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Merry Christmas



Holiday Eateries Limited

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you were planning to go out for a special meal for Christmas, you better set that date for Christmas Eve. In checking with several local restaurants only a few such as Cattlemens, Bud's Pub & Grill and Dawson's would be serving special dinners on Christmas EVE only. They will be closed on Christmas Day although Bud's Bar portion will be open if you'd like to have a glass of cheer.

Another meal option is **Denny's** on Stratford Avenue, which is open 24 hours, seven days a week but a local favorite is grabbing take out from **HK Garden Chinese Food** at 1145 Pitt School Road. They are not offering dine in this year because they are short-staffed like many restaurants and businesses are. Call (707) 678-3638.

Bud's Pub & Grill will keep regular hours on Christmas Eve, serving breakfast until 2 pm, and dinner until 9 pm. On Christmas Day, the bar will be open starting at 9 am (kitchen closed.) They are open normal business hours the rest of the week. They will serve New Year's Dinner from 4 to 10 pm. New Year's Day will keep regular hours of 7 am to 10 pm. Bud's is at 100 South First Street in the heart of downtown Dixon.

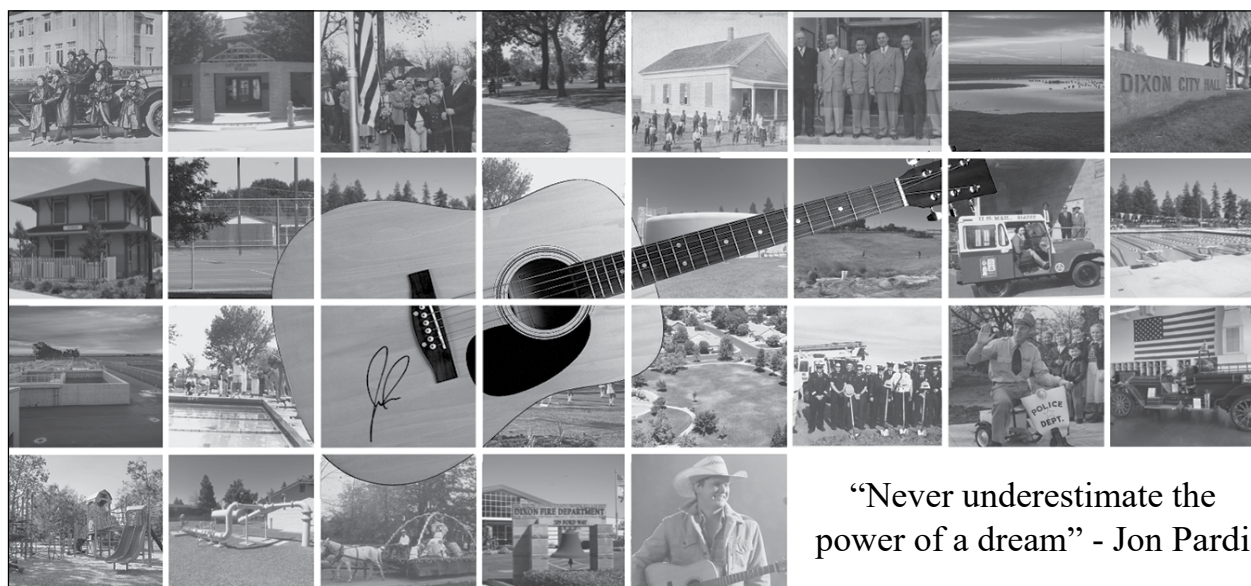
Dawson's Bar & Grill is serving dinner Christmas Eve but you better make reservations by calling (707) 678-2067. They are located at 105 North First Street.

You can also order a variety of food from Dixon's **Cattlemens** for Christmas Eve pick up by going to their website or calling (707) 678-5518. They will close just a bit early at 9:30 pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed on Christmas Day. They are located near the I-80 freeway at 250 Dorset Court. For New Year's Eve, their hours are 3 pm to 10 pm and on New Year's Day, they will be open 4 pm to 10 pm.

Only the **Ary Lane Starbucks** will be open on Christmas Day from 5 am to 4:30 pm but the Starbucks on North First Street will close at 4:30 Christmas Eve and remain closed for Christmas Day.

McDonald's will be open starting at 11 am Christmas Day until 11 pm. **Taco Bell**, however, will close at 8 pm Christmas Eve and will be closed Christmas Day. ★

Pardi Tile Decor May Cost \$15K More



"Never underestimate the power of a dream" - Jon Pardi

These photos are just draft placeholders and will be switched based on input received and finalized with the artist. It will also be expanded to 50 (5 x 10-inch) to include additional images, according to Madeline Henry, Public Information Officer for City of Dixon. Courtesy of City of Dixon

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Although most Dixonites already refer to the corner of A and First as the Pardi Plaza or Pardi Market site, the stage will officially be named the Jon Pardi Stage after a lengthy discussion about the ceramic artwork on the back of the stage.

Public Relations Officer Madeline Henry gave the presentation alongside Andrew MacDonald, P.E. Senior Project Manager, sharing that on January 14, the landscaping will be complete at a cost of \$982,167 to Lister

Construction and a 10 percent contingency of \$96,385 as so far, there has already been a change order at three percent.

They showed the illustrations and cost estimates of \$5,500 for the tile artwork and another \$3,000 to install them.

After hearing no comment from the public, Mayor Steve Bird started the discussion on Item 12.2 which was an update on the Pardi Market Plaza, Phase 2 requesting a dedication and naming the stage "Jon Pardi Stage." He said he hadn't had a lot of time to really

think about it but his first inclination was that the decorative tiles were not representative of all of Dixon and that the guitar, which took up eight tiles, was too much.

"I like the concept but it's overbearing. I don't think we need to name the stage; the name of the plaza encompasses it all," he said.

He suggested tiles picturing the Milk Farm and George's Orange and the May Fair, be more inclusive of the town. He also thought naming the stage was "redundant."

Continued on page 2

Dixon News Briefs



By Debra Dingman

Make a Christmas Memory

Years ago, when our youngest son was about 5, I felt he was slipping away from believing in Santa Claus so my hubby and I decided it was time to re-enact a family tradition of Santa visiting our home at night. It started with my Dad surprising me and my siblings as a child, then we played out the scene with my two older children when they were at that same age.

While reading the bedtime story of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, and while Dad was supposedly in the shower with water we could hear running, there was some noise downstairs that sounded like cardboard boxes thumping out of the chimney. Acting surprised and alarmed, I sat up in the bed and asked, "What was that!?" After listening some more, we determined it must be Santa and raced downstairs to see wrapped presents and the backside of a broad-shouldered man in a red velvet suit departing from the front door...

Each time the children have been more than delighted and we've shared stories of how my son chased Santa halfway down the street before I could catch the little guy and get him back into the house. Yes, we wasted gallons of water back then, but it was worth it. Is it time you create a scene...?

I pray you make this Christmas time a most memorable one!

Mask Exhaustion

Last year, I spent a little extra for a beautiful mask designed with Christmas holly. Later, when I washed it and put it away in a drawer, I thought for sure I wouldn't need it another holiday but just a week ago—and without any warning—we

were "mandated" to wear masks again.

They told us if we got vaccinated, we'd get to live "free." I remember going to hubby's appointment with him at the Vallejo fairgrounds where it looked something out of a futuristic movie where we were all being herded in to get a needle stuck in our arms. From the parking areas, we were guided by people bearing long, orange flashlights to where to park, then where to walk, then where to stand in line; and finally what station to sit to get needles stuck in our arms.

Then, there were variants and boosters and now more masks.

So, I ruffled through my sock drawer and found my Christmas mask. I have gone to the store, my hairdresser, the dental office, the coffee shop, and the base exchange. Each time, the mask fogs up my glasses because it is crazy cold outside. I've gotten one of my other 38 masks but no matter how I position them, I cannot see, my nose is tickled and my throat gets sore. It's exasperating and makes me stay home.

I've talked to vaccinated people now who had COVID vaccine "breakthroughs" despite wearing their masks faithfully. They didn't experience the death-grip symptoms that thousands experienced. I know that is because of the vaccine. Their breakthroughs were mild with fever, aches, and general yuckiness.

I know I'm going to get this virus sooner or later and I just want to breathe and see when I'm out somewhere. I'm way past COVID fatigue; I have "mask exhaustion."

Merry Christmas!

Please help the light of the Lord continue to shine bright on our hope for our nation and join me in divine worship this Christmas in Dixon. 1 John 4:9. Thanks for reading! ★



These workers are marking the road along West A Street for future construction of a new gas pipe, they said. They note where all the other utilities are underneath so they are not damaged when digging begins. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Underground Lines

Those bright orange fish designs that are on West A Street in front of the Dixon Police Department are not hieroglyphics. They were recently painted by utility experts who noted where existing pipes/utility lines are buried underground as a new gas line is being put in sometime in the next six months. Warning: One lane of traffic will be blocked during the road work.

Senior Club

The Dixon Senior Club is up and running again after a long COVID-19 hiatus. Call the Dixon Senior Center for upcoming events, trips, games and classes. It's time to get together again with friends and peers to get over the cabin fever all experienced during the pandemic.

The Senior Club coordinates with the City of Dixon and uses the Dixon Senior Center to schedule classes, exercise, meals, and many other activities throughout the year. The Senior Club and the Advocates for Seniors will also work together to find resources and provide links to services that are specific to senior citizens in Dixon. The Senior Resource Fair is tentatively planned for the Spring of 2022.

Yeti Winner

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce congratulates Kristen Ireton from Elk Grove who had the winning ticket for the Yeti and 99 beers raffle recently held by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. The winning ticket was sold by Patti Sousa-Liu, Chief Ambassador of the Chamber and Ireton is a strong supporter of Kiwanis Clubs in the Sacramento region (and Dixon.)

The mission of the Dixon District Chamber of Commerce is to develop, promote and protect the economic vitality of

the community through a positive business environment and to foster a climate in which commerce, industry and agriculture will flourish.

"We bring value to our members by promoting economic well-being through leadership, education, networking, and advocacy for business, industry, non-profits, and tourism," reported Executive Director, Shauna Manina. For more information on the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, and its programs and activities, call 707-678-2650 or visit dixonchamber.org.

Fireworks Already?

The 2022 Fireworks Program Guidance is now available at the City of Dixon. Non-profit groups from Dixon who desire to operate a Safe and Sane Fireworks Sales Stand can obtain the application and answers to frequently asked questions from www.dixonfire.org.

They may also be picked up in person from City Hall at 600 East A Street, Dixon. Applications must be turned in to City Hall along with the filing fee no later than the close of business Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022. The permit lottery will be held Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 2 pm in the Fire Department or via Zoom. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Fire Department at (707) 678-7060.

Business Night Light

Businesses are reminded to leave on some lighting at night so that the police can see if there is an intruder at night. This was learned at a Downtown Dixon Business Association Meeting a few years ago when a Dixon police officer presented to small businesses about crime prevention.

City Meetings

Reminder: The next regular meeting of the Dixon City Council will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022 at 7 pm. ★



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Pardi Tile Decor

Continued from page 1

At one point City Manager Jim Lindley stated that Jon Pardi was the most famous person to come out of Dixon and there was clear agitation by Dixon Historical Society First Vice President Loran Hoffman in the audience who tried to object and clarify about Dixon's famous, but Mayor Bird would not reopen the discussion to the public.

Jon Pardi, a Dixon High School graduate who has become a famous country singer, is the great grandson of the owner of the original Pardi Market on the corner of East A and South First Street.

The other councilmen had similar opinions but varied on what would be pictured on the

tiles and how many tiles they felt should be added due to cost.

Mayor Bird agreed with Dist. 4 Representative Don Hendershot who wanted more time and felt they were rushing for the project to be completed in April and that if it took more time, that was okay because, Hendershot said, "We want to do this thing right."

After a lengthy discussion, District 1 Rep Scott Pederson motioned that 22 more tiles be added with a fixed cost not to exceed \$15,000. The motion passed 3-2 with Bird and Hendershot dissenting.

Another look at the tiles will be brought back and the hope is to open the Pardi Plaza this spring. ★

**The Dixon Chamber
of Commerce wishes
everyone a safe and
Merry Christmas and a
Happy Holiday Season!**

For information on how the Dixon Chamber can help your business be more successful, call 707-678-2650 or email info@dixonchamber.org.

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What's Happening in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area?



Flyway Nights is a monthly speaker series highlighting environmental issues. Photo by Lewis Kemper

Yolo Basin Foundation Press Release

YOLO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Yolo Bypass is a series of weirs and levees providing flood protection for surrounding communities. Within the bypass and in the shadow of the State Capitol is the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. This wildlife area supports wetland habitat and wildlife friendly farming. It is open sunrise to sunset except Christmas Day or if it is flooded. In the winter, hundreds and thousands of migratory waterfowl arrive.

On Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 7 p.m., Flyway Nights, a speaker series hosted by Yolo Basin Foundation, brings Wildlife Area Manager Joe Hobbs to discuss the "Current Status of the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area." Joe Hobbs will give updates on ongoing research projects conducted in the Wildlife Area, the pollinator field project by River Partners and CA Waterfowl Assoc., continued bridge and canal work by Ducks Unlimited, Motus towers to study birds, and other projects.

Joe Hobbs has been the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Manager since 2018. Previously, he was the Statewide Elk and Pronghorn Coordinator. During his 21

years with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, he has worked in the wetlands program, timber harvest review, and the private lands management program. He also worked for the Department from 1992 to 1997 in Wildlife Management as a student assistant while going through undergraduate and graduate school at California State University, Sacramento. Joe completed his M.S. on the Fall and Winter Distribution and Habitat Use of the Tule Greater White-fronted Goose in the Sacramento Valley.

Flyway Nights is a monthly speaker series highlighting environmental issues, natural history of Northern California, and current research topics in conservation. Yolo Basin Foundation hosts Flyway Nights the first Thursday of the month from November to April through virtual presentations. The presentation will be via Zoom. Registration is required to receive the Zoom link to the presentation.

A \$10 donation to support the Foundation's wetland education programs is suggested. For the complete schedule and to register, visit www.yolo-basin.org/flywaynights or call Yolo Basin Foundation at (530) 757-3780. ★

Heeneys History

Christmas in Ceres, CA: 1987

Commentary by Ed Heeneys

At Christmastime in 1987, Mary and I were busy as Farm Supervisors and Hosts at Heifer Project International at their 10-acre farm in Ceres. We cared for the animals, conducted tours, and in general, "ran the farm."

We had about 20 sheep, 10 goats, and three donkeys. The average tour group was about 20, mostly high school and below. The donkey team were trained to harness and pulled our home-made hay wagon. It was a highly gratifying job, teaching children about agriculture in underdeveloped countries around the world, and I think we got more out of it than the students.

The highlight of the tour came as the six of us staff members were sitting around our coffee area and suddenly came up with a major Christmas idea. Why not do a live animal nativity scene? Now, most of us had talked about this back in our hometown but no one had the facility nor the animals. At Ceres, we lacked neither enthusiasm nor livestock.

A couple weeks later, there were plywood cutouts, bales of hay, groomed animals, fences and a

parking lot for visitors. This was truly a first-class job.

Set next to the headquarters building, access to the whole set was by sidewalk by the lamb pen. The lambs were very tame and welcomed all as they approached. Above the lambs, two plywood angels continued the welcome chorus.

There were four open cubicles which made up the entire manger and a pen on each end. As you entered the area from the lambs and angels, you first encountered the nanny goat anxious to nuzzle and be petted. Her name was Brownie.

The next position was the Mother/Child wood cutouts along with two laying hens and their nests. Above was a large star, well-lit at night. The third area was home to some rabbits and ducks. Finally, the last habitat was for the two donkeys named Blackjack and Eeyore. The word was soon out that the Heifer Farm had a Nativity set up and running. We truly had a live animal Nativity Scene ready for visitors.

What a neat experience to be part of a "story telling" so well loved and significant as the Christmas Story, and what fun and

significance doing it this way.

Many participated, local and as far way as the Bay Area.

A real highlight for me was as a young girl was touring from San Francisco with her grandmother in the Laying Hen area. As she was 'clucking' at the hens, one let out a cackle and jumped off the nest leaving a fresh new egg. I don't know who was more surprised--me or the girl or the hen! Talk about Training Aids...

Wherever you may be, the story is always the same: Joy to the World!

Editor's Note: Ed and Mary Heeneys are longtime Dixonites. They first moved to Dixon in 1971 and raised three children here and now have seven grandchildren. Ed reported how he first learned to write. "I was in the Air Force for 25 years and I never got high enough to have a secretary, so I learned to write because I had to. After that, I've written directives and so on for my work and in almost every assignment, I've done a newsletter. I also followed Mary around the circuit--Mary was the Manager of the Dixon Tribune for 10 years. I had the privilege of proofreading. ★

A Right to Housing?



Is the 'right to housing' a solution to California homelessness? MPG file photo

By Manuela Tobias, CALMatters.org

The law says that every student is entitled to a free public education.

What if it said the same about housing?

That's what Darrell Steinberg, the mayor of Sacramento, believes to be the key to addressing California's homelessness. He recently proposed an ordinance that would require the city to provide at least two housing or shelter options to people living on the streets.

If those options weren't available, the person could sue the city. But if the homeless individual turned down the available options, they would be compelled to come inside, albeit using the social workers, not police.

In the latest episode of the California Housing Crisis Podcast, The Los Angeles Times' Liam Dillon and CalMatters' Manuela Tobias interview Steinberg on his proposal, and how it has evolved over the years.

"I want to put out what

I believe, which is fundamentally, that the public policy of the society must be that people live indoors," he said. "Ninety to 95% of that is the government's obligation. The last five to 10% may fall on some individuals."

Aside from housing or shelter, two of the options that a person must be offered include spaces at "Safe Ground" sanctioned tent encampments, hotel rooms, tiny homes and trailers.

"People have a much better chance to get permanent housing if they're indoors rather than outdoors," Steinberg explained. "We can't get mental health treatment or substance abuse treatment for people living on the river."

But, like the rest of the state, Sacramento is far from able to provide at least a single shelter bed per person, much less an affordable housing unit. If approved by the City Council, Steinberg's plan would take effect starting in 2023, or later if the city makes substantial progress on housing options by

fall 2022.

Liam and Manuela also discussed the results of a poll on homelessness in Los Angeles County conducted by the L.A. Business Council Institute and the L.A. Times.

The poll found 94% of voters viewed homelessness as a serious or very serious problem -- a similar number as two years ago. However, over the past couple years the city and county have spent hundreds of millions of dollars to deal with homelessness.

What has changed, however, is how people think the issue must be addressed: While voters were evenly split last time about spending money on short-term solutions such as shelter and on long-term solutions such as housing, 57% said officials should focus on "short-term shelter sites."

Manuela is the housing reporter for CalMatters. Her stories focus on the political dynamics and economic and racial inequities that have contributed to the housing crisis in California and its potential. ★

Candy Cane Lane



Nightly starting at 5 pm, one can make a trip to the North Pole by driving to the block of homes just off Rehrman and Evans in Dixon. Thanks to Loren Dougherty and father of two who initiated the neighborhood effort, most of the homes are decorated with lights and inflatables galore, including light poles decorated like candy canes. He was inspired by his grandmother and you'll recognize his house--it's the one most decorated and boasts of the North Pole sign. More info is available at www.facebook.com/DixonsNorthPole. Photo by Nicolas Brown.

Merry Christmas!

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Can We Find Our Way to the Common Good?



Lee Hamilton MPG file photo

Commentary
by Lee H. Hamilton

I still remember a question I got years ago. It was at a public meeting in southern Indiana, in one of those squats, featureless cinder-block buildings you find all across the country. This young woman stood up and commented that I'd traveled throughout the US and had met all kinds of people. So, she wanted to know: What was my impression of Americans? I didn't even hesitate: The American people are fundamentally decent, I told her.

I still believe this. And when I say it, I'm not talking about a bare majority. Most Americans are good people.

Why even mention this? Because at the moment, we live in a country where a lot of Americans don't believe it. They think fellow citizens who belong to a different political party are at best misguided and at worst, evil. We have public officials—who want nothing more than to do a good job and stick by the laws - resigning because they're tired of the threats to themselves and their families. Civic-minded Americans who believe in the institutions of democracy are steering clear of volunteering because they're afraid of the anger and physical

danger they may face. I don't think this happened by accident. There are major, powerful forces working to divide us. Some are pernicious, others are just looking to make themselves more powerful. Media companies and political commentators find that they can make money - a lot of money - by putting out divisive information. Politicians have discovered that they can benefit politically by appealing to their base and treating the other side as the enemy. Countries such as Russia and China spend enormous time and money sowing seeds of division in our country so they can make our system of democracy look bad and weaken us as a country.

There's an antidote for this, but it's not going to be easy: All of us, ordinary citizens and politicians alike, have to restore in our lives a belief in the importance of the common good - to ask ourselves not what's good for any one of us, or for our party or business or people who look like us, but what's good for the country as a whole, in all its complexity and diversity.

I know what you're going to say: Especially today, there isn't any single definition of "the common good," so how can we possibly agree on one? And here's my response: We live in a country that was designed to allow us to debate the question and to find common ground so we could move forward. In a sense, the common good in America is the opportunity to define the common good, together.

That's why the threats of violence and extreme behavior we're seeing these days

are so un-American. Our institutions evolved over centuries to allow us to settle political questions, overcome divisions, and compromise in the interest of progress. When elections officials can't do their jobs - or when ordinary citizens are afraid to step forward—then our mechanisms for agreeing on the common good break.

Yet there is plenty of agreement to be found. Let's go back to that question at the beginning. Americans, no matter our political stripe, take a good deal of inspiration from the best ideals of the founding fathers. Most support the enduring values of the country, like striving for a more perfect union and pushing to correct things they think are wrong. They want to be good citizens, useful to their communities. They work hard and though they make mistakes, they're also very serious about improving on the status quo and correcting those mistakes. And when they set their minds to doing something good in the way of change, they'll keep working at it until they get there.

These are, of course, more qualities than beliefs. But they're the qualities that have stood Americans in good stead through trying times in our past. And, I believe, they're the qualities that, in the long run, will help us get past this period of extreme divisiveness.

For information about our educational resources and programs, visit our website at <https://corg.indiana.edu>. "Like" us on Facebook at "Indiana University Center on Representative Government," and share our postings with your friends. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

True Holiday Spirit



Among other things, the holidays are a time of giving and receiving gifts. The question most often asked of people is, "what did you get?" Much less frequently asked is, "what did you give?" Invariably, the inquiries concern material gifts. Purchasing a gift can certainly be thoughtful and a wonderful gesture, especially when it's backed up by your actions.

However, the most valuable presents are those that aren't sold in stores. When you give your love, your time, help someone in need, aid another in solving a problem or overcoming an obstacle, you give something priceless.

The true spirit of the holidays is giving. When you give, you receive. You can get anything in life you want by helping enough others get what they want. But only if you give without expecting anything in return. The impact of giving isn't limited to just the holiday season, it's something that has value all year.

The power of giving is often underestimated. When you give unconditionally, you don't just impact the recipient; you start a chain reaction. By brightening the life of one person you also affect all those who they then touch.

No gesture of giving or kindness is too small. Holding the door open at

a store, helping someone carry groceries to their car, letting another car in front of you, saying please and thank you, and saying hello to a stranger you pass on the sidewalk, are some of the many things you can do daily.

For family and friends, your time is one of the most precious gifts you can offer. Are you there for others when they need you? Do you offer a hand without being asked? Do you help out when asked?

Too often, people get caught up in their own desires, thus losing sight of the needs of others. A person who tries to get through life by looking out for himself or herself first is invariably frustrated. Often this person views life as a competition to determine who can accumulate more.

On the other hand, those who are concerned for the wellbeing of others are happier, more content, and more satisfied. By giving without expecting, they in turn receive the things they need.

Giving is a simple concept that works every time it is applied. There will be people who don't appreciate what you do, but it doesn't matter. You are giving without anticipating anything in return. Besides, there will be many more who are thankful for your efforts.

If you don't treat others

well, buying a gift won't compensate for your behavior. The recipient might like what you give them but it won't make up for your actions. You can't bribe someone to forgive the way you treat them with a present.

The best gift you can receive is the joy of making someone else happy. Being unselfish is a wonderful way to live. When you give with no ulterior motives, your actions are seen as genuine. Should you expect something in return, your behavior is always suspect. We all know people who do nice things only when they want something in return.

Make giving a daily routine. Don't start and end with the holiday season. Every day is a good day to do something nice. When people feel good due to your actions, you can't help but feel happy yourself. And that is priceless. The most significant action you can take is having a positive impact on the lives of others.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2021 Bryan Golden ★



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

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

Even With Christmas quickly approaching there is still time to give the gift of a good book, or even settle down with the ones you love sharing a new, or old Christmas classic.



Carla and the Christmas Cornbread by Carla Hall illustrated by Cherise Harris

Carla can't wait to get to her Granny's house for Christmas. It's her favorite time of year, not just because of the presents but also because of Granny's special Christmas cornbread. With a hiss and a pop and even a few crackles, the cornbread bakes, and everything is perfect. But when Carla accidentally eats Santa's cookie, the perfect day crumbles. Good thing Carla's Granny is there to help her fix the mistake, and together they make Santa a special treat.

Carla and the Christmas Cornbread will warm readers' hearts in a celebration of family and learning from our mistakes. With the nostalgic feel of Carla's childhood paired with a story and a treasured family recipe, this story will quickly become a cherished Christmas tradition.

Little Red Sleigh by Erin Guendelsberger, illustrations by Elizaveta Tretyakova

Little red had a big dream. Even though she was young, small, and not very fast,

she dreamed of being Santa's sleigh, and in her heart, she knew she could make it true. So little Sleigh started her journey over rolling hills and icy mountains. Along the way, she met friends and learned valuable lessons but still wished to make it to the North Pole. Will Little Sleigh ever make it to Santa in time?

Breathtaking illustrations fill the pages, bringing this darling story to life, making this story a new treasured classic celebrating following your dreams along with learning some valuable lessons along the way.

The Steadfast Tin Soldier retold by Tor Seidler, illustrated by Fred Marcellino

One soldier stood out in a box of 25 tin soldiers, all standing at attention. With only one leg, he still stood just as straight as the other soldiers, but he had a different destiny. For the soldier, it was the beauty of the delicate paper ballerina who also stood on one leg. But it was the jealousy of a goblin that could not bear anyone having affections for his paper ballerina, which set the tin soldier's fate in motion.

True love instantly blossoms, in this heart-wrenching tale of love, jealousy, nobility, and sacrifice. Breathtaking illustrations capture the essence of a time long past, and a story that has been told for over a century.

The Nutcracker and the Four Realms written by Calliope Glass, illustrated by Marco Bucci

The world of dance and storytelling meet in this breathtaking retelling of the Nutcracker. Straight from the movie and into your home, this enchanting book will whisk readers into the mysterious and magical Four Realms, taking them into a land of dreams, dance, and holiday magic. ★

LGBTQQIP2SAA.

The alleged problem that Latinx was invented to fix is that is Spanish has gendered nouns. This means that using the male Latino as an adjective to describe men and women of Latin American ancestry, let alone transgender and non-binary people, is supposedly exclusionary, hateful and downright dangerous. As a handbook on the terminology by a Princeton scholar explains, "To default to the masculine gender promotes interpersonal violence against women and non-binary individuals."

Latinx rose from the ashes of its predecessor neologism Latin@, an attempted amalgamation of the -o at the end of the Latino and the -a at the end of Latina. But no one knew how to pronounce the word. It was deemed insufficiently woke because the "o" was supposedly graphically dominating the "a" (yes, this is how some people think). And it caused confusion on social media where the at sign is used to tag someone.

Enter Latinx, which is only slightly less ridiculous.

As Giancarlo Sopo of The Daily Wire, who has been on a one-man crusade against the rise of the term, points out, Latinx is incomprehensible to any Spanish speaker without some knowledge of English. Most Spanish-speakers don't think there is something desperately flawed about their language, or that Spanish grammar is a proto-hate crime. The Real Academia Espanola, Spain's official institution charged with

maintaining the integrity of the language, has ruled against the -x appendage.

Out in the real world, "Latinx" polls even more poorly than Joe Biden does. A Politico poll found that only 2% of Hispanics prefer the term, while 68% opt for Hispanic and 21% favor Latino or Latina. The term is considered offensive to 40% of respondents and 30% said that they are less likely to support a politician or group using it.

Rep. Ruben Gallego, an Arizona Democrat, tweeted in reaction to the poll that he forbids his staff from using Latinx in official communications. "When Latino politicos use the term, it is largely to appease white rich progressives who think that is the term we use," he wrote. "It is a vicious circle of confirmation bias."

Still, elite media outlets and other institutions susceptible to progressive influence, as well as many elected Democrats, have dutifully defaulted to the term. It's one thing if an individual prefers to be called Latinx (or, the even more cutting-edge Latina/o/x or Xicanx), it's another thing to apply the term to a large group of people who have no interest in being called a name that makes no sense to them.

The pushback is a heartening sign of the limits of elite cultural power, and of the lack of interest of most Latinos in being pawns in the ever more strained and obscure progressive victimology.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

I Love My Imperfections

Dr. James L. Snyder

Unlike most people, I love my imperfections; those imperfections of mine do not cause me much trouble.

Yes, there was a time when I did not believe I had any imperfections. That is the attitude of bachelors. Once I got married, I was introduced to many imperfections I never knew I had. I had no reason to think I had any.

Before I was married, I thought I was the perfect person with marvelous talent and abilities. From my perspective today, I sure was fooled about those nonexistent perfections I thought I had.

This is one of the significant advantages of getting married. When a person only thinks about the perfections they have in their life and does not know anything about any imperfections, they are headed for disaster. Therefore, I guess that is why I got married when I was young.

She does not realize that wrinkles are a verification that you are making something out of your life and you are growing. Instead, she looks at it from a negative standpoint.

As a young person, I believed I knew everything

and was perfect in everything. I remember how boring that kind of a life was, not to mention arrogant.

If all I have in my life is perfection, how in the world can I improve myself?

When I am reminded of a certain imperfection that I have, it encourages me to get better. If perfect, I cannot get better, but I can if I am imperfect. So it took me a long time to understand that.

Now that I look back on my life, I can appreciate all those areas of imperfection that I survived. If imperfection is so bad, why have I had so many and have survived?

It was the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage that helped me understand my imperfections. I am sure she is not done with her task, but so far, she has found out many imperfections, and I have been working on some of them.

Through the years, I have enjoyed my imperfections because I do not allow them to harass me or even to define me. If I fix everything that is wrong with me, what in the world would I do next? Start fixing my wife's imperfections?

I remember when my imperfections suddenly did

not mean much to me. That was when little children began invading our home. Once they began arriving, everything about me in my perfections flew out the window. Now, and I am so thankful for it, everything is about those little children. Nobody is looking at me, but everybody is looking at my children.

I think that is why God gives us children. It deflects the attention from us to those cute, perfect little pre-adults. God is so wise in what he does.

In thinking about perfection, I cannot help but go to a Scripture verse that talks about it. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

My idea of perfection is on the human level but that does not meet God's standards. My perfection has to be according to our "Father which is in heaven."

My imperfections are no challenge to God if I yield my heart completely to him.

Dr. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnsnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com. ★

Boy Scout Christmas Tree Recycling

Dixon Boy Scout Troop 152

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Let the Boy Scouts take your Christmas tree and recycle it!!

In the past, you have supported Scouting here in Dixon by allowing Boy Scout Troop 152 to pick up and recycle your Christmas Tree. Thanks for this continued support!

We wanted to let you know that there will be two opportunities for Christmas tree pick up dates this year: SUNDAY January 2nd & Saturday Jan 8th.

The charge is \$15 for non-Flocked and \$25 for Flocked.

Some options for letting us know

that you'd like us to pick up your tree include the following:

Fill out our Google Doc request form. (found here >>> <https://goo.gl/PsEg1Z>); Visit www.troop152dixon.com and click on the Christmas Tree; Send an email to fundraising@troop152dixon.com; Call 707-676-6152 and leave a message.

There will be 2 Pickup Dates!

Sunday, January 2nd 2022-and-Saturday, January 8th 2022.

To request a pickup: Call: (707) 676-6152 Email: fundraising@troop152dixon.com Visit our website, fill out the form: www.Troop152Dixon.com ★



The Failure of 'Latinx'

What the progressive culture elite wants, it usually gets. Single-sex bathrooms changing overnight to all-gender or non-gender bathrooms? Done. Illegal immigrants becoming known as undocumented persons? But of course.

So, when it was decided in the precincts of fashionable opinion that the term "Latino" would be retired in favor of "Latinx," one could have been forgiven for thinking that this hideous neologism would, like so much else in American life, go from a fringe cause to mainstream soon enough.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the Latinx ascendancy - Latinos have rejected the term, at the same time that a big swing toward the GOP among these voters has highlighted the perils of high-handed cultural politics for the Democrats.

Latinx may end up being a woke experiment that failed, showing the vast gap between the identity-politics-obsessed progressives earnestly talking to one another in seminar rooms and on social media and the Hispanics in whose name they presume to speak.

Latinx is a project cut from the same cloth as the endless extension of LGBTQ, which, as of this writing, is now more properly and comprehensively rendered as

Dixon Independent Voice
Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1994

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL**

REDISTRICTING CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dixon ("City") City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620, in accordance with the Fair Maps Act (Elec. Code, § 21600 et seq.), the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54950 et seq.), and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, to receive a report on the redistricting process and permissible criteria to be considered to adjust City Council district boundaries, and receive public input on potential City Council district boundaries.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend the Tuesday, January 4, 2022 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence on the adjustment of City Council district boundaries. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking any action or making any recommendation on potential City Council district boundaries. 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 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 forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Any person requiring language interpretation services should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least seventy-two (72) hours before the meeting.

Interested individuals will be given an opportunity to speak on the adjustment of City Council district boundaries. Written comments are also accepted prior to the meeting by mail at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or electronically by emailing lruiz@cityofdixon.us. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be provided to interested individuals upon request. If a challenge to the above proposed action is made in court, persons may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City before the meeting.

If you have any questions, please call the City at (707) 678-7000.

Dixon Independent Voice 12-24-2021



Despite Challenges, Almond Growers Set Production, Shipment Records

Almond growers in California set new records for production and shipments in 2020, despite the pandemic and "the most tumultuous" year in recent history. That's according to Richard Waycott, president and CEO of the Almond Board of California. Waycott delivered the "state of the industry" address at the 49th Almond Conference in Sacramento. He said, "The success and viability of almonds haven't changed but the world has." Seventy percent of California almonds go to international markets

Johansson Elected to Third Term as California Farm Bureau President

Butte County olive and citrus fruit grower Jamie Johansson has been re-elected to his third consecutive term as president of the California Farm Bureau. The election took place at the Farm Bureau's 103rd Annual Meeting in Garden Grove. Also elected to their third terms were First Vice President Shannon Douglass and Second Vice President Shaun Crook. The Farm Bureau is the Golden State's largest agricultural organization, with nearly 31,000 members.

Farm Bureau and National Immigration Forum Partner in Citizenship Effort

The California Farm Bureau is partnering with immigration advocates to support applications for U.S. citizenship by employees of its member farmers and ranchers. The Farm Bureau has signed a contract with the National Immigration Forum to provide services including citizenship eligibility reviews, application preparation and case management. The program is open to farm employees who already have green cards and legal status but hope to naturalize as U.S. citizens.

California Olive Growers Expect to Benefit from WTO Ruling

A World Trade Organization ruling last month is being welcomed by California growers, who provide 95% of America's table olives. The ruling allows the U.S. to consider trade enforcement efforts to ensure a fair domestic marketplace. That means that anti-dumping and countervailing duties may continue against Spanish ripe olives, which are subsidized by the European Union. The U.S. has alleged unfair trade practices over olives imported from Spain. ★

Farm Bureau President Advocates Protecting Vital Agricultural Economy

California Farm Bureau News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson opened the organization's 103rd Annual Meeting on Monday with a call for climate-smart agriculture that is supported by policies that don't compromise farmers' ability to bring crops to market.

"We need to be allowed to be efficient," Johansson told Farm Bureau members, who are gathering in Orange County for their Dec. 5-8 meeting. "As we deal with climate change impacts and legislation coming down the pike, make no mistake. It is not a climate solution if you make farmers less efficient. It simply won't happen."

California farmers and ranchers are currently facing a historic drought that has resulted in severe cuts in water supplies for thousands of farms. In addition, California agriculture has been impacted by the pandemic, supply chain disruptions and wildfires.

Johansson urged protecting America's largest and most vital agricultural economy in the face of such challenges. He called for California to protect reliable water supplies for farming by building major water storage facilities overwhelmingly approved by California

voters who passed California's Proposition 1 ballot initiative in 2014.

"First and foremost, we need predictability," Johansson said. "This past year has been anything but predictable."

Johansson said California agriculture is built on foundations from the generations that preceded today's farmers and ranchers, even as agricultural production has evolved considerably over the years as it adjusts to an ever-changing marketplace, new regulations and climate and water challenges.

He called for thoughtful review of policies impacting agriculture and for Farm Bureau members in California and nationally to make their voices heard.

"There's going to be change, but it has to be directed by the experts," Johansson said. "That is us, in agriculture. That's the voice of Farm Bureau, and American Farm Bureau. We need to direct our paths and stand up, because the whole country is taking notice now."

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 31,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 6 million Farm Bureau members. ★

Public Notice

**SUBJECT: DIXON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
 WEST YOST WATER SYSTEM MASTER PLAN ADDENDUM**

To whom it may concern:

The City Council of the City of Dixon has received a request to consider the adoption of an addendum to the 2016 Water System Master Plan (WSMP) prepared under the Professional Services Agreement (PSA) with West Yost Associates ("West Yost").

On February 9, 2016, City Council authorized execution of a PSA with West Yost for engineering services related to the development of a Water System Master Plan, including a Strategic Asset Management Plan and a system hydraulic model for the City's water utility. After a full system reassessment, West Yost has provided an addendum to the 2016 WSMP for City Officials to review and adopt.

Copies of the agenda and staff report for the meeting will be available for review on Thursday, December 30, 2021 at City Hall as well as the City of Dixon website. The meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Date:	Tuesday, January 4, 2022
Time:	7:00 P.M.
Location:	City Council Chambers 600 East A Street Dixon, CA 95620

We welcome and appreciate your participation. If you should have any questions or comments, please contact me at (707) 678-7031 ext. 5311 or by email at jsantos@cityofdixon.us

Sincerely,

Jordan Santos
 Junior Engineer

Dixon Independent Voice 12-24-2021

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 FILE NO. 2021-002326**

The following persons are doing business as: : TRAVEL DOG
1875 Margurite Drive, Dixon, CA 95620
Tim Erskine, 1875 Margurite Drive, Dixon, CA 95620
 Date Filed in Solano County: December 1, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 09/01/2021
 This Business is Conducted by: 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 30, 2026. 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: December 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 FILE NO. 2021-002386**

The following persons are doing business as: : THE BUZZ BAR
730 West D Street South Dixon, CA 95620
Kelsie Sorensen, 730 West D Street South Dixon, CA 95620
 Date Filed in Solano County: December 10, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is Conducted by: 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 29, 2026. 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: December 24, 31, 2021 January 7, and 14, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
 FILE NO. 2021-002321**

The following persons are doing business as: : MOM EXECUTIVES
274 Sunset Avenue, E, Suisun City, CA 94585
Katrina Garcia, 506 Gadwall Drive, Suisun City, CA 94585
 Date Filed in Solano County: November 30, 2021
 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
 This Business is Conducted by: 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 29, 2026. 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.)

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • WINTER FUN

- CLUES**
- ACROSS
 1. Rope fiber
 5. Mai _____
 8. Russia's Terrible one, e.g.
 12. "What _____ Happened to Baby Jane?"
 13. Tattled
 14. Actress Reed
 15. Internet share-able
 16. Inwardly
 17. Black tropical hardwood
 18. *Winged impression in winter
 20. Home of the Hawkeyes
 21. Investigative report
 22. Chicken or this?
 23. Not dense
 26. Early-day supercontinent
 30. Afternoon shut-eye
 31. Even though
 34. Picture on a coat
 35. Anti-seniors sentiment
 37. Jean of Dadaism
 38. Crewneck alternative
 39. Half-man, half-goat
 40. Arm cover
 42. Victoria Beckham _____ Adams
 43. Lacking sense of moral standards
 45. Flying high
 47. Often part of disguise
 48. Queen-like
 50. Wood file
 52. * _____ Plunge
 56. Secret stash
 57. Damien's prediction
 58. Not at work
 59. Opposite of cation
 60. Abbreviated seconds
 61. Precedes stated rank
 62. Moon pull
 63. *Like toddy or cocoa
 64. Trans-Siberian Railroad city
- DOWN
 1. Shortens pants
 2. Like fair share
 3. Short for memorandum
 4. Antebellum
 5. Polynesian kingdom
 6. Ten-pin establishment
 7. Bucolic poem
 8. *Ride on runners
 9. *Winter building material
 10. Tolstoy's Karenina
 11. R&B Charles
 13. *Glittery decor
 14. Condescend
 19. Indian black tea
 22. Nibble
 23. Big mess
 24. Like a Druid, e.g.
 25. Celery, technically
 26. *Snowman's corn cob accessory
 27. Are not
 28. Wedding singer, e.g.
 29. Questioned
 32. *Snow _____ ammunition
 33. *But I heard him exclaim, _____ he drove out of sight..."
 36. *Winter walking aid
 38. Type of consonant
 40. Actors' grp.
 41. a.k.a. strict vegetarians
 44. Mature, as in fruit
 46. Like Silas of "The Da Vinci Code"
 48. Young Montague
 49. Decide at the polls
 50. Jasmine of "Aladdin"
 51. Turns blue litmus red
 52. #42 Across, once

CROSSWORD

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4	8	9	6	3	7	5	1	2
3	2	6	1	8	5	7	4	9
1	5	7	2	9	4	8	6	3

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53. Cheese from Netherlands
 54. Contributions to the poor
 55. Stink to high heaven
 56. *Arctic _____, snowmobile brand

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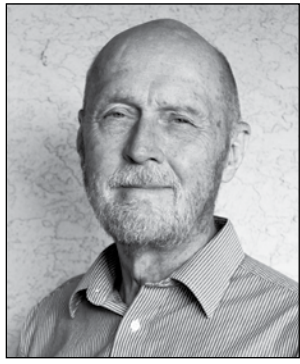
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Meet the Omicron Virus



Commentary
by bil paul

In my last column I guessed the number of Dixonites who'd died of COVID. It was a gross overestimate. The county public health people finally gave me the true number: 12. That's still tragic.

Otherwise, around Solano County, things have plateaued again, except there were fewer COVID deaths. Twenty-two residents were hospitalized with the virus. In Dixon, 19 new COVID cases were recorded last week.

My son in Spain with his family says the COVID infection graph there has "gone vertical" in a new surge, probably due to the new Omicron COVID variant that's been all over the news.

This new variant has more mutations than the current dangerous Delta variant, meaning that the current vaccines aren't as effective against it. It is vastly more contagious. Whether it leads to more or less hospitalizations and deaths compared to the Delta variant is up in the air at this point.

Some people ask me: "Why even get vaccinated if the shots won't completely prevent one from catching one of the COVID

variants?" The experts say that vaccinations (along with booster shots six months later) will usually work well enough to prevent hospitalizations and deaths due to the Delta or Omicron variants. On the other hand, the great majority of hospitalized COVID patients in hospitals continue to be unvaccinated.

I was part of a large social gathering in Dixon the other night. The new California mask mandate had kicked in the day before due to concerns about the Omicron variant. We offered masks at the door and encouraged visitors to wear them. Many didn't, which concerned me because most of them were seniors. But in a practical sense, things such as eating, drinking and singing interfered with mask wearing. I just hope there wasn't a COVID "spreader" among the guests.

Otherwise, the party was a very friendly return to Christmas celebrations.

But with the new, very contagious Omicron COVID variant spreading rapidly throughout the world and with holiday get-togethers and travel nearly back to pre-pandemic levels, we could be in for another surge. Governments would look again at remote learning and curtailing public gatherings.

We might look at the effectiveness of wearing masks. Looking at one of the best, N-95 masks are said to remove 95 percent of large and small particles in the air. Cloth masks aren't usually as effective. Masks are most effective when they fit tightly against

one's face – and especially around one's nose. Air should not be coming in along the sides of the mask.

Parents have been deciding whether or not to have their kids vaccinated, and guess what, those decisions are aligned with political affiliations. While 91 percent of Democrat adults have at least one COVID shot compared to 59 percent of Republican adults, the vaccination figures for children aged 12 to 17 is 80 percent from Democratic families and a meager 25 percent from Republican families. This data comes from Kaiser Family Foundation research.

I suspect part of parents' reluctance to vaccinate kids is due to the parents' belief that healthy children have strong immune systems and are less likely to become seriously ill. Nonetheless, over 750 American children have died of the coronavirus. If children come down with the disease and only display minor symptoms, they can still easily infect older people or those with medical conditions.

Please have happy and covid-safe Christmas and New Year's celebrations. And, get your booster shot – for much better immunity – if you're eligible.

bil paul did PR for the Postal Service and medical companies, and worked as a reporter and photographer. He's the author of the book about Dixon's failed movie studio project ("The Train Never Stops in Dixon" – available at Amazon or the library) and has a non-fiction book coming out next year about GIs in the Aleutian Islands during WWII. ★



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

This may not come as a surprise to anyone that the Hallmark Channel has been the champion of Christmas movies during the holidays. To keep their exalted status, Hallmark unleashed a torrent of themed films back in October.

First out of the gate was "You, Me and the Christmas Trees," a story about an arborist (Danica McKellar) who helps a Christmas tree farmer (Benjamin Ayres) rescue his seasonal business. Of course, they end up falling for each other because that's in the holiday spirit.

Just in case you miss the point, most of the Hallmark holiday movies have Christmas in their titles, but to switch it up a bit there's "Making Spirits Bright," a Victorian-themed "A Dickens of a Holiday," and then a detour of sorts to "Eight Gifts of Hanukkah."

Near the end of the Christmas line for Hallmark is "The Christmas House 2: Deck the Halls," Sharon Lawrence and Treat Williams star as a married couple with two adult sons who find themselves in a Christmas decorating competition.

Seeking to be the top holiday movie destination, the Lifetime Channel just might be giving Hallmark a run for its money with its holiday-themed lineup called "It's a Wonderful Lifetime," with a premiere of 30 new movies in 30 days right up through Christmas Day.

Hardly needing an introduction, singer Reba McEntire and actor John Schneider, as the singing duo of Georgia and Joe Winter and years after their personal and professional breakup agree to reunite and participate in a Christmas Charity concert in "Reba McEntire's Christmas in Tune."

Turner Classic Movies (TCM) has announced a Classic Christmas Marathon, which by the looks of the 76 movies scheduled for the week leading up to Christmas Day is not in the same holiday ballpark as Hallmark and Lifetime.

According to TCM, Christmas movies come in all varieties, from warm-hearted family stories about the holiday itself to comedies and dramas that feature incidental Christmas settings to crime thrillers and even Westerns.

Not on the list of classic Christmas films are "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Story," but then why not start off with the Oscar-winning Bing Crosby favorite "Going My Way" (1944) and the Christmas Day showing of the Judy Garland musical "In the Good Old Summertime" (1949).

Judy Garland, the mother of Liza Minnelli, introduced one of the most beloved holiday tunes, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," in Vincente Minnelli's "Meet Me in St. Louis" (1944), which is set over the course of an entire year but has a truly memorable Christmas sequence.

Riley Reviews

SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS IS FULL OF CHRISTMAS CHEER ON CABLE

You can usually spot the Christmas-specific movies by their titles, such as the English drama "The Holly and the Ivy" (1952), "Bush Christmas" (1947) from Australia, the Robert Mitchum-Janet Leigh romance "Holiday Affair" (1949).

Add to those titles, the short film "Compliments of the Season" (1930), the episodic "Christmas Eve" (1947), and a modern retelling of the Nativity story in the short "Star in the Night" (1945).

There's possibly the best version of the Dickens tale about the redemption of a mean-spirited miser in "A Christmas Carol" (1938), and a modern take on the story written by "The Twilight Zone" creator Rod Serling, "Carol for Another Christmas" (1964), a TV movie starring Sterling Hayden.

Netflix has a slate of Christmas movies that it admits is not quite as robust as Hallmark Channel's selection, at least not yet, but claims you can still get your fill of snowfalls, hot cocoa and Santa magic on demand.

With the streaming service of Netflix, it's even easier to find a Christmas movie to get in the holiday spirit. Brooke Shields and Cary Elwes meet-cute over the purchase of a gorgeous Scottish castle in "A Castle for Christmas."

The British comedy "Father Christmas is Back" has a great cast of Kelsey Grammer, John Cleese and Elizabeth Hurley. Four sisters reunite for a Christmas holiday in a Yorkshire castle and are joined by their estranged father, Grammer's John Christmas.

To compete with the Hallmark Channel's collection of romantic Christmas movies, Netflix is bringing back "A Knight Before Christmas" which tells the story of a medieval knight transported to modern-day Ohio.

A fish-out-of-water story, Josh Whitehouse's Cole time travels to 2019 and encounters disillusioned teacher Brooke (Vanessa Hudgens) preparing for a loveless holiday season. PG-rated romantic antics ensue, but this cheesy flick may still be worth a watch.

Another sappy romantic holiday movie, "The Holiday Calendar" follows an aspiring photographer stuck in her small-town dead-end job. An antique Advent calendar passed down from her grandmother arrives just in time to point her toward love and a more fulfilling career.

Aside from "The Miracle on 34th Street" which will run on HBO Family, where do we find "It's a Wonderful Life" and "A Christmas Story?" For the former, look to Amazon's Prime Video as well as Tubi and NBC.com and the latter gets a marathon treatment on TBS.

May everyone enjoy the Christmas spirit with family, friends and the occasional fruitcake (okay, maybe not that) and a Happy New Year. ★

Big Utilities Winning Battle Over Solar Power



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

The emails arrived just minutes apart on Monday.

The first, from a group called Affordable Clean Energy for All, proclaimed "CPUC Takes Steps to Fix the Unfair Customer Cost Shift Created by 25-Year-Old Rooftop Solar Program."

The second, from a rival organization, the Environment California Research & Policy Center, countered with "California Public Utility Commission fails Californians by gutting bedrock solar program."

Both were reacting to release of a California Public Utilities Commission draft ruling that would reduce the payments from utilities to owners of rooftop solar power systems when they feed excess juice back into the grid. It would also require those owners to pay a monthly fee for using the grid.

The release capped months of political jousting between the state's major utilities, backed by their employees' unions, and the solar power industry, which has allies among environmental groups, over how solar energy will develop as the state attempts to drastically reduce its carbon footprint. Will it emphasize individual solar

installations controlled by consumers or large solar panel farms controlled by utilities and their suppliers?

The big utilities – Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison and Sempra Energy – are pushing the policy change. They argue that since rooftop solar arrays are mostly owned by upper-income Californians, the current policy, in effect, gives them a subsidy, of as much as \$3.4 billion a year, from the pockets of less affluent rate-payers. They also contend that since owners of solar panels use the grid, they should pay something to maintain it, hence the \$57 monthly fee.

The companies that install personal solar systems counter that the new policy proposal would make them less affordable to middle- and low-income homeowners. They and their environmental allies also contend that changing the rules would have the overall effect of reducing solar generation and thus hamstringing California's efforts to wean itself from carbon-based energy.

Both sides have waged public relations and media campaigns to sell their messages, but so far, with the release of the draft, the utility-led faction is prevailing, which is not surprising given the CPUC's regulatory slant. While it regulates utilities, supposedly to protect consumers, the commission also has an implicit duty to make sure that power companies are financially healthy enough to attract investors and borrow money for system improvements.

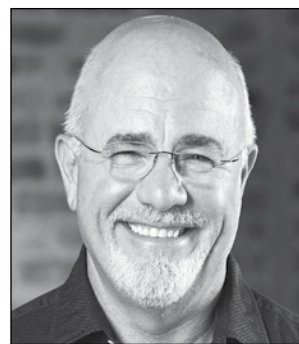
Clearly, the utilities – and their unions – see the growth of personal solar systems as a potential threat to their financial future. Reducing that threat, rather than creating more equity, is their true motive for seeking a change of policy. Likewise, while their solar industry rivals also claim equity as their motive, the proposal would make it more difficult to sell rooftop systems, more than a million of which are already operative. So their underlying motive is also financial.

The full CPUC is expected to vote early next year, but the battle is not over and it now shifts to Gov. Gavin Newsom, who appoints its members. He's already nominated a new chairperson, Alice Reynolds, who is now his energy advisor and will take the new position before a final vote on the policy.

Politically, therefore, it is very clear that the revised solar policy will only be adopted if Newsom wants it to be adopted. Setting aside the major interest groups in the conflict, it involves two sub-factions that have close ties to the governor – unions and environmentalists – although the latter are also divided into pro and con camps.

The full CPUC is likely to adopt the proposed policy change and if there's political fallout, Newsom will feel it as he seeks reelection next year.

Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

Dear C.M.,

The first thing you and your wife need to do is sit down and have a loving, but serious, talk with these kids. If they've asked for money before, and this is something that has turned into a habit, you have every right to know more about their spending and other circumstances.

Don't be surprised if they act defensive, or maybe even get angry. People are often embarrassed to admit to, or talk about, their mistakes. They may even tell you these things are none of your business. If they do, that's fine. But they should understand you two won't be opening your checkbook again if they don't open up about their financial behavior. This isn't about mom and dad being controlling or snooping around, it's about you and your wife making sure you're not enabling what you consider to be bad behavior going forward.

It always hurts parents to see their kids go through things like this. But if they're acting irresponsibly with money, they need to suffer the consequences of their actions. Who knows? That, along with your love and guidance, might help put them on the right track to win with money!

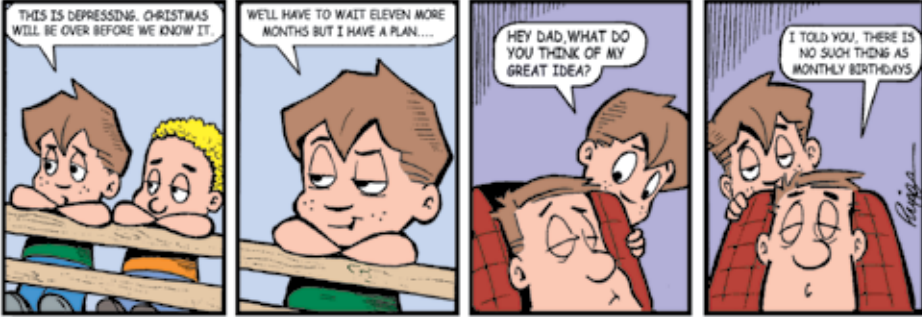
– Dave

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. ★



WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



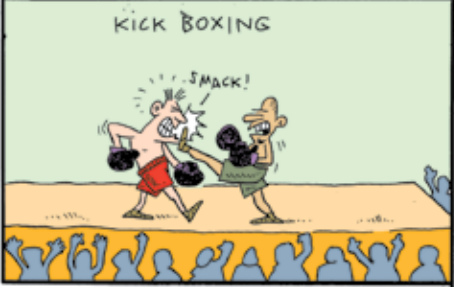
by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats

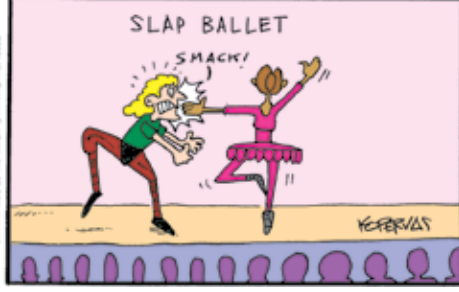


by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb



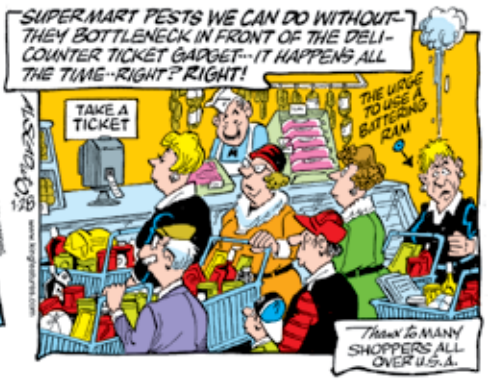
by Gary Kopervas



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



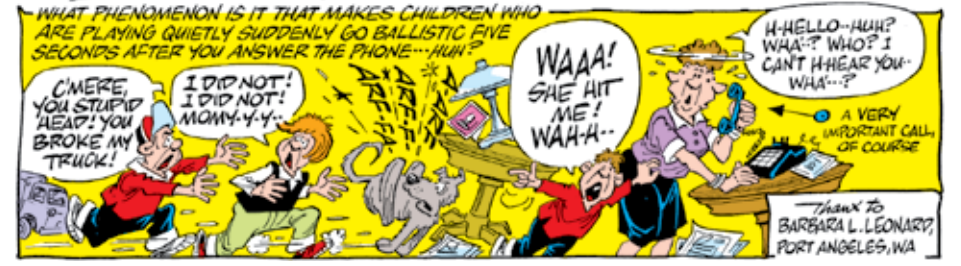
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R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



CRIM TO BEAT IT



LAFF-A-DAY



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Firefighting is Lifesaving

Sac Region's Fire Trove Harkens Back to 1850s

By Michele Townsend

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Fire Museum has been in West Sacramento for the last three years. Located at 3650 Industrial Blvd., the items in this museum hold firefighting history from the Sacramento Valley—from Fairfield, Dixon, Davis, Yuba City, Citrus Heights, Sacramento, Auburn and other parts of the valley. Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society was established in 1990 with the intent of building this museum in honor of the Mutual Hook and Ladder Company, which was the first organized Sacramento Fire Company and was formed in 1850.

Their Mission Statements reads, "The Pioneer Mutual



Retired Dixon Fire Chief and Sacramento Regional Fire Museum Director, Ric Dorris. Photo by Michele Townsend

In 1909 Fairfield purchased a gasoline powered 350 gallon per minute pumper. The actual vehicle was horse drawn, but it had a very rare gasoline powered pump that pumped

cartoons, so I found it interesting.

I have only named a few of the vehicles that are included on the site and though the shiny red vehicles are what strikes you

not the only items. A wide range of equipment is also included in the museum, like identification, signaling lanterns. In the 1830's these lanterns were Kerosene powered. Each

Some other equipment includes trumpets that were used for the Fire Chief to shout orders on the ground at the scene of a fire. There are leather buckets that were used to carry water by hand. There are old metal buckets that eventually replaced the leather ones. There is also the evolution of fire extinguishers.

Originally for fire extinguishers, there were Carbon Tetrachloride Grenades for putting out small fires. These were a small, colored, glass ball or bulb, about the size of a large orange, that were filled with a non-flammable Carbon Tet. They were generally resting in a wire hoop and attached to the wall, near the door. When a fire broke out, the grenade was thrown at the base of the fire, the glass would break, and the Carbon Tet would evaporate very quickly and extinguish the fire. These were eventually found to have toxic vapors and have been banned since the 1940's.

There are many types of extinguishers, hydrants, nozzles, hoses, lights, hooks, tools, cables, gas masks, horns, hats, badges, and bells. It's really quite amazing... and impressive that they have been able to collect these items. They even have a "Life Net". A Life Net is that big round device that fire fighters would hold so that people could jump out of high-rise fires. It was invented by a civil war veteran, named Thomas F. Bowder. Originally he called it "Bowder Life Saving Machine". The life net became obsolete in the 1980s.

Within the museum there are areas that are set up to

look like the typical firefighter's dorm as well as the command center. Do you remember when there used to be those red and white "Fire boxes" around town that would activate a fire alarm, dispatching the Fire Department? Well, this museum not only includes those fire boxes, but it includes Sacramento's emergency system... in working order.

This actual system was used until the 1990s. It is amazing, and not at all what I would expect. Though I don't know what I would have expected, I can promise you that it wasn't this! Each section has bells at the top and each section was from a specific area of town. When a handle was pulled in a fire box an alarm would go off in that section of the emergency system, which would send a message on a tickertape. They would take that information and go to a giant "Rolodex" where they would look up the address of the alarm location. The alarm system is the only one that they know of on the West Coast.

The museum costs \$10 for adults with discounts for Seniors and \$5 for kids 12 and under. You can also rent the museum to hold a party or other gathering. It was recently rented for a Memorial with about 300 people that attended. They have memberships of different levels and accept donations to support the cost of maintaining the museum. For more information on museum hours, booking special tours, or holding special events visit www.sacfiremuseum.org/ or call 916-859-4181. Leave a message, including a call back number. ★



If you like old cars and trucks, you will love Sacramento Regional Fire Museum. Not only do they have the vehicles, they have the history of that vehicle. Photo by Michele Townsend

Hook and Ladder Society/Sacramento Regional Fire Museum is dedicated to the preservation of fire service history in the Sacramento Region by collecting, restoring significant artifacts, documents, equipment and other pieces for preservation and display, and providing education to the public on fire safety and the fire service in general, by conducting educational programs of its own or partnering with other fire service organizations."

The fire museum contains a hand pulled hose reel and hose cart from the late 1800s. In addition, it holds a 1912 horse drawn ladder unit that was used for service in Sacramento. If you like old cars and trucks, you will love this museum. Not only do they have the vehicles, they have the history of that vehicle.

the water with a Waterous rotary gear pump. Waterous still manufactures fire pumps to this day. This was Fairfield's primary piece of fire equipment and its service area was Dixon.

Just a few of the vehicles go on to include a 1914 Tractor unit from Dixon, a 1915 vehicle from Winters, a 1921 pumper and a 1924 pumper that was Sacramento's former Chemical Engine #2. They have West Sacramento's original fire engine from 1946. The vehicles alone are an amazing collection. Further, it includes vehicles from the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. It holds Hook and Ladder Trucks, Pumpers and Chemical Wagons. There is even a 1953 Ambulance. The only place I've seen an ambulance that looks like the one in the museum was

when you first walk into the museum, vehicles are

colored light had a different meaning.



Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder Society was established in 1990 with the intent of building this museum. Photo by Michele Townsend

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