



It's Getting Out of Hand

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Dixon Independent Voice

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NOVEMBER 3, 2023

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Linde Lane Tea Room Liquidating



A couple dozen mahogany chairs with leather seats and dining room sets (left) as well as brand new gift sets of children's tea cups and saucers will be sold to make room for a new restaurant in the old Dixon Fire Department building that housed Linde Lane Tea Room.

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The decade-long love affair of downtown's beautiful Linde Lane Tea Room is over. The hopes by many women that after the pandemic it would be revived are forever dashed by the announcement of a Tea House Restaurant and Antiques Sale, 140 North Jackson Street. It will be November 4 and 5 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"People enjoyed it for almost 11 years. We were



Assorted teacups and saucers are small parts of a huge inventory of dishes that are being liquidated in the closing of the Linde Lane Tea Room

on national television magazines, and in scrap-books, written about in

Wiley, Tea Room proprietor. "I tried really hard to hold onto it but with rising costs for food, insurance, and wages, it could not be sustained."

The Tea Room drew visitors from throughout the world, and was a favorite among Dixonites hosting baby showers, bridal showers, birthdays, and other special occasions. Mother's Days reservations were sold out a month in advance and they even had a couple of marriage proposals and weddings there.

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PG&E Undergrounding 350 Miles of Powerlines

PG&E News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) confirmed on October 11, 2023, that the utility is on track to put at least 350 miles of powerlines underground by the end of the year, achieving permanent wildfire risk reduction for this portion of our electric distribution system.

Digging trenches and installing conduit, the piping that securely holds the electric lines in place when underground, is the most time- and labor-intensive portion of underground construction. As of today, undergrounding crews have completed 100% of that heavy construction work by digging 350 miles of trenches and laying 350 miles of conduit.

After construction is complete, electric crews then pull powerlines through the conduit, install additional electrical-system equipment, de-energize the overhead powerlines and then energize the undergrounded lines.

As of Oct. 10, more than 137 miles of the 350 miles have been fully energized. On average, about 20 more miles of undergrounded line will be energized each week through the end of the year. Customers in Middletown (Lake County), Clayton (Contra Costa County), Pollock Pines (El Dorado County) and Vacaville (Solano County) are among those already benefitting from getting their electricity from underground lines.

"Our team has learned and accomplished so much in the past two and a half years since we announced our 10,000-mile Undergrounding Program," said Peter Kenny, PG&E's senior vice president of Major Infrastructure Delivery, which includes undergrounding. "That learning equates to greater efficiency and means we're able to safely put powerlines underground more quickly and reduce the cost per mile."

PG&E plans to put 2,000 miles of lines underground between now and 2026, with the annual mileage increasing from 350 in 2023 to 750 in 2026. Based on those miles, PG&E anticipates the cost per mile of undergrounding will decrease from \$3.3 million in 2023 to \$2.8 million in 2026.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will vote on undergrounding miles as early as Nov. 2 as part of the General Rate Case Final Decision. The CPUC counterproposals fund

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Assistant Fire Chief Malone to Retire

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - He always loved cars and worked in body and fender repair so when he was in high school, John Malone planned on becoming an Engineer - likely in chemical and electrical fields so he could build and design them, he said. But then he learned he could get paid for being a firefighter.

"I grew up in Tahoe. No one got paid to be a fireman," he said. But one day he was talking with a Fire Chief who shared that he got to "play with water and fire and he got to break things and people thank me for it," he said remembering the conversation.

All things changed in his mind after that, he said, although he did continue working in body and fender repair in Allendale before he decided to get back into classes. He went to Solano Community College and got an AS in Fire Science/Firefighting. In 1992, he participated in a volunteer firefighting class for Dixon Fire Department (DFD) and in



Dixon Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal John Malone sits next to a row of faulty sprinkler heads and other dangerous, real-life examples of what he has found in inspections.

1995 got on as an official volunteer.

"My Dad always said to find people who are happy in their job. If they like their career, it won't feel like work," Malone said from his sparsely decorated office at the Dixon Fire Department. One wall had a large bulletin board

with numerous inspection sheets stapled on them, and along a window ledge, there was a variety of sprinkler head apparatus. They were examples of what could cause a fire to spread, he explained while picking one up and showing a minute dab of paint on the edge of the

fine metal points.

Malone retires Friday after serving as Fire Captain from January 1995 to present and as Division Chief Fire Prevention from 2018 to present for the City of Dixon. He has watched the industry change over the years,

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Life's too SHORT



Amazing Historical Homes

By Debra Dingman

Building a legacy doesn't happen over a few years. It is honoring the past over many years. That is what all the owners of the homes on the historical tour this past Saturday did and why their homes were an experience to see.

And there were about 275 people who wanted that. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces at the homes and over the lunch at the Catholic Church provided by the students and volunteers of the Valley of the Sacred Heart.

For Wes and Alena Standfill, who graciously spent their morning onsite at the tour's first stop at 360 North First Street, some of the many details in the renovation were shared. This Victorian where the Lele/McCune/Kilkenny Home has become the Standfill House, was stop number one on the 5-stop Historical Home Tour.

It has been the welcome beacon just over the tracks to downtown Dixon for most of its 150 years and numerous people told us that they had always admired this home for many years and was so happy to see it restored. I tried to encourage visitors to check out

the small details like the drawer pulls, the cupboard knobs, and light fixtures as I knew Wes had painstakingly hunted down originals from the era and had rescued many old windows, lights, and even cupboard brackets from old homes destined for burn practices for the fire departments.

I apologize here to Ashley Alvarado, my docent partner, who probably heard me tell everyone about the swan railings that were actually letter "s" that Wes had cut each out on the family's kitchen table. (Alena told me when I interviewed them for the story I wrote in June 2021.)

What I didn't get to see before was the rear residence attached to the Victorian. It was very spacious, and I could see the whole beautiful place being used for a gorgeous wedding.

The Standfills' amazing patience and skill could be seen in every room and Wes and Alena have given Dixon a true gift in making the old eye-sore into "a living testament to the past, a shining example of architectural resurrection, and a cherished piece of Dixon's history."

Next, I got to be the tourist and went to the Rossi Home now owned by David and Darcy

McKenzie at 300 East Mayes. The original home was destroyed by fire except the basement which Bud and Di Rossi built their dream home on top of in 1952.

After a change or two in ownership, in 2008 the McKenzie's purchased the home on nearly a half-acre who used "creative reinvention" to finish the upstairs, update the guest cottage, and create a masterful backyard for all ages of family to enjoy nature's serenity. Darcy had written and posted cards about the special connections to the past from a huge gold mirror in the entry to the rescue of an old porcelain sink in one of the bathrooms. There were also cards telling the connection to Monticello Valley for the McKenzie families. The couple were also on hand to talk with visitors and share their stories.

It was an incredible day with three other homes if you had time to visit them: The McKenzie home owned by Kelley Evans and Kim Schroeder-Evans, the Brinkerhoff home owned by Jose and Maria Cornejo, and the Madden home owned by Sara McBride.

It was a day to learn how to build a legacy — in buildings and in character. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Like many Halloween decorated homes around Dixon, the owners of this one on Hillview Drive took a funny stab with their front yard decorations. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

City Council

This coming Tuesday, November 7, the City Council will be meeting in the Council Chambers at 600 East A Street, at 7 p.m. Agendas of all city meetings are on cityofdixon.us usually the Thursday before the meetings.

Successful Aging Classes

Dignity Health Yolo Adult Day Health Center will be sponsoring two classes on Thursday, November 16 at the Davis Senior center, 646 A Street in Davis. One is How to be a Best Friend and is about improving the quality of life for the person and care partner by David Troxel, author and educator. Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are progressive neurological disorders that affect millions of individuals worldwide. Approaches to care which prioritize the well-being and quality of life of those living with the disease are gaining popularity. The workshop will describe caregiving techniques to bring out the best in the person with dementia and bring out the best in you.

Another class, Successful Aging, will talk about making a plan whether one is single or has many friends and family. Planning for the challenges of aging and learning the steps to prepare for one's future will be shared by Felicia Juntunen, Director of Care Management. Please register by Nov. 10, 2023, by email imcfarlane@carltonseniorliving.com or call (925) 384-1666.

The classes are in partnership with Davis, California, ElderCare Management and Carlton Senior Living.

Buy a Brick

When Dixon High School first opened, the Dixon Community Education Foundation did a fundraiser for engraved bricks that are embedded in the quad. Our current Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is doing this again and we are very excited about this opportunity. All community members are welcome to order whether they are current, past, or future DHS community members.

If you wonder how to support the staff, students, and teachers at Dixon High School, one way is that you can purchase a customized, sand-blasted brick that will be installed in the quad at Dixon High School. These bricks will live on for years to come. Sales will close January 12, 2024. Cost is \$100 per brick. Go to www.

bricksrus.com/donatesite/dhspto or email PTODixonHighSchool@gmail.com for more information.

Vintage Market Saturday

The first Vintage Market at 'The Courtyard' in Downtown Dixon on Saturday, November 4, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. "We want to create an opportunity to bring more folks Downtown for local enjoyment," said Rebecca Robinson, Uptown Collective business owner, who offered no booth fees. She can be reached by text (530) 759-3315.

Veteran Business Resource Fair

A no-cost event for veterans who are starting or growing a business will take place on Thursday, November 9, 10 a.m. to noon at 490 Chadbourne Road in Fairfield. This is a unique opportunity to have multiple business resource partners available in one location. Learn more about and network with leaders from the Solano-Napa Small Business Development Center, Veterans Business Outreach Center, and the Small Business Administration. Register at solanonapasbdc.org/events.

Domestic Violence is Awful

The District Attorney's Victim/Witness Assistance Unit is available to support victims with a wide variety of services. Please contact our Victim/Witness Unit at (707) 784-6844 for assistance. The District Attorney's Office also strongly supports a violence prevention approach and continues to engage in partnerships that provide a unique opportunity to strengthen victim advocacy efforts within Solano County. Many local resources are available to victims of domestic violence at the Solano Family Justice Center (SFJC) located at 604 Empire Street in Fairfield. Anyone in need of direct services as a result of family violence may call the SFJC at (707) 784-7635. Let's all challenge ourselves to be more proactive by reporting what we see and reaching out to those in need so together we can break this cycle of violence.

Blood Drive

On Monday, November 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. there will be a Blood Drive at 1305 North First Street. To schedule an appointment, call Vitalant at (877) 258-4825 and mention blood drive code SMFM014. For more information on how to prepare for that day, see the health questionnaire at www.vitalant.org/health. ★

Popeyes is Now Open



If you like chicken and biscuits, you'll be happy to hear Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen is now open just behind the 'other' Popeyes and gas station near Cattlemens. According to Jeff Schafer, Commercial Superintendent for All-Around Renovations out of San Diego who oversaw the building on Dorset Drive, the plans included an office on the second floor for the franchise owner. He's worked side by side with the contractors on the restaurant that has a drive-thru as well as dine-in. Photo by Debra Dingman

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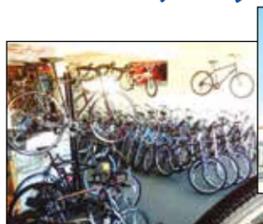
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Assistant Fire Chief Malone to Retire



Malone held a sprinkler head with a dab of paint on it that would prevent it from getting proper signal and reaction if there was a fire.

Continued from page 1

especially the decade between the 70s and 80s where fire departments were no longer just about fire service but “really about emergency service,” he said. “The majority of calls now are medical and rescue.” Malone constantly has had to train as with all firefighters.

Training and More Training

“Fire skills are perishable, and you must continue to practice as they will diminish over time,” he explained. “The average firefighter’s career goes through the equivalent of three BA degrees.” Although firefighters have a unique work schedule that some people think is ‘easy,’ they also put their bodies under duress from waking up in the middle of the night and “going to 100 percent” plus fighting a blaze creates toxic fumes one will breathe.

Malone easily recalled one fire that did frighten him. It was a fire out in Tremont area by railroad tracks and when they got there, the whole house was fully engulfed. They began spraying when he suddenly

noticed two large acetylene tanks glowing red. He knew if the water hit them, they could explode.

“People don’t realize the risks and hazards of the job,” he said. “The life span of a firefighter is lessened. But it is a family, and we are always there to help each other.” In retirement, Malone plans to enjoy his wife, sons and his two granddaughters more. He also has travel goals with his wife who works for the State. On a more personal level, he plans on a weekly fishing outing with another past fire chief, wants to attend culinary school, and learn piano.

Hard to Replace

Fire Chief Todd McNeal has budgeted approximately \$76,000 for covering Malone’s responsibilities during recruitment. Fire prevention is a major area of responsibility for the Fire Department. Historically, every major fire has underscored the need for good fire prevention. The Assistant Fire Chief is given the responsibility to establish and maintain fire and life safety throughout the community.

This is accomplished by the development of comprehensive fire and life safety laws. According to the City, the Fire Marshal coordinates or performs all business, commercial, and construction inspections. Fire safety standards recommend that all typical businesses be inspected once per year. There are approximately 420 businesses that require business inspections.

“We can stop fires with materials and protection systems,” Malone said. “But, it costs money. We’re the only business putting ourselves out of business.” ★

Linde Lane Tea Room Liquidating



Antiques and many unique pieces of furniture are also being sold at the Tea Room over the weekend of November 4 and 5.

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“Hopefully, [the many customers] can come and get a piece of their memories,” she said. Wiley, a local dentist, has an office above the tea room and seemed solemn about the clearance.

She reminisced about spending seven years bringing it to fruition in August 2010 in the huge, old Dixon Fire Department with the help of a loan through the Dixon Redevelopment Agency. She recalled going through the guest book and discovering they had a guest from every state in the country and visitors from Italy, Greenland, Europe, Africa and places all over the world.

With its elegant decor, furniture and walls, and its unique menu selections, the Linde Lane Tea Room became a huge success, bringing even more customers to the few other downtown stores.

“It wasn’t about being a restaurant, it was about being an experience,” Wiley said. “It was a hard decision, but it never became the right time to re-open and many

tea rooms have gone under.”

Huge antique bureaus, whimsical-looking gold chairs, beautiful solid mahogany chairs for \$20, dozens of children’s teacups, and every kind of China dish or crystal glass, tea pots of all sorts, colors, and sizes are priced to sell beginning at 50 cents. Used tea pots are \$1 or \$2 with brand new ones marked for \$5.

There are retail decorations plus kitchen tools and equipment for sale and about 20 copper gallon-size tea tins. Oh, and there is one, giant teacup bench in beautiful condition for \$2,000, a steal compared to the \$6,000 original price.

“I’ve spent several weeks cleaning and organizing and selling things,” said Janis Luzzo, who recently sold her cake baking business downtown and who is a close friend of Wiley’s. She understood the really hard decision to move on and offered to help Wiley. “It’s going to permanently close, but another restaurant is going to lease it.” No further details were available. ★

School Board Wrestles Over Teen Center



In earlier times of the Dixon Teen Center, these students volunteered for Grillin’ & Chillin’ in July 2018. A grassroots movement is trying to revive the organization but has not found a home for students yet. Courtesy photo

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The big issue at last week’s School Board meeting was the Dixon Teen Center where the chambers were filled with people who wanted to voice hopes for its revival and those with concerns over its future location.

The Teen Center that opened with great fanfare in January of 2011 under the direction of Pastor Cathy Morris of the Dixon United Methodist Church for students age 13 through 18, had to move to a temporary location at Dixon High School in 2019 due to the renovation of their former location at the old high school to John Knight Middle School and also because of Covid when their room at Dixon High School closed during the pandemic.

This year in March, it was announced on social media that they “were back” and students were able to come to open gym at Gretchen Higgins Elementary for a few months while leaders focused on finding a space to call home.

President Jerry Castanon made a request to use the old CA Jacobs Band Room on the newly renovated Maine Prairie High School. Julia Lopez, another Board Member for the Teen Center, admitted she did not live in Dixon but spoke passionately saying, “This town has nothing for teens.” Parents also spoke, sharing different sides of the topic.

Board member Jewel Fink said they haven’t heard from Maine Prairie High School and wanted to take time to learn what MPHS Principal Angelina Arias would think as they had only one side of a story. She suggested the Teen Center organizers come back to a future meeting so the school district could hear from Arias but board member Adrian Cuevas appeared upset at meeting “for seven months” and not being able to make a decision.

Arias approached the podium and gave a brief speech.

“You say you’ve been at this for seven months, but we just moved in February and we so deserved to know--but we’ve just heard of this a month ago.” Arias said. “I have long term and short term goals for our site. I have goals for the entire school

campus.” Two teachers also spoke with one wondering why the old MPHS campus wasn’t being considered since it is right next to JKMS which is the ‘market’ for teen program participants.

“It was good enough for us; it should be good enough for you,” one said, adding that there are “three additional rooms over there” that could be utilized for various Teen Center activities.

One teacher wondered why the teen center had not been asked to occupy any space at any other school location and said lack of accountability and transparency could be the reasons. In addition, a parent spoke about the many activities her children engage in and questioned the need since there are many other community activities offered.

Phil Lockwood, a long-term volunteer and mentor within the District and a presence on the MP campus since 2015 reported that he heard about the center’s plans for the first time last week.

“I have been passionate about the Teen Center from the beginning and served several years but for a long time, we’ve been trying to bring the level of services up for Maine Prairie students and our extension plans included this space last year. We need to be heard from and make our plan to [officially] present,” he said.

Board Rep Fink responded in closing the need to see the “program” the Teen Center would offer. “I’ve been to 4 or 5 of these now and in your presentation, you talk about programming, but you have not been specific,” she said. She reported that she’d heard how wonderful the Teen Center “used to be” but moved to Dixon when it had moved to Dixon High School.

“I had an opportunity to go to the Teen Center at Dixon High School and not a lot was happening there. There were four or five students and not what I had envisioned for a Teen Center,” she said. “I was on the Board at the Vallejo Boys and Girls Club and I know what would happen at certain times. I don’t think you can just say ‘the doors are open and you can find yourself.’ You need structure. I haven’t seen a lot of that.” She welcomes the opportunity to hear from Arias. Superintendent Dolan will bring the issue back in four weeks. ★

Rosenberger Chosen by Soroptimist



Aemonn Rosenberger stands with a vision board and her science teacher, Stephanie Kelso. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International

Soroptimist International News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Aemonn Rosenberger was chosen YWOM by the science department at Dixon High School. Choosing Aemonn “was an obvious choice” said Ms. Kelso, teacher of AP Biology and Chemistry. Aemonn is driven, focused, hardworking, and inquisitive, which makes her a fantastic student of science. Aemonn applauds Ms. Kelso for teaching with love and support in a positive environment.

Aemonn is the daughter of Eric and Staci Rosenberger. She has a brother Nathan and sister Madisyn. She has grown up in Dixon attending Tremont Elementary C.A. Jacobs, and is now a senior at Dixon High School.

Aemonn is an excellent student. She has maintained a minimum of a 4.0 throughout her entire academic career, earning the Principal’s Honor Roll throughout high school. Aemonn contributes her academic achievements to working hard and taking accountability.

Aemonn’s Mom, Staci, is her absolute joy and inspiration. Staci works for Bayer Crop Science, where she is the site lead. Staci has instilled her dedication and goal driven personality into Aemonn, inspiring her love of science. Aemonn’s Dad, Eric, brings humor and fun to the family.

Aemonn is also successful outside of the classroom. She has played competitive softball since she was 9 years old. She has been part of the varsity softball team since she was a freshman. Her team has won the league title the last three years and she is hoping to win a title again this spring. Throughout Aemonn’s time on the softball team, she has earned All American and Honorable Mention.

During high school, Aemonn has participated in school clubs: Club Mental Health Matters, Campus Ministry Club, and Mindful Mondays. This year she is part of Key Club and Barnyard Club. Service is also important to Aemonn. She has been part of Toys 4 Tots and wreath laying at the Veterans Cemetery. Aemonn works at Happy Paws Kennels and hopes to start AVID tutoring at John Knight Middle School.

Aemonn plans to attend a four-year state school or university. Her top three choices are UC Irvine, CSU Long Beach, and UC Santa Barbara. She plans on majoring in biology with a minor in biomedical sciences. Aemonn’s goal is to work in the medical field, specifically as a nurse, but is open to other positions. After college, she hopes to have a steady job and income, and would love to start a family of her own.

Congratulations Aemonn Rosenberger! You are an inspiration to all girls who love science. ★

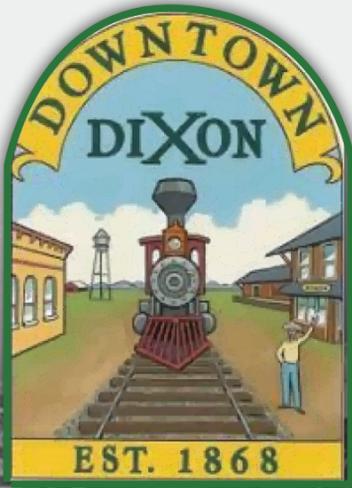


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A healthy community begins with a healthy downtown. They are the heartbeat of our communities and they are also key indicators of larger social and economical trends such as thriving businesses, engaged citizens, cultural events, and jobs.

The Downtown Dixon Business Association Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month inside local businesses.

Keep an eye on this space every month for information about all the fun and engaging events happening in Downtown Dixon.



Upcoming Events

- **The Creative Space** at 160 West A Street is hosting a Fall Hat Making Workshop Friday, November 3 starting at 6 p.m. Come down and make your own custom hat, choose your color, designs, add-ons, everything! Bring your friends or family and have some fun. Hosted by Ruby Rue. For tickets, go to www.thecreativespacedixon.com.
- Soroptimist International is hosting a Bunco Fundraiser to be held at the **Olde Vets Hall in downtown Dixon** across from the public library on Sunday, November 12. Doors open at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$30 and lunch is included. All proceeds from the Bunco Fundraiser to benefit the lives of women and girls in the community. For tickets, go to (Instagram) @si_dixon or buy from any Soroptimist member.
- All the gals at **Cynde's Place** are excited to announce they will be hosting their annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, November 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy some Christmas refreshments while you shop and also receive 20% off your entire purchase! They are located at 201 North First Street directly across from First Northern Bank

Call (707) 678-8400 for more information.



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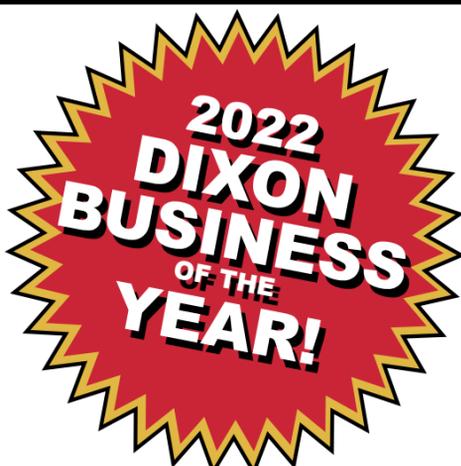
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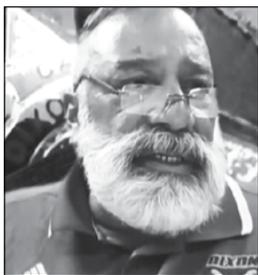
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DA to Review Mayor Bird's Hit and Run



Mayor Steven Bird. Courtesy Photo

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The incident involving a hit and run by Mayor Steve Bird that was referred to the Solano County District Attorney's Office from Solano CHP has been confirmed received.

It is possible that upon review of the case, a prosecutor may decide to not file charges even if he or she believes that the accused did the crime because the prosecutor thinks that a trial will not result in a conviction, according to online legal sources.

In a recent Dixon Police Department Significant Activity Report, there was a post of a hit and run report taken on September 27 at 2021 (or 8:21 p.m.) in the 200 block of North Jefferson Street. The Solano CHP reported an incident at the same time in the same place with Dixon's mayor, Steven C. Bird.

Upon this paper's request, Public Information Officer Jason Tyhurst released the

following statement: "On September 27, 2023, the California Highway Patrol Solano Area responded to investigate a hit and run traffic crash which occurred near 220 North Jefferson Street, in Dixon. The subsequent investigation revealed Mr. Steven Bird, 64 years old, of Dixon, had backed his vehicle into a parked vehicle, causing damage to the parked vehicle. Mr. Bird subsequently left the scene and failed to attempt to locate and notify the owner of the damaged vehicle. A crash investigation was completed and forwarded to the Solano County District Attorney's Office with recommended charges of 20002(A)VC, Misdemeanor Hit-and-Run. No physical arrest was made."

A call was made to Mayor Bird but has not yet been returned. Bird is a retired police captain for the Dixon Police Department and currently a part-time deputy sheriff for Solano County. His information on the City's website says he holds a BA in Police Management.

Summary of the Law

To comply with this section of the law, California Vehicle Code Section 20002(a), if a person is involved in an accident that causes another person to suffer property damage to do the following: Stop in a safe location; Locate

the owner of the other vehicle or person who suffered property damage; Present the other party with your driver's license, registration card, and other identifying information; and, in the event that the property owner is not present, you should leave a notice in a visible place with your information.

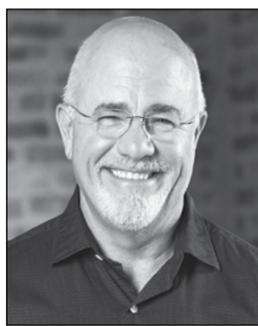
If one does not comply with the law, one can be charged with misdemeanor hit and run in violation of California Vehicle Code 20002(a).

Possible Penalties

A conviction for misdemeanor hit and run causing property damage(s) carries up to 6 months in the county jail and a fine up to \$1,000. Depending upon your prior criminal history, the court normally imposes a period of probation for three years and requires you to complete community service or labor.

A conviction also carries two points on your DMV record causing one's insurance to increase. The court will additionally order one to pay restitution to the other party for the damages if he or she was the cause of the accident. The court is free to add or reduce any penalties depending on the facts and circumstances of the case.

As more information becomes available, it will be published. ★



Eventually, You Become Self-Insured

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are both 36 years old, and we have two children. Our son is six, and our daughter will be four next month. We've been walking through the Baby Steps, and we should have our home paid off sometime next summer. We realized the other day the one thing missing from our financial picture is life insurance. We both work outside the home. She makes \$60,000 a year, while I make \$80,000 a year. At our age, and in our current situation, do you think we should we get 20-year or 30-year level term life insurance policies?

- Clay

Dear Clay,

You guys are doing a great job of getting control of your

Dave Ramsey Says

finances and planning for the future. Speaking of the future, do you plan on having more kids? If you do, you might want to go with 30-year policies. If you've decided two are enough, then based on your present situation I think 20-year policies would work out fine.

I recommend folks have 10 to 12 times their annual income in life insurance coverage. That means you'd need between \$800,000 and \$960,000 in coverage, while your wife needs a policy in the \$600,000 to \$720,000 range. But let's take a deeper dive into all this.

Your kids will be in their mid-twenties in 20 years. Ideally, they both should have finished college by that time, or at the very least, be working and living on their own. If you continue to follow my plan, you and your wife will have paid off your home in a few months and be completely debt-free. And, you'll have been saving 15% of your income for retirement over those 20 years. On average, that alone should give you more than

a half-million dollars for retirement.

Do you see where I'm going with this, Clay? Eventually, you two will become self-insured by getting out of debt, staying out of debt and piling up cash. So, if you've got \$500,000 or more in a retirement fund, no debt and your children are grown and out of the house, even if you or your wife were to die unexpectedly at that point, the other would still be taken care of and in great shape financially.

Keep up the good work!

- Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of "The Ramsey Show." He has appeared on "Good Morning America," "CBS This Morning," "Today," Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company Ramsey Solutions. ★

Another Wet Winter Looms. California Needs To Get Serious About Water Management



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Oct. 1 is the beginning of what hydrologists call the "water year."

Historically, California's reservoirs are near their lowest levels by this point after months of being drawn down, mostly to irrigate fields and orchards, during the state's precipitation-free summer.

This October is quite different.

Last winter's heavy rain and snow storms, generated by a series of atmospheric rivers, filled reservoirs even as dam managers fully opened their gates to send as much water downstream as possible.

So much rain and snow fell in the southern San Joaquin Valley that Tulare Lake, once one of the nation's largest natural lakes, was recreated, and threatened the town of Corcoran.

Virtually every reservoir in the state contains more than 100% of their historic storage levels at the beginning of the water year. The biggest ones, such as Shasta and Oroville, are close to three-quarters full even after giving farmers their full quotas of irrigation water during the growing season.

Hydrologists and meteorologists, moreover, are telling Californians that they may see a repeat in the months ahead, thanks

to a phenomenon known as El Niño, and it potentially could surpass last winter's storms.

El Niño is a warm current that often results in huge amounts of Pacific Ocean water being sucked into the atmosphere and delivered to land as rain and snow.

"The anticipated strong El Niño is the predominant climate factor driving the U.S. winter outlook this year," Jon Gottschalck, chief of the operational prediction branch at NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, told the Los Angeles Times.

He and other weather scientists predict that California and other Western states will see above-average precipitation and some believe it could surpass the 1997-98 winter when floods and mudslides killed 17 Californians and caused \$1 billion in property damage.

"It's only been seen three times previously in the historical record," Stephen Yeager, project scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research, told public radio station KQED. "We are looking at the potential of a major season-long event that could impact people and their livelihoods."

The prospect of another heavy precipitation winter is both uplifting to a state that had experienced several years of drought prior to last winter and a little frightening.

Mostly, it's another warning to Californians - and particularly their politicians - that it's beyond time to take the state's water situation seriously and become more proactive on both flood protection and water storage.

The good news is that

after years of dithering, some significant progress is being made on rationalizing water management in California. A few days ago, federal and local water officials announced the approval of a project that would expand storage in the San Luis Reservoir, a major off-stream facility in the Pacheco Pass.

San Luis absorbs water from the California Aqueduct that's not currently needed and releases it on demand. It has the capacity to store 2 million acre-feet now and the new project will add another 130,000 acre-feet of capacity.

It's one out of a flurry of storage projects now in the works, including another off-stream reservoir on the west side of the Sacramento Valley called Sites. That project has been kicking around for decades and is finally gaining political approval and serious commitments of money.

Off-stream storage avoids the environmental issues of dams that plug rivers, such as Shasta and Oroville, and adversely affect fish and other wildlife.

State water authorities believe that, with climate change, California will receive more of its precipitation as rain, rather than snow. It's critical, therefore, that we have storage, both above-ground and in aquifers, to replace the natural reservoir of the Sierra snowpack as it recedes.

The message is finally hitting home.

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

PG&E is Undergrounding 350 Miles of Powerlines

Continued from page 1

as few as 200 miles over four years, not enough to keep our customers and hometowns safe.

In 2021, PG&E announced that it would put 10,000 miles of powerlines underground to ensure permanent wildfire risk reduction in a way that mitigates the most risk and is most affordable in the long run.

Expanding our electric system underground in High Fire Risk Areas (HFRAs) will not only help reduce wildfires caused by equipment, but also will improve reliability and reduce the need for Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) and Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS). Wildfires affect all customers, regardless of whether they live near an actual fire zone. By undergrounding powerlines, all customers benefit from reducing all potential effects from ignitions.

PG&E has more than 2,000 highly skilled, fully dedicated coworkers working

every day on underground projects across our service area.

Kenny makes a strong case for the critical need for undergrounding.

"Why are we putting lines underground? It provides permanent wildfire risk reduction for our customers and our hometowns and improves reliability," he said. "And we've heard it loud and clear that customers want undergrounding."

Shasta County District 5 Supervisor Chris Kelstrom agrees. "California has mismanaged our forests for three decades now. PG&E is taking steps to reduce wildfire risk by undergrounding powerlines, and the CPUC is discouraging that plan. My county knows the devastating impact of wildfires. The more miles of powerlines we can put underground, the more wildfire risk we can take away."

Go to www.pge.com/undergrounding to see our progress and learn more about this crucial safety program. ★



Organic Growers in Quarantine Region Worry About Citrus Greening Threat

As an organic citrus grower and packer in Ventura County, John Wise has long recognized the threat of the Asian citrus psyllid to his business and livelihood. The threat has become greater now that part of his region is under quarantine as state agricultural officials continue to find more residential citrus trees infected with huanglongbing, or citrus greening disease, a fatal bacterial infection that the insect can transmit. For organic citrus growers, there remain few effective treatment options approved for organic production to control the psyllid.

Rebounding Harvests Test Agricultural Trucking Companies

Trucking companies that haul crops from fields and orchards to processing facilities and transport packaged produce to ports and retailers have been especially busy over the past several weeks. After three years of drought gave way to heavy rains, tomatoes, almonds, pistachios and winegrapes were expected to outpace last year's production, according to estimates from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Tom Barcellos, a Tulare County farmer who runs a trucking business, said his fleet of trucks has been stretched thin by the San Joaquin Valley's record-setting pistachio harvest.

Rice Commission Ceo Champions Partnerships To Protect Habitat

The CEO of the California Rice Commission says the sector is working to secure a farming future with less vulnerability to climate extremes. Addressing the California Association of Pest Control Advisors in Reno, Tim Johnson said rice producers "are starting to wrap our arms around...the impacts of climate variability." He said a key to sustaining California rice production may come from sustaining critical habitat. During the drought, \$10 million in grants were made available to rice farmers who provided some water to idled fields used by waterfowl on the Pacific Flyway.

Public Utilities Commission Mulls Change To Net Energy Metering Program

A proposed decision under consideration by the California Public Utilities Commission would bring changes to a program implemented to encourage private investment in on-site renewable energy. The state's Net Energy Metering Aggregation program, or NEMA, has led to increased adoption of solar and other renewables by farms, ranches and other businesses. The PUC on Nov. 2 is due to consider changes that would effectively eliminate the benefit of aggregation for power used and generated by customers with more than one utility meter. ★

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- Dylan lyric, "There was music in the _____ at night and revolution in the air"
- *Many scientists have this
- Alpha Centauri B, e.g.
- Measured in kilowatt-hours, on electric bill
- Ring of flowers
- TV's "_____Blinders"
- Make believe
- Public promotions
- Appropriate for Halloween
- *F unit of capacitance named in whose honor?
- *Marine biologist and "Silent Spring" author
- L.A. baller
- Not on a rolling stone?
- Value added reseller
- New Zealand fruit
- Option at a hot dog stand, adj.
- One's final notice
- Without, in French
- Time being
- Toy construction set brand
- Turning token taker
- Jewish month
- Jab on field of play
- A ride up ski hill
- Short for Milton
- *A unit of electric current named in whose honor?
- Home to Zion National Park
- Wood-shaping tool
- Morays, pl.
- One little piggy
- *A telescope was named in his honor
- *Primatologist and world's foremost expert on chimpanzees
- Popular snorkeler's attraction
- Have a cold
- Sphere in Las Vegas, e.g.
- Final buildup
- To and _____
- Gives off _____
- Goes with a rod
- Small dog's bark
- Tears down

DOWN

- Take into custody
- On a deck?
- So-so
- a.k.a. tent caterpillar or lappet moth
- Maurice of "Where the Wild Things Are"
- Eugene O'Neill's creation
- He had _____
- Popular 70s genre
- Witnesses
- Hawaiian tuber
- Similar _____
- Kind of bourbon
- P in POI
- Out of whack
- Cleopatra's killer, according to legend
- Not a full size bus
- *V unit of electric potential named in whose honor?
- Crosswise, on deck
- Build temporarily (2 words)
- *W unit of power named in whose honor?
- Type of rich soil
- Most populous country
- Burn with water
- *Synonymous with unit of frequency and a car rental company
- Muscle quality
- Floor plank
- Muse of love poetry
- The _____makers of "Pitch Perfect"
- #53 Across, sing.
- Vacuum cleaner, in U.K.
- Like kale or spinach
- Swelling of human organs
- Golfer's destination
- Desires _____
- Ancient Semitic deity
- Lump of stuff
- Black tropical cuckoos
- Guitar forerunner
- Is it really more?
- *Carl Benz invented the first practical modern one in the 1880s
- Retirement plan, acr.

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The Trump Doctrine

Luck is the residue of design, they say. Might it also be the residue of frightening and confusing foreign adversaries?

Donald Trump's relatively crisis-free presidency in foreign affairs has created a sense, perhaps an accurate one, that he cowed enemies into not challenging the U.S.

As Sen. Tom Cotton has pointed out, Kabul didn't collapse on Trump's watch, Russia didn't invade Ukraine and Hamas didn't launch a historic terror attack on Israel.

Now this may have just been good fortune. Four years isn't a large sample size. But the argument that adversaries feared him, and therefore acted with a measure of restraint, is quite intuitive.

No one is going to mistake Trump for Cardinal Richelieu or Henry Kissinger. His view of the world was highly personal and reflected a few obsessions, especially the notion that we were getting ripped off by foreigners. His trade war with China was a waste of time, and his commitment to NATO was genuinely in doubt.

Yet, despite the feeling of chaos created by his constant shoot-from-the-hip bombast, things basically stayed on the rails.

The fact that Trump was erratic and took perceived slights so seriously made it difficult to know how he would react to any given provocation.

It was personal unpredictability elevated to the level of game theory.

Maybe he was just blustering. Maybe he was ready to take it further. But who would want to find out?

In other words, Trump spoke loudly and carried a stick of indeterminate size, and this was perhaps as good as carrying a big stick.

It's worth noting, though, that he followed through on his promise to bomb ISIS into near-oblivion, and when given the chance to hit a committed enemy of the United States, the notorious Iranian operative Qasem Soleimani, he targeted him for killing despite the considerable risks.

The New York Times reported at the time:

"After initially rejecting the Suleimani option on Dec. 28 and authorizing airstrikes on an Iranian-backed Shiite militia group instead, a few days later Mr. Trump watched, fuming, as television reports showed Iranian-backed attacks on the American Embassy in Baghdad, according to Defense Department and administration officials."

"By late Thursday, the president had gone for the extreme option. Top Pentagon officials were stunned."

If U.S. officials were stunned, how must anyone around the world with American blood on his hands have felt? And wouldn't it have made adversaries think twice about doing anything to set the president to "fuming"?

In an interview with Bret Baier back in June, Trump made vague reference to a threat he issued

to Vladimir Putin about a prospective invasion of Ukraine that supposedly stayed Putin's hand. Who knows the accuracy of this? But Trump characterized Putin as believing his threat only about 10%, and that gets at what was probably a key element of the Trump deterrent effect - a nagging sense that he might not be bluffing, even if it seemed likely he was.

We saw this dynamic out in public regarding immigration policy south of the border. Trump rattled the cage of the countries he needed cooperation from until he got it.

He threatened to close the border with Mexico. "If they don't stop them," Trump said of illegal immigrants, "we are closing the border. We'll close it. And we'll keep it closed for a long time. I'm not playing games." Actually, he was playing games, but effective ones.

He really did cut off aid to Northern Triangle countries, before restoring it once he had what he wanted.

In short, when Trump says that Hamas wouldn't have done this on his watch, many Republicans, and perhaps independents in a general election, will tend to believe him.

To his credit, Biden has said the appropriate things in the wake of the Hamas attack, but sentiments go only so far. A more important question is whether the right people fear President Biden as they appeared to be scared of his predecessor

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Riley Reviews

"THE BURIAL" REVIVES COURTROOM DRAMA AS THEATRICAL SPECTACLE

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"THE BURIAL" RATED R ON AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

Based on a true story, Amazon Prime's legal drama "The Burial" is likely as any fact-based movie to take liberties with real events, but the outcome is thoroughly enjoyable even if one is familiar or not with the 1999 New Yorker article of the same name about a flamboyant Florida trial attorney.

The colorful person at the center of the story is Willie E. Gray, a personal injury lawyer who rose to legal prominence from his upbringing as a sharecropper's son. From a rags-to-riches lifestyle, Willie acquired the nickname "The Giant Killer" for slaying rapacious corporations.

Despite being sharply-dressed and sporting a diamond-covered Rolex watch and gold-framed spectacles, Willie has the persuasive courtroom demeanor of a mix of Southern Baptist preacher and circus showman that appeals to ordinary folk.

That Willie (Jamie Foxx) has become so famous and wealthy in victorious courtroom battles has even led to an interview on Robin Leach's "Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous" highlighting his excessive high life, including the pair of shiny Rolls-Royces owned by him and his wife Gloria (Amanda Warren).

Who better to portray this legal giant, who lives in a 50-room Florida mansion and owns a private airliner named "Wings of Justice," than the talented Jamie Foxx whose charisma and dramatic chops could not have been better utilized to shine in the lap of luxury and the theatrics of courtroom drama?

Meanwhile, in Biloxi, Mississippi, Tommy Lee Jones' Jeremiah "Jerry" O'Keefe is celebrating his 75th birthday with his wife Annette (Pamela Reed) and thinking about how to leave behind a legacy for his 13 children.

His funeral home business at a few locations around the state has come under pressure from state insurance regulators, and the stress causes Jerry to engage his lifelong friend and attorney Mike Allred (Alan Ruck) to look into selling some of his parlors to a Canadian conglomerate.

The Loewen Group, headed by unscrupulous Canadian billionaire Ray Loewen (Bill Camp), is gobbling up so many burial homes all across Canada and the United States that you wonder if anti-trust statutes are being violated.

On board Loewen's expansive yacht, Jerry reaches a deal that should extricate him from his financial troubles, but the dodgy death industry mogul slow walks signing the contract and making the payment the Mississippi businessman so desperately needs.

While his attorney Allred is an old

school Southern patrician, Jerry is encouraged by young Black associate lawyer Hal Dockins (Mamoudou Athie), to consider a different legal tack by hiring the flashy Florida litigator who has never handled contract law.

The factor of race comes into play because Jerry's team files a civil lawsuit in Hinds County where the jury pool will undoubtedly consist predominantly of African-Americans and the judge assigned the case is likely to also be Black.

The strategy of the lead plaintiff attorney being a person of color becomes even more crucial when allegations are leveled at the Canadian-owned funeral homes for taking advantage of low-income, mostly Black customers into purchasing overpriced burial services.

The Loewen Group counters by hiring as lead counsel Mame Downes (Jurnee Smollett), a driven, beautiful Black woman with a razor-sharp mind and a pleasing yet perceptive courtroom demeanor that proves at the outset to be more than equal to Willie's power of persuasion.

In what can only be a strategic blunder, Jerry ends up on the witness stand only to be eviscerated on cross-examination. At this point, Willie and his cadre of Black colleagues are pushed aside for Allred to act as chief counsel.

A few twists and turns in the trial eventually unveil a disturbing reminder that ancient ties in the Deep South prove duly problematic in a climate where racial sensitivities can be truly nettlesome.

In a surprise to no one, Willie gets back in the legal saddle just as things are heating up. He pushes the envelope when manipulating the jury's antipathy to an unsympathetic defendant by exposing his unsavory practices in the funeral industry and ostentatious wealth gained on the backs of the unfortunate.

Notwithstanding courtroom scenes that occasionally feel not wholly authentic, "The Burial" is a rousing crowd-pleaser that is endlessly entertaining for a dramatized real-life landmark case that resulted in a half-billion dollars judgment for the plaintiff.

Even Johnnie Cochran, for all his theatrics in the O.J. Simpson murder trial, seems inferior to the talents of Willie Gary. The only reason to mention this is when Willie and Mame meet at a hotel bar the TV screen is noticeable for a shot of Cochran in the middle of defending the ex-football player.

The major surprise behind "The Burial" is how it took almost a quarter-century for this compelling story to come to the screen. Apparently, the project bounced around various studios over the intervening years. Fortunately, we now have a film that is most definitely worth watching. ★

FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS
By Amy Shane
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy_fortheloveofbooks

Woke Up Like This

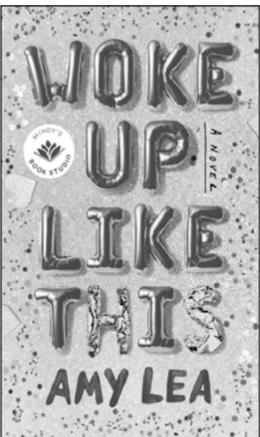
by Amy Lea

Charlotte Wu has always dreamed of ending high school with the perfect senior year and she has the list to prove it. Join the student council -check! Become Senior Council

President- sabotaged by Renner! Get into her dream college- check! Plan the perfect Senior week -almost check. Plan the most incredible prom- in progress!

Charlotte Wu has almost everything she dreamed her high school experience would be, except for Senior Council president, which was ruthlessly stolen from her by the horrible arch-nemesis Renner. Now, forced to decorate for her perfect prom right next to him, the unthinkable happens, and a sudden slip off a ladder sends Charlotte propelling head-first straight into Renner. What they didn't expect was to wake up next to each other thirteen years in the future. Now thirty years old and engaged to each other Char feels like she is living a nightmare.

Forced with the new reality of their future, complete with jobs, engagement parties, and an upcoming wedding, Char and Renner need to figure out how to get back to their



- ◆ Publisher: Mindy's Book Studio
- ◆ Intended Audience: Young Adult
- ◆ Release Date: September 5, 2023

seventeen-year-old selves and quick! As both Char and Renner begin to navigate their strange new reality, they quickly realize they only have each other as they learn the future outcome of their families, friends, and everything in between. However, somewhere in the middle of hating one another and being adults, Char and Renner uncover there might be more than meets the eye. Maybe hatred could be a cover for feelings, and if they have a chance to return to the past, they might have to work together, even if that means they could begin to fall in love.

An enemies-to-lovers, rom-com for the ages, *Woke Up Like This* is a breakout hit for Amy Lea's young adult debut. Known for her contemporary romantic comedies, Amy Lea successfully transcends the nuances of teenage life with all the familiarity of quit wit, hard jabs, hidden feelings, and the need to perfectly control the world around you while trying to plan the perfect future. For anyone who was an ultra-organized list maker, goal chaser, carefree dater, popular and lovable jock who secretly is afraid people won't like them, or the friend always in a supportive role, this book is for you.

Fun, fast, and utterly entertaining, *Woke Up Like This* will have readers laughing out loud, crying alongside the characters, and rooting for love along the way. Along with the amazing, fast-paced story are also valuable life lessons: remember to be present, treasure the now, and don't let fear stop you short of what you really want. Full of high school nostalgia and feelings for the one that got away, this book is a fun new take for fans of *13 going on 30*. ★

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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.



DIXON POLICE LOG

Monday, October 23

- 0658 - Burglary report taken in the 1100 block of Pitt School Road.
- 0719 - Theft report taken in the 1300 block of West H Street.
- 0748 - Theft report taken in the 1300 block of West H Street.
- 0809 - Information report taken in the 1300 block of West H Street.
- 1415 - Theft report taken in the 1300 block of West H Street.
- 1949 Hours - CWS investigation in the 1000 block of Sunset Drive.
- 2126 Hours - Violation of restraining order investigation in 1000 block of Sunset Drive.

Sunday, October 22

- 1210 - Stolen Bike Report 800 block Green Drive. The victim provided surveillance video of the suspect stealing the bike overnight. The officer recognized the suspect and went to the suspect's residence, where he found him in the process of painting the stolen bike. Daniel Sagi (34) of Dixon was arrested for possession of stolen property. He was cited and released at the scene.
- 1800 Hours - APS referral report.
- 1920 Hours - Dustin Hanoum Jr (32) of Dixon was arrested in the 1400 block of Ary Lane and arrested for DUI.

Saturday, October 21

- 0807 - Stolen vehicle taken from the 400 block of North Lincoln Street.
- 0847 - Late report of a hit and run in the area of Pitt School Road and Ary Lane.
- 0916 - Stolen license plate in the 600 block of West Cherry Street.
- 1343 - Stolen package reported in the 1100 block of St. Olaf Court
- 1421 - Two-vehicle traffic collision reported in the area of West A Street and Pitt School Road.
- 2307 - Informational report was taken in the 1400 block of Ary Ln.

Thursday, October 19

- 0200 - Missing Persons report in the 200 block of East Dorset Drive.
- 0550 - Dine and dash reported in the 1200 block of Stratford Avenue. Destiny Cardenas (40), of West Sacramento, left the restaurant without paying. Her vehicle sustained a flat tire as she tried to flee the scene causing her to pull into a nearby restaurant and wait for a friend to bring her a spare tire. Cardenas was arrested for Conspiracy and Defrauding an Innkeeper. She was transported to the Solano County Jail.
- 1003 Single vehicle traffic collision reported in the 300 block of South Lincoln Street. 1037 Found property turned into the Dixon Police Department.
- 1055 - Informational report in the 400 block of East C Street.
- 1519 - Assault reported in the 800 block of Elm Drive.
- 1554 - Traffic collision reported in the area of North Almond Street and West B Street.
- 1629 - Missing juvenile reported in the 1200 block of Weyand Way. The juvenile was located a short time later.

Wednesday, October 18

- 1051 - Information report taken in the 400 block of East A Street.
- 1142 - Information report taken in the 200 block of North Lincoln Street.
- 2026 Hours - Information report in the 1800 block of Folsom Fair Cir.
- 2111 Hours - Grand Theft from a business in the 1200 block of Stratford Ave.

Wednesday, October 17

- 0750 - Death investigation in the 600 block of West C Street. 0919 Graffiti reported in the "B" Street tunnel.
- 1038 - Confidential report taken in the 500 block of College Way. 1519 Fraud report taken in the 1900 block of Berry Court.

Monday, October 16

- 0802 - Non injury traffic accident in the 1300 block of West F Street. 1511 Harassment report taken in the 1000 block of Sommer Drive.
- 0100 Hours - Missing Person report taken in the 300 block of Brians Ct.

Sunday, October 15

- 1337 - Battery report taken in the 1300 block of Austin Drive 1427 Theft report taken at the PD.



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Focus



Focus is the deliberate concentration of all of your energy in order to attain a specific goal. A laser beam is a perfect example of the power of focus. By directing light rays in one unified direction, laser beams can be constructed that will cut through steel.

A light bulb is the opposite of a laser. From the bulb, light disperses in all directions. You can leave a light bulb on until it burns out, but it won't cut like a laser. Without the focus of a laser, the light bulb's energy is too dispersed to be used as a cutting tool.

To accomplish any task, you need focus. You must devote yourself to directing all of your efforts toward one end. The maxim, "Jack of all trades, master of none," perfectly expresses the result of a lack of focus.

Without focus, you go in different directions, winding up nowhere in particular. Additionally, without focus, you are prone to quitting at the first sign of difficulty. With numerous irons in the fire, it's easy to abandon one or more when the going gets tough.

Irene was a college freshman who didn't know what she wanted to major in. So Irene never selected a specific major. She spent years taking classes in many disciplines. Irene took courses in history, literature, art, science, philosophy, math, and humanities.

After four years, Irene discovered she hadn't satisfied the requirements for any degree. Although she had taken as many classes as other students, Irene didn't have enough course work in any specific discipline to enable her to graduate.

Although Irene earned good grades, she knew a little about a lot of different subjects but never gained enough knowledge about any one topic to receive a degree. Irene's four years of college didn't result in a diploma. Irene would have been better served had she focused on earning a degree in her favorite subject. Then she could have continued taking courses in whatever interested her.

Five years after Robert started

renovating his dream house, he's still working on it. Robert never completes one project before starting another. All of the rooms are in various states of remodeling. No part of Robert's house is complete and ready to be lived in.

There is no end in sight for Robert's project. As he's working on one room of the house, he changes his mind about what he wants to do in another room and shifts gears. Robert is constantly jumping from one job to another. He has no focus.

Robert would be more productive by finishing one room before starting another. This strategy would have allowed Robert to finish years ago. Although Robert is constantly busy, his efforts are so scattered that no one thing is ever accomplished.

To achieve a goal, accomplish a task, or complete a project, you need to focus your efforts. This approach will make you much more effective and bring your results much faster than scattering your energy.

Fear of failure leads some people to put a lot of irons in the fire. They mistakenly believe this technique spreads their risk, increasing the chances that at least one endeavor will succeed. In reality, the chances of any one venture succeeding are significantly reduced.

Setbacks can cause people to lose focus before they have successfully reached their goal. Rather than picking themselves up and continuing down their chosen path, they start working on something else instead.

Develop a burning desire and then focus your energy at accomplishing your goal. Regardless of what happens, stay on track. Keep moving forward until you have arrived at your chosen destination. The more focus you have, the more effective your efforts will be.

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@colunnist.com or write him c/o this paper.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001324
The following persons are doing business as: La Quinta Inn, 316 Pittman Road, Fairfield, CA 94534.
Grapevine Hospitality LLC, 11 Volta Del Tintori Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92532.
Date filed in Solano County: August 22, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: A Limited Liability Company.
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 August 21, 2028. 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 Oct 13, 20, 27, Nov 3, 2023
LAQUINTA 11-3-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001566
The following persons are doing business as: BD Publishing, 2757 Ambrosia Way, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Matthew Macias, 2757 Ambrosia Way, Fairfield, CA 94533.
Date filed in Solano County: September 29, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above

business name on: N/A
This Business is conducted by: An Individual. NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration September 28, 2028. 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: Oct 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 2023
PUBLISHING 11-10-23

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This notice is to inform the public and interested agencies that in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Dixon is circulating the Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for public comment.

Project/Location: The Project is in the City of Dixon, southeast of the city center, in northeast Solano County. The proposed Project is located within the existing City of Dixon WWTF boundary along Pedrick Road and the existing WWTF Disposal Area southeast of the WWTF.

Project Description: The City of Dixon previously upgraded the WWTF in 2017 under the City of Dixon Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Project. The 2017 upgrades were analyzed under a separate CEQA IS/MND process (SCH#2014012034). The purpose of the 2017 WWTF project was to replace aged facilities with modern water treatment technologies, conserve water by minimizing water evaporation during treatment, improve water quality, and upgrade the WWTF to accommodate an average dry weather flow (ADWF) of 1.92 million gallons per day (Mgal/d). Since the 2017 WWTF upgrades, the City of Dixon General Plan was updated and adopted in May 2021. The proposed Project would expand the WWTF to meet the buildout capacity projections based on land use designations contemplated in the updated City of Dixon 2040 General Plan. The WWTF upgrades would occur within the existing WWTF footprint and would be designed to accommodate 3.3 Mgal/d ADWF. The proposed Project would include improvements to the influent pump station and headworks, secondary treatment system, effluent pumping and piping, solids handling, plant water design, and maintenance building.

Document Availability: The IS/MND will be available for review at the following locations beginning on Friday, November 3, 2023:

- City of Dixon City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620
- City of Dixon website: <https://www.cityofdixon.us/EnvironmentalReviewDocuments>

Public Review Period: The 30-day public review period for the IS/MND is from November 3, 2023, to December 4, 2023.

Comments: Any person who wishes to comment on the City's intent to adopt the MND must submit written comments no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2023. Written comments may be sent to: Brandon Rodriguez, City of Dixon Senior Civil Engineer, City of Dixon Engineering/Utilities Department, City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or by e-mail to brodriguez@cityofdixon.us.

Project Impacts: Based on the findings of the Initial Study, it has been determined that the project will not have a significant effect upon the environment based on mitigating measures, which will be attached to the project as conditions of approval. A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared outlining a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan to mitigate the potentially significant impacts.

Public Hearing: A public hearing will be held on December 5, 2023, in the City Council Chambers, Dixon City Hall, 600 East A Street, during the regular bi-monthly Council Meeting. The meeting will allow for public input on the Draft IS/MND.

Dixon Independent Voice 11-3-2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

The Dixon Planning Commission will hold a hybrid **PUBLIC HEARING** to consider the following project:

PROJECT: 800 Business Park Drive, Suite G (Dwellely Family Wines, LLC) - Request for a Conditional Use Permit to establish a processing of grapes for the future production of wines. While the business operations will start with this as its only use, it hopes to expand to include wine tasting and sales over time. The applicant anticipates that future events will include a wine club membership with pick-ups by appointment, as well as monthly private barrel tasting with the winemaker by appointment.; APN: 0115-010-380; Zoning District: Service Commercial – Planned Development (CS-PD); Bill MacLaughlin, owner, Dwellely Family Wines, LLC, applicant; File No: PA23-24, UP23-04.

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and no environmental review will be completed. This project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption from the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines under 14 CRR Section 15301, [Class 1; Existing Facilities]. If the Planning Commission determines that this project is in an environmentally-sensitive area, further study may be required.

HEARING DATE & LOCATION: Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at <http://www.zoom.us> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128 (Entering Meeting ID: 988 621 1137 and Passcode: 604754) and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

MORE INFORMATION: Contact Scott Greeley, Associate Planner at (707) 678-7000 ext. 1115 or sgreeley@cityofdixon.us. You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also view the staff report 72 hours before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN: All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing 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 decision on the application.

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

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

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

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

Appeals of decisions by the Planning Commission to the City Council shall be made in person at Dixon City Hall by completing the appeal application and submitting the required fee, within 10 calendar days of a decision (Dixon Municipal Code Sections 17.01.050 or 18.40).

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) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Dixon Independent Voice 11-3-2023

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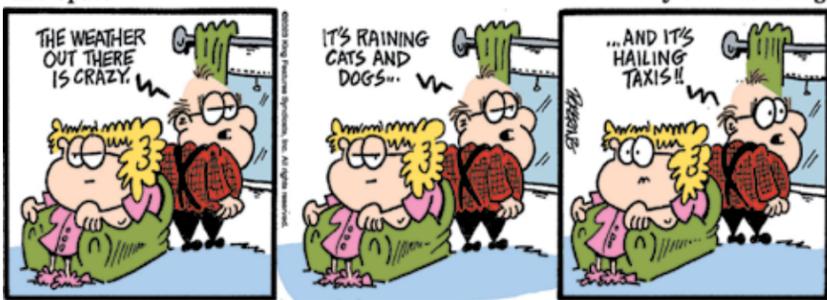
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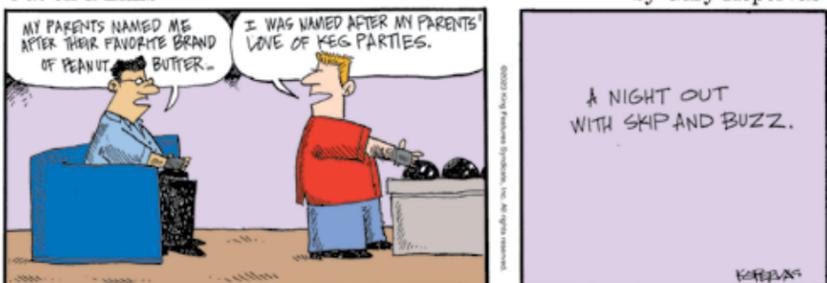
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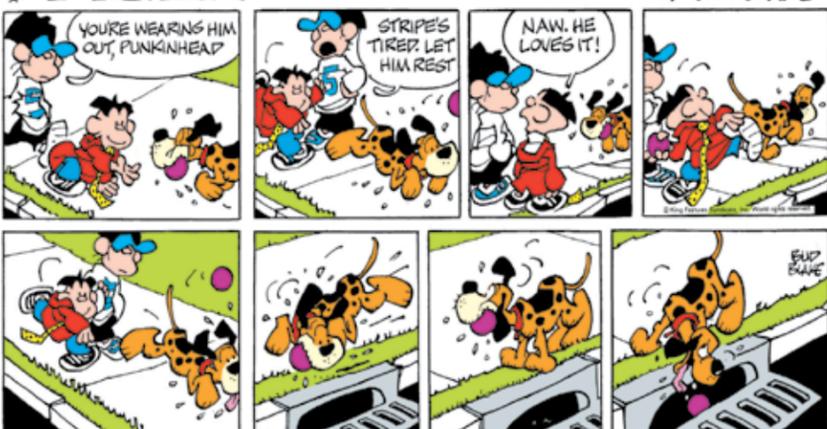
Differences: 1. Radio is missing. 2. Dog is smaller. 3. Swing seat is smaller. 4. Girl's legs are shorter. 5. Girl is smiling. 6. Tree coming in from behind.

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

TIGER



by BUD BLAKE

CRIN THE BEAR IT



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

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It's Getting Out of Hand

By Alejandra Reyes-Velarde, CALMatters.org

California's poverty rate climbed in the first quarter of 2023, the latest quarter measured by the Public Policy Institute of California. Poverty increased from 11.7% in 2021 to 13.2%, the institute said, with 5 million people living in poverty.

Safety net programs played a major role in recent shifts in the state's poverty rate.

During the pandemic, the federal government expanded such social safety net programs as tax credits for families with children and emergency food assistance, which lowered poverty rates nationwide. Poverty rates jumped when those expansions expired late last year and earlier this year, said Caroline Danielson, a researcher at the institute.

"We're seeing an uptick in poverty. That's not because the economy is worse— it's actually improving— but it's because we temporarily, using federal funds mainly, had expansions of safety net programs," she said.

About 3.2 million more Californians would be in poverty without any safety net programs, Danielson said. Expanded CalFresh food assistance alone kept 1.1 million people out of poverty in the first quarter of 2023, when that expansion expired, the report said.

Latinos make up about half of Californians living in poverty, despite being 39.7% of the population. By comparison, about 10% of white Californians live in poverty.

Child poverty leaped from 9% in 2021 to about 14% in early 2023, largely due to the expiration of social safety net expansions. In 2019, the child poverty rate was about 18%.

Senior Californians also experienced a higher poverty rate at



More working Californians slipped into poverty as pandemic aid expired. Poverty rose to 14% among construction workers in spring 2023. Photo by Larry Valenzuela, CalMatters/CatchLight Local

15%, compared to about 13% for adults ages 18 to 64.

Poverty rates also varied significantly by region, with San Diego and Los Angeles counties experiencing the highest poverty rates, about 15%, while the Central Valley and Sierra counties experienced the lowest, about 11%.

A big reason for that, Danielson said, is the high cost of living in Southern California counties and demographic differences among the regions. Los Angeles and San Diego counties have high populations of Latino and immigrant communities that experience higher rates of poverty.

The Public Policy Institute's California Poverty Measure

includes such things as the value of government assistance and a region's cost of living, which the federal poverty rate does not consider.

Social safety net programs make less of a dent on poverty in counties with higher costs of living. That's because poor Californians in these counties may earn incomes too high for federal poverty thresholds and so don't qualify for as much aid.

For example, researchers found that social safety net programs reduced poverty the most in inland areas, where poverty rates are lower. Without the programs, poverty would be 14.4 points higher in the Central Valley and Sierra region, but only 4.3 points higher in the Bay

Area, the report shows.

The Public Policy Institute looked closer at working Californians and found that most Californians in poverty are working and even full-time employment didn't keep some residents from poverty.

More than 8 in 10 of California's 1.3 million working poor were employed year-round; nearly half worked full time and 37% part time. Part-time workers had higher poverty rates than full-time workers.

Workers in service industries — janitors, landscapers, cosmetologists, housekeepers and other service jobs — and workers in agriculture tended to experience poverty at higher rates than other labor sectors.

People in building and grounds maintenance, for example, have a 20% poverty rate, followed by workers in food preparation and service who endure a 16% poverty rate.

The report also highlights how the working poor spend their money. They cohabit with family members to make ends meet; 82% of Californians in poverty live with other adult family members.

People use most of their earnings for everyday expenses and bills. On average, working poor adults make \$28,000 annually.

Danielson said this underscores the need for policies that increase wages and improve training and educational opportunities for the working poor. ★

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