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Dixon Independent Voice

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Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

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FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS

By Amy Shane



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CRIME REPORT



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Moment of Silence Called for Veterans



Every branch of the military, seen here at our annual May Fair Parade, is deserving of honor and recognition on Veterans Day, November 11. Photo by Debra Dingman

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - There are about 18 million Veterans living among us, in every state and territory and from every walk of life. But since a lot of veterans won't particularly stand out on Veterans Day, it may be difficult to thank them for their service and for helping to provide the rest of us freedom and opportunity.

What few of us may know, though, is that there is one time all Americans — veterans or not — are called on Veterans Day wherever they are to take a 2-minute moment of silence. For Pacific Standard Time, that

would be 10:11 a.m. That was signed into law in 2016 by President Obama and it is called the Veterans Day Moment of Silence Act.

You can also attend the Veterans Day Parade and Commemoration on Saturday, November 11, in downtown Fairfield. "Saluting America's Veterans" will begin at 10 a.m. with a commemoration ceremony and concert at the downtown theater. It is sponsored by Fairfield/Suisun City and the American Legion Reams Post 182. The parade will begin at 12:30 p.m. along Texas Street.

Veterans Day is one of those holidays that never changes dates, and

that is because of the significance of the actual date that ended the "war of all wars." Although the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, the actual fighting had ceased seven months earlier, and the Allied nations and Germany had an armistice — or a temporary cessation of hostilities — according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. The original concept was for a day observed with parades and half-day operations of businesses. On

Continued on page 3

Search Begins for Dolan's Replacement

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In September, Dixon USD Superintendent Brian Dolan announced his retirement at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

The Dixon School Board approved a contract on Thursday, October 19, for Education Support Services (ESS) to conduct a nationwide superintendent search. ESS will assist the district in seeking and selecting the next superintendent of schools for Dixon USD.

ESS consultants met with the school board on Monday, October 30, to review and approve the timeline and process for conducting the new superintendent search.

ESS will conduct community and stakeholder meetings in early November to seek input from these groups as to what they consider important qualifications and characteristics for a new superintendent.

In other school news, Dixon High School reports it is time to start thinking about ordering your copy of the 2024 Dixon High School Yearbook. Go to www.yearbookordercenter.com (Order #7317) to pay by credit card, or by mail-in check by calling 866-287-3096.

Also at the high school, AP (Advanced Placement) students are getting important information about registering with the College Board and preparing to order their AP tests. Remember, it is very important for students to sit for the AP tests when they take an AP class. All information will be sent via student email and delivered by AP teachers.

News for Maine Prairie High School included receiving a silver medal award by the State of California for its implementation of PBIS — Positive Behavior Interventions and Support.

The staff is very proud of the support services, incentives, and recognition offered to students to motivate and inspire them to do their best every day under the guidance of Principal Angelina Arias.

The school-wide expectations are to be respectful, be responsible, and be safe.

Together, students and staff worked hard to maintain a safe and healthy campus although there is always room for growth; every day is a new day to make positive changes. ★

Locals Encouraged to Shop Small

Story and photos by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Downtown Dixon's annual Holiday Open House is back, and merchants are ready to help you do your holiday shopping without ever hitting a freeway. Staying in town saves you gas, time, money and supports local merchants. You also support our local economy.

Several downtown stores and services will be kicking off the holiday season with special shopping discounts as well as holiday drinks and treats in downtown Dixon beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 18, till closing.

The Downtown Dixon Business Association is encouraging residents to "Shop Small Businesses First!"

"We have really grown our retail downtown and it will be lots of fun," said Jill Orr, DDBA President and owner of Dawson's Bar and Grill in the heart of downtown Dixon. "Someone can complete their entire gift shopping



Cynde's Salon is ready for the Downtown Dixon Holiday Open House and offers a host of beautiful Christmas gifts and decorations at 201 North First St.

right here with quality gift items, unique collector's toys, and restaurant gift certificates," she added.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Cynde's Place, Salon and Boutique you can enjoy Christmas refreshments while you shop through

this salon full of retail, not just for hair products but also clothing, accessories, and home decor. They have a large gift selection of jewelry, purses, Christmas decorations, scarves, hats, and mittens, too, and will offer 20 percent off one's

entire retail purchase at 201 North First St. Phone is (707) 693-1105.

Kula's is not only a tanning salon but also a boutique full of women's swimsuits, stylish earrings and sassy shirts, not to

Continued on page 3



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Don't Put Out a Candy Bucket

By Debra Dingman

Halloween is past, and there were many wonderful stories about it shared with friends. A couple of women told me that every trick-or-treater said, "Thank you." This is a big thing in the older-adult world and we were thrilled to hear such great news!

There were cute stories, too, like one mom recognized a costume and said to the child that she thought that dragon had come last year, but the child responded glumly that it was his sibling's costume last year. I thought that was adorable.

But the social media posts of youth stealing buckets of candy were shared which brought something like a hundred rants. It always amazes me when people expect children to be adults. An adult does not take a handful of ink pens just because they are free on the bank counter.

Here's my advice as a woman who has lived through six decades of Halloween: Don't put out buckets. No matter what. It is counterintuitive to trick-or-treating and invites the worst in children.

I love the candy challenges on America's Favorite Videos where the mother tells the child, "You can have the candy, but after I get back. Don't eat it." She places the candy in front of the child and tells it one last time, "I'll be right back." It is hilarious how some children gobble the candy as soon as the mother turns her back. It's even worse when there are siblings because one will coax the other one into eating it first, then it's apparently OK if the other joins in.

Children are children. They are not done developing until the frontal lobe stops developing around the mid to late 20s. Factor in that we spend a lifetime

maturing through experiences. People say children clearly know better. Yes, some might "know," but please consider the possibility that they just plain can't control themselves.

Maybe the parents have been absent or haven't given clear training in social etiquette. Maybe the children are weak-willed. Stop blaming. Just don't put out the bucket.

Next year, read Jerry Seinfeld's Halloween book sometime before Halloween. It will refresh your perspective from a child's view. At the end of the book, he eats every piece of candy in one night, and you'll probably remember a time you did the same exact thing.

If I wasn't overweight or "allergic" to chocolate, believe me, I'd eat more candy. We stood in the grocery aisle looking for PayDays as I know I can eat those. Just in case, you know, we don't have any trick-or-treaters and we have leftovers. (Haven't had any trick or treaters in three years.) (Now that I read that some people gave out full-size candy bars, I figure it's probably because I like to give out butterscotch or PayDays!)

I watch hubby eat his chocolate treats and honestly, a very strange feeling comes over me. It's like I'm an animal. I soooo want that piece of chocolate. A little battle between good and evil appears on my frontal lobe, and they are duking it out. Then suddenly I will firmly remind myself, "I'm an adult and I willingly choose the PayDay because I want to sleep tonight."

Sometimes that works. Sometimes it doesn't. If it is that hard for me, I can't imagine what the mental strength of a 10-year-old is. It just makes sense. Don't put out the bucket. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Bud and Cherie Fanning helped their Olde Vets Hall get ready for the holiday season with a new paint job this past week. The hall is home to Santa visits with the children at the annual DDBA Tree Lighting Festival which will be on December 7 in downtown Dixon. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Planning Commission

Tuesday, November 14 at 7 p.m. will be the next Planning Commission meeting at City Hall inside the Council Chambers, 600 West A St. Agendas for almost all city meetings come out the Thursday before and are available online at cityofdixon.us. Meetings can also be watched via Zoom. Access information can be found on the agenda.

Veterans Dinner

A turkey dinner a little early! Bring a friend and enjoy an inexpensive turkey dinner with mashed potatoes and gravy plus green beans and a roll for \$15. That's the menu for Friday, November 10, at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 North First St. starting about 5:45 p.m. The bar will be open as well.

Forever Christmas Gift

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. Cost is \$100 per brick. Go to <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/dhspto> or email PTODixonHighSchool@gmail.com for more information.

Blood Drive

On Monday, November 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. there will be a Blood Drive at 1305 North First St. 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.

ThankSTEAMing Fun

Join us for some ThankSTEAMing fun with friends. November 17 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Dixon Senior Center. It is for grades K-8. Price for materials is \$38. Contact info is (916) 642-9966 or go to www.challenge-island.com/Davis-WSacramento.

Successful Ageing Classes

Dignity Health Yolo Adult Day Health

Center will be sponsoring two classes on Thursday, November 16, at the Davis Senior Center, 646 A St. 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 imefarlane@carltonseniorliving.com or call (925) 384-1666. The classes are in partnership with Davis, California, ElderCare Management and Carlton Senior Living.

Craft & Decor Swap

On Tuesday, November 14, at 5 p.m., bring any old (still in good condition) craft supplies or holiday decorations to give away or swap at the Dixon Public Library at 230 North First St. Participants are limited to donating one paper grocery bag filled with supplies. Anyone is welcome to come and get free crafts even if you do not donate. Items leftover after the event will be discarded or recycled.

Teen Open Mic Night

The Dixon Public Library is hosting a Teen Open Mic Poetry and Song Night on Wednesday, November 15, 3:30 - to 5 p.m. Tweens and teens are invited to showcase their bold, and creative side with poetry, comedy, rapping, and singing. Sign-ups are online. Acts are limited to five minutes.

Military Families

A Family Feast has been organized by the Travis Air Force Base Military and Family Readiness Center for those families who have a loved one deployed on a mission or on a remote tour. It's called "Hearts Apart Gathering" and will be on Friday, November 17, at the M&FRC from 5 to 7 p.m. There will be delicious food, fun activities, and the opportunity to meet other military families. To sign up, go to www.travismfrc.com or call (707) 424-2486. ★

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Officers Participating in No Shave November

City of Dixon Press Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Police Department is partnering with our Dixon Police Officers Association for "No Shave November," so don't be surprised if someone in blue is looking a little scruffy. It's all for a good cause.

The Dixon Police Department is proud to announce its participation in "No Shave November," a nationwide campaign aimed at raising awareness and funds for cancer research, patient care, and other charitable causes. This effort is being conducted in partnership with the Dixon Police Officers Association (DPOA), symbolizing a united front in the fight against cancer and commitment to community engagement.

Originating in 2009, the initiative encourages participants to forego shaving for the month of November. The funds normally spent on shaving and grooming are then donated to selected charities. For police officers, this means a temporary

relaxation of grooming standards, allowing facial hair growth in exchange for charitable donations.

Program Details:

Officers participating will make a contribution to our selected charity and are encouraged to share their "No Shave November" journey through social media to engage the community. The DPOA team site for the event is: <https://no-shave.org/team/dpoa/>

Community Involvement:

We invite the Dixon community to join us in supporting this important cause either by making a donation to the selected charity or by sharing our campaign on social media. Together, we can make a significant impact in the fight against cancer. The Dixon Police Officers Association team site is <https://no-shave.org/team/dpoa/>. For more information about "No Shave November" or the Dixon Police Department's involvement, please contact Madeline Graf at mgraf@cityofdixon.us. ★

T. Joe Danelson Retiring This March



T. Joe Danelson
Courtesy of First Northern Bank
First Northern Bank
News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Jeremiah Z. Smith, President & Chief Executive Officer of First Northern Bank, today announced that T. "Joe" Danelson, 65, is retiring as Executive Vice President/Chief Credit Officer effective March 31, 2024. Joe joined First Northern Bank in January of 2015, and he has been instrumental in his leadership role in growing the Company from \$540 million in total loans to over \$1 billion today.

Joe has had a distinguished 42-year banking career working for both large and small banks. His broad experience, credit expertise and business

acumen will be deeply missed. In the 10 years Joe has been with the Bank, he has transformed the credit culture to help First Northern reach even new heights. Joe's impact will continue to accrue benefits well into the future. We wish Joe nothing but the best in the future and thank him for his service to the Bank.

"My journey with First Northern Bank has been incredibly rewarding, spanning 10 years of dedication and commitment to our vision of being the most admired community bank in Northern California," Joe explained.

"It has been an honor to work alongside such a talented and dedicated team, and I am grateful for the opportunities and experiences I have gained during my time here. While I will miss the daily interactions and challenges that come with my role, I am looking forward to new adventures and spending more time with my family."

The Bank has engaged McDermott & Bull to conduct an executive search

to fill the position of Executive Vice President/Chief Credit Officer.

First Northern Bank, an independent community bank headquartered in Solano County since 1910, serves Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer, Glenn, Colusa and the west slope of El Dorado County. First Northern has fourteen branches located in Dixon, Davis, West Sacramento, Fairfield, Vacaville, Winters, Woodland, Sacramento, Rancho Cordova, Roseville, Auburn, Colusa, Willows, and Orland. The Bank has a commercial lending office in Walnut Creek. First Northern Bank also offers real estate mortgage loans, SBA Loans (Preferred Lender), and non-FDIC insured Investment and Brokerage Services at each branch location. In addition, the Bank has a Real Estate Mortgage Loan office located in Davis, and real estate loan representatives are available to meet customers at any of the Bank's branches by appointment. ★

Locals Encouraged to Shop Small



Fabiola Sizemore demonstrates easy gift giving without getting on a freeway with her selections at Tres Bandidas boutique in downtown.

Continued from page 1 mention some fun signage and gift items. Kula's will offer 20 percent off everything in the store, and that includes the tanning packages. Look for the yellow door at 120 West B St. next to Cynde's Place. For more information, call (707) 678-2633.

Sharing that location are other services: Brows by Michelle Lavin, Michelle's Reiki Room for energy healing, and Massages by Rose. Most service businesses offer gift certificates for your Christmas shopping ease.

For a small store, **Tres Bandidas** offers plenty of western new and vintage boots, clothing and accessories ranging in size from S to 3XL that could take an hour to explore the fine selections of merchandise. Located at 108 North First St., they will open at 9:30 a.m. for the Open House and offer 20 percent off the entire store and will have giveaways and holiday refreshments throughout the day, according to store owner Fabiola Sizemore. Holiday hours after that will be Monday-Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Text (831) 325-5265 to schedule off-hour appointments.

The Pip Wine Bar & Shop will offer a special



A nice selection of vintage and new cowboy boots and western wear are for sale at Tres Bandidas next to the Pip Wine Bar in downtown.

"Holiday EZ Button" 3-pack and a "Holiday Fancy Pants" 3-pack, and if you're not sure what those are, owner Amy Grabish will have them available to taste that day. The wine bar is located at 116 North First St. and is open from 2 to 9 p.m. on Saturday.

The **Dixon History Museum** sells a nice offering of Dixon memorabilia items such as Milk Farm ceramic coffee mugs, water bottles, baseball hats with the Milk Farm logo

on the front in green or black, magnets, calendars, and more. Their newest hot item is the Milk Farm sweatshirt that is a zip up. They will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 116 North First.

Other businesses in the downtown core that will be open with a variety of gift ideas, or one can purchase gift certificates at Collector's Corner, Dixon Florist, Every Baking Moment, Robben's Department Store and Sister's Salon. ★

Moment of Silence Called for Veterans

Continued from page 1

June 4, 1926, the United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I with a concurrent resolution that read:

"Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far-reaching war in human annals, and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed."

Armistice Day was to honor Veterans of World War I after yet another World War ended, the resolution was amended in 1938 changing the word "Armistice" to "Veterans" to honor all Veterans for their loyal service. Later, in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11th as Veterans

Day and called upon Americans everywhere to re-dedicate themselves to the cause of peace. He issued a presidential order directing the head of the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs) to form a Veterans Day National Committee to organize and oversee the national observance of Veterans Day.

That Committee oversees the national ceremony held at Arlington Cemetery with a color guard made up of each branch of the military to give honor to all who served. They place a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier and a bugle solemnly sounds Taps.

We hope citizens everywhere will remember that freedom is not free; that all gave some and some gave all. ★

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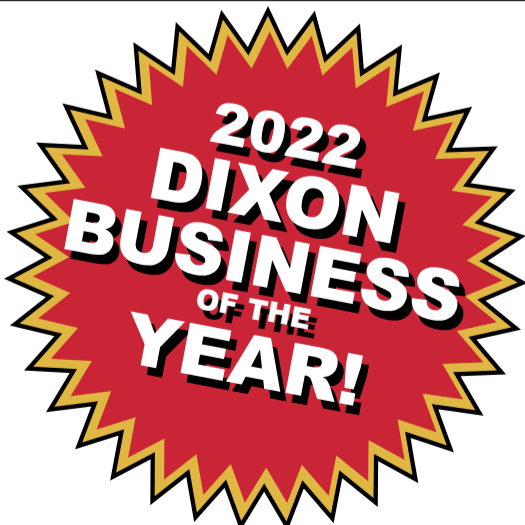


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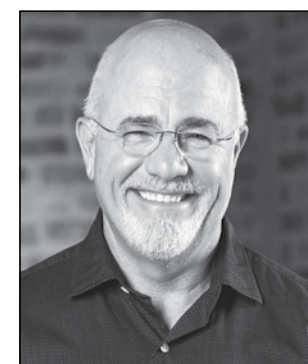
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Control Your Own Destiny

Dear Dave,

I read where you recommend saving 15% of your income for retirement. Should I count my employer's contribution to my retirement plan as part of that 15%?

– Carlotta

Dear Carlotta,

That's a great question. Employer contributions do not count toward the 15 percent I recommend setting aside for retirement. It's great if you work for a company that offers perks like that, but I want you putting 15 percent of your money into retirement. Whatever your company matches, whatever its pension may be, or even having a military retirement package, none of that enters the equation. I want your

Dave Ramsey Says

money in your name.

Baby Step 4 of my plan says to put 15 percent of your income into retirement accounts. The first thing you should put money into is a matching retirement account. If you've got a 401(k), a Roth 401(k) or a 403(b) and your employer offers a match, you should do that up to the match before anything else.

Let's say your employer will match three percent. Since the goal is 15 percent, that still leaves you with some work to do. You've got three percent of your own money already going into retirement, so then you could look at a Roth IRA. If the Roth, plus what you invested previously to get the match doesn't equal 15 percent, then you could look at a 403(b), or go back to your 401(k) to hit the 15 percent mark.

And remember, if you're going to reach your retirement goals, you can't do it alone. King Solomon, one of the wisest men who ever lived, wrote: "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of

counselors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14 NKJV). That's why you need a quality financial advisor—one with the heart of a teacher—to help you navigate complicated financial issues, and guide you toward the kind of retirement you want.

Do you see what I'm saying here, Carlotta? I want you—not the company you work for—to control your financial destiny. I want you to be able to retire with dignity, and enjoy life after working hard and saving. The responsibility for making that happens falls to you!

– 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. ★

Chasing Joy

with Jeff Myers



The Path to Calling

Commentary by Jeff Myers

I served in the U.S. Army in the mid-90s and honestly loved every minute of it. I had a great assignment in Washington D.C., made life-long friends and married my wife while I was a soldier. However, my reason for joining was probably different than most other soldiers'. I joined because I honestly believed God was calling me to do so.

I was in my early 20s floundering through college, but it was a painful breakup with my girlfriend that was the tipping point. (She's my wife of 28 years now, so don't feel too bad for me.) After the breakup, I dropped out of school and headed back home to get some distance and clarity. At that point in my life I felt that God was calling me into a life of ministry, but I was still searching for the details on that. I had been thinking about serving as a military chaplain, but trust me when I tell you I was not the military type back then! For a couple of months this idea of the chaplaincy continued to nag at me.

Then this crazy (miraculous?) thing happened. I was walking down a busy street, praying about whether I should become a chaplain, when a truck pulled over and rolled down the window. A soldier poked his head out and yelled, "Hey! Why aren't you in the Army?" I was completely speechless. Turns out he was a recruiter and the rest is history. I enlisted as a Chaplain Assistant.

I think most of us want to feel some sense of calling or direction in our lives. We want to know what our greater purpose is or what direction would be the most fulfilling. The Apostle Paul says this about discerning God's will for your life.

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:1-2)

There it is — plain as day. Are you interested in figuring out your God-given purpose? Give him your life, allow him to transform your mind into one that thinks more like his, and then you'll be able to see the signposts that he's left for you to follow. That's not to say it will be easy or that you will never doubt. It won't and you will! But the Spirit will be your guide and keep you on the path if you'll let him.

About six weeks into Basic Training, a soldier in my platoon attempted suicide. After medics took him to the hospital and we were all back in our bunks trying to get to sleep...I broke. I laid there crying and praying, "Why have you brought me here, Lord? How is this part of your plan for me?" Just then I felt a tap on my shoulder. A couple of soldiers were standing next to me and said, "Hey, Myers. A few of us were wondering if you would come pray with us." Of course, I said yes.

When I got up I saw something that staggered me. It wasn't a few. It was all 50 soldiers standing in a circle in the middle of "the bay" waiting for me to lead them in prayer. My eyes were opened. I could see my signpost!

Jeff Myers is Lead Pastor of Living Hope Church in Dixon, CA ★

LOCAL CRIME REPORTS

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Thank A Veteran Today

November 2023

DTSC PUBLIC NOTICE

Department of Toxic Substances Control – Our Mission is to protect California's people, communities, and environment from toxic substances, to enhance economic vitality by restoring contaminated land, and to compel manufacturers to make safer consumer products.

SW Dixon Plan – Harvest Site Operable Unit 3-East

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: November 17, 2023 – December 20, 2023

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED? The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is sending out this notice to let the community know about the proposed cleanup at the SW Dixon Plan – Harvest Site (Site), Operable Unit 3-East (OU-3 East). The 45-acre OU-3 East is part of a larger approximately 330-acre proposed development that is located generally south of West A Street and east of Interstate 80 bordered by Pitt School Road in the City of Dixon, California 95620.

A Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Report (PEA) for OU-3 East identified and delineated toxaphene contamination in the upper 12 inches of soil in OU-3 East. The estimated volume of soil contaminated with elevated levels of toxaphene at the OU-3 East is approximately 56,000 cubic yards. Records indicate that historically, OU-3 East has been used for agricultural purposes, most recently for growing hay, since at least 1937. JEN California 6, LLC (Developer) is pursuing residential construction at OU-3 East of the SW Dixon Plan – Harvest site.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE? DTSC invites you to review the draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for OU-3 East beginning November 17, 2023, through December 20, 2023. Please send comments by December 20, 2023, to: Karri Peters, DTSC Project Manager at 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826; or (916) 255-3614, Karri.Peters@dtsc.ca.gov

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): In compliance with CEQA, the City of Dixon adopted multiple CEQA documents, all of which determined that the greater development plan for SW Dixon, along with mitigation measures, would not result in a significant environmental impact. DTSC reviewed the CEQA documents prepared by the City of Dixon and concluded that an additional Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Addendum was needed to address the proposed remediation project. DTSC prepared EIR Addendum Number 2 in 2023, which concludes that the CEQA documents prepared by the City of Dixon and a Truck Trip Analysis Memorandum prepared in 2023 adequately analyzed and addressed impacts associated with the remediation project. DTSC will file a Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research/State Clearinghouse upon the RAW approval.

Information Repositories: The repository will include copies of key technical documents, public outreach documents, and other site-related documents as they are developed and approved.

Dixon Library, 230 N. 1st Street, Dixon, California 95620, call (866) 572-7587 for hours

DTSC-Sacramento Regional Office File, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826, call (916) 255-3758 for an appointment

Information can also be found at DTSC's online database: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov>; (type "SW Dixon Plan-Harvest Property" or 60002862 and select from the drop-down menu).

DTSC Contacts: For more information please contact:

Karri Peters Project Manager, (916) 255-3614, Karri.Peters@dtsc.ca.gov

Tammy Pickens, Public Participation Specialist, (916) 255-3594/1 (866) 495-5651 or Tammy.Pickens@dtsc.ca.gov

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Food & Farm NEWS

Wet Year Helps Colorado River, but Imperial Farmers Still Conserving Water

A consensus plan agreed to last spring by states in the Colorado River's Lower Basin should keep sufficient water in the river's key reservoirs for the next three years. Despite the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation reporting an improved water outlook after 2023 rains, implementing the plan will require farmers to voluntarily use much less water over the next three years. In California, most of the water savings will come from farmers in the Imperial Valley. "We're going to be aiming for unprecedented levels of conservation," said Tina Shields, water manager for the Imperial Irrigation District.

Market Pressures May Necessitate Decline In Winegrape Acreage

The president of a leading California winegrape marketing association says growers in the state need to remove 50,000 acres of winegrapes to balance supply with decreasing market demand. Jeff Bitter, president of Fresno-based Allied Grape Growers, cited several short- and long-term factors that have combined to reduce demand for California wine. A longer-term trend is that younger adults are simply drinking less wine. "We have fragile demand, and we have a lot of headwinds," Bitter said. He said growers may be at risk of

having an oversupply of winegrapes.

Sacramento summit focuses on water challenges, water-rights system

Some 150 water managers, government officials, farmers, environmentalists and others gathered in Sacramento last week to collaborate on some of the state's most challenging water issues. The Water Education Foundation annual water summit came after heavy rains boosted reservoirs in 2023, following three years of drought that brought water curtailment orders and calls for modernizing the water-rights system. Eric Oppenheimer of the California State Water Resources said the water-rights system "is a challenging system to manage" and requires better data collection.

App From UC Davis Researchers Can Help Farmers Gather Crop Data

A new web application could help farmers get more out of drones used to gather data on farms. The When2Fly app – developed by University of California, Davis, researchers – aims to help drone operators on farms steer clear of glare-like areas called hotspots that can tamper with the data drones collect. Creators of the app – Alireza Pourreza, an associate professor, and postdoctoral researcher Hamid Jafarbiglu – said the technology can help growers allocate their resources more efficiently in managing water use or applying nitrogen. ★

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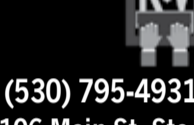
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to look at it, though, is that it's not so much about hatred of the "the other," as progressives put it, as hatred of ourselves and all our works.

It is, on one level, incorrect to consider Israel exclusively an artifact of the West. The Jews are indigenous to the region going back to Abraham, with their story caught up in the story of the land. A large proportion of the current population traces its origins from the Middle East and North Africa, rather than Europe.

But there is no doubt that Israel is a Western society -- in its political system, in its respects for rights, in its innovative economy, in its mores. Someone sitting in a coffee shop in Tel Aviv could easily think they were in any thriving coastal society in the West.

From any rational perspective, this would be something to celebrate. Many legitimate criticisms can be made of Israel, and indeed are a feature of the Israeli domestic debate itself, but there's no doubt that it is a flourishing society.

If Gaza were equally Westernized, it would be worrying about whether it's overbuilding seaside real estate rather than having to get water and electricity from the neighboring country its governing authority -- a savage terror group -- is trying to destroy.

Yet this is the society that anti-Western opinion holds up and wants to sweep all before it. This point of view loves Gaza for its failure and hates Israel for its success; loves Gaza for its terror and hates Israel for its self-de-

fense; loves Gaza for its vicious anti-Western sponsors and hates Israel for its Western allies, especially the United States.

If this seems perverse, it's what you'd expect of students and young people who have absorbed the premises of Michel Foucault, Howard Zinn, Edward Said and their imitators. Even if students have never heard of them, these men and their thought suffuse higher education.

But what about the violence? How can these kids look past it, or implicitly endorse it?

Violence is part of the radical anti-Western vision. The anti-colonial bible, "The Wretched of the Earth," written by Frantz Fanon in 1961, is widely taught on campus. Fanon sketched out a woke worldview before anyone used that term, arguing that, as a New Yorker essay put it, "the Western bourgeoisie was 'fundamentally racist' and its bourgeois ideology of equality and dignity was merely a cover for capitalist-imperialist rapacity."

Fanon wrote that "decolonization is always a violent phenomenon," and in a preface to the book, the French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre declared that the wretched of the earth "become men" through "mad fury."

By this standard, Hamas is a good and worthy anti-colonial organization, and there's no wonder it has found supporters and useful idiots among the West's self-loathing radicals.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Riley Reviews

“OLD DADS” SPOOFS CULTURAL GRIEVANCES; “GOOD COP, BAD COP” ON TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“OLD DADS” RATED R ON NETFLIX

If you have ever watched stand-up comedian Bill Burr on any of his comedy specials found on streaming services, you have a good idea of how his angry-man persona delivering the zingers that upset the easily offended remains his schtick in “Old Dads” now running on Netflix.

Middle-aged and married to a much younger wife Leah (Katie Aselton), Burr’s Jack Kelly is a father to a preschool son at an elite school run by the unbearable Dr. Lois Schmieckel-Turner (Rachael Harris). Confrontation with the principal’s political correctness is inevitable.

Jack ends up in hot water when he takes crass umbrage to the principal berating him for being two minutes late to pick up his son. A torment of verbal abuse puts him in the uncomfortable spot of having to make amends, lest his child fails to get a coveted recommendation to a private grade school.

Meanwhile, Jack and his two partners, Connor (Bobby Cannavale) and Mike (Bokeem Woodbine), sell their sportswear company and stay on as employees answering to insufferable millennial CEO Aspen Bell (Miles Robbins) who views the trio as unhip dinosaurs.

Divorced with sons in college, Mike thinks his life is unraveling when his much-younger girlfriend Britney (Reign Edwards) gets pregnant. Desperately trying to be young and hip, Connor deals with a nightmarishly bratty preschool son and overbearing wife Cara (Jackie Thon).

As family and business woes pile up, the trio decides to go on a road trip to Vegas but only make it so far as Palm Desert, where hijinks ensue while partying with strippers and engaging in general misbehavior.

Much of what happens involves the three buddies acting out their amusing man-child aggressions, ranting about parking spaces, scooters hogging the road, and PC culture. It’s mostly Jack, though, with comical anger management issues.

Granted, the three old guys yell and loudly curse to such an extent that some may find the comedy to be exceedingly vulgar and ill-mannered. The gauge of willingness to enjoy “Old Dads” will be familiarity as well as delight in Bill Burr’s outrageous, overblown biting humor.

“GOOD COP, BAD COP” ON ID TV

A staple of police shows is often the “good cop, bad cop” routine to interrogate suspects. For the six-episode series on ID TV, “Good Cop, Bad Cop” takes on a completely different connotation.

Retired detective Garry McFadden, a highly decorated veteran of the Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department in North Carolina, worked over 800 homicide

cases and never lost a homicide case during a trial.

With his stellar career in police work, McFadden is a perfect choice to host a series that recounts the pursuits of detectives to solve a complicated murder investigation with a startling twist: the perpetrator is a fellow member of law enforcement.

The synopses for episodes that start on Sunday, November 12th are intriguing. In “Hunting Ground,” San Diego is in a state of panic after discovering the body of Cara Knott tossed over a highway bridge.

With dead-end leads and the city demanding answers, police must work quickly while leaving no stone unturned to bring this monster to justice.

A city’s worst fear comes to fruition when the body of University of Toledo sorority sister turns up riddled with bullets on campus in the “Handcuffs” episode. The investigation’s findings shock the community and test the public’s faith in law enforcement.

“Did You Kill Your Wife” episode finds state troopers arriving at the scene of a woman shot to death in her bed. They rule it suicide, but a tenacious detective reopens the case decades later. Modern forensics, a double life and new witnesses turn the facts of the case on its head.

When police in Jacksonville, Florida discover Sami Safar’s corpse, they have no idea of the scale of criminality they stumbled upon in the “Blind Spot” episode. The murder of a hardworking Syrian immigrant unravels a web of theft and violence spanning years.

In “Ticking time Bomb,” a woman’s corpse is found in flames outside of Atlanta. Police use surveillance footage to witness the victim’s last moment, including getting into the car that would take her to her death and ultimately lead police to her killer.

The last episode lands on Sunday, December 17th, with “Hunting the Hunter.” Calls flood into the Silverton PD dispatch about a man shooting Rashawn Berry in broad daylight and fleeing the scene.

A key piece of surveillance footage on the killer’s escape route shows that a broken heart could be at the center of this violent act.

Featuring interviews with those closely connected to the case and expert insight from the host, who solved hundreds of cases in his career, “Good Cop, Bad Cop” stories reveal just how difficult and dangerous it is when the killer is on the inside.

Staged and covered-up crime scenes make the investigations all the more complex. But these dedicated detectives are committed to capturing the criminals and bringing them to justice, no matter the cost or badge they wear. ★

Anti-Israel Demonstrators Hate The West

The cataract of anti-Israel sentiment on college campuses has been shocking, but it shouldn’t be surprising.

It is the poisoned fruit of teaching a generation of college students to despise their own civilization.

Jesse Jackson famously led a chant at Stanford University in 1987, “Hey, hey, ho, ho, Western Civ has got to go.” He was talking about the college course, but he might as well have been talking about the thing itself.

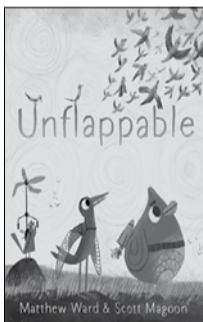
Jackson and his allies had extraordinary success in extinguishing the teaching of Western Civ. Not only have we largely stopped transmitting the story of our own civilization, we have substituted an alternative narrative that the West is reducible to racism, imperialism and colonialism.

It is in this context that the current outburst of anti-Zionism has to be understood. Yes, it has been fed by anti-Israel agitation on campus over the decades and yes, students are susceptible to witless radicalism in the best of circumstances. Yet the loathing of Israel is particularly intense because it is viewed as an outpost of Western civilization and all its alleged ills.

The hatred of Israel is tainted by and, in some cases, driven by anti-Semitism. Another way

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

New Inspiring Fall Children’s Books



What You Need To Be Warm

by Neil Gaiman, Quill Tree Books

The beauty of fall is all around us and Neil Gaiman captures the beauty of the simple everyday items that keep us warm. Whether it be a simple baked potato, the warm, comforting vibes of a hand-knit blanket, a mug of cocoa, and even the gentle feeling of a smile.

The gentle reassurance of exploring the sights, sounds, colors, and smells that all are warm and comforting, can chase the chill of a dark winter night. What You Need To Be Warm takes the extraordinary works of thirteen individual artists combined with the inspiring words of Neil Gaiman’s imagery, makes this book a perfect fall and winter read.

Unflappable

by Matthew Ward, Scott Magoon Clarion Books

Three Flightless Birds teach the valuable lesson of not giving up. While these birds yearn to fly, not everything is easy. Sometimes, things are hard. But even when everything is against them, these birds

know they have a dream, and dreams are meant to be achieved.

Readers will learn the wonderful lesson of perseverance, time, and the art of not giving up in this wonderful and important story, Unflappable.

The Monster Above the Bed

by Kailei Pew, Steph Lew, Clarion Books

Blossom knew that there was definitely a monster above her bed. With the snorts, gruffs, and grunts, she was sure of it, and there was only one way to find out.

Readers will fall into fits of laughter in this adorable story. With a fun turn of events, young readers will be able to look at their fear in a whole new way and even be excited about the possibility of a monster under their own bed. A Heartwarming and fun story that explores a common fear with a new perspective and a fun, bold, vibrant illustrations.

Etta Extraordinaire

by Roda Ahmed, Charnae Gordon, Chloe Burgett, Harper Collins

Etta is extraordinary. ★

With her boa in hand and her grandmother’s pearls, Etta is ready for the world. So, when Etta has the opportunity to be in the school’s talent show, she instantly gets excited. Until the worry sets in. But Etta was extraordinary, and she immediately set up a plan to prepare. Etta crafted the perfect stage to practice, and practice she did. Each day, Etta sang her heart out, and when Saturday came, she grabbed her sparkliest shoes, her long cape, and her lucky pearls. Etta knew nothing could stop her... until she saw the stage.

Will Etta be able to let the extraordinary shine, or will she allow the worry to win?

Readers will instantly fall for the darling and tenacious Etta. *Etta Extraordinaire* will have little ones wanting to combat their own fears and maybe even be the star of their own show. The perfect read-out-loud story for a classroom or a home library. One thing is certain: Etta will inspire readers to find their own extraordinary and let it shine in the inspiring story. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001694
 The following persons are doing business as: Blue Aura Beauty, 350 W A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Veronica Robinson, 650 Meadowlark Lane, Dixon, CA 95620.
 Date filed in Solano County: October 30, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: February 1, 2020.
 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 October 29, 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: Nov 10, 17, 24, Dec 1, 2023
 BLUE 12-1-23



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DIXON CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF THE CITY'S PARK IMPACT FEE NEXUS STUDY AND UPDATED PARK IMPACT FEES CHARGED ON NEW DEVELOPMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN the City of Dixon ("City") City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on December 19th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620 to consider a resolution concerning the adoption of the City's Park Impact Fee Nexus Study and updated park impact fees charged on new development pursuant to California Government Code Section 66000 et al. and City Municipal Code 4.07.040. The Park Impact Fee Nexus Study for the proposed park impact fees will be available on the city website "<https://www.cityofdixon.us/ParksRecreationMasterplan>" for public review on November 10th, 2023. Members of the public are invited to provide comment at the public hearing, or, in writing, which is received on or before December 18th, 2023.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES: are invited to attend the December 19th, 2023 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the approval of the resolution. At the above noted time and place, testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking action or making any recommendation on the resolution. 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 special 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 opposition to the above proposed action. Written comments are also accepted prior to the meeting at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be viewed by interested individuals at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. 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 resolution will be available for public review at City Hall, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. If you have any questions, please call the City Clerk at (707) 678-7000, or stop by the office at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620.
 Dixon Independent Voice 11-10 and 11-17-2023



Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

Useless Fear and Worry



Most fear and worry is useless. It doesn't have any positive impact. It drains you and hinders goal attainment. Fear and worry serve a purpose only when they prevent you from acting in a self-destructive manner. But this is the rare exception.

Needless fear and worry causes you more harm than good. It produces stress along with the associated physical impacts. It doesn't give you control over the issues you worry about. It does make you frustrated because you feel as if you don't have control.

Typically, fear and worry revolve around issues you are apprehensive about. Some issues are within your control, others are not. The cycle starts with something you are afraid of. Then you proceed to worry about all of the ways your fear can materialize. The tendency is to project the worst possible outcome.

This creates an endless cycle. Your fear causes worry. As you worry, your fears become more acute, leading you to worry even more. This downward spiral creates a feeling of paralysis, effectively deterring you from being proactive. When you fail to take action, you empower your fears.

Your mind works non-stop to bring into reality any scenario it receives. The danger with fear and worry is that you are obsessing about the exact outcome you don't want. But your brain doesn't discriminate. All input is processed, even if it's negative. You mind strives to accomplish whatever you dwell on. So don't dwell on what you don't want.

Money fears are common. People are afraid they don't or won't have enough money for their needs. They worry about poverty, losing a job, not being able to pay their bills, and even losing their home.

There are many action steps a person can take to address their financial fears. One can get a promotion, change jobs, get a second job, obtain additional education, start a business, cut expenses, sell unneeded possessions, and save more. So instead of mindless fretting, someone

who has money fears can take steps to address those fears.

Another prevalent fear is a fear of being alone or a fear of being rejected. Associated worries include having no friends, no significant other, being alone in old age, or being lonely. Often, people in this situation sit at home waiting for the phone to ring. They take a passive approach, choosing to let someone else take the first step.

When a person with a fear of being alone finds himself or herself in a relationship or social circumstances, they may subconsciously act in a way to sabotage the situation. This serves to validate their fear by creating the exact negative outcome they worried about.

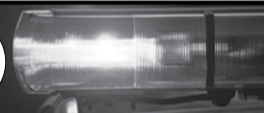
A better approach for the person afraid of being alone is to take the initiative to meet others. Simultaneously, they need to visualize having a pleasant personality, being friendly, outgoing, happy, and helpful. This person needs to imagine successful relationships.

There are many fears that are completely without any basis whatsoever. There are people with more money than they can ever use who are afraid of being destitute. There are people who have a great family, lots of friends, are in a loving relationship, and yet are afraid of being alone. It's these completely irrational fears that are a total waste of time.

With any issues you are afraid of, visualize the best possible outcome rather than imagining the worst. In those situations where you have control, take action to bring about your desired result. In those instances beyond your control, hope for the best, believe everything will work out, and move on to something you do have control over.

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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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

Sunday, November 5

- 0530 Hours - Vehicle Burglaries in the 200 block of Stephens Street.
- 0927 - Non injury traffic accident in the 2500 block of West A Street.
- 1049 - Stolen vehicle report taken in the 900 block of North Adams Street.
- 1713 - Battery report taken in the 500 block of Sierra Drive

Friday, November 3

- 1413 - Traffic collision in the area of West Walnut Street and South 1st Street.
- 1559 - Informational report taken in the 500 block of College Way.
- 1617 - Suspicious circumstance in the area of I80 and North 1st Street.
- 2200 - Hours- Richard Casarez (52) of Sacramento was contacted during a traffic stop in the area West A Street and North Lincoln Street and arrested for DUI.
- 2300 - Hours- Domestic Violence-related incident in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.
- 0150 - Hours- Battery report in the 200 block of North First Street.
- 0143 - Hours- Leoncio Cardenas (54) of Dixon was contacted during a traffic stop in the area of West A Street and Evans Road and later arrested for DUI.

Thursday, November 2

- 1143 - Informational report taken in the 500 block of College Way.
- 1256 - Vandalism reported in the 400 block of East Mayes Street.
- 1855 - Warrant arrest report was taken at 1300 block of North Lincoln St. Officers responded to a report of a 415 [Disturbing the peace.] Officers arrived and contacted (S) Tammy Mier (54) of Dixon. A records check revealed she had an outstanding misdemeanor warrant out of Yolo County. The warrant was confirmed and Mier was arrested and cited and released.
- 2331 - Theft arrest report was taken in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr. Officers contacted (S) Felipe Valadez Jr (37). A records check revealed Valadez was on probation out of Sacramento. Valadez was arrested.

Wednesday, November 1

- 0300 Hours - Welfare check in 1300 block of West H Street
- 0651 - Confidential report taken in the 400 block of East Mayes Street.
- 0839 - Information report taken at the PD.
- 0839 - Vandalism report taken in the 100 block of East Walnut Street.
- 1141 - Restraining order violation reported in the 200 block of West H Street.

Tuesday, October 31

- 1013 - Non injury traffic accident report taken in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.
- 1223 - Information report taken in the 500 block of College Way.
- 1614 - Non injury traffic accident in the 200 block of West A Street.
- 1857 - Hours- Jessica Lawless (28) of Dixon was contacted during an enforcement stop in the area of South Lincoln Street and West A Street and later arrested for an outstanding felony warrant.
 Monday, October 30, 2023
- 1108 - Theft report taken in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive. .
- 1353 - Warrant arrest in the 700 block of West F Street. Julie Wanderstadt of Dixon was arrested on a felony DUI warrant and taken to county jail.
- 1452 - Non injury traffic accident in the 100 block of East Chestnut Street.

Sunday, October 29

- 0756 - Vehicle burglary reported in the 1800 block of Mistler Court. Three vehicle were broken into overnight.
- 0934 - Vehicle burglary reported in the 1500 block of Ditmar Drive.
- 1520 - Battery report taken in the 1200 block of Startford Avenue.

Saturday, October 28

- 1214 - Hours- Theft of a package in the 1300 block of North Lincoln St.
- 1620 - Hours- Grand theft investigation in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr.
- 1630 - Hours- Catalytic converter theft in the 900 block of Sommer Dr. 1838 Assist Outside Agency report was taken in the 600 block of Industrial Wy.

The Veteran Homeless Crisis

By Shreya Agrawal,
CALMatters.org

California has poured billions of dollars into finding homes for unhoused veterans, but the number of former military service members living on the street has held steady for almost a decade. Today, a third of the nation's unhoused veterans are in California.

Gavin Newsom proposes a significant change in the state's strategy for ending veteran homelessness. His plan, included in a \$6.4 billion mental health bond he's sending to voters in the March primary election, would set aside funding specifically for veterans with serious behavioral health conditions.

That's a shift from California's last two major efforts to fund housing for veterans, both of which created units for a general population of former military service members.

The first effort began in the late 1990s, when the state built seven new veterans' homes over a period of 17 years. Today those veterans' homes are underused. They were built to house about 2,400 people, but only 1,575 veterans live in them. The 300-unit veterans home in Barstow was so underutilized in 2020 that Newsom moved to close it as he braced for a pandemic recession, although lawmakers blocked him from shutting the site.

The second push centered on a pair of ballot measures voters approved in 2014 and in 2018 that allocated \$4.6 billion to build housing specifically for former military service members. The money created the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program, which has supported the construction of about 3,250 housing units for veterans to date.

Veterans advocates and state officials view the programs — along with federal efforts led by the Department of Veterans Affairs — as successful in reducing homelessness among former military service members. In the last 12 years, veteran homelessness in California has decreased by more than 30%.

But the trend in California mostly accounts for gains made during the Obama administration, when veteran homelessness peaked nationwide and the Department of Veterans Affairs moved aggressively to place former troops in housing. Since 2014, the number of homeless veterans in California has mostly plateaued around 10,000 to 12,000 people, according to annual counts released by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Alex Visotzky, senior California policy fellow at the National Alliance to End Homelessness, said the high numbers of veteran homelessness result from the challenges veterans face on returning home in California's competitive housing market.

"When housing markets are unaffordable and incredibly competitive, those with the greatest needs are going to be more likely to fall out," he said.

Newsom's new strategy in the



Homeless Veteran on the street. Photo by Larry White from Pixabay

mental health bond, advocates say, should help those most in need. The California Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that half of the state's unhoused veterans suffer from some kind of behavioral health issue.

The money in the bond would go to the state's Department of Housing and Community Development, which would work with CalVet "to focus specifically on housing veterans experiencing behavioral health challenges," said Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, the Thousand Oaks Democrat who wrote the bill that ultimately put the bond on the ballot.

Studies have shown veterans are overrepresented in the nation's homeless population. They may experience personal challenges, such as post-traumatic stress disorders or other mental health issues as well as disabilities related to their military service.

"Transitioning from that very specific culture and society to civilian life is a lifelong process," said Amy Fairweather, director of policy at the veterans advocacy group Swords to Plowshares. "If you do have any physical or mental disabilities, dealing with those and trying to re-enter civilian life can be very difficult."

California's long history of providing housing for former military service members dates to 1884, when it opened an estate in Napa County as the state's first veterans home. That site is still in operation, housing around 600 veterans on a picturesque property in wine country.

Altogether, the state now has eight veterans homes. The two largest homes are in fairly remote communities — one is in Napa County's Yountville and the second is in Barstow in the Mojave Deserts. Moving to them can mean living at a long distance from a

veteran's family. That geography somewhat limits interest in the homes.

The homes account for the lion's share of CalVet's \$650 million annual budget. Some advocates have called on the state to put money into programs that would benefit people who don't necessarily want to live in a veterans home.

"The state should keep its promises to the current home residents, but as things change, the program needs to be less structured on just providing room and board for a very limited number of people and more structured on providing skilled nursing facility care for those who need it," said Ethan Rarick, executive director at Little Hoover Commission, which published a report on the veterans homes in 2017.

Outside of the veterans homes, California approved a series of bonds meant to help military service members find housing beginning in 2008. The Veterans Bond Act, passed that year, provided \$900 million to veterans through the CalVet Home Loans Program.

In 2014, California passed an initiative creating the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Program, which put \$600 million toward building multi-family homes for veterans. A second ballot initiative in 2018 gave another \$4 billion to the program.

The federal Department of Veterans Affairs, meanwhile, has kept up steady funding for housing vouchers that can provide a place to live for former troops. The Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program, commonly known as HUD-VASH, was a centerpiece of the Bush and Obama administration's efforts to curb veterans' homelessness. It provides rental assistance to over 100,000 veterans nationally.

The number of homeless veterans in the U.S. peaked in the Great Recession, when the VA in 2007 reported some 154,000 former troops were homeless.

At that time, Fairweather of Swords to Plowshares said many of those deployed in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars were starting to come back home "to a society that wasn't prepared for it."

On top of that, they and older veterans struggled in the economic downturn, which led to more unemployment and homelessness.

"It all came together in a way that was really disadvantageous to the veterans," she said.

Last year, the VA estimated about 33,000 veterans were homeless nationwide. According to the 2021 annual homelessness assessment report by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, more than half of them are over age 55. The data also shows that Black veterans are more likely to be homeless than veterans belonging to other races.

Advocates say veterans can be reluctant to ask for help.

"When veterans ultimately fall down that hole into homelessness, what is happening along with that is that they're losing connection with friends and family, because they're ashamed that their life is falling apart and it's hard for them to ask for help," said Stephen Peck, president of the veterans support organization U.S. Vets.

Putting the money into the mental health bond comes with a tradeoff.

In advancing Newsom's mental health plan, lawmakers amended an early version of Assemblymember Irwin's veterans' housing bill that would have issued more bonds for the existing veterans' housing program. Without new funding, the program that supports construction

of multi-unit veterans' housing is expected to run out of money in 2024.

Still, representatives for Newsom's ballot measure in a written statement said the bond would create more capacity to help former troops.

"Proposition 1 adds new money for California's most vulnerable veterans without any redirection or reprioritization from the current program. Without Proposition 1, there would be zero funding for homeless veteran housing moving forward, which is why the measure is so critically needed," the statement read.

Altogether, the ballot measure going to voters includes \$6.4 billion to fund projects for behavioral health issues and those at the risk of homelessness. It also includes a proposal to adjust how the state spends money it collects for mental health services from a tax on personal income over \$1 million, aiming to direct more of the money to housing.

The \$1 billion for veterans housing will be distributed in the form of loans and grants by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Representatives from veterans' groups say the program's success could hinge on getting the word out, and providing services that provide a path out of homelessness.

At U.S. Vets, Peck said the nonprofit strives to create a community where veterans help veterans.

"Building that community is really important," he said. "A federal veteran who's been through the process already is probably more effective than we are as social workers."

Visit www.chcf.org to learn more. ★

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