

Dixon High School Honors Students

PAGE **10** 

#### California Farm **Bureau Celebrates Accomplishments**

Mendall

PAGE 2



# ndendent Voice

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**DECEMBER 20, 2024** 

## **INSIDE**

### OCTOBER'S YOUNG WOMAN OF THE MONTH



PAGE 3

#### **NOVEMBER'S** YOUNG WOMAN OF THE MONTH



PAGE 3

#### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**



PAGE 8



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## **Christmas Celebrations Abundant in Dixon**

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - For many of the 11 churches in Dixon, residents old and voung can enjoy Christmas-oriented services. Each church has its own methods and practices in which to best celebrate the holiday season.

There is one event that unites them all every year and that is Carols in the Tunnel, occurring 7 p.m. Dec. 20 at 220 N. Jefferson St.

The public is invited to join several local church groups in the tunnel to raise their voices and faith. It has become a regular favorite over the holidays, despite the cold, and takes place in the B Street train underpass. For more information, visit Dixon's Calendar and Events Facebook page.

Cornerstone Baptist Church, 185 West Cherry St., will hold its annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 22. Cornerstone Baptist



people into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ and membership into His family." For more information, visit Dixon's Calendar Church's vision is to "bring

and Events Facebook page or call 707-678-5234.

At these candlelit evening Dixon United Methodist services will be special Church will also have holiday tunes, scripture Christmas Eve services at Continued on page 4

5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Dec. 24.

#### The Wreath **Project Honors Veterans**

By Kendall Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Each year, the Wreath Project, in collaboration with Wreaths Across America, ventures out to Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, 5810 Midway Road, to bestow as many gravesites as possible with holiday wreaths.

Since 2006, the nonprofit organization has annually achieved 100% placement, covering 561 acres and more than 30,000 gravesites. Due to the hard work of staff and volunteers, the 19 thannual bough placing, which began at 7:30 a.m. Dec. 14, was a complete success, maintaining its coverage streak once again.

Led by the Stocking family, beginning at 3 p.m. Dec. 13, volunteers, primarily teens and adults, arrived for bough truck unloading. After Sacramento Valley's final ceremony of the day, many helpful hands got to work preparing for the next day's events. Early on Dec. 14, many of the same volunteers risked the rainy weather to lay more than 30,000 boughs by the end

of the event. "We were able to purchase 30,000 boughs," Susie Stocking said. "The Wreath Project supplied 30,000 boughs and Wreaths Across America supplied 2000 more."

While the sheer number of volunteers available at the time was incalculable due to everyone being so spread out, according to Stocking, their efforts alone were enough to embody the event's true meaning.

"To recognize and remember the contributions and sacrifices," Stocking said. "Not only of the veterans but of their families as well."

Following the bough placement, volunteers worked on clean up, hauling discarded boxes to on-site dumpsters, leaving the cemetery in pristine condition. Overall, according to Stocking, the event went well.

"I think the event went very well; the weather could have been a bit nicer but we can't control that," Stocking said. "It's just a nice thing to see the community support this event, both financially and donating their time."

Even after their successful event, the Wreath Project's work never stops; the Stockings will be back at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery to host bough pick-up for on-site disposal at 7:30 a.m. Jan. 11. Participants are encouraged to bring a pole, dowel or wagon to make working in pairs and pickup as easy as possible. Volunteers

Continued on page 4

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**2** • DECEMBER 20, **2024** 

### California Farm Bureau Celebrates Dixon News Briefs **Accomplishments**



California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass speaks to members and guests at the opening session of the organization's 106th Annual Meeting in Monterey on Dec. 9. Photo courtesy

#### California Farm Bureau News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass celebrated the organization's accomplishments this year in an address delivered Dec. 9 at the Farm Bureau's 106th Annual Meeting in Monterey.

Douglass, speaking in her first annual address after being elected last year to lead the Farm Bureau, focused on local achievements and on the organization's strength in unity.

"Stronger Together' is more than a catchphrase," she said of the Farm Bureau's theme for this year's Annual Meeting, which brought together farmers and ranchers from across California. "We can have extensive success as a state organization, but it doesn't matter if we don't have strong county Farm Bureaus."

Douglass cited examples of the Farm Bureau's impact this year in different parts of the state, beginning with the resounding defeat of Measure J, a Sonoma County ballot measure that within three years would have banned large dairies and poultry farms in the county.

"We recognized that something like this in Sonoma County could easily be replicated" in other counties "and across the country," Douglass said. The Sonoma County Farm Bureau, with support from the California Farm Bureau and county Farm Bureaus, waged a more than yearlong campaign to defeat the measure.

"Not only were they successful, they were extremely successful," Douglass said, with voters in the county rejecting Measure J by a margin of roughly 85% to 15%.

The state Farm Bureau president also highlighted the success of the Kings County Farm Bureau, which won a preliminary injunction in September protecting groundwater users in the Tulare Lake Subbasin from the additional pumping fees and well metering requirements that came with a probationary designation under California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

'When we speak up and we speak out we can make a difference," Douglass said.

She recognized several county Farm Bureaus that met goals of increasing their membership, including the Alameda, Calaveras, Humboldt, Inyo-Mono, Lake, Lassen, Marin, Monterey, Napa, Orange, San Luis Obispo, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Trinity and Tuolumne County Farm Bureaus.

The Lake County Farm Bureau, Douglass said, added more than 60 new members, increasing its membership by more than 20%. Meanwhile, in its first year, the new San Francisco Farm Bureau enrolled more than 100 members.

"Thank you for showing us what's possible when we put our mind to something," Douglass said.

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of more than 26,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of 5.8 million Farm Bureau members.





The mayor, played by Patrick Wentworth, is interviewed by a reporter, played by Snow Hansen in Dixon Community Theater's production, "The Little Town of Christmas." Photo by Nicolas Brown

#### By MPG Staff

#### **Locals Only Discount**

Pedrick Produce, 6850 Sievers Road, is offering a deal throughout December, sure to get locals in the holiday spirit. After shopping, mention code: LOCALLOVE to the cashier to save 10% on holiday gift boxes packed with farm-fresh treats. Pedrick Produce, a family-owned venture, is committed to providing the best produce in Northern California.

For more information, visit pedrickproduce.com or call 707-678-1814.

#### **Build It! Construction Club**

Dixon Library, 200 N. First St., hosts a weekly construction club every Friday afternoon for kids, ages 8 to 14, to build and create. Because of Christmas on Dec. 25, the library will be closed from Dec. 25 to Dec. 30. Dec. 20, will be the final time in 2024 the kids can attend. Each week features different building challenges, from recycled materials to Legos, so you will not want to miss out on the fun.

For more information, visit www.solanolibrary.com or call 866-572-7587.

#### **Community Christmas** Gift Giveaway

Freedom Church, 470 E H St., is hosting a Community Christmas Gift Giveaway to support children from families facing financial hardships this holiday season. At 10 a.m. Dec. 20 and 21, families can drop by the church to pick up a gift, but registration is required, and children must be present, accompanied by an adult, to receive their gift.

For more information or to register, visit Freedom Church's Facebook page or call 707-693-1774.

#### Mäksē Downtown **Christmas Party**

Mäksē Restaurant, 555 Main St., Vacaville, is hosting a festive evening full of holiday cheer. From 5 to 9 p.m. Dec. 22, the restaurant will have live Christmas music, a cocktail bar, a buffet dinner (including dessert) and a White Elephant Gift Exchange, meaning guests draw names at random to exchange gifts; gifts must be around \$20 and wrapped to be considered eligible. Tickets are currently available for \$75 per person but will be \$90 per person at the door.

For more information or to purchase your tickets, visit makserestaurant.com/or call 707-685-9744.

#### Candlelight Service

Cornerstone Baptist Church, 185 W. Cherry St., is hosting its annual candlelight service at 10:30 a.m. Dec. 22. Cornerstone believes in creating an environment where people can have authentic encounters with Christ, discover their spiritual gifts, and use them for God's glory.

For more information, visit cornerstoneindixon.com, or call 707-678-5234.

#### **Christmas Candy Bingo**

Dixon Senior Club is hosting Christmas Candy Bingo at noon on Dec. 23. The game, held at the Senior/Multi-use Center, 201 S. Fifth St., encourages guests to bring a bag of their favorite Christmas candy to add to the candy pot; candies must be individually wrapped. The winner of each game wins the money and candy pot.

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

#### **United Methodist Christmas Eve Service**

Dixon United Methodist Church, 209 N. Jefferson St., is holding Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Dec. 24. Services will include special music, scripture readings and a message of hope leading into the end of 2024. Bring friends and family to gather, worship and celebrate.

For more information, visit dixonumc. org or call 707-678-2191.

#### **Gum Paste and Fondant**

Every Baking Moment, 143 N. First St., is hosting another baking experience from 6 to 8 p.m. beginning Jan. 8. At \$75 per person, the class educates guests on the finer points of working with fondant and gum paste, such as molding them into shapes, borders and flowers.

For more information, visit everybakingmoment.com or call 707-693-0112.

#### **American Legion Dinner** and Raffle

American Legion Post 208 is hosting its annual Hobo Beef Stew Dinner and Raffle at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 18. Held at Veterans Memorial Hall, 1305 N. First St., there will be a no-host bar, with dinner served at 6 p.m. for \$15 per person.

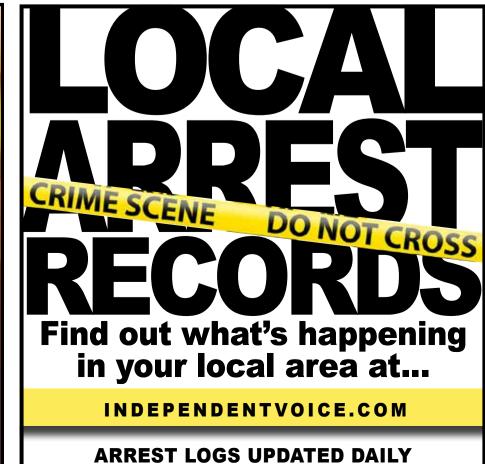
For more information, visit American Legion Post 208's Facebook page or call 707-592-0991.

#### **Solano County Farm Bureau Meeting** The Solano County Farm Bureau is

hosting its 107th Annual Meeting and Dinner at 5 p.m. on Jan. 18. The event, held at the Dixon May Fair, 655 S. First St., offers the opportunity to connect with members of the Bureau, enjoy delicious food and hear updates about the agricultural industry within Solano. Tickets are available for \$80 per adult, \$25 per child 5 to 12 and \$800 to reserve a table for 10. Agricultural members will be offered spe-

For more information, visit solanofarmbureau.org or call 707-449-8044.





### Elizabeth Contreras is Soroptimist International of Dixon's October Young Woman of the Month

By Lynda Jones

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Elizabeth Contreras is Soroptimist International Dixon's Young Woman of the Month. She was nominated by Ryan Nguyen, an English teacher at Dixon High School. Mr. Nguyen attended our celebration event along with Principal Angela Brown.

"Elizabeth is a remarkable woman with a remarkable background," Nguyen said. "She brings a light and positivity to every place that she is in and she lifts others around her up in small interactions and in large interactions. She is a pleasure and a joy to be with."

Contreras is the daughter of Juan Contreras and Elizabeth Moreno. Contreras has two brothers, Juan Jose and Miguel and a sister Sheila.

Contreras moved to Dixon five years ago from La Garita, Mexico and started attending Dixon High School as a Freshman. She is proud of learning to speak English through school, and in ELD. She is most proud, however, of her parents: because her parents wanted to give their children as much as possible, they made the



Young Woman of the Month for October. Photo courtesy of Soroptimist International of Dixor

decision to move to the United States. Contreras is proud of the fact that her parents sacrificed so much for her and her siblings, so much so, that she dedicated her award to her mother.

According to Contreras, her mother is the "hardest working and strongest woman she will

ever meet." Her mother is her role

Contreras expressed that being awarded Young Woman of the Month guarantees that she is on the right path to fulfill one of her dreams – to be a great woman. Her mother never attended high school, but always had the desire, intelligence, and mental strength needed to pursue a career. The dream of studying lives inside of her. Her mom now goes to school in the afternoons to learn English. By helping other students learn English, Contreras uses her mother as an example of how to follow one's dreams.

Contrera's contributions to her school include helping with the school garden by planting flowers and maintaining the garden to beautify the school. She participates in floral design through FFA at school along with helping other students to learn English.

Contreras has discovered that her Ag Mechanics class and her teacher, Mr. Tanaka, have had an impact on her in a way she hadn't expected. It has prepared her for life. This last year she created a system for a sprinkler and entered it into a competition at Dixon May Fair and earned second place. That class helped her earn awards in agriculture classes and AG Mechanics recognition as well.

Contreras's hobbies include spending time with her family and writing stories in Spanish.

Contrera's future plans are to attend CSU Sacramento and get into the nursing program with a focus on dermatology.

After listening to Elizabeth Contreras, it is very clear that she doesn't take anything for granted. She is hard-working and appreciative of all that the world offers. We wish you, Elizabeth, the best in the next steps of your life. You are an amazing young woman.

### Yenifer Gutierrez Gonzalez is Soroptimist International of Dixon's November Young Woman of the Month



Yenifer (Yeni) Gutierrez Gonzalez is Soroptimist International Dixon Young Woman of the

Soroptimist International of Dixon News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Yenifer (Yeni) Gutierrez Gonzalez is Soroptimist International Dixon Young Woman of the Month. She was nominated by the Math Department at Dixon High School. Paola Pantoja, Dixon High School Math Teacher and Chair of the Department attended our celebration event along with Principal Angela Brown.

"Yenifer consistently demonstrated qualities that make her stand out as an outstanding individual," Pantoja said. "She is never afraid to take initiative, ask questions, and tackle challenging problems with determination."

Ms. Pantoja went on to say "Yeni took initiative and created the FFA garden, a project that reflects her creativity, leadership, and commitment to the Dixon

community." Gutierrez Gonzalez is the daughter of David Gutierrez Becerra and Maria del Rocio Gonzalez Garcia. Gutierrez Gonzalez has a sister, Estefania, who currently attends UC Davis and is her role model. Her sister, Estefania was also a recipient of a Soroptimist Scholarship. Gutierrez Gonzalez expressed gratitude to her parents for their sacrifices and for being such great parents.

Gutierrez Gonzalez and her family immigrated from Mexico to the United States in 2018. She attended C.A. Jacobs Middle School before attending Dixon High School. Getting involved in FFA had an impact on what she wanted to do after graduation. Taking animal science classes and realizing she has a great interest in animals and science, she wishes to pursue veterinary medicine. She appreciates Mr. Tanaka, the Ag instructor, for his teaching model and support.

Gutierrez Gonzalez's greatest accomplishment is being reclassified to fluent

English. Her contributions to her school include the development and continued maintenance of the garden. Although she is currently not in FFA, Gutierrez Gonzalez spends 1 to 2 hours after school each day working in the garden; she also regularly attends School Board meetings. This demonstrates her passion and commitment to education.

Gutierrez Gonzalez's future goals are inspiring, hoping to attend UC Davis and major in Biology or Animal Science in her pursuit of Veterinary Medicine.

Soroptimist International of Dixon members wish Yenifer the best in her future pursuits. What an amazing young woman.



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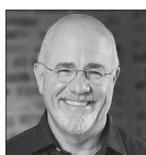
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4 • DECEMBER 20, 2024



Dave Ramsey

Dear Dave,

A friend told me about your Baby Steps plan, and after years of living paycheck-to-paycheck and running up credit card bills, I'm ready to get control of my finances. I just have one question. Baby Step 1 is saving \$1,000 for a beginner emergency fund. Do you recommend getting current on past due bills before starting Baby Step 1?

– Miles

Dear Miles,

Congratulations! I'm glad to hear you're finally sick and tired of being financially sick and tired. This is the perfect question for someone is your situation, because it gives me a chance to walk you all the way through the Baby Steps. So, let's go!

First, make sure all your necessities are taken care of. By necessities, I'm talking about food, clothing, shelter, transportation and utilities. Then, get current on anything you owe, or make payment arrangements for past due bills. After you've done this, it's

#### **Dave Ramsey Says**

#### The Roadmap to Financial Peace

time to take your very first Baby Step.

You've already mentioned getting \$1,000 in the bank for a starter emergency fund. That's Baby Step 1. After that comes your debt snowball, which is Baby Step 2. Here, you'll pay off all your debts from smallest to largest—except your home. Attack the first balance on your list by paying as much as you can each month, while making minimum payments on the other debts. When you've paid off the first one, add what you were paying on it to the payment on your next debt and start attacking it. As the snowball continues to roll over, you're picking up more and more money to apply to your debts.

In Baby Step 3, you'll save money and increase your emergency fund from \$1,000 to a full three to six months of expenses. You're going to be surprised how fast you can save money when your income isn't flying out the door to pay off debt every month.

Now, it's time to really start looking toward the future. In Baby Step 4, start investing 15 percent of your income for retirement. College funding is next in Baby Step 5 for any kids you have, or plan on having one day. And here's a big one. Baby Step 6 is where you pay off your home early. How great will that feel?

But Baby Step 7 is the real deal. Now, you start building wealth and giving with outrageous generosity. When you've completed all the other Baby Steps, and are able to do these two things, you've achieved the pinnacle of smart money management. Or in other words, you've reached the point of financial peace.

Make it happen, Miles. You can do this!!

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 the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★

## Christmas Celebrations Abundant in Dixon

Continued from page 1

readings and a message of hope, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Dixon United Methodist Church is located at 209 North Jefferson St. For more information, visit dixonumc.org or call 707-678-2191.

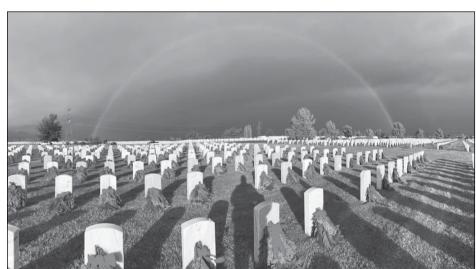
Freedom Church, at 470 East H St., is providing a community Christmas Gift Giveaway at 10 a.m. Dec. 20 and Dec. 21 to support families facing financial hardships this holiday season. Pre-registration is required. For more information, visit freedomchurch.com or call 707-693-1774.

Living Hope Church, at 410 Gateway Drive, will host its Interstate 180 programming for students from sixth- to 12th grade. Interstate 180 is the church's main

youth night, collaborating with multiple Dixon church youth groups to uphold unity and Christ as high priorities. The event, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dec. 24, will be held at Calvary Chapel in Downtown Dixon, 150 N. First St. For more information, visit livinghopedixon.churchcenter. com or call 707-693-1512.

St. Peter's Catholic Church, 105 South Second St., is offering two holiday-related services in both English and Spanish. Christmas Eve Mass occurs Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. for English speakers and 7:30 p.m. for Spanish speakers. This event will be followed by Christmas Mass on Dec. 25; the English service occurs 11 a.m., followed by the Spanish service at 1 p.m. \*

## The Wreath Project Honors Veterans



After a foggy morning of rainy weather Dec. 14, a beautiful rainbow stretched across the sky, greeting the hard-working volunteers. Photo courtesy of Jackie Stocking

Continued from page 1

of all ages are welcome and those with pickup trucks and trailers are needed to haul boughs to on-site dumpsters. Sign-up is not required, so those interested can show up at the specified date. For more information, visit wreathproject.org or email WreathProject@yahoo. com to join the email group and receive updates on Wreath Project events, early placement information and volunteer needs at the cemetery.

## How California Can Fix Its School Crisis. Two Projects Point the Way



#### By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When the state Department of Education released academic test scores of California's public school students in October, it cast them in positive terms.

"Overall," the department said, "the percentages of California students meeting or exceeding standards (demonstrating proficient or advanced grade-level knowledge and skills) in (English language arts), mathematics, and science increased, from 46.7% to 47% percent in (English language arts), from 34.6% to 35.5% in math, and from 30.2% to 30.% in science."

What the department didn't say is that those minuscule increases from the previous year meant that California remains one of the states where academic achievements are still below what they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As CalMatters' account of the test scores notes, "both English language arts and math scores are 4 percentage points below their 2018-19 levels, which were among the highest scores for California students since the state began administering the Smarter Balanced test in 2014-15."

Alix Gallagher, director of strategic partnerships at the education research nonprofit Policy Analysis for California Education, told the San Jose Mercury News that the slow recovery from the pandemic indicates that the massive federal and state funds given schools to cope with the pandemic failed to prevent declines.

"What we would want to see is that with those additional funds, we had a really strong recovery. Instead, what we saw were really modest gains," Gallagher said.

The department's obfuscation continued a month later when it released its "dashboard" of public education markers that trumpeted nonacademic factors, such as increases in attendance and decreases in student suspensions, but ignored California's subpar academic outcomes, which

should be the most important.

That's not surprising, given that the state's education bureaucrats consciously developed the multipoint dashboard to conceal the chronic lack of academic achievement.

A state-by-state report on school system transparency of academic test results issued by the Center for Reinventing Public Education, based at Arizona State University, gives California a "D" for its lack of clarity.

"I have a Ph.D. in education policy and I can barely navigate these sites," Morgan Polikoff, a USC professor who worked on the report, told CalMatters. "How do we expect a typical parent to access this information and make sense of it?"

Are California's stubborn failings in teaching basic subjects such as math and reading, which the educational establishment hopes no one will notice, fixable?

Two recent projects to improve academic skills indicate that learning can be improved with sustained effort that uses proven techniques and shuns trendy short-term

fixes that school systems often adopt in their desperate efforts to raise test scores.

Policy Analysis for Public Education, a think tank jointly operated by several major universities that studies California schools, cites the math project in Lake Tahoe Unified School District's Sierra House Elementary School and a reading program in Grass Valley School District as successful examples.

In both, California Education Partners, a school reform organization staffed by academic experts, provided three years of hands-on help to improve instruction, and PACE evaluators found significantly positive results. "The Sierra House model serves as a blueprint for building adult capacity and fostering instructional coherence," they said, while Grass Valley's phonics-based reading program was adopted district-wide and "improved student outcomes."

California's educational crisis is palpable. Not only do California schools fare very poorly vis-a-vis other states in federal academic testing — seventh from the bottom — but there's a yawning "achievement gap" between low income and English learner students and their more privileged classmates that widened during the pandemic.

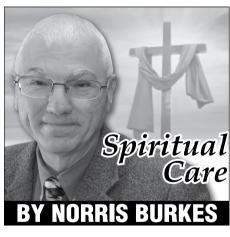
Rather than hide the problem with gimmicks such as the school dashboard, California should own up to it and embrace successful examples such as those in Tahoe and Grass Valley.

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.

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### **Definitely NOT the Best Christmas Ever**



This is the time of year when writers like to recount their "Best Christmas ever."

Their stories often include a video of a slobbering puppy leaping from a ribbon-covered box or a marriage proposal, or my favorite, a deployed soldier surprising her family with an early homecoming.

But if you've read my column long enough, you'll know that this columnist seeks to fill the holes of the unexpected. So, today, I recollect my very worst Christmas ever!

I was only 4 years old, but savvy enough to ask my parents why our Charlie Brown Christmas tree was so bare. I didn't understand why my father, a poor ministerial student, had nothing to place under the tree.

However, I became cautiously optimistic on Christmas Eve when my dad called us one-by-one into his study cubby.

My sister came away with a new doll. My brother followed holding a kinetic car, the kind you roll backwards to wind up the energy.

Score! Seeing that kind of haul, my kinetic energy was pushing full throttle.

I approached my dad's desk and climbed into his loving lap.

"I have something very important to tell you," he said.

My little eyes reflected with the antici-

patory joy of Tiny Tim.

"There is no such thing as Santa Claus," he said. "We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, not Santa."

Christmas, not Santa."

My eyes blinked with tears. Could it get

any worse for a preschooler than that?
Yes, actually, it could.

When I asked about my present, my dad told me that I'd be sharing the kinetic car

with my brother.
"Does it get it any sadder?" you ask.

**OC O**11111

I joined my brother on the kitchen floor where we took turns sending the car careening back and forth like a game of

Twenty minutes into the game, my 5-year-old brother began speculating on how the car mechanism worked.

"Let me take it apart," my brother begged with screwdriver in hand. I was curious, too, but I would only agree if he promised to restore it to working condition.

He promised.

Ten minutes later, with wheels, chassis and motor spread on the kitchen table, the car was humpty-dumptied.

Saddest, worst, most disappointing Christmas ever, right? So, why would I write about

a Christmas memory worthy of Debbie-downer?

As foul as it was, it still points toward some spiritual takeaways of Christmas.

First, Christmas needn't be all about materialism, about what we buy or what we consume. It might also be about sacrifice.

My sacrifice fed my brother's mechanical mind. He explored the workings of the tiny engine, gaining early insights into motion, potential energy and kinetic energy. He may have failed the car restoration business, but he became an electronics repairman and later started his own electronics business.

Second, my worst Christmas inspired me to share what we are given. Christian scripture reminds us, "To whom much is given, much shall be required."

I didn't get much, but in sharing it, I perhaps inspired greater generosity. For years to come, my brother modified other gifts into things much more interesting.

One year he rigged a toy tank to burst from a record player box and shoot rubber bands. Another year, he removed the capacitor from an old radio to make an electric shock device capable of repelling the school bullies.

I've shared this sad story with my wife many times over the years. So, last week I told her I'd have my best Christmas ever if she'd give me a miniature Schnauzer puppy for Christmas.

At first she said no, but after reading this column, she assured me that our neighbor would likely "share" his new puppy.

would likely "share" his new puppy.

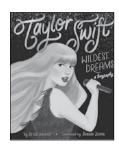
So much for the worst Christmas ever. ★



BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ☑ amy-shane@att.net • ◎ amy\_fortheloveofbooks

#### **Holiday Gift Guide** from Harper Collins Publishing

The Holiday gift-giving guide returns with an exciting new array of Children's books. This year, our favorite publishers have curated their top picks for the holiday season, promising delightful discoveries for you and your little ones. So, if you are looking for the perfect gift or one that will bring holiday cheer or hours of entertainment, remember that the joy of discovering a new book is timeless.



#### **Taylor Swift** Wildest Dreams: A

**Biography** by Erica Wainer, illustrated by Joanie Stone Follow Taylor Swift from her childhood on the Christmas tree farm together.

and filling her journal with her writing, to being discovered in Nashville. Readers will be able to celebrate the journey while feeling strong and empowered. Paired with a journal and a glitter pen, this is the perfect gift for the youngest Swifties on your shopping list.

#### One Foggy **Christmas Eve** by Kerilynn Wilson

It's Christmas Eve, and the fog is getting thicker and thicker, but nothing will stop a little girl from getting to her Nana and Papa's

house. She finds her

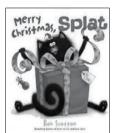


way through the fog with a flashlight in hand, twinkling lights, and some holiday magic. A beautifully illustrated story that will show how stories can light the way and bring everyone

#### Merry Christmas, Splat by Rob Scotton

When Spalt writes a letter to Santa, he worries that he might not have been a good enough cat for a big present. So, this year, Splat decided to give his mom extra help, but he messes everything up. Will Spat be able to stay up to meet Santa to explain, or will everything be ruined? Splat the cat returns just in time for Christmas, along with over 30 fun

stickers. It's Christmas, **Curious George** 





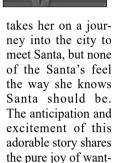


It's Christmas Eve, and Curious George decides that Santa needs a little help. Young readers will giggle along as Curious George helps Santa deliver presents, adding his own bit of cheer. This lifting to meet Santa. the-flap book holds lots of fun and cute surprises.

#### A City Full of Santas

by Joanna Ho and Thai My Phuong

A little girl has always dreamed of staying awake long enough to meet Santa. This year, her mama is



#### Don't Touch that El - A Scout Elf **Emergency Guide.**

Oh no, someone has touched the Elf. Now, what do you do? Luckily your favorite Elf is here to save this elftastrophe and save the day. A perfect book for an Elf family with 25 punch-out gifts for your Elf.



### **Riley Reviews**

"DAY OF THE JACKAL" A RIVETING, WELL-**EXECUTED THRILLER SERIES** 

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

#### "THE DAY OF THE JACKAL" ON PEACOCK

Historical events can lead to interesting entertainment, whether in books, cinema, and even television. British author Frederick Forsyth got the ball rolling, so to speak, when as a journalist in the early Sixties he covered French affairs and the assassination attempt on Charles de

During World War II, De Gaulle became a general in the French army, and later a leader in the resistance during Nazi Germany's occupation of France. Until his death in 1970, the General would remain a consequential leader, even serving as President for a decade.

General de Gaulle was the subject of a deadly plot by the paramilitary group OAS, comprised of military members filled with bitter resentment that France allowed Algeria to become an independent nation.

While several attempts were made on his life, the most famous effort occurred on August 22, 1962. Barely escaping death in a hail of machine gun fire, De Gaulle's ordeal formed the basis of Forsyth's first novel.

"The Day of the Jackal" was the result of Forsyth's maiden step to a career of thriller novelist that included the works of "The Odessa File," "The Dogs of War," and "The Fourth Protocol," all of which were adapted into films.

Forsyth's "The Day of the Jackal" was first adapted into the 1973 film of the same title, starring British actor Edward Fox as the Jackal, a professional assassin hired to kill then-President of France Charles de Gaulle in the summer of 1962.

The Peacock ten-episode series "The Day of the Jackal" is set in modern-day Europe, so it can hardly be considered a remake of a classic film other than the central premise of shrouding mystery around an elusive professional killer.

British actor Eddie Redmayne's Jackal, a masterful chameleon and known to his family as Charles, works as a lone assassin for the highest bidder where his contact with an employer is through the

A master of disguise, the Jackal is first seen impersonating an old janitor to infiltrate an office building of a media empire belonging to Manfred Fest (Burghart Klaubner), a candidate aspiring to become Germany's chancellor.

Why then does the Jackal intentionally shoot Fest's son in the leg? Is this a veiled threat? That does not seem to be the case because the Jackal's next assignment is to eliminate the hopeful political

The set-up is a diversion intended to draw Fest to a place where the assassin could exterminate his target with a high-powered specially-made sniper rifle at a distance that would seem wildly unattainable. The Jackal's planning and execution of

the contract is flawless. Quickly escap-

ing from a high-rise building, he leaves behind no detectable trace of his identity by initiating a series of explosions destroying any evidence. Meanwhile, MI6 agent Bianca Pullman (Lashana Lynch) hears about the shoot-

ing while at home with her husband and daughter, realizing that it's probably only a matter of time before intelligence sources pool their resources. The very next day at the MI6 head-

quarters in London, high-level persons at the agency are meeting with a German intelligence figure, and Bianca invites herself into the gathering because she's a gun expert and has thoughts about how an assassin could pull off an evidently impossible job. Bianca is not exactly popular with her

superior, but she does impress the director, Isabel Kirby (Lia Williams), with her tenacity and obsession that takes her to Northern Ireland in a hunt for special weapons maker. An equally interesting side of the

Jackal is his personal life at his beautiful mansion on the Spanish coastal city of Cadiz with his wife Nuria (Ursula Corbero) and young child. Yet, marital discord festers as Nuria

grows increasingly curious about his secretive business trips. You would think she might wonder what line of work would result in a lavish lifestyle.

The complex and driven natures of both the Jackal and the dogged MI6 agent heighten the suspense at every turn. The less said about where their journeys lead the better, lest any spoilers be given

Nominated for a Golden Globe Award for Best Television series (Drama) and star Eddie Redmayne for Best Performance by an Actor in Television Series (Drama), Peacock's "The Day of the Jackal" will be exposed to a wider audience when NBC airs the first episode on Monday, December 30th.

The accolades don't stop with Hollywood's foreign press. The Critics Choice Awards nominated "The Day of the Jackal" for Best Drama Series and Eddie Redmayne for Best Actor in a Drama Series.

Whether the show gets nominated in Emmy Awards categories may be a matter of eager anticipation, but there is enough cat-and-mouse tension throughout every episode of this thriller that there's no need to wait for the Television Academy to weigh in with a verdict. The bottom line is that "The Day of

the Jackal" is an immensely suspenseful, intriguing, and captivating thriller that one should be very much tempted to binge-watch, all for the reason that Eddie Redmayne and Lashana Lynch are such compelling adversaries.





Things can change quickly in Kings Town, and the happenings of the past week certainly demonstrate exactly that.

The hardcourt gladiators from Sacramento are currently on a torrid 3-game winning streak, looking ahead to Monday night's game against the Denver Nuggets.

If you hadn't paid attention and just tuned into the Kings, you'd discover a team that is just finding themselves 26 games into the regular season, after losing every game in the preseason.

Fans and pundits alike have riddled the airwaves with remedies for multiple losing streaks, along with advice to coach Brown as to who should be his starting five.

I am more than happy to announce that coach Brown's decision to finally insert Malik Brown into the King's starting lineup has produced four wins in the last five games, and everyone is now wondering why it took three seasons to figure this one out.

But rather than casting aspersions, I will take the high road, and just give him an attaboy for making a decision that was long overdue. Malik is thrilled to be where he always thought he should be, and now coach Brown can simply focus on his bench that is currently ranked in the bottom of the league.

Kevin Huerter is showing signs of returning to form and seems to be comfortable taking the 6th man position that was formerly Monk's, so it's really the next three or four rotations that are going to tell the tale.

What has created chaos with the team is the night-in and night out inconsistency as to who will sit the night out completely, or who will garnish the majority of the minutes. Big man Alex Len cannot catch a

break, as he all too often finds himself at the end of the bench being a spectator for the entire game. This 7-foot giant has NBA game, and from my perspective, it's up to coach Brown and his staff to build this big man's confidence. One way you do that is by giving him a consistent rotation that he can count on every night.

Len has played several good games and shows real promise, only to find himself relegated to the bench the very next game with no explanation except for the dreaded, coaches' decision.

The Kings can keep scouring the league for another trade/acquisition, or just look at their own bench, and perhaps realize that there is more talent already on this team than they are giving them

I for one believe that Alex Len has a big upside, but it takes a coach and staff that are willing to build a player's confidence if you want to see the desired

So far, I'm giving this staff a failing grade as it relates to evaluating talent, and you need to look no further than the inexplicable trade of Davion Mitchell to qualify my comments.

The Kings are still feeling the void left in Mitchell's absence, and all he is doing in Toronto is making Canadian fans fall in love with him. From the Kings bench to the Raptor's starting point guard, Davion is making the Toronto GM look like a basketball wizard.

The Kings cannot afford to continue undervaluing talent, or simply not see the forest for the trees. Let's get everything out of the team currently constituted, and that means starting with consistency as it relates to players coming off the bench. If Huerter is the 6th man, who is #7, 8, and 9? At this point no one but coach Brown knows, and he doesn't know until just before gametime. Here's the good news! At 13-13 it's

time to hit the reset button. Yes, the Kings are at 500, and now is the time to start making a run that can propel this team to the playoffs. The starting five of, Fox, Monk,

DeRozan, Murray, and Sabonis are a formidable group to guard, and I look forward to watching this team come out of the blocks on all 8 cylinders every So, take heart Kings fans, because the

best is yet to come, and that's without a trade or an acquisition.

Merry Christmas to one and all and go

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.







#### Douglass honor Farm Bureau Successes

California Farm Bureau President Shannon Douglass celebrated the organization's accomplishments this year in an address delivered Monday at the Farm Bureau's 106th Annual Meeting in Monterey. Douglass, speaking in her first annual address since being elected last year to lead the Farm Bureau, focused on local achievements and on the organization's strength in unity. "We can have extensive success as a state organization, but it doesn't matter if we don't have strong county Farm Bureaus," Douglass said. "Thank you for showing us what's possible when we put our mind to something."

#### Young Farmers and Ranchers Urged to Engage, Be Involved

Young farmers and ranchers from across the state gathered at the 2024 California Young Farmers & Ranchers State Conference, where they reaffirmed the importance of collaboration within their communities to boost involvement and address key issues essential to the future of agriculture. The event brought together California YF&R membersfarmers, ranchers and agricultural professionals ages 18 to 35-for workshops on critical issues, strategies to strengthen YF&R programs and celebrations of member achievements.

#### Madera County Farm Dog Wins Farm Bureau Contest

Aussie, a hardworking pooch in Madera County, won the Grand Prize in the California Farm Bureau's fourth annual Farm Dog of the Year contest. With support from Nationwide and FieldClock, the contest asked Farm Bureau members to submit photos and a brief story about their beloved family member. The Grand Prize winner earned \$1,000, with First Runner-up receiving \$500, Second Runner-up, \$250 and Third Runner-up, \$100. "Aussie is our family's special dog," said Kaydence Erickson, 15. "There has been no other dog like her that we have ever owned."

#### UC Master Gardener's 'Labor of Love' Improves Health of Older Adults

The Belden Village Apartments in Clairemont Mesa East of San Diego is home to a diverse population of older adults. Shital Parikh, a UC Master Gardener of San Diego County, took the initiative to build a garden that grows food and encourages residents to spend more time outdoors, getting their hands dirty alongside neighbors. "The Belden Community Garden is a labor of love," Parikh said. "One that has been made possible thanks to the knowledge and support gained from the UC Master Gardener Program and the invaluable support from Amy Zink from the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency." ★

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### **Police Department Relaunches Bait Package Program**

Dixon Police Department News Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - With the holiday season upon us, the Dixon Police Department has relaunched its highly- effective Bait Package Program. This proactive initiative targets "porch pirates" who take advantage of the increase in package deliveries during the holidays.

The program involves deploying GPStracked packages in areas identified as theft-prone. When a bait package is taken, officers can swiftly respond to apprehend suspects and send a clear message: Dixon is no easy target for package thieves.

"Our goal is to protect our community and ensure a safe holiday season for all residents," said Police Chief Robert Thompson. "This program, combined with public awareness, is key to reducing these crimes."

#### Tips to Prevent Package Theft

While the Dixon Police Department works to deter criminals, the department encourage residents to take the following steps to protect their deliveries:

Schedule deliveries: Arrange for packages to be delivered when you are home.

Use alternative delivery options: Consider using secure delivery lockers or having packages delivered to a trusted neighbor or workplace.

Install home security systems: Doorbell cameras or motion-activated cameras can deter theft and help identify suspects.

Track deliveries: Use tracking notifications to retrieve packages promptly after

Request signature on delivery: Requiring a signature ensures packages are not left unattended.

Report Suspicious Activity

If you witness suspicious activity in your neighborhood, report it to the Dixon Police Department at 707-678-7070. For emergencies, always call 911. Together, we can keep our community

safe and ensure everyone enjoys a joyous holiday season. For updates and safety tips, follow the Dixon Police Department on Facebook and Instagram.

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#### Dixon's Independent Voice Adjudicated For and By the County of Solano

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 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 7, 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

Dated: November 22, 2024 Publish: Nov 29, Dec 6, 13, 20, 2024 REMIDES SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU24-09104 Araceli Bounds filed a petition with

this court for a decree changing names as follows: Araceli Bounds to Sally Araceli Bounds.

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. February 26, 2025, 8:30 a.m. Department 12, Room 1, Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House, 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533 Judge of the Superior Court: Christine A. Carringer Dated: December 4, 2024 Publish: Dec 13, 20, 27, Jan 3, 2025

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SOLANO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME CASE #CU24-09105

Jennifer Ann Munguia filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows: Jennifer Ann Munguia to Jennifer

Ann Enoch. 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 pe-27, 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

Dated: December 4, 2024 Publish: Dec 20, 27, Jan 3, 10, 2025

#### TRUSTEE SALE

20-24760 A.P.N.: 0115-108-010 TRUSTEE'S SALE ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 4/29/2015. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT Á LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor: JOHN M RADULOVICH AND NICOLE M RADULOVICH, HUSBAND AND WIFE Duly Appointed Trustee: Carrington Foreclosure Services, LLC Recorded 4/30/2015 as Instrument No. 201500036310 in book , page Loan Modification recorded on 2/8/2019 as Instrument No. 201900007447 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of Solano County, California, Described as follows AS FULLY DESCRIBED IN SAID DEED OF TRUST Date of Sale: 1/8/2025 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: Vallejo City Hall, 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$321,186.39

(Estimated) Street Address or

other common designation of real property: 700 WALNUT PARK

AVE DIXON, CA 95620 A.P.N.:

0115-108-010 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee. and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee, or the Mortgagee's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's rights against the real property only. THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE PURPOSE COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if vou fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. NOTICE POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about

trustee sale postponements be

made available to you and to the

public, as a courtesy to those not

present at the sale. If you wish to

learn whether your sale date has

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cable, the rescheduled time and

date for the sale of this property, you may call (800) 280-2832 or visit this Internet Web site www. auction.com and Tracker.auction.com/sb1079, using the file number assigned to this case 20-24760. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. For sales conducted after January 1, 2021: NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder, you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (800) 280-2832, or visit this internet website www.auction.com and Tracker auction.com/sb1079. using the file number assigned

to this case 20-24760 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 11/26/2024 Vylla Solutions, LLC formerly known as Carrington Foreclosure Services, LLC 1600 South Douglass Road, Suite 140 Anaheim. CA 92806 Automated Sale Information: (800) 280-2832 or www.auction.com for NON-SALE information: 888-313-1969 Tai Alailima, Director 12/6/2024. 12/13/2024 Published

12/20/2024 DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 12-20-24

APN: 0113-522-040 TS No.: 24-07830CA TSG Order No.: 240207680 NOTICE OF SALE UNDE. TRUSTEE DEED OF TRUST IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED AUGUST 16, 2022. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, SHOULD CONTACT Affinia Default A LAWYER. Services, LLC, as the duly appointed Trustee, under and pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust Recorded August 24, 2022

as Document No.: 202200055649

of Official Records in the of-

fice of the Recorder of Solano

County, California, executed by:

Christopher Walter Morris, a

married man as his sole and sep-

arate property, as Trustor, will be sold AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER for cash (payable in full at time of sale by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). All right, title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said deed of trust in the property situated in said county and state, and as more fully described in the above referenced deed of trust. Date: January 6, 2025 Sale Time: 9:30 AM Sale Location: At the the City Hall at 555 Santa Clara Street, Vallejo, CA 94590 File No.:24-07830CA The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be: 545 Pheasant Run Dr, Dixon, CA 95620. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address and other common designation, if any, shown herein. Said sale will be made in an "AS IS" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by said Deed of Trust. with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust, to-wit: \$77,802.72 (Estimated). Accrued interest and additional advances, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale. It is possible that at the time of sale the opening bid may be less than the total indebtedness NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources. vou should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant

to Section 2924g of the California

Civil Code. The law requires that

information about trustee sale

postponements be made avail-

whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call, (916) 939-0772 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website, www.nationwideposting.com, for information regarding the sale of this property, using the file number assigned to this case, T.S.# 24-07830CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (916) 939-0772, or visit this internet website www.na-tionwideposting.com, using the file number assigned to this case 24-07830CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. 3 File No.:24right to purchase. 07830CA If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Pre Sale Information Log On To: www.nationwideposting.com or Call: (916) 939-0772. For Post Sale Results please visit www. affiniadefault.com or Call (866) Dated: December By: Omar Solorzano 3, 2024 Foreclosure Associate 301 E. Default Services. LLC Ocean Blvd., Suite 1720 Long Beach, CA 90802 (833) 290-NPP0468396 To: DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE Publish12/13/2024, 12/20/2024 12/27/2024 DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE 12-27-24



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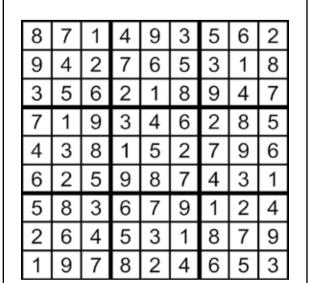


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crannies? 16. List of Catholic saints

17. Down Under runner 18. White heron

19. \* \_\_\_ meal, or staff meal 21. \*Meat and fish, in

Italian restaurant 23. Singer/songwriter

Yoko 24. \*What appetizers do

to appetite 25. \*Deuce

28. Like a reliable move 30. Not a desktop

35. "My bad!" 37. Painter Chagall

39. Beyond suburban 40. Wisecrack

41. \*Nigiri, e.g. 43. \*Middle Eastern

44 Of an arm hone 46. That time

47. Let it stand, to

proofreader 48 Swellings

50. Chancy

52. Between E and NE 53. Stomach reflex

55. \*Fish eggs 57. \*Second C in CDC

\_\_\_ d'hotel 64. Not mainstream,

as in art 65. "To His Mistress"

67. Bracelet add-on 69. Covers with gold

70. Stiff grass bristle 71. Irving of Dallas

Mavericks 72. Eyelid affliction 73. Fairytale princess

DOWN

74. Winter driving

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hazard

1. Curved one

2. Table extender 3. Sicilian erupter

Movie trailer, e.g.
 Perfecting, as in skill

6. Toe the line 7. Popular pickup

8. Puppy love 9. Jumping stick

10. Forsaken 11. Barely got by

12. Spumante-producing 15. Greek god's libation

20. Rumpelstiltskin's machine, pl. 22. \*Freshwater staple in

sushi restaurant 24. Idolize

25. \*Chef's hat

26. Modified "will" 27. Offer two cents

29. Drawn tight 31. Baby porcupines 32. Commonplace

33. Like Cheerios 34. \*Blue-\_\_\_\_ sp 34. \*Blue-\_\_\_\_ special 36. Unsubscriber's focus

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63. Great Lake 66. Be in the red 68. Were introduced

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## 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 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

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.

**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.

**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.

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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.

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



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### COMICS & PUZZLES

































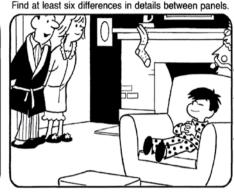












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**10 · DECEMBER 20, 2024** 

## Dixon High School Honors Students



student body, informing them of the float contest.



Senior Humberto Raza chases Rammy the Ram down, claiming his Christmas cap and the victory for his class.



Students representing the freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes competed in a series of competitions, beginning with a gift unwrapping relay race.

#### By Kendall Brown, photos by Nicolas Brown

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon High School, 555 College Way, held a Winter Rally at 11:15 a.m. Dec. 13 that was open to the public. The festive rally, lasting 40 minutes, honored the students of Dixon High School for their hard work leading into finals.

"It's one last fun thing to do before finals, like woohoo! We did it!" said Melanie Sadorra-Torres, a teacher at Dixon High School. "Just a nice sendoff into serious business next week, then it's break."

Dixon High School's Leadership Club, led by Sadorra-Torres, put the event together; the club's primary duties include creating advertising for Dixon High School, running The Rambler school newspaper, and planning spirit days and events, like the Winter Rally.

"So, the associated student body President, Reagan Castelli, is in charge of the rally committee. She delegates games and scriptwriting, then it goes from there. We have to do a lot of run throughs, practice, practice!" said Sadorra-Torres.

The occasion, hosted by Dixon High School student Joban Domingo, began with the student body strolling into the gym, greeted by Christmas classics over the intercom and three students in mascot costumes: an inflatable Grinch, an inflatable gingerbread man, and Rammy the Ram, adorn in festive attire, including a hat.

The freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes competed in a series of games to determine the top class, beginning with two relay races. The first, a gift opening relay, was dominated by the freshman representative, winning the game

for their class. The next race was a snowman building competition; the race saw competitors wrapping a classmate with toilet paper and taping a felt carrot to their face within a short time limit. Each class was given a chance to vote for the best snowman with cheers, leading to the seniors claiming victory.

The penultimate game utilized the mascots; the grinch and gingerbread man had white and blue balloons tied around their ankles. Competitors were tasked with first popping the balloons, then taking Rammy the Rams festive hat. During a hectic showcase, senior Humberto Raza ultimately snatched the hat and won.

After a friendly game of musical chairs, the Winter Rally ended, but not before Principal Angela Brown addressed the student body

Provided by Jill Orr of Dawson's Bar and Grill,



A group of eight students from the crowd play a competitive game of musical chairs alongside Rammy the Ram.

105 N. First St., a series of cash prizes were given out to the four most favored Homecoming Floats, rated by the community. Future Farmers of America (FFA) won fourth place, earning \$50, followed by the juniors' float in third (\$75), the seniors' float

at second (\$100) and the sophomores' float in first (\$125).

After cheers and jeers, the student body made their way back to class, embodying a sense of unity that Sadorra-Torres believes is most prevalent during the season of giving. "I think this is probably the only time of year when we're all eating the same food and listening to the same songs," said Sadorra-Torres. "That sense of unity is important, and it makes you want to come together as a community."



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