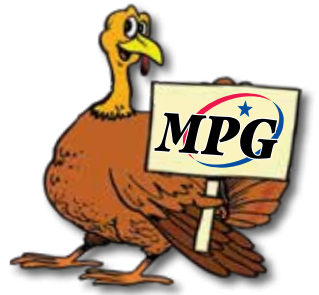




Rams reach D5 semifinals, lose at Sonora

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We Wish Our Readers A Happy Thanksgiving



Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

NOVEMBER 25, 2022

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ARE YOU CREATIVE?



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Lighting Up Downtown

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Start your holiday season with one of Dixon's best traditions: The Downtown Dixon Business Association's annual Tree Lighting Festival set for Thursday, December 1, in downtown Dixon from 4 to 8 p.m. Once again, downtown will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland with thousands of lights glimmering from the trees, across the parks, and in the many businesses and restaurants.

"With the addition of the beautiful Pardi Plaza park area, the new stage will be an enjoyable and an absolutely perfect new location for the treasured youth performances," said Angela Meisenheimer who is serving as co-chair alongside Susan Motley, both long-time DDBA volunteers. The stage will feature Christmas carolers, children's performances, and the Dixon Dance group.

"I love the joy it all brings and seeing the families, the children, and even the teenagers with excitement on their faces. They still see the magic," Meisenheimer said.

Just down the street from the Pardi Plaza, one can stroll to 'Ye Olde Vets Hall' where children can visit with Santa Claus in person and take pictures free of charge. There will also be a craft fair going on inside, with many handmade and unique items for gifts. Dixon Cub Scouts Pack #253 will be providing free popcorn as well.



The large and colorful DDBA Christmas Tree is officially up in the Dixon Women's Improvement Club Park and ready for the annual Tree Lighting Festival on December 1.

Outside and across the street in the Women's Improvement Club Park and Dixon Public Library, there are many more activities. It is also where the Community Christmas Tree is located that will officially light at 7 p.m.

The Dixon Volunteer Firefighters Association will have a roaring fire pit glowing with their famous free hot apple cider and Kettle Korn. Grace

Fellowship Church is bringing back their super fun and free Family Photo Booth to capture great group photographs. And, there will also be a Nativity set up to remind all 'the reason for the season.'

Outdoor activities include pony rides in the park behind the library along with a petting zoo. Inside the library will be special guest StoryTime readers for youths.

Further down North First Street, there will be a fun Kids Crafts Zone at the Calvary Chapel where children and families are welcome to assemble craft kits inside where it's warm to take home.

"We're busy getting ready for the big day but we always need more help and if you can help, please contact us," said DDBA President Jill Orr. "It is a merry event for volunteers also. We want everyone to get in the Christmas spirit. It's going to be beautiful."

The DDBA, which fundraises through its membership fees, Wine Stroll and BeerFest, pays \$5,000 annually for the tree and its storage and for the tree to be professionally put up and taken down. They also provide funds for the maintenance of the lamppost decorations.

"If you've noticed the new, bright red and white candy cane decorations in downtown, DDBA extends its deepest gratitude to the anonymous donor who contributed to purchasing them for all of us to enjoy," Orr said. ★



California Faces \$25 Billion Budget Shortfall

Commentary by Tim Anaya

When I last wrote about California's state budget picture, Gov. Newsom was warning in his September veto messages about the state facing lower-than-expected tax revenues in the first months of the new fiscal year, and urging lawmakers to "remain discipline when it comes to spending."

With ongoing inflation and economic problems, the state's budget problem is growing worse by the day. The Department of Finance's most recent Finance Bulletin, released in October, pegged the current deficit at \$6.967 billion through September.

Personal income tax cash receipts in September came in 22.9 percent lower than projected for the month, while estimated tax payments for the month were 42.3 percent lower. The Department notes that "September is a significant month of personal income tax receipts as many taxpayers pay their third quarter estimated payments."

While the Governor's budget won't be released until January 10, we get a sneak preview of the budget debate every November when the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's office releases their annual fiscal outlook for the year ahead. This year's outlook, which was released on Wednesday, is pretty dire.

According to the LAO report, the state faces a \$25 billion budget shortfall in the 2023-24 fiscal year, which is primarily the result of lower revenue estimates than projected in the 2022-23 state budget. Over the three year budget period (2021-22 through 2023-24), the LAO estimates \$41 billion in lower revenue than projected in the enacted state budget. If the state enters a recession, which many economists believe is nearly upon us, the LAO says "revenues could be \$30 billion to \$50 billion below" their current estimates. The LAO also forecasts multi-billion-dollar deficits each year through the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Rising inflation makes the state's budget problem even worse. The LAO estimates that the Legislature can meet the requirements of the voter-approved Proposition 98 minimum funding guarantee for education and provide an 8.38 percent cost-of-living adjustment. However, inflation adjustment isn't built into the

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Turkeys Sleep in Trees

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In case you are new to Dixon, there is some important information you really need to know, especially now that we are at Thanksgiving. Dixon has

turkeys. Wild ones. A lot of them. At this time of year, you can drive down Stratford Avenue or across town on A Street and you will almost undoubtedly see at least a small flock.

This is where I like to give a stern warning to newbies: Do not

try to get around a line of stopped cars in a huff. If the problem isn't as visible as a train, it's likely that drivers are allowing for a turkey crossing. This morning, drivers were treated to something a little rare: There were 35 of them! And please

don't rush when they have seemed to all get across the street because often there are stragglers who didn't realize the family had disappeared and suddenly go running across the street to rejoin them.

These turkeys are not protected but a driver would feel pretty bad if you accidentally run one over. And, they are big enough to mess up your car. They are everywhere and are very common across North America. Hunters can shoot them if it is the appropriate season, and he/she has a hunting license - and one is NOT inside the City.

According to the California Dept of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), wild turkeys have two seasons: The first is November 12 to December 11 and the daily bag limit is one per day of either sex (just one turkey.) The Spring season is March 25 through April 30 and that's limited

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Recently, one of the several flocks of turkeys in Dixon seemed to follow the pedestrian rules at the corner of Almond and A Streets. (Which one is Ringo?)



Life's too SHORT

No Gasping

By Debra Dingman

When my first son went to a cooperative nursery school, I was squeezed into a tiny chair alongside our 'red' group of children at a very low table for our turn for snack time, when one of the children accidentally tipped a cup of milk spilling it across the table and I gasped.

"No gasping," the Teacher/Director said calmly and looked me straight in the eye to make sure I saw her. I immediately went to work more matter-of-factly to clean up the mess and the children continued to enjoy eating.

Teacher Janey gently pulled me aside soon after and explained that my reaction to what will surely be a regular occurrence, only causes more duress with the children because it already happened, and it was an accident.

In an article where science explains children's clumsiness by Olivia Carter, University of Melbourne, children do not develop adult levels of visual acuity until around 3 to 5 years of age.

In addition to fine visual details appearing more blurry, she reported, there is considerable

evidence that the processing capacity of children is also greatly diminished compared to adults.

A lot has to do with the crowded environment. Consider a table full of plates, silverware, cups, napkins and dishes, for example, where children aged 6 or 7 have a lot to process. Even up to the ages of 7 to 10 years, the objects in their visual environment simply never make it into visual awareness.

I'm sure I've still gasped on occasion since I now have six grandchildren but there's been more times I've spared them.

Recently at a local restaurant, a child spilled their drink at the table near us and the father became upset, yelling at the child. I think he thought people listening would be proud of him, but I think everyone in that whole place felt bad.

How many Thanksgiving dinners would be more peaceful if children came with an owner's manual about what happens at what age?

I've thought about this issue of crowded environments as it relates to being an adult. How many things are we

missing because our environment is too 'crowded' or we're too busy to notice?

Have you missed important details in a text message because you glanced at it? Do you know your neighbors?

Why not take a minute to smile and talk to strangers in line at the post office? There aren't many lines at the grocery stores these days with the self-help cash registers. It used to be that you could catch up on graduations, births, and weddings in those lines. They contributed to the small-town charm of Dixon.

When I think about the sudden, immense housing population happening in my small town, I'm determined NOT to gasp. I'm trying to remember that in all things, there is no way to stop growth in Dixon. We already tried that. So, let's be grateful for new businesses, wonderful new students and their families, and slower citizens taking walks around their new neighborhoods. Let's notice these things.

Most certainly, when you see a child, smile and say 'hello' to them. There's going to be a lot more of them around during the holidays while schools are on breaks. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Ted and Jeri Seifert of Silveyville Christmas Tree Farm pose inside the delightful Silveyville gift shop. They reported their opening day for the tree farm is Friday, November 25, and they are excited about all kinds of new fun at this local tradition. Their hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. everyday except Tuesdays. Rain or shine, free admission, paved parking and so much more at 6248 Silveyville Road in Dixon. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Long Winter Break

Dixon Unified School Students will be out of school for three weeks starting December 19 through January 6 so if you want to send them to Grandma's house, that would be a good time. If you consider the Saturday after they are out through the Sunday before they go back, there is a total of 23 days out of the education grind.

Neighborhood Christian School's break begins the same day as DUSD but they are due back on Wednesday, January 4, 2023. Dixon Montessori Charter School's break is December 26 through January 6. Students are due back on Monday, January 9.

Tremont Fair

There's going to be a Holiday Party at Tremont Elementary School on Friday, December 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. and Jennifer Roman of the Parent Teacher Organization is looking for vendors. For more information, call her at (916) 541-9731 or reach out through Facebook Messenger.

No Meeting

There will not be any official city meetings this week. The next one will be December 6 and that will be a City Council Meeting in the Council Chambers at 600 East A Street beginning at 7 p.m. The agenda will be posted Thursday before the meeting on cityofdixon.us or you can call City Hall at (707) 678-7000 to get help locating the current agenda.

Senior Luncheon

Tickets are still on sale for the annual Senior Club Luncheon at the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 South

Fifth Street. It will be held on Friday, December 9. Doors open at 11 a.m. with lunch served at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 per Club member; \$20 per non-Club attendee. Enjoy a catered lunch and an afternoon of holiday cheer with entertainment by West Coast Choir. Tickets are available through Wednesday, November 30. Call (707) 678-7022 for more info.

Train Tunnel Carols

Mark your calendar for Friday, December 16, starting at 7 p.m. for the annual Christmas Carols in the Tunnel where local churches gather to sing cherished holiday favorites. Living Hope Church promotes it each year. More news on that to come.

Park Planning

The last opportunity to give your thoughts and ideas for the new Parks & Recreation Master Plan will be on Thursday, December 8. The last workshop will be held at the Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 South Fifth Street from 6-8 p.m. For more information, go to cityofdixon.us.

Senior Lights Tour

The Dixon Seniors are invited to ride along for a tour of Dixon homes decorated for the holidays on Friday, December 16, at 6 p.m. Cost is only \$2 per person so bring friends and make it a fun night. To sign up, please stop by the Senior/Multi-use Center at Center to pay your fee and reserve your seat by Monday, December 5. A Read-Ride representative will call you to make arrangements for your pickup. This event is sponsored by the City of Dixon's Senior/ Multi-Use Center and Dixon Read-Ride. ★

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Natasha Ajam is Young Woman of the Month



Left to right are Julie Newlin, Erin DeWeese, Natasha Ajam and SI President Linda Green. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International

Soroptimist International News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Soroptimist's November Young Woman of the Month is Natasha Ajam who is the daughter of Shakeel and Mona Ajam. She has an older brother, Nabil Ajam who graduated from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 2020. Natasha is a proud first generation American. Her parents are from the Fiji Islands.

Her father, Shakeel, retired after 30 years with the Solano County Sheriff's Office. Her mom, Mona, is an active para-professional currently working for the Vacaville Unified School District. Natasha's family has lived in Dixon for 24 years.

Natasha is a senior at Dixon High School and will graduate in June 2023. She was nominated by Dixon High School teacher Erin DeWeese who wrote about Natasha's hard work, dedication to excellence, and leadership skills. She expressed her admiration of Natasha's 'go for it' attitude and believes she will be an asset to the college that she chooses to attend.

Natasha has participated in Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) all four years at Dixon High School. She spent her K-8 grades of school at Dixon Montessori Charter School and has fond memories of Dixon Montessori and even spoke on their

behalf at a Dixon School Board Meeting. Her favorite teacher was her first-grade teacher, Ms. Joanne, who she has kept in contact with throughout the years.

Natasha is most proud of her academic achievements, maintaining a 4.50 GPA, taking three advance placement (AP) courses her senior year, and participating in Drama, Key and Barnyard clubs. Natasha has also held offices in AVID Student Council, Drama Club, and Key Club. She is also co-director of the upcoming plays at Dixon High School.

She is an employee at Solano Bakery and said she has learned excellent customer service and communication skills while working in her community.

She volunteers at Simply Insane, a non-profit organization to help those in need. When not helping in the community and enjoying some free time, she enjoys listening to music, painting, and hanging out with her dear friends.

Natasha's future plans are to attend a 4-year university, first choice being UC San Diego. She will major in Business Administration with a concentration on Marketing. Natasha plans on earning an MBA once she establishes a clear focus on her business path. Later she would like to become a CEO in her chosen field. Dixon Soroptimist congratulates Natasha on an excellent academic career and wishes her continued success. ★

Are You Creative?

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Only three weeks left before the Dixon Kiwanis Club will host its 13th annual Festival of Trees at the Veterans Memorial Hall on December 10 and they are still in need of creative people to decorate the large, artificial Christmas trees sponsored by one of our local businesses.

All decorators will be competing for the honored spot of the People's Choice Award which includes their names engraved on the Kiwanis perpetual plaque and a treated dinner where they will be honored by club members. One can see photos on the Kiwanis Facebook page.

Last year, the winners were:

Large Tree category: *A Berry Merry Christmas* sponsored by First Northern Bank and decorated by Debee Lamont and Diana Davies, who have won People's Choice in one of the categories several times in the past years.

There were two winners in the Medium Tree category: *I'll be Gnome for Christmas* sponsored and decorated by Leah Marlin with the American Legion Auxiliary tied with *Christmas Under the Sea*



This plaque for the Kiwanis Festival of Trees event will be updated with last year's People's Choice winners and then maybe your name will be next.

also sponsored and decorated by first-timer Crystal Rico, along with Amaya, Justine and Ingrid Rico, and Nancy Riley.

The TableTop Tree category winner was *Baby Yoda Shenanigans* decorated by another former People's Choice Winner Tonyah Everhart.

If you are interested in helping decorate a tree or have a couple friends that will join in the fun and create a team, please contact co-chairs Brandi Proffitt at KiwanisOfDixon@gmail.com

or Kristin Janisch at (530) 760-6394.

Decorators will be receiving recognition on the People's Choice plaque and invited to a Kiwanis-treated dinner.

All proceeds go back into the community to serve children and our youth. Kiwanis is an international service club, and the Dixon club is part of a large group of Kiwanis clubs in the Sacramento area. They are also the parent club of the Dixon High School Key Club. ★

Turkey Caption Writing Contest



These turkeys were spotted outside Calvary Chapel last week. Numerous possibilities for a caption instantly came to mind; however, the editor decided it would be more fun to see what our readers could come up with. Please email captions to debra@independentvoice.com with the words "Caption Contest" in the subject line. Deadline is November 28 by noon which means you have only five days to be clever. The winner will be published in the next edition so you'll be famous for a week but that's not all. You'll also receive a \$25 gift certificate from DAWSON'S Bar and Grill thanks to Greg and Jill Orr. Let's see what you can do! Photo by Debra Dingman



Turkeys Sleep in Trees

Continued from page 1

to bearded turkeys (older males.) Bearding is almost exclusively in males but rarely, some females and most likely due to a genetic mutation.

"They eat pretty much anything," said Tacy Currey, long-time Dixon Ag expert. They'll go after vegetation, seeds, bugs, insects, plants, berries, and even live animals such as snakes or lizards. And, they can get water from morning dew or from just foraging insects.

"They won't hurt anyone but could 'attack' if people look threatening," Currey added. "During certain seasons they can be territorial. But, their version of attacking is that someone would wind up with superficial wounds." They are primarily easy-going beasts and at night fall, they go back to trees – a homestead where

they are more protected from danger since they can't see well at night – even though they still can see three times better than a human. But they are not helpless and wild turkeys have been known to fly up to 55 mph in short bursts.

For young children, one can download various turkey sounds on a smartphone that can then be mimicked and can draw turkeys closer to view.

An interesting bit of trivia is that Ben Franklin was more in favor of turkeys as a national emblem than the Bald Eagle. He said the eagle was lazy because it scavenged from other birds and animals. The turkey, he argued, was more respectable and way smarter than what we give them credit for. In addition, during the mating season, their neck actually turns red, white, and blue so are even arguably, patriotic. ★

Rams Reach D5 Semifinals, Lose at Sonora

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

SONORA, CA (MPG) – A magical season that will be remembered for generations came to an end Friday night as the Dixon varsity football team lost 49-34 at Sonora in the 2022 Division V CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Football Playoffs.

The No. 6 seed Rams (10-3) reached the section semifinals for the first time since 1974 following a 28-21 win at No. 3 Liberty Ranch on November 11. The No. 2 ranked Wildcats (10-2) defeated No. 10 Center 48-15 in their opening round game following a first-round bye.

Sonora began the game Friday with a defensive score in the opening minute as senior Chance Pimentel picked off Dixon senior quarterback Jett Harris and returned the turnover 20 yards for six points. The Wildcats doubled their lead with a 13-yard touchdown pass from junior Adam Curnow to Pimentel midway through the first quarter.

Dixon's first points of the night came on a 67-yard bomb from Harris to senior wide receiver Brent Green for the touchdown. Sonora led 14-7 after 12 minutes of play.

Junior Audie Peebles rushed in from four and 14 yards out, respectively, to score the Wildcats' next two touchdowns.



Dixon senior kicker Luis Torres lines up to kick the point after try during a 49-34 loss at Sonora in the semifinals of the 2022 Division V CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Football Playoffs on Friday, November 18 in Sonora. Photo courtesy of Mike Morreira

Harris then found Green again, this time for a modest 13-yard reception, which went for six points.

Curnow and Pimentel connected on an eight-yard pass with under a minute left in the half to add to Sonora's lead, who led

35-14 at halftime.

The Rams attempted to chip away in the third quarter when senior running back Braden Baumbach scored a four-yard rushing touchdown. The Wildcats quickly erased any hope of a comeback when Bryce Nicolson scored back-to-back rushing touchdowns. The junior ran in from 49 and 16 yards, respectively, to give his team a four-score lead.

Harris and Green earned a hat trick halfway through the third period as they completed a 19-yard touchdown pass, the duo's third of the evening. Dixon's final score of the night came shortly into the final period as Harris found Baumbach for a 26-yard reception that went for six points.

Senior Luis Torres nailed his first four point after tries on

Friday night but missed the last one, leaving the final score 49-34 with Sonora moving on to the D5 Championship game. The Wildcats will play No. 5 seed Escalon in the section title game on Saturday night at St. Mary's High School in Stockton with kickoff set for 6 p.m.

In his final game for the Rams, Harris left it all out on the field. The Golden Empire League Co-Offensive Player of the Year completed 22-of-42 pass attempts for 417 yards, four touchdowns and two interceptions. He also ran five times for 40 yards.

Baumbach gave it everything as well. The senior bruiser carried the ball 19 times for 122 yards and a score. Through the air, he caught two passes for 28 yards and a touchdown.

Dixon's dynamic duo of

senior receivers did not disappoint either. Green racked up a game-high eight receptions for 223 yards and three touchdowns. Torres hauled in seven catches for 95 yards.

Green and Torres along with senior defensive tackle Seyyid Smith led the defense with 12 tackles each. Senior defensive end Elijah Hairston trailed closely behind with nine tackles followed by Baumbach with eight. Green also added to his interception total with one on Friday, now up to 11 total, which leads the state.

The seniors, led by Harris, Green, Torres and Baumbach, will be graduating 15 out of 37 players from this year's team in the spring. Following a trip to the section semifinals, the Class of 2023 will surely be remembered for years to come around Dixon. ★



Dixon coach Wes Besseghini (front right) and his team salute the flag during the national anthem before a 49-34 loss at Sonora in the semifinals of the 2022 Division V CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Football Playoffs on Friday, November 18 in Sonora. Photo courtesy of Mike Morreira

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FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

By Amy Shane

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

Holiday Gift Giving Guide Begins

It's that time of year again. The lights are strung, the scent of pine is heavy in the air, and holiday music is pumping through every store speaker. This year, For The Love Of Books, will once again be sharing the best Holiday books of the season along with the publisher's top picks. Check back each week to discover the perfect gift for any reader on your list. Harper Collins publishing starts this year's list with their favorite holiday gifting titles.

The Stocking Stuffer
by Holly Merriweather and Stephanie Graegin

A delightful rhyming Christmas story shares the story of Tinsel the mouse, and the night he helped Santa. It's Christmas eve, and Santa needs help. A storm is blowing in, and all the children have made the nice list. How will Santa ever get all the presents delivered in time? This darling story shares the story of the night a little mouse gets his dream to help Santa.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Winter Night
by Megan Litwin and Nneka Myers

Celebrate the beauty of winter with the familiar nursery rhyme song. Follow a father and daughter as they take in the beauty of the night sky, city lights, and all the holidays celebrated throughout winter.

Goodnight Moon 75th Anniversary
by Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd

Seventy-five years of saying goodnight is beautifully displayed in this keepsake board book, hardcover slipcase, and collectors' art print. Since 1947 little readers have fallen asleep with the quiet lullaby, read of a little bunny in the great

green room. With a hush and whisper and saying goodnight, this beautiful classic can be cherished by a whole new generation.

The School For Good and Evil: Netflix movie tie-in
by Soman Chainani

The beloved middle-grade children's series The School For Good and Evil is now a Netflix movie. This exclusive movie tie-in edition includes a new cover design and diaries from the movie set.

When two best friends are chosen to be students at the School for Good and Evil, they are thrilled; this is the moment they have been waiting for their whole lives. One will be trained for good by fairytale heroes, while villains will train the other. But when Sophie and

Agatha are switched, they quickly learn that who they think they are is about to change. Readers will instantly fall for this amazing story of discovery, growth, and fairytale magic.

No Peeking At Presents
by Alastair Haim

It's Christmas Eve, and there is only one rule in the hosue- No peeking at presents! But then there is a squeak that wakes up the house. Who's peeking at the presents?

This adorable story captures the irresistible pull of wanting to peek at presents, but also, what would happen if your presents woke you up? Readers will giggle, laugh, and try to figure out who is waking up at the house. This book is a perfect read for the Holiday season and Christmas Eve. ★



Dixon Police Investigates Vehicle and Property Damage

Dixon PD News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - On November 16, 2022, Dixon Police responded to numerous reports of vehicles with broken windows and one residence with damage. The damage occurred overnight throughout Pheasant Run Drive, West H Street, Park Green Drive, and Sommer Drive. Officers believe a BB gun caused the damage.

Police are asking anyone who was a victim of property damage to contact police to file a report.

The Dixon Police Department is asking for the public's help with any information or surveillance video that may have captured these incidents or associated vehicles. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is encouraged to contact Dixon Police Officer Thorburn at (707) 678-7080. ★



Trump era has taken it to another level in the GOP. Many of the elected officials who are Trump's biggest public boosters have a dim view of him in private. People serving at the highest levels of his administration – not deep state operatives, but his own political appointees – would make clear their discomfort with him in private. Even the most pro-Trump voices in the media often don't share their true feelings about him.

Don't Count Trump Out Yet

Donald Trump is in his weakest political state since 2015 or early 2016.

During his presidency, when he was at the center of countless intense controversies, he didn't blink once. He never showed fear or desperation. Both are clearly at work now in his gratuitous attacks on Govs. Ron DeSantis of Florida and Glenn Youngkin of Virginia, neither of whom has done anything to him, besides presenting a viable alternative to his continued dominance of the GOP.

Any Trump political obituaries are premature, though, until a verdict has been reached by the force that has buoyed him and lent him his overwhelming power in the GOP politics -- Republican voters.

The idea that the "party decides" -- that a party's elites guide voters to their preferred presidential candidate -- got blown to smithereens in 2016. Trump had almost no institutional support and won anyway.

Since then, the party has neutered itself and, in many states, been affirmatively taken over by pro-Trump forces.

After the experience of the Access Hollywood tape and January 6, Republican officials have internalized the lesson that getting too far out in front of voters in expressing anti-Trump sentiment -- indeed getting an inch in front of them -- is potentially fatal.

Politics is always a realm of artifice and whispered conversations, but the

job approval rating during his presidency never approached 50%, either. Trump won in 2016 courtesy of Hillary Clinton, the Electoral College, and a dollop of luck. At the end of the day, he's a plurality, not a majority, candidate. And he's drawn to other plurality candidates, who, lacking the advantage of running in races with an electoral college or against Hillary Clinton, tend to lose. Winning 46.1% worked for Trump in 2016, but it's a formula for failure for everyone else.

There are early signs that voters have taken on board the contrast between Trump, who was embarrassed on election night and has been attacking other Republicans in crude terms, and Ron DeSantis, who won a crushing re-election victory and hasn't felt it necessary to throw out wild charges or insult other party leaders to try to deflect blame from himself.

The polls are very early but telling. A YouGov poll had DeSantis up over Trump nationally in a hypothetical 2024 matchup, 42-35. A new 2024 poll in Texas has DeSantis up by a similar 43-32. And a WPA Intelligence poll has DeSantis beating Trump in Iowa, New Hampshire, Florida and Georgia. There will have to be much more of that to signal that a fundamental, enduring shift has taken place and coax party leaders out of their long defensive crouch. The party won't decide to turn against Trump until voters give it clear, unmistakable permission.

One hopes that the lesson has finally been learned that Trump -- no matter how much Republicans admire his combativeness, appreciate his entertainment value, and detest his enemies -- is not a sound electoral guide, to put it mildly. Trump didn't win a majority in either of his presidential elections, even the one he won; he was never anywhere close to 50% in the RealClearPolitics polling averages in either of

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2022-001888
 The following persons are doing business as: America's Flooring Outlet, 4690 E. 2nd Street, Suite 8, Benicia, CA 94510.
 Floor Quest, 450 Lakeville Street, Suite F, Petaluma, CA 94952. Date Filed in Solano County: November 14, 2022. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is conducted by: A Corporation. 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 13, 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: Nov. 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 2022
 AMERICA'S 12-16-22

Dated: October 7, 2022
 Publish: Nov 4, 11, 18 & 25, 2022
 WEBB 11-25-22

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 CASE #FCS058803
 Isaac Samuel Webb filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Isaac Samuel Webb to Isaac Samuel Sharp.
 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. November 30, 2022, 8:30 a.m. Department 12, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
 Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
 CASE #FCS058802
 Bethany Marie Lamb filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Bethany Marie Lamb to Bethany Marie Sharp.
 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. December 21, 2022, 9:00 a.m. Department 3, Room 2, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533
 Judge of the Superior Court: Stephen Gizzi
 Dated: October 3, 2022
 Publish: Nov 11, 18, 28, Dec 2, 2022
 LAMB 12-2-22

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL

The Dixon City Council will hold a hybrid PUBLIC HEARING to consider the following project:

PROJECT: Adoption of 2022 California Building Standards Code – Notice is hereby given that the Dixon City Council will consider an Ordinance amending the Dixon Municipal Code (DMC), Title 16 (Building and Construction) to: 1) Adopt by reference and amend the 2022 California Building Standards Code, including the Building, Fire, Electrical, Plumbing, Mechanical, Building Standards Administrative, Energy, Historical Building, Existing Building, Referenced Standards, Residential, and Green Building Codes; 2) Adopt by reference certain appendix chapters of these Codes; 3) Adopt by reference and amend the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code and the 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code and 4) make findings to adopt local amendments to these codes due to local climatical, geological or topographical conditions.

In addition, the City Council will consider changes to the DMC, including: 1) repeal of Chapter 16.13 (Housing Code) and 2) addition of a new DMC Chapter 16.19, adopting AB1236 and AB970 (Permit Streamlining for Electric Vehicle Charging Systems)

The State of California adopts a set of new construction codes every three years, referred to as the California Building Standards Codes (Title 24). The purpose of this public hearing is to adopt the 2022 California Building Standards Code, which automatically becomes effective January 1, 2023, along with the 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code and the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code with certain administrative and technical amendments, based on Dixon's local conditions, in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 17958.7. The proposed local amendments mainly relate to local climatic, geographic, and topographic conditions inherent to the City of Dixon. The update also includes repeal of obsolete sections of the DMC, Title 16, and adding prior State required standards related to the permitting of electric vehicle charging stations (AB 970 and AB 1236) that had not been included in DMC, Title 16.

This adoption of the Building and Fire Codes and Ordinance is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15061(b)(3), since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of this Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment. 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15061(b)(3), 'general rule' provision).

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7:00 pm at Dixon City Hall, City Council Chambers, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988-621-1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

MORE INFORMATION Contact Larry Paisley, Chief Building Official at (707) 678-7000 x1113 or lpaisley@cityofdixon.us or John Malone, Assistant Fire Chief at (707) 678-7060 or jmalone@cityofdixon.us. Copies of the primary code and the secondary codes being considered for adoption, are on file with the City Clerk, and are open to public inspection. You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also view the staff report 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing, in person or remotely, to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed item. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to making any decision on the matter. This hearing will waive full reading of the Ordinance and accept public testimony.

The meeting will be physically open to the public and all persons attending the meeting must abide by all State rules and public health guidelines, regarding masking and social distancing in City Council chambers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to CityCouncil@cityofdixon.us or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, City Council, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the City Council and will become part of the official record, but will not be read aloud at the meeting.

You may also attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above or participate remotely, to provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments remotely during public comment period, you may 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand" or 2) via teleconference press "9".

At the above time and place, all letters received will be noted and all interested parties will be heard. If you challenge in court the matter described above, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the above referenced public hearing (Government Code Section 65009 (b)(2)).

Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Dixon Independent Voice 11-18, 11-25-2022

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON CITY COUNCIL

The Dixon City Council will hold a hybrid PUBLIC HEARING to consider the following project:

PROJECT: Close out of CDBG Grants - The City Council will consider closing out two Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) Corona Virus (CV) grants 20-CDBG-CV-1-00011 & 20-CDBG-CV2-3-00057. The purpose of the public hearing is to give citizens an opportunity to make their comments known on the City's Performance for the following two CDBG-CV Programs.

- The City Council approved by resolution authorizing the City of Dixon to submit for funding in the amount of \$304,068 for the 2020/21 funding cycle of CDBG CARES (CV-1) Act funding. Said application included the following activities: City of Dixon Small Business COVID-19 CDBG Support \$287,376 and Administration \$16, 692
- The City Council approved by resolution authorizing the City of Dixon to submit for funding in the amount \$429,017 for the 2020/21 funding cycle of CDBG CARES (CV2-3) Act funding. Said application included the following activities: City of Dixon Small Business Covid-19 CDBG Support \$409,017 and Administration \$20,000

The 20-CDBG-CV-1 CARES Act funding provided financial assistance to 7 businesses, retaining 69 low/moderate income jobs. The 20-CDBG-CV2-3 CARES Act funding provided financial assistance to 11 businesses, retaining 82 low/moderate income jobs, for a total of 18 businesses assisted and 151 low/moderate income jobs retained.

This close out of grant funding is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to 14 CCR Section 15061(b)(3), since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the adoption of this Ordinance may have a significant effect on the environment. (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15061(b)(3), 'general rule' provision).

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 7:00 pm at Dixon City Hall, City Council Chambers, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

MORE INFORMATION Contact Larry Burkhardt, Economic Development and Grants Manager at (707) 678-7000 x1126 or lburkhardt@cityofdixon.us. You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also view the staff report 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing, in person or remotely, to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed item. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to making any decision on the closure of the grants.

The meeting will be physically open to the public and all persons attending the meeting must abide by all State rules and public health guidelines, regarding masking and social distancing in City Council chambers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to CityCouncil@cityofdixon.us or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, City Council, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the City Council and will become part of the official record, but will not be read aloud at the meeting

You may also attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above or participate remotely, to provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments remotely during public comment period, you may 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand" or 2) via teleconference press "9".

At the above time and place, all letters received will be noted and all interested parties will be heard. If you challenge in court the matter described above, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the above referenced public hearing (Government Code Section 65009 (b)(2)).

Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

The City of Dixon promotes fair housing and makes all its programs available to low-and-moderate income families regardless of age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, social preference, marital status or handicap.

Dixon Independent Voice 11-25-2022

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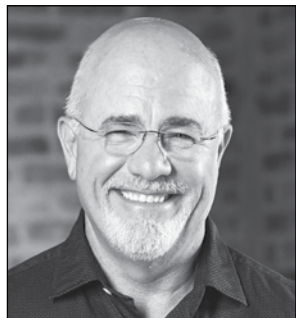
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TO ADVERTISE WITH THE DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE

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Dave Ramsey Says

Being Hounded Isn't the Issue

Dear Dave,

I lost my job a couple of years ago. As a result, I ended up in about \$25,000 of debt through credit cards and a consolidation loan. Now I have a great job making more than I've ever made before, plus a car loan for about \$13,000. The older debts went to collections, but I'm not being hounded by collectors at this point. I want to get control of my money and do things the right way, so how should I handle things?

–Mike

Dear Mike,

Well, being hounded isn't the issue. Morally,

you owe the money. You took money under agreements that you'd pay it back, and that means you need to pay it—both the old and new debts.

I'd start by running two debt snowballs. Let's do one for the car and any other active debts you have first since the collectors aren't after you about the old, dead debt. Then, smallest to largest, start knocking out the debt that's in collections. When it comes to these guys, reach out and get an agreement in writing detailing exactly how much you owe and the monthly payment amounts. Remember, do not give any of these folks direct access to your bank accounts.

There's no upside to not paying what you owe. It's an integrity issue, it's a legal issue, and it's a credit

issue. Did I mention it's an integrity issue, Mike?

You want this stuff out of your life. If you don't take care of it, I guarantee it'll come back to haunt you somewhere down the road!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

California Faces \$25 Billion Budget Shortfall

Continued from page 1

rest of the budget. As a result the LAO notes that, "our estimate of a \$25 billion budget problem understates the actual budget problem in inflation-adjusted terms."

In one bit of good news, the state has amassed a significant rainy day fund reserve in recent year. The rainy day fund reserve, which became law in 2014 thanks to the efforts of then-Assembly Republican Leader Connie Conway, has required the state to save money in good times to blunt the impact of a massive budget shortfall like the state is facing this year. But the amount saved in the reserve – about \$22 billion – is roughly the same as the state's current shortfall.

Now that incoming lawmakers and the Governor have received the bad news, it's up to them to figure out how to respond. You can expect Newsom will propose a January budget that sounds fiscally conservative – suspending new programs, making cuts where they won't conflict with liberal priorities, and focusing on addressing the state's unfunded obligations, and cautioning lawmakers to focus on one-time spending.

What is unclear is how the Legislature will respond. Keep in mind that one-third of the Legislature is newly elected, and the new Democratic members are generally more liberal than the members they are replacing by any objective measure.

How will they respond if Newsom wants to suspend or repeal some of the new ongoing spending they have enacted in recent years? The LAO notes that recently enacted ongoing spending will grow to \$12 billion in new annual spending by the 2025-26 budget year and is a prime target for being suspended or cut.

Signaling a potential budget fight with Newsom, Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, D-San Diego, said in a statement that, "we are prepared to hold onto the gains we've made and continue where we left off once our economy and revenues rebound."

Consider that the opening salvo in what will surely be one of the most challenging budget debates in Sacramento in more than a decade.

Tim Anaya is the Pacific Research Institute's senior director of communications and the Sacramento office. ★



State turkey supply will meet Thanksgiving demand, despite avian influenza

Holiday demand for turkeys remains high in California, and producers say they don't anticipate any shortage of turkeys for Thanksgiving tables. But it's been an exceptionally stressful season for state turkey farmers, ever since the H5N1 avian influenza reached California in August and was confirmed at a first turkey farm soon after. By Nov. 14, the outbreak had decimated 685,000 birds in California, including 493,800 turkeys. Wholesale prices for frozen turkeys this year are averaging 30% higher than last year.

Water rules, fees add to challenges for farmers already curtailing production

Farmers in the San Joaquin Valley are being forced to bulldoze healthy nut and citrus trees and remove grapevines due to water shortages. Meanwhile, they're being hit with new fees for balancing groundwater supplies and local agencies implementing plans that include pumping limits. Madera County farmer Jay Mahil is following 500 acres of orchards and vineyards. He says farmers are facing new fees when "people have already suffered substantial losses due to not being able to farm their ground."

Modesto, Turlock irrigation districts sign memorandum of understanding on Tuolumne River

Two water districts serving agricultural communities have signed a memorandum of understanding over water from the Tuolumne River. The Modesto Irrigation District and Turlock Irrigation District signed the MOU along with the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. It is considered a key step toward a voluntary agreement on managing the river in lieu of strict state mandates. Farmers say state rules governing river flows would deprive them of water for food production while failing to protect fish.

Farmers fear zero-emission trucking proposal could strand farm products

California air regulators are considering regulations to phase out big rigs and other trucks with internal combustion engines to replace them with zero-emission vehicles. The proposed Advanced Clean Fleets regulation would include vehicles that transport agricultural commodities. Farmers who rely on trucking companies for timely transport of their produce are voicing concerns. They say they fear the rules may be enacted before there is sufficient infrastructure, including a vast network of rural charging stations needed for agricultural trucking. ★



Riley Reviews

HOLIDAY FILMS ON CBS; UPLIFTING CHRISTMAS MOVIES ON UPtv

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT COMES TO CBS

The Hallmark Channel may not be alone in the holiday spirit but even network television can't compete with as many Christmas-themed specials. However, CBS makes an effort with its own foray into the jolly season.

Airing on November 29th, "Reindeer in Here," a one-hour animated holiday special, is based on the award-winning Christmas book and plush set created by acclaimed author Adam Reed and written for the screen by Greg Erb and Jason Oremland.

This is the heartwarming story of how Blizz, a young reindeer living at the North Pole who has an unusual trait – one antler that is significantly smaller than the other – and his unique group of friends band together to save the future of Christmas.

Blizz just wants to show Santa that his original inventions can make Christmas even better. Theo, a lonely 10-year-old boy, is the new kid in town who longs to make friends.

When a mysterious villain swipes the magical snow globe that holds the wishes of every child in the world, these two unlikely heroes become Santa's only hope to save Christmas.

Blizz and Theo can't save Christmas all on their own, so they enlist the help of their trustworthy friends, including Candy, the over-sharing Snowgirl; Pinky, the only entirely pink reindeer at the North Pole; and the dimwitted mohawked polar bear Hawk.

Joining the group to help out is the big-toothed nervous-nelly reindeer Bucky, and the adorable and hilarious Smiley the elf who has served as Santa's harried Head of Holiday Operations for the past 500 years.

Amanda Kloots ("The Talk" co-host) stars in and executive produces "Fit for Christmas," the tale of Audrey, an enthusiastic Christmas-obsessed fitness instructor at a beloved, financially beleaguered community center in quaint Mistletoe, Montana.

Audrey begins a holiday romance with a charming, mysterious businessman (Paul Greene), complicating his plans to turn the center into a more financially profitable resort property. "Fit for Christmas" airs on December 4th.

Mark Amato, who has created a dozen holiday-themed films, including last season's CBS original movie "A Christmas Proposal," as well as "A Kiss Before Christmas," is the writer of "Most Love Christmas," the holiday special to air on December 11th.

A renowned romance novelist (Liza Lapira of "The Equalizer") famous for her Christmas-themed books finds herself snowbound in the charming town of Cranberry Falls.

Stuck in this village, the novelist unexpectedly becomes involved in a love triangle between her childhood crush (Nathan Witte) and a reporter (Neal Bledsoe) determined to interview her to save his dying magazine. ★

Award-winning singer-songwriter Sheryl Crow executive produces and writes the title song for "When Christmas Was Young," a Nashville music-themed movie from a script by bestselling novelist Robert Tate Miller ("Hope at Christmas").

The story follows a headstrong music manager (actor/musician Tyler Hilton) in desperate need of a hit song for his last remaining client, who finds himself falling for a gifted singer-songwriter (Karen David).

While the singer may have abandoned dreams of making it big, Hilton's music manager attempts to secure the rights to a Christmas song she wrote years ago. "When Christmas Was Young" debuts on December 18th.

UPtv's MERRY HOLIDAY OFFERING

UPtv, the television home for uplifting entertainment, may be outdoing everyone else in the holiday cheer department, with 17 original movies celebrating the Christmas spirit.

Let's take a look at a few of the offerings. On December 3rd, "Christmas on the Slopes" is the story of a celebrity chef (Soma Chhaya) taking her first real Christmas vacation and ends up wandering into the kitchen of a luxury resort.

The handsome but grouchy head chef (Olivier Renaud) mistakes her for the sous chef, and their chemistry sparks a holiday romance. But will everything blow up when the head chef learns the truth about her?

"Santa's Got Style," debuting on December 11th, finds department store executive Madison (Kathryn Davis) charged with coming up with a fresh idea for the holiday season. She decides that instead of a classic Santa, this year they would hire a young Santa with fashionable style.

But when she has difficulty finding the perfect model, her long-time best friend Ethan (Franco Lo Presti), who has been in love with her for years, throws on a beard and disguises himself as the Santa of her dreams.

The weekend before Christmas delivers "Sappy Holiday," with Vanessa Sears' Joy stranded in a small town after her car breaks down. She meets the charming James (Jon McLaren), a local trying to save his family's maple farm.

Christmas weekend brings a double bill for Saturday and Sunday, with "The Snowball Effect" being the tale of rival meteorologists (Anjali Khurana and Landon Moss) tracking a huge snowstorm in the town of Mistletoe and having to work together to get home in time for Christmas.

Christmas Day brings "Christmas in Wolf Creek" where a runaway reindeer threatens the annual Christmas play and a struggling couple (Nola Martin and Tim Rozon) must work together to save Christmas for the town and each other. ★

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NATIONAL NEWS *courtesy of THE EPOCH TIMES*

Parental Rights Candidates Win Across Country in Midterms

JACKSON ELLIOTT

Sweeping parental rights victories in the midterms suggest that parents want control of their children's education, Moms for Liberty President Tiffany Justice said.

While Republicans performed below expectations this election cycle, many school board hopefuls who campaigned on a platform of supporting parental rights triumphed on Nov. 8, even in solid-blue states, Justice told The Epoch Times.

Moms for Liberty recorded wins for pro-parental rights local candidates in Maryland and New Jersey, states that sent Democrats to Congress. Several Moms for Liberty-endorsed candidates won in majority-Democrat districts in conservative states.

"What you're seeing now is parents stepping up in their local communities and taking back their education system," Justice said. "We're a nonpartisan organization. We want people that support parental rights to win."

Across the country, Moms for Liberty endorsed 270 candidates.

Defying the odds, more than 50 percent of those candidates challenged incumbents and won, Justice said.

"If you look at the general percentage of first-time candidates that win, it's much lower than half," she said.

The win is even more impressive given that the National Education Association (NEA) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) spent \$59 million on left-wing political campaigns, according to Breitbart.

The Epoch Times reached out to both the NEA and the AFT, but representatives for neither organization responded by press time.

Florida Victories

For one candidate running on a parental rights platform, vital issues included school policies on mask mandates, obscene books, and LGBT ideology. Parents also have raised concerns about school

failures to teach reading, writing, and arithmetic to acceptable standards.

School board candidate and incumbent Jacqueline Rosario ran for office with an endorsement from Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican. She and the other five DeSantis-endorsed candidates in the Nov. 8 election won school board seats.

"There's no place in public schools for 'woke' ideology," Rosario told The Epoch Times. "We need to remain or come back to traditional reading, writing, arithmetic, and science. These are the subjects that we're responsible for teaching."

Florida schools must improve education for several reasons, she said. Math scores have dropped, and language scores currently average in the 50th percentile.

But instead of fixing these problems, schools have focused on woke indoctrination.

"It's just not good. ... We need to do better," Rosario said.

Referring to DeSantis's endorsement, she said: "It's been incredible. It's honoring, humbling, and exciting all at the same time. The work that I've been doing on the board has been exactly what the governor's educational agenda is written as."

She advised future candidates that their commitment to parental rights should be genuine.

"It has to be consistent, it has to be genuine, and you have to live it," she said. "There are parents out there depending on you to be their voice on the school board."

DEI Dynamited

When COVID-19 moved classrooms into living rooms, it lit the fuse of the parental rights movement, Alvin Lui, president of Courage Is a Habit, told The Epoch Times.

School went home; then parents went to school, he said.

For the first time, parents saw that schools taught kids radical gender ideology, indoctrinated them into activism, and exposed



Jacqueline Rosario, a member of the school board for District 2 in Vero Beach, Fla., on Oct. 16, 2022.



LGBTQ+ books displayed in the library at an elementary school in Richmond, Calif., on May 17, 2022.

There's no place in public schools for 'woke' ideology.

Jacqueline Rosario, member, school board

them to pornographic books, he said.

"When kids were home during COVID, a lot of parents saw what they were being taught," Lui said. "It was the first time that parents got a peek into the classroom."

In places such as Maine, teachers offered children pornographic books, and schools put up hallway posters that encouraged children into radical gender ideology.

Some children told their parents that they felt pressure from teachers and peers to declare that they were new gender identities. A new education rule in Maine will allow schools to keep secrets from parents about their children.

"Maine's Department of Education is about to pass a rule that lets school counselors and social workers take children away from their parents," a Courage Is a Habit video states.

Shocked parents have opposed school curricula that taught their children radical ideologies, Lui said.

Most school boards have two- to four-year terms, according to Ballotpedia. And 2022 marked the first widespread opportunity for voters to make choices since the

COVID-19 lockdowns.

Local elections for school boards remained hotly contested in Maine, parental rights advocate Shawn McBairty told The Epoch Times by email. Republican losses in Maine were the result of conservatives failing to support educational freedom, he said.

"There was no rallying cry, no overall strategy to have each GOP candidate unify as a team to expose the horrific Maine educational situation, which is indefensible from the Democrats," he wrote. "That's why we got crushed."

A local school district sued McBairty after, during a school board meeting, he read aloud passages from obscene books found in the school, as previously reported by The Epoch Times. McBairty eventually won a lawsuit against the school.

Elsewhere, the FBI opened multiple investigations into parents who protested schools, MSN reported.

The New Jersey Education Association released an election ad opposing parents, Justice noted. It claimed, "When extremists start attacking our schools, that's not who we are."

Justice said, "Parents are involved and want to reclaim public education."

Moms for Liberty hopes that the wave of election wins will lead to increased educational achievement, she said.

"The people in control of education continue to sell snake oil solutions, like DEI and CRT and SEL instead of focusing on the real issue at hand, which is kids are not learning to read in school," Justice said.

Fauci's Pandemic Leadership Needs to Be Investigated: Dr. Scott Atlas

EVA FU

Former White House COVID-19 adviser Dr. Scott Atlas sees multiple reasons for an investigation into Dr. Anthony Fauci, the outgoing director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).

Such a probe has been discussed as Republicans inch closer to a House majority that would grant them subpoena powers. Some Republican lawmakers have accused Fauci of playing a role in misleading the public about the origins of COVID-19 and supporting pandemic mandates they describe as draconian.

While Atlas, a vocal critic of the NIAID head, is "very skeptical" that an investigation like this could get away from politics or the perception of it being political, he thinks it's warranted. Fauci's changing stance on certain COVID-19 policies needs to be put under the spotlight, Atlas recently said on EpochTV's "Newsmakers."

"The real, clear public airing of exactly what happened needs to be done," said Atlas, a senior fellow in health care policy at the Hoover Institution and contributor to The Epoch Times.

"I personally am very skeptical that a political investigation, no matter who does it, is going to be done without politics, or if it's going to be perceived as nonpolitical. I don't trust people in government at all. They don't deserve to be trusted, to be objective."

"What was the motivation to flip flop multiple times with policy?"

His question was referring to Fauci's changing stance on pandemic school closures that drew criticism in late 2020.

He further questioned if there had been any "cover-up" of funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Fauci's division, citing the awards to the Wuhan Institute of Virology through the New York nonprofit EcoHealth Alliance as an example.

EcoHealth Alliance, which continues to receive millions of dollars in grants from the NIH, was subjected to scrutiny by multiple federal agencies over its partnership with the Wuhan lab. The Office of Investigations of the Department of Health and Human Services in late 2020 briefly opened a probe over alleged "major fraud against the United States."

The probe was closed in January 2021, according to internal documents, which had the reasons for the closure redacted. The allegation states that "the COVID-19 virus was generated in ... China with the assistance of an NIH Grant."

Beginning in 2014, EcoHealth was the recipient of a \$3.7 million grant to study bat coronaviruses in China. That grant was renewed through 2019 but suspended in 2020 because of compliance concerns. In August, the NIH ended the funding from the grant for the Wuhan facility after the lab at least twice rejected NIH's request for lab notebooks and original files from the research.

"We cannot have illegal research being funded outside the country by American science" avoiding or circumventing the rules, Atlas said.

"These leadership positions come with massive responsibility. It's not a game to be in charge of things. You're not supposed to use it to circumvent rules. You're not supposed to set up power, friends in the media to cover for you. No, you need to at least answer the questions in front of the American people." By the same token, Atlas also



Dr. Anthony Fauci gives an update at the White House on Dec. 1, 2021.

called for the Chinese regime to answer for its coverup of the initial outbreak, as well as its role in possibly causing the pandemic.

Besides a delayed admission of the outbreak's severity to the world during the pandemic's early days—behavior that Atlas called "unacceptable"—Beijing had "blocked real investigations" and "destroyed evidence of what happened," he said.

"Of course they need to be held accountable," he said. "It needs to be done, though, by a government and multiple governments that actually have the credibility and ethical focus to do that, and I think that that remains to be seen."

Rep. James Comer (R-Ky), the ranking Republican member of the House Oversight Committee, has vowed to summon

Fauci in a planned probe of the origins of COVID-19 should the Republicans win the House.

"Why did Dr. Fauci lie for so long about American tax dollars through EcoHealth Alliance going to fund gain-of-function research? Why did he lie about gain-of-function research being done in the Wuhan lab? Why were we even in the Wuhan lab? There are so many questions that the Americans deserve answers to," Comer recently told the "Capitol Report" program of NTD News, a sister media of The Epoch Times.

"The American people deserve answers and anyone that was involved in any type of cover-up should be held accountable."

Representatives for NIAID didn't respond to a query from The Epoch Times by press time.

ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



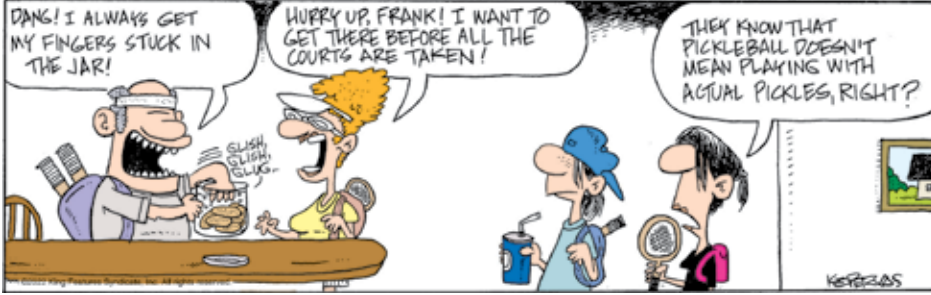
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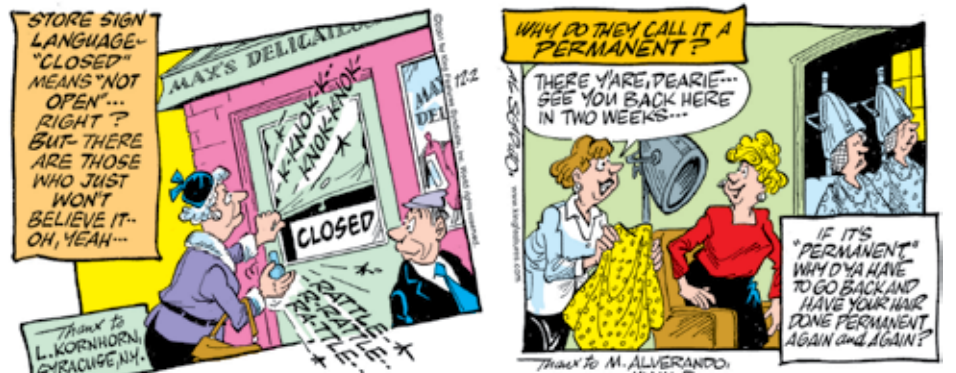
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Out on a Limb



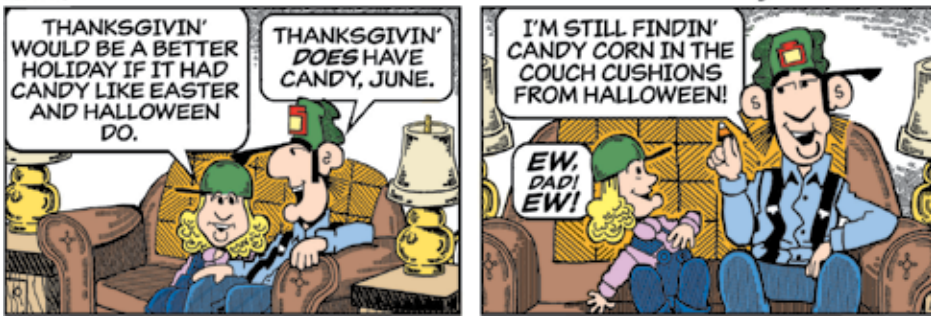
by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



GRIN and BEAR IT



"The Pilgrim kids didn't get a toy with their Happy Meal, Otis!"

LAFF-A-DAY



"That reminds me, Mom - have you told Dad about your car yet?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs



by Dave T. Phipps

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Newsom Provoked, Relents

Newsom released \$1 billion despite lackluster local homeless plans



Gov. Gavin Newsom explains why he withheld, then released, \$1 billion for local governments to reduce California homelessness. The two sides met in Sacramento on Nov. 18, 2022. Photo by Rahul Lal, CalMatters

By Manuela Tobias,
CALMatters.org

Two weeks after withholding \$1 billion in homelessness funding over lackluster local plans, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Friday that most cities and counties would get the funds as early as next week anyway — as long as in the next round, they commit to more aggressive plans to reduce street homelessness.

But it's been a whiplash-inducing couple of weeks, triggered by a funding process that frustrated both the governor and the locals. Newsom dissed local applicants for seeming too complacent about a dire California problem, while the applicants retorted that the Newsom administration sent conflicting signals — and that in any case, state lawmakers had inadvertently given them a financial motive to lowball their goals.

More than 100 local mayors and county officials gathered virtually and in-person in a sleek downtown Sacramento government building Friday afternoon to broadly discuss how to better tackle the state's most pernicious crisis.

"It was nice to hear their progress, and it was nice to hear their recognition that we have to get to another level," Newsom told reporters following the over two-hour-long private meeting.

It was a quick reversal some local leaders and advocates saw as a political stunt: The episode gave everyone a chance to air their grievances, but landed on no specific targets, while briefly risking the continuity of services for people experiencing homelessness.

"If you asked me what emerged from the meeting, I don't know. I did not hear any specific policy changes," said Sam Liccardo, mayor of San Jose. But, he added, "Nobody's going to criticize the state or the governor at a time when it's critical to get resources to bring people out of the cold. Lives depend on this."

Other local leaders said they welcomed the prodding.

"Sometimes, you have to provoke," said Darrel Steinberg, mayor of Sacramento. "And then gather around a table like we did today, and actually talk about what it's going to take to provide a further jolt to this problem."

The governor sent shockwaves through the state two weeks ago, just days before Election Day, when he summarily rejected every local homeless action



Muhammad, who declined to provide his last name, warms his hand at a fire near his tent in Sacramento. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

plan. On the line: nearly \$1 billion in homelessness funding. The plans, altogether, promised to reduce visible street homelessness by 2% between 2020 and 2024, or 2,000 fewer people statewide — which Newsom had called "simply unacceptable."

His move triggered chaos among many of the 13 largest cities, 58 counties and 44 homeless service providers who went through the process. Many of them thought they had been approved after workshoping the plans with Newsom's own homelessness agency, only to learn of their rejection en masse.

But local governments didn't have much of an incentive to shoot for the stars in their plans, either, because of the way the governor and Legislature wrote the grant. In the name of accountability, they tied nearly a fifth of the \$1 billion to local governments meeting their own unsheltered targets. With more people falling into homelessness than they can catch, many felt ambition might set them up for failure.

That criticism came up during the meeting, Newsom told reporters, holding up yellow pages ripped from a notepad.

"We worked with 120 members of the Legislature to put this forward," he chuckled. "And now we're working with 75 jurisdictions on these plans... In fact, literally right here, the recommendations: 'What specifically do you want to change in terms of these metrics and plans?' And that's exactly what this conversation was about going forward."

As soon as applicants sign a pledge to submit more ambitious unsheltered targets and try harder

in their plans for the next \$1 billion grant — the final round of flexible local homelessness funding approved in the 2021 budget — the state will start cutting checks for this round, according to Jason Elliott, Newsom's deputy chief of staff. Those new plans are due Nov. 29. A handful of local governments will have to work with the state to adjust their current plans before seeing the funding, although Elliott declined to name which ones.

During the pandemic, homelessness only spiked, and experts expect to continue to see its fallout on the streets in the coming years as rental assistance and eviction bans end. Between 2019 and 2022, homelessness increased by at least 22,500, to 173,800 people statewide, according to a CalMatters analysis of local point-in-time counts. Nearly 70% of those people were sleeping outdoors or in vehicles, while the rest stayed in shelters and transitional housing. (These biennial visual headcounts on a given night often are criticized for their inaccuracies.)

Yet the state asked cities and counties to calculate their 2024 goals based on their lower pre-pandemic counts of homeless people. At the time the application was due this summer, most localities simply figured they couldn't promise to make homelessness that much better when it had already grown so much worse, and was on track to keep worsening. And being too ambitious risked failure to meet their targets and losing any shot at the bonus money.

Newsom saw what they did and cried foul. He called out the Sacramento region in particular

— though not by name — for its lack of ambition: Instead of promising a reduction, the local governments and service providers foresaw a 71% hike in homelessness in their report. Why? That's exactly how much homelessness had already risen in the capital city this year, and the latest data that would be available by the time communities were evaluated on their progress to qualify for \$180 million in bonus funding statewide.

Comparing the relatively current 2022 numbers with the 2024 goals, communities had really signed up for a 4% or 5,000 person reduction, according to a CalMatters analysis — which if achieved would be better than the state has done in years. Since 2015, homelessness has only increased in California, by an average of 7% a year, or about 8,300 people.

After the turmoil of the past couple of weeks, Steinberg said Sacramento has now put forth a new goal, promising a reduction of 15%, or 1,000 fewer unsheltered people, by 2024. How progress might be measured differently remains unclear.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development — which mandates the homeless count — has often advised against tying it to funding because shooting for a certain number could influence its accuracy. Still, the point-in-time count remains the only uniform way to measure the number of people sleeping on the streets.

"It's imperfect at the moment and over the years... I hope we can evolve and consider different strategies," Newsom said,

suggesting the count can miss homeless people who are less visible. "Now what I see is what I see on the streets. And that's a challenge."

The federal department instead advises measuring success using the count in conjunction with other outcomes, like higher placements into permanent housing or fewer returns to homelessness.

"If I see positive trends in those other areas, and either stagnation or maybe just a slight downturn in the (count) that's actually probably a positive thing," a HUD spokesperson who would only speak anonymously told CalMatters.

California, like many other states, has seen a massive jump in homelessness since 2015, "way beyond the great work that many communities are doing to house people," the spokesperson added. The driver: a housing shortage propelling skyrocketing rents.

Muhammad, who declined to provide his last name, warms his hand at a fire near his tent in Sacramento. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

Newsom himself promised to abate that shortage when he first ran for governor, vowing to oversee the building of 3.5 million homes. He's fallen dramatically short of his goals.

Local service providers felt unfairly stung by Newsom's criticism because they have no control over housing unaffordability and the other system failures that cause homelessness. And while they are getting more state funds than ever before, their resources don't match demand. Funding the current affordable housing need alone would require nearly \$18 billion a year, according to an analysis from Housing California and California Housing Partnership, two affordable housing policy advocacy groups.

When Newsom withheld the funds earlier this month, service providers were aghast.

"We were all feeling pretty blindsided and you know, sort of reeling," she said.

The state had approved none of the applications before requesting additional information, according to Lourdes Castro Ramirez, secretary of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency, which directly oversees the council. She told CalMatters "there was no conflicting communication" from her agency and the governor's office. ★