

COMMUNITY

Local Mortgage Broker To Receive Award For Helping The Homeless

The City of Petaluma has contributed more than a million dollars to the Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) for the operation and development of a range of shelter and services for those who suffer from the lack of affordable housing in South Sonoma County. COTS' services -- along with those offered by the Salvation Army, The North Bay Regional Center, Buckelew Programs, and several Petaluma religious organizations -- have resulted in the most favorable ratio of "homeless beds" to homeless people in Sonoma County.

The Homeless Count 2005 -- conducted by the Sonoma County Task Force on the Homeless in conjunction with the Sonoma County Continuum of Care -- found that there were 311 people in Petaluma willing to be counted as homeless as of late

January. All but 42 of those people were able to find a bed to sleep in that night. Thirty-one of those counted were veterans, nine were over 60 years old, 66 were children, and 50 had a certifiable disability. Eighty of those counted had problems with drugs or alcohol. The number with disabilities and substance abuse issues contributed to the fact that 126 people were defined as "chronically homeless" -- having been without a home for at least a year.

Brian Dixon, a local mortgage broker, has been working to find ways to help break the cycle of homelessness. He has used his professional skills to assist the COTS Rent Right program, act as a mentor for homeless people, and help the homeless understand what it takes to get back under a roof of their own and rehabilitate their credit.

Brian also serves on the COTS Board of Directors,



Brian Dixon

and is a speaker at their "Miracles Happen Every Day" presentations. Instead of giving holiday gifts, he makes donations to COTS on behalf of those on his list. Dixon will receive the Spirit of Community award on October 6th at "October in Paradise", a dinner dance and auction benefiting the Sonoma County Task Force on the Homeless. Tickets for the event are \$60 in advance, \$70 at the door. Reservations can be made by calling 707.575.4494 or by e-mailing sctaskforce@aol.com.

Hear Native American Prophecies For The Future

Have you ever wondered if Native American prophecies have any relevance to current world affairs and our future?

Hopi prophecies say that if the religion of the white man did not bring unity, a second religion would come, and the people of this religion would be known in the Hopi language as the Bahani, "the people of Baha". The Hopi Nation has been waiting for these people for a long time. They say they will bring a Teaching that will unite the earth.

Navajo prophecies tell us that there are two signs of the New Spirit that all people should look for. The first is a Nine-Pointed Star that will come from the east. The number nine is the sign of the highest unity, so all re-

ligions and races and nations will come together in love and unity under the sign of the Nine-Pointed Star. The second sign is the arrival of a great chief from the east, wearing a headdress with twelve feathers. Navajo chants say his twelve feathers symbolize twelve great principles for mankind.

Lakota prophecies say that we are now at a crossroads. Either we unite spiritually as a Global Nation, or we will be faced with chaos, disasters, diseases, and tears.

According to the Lakota, we are the only species that is destroying the Source of Life (meaning the earth) in the name of power, mineral resources, and ownership of land. We are using chemicals and methods of warfare that are doing irreversible damage. Therefore, Mother Earth

is becoming tired and unable to sustain more invasion. The Lakota vision is for the peoples of all continents, regardless of their beliefs, to come together as one to pray and commune with one another, promoting healing of the earth and the attainment of peace.

Learn More about Native American Prophecies and their world embracing vision of global harmony and peace during an informal presentation offered by the Baha'is of Petaluma beginning at 8 PM on Thursday, September 22nd, at the Petaluma People Services Senior Day Center, 25 Howard Street in Petaluma. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 707.765.8877 or visit bahaisofpetaluma.org.

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**Autumn Special
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October 22nd & 23rd

Free Introductory Night

Find out what non-violent communication is all about, meet the facilitators and have your questions answered.

October 14th,
7 to 9 p.m.



Ike Lasater and Maja Bengtson,
Facilitators

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