

Downtown Dixon
Christmas Tree Lighting Festival
 Thursday, Dec. 7th • 4 to 8pm

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Dixon Independent Voice

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Downtown Tree Lighting to Delight



The train rides will be at the parking lot at Dixon Family Services and the old Bank of America Building. DDBA Courtesy Photo

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) -Someone made some special wishes for a Merry Christmas in downtown Dixon and every one of them will be coming true – rain or shine – on Thursday, December 7, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the annual Tree Lighting Festival.

“For the rest of the season, the official Dixon Christmas Tree will be decorated and lit up and we want people to come out of their homes to see its beauty,” said Jill Orr, President of the Downtown Dixon Business Association.

The ‘permanent’ tree was purchased by DDBA with deep appreciation to long-time resident Barbara Bulkley, who was honored as last year’s Citizen of the Year. The grand lighting of the tree



Free pony rides will be offered again this year in the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club Park next to the public library. Photo by Debra Dingman

is scheduled for 7 p.m. For the second time, the festivities will be from Pardi Plaza to the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club Park. On First and A Streets there will be stage performances beginning at 4 p.m. with the Dixon Community Theater. Then every half hour there

will be students from the Valley of the Sacred Heart, Dixon Youth Football Cheerleaders, another performance by the theater group, Dixon Dance Studio, and lastly at 6:30 p.m. will be a Polynesian Christmas. Inside Calvary Church, leaders will once again

offer children’s Christmas craft activities.

At B and Second Streets, there will be train rides by the California Dream Express and an illuminated LED juggling show by Jeremiah Johnston. Inside the Dixon Public Library there will be story time at 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. All of these activities are free including the Petting Zoo and Pony Rides that will be in the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club Park where a photo booth will be set up by Grace Fellowship Church. There will also be a near life-size manger in the park as well.

Across the street and inside Ye Olde Vet’s Hall will be jolly ol’ Santa himself where children and families are welcome to share their secret wish list and take pictures. And, for those wanting to do some

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No Charges for Mayor Bird

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - “We’ve made the decision that we’re not filing any charges. I reviewed the case and I’ve had contact with the victim,” said Chief Deputy Paul Sequeira of the Solano County District Attorney’s office. “He said he doesn’t wish to prosecute because it has been taken care of.”

Mayor Steven C. Bird was cited for an alleged hit and run on Wednesday, September 27, at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce the evening of a Mixer when he backed his vehicle into another vehicle causing damage and left without leaving a note which is against the law.

The case was referred to the Solano CHP instead of the Dixon Police Department because Bird is considered an employee of the City and to avoid any improprieties. Then, upon completion of the Solano CHP investigation, the case was referred to the District Attorney’s office, but DA Krishna Abrams recused herself.

“These things are often handled through a civil compromise,” said Sequiera. “We didn’t initiate this, but he said it was already taken care of. Mr. Bird’s insurance got involved and his car was at the body shop, so he wasn’t interested in pursuing [a charge.]”

Sequeira explained that especially in a parking lot case, this is standard.

“We didn’t get the folks together, but they got together on their own. No civil charges were filed,” he said. “There were still some questions that there was actual knowledge [of the damage.] He got out and looked at it and, in the bumper, there was a golf ball indentation in the bottom of the bumper like he hit it with a trailer hitch. There was a cracked indentation.”

“Whether the victim wanted to [press charges] or not, we would have said [to Bird,] you need to make it right and he made it right before it got to our office. He said he wished it wouldn’t have come to this but he didn’t have a note so he didn’t leave a note,” said Sequiera referring to Mayor Bird.

“It’s not our classic case where we’re suspicious that he hit a parked car and runs to avoid a DUI. He wasn’t fleeing. He went back into the function,” he explained.

In regards to Sequiera recusing herself, Sequeira said that it is common for officials and county leaders to meet at events and District Attorney Krishna Abrams didn’t feel like she had a conflict but to prevent an appearance of any improprieties, she recused herself.

“She also indicated she is no longer a neighbor of his,” Sequiera said. ★

Community Christmas Program Needs Coats

Story and photo by Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Do your children have coats that they’ve grown out of, or does your coat closet have coats you haven’t worn that are just taking up space? The Community Christmas Program, formerly Dixon Toys for Tots, could put them to good use.

Volunteers are in full swing, placing collection boxes across town for Dixon’s underserved children, families, and seniors -- continuing the tradition of helping our own in Dixon for more than 50 years, reported Cornerstone Church Office Manager Monica Sepulveda.

“We gave out all the coats last year, so we really need gently-used coats. We’re asking for people



Toys for children of all ages are shown off by some of the volunteers of the Community Christmas Program last year that again will host a toy, food, and coat give-away for Dixon’s needy held at Cornerstone Church.

to wash them first, as we have no way to do that. They can be put in the drop boxes or brought by the church at 185 Cherry St.,” she added.

The Dixon United

Methodist Women, now called United Women in Faith, are once again partnering with the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club to collect socks, scarves, knit hats and

mitten for Dixon seniors who will receive a Christmas gift and a visit through the Dixon Christmas Program for seniors.

Continued on page 2

Life's too SHORT



Christmas Tree Lane Benefits JKMS Band

By Debra Dingman

That little 4th grader was standing on the side of the school street waiting to be picked up by the school bus that would take her to music lessons at another school. It was cold and lightly raining. Her violin case was heavy, and she did not have gloves. The bus never came.

I came from a long line of musicians and always wanted to play. My grandmother played the piano every Sunday for our church. Grandpa would entertain us all at every holiday or family gathering with his banjo or accordion. My uncle played saxophone and my mom and aunt played the ukelele and some piano. I've tried to learn.

Music makes my day whether I'm in the car or listening to Pandora on my computer at work. I believe it is so important to have music in our lives and know many students would never be able to learn how to play if not for the school district.

I loved the music at the Christmas celebrations where students performed. I met Chris Lee, the new band director at John Knight Middle School, and knew he needed funds as the school instruments were old and many could not be used because of broken parts. The help that I thought would come never happened but now, it has...thanks to several Dixon women.

Each year teams or individuals volunteered to decorate a Christmas tree that would ultimately be sold at a silent auction with those funds benefiting children's programs or needs in our community. It happened for so many years that one learned a few techniques. Like, shopping after-Christmas sales for decorations. Of course, you have to store those things away for the year but then you would also

have an idea in your head of what you were going to do, and you could find other wonderful items as the year progressed.

There are about a dozen of these women who spend all year watching for special items that they'll purchase and save for their tree. It gave me something I really looked forward to and I would work several days building my large trees in my dining room. I would tie everything on or use hot glue so that my tree would last for at least three years to whomever purchased it. We're called Tree Decorators, and we even compete for who can become the favorite of the community.

We were only weeks away from when I would start my tree when the sad news came that Dixon Kiwanis would not move ahead this year with the Festival of Trees. My hope is it will be back next year, but I could not bear giving the terrible news to all the regular decorators.

In the middle of the night and after tears and frustration, it all became clear how I could still help create a place for the trees of my fellow decorators and myself.

Enter Linda Barrett of Barrett-Leber Realty – who partnered with me and who has huge windows at 165 North First Street. Her office will allow people to come in and see the beautiful trees inside for Christmas Tree Lane, from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, the night of the annual downtown Christmas Tree Lighting Festival.

The trees will be awarded to the highest of the silent bids. All checks will be made out to JKMS Band Program and Mr. Lee will be able to purchase new instruments and band supplies for his students. Additional donations to the band program are always welcome. Please come by and see the displays! ★

Solano Symphony Orchestra's Holiday Celebration

Solano Symphony Orchestra News Release

VACAVILLE, CA - With selections from Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" along with holiday favorites from Irving Berlin, Percy Faith and others, the Solano Symphony Orchestra will warm spirits and start December off on a festive note with its Holiday Celebration concert, 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 3, 2023, at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre (1010 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville). It's the perfect performance to bring the whole family to, and an excellent introduction to the symphony. The concert will also feature Corelli's "Christmas Concerto," composed in 1690, Sibelius' "Andante Festivo," and the ever popular, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

Tickets for the performance can be purchased at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre by phone, (707) 469-4013, or via the website: www.vpat.net. The theatre box office opens one hour before the performance. Ticket Prices: Adults \$35; Senior (62)

\$30; Military \$15; Youth/Student \$15 (with high school or college ID). Note, a \$2 theatre fee per ticket is included in this pricing.

Also in December, the Solano Symphony Orchestra will hold its annual Young Artists Competition, Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1600 Union Avenue, Fairfield. The competition is open to Solano and Yolo County students ages 12 to 21 with categories in strings, winds, voice, and piano. Pianists, wind players, and string players must audition with a movement of a concerto by memory, and vocalists may present two arias, art songs, or musical theater selections. First-place winners earn the opportunity to perform their selection with the orchestra at the Salute to Youth concert on March 24, 2024, as well as a monetary prize. Second- and third-place winners will receive a certificate of achievement and monetary prize.

To learn more about Solano Symphony Orchestra visit www.solanosymphony.org. ★

Community Christmas Program Needs Coats

Continued from page 1

Like other local churches, the DUMC donation boxes are inside at 209 North Jefferson, or leave a message at the church, (707) 678-2191, and someone will come by and pick them up.

Other organizations such as the non-profit American Legion Post 208 Women's Auxiliary continue to collect unwrapped toys in addition to canned or boxed foods for the Cornerstone Church Food Pantry.

Another toy collection will take place during the annual Christmas Cruise on December 9 beginning at Hall Park at 5:30 p.m. People are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy and/or canned food for the collection, but the toy deadline is December 15. The program will begin on Saturday, December 16, for needy families to come in and shop.

Sepulveda was excited to report there are new members of the community getting involved with the organization that had narrowed down to herself, Arlene Mendoza, Mike Loftin, and Jack Caldwell, although there are many individuals who help a lot like Patti Aguirre and Hazel Jimenez, she explained.

Sign-ups to participate for one's children or family members will start soon after

Thanksgiving, and those in need can pay attention to the Dixon 411 or Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook pages for updates on when they can start calling in for appointments.

"Parents seemed to really like the way we did the program last year because they came in without children and selected gifts for them, so we will be doing the same as last year," she said.

"These are just some of the things that make our town so wonderful and we hold onto," said Jack Caldwell, board volunteer. For more information, email: DixonChristmasProgram@gmail.com. pay attention to the Dixon 411 or Dixon Calendar and Events Facebook pages for updates on when they can start calling in for appointments.

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Dixon News Briefs



Dixon Rotary Club hosts their first Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 2, from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. out at the Dixon High School Multi-Purpose Room. The \$5 menu will include pancakes, sausage, orange juice, coffee, or milk. There are no pre-sell tickets. It's at 555 College Way. There will be Santa with his big, white beard for taking Christmas photos, activities for children and Christmas music. Courtesy photo

MPG Staff

City Meetings

The City Council Meeting set for Tuesday, December 5, will be available online via Granicus or one can watch via the Zoom link found on the agenda which is usually posted on the cityofdixon.us website by Thursday afternoon before the meeting. But note, the next City Council Meeting set for Tuesday, December 19, has been cancelled due to the holidays.

Mingle & Jingle

The Dixon Action Team is hosting a 'Mingle & Jingle' event with a Christmas Toy and Food Drive on Sunday, December 10, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Dixon Veteran's Memorial Hall at 1305 North First Street. There will also be photos with Santa, food trucks, and small business vendors offering Christmas shopping specials.

Ugly Sweater Fun

Atkinson Self Storage will be hosting a Chamber of Commerce Holiday Mixer on Wednesday, December 13, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Atkinson is located at 1800 North First Street and there will be free admission, no host bar, raffle prizes, and an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest.

Christmas Car Parade

The 2023 Annual Dixon Christmas Car Parade will light up the streets on Saturday, December 9, starting at 6:30 p.m. The group will be collecting toys, food, and gift cards for Dixon Family Services. The specific route is posted on Dixon 411 Facebook page. For questions, contact Regina at (707) 678-9771.

Christmas Concert

Living Hope Church is hosting a Christmas Concert on December 16 at 410 Gateway Drive. It will be free of charge and open to the community. The band featured is Leaving Theodora, a band based in Vacaville, and a duo band called Strands. The purpose of this event is to share with the community the Christmas spirit and have an opportunity for everyone to come together. There will be desserts and a coffee bar, pictures with Santa, and crafts for children.

Causeway Congestion

Those who don't like the wildly

dangerous drivers and crazies experienced on the Causeway when they head to and from Sacramento, might find this piece hopeful: Sacramento's first freeway toll lanes proposed for busy commuter corridor: <https://l.smartnews.com/p-a8X1r/17yCPW>.

Beer Fundraiser

Soroptimist International of Dixon is holding a raffle for a YETI Tundra54 Hard Cooler donated by Pacific Ace Hardware of Vacaville and full of beer that will be held in February of 2024. Tickets are only \$10 and you must be 21 years old or over to purchase a ticket. Call Nicki Monk at (530) 219-6940.

Ongoing Senior Action

The following three activities are ongoing at the Dixon Senior Multi-Use Center, 201 South Fifth Street behind Dixon City Hall. Bingo is on Mondays from noon to 2 p.m. with cost of a nickel per game and all adults are welcome. Line Dancing is a great way to exercise without knowing it because you're having so much fun. Instructors are Joan Giannoni and Sandy Newell. Learn steps and dance to a variety of music. Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9 a.m. Busy Bees is the informal class for learning sewing and craft skills. All are welcome on Mondays from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Arts & Crafts Room.

Pony Express-o

Local specialty coffee roasting company, Unleashed Coffee, is hitting the road this holiday season as Solano County's first licensed Compact Mobile Food Operation. The company is excited to be expanding their services from primarily selling via wholesale, online sales, and local farmers markets to now serving coffee from their Mobile Cafe (CMFO), affectionately named, The Pony Express-o. Unleashed Coffee will be partnering with local cottage food baker and jam maker, The Crafty Cottage Boutique, to serve coffee and baked goods all season long. The Pony Express-o will be making stops this holiday season at Silveville Christmas Tree Farm in Dixon. On Silveville's opening day, November 24, The Pony Express-o will be posted at the tree farm every weekend until the farm closes for the season. ★

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Youth Football Nabs Super Bowl Champions



The PeeWee Football with their coaches. The team roster included: (76) Adonis Anderson, (34) Axel Williams, (35) Aylanni Rosales, (25) Brayden Prescott, (23) Carson Ramos, (36) Colton Jones, (32) Elysia May, (14) Emilio Cortez, (78) Fischer Thomas, (74) Gabriel Duncan, (63) Garrett Smith, (41) Gianni Carter, (50) Giovanni Sanchez, (69) Hunter Collins, (89) Irish Donohue, (61) Jack Mahoney, (18) Jayden Sanchez Hernandez, (29) Joshua Rodriguez, (70) Julian Turner, (27) Julius Molina, (21) Kyron White, (81) Landon Dougherty, (85) Levi Price, (43) Liam Gilday, (47) Logan Hood, (12) Logan Perasso, (30) Mason Fiamé, (87) Mason James, (45) Nathan Cortez, (52) Noah Gladish, (54) Riley Bolt, (16) Roman Magallon, and (10) Xzavier Puch. Photo by Victoria Sanchez

By James Prescott

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Youth Football PeeWee team has won the Independent Sports Alliance of California (ISAC) Super Bowl. They beat Woodland Christian School 31-25 at a neutral site (Vacaville Christian School) and finished the season 9-1. Coaches were Bryan Gilday (head coach), Josh Puch, Tevonne "Coach T" Turner, Billy May, Netto Ramos, Estavon Jernigan, and James Prescott. Team Manager is Vanessa Rodriguez.

The team was a bunch of 10-year-olds from various schools in Dixon. They were a ragtag group of kids that came together, and these coaches really did step up to the plate to

lead these youths.

The game on Saturday, November 25, started just how Dixon hoped. Rainy and cold. The last time Dixon faced off with a team at Vacaville Christian School, they were facing a Vaca team that was expected to be difficult. And they were. However, Dixon came together to secure a 39-6 victory. Fast forward to Saturday's game. The weather almost mirrored those same conditions. Was it an omen of things to come? That question would be answered only a couple hours later.

Woodland Christian started the game with the ball first. Dixon managed to get the ball back on downs. With this momentum, Dixon came out swinging. Play after play, the

Dixon offense hammered the ball into Woodland's defense, ending with a 17-yard touchdown run by Carson Ramos.

Woodland wouldn't let this go unanswered. They fired back with a touchdown of their own on the ensuing drive. Dixon didn't let this slow them down however, as they too drove the ball and scored on a 4-yard touchdown run by Xzavier Puch.

This put Dixon up 13-6 with the first half almost ending. Woodland found the endzone, but failed to score the PAT, tying the game 13-13 with 15 seconds left. However, Dixon had the lead at the beginning of the game, and they weren't going to let the first half end without them on top. With enough time for one more play on the half, Dixon's

Levi Price ran hard up the middle of the field, scoring on a 61-yard dash, ending the first half 19-13.

The second half of the game looked like a repeat of the first. Carson Ramos and Xzavier Puch would both score their second touchdowns of the game, a 6-yard run and a 20-yard run respectively. It wasn't until Woodland's final drive, when they were only down by 6, that Dixon's defense would secure the game. After several great carries, Woodland managed to get a first down at the Dixon 28-yard line with 1 minute left on the clock.

The first play was a toss to the quarterback's right in the backfield that was read and stopped for an open field 3-yard loss by Brayden Prescott. Woodland's

second down resulted in an incomplete pass.

On their third down, Woodland's quarterback connected with his receiver, who almost broke loose, but was caught back at the line of scrimmage by Levi Price. Then, just like the first half of the game, Levi Price would come up big for this Dixon Rams team.

In a desperation throw on fourth down, the Woodland Quarterback tried to hit his receiver down field. But, with Dixon's defensive ends Irish Donohue and Carson Ramos closing in on him, he under threw the ball and was intercepted by Levi Price. Ball game. Dixon came out on top, securing the ISAC Super Bowl and capping off a tremendous year. ★

Downtown Tree Lighting to Delight



Cub Scouts from Den #253 will be in the Olde Vet's Hall giving out free popcorn at the annual Tree Lighting Festival December 7, but donations are welcome! Photo by Debra Dingman



New decorations seen at Pardi Plaza. Photo by Jill Orr

Continued from page 1
Christmas shopping, there will be a plethora of vendors offering their creations for sale from handcrafted towels, refrigerator magnets, and soap bombs to Dixon Historical Society hoodie sweatshirts, baseball hats, and ceramic mugs. This is usually where the Cub Scouts offer free popcorn, too, but if

you want more, the Dixon Girls Softball organization will be selling pizza. Tips are welcome, of course.

Across the street, something new to the annual event will be tucked inside Linda Barrett-Leber's Real Estate Office. It is called Christmas Tree Lane and will feature beautifully decorated

trees that will be awarded to the highest bidder with monies raised going to John Knight Middle School Band Program. Mrs. Claus will be on hand to help any adult to make a private offer on any tree. Some of the students will be playing during the evening.

The event is sponsored by the City of Dixon and Recology

with special thanks to the Dixon Volunteer Firefighters Association, Cherie and Bud Fanning, Dixon's Cub Scouts, and Greg and Jill Orr.

Jill noted that thanks to a successful Wine Stroll and Brewski Fest this year, the DDBA was able to purchase new pole flags this year to decorate alongside the candy cane decorations. With

thanks to the City of Dixon work crews, they have also put up all the commercial-sized lit snowflakes that are now on lamp posts around downtown adding to the ambiance of our local, hometown Christmas joys. For information on DDBA, call (707) 678-8400 or see DowntownDixonCA.com. ★

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Downtown Dixon Christmas Tree Lighting Festival

Tree Lighting at 7:00pm
Thursday, Dec. 7th • 4 to 8pm



N. 2nd Street		S. 2nd Street	
<p>In the Park Pony Rides and Petting Zoo FUN Photo Booth Pictures Treelighting at 7:00pm</p>	<p>Library STORYTIME 5:30pm & 6:00pm 230 N. 1st St.</p>	<p>Train Rides & Juggling Show</p>	<p>Pardi Plaza Stage Performances 1st & A Street</p>
N. 1st Street		N. 1st Street	
<p>Olde Vets Hall 231 N. 1st Street Crafter's Fair & Santa Claus</p>	<p>Crossing Guard</p> <p>Barrett-Leber Realty 165 N. 1st Street Auction to Benefit JKMS Band Program Christmas Tree Lane</p>	<p>Crossing Guard</p> <p>Bud's Pub & Grill</p>	<p>C Street</p> <p>B Street</p> <p>A Street</p>

Merry Christmas

From Everyone at
Dixon Independent Voice

Linda Barrett Thomas
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Thompson Files for Reelection in Fourth Congressional District



Mike Thompson

Office of Congressman Mike Thompson

NAPA, CA (MPG) - U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson announced that he has filed to run for reelection in California's Fourth Congressional District. The district includes all of Lake and Napa Counties and portions of Solano, Sonoma and Yolo Counties.

"Today, I filed my papers to run for reelection in our Congressional District," said Rep. Mike Thompson. "I was born, grew up and have lived my entire life in our district and I consider it the highest honor of my life to represent our beautiful district in Congress.

"As your representative, I worked to enact an historic investment in our nation's infrastructure which has improved our

roads, highways, bridges, airports, ports, and broadband. As chairman of the House Ways and Means Select Revenues Subcommittee, I wrote legislation that provided the largest investment to combat climate change ever signed into law. I voted for legislation that is cutting prescription drug costs and health care premiums and spurring an historic investment in American manufacturing and creating jobs.

"Since the tragic fires in our district, I passed legislation to provide relief for fire survivors, offset costs to local and state governments, deliver assistance for agricultural producers, and incentivize the building of 1,200 affordable housing units in our district. I worked to enact the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the most impactful gun violence prevention law to be enacted in nearly 30 years. I'm working to protect women's reproductive rights, preserve Social Security, Medicare, and veterans' benefits, pass comprehensive immigration reform, and strengthen our national security.

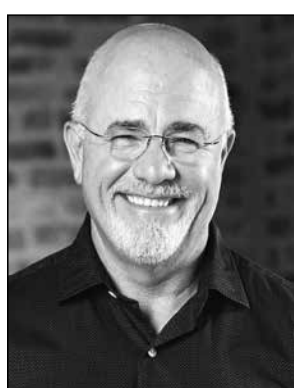
"In Congress, my

number one priority is serving the people of our district. I've helped constituents recoup tens of millions of dollars from federal agencies and secured funding for local projects that improve water infrastructure, support health care delivery, upgrade public safety communication, strengthen emergency operations, combat flooding and modernize our roads.

"I have strong working relationships with local and county officials and community members and I am incredibly humbled to have earned the support of mayors, supervisors, sheriffs, school superintendents, and district attorneys from every county in our district as well as hundreds of business owners, farmers, educators, community leaders and countless other hardworking men and women in our district.

"Together, we can ensure our district remains the best place to live, start a business, raise a family, and retire with dignity".

For more information about Congressman Mike Thompson's campaign, visit <https://www.mikethompsonforcongress.com/>. ★



Pay Off Their Student Loans?

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are debt-free except for our mortgage and two Parent PLUS loans for our daughters' college educations. One of the loans totals \$18,078, and the other is for \$41,500. Both girls want to pay them off using the new extended plan being offered, but I'm 59 1/2, and I've got about \$500,000 in a 401(k) from a previous job along with \$125,000 from a job I started five years ago. We've been thinking about just paying the loans off for the girls, but we wanted to know your thoughts.

-Mike

Dear Mike,

If I were in your shoes, I'd just go ahead and pay them off. Technically, you're liable for the loans. They are not.

The extended plan you're talking about is garbage. In reality, it means the loans are never paid back. The extended plan is 30 years of not even making the principal

Dave Ramsey Says

payment. No interest is paid, and they don't touch the principal. The whole thing works backward for 30 years, and it's the very definition of a stupid government program.

I really don't think you want your daughters to be part of something like this. But that means you're going to be stuck with paying off these loans. You might as well just own it and pay them off now.

I want you to understand this, Mike. I don't advise people to dip into their savings every time a problem comes up prior to retirement. But you're 59 1/2, and at that point there's no penalty. Plus, you've got \$625,000 sitting there. You're going to pull less than \$60,000 out, plus a little in taxes, to make the problem go away. It's not as bad as it could be, but I'm afraid you're going to have to pay a little stupid tax on this one. I'm sure your girls didn't know all this, but it's a perfect example of what can happen when you put your faith in a stupid plan coming out of Washington, D.C.

I hate it for you guys—and everyone else in America who took out a bunch of student loans—because you're getting

messed over by your own government. The first way they messed you over was to put a student loan program out there and then tell you the way to success was to borrow tens and hundreds of thousands of dollars for a degree in left-handed puppetry. And now, guess what? You're a barista! Then, they start shouting they're going to forgive it all. After that it's, "No, we're not. Yes, we are. No, we're not. Yes, we are."

The fact is, they don't intend to forgive it. It's the biggest scam in history—mathematically speaking—perpetrated on the American public by our government.

-Dave

Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling 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. ★

FBI Warns of Charity Scams in Israel, HAMAS Conflict

FBI News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Sacramento Field Office is warning the public that criminals are soliciting donations during the Israel-HAMAS conflict. These charity scams victimize both well-meaning, local communities, and the vulnerable populations impacted by life-changing catastrophes.

Scams are especially prevalent during times of increased conflict such as war, natural disasters, or epidemics. Criminals often use these crises as opportunities to exploit individuals seeking to support humanitarian efforts. Perpetrators claim to be associated with established charities or creators of new charities associated with emergent conflicts.

Local communities may be targeted by individuals claiming to collect funds for victimized families while using the donations for their own personal gain or in support of domestic or international criminal enterprises.

Foreign terrorist organizations often establish fake charities using social media platforms to misdirect unwitting donors to subsidize their operations. Solicitations are then coordinated via social media posts, e-mail, cold calls, or crowdfunding website requests.

To avoid becoming a victim:

Approach all unsolicited communication including direct messages, calls, and e-mails with suspicion;

Visit the official website of a charitable entity directly to obtain contact information rather than clicking on links in e-mails or assuming the unsolicited call is from an official source;

Thoroughly research new charities online and verify phone numbers or e-mail addresses before donating. Be sure the named charity is not associated with scams and uses funds as they claim;

Ensure that you are using the official website of a well-known charity. Criminals may create look-alike, "spoofed" websites with URLs similar in appearance to those of known organizations;

Visit the California Attorney General's Charitable Registry Search tool to ensure a charity is registered in the State of California;

Visit the IRS Tax Exempt Organization Search to see if a charity donation to the organization is tax deductible;

Never pay by cash, gift card, wire transfer, or cryptocurrency. Each of these forms of payment are difficult or impossible to track and reverse.

The FBI urges the public to report these fraudulent or suspicious activities to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center at IC3.gov. The public may also call their local FBI field office or resident agency. ★



Apprenticeship Program Seeks to Boost Olive Farming, Olive Oil Production

A \$50,000 donation from the Cortopassi Family Foundation is supporting an apprenticeship program for students growing olives and producing olive oil. The Olea Learn program, administered by the Olive Center at the University of California, Davis, is also supported by olive farmers and producers. The program teaches students in field management, irrigation practices and pest control, while providing hands-on experience taking care of the olive trees at the Wolfskill Experimental Orchards in Winters.

University of California studies Provide Insights for Central Coast Apple Growers

University of California researchers have released two new studies to help Central Coast growers estimate costs and potential returns for both organically and conventionally produced apples. The studies focus on processing apples, not fresh market apples. Apples grown for processing on the Central Coast are mostly pressed for juice and sparkling cider. The cost studies model a management scenario for a 100-acre farm, 20 acres of which are planted to a mature orchard that produces apples for processing.

State Funding Supports Crop Replacement, Groundwater Recharge

The California Department of Water Resources has awarded \$11.8 million in funding for two projects that promote agriculture and groundwater conservation in Southern California. The Rancho California Water District in Riverside County received funding from DWR's Urban Community Drought Relief Program. Some \$5 million in funding will support an agriculture program, CropSWAP, which is converting 160 acres from water-intensive plants to drought-resilient crops. DWR also awarded \$6.8 million to build a 40-acre groundwater recharge pond.

With Farmers Getting Older, USDA Seeks to Help Young Agriculturalists

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is spending nearly \$28 million to support organizations that teach and train beginning farmers and ranchers, including programs for U.S. veterans who are entering into agricultural careers and starting new farming businesses. The funding supports the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program. The effort to support young agriculturalists comes as one-third of the 3.4 million U.S. farmers are over the age of 65. ★

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Loaded up
- Tube in old TV
- Pouches
- Tequila source
- Stick in water
- Jig's French cousin
- TV's "___ Secretary"
- Money in Myanmar
- Photoshop maker
- *Result of multiplication
- *Whole number
- *Say 2+2 is 5, e.g.
- Arctic floater
- Dashboard acronym
- Fountain serving
- Spanky or Alfalfa
- Short for "hurry up"
- Live bait
- Turn upside down
- Cassette contents
- Retire from military, for short
- Jason's vessel
- Sicker
- *Sight for ___ eyes"
- Puppy cry
- Denver option, at a diner
- Apartment
- Green turtle's domain
- Final
- Personal trainer's place of employment
- *Venn ___
- *Point in 2.5
- Barrel racing meet
- Gobbled up
- On the rocks (2 words)
- *Fields Medal to a mathematician, e.g.
- Sicker
- Sports official, for short
- 8 of something
- Like Gulf Stream
- Big bang maker
- Required things

DOWN

- "I lift my ___ beside the golden door"
- Petri dish gel
- Carpenter's groove
- Dodge, as in tax bill
- Takes exception to
- Native Egyptian, in Roman times
- *Line with one endpoint
- Path in the woods
- Left or right, e.g.
- Awestruck
- *Three-dimensional figure with 6 square faces
- Palm reader, e.g.
- Cake with filling
- Three people?
- Neither here ___ there
- Subcontract (2 words)
- *1,2, e.g.
- Sacred song
- Canada's favorite tree?
- "Nobody ___ It Better"
- Fix a cat
- First discovered asteroid
- Measured in degrees
- Parkinson's disease drug
- Banana remnant
- Between dawn and noon
- Brown shade
- Retread, past tense
- Non-alcoholic brew
- Rockefeller or Bezos
- Like today's phone
- Kind of pie
- No-win situation
- Wisconsin neighbor
- Jewish month of Purim
- Disease-causing organism
- Clever
- Indoor allergy cause
- Crushed it, as in a test
- "___ Make a Deal"
- *X

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The New Arab Street Is Here At Home

The old conventional wisdom was that the U.S. couldn't be too pro-Israel for fear of inflaming "the Arab street."

The new conventional wisdom will have to be that we can't be too pro-Israel for fear of inflaming "the Western street."

The Arab street, a hoary cliché of commentary on the Middle East for decades, was a reference to public opinion in the Arab countries, with the strong implication that if we offended it, the result would be massive anti-Western demonstrations and perhaps violence.

Well, here we are, with this dynamic playing out throughout the United States and other Western countries. We have offended the new Arab street within our own societies. In response, it has lashed out in mass protests, intimidation of Jews, antisemitic chants and graffiti, property damage and anti-patriotic acts and sentiments.

It is hardly the global intifada that speakers at these events call for, but it is significant agitation. Left-of-center political parties will take it seriously, and the Biden administration -- hesitant to speak of antisemitism without reference to fashionable Islamophobia, as well -- has already been influenced by it.

The Arab street in the West is not literally Arab, although Muslim immigrants and their children,

along with foreign students, are clearly a large component. Woke young people who come by their anti-Israel views via intersectional politics, along with traditional left-wing and anti-war activists, play a big role, too.

It makes for a noxious mix. The West's Arab street mobilized in the immediate aftermath of October 7 before Israel even had the chance to mount any substantial response. It inveighed against Israel on principle even after an unspeakable pogrom.

Of course, things have only picked up from there. A week or so ago, more than 300,000 pro-Palestinian protesters marched in London, chanting for the elimination of Israel. That would be a notable crowd in an Arab capital, but it's especially remarkable in one of the greatest cities in the Western world.

In a nice touch that, again, one would expect in a country in the Middle East, the protest march ended at the U.S. Embassy.

A couple of days earlier, thousands of protesters shut down midtown Manhattan. They vandalized a police cruiser, writing "IDF KKK" on it, and splattered fake blood on the New York Times building. They kicked and smashed windows at a shut-down Grand Central Station.

Unlike other mass movements, most famously the civil-rights movement, the protesters don't seek to swath themselves in American symbolism and ideals. Palestinian flags, not American flags, are the banners of these marchers. In Manhattan, they removed American flags from a lamppost.

And they've vandalized war memorials in Europe.

In some prominent cases, we have directly imported hatred of ourselves via the Middle East. At a large pro-Palestinian rally in Washington, D.C., the lawyer and activist Lamis Deek praised martyrdom and resistance, and belittled that "the truth is the Western world is a lie." She comes from Nabulus, and her worldview is about what you'd expect of someone from there.

At MIT, Israeli and Jewish students say they were blocked from attending class by a pro-Palestinian protest at the school's main entrance. The protest violated the rules, but when the school ordered all protesters to leave the area or face suspension, the contingent of Jewish counter-protesters left, while the pro-Palestinians stayed.

Were they suspended? No, apparently because many of them are foreign students. The president of MIT cited "visa issues" in not following through on the discipline.

This is perverse. But we can never forget the extent to which we ourselves, through determined inculcation in our own schools, have made students from right here in the United States haters of Israel and the West. Altogether, we've created the conditions for the ongoing cataract of anti-Israel agitation, coupled with outright antisemitism and harassment of Jews, that shows no signs of abating.

Why settle for an Arab Street abroad, when you can have one here at home?

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Riley Reviews

"NAPOLEON" TURNS UP SHORT IN ITS DEPICTION OF A HISTORICAL ERA

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"NAPOLEON" RATED R

Military commander and then Emperor of France, Napoleon Bonaparte is one of the most notable persons of world history, arguably ranking with some of history's utmost despots in the universe of notoriety.

This is not to say that the French tyrant was as inveterately evil as say Hitler or Stalin, both of whom were responsible for mass murder on an unimaginable scale. Undeniably though, Napoleon's authoritarian rule would hardly count as benevolent.

The casualties of the Napoleonic wars almost pale in comparison to other tyrannical atrocities, which the end credits of "Napoleon" attempt to tally. Still, his jingoism resulted in the deaths of millions of his own countrymen.

Nevertheless, the Corsican-born Napoleon was a man of short stature which gave rise to the folklore that his lack of height was compensated for by a quest for power and conquest. The idea springs forth that a "Napoleon Complex" was his driving force.

As a subject matter for cinema, Napoleon first gained prominence in Abel Gance's 1927 silent film epic "Napoleon," running more than five hours and covering his early life and military career. Intended to be the first of six films, the director couldn't raise the funds to make the other five.

For a comedic approach, time travel in "Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure" featured a scene of Napoleon going bowling in the 20th Century as the film's titular characters played by Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter were meeting important historical figures so they could pass their history class.

Ridley Scott, who has directed his share of historical dramas, knows that the prominent military commander and political leader remains a fascinating historical figure that Abel Gance once thought was deserving of extravagant scrutiny.

Scott's "Napoleon" runs slightly more than two-and-a-half hours and delivers a condensed biographical effort that is epic in sweep only insofar as the battle sequences are executed with well-deserved grandeur.

As a figure from the French Revolutionary period, Napoleon is first seen at the beheading of Marie Antoinette, a brief preface that is quickly followed by his impressive battlefield victory at the Siege of Toulon, which is rendered as one of the film's stunning highlights.

Victory at Toulon brings a heroic sheen to the General deemed to be a strategic genius, and this garners the attention of Josephine (Vanessa Kirby) whose meeting with Napoleon leads to a romantic

passion that is the stuff of legend.

You might say that the marriage of Napoleon and Josephine is the emotional core of Ridley Scott's film. From the battlefield, the General wrote passionate letters, but when they were together the passion seemed more muted except for the occasional food fight at the dinner table or hurried copulation.

Yet, during battle in Egypt, word came to Napoleon that gossip back home was about Josephine's philandering, and the General quickly departed the battlefield, or so it is told in the film, to confront his unfaithful spouse.

The marital passion dims over time as Napoleon's mother and others in his court grow concerned that Josephine has not produced an heir. Divorce follows and Napoleon remarries so that his new wife will deliver a baby boy, and yet he still carries a torch for Josephine.

More interesting than domestic life is what awaits on the battlefield, particularly the strategic genius behind the decisive Battle of Austerlitz where cannon fire plunges enemy troops to their deaths in the frigid waters of a frozen lake.

Historical figures with whom Napoleon interacts include the smug Russian Tsar Alexander (Edouard Philpionnat) and the Duke of Wellington (Rupert Everett), the latter turning out to be most pivotal though his presence here is limited.

Fortunately, more fabled battles are brilliantly realized, though not in Napoleon's favor. The failed 1812 invasion of Russia ends up with the emperor in brief exile to Elba, returning to fight again in the ill-fated Battle of Waterloo, which results in his final days in exile in Saint Helena.

Few places in America have as much history, outside of several major East Coast cities, as New Orleans with its founding by the French in 1718 through a period of Spanish control, then briefly back to French rule before the Louisiana Purchase in 1803.

To this day, the French influence remains pervasive in the Crescent City, the nickname for New Orleans for its curved shape along the Mississippi River, because Napoleon made the deal to sell the Louisiana Territory to the United States.

A visit to New Orleans should include a stop at the legendary Napoleon House in the French Quarter. Now a place for drinking and dining, the building was a residence in the early 19th century that was offered as a refuge for Napoleon after his exile that he never got to enjoy.

Ridley Scott's "Napoleon" is not the last we shall hear about the Emperor since Steven Spielberg is apparently working to bring Stanley Kubrick's lost biopic of Napoleon Bonaparte to a limited series on HBO. This endeavor could be worth the wait. ★

FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS
By Amy Shane
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Get Ready For Christmas With This Collection of Newly Released Children's Books



Elves Are the Worst
by Alex Willan, Simon and Schuster

The author of *Unicorns are The Worst* is back, and this time, Santa's elves are taking over. Everyone thinks elves are the best. They are always seen hard at work making cookies, pouring cereal, and even sitting on a shelf. But elves are actually the worst, and Gilbert is here to prove it, well, maybe.

Uncover the secret lives of elves in this hilarious laugh-out-loud Christmas edition of the well-known series, where kids can discover that even the weirdest creatures can be quite remarkable.

The Christmas Songbook illustrated by Amy Adele, Magic Cat Publishing

Get ready for the holidays in this beautiful collection of classic Christmas songs. Join the mouse family with a special story while also singing along. Each fold-out page features endearing illustration along with sheet music, lyrics, and an interactive button to play the tune.

Amy Adele captures the joy of Christmas classics through all the beauty and wonder of a little mouse family. From Joy to the world, We wish you a Merry Christmas and Jingle Bells, eight familiar tunes will have little ones playing and adults humming along. This book is the perfect story for the Holiday season and a joy to bring out year after year.

Decorate the Tree
by Amanda Jane Jones; Camron Kids Publishing

It's time to decorate the tree. Clap, twinkle, blink, and shake to decorate

the tree in this interactive book that little readers will want to read again and again.

A simple tree adds new trimmings with each prompt and the turn of the page. This is a perfect book for little ones eager to play along, or short attention spans.

My Magical Santa, Illustrated by Yujin Shin, Abrams Appleseed

Push, pull, and slide to help Santa make his special ride. Catch all the sights of Santa's Christmas Eve night as readers help Santa fly around the world with the simple push a dial. Then pull the arrow to help Santa magically go down the chimney. Whew, after a long Christmas flight slide the flap to help Santa with a dinner feast.

This colorful board book will have little ones squealing with delight as they help Santa on his special night.

Merry Christmas Little Reindeer by Amanda Wood, photography Bec Winnel, and illustration Vikki Chu; Magic Cat Publishing

Follow along as a little reindeer and her friends collect precious treasures for a special surprise. From bright red berries, sprigs of purple heather, and pine cones topped with snow, the forest animals are excited to help little reindeer. Can you guess the special surprise?

This darling little board book combines adorable baby reindeer photographs and charming illustrations to deliver a story of beauty, friendship, and joy. ★

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Dare to Live Without Limits

by Bryan Golden

You Can't Run Away From Your Problems



No one wants problems. Escaping from problems can be much more appealing than resolving them. Running away is certainly tempting, especially when facing persistent, repetitive problems.

Not only is it impossible to outrun your problems, attempting to do so exacerbates your frustration. When you try to escape, problems follow you. This is because the problems you experience repeatedly are due to what's inside you rather than where you are. When you constantly face the same problem situations, you must look in the mirror to find the cause.

This doesn't mean all problems are necessarily your fault. But there may be some aspect of your personality causing or attracting the problems. So, an effective way for resolving problems is to alter your behavior to produce better results.

Jane is currently working at her fourth job in ten years. Whenever Jane begins a new job, everything is great for the first year or so. Then things always go down hill for her. Jane's coworkers start avoiding her. Her supervisor becomes more judgmental, criticizing Jane's work habits.

Jane invariably changes jobs after growing dissatisfied with her work environment. She erroneously believes there is something wrong with the people she works with. In each new job, the pattern repeats itself. Needless to say, Jane is very frustrated, convinced it's next to impossible to find a decent work environment.

Of course it is possible to land in a bad job. If that's the case, changing jobs should remedy the situation. In Jane's example, the same scenario reoccurs. Perhaps Jane takes her problems with her to each new job. Jane needs to assess her interpersonal communication skills, as well as her job performance, before once again jumping ship.

Over the last 20 years, Steven and his family moved five times. Sometimes they stayed in the same area, other times they moved to a new town or state. Wherever Steven went, he had the same problems. The neighbors were

annoying, their house always had problems, there was too much traffic, and people were rude.

Was it possible for Steven to have such bad luck? Or was there some component of Steven's nature that always found fault with whatever situation he was in? Since Steven has found himself in the same scenario for two decades, chances are he has been taking his problems with him. Unless Steven identifies and corrects the elements of his personality responsible for his dissatisfaction, it won't matter where or how often he moves.

Ed has trouble staying in a relationship. When he meets someone new, things are great in the beginning. Then the problems develop. Ed gets impatient with his partner. He is very independent and doesn't want to adjust his lifestyle to accommodate another person. Ed has little desire to consider the needs of the person he is with.

When each relationship invariably ends, Ed is relieved and starts looking for someone else with whom he will be truly compatible. The problem is Ed's attitude is incompatible with being in a successful relationship. Ed doesn't think there is anything wrong with him. Therefore, he is destined to experience the same problems in every relationship. Should he happen to meet someone who feels the same way he does, the relationship will end even faster since neither one of them will be willing to be considerate of the other.

Don't try to outrun your problems. Objectively analyze why your problems occur. Often it can be helpful to seek input from an objective party who can give you constructive feedback. You can change your behavior and attitude to prevent the same problems from repeating themselves.

NOW AVAILABLE: "Dare to Live Without Limits," the book. Visit www.BryanGolden.com or your bookstore. Bryan is a management consultant, motivational speaker, author, and adjunct professor. E-mail Bryan at bryan@columnist.com or write him c/o this paper. ©2023 Bryan Golden ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001714
 The following persons are doing business as: Custom Cleaners, 1285 Stratford Avenue #F, Dixon, CA 95620. Soo Young Jeong, 2425 Clemson Drive, Davis, CA 95618
 Date filed in Solano County: November 1, 2023. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: January 1, 2008
 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 31, 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 24, Dec 1, 8, 15, 2023
 CUSTOM 12-15-23

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2023-001747
 The following persons are doing business as: Quick Quack Car Wash, 220 Dorset Court, Dixon, CA 95620. VIP Fund IV, LLC, 6020 West Oaks Boulevard Suite 300, Rocklin, CA 95765.
 Date filed in Solano County: November 8, 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 November 7, 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: December 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023
 QUICK 12-22-23



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: **116 North 1st Street (Pip Wine Bar)** - Request for a Conditional Use Permit (UP 23-05) to consider a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (PCN) determination to allow The Pip Wine Bar & Shop to upgrade its existing Type 42 ABC liquor license (sale of beer and wine to a bar or tavern for on or off-site consumption) to a Type 48 (sale of beer, wine, and distilled spirits to a bar or tavern for on or off-site consumption). The existing Type 42 license allows for the sale of beer and wine, but not distilled spirits. A PCN determination is required because the California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control has determined that the area has an over-concentration of these types of licenses. A PCN determination is therefore needed. This is done through the Conditional Use Permit entitlement.; APN: 0115-180-020; Zoning District: Downtown Commercial (CD); Tony and Catalina Velazquez, owner, Amy Grabish, applicant; File No: PA23-26, UP23-05

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 CFR 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, December 12, 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 12-1-2023

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

Wednesday, November 22

- 1308** - Vandalism reported in the 400 block of South Jackson Street.
- 1000** - Warrant arrest in the 1400 block of Holiday Lane in Fairfield. Carlos Mendoza (32), of Dixon, was arrested on a drug warrant out of Dixon. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.
- 2103** - Warrant arrest, possession of narcotics, and possession of drug paraphernalia report were taken at the intersection of Madden Ct. at Moore Dr. Officers contacted (S) Jason Wanderstadt (46) of Dixon. A records check revealed he had a misdemeanor warrant out of Solano County. The warrant was confirmed and Wanderstadt was arrested. Incident arrest Wanderstadt was in possession of suspected narcotics and drug paraphernalia. Wanderstadt was cited and released.

Tuesday, November 21

- 0613** - Vehicle burglary reported in the 100 block of Lynd Way.
- 0708** - Vehicle burglary reported in the 1100 block of North Lincoln Street.
- 0758** - Information report taken at the PD
- 0913** - Confidential report taken at the PD.
- 1810** - Hours- Hit and Run report in the 200 block of East D Street.

Monday, November 20

- 1418** - Stolen vehicle report taken in the 2500 block of North 1st Street.
- 1800** Hours - Confidential report in the 1200 block of Stratford Ave.
- 1930** Hours - Theft report in the 600 block of West H Street.
- 2023** - Hours- Theft of a license plate in the 600 block of West H Street.

Sunday, November 19

- 2110** - Hours- Trespassing incident in the 500 block of South First Street.
- 2220** - Hours- Welfare check in the 1000 block of South First Street.

Saturday, November 18

- 0711** - Stolen vehicle reported in the 1600 block of Marenda Drive. A white Ford F250 work truck was taken from the driveway. It was later located in the area of Merrill and North Lincoln Street.
- 2220** - Domestic violence, assault w/ a deadly weapon, and committing a felony while on bail arrest report was taken in the 1500 block of Valley Glen Dr. Officers contacted (S) Alfredo Rosales (38) of Dixon. Rosales was arrested and taken to the Solano County Jail.
- 2339** - Informational report was taken in the 2500 block of Plaza Ct.

Friday, November 17

- 0510** - Stolen vehicle report was taken in the 400 block of West F St. Unknown subjects stole a white Ford 350.
- 0941** - Fraud reported in the 700 block of Harvest Way.
- 0950** - Stolen vehicle recovered behind the 300 block of South Jefferson Street.
- 1112** - Informational report taken in the 500 block of College Way
- 1418** - Vandalism reported in the 1300 block of West H Street.
- 1634** - Residential burglary reported in the 400 block of Ellesmere Drive.

Thursday, November 16

- 0947** - Informational report taken in the 400 block of East A Street.
- 1008** - Stolen vehicle located in the area of West A Street and Evans Road. Juan Alvarez (29), of Visalia, was arrested for Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, Possession of Ammo, Misappropriation of Lost Property, Possession of Brass Knuckles, Evading, Reckless Driving, and two warrants for Burglary and Vehicle Theft. Marissa Rios (31), of Davis, was arrested for an outstanding warrant out of Stanislaus County for Vehicle Theft. They were both transported to the Solano County Jail.
- 1206** - Stolen vehicle reported in the 300 block of North Adams Street.
- 1542** - Stolen vehicle recovered in the 1400 block of Ary Lane.
- 1804** - D.U.I collision arrest report was taken at the intersection of West A St at North 1st St. Officers arrived and contacted (S) Emilio Fuentes of Antioch. Fuentes showed objective signs of intoxication. Fuentes failed FSTs and was arrested and transported to the Dixon Police Department. Fuentes was cited and released to a sober adult.
- 1923** - Use tear gas not in self-defense report was taken in the 1900 block North 1st.
- 0047** - An informational report was taken in the 800 block of Merryfield Dr.

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A Murky Forecast



Storms have arrived in California. The Oroville Spillway at Lake Oroville in Butte County is ready for a wet year. Photo courtesy of California Department of Water Resources

By Rachel Becker,
CALMatters.org

As forecasts tease California with rainstorms this week, the state's reservoirs are already flush with water.

It's a big departure from a year ago: The state's major reservoirs — which store water collected mostly from rivers in the northern portion of the state — are in good shape, with levels at 124% of average. In late 2022, bathtub rings of dry earth lined lakes that had collectively dipped to about two-thirds of average — until heavy winter storms in January filled many of them almost to the brim.

Yet healthy water levels don't mean California's reservoirs are full. Most of California's large reservoirs are operated for flood control as well as water storage, with space kept empty to rein in winter storm runoff.

The wet season has arrived in California, with El Niño conditions projected to continue strengthening. But for the Golden State, with its unpredictable swings from dry to wet and back again, El Niño doesn't guarantee heavy rainfall.

And as California's water managers plan for the water year ahead, they're faced, as always, with their dueling responsibilities: forestalling floods while preparing for possible scarcity in a state where water supplies are often stretched thin and long

droughts are common.

When state climatologist Michael Anderson looks into California's water year ahead, he says the crystal ball is cloudy.

Threats of a major storm dissolved into showers in parts of California this week, with another surge of rainfall expected to wrap up this weekend. Rainfall is only expected to reach 1 to 2 inches statewide through Saturday morning, with light snowfall predicted in the Sierra Nevada mountains at higher elevations.

"Overall this is looking to be a beneficial rainfall event for Southern California, which is definitely welcome during the typical peak of our fire season," the National Weather Service office for San Diego reported earlier this week.

Some headlines heralded it as the first storm of many as El Niño continues to strengthen and intensify. Characterized by warming of the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, El Niño is often expected to bring wetter weather.

But in California, the connection is more tenuous. Of seven El Niño events over the past 23 years, Anderson said, two have been dry, three have been roughly average and two have been wet. One recent study reported that El Niño accounts for only about 25% of the year-to-year variability in California's rain and snowfall during the winter.

"What that tells me is

anything goes," Anderson said. "El Niño by itself doesn't define our water year."

In fact, the year is actually off to a drier start: Statewide, California has seen only about 45% of average precipitation since this water year began Oct. 1.

Marty Ralph, director of the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes at UC San Diego, suspects that it's atmospheric rivers like the ones that pummeled California last year that will determine whether El Niño will bring a firehose or a trickle to California.

"It's like you're playing poker, and you've got a good hand — that's El Niño for us. But we haven't finished the round of the game, and we still have to draw a couple cards," Ralph said. "But we might not draw the good cards."

With seasonal outlooks unable to reliably say whether a winter will be wet or dry, water managers must plan for both.

Fortunately there's some wiggle room this year, according to Jeanine Jones, the Department of Water Resources' interstate resources manager. Last year's massive snowpack and abundant rainfall filled the state's reservoirs enough that even if this rainy season leans dry, she said, "We're going into next year with a cushion, which is always good."

That doesn't mean the reservoirs are full, though. Lake Oroville — the largest reservoir on

the State Water Project, which sends water south to farms and cities — and Lake Shasta — critical to growers and other water users reliant on the federal Central Valley Project — are at about two-thirds of their total capacity.

That's because with reservoirs that serve the dual purpose of flood control and water storage, water managers must release water to keep space empty to wrangle possible floods during the wet season, Jones said.

The water that flows into rivers and streams and out to the ocean is often bemoaned as water wasted. But waste is in the eye of the beholder, said Jay Lund, vice-director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at UC Davis.

"Water that's 'wasted' is always water used by somebody else," Lund said.

The list of benefits for fishing, conservation, Delta farmers, water quality and healthy shorelines is lengthy. Water allowed to flow out into the San Francisco Bay, for instance, washes away salts and pollutants, transports sediment and sand necessary to maintain marshes and restore eroding beaches, assists salmon in migrations and helps maintain healthy ecosystems.

Still, the Public Policy Institute of California reports that California could have socked away more water last year, had there been better ways to ferry water from full rivers

to groundwater recharge sites, and better coordination among landowners, local agencies, and others.

"I tend to think that there is room for capturing more surface water ... if you could afford the cost of capturing it," agreed Lund. "That, to me, is the biggest problem."

The controversial Sites Reservoir project, for instance, is projected to cost more than \$4.4 billion. The reservoir, planned in the western Sacramento Valley, would store as much as 1.5 million acre-feet of Sacramento River water, alarming environmental groups that say drawing more water from the river will imperil its already-struggling fish.

In early November, Gov. Gavin Newsom cleared the project to be fast-tracked "to the extent feasible" through any litigation challenging it under the landmark California Environmental Quality Act. That move was made possible with new legislation. Even so, the project is not expected to be completed before 2030 or 2031.

In the meantime, researchers like UC San Diego's Ralph, along with local, state and federal agencies, hope to operate the state's reservoirs more nimbly by incorporating new weather forecasting tools into decades-old rulebooks governing when to hold onto water and when to release it.

The program allowed

the Russian River watershed to hold onto about 7,000 to 8,000 acre-feet more water in Lake Mendocino this past year, and an additional 19,000 acre-feet more in Lake Sonoma, according to Donald Seymour, deputy director of engineering with Sonoma Water. The Department of Water Resources announced that it is expanding the effort to two major reservoirs, Lake Oroville and New Bullards Bar, as well.

Many are looking down rather than up for opportunities to store more water. The Department of Water Resources estimates that about 3.8 million acre-feet of water was captured through groundwater recharge by last summer.

The Southern California water import giant, the Metropolitan Water District, also recently announced a \$211 million groundwater bank in the Antelope Valley. The bank can store 280,000 acre-feet of water, enough to fill Castaic Lake, the largest State Water Project reservoir in Southern California. Though construction to allow withdrawals hasn't been completed yet, the bank stands ready to accept deposits.

The bank is aimed at providing a little more net for the tightrope walk that California's water managers start anew every water year.

"We always plan for it to be potentially very dry, or very wet," said Brad Coffey, Metropolitan's water resources manager. "No matter what kind of year we had this year." ★

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