

Holiday Spirit in "The Little Town of Christmas" PAGE **8**

Networking with the Chamber of Commerce PAGE 5





VOLUME 32 • ISSUE 48

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

NOVEMBER 29, **2024**

Scout Troop 152 Supports Community











PAGE 8







Allison Latham, a member of Troop 152, prepares a Christmas Tree to be recycled. Photo courtesy of Boy Scouts of America Troop 152 and Jennifer McMillan

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Boy Scouts of America have a mission: to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices throughout their lifetime. These youths make an oath that they will honor their duty to God and country, help others at all times and keep themselves physically, mentally and morally strong, in adherence to the Scout's Law. Dixon's Boy Scouts of America Troop 152 members work to live up to this oath with their community efforts.



Jefferson St., Dixon residents can have their Christmas trees recycled at 9 a.m. either Dec. 28 or Jan. 4 for a \$20 fee.

"Proceeds go directly to the troop to help defer costs for camp, equipment, annual registration fees and all Scout events that are done year-round," said Scoutmaster Matt Latham.

Latham became Scoutmaster of Troop 152 after his son crossed over from Dixon Cub Scout Pack 253; shortly after, Troop 152's Scoutmaster retired and Latham was offered the position.

Dixon City Council Welcomes New Police Officer

By Shaunna Boyd

DIXON, CA (MPG) - At the Nov. 19 Dixon City Council meeting, Dixon Police Chief Robert Thompson introduced Police Academy graduate Kevin Guaraldi, who swore the oath of office and officially joined the Dixon Police Department.

City Council welcomed Guaraldi, who said, "I look forward to serving the community and the city."

Before the Consent Calendar was approved, a member of the public commented on Item 9.4-a contract with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. for \$189,600 for the creation of a Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Master Plan, relating to an expansion of the existing Wastewater Treatment Facility. The resident asked why the project wasn't going out to bid.

"It seems like we use the same people over and over again. Maybe it's time we look at somebody else to do it. I think we'd at least want to take bids and see what other companies have to offer," the resident said. Councilmember Thom Bogue said it would be prudent "to make sure we're getting the best bang for our tax dollars" and said he would like to see the project go out to bid. Dixon City Manager Jim Lindley explained that Stantec "designed the original plan" for the city's existing Wastewater Treatment Facility. "They have all the original drawings; they have all the original calculations. I believe it would be more expensive to get a bid from a firm that doesn't have all that existing information," said Lindley. Councilmember Bogue said that the city should own all that information since they paid Stantec to develop it. But City Manager Lindley said that while the city owns the final plans, it is typical for engineering firms to retain ownership of the proprietary work that the plans are built upon. Such contracts should be re-evaluated, Councilmember Bogue said. Councilmember Don Hendershot said he would support a future agenda item to review the bidding process. City Council voted unanimously to approve the Consent Calendar, including the Stantec contract.

PAGE 4

Annually, Troop 152 hosts a Christmas Tree

Eli Espinoza, another member of Troop 152, smiles proudly after a job well done. Photo courtesy of Boy Scouts of America Troop Troop 152 and Jennifer McMillan

52 Recycling event in late ee December at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce parking lot, 220 N.

Troop 152 will also hold troop elections from 7 to *Continued on page 3*

> The council then heard a preliminary report on the budget for Fiscal Year

Continued on page 2

Scan our QR Code for a direct link to our online edition!

PRSRTD STD. U.S. POSTAGE PAID CARMICHAEL, CA PERMIT NO. 350 OR CURRENT POSTAL CUSTOMER

Vaults of Dixon Help Students

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Fulfilling basic needs at times can be difficult; food, water, clothing, sleep and shelter are the bare necessities for survival. Yet, some lack or are deprived of these needs for one reason or another.

Maine Prairie High School, 200 N. Lincoln St., and Dixon High School, 555 College Way, hope to alleviate that strain.

"When I worked for Fairfield High School, I identified several issues in the student and staff population," said Dixon High School Principal Angela Brown. "At that moment, I decided to research opportunities to meet the needs of the school population. Every second since that moment, I stay alert to the needs of others and when I see the need, I jump into action."

Brown conceptualized the idea of a communal clothes and food pantry



Students excitedly gather snacks from Dixon High School's Ram's Vault. Photo Courtesy of Angela Brown

with community members, including Corrine Boicelli, whose mission and vision for supporting Dixon High School and the wider Dixon population perfectly aligned with her own. Amber Drewnowski, the Dixon High School cheerleading coach, approached Brown with the name Ram's Vault, and the rest took shape from there.

"It is a perfect name

www.IndependentVoice.com

because a vault is used to keep everyone's most valuable assets safe, and the students are Dixon High School's most valuable assets," Brown said.

Continued on page 3

Dixon City Council Welcomes New Police Officer

Continued from page 1

(FY) 2023-2024, which ended in June, and for the first quarter of FY 2024-2025. Staff said the city ended FY 2023-2024 with a \$1.5 million surplus over what was projected but \$0.5 million of that total is actually federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding expected in 2024-2025 but allocated earlier. So, the 2024-2025 budget will need to be reduced by that amount. The remainder of the surplus is due to revenues that were higher than projected and expenses that were lower than projected.

The preliminary report shows a General Fund ending balance of \$16,187,236 for FY 2023-2024, with a 59% reserve level.

City Council voted unanimously to approve the preliminary report and budget adjustments. Staff will present a mid-year budget update report for FY 2024-2025 in March 2025.

Police Chief Thompson introduced a request for the addition of two overhire police officer positions to enhance staffing flexibility and address recruitment and training challenges. Thompson said it takes a year and a half for candidates to be ready to serve as full-time officers, with recruitment, background

checks, Police Academy enrollment and field training. In that time, they occupy a police officer position in the department but those are positions without an active officer on duty, which limits the service that the community is receiving. And Thompson said sometimes recruits quit or fail during the process, which sets the Police Department back as they have to start all over with a new candidate.

Chief Thompson said the ability to over-hire would allow the department to hire other qualified candidates who are ready to work as full-time officers, while still investing in sending new recruits to the academy. This way, the department could "hedge our bets," Thompson said.

These temporary over-hire positions would be reviewed after 24 months to see if they are still necessary or if staffing at that time is sufficient. Thompson said it's important for the department to continue supporting new local candidates to go through the academy, because he hopes there will be less attrition if more officers have roots in the community.

City Council voted unanimously to approve the over-hire positions in the Dixon Police Department.

The next meeting of the Dixon City Council is scheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 3. \star

Dixon Students Making the Grade

MPG Staff

DIXON. CA (MPG) - Jessica Galles of Dixon earned a Master of Science in Cloud Computing Systems in the summer 2024 term and was named to the President's List at University of Maryland Global Campus.

Biola University is excited to welcome Jacob Russell of Dixon to the Biola community as they start their journey as an Eagle this fall. Biola is proud of Russell and their commitment to reach their goal of obtaining an undergraduate degree in Cinema and Media Arts.

The Oregon Tech Honors Program proudly welcomed Sam Lopez of Dixon during its Induction Ceremony Oct. 12.

Lopez is in software engineering tech classes.

Sarah Cummings was named to Biola University's Dean's List for academic excellence. Cummings, a history major from Dixon, was one of approximately 1,500 students who were named to the dean's list in spring 2024.

Kia Carvalheira of Dixon was named to the Dean's List for the summer 2024 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at the university.



Dixon News Briefs



Each holiday bough offered by the Wreath Project costs \$7 and will ensure that every grave site at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery is recognized and honored. Photo by Debra Dingman

By MPG Staff

Pony Rides and Pictures with Santa

Serenity Saddles, 7776 Nunes Road, is hosting a fun afternoon for the family from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Dec. 1. Pony rides and photos with Santa, taken by Allyson Macke Photography, will both be on offer for \$5 per person. Attendees are also encouraged to bring unwrapped toys to donate to Toys for Tots.

For more information, visit Serenity Saddles' Facebook page, or call 203-392-4102.

Christmas Down on the Farm

Lone Wulff Ranch, 26810 County Road 97D, Davis, is hosting the 2nd Annual Christmas Down on the Farm. From 12 to 6 p.m. Dec. 1, visit the historic ranch to enjoy hot cocoa, farm animals, a gingerbread house competition and even pictures with Santa. Tickets are available at \$23.18 for adults, and \$12.51 for kids 12-17; children under 12 get in free.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit lonewulffranch.com, or call 530-756-1115.

City Meetings Agenda

The Dixon City Council, 600 E. A St., announced at its Nov. 19 meeting the upcoming board and commissions meeting dates throughout December. Chronologically, the City Council will meet at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3 and Dec. 17. The Planning Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Dec. 10, followed by The Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt Authority meeting at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 11. The final scheduled meeting of the month will be the Transportation Advisory Commission meeting at 7 p.m. Dec. 18; the Parks and Recreation Commission's meeting, scheduled for 7 530-669-3692.

Wrapping Paper Exchange

Dixon Public Library, 230 N. First St. is offering an opportunity to put all that extra wrapping paper to use. From 3 to 4 p.m., both Dec. 9 and 16, patrons can bring new or lightly used wrapping paper to exchange with the community; gift boxes, bows and ribbons will also be accepted. Entry is free to all, so stop by with the family, you never know what you will get. For more information, visit solanoli-

brary.com, or call 1-866-572-7587.

Small Business Grant Opportunity

In partnership with Verizon Small Business Digital Ready, the California Small Business Development Center (SBDC) is offering a \$10,000 grant opportunity for small business owners looking to unlock their full potential. Applying is free and gives applicants access to tailored resources to manage finances, improve marketing, and secure high-quality employees.

Those interested in the grant can apply by registering for Verizon Small Business Digital Ready, completing any combination of courses, coachings and events associated with the platform, and applying for the grant through the incentives tab before 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 13.

For more information, or to register, visit digitalready.verizonwireless.com

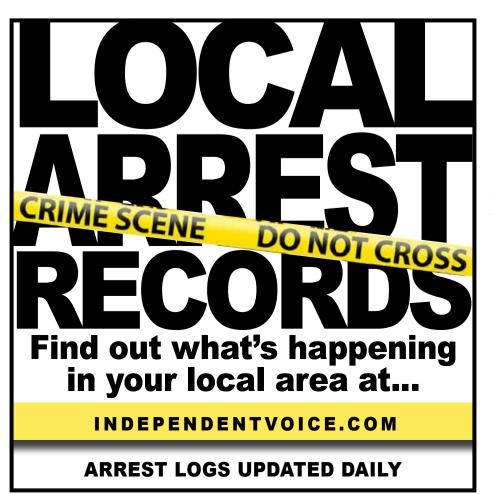
The Wreath Project

The Wreath Project, in collaboration with RememberAVet.net, is securing donations for holiday boughs; each will go to a grave site at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, ensuring each grave is honored and recognized during this festive time. So far, they have maintained 100% coverage every year since 2006, making sure each headstone has an accompanying holiday bough; this year, they will need 35000 boughs purchased to reach their goal. Boughs cost \$7; if you would like to volunteer your time as well, the public is invited to help place the boughs starting at 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 14, rain or shine. For more information, visit wreathproject.org, or call (707) 249-5852.

Professional Affordable Repairs FAST SERVICE!

Tuesday - Friday 9:30 - 6:00 PM • Saturday 9:30 - 3:00 PM 539 N. Adams St., Dixon • 707.678.4330

fiskscyclery.com



p.m. Dec. 24, has been canceled due to the holidays.

For more information, visit cityofdixonca.gov, or call 707-678-7000.

AI Lunchbreaks

The Solano-Napa Small Business Development Center is hosting two Artificial Intelligence-focused business events at noon on Dec. 4 and 11. The Dec. 4 event, subtitled 'Supercharge Your Social Media with AI,' is a 30-minute session that introduces guests to easy-to-use AI tools that can streamline their social media management; Dec. 11's event, subtitled 'Create Custom GPTs for your Business,' will teach attendees how to easily build a ChatGPT-based assistant to handle tasks like answering customer questions, streamlining workflow and assisting with marketing. Registration is free and both events are virtual, taking place over Zoom, so join in and elevate your business.

For more information, visit solanonapasbdc.org/events.

Winter Wreath Workshop

Park Winters, a boutique inn and private event venue in Winters, is hosting a holiday wreath workshop that will brighten any home. Located at 27850 County Road 26, Winters, the event will educate guests on the use of foraged or gathered materials to assemble beautiful wreaths with a natural, rustic charm. Taking place from 2 to 4 p.m. Dec. 8, tickets are available for \$100 per person.

For more information, or to secure a ticket, visit parkwinters.com, or call

Gretchen Higgins Food Drive

Gretchen Higgins Elementary, 1525 Pembroke Way, is hosting a canned food drive for those in need until Dec. 18. The school is asking donors to bring non-perishable canned goods, and to check the expiration date before donating; this event will, through community, raise awareness about hunger and provide food for the hungry.

For more information, visit Gretchen Higgins Elementary's Facebook Page, or call 707-693-6380.

Dixon Chamber Connections Networking

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is hosting a networking event from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Dec. 19 at The Farmstead at Dixon, 350 Gateway Dr. This in-person event is a great opportunity to connect with local professionals, entrepreneurs and business owners. With such a diverse range of potential connections, attendees are encouraged to bring plenty of business cards

For more information, visit dixonchamber.org, or call 707-678-2650.

Be a part of something important Local Writers Wanted

We are looking for local Freelance Writers to provide great coverage.



Call us today at 916-773-1111

Vaults of Dixon Help Students Scout Troop 152 Supports



Angelina Arias, the Maine Prairie High School principal, finishes preparations for the school's annual Thanksgiving feast, allowing students to participate in the holiday, regardless of financial or familial issues. Photo by Kendall Brown

Continued from page 1

Maine Prairie High School also has a vault; the Maine Prairie Vault, established around 2022, is a clothes closet and food pantry with a similar mission to the Ram's Vault: uplifting students, staff and Dixon as a whole.

"We work very closely with the Rotary Club of Dixon and the Chamber of Commerce," said Maine Prairie High School Principal Angelina Arias. "They are so supportive of our students; they donate backpacks, toiletries and clothing items. They have been very generous."

Maine Prairie's Vault is also supported by an organization called End 68 Hours of Hunger, which refers to the weekend, when many students might not have access to food at home. End 68 has supplied Maine Prairie for four years, providing 40 to 50 bags of nonperishable food to give to identified families and students in need. Food is dropped off at the school site on Fridays to be distributed. Maine Prairie High School also holds an annual Thanksgiving Feast before the students go on break to make sure everyone gets to take part in the holiday, regardless of financial or familial issues.

The Ram's Vault and the Maine Prairie Vault both have been successful in their endeavors thus far, with daily drop-offs of clothing and food; Brown emphasizes the significance of these resources, as they are crucial for meeting students' basic needs, promoting their academic success, supporting their emotional well-being, fostering equity and encouraging community involvement.

Arias agreed, implying both schools are addressing the community's needs.

"These resources help create a supportive and inclusive school environment for all students," Brown said.

Both vaults allow for daily donations, either during work hours or after hours. For more information, contact Dixon High School at 707-693-6330 or Maine Prairie High School at 707-693-6340.

Scout Troop 152 Supports Community

Continued from page 1 8:30 p.m. Dec. 3. Scouts will be elected to either troop or Patrol Leadership positions at the semi-annual elections, occurring every December and May. Joining Patrol Leadership is no small task, requiring leadership skills, good attendance at troop meetings and activities and, above all, dedication to the Scout's Oath and Law.

Scout's Law dictates that a Scout should be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. These 12 principles are necessary, as Patrol Leaders represent their patrol (normally six to eight Scouts), planning and leading patrol meetings, keeping patrol members informed and assigning specific duties per member.

Many Scouts have their reasons for joining the cause; the Collins brothers, Tyler (16) and Dylan (13), both joined for a love of outdoor activities and annual camping trips. After his time as a Cub Scout, Tyler Collins wished to do more as a Boy Scout.

"The best part about being a Scout is doing service projects for the community, monthly camping trips and attending high adventure camps like Philmont Scout Ranch," Collins said.

Jacob McMillan (12) shares a love of nature with the Collins brothers, enjoying the hikes, camping trips and just having fun in general.

According to Latham, being a Scout is a significant



Braxton Winchester and Kyle Latham pose triumphantly with several recycled trees. Photo courtesy of Boy Scouts of America Troop Troop 152 and Jennifer McMillan

endeavor that goes beyond learning how to be safe and competent in the outdoors.

"Scouting teaches young people that they are part of many communities and their role in each community is important," Latham said. "Scouting is also a means to learn greater leadership skills that they will use throughout their lives."

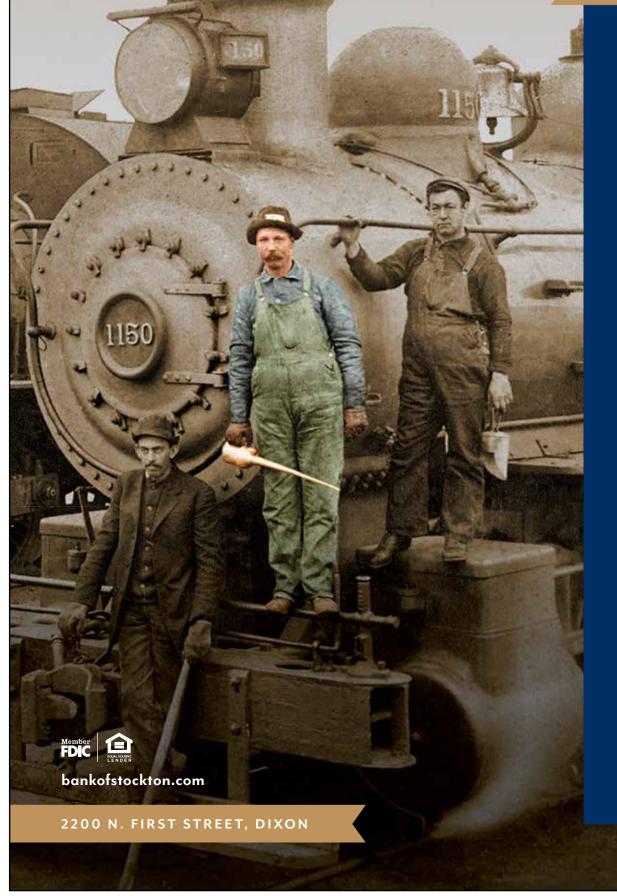
Scouts Boy Scouts of America Troop 152, founded in 1953, remains a fixture in Dixon, continuing to interact with and support the community.

"We are creating the leaders of tomorrow," Latham said. "Whether it is learning how to cook in the backcountry of the High Sierra, snowshoeing in a national park, placing flags on veterans' graves or collecting food for those in need, Scouting is focused on developing well-rounded young people that are prepared for adulthood."

Troop 152 is currently on the lookout for more capable adults to mentor and advise; according to Latham, every youth organization requires money to run and scouting is no different.

"Please reach out to the troop and we can discuss how you can be a part of the adventure. Thank you for supporting Dixon Troop 152," Latham said.

For more information, visit troop152dixon.com or call 707-676-6152. ★



Helping you forge new paths since 1867.

Bank of Stockton has been a pioneering force in consumer and business banking for generations. We are proud to invest in the Dixon community with the opening of our beautiful new branch.

Our time-tested principles of strength, safety and unprecedented personalized service await you! We look forward to adding you to our list of happy customers and invite you to come in and get to know us!



Fernando Ontiveros, AVP/Community Branch Manager 707-676-6521

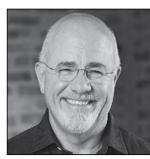


Tom Backer VP/Business Banking Officer 209-929-1282



BANK OF STOCKTON

WITHSTANDING THE TEST OF TIME*



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are currently on Baby Step 2 of your plan. We attend church regularly, and we've always made sure we tithed 10% to 15% in the past. Do you think it would be okay to lower our tithe while we're getting out of debt and working through our debt snowball?

– Karl

Dear Karl,

When you look up the Hebrew word "tithe," it means tenth. Not 10 to 15 percent—a tenth. I've studied Scripture on this subject for about 25 years and taught in Christian settings. But please keep in mind you shouldn't do this because I gave you a "rule." I'm not the final authority on this. What we're about to get into comes from God.

In Proverbs, it refers to the tithe as first fruits, off the top, before anything else. The book of Deuteronomy says to give a tenth of your net in-

Dave Ramsey Says He Knows What's Best for Us

crease. Centuries of protestant Christian teaching has focused on the idea that the tithe goes to the local church, because it's the New Testament representation of the Old Testament storehouse The storehouse took care of the Levites, which were the priests-or pastors-and the orphans and widows. Today, the New Testament church is supposed to use it for the same kinds of things: pastor's salaries and helping people who are struggling.

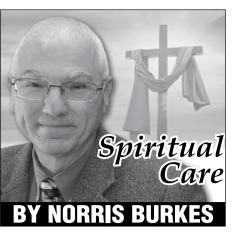
Before we go any further, I want you to remember one thing. Tithing isn't a salvation issue. God doesn't love you more just because you tithe a larger amount than the person sitting next to you in church. God loves you. Period. You're His child, and He's going to love you even if you don't tithe. But He knows what tithing does for us. It makes us focus on something other than ourselves. Doing it makes us less selfish, and more selfless. It makes us a little more Christ-like. And he wants us to be

giving and loving to the people around us.

Do you see what I'm saying, Karl? God doesn't need your money. He doesn't need my money. It was my choice decades ago when I hit bottom financially to continue tithing all the way into bankruptcy court and all the way out. But if someone literally can't afford to tithe for some reason-or can't hit 10% and still wants to attend and support a church—I'm pretty sure God understands.

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992. Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for company, Ramsey the Solutions.



As I built a post-election gratitude list and remembered a question routinely asked by the minister of music in a church I pastored.

He'd stand behind the big Baptist pulpit and ask this question of his sleepy and aging congregation:

"Would you rather be in the best prison in America or here in church today?"

He used the question to roust our aging congregation and inspire them to sing louder. He often used it at the Thanksgiving service because he felt like it gave congregants a bit of gratitude perspective.

I find the reasoning a bit haggard as it's the same kind of sermonic reasoning ministers use every year that urge us to remember those less fortunate.

I ask you, can't we just hold the guilt this year and sit back and relax with our holiday pie?

Newspaper columnists like myself, and most especially ministers, of whom I am both, try to make you see that your life is not as bad as it could be.

This approach comes off sounding a lot like a parent trying to get their kid to eat turnips. "At least we have turnips and broccoli on our table," goes the paternal reasoning, "I'll bet the kids in Godawfulstan wish they had turnips."

That line of reasoning never did much for me.

Thanksgiving in Godawfulstan

The problem with that perspective is that gratitude and thankfulness has never been about comparing your good fortune to the misfortunes of others. Thanksgiving will never be about trying to equalize the imbalance of those fortunes.

Thanksgiving isn't just about being grateful you don't have a loved one deployed to a war-torn country. It's also about being thankful we have brave service members who are willing to serve when their country calls.

Thanksgiving isn't just about being grateful you aren't poor. It is also about being grateful you have resources to give to the poor.

It is not only about being grateful you aren't hungry. It is also about sharing your gratitude with the hungry.

Being truly thankful is not about comparing what you have with what others do not have. It is not about being glad your home is not a shanty cardboard shack under the freeway. It's about the help we give the homeless as we humbly realize that most of us are one paycheck away from building our own shack.

Gratitude is not about giving thanks for what you have, where you work, where you live or even who you are. Thanksgiving is not about you at all.

Thanksgiving is about keeping perspective between recognizing the blessings we've received and utilizing our capacity to return those blessings to others.

At the end of the calorie-laden day, perspective will be a constant reminder that we are not alone on this planet. It is the perspective of gratitude that teaches us we've all journeyed from the same place and, as Scripture suggests, "to dust we will return."

That is the perspective from which humility comes, and humility will always be about gratitude.

How Three Trump Policy Decrees Could Affect California's Agricultural Industry



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

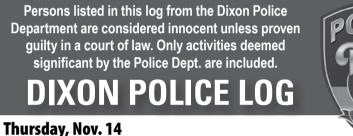
Voters in California's farm belt, stretching more than 400 miles from Kern County on the south to Tehama County on the north, delivered solid majorities for Donald Trump in this month's presidential election. They were obviously outvoted in heavily populated coastal and urban counties, so rival Kamala Harris claimed the state's 54 electoral votes. However, it is Trump who will be moving into the White House, and of all California economic sectors, agriculture arguably has the most to gain or lose during his second presidency. There are three policy issues particularly important to California's farmers that Trump wants to change. If he does what he has promised, one might benefit the industry and two might damage it. The beneficial change is what California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglas, in a post-election statement, calls "securing a sustainable water supply.' For years, state officials have been trying, either through regulatory decrees or negotiations, to reduce the amount of water San Joaquin Valley farmers take from the San Joaquin River and its tributaries to enhance flows through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, thus improving its water quality to support fish and other wildlife.

Farmers are miffed that after two wet winters filled the state's reservoirs, state federal water managers still limited agricultural deliveries.

A few days before the election, the state Water Resources Control Board issued the latest version of its water quality plan, but the supposed compromise is being critiqued by both farmers who want to minimize restrictions and environthe University of California's Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics.

"For almonds and pistachios, the tariffs did not reduce the volume of U.S. exports to China," the report continued. "However, the trade war diminished California exports of walnuts, wine, oranges, and table grapes."

Cracking down on undocumented immigrants has been a bedrock issue for Trump throughout his political career, and he's promised to make good on his deportation pledge immediately after taking office. For a variety of reasons, the state's farmers have had difficulty finding enough workers to till and harvest their crops in recent years. Immigration restrictions, California's high living costs and the creation of new factory jobs in Mexico are among the reasons. California has as many as 2 million undocumented residents, many of whom work in industries ranging from construction to agriculture. The full-blown roundup Trump promises would have an immense economic effect on the state, with agriculture arguably the most vulnerable. When Central Valley farmers were enthusiastically backing a second term for Trump, they undoubtedly were hoping for relief from water restrictions. Yet that could be the smallest impact Trump 2.0 may have on their industry. Dan Walters is one of most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends.



08:54 - Auto burglary report in the 900 block of Dawson Dr.

10:24 - Battery report in the 200 block of West A St.

10:42 - A victim was shot with a BB gun and robbed of his phone on Milk Farm Rd. The suspect was identified as Asia Isaac (30) from Fairfield. The suspect's vehicle and the suspect were located by Vacaville PD. The BB gun was located inside the vehicle. After an interview, S-Isaac was booked at the Solano County Jail for charges of robbery, assault with a deadly weapon not a firearm, and exhibiting an imitation firearm in public. **11:46** - Theft from a vehicle report in the 1300 block of West H St.

12:30 - Information report in the 1300 block of Stratford Ave.

21:22 - A warrant arrest and possession of suspected narcotics arrest report was taken at the intersection of Beythe at Alamo Dr in Vacaville. Officer Williams made an enforcement and contacted (S) Margarita Hernandez (27) of Vacaville. A records check revealed Hernandez had an outstanding warrant out of Madera County. Hernandez was arrested and an incident to arrest suspected narcotics was located. Hernandez was booked into the Solano County Jail.
21:36 - A DUI arrest report was taken in the 1000 block of Vaughn Rd. Officers contacted Bin and he showed objective signs of intoxication and was arrested. Bin was later transported to the Solano County Jail.



mentalists who demand a crackdown on water diversions.

Trump stepped into the issue during his first presidency, directing federal water regulators to increase agricultural supplies, and is likely to do so again.

Just before the election, Trump described California water policy, in all caps on his Truth Social website, as "INSANE POLICY DECISIONS," which he defined as "the ridiculously rerouting of MILLIONS OF GALLONS OF WATER A DAY FROM THE NORTH OUT OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN, rather than using it, free of charge, for the towns, cities & farms dotted all throughout California."

The two pending issues that could backfire on farmers who voted for Trump are imposing tariffs on imports from China, which could invite retaliatory tariffs on agricultural exports, and deporting undocumented immigrants, who comprise at least half of the state's agricultural workers.

Despite objections from California's Republican congressional delegation, Trump hit China with tariffs during his first term and "China retaliated with import tariffs that target U.S. agriculture," according to a report from



Friday, Nov. 15

11:30 - Late report of a property-only traffic collision in the 400 block of East C St.

13:19 - Two reports of grand theft in the 200 block of East Dorset Dr. Merchandise were stolen from containers during their transit to the distribution center in Dixon.

Saturday, Nov. 16

05:53 - Officers were dispatched to the 300 block of N Adams St for a possible domestic disturbance. Tony Rueda (38) from Dixon was arrested for criminal threats, domestic battery, and possession of large-capacity magazines, and transported to the Solano County Jail for booking.

13:07 - Confidential report in the 600 block of West D North St.

13:34 - Burglary and vandalism report in the 1500 N 1st St.

Sunday, Nov. 17

11:40 - Beatriz Martinez-Bueno (66) of Dixon was arrested for felony domestic violence.

14:40 - Vehicle accident in the area of Stratford Ave and Commercial Way.

17:20 - Vehicle accident in the area of Stratford Ave and Pitt School Rd.

03:13 - Attempted burglary reported in the 300 block of West F Street.

Monday, Nov. 18

07:17 - Hit and Run collision report on Regency Pkwy at Kingston Dr.

07:25 - Hit and Run collision report on Business Park Drive at Industrial Way. Officer located the responsible vehicle and driver. Edward Gavino (27) of Vacaville was arrested for driving under the influence and hit-and-run collision.

17:45 - Fraud report in the 600 block of Woodard Way.

01:49 - Domestic violence report taken in the 800 block of Green Drive.

05:09 - Vandalism reported in the 900 block of Newgate Way.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

- 07:55 Vandalism Report at Hall Park.
- 10:41 Possession of controlled substances report at the 400 block East A Street.
- 11:50 Burglary report at 300 block Industrial Way.
- 12:45 Suspicious Circumstances report at the 500 block of College Way.
- 14:00 Battery report at the 500 block of College Way.
- 14:00 Stolen Vehicle recovery at the 1500 block of Valley Glen Drive.
- 16:30 Verbal Dispute at the 900 block of Regina Way.
- 22:29 Confidential report taken in the 300 block of Horsetail Court.

Wednesday, Nov. 20

- 11:13 Traffic collision report in the 200 block of Dorset Ct.
- 13:07 Lost property report in the 400 block of Ellesmere Dr.
- 15:50 Information report in the 1300 block of N Lincoln Ct.
- 01:03 A domestic violence report was taken in the 1000 block of Vaughn Rd.

Thursday, Nov. 21

08:02 - A trailer was reported stolen in the 1200 block of Linford Ln. Through the investigation, Victor Vasquez Anguiano (30) from San Pablo was identified as the suspect. An arrest warrant was obtained for S-Anguiano. Later S-Anguiano was involved in a pursuit with San Pablo Police Department and California Highway Patrol, taken into custody in Oakland. S-Anguiano was transported for booking at Solano County Jail.

- 08:36 Confidential report in the 200 block of West A St.
- 11:42 Confidential report in the 500 block of College Way.
- 15:39 Found property report in the 200 block of West A St.

Friday, Nov. 22

- **08:07** A public nuisance report in the 2300 block of N Lincoln St.
- 12:30 Report of theft, identity theft and forgery in the 600 block of Amesbury Dr.
- 15:08 Traffic collision report in the 300 block of West A St.
- 17:15 Grand theft report in the 1200 block of Stratford Ave.

LETTER FROM BILL DODD

By Bill Dodd

I decided to run for the state Legislature because California gave me so many opportunities, but I was concerned about the state we were leaving to our children and future generations. My mother taught me to leave a place better than I found it. And that's what I've tried to do over the last decade

Term limits have me departing the Legislature after 10 years representing our region in the state Capitol and 25 years in elected public office, serving as a senator, Assembly member and county supervisor. It's an undeniably bittersweet moment. Serving in the California State Senate has been the greatest honor of my professional life, and I'm humbled by the opportunity and responsibility. Before leaving office, I want to reflect on the road we've traveled, and what lies ahead.

Despite catastrophic wildfires and the pandemic, we still managed to make progress together. I didn't start in the Legislature thinking I'd become a leader in wildfire issues, but the need demanded action. I'm proud that many of my laws are helping save lives, homes and livelihoods.

I've also tried to tackle any issue that needs attention -- from data privacy and generative AI to education, consumer protection and public safety to water resources.

We couldn't have accomplished what we did without my staff. I have had the best team in the Legislature, and I'm so proud of their work, led by my incredible chief of staff, Ezrah Chaaban. We passed 126 of my bills into law, cast 14,415 votes, secured nearly \$1.1 billion in wildfire prevention and emergency services funding, and brought over \$200 million back to the district through direct appropriations and grants. We helped 5,206 people from our district with casework, responded to 138,913 constituent emails and letters, hosted 83 community town halls.

Given the recent election, I've been reflecting on George Washington's farewell address which extoled the peaceful exchange of power and checks and balances, while warning of partisanship and the need for every American to uphold ethical governance and the rule of law.

Today, many people are concerned what comes next. The reality is that there will be new challenges and opportunities, as there has been from the beginning. We can't just "resist" - we need to innovate and continue building toward the Golden State we deserve. From tackling the homelessness and affordable housing to securing economic opportunities, the road ahead will require continued dedication and courage. I know my successor, Christopher Cabaldon, will do a great job delivering for our district and moving California forward.

We cannot forget that what unites us is so much greater than what divides us. My advice to policymakers is to talk and work together. And to remember that rarely is there an issue that's truly black and white. I worked to improve bills that came before me and to vote no when needed. I've always tried to find common ground, understand others' perspectives and try to find solutions. I wasn't perfect, but I sure tried.

President Harry Truman said, "America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination, and unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." That's as true as ever, and it's doubly true for California. We have always been a state defined by resilience, innovation, and an unshakable spirit. I truly believe in our ability to meet the moment and overcome challenges.

After 25 years in elected office, I'll be enjoying more time with my wife Mary, our five grown children and our 13 grandchildren, who have been gracious enough to support my public service over the years. While I'm leaving elected office, I have no plans to retire. I'll stay active, and I expect to serve our state and community in different ways. Thank you for your support, partnership and allowing me to represent you.

Bill Dodd Senator, District 3





From left are Alex Haynes, Herman Jackson, Charles Rafferty, Crystal Rico, Erin Johnston, Alisha Platt and Mary Clark, who were among the first to attend the Dixon Chamber Connections Network group on Nov. 21.

Storv and photo by Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Chamber of Commerce hosted a Chamber Connections networking event on Nov. 21 to offer Dixonites the chance to meet and connect with local professionals, entrepreneurs and business owners. This dedication to preserving the community and empowering businesses is the reason that the Chamber of Commerce continues to provide such opportunities for the public.

"This is our 11th one and I have been to all of them," said Alisha Platt, chamber secretary and Realtor for Keller Williams Realty. "I think it helps bring the community together and allows networking with other businesses in town. It helps with awareness of events: every time I come to one, I'm aware of new events around town."

The event at the Farmstead at Dixon, 350 Gateway Drive, was a friendly, relaxed and collaborative environment focused on like-minded individuals sharing their ideas, exchanging business cards and expanding their networks.

The event began with light conversation, a networking game to break the ice and a business spotlight. Platt led Nov. 21's edition, discussing her time as a Realtor. Attendees were also given the chance to share a professional victory they were proud of and were made aware of future events that the chamber is hosting.

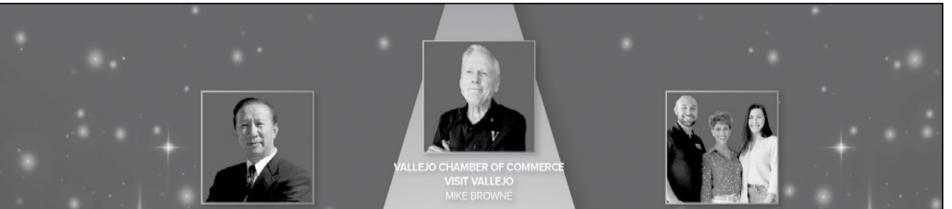
Dixon Chamber Connection Networking Group occurs on the third Thursday of every month but is not the only consistent opportunity for professional connections that the Chamber of Commerce extends.

The Lunch Bunch and Mingle events are also prime networking experiences. The Lunch Bunch events, the last of which was held at Sourdough & Co., 1450 Ary Lane A, is a more laidback endeavor, boasting a free no-host lunch, friendly conversation and plenty of significant connections to make. Lunch Bunch sessions are scheduled from 12 to 1:30 p.m. during weekdays, making them convenient occasions to experience.

The Mingle events, generally at The Pip Wine Bar & Shop, 116 N. First St. are also a worthwhile time investment, taking place later in the day from 5 to 7 p.m. The Mingles have a more jovial, potentially even celebratory air about them. Attendance, like the Lunch Bunch, is open to all for no admission fee and offers no-host food and bar, raffle prizes and the opportunity to make some new contacts and promote your business. The next Mingle will be a holiday-oriented affair from 5 to 7 p.m Dec. 18.

For more information, visit dixonchamber.org/en or call 707-678-2650.





FILIPINO-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SOLANO COUNTY YIN MCDONALD'S C.C. YIN

VACAVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUDGET BLINDS OF SOLANO COUNTY TONI PARKHURST



BENICIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



SOLANO HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BAY HAULING JUAN VALLEJOS

Westamerica Bank, a leading California community bank, is proud to host the Spirit of Solano awards. As a community leader, we acknowledge our responsibility to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve. The Spirit of Solano award recognizes the Solano Chambers of Commerce and honors those businesses who take an active role in enhancing our communities.

Spirit of Solano Honorees

SPIRIT OF SOLANO LUNCHEON | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

FOR TICKETS, CONTACT MARISSA VILLALON AT (707) 863-6932.





BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER Westamerica.com



SOLANO COUNTY BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WINN REALTY MONICA WINN



IRFIELD-SUISUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | SUISUN CITY LA GUAGUA LATIN CAFÉ ISSETTE MORA & NATALIA GARCIA



FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | FAIRFIELD FRESH LAUNDRIES QUIJANO FAMILY



DIXON DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COOL PATCH PUMPKINS

WE SUPPORT

FIRST

RESPONDERS

Messenger Publishing Group



Virtual Fencing 'Game-Changer' for **Ranchers Grazing Cattle**

After the Caldor Fire destroyed 7 miles of fencing on their cattle ranch in 2021, Leisel Finley and her family needed to replace the fence. Finley, a sixth-generation rancher at Mount Echo Ranch in Amador County, learned about a pilot program for virtual fencing that uses GPS enabled collars to monitor each animal's location in near real time. Livestock producers can draw a perimeter on a map of their pasture using a laptop or smartphone application and send those instructions to the collar. The collar then uses audio and tactile cues to contain the animal in the area.

Farm Families Emphasize Importance of Mental Health

The Voice of California Agriculture podcast, produced by the California Farm Bureau, discussed the importance of mental health on farms. Tricia Stever Blattler, executive director of the Tulare County Farm Bureau, spoke with host Gary Sack about losing her husband, Robert, to suicide, and about the need to speak up about mental health in farming communities that face many stressors. "We have to keep normalizing and bringing that conversation forward," Stever Blattler said. The episode also covers efforts in California to combat the oriental fruit fly and a message from the California Farm Bureau to president-elect Donald Trump and other newly elected leaders.

Port of Oakland Continues to be an Agricultural Export Powerhouse

The Port of Oakland continues to be one of the most important gateways for U.S. agricultural products. As of October, the port has exported nearly \$8.5 billion in agricultural commodities this year, ranking No. 1 in the nation in the volume of international refrigerated exports. "Agricultural exports are especially important commodities for our port's business," said Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes. "In any given year, agricultural products comprise between 37% and 45% of total exports from Oakland." Probiotics and Prebiotics:

Hype or Health?

Consumers may have noticed a recent trend in food and beverage products labeled probiotic or prebiotic. The products often say they "support a healthy gut" or "boost your immune system" by providing good microbes that are often missing from people's diets. But how can consumers know if these products are really good for them? A new episode of the University of California, Davis, podcast Unfold took a closer look at the proliferation of probiotics and interviewed Maria Marco, a microbiologist and professor in the department of food science and technology at UC Davis. \star



Publisher, **Paul V. Scholl** Dixon Independent Voice

is a member of Messenger **Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email a Microsoft Word file to: Publisher@mpg8.com. Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher." If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.



Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

It is the intent of the Dixon Independent Voice to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors

The Dixon Independent Voice is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the Dixon Independent Voice are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the Dixon Independent Voice is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

> Subscriptions should be mailed to: Dixon Independent Voice 100 N. Adams, Dixon, CA 95620

Subscription rate is \$52 per year within Dixon and Solano County. \$72 per year (Mail only).

Main Office Address: 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The Dixon Independent Voice is published weekly on Friday.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



Legal Advertising Hotline 916-483-2299 Legal Advertising Fax 916-773-2999

LEGAL ΑΟΥΕRΤΙSΙΝG Dixon's Independent Voice Adjudicated For and By the County of Solano Adjudication No. FCS030046–November 24, 2008

P.O. Box 14 Carmichael, CA 95609

Legal Advertising

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-001669 The following persons are doing business as: X Ray Vision Business Support, 1830 Wilson Court, Dixon, CA 95620. Albert Ray Cortez, 1830 Wilson Court. Dixon. CA 95620.

Date filed in Solano County: November 1. 2024. The

PROJECT

Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 9/1/2024 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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Dixon Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following:

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, 2029. 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 15, 22, 29, Dec 6, 2024

12-6-24 RAY FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2024-001532

The following persons are doing business as: Child's Lead Speech and Language Therapy, 479 Mountain Meadows Drive, Fairfield, CA 94534.

Ma Cristina Peralta, 479 Mountain Meadows Drive, Fairfield. CA 94534.

Date filed in Solano County: October 7, 2024. The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 02/24/2024

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 6, 2029. 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 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024 CHILDS 12-13-24

shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. January 6, 2025, 10:00 a.m. Department Room 2, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533 Judge of the Superior Court: Tim

P. Kam Dated: November 22, 2024 Publish: Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20, 2024

sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación. Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen

esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Ŭna carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leves de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia. Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servició de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services. (www.lawhelpcalifornia. org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www. sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por lev. la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponér un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraie en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso. The name and address of the court is (El nombre v dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SOLANO, 580 TEXAS STREET FAIRFIELD, CALIFORNIA 94533 The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's at-torney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is TODD F. HAINES, Esq. (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es): Law Offices of Todd F. Haines, 30495 Canwood Street, Ste. 100, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 606-8 (818) 597-2240 DATE (Fecha): NOV 16, 2023 Clerk (Secretario), by S. BRACK, Deputy (Adjunto) (SĖAĹ) 11/22, 11/29, 12/6, 12/13/24 CNS-3870724# DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 12-13-24

The applicant has proposed amendments to the NESP which include:

1) Amendment to Figure 2-2, Land Use Element, to change the designation from CH (*Highway Commercial), to ML, Light Industrial to be in conformance with the existing Industrial General Plan land use designation and General Industrial - Northeast Quadrant Specific Plan (IG-NESP) zoning, and

AMENDMENTS TO NORTHEAST QUADRANT SPECIFIC PLAN RELATED

TO A VACANT 37.5 ACRE SITE ALONG PEDRICK RD [DIXON INNOVATION

CENTER PROJECT] - Request for a series of amendments to the Northeast

Quadrant Specific Plan (NESP) focused on a 37.5 acre vacant lot zoned General

Industrial (IG)-NESP Overlay, which is planned for future industrial development.

2) Addition of comprehensive Industrial land use regulations and development standards to Specific Plan for the applicant's 37.5 acre site.

The project site is located generally southeast of I-80, along the west of Pedrick Road. The site is bounded by Pedrick Road and Solano County unincorporated agricultural lands to the east, agricultural lands to the south (the site of the proposed Dixon 257/The Campus project), and Interstate 80 to the west, and the TEC Equipment warehouse to the north. No development is proposed or included in this action and would be subject to separate consideration and action at a future date. APN: 0111-010-080; Zoning District: General Industrial (IG); PW Fund B Development, LLC, owner, Bret Hogge, Buzz Oates Construction, applicant; File No: PA22-028, SPA22-01

For the proposed amendments to the NESP, an Addendum to the Northeast Quadrant Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report (SCH# 92113073) has been prepared, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines provides that an Addendum to a previously adopted Environmental Impact Report may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions to the project are necessary or none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines section 15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent Environmental Impact Report have occurred. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15164 and 15162, none of the conditions requiring preparation of a subsequent Environmental Impact Report have occurred, and the project would not result in any new significant impacts not analyzed or considered under the Northeast Quadrant Specific Plan EIR

- PUBLIC Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. This will be physically open to the HEARING public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the DATE & meeting or remotely participating via video conferencing at http://www.zoom.us or LOCATION: 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 You can view the project plans, CEQA document and other studies **INFORMATION:** and application materials on the project page at www.cityofdixon.us/ environmentalreviewdocuments under the heading of "Dixon Innovation Center." You may also contact Brian Millar, Contract Planner, by phone at (530) 902-9218 or by email at bmillar@cityofdixonca.gov.

You may 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. The staff report and agenda documents for the public hearing will be made available prior to the meeting at https://www.cityofdixon.us/ MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos.

The Planning Commission will review the proposed project, accept public WHAT WILL HAPPEN: comments, and provide a recommendation to the City Council, who will consider the project and take action at a future, noticed public hearing. All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and are welcome to express opinions on the project.

Prior to 4:30 p.m. on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed PUBLIC COMMENTS: to PlanningCommission@cityofdixonca.gov, or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, 600 East A St., Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the day of the study session. 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 meeting 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.

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

Dixon Independent Voice 11-29-2024

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME

CASE #CU24-08459 Bridgette Heidi Gifford filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Auriella Evelyn Penisten to Auriella Evelyn Gifford.

THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. January 13, 2025, 9:00 a.m. Department 10, Room 305, Hall of Justice, 600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533. Judge of the Superior Court: Christine Donovan Dated: November 4, 2024 Publish: Nov 22, 29, Dec 6, 13, 2024 GIFFORD 12-13-24

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU2407240

Samantha Jane Shoults filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Samantha Jane Shoults to Samantha Jane Remides. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter REMIDES 12-20-24 SUMMONS SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL) CASÈ NUMBER (NÚMERÓ DEL CASO): CU23-05432 NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO):CÈLIA LOPEZ, AN INDIVIDUAL; and Does 1 through 10, INCLÚSIVE, AŔE BEING SUED YOU (LO ESTÁ

BY PLAINTIFF DEMANDANDO FI DEMANDANTE): AXOS BANK, A CORPORATION

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect vou. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo. ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney. you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia. org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo. ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra





Dixon Independent Voice

Facebook: @DIVMPG8

Be a part of something important **Local Writers Wanted**

We are looking for local Freelance Writers to provide great coverage.

MPG Call us today at 916-773-1111

Local Classifieds Advertise in your local community newspaper Call 916-773-1111

Announcement

Eliminate gutter cleaning for-ever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581 (Cal-SCAN)

Autos Wanted

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to fund the SEARCH FOR **MISSING CHILDREN. FAST** FREE PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 1-877-434-6852 (Cal-SCAN)

UNWANTED GOT AN CAR??? DONATE IT TO PA **TRIOTIC HEARTS.** Fast free pick up. All 50 States. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-855-408-6546 (Cal-SCAN)

Tiene un vehiculo no deseado? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-855- 408-7368 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN

Visit: mpg8.com for current and back issues

Autos Wanted

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-491-2884 today! (Cal-SCAN)

Cellular Plans

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/ month. For more information,

call 1-844-908-0605 (Cal-Scan) Elder Care

GoGo. Live and age your way. Get help with rides, groceries, meals and more. Memberships start as low as \$1 per day. Available 24/7 nationwide, BBB Rated A+ Busi-Call GoGo to get startness ed. 1-855-476-0033 (Cal-SCAN)

Advertising Works!

For Sale

V-8 (Cadillac Engine) in 1995 Oldsmobile Aurora. 64,000 original miles. Must take whole car. Transmission is no good. \$500 or best offer. Call 530-742-9144 and leave message. (TFN

Health/Wellness

Attention: VIAGRA and CIA-LIS USERS! A cheaper al-ternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-888-256-9155 (calsCAN)

Health/Wellness

JOIN FOR FREE - NO KITS OR QUOTES & FREE WEBSITE. CTFO (Changing The Future Outcome) Has the best CBD oil available. Products for health, beauty, weight or hair loss and even for your pets. Check out these products: canderson.myctfo.com (TFN)

Insurance/Health

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844203-2677 www.dental50plus.com/ calnews #6258 (Cal-SCAN)

Home Remodel

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new. custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 12/29/24.) Call 1-833-985-4766 (Cal-SCAN)

Home Remodel

Safe Step. North America?s #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now fea-turing our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1888-989-5749 (Cal-SCAN)

BATH & SHOWER UP-DATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-877-252-9868 (Cal-SCAN)

Home Repair

WATER DAMAGE CLEAN-UP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-248-0815. Have zip code of service location ready when you call! (Cal-SCAN)



Home Warranty

Don't Pay For Covered Home

Repairs Again! Our home

warranty covers ALL MAJOR

SYSTEMS AND APPLIANC-ES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll re-

place it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call:1-855-411-1731

Lost

LOST FATHER - DONALD

RAY DICKERSON - Daughter

Landscaping/Maintenance

RESIDENTIAL, COMMER-CIAL, HANDYMAN, MANY

FIELDS: Irrigation (manual or

automatic) installation or re-

pair; cement, mow strips, ma-

sonary (walls & columns), re-

taining walls; fence installation

(wood, vinyl, chain-link, iron);

plumbing; mowing, edging, clean-up, hauling; pruning (all

kinds of fruit or shade trees);

Sandlin

(12/13/24)

Andrea Dickerson

(434) 341-1088.

RETIRED COUPLE HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE* V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests **OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING** Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker WWW.VIPLOAN.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217 Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans Miscellaneous **Real Estate RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$** DID YOU KNOW Newspafor business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportper-generated content is so valuable it's taken and repeated. condensed. broadcast. ant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Comtweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed pany www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-prin-DRE 01041073. No countless times throughout cipal the day by others? Discover consumer loans. (Cal-SCAN) the Power of Newspaper Advertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email ce-



www.IndependentVoice.com



3

8

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • SPORTS

celia@cnpa.com

Miscellaneous

6011 or cecelia@cnpa.com

Independent Voice



bird

stories

Europe

words)

words)

victim

DOWN

life

Never"

19. Foe

CROSSWORD 12 13

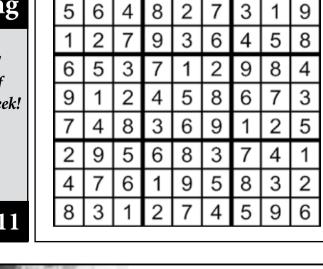
Financial Struggling with debt? If you have over \$10,000 in debt we help you be debt free in as little as 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call Now: 1-877-435-4860 (Cal-SCAN)

Classified	
Advertising	

Sell Your Stuff! Reach 1000's of **Readers Every Week!**



916.773.1111



5

4

2

6

7

9



[•]Ashi Waza jugodi sport 13. Audience's approval 20 19 18 15. Tandoori bread 16. Ned Stark's daughter, "Game of Thrones" 22 17. Röntgen beams 18. *Warning track sport 23 24 25 27 28 29 20. Monetary "thank you," pl. 21. Indigo dye shrubs 30 32 22. "Arabian Nights" 35 23. Destroyer 26. Danced to certain 39 42 40 Polish music 30. Crematorium container 43 45 44 46 31. One without magic powers in Harry Potter 47 48 49 34. Largest volcano in 50 51 52 53 54 35. Do nothing (2 words) 37. Singer Yoko 56 55 58 38. Be at the helm 39. Tropical tuber 40. *Player who delivers in a crucial sports 59 60 61 moment 63 62 42. Recipe qty. 43. Display proudly (2 Off First Month of New Service! 45. Smells 47. Lake, in France 48. Clean a spill (2 JSE PROMO CODE: GZ590 50. #8 Across, pl. Consumer 52. *Cornerback and direct snap sport Cellular 55. Russian pancake 56. Pasta option 57. Go cold turkey 59. *Reward for multiple CALL CONSUMER CELLULAR 888-804-0913 sports championships, 60. "Breaking Bad" © StatePoint Media 61. The Beehive State 62. King Kong, e.g. 63. Type of lightbulb, acr SUDOKU ton sport Call today and receive a 64. Spooky 32. *Eagle and mulligan FREE SHOWER PACKAGE sport 33. African migrator **PLUS \$1600 OFF** 1. Boatload 36. *Turkey and split sport SAFE STEP 1-855-576-5653 2. Rivadh native 38. Woody perennial 3. *Collegiate sports grp. 40. Chlorofluorocarbon, 4. Topeka native abbr. 41. He gets a flag? 5. Not urban 6. Short poems of pastoral 5 44. Reprieve in a desert 9 3 46. Not light-transmitting 7. *Hockey score 48. Dots and dashes code 5 2 8 9 8 *Powerful shot in hockey 49. Did like goo 9. 11th letter of Roman 50. Women's underskirt 2 7 alphabet, pl. 51. Plural of cow, arch.52. *Sports transgression 10. Elvis' Now or 5 3 7 1 53. Plucked string instru-12. White and black stork ment 13. Glorify 54. Pinocchio, e.g. 2 6 14. *Gully and deep mid 55. Type of undergarment 58. Olden day "your" 1 2 6 9 wicket sport 22. Fish eggs 7 4 23. Corrodes 24. Heep of "David Cop-9 5 2 4 perfield" 25. Preface 4 5 6 26. Scheme 27. Mr. T's TV show "The Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every

row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9

28. Olden days constipation

treatment 29. *Bag of nails and baby

Spotlight on Kelly Pidgeon James Dixon's Holiday Spirit in "The Little Town of Christmas"

By Abel Cornejo, Artistic Director Dixon Community Theater

DIXON, CA (MPG) - As the holiday season approaches, Dixon Community Theater is buzzing with excitement for its upcoming children's Christmas production, "The Little Town of Christmas." Directed by Kelly Pidgeon James, this heartwarming show features eight skits and musical performances that capture the spirit of the season in a charming small-town setting.

On a cloudy Dixon afternoon, over coffee at a local café, James shared her journey, inspiration, and vision for this special production.

James, who moved to Dixon in 2021, has been a driving force in reintroducing children's theater to the community. After navigating the challenges of the pandemic, she sought to find meaningful artistic opportunities for her children in Dixon.

"I was hoping for diverse parks and recreation programs for kids, but I found there was a gap," James said. "I firmly believe in being the change you wish to see, so I decided to help create those opportunities myself. Theater, which encompasses so many artistic disciplines, felt like the perfect fit."

When the Dixon Community Theater board discussed holiday programming, James proposed a children's production, recognizing it as the ideal way to bring young talent to the stage and foster community spirit.

"Christmas is a time for children—it's magical, innocent, and embodies the spirit of childhood," James explained. "Theater has its own magic, and combining the two creates an unforgettable experience for kids and the community alike." Her goal for the cast is simple but profound: fun and growth.

"I hope they discover a love for performing and leave with more confidence," she said.

James's approach to directing young actors emphasizes individuality and skill development. By assigning roles that align with each child's abilities, she ensures every participant contributes meaningfully to the production.

"Older, more experienced kids take on technically demanding roles, while newcomers can learn from them in supportive roles. Watching their confidence grow is amazing."

Directing a community production comes with its hurdles. As an emerging organization, Dixon Community Theater is still finding its footing. Without a dedicated performance venue, securing rehearsal and performance spaces has been a challenge.

"But we've found strong support within the community and city government, which keeps us moving forward," James shared.

Despite these obstacles, Kelly remains optimistic about the theater's future. "We're building something special here. Hopefully, one day, we'll have a venue to call our own."

For Jmes, the sense of community in Dixon is unmatched, especially during the holidays. She admires the collaborative efforts of local organizations like the Dixon Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Dixon Business Association.

"Holiday celebrations here create a nostalgic, small-town atmosphere," she said. "A production like this enhances that feeling, fostering hometown pride." As the curtain rises on "The Little Town of Christmas," James hopes the audience will leave with a sense of joy and anticipation.

"This is our first full-length children's performance, but it won't be the last," she said. "We're dedicated to growing Dixon Community Theater and bringing the performing arts back to the city."

Under Kelly's direction, "The Little Town of Christmas" promises to be more than a holiday show—it is a celebration of creativity, community and the magic of the season.

Mark your calendars and join Dixon Community Theater for this festive production, Dec 6 to 8 at Tremont School Theater. Come for the skits, stay for the songs, and leave with the warmth of the holiday spirit.

For tickets and information: dixoncommunitytheater.com \star

Community Calendar

Ongoing Activities:

Alcoholics Anonymous – If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop drinking, we can help. Call Alcoholics Anonymous at 800-970-9040 for either local meeting information or to speak to someone.

American Legion Dinners – Every Friday night at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St. Prices range from \$12 to \$17 depending on menu. Live music every Friday. Live band first and third Fridays.

Bingo – Is played every Monday and Wednesday at the Senior/Multi-Use Center, 201 S. 5th St., beginning at 12 p.m. Call 707-678-7022 for more information.

Friendship Services of Solano County – Do you spend a lot of time alone? Would you like a telephone companion? Call Friendship Service at 707-644-9062 x242 or 707-644-8909 and ask Cyndi about becoming a client. It's free. A program of Catholic Social Services. A provider of the Napa-Solano Area Agency on Aging. Email: friendship@csssolano.org.

Meals on Wheels – Homebound seniors can receive meals delivered to their homes by calling 707-425-0638. Lunch also served at the Dixon Senior Center, 201 South 5th St. at 11:30 a.m. M-F. Reservations required – call 707-425-0638 one day in advance.

Regular Meetings:

Al-Anon – Family and friends of alcoholics can get support through Al-Anon, which meets Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St.

American Legion – Dixon Post 208 meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Veterans

Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Transportation Advisory Commission – Meets the third Wednesday of every EVEN month at 7 p.m.

Dixon Adult Literacy Program – Solano County Library Adult Literacy Services is seeking volunteers to help an adult with their reading, writing, or English-speaking skills at the Dixon Public Library. No experience necessary, flexible hours. All training and materials are provided. Contact: Literacy@solanocounty. com or 707-784-1526.

Dixon Boat Club – Meets first Thursday of the month. For more information, call Butch at 707-678-3622.

Dixon Downtown Business Association – Dedicated to enhancing the business environment and promoting the revitalization of downtown Dixon as the cultural center of the community. Merchant meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at various locations. Log onto www.downtowndixonca.com, email DDROAC@yahoo. com, or call 707-678-8400 for more information.

Dixon Game & Conservation Club – Meetings on second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Game Club Building on East Mayes. For more information, contact John Kett at 916-284-4683.

Dixon Historical Society – Meets quarterly on the third Sunday of Feb., Apr., Aug., and Oct. from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dixon United Methodist Church Social Hall located at 209 N. Jefferson St. in Dixon. Meetings include a historical representation and announcements of upcoming events. Anyone interested in the history of Dixon, and its surrounding areas, is welcome! You do not need to be a member to attend, and all presentations are free to the community. The Dixon History Museum is open for visits, Thursdays 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For further information, please contact us at www.dixonhistoricalsociety. org. Email dhs.dixonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or call 707-693-3044.

Domestic Violence Support Group – Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. at SafeQuest Solano, 1234 Empire St., Fairfield. Info 707-422-7345.

Dry Dock – This Alcoholics Anonymous group meets Mondays, 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 to 11 a.m. at Dixon United Methodist Church, corner of B and N. Jefferson St.

Fairfield/Suisun Bass Reapers – Meets first Tuesday of each month at RoundTable Pizza, 5085 Fairfield Business Center Drive. For more info, call 707-429-3239.

Friends of the Dixon Public Library – Meets at the library on the second Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. For more information, call 707-678-5447.

Gretchen Higgins Parent Teacher Organization – We meet the second Monday of each month in the library at our school. Email ohpto1525@gmail.com for more information.

Independent Order of Oddfellows Montezuma Lodge #172 – Meets at 6 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 111 West A. St., Dixon above Bud's. For more info, call Jason 530-400-0281 or Ed 916-837-6865.

Lambtown Committee – Meets third Monday each month at 6 p.m. at Veteran's Hall. Email John Knight at johnknightpto@gmail.com

Living With Cancer – Support Group for people who have or have had cancer meets the first, third, and fifth Tuesday of every month, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Dining conference room at Woodland Memorial Hospital, 1325 Cottonwood St., Woodland. Free.

Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St.. For information, call 707-678-6308. Also visit us online at www.dixonveterans. org/Legion.

American Legion Auxiliary – Dixon Post 208 meets at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St.. For information, contact Pat Holland (President) at 707-678-3685 or Leah Marlin (Vice President) at 530-304-5385. Visit us online at www.dixonveterans.org/Legion.

Anderson PTO – Meets monthly at 7 p.m. at Anderson Elementary School, 415 East C St. Email andersonroad-runnerspto@gmail.com for dates.

Bids For Kids – Is a volunteer organization created to promote and foster youth participation in agriculture. Anyone interested in this endeavor is welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly meeting. Meetings are held every third Thursday of the month. For more information, please contact secretary, Lisa Dage at 707-246-5623, fivedages@sbcglobal.net or president, James Fuller at 916-952-0167, jameskfuller@yahoo.com.

Boy Scout Troop 152 – Meets Tuesdays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., in the Social Hall at United Methodist Church, 209 North Jefferson. Scouts is for boys 11 to 18 years old. Contact John at 707-678-9693 or email Scoutmaster152@ gmail.com for more information. Check us out on the web: http://www.troop152dixon.com.

Chief Solano Kennel Club, Inc. meetings – at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday at the Elmira Fire Station. Call Linda at phone below to RSVP. Open to everyone. No July meeting. For info call 446-7492 or visit www. chiefsolanokennelclub.org.

Chief Solano Kennel Club, Inc. classes – Puppy Socialization 6:20 to 6:50 p.m. (4 to 12 mos), Beginning Obedience 7 to 7:40 p.m. (4 mos & older) indoor training classes on Wednesdays at the Elmira Fire Station, as well as Conformation classes at 7:50 to 8:30 p.m. for those who show dogs or are interested in showing their dogs. Classes are open to everyone and their canine companions. Classes are not appropriate for aggression issues. Discounts for Seniors 55 and over, Juniors under 16, and those who have adopted a dog from the Humane Society, a breed rescue group, or your local shelter. Bring adoption certificate when you register. Visit www.chiefsolanokennelclub.org.

CITY OF DIXON: The following meetings are held in the Council Chamber at 600 East A St. The agendas are available before meetings at www.ci.dixon.ca.us. For further information, call 707-678-7000 and ask for the City Clerk's office, Planning Dept., Parks & Recreation Dept., or Transportation Dept.

City Council – Meets on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 7 p.m.

Planning Commission – Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m.

Parks & Recreation Commission – Meets the fourth

Dixon Kiwanis Club – an International civic organization serving the community through enhancing children's lives meets on the fourth Monday of each month at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Conference Room. Call Kristin Janisch at 918-840-0785 for more information.

Dixon Lions Club – Since 1954, the Dixon Lions Club is a group of local people who identify needs within our Dixon community and work together to fulfill those needs. Internationally our 45,867 clubs & more than 1,347,322 members make us the world's largest service club organization. We meet first/third Wednesdays at Bud's Pub & Grill from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Website: http:// e-clubhouse.org/sites/dixonca. Facebook page: Dixon Lions Club.

Dixon Rotary Club – Meets on most Wednesdays at noon at The Creative Space, 160 West A. St., Dixon. Rotary is the world's first and oldest service club organization with over 1.4 million members working locally and internationally to improve health and sanitation, combat hunger, provide education, and promote peace. For more information and meeting confirmation, contact Rotary President Marlene Vega at 707-678-9368.

Dixon Scottish Cultural Association – Open to anyone who is interested in celebrating Scottish culture. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 1305 N. First St. For details, visit https://scotsindixon.us/.

Dixon Senior Club – Meets the second Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Dixon Senior Multi-Use Center, 201 S. Fifth St. For more info, call 678-7022.

Dixon Toastmasters/Public Speaking Club – Need to speak in front of people? Want to improve your communication skills? Want to have fun learning? Check us out! We meet Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Living Hope Church. For more info, call or text Lynda Mendez at 530-665-0948 or Rose Cooke at 707-297-0918.

Dixon Women's Improvement Club – From September through May of each year, the Dixon Women's Improvement Club dedicated to the betterment of Dixon, meets on the third Wednesday of the month for stimulating presentations, activities, and friendships. Meetings are held at the Dixon United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

Dixon Youth Soccer Board Meetings – The board will meet the third Tuesday of each month, except for December, at the Sutter West Medical Center Conference Room, at 7 p.m.

Narcotics Anonymous – Open meetings are held every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Dixon United Methodist, 209 N. Jefferson St. (Corner of West B and N. Jefferson). For helpline information and other meetings, go to www.napasolanona.org.

Northern Solano Democratic Club (NSDC) – Meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at IBEW, 30 Orange Tree Circle, Vacaville (behind Home Depot). For more information, contact Jeanie White 615-260-7896 or email pres.nsdc@gmail.com. Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/northernsolanodems/.

NSDC Democrats in Action – Monthly lunch meeting is every fourth Thursday at noon at Fuso Italian Restaurant at 535 Main St., Vacaville. Meet to discuss actions that can be taken towards local, state, and national political issues. See above for contacts.

Promises AA Group – Meets Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St.

Sexual Assault Support Group – Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. at SafeQuest Solano, 1234 Empire St., Fairfield. Info 707-422-7345.

Solano County Mental Health Education – Monthly presentations on various topics will be held on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 2101 Courage Dr., Fairfield. Call Rachel Ford at 707-784-8362 for more information and monthly topic.

Sons of the American Legion – Meet every second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Dixon American Legion Post 208 Hall. For information, call Wayne Holland at 707-301-0941.

Soroptimist International of Dixon – Meets Thursdays at noon at the Dixon United Methodist Church (20 N. Jefferson). Call President Brenda Walker at 707-688-1367. Mail: P.O. Box 472, Dixon, CA 95620.

36th District Agricultural Assn. – Board of Directors meet the second Wednesday of each month, 6 p.m. in the board room located at 655 S. First St. (Dixon May Fair)

Tremont Teachers and Parents Association – Meets the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Tremont School. For more information contact 678-9533.

Toastmasters – Meets every other Monday from 7 to 8 p.m. Contact Lynda Mendez at 530-665-0948 or email her at mendezlynda55@yahoo.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) – Dixon Post 8151 meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Olde Vets Hall, 231 N. First St. For information, contact Cecil Dennings (Commander) at 209-395-8019. Also visit us online at m.facebook. com/DixonVFW.

Young Ladies Institute of Dixon – Meets the third Thursday of the month at St. Peter's Parish Hall, 105 S. 2nd St. All Catholic women are invited to attend. For more information, call Virginia Fletcher at 678-5145. ★



CLEANING

PROPANE

We live where you live

FLOORING



Be a part of something important Local Writers Wanted

We are looking for local Freelance Writers

to provide great coverage.

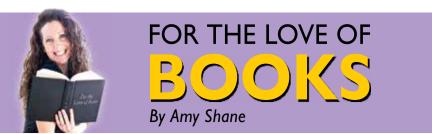


Call us today at 916-773-1111

for Local News and much more!

Dixon Independent Voice

Facebook: @DIVMPG8



BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • 🖂 amy-shane@att.net • 🕝 amy_fortheloveofbooks

Children's Holiday Gift-Giving Guide from Abrams Publishing

With the Holidays quickly approaching Abrams Publishing has you in covered with this year's best, notable and most popular titles to add to any young reader's library.





Knock Knock Merry Christmas by Rob Hodgson

A giggly google-eyed knock-knock adventure will have readers laughing with each turn of the page. This board book with cutouts and google eyes is the perfect laugh-out-loud book for merriment during the holidays.

In My Heart Deluxe Gift Edition

by Jo Witek,

illustrated by Christine Roussey. A heart feels all types of feelings and big emotions. Sometimes, a heart is shiny, bright, and happy; sometimes, it can be angry, like a big boom. Sometimes, it is heavy like an elephant or quiet and shy.

This big book of emotions is not just a fun read, but also a valuable tool for toddlers to understand and express their feelings. The heart peek-a-boo cutout, paired with bright illustrations, guides children through a journey of emotional learning, making it a perfect addition to any library.

Disney Princess Block

Princess Block book pairs Disney Princesses with strong values and traits, interactive lift-a-flap, and cutouts.

This storybook is a delightful combination of wonderful illustrations, a captivating story, and excellent interactive pages. The interactive lift-a-flap and cutouts featuring Disney Princesses with strong values and traits will keep any child engaged and entertained, making it a perfect gift for young readers.

Things That Go by Shannon Hale, Leuyen Pham Kitty and Unicorn are back with a new board book adventure.

It's time to explore all things, from a tricycle to a space plane and everything in between. Every vehicle zooms, pedals, and even hovers its way across the page with a few little silly additions by Kitty.

This board book is the perfect addition tc any library for fans of Kitty-Corn and even those new to the adventures. Check out all the adventures of Kitty-Corn in their other picture books.

The perfect gift series for the young adult reader on your list

The Umbrella Academy Young Blood by Alyssa Sheinmel

For fans of the Netflix series The Umbrella Academy comes the prequel fans have been waiting for. This book answers the questions fans have been asking while keeping the essence of the characters and the show. A wonderful gift for the Umbrella Academy comic or Netflix series fan on your list.

Ada Twist, Scientist by Andrea Beatv

and Dr Theanne Griffith

It's time to learn about sustainability with Ada. Young readers will learn everything about sustainability, conservation, and renewable and nonrenewable natural resources. There is so much to learn about recycling and natural energy, and with Ada, your budding scientist will be eager to join the quest tc protect Earth.





Riley Reviews

"GLADIATOR II" A SWEEPING SWORDS-AND-SANDALS EXTRAVAGANZA

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"GLADIATORS II" Rated R

English filmmaker Ridley Scott, who was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II two decades ago, also goes by the honorific "Sir Ridley Scott" conferred upon him in recognition of his contribution to the arts, joining other entertainment icons like Sean Connery, Elton John, and Mick Jagger.

Aside from a slew of other honors, Ridley Scott has distinguished himself for an eclectic style in film genres from science-fiction like "Blade Runner" and "Alien" to historical dramas such as last year's "Napoleon."

His resume encompasses a lot more than that, including directing the road trip crime drama "Thelma & Louise," for which he was nominated for an Academy Award as Best Director, an honor also bestowed for his directing of "Black Hawk Down."

Arguably, no bigger success came for the director than his work in the 2000 swords-and-sandals epic "Gladiator," which won the Academy Award for Best Picture, and his second award nomination for directing.

Now more than two decades later, Scott returns to directing "Gladiator II," a sequel to the story of Russell Crowe's Maximus, a Roman general who runs afoul of Emperor Commodus (Joaquin Phoenix) and ends up enslaved to be a captive combatant.

Reviewing the quasi-historical story of Maximus' quest for revenge against Commodus for the murder of his family and Marcus Aurelius (a historical figure of the time) would take up too much space here.

While the original film was set in 180 AD, "Gladiator II" appears to be only a couple of decades in the future where a prime character in the form of Lucius (Paul Mescal) turns out to be a heroic warrior against the Roman Empire in the name of strength and honor.

Amazing battle scenes on land and sea find the Romans led by General Marcus Acacius (Pedro Pascal) storming the fortress in Numidia where Lucius's beloved wife Arishat (Yuval Gonen), a warrior in her own right, is killed by Acacius during a bloody siege.

On the losing end of battle, Lucius becomes a slave under the custody of Denzel Washington's Macrinus, a former slave himself who became a Roman businessman who has amassed enormous wealth thanks to his acumen and brutal ambition.

vicious trainer Vigo (Lior Raz) to run his stable with an iron hand.

The Roman Empire is under the control of truly mad twin emperors Caracalla (Fred Hechinger) and Geta (Joseph Quinn), both self-indulgent and unserious, with the former obsessed with a pet monkey perched on his shoulder.

Returning from battle a bit weary, Acacius is reunited with his partner Lucilla (Connie Nielsen, reprising her role from the original), and he's less than thrilled with the tyrannical rule of the twin emperors who are bent on further conquest of distant lands.

The people of Rome expect the gladiator combat at the Colosseum to deliver thrills that keep them distracted from everyday troubles. They are ready to cheer for bloody carnage in any form.

The hero turns out to be Lucius whose maiden foray at the Colosseum, alongside other warriors, is fending off an attack by a pack of ferocious baboons, much to the delight of bloodthirsty spectators.

What Lucius thinks about, as he channels his rage and which pleases the crowd at the Colosseum, is how he's going to eventually get to his mortal foe Acacius. Part of the problem may be complicated by the presence of Lucilla for reasons that may be surprising.

Like many sequels of blockbuster success stories, "Gladiator II" has the unenviable task of trying to top the original film which went on to become an iconic cultural touchstone for fans around the world.

The world of the Roman Empire and the unforgettable characters of "Gladiator" were so brilliantly crafted. Attempting to go for a grander scale was necessary, and certain aspects of the powerful battle scenes and the gripping action in the arena of the Colosseum deliver.

What appears lacking is the emotional core of the original film that involves the tragedy of a warrior bent on revenge that mirrors a basic theme repeated in the sequel.

Paul Mescal's Lucius, though solidly physical in the role of reluctant gladiator, was given a challenging task of bringing the same gravitas and charisma to a warrior that Russell Crowe's Maximus conveyed with visceral single-minded pursuit.

Arguably, Denzel Washington steals the show as a cunning manipulator who has achieved his station in the gilded milieu of the Roman power center, interacting with Roman senators and the emperor twins.

In the end, "Gladiator II," playing loose with history, comes close enough to achieving its grandiose ambition of a grand spectacle of choreographed battles and gladiatorial combat such that not capturing the original film's emotional intimacy can be overlooked.

Loving God, Loving Others, Serving Our World

SUNDAY SERVICES Worship and Children's Ministry at 10:30 am Men's/Women's/Youth Wednesday's 6:30 pm

Food Pantry on Fridays 11am - 12pm

185 W. Cherry St. • Dixon • 707-678-5234 www.cornerstoneindixon.com Macrinus has a stable of gladiators, and he sees in Lucius a natural-born leader and great fighter, which he finds useful in many ways to make himself more powerful than he already is. He relies on his



Be a part of something important Help deliver the news to your neighborhood

We are looking for people who want to deliver newspapers in their neighborhoods.

Provide great customer service to our readers every week.





Must have a valid California drivers license and current auto insurance. Previous newspaper delivery experience a plus but not required. **Call us today at 916-773-1111**



We pride ourselves on being your number one choice for tires and any auto repair.

Let us earn your business.

Make A Tire or Auto Repair Appointment Today!

(707) 678-1669 205 Stratford Avenue, Dixon