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Returns
Next Year

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Dixon Independent Voice

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Leaders and Visionaries



A large group of women were recognized as "Women of the Year" by Congressman John Garamendi. Photo courtesy of Congressman Garamendi's Office

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Three Dixon women were among 44 in the 3rd Congressional District who were honored with Women of the Year by Congressman John Garamendi who said they were "leaders and visionaries" in their community: Karstin Feinhandler, Mary Jamison, and Kathy Walsh.

Last year, the country marked the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote.

"Since then, our nation has seen women take great strides in every American industry from business to politics to the arts. Many women before you have fought for the independence and rights you have today, and I thank you for continuing their

legacy," said Garamendi. He wrote in a press statement that although there is much work to be done to ensure that all women have equal pay, flexible work schedules and affordable education, that each one of them will be a vital part of the work to get there.

"I am inspired by each and every one of you and firmly believe that when women succeed, America succeeds," he said. Garamendi started this program just a few years ago with recognizing just three women from and each year, the program that is open to the public and allows anyone to nominate, has exploded with 44 impressive and hard-working women recognized this year.

Those women were honored with official commendations at an official ceremony. The following write-ups were provided by the Congressman:

"Karstin Feinhandler is a successful entrepreneur and an inspiration throughout her community. In the face of adversity, Karstin has maintained an unwavering positive attitude which she channels into serving others. She is the owner of a longtime lending institution in her community where she brings professionalism and expertise to clients looking to buy a home. She also gives her time generously to her community, from single-handedly organizing a Christmas parade, arranging a prom for high school seniors, to offering strong support to the Dixon Mayfair livestock auction. Karstin is an active member of the Dixon Kiwanis Club, the Downtown Business Association, and an incoming member of the Board of Directors of the Dixon Chamber of Commerce.

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Chamber Announces 2022 Board

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon District Chamber of Commerce announced their Board of Directors for 2022 after receiving and ratifying three nominations that were for the open slots on the Board.

Newly elected Board member Karstin Stranger of Almond Tree Mortgage will be sworn in as of January 11, 2022, and will serve until the end of 2024. Stranger has long been active in the Dixon community and was the driving force behind the Christmas Cruise in 2020. She was recently recognized as a Woman of the Year by Congressman Garamendi.

Re-elected to the Chamber's Board of Directors were Kathy Ernest of Ramtown Karate and Laura Ziegler of Travis Credit Union, who will also serve until the end of 2024.

Remaining on the Board will be Herb Cross, an Associate Member, Robin Tully of Tully Consulting Group, Jill Orr of Dawson's Bar & Grill, and Julia Lopez of Recology whose terms will expire at the end of 2022.

Additional Board members are Fernando Ontiveros of Johnson Group RE/MAX Gold, Haley Andrew of Dixon Wellness Collective, Rodolfo Pineda of Universal Services, and Ted Jorgensen of Dixon Tire Pros who will serve until the end of 2023.

"We have a well-rounded group of Directors, representing a cross-section of Dixon businesses," said Shauna Manina, President and CEO of the Dixon Chamber. "The wealth of knowledge and experience that each Board member has is invaluable to the Chamber's future, and the future of the Dixon business community. We are looking forward to not only our regular events and programs, but also adding some new and exciting things in 2022."

For more information on the Dixon Chamber of Commerce, call 678-2650 or send an email to info@dixonchamber.org. You can also find them on the website: dixonchamber.org or on Facebook at facebook.com/thedixonchamberofcommerce. ★

Festival of Trees

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A beautiful Christmas wonderland will be a great place to take your family Saturday, Dec. 4 at this year's 12th annual 'Festival of Trees' sponsored by the Dixon Kiwanis Club and benefiting local children. It will be held at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First Street from 9 am to 6 pm.

Hundreds of guests come each year to enjoy this Christmas tradition and it was missed by many last year due to the COVID virus. This year, there will be plenty of live music throughout the day including violinists and the Dixon High School Jazz Ensemble, plus a dance performance by the Dixon Dance Studio. There will also be a Christmas photo booth, free admission and ample, free parking. The best part, though, is seeing all the creativity in the decorated trees by volunteers



Kiwanis 12th annual Festival of Trees is Saturday, December 4, 9 am to 6 pm and benefits local children and the Kiwanis Family House. Photo by Debra Dingman

and non-profit groups.

The Dixon High School Key Club members plan to sell mistletoe as their club fundraiser and will sing Christmas Carols, too.

"We want to remind people that all proceeds from this fundraiser go completely back into our community for children

and youth," said Kiwanis Club member Patti Sousa. "We have had outstanding success and I think it is because people know they are helping children."

Teams of volunteer tree decorators have been working diligently to create beautiful or clever designs that will be

displayed. The sense of competition is in the air as the public will also be voting for "People's Choice." Each visitor gets to vote for their favorite table-top, medium, and large tree and the winners are announced that evening. Names are then permanently engraved

Continued on page 4

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Last Happiest Day at Festival of Trees

By Debra Dingman

The happiest day of my year is about to happen. I get sweet fun from children wanting to sidle up next to Mrs. Claus and hold her hand and I have fun decorating trees. The Kiwanis Festival of Trees is my never-stop-smiling kind of day.

The people who decorate the various size trees are very hard workers and create masterpieces with ornaments and decorations that are wired, tied, and/or hot glued so the trees will last (hopefully) at least three years or more. That's why I didn't mind paying nearly \$500 for one four years ago. It's about to come out for its 5th year and it always looks as darling as the day I bought it.

The woman who volunteered countless hours sewing adorable little animals and insects was Arlene Gaulke, a long-time Dixonite. She titled the tree, a "touch me tree" because it was made to withstand children who wanted to feel and examine the critters. And guess what? All of my grandchildren have done just that. They spend time walking around it and

looking for all of the different forest friends.

What people may not know is that the trees are artificial and sometimes decorators have spent a fortune or at least shopping sales all year round—to buy decorations and gifts for their tree. They are to be stored, ideally, upside down in the corner of one's garage. We wrap ours in heavy duty plastic (a mattress cover worked great) and place ours carefully in the attic.

As I've gotten older, I've become much more happy with ease... in five minutes of straightening a few branches, my tree always looks perfect! I figure that gives me more time to spend in the kitchen with cute grandchildren baking cookies.

Some of the themes this year are especially unique: A Romantic French Christmas, Christmas Under the Sea, Plaid Tidings, Nightmare Before Christmas, even a Baby Yoda! Then there will be more traditional ones like A King is Born, a patriotic, Snowmen, Gingerbread, a Winter Elf, and Christmas at the Farmhouse to name a few.

Kiwanis Club members

have been busy arranging cookie contributors and coffee will be donated by Solano Baking Company with cocoa donated by Dutch Brothers later in the day. Our high school Key Club has been working on their mistletoe and plan to sell it for a dollar. Who doesn't love mistletoe over the holidays?!

We'll also have a very nice photo backdrop for those who want to make a Christmas card picture perfect. But the next best part of this annual event is the music. Although we have CDs for in-between performers, we will have live music the rest of the time.

I hope you will come see this fun event as I'm not sure it will happen again next year. Since my hubby has retired and I'm working at the newspaper, not to mention my Nana duties are increasing, I'm hanging up my Mrs. Claus hat. I've chaired for 11 of 12 years (Angel & Ted Kovarik chaired while I was in Dallas) and it's ready for fresh energy and ideas to swoop in and take it to the next level. If not, maybe it has served its time. Thank you, Dixon Kiwanis for the happiest days! ★

Dixon News Briefs



Between what is hand delivered and these that go through the post office delivery, that's a lot of the Dixon Independent Voice newspapers getting read in our town. The Editor had to take them to the post office herself due to the holiday and realized she needed to appreciate our newspaper carrier even more! Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Special Delivery

For those who receive mailed copies of our newspaper, know that holidays that happen to be celebrated on a Thursday, may throw off the delivery one day as the Dixon Post Office is closed. Just giving folks a heads up that you should receive your newspaper by that Saturday instead of Friday.

If you just can hardly stand the wait, you can check out the online version at independentvoice.com or purchase one for 50 cents in front of the post office or at the local mini marts around town.

We are the only newspaper in town that delivers to 3,800 residents with even more reached through online sites and social media. So, if you want to advertise your business or event, choose your maximum exposure through us by calling (707) 678-8917 or our main office in Sacramento at (917) 773-1111 today!

City Meeting

City Council will resume meetings on the first and third of each month with the next one on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7 pm. Meeting in the City Hall Chambers, they will start with the Closed Session where City Attorney Doug White discusses what litigation is being considered or City Manager Jim Lindley settles labor union negotiations. The meeting can also be watched from home via Granicus. See city website for details but even for digital immigrants, it's really not difficult.

Otherwise, the meeting that is open to the public starts at 7 pm. The agenda is

posted on the City of Dixon website the Thursday before the meeting. Do not be shy. They probably would like to hear from someone other than community activist Michael Ceremello or this newspaper's Editor.

New Boutique

The A-List Boutique opened this past weekend by Andria Aguilar across from the new (but under construction) Pardi Plaza at 115 East A Street at the corner of A and First Streets. That is the former location of Prime Time Barber. She offers stylish women's apparel and accessories.

This is the third women's boutique in Dixon to offer cute clothing for younger women. Her website is thea-listboutique.com. For store hours, call (707) 450-6537.

Community Christmas Program

Sign-ups for underserved (needy) children for the Community Christmas Program is now happening. Formerly known as the Dixon Toys for Tots, the Community Christmas Program announced their screening schedule for this season and emphasized it is available to all residents that live within the 95620 Zip Code only.

Santa will set up a special workshop to see those children with appointments only on Dec. 22 and Dec. 23 but you must be screened for eligibility.

Here are the dates for the screening: Monday, Dec. 6 and Tuesday, Dec. 7 from 6 to 8 pm at the Cornerstone Baptist Church, 185 Cherry Street in Dixon. For more information, call Arlene Jimenez at (707) 676-5104. ★



MEMORIAL NOTICE


Shea Matthew Bassler

March 28, 1992 to October 18, 2021

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the unexpected passing of Shea on October 18, 2021. He was born March 28, 1992 in Vallejo, CA, on the birthday of his beloved grandmother Chiyoko Bassler (known as "Nana" to all her grandchildren.) He lived in Dixon, CA all his life and worked at the local Safeway store for over 10 years.

Shea was an amazing person and had the most beautiful soul. He was well loved in our community and enjoyed working at Safeway. Everyone enjoyed his BIG smile and his caring ways. He had a fun, care-free personality and loved to make people laugh and feel good about themselves. When he was little, he couldn't resist running around the house in masks, costumes, or anything that would make you laugh at him and this carried on into his adulthood.

Shea's true passion was his love for cars. He loved hunting for special car parts and accessories and always managed to find a gem now and then. He was truly a collector of all



things. He also enjoyed music, camping, and simply hanging out with family and friends. Shea was loved by so many people. He will be forever missed and our lives will never be the same. We are sure God has a reason for calling him to Heaven so soon. May he rest in peace and God bless him and keep him.

Shea is survived by his parents, John and Chelli Bassler, brother John Bassler, II; Grandmother Gloria Evans; Niece Gracie Bassler; and many uncles, aunts, cousins, and extended family members who loved him very much.

He is preceded in death by his grandfathers, Thomas Bassler and Robert Evans; grandmother Chiyoko Bassler; aunt Kathy Bassler; and his brother Thomas (Tommy) Bassler.

A Celebration of Life and reception will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 1 pm at the Dixon United Methodist Church, 209 North Jefferson Street, Dixon, CA. Internment will be private at the St. Alphonsus Catholic Cemetery in Fairfield, CA.

Chandon Champagne sounds good for a Christmas Breakfast at Dawson's Bar & Grill

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Sean O’Hare Joins First Northern Bank



Sean O’Hare
**First Northern Bank
News Release**

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Steve McCurley, Senior Vice President/Real Estate Industries Team Manager is pleased to announce that Sean O’Hare has joined the commercial real estate loan team of First Northern

Bank as Vice President/Commercial Real Estate Loan Officer.
Sean’s 13 years’ experience in the financial services industry includes: commercial lending, real estate lending, underwriting, and business development. Prior to joining First Northern Bank, Sean served as Commercial Real Estate Portfolio Manager for Bank of the Sierra in Roseville.
Sean is a member of the Association of Commercial Real Estate (ACRE) Sacramento and has enjoyed volunteering at the Second Harvest Food Bank of Silicon Valley, and at Services for Brain Injury (SBI) in San Jose. He also

looks forward to volunteering in our local community in the coming year
Sean is a native of San Jose and currently resides in Lincoln with his wife and son. He enjoys golfing, waterskiing, snowboarding, attending sporting events, and spending time with family and friends.
The Real Estate Industries and Capital Region Commercial Lending Teams of First Northern Bank are located at 1375 Exposition Blvd. Suite #101, Sacramento, CA 95815. The office is open Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sean may be reached at (916) 246-7654, or sohare@thatsmybank.com. ★

Heeney’s History

Commentary by Ed Heeny

It seems like nearly every Christmas story has Dad and/or Grandpa loading up the children and going to the forest or tree farm to cut their Christmas tree.
My first remembrance involved my Dad loading us kids up in the Model A Ford and driving two miles west of our farm to a neighbor’s place. There were not many trees out there on the Kansas plains – each farmstead had only two or three. However, our neighbor had about a half dozen old Cedar trees and he invited my Dad to cut a branch for us to decorate.
We proudly announced our arrival back home and the whole family became involved in decorating. Most of the decorations were home made with strings of popcorn, construction paper bells, and a few items made in school by us older children. After decorations were hung, shiny icicles were added. Since we did not have electricity out on the farm, my Dad innovated by hooking up an old Model T car tail light to a 6-volt battery. As I look back, I remember as a kid thinking that was pretty neat.
Shortly thereafter, our grandparents moved to ur town from Mississippi and Grandad Hedges thought we should have a real Christmas tree. Grandma gave us socks and Grandpa gave us the tree. These were about four or 5-ft. tall and cost about a dollar. We were real proud of those “store bought” trees!
As I look back now, probably the

silliest idea was making Christmas trees out of aluminum strands and since they conducted electricity, electric lights were not recommended. All different kinds of lighting options were tried with floor lights being most acceptable. Also popular were rotating multi-colored disks mounted in front of the spotlights. Their popularity was indicated after a couple of years by the piles of used aluminum trees stacked in the back corner of garage sales.
We were assigned to Germany for a 3-year Air Force tour in 1963. We discovered that there were many Christmas decorations and customs in Germany that we enjoy in the U.S. We Americans are usually in a hurry to get things underway so purchased our tree rather early. We had the tree all decorated, lights glowing, and even some packages under the tree. Then about five weeks before Christmas, the needles all fell off, leaving a naked skeleton. But, of course we went back to the market, purchased another tree, and enjoyed a Merry Christmas.
Even last year in 2020, in the middle of the pandemic, it seemed that there were more trees and lights than usual. Perhaps we were just showing our hope and prayers for a blessed New Year. Again, in this year 2021, may we truly experience joy!
Ed Heeny is a long-time Dixonite who has been very active in the community over his lifetime. He enjoys sharing his missives with Dixon Independent Voice readers. ★

DIXON POLICE LOG

Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.

Thursday, November 25, 2021

0715 - Trespassing arrest report was taken in the 200 block of Sanborn Ln. Officers contacted (S) Brynna Day of Vacaville. A citizen’s arrest form was signed and Day was arrested. Day was transported to the Solano County Jail and released to their staff.

1154 - Theft report was taken in the 500 block of East H St.

1220 - Court order violation report was taken in the 2600 block of North 1st St.

Friday, November 26, 2021

0950 - Provide a false name to a peace officer, drug paraphernalia, possession of a controlled substance, and warrant arrest report was taken in the 100 block East Dorset Dr. Officers contacted (S) Oscar Gonzales (29) of Woodland and (S) Kimberly Licea-Hernandez (25) of Woodland. Both subjects were arrested and transported to the Solano County Jail.

1202 - Vehicle towed for blocking a private driveway in the 1800 block of Gold St. Officer attempted to contact the R/O but was unsuccessful. The vehicle towed was a gray 2003 Nissan Altima CA/5AHX084. The vehicle was towed by All About Towing.

1346 - Possession of narcotics, drug paraphernalia, and possession of a shopping cart arrest report was taken at the intersection of North Lincoln St. At Stratford Av. Officers contacted (S) Norwa Cuyun (47) of Dixon. Cuyun was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department. Once there she was cited and released.

1837 - Report of sexual assault, which occurred on 11/24/21 at an unknown location in Dixon.

2346 - Domestic violence incident reported in the 600 block of Amesbury Drive.

0046 - Domestic violence incident reported in the 900 block of Stratford Avenue.

Saturday, November 27, 2021

1154 - Battery reported in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.

1315 - Vandalism reported in the 400 block of East Mayes Street.

1651 - Information report in the 1500 block of Valley Glen Drive.

Sunday, November 28, 2021

0915 - Traffic stop conducted in the area of North First Street and Vaughn Road. Andres Gonzales (37) out of Fairfield was contacted. After further investigation, Gonzales was found to be driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage and placed under arrest for DUI. Gonzales was transported and booked into the Solano County Jail without incident.

1223 - Officers responded to the 300 block of West Chestnut Street for a report of a verbal altercation. Upon arrival, David Hernandez (31) out of Dixon was contacted. Hernandez was suspected of assaulting multiple family members. Officers ordered Hernandez to stop but he refused. Officers were able to safely detain Hernandez in handcuffs. After further investigation, Hernandez was placed under arrest for felony battery, child endangerment, criminal threats, threatening a peace officer, resisting arrest, court order violation, false imprisonment and probation violation. Hernandez was safely transported and booked into the Solano County Jail without incident.

1931 - Court order violation reported in the 2500 block of North 1st Street.

2146 - Theft from an unlocked vehicle in McMath Court.

Monday, November 29, 2021

0800 - Traffic Collision of a vehicle versus a bicyclist in the 200 block of East A Street. The driver, Alexis Mendoza-Urbieta (25) of Dixon, was arrested and released on a promise to appear for driving without a license.

Beauty in the Park



The Christmas tree that brings the tradition of the Downtown Dixon Tree Lighting Festival to the town center was completed and lights were tested at the quiet, secret time of 4 am last week. This was to ensure it was ready for children and adults to celebrate at the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club Park Thursday, Dec. 2 alongside Santa, the Dixon Police and Fire Departments and children’s activities at Calvary Chapel. The annual event brings old and new residents together under one sky – no matter what the weather – year after year. And, it happens thanks to several anonymous donors! Photo by Jill Orr

Leaders and Visionaries

Continued from page 1
Karstin is known in her community for her infectious, positive outlook on life and resilience in the face of tragedy; regardless of what Karstin faces she handles it with humility and grace, asking only how she can give to others,” Congressman John Garamendi wrote.
Mary Jamison’s tireless work and dedication as a healthcare professional and leader has enabled a critical healthcare system in our community to function under unprecedented circumstances and led to countless lives being saved. As the Director of the Primary Care Center in Vacaville as well as the Center for Women’s Health and two urgent care facilities, Mary has been an essential leader at NorthBay Healthcare throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
In the beginning, when hospitals were overflowing and staff shortages were ongoing, Mary worked tirelessly to ensure there were enough medical personnel to maintain the operations of the clinics. She often put in 12 plus hour days, seven days a week. With the arrival of the vaccine, she was integral in organizing community outreach to vaccinate thousands of Solano County residents. Some of her accomplishments include creating the first mass vaccination clinic in the county, creating drive-thru clinics open to the public, assisting Solano County Public Health in reaching out to local senior residential care facilities, and coordinating NorthBay Healthcare’s participation in the

mass vaccination clinics conducted at the county fairgrounds in Vallejo.
For 15 years, Kathy Walsh has served her community through extensive involvement in the mentoring of young adults through the Masonic Youth Groups – DeMoley for Boys, Jobs Daughters, and the International Order of Rainbow for Girls to name a few. She has shown an unwavering dedication to these adolescents’ education in learning organizational, leadership, and public speaking skills. Kathy Walsh is an effective, determined, and compassionate leader who works tirelessly to mentor the next generation of leaders.
During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kathy remained in contact with the Rainbow Assembly by organizing virtual installations of officers.
She is a vital member of the Dixon community whose resiliency and dedication to others is an inspiration to all that have had the chance to be mentored by Kathy. Her commitment to serving children in her community continues through her work as the director of an organization that directly supports the Shriners Hospitals and their invaluable work.
The skills Kathy strives to instill in the youth she works with will guide them to become the future leaders we need to continue building better communities."
The items were read into the 117th Congressional Recording of proceedings and debate of the House of Representatives honoring Women of the Year. ★

FROM

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Festival of Trees

May Fair Returns Next Year



Singer Suzanne Lorente leads a couple little girls in the song Jingle Bells at a previous Festival of Trees. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1
on the Kiwanis Festival of Trees plaque.

There are 20 business/citizen-sponsored trees in three sizes – table tops, medium, and large that will be available for bidding. The festival closes at 6 pm and trees are expected to be picked up by their winners and taken to their new homes at auction close. Company or personal checks is the preferred method of payment.

Proceeds have benefitted Dixon Family Services, Anderson and Gretchen Higgins

Elementary School students, Serendipity Saddles for special needs children, Scout projects, an elementary school Financial Literacy Program and Anti-Bullying Program, plus supported exercise for students at Dixon Montessori School, gave scholarships to Dixon High School Key Club leaders, and supported the DHS Band and football team. The club also distributed brand new English and Spanish children’s books in local doctors’/dentists’ waiting rooms and in Little Free Libraries.

The mission of all Kiwanis Clubs is to serve children and the community. In addition, the Kiwanis Family House is another beneficiary as it serves families who need emergency housing while a loved one is being treated at the UC Davis Medical Center or Shriners Children’s Hospital in Sacramento.

There will be a dessert social at 5 pm on Saturday before the auction closes. For more information, see Kiwanis of Dixon Facebook page or call (707) 301-0795. ★

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - After a 2-Year Hiatus, farm animals and carnival rides are returning to the Dixon May Fair once again in 2022. Organizers of the Dixon May Fair are excited to announce the return of the traditional annual event after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We’re back!” said Patricia Conklin, CEO. “We are so excited to announce the return of this beloved annual event May 5th through the 8th. Our Fair patrons have let us know how important the Fair is to our community and to the youth who participate with their livestock. We’ve missed everyone!”

Planning is underway for a “Super Fun” Dixon May Fair that will celebrate its 145th year. Livestock will once again be at the Fair featuring young agriculturalists showcasing their skills. Talented artists, photographers, crafters, bakers and more will once again be able to show off their skills to the community during the four-day event. Carnival rides, live entertainment, food and fun are planned for this community celebration themed “Super Fun”.

Those youth planning on exhibiting a Market Steer at the 2022 Fair need to be aware of the following deadlines and requirements – FFA advisors, 4-H leaders, Grange leaders or parents of independent juniors must pick up tags prior to January 5, 2022. Tags and paperwork will be available for pick up in the Dixon May Fair office from December 1, 2021 – December 17, 2021



The Dixon May Fair will return next spring in time to celebrate its 145th year of family fun. It will be the traditional four-day event. Photo by Debra Dingman



The rides are back! The 2022 Dixon May Fair will feature most of the conventional rides and fun you’re used to seeing. Photo by Debra Dingman



Vendors planning an exhibit for next year’s fair will need to be aware of the new requirements and observe the deadlines. Photo by Debra Dingman

and January 3, 4, and 5. Paperwork, entry fees, bill of sale and picture (front & side view) must be returned to the fair office no later than January 5, 2022 at 5 p.m. Entry fees and entry forms must be paid by January 5.

The Dixon May

Fairgrounds is located at 655 South First Street in Dixon, CA 95620. More information is available at www.dixonmayfair.com. Feel free to contact the Fair office if you have questions at 707-678-5529. Follow on Facebook and Instagram for the latest information.★

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FOR THE LOVE OF
BOOKS
By Amy Shane

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

The Holidays Are Here!

The Holiday gift-giving guide returns with a wonderful new array of Children's books. This year our favorite publishers have compiled their top picks for the holiday season as well as their number one reads throughout the year. So, if you are looking for the perfect gift or one that will give holiday cheer or hours of entertainment, remember the gift of a good book is timeless. Don't forget to check back for each week's new Holiday Highlight. This week, Harper Collins Publishing and Abrams Publishers start with Holiday magic and musical enchantment in their top picks.

Stories From the Music Box: Twas the Night Before Christmas by Clement Moore

Wind up the music box and let the musical interlude of "Deck the Halls" fill the room while you read the classic Christmas poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas." This beautiful storybook is the perfect Christmas Eve gift and will quickly become a new treasured favorite, as well as a lovely holiday decoration.

The Wishing Tree by Meika Hashimoto, illustrated by Xindi Yan

Rediscover the magic of the holidays. When young Theo makes a wish to Santa, he never expects to hear back. The magic of the Wishing tree unfolds in this beautiful story of one boy helping a town rediscover the magic of Christmas. This story also includes 12 beautifully illustrated holiday cards to start their own wishing tree.

The Snowflake by Benji Davies

Follow a tiny snowflake's journey as she tumbles and falls, looking for the perfect place to land. A darling, whimsical story that shows each and every one of us to trust our journey, as we will all discover the place we are meant to be.



The Lion, The Which, and the Wardrobe Board Book

The enchanting story by C.S. Lewis is now available for little readers. With engaging illustrations and simple sentences, this beloved classic will help everyone discover or even rediscover the magic of Narnia.

Five Little Monkeys Looking For Santa by Eileen Christelow

The five little monkeys are back, and this time they are on the search for Santa. The adorable rhyming story and five mischievous monkeys will make readers fall over in fits of giggles, as the little monkeys discover themselves in trouble over and over.

I'm Dreaming of a Wyatt Christmas by Tiffany Schmidt

When Noelle Partridge accepts a babysitting job over the winter break, she never expected her life to take a spin. Noelle just wanted to celebrate the Holidays with all the holiday spirit while also preparing for her ballet academy audition at Beacon. But when the children's older brother Wyatt unexpectedly surprises them, Noelle's head starts to spin. As an elite dancer at Beacon academy, Wyatt has his own big decisions looming on his mind. Just maybe, with a little Christmas magic, Noelle might get her Christmas wish along with a dancing partner of her dreams. ★



Harris v. Buttigieg would be the GOP's Dream Primary

The GOP has had plenty of reason for good cheer in recent months.

Nothing can compare, though, with the glad tidings of a potential showdown between Vice President Kamala Harris and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to be Biden's successor in 2024 should he decide not to run for reelection.

Surely, there would be other serious candidates in that circumstance, but there is no doubt that Harris and Buttigieg would be high on the list of potential contenders, as various journalistic outfits have noted over the past week.

As it happens, they exemplify the contemporary Democratic Party's electoral deficiencies, while bringing their own flagrant personal political weaknesses to the equation. If this is really the choice Democrats would face should Biden decline to run, they better hope he defies age, bounces back to robust political health, and is prepared to serve again well into his 80s.

Harris flamed out in the 2020 Democratic nomination well before the Iowa caucuses, unable to settle on a message or political identity. Her staff was obsessed with the progressive hothouse of Twitter, which is a powerful device for creating a false sense of what real

voters, even Democratic primary voters, care about.

As vice president, she's basically picked up where her desultory campaign left off. In the latest USA Today/Suffolk University poll, Harris had a dismal 28% approval rating. It's difficult to rate that low without getting indicted or suffering some other embarrassing scandal.

Her allies, of course, complain that she's being treated unfairly because she's a woman of color. This fixation on race and gender plays much better with the left-wing activist class than with the public. The simpler explanation for Harris' woes is that she's a below-average politician serving under an unpopular president.

Pete Buttigieg has had a happier tenure. With his surprising success in the 2020 Democratic primary, he bootstrapped himself into a Cabinet position and is now enjoying a windfall of resources thanks to the infrastructure bill.

He embodies, to a fault, the party's growing strength among college-educated whites. He's smooth, credentialed, hyper-articulate and a quick study who knows enough – sometimes just enough – to charm and impress journalists and other white-collar creative types.

If a management consultant were to design a progressive white Democrat in a bottle, the result would look a lot like Buttigieg, himself a former management consultant.

It's become increasingly clear, though, that the Democratic Party's new base among college-educated voters is a trap if it is

pursued to the exclusion of an appeal to working-class voters. The party's poor standing with non-college-educated voters has begun to show up in eroding support among Latinos, a constituency that was presumed to be a key pillar of the Obama-crafted "coalition of the ascendant."

A successful post-Biden Democratic future is more likely to be found in the likes of New York Mayor-elect Eric Adams than Harris or Buttigieg.

He is an African American former cop with a hard-knocks upbringing that gives him working-class street cred. He knows that woke bromides aren't the way to appeal to African American voters, who put him over the top in the Democratic primary. He's a standard progressive in many respects, but he has proven immune to fashionable left-wing causes. He not only defused a hot-button cultural issue – namely, crime – he campaigned on it and made it a strength, an ability that most national Democrats have lost as the party has moved left since 2016.

It's far too early to know how his City Hall tenure will actually turn out, but Adams has the qualities and approach that, in theory, could be fruitful for Democrats nationally.

Meanwhile, even if the GOP is on a roll at the moment, it shouldn't get its hopes up. At the end of the day, a 2024 Democratic primary dominated by Harris and Buttigieg is probably too good to be true.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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An Update from DUSD Superintendent Brian Dolan

Dixon Unified School District News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Unified School District continues to offer testing for any student or staff member free of charge every Monday and Thursday from 2:00 to 3:30 at Dixon High School. You must register for the test through at the following website before testing:
www.dixonusd.org/schoolclosureinformation

Vaccination News

While the Pfizer vaccine has been authorized for use in children in the 5 to 11 age group, and the Governor has previously announced a vaccination mandate for all school-aged children in the state, we still have not received any information on how this requirement will be implemented. Once again, we assure you that we will provide that information immediately upon us receiving it.

We do know that some families have already begun to have their children

vaccinated. At this time, we are not asking for proof of vaccination to be turned in to us. This is tied directly to the lack of specific information on how the program will be operated mentioned above. So, please keep any vaccination records that you have for your children until we ask you for them.

School Year Update

We are just over having completed a third of the school year. We are seeing students working hard on their academics, which is critical as we are also definitely seeing learning loss as a result of the pandemic and interruption to normal instruction. Many students continue to struggle with the adjustment back to full-time, in-person school. This can be seen in the form of depression and anxiety, difficulties with socialization, and an increase in negative behaviors. If you have concerns about your children, please complete a referral form for Mental Health supports on the front-page of our website -https://www.dixonusd.org/ ★

I Ain't 16 Anymore

Dr. James L. Snyder

I've had so many birthdays in my life that I really don't know how old I am. All I know is that I'm one year older than I was last year. I would not be able to remember when my life began if it wasn't for paperwork.

When I was 16, I was rather oblivious of things that were happening in the world. I had no internet, computer, cell phone, video games or anything of the like. So in all actuality, I was on my own.

One thing that really impressed me about being 16 was that I could get a driver's license and drive a car. The disappointing aspect about this was, I didn't have enough money to buy a car and so had to borrow my father's car when it was convenient for him. Oh boy, those were the days.

At 16, I believed I had become a certified adult. I was at the stage now where nobody could tell me what to do.

However, I still was in high school, and for some reason, my teachers thought they were in charge of the class. How little did they know?

It took being sent to the principal's office five times

before realizing I was not really in charge of my class.

I remember my father saying to me, "Son, you're 16 now, and you are in charge of your life."

My father wasn't quite done with me yet, "Now that you are 16, you're going to have to pay for your things."

The next day as I was ready to go to school, I stopped and asked my father, "Dad, I need some money for lunch today."

My father looked at me and said, "I thought you were in control of your life?"

"Yes, dad, I'm in control of my life; I'm my own boss."

"Then," my father said, "that means you have to pay for your own lunch. If you're in charge, that means you have to pay for what you have."

One Saturday, I needed to borrow my father's car to go to a baseball game. "Dad, can I borrow your car so I can go to my baseball game this afternoon?"

"You sure can," my father said, "and by the way, the car is low on gas, so you'll have to put gas in the car."

It took me a long time to realize how great my life was before I turned 16. If I would have known that, I think I would've lived more

extravagantly on my dad's credit card.

After celebrating my 16th birthday, I cooled down a little bit to realize that life really is hard, and getting old is not for sissies. Plus, it's very costly.

Before I was 16, I thought everything was free, I could do whatever I please, and there would be no accountability.

Right after turning 16, I ran across what has become my life verse from the Bible. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Looking back, I can see that it serves no purpose not to trust in the Lord. However, I experience things that are beyond my experience and understanding, and that's when God steps in. wisdom and his love for me.

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 jameessnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com. ★




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FROM **MPG**

Cal Water to Relieve Debt Accumulated during Pandemic

California Water Service Press Release

SAN JOSE, CA (MPG) - California Water Service (Cal Water) has filed an application with the State Water Resources Control Board to help provide financial support to customers who were unable to pay their water bills during the coronavirus pandemic. The funding, which Cal Water advocated to help secure, will enable the utility to forgive past-due balances incurred by its customers between March 2020 and mid-June 2021. In the application, Cal Water requested \$20.8 million in relief for customers across its California service areas. The company anticipates receiving final approval by the State Water Resources Control Board around the first of the year. Customers do not have to apply for the debt forgiveness; if approved, Cal Water will apply any credits to affected customers' accounts within 60 days after receiving funding from the state, expected to be in early 2022.

“While life is returning to some sense of normalcy from the coronavirus, we know that many of our customers continue to struggle to make ends meet,”

said Martin A. Kropelnicki, President and CEO. “Providing debt forgiveness is one way we can keep our customers who are experiencing financial hardship from having to worry about their water bill.”

This measure is the latest step by Cal Water to support customers who have been financially affected by the pandemic. In addition to the debt forgiveness application, customers with remaining balances that pre-date the pandemic or have accrued after June 15, 2021, can take advantage of interest- and penalty-free payment plans or extensions, preventing them from becoming subject to potential disruptions in water service after the moratorium on disconnections for non-payment expires. Income-eligible customers may also enroll in Cal Water’s Customer Assistance Program, which provides qualifying customers with a discount on their monthly service charge.

California Water Service serves about 2 million people through 492,600 service connections in

California. The utility has provided water service in the state since 1926. Additional information may be obtained online at www.calwater.com. ★



Report says adaptability will help farmers and ranchers weather the drought

Impacts of the 2020-21 drought on California farms and ranches might not be as bad as feared, according to a University of California report. Despite record-setting drought conditions and hundreds of thousands of acres left unplanted, the authors say the state’s farms and ranches may generate normal revenue in 2021. The report cites adaptability as a key factor.

California gets \$54.5 million for specialty crops, pandemic relief

California is getting \$54.5 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Specialty Crop Grant Program. The money will benefit farm boards and producers and University of California system research centers, and some 100 agricultural projects will get funds to boost specialty market sales of fruits, vegetables, tree nuts and nursery crops. The money includes \$31.6 million in stimulus funds to help agriculture address impacts of the pandemic.

Jose Emilio Esteban nominated as Under Secretary of Food Safety

A University of California, Davis graduate has been nominated to serve as Under Secretary for Food Safety. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said Jose Emilio Esteban, chief scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service, “has an extensive track record on this key issue.” Esteban holds a master’s degree in Preventive Veterinary Medicine and a PhD in Epidemiology from UC Davis.

Cal State Monterey Bay Gets \$975,000 grant for ag programs

California State University, Monterey Bay has been awarded a \$975,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase student participation and career opportunities in food, agriculture, natural resources and human science fields. Under the grant program, the campus will also partner with the University of California, Santa Cruz and regional agricultural industries on student recruitment, retention and job placement. ★



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FILE NO. 2021-1002183

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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 2, 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: November 19, 26 & December 3, 10, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE #FCS057294

1. Petitioner Rudy Brooks Sr filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

Present name	Proposed name
Rudy Brooks Sr	Rudy Robert Brooks Sr

2. 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 15, 2021, 8:30 a.m. Department 12, Room 2, 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

DATED: October 27, 2021
Publish: November 19, 26 & December 3, 10, 2021 (The Dixon Independent Voice)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2021-1002253

The following persons are doing business as: : **OMBRE NAILS**
613 Tennessee Street, Vallejo, CA 94590
Dan Lam, 1593 Gardner Boulevard, San Leandro, CA 94577
Date Filed in Solano County: November 15, 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 14, 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: November 26 & December 3, 10, 17, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Dixon Planning Commission (“Planning Commission”) will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on December 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54950 et seq.), and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, to consider the following Planning Application (21-23) in the Homestead subdivision (Southwest Dixon Specific Plan area).

- Tentative Map (21-01) for the creation of 201 single-family residential lots, 6 open space lots, and a 10-acre remainder lot for the Azevedo homestead that spans portions of Phases 3 and 4 of the Homestead Development. A prior Tentative Map approved for the remainder of Phase 3 portion of the area (Weyand Ranch Subdivision) remains valid through the adopted Development Agreement.
- Planned Development Plan (PD 21-01) to modify the established PD standards for both Phases 3 and 4 of the Homestead Development, which are non substantial modifications in nature based on DMC18.108.1320.A and B

These phases of the subdivision have general zoning designations of Planned Multiple Residential (PMR) and Single-family Residential (R1). The General Plan and Specific Plan land use designations are Low Density Residential (LD) and Medium Density Residential. The process governing Tentative Maps and Planned Development Plans are discussed in Chapters 17.06 and 18.18 of the Dixon Municipal Code. The project area includes Assessor’s Parcel Numbers 0114-012-010, -.040, -.050, and -.060.

This notice has been sent to property owners within 300 feet of the project’s location.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend the December 14, 2021 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the Planning Commission prior to making any recommendation on the application. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the hearing or submitting written or emailed comments prior to the meeting.

The Staff reports(s) and supporting document(s) will be provided in the agenda packet for the December 14, 2021 Planning Commission meeting, which will be posted at least three (3) days before the meeting on the city’s meetings page at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

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 forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Interested individuals will be given an opportunity to speak in favor or in opposition to the above-proposed action. Written comments are also accepted prior to the meeting by mail at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or by email at the email address below. 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.


Copies of the proposed application will be available, upon request. If you have any questions, please call Scott Greeley, at (707) 678-7000 x1115 or sgreeley@cityofdixon.us.

Dixon Independent Voice 12-3-2021

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 7

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CLUES

ACROSS
1. "Oh, my!"
5. Say untruth
8. Left or right
12. Spiritual leader
13. *ing Up with Marie Kondo"
14. Great reviews
15. Related
16. Double reed woodwind
17. Fourth deck
18. *The _____, MTV's trailblazing reality show
20. Affirm with confidence
21. I to Greeks, pl.
22. ____ Baba
23. Powerball and such
26. Swaggering show of courage
30. Spermatozoa counterparts
31. Based on two
34. Has a mortgage
35. ____ dog, gin and grape-fruit juice cocktail
37. DNA transmitter
38. *The Real Housewives" is full of this type of conflict
39. Write on a tombstone
40. Unwholesome atmosphere
42. Hairpiece, slangily
43. Stitched again
45. Unit of electric current flow
47. Solemn pledge
48. Like nose during hayfever
50. Uncouth one
52. *Who _____ a Millionaire?"
56. Front of cuirass
57. Sixth month of civil year
58. "Jack and the Beanstalk" instrument
59. Travesty
60. Italian money
61. *Vanilla Ice Goes Amish" and "Cleveland Hustles" state
62. *____ house Masters" on Animal Planet
63. *Not Khloé or Kourtney
64. Common allergens

DOWN
1. Gelatin substitute
2. Gospel writer
3. "Tosca" song, e.g.
4. Like sunroom, hopefully
5. Balance in the sky
6. *Pop _____ and "American _____" pl.
7. Gave the once-over
8. *Outwit, Outplay, Outlast" show
9. Not active
10. Point of entry
11. Sixth sense
13. Foot, to a child
14. Aussie bear
19. Buzz Lightyear's buddy
22. Brow shape
23. *The Biggest _____"
24. Egg-shaped
25. Same as talcums
26. Civil rights concern
27. In the know
28. Raise objections
29. Missouri River tributary
32. Like a desert
33. Crime scene evidence
36. *Singing competition (2 words)
38. Curses
40. Feline sound

41. "I think I can, I think I can..." e.g.
44. "For better or for _____"
46. "Monty _____'s Flying Circus"
48. r in a circle, pl.
49. Deprive of weapons
50. *Star of wilderness reality shows, _____ Grylls
51. Fairytale beast
52. Street-crossing word
53. Hawaiian island
54. Londoner, e.g.
55. Narrative poem
56. Back of a boat

Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
				21					22			
23	24	25					26			27	28	29
30				31		32	33		34			
35			36			37			38			
39				40					41		42	
43				44					45		46	
			47					48	49			
	50	51				52				53	54	55
56						57			58			
59						60			61			
62						63				64		

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

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

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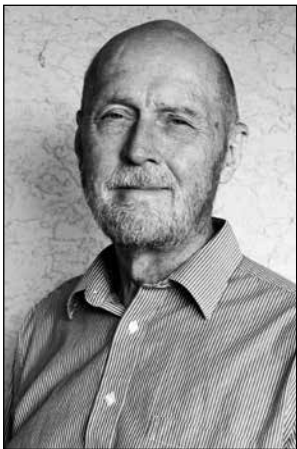
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	1		9				8
		5		4	3		
6	2					5	
8	4						3
	6		3		1		2
3						9	6
		8				3	2
			4	2		8	
4				5			6

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

Solutions on Page 7

California Avoids COVID Surge Seen in Other States



Commentary by bil paul

The number of new COVID cases in Dixon and Solano County is low and holding steady. About one out of every 25 people being tested is testing positive. Dixon still holds the record of the most COVID cases per capita in the county, followed by in order by Vallejo, Vacaville and Suisun City.

But, COVID 19 is not disappearing. Although California overall has a relatively low rate of new COVID cases, hospitals in Fresno have been stretched to the limit with new cases. Farm workers have been hard hit. Nationwide, a broad swath of states stretching from North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan to Pennsylvania, New York and New England is seeing surges of cases. Add Alaska. This is probably because those states are the coldest, with more people congregating indoors. In the southwest, Arizona and New Mexico are also COVID hotspots.

Nationally, over a recent two-week period, COVID cases were up 20 percent and hospitalizations 11 percent, while the death rate declined. Since the big surge of last winter, scientists are waiting to see if the current highly transmissible delta variant will cause a new similar surge beginning after the Holiday Season in the U.S.

Vaccinating those over five years old is advisable.

A new COVID variant, labeled the “omicron” variant and possibly originating in South Africa, has spread to places like Israel and Hong Kong. It has significantly mutated, possibly making it more transmissible and deadly. It’s not known if the current vaccines will be effective against it.

Seventeen members of my immediate family got together for a great Thanksgiving at my brother-in-law’s home. There were guests of all ages and no one left hungry. One unvaccinated family member was approached about coming, and when it was mentioned that all who were coming were vaccinated, he politely declined the invitation.

I think I mentioned previously that Pfizer and Merck have developed anti-covid pills to be taken after a person comes down with the disease. The companies are awaiting emergency use authorization. Unfortunately, the Merck product is only 30 percent effective against

the virus while the Pfizer product so far has been about 89 percent effective. If the pills are made available, their benefit would depend upon people taking them early on.

Another viral disease has been hitting California: RSV, or the Respiratory Syncytial Virus. It’s most acute in infants and younger children, with symptoms somewhat similar to those of COVID, but without the loss of taste and smell, and the lack of extreme fatigue. RSV symptoms are fever and intense cough. There are no vaccines or drugs specifically developed to use against it.

As for the usual flu that peaks about this time of year, it appears that the precautions taken against COVID have kept it at very low levels.

Inflation continues to negate wage increases and hit those who commute long distances to work. The average price per gallon for gasoline in California recently hit \$4.71 (the highest in the country). Of that (at least in March) \$1.19 consisted of taxes and fees.

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 GLs in the Aleutian Islands during WWII. ★



A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE” Rated PG-13

Nostalgia is a good thing to relish during the holiday season. For most, we hopefully reminisce about happy times with family and friends gathered for celebrations and seasonal parties.

The same feeling is also most welcome when a movie taps into a sentimental yearning for the past. Good news arrives for fans of “Ghostbusters” for a franchise still alive when it could have been given up for dead after the 2016 reboot.

The aptly-named “Ghostbusters: Afterlife” may evoke the spirit of the 1980s but it is rooted in contemporary times with the relatives of the late Harold Ramis’ Dr. Egon Spengler carrying on the legacy.

“Ghostbusters” is family-driven from the aspect of director Jason Reitman helming this sequel to his father Ivan’s directorial effort for the 1984 original comedic blockbuster.

To be sure, there are plenty of sly special effects with maliciously destructive apparitions, but Jason Reitman is equally focused on a character-driven story that draws the family of one of the original Ghostbusters into the picture.

Estranged from her father, the now divorced and broke Callie (Carrie Coon) learns that she has inherited Spengler’s property in Oklahoma, and she’s hoping for a fresh start with teenage son Trevor (Finn Wolfhard) and 12-year-old daughter Phoebe (Mckenna Grace).

Enrolled in a summer school class taught by flippant Gary Grooberson (Paul Rudd), the nerdy, precocious Phoebe is befriended by spirited classmate Podcast (Logan Kim), a loquacious but hilarious narrator of even the most mundane details.

Meanwhile, Trevor ends up working a local diner where he pretends to be older only because he has a crush on Lucky (Celeste O’Connor). Not surprisingly, Grooberson develops a romantic interest in Callie.

There’s a time when Callie wistfully hopes that Phoebe might get into some trouble if only because she seems so proper. Little does Mom know that the adventurous kids are going to unearth the remnants of Spengler’s ghostbusting days.

Finn discovers the vintage Cadillac ambulance used by the Ghostbusters and the kids end up joyriding through town and get their first taste of what it is like to hunt down malevolent ghouls and also end up in the local jail.

While the plot is expectedly predictable, the delight to be had is from a very likable, charismatic cast, from the always genial Paul Rudd to the resourceful kids. A moving tribute to Harold Ramis and great

Riley Reviews

“GHOSTBUSTERS” NEW GENERATION; “HOUSE OF GUCCI” SOAP OPERA

cameos bring a nice touch to the pleasing “Ghostbusters: Afterlife.”

When the credits start to roll, be sure to stay for a mid-credits scene and the one at the very end when the screen goes dark. The “Ghostbusters” franchise has probably not have zapped its last ethereal being. A new generation may be taking hold.

“HOUSE OF GUCCI” Rated R

Glamour, greed, decadence, betrayal, deceit and ambition are all on florid display in the soap opera drama “House of Gucci,” a turbulent saga about the Italian fashion empire of great wealth that was not spared a scandalous crime.

Some may enter the cinema aware of a sordid wrongdoing that roiled the Gucci family. On the other hand, what I and probably many others know about this Italian company are the famous double G logo and the replica handbags sold to the unsuspecting at flea markets.

What matters in this Ridley Scott directed film based on real life events is how the story moves from bickering Gucci family members to a Gucci empire no longer in the hands of a family member.

Maurizio Gucci (Adam Driver), son of Rodolfo Gucci (Jeremy Irons), a former actor and dilettante who appears not as connected to the business as his brother Aldo (Al Pacino), is a law student when he meets Patrizia Reggiani (Lady Gaga) at a party.

Patrizia, who works as secretary in her father’s trucking company, mistakes Maurizio for a bartender, and he charms her by saying she looks like Elizabeth Taylor, or maybe he should have said Sophia Loren.

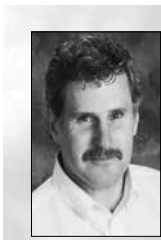
The two fall in love and decide to marry, much to the chagrin of papa Rodolfo, who believes she’s a social climber and gold digger. He’s not far off the mark, but Patrizia turns out to be much more than that.

Where Maurizio seems quiet and a bit passive, Patrizia is bold and assertive, pushing him to his rightful place in the Gucci empire. They soon take up residence in New York and go to work with Aldo at the flagship store in Manhattan.

Aldo thinks of his own son Paolo (Jared Leto), who has no talent for business or fashion, as an idiot, and this, of course, becomes another source of tension in Gucci world.

Meanwhile, the marriage sours when Maurizio reconnects with old flame Paola (Camille Cottin) and dispatches his sidekick to inform Patrizia that their marital bond is over.

As the story spins into a reckless spiral of revenge that leads to murder, “House of Gucci” is riveting for the solid performances primarily by Lady Gaga, Adam Driver, Al Pacino and a goofy Jared Leto. ★



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Make Your Own Luck



What exactly is luck? Why do some people appear to be luckier than others? Is luck a question of chance, fate, or are there things you can do to improve your luck? Actually, being lucky isn't just a matter of luck at all.

Luck is a combination of attitude, mental orientation, preparation, and opportunity. Typically, lucky people have an approach of possibility whereas unlucky people have a mindset of impossibility.

Those with consistent bad luck expect to have bad luck. They advertise their expectations with statements such as, “I know this won’t work,” “Nothing ever goes right for me,” “Why can’t I ever catch a break,” and “There’s a dark cloud that follows me.”

People with good luck seek solutions rather than fixating on problems. They understand that every impediment has a resolution. They are flexible in their thinking and not locked into patterns of behavior. Their outlook allows them to find opportunity where others see only roadblocks, failure, and despair.

When a person believes they have only bad luck, they tend to attract more bad luck. This creates a vicious self-fulfilling prophecy. No one is predestined for good or bad luck. If you want more good luck, there are steps you can take to bring it about.

Keep your Outlook Flexible

Imagine the following scenario. You are standing

at one end of a long hallway. Your destination is a door at the other end. As you walk down the hallway, you pass other doors which are slightly open.

Unlucky people will direct all of their attention on the door at the end. They will walk past the other doors without investigating what is on the other side. Behind the other doors lie potential opportunities. When they are bypassed, there is no chance of benefiting. When they discover what they missed, unlucky people will lament how unlucky they were.

Lucky people will look into each room. They will still have the door at the far end as their destination, but they won't ignore the others. This strategy positions lucky people to take advantage of unexpected and unplanned opportunities along their journey.

To increase your luck, maintain an awareness of what is around you. Don't go through life with blinders that hide opportunities.

Look for the Upside

Regardless of the circumstances you encounter, you have to figure a way to make the best of them. Lucky people consistently look for what they can learn or extract from every situation. This technique enables them to recover faster and get back on track. They always maintain a mental determination to overcome whatever obstacles are encountered. They feel they are lucky because things could have been

worse.

Unlucky people wallow in self-pity and become consumed with the negative. They can't see anything positive and feel and act like a victim. They won't take responsibility for their situation and therefore don't believe they have the power of self-determination. Whatever may happen, they get frustrated with how bad things are.

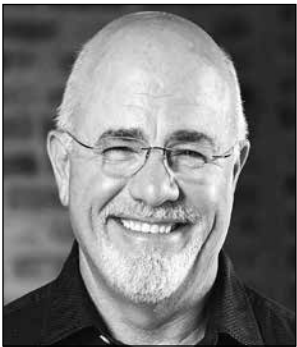
To increase your luck, don't lose sight of the fact that there is always a lesson to be learned and invariably a way out that will make you stronger. There is a solution to every problem.

Think and Act as if you are Lucky

Develop an attitude that no matter what happens, you are lucky. As a lucky person, you have the ability to make the best of every situation. Act like a lucky person. Don't talk about or dwell on problems. Concentrate on and discuss solutions.

You can become lucky. Luck is when attitude and preparation meet opportunity. Since each day is replete with new opportunities there is more than enough luck for everyone.

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@colum-nist.com or write him c/o this paper. © 2021 Bryan Golden ★



Cutting Costs During the Holidays

Dear Dave,

We’re doing our best to stick to our cash Christmas budget this year. Are there any traps to avoid, and do you have other advice on ways we can cut costs during the holiday season?

– Rene

Dear Rene,

If you’re getting out of debt, the phrase “extra money” probably isn’t even in your vocabulary. Regardless, stores will do everything they can to convince you to toss a couple of extra items into your cart when Christmas rolls around. Their festive marketing is everywhere, and most of it tries to get you to spend extra on things you don’t need or can’t afford.

It might be Christmas, but that doesn’t mean you need to buy a bunch of high-end electronic gadgets for everyone. Any way you slice it, electronics add up to be way more than most people want to spend. Try focusing on more personal – and less

Dave Ramsey Says

expensive – gifts that will be truly meaningful to the ones receiving them.

Set a reasonable budget, determine what’s fair for each person and stick to it. Be sure you’re following realistic gift guidelines before you go out shopping. If you have kids, don’t let their Christmas lists dictate how much you spend. Your budget should do that. Look out for sneaky buys that drain your wallet, too. Some people spend as much on stocking stuffers as they do regular gifts under the tree.

Whether you’re shopping online or out and about, remember that extended warranties are not a good deal. Neither are store credit cards and the accompanying “discounts.” It seems everyone from big-box retail stores to mom and pop operations have their own store credit card these days. Sure, they’ll be happy to offer you 10 to 20 percent off a \$7 purchase of socks if you’ll just open an account. But there’s a good chance you’ll still be paying off this year’s Christmas next December.

If gift wrapping at the store is complementary, go for it. If not, just do it yourself. Sure, it takes a little time and effort, but you’ll save a ton of money buying a few rolls of wrapping paper at the local

dollar store. Don’t wait until December 20th to order your Christmas presents, either. Plan ahead – like right now – so you don’t have to worry about expensive overnight shipping rates.

Finally, I know many folks want to send Christmas cards to everyone they know every year. Some people go completely over-the-top, with their family (including the dog and cat) dressed to the nines and a photo taken by a professional photographer. Come on! You can cut costs by sending cards to just your closest friends and family. It’s okay to be a little selective here, and the cards don’t have to be expensive.

I hope this helps, René!

– 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

THIS IS JUST NOT FAIR. TEACHER EXPECTS US TO READ THIS ENTIRE BOOK.

THEY HAVEN'T EVEN MADE A MOVIE OF IT SO I CAN'T EVEN WATCH THAT.

IT'S JUST SO BORING. I CAN'T EVEN KEEP MY EYES OPEN ... LET ME THINK...

MOM, COULD YOU READ YOUR BABY BOY AN EXTRA LONG BEDTIME STORY?

by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats

I JUST GOT THE PICK OF THE LITTER!

OH, DID YOU GET A PUPPY??

NO, I WENT THROUGH THE NEIGHBORS GARBAGE CANS.

by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

Swimming with the Dolphins

Shopping with the Humans

by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

THEY'LL SAY IT EVERY TIME

HACKING COUGH... CLOGGED SINUSES... NO APPETITE... RUNNY NOSE... AW-K-K...

THERE'S A LOT OF THAT GOING AROUND...

SNIFF... SNIFF... SNIFF...

THANKS TO DEL BIXLER, 110 W. LAKE CIRCLE, SARASOTA, FL.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS: "WHAT A STUPID PLACE FOR A STOP SIGN..."

JOY PARTAIN, HOUSTON, TEXAS

WRONG MOVE DEPT.-MIGRANA CONVINCED HUSBY BARFWELL TO OPERATE HIS BUSINESS FROM RIGHT HERE AT HOME... "HOW HE'D SAVE COMMUTING TIME AND WORK IN THE UNINTERRUPTED PEACE AND QUIET OF THE HOUSE" SHE SAID.... OH-H-H YEAH...

THANKS TO L. ARROYO, SPRINGFIELD, MA

HUH? W-W-WHA...? B-BUT...

"AND DO THE DISHES IN THE SINK- I'M HAVING MY BRIDGE CLUB TODAY- THEN MAKE SURE LULA AND WOMB0 HAVE A HOT BREAKFAST AND VACUUM AROUND--BUT FIRST DRIVE ME TO THE HAIR SALON--AND..."

BY AL SCADUTO

R.F.D.

I SWEAR...

THE OLDER I GET...

THE FASTER THIS HAPPENS!

by Mike Marland

GRIN AND BEAR IT

"In my case, there's a detour on Memory Lane."

LAFF-A-DAY

"Try to keep him away from helicopters, okay?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

THAT'S IT FOR THE LEFTOVERS...ALTHOUGH TECHNICALLY, FOOD SHOULD AT LEAST GET COLD BEFORE THEY QUALIFY AS LEFTOVER.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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Holiday Visit Sparking Concerns with Aging Parents?

Commentary
by Chris Orestis, CSA
and President of Retirement Genius

As families reunite during the holidays, it's not unusual for adult children who haven't seen their aging parents in a while to begin to worry about them.

Are they experiencing health problems?

Are they still mentally on top of things?

Is it time to start thinking about long-term care?

"The holidays and their aftermath are the busiest time of year for long-term care admissions," says Chris Orestis, president of Retirement Genius (www.retirementgenius.com) and an authority on retirement planning, long-term care and financial health.

"Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, families get together and many are seeing Mom or Dad for the first time in months. Some will discover that their parent's health has declined and he or she should not be left to live on their own any longer."

If you are concerned about aging parents, Orestis offers a few things to be on the lookout for:

Physical deterioration. Be aware of potential signs such as significant weight loss, balance issues and falling, and loss of strength and stamina, Orestis says. "You might also see loss in what is known as ADL – activities of daily living," he says. "That includes such things as the ability to dress, eat, shower or use the toilet independently.";

Mental deterioration. It's easy and tempting to blow off loss of memory or confusion about names, dates and locations as just a "senior moment," Orestis says. "But cognitive deterioration is an important warning sign that you should be on the lookout for dementia and Alzheimer's," he says. "These conditions can worsen quickly and can lead to many physical breakdowns and



Seniors want to remain independent as long as possible, and they don't want to become a burden on their family. Photo Monkey Business Images, Dreamstime

safety issues.";

Lifestyle deterioration. Maybe your parent was one of those sticklers for the adage "a place for everything and everything in its place," but now the home isn't kept so neatly. "You may even encounter things that are oddly out of place, such as a house plant in the refrigerator or pots and pans in the bathtub," Orestis says. "Even more concerning, you might see signs of physical damage because they crashed the car into a fence or the wall of the garage, or there are burn marks on the kitchen wall from a flash fire. It's important to remember that long-term care is

not only a matter of healthcare, but also a matter of safety."

Certainly, seniors want to remain independent as long as possible, and they don't want to become a burden on their family, either physically or financially, Orestis says. As a result, they may try to avoid discussions about their health, mental capabilities and the possibility of the need for the assistance. Family members may be inclined to avoid these conversations as well.

"For some people, the need for long-term care can be brought on from a sudden event such as a fall, stroke, advancing dementia, or

other health-related malady," he says. "For others, it can slowly creep up over time and without realizing it one or more loved ones have become caregivers. Confronting the fact that a person has transitioned in life from being independent to dependent in one way or another is difficult."

But eventually, if it becomes clear professional long-term care is needed, family members should discuss a plan for making that happen. After that, the conversation should take place with the loved one in question, who may be apprehensive or even resistant, Orestis says.

"That conversation should be handled with compassion and delicacy," he says. "Emphasize that not only will this move improve their health and safety, but there will be numerous opportunities for social activities, games, art, entertainment and great food."

"The key is for the family to come together. Look for the signs that care is needed, formulate a plan, communicate effectively with your loved ones and change the perspective about long-term care from a negative to a safe, healthy and enriching experience in the continuing journey of life." ★

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