



Market Animal Requirements Announced for Dixon May Fair
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“IT IS INFINITELY BETTER TO HAVE A FEW GOOD MEN THAN MANY INDIFFERENT ONES.”

Letter to James Mchenry | Friday, August 10, 1798



HONOR PRESIDENTS DAY



Dixon Independent Voice

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FRIENDS OF DIXON MAY FAIR AWARD AG SCHOLARSHIPS



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Here's Looking at You Kid!

Love of Goats Found at '8 Gables Ranch'



Above: The 8 Gables Ranch is a 5-acre home for Nigerian Dwarf Goats. Right: People of all walks of life can take a kid home. Photos by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Driving down a dirt road off Timm Lane in the rural area between Dixon and Vacaville, you'd reach '8 Gables Ranch,' a 5-acre home for Nigerian Dwarf Goats, a bunch of beautiful chickens, a couple small dogs, and a few rescued cats.

At the entry is an area the size of a large front yard designed with succulent plants arranged in pretty pots and wrought iron patio tables with matching chairs invites visitors to sit and rest for a cup of tea or refreshing lemonade and listen to the peaceful sounds of the quiet neighborhood.

But then Barbara Tucker might walk in sight of one of many goats in

the pens behind the neat home and you would hear at least one of them yell, "Maaaa! Mmmaaaa!" and you'd be reminded, "Oh right, this is a goat farm."

Barbara and her husband, Dave, have been working on improving the property for the last eight years after Barbara's son, a Vacaville real estate agent, showed her the nearly-abandoned—and certainly neglected property—and the purchase was made. "It was a hell hole," said Barbara



flatly. "It was uninhabited for at least three years as the owners didn't live here but rented out the house, a cottage, a trailer, and a couple out

Continued on page 10

Two Arrested in Connection with Armed Robbery and Shooting at 7-Eleven

Dixon Police Department Press Release

DIXON, CA (MPG) - On the evening of February 8th, 2022, Dixon Police responded to an armed robbery that left a victim shot. Detectives from the Dixon Police Department have been working with multiple agencies to identify, locate, and arrest the suspects. During the investigation, three suspects were identified and warrants for their arrests were obtained by detectives from the Dixon Police Department.

On February 13th, 2022 Jeremiah Gordon-Hill (21) of Richmond was contacted during an unrelated incident by the Alameda County Sheriff's Office and was arrested for the warrant obtained by Dixon Police Department Detectives. Gordon-Hill was booked into the Alameda County Jail for the crimes of 664/187(a) PC (Attempted Murder), 664/211 PC (Attempted Robbery), 459 PC (Burglary), 29800(a) (1) PC (Convicted Felon in possession of a firearm), 25850(a) PC (carrying a loaded firearm), and 182(a) (1) PC (Conspiracy to commit a crime).

On February 15th, 2022 Kahraan Nabavi (25) of Marin City and Treyvonn Cook (24) of Marin City were located and arrested at a hotel in Oakland for the warrants obtained by Dixon Police Detectives for the crimes of 664/187(a) PC (Attempted Murder), 664/211 PC (Attempted Robbery), 459 PC (Burglary), 29800(a) (1) PC (Convicted Felon in possession of a firearm), 25850(a) PC (carrying a loaded firearm), and 182(a) (1) PC (Conspiracy to commit a crime). Cook had an additional charge of 1203.2(a) PC (Violation of probation).

The victim underwent emergency surgery and is now in stable condition. Anyone with information regarding this investigation is asked to call Sergeant Geisser at the Dixon Police Department at 707-678-7070 x3206. ★



DUSD Superintendent Dolan Reaches Out to Ag Teachers

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It may be another year and thousands of dollars more, but the Dixon High School Barn will be built better.

After the School Board Meeting where Ag teacher Marcus Tanaka expressed his frustrations with the delays in the Dixon High School barn and not being included in its development, Superintendent Brian Dolan arranged a meeting with several officials including facility consultants from School Site Solutions, an architect, a State official, Principal Stephanie Marquez, and all the Dixon High School Ag teachers.

Dolan returned press calls after last week's press deadline and offered explanations and comments.

"There was some collaboration with our Facilities Director John



Dixon Unified School District Superintendent Brian Dolan takes notes during DHS Ag teacher Marcus Tanaka's address at the last school board meeting. Photo by Debra Dingman

Calise and the Ag teachers but it was years ago. There was an Ag/community-wide [effort] but not so much on the design. Mr. Girimonte was principal at the time, and I wasn't directly involved and was

not present for that work myself," he said. "What I can say is that communication is always the biggest challenge especially with a 2.2 to 3-million dollar project. We don't have a Facilities Director right

now. We could be doing a better job."

Tanaka, who has been an Ag teacher for more than ten years at the high school and who built the Woodland school barn while teaching there, had reported numerous failures in the construction of the DHS barn contributing to further delays and was upset that he had not been communicated with by Dolan nor included in the barn's development.

"Engineers have different opinions of what Mr. Tanaka would have," Dolan said empathetically. "We are building within this bureaucracy. There are layers. There were things that went real easy and things that were real problems. Nothing goes perfectly but we have a chance to work together. Let's get this thing finished."

Continued on page 5



Life's too SHORT

The Art of Dying Well

By Debra Dingman

According to Katy Butler, bestselling author who recently published her practical guide to a good end of life, more than 58 million Americans – those living on the West Coast or in Hawaii, Montana, Oregon, Vermont, or the District of Columbia – may now legally obtain death-hastening prescriptions when they are terminally ill.

People who saw me reading this book asked why I was reading it. Honestly, it just caught my eye on the 'new reads' display in the Dixon library where hubby and I went when it was raining.

The flap read some of my favorite words: "step-by-step; preparations; research guide; award-winning science journalist." Katy tackles a very tough issue. Who likes to talk about death? But without a doubt, we all experience it and I wanted to know what my options are in the process. As I flipped through to see some of the subjects, I felt a tug in my heart and a call in my spirit.

I was reminded of how I fought to have my babies at home and yet when I had them there, it was the best experience of my life, and I made a career helping others find that joy. I knew that most of the pain of childbirth comes from being scared and unprepared and that happened in our society when we removed childbirth from the home. We moved it into the hospitals so we didn't see our mothers, aunts, or neighbors giving birth naturally. Birth became feared.

As I read the forward, it was the same thing. We don't let people die in their homes. We take them to the hospital and

beat on their chests and stuff tubes down their throats and order them to live even if they were ready not to.

The author talks about a gentle death in a way I read about gentle births. Katy took care of her own dying parents and compiled hundreds of interviews. The stories are real and share truths of medical or hospice staff, dying people, their families and friends, and caregivers. She suggests ways to get what you want so that you can get the best from our healthcare system, age in place, have conversations with a younger doctor, when not to call 911, and how to make your death "a sacred rite of passage rather than a medical event."

I had to read it. I learned I was in "the adaptive phase." That's when you can't open a jar of mayonnaise if your life depended on it, you don't like driving at night, and you monitor your blood pressure. I have quite a ways to go (God willing) but the book was a gentle reminder that at any moment, something in my body could change; will change. And, that it is absolutely natural for us to die.

"A reassuring...guide to enjoying a high quality of life from resilient old age to the first inklings of serious illness to the final breath..." it reads. I was going to leave the last three chapters so I wouldn't get depressed, but I couldn't put it down. It is so beautifully written and with such compassion, you won't want to either. I loved her very last thoughts in the final chapter:

"...We create a new art of dying not to make things perfect. We work with inadequate materials at hand to fashion something bearable, shared, and in its own way, beautiful because it is sanctified by love." ★

Dixon News Briefs



Jewel Fink hauls off one of the raffle baskets won at a past Dixon Women's Improvement Club Fundraising Dinner at Bud's Pub & Grill. Friends Linda Carpenter and Bill Schroeder look on. There will be many raffle prizes at the event. Photo by Darla Wear

MPG Staff

School's Out

This will be a long weekend for Dixon Unified School District students as they will be out on Friday, Feb. 18 as well as Monday, Feb. 21 due to the observance of President's Day, but the students of Dixon Montessori Charter School, after having half days all this week due to parent-teacher conferences, will be out the whole next week, Monday, Feb. 21 through Friday, Feb. 25. They call it 'Ski Week.'

Take note for DUSD Spring Break: That will be April 4 - 8.

Dinner Invite

Reminder of a fun time event: This Monday, Feb. 21 from 4 to 8 pm, is the Dixon Women's Improvement Club annual fundraising dinner and raffle at Bud's Pub & Grill, 100 South First Street. choice of Prime Rib or Tri-tip, Grilled Salmon, Pasta or Vegetarian Dish, or Chicken and tickets are \$30 and go for high school scholarships. Dinners can be ordered in advance if you want to pick up. Call Loran Hoffmann for tickets at (707) 372-7094.

City Meetings

The City of Dixon Parks & Recreation Commission will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 22. This meeting should be held in the Council Chambers at 600 East A Street. Agendas come out on the Thursday before (usually.) Check the city website for any possible changes.

Tax Help

Free tax preparation is being offered by Travis Credit Union through April 13, 2022. The criteria for this free service is that you make less than \$58,000 a year; are a senior citizen; or people with disabilities; or have limited English capabilities. The days are on Tuesday, Wednesday

and Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm and service is offered in English, Spanish, and Tagalog at the Travis Union Headquarters, 1 Travis Way, in Vacaville.

For more information call (707) 469-4317 or to set up an appointment, go to www.myfreetaxes.org/in-person.

Business Classes

The Solano Small Business Development Center is offering three more free classes online. Feb. 23 is a class on How to get Free PR: Best strategies for your Business; Feb. 24 there is an Intro to Financial Analysis; and on Feb. 25, There is a Global Diversity and Investment Summit.

For more information, go to SolanoNapaSBDC.org/events.

City Volunteers Cleaning

The City will be hosting a volunteer clean up event on Saturday, February 26 starting at 9 am. The event will be held from Syracuse Lane to Yale Drive. The meeting point is the double gated area across the street from 1150 Yale Drive.

Please bring plenty of water, gloves and any tools that you might want to use, as there will be limited tools provided by the City for this landscape and cleanup activity. Please mark your tools so they make it back home with you.

Volunteers can sign up by contacting Linda Babb at (707) 693-2224 or lbabb@cityofdixon.us

Please complete the volunteer form provided at the link below and bring it with you on the day of the event. If you are under 18, please have your parent or guardian complete the form. Forms will also be provided the day of the event.

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Genesis 2:18

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Sheila Dybdahl - Children's Minister

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Dodd: Junior Hunting License Bill

From the Office of Senator Bill Dodd Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -

Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, announced new legislation that would increase the eligibility age for a junior hunting license in California, opening opportunities to participate in outdoor sports to a greater number of young people.

"The higher price for an adult hunting license has proven to be a barrier to many teenagers," Sen. Dodd said. "That's a shame because they miss out on junior hunting activities that foster life-long participation in outdoor

sports. My bill will give them more time in the field so they can learn about all California has to offer."

Currently, anyone 16 or older must pay a higher price for an adult hunting license and related hunting stamps. Junior licenses, which cost less, were temporarily available to hunters up to 17 but that provision expired in 2020.

Sen. Dodd's bill, Senate Bill 865, would permanently increase the maximum age of eligibility for a junior hunting license from 15 to 17 years old. Sponsors said the shift would allow teens to participate in high-quality junior hunting

activities sponsored by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and non-profit wildlife conservation groups.

"Research has proven that both cost and limited opportunity are substantial barriers to our youth participating in hunting activities," said Bill Gaines, a spokesperson for the sponsors. "Raising junior hunting license age eligibility from 15 to 17 would ensure more of our youth get out in the field today and for years to come, while also bringing hunting licenses in line with other California laws which deem someone an adult at 18." ★



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PUBLIC NOTICE

DIXON CITY COUNCIL MEETING SB743 AND VMT UPDATE

To whom it may concern:

The City Council of the City of Dixon has received a request to consider the implementation of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the new baseline of measurement for transportation impact in order to comply with State Bill (SB) 743. In 2013, SB743 was signed into law with the intent to better align California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) practices with statewide sustainability goals related to efficient land use, greater multi-model choices, and greenhouse gas reductions. Additionally, CEQA Guidelines were updated in December 2019 specifying VMT as the metric for quantifying transportation impacts under CEQA.

Copies of the agenda and staff report for the meeting will be available for review on Friday, February 25, 2022 at City Hall as well as the City of Dixon website. The meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2022
Time: 7:00 P.M.
Location: City Council Chambers
600 East A Street
Dixon, CA 95620

Additionally, the public may participate via video conferencing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9886211137?pwd=R2dxZ3RkbU9SQXdUUVlRkc0QlQWZz09> and via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128, meeting ID: 988 621 1137, passcode: 604754 and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment. To speak during public comment via video conferencing click on "Raise Hand", via teleconference press *9.

We welcome and appreciate your participation. If you should have any questions or comments, please contact me at (707) 678-7031 ext. 5311 or by email at jsantos@cityofdixon.us

Dixon Independent Voice February 18, 2022

Friends of Dixon May Fair to Award \$15,000 in Ag Scholarships

By Kathy Keatley Garvey, UC Davis

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It pays to major in agriculture.

The Friends of the Dixon May Fair this year will award eight college scholarships, totaling \$15,000, to Solano County residents enrolled in a California college or university and majoring in an agricultural-related field. Applications must be postmarked by 5 p.m. March 1.

Scholarship chair Carrie Hamel of Dixon announced the awards are the \$3000 Ester Armstrong Award and the \$2500 JoAn Giannoni Award, both in the four-year college category; and the \$1500 Jack Hopkins Scholarship Award to a student attending a two-year college. In addition, three \$2000 scholarships will be given in the four-year college category; and two 1000 scholarships in the two-year college category.

The all-volunteer organization, headed by president Donnie Huffman of Vacaville, is the service-oriented and fundraising arm of the fair. Since 2003, the Friends have awarded more than \$200,000. The organization raises funds from the sale of beverages at the four-day fair and donates the proceeds for exhibitor awards, building and grounds improvements, as well as college scholarships. Last year, however, the coronavirus pandemic mandates canceled the Dixon May Fair.

Applicants are scored on personal, civic and academic experience; academic standing; personal commitment and established goals; leadership potential; civic accomplishments; chosen field in the areas of agriculture, said Hamel. Most



Linzie Goodsell



Kyle Esquer

applicants have experience in 4-H, FFA or Grange, criteria desired not mandated.

Agricultural-related fields, Hamel said, include such majors as agricultural and resource economics, agricultural business, agronomy and range science, agricultural science, agricultural systems management, animal science, avian sciences, bio-resource and agricultural engineering, plant protection science, dairy science, entomology, earth sciences, environmental horticultural science, environmental design, environmental management and protection, landscape architecture, food science, environmental toxicology, forestry and natural resources, fruit science, soils and biogeochemistry, agricultural education and communication, home economics, environmental resource sciences, agribusiness, pomology, animal science, vegetable crops, nematology, earth and soil sciences, plant pathology, food science and nutrition, wildlife and fisheries biology, horticulture and crop science, pest management, natural resources management, child, family and consumer science, viticulture and enology, atmospheric science, and hydrologic science.

Last year's top recipient was Kyle Esquer of Dixon, a student at California Polytechnic State

University (Cal Poly), winner of the \$3000 Ester Armstrong Scholarship Award. Linzie Goodsell of Dixon, a student at California State University, Chico, won the \$2500 JoAn Giannoni Scholarship Award. At the community college level, Vacaville resident Jared Tanaka, enrolled at Modesto Junior College, won the \$1500 Jack Hopkins Scholarship. Other recipients of Friends of the Fair scholarships last year were Maya Prunty of Vacaville, a student at the University of California, Davis, \$2000; and Haylee Hoffmann of Dixon, a student at Modesto Junior College, \$1000.

The annual deadline to apply for the scholarships is 5 p.m., March 1. More information on the scholarship application rules is available on the Friends of the Fair Facebook site at facebook.com/FriendsoftheDixonMayFair. Applications must be on Friends of the Fair forms and include a personal essay and letters of support. They are to be mailed to the Friends of the Fair, P.O. Box 242, Dixon, Calif.

The scholarship committee, chaired by Hamel, also includes Tootie Huffman, Kathy Keatley Garvey and Linda Molina of Vacaville, and Marty Scrivens of Dixon. Huffman serves as treasurer of the all-volunteer Friends of the Fair, and Scrivens as secretary. ★

Market Animal Requirements, Deadlines Announced for May Fair

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Attention Future Farmers of America, 4-H, and all youth who intend to exhibit market livestock at the 2022 Dixon May Fair: You must have your animal pre-tagged in order to compete during the fair, May 5-8, 2022.

Entry into the market goats, market lambs and market swine classes will be accepted online only at www.dixonmayfair.com starting now and ending March 4, 2022 or if barn space has reached capacity, whichever comes first.

Exhibitors may tag any number of large market animals, but they must fill out an entry form and pay the entry fee for each market animal tagged. You may only bring 2 market animals (large or small) to the fair.

FFA advisors, 4-H leaders, Grange leaders and/or parents of independent juniors must pick up tags for the entered animals between March 15, 2022 and March 31, 2022. (Weekdays only between 8 am to noon and 1 pm to 5 pm.)

Tags will be pre-assigned to the animals by fair staff and must be placed in the animal's ear prior to arrival on the fairgrounds for the fair. The animals must be entered into the fair to receive a



Dixon FFA Student Abby Ming with her sister, Janie, proudly show Abby's Supreme Champion Market Lamb at last year's May Fair. Photo courtesy of Dixon May Fair

tag. A Bill of Sale with the animal's birthdate must be turned in when picking up tags.

Rabbit and poultry market animal owners must submit an online entry that includes the birthdate and leg band/tattoo numbers along with entry fees, a Bill of Sale, and photo of the animal(s) to the Fair office by April 5.

For complete rules and regulations regarding the livestock exhibits, read the Exhibit Guidebook available on the fair's website at www.dixonmayfair.com. The Dixon May Fair office is at 655 South First Street in Dixon. Office hours are Monday - Friday 8:30 am to noon and 1 pm to 5 pm. ★

Annual Rotary Crab Feed Deadline is Sunday

Rotary Club of Dixon

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It's not too late to get in on the fun! There are still tickets left for the 18th Annual Crab Feed hosted by the Rotary Club of Dixon but the last date to buy tickets is this Sunday, February 20. No tickets will be sold at the door.

The dinner/dance is on Saturday, February 26, 2022, at the Dixon May Fair, Madden Hall, located at 655 South First Street, Dixon starting with a no-host bar at 6 pm and dinner at 7 pm. Cost is \$70 per person and includes Dungeness Crab, pasta, salad and bread. Along with great food, you will have

opportunities to bid on silent auction prizes, win raffle baskets and more. After dinner, dance to the popular band, the Time Bandits. Purchase tickets at https://2022-dixon-rotary-crabfeed.eventbrite.com.

Know these COVID requirements before the event: Bring your driver's license or another photo ID to enter event. Bring proof of full Covid vaccination (with final dose at least 14 days prior to event date OR a negative Covid test result taken within 72 hours of the event from a medical provider or clinic. Home tests will not be accepted.

For any questions or more info, call Janice Beaman at (916) 240-0147. ★



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Rewarding Student Volunteers

By Mikhail Zinshteyn,
CALMatters.org

A new California program to financially reward college students for volunteering has drawn national attention – but less than half of its budgeted money is going to actual student aid.

The California Volunteers College Corps program, backed by \$159 million in mostly state money, promises to award up to \$10,000 to 6,668 low-income students who volunteer in K-12 education, on climate action or to reduce food insecurity.

That only works out to \$66.7 million for students, though. So where is the other \$92 million going?

Mostly it's going to hiring and administrative costs despite no guarantee the program will continue past 2024. Some experts think that money split makes sense because students could benefit from training and there's a chance the program would get additional funding in the future. Other experts think the money should go directly to students, so



Newsom and lawmakers have dramatically expanded the state financial aid program in other ways that give students aid directly, like cash and grants to fully cover tuition. MPG file photo

fewer of them will have to work on top of their other responsibilities.

The program is set to last two years, though Gov. Gavin Newsom suggested at a Jan. 18 press event that he'd ask the Legislature to expand the program "if this thing works." Part of the money will go toward an external evaluation of the program.

Almost all of that \$92 million that's not going directly to students is

meant for program costs, according to a budget CalMatters received from California Volunteers, the state office running the program. Forty-five colleges and universities – nearly all public – will share the money.

Of that, \$77 million is for a whole array of operations work to build up the volunteer program. That includes money for the colleges whose students will be in this program to

develop their local programs and partner with the nonprofits where students will work. Costs include: hiring consultants and staff, acquiring extra office space and IT equipment; recruiting the actual student volunteers and funding the nonprofits where they'll do their volunteer work; providing students career and academic advice plus training events; and an external evaluator, who'll be hired at a later date, to assess the volunteer program.

Another \$15 million is reserved for California Volunteers personnel.

Not only is the program a way for students to give back to their community but it's also an opportunity that allows students to be "learning about a career and also earning while learning that career," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley.

But a state program for connecting students to careers already exists. Last year's state budget injected \$200 million into a new work-study program for college students, with \$300 million more planned for this year.

Student participants will begin volunteering through the program fall of 2022. Upon completing 450 hours during the academic year, each will get \$10,000.

The money is split up into two buckets – \$7,000 paid out regularly and a final lump sum of \$3,000 after a year of service. As students fulfill their hours, they'll be paid as if they're campus employees through their college or university's payroll system. Even if students don't volunteer the full 450 hours, they'll receive a prorated amount of the initial \$7,000. But to receive the final \$3,000, students will need to complete the full 450 hours

of service.

Unlike the federal AmeriCorps, undocumented students may participate in the California volunteer program. State officials want 20% of the volunteers to be undocumented students who receive state financial aid. They're eligible for the same \$10,000 available to other students, but their pot will come from state dollars only, while federal funds will cover a portion of \$3,000 other students will be awarded.

But all that extra money may create a headache for some volunteers. The \$7,000 volunteers work toward counts as income, which may "impact a student's financial aid," reads a program FAQ. Campuses are urged to work with their financial aid offices to "mitigate any impact" for students. Also, the \$7,000 is taxable income, meaning taxes will be deducted each paycheck.

Only full-time students will be eligible for the service program.

The College Corps state volunteer program builds on a smaller effort California launched in 2020, about six months into the COVID-19 pandemic. Though that smaller effort had the goal of attracting 250 students, ultimately 199 participated, according to performance review data that Julie Goggins, a California Volunteers spokesperson, shared with CalMatters. And some – 7% – didn't complete their full hours of service and so weren't awarded the full amount for which they were eligible. Most students – 90% – also acquired professional development skills, according to performance review assessments. Some colleges from the pilot round are also participating in College Corps.

The budget for the

volunteer program makes sense, but the devil's in the details, said Alexandra Graddy-Reed, a professor who studies nonprofits at the University of Southern California. She likes that students who volunteer will receive various layers of advising. It's another way for the colleges and the state to expose those low-income students to opportunities wealthier students often already receive through their families' connections, Graddy-Reed said.

All those services require more personnel and hiring people is expensive, which helps explain the program costs, she said. The mix of volunteerism and various advising "sounds good to me" as a way to spend tax dollars, Graddy-Reed added. Still, she'll want to see the specific hiring decisions colleges will make at the local level and whether most of the operational funding will be for College Corps or for general campus operations.

Campus-level contract amounts won't be available until the summer, according to Goggins.

Some campuses have begun advertising their programs. UC Davis and three other Sacramento-area colleges will share up to \$16 million for about 1,000 student volunteers. Fresno State and Fresno City College will bring on about 120 students over two years.

Newsom and lawmakers have dramatically expanded the state financial aid program in other ways that give students aid directly, like cash and grants to fully cover tuition. But those are all ongoing programs, while the money for the volunteer program is just two years. From a publicity standpoint, it's probably better to create a temporary program, such as College Corps, than to briefly expand access to ongoing grants only to have them disappear soon after, Shireman mused.

Student housing in California is already tight and the state has big plans to expand enrollment at the University of California and the Cal States. A \$5 billion proposal would give campuses loans at no interest.

Mikhail Zinshteyn has been a higher education reporter since 2015. As a freelancer, he contributed to *The Atlantic*, *The Hechinger Report*, *Inside Higher Ed* and *The 74*. ★

CTC Allocates \$589 Million for Transportation Improvements

Department of Transportation
Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$589 million for projects to repair and improve transportation infrastructure throughout the state. Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, accounts for \$302 million – more than half of the funding.

"This investment follows our 'fix-it-first' commitment to repair California's aging infrastructure, while at the same time increasing transit and active transportation options," said Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin. "These projects will make our transportation system safer and more convenient for all users and create thousands of good-paying jobs in the process."

Among those projects approved was one on State Highway 32 in Chico from Muir Avenue to Highway 99 that will rehabilitate pavement, install signals and lighting, upgrade Transportation Management System (TMS) elements, rehabilitate drainage systems, and upgrade facilities to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The project

was allocated \$3.51 million.

Caltrans also presented the CTC with the draft 2022 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) at our meeting. Aimed at preserving the condition of the highway system, the draft 2022 SHOPP accounts for \$17.3 billion in funding over a four-year period and includes projects for safety, restoration, road and bridge preservation, and other highway-related facilities.

The CTC will host a public hearing in February to receive comments on the draft SHOPP. All the comments will be considered in the final version that goes before the CTC for adoption at its March meeting. All 2022 SHOPP projects are available on the Caltrans' Ten-Year Project Book website, ProjectBook.dot.ca.gov

SB 1 provides \$5 billion in transportation funding annually split between the state and local agencies. Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of SB 1 funds, including projects that are partially funded by SB 1.

For more information about transportation projects funded by SB 1, visit RebuildingCA.ca.gov. ★

Thompson Votes for American Innovation

From the Office of US
Congressman Mike Thompson

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-05) voted to pass the America COMPETES Act to strengthen our supply chains, bolster American manufacturing, and boost American competitiveness. This bill is a comprehensive, strategic package that will power the success of America's workers, businesses and economy at home and position America to compete on the world stage.

The America COMPETES Act will super-charge American innovation and competitiveness by:

Making Critically Needed Semiconductors in America: Over the past 30 years, the United States' global share of manufacturing semiconductors, an increasingly essential component in everything from computers to cars, has collapsed, leaving the U.S. vulnerable to chip shortages and disruptions abroad that drive up costs of key goods here at home. The America COMPETES Act meets this challenge by appropriating \$52 billion for the CHIPS for America Act, critical investments to support continued American technological leadership in semiconductor fabrication, address supply chain disruptions and ensure more semiconductors are produced here at home.

Fixing the Supply Chain and Strengthening American Manufacturing: The disruption of the pandemic has exposed deeper weaknesses in a supply chain that has increasingly relied on foreign manufacturing, instead of making goods in America with American workers. The America COMPETES Act authorizes \$45 billion

to fix our broken supply chains by building more critical components in America, strengthening American manufacturing, and protecting our national security with American-made capacity to prevent shortages and disruptions, including public health and biological preparedness, information and communications technology, the energy and transportation sector's industrial base, and agricultural commodities and food products.

Turbocharging American Scientific Research, Technology, and Innovation Excellence: To ensure America leads the technologies of the future, the America COMPETES Act of 2022 includes a suite of bipartisan science, research, and technology bills to turbocharge American innovation, focusing on solutions and maximizing the American talent pool by strengthening and diversifying our nation's STEM workforce.

Securing America's Global Competitiveness and Leadership Through Economic Development; Diplomacy, Human Rights and Alliances: Includes numerous provisions to strengthen and promote America's leadership around the globe, ensuring that American interests, partnerships and values succeed on the global stage, and that American leadership wins on the key issues our time, including the climate crisis and the coronavirus pandemic, particularly as other countries seek to re-write the rules of the road in their favor.

Section-by-section analysis and factsheets of the COMPETES Act can be found here. Endorsements of the bill and its elements from the scientific community and others have been compiled by the Science, Space and Technology Committee. ★



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Paul V. Scholl**

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Dolan Reaches Out to Ag Teachers



Dixon High School Teacher Marcus Tanaka wasn't consulted with regard to this large greenhouse placed on the same site as the school barn. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1

At the meeting held later at the barn itself, the developers spoke to Tanaka nearly the whole time.

"They asked a lot of good questions and I asked them questions," he said. "I pointed out things like security, visibility, and the way the fencing [is a problem] and they agreed it will have to be a strong consideration for the security of the project. We're very hopeful with my involvement and said they want to make this facility the way [the Ag teachers] see it."

Tanaka was especially pleased that Mr. Dolan had acted quickly to invite everyone to the table to address the issues.

"What is more alarming is what more things need to be undone. It's going to be an estimated \$160,000-180,000 just to finish the bathroom because it has to be ADA compliant but they are still trying to confirm if they can have one restroom open to all genders or another one for staff access only. Then, that determines if there's an extra wall and more plumbing needed," he explained.

Overall, the consultants and leaders involved were hopeful the project would be completed by next fall according to their timeline, but Tanaka is cautious about that.

"In reality, there is too



Dixon High Ag Teacher Marcus Tanaka recently met with Dixon Unified School Superintendent Brian Dolan and other officials about construction issues that will have to be fixed before the barn can be used by students. Photo by Debra Dingman

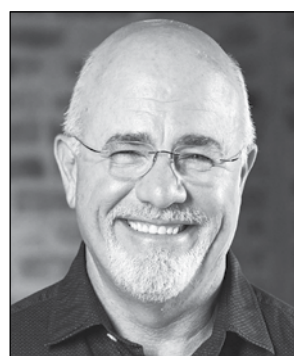
much red tape in between all these projects for people to think that it's simple," he said, but he is happy to be included. "They have my contact information and it sounds like I'm going to be involved in the remainder of the project (Phase 2.)"

In a different conversation, Dolan was adamant that the future vision of the Ag department teaching staff would remain three teachers and that they are in the process of recruiting the third (after the recent departure of Miranda Will.)

"We have a student teacher from UC Davis and that gentleman will

be taking on Ms. Will's assignment for the rest of the year," Dolan said. "We will advertise for someone to be in a permanent position for the beginning of next year and beyond. He will be eligible to apply," he added. This was all good news for Mr. Tanaka who was glad he spoke up at the School Board Meeting.

"My heart was leading the direction more than the agenda item was addressing," he said. "But since, I've had a lot of people reaching out to me and people in influential positions asking, 'what do I need?'" ★



Dave Ramsey Says

husband. No matter what anyone else says, the borrower is *always* slave to the lender.

If it's going to be a gift, meaning there's no expectation of repayment, that's a different story. Still, I think your dad has a great idea in making the debt payoff contingent on you two going to some kind of financial counseling, and making a proactive effort to change things, get out of debt and save money – for your child's future *and* for yours. I'd probably do the same thing.

It doesn't sound like you're being crazy with your money, but it's tough to provide for a family on that kind of income. You and your husband need to sit down together, develop a monthly budget and a realistic five-year plan to improve his earning potential. Make it a date night. Hold hands, do something inexpensive you both enjoy, and let him know he can be anything he wants to be. Then, help him decide exactly what and where he wants to be in five years.

What does he want to be making, and what feasible steps can he take educationally or in terms of job training to get there?

If you want to go to work at some point when your baby is a little older, that's fine. I completely understand the desire to be at home with a brand new baby. But hard work alone just isn't enough these days. You've got to boost your brain power and value in the marketplace, too. God bless you guys!

– 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 Solutions. ★

CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See legitgov.org

Clinton Campaign Lawyers Paid Tech Company to Infiltrate Trump White House Servers | 12 Feb 2022 | To protect the effort and to ensure it would continue after the Trump White House, AG Barr gave former U.S Attorney John Durham special counsel status... Durham's efforts have unearthed a plot by Clinton campaign lawyers to infiltrate Trump tower and the servers of the Trump White House to tie the former president to the Russian collusion myth: Lawyers for the Clinton campaign paid a technology company to "infiltrate" servers belonging to Trump Tower, and later the White House, in order to establish an "inference" and "narrative" to bring to government agencies linking Donald Trump to Russia, a filing from Special Counsel John Durham says. Durham filed a motion on Feb. 11 focused on potential conflicts of interest related to the representation of former Clinton campaign lawyer Michael Sussman, who has been charged with making a false statement to a federal agent.

Calif. school mask rules to remain in effect after mandate expires | 14 Feb 2022 | California Health & Human Services Agency Sec. Dr. Mark Ghaly announced Monday that although the indoor mask mandate will be lifted for vaccinated people on Feb. 15, it will remain in effect for schoolchildren. After Feb. 15, unvaccinated people still will be required to be masked indoors, and everyone - vaccinated or not - will have to wear masks in higher-risk areas like public transit and nursing homes and other congregate living facilities, officials said.

California bill would make vaccine mandatory for employment | 12 Feb 2022 | Democratic California officials have introduced a bill which would force businesses to require their employees to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 or face fines and other penalties. California State Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks-- a Democrat who worked on former President Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns -- introduced the bill on Thursday alongside fellow Democratic assembly members Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Evan Low, and Akilah Weber. Employers would then have to show proof to the state authorities that the employees complied with the requirement by January 23 or face penalties.

Bodycam Footage Shows Capitol Police Striking Unconscious Trump Supporter Who Died on Jan. 6 | 11 Feb 2022 | Heavily redacted bodycam videos from the West Terrace tunnel on Jan. 6, 2021, provide a glimpse into conditions at the time Rosanne Boyland lay unconscious--including the sound of her being beaten with a large wooden stick by police. Several bodycam videos obtained by The Epoch Times have much of the screen blurred out by authorities, but key audio and video clues back up witness statements and other videos previously released by the U.S. Department of Justice. A 39-second video clip from the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department shows the gloved hand of Officer Lila Morris picking up a long stick that was lying alongside an unconscious Rosanne Boyland, and then striking the prone woman multiple times. The sound of the stick making contact with Boyland's body is clearly audible.

Federal government invokes Emergencies Act for first time ever in response to protests – 14 Feb 2022 | Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says he has invoked the Emergencies Act for the first in time in Canada's history to give the federal government extra powers to handle ongoing protests against pandemic restrictions [and mandates]. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has told his caucus he will invoke the never-before-used Emergencies Act to give the federal government extra powers to handle anti-vaccine mandate protests, sources say. Those sources, who were not authorized to speak publicly, said the prime minister informed the premiers of his decision this morning. The act gives special powers to respond to emergency scenarios affecting public welfare (natural disasters, disease outbreaks), public order (civil unrest), international emergencies or war emergencies.

Hillary Clinton 2016 tweets pushed now-debunked claim of Trump use of 'covert server' linked to Russia – | 13 Feb 2022 | Unearthed Hillary Clinton tweets from days before the 2016 presidential election show the candidate pushing now-debunked information that Donald Trump was using a "covert server" linking him to Russia. Just a day after Fox News first reported that Special Counsel John Durham alleged that lawyers from her campaign had paid to "infiltrate" servers belonging to Trump Tower, and later the White House, in order to establish an "inference" and "narrative" to bring to government agencies linking Trump to Russia. Clinton, on Oct. 31, 2016, tweeted: "Computer scientists have apparently uncovered a covert server linking the Trump Organization to a Russian-based bank," and shared a statement from her campaign's senior policy advisor Jake Sullivan, who now serves as President [sic] Biden's White House National Security advisor.

Former DNI Ratcliffe told Durham intelligence supports 'multiple' indictments in probe - sources – | 14 Feb 2022 | Former Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe met with Special Counsel John Durham on more than one occasion and told him there was evidence in intelligence to support the indictments of "multiple people" in his investigation into the origins of the Trump-Russia probe, sources told Fox News. Fox News first reported on Durham's latest filing, which alleged that lawyers from Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign in 2016 had paid to "infiltrate" servers belonging to Trump Tower and later the White House, in order to establish an "inference" and "narrative" to bring to federal government agencies linking Donald Trump to Russia... Sources told Fox News this week that during his meetings with Durham, Ratcliffe, who served as a congressman and as the former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, said he believed there was "enough evidence" in those materials that he provided to indict "multiple people." ★

Heeney's History Keeping Separate Brings Tears

Commentary by Ed Heeney

One Sunday evening in 1948 as I was riding the bus back to College at Stillwater Oklahoma, we had an overlay stop at Perry.

These stops were usually fun and we looked forward to them. There were usually neon lights, jukeboxes playing, ice cream counter, etc. In general an atmosphere of carnival prevailed. This night, it seemed to be especially jolly and as we worked our way down the hall from the bus to the depot, a party was surely about to happen.

The hall was fairly long and I noticed a couple of rooms with tables and chairs. I wondered what they were for, but forgot about them when I got to the main area. Not long after I found a booth, I noticed a pretty little girl standing at the entrance to the main room crying real crocodile tears. Her mother had her by the arm and was explaining "No, you can't go out there." I couldn't see any reason why she couldn't join the fun activities in the main room, but I guessed that "mother knows best."

I continued to enjoy my order and was

about to get caught up in all the fun, when I heard that plaintive cry, "I want to go where the lights are." I thought this was certainly a convincing cry, but mother would not budge. She further emphasized, "You can't go out there with those people."

Now this seemed a bit peculiar, but I guessed that was the way it was going to be. I looked around the main room there in the bus depot and couldn't see anything awry so continued to enjoy my order there among the music, lights, and laughter. It had been a good trip other than the little girl had not been allowed to participate like the rest of us. Her unrest laid a sadness cloud on an otherwise fun day.

As I was walking down the hall to board the bus outside, I passed the room where the young girl was still sniffling and looking above the door was this sign COLORED ONLY. Now it dawned on me her skin was black.

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. ★

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CLUES

ACROSS
1. Short for specification
5. Knave
8. *Like President Eisenhower's head
12. *One fourth of a Presidential term
13. Take-out handout
14. The Beast's problem in "Beauty and the Beast"
15. *Pres. Eisenhower established this space agency
16. Thought
17. Body of water
18. #22 and #24
20. First-rate, slangily
21. Terminate, as in mission
22. Lingerie staple
23. Public speaker
26. Ivory tickler
30. "Fresh Prince of ___-Air"
31. Most likely to win
34. Pot contribution
35. By surprise
37. Indian restaurant staple
38. Lacking justification
39. Office communicate
40. Greece and Bulgaria peninsula
42. Overnight stop
43. Indifferently
45. Sturdily built
47. English course abbreviation
48. "___ it easy"
50. Oliver Twist, e.g.
52. *University of Virginia founder
56. African prairie
57. *Second most-popular Presidential birth state, after Virginia
58. Arm bone
59. Poem at a funeral
60. German title
61. Arnold Lobel's "Mouse ___"
62. High school club
63. Clinton ___ Rodham
64. Hitler's Deputy

DOWN
41. ___ help
44. Hawaii's number
46. Mob offensive
48. High-pitched laugh sound, in print
49. Like Bananas Foster
50. "All's well that ends ___"
51. Away from wind
52. *Second most common Presidential first name, after James
53. Type of gear
54. Cross to bear
55. Midday slumbers
56. Chill, with 'out'

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Riley Reviews

**“DEATH ON THE NILE” REVIVED;
“FREDERICK DOUGLASS” ON TV**

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

**“DEATH ON THE NILE”
Rated PG-13**

One of the most prolific and revered authors of detective novels, Agatha Christie was inspired during the First World War to create Hercule Poirot based on the notion that a Belgian refugee who had been a policeman would make a great detective.

Hercule Poirot turned into a legendary character and realized his best on-screen incarnation in Sidney Lumet’s “Murder on the Orient Express,” a visually stunning 1974 production with an all-star cast.

Kenneth Branagh revives “Death on the Nile,” first in the cinemas more than 40 years ago, with an old-fashioned sensibility in its gorgeous design and cinematography, as well as the sense fitting neatly as a 1937 period piece.

Opening with a somewhat unnecessary prologue during the Great War, Belgian soldier Hercule Poirot (Kenneth Branagh) demonstrates valor and courage during trench warfare, surviving battle wounds that explain the origin of his bushy mustache.

Twenty-odd years later, the Belgian sleuth ends up on an Egyptian vacation aboard a glamorous riverboat steamer with a group of more or less aristocratic people connected in various ways to a picture-perfect couple on an idyllic honeymoon voyage.

The newlyweds are fabulously rich heiress Linnet Ridgeway (Gal Gadot) and her handsome husband Simon Doyle (Armie Hammer), a person who might be credibly considered an opportunist since he was engaged to another when they first met.

Enter Jacqueline de Bellefort (Emma Mackey), the jilted lover who was Linnet’s best friend and now has turned into a vengeful stalker who finagles her way aboard the S.S. Karnak riverboat heading down the Nile.

From an earlier encounter at a London night club, Poirot was already familiar with the parties to the romantic triangle, having observed that Jacqueline introduced Simon as her fiancé to Linnet.

One of the guests on the cruise is Poirot’s old friend Bouc (Tom Bateman), whose irritable mother (Annette Bening) is along for the ride to paint the ancient pyramids of Giza.

Other passengers associated with Linnet include former fiancé and physician Windlesham (Russell Brand), a jealous maid (Rose Leslie), and radical godmother Marie Van Schuyler (Jennifer Saunders).

Rousing suspicion is Linnet’s business manager and cousin (Ali Fazal), but blues band performers (Sophie Okonedo and Letitia Wright) bring a different tune to the journey.

After the first murder, Poirot jumps into the fray, annoying most of the travelers with his relentless queries and deductive reasoning, even as the body count mounts and no one feels safe.

With wicked twists and turns that may leave many guessing the final denouement, “Death on the Nile” is beautifully staged as an entertaining diversion for those who appreciate a conventional, old-school murder mystery-thriller.

**“FREDERICK DOUGLASS:
IN FIVE SPEECHES” ON HBO**

February is Black History Month, and it is a fitting time on the 23rd of the month for the HBO documentary film “Frederick Douglass: In Five Speeches,” a look at the life and work of the orator and civil rights activist in his own words.

Inspired by David Blight’s “Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom,” the documentary brings to life the words of our country’s most famous anti-slavery advocate.

Escaping from slavery at age 20, Douglass went on to become the most influential Black man in the nineteenth century, and he achieved that position based on the power of his words.

Entirely self-taught, the famed abolitionist was a powerful writer and master orator, crafting speeches that challenged the nation to live up to its founding principles.

The HBO documentary offers a new approach to understanding Douglass’ story, guided entirely by his own words about the country’s struggle for Black freedom and equality.

Acclaimed actors draw from five of Douglass’ legendary speeches to represent a different moment in the tumultuous history of 19th century America as well as a different stage of Douglass’ long and celebrated life.

Together with his autobiographies, the speeches chart Douglass’ rise from a passionate young agitator to a composed statesman, and ultimately to a disenchanted but still hopeful older man.

The first of the five speeches dates to pre-Civil War 1841, “I Have Come to Tell You Something About Slavery,” wherein Douglass recounts before an anti-slavery convention his story of being raised as a slave publicly for the first time.

During the twilight of his life in 1894, Douglass’ speech “Lessons of the Hour,” recreated by actor Jeffrey Wright, exhorted America to eliminate prejudice and look to its founding principles.

At the moment, I am in the middle of interesting history book about the remarkable story of how Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass steered America through the moral crisis of the Civil War.

With numerous New York Times bestseller history books to his credit, Brian Kilmeade’s “The President and the Freedom Fighter” offers the premise that the two men didn’t always see eye to eye, but ultimately were committed to the Constitution that united them in friendship.

Further edification on this subject would merit reading the source material for this HBO documentary. After all, David Blight garnered the Pulitzer Prize for History for his efforts. ★

Valentine’s Titles to Sink Your Teeth Into

Empire of The Vampire
by Jay Kristoff

It’s been 27 years since the last sunrise. Back when the creatures of the night took over, a holy brotherhood formed- The Silver Order, but now only one remains. As the four vampire houses-Dyvk, Ilon, Chastain, and Voss have waged war against humanity, they have stretched their empires to overtake every part of the realm. However, humanity has one remaining hope, the silver saint Gabriel de Leon. Currently imprisoned, all that is left is for him is to share his stories of battle, love, adventure, heroism, and loss on his ultimate quest for the holy grail.

A new dark fantasy series comes from the international bestselling author, Jay Kristoff, that will claim your heart and stake your soul. For the adult who fantasizes about having a blood-drenched story that will unleash carnal desires in an all-out war for power, *The Empire of The Vampire* delivers on every level.

Beautiful, brutal, and breathtaking, Jay Kristoff’s word violently crashes into a reader’s soul and leaves them gasping for air. Masterful and complex storytelling takes readers on an all-encompassing



journey that will leave them breathless and wanting for more. However, be warned this fantasy is violent, gory, and sexy and was written for the adult reading audience. Once you fall for “the kiss,” you will never turn back.

For the young-adult reader:

I’m With The Banned
by Marlene Perez

The second book in the Afterlife series, *I’m With the Banned*, returns readers to the world of vampires. Now that Tansy is the Vampire Queen things are going to change. However, not being able to escape from High school makes matters harder, and having a super-hot boyfriend whose life is threatened makes things even more difficult. Yet, Tansy has it all under control, and now it’s time to kick into gear and track down the supernatural’s causing werewolf deaths before a vampire-werewolf war unleashes.

I’m With The Banned is a great supernatural read

perfect for any supernatural fan ready to take charge.

For the Middle Grader:

Rules For Vampire
by Alex Foulkes

Eleonora, Leo, has been a vampire for 100 years, and now it’s time for her Birthright where she finally becomes a full-fledged adult vampire. But first, she must hunt down and kill her first prey, and after the last rite of passage ended up in her losing her leg and her mother’s confidence. However, disaster strikes again, and instead of taking her first victim, Leo accidentally creates an orphanage of ghosts. Now, she must undo the mess she made before her Birthright is over.

Young readers will fall for this spooky story of a vampire girl, a ghost, and one of the most important times in a girl’s life. With all the perfect elements of talking spiders, haunted castles, and lots of ghosts, this story is one for all ages. ★

Capitol Shrinks Transparency and Accountability



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

When Jerry Brown became governor in 1975, succeeding Ronald Reagan, the Capitol experienced something of a political culture shock.

Brown stocked his administration with young poverty warriors, civil rights attorneys and labor unionists who immediately began undoing what Reagan’s conservative regime had wrought during the previous eight years. That meant rewriting, repealing or replacing countless “administrative rules” that the Reaganites had promulgated in many state agencies.

Very soon, the Brownies’ ideological shift to the left sparked a backlash, particularly from the business community, which eventually led to legislation to give the Legislature authority to reject proposed rules, a direct rebuke to Brown.

However, just as the legislative power gap appeared to be happening, Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy interceded with a compromise — an Office of Administrative Law, empowered to review proposed rules and make certain they comply with the intent of the underlying legislation.

The OAL has gone about that work ever since.

However, in recent years, the Legislature and governors have begun quietly bypassing the OAL by exempting some rulemaking from its review and, in some cases, exempting policies from even going through the normal rulemaking process altogether. Agencies are thus empowered to issue their decrees suddenly and without any opportunity for those affected to comment prior to promulgation.

We should thank lobbyist Chris Micheli for blowing the whistle on this trend. Micheli, a legislative process wonk, has written an article that catalogs how some legislative measures bypass the OAL and in some instances the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which governs the process for writing and adopting rules.

He cites as an example, 2019’s Senate Bill 1, a blanket adoption in state law of all federal labor and environmental standards in effect prior to Donald Trump’s election as president. SB1 exempted this massive change in law, affecting virtually every business and every worker in the state, from both the APA and OAL oversight as an emergency action that would remain in place for six years.

Micheli writes: “What is the problem with creating an exemption from the APA? First, it means that the Legislature (a body that is accountable to the public) has delegated its authority to an executive branch agency that does not have to seek public input on its actions.

“Second, it means that notice and the ability to comment are eliminated for

members of the public and the regulated community.

“Third, it means that an executive branch agency or department not only has authority to adopt regulations, but also that it does not even have to follow the statutory procedures for adopting those regulations.”

Unfortunately, bypassing rulemaking procedures and OAL oversight is not an isolated example of the pernicious tendency of Capitol politicians to limit both transparency and accountability as they issue decrees affecting the lives of nearly 40 million Californians.

For instance, after declaring a COVID-19 emergency nearly two years ago, Gov. Gavin Newsom has issued dozens, or perhaps hundreds, of orders, some unilaterally suspending state law but having the power of law themselves.

The state budget, now approaching \$300 billion, is routinely written in secret by the governor and a few legislators and then enacted with minimal public notice. Many budget “trailer bills” make major changes in state policy with only cursory airing.

Legislative hearings on bills are now largely superficial exercises in which a few pro and con witnesses are given just a few minutes to state their cases and no one else is allowed to say anything other than name and organization.

It’s what happens when a Capitol is under total control by one party.

Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★



**Almond Pollination Season
is Luring Bee Thieves**

California farmers and their beekeepers are dealing with a troublesome phenomenon: bee thefts. The trend seems to resurface every year at pollination time for almond crops. Thieves descend on orchards and steal beehives. One California beekeeper reported that 384 hives were stolen in Mendocino County. The hives were valued at \$150,000 and could have generated \$80,000 in rental income. Authorities are investigating multiple theft incidents so far.

**Demand for California Flowers Rises
before Valentine’s Day**

As Valentine’s Day approaches, consumer demand for flowers is “through the roof,” according to the California Association of Flower Growers and Shippers. Beyond the romance of the season, industry officials say consumers are buying more flowers in general. Some California flower farmers say they believe the pandemic may have elevated demand, because people wanted flowers in their homes while shut indoors. California produces the vast majority of American-grown flowers.

**Farmers Call for Port Investments
to Aid Agricultural Exports**

California farmers wanting help with agricultural exports are having to pin their hopes on stopgap measures. Recently, the Port of Oakland began opening a new container yard to speed the flow of farm goods to overseas customers. But farm leaders and California port officials told two state legislative committees probing the supply chain crisis that long-term investments are needed to modernize the state’s ports and relieve shipping disruptions expected to endure.

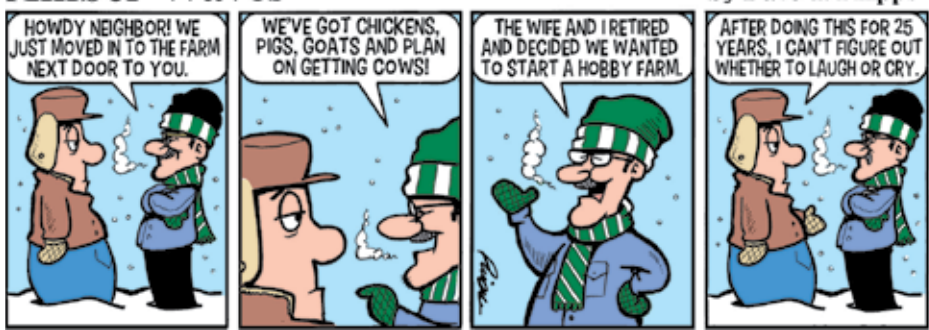
**Dry January and February Diminishes
Hope Generated by December Storms**

After December brought heavy snow to the Sierra Nevada, an exceptionally dry January and early February is fueling concerns for continuing drought and water shortages for farmers and ranchers. The snowpack has shrunk since snow levels reached 160% of average on Dec. 30. By Feb. 1, the snowpack was at 92% of normal for the season. Reservoirs are at below-average levels, and groundwater remains depleted, meaning the remaining two months of the snow season will be critical. ★

WEEKLY COMICS

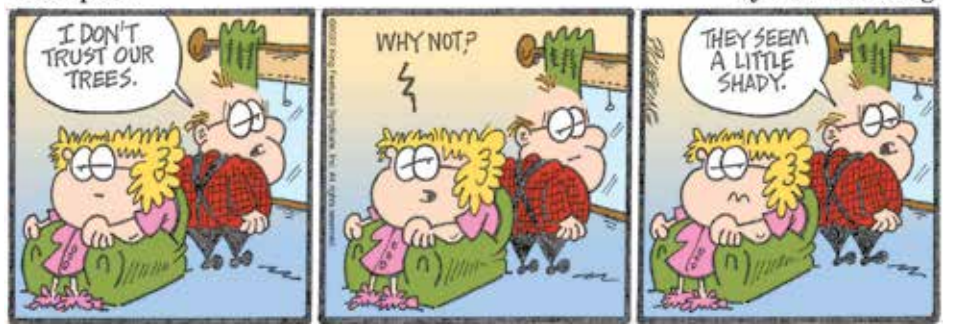
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



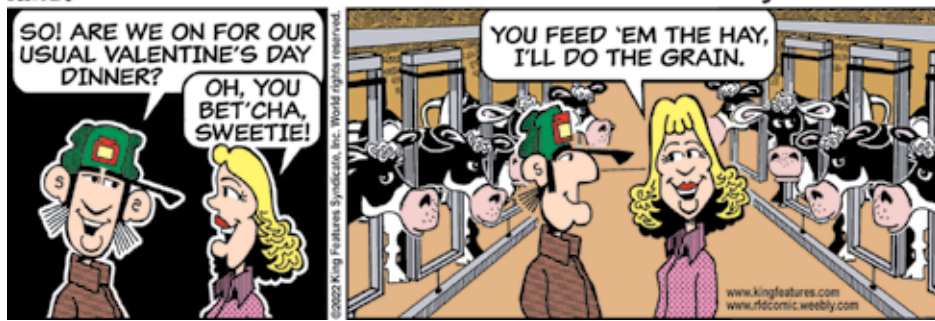
THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



CRIN and BEAR IT

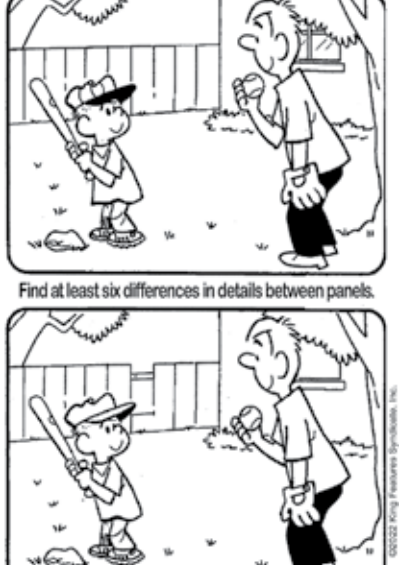
LAFF-A-DAY

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS

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Here's Looking at You Kid!

Continued from page 1
buildings. The only things that lived here were dry rot, termites and rats." But it had potential so the couple went to work despite that they were at supposed 'retirement' age.

Barbara was a business woman with her own accounting and tax practice, working in commercial real estate development before deciding to leave her Benicia home of 35 years to get closer to her two sons who live in Vacaville.

They took out 60 trees, added to both sides of the house, restored the cottage and painted every building in a uniform tan with brown trim. Everything is spotless and clean.

"My neighbors really like us," she said. She first got a couple goats because she had always wanted a "little land with a couple of goats." Now

grandchildren.) Plus, all the goats have been named according to a 'theme' so Barbara can keep track of who is due to 'kid' next. Country western singers, wineries, flavors, perfume, or names of cookies are some of the groups, for example. Today's visitors meet Dark Mocha, Kelsea Ballerini, Brown Sugar, Godiva, and Bit O'Honey. She knows each and every one of them as if she was their mother.

"Six weeks prior to kidding, I do their hoofs, give them their shots, and shave the back part of their behind," she explained while visitors took in the expansive sides of the pregnant goats. This is important to keep them clean for the birth process in case she needs any assistance. Three days after birth, they are taken from their mom, and Barbara bot-



Some 60 Nigerian Dwarfs inhabit several large pens. Photo by Debra Dingman

buy these goats for a variety of reasons. Goat milk is popular due to its premium health benefits but is also trending for use in soaps and cosmetic products. Some buyers are 'backyard milkers,' some are 4-H or FFA (Future Farmers of America) students learning to raise animals, and some just want a goat for a pet. The females sell for \$175 to \$200 but since boys can be bred, they cost \$500.

"They're designer dogs," explained Barbara. "They are always happy. I don't know what I'd do without these goats. I'd be extremely depressed if I did not have them."

Barbara called out one of the goats by name and bursting out of a pen came the happiest goat ever, twisting its body to one side and the next in mid-air as it hopped and bounced gleefully toward her. It seemed similar to a dog greeting its long-lost owner.

Then there was a tour of a large barn with a separate area holding a washer, dryer, and numerous cupboards neatly labeled for nursing supplies. In the larger part of the barn were pens full of tiny playful goats and their lounging moms snoozing on

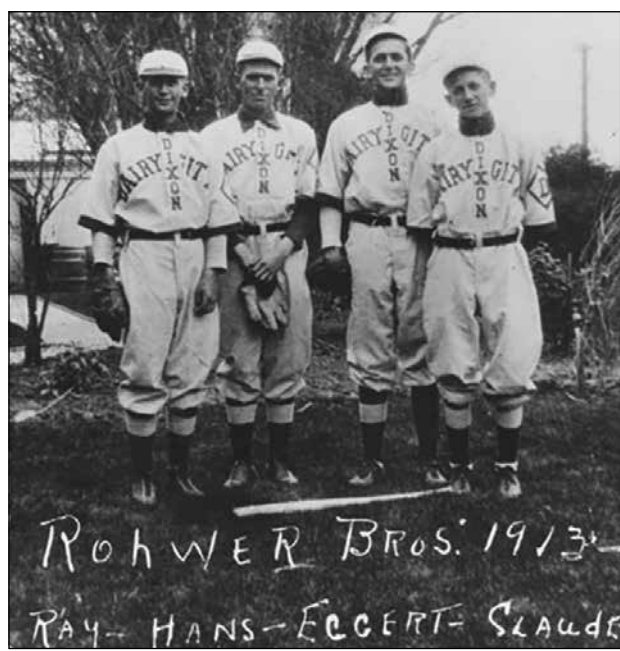
soft hay seemingly trying to ignore being climbed upon.

Intern and junior college student Frida Marmolejo chatted with visitors while cuddling a young, brown-furred kid that was "naturally disbudded." That is when a baby is born with no horns. Disbudding is stunting the horn buds within a week or two of birth so that they don't grow because horns can injure people. Interestingly, in California, one cannot show a goat with horns so all of these goats had silver circles the size of quarters on their foreheads where the horns were removed.

Most amazing was that the entire place did not smell foul at all and was remarkably clean—perhaps because a goat is potty-trained in a day. But even outside, there were wide swaths of artificial grass dividing the pens and work sheds. From contemporary decorations on the walls inside and outside of the buildings to the shining feathers of the friendly chickens or to the adoring eyes of goats, this is what pride of ownership looks like.

For more information, call (925) 250-6188 or see the website: 8gablesnigeri-andwarfs.com. ★

Dixon Sports History Shared



One of the baseball pictures of the Rohwer brothers that Dixon Sports Historian Alan Schmeiser will talk about at Sunday's meeting. Photo Courtesy of Alan Schmeiser

By Loran Hoffmann

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Reading from the journals of the Dixon Historical Society published in the 1990's, one recognizes the significance of athletics and sports in the small farming community of Dixon when the population was less than 1000 people.

People worked hard from sun up to sun down in the fields, on the dairies and ranches, slaughter houses and stables. Yet when finished with their work for the day they welcomed the opportunity to participate in sporting activities. The town of Dixon was well known throughout Solano County and region for having outstanding athletes and winning teams for many different sports.

The Dixon Historical Society will meet Sunday, Feb. 27 from 2-4 pm, at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church at 209 East Jefferson to hear Alan Schmeiser, local historian and life-long Dixon resident as well as a notable athlete himself, share his knowledge and research on Dixon Sports from the 1870's to the 1940's. Trophies representing winning teams will be on display along with team pictures dating back to the early 1900's.

Light refreshments will be served following Alan's presentation. We encourage members to stay for a short membership meeting to learn about the historical projects currently underway in Dixon and the progress that has been with the Dixon History Museum.

Guests are welcome to attend. Members can renew their membership at the meeting and new members will be able to join. The 2022 Membership fee is \$20 for one person or \$25 for a couple (2 people). If you have any questions, please contact (call/text) the club President at 707-372-7094. ★



There's plenty to pick your kid from! Photo by Debra Dingman

there are 60 Nigerian Dwarfs in several large pens divided by when they are due to have babies and all the males in the extra-large pen are in the back. Each pen has colorful play structures, small climbing platforms, and or giant sand-filled tractor tires to climb on.

Each pen also has a name (after Barbara's

tle feeds them so they bond with her and she really does 'become their mother.' This makes feeding and caring for them easier but that's only for the first five to 10 days as then they are turned over to their new owners.

"The new owners have to bottle feed it. That way the goat bonds with the new owner," she explained. People

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