THE DIXON TRIBUNE

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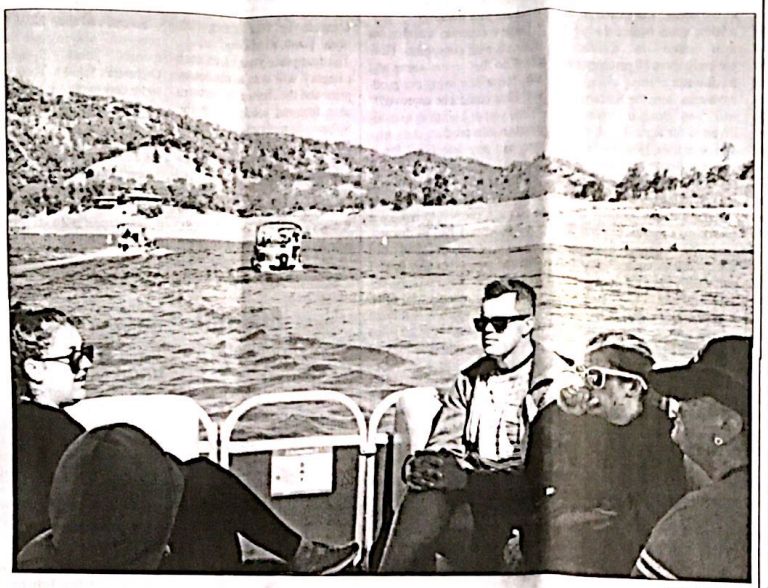
Second annual Water Institute for Teachers takes place this week



COURTESY PHOTO

Solano County -Solano *Resource Conservation District's* second Solano Water Institute for Teachers will take place August 3-5 and will feature visits to Solano County parks and open spaces, as well as a boat tour of *Lake Berryessa, one of the* county's primary sources of drinking and irrigation water. The Solano Institute is an intensive three-day workshop designed to support K-12 educators in teaching watershed science and land preservation from a locally relevant perspective.

The training begins Wednesday, August 3, at Rush Ranch Open Space near Suisun City with a place-based learning experience at the Suisun Marsh. The day will feature a tour of the

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First Northern Community Bancorp reports second quarter 2022 earnings

Net loan growth, excluding PPP loans, was up 24.3 percent year over year

Dixon - Last week, First Northern Community Bancorp, holding company for First Northern Bank, reported net income of $6.6 million, or $0.48 per diluted share, for the six months ended June 30, 2022, up 1.6 percent compared to net income of $6.5 million, or $0.45 per diluted share, for the six months ended June 30, 2021.

Net income for the quarter ended June 30, 2022 was $3.5 million, or $0.26 per diluted share, up 7.3 percent compared to net income of $3.3 million, or $0.23 per diluted share, for the quarter ended June 30, 2021.

Total assets as of June 30, 2022 were $1.90 billion, an increase of $62.2 million, or 3.4 percent, compared to June 30, 2021. Total deposits as of June 30, 2022 were $1.75 billion, an increase of $88.0 million, or 5.3 percent, compared to June 30, 2021. Total net loans (including loans totaling $1.5 million made under the SBA's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)) as of June 30, 2022 were $931.9 million, an increase of $57.8 million, or 6.6 percent, compared to total net loans (including loans held-for-sale and loans totaling

COURTESY GRAPHIC

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Thompson votes to pass Wildfire Response and Drought Resilience Act

Washington, D.C. - On Friday, Representative Mike Thompson (CA-05) voted to pass the Wildfire Response and Drought Resiliency Act, legislation that will help to address wildfires, drought, and the climate crisis.

"Our district has experienced some of the worst wildfires in our state's history in part due to the impact of climate change," said Thompson. "We made significant investments in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to fight and prepare for wildfires. The Wildfire Response and Drought Resiliency Act is another step towards providing our communities with the resources we need to combat wildfires and reduce drought.

"I am particularly pleased to see my language requesting information from the Department of Agriculture on crop losses due to natural disasters included in this bill. Given the prolonged drought conditions and the constant threat of wildfire and smoke exposure, we already know that many of our growers will need disaster assistance for 2022 losses. The information we request from USDA will help inform my work to reauthorize the Emergency Relief Program (formerly known as the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus or WHIP+) for 2022 losses.

Rep. Mike Thompson

"As the climate crisis contin-

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State health officials providesupdate on Monkeypox response

Sacramento - In a teleconference with media outlets Friday, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás Aragón provided an update on the state's efforts in response to the monkeypox outbreak in California.

"We continue to approach monkeypox with the utmost urgency to slow its spread in California, distributing scarce vaccine doses to impacted communities, providing prevention information and testing, and doing what we can to increase access to treatment," said Dr. Aragón. "This virus has impacted more than 750 Californians to date, and we know that has been incredibly challenging for those individuals and families. We remain focused on doing what we can to reduce risk, increase awareness, and get additional access to vaccines and treatment.

"Our team is also committed to reducing stigma among the LGBTQ community, which has

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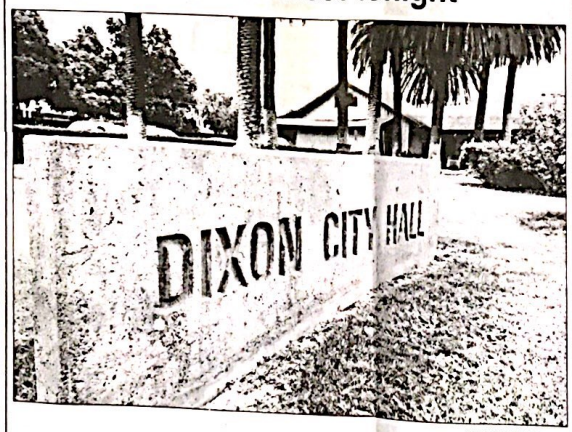
Council approves active transportation plan, Scheduled to meet tonight



TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

Ben Edokpayi
Staff Writer

Dixon - City Council Members at its last session adopted a resolution accepting the 2020 Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and the 2022 ATP Amended Project List, as prepared by Solano Transportation Authority (STA).

The City of Dixon's ATP, as prepared by the STA, includes 58 bikeway improvement projects and 19 pedestrian improvement projects. In 2022, the STA amended the

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$125.6 million made under the SBA's PPP) of $874.1 million as of June 30, 2021. The increase in net loans was primarily driven by originations of commercial real estate and agriculture loans, which was partially offset by payoffs and the forgiveness and SBA reimbursement on loans made under the SBA's PPP.

Excluding PPP loans, net loan growth as of June 30, 2022 was $181.9 million, or 24.3 percent, compared to June 30, 2021. The Company continued to be "well capitalized" under regulatory definitions, exceeding the 10 percent total risk-based capital ratio threshold as of June 30, 2022.

Commenting on the Company's financial results, President & Chief Executive Officer Louise Walker stated, "We delivered exceptional results this quarter, driven by continued execution of our strategic initiatives and double-digit loan growth (excluding PPP loans). Additionally, we saw net interest income expansion, deposit growth, and a 35% decrease in non-performing assets compared to the same period a year ago. We are also proud to share that First Northern Bank was ranked #192 in the nation in American Bankers 2022 Top 200 Community Banks."

First Northern Bank is an independent community bank that specializes in relationship banking. The Bank, headquartered in Solano County since 1910, serves Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, Placer, and Contra Costa Counties, as well as the west slope of El Dorado County. Experts are available in small-business, commercial, real estate and agribusiness lending, as well as mortgage loans. The Bank is an SBA Preferred Lender. Non-FDIC insured Investment and Brokerage Services are available at every branch location, including Dixon, Davis, West Sacramento, Fairfield, Vacaville, Winters, Woodland, Sacramento, Roseville, Auburn and Rancho Cordova. The Bank also has a commercial lending office in Walnut Creek. Real estate mortgage and small-business loan officers are available by appointment in any of the Bank's 11 branches. First Northern is rated as a Veribanc "Blue Ribbon" Bank and a "5-Star Superior" Bank by Bauer Financial for the earnings period ended March 31, 2022 (www.veribanc.com) and (www.bauerfinancial.com). The Bank can be found on the Web at thatsmybank.com, on Facebook and on LinkedIn.

WATER
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Suisun Marsh, presentations from local education and conservation leaders, and hands-on activities teachers can take back to their classroom.

On Thursday, August 4, participants will take the wildly popular boat tour of Lake Berryessa. The excursion includes commentary and activities featuring a panel of local experts from the Solano County Water Agency, the CA Department of Water Resources, the City of Benicia, the US Bureau of Reclamation, the Yocha Dehe Wintun tribe, and the CA Water Education Foundation's Project WET.

Friday, August 5, is the final day of this year's Institute. Enrolled teachers will engage in hands-on training activities from the award-winning Project WET at the City of Fairfield's Dunnell Nature Park and Education Center. Project WET's innovative curriculum aligns with California's Next Generation Science Standards and provides excellent tools for both classroom teachers and informal educators.

"We're looking forward to another successful program this year," says Marianne Butler, Education Director for Solano Resource Conservation District. "Our place-based learning experiences help educators teach environmental science by connecting students to the place they live. Making that connection helps students develop a sense of stewardship for local natural resources. We've found that using our local parks and open spaces as lab-oratories make the subject relevant and encourages youth to explore parks and open spaces on their own."

Participants will receive a $250 stipend upon completion of the program and certified teachers can claim 27 hours of continuing education credit. Time is allotted for teachers to work on integrating what they've learned into their yearly lesson plans.

The Solano Water Institute for Teachers is funded by the Solano County Orderly Growth Committee; the California Department of Water Resources, the Water Education Foundation; the School Water Education Program, including the cities of Vacaville, Fairfield, Suisun City, Vallejo, Dixon and Benicia; Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District; and Solano Irrigation District. The workshop is hosted by Solano RCD with support from Brian Brown, Project WET Coordinator for California. For more information, please visit https://www.solanorcd.org/projects-and-programs/education/educator-workshops.html or email education@solanorcd.org.

T&T
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a bottle of Ensure surrounded by fruits and veggies, with the bottle saying, "Our mission is to provide complete balanced nutrition ..." There's only one problem with this cute ad: None of the Ensure drinks use any of these fruits and veggies in their formulation. The drinks merely provide nutrients, protein and vitamins from who know what sources. (I understand that several of their many drinks do include a little natural-fruit flavoring.)

I've complained to the federal FTC and FDA agencies about this false advertising for Ensure. One promised to get back to me and never did. I wrote to several lawyer groups who tackle food class action lawsuits, but they don't seem to feel the ads are egregious enough to take to court to reap sufficient money for themselves.

By the way, Ensure is manufactured at a plant in Fairfield. Abbott Labs is the company that had to close its large infant-formula plant in Michigan due to product safety issues. No doubt about it: Abbott is a BIG company with lots of muscle.

bil paul did PR for the Postal Service and medical companies, and worked as a reporter and photographer. He's the author of a book about Dixon's failed movie studio project ("The Train Never Stops in Dixon" - available at Amazon, the historical society museum or the Uptown Collective) and has a non-fiction book coming out in November titled "Awaiting the Sun: WWII Veterans Remember the Aleutians".

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ues. I am committed to working with my colleagues to deliver the policies that will help us keep our communities safe from wildfires and improve drought resilience."

To improve wildfire response, the WRDR Act:

• Establishes new hiring authorities and a minimum basic pay rate (approximately $20/hour) for wildland firefighters, as well as mental health leave and hazard pay.

• Authorizes a 10-Year National Wildfire Response Plan for landscape-scale projects across the country.

• Provides tools and resources to assist communities' wildfire activities, including prescribed fires, and supports opportunities for Tribes and Conservation Corps in wildfire activities.

To improve drought resiliency, the WRDR Act:

• Provides $500 million to prevent key reservoirs of the Colorado River from declining to unsafe levels.

• Invests in innovative drought-proof water infrastructure, including water recycling and desalination projects.

• Secures water reliability for Indian Country, by advancing tribal water rights settlements, investing $1 billion in tribal clean water access, and supporting technical assistance for tribal water needs.

• Supports the development of modern water management data and technology.

• Protects and restores important ecosystems and wildlife populations that have been impacted by drought and climate change.

To ensure a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach to wildfire and drought, the WRDR Act also:

• Improves wildfire-related programs at the Department of Energy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Fire Administration and provides improved assistance and relief for communities that have been impacted by recent wildfires.

• Establishes the National Disaster Safety Board and directs the President to establish a National Wildland Fire Risk Reduction Program.

• Advances environmental justice for communities that have been disproportionately harmed by environmental discrimination and climate change-induced wildfire and drought.

• Updates the Stafford Act, law that dictates FEMA's response to a disaster, enabling FEMA to respond more effectively to wildfires.

RESPONSE
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been singled out and treated unfairly because of this outbreak. No single individual or community is to blame for the spread of any virus. Monkeypox can affect anyone as it spreads by skin-to-skin contact, as well as from sharing items like clothing, bedding and towels."

Last week, California public health leaders urged federal partners to make more vaccine doses available to the state as quickly as possible, citing the need for an additional 600,000 to 800,000 JYNNEOS vaccine doses. Yesterday, the federal government announced the distribution of additional doses nationwide. California is hopeful the federal government will deliver additional vaccine to meet the state's request.

CDPH continues to work with local health departments to preposition treatment and vaccine doses to ensure that they are available quickly to those most in need. To date, the state has distributed more than 25,000 vaccine doses to local public health departments and mobile clinics and will make additional allocations in the coming days and weeks. The state allocates doses to local health departments based on a number of factors, including the number of reported monkeypox cases in an area and estimate of at-risk populations. Yesterday the federal government announced that an additional 72,000 JYNNEOS vaccine doses have been allocated to California, plus another 48,000 for Los Angeles County.

CDPH is also expanding treatment options for those who have contracted the virus. Like the vaccine, access to the antiviral prescription drug tecovirimat (TPOXX) used to treat monkeypox is limited, but the treatment can now be administered at more than 30 facilities and providers across the state. Individuals seeking treatment should contact their health care provider or local clinic.

On the testing front, CDPH is using its Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory in Richmond as a reference lab to expand knowledge and share best practices with other labs bringing monkeypox testing services online. As of July 28, the state had expanded its testing capacity to process more than 1,000 tests a week. The state's public health laboratory leaders have been working with local public health, academic, and commercial laboratories to ensure testing capacity is increasingly available and coordinated with the public health response.

The state continues outreach and education efforts to inform Californians, and impacted communities, about monkeypox and ways to limit its spread. The state has hosted multiple webinars for local health departments, community-based organizations, and other health care providers over the last six weeks and has attended various town halls and community meetings to speak with and hear from the public and local leaders. CDPH is also scheduling listening sessions with the LGBTQ community.

CDPH is currently running paid ad campaigns on various digital media platforms to promote awareness and engage communities at higher risk of contracting monkeypox.

As of July 28, 786 probable and confirmed cases of monkeypox have been reported in the state. There is still a low risk to the public, but anyone can get the virus because it spreads through close physical contact, including hugging, cuddling and kissing, as well as sharing bedding, towels and clothing.

People with monkeypox may first develop flu-like illness with fever, headache, muscle aches, exhaustion, and enlarged lymph nodes. A characteristic rash, which can appear like blisters or pimples throughout the body, may occur a few days later. These blisters or pimples may be very painful, and in rare instances require hospitalization for pain management. People with monkeypox may experience all or only a few of these symptoms. The illness may last for up to 2 to 4 weeks and usually resolves without specific treatment.

Sacramento Area Gas Price Update

Sacramento -Average gasoline prices in Sacramento have fallen 14.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $5.42/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 720 stations in Sacramento. Prices in Sacramento are 76.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand $1.10/g higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 14.8 cents in the last week and stands at $5.27 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Sacramento was priced at $4.76/g yesterday while the most expensive was $6.95/g, a difference of $2.19/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was $4.19/g while the highest was $7.39/g, a difference of $3.20/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 15.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging $4.17/g today. The national average is down 65.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands $1.02/g higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Sacramento and the national average going back ten years:

August 3, 2021: $4.32/g (U.S. Average: $3.16/g)

August 3, 2020: $3.14/g (U.S. Average: $2.18/g)

August 3, 2019: $3.60/g (U.S. Average: $2.72/g)

August 3, 2018: $3.51/g (U.S. Average: $2.87/g)

August 3, 2017: $2.82/g (U.S. Average: $2.32/g)

August 3, 2016: $2.55/g (U.S. Average: $2.12/g)

August 3, 2015: $3.35/g (U.S. Average: $2.65/g)

August 3, 2014: $3.89/g (U.S. Average: $3.51/g)

August 3, 2013: $3.82/g (U.S. Average: $3.62/g)

August 3, 2012: $3.71/g (U.S. Average: $3.52/g)

Neighboring areas and their current gas prices:

• Stockton- $5.47/g, down 14.0 cents per gallon from last week's $5.61/g.

• Modesto- $5.38/g, down 15.6 cents per gallon from last week's $5.54/g.

• Oakland- $5.59/g, down 15.1 cents per gallon from last week's $5.74/g.

"We continue to see average gas prices falling in every state, with the national average down for the seventh straight week. Even better, nearly 20 states have also seen their average decline to $3.99 or less, with over 70,000 stations now at that level or below," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "The outlook is for a continued drop in most areas, however, some supply tightness in areas of the Northeastern U.S. could push prices up slightly until inventories rise, or imports do. For now, Americans are seeing prices nearly 90 cents lower than their mid-June peak and are spending close to $330 million less on gasoline every day as a result. As long as oil prices hold at these levels or lower, we'll see another decline in most areas this week."

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