

Sac State
Turnaround Ends
in First Round
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Dixon Allows 7 Unanswered Runs, Loses to Laguna Creek PAGE 10





VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 11

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MARCH 18, 2022

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BUNNY BREAKFAST COMING SOON



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CHAMBER NOW TAKING PARADE APPLICATIONS



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Stars Shine at Awards Night



Citizen of the Year Barbara Bulkley gets congratulatory hugs from friends Angela Meissenheimer, left, and Cookie Powell, right.

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - "Someone is missing," Barbara Bulkley said indiscernibly, momentarily bowing her head at the Dixon Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet, where she was honored as Dixon's Citizen of the Year. Fighting back tears, she said Bob was missing and that he was the reason she was up there. Her husband of 68 years and her "best friend" died in August last year, and she said together they were able to do so much for the town they loved and where they were born and raised.

She attributed her parents for setting a "very high standard" of giving even though she was born in the last of the Depression and lived through World War II, getting a laugh from the audience with her chicken story that if someone needed dinner, they'd just go kill another chicken.

The Bulkleys married in 1953, and Bob was a farmer so they supported Future Farmers of America and bought animals in the May Fair to support students. Since Bob played football at Dixon High, the couple also were avid sports fans and we're always supporting Dixon

High Football or sports teams. They invested in rentals and gave back to the community they both loved.

They have secretly supported students with college and helped financially in a myriad of ways, many times requesting anonymity.

When they were asked by Jill Orr to help purchase a Christmas Tree for the Downtown Tree Lighting, they obliged but the tree soon died. They invested again the next year but with the same results.

"When she approached us the third time, we said, 'Why not?' and after Continued on page 3

Democrats Kill Proposal to Lower Gas Prices

By Assemblyman James Gallagher

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)
- On Monday, March 14,
Assembly Democrats killed
a Republican proposal to
immediately bring down the
price of gas by suspending
California's 51-cent-pergallon gas tax. California
drivers face the highest gas
prices in the country, and at
\$5.74 per gallon; fuel costs
here are \$1.41 per gallon
above the national average.

"Capitol Democrats had the chance to provide struggling Californians with immediate relief at the gas pump. They refused," said Assemblyman James Gallagher (Yuba City). "High gas prices and inflation are devastating California families, but Capitol Democrats' only solution seems to be 'buy a Tesla.""

During the Assembly floor session, Republicans moved to advance AB 1638, which would suspend California's state gas tax for six months, and backfill the revenue from the state's budget surplus, which could exceed \$69 billion. The motion was killed on a 18-40 vote, with all Republicans voting to suspend the tax. Not a single Democrat voted for the effort.

Gaining Popularity: Small, In-Home Daycare



Jessica Mayberry of Davis enjoys hosting playdates when her daughter is at preschool, and she is home with her 1-year-old son.

Photo courtesy of June Care

By Debra Dingman

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)- While everyone has been impacted by the pandemic, one population that has been dramatically

impacted is moms. As the pandemic erupted in the spring of 2021, approximately 3.5 million mothers with school-aged children either lost jobs, took leaves of absence or left the labor

market altogether, according to the Census Bureau.

A new program, June Care, created by Bay Area mom Gretchen Salyer, aimed at socializing children at a very early age is

launching its community based child care in Solano County.

"We connect with parents who are looking for childcare from people who *Continued on page 4*

Prop 47: Had Enough?

By Assemblyman James Gallagher

California communities are under assault by a rise in crime that's hitting neighborhoods throughout our state.

Thieves walk into stores, fill up their backpacks and stroll out without a care in the world. Organized rings of thieves are committing brazen smash-and-grabs. Open air drug use and fentanyl overdoses are common on our streets at high-end retail boutiques. Soft-on-crime policies have failed Californians.

Proposition 47 is a huge culprit, reducing penalties for many crimes to a slap on the wrist. Now, a majority of Californians support bringing back more serious consequences for people who break the law.

Californians deserve to live in communities safe from violent crime and rampant theft. That is why I teamed up with Assemblymember Kevin Kiley and a dozen other legislators to introduce AB 1599 that would repeal Proposition 47 and rein in California's crime wave. Enough is enough! It's time to start holding criminals accountable.

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Life's too

People in Our Community

By Debra Dingman

Gosh, I wish more people in this community would attend City Council Meetings. There are so many decisions that affect all of us from ignoring the ferocious growth of weeds on our main street mediums to giving our city manager a \$62,000 a year raise when his contract wasn't even up. Passed 5-0. That's \$5,166 more money every single month. Wow!

"They" say he's one of the lowest paid city managers in the area and that he's likely to get another job for higher pay soon if we don't pay him more to stay. Lindley now makes \$240,000 annually plus he gets "allowances." I just know he makes more than Governor Gavin Newsom who was paid \$209,747 in

If I had any say so, I'd hire another groundskeeper...

On a much happier note, we have a new Dixonite who is a horn player with the United States Air Force Band of the Golden West. He is Dr. Jon C. Anderson, who is stationed at Travis Air Force Base and bought his home through Marianne MacDonald, Dixon Realtor at Coldwell Banker Kappel Gateway Realty.

Solano Symphony Orchestra will present the World's Greatest Classics with his performance at 3 pm Sunday, March 27 at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theater. I tried playing french horn in my freshman year of high school. It didn't work out but I love that deep, mellow sound...

Tickets are available at vpat.net or by calling (707) 469-4013 or go to mysolanosymphany.org.

My mind was already on Citizen of the Year when I got a call from Jennifer Roman who I believe is a Citizen of the Year in the making! She is a busy mom of several children and volunteers on the Tremont PTA as a fundraising coordinator but also volunteers for Little League.

She is organizing a Book Fair in the Tremont Elementary School parking lot on Saturday, April 23 from 10 am to 3 pm. Just in case you don't want to purchase any more books, you can come and just look through the other wonderful goodies for sale like a snow cone from the Kona Ice Truck or pizza from the Pizza Guys.

She works with a team of less than a dozen women who are trying to raise money for a shade structure for the back of the school. She also is working for a loftier goal: The group wants to see an electronic marquee for the front of the school. Mark your calendars to buy books for your children, grandchildren, or friends or at least enjoy the treats for a good cause!

Jennifer is working on a Little League day, too. For the Huge Family Day on May 21, families will want to mark their calendars. They will offer a barbecue, food trucks, and a huge raffle that she is soliciting prizes for now. So far there is a Traeger Barbecue and a 60-inch flat screen TV, and a sports pass for a family of four.

"The businesses in our community have been gracious and awesome in supporting us through sponsorships and donations," she said. The money they raise helps go for children who can't afford to play, brand new scoreboards, and equipment she explained. Jennifer, who was born and raised in Dixon said it's the mom and pop shops that support children.

"I have wasted so much time on big companies," she said. (I won't name the ones she told me but as a fundraiser myself, I agree.) If you want to take advantage of her great advertising/marketing to the families, call with your raffle prize to support Little league or go to sponsorship@dixonlittleleague.org. Thank you, Jennifer, for your volunteerism!

Dixon News Briefs



Maria Cornejo, Dixon Historical Society Board Member, welcomes visitors at the Dixon History Museum. Tickets are now on sale for a fundraising dinner at Bud's Pub March 21. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Museum Dinner

Support our Dixon Historical Museum by having a delicious dinner at Bud's Pub & Grill on this coming Monday, March 21, anytime between 5 and 8 pm. The dinner tickets are \$30 each and a choice from five delicious entrées will be served with a house salad, vegetable, bread, and a non-alcoholic beverage. Tickets are available at The History Museum, 125 West A Street; Cynde's Place at 201 North First Street or the Dixon Florist at 150 East A Street.

There will also be a raffle that night and if anyone wants to donate to it, please drop off all items and baskets by Saturday, March 19 at the Museum.

Student Rep Wanted

The City of Dixon is currently accepting applications for one (1) vacancy for a Student Representative and one (1) vacancy for an Alternate Student Representative on the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to recreation programs and parks facilities.

The student representative is expected to attend all Parks & Recreation Commission meetings. The alternate representative will fill in for the student representative, when the representative is unable to attend Commission meetings. It is expected that the alternate representative will apply to become the student representative the following school year. The term to be served is July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.

The Commission meets in the Dixon City Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. on residency is required. Interested students may obtain an application by contacting Stephanie Marquez at Dixon High School. The deadline for filing applications is 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 2, 2022. If no applications are submitted by the deadline, the City will accept applications until the vacancy is filled.

Lap Swim

The Pat Granucci Aquatic Center at 450 East Mayes Street is now open for Lap Swimming on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 am to 7 am. Fees are \$5 per visit for age 14 to 54 years; \$4 per senior age 55 years plus or you can purchase a punch card for 20 visits for \$75 (\$60 for seniors).

The pool is located in Hall Park and has been a part of the community since the 1930's. The Aquatic Center hosts a variety of programs including swimming lessons, recreational swimming, adult lap swim, lifeguard training, the junior lifeguard program, aqua aerobics and more. The aquatic center is also used by the high school swim team, high school water polo team and the Dixon Dolphins Swim Team. The pools at the Aquatic Center are available for private rental, when available.

For more info, call (707) 678-7441.

Parks & Rec

Speaking of our city's beautiful pool, if you are interested in keeping it that way, please weigh in at the City of Dixon Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting this coming Tuesday, March 22, at 7 pm. The agenda can be found at www.cityofdixon.com usually by the Thursday before the meeting. Meetings are held inside the City Hall Council Chambers at 600 East A

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Kiwanis Reports Bunny Breakfast Coming Soon

MPG Staff

DIXON. CA (MPG) - Mark your calendars because plans are hopping along for the annual 'Breakfast with the Bunny,' an event sure to delight children of all ages, hosted in downtown Dixon at the Dixon Moose Lodge on Saturday, April 9. It will start at 9 am with the last breakfast served at 11 am.

The Dixon Kiwanis Club got some big help this year from the Dixon Moose Lodge and Grocery Outlet along with the Dixon High School Key

Children and their families are invited to attend the pancake breakfast which will include plenty of pancakes, sausage, orange slices, milk and coffee. According to the Moose Lodge Cooking Crew, the pancakes will be perfect. The breakfast will also include the fun of visiting with a child's favorite: the Easter Bunny.

"This year, we are having our Mr. Bunny be more interactive out on the dining floor and letting parents take more candid photos with cell phones with him but we will also have a spring backdrop area, too, for little ones who prefer simplicity and not overly large rabbits," said Kiwanis member



The Easter Bunny poses with its many Kiwanis friends as they ready for another Breakfast with the Bunny. The annual pancake breakfast is provided by the combined efforts of the Kiwanis Club members, Dixon High School Key Club volunteers, and the great folks at the Dixon Moose Lodge. Photo by Debra Dingman

Debra Dingman with a laugh. "We want this to be a happy memory."

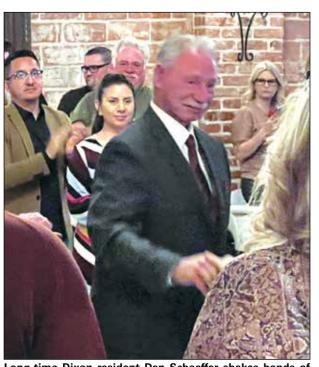
The Kiwanis members are participating in an international mission to get more children reading for joy with their program called, 'Read Around the World.' The Dixon volunteers, including Dixon High School's Key Club, will have a variety of books on spring and Easter on the dining tables as well as color crayons for children to decorate their placemats.

rain or shine at 180 West B Street across from First Northern Bank's parking

Meals are \$5 each and children under two are free with families who purchase meals. There is a \$10 all-you-eat plate for extra-big eaters. Proceeds benefit local endeavors for children and youth. For more information, call Club President Mike Liu at (707) 635-3303 or email dixonkiwanis@hotmail. com. There is also information on the Kiwanis of The event will be held Dixon Facebook site. ★

California Water Service ALIFORN Call us for FREE **Water Conservation Information** 201 S. First St. • Dixon 707.678.5928

Stars Shine at Awards Night



Long-time Dixon resident Dan Schaeffer shakes hands of friends when recognized as Veteran of the Year by Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8151. Photo by Debra Dingmar

"Almond Tree Mortgage has been a long-standing Chamber member and Dixon business. The company takes great care of their employees and provides excellent customer service for their clients," Andrews said. She supported numerous events in the schools and in the community including sponsoring a prom for the high school students during the pandemic at her private home to ensure students would have that experience before graduating. She also sponsored the full-color memoir graduation pages of senior photos in this newspaper.

she said, showing near shock at Andrew's announcement and was



"I'm just overwhelmed,"



Kirsten Stranger, owner of Almond Tree Mortgage is flanked by Jackson Bird, and his Dad, Mayor Steve Bird and to her left, her son Cameron Hickerson. Almond Tree Mortgage was honored as Business of the Year. Photo by Debra Dingma

that, Jill just sent us the bill," she said, eliciting a laugh from the audience

Continued from page 1

full of Dixon movers and shakers. Barbara continues to be an active citizen in the community through her philanthropy and endeavors with the Dixon

Soroptimist Club to name

a few. "I am blessed to have grown up here-it was so much fun," Barbara enthused from the podium after describing running around barefoot when she was a child when no one had sidewalks and gas was 35 cents a gallon. She thanked the Chamber "and everyone responsible for this great honor bestowed

"Age has not stood in the way of her giving away," said presenter Lois Cross of the 87-year-old recipient who insisted she walk without assistance among the sold out crowd to the stage. "Many lives have benefitted anonymously," Cross added before a standing ovation ensued.

Barbara was handed numerous plaques and certificates along with flowers by the 'reception line' of Chamber Board, Mayor Steve Bird, and other dignitaries.

Other "Stars" for the night were the outstanding business, veteran, and Chamber Ambassador and all a great reason to fill the Olde Vet's Hall to capacity last Saturday for the annual Awards Banquet presented by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber President/ CEO Shauna Manina introduced the Chamber Ambassador of the year, Patti Sousa-Liu, who was selected by other Chamber Ambassadors. Sousa-Liu has been a Chamber Ambassador beginning with her dog grooming business 15 years ago which she has retired from and now she volunteers even more, they said. She has worked diligently bringing in more members to the Chamber.

"The Ambassadors are the workhorses of the Chamber," explained Manina. "They organize and work the Mixers, and contact new business owners." Sousa-Liu has been active in the community through Kiwanis Club, the Moose Lodge, and her church for many years and had a smile from ear-toear when also presented plaques and flowers.

Ron Schaeffer was awarded Veteran of the Year for his volunteerism by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8151 Commander Cecil Dennings.

"Ron is always the first to volunteer," said Dennings. "He helps with all of our events-the North Bay Stand Down and always does the Poppy distribution—and he helps with meals including setting up and tearing down."

The Business of the Year was presented by last year's recipient Hayley Andrews of the Dixon Wellness Collective to Almond Tree Mortgage with owner Karstin Stranger.

obviously humbled. She said she wasn't sure she could call herself a true Dixonite. "I've only lived here two decades and wasn't born here or married someone here," she said, garnering a laugh from the room of fans.

"I just love this community. It is a very special community-which is why the entire bay area is trying to move here," she said with a laugh. "She actively participated in Kiwanis fundraising events and offered help for 2021 fire victims. She coordinated a Dixon Christmas Car Parade, collecting donated toys for local youth. Stranger is a double mastectomy cancer survivor, and also recently survived losing her home in the 2020 LNU Complex Fire. She didn't let that stop her from helping others. She continued to devote time to the community both personally and through her business," added Andrews. She was escorted by her son Cameron Hickerson.

Music by Rhythm Method 4 helped wrap up the evening with music and several folks dancing. For more information on the Dixon Chamber, call (707) 678-2650 or go to DixonChamber.org.

Chamber Now Taking Parade Applications



A truck full of happy Recology friends follow the popular garbage-can-toting men who perform a fun dance routine at a previous Dixon May Fair Parade. Applications to participate are now available through the Dixon Chamber. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dust of those folding camp chairs, the Parade is back! After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the Chamber is revving up its plans for a 'Super Fun' Dixon May Fair Parade. It will return on Saturday, May 7, and is now in its 145th year of donations.

"The Parade is an important part of Dixon's history and cultural heritage," said Shauna Manina, CEO of the Dixon Chamber of Commerce. "It is the oldest state-affiliated parade in California and is one of the most colorful of its kind."

In years past, the parade drew as many as 10,000 spectators to the downtown streets with more than a hundred businesses and organizations participating with a float or display. From decorated horses to souped up vehicles, from military units to school drill teams, and from garbage-can-toting muscle men to Shriner speed demons on go-karts, the parade brings smiles for miles.

Dixon High School band is always a popular musical entry and Dixon Dance Studio and Ramtown Karate are known for their demonstrations. The parade symbolizes all that is great about the Dixon community and should be just as exciting

this year despite the COVID intermission according to Manina who is fielding dozens of emails of entries already.

It is one of the rare times Highway 113 (North and South First Street) is closed by Cal-Trans and the side streets are blocked off for visitors and parade line up and disbursements. Thru traffic is usually re-routed onto Adams Street and Porter Road at the Viva Market Shopping Center

The morning of the parade, there is traditionally a Rotary Club pancake breakfast offered at Ye 'Olde Vet's Hall across from the Dixon Public Library and a great way to fill up before parade line up or sitting down for the often 2-hour long

Applications for the parade are now available online at the Dixon Chamber website, dixonchamber.org, where the packet and application can be downloaded, or by sending an email to info@ dixonchamber.org and requesting that a packet and application be emailed to you. You can also come by the office at 220 North Jefferson Street in Dixon between 8 am and 4 pm Monday through Thursday.

Please note that parade information will not be mailed out this year. For further information please call (707) 678-2650. ★

Scouts Deliver to Dixon Family Services



The Dixon Boy Scouts Troop 152 had success in collecting food from generous households in Dixon. They took an extra step of sorting out all the items that we cannot use for the Dixon Family Services Food Pantry. "This was very helpful and saved us a lot of time and work, and we are so very thankful," said Director Cookie Powell. The count of items brought to DFS was 1,200 and there was a cash donation of \$100 from one of the parents too. Photo by Cookie Powell





Heeney's History

Just a Little Extra Time Helps Special Friend

Commentary by Ed Heeney

As you grow in this game called 'life,' you frequently forget others and concentrate on how you are making good things happen for you. This is not all bad and you are called upon frequently to give someone else a 'hand up' to help make their day a bit smoother. This was a lesson learned by me when I was about 15-years-old. I had a cousin that was speech handicapped, and we were always 'briefed' by our mother to treat her like anyone else. If it took a little longer to listen to her stories, then listen a little longer.

On one occasion when the cousins were to visit from Wichita, they were bringing along six or eight more handicapped youth about our age. We had been warned that one of the boys my age was shy and did not like to talk with his handicap. My mother discussed this with me and asked that I give this boy some individual attention. I reluctantly consented.

The bus arrived from Wichita and all scattered throughout the farmvard, chasing chickens, petting cows, etc. All except my 'friend for the day.' I wandered over toward him and started a conversation. I soon discovered he was a pleasant fellow, and we soon had a good conversation going talking farm talk and cow language.

It seemed that any reluctance to converse was soon dissipated. We enjoyed each other's company. Over time there was visiting either in Wichita or on our farm, and we became good friends.

As a teenage farm boy, I didn't realize how valuable a lesson I had participated in, but as I look back on my youth I realize how privileged I was. We remained good friends for many years and exchanged correspondence frequently. I didn't receive a paycheck nor a blue ribbon, but at Christmas time I received a card from my aunt and a note expressing her appreciation for working with my friend. She compared me with any professional on her staff. That made any inconvenience I may have thought I had, fade away.

Ed Heeney is a long-time Dixonite who has been very active in the community over his lifetime. He enjoys sharing his missives with Dixon Independent Voice readers.



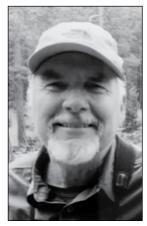
GORDON MURPHY

Gone But Not Forgotten

Gordon Murphy passed away at home on Nov. 6, 2021 after a long battle for life and a short battle with cancer.

Gordon, co-founder of HemoStat Laboratories for 40 years, was a longtime resident of Dixon. He was a true renaissance man having many interests and hobbies yet birding was his passion.

He is survived by his



loving wife, Cheryl, his children Kathryn Murphy (Jeff) Davis, Jon Murphy, Kevin Baracosa and

Frank Baracosa and five grandchildren.

His family would like to invite those who knew him to join in a celebration of life on Saturday, April 2, 2022 at the Olde Veterans Hall, 231 North First Street (Highway 113) from 12 to 4 pm.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Mayo Clinic at https:// philanthropy.mayoclinic. org/donateMC

Pick-N-Pull Dismantlers to Pay \$2.5

Solano County District Attorney's Office

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) -Solano County District Attorney Krishna A. Abrams announced that the Solano County District Attorney's Office, together with 13 other California District Attorneys reached a \$2.5 million settlement over the company's illegal disposal of hazardous waste and stormwater pollution issues.

The investigation was initiated due to flooding at a facility in Santa wherein investigators found contaminated stormwater flowing into nearby Coyote Creek without proper filtration or treatment. Subsequently, Solano County joined forces with Santa Clara, San Joaquin, Sacramento, Alameda and Contra Costa counties to do a series of unannounced waste inspections revealing that Pick-N-Pull facilities routinely and illegally disposed of automobile fluids, aerosols, batteries, and electronic devices.

Million for Environmental Violations

Clara County in 2017 21 facilities in Northern

Small, In-Home Daycare

California including one in Fairfield, CA, and is a subsidiary of Schnitzer Steel, Inc. The company buys end-of-life vehicles, sells their parts, and recycles the remaining steel. When contacted by prosecutors, Pick-N-Pull promptly implemented improved training and business practices relating to their hazardous waste disposal. They also upgraded to an active stormwater treatment system in San Jose. In addition to \$1,850,000 in civil penalties, Pick-N-Pull

will provide \$350,000 to Pick-N-Pull operates environmental projects. ★ **Gaining Popularity:**

Continued from page 1

care for their own children at home," said Salyer. "Instead of reaching out to nannies or a babysitter, we are checking into the stay-at-home parents and connecting with parents who are already at home with their own child or children. The industry serves less than half of the demand."

"Pre-pandemic, 51% of American families did not have access to reliable childcare. And, the main constraint for parents finding the help they need is that they cannot find the supply," the mom of three daughters explained. This is an online beginning for those connections to be made. The company does really well in assisting military families and families who live a more transient lifestyle.

"I fell in love with the concept of moms coming together to support other moms," said Jessica Mayberry from Davis. "I knew I had extra bandwidth to host June Care playdates during the weekdays while I was already home with my own kids and thought it could be a fun way to invest and connect with our community.'

It is well known that having another child while you have a small person under foot can actually help a mom have a moment to do dishes as the two play. This is very different socializing than when there are six children in daycare, for example, where the children usually move as a unit to playtime, snacktime, naptime,

"Typically, this is about stay-at-home moms already staying home and caring for their children connecting with another family," said Salyer. "It helps her earn money doing what she already is doing. The benefit is that the adult-child ratio is very small. Our model is about bringing children into a loving home and socializing with other children. They learn social skills early on."

It is free to sign up and one creates a file, and the company uses a matching algorithm that personalizes the opportunities.

"If someone thinks it is a great match, we can manage electronic payments through June Care and at the end of the year for anything over \$600, we issue a 1099," Salyer said. She said that so far, there are 500 families in the Dixon area but there are thousands across California.

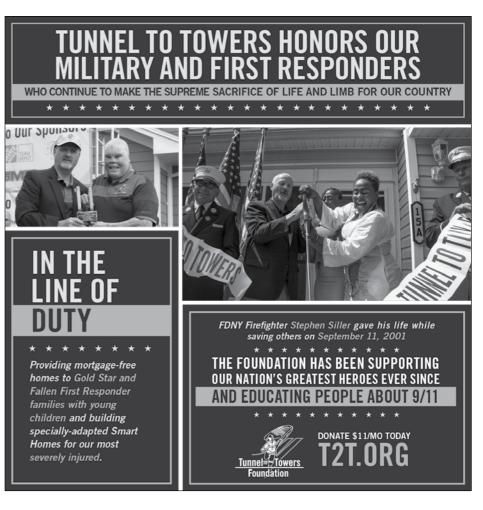
For parents looking to earn extra income while spending time with their kids, June Care allows you to start earning income immediately. For more information on finding care or becoming a host, parents can visit junecare.co. It is free to sign up as a host or to find childcare.

MEMORIAL ROBERT TAYLOR LEWIS • 5/19/1940 - 2/1/2022 It is with deep sadness country kids were required to that we announce the loss come to Dixon to attend the of Robert Lewis. Robert was Dixon Grammar School. He graduated Dixon High School born May 19, 1940 in Ross,

California to Joseph and Roberta Lewis and passed away February 1, 2022 with family by his side. The Lewis family moved to Dixon when Robert was 6 years old to live on his grandparents, Robert and Mary McKenzie's sheep ranch. He loved everything about living on a sheep ranch. Riding his horses, helping the border collies herd sheep, and his dog Perky. Bob attended Tremont Country School for two years after which all

in 1958 and Chico State with a BA in Communications and a minor in Computer Science in 1979. He loved sports particularly football and the Raiders and would sing their praises to anyone who would listen. He had a big heart for everyone and he loved his family. He is survived by his daughters, Ann (Richard) Hurley and Lauretta (Rafael) Ceja and granddaughters Cassandra, Evelynn and Mikaela of Santa Rosa, brother, Joe (Marla) Lewis

of Hayden, Idaho and sister Diane (Syd) Schroeder of Dixon. Also surviving Bob are numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. Burial services will be held for Robert and his sister, Mary Deidre Lewis Christensen, April 8th at 1pm at the Silveyville Cemetery. A celebration of life will follow in Dixon at the home of Robert and Mary's niece and nephew. Donations in Bob's memory can be made to Dixon High School Athletics, Attn: Norma Holtmeyer, 555 College Way, Dixon, Ca 95620 or to the donor's favorite charity.





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February Freeze Harms Tree Crops in Central Valley

California nut farmers are tabulating their crop losses after a late-February freeze damaged orchards in multiple counties. One Sutter County farmer reported that 60% of his orchard may have been damaged by the freeze, potentially devastating his yield for 2022. The Sutter County agricultural commissioner said damage to almond crops spans five neighboring counties, which are now collecting data for a potential disaster declaration.

Shrinking Snowpack Melts Away Optimism for 2022 Water Year

The Sierra Nevada snowpack reached 160% of normal on Dec. 30 after a series of early-winter storms. This month that average dropped to about 60% of normal, as dry conditions since have largely melted away optimism for the 2022 water year. State water officials say California is all but assured of a third consecutive drought year. Recently, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation cut off federal water supplies from the Central Valley Project, and restrictions on state water diversions may be due as the year unfolds.

Farmers Brace for Higher Fuel Prices as **Ukraine Invasion Continues**

California farmers are bracing for further spikes in fuel and other energy costs, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine has pushed crude oil prices higher, and President Biden has banned U.S. imports of Russian oil. The price increases are coming as farmers rev up tractors and other equipment for spring planting. Some farmers estimate that diesel and gasoline account for 10% to 15% of production costs, with transportation also consuming an increasing share of fuel budgets.

State Agriculture Department Targets Potential Lantern Fly Threat

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has awarded nearly \$1.5 million for pest management research. Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross said the funds will support farmers in California by providing "additional and lower risk tools to combat pests while maintaining food and crop production." Nearly \$500,000 in funding will go to targeting eggs of the Arizona Spotted Lantern Fly. If established in California, the pest could threaten grapes, fruit trees and forests.



AD&D Insurance? No, Thank You

Dear Dave,

My wife and I both work, and we have been looking at level term life insurance policies. A friend says it would be a good idea for us to have accidental death and dismemberment insurance, too. Do you agree?

Aiden

Dear Aiden,

You both definitely need good level term life insurance policies. Stick with 15- to 20-year level term life insurance, and make sure that coverage is separate from anything provided by your employer.

Each one of you needs 10 to 12 times your yearly income wrapped up in a pol-

Dave Ramsey Says

year, that means you need a policy with \$500,000 to \$600,000 worth of coverage. The idea of life insurance is to take the place of income. If you or your wife died, the other could invest the insurance money and replace that lost income.

You do not – I repeat, not need accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance. These policies are cheap, but they're pretty much worthless because of the long list of conditions they won't pay out for. Most pay out only a small portion in cases of dismemberment, and many won't pay a death benefit if you die from a medical procedure, health-related issue or drug overdose. The devil's in the details, and AD&D policies are chock-full of them.

If you have long-term disability insurance in place, which is what I recommend, you can be covered for a substantial part of income lost due to an injury or disability. One study says 25% icy. If you make \$50,000 a of today's 20-year-olds will

become disabled by age 67. In my mind, those odds are way too high for you to skimp on long-term disability insurance - especially when it's very affordable in most cases. If you're in your prime income-earning years, a permanent disability could derail your dreams of homeownership, paying for your kid's college or having a dignified retirement.

I hope this helps, Aiden!

Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, 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 Ramsey



What Putin Knew

There are forgivable intellectual and policy errors, and then there's the self-delusion that has driven the West into its dependence on Vladimir Putin's oil and gas.

Russia has long been a major supplier of energy to Europe. The depletion of European natural gas reserves has played a role in Russia's increased significance. Moscow has also benefited, though, from a deliberate choice by Europe to attempt a great leap forward into a green-energy future, espenuclear and coal.

In taking this route, Europe made a holiday-from-history decision to forget the incredible power of oil, gas and coal the most reliable and efficient sources of energy the world has ever known - and ignore the inevitable centrality of energy to geopolitics.

Greta Thunberg, the teenage climate activist who has been elevated into an oracle of all that is good and true, demanded nothing less.

No matter what you've heard, the world hasn't embraced fossil fuels out of hatred of the planet, rather because they are so incredibly useful. If they didn't already exist - thanks to sunlight and plants that lived millions of years ago - we would have to invent them and wouldn't be able to.

Alex Epstein of the Center for Industrial Progress writes that it is "almost eerily engineered by natural processes, not just for cheapness, not for scalability, but also for another characteristic crucial to a functional civilization: portability." It powers cars, trucks and jets, without which the modern world as we know it wouldn't exist.

Coal, too, Epstein notes, is affordable, abundant and easy to extract and transport. There is a reason that developing nations invariably use it to power their economic advancement.

So, it's not surprising that fossil fuels are still the leading source cially in a Germany that of global electricity, with East owed almost entirely turned its back on both coal accounting for 36.7% to its vast oil reserves. and gas 23.5%. The total fossil fuel contribution, at 63.3%, is down only slightly from two decades

> In terms of overall energy, fossil fuels are an even larger proportion, 84.3%.

> For its part, green energy - wind, solar and other renewables account for around 10% of global electricity, and even less of total energy.

Vladimir Putin knew this and understood the power it gave him, even if European policymakers couldn't be bothered to think a tiny bit strategically.

Did they not notice that coal was the mainstay of Britain's rise to global power in the 19th century?

Did they forget the role of oil in World War I and World War II, let alone tures Synd., Inc.

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Oil is a miracle fuel. subsequent 20th-century history?

Petroleum wasn't particularly useful prior to World War I and, by the end of it, had become a pillar of national power. just for reliability, not just It fueled the motorized vehicles and airplanes that transformed warfare. British foreign minister Lord Curzon famously said at the war's conclusion that the Allies had "floated to victory upon a wave of oil."

In World War II, the Japanese attacked the United States in part for fear that the American de facto oil embargo would starve its war machine. and one reason the Nazis were defeated was that they ran out of fuel.

Of course, the strategic significance of the Middle The phrase "war for oil" is a cliche and usually a smear, but it is certainly true that no one has ever fought a war for wind.

In light of all of this, Europe still choose to subjugate itself to an anti-Western authoritarian and, even as Russian opera stars are getting canceled, it hasn't ceased purchases of Russian oil and gas.

Some perspective is necessary. While climate change may indeed prove a serious long-term challenge, it is not reducing parts of European cities to rubble or a threat to use a tactical nuclear weapon.

If this horrifying episode hasn't scared the West straight on energy, nothing will.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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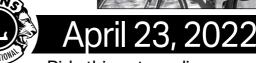
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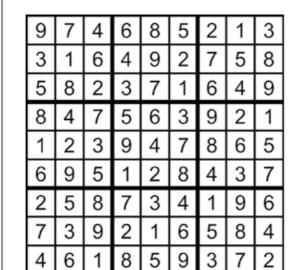


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of relativity 20. Sailor's hail

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42. ____ Aviv 43. Most buffoonish

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63. P in m.p.g. 64. Affirmative, colloquially DOWN

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

Gallant

by Victoria Schwab

Olivia Prior has always been a quiet girl, ignored and even feared by the other girls of Merilance School for Girls, but that is exactly how she wanted it. Merilance, while called a school, was more of a dreary orphanage blanketed in a sea of grey for those with no place to go. Olivia was no exception, her only possession was her mother's green journal that housed rambling lines of madness and mystery, but those lines were the ones that gave her peace and purpose.

Then one day, a letter arrives, inviting Olivia to Gallant, promising a welcoming family and a place to call home. However, when Olivia arrives, she realizes that Gallant is anything but welcoming. Gallant may stand majestic at the end of a stone drive, but inside houses, deadly secrets, and the ghoulish visions she thought she left behind, haunt every shadow-drawn hallway. Even though no one knew of her existence and her cousin repels at the mere sight of her, for some odd reason, Olivia feels as if she is home. Then one night, at precisely the right moment, Olivia passes through the



- ◆ Publisher: Greenwillow
- Intended Reading Audience: Young Adult / Middle Grade
- ♦ Rating: ♥♥♥♥
- ♦ Release Date: March 1, 2022

locked garden gate that opens into a shadowed world, exactly like the one behind her. A mirror image of Gallant stands before her, but now as a crumbling manor. The manor seems to hover between life and death, filled with haunting creatures and a Master who rules them all.

Now that she has passed beyond the wall, Olivia quickly learns the truth of her family, the manor, and the one who wants her there, leaving Olivia to decide on which side she truly belongs.

In a story that hovers in that delicate place between life and death, shadow and light, and longing to belong, Gallant stands tall. Dark,

harrowing, and beautiful, this story takes readers out of this world and places them in a world that poses questions without giving them direct answers. These answers are meant to ponder long after turning the page. A strong, independent main character that is also mute lends to the overall power of this story, allowing readers to see within the mind of a girl who is unable to freely comminute with the world around her or even call out for help.

Victoria Schwab has the ability to hold a reader's heart in her hands while retreating into the shadows allowing us to dwell within the delicate place of the in-between. While we will never be the same once we have touched the shadows, we will enter back into the light stronger for knowing what lies in the darkness of our fears.

Paired with stunning illustrations by Manuel Sumberac, Gallant reads like a haunting melody. While the story of Gallant will remain with its readers, it also will leave them desperately anticipating the next story. Will you be willing to step through the threshold of Gallant?

Riley Reviews

BUDDY COMEDY "DOG" STILL HAS LEGS: HISTORY CHANNEL PREVIEW

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"DOG" Rated PG-13

While some similarities in tone may exist, Channing Tatum's wild journey with a PTSD-scarred Belgian Malinois in "Dog" conjures up memories of the comedic relationship of Tom Hanks partnership with a rambunctious dog in 'Turner & Hooch."

It's more pleasurable to have a manand-dog buddy comedy than the canine tearjerkers such as "Marley & Me" and "A Dog's Purpose." At least one won't need to bring a box of Kleenex to the theatre for "Dog."

Tatum Channing, who doesn't have a wide range of acting talent but is right for the part with his charisma, is Jackson Briggs, an ex-Army Ranger veteran of Afghanistan who suffered a brain injury that has him sidelined but itching to return to battle.

Working in a sandwich shop in the Pacific Northwest offers no satisfaction for a warrior. The ticket back to duty is an assignment to take Army dog Lulu on a road trip to Arizona for the funeral of a veteran who served with Briggs and was the handler of the war hero canine.

The trip is not going to be on an airplane with Lulu acting the part of a service animal, because the dog lacks the social graces to be around other people and four-legged creatures. Lulu needs to be muzzled, and possibly heavily

Briggs packs his unwilling companion into his vintage '84 Ford Bronco for what is not going to be a leisurely drive down the Pacific Coast, heading to Arizona by way of Los Angeles. How hard is it going to be to drive a dog to a destination? Pretty difficult, it turns out.

First of all, Lulu is not exactly a passive passenger along for the ride. In fact, the canine warrior has anger issues related to traumatic stress that result in her tearing to shred the car's seat.

Misadventures aplenty await the duo, from encounters with a suspicious pot grower and his psychic wife, a liaison with new age women, to Briggs scoring a free room at a swanky San Francisco hotel by pretending to be blind.

"Dog" has legs, not because the canine has four of them, but as far as any kind of comedy goes, laughs have been in short order on the big screen and this movie is hanging around at the multiplex to deliver the enjoyable crowd-pleasing levity that we badly need.

THE HISTORY CHANNEL **PREVIEW**

The History Channel has lined up some interesting nonfiction series that are somewhere on the horizon at the moment and seemingly worth the wait.

The title of "Five Families" represents

what you probably think it does, namely a series about the dramatic rise and fall of New York's mafia families -Genovese, Gambino, Bonnano, Colombo and Lucchese.

For decades these five families ruled New York and built the American Mafia into an underworld empire. The series will follow the Mob from its violent growth in Prohibition, its golden age of domination in the 1970s and 1980s, up through its heated war with law enforcement.

Executive producer Ray Liotta, an actor who knows his way around crime dramas, in talking about power, money and status, said "there's a reason why there's so much public intrigue around the mafia and why it continues to be a pop culture mainstay."

Who doesn't like a heist film? I still rank "The Bank Job" starring Jason Statham, based on the true story of a daring London job, as one of the best in the genre. Gene Hackman in "Heist" is another really good one.

"History's Greatest Heists with Pierce Brosnan" is a one-hour nonfiction series delving inside the most unbelievable, elaborate real-life heists from the Wilcox train robbery of 1899 to Boston's Great Brinks robbery in 1950.

Acting as the host, Pierce Brosnan, who may know something about capers after his turn as James Bond, reveals that "great heist stories are thrilling, and when well told, have the ability to bring the viewer along as almost a co-conspirator to the crime itself."

Each episode examines the story of one incredible heist, breaking down every aspect including the team, the mark, the plan, how they carried it out, and the fallout. Heists across history have become legends, and the History Channel is here to tell the tale.

The four-part documentary event "Harlem Hellfighters" will bring the complex and courageous story of the Harlem Hellfighters to life through the eyes of three men: band leader James Europe and Privates Henry Johnson and Horace Pippin.

A century ago, an all-black regiment was formed in New York as the U.S. geared up to enter the Great War. This infantry group consisting mostly of members from Harlem faced intense racism at home during training and later confronted shocking discrimination in

Their extraordinary courage displayed in battle earned them the name Harlem Hellfighters and France's highest military honor, the Croix de Guerre. "Harlem Hellfighters" is bound to honor the legacy of brave warriors who fought ferociously in the war's horror-filled

Newsom Paints Rosy Picture, Ignores Big Issues



By Dan Walters CALMatters.org

California is a shining example of economic and social progress, a beacon to the rest of the nation and the rest of the world.

Doubt it? It must be true because Gov. Gavin Newsom said it Tuesday in his fourth State of the State address, declaring, "now, in the midst of so much turmoil with stacking stresses and dramatic social and economic change, California is doing what we have done for generations, lighting out the territory ahead of the rest, expanding the horizon of what's possible."

He called it "The California Way" and said it "means rejecting old binaries and finding new solutions to big problems

However, Newsom ignored many "big problems" as he portrayed a state on the cutting edge of virtually everything positive.

By any measure, the state has an immense shortage of housing that has driven costs through the roof and given California the nation's highest poverty rate. But neither the housing crisis nor the poverty rate crossed his lips.

He also sidestepped another crisis — a drought that threatens to devastate California's agricultural industry and, in mance on nationwide California newspapers.

entire economy.

Instead, Newsom portrayed the economy in the rosiest terms, saying, "When it comes to the economy, California is unmatched.

"We dominate in research, innovation, entrepreneurialism, venture capital — and remain the world's fifth largest economy. Our GDP growth has consistently outpaced not only the rest of the country — but most other large, western democracies. Nearly a million new jobs in the last 12 months. In December alone, 25% of America's jobs were created right here in California. More new business starts during the worst of the pandemic than Texas and Florida combined."

Sounds great, right? But Newsom avoided the fact that California has the nation's highest unemployment rate at 6.5%, nearly three percentage points higher than the national rate and three times as high as some states.

How about education?

"I'm talking about a real transformation of our public education system, like we're doing right here in California," Newsom claimed. "By creating choices — real choices — for parents and unprecedented support for their kids."

What about the devastation that COVID-19 visited upon the state's nearly six million public school students, and the widening "achievement gap" between poor students and their more advantaged classmates? What about California's years, spending all but a few chronically poor perfor-

the longer run, clobber the academic tests? Not a word. Newsom bragged about

the state's leading role in reducing greenhouse gases and reducing the dominance of hydrocarbons in transportation and utilities.

"At a time when we've been heating up and burning up, one thing we cannot do is repeat the mistakes of the past," Newsom said. "Embracing polluters. Drilling even more oil, which only leads to even more extreme weather, more extreme drought, more wildfire."

However, he said nothing about California's looming shortage of electrical power, already evident on hot summer days. Nor has he spelled out how the economic impacts of the conversion to an all-electric society will be alleviated.

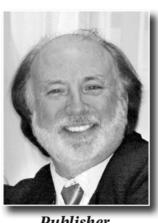
Newsom did mention crime, at least in passing, but offered faint solace to victims of the state's rising crime rates, particularly the wave of homicide in the major cities.

"Our approach is to be neither indifferent to the realities of the present day, nor revert to heavy-handed policies that have marked the failures of the past," Newsom said, citing more money for both law enforcement and "new programs to tackle the root causes of crime, doubling down on proven violence prevention programs."

Bottom line: As a State of State speech, it was shockingly deficient. It sounded more like a kickoff to his re-election campaign.

Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 of those years working for





Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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Historic Sac State Turnaround Ends in First Round of Big Sky Tournament

By Shaun Holkko, sports editor

BOISE, ID (MPG) - This isn't Mark Campbell's first rebuilding project.

The Hornets' (14-16, 10-11 Big Sky Conference) first-year head coach has been involved with rebuilding a women's college basketball program twice before, at Oregon State and then the University of Oregon, eventually leading both teams to the Final Four.

Which is why it should come as no surprise that in Campbell's first season at Sacramento State, his team improved by 11 games, elevating their win total from three to 14 in just one season. Additionally, 14-16 is the best first year record that Campbell has been a part of in a rebuilding project.

Before Campbell and his staff came to town, the Hornets had not won 14 games in a season for six years. The turnaround of the 2021-22 Sac State women's basketball team now ranks as the fourth largest in Big Sky history.

Sac State's impressive run came to an end Monday, March 7 in Boise, Idaho as the seventh seeded Hornets were defeated in the first round of the Big Sky Tournament by the tenth seeded Weber State Wildcats (11-19, 7-14) by a final score of 74-64.

The start of the game Monday could not have gone any better if you were rooting for the Hornets, as they got out



Sac State head coach Mark Campbell speaks to his team during a timeout amid a 74-64 loss to Weber State on Monday, March 7 at the Big Sky Tournament in Boise, Idaho. Photo courtesy of Brooks Nuanez - Skyline Sports, skylinesportsmt.com

to an 11-2 lead after four minutes of action. The Wildcats began to chip away at the deficit, but Sac State led by six after one quarter, 20-14. The first period ended up being the only quarter the Hornets won all night.

Weber State edged Sac State in second quarter scoring 13-12 but trailed by five entering the locker room at halftime 32-27.

"In the first half, we shot ourselves in the foot," Campbell said. "We played incredible defense, made them miss. I think in the first half they had 17 offensive rebounds. If you finish those possessions, the game wouldn't have

been a five-point game at In a high scoring final halftime. In minutes of action, the

"Unfortunately, we played good enough defense in the first half and couldn't finish the possessions. We gave them hope and gave them life."

The Hornets extended their lead to seven just over a minute into the second half at 38-31. Then the Wildcats went on an 18-6 run over the final eight plus minutes of the third quarter to take a five-point lead into the fourth period.

Weber State outscored Sac State by 10 in the third quarter, 22-12, which ultimately ended up being the difference in the game. 10 minutes of action, the Wildcats kept control, outscoring the Hornets 25-20.

"At the end of the day, they scored 47 points in the second half," Campbell said. "We couldn't guard them in the second half and that's kind of been our Achilles heel. How far we went was always going to be dictated on how well we could defend and rebound and tonight we didn't do it well enough."

Big Sky Newcomer of the Year Isnelle Natabou got into foul trouble early in the game limiting her impact against Weber State. The sophomore center played 24 minutes, scoring 10 points on 5-of-6 from the field and grabbing six rebounds (three offensive).

"I have struggled with early fouls in the game during (the) whole season and I'm very foul-prone," Natabou said. "It really helped me when my teammates and coach told me that I have to calm down. Because I know the rules, I know what I should be doing."

Without Natabou, the Hornets struggled on the boards being outre-bounded 38 to 25. 18 of those rebounds came on the offensive glass for the Wildcats, leading to 21

second chance points. In a game they lost by 10, Sac State was outscored by 12 in second chance points.

Big Sky Most Valuable Player of the Year Lianna Tillman led all scorers with a game-high 23 points on 10-of-25 field goal attempts and four assists. The Sac State graduate transfer was a perfect 3-of-3 from the free-throw line but missed all seven 3-point tries in her final collegiate appearance.

"For Lianna to have the season that she had, you guys it's truly remarkable," Campbell said. "The only player in all of college basketball that had numbers similar to her is Caitlin Clark at Iowa who might be the National Player of the Year."

Weber State senior guard Aloma Solovi had a team-high 20 points, six assists and two steals. Junior forward Daryn Hickok followed closely behind for the Wildcats with 19 points on 4-of-6 from the field and a stellar 11-of-12 from the charity stripe. By herself, Hickok made one more free throw than the entire Hornets team.

Both teams had four starters score in double figures.

"It's painful anytime your season comes to an end," Campbell said. "I'm just incredibly proud of this group and what they accomplished in our staff's first year. They just laid an incredible foundation that we'll be able to build upon."





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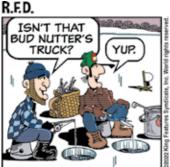




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Dixon Allows 7 Unanswered Runs in Loss to Laguna Creek

Story and photos by Regina Fish

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Dixon High School varsity baseball team lost under the lights Monday evening at Sutter Health Park to Laguna Creek 8-7 after allowing seven unanswered runs.

The Rams (5-4) lost despite out-hitting Laguna Creek 11-7 and have now dropped three games in a row.

Dixon entered the sixth inning with a 7-5 lead. After allowing two runs in the bottom half of the inning, the game was tied at seven with Laguna Creek senior Jayce Nieves up to bat. The Cardinals (2-3) took the lead for good on an RBI groundout by Nieves.

Laguna Creek opened the scoring in the first inning as senior Matthew Walkup drove in one run with a triple.

The Rams took their first lead of the game with four runs in the top of the third inning. Seniors Nick Barr, Danny Martinez and junior Jaden Mulitsch-Reynolds each moved runners across the plate in the inning with an RBI. Dixon would add on three more runs in the top of the fifth inning.

The Cardinals quickly responded with four runs in the bottom half of the inning. The big inning for Laguna Creek came thanks to a walk by Walkup, a sacrifice fly from junior Asa Dutra and an error by the Rams on a ball put in play by Nieves.

Dutra secured the victory on the mound for the Cardinals. The junior pitcher went three innings, allowing zero runs on two hits while striking out five. Martinez took the loss for Dixon. The senior righthander allowed one hit and one run over 2/3 of an inning, striking out one and walking one.

Walkup started the game for Laguna Creek. The senior hurler surrendered seven runs on nine hits over four innings, striking out seven. Cade Jacobson started the game for the Rams. The senior righty lasted three innings, allowing four hits and one run while striking out six.

Senior Nolan Fish, junior Jett Harris, Barr and Jacobson each had multiple hits for Dixon. Barr went 3-for-4 at the plate to lead the Rams in hits. Senior Makaio Liu led the Cardinals in hits with two in three at bats.



Members of the Dixon High School varsity baseball team stand and salute the United States flag during the national anthem before playing Laguna Creek on Monday, March 14 at Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento.



A Laguna Creek Cardinal prepares to swing at a pitch during an 8-7 win against Dixon on Monday, March 14 at Sutter Health Park in West Sacramento.



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