Napa Small Business Development Center has scheduled its January No-Cost Webinars for January. They conduct a variety of virtual business webinars every month on subjects that include business planning, finance, marketing, human resource management, expansion and growth, and best practice programs designed to help small business owners use the most valuable and up-to-date techniques possible to increase sales and profit.

The webinars are led by experienced professionals who overview their topics and answer questions from the audience. These classes are great opportunities for clients to obtain applicable, real-world information and helpful advice as they start or grow a business.

New this month is a weekly series called, ‘Every Monday Morning,’ a 30-minute, start-of-the-week “online huddle” for business owners to focus on the best strategies for the week ahead. The name and the date of the webinars are:

January 9 – Every Monday Morning; January 12 – Here, There, and Everywhere Online Strategies; January 19 – Solano Women in Business Roundtable (SolanoWISE); January 26 Intro to Email Marketing – the Best Bang for Your Buck; January 23 – Every Monday Morning; and January 30 – Every Monday Morning.

All of the business webinars and roundtables are offered at no cost to business owners in Solano and Napa counties. Learn more at [solanonapasbdc.org/events](http://solanonapasbdc.org/events) or call Brianna Boyd at (707) 646-1071 for more information. ★

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**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS**

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001962  
The following persons are doing business as: James Edward York, 223 Barcelona Street, Vallejo, CA 94591.  
James Edward York, 223 Barcelona Street, Vallejo, CA 94591-7410. Date Filed in Solano County: November 29, 2022. 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 November 28, 2027. 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: Dec 16, 23, 30, 2022, Jan 6, 2023  
JAMES 1-6-23

**ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME**

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME  
CASE #FCS059143

Pablo Ramirez Jauregui filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Pablo Ramirez Jauregui to Pablo Ramirez.  
THE COURT ORDERS that all

persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. February 3, 2023, 9:30 a.m. Department 22, Room 3, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533  
Judge of the Superior Court: Alesia Jones  
Dated: November 23, 2022  
Publish: Dec 16, 23, 30, 2022, Jan 6, 2023  
PABLO 1-6-23

*Thank A Veteran Today*

**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

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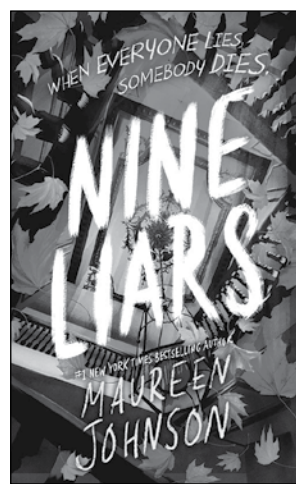
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## Nine Liars by Maureen Johnson



◆ Publisher: Katherine Tegen  
◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult  
◆ Rating: ★★★★★  
◆ Release Date: Dec. 29, 2022

Senior year is not what Stevie Bell expected. Now that she has solved one of the biggest cold cases, there really is nothing left to do unless you count the never-ending slew of ridiculous emails Stevie has piling up in her inbox. What Stevie needed was a real case to solve and her boyfriend, David. But with David studying abroad in London and everyone focusing on college applications, nothing is left but her mind’s inner ramblings.

But then David comes to the rescue inviting Stevie and her friends to come to London for a week. With a planner full of site seeing and study opportunities, Janelle, Vi, and Nate set off on a London bound adventure, even though things feel a bit off for Stevie. While David seems excited to see her, she can’t lose the nagging feeling about his new friend Izzy, but then everything changes when Izzy tells hers about an old cold case. Stevie can’t help but be obsessed with how a simple college holiday between nine friends can turn into a double murder. How can a game of hide and seek

turn deadly, and why won’t Izzy’s aunt talk about that night? Stevie knows someone from that night has to be lying. The more Stevie thinks about the case the more she knows she has to solve it. Now, everything quickly begins to unravel for everyone as Stevie dives into the case, and what was supposed to be a study abroad quickly becomes drenched in the chase for answers.

Following two stories that seamlessly fit together, *Nine Liars* takes readers back to the events in June of 1995, while simultaneously following Stevie Bell as she tries to crack the case. Maureen

Johnson delivers a delightful cat and mouse chase that is everything fans have come to love from this series while also diving deep into ‘90s nostalgia. With all the music, clothing, and popular trends of the time. However, this time Stevie Bell’s sleuthing carries a whole new weight and affects more than just Stevie’s life. With Janelle, Vi, Nate, and now Izzy all stuck following the whims of Stevie’s sleuthing, there might be more than a few consequences to her actions.

A gripping murder mystery with twists and turns in every chapter, *Nine Liars* will have your jaw dropped in more than a few places while leaving readers with a few lingering questions. Maureen Johnson returns to the style that readers have come to know and love, forcing them to choose between the desire to read faster to find answers or slower so the story won’t end. This fifth book in the series delivers exactly what a mystery promises. Sometimes there aren’t answers right away, but it will be even more satisfying when the answers finally see the light. ★

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# New Year's Eve, Day Dining

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - If you were planning to go out for New Year's Eve, which falls on a Saturday this year, you're in luck as the major restaurant/bars will be open, although they are not planning any particular festivities.

Local restaurants Cattlemens, Bud's Pub & Grill, and Dawson's will be open on New Year's Eve and their bars are likely to be busy but they all plan to also be open regular hours on New Year's Day, unlike some of the smaller mom and pop restaurants.

**Bud's Pub & Grill** will keep regular hours on New Year's Eve, serving dinner until 9 pm. New Year's Day will keep regular hours of 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Bud's is at 100 South First Street in the heart of downtown Dixon across the street from Dawson's.

**Dawson's Bar & Grill** is serving dinner New Year's Eve and the bar will be open until 2 a.m.



Local restaurants will be open on New Year's Eve and their bars are likely to be busy but they all plan to also be open regular hours on New Year's Day. Image by Ingrid from Pixabay

They plan to keep regular hours on Sunday. Their phone is (707) 678-2067 and they are located at 105 North First Street.

**Cattlemens** reported regular hours for New Year's Eve and that they will also be open on New Year's Day. You can also order a variety of food from Dixon's Cattlemens for pick up by going to

their website or calling (707) 678-5518. They are located near the I-80 freeway at 250 Dorset Court.

A long-standing option for food on New Year's Day has been Chinese restaurants. That's because for many years, Chinese restaurants were the only place open on New Year's simply because the Chinese owners and

or workers traditionally celebrated Chinese New Year instead. Because it depends on the Moon, the date of Lunar New Year actually changes each year, but it will always fall sometime between 21 January and 20 February. This year it will fall on January 23.

If you still love that tradition, these two local Chinese

food places will be open for take-out only: **Hong Kong Garden Chinese Food** at 1145 Pitt School Road will be open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Their phone is (707) 678-3638. The other restaurant is **Capital China** at 1285 Stratford in the Safeway Shopping Plaza that will also be open normal business hours. Their phone is (707) 678-8338. Both of these restaurants are for takeout only.

**Panda Express**, however, will have its dining area open as well as its drive-thru at 2580 North First Street. Hours are from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and their phone is (707) 640-1930.

Thankfully, our **Dixon Denny's** is always open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and if you haven't tried their mixed grain pancakes, you're missing out. **Starbucks** will reportedly be open normal hours as well. These are enough wonderful local options for food that your New Year should start well. ★

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  - Ship pronoun
  - Thrusts out or causes to protrude
  - One way to steal gas
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  - \*Wasabi is popular in this cuisine
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  - g in 10 g
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  - Saturn's wife
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  - \*Russian borscht vegetable

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  - Southeast Asia org.
  - Lowly laborer
  - Like a bug in a rug
  - Princess Fiona, by night
  - Square root of 100
  - Thwarted
  - SNL's forte
  - \*Nationality that gave us gelato
  - Administer
  - Wound fluid
  - Not dead
  - Radices, sing.
  - \*Clarified butter of Indian origin, pl.
  - \*Peking fowl
  - Mennonite's cousin
  - Jack Black's Lipoc
  - Martin of "Apocalypse Now"
  - Terrorist org.
  - Fat of olives
  - \*Like certain meatballs
  - Tear-jerker
  - Hog heaven
  - Posthumous type of tax
  - Like 90 degree angle
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  - Feudal dwelling
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## Jordan demands FBI turn over all communications with Twitter as probe of censorship heats up

23 Dec 2022 | House Judiciary Committee Republicans led by incoming Chairman Jim Jordan demanded Friday that FBI Director Chris Wray turn over records of all communications and payments the law enforcement agency had with Twitter, signaling aggressive investigations of social media censorship next year. Jordan's office said the release of internal files by Twitter's new owner, Elon Musk, had unmasked an "ongoing surveillance operation" that exceeded FBI investigative authorities and that resulted in a "coordinated misinformation effort between the FBI and Twitter to suppress and censor free speech." "We are investigating politicization and abuses at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as Big Tech's censorship of conservatives online," Jordan, R-Ohio, and Rep. Mike Johnson, R-La., wrote Wray in an oversight letter. "Newly released information shows the FBI has coordinated extensively with Twitter to censor or otherwise affect content on Twitter's platform."

## House GOP locates emails, texts showing Pelosi office directly involved in failed Jan. 6 security

21 Dec 2022 | House Republicans gathered a trove of text and email messages showing House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office was directly involved in the creation and editing of the Capitol security plan that failed during the January 6, 2021, riot and that security officials later declared they had been "denied again and again" the resources needed to protect one of the nation's most important homes of democracy. The internal communications were made public Wednesday in a report compiled by Republican Reps. Rodney Davis, Jim Banks, Troy Nehls, Jim Jordan and Kelly Armstrong that encompasses the results of months of investigation they did of evidence that had been ignored by the Democratic-led Jan. 6 committee. The lawmakers were authorized by House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy to do their own probe.

## Biden Regime Delays Paychecks to National Guard Members for Christmas After Announcing Another \$45 Billion Giveaway to Ukraine

23 Dec 2022 | Earlier this week, Senate Republicans, under the leadership of Mitch McConnell, came to an agreement with Democrats on a 1.7 trillion spending bill to avoid a government shutdown. The bill gives another 44.9 billion to Ukraine – where it disappears into the ether. According to Roll Call, "The package includes 858 billion in defense spending, a nearly 10 percent increase over the previous fiscal year, and 787 billion in non-defense spending, close to an 8 percent increase. It also would provide roughly 85 billion in supplemental funding for Ukraine and disaster relief." But despite the price tag, the bill does not secure the open US border with Mexico. And the bill does little to help working Americans or their families. National Guard members were informed this week that their check will not come in until after Christmas.

## FBI paid Twitter \$3.5M 'to do its bidding'

21 Dec 2022 | The FBI handed nearly 3.5 million of taxpayers m-ney to Twitter to pay its staff to handle requests from the bureau as it sought to ban accounts. A Twitter employee wrote in a February 2020 email that the company's Safety, Content & Law Enforcement (SCALE) had "collected 3,415,323" in less than two years from the FBI for "law-enforcement related projects." The email, which was revealed by journalist Michael Shellenberger, stated that SCALE had instituted a "reimbursement program" in exchange for devoting staff hours to "processing requests from the FBI." The emails were entitled "Run the business - We made m-ney!" The accounts the FBI asked Twitter to ban were largely linked to conservatives and "foreign influence operations."

## DOJ snooped on House Intelligence Committee investigators during Russia probe, subpoenas show

19 Dec 2022 | In an extraordinary intrusion on congressional oversight, the Justice Department used grand jury subpoenas to secretly obtain the personal email and phone data of at least two top House Intelligence Committee investigators back in November 2017 just as they and their boss, then-Chairman Devin Nunes, were assembling bombshell evidence of FBI abuses in the Russia collusion probe, Just the News has learned. The subpoenas, obtained by Just the News, show the DOJ demanded that Google turn over personal email and phone data from the two senior staffers on Nov. 20, 2017, and that responsive materials were to be returned to DOJ by Dec. 5, 2017. The subpoenas were delivered during a critical time frame in the committee's effort to expose the Donald Trump-Russia collusion investigation as having been driven by an uncorroborated political opposition dossier funded by Hillary Clinton. Nunes's committee was locked at the time in a bitter struggle to force the FBI and DOJ to turn over records to the committee.

## White House Can't Mandate COVID Jabs for Federal Contractors - Appeals Court

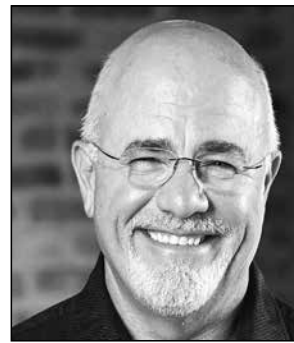
20 Dec 2022 | A federal appeals court on Monday struck down a White House rule requiring anyone employed by a federal contractor to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of government contracts. A three-panel judge of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals voted 2-1 to affirm a lower court judgment that barred Joe Biden's September 2021 executive order in three states after Louisiana, Indiana, and Mississippi sued to challenge the rule. These three states sued the Biden administration in the Western District of Louisiana in their capacities as federal contractors themselves, winning an injunction and stay by the district court. In upholding the lower court finding, Judge Kurt Engelhardt, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, said in his majority opinion (pdf) that a broad interpretation of the law could have given Biden "nearly unlimited authority to introduce requirements into federal contracts."

## Chip Roy blows up over \$1.7T spending bill in fiery floor speech: 'Destroying the United States'

23 Dec 2022 | Rep. Chip Roy on Friday blew up at the process that is forcing a quick vote on a 1.7 trillion bill that no one has read and said the Democratic rush job is destroying the country. "We're spending m-ney we don't have," the Texas Republican said Friday morning on the House floor. "Go home and sell your projects, go home and talk about all the pork you're bringing home. But you're destroying the United States of America, absolutely destroying this body." Roy offered several amendments to the mammoth spending bill, none of which were allowed as Democrat leaders pushed for a vote by midday Friday. "...Everything the American people is watching right now is a complete sham," Roy added. "It's a fraud, a fraud being perpetrated on the American people right before their eyes, right as we head into Christmas." ...Roy also bristled at the idea that more than half of the House members voting Friday might already be home for Christmas. Most lawmakers requested proxy voting Friday, which lets them claim worries about COVID as a reason to vote remotely.

## McConnell's Ukraine comments show why Republican voters flocked to Trump

22 Dec 2022 | Senate Minority Leader Mitchell McConnell (R-KY) is a veteran of the Washington Swamp and a savvy politician who's been in office since 1985... But his most recent comments about Ukraine are indicative of why Republican voters have grown to loathe the "establishment." Even more so, it shows why many of them supported former President Donald Trump. McConnell believes the country should keep sending endless billions of taxpayer m-ney to Ukraine. It's a puzzling statement, given his political experience, and not representative of the sentiment of most Republican voters. "Providing assistance for Ukrainians to defeat the Russians is the No. 1 priority for the United States right now, according to most Republicans," McConnell said. ★



## Dave Ramsey Says

### I'll Be Nice, But I'll Tell the Truth

Dear Dave,

I'm 32 and a teacher. My house is my only debt, and there's \$55,000 left on my mortgage. My parents always taught my brother and I about saving and being smart with money. The other day, mom and dad offered to pay off the rest of my mortgage by loaning me the money with a very small interest rate. I know you don't like the idea of mixing money and family, but considering I have a great relationship with my parents, what do you think about this offer?

– Lucy

Dear Lucy,

I'm going to make a suggestion before saying don't do this. See what I did there?

But seriously, I'd recommend they just make the

money a gift and reduce your portion of any later inheritance by that amount. By doing this, you could help reduce the possibility of your brother feeling slighted in any way.

I would never loan my kids money. And here's why: One hundred percent of the time, the Bible says the borrower is slave to the lender. That doesn't exempt parents and their kids. No matter how nice your masters are, you're still a slave in this kind of situation – and you'll feel it. Family dinners and get-togethers are different when you're sitting down to eat with your masters – your creditors – instead of just good ol' Mom and Dad.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not suggesting you should act ungrateful that they offered a loan instead of a gift. It's a generous thing either way. But if they don't want to go the gift route, that's fine. You have a good job, a nice home, and you'll be okay. The thing is, I just wouldn't want to take a chance on straining a great

relationship – or even ruining it – because of money.

Lacy, you're 32, a teacher and a homeowner. In my mind that says a lot about you, your maturity and your work ethic. That being the case, I get how this could be a weird thing for you to do. So, I'm going to give you an out: Blame me. Just tell them you talked to me, and I said don't do the loan idea. Tell them I gave you the make-it-a-gift-tied-to-the-inheritance idea.

If your mom or dad wants to talk to me about things, that's fine. I'll be kind to them. But I'll tell the truth like I always do.

– 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

### 'PUSS IN BOOTS' IN FINE FORM; ANNE RICE'S 'WITCHES' ON TV

*A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley*

#### "PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH" Rated PG

More than a decade has passed since Antonio Banderas' animated swash-buckling cat Puss in Boots graduated from a character role in "Shrek 2" to star in his own film as a feline version of Douglas Fairbanks' Zorro.

The last time we saw the fear-defying eponymous hero of 2011's "Puss in Boots," in his solo outing as a movie star, he was purring about his cunning ability to save the world and be celebrated for his bravery.

In "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish," we find our furry daredevil arrogantly waking up after his eighth death and realizing he has only one life left. Suddenly, the fabulous orange tabby is wondering whether he's lost his mojo and what's he going to do about it.

As if it isn't dire enough being down to one last life, Puss has a bounty on his head, with the big, bad bounty hunter Wolf (Wagner Moura) having the notorious cat in his direct sights.

Seeking refuge at the home of Mama Luna Cat Rescue, Puss must abide by the rules of the owner (Da'Vine Joy Randolph), which means he has to suffer the indignity of eating cat food, using a litter box and being renamed Pickles.

Amidst the dozens of mangy cats at the rescue home, a disheveled, chatty and relentlessly cheerful mutt named Perrito (Harvey Guillen) impersonating a cat joins Puss when he embarks on a journey into the Black Forest to find the mythical Wishing Star.

To discover the talisman that could restore some of his lost lives, Puss has to humble himself and ask for help from his old flame and sometimes nemesis Kitty Softpaws (Salma Hayek).

In their quest, the trio of Puss, Kitty and Perrito will have to stay one step ahead of Goldi (Florence Pugh) and her crime family of Papa Bear (Ray Winstone), Mama Bear (Olivia Colman) and Baby Bear (Samson Kayo) who are also searching for the Wishing Star.

Another rival is the massively huge adult Jack Horner (John Mulaney), an underworld kingpin who operates from the back of an ominous bakery. His ambition is to become the most powerful figure in the fairytale universe.

Though known fairy tale references abound, the filmmakers drew inspiration from Sergio Leone classic film "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." All these different hardened criminals are going after the same pot of gold.

Yet, it's Puss and his gang that are most adorable, charming and amusing when competing with the nefarious entities who want the Wishing Star for themselves.

"Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" should be fun for all age groups, and

Antonio Banderas is in fine form voicing his Spanish feline with humorous gusto.

#### "ANNE RICE'S MAYFAIR WITCHES" ON AMC NETWORKS

Back in May 2020, AMC Networks announced that it had entered into an agreement to acquire Anne Rice's major literary works, "The Vampire Chronicles Series" and "The Lives of the Mayfair Witches Series," encompassing 18 titles.

One of the most celebrated titles, "Interview with the Vampire" has already been produced as a series, and AMC boasted that it became the number two new drama series this year on ad-supported cable.

As a prolific bestselling author, Anne Rice's first novel, "Interview with the Vampire," was published in 1976 and was the basis for the international hit 1994 motion picture of the same title that starred Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt.

On January 8 at 9:00 p.m., AMC Networks premieres the second endeavor in what the network calls Anne Rice's Immortal Universe with the new series "Anne Rice's Mayfair Witches."

Based on the trilogy "The Lives of the Mayfair Witches," the eight-episode series focuses on intuitive young neurosurgeon Rowan Fielding (Alexandra Daddario), who discovers that she is the unlikely heir to a family of witches.

Grappling with her newfound powers, Rowan must contend with a sinister presence that has haunted her family for generations. Jack Huston joins the cast as Lasher, as does Harry Hamlin as Cortland Mayfair and Tongayi Chirisa as Ciprien Grieve.

"Anne Rice's Mayfair Witches" is a wildly entertaining series ... with a terrific creative team and cast, led by Alexandra Daddario as unforgettable Rowan Mayfair," said Dan McDermott, president of entertainment and AMC Studios for AMC Networks, in a press release statement.

With the works of the bestselling author as the source material, "Anne Rice's Mayfair Witches" may prove to be as successful as what AMC was able to do with "Interview with the Vampire."

A companion special to the series "Anne Rice's Mayfair Witches" is the one-hour documentary "All of Them Witches" which explores an alternate history told from the perspective of today's most well-known practicing witches as well as scholars of history and anthropology.

The documentary examines the provocative history of Witch Hunts, paganism and voodoo, and challenges the myths permeating popular culture. "All of Them Witches" is not to be confused with the 1996 Mexican supernatural horror film of the same title. ★

# Girl Scouts Heart of Central California Holds STEM Expo



Girl Scouts build a toolbox out of wood during the STEM Expo on November 6 at Camp Pollock in Sacramento. Courtesy photo



Girl Scouts problem solve how to build a structure with the pieces provided during the STEM Expo on November 6 at Camp Pollock in Sacramento. Courtesy photo



A Girl Scout looks through a microscope during the STEM Expo on November 6 at Camp Pollock in Sacramento. Courtesy photo

## Girl Scouts HCC News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Girl Scouts Heart of Central California held their annual STEM Expo on November 6, 2022 at Camp Pollock in Sacramento with 142 participants in attendance.

The event featured a variety of hands-on activities designed to foster curiosity and confidence in participants with an eye toward the future in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Highlights from the array of experiences provided include:

Solar bracelet making: Provided by event

partner SMUD, this creative project centered on understanding energy. (The beads used could change depending on light.)

Ecology and botany learning: Highlighting the Girl Scouts and UC Davis Arboretum's Public Garden Program, living plants were used in captivating games designed to teach plant identification while having fun!

Robot programming and play: Provided by event partner Code Ninjas, this hands-on experience encouraged problem-solving and analysis skills essential to tomorrow's thinkers.

Paper rockets and DNA bracelet making: Provided by event partner



A Girl Scout makes a solar bracelet during the STEM Expo on November 6 at Camp Pollock in Sacramento. Courtesy photo

Americorps Fellows and the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California's Mobile STEM Center,

these tactile projects kept participants actively engaged while learning. One highlight of the day

was feedback received from a newly established local Daisy Troop. Having formed just one week prior, the STEM Expo was the troop's first Girl Scouts event. They arrived early and were some of the last to leave! Their enthusiastic troop leader made connections for future activities inspired by both the event itself and by other leaders in attendance. The troop is especially interested in working more with Code Ninjas.

Over the last 30 years, employment in STEM occupations has grown 79% with the promise of continued growth in the fields. Women comprise only 34% of the STEM workforce and have lower

median salaries than their male counterparts.

The future for women in STEM is far brighter, however, thanks to events like this that inspire tomorrow's thinkers and leaders. STEM is a foundational part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, the four-pillar framework around which all our activities are built. Along with the other pillars (outdoors, life skills, and entrepreneurship) Girl Scouts is committed to providing opportunities for growth through STEM-focused learning.

For additional information about this impactful event, please contact: Andrea Fruchier, MarComm Senior Director. ★

## Raucous Musical Pirate Adventure Unfolds Live Onstage



Long John Silver, the popular antagonist to the novel *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. Photo courtesy of the Woodland Opera House

## Woodland Opera House News Release

**WOODLAND, CA (MPG)** - Jennifer Goldman, D.D.S. and Amy Thu Tran, D.D.S. present *Treasure Island* - A Musical Adventure, a The Prince Street Players Ltd. Production, freely adapted from the original novel by

Robert Louis Stevenson at the Woodland Opera House, 340 Second Street on January 13-22, 2023.

Excitement runs high in this musical adaptation of a favorite childhood adventure story. Robert Louis Stevenson's thrilling tale of pirates, treasure maps, mutiny on the high seas

and pieces of eight follows Jim Hawkins, an ordinary youth who is drawn into a dangerous race for buried treasure against the treacherous Long John Silver. This lively show, full of fun characters and music, is great for all ages! Books and Lyrics by Jim Eiler. Music by Jim Eiler and Jeanne Bargy.

Performances showing Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Reserved seats are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors 62+, and \$10 for children 17 and under. Balcony tickets are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children. Flex Pass specials and group rates are available.

Tickets on sale online at [www.woodlandoperahouse.org](http://www.woodlandoperahouse.org) and at the Box Office (530) 666-9617. Located at 340 Second Street, hours are: Tuesday - Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Opera House is located in historic downtown Woodland, just 20 minutes from Sacramento. Many wonderful shops and restaurants are within walking distance from the theatre.

*Current COVID Statement: The Woodland Opera House continues to follow all local, state, and federal health and safety guidelines.* ★

## Caltrans to Expand Safe Walking and Bicycling Options Statewide



Bicyclists travel in Caltrans District 7, which encompasses Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Photo courtesy of Caltrans

## Caltrans News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - With California making unprecedented investments to improve and expand safe options for pedestrians and bicyclists, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) unveiled potential project locations statewide to enhance safety and create a more interconnected system for people who use active means of transportation, such as walking and biking.

The Caltrans Active Transportation Plans website contains links to interactive localized plans and maps that detail current conditions and identifies areas for potential improvement as the state invests in these projects like never before. The current state budget includes \$1.05 billion to create safer and more connected walking and biking options that reduce dependence on driving - a key strategy to reduce pollution from the transportation sector.

"Caltrans is working to create safer, more equitable transportation options for all Californians," said Caltrans Director Tony Tavares. "These plans will guide the department's investments to support walking and

biking and connect people with jobs and services."

Safety is Caltrans' top priority and a key component of the Active Transportation Plans. At least two pedestrians or cyclists are killed on California's transportation system each day. Between 2010 and 2019, pedestrian fatalities increased more than 40 percent and bicyclist deaths went up more than 60 percent. Reducing the rate and severity of bicycle and pedestrian-involved collisions are critical to Caltrans' goal of reaching zero fatalities and serious injuries on state highways by 2050.

The Caltrans Active Transportation Plans further the goals set out in the 2017 State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, Toward an Active California, which established statewide policies, strategies, and actions to advance active transportation and transit safety, mobility, preservation, and equity. In December 2021, Caltrans announced a policy requiring all new transportation projects to include safe and accessible options for people walking, biking and taking transit.

For more information on Caltrans Active Transportation Plans, visit [catplan.org](http://catplan.org) ★







# Is the Drought Over?

*Water providers still predict shortages next year*

By Alastair Bland,  
CALMatters

December has delivered a powerful punch of storms to California. But the wet weather comes with a dry dose of reality: The state's largest reservoirs remain badly depleted, projected water deliveries are low, wells are drying up, and the Colorado River's water, already diminished by a megadrought, is severely overallocated.

Throughout California, urban water managers are bracing for a fourth consecutive drought year. Nearly one out of every five water agencies — 76 out of 414 — in a recent state survey predict that they won't have enough water to meet demand next year. That means they are likely to impose more severe restrictions on customers, with some Southern California providers considering a ban on all outdoor watering.

While December's rain and snow show promise, water managers remember the same thing happened last year — epic early storms followed by the driest January through March in California's recorded history.

Last week the state announced an emergency regulation extending its ban on "wasteful water practices" through 2023. Included are watering while it's raining, running decorative fountains without recirculating flows and washing vehicles with hoses not fitted with automatic shutoff nozzles, among others.

Some regions of California have more water than they need. Sacramento reported a 173% surplus for 2023 to state officials. City spokesperson Carlos Eliason said Sacramento has a healthy system of community wells to draw from in addition to the Sacramento and American rivers.

The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, serving 90,000 people in and around Eureka, reported an 834% surplus for 2023. Its main reservoir typically fills to the brim every year.

"Unfortunately, our system isn't connected to other systems, so we can't do anything to help our neighbors in other parts of the state, but we'd like to," said General Manager John Friedenbach.

Sonoma County's major reservoir was at just 39% of capacity last week, its lowest level ever recorded, but Don Seymour, the county water agency's deputy chief engineer, said there is no reason to panic. "That's still a lot of water," he said. "We could stretch that out into the spring of 2024."

But other regions of the state — mostly in Southern California — aren't as fortunate. Millions of Southern Californians will likely face outdoor watering restrictions or even bans, with probable exceptions made for the hand-watering of trees.

Most Southern Californians — 27 million people — rely at least partially on the State Water Project, a system of dams and canals that moves water from the Sacramento Valley to Southern California. On Dec. 1, the Department of Water Resources



Oroville, which is one of California's largest reservoirs, is only 59% of capacity as of December 12 — despite recent rains and snow. The reservoir is shown here in May 2022. Photo by Andrew Innerarity, California Department of Water Resources



Bidwell Canyon Marina showing Lake Oroville with a reservoir storage of 1,663,134 acre-feet (AF), 47% of the total capacity. Lake Oroville is located in Butte County, California. Photo taken July 6, 2022, by Florence Low/California Department of Water Resources

announced it will initially allocate just 5% of the supply that water districts requested from the state — bad news for those with no other water source.

Fort Bragg, on California's North Coast, nearly ran out of water in 2021, forcing management into a stage 4 "water crisis" mode. A small desalination unit, capable of processing 200 gallons per minute, was revved up to meet basic needs for the 7,500 local residents. Meanwhile, outlying communities, like the seaside bluff town of Mendocino and isolated inns, restaurants and homes, saw wells run dry. Fort Bragg delivery trucks, carrying water provided by the city of Ukiah, brought relief.

Things have improved for Fort Bragg. In 2022, late spring rains recharged its reserves, said John Smith, the city's director of public works. Its small reservoir is brim-full, and the desalination unit is ready to go if needed.

The city asked residents to use 20% less water, which they did — plus some.

"We asked for 20%, and they conserved 30%," he said.

Earlier this year, Californians were slow to respond to drought warnings. In fact, their usage went up last spring. Californians emerged from the driest January, February and March on record with the biggest jump in water use since the drought began: a nearly 19% increase in March compared to two years earlier.

But many Californians have stepped up since then. In October, statewide urban water use dropped 12.6% compared to October of 2020.

Still, the cumulative savings (only 5.2% compared to 2020) fall far short of Gov. Gavin Newsom's request for a 15% voluntary cut.

Santa Rosa's water director, Jennifer Burke, said water use in the city of 180,000 is down 18% of average since June of 2021, thanks in part to rules limiting outdoor watering to nighttime hours when evaporative losses are less.

In Sacramento,

residents have curbed water use by more than 20% by limiting residents to watering twice weekly from March through October and once per week the rest of the year. This ordinance, Eliason said, is permanent.

"We wanted to make sure water conservation is a way of life," Eliason said.

For many Californians, it already is. The state's residents have streamlined their water use and reduced waste for decades. Daily residential water use statewide in October decreased to 88 gallons per capita, compared to the five-year average of 97.

Jeffrey Mount, a senior fellow with the Public Policy Institute of California, said California's overall water consumption has remained the same since the 1980s even though the population grew from 30 million to 40 million.

"That is a good indication that adjustments can be made as things get drier," Mount said.

An even steeper trend toward conservation has

been logged by the East Bay Municipal Utility District. The customer population has grown by 35% since 1970 while overall water use has declined by 45%.

In recent years, residents have increasingly swapped out grassy lawns for drought-smart landscaping, and they are currently limited to watering outdoors no more than three days per week. These measures have reduced water use during the ongoing drought by 14 to 15% — what Pook describes as "conservation on top of conservation."

Green grass will go brown next year, and in the long run, vast areas of lawn will probably disappear permanently as Californians adjust to aridification.

In October, the Metropolitan Water District passed a resolution encouraging communities "to reduce or eliminate irrigation of non-functional turf with potable water." This followed a May, 2022 emergency order from the State Water Resources

Control Board banning non-functional turf irrigation with potable water on commercial, institutional and industrial properties statewide. The Pacific Institute has calculated that such efforts could save California as much as 400,000 acre-feet of water annually.

But no matter how tight the state's water supplies get, keeping urban trees alive will probably be a priority.

"We're seeing, in all urban areas, a frantic effort to conserve urban forests," Mount said, noting that urban trees provide shade, reduced ground-level temperatures and natural water treatment services.

Mount, who recently eliminated most of his own backyard turf — sparing just a narrow strip for his dogs — said he takes some solace in the fact that green grass remains a prominent feature of institutional landscaping, for it means there is still room to improve.

"That makes me more sanguine than most about the future," he said. ★