



**When Something  
You Love Makes  
You Money**  
PAGE 4

**Homeschooling  
Will Boom Long  
After COVID-19**  
PAGE 10





Dixon

# Independent Voice

VOLUME 30 • ISSUE 4

Serving Dixon and Solano County since 1993

JANUARY 28, 2022

**SEE  
INSIDE**

**ABRAMS  
ANNOUNCES  
CAMPAIGN FOR  
RE-ELECTION**



PAGE 3

**CUEVAS  
TO RUN FOR  
SCHOOL  
BOARD**



PAGE 2

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# Investing in the Future



The Milk Farm Property now has a new owner who is working diligently on developing it into its old glory with a modern look and seeks public input. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Plenty of change is in the future of Dixon according to reports at the last couple of Planning Commission Meetings where Raffi Boloyan, Community Development Director for the City of Dixon, reviewed happenings.

He announced that they received a use-permit for a Whiskey Bar for the old Bank of America building at the corner of North First and B Streets. That building has been vacant several years but has a nice-size “backyard” area and parking lot.

Bank of Stockton has also submitted a pre-application for a project at the corner of First Street and Vaughn.

“It is a proposal for the bank at the corner, and two separate retail buildings, which would host retail, food or drive-thrus (no tenants or specific uses identified at this time for those buildings,)” he said.

There was some discussion on the

dental business going in at the corner of Lincoln and North First Street for changes in aesthetics and a pre-application for the proposed development on the large piece of land on the corner of East A Street and Pedrick behind the Archer Way/Place homes.

The developer of the Milk Farm project has closed on the purchase of property and is continuing to seek businesses interested in growth there.

“Yes, we own it,” said Ross Hillesheim, CFO and Partner of California Capital Group out of Oakland. Hillesheim is also owner of Keylock, a group actively looking for Northern California commercial real estate development opportunities that focus on retail fuel, convenience stores, and quick service restaurants. He presented his vision for the Milk Farm back in August last year to the City Council and reports he’s been in the Dixon History Museum to check out the Milk Farm display and talked to several businesses about what the

Milk Farm meant to this town.

“We have a couple of businesses that are really interested, but we also know the reality of the major infrastructure needed to make things happen out there,” he explained. The state is big on alternative fueling and he said they’re having “positive discussions with a couple EV Developers” that are also noting the port of Oakland trucks would be in the right place for charging in Dixon—that would be the nugget to help get the infrastructure funded.

“The whole thing about restoring the Milk Farm—the restaurant, the ice creams, and the entertainment revolves around this component of alternative fueling” he said. “It’s important for the community to know that I’m easily accessible, and we want to work collaboratively with all the stakeholders—including the City. We want to know from the residents here what kind of feel would

*Continued on page 3*

# Participate in Council Meetings via Zoom

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - For those who want to know what is going on with the City of Dixon, the time has been long to wait to attend City Council meetings from one’s home but now, the City is offering hybrid City Council meetings where you can not only just watch a meeting, but you can offer comments or ask questions as well—without leaving your home.

Now, anyone can attend if they have a computer or cell phone.

The City of Dixon has announced that presently, the meetings are physically open to the public and that all members of the public may also participate in the meetings via Zoom video conferencing and via teleconference (phone). Via these options, people will be given the opportunity to provide public comment through Zoom’s “raised hand” and then will be recognized by the City Clerk to speak.

“I could not be more thrilled and supportive of the Zoom/Hybrid option for the foreseeable future and perhaps beyond,” said Dist. 3 Council Representative Kevin Johnson. “Providing all access options to our community is a critical component to fulfilling our goal for more public engagement on issues and the business of our city. Regardless of the level of use, this is an evolutionary change that I hope remains a constant going forward.”

The next City Council Meeting is this coming Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 7 pm in the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street. The agenda will be posted on the City of Dixon website where the Zoom link can be found for those wanting that option.

This service will not be available for the other commission meetings for now but may in the future. This form of communication was supported by the Council of two years ago when they decided to increase civic engagement and was a bit postponed during the pandemic due to equipment delays and installation difficulties. ★

# Locals Love Feline Invasion

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The cats are back! It may have been the first time in a decade for the All Breed Cat Show to be in Dixon, but that seemed to only bolster the interest and Madden Hall at the Dixon May Fair filled up with nearly 200 cats from dozens of breeders and plenty of spectators. This sets the stage for an annual event in January, according to organizers.

“It was a great success!” enthused Show Manager Heidi Murphy of the Poppy State Cat Club. “It started on time, ended on time and Solano Kitten Network was a huge help. I’m very lucky, in this first year back, to have such participation.” There were interesting vendors as well selling shampoos, sprays that help your pet calm, harnesses, unique cat toys and more.

There was a panel of



A panel of six judges thoroughly looked over each cat at the All Breed Cat Show in Dixon on January 22nd. Photo by Nicolas Brown

six impressive judges who thoroughly looked over each cat, and who also seemed to enjoy sharing with spectators what they were looking for in the various breeds. They would narrow them down to the 10 best out of about 30 races, giving ribbons and awarding valuable “points” helping the entries toward what is considered championship.

What was amazing was the variety of breeds. Some cats had smushed noses, some had long ears; some looked like wild coons from a forest while

*Continued on page 3*







# Got to Get Over Case of Cancelitis

By Debra Dingman

Once the news started reporting the “surge” of hospitalizations in Los Angeles, Dixonites started getting sick. It seemed lots of the folks I know were down with a bad cold including me. I couldn’t help but wonder if we all forgot about the common cold. I went to CVS and Walmart for instant COVID tests to be sure but they were sold out. I compared notes with COVID columnist bil paul and he, too, knew lots of folks not well. Then, “Cancelitis” hit.

The Kiwanis Club meets via Zoom so we didn’t experience a cancellation of our meeting but after that Monday, they started pouring into my office. The Chamber postponed a lunch and a mixer, the Dixon Women’s Improvement Club went to Zoom, the Dixon Historical Society postponed their quarterly presentation and the list goes on.

Well, I thought, at least we know what to do but wow, what a way to live: Never knowing if you have to lay out nice clothes or do you get to hang out in your sweats. We all have masks now. I didn’t have to sew a bunch like I did a couple years ago. I have plenty of toilet paper in our cupboard and from the many spots now reserved for grocery pickup in the Safeway parking lot and Walmart, it seems most of us have learned how to order groceries online.

Is this our new normal? I like to think that it will all settle down soon as we learn to get “COVID” shots just like we do flu shots. We might be off to a rough start, but I want to encourage folks to continue to get out and be with other

people and here’s why:

I had the most amazing experience this past weekend that reminded me of how important socializing is. (I’m completely well now.) I went to the Vet’s Hall Fish Fry. So did a lot of other people. We sat with friends and acquaintances and visited over dinner for a couple hours, talking about our families, work, city stuff, and more. I learned things that I didn’t know and got some good laughs.

We debated going to another dinner the next day, the Women’s Auxiliary Hobo Dinner because we try not to eat out often for salt’s sake but decided our bodies could handle it and went. (A hobo dinner is usually a stew and a roll.) Besides, that group of women have always supported the Kiwanis Festival of Trees, and I wanted to show my support to them in return.

The gals used newspapers for tablecloths and the stew was hot, plentiful and delicious while the bread was fresh, fluffy french bread. We made new friends and enjoyed the huge raffle that was so fun. I won a couple prizes for my grandchildren and felt my Fitbit send off fireworks because I went over 10,000 steps while helping get the prizes out. People laughed and joked and were in no hurry to leave.

As we pulled into the garage later, I just sat in the car a minute feeling everything. I felt so alive and happy. The future seemed rosy. Hubby was glad we went and had a great time, too. This is why we have to get people back out, I told him. These great feelings of happiness—that we get from being around other humans—are being missed. ★

# Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

## New Commissioner

Congratulations to long-time Dixonite, Phyllis Leavitt McCalla, who is the newest member of the Transportation Advisory Board. McCalla graduated from Dixon High School in 1965 and retired from being a Program Manager at University of California, Davis. She enjoys quilting and wanted to join TAC due to “some of the issues on A Street,” she said.

After “retiring” from being the President for five years of the International House in Davis, she still served on the Board.

“I thought I needed to get involved with something else,” she said with a laugh.

Mayor Steve Bird announced that Sandra Newell had stepped off the commission due to personal reasons and McCollum was selected to replace her.

McCalla joins Jessica Blazer, Kylie McElwain, Frank Romo, Brian Stephens, DUSD Rep Jodie Stueve and Chair Logan Legg. TAC meets at the City Council Chambers on the third Wednesday of even-numbered months.

## JKMS Soccer Tryouts

During lunch on Monday, Jan. 31 from 3:30 to 5 pm, 7th and 8th grade students are invited to sign up for soccer tryouts. There will also be another tryout time on Monday, Feb. 2 from 2:25 to 3:45 at the JKMD Football Stadium.

Requirements include an emergency form, soccer cleats, and shin guards.

## Citizen Nominations

Do you know someone who serves our community and who might be deserving of the town’s top honor of 2021 Citizen of the Year? The criteria for nomination are the Nominees must live in Dixon. Participation in all-around community activities and civic enterprise. Evidence of lasting contribution to community welfare. Evidence of leadership ability.

Cooperation with individuals and civic organizations. Unselfish devotion and contribution without thought to personal gain. Nominees cannot be prior Citizen of the Year winners Contributions and community activities must have taken place within the City of Dixon.

The deadline for submitting nominations to the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year and also for the Business of the Year is Thursday, Feb. 17. The Awards Night dinner is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 12, depending on COVID. Call the Chamber at (707) 678-2650 for more info or email [info@dixonchamber.org](mailto:info@dixonchamber.org).

## Babysitting Course Scholarships

The Dixon Kiwanis Club is offering up to four \$50 scholarships for students who want to attend the City of Dixon Parks & Rec-sponsored Babysitting 101 class by the American Red Cross. The cost of the course is \$100 per class, for 11-15 years old. The date is Saturday, Feb. 26, and will be all day from 9 am to 4 pm at the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center. Register online or at city hall. For more information, call Recreation Supervisor Austin George at (707) 678-7441.

## Dixon Montessori

You might not be thinking of the NEXT school year, but Dixon Montessori at 355 North Almond is already making plans. Their open enrollment is now: From Jan. 11 to Feb. 4 for the 2022-2023 school year.

In the tradition of Maria Montessori, the school offers a pleasant and nurturing environment in which children learn at their own pace pursuing those things that interest them most. Students learn in multi-age classes in which the younger children spontaneously learn from the older children. Visit the school office between those dates above and complete paperwork to enter their enrollment lottery or call (707) 678-8953 for more information. ★

# CTE Workforce Advisory Council Seeks New Members



Lisette Estrella-Henderson  
Superintendent of Schools

**Solano County  
Office of Education  
Press Release**

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) is launching a biannual Career Technical Education (CTE) Workforce Advisory

Council and invites Solano County businesses to become a member, share their expertise, and provide guidance as well as knowledge of industry needs locally and regionally.

The first meeting will take place on Thursday, February 17, 2022, 3:30-5:00 PM via Zoom. Industry partners interested in attending can register online at [www.solanocoe.net/ccreadiness](http://www.solanocoe.net/ccreadiness).

“To ensure our students have the best career preparation experience possible, it is vital that we partner with local industry,” said Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

SCOE partners with the Workforce Development Council of Solano County and the Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Vacaville, and Vallejo chambers of commerce in providing support to students and teachers in CTE programs throughout Solano County. The partnerships provide valuable information on labor market needs, industry standards and certifications for career preparation, and actual contact with industry through guest speakers, site tours, job shadows and more.

For more information about the CTE Workforce Advisory Council please contact Pathway Coordinator Kim Lane at [klane@solanocoe.net](mailto:klane@solanocoe.net). To register and learn about College and Career Readiness in Solano County visit [www.solanocoe.net/ccreadiness](http://www.solanocoe.net/ccreadiness). ★

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Julian Cuevas, a man to boast he is a born and raised Dixonite, is first out the gate to formally announce his campaign for Dixon School Board. There are three seats open for election this November on the DUSD Board currently held by Board President Caitlin O’Halloran, Board Vice-President Jewel Fink, and Lloyd McCabe. Only O’Halloran has said she will not run again while the other two are not sure, Cuevas said, but Caitlin O’Halloran will not run, Jewel Fink will seek re-election but Lloyd McCabe is undecided.

“I have met with each of them to learn more about the issues,” said Cuevas. His interest in the democratic process was “sparked back in high school,” he said. “I got involved with student leadership and was the Senior Class President which set the trajectory of serving my community,” he said. Cuevas has been attending the meetings and learning the issues facing Dixon’s schools.

“There is no question that these last couple of years have been challenging. But as we continue to adapt and look ahead, my hope is that we may be able to refocus, revisit and re-envision the goals and standards that better enable the success of our students, teachers, and families,” he said.

Although this will be his first time running for elected office, he is no stranger to public service.

Cuevas, 34, who has degrees from the University of California San Diego and American University, is a government, nonprofit, and community relations professional with experience in federal, state and local government advocacy.

Early in his career, Cuevas was the Director of Education Programs at



Jessica and Julian Cuevas and their family in Dixon. Julian is first to announce his bid for Dixon Unified School District Board of Trustees. Photo courtesy of Julian Cuevas

the Hispanic Foundation of Silicon Valley where his work primarily focused on developing and implementing education interventions, including family engagement, in partnership with local school districts. In 2017, he was appointed as the Legislative Policy Representative at the California Department of Education by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In this role, his policy portfolio included early childhood education, curriculum, and state standards. He was later appointed to Director of Government Affairs in 2019 where he oversaw the legislative and budget priorities impacting California’s 6.2 million students and 300,000 teachers. He now remotely sits as the Director of Policy & Governmental Affairs for the Inland Empire Community Foundation where he is leading efforts that strategically lift community voices around regional priorities that include education equity and inclusive economic development.

Cuevas is the son of Mexican immigrants. His parents immigrated to the United States in the late 60s-early 70s. After working in the fields, Cuevas with

his high school sweetheart, Jessica, later devoted their careers to public service and moved to Dixon in 1978. For 30 years, his mother worked for Dixon Unified School District (DUSD) and retired as a Teacher’s Associate III; dedicating her career to helping students and families—particularly those in the migrant and special education programs.

Cuevas’s father, a Veteran of the U.S. Army, joined the Dixon Police Department and rounded his 37 years of service as a Lieutenant of the Solano County Sheriff’s Office—and later as a Criminal Investigator for the District Attorney’s Office of Solano County. As a result, Cuevas and his three siblings have called Dixon home and attended DUSD schools. Cuevas and his wife, a Speech Language Pathologist, moved back to town, have two children, and are expecting their third.

With an election year underway, Cuevas is hopeful to continue in the family business of public service. He will focus on ensuring that goals, standards, and policies prioritize students, teachers and families. For more information, contact him at [info@juliancuevas.com](mailto:info@juliancuevas.com). ★

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# Investing in the Future

*Continued from page 1*  
the modern-day Milk Farm have? There needs to be some historical elements and if the community had a say in that, they'd be more invested.”  
Another development aiming at Dixon is another large housing project at the corner of East A Street and Pedrick which includes a park. The former Gymbooree building which is leased by the state wants to expand 125,000 square feet to the south, according to Boloyan and the Homestead affordable housing project is

now in design review with the city.  
That would be in Phase 2B and the development agreement requires affordable housing, he explained. There will be 131 affordable 2 and 3-story units for residents with 80 to 100-percent of medium income levels based on Solano County. There will be apartments for 69 seniors and 62 families.  
The next City Planning Commission Meeting is set for Tuesday, Feb. 8 and will be held at 7 pm in the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street. ★

# D.A. Krishna Abrams Announces Campaign for Re-Election



Krishna Abrams  
*Krishna for District Attorney*

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Solano County District Attorney Krishna Abrams announced that she is seeking re-election for her third term as District Attorney of Solano County.  
“I am humbled and honored to receive such an outpouring of support from our law enforcement partners, victims, community leaders, elected officials, and the people we serve throughout Solano County,” said DA Abrams.  
DA Abrams has a proven record of prioritizing public safety, victims’ rights, offender accountability, and the fair administration of

justice. Sheriff Tom Ferrara says, “DA Abrams is a true leader and invaluable partner to law enforcement. She works tirelessly to make Solano County a safer place to live, work, and play.”  
DA Abrams has spent her entire career being a champion for victims of crime. Susanne Perthes, a Solano County Victim/Witness Advocate of 30 years says, “DA Abrams is a seasoned and compassionate prosecutor. She always puts victims first and fights hard for their rights. I personally have been involved in many trials with Ms. Abrams where victims have expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the great work she does. She fights hard to get justice for victims and hold offenders accountable.”  
During her tenure as District Attorney, Krishna Abrams has been an innovative and transformative leader bringing new programs and policies that better serve our community.  
DA Abrams looks

forward to serving the community for a third term as Solano County District Attorney and continuing to provide victims of crime the support and voice they deserve. She plans to expand restorative justice programs like Neighborhood Court, hold more community forums on the changes and impacts of new laws, and increase community engagement through programs such as “Prosecutor for the Day” where community members are invited to get a first-hand look at the diverse work done at the Solano County District Attorney’s Office.  
“Throughout her entire career, and during the numerous challenges we experienced throughout this pandemic, DA Abrams has never lost sight of her mission to enhance public safety and to seek and do justice,” said Community Prosecutor Matt Olsen.  
For more information, the campaign can be reached at (707) 438-5033 or krishnaabrams4da@gmail.com. ★

# Dixon Family Services Cannot Serve the Homeless

By Cookie Powell

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Have you noticed more homelessness here in Dixon? I have too. It’s a very sad issue and there are very few resources to deal with it. A few years ago, I called together other concerned persons to find out what was being done and/or what could possibly start to be done. It was a cold and wet winter like we are having now.  
I was hoping the City would at least open up the fire department or another large enough space for the homeless to come in out of the severe storms we were having. Nothing ever came of that. Shortly after the meetings we had, City Council agreed with the Staff recommendation to contribute several thousand dollars of tax dollars to a supposed Solano county-wide homeless organization in the hopes that they would also be a solution for Dixon.  
But, people still show up often at DFS and think we can put them into a motel. A good many of them say they were referred by City Hall, by the Police Department, and in some cases, even dropped off by officers. All homeless seeking our help in all of 2021 were single or couples, none with children. I believe that the shelters are prioritizing the families, and rightly so. But the bad news is there are more and more single men and women and even many young people just coming out of the foster system who find themselves on the streets, living in cars, couch-surfing, etc.  
We have had such an increase in people asking for shelter that I am making it a priority as we head into 2022 to do outreach and marketing to help the community understand that we are not a homeless services center. We never have been. There was a time many years ago that we got some HUD funding to enable us to place homeless people in motels for a night or

two, but we all know that is not a solution to the big problem. A few of them we successfully found an affordable apartment or a local shelter to take them in longer term, but now the shelters are always full and there is no such thing as an open affordable apartment to rent.  
Even worse, all the managers of Dixon’s motels told us they no longer wanted to take our referred clients due to some of them behaving badly, bringing in guests, tearing up the rooms, and the biggest problem were those that absolutely refused to leave when their time was up.  
All of our current services are for families and individuals who have a home. We are fighting hard with the limited resources we have to keep people from becoming homeless by applying for rental and utilities assistance. This is because there is little to nothing we can do for them once they are homeless. All shelters are full.  
The County Board of Supervisors put all of its HUD funding dollars into “a single point of entry system” and called it Resource Connect Solano. Call (707) 652-7311 or email RCS@caminar.org to learn how RCS can help you navigate a housing crisis.  
And the DFS Food Pantry is modeled for providing families with staple foods to help stretch the food budgets in households, so most of the food we give out needs to be cooked. Our bags are not suitable for a homeless person. I wonder if maybe a church in Dixon would be interested in providing bags of foods that do not need to be cooked. DFS would be happy to pass along things that we get such as granola bars, crackers, peanut butter, etc.  
DFS is not the correct referral for the homeless, but I’d like to know if any organization or church can help them or have ideas. ★

# Locals Love Feline Invasion



A little princess plays while she waits her turn at the All Breed Cat Show in Dixon on January 22nd. Photo by Debra Dingman



A thorough look over by one of the judges at the All Breed Cat Show. Photo by Nicolas Brown

*Continued from page 1*  
others looked straight from Egypt. Some looked like puffballs of fur and some had no hair at all. Cats came from near and far; One entry was from Dixon and one had just flown in from Russia and many from all over the Northwest including Idaho, Arizona, and Texas.  
“It was a very successful show. The [spectators] coming through the gate were absolutely wonderful,” said Check-In Agent Linda Aherns. “They seemed very interested in

the cats and the breeds. I met so many people and spoke with the judges. Everybody had a good time.”  
Children asked breeders questions about their cats as their families weaved down the isles while others watched the judging. They let them pet their fur friends and many visitors commented on how incredibly soft the fur was. None of the cats seem to mind except maybe one entered in the Household Pet category.  
“The best part of this

show was the rescue people,” said Aherns. “So many people came through the door and were going to make a donation to the rescue group. People care about cats and dogs. Trina Shaw is an amazing woman. Her team helped set up and tear down. They helped with the clerks and cleaned the cages. We donate back to the rescue so donated \$300 to them. We are planning to be back at the Dixon fairgrounds on the third weekend in January next year.” ★

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# When Something You Love Makes You Money

By Michele Townsend

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - It's January... and with January comes the planning of the year's Baseball and Softball season! Are you a baseball or softball fan? Some of the best games you will ever see, will be those played in Little League. Do you miss your glory days of playing ball? Or maybe, you loved the game, but you weren't one of those people blessed with the gift of being athletic. Well then, umpiring might be just the thing for you.

Umpiring is a great way to make some money as well. Depending on the league, and sometimes the level, umpires will often make between \$25 and \$75 per game. Umpires create their own schedules so you work as much or as little as you want. On weekends, there are often 6 games in a day. That can easily be a \$600 weekend in pay, or more.

Becoming an umpire is easier than you might think. Knowledge of the game is not required, but it does help. All you need to do is sign up for umpire clinics that are offered by local little leagues and softball leagues. The clinics are generally free and teach you from the basics to recent rule changes. They teach you what equipment is legal, and why other equipment is not legal.

There are free webinars and videos on <https://www.littleleague.org/university/umpires/>. If you live in the Sacramento area, USA softball is



Becoming an umpire is easier than you might think. Knowledge of the game is not required, but it does help. All you need to do is sign up for umpire clinics that are offered by local little leagues and softball leagues. Photo courtesy Pixabay

offering an umpire school on January 29th and 30th, in Roseville. Simply go to [www.usasoftballsacramento.org](http://www.usasoftballsacramento.org) or go onto Facebook at Facebook.com/usasoftballsacramento to register for the umpire school. You can also call Chuck Brabec at (916)834-8074 or email [UIC@usasoftballsacramento.org](mailto:UIC@usasoftballsacramento.org)

If you miss this one, don't fret. There will be other clinics in your area soon. Simply call Little Leagues or softball leagues in your area

and ask to speak to their Umpire in Chief. You can also contact your District office and inquire about umpiring with them. In case you don't know what District you are in: Rocklin & Auburn is Dist. 11; Dixon and Woodland is Dist. 64; Carmichael is Dist. 5; South Sacramento is Dist. 7; Gridley is Dist. 2; and West Sacramento is Dist. 6.

Don't worry about if you are new at umpiring, they won't just throw you to the wolves. They train

you and move you up as you gain confidence and experience. As you learn the profession of umpiring, like anything, it's all what you make of it. You can be one of those umpires that enjoy what they are doing and have fun being part of the game.

You can become one of those umpires that spots a shy or nervous kid and encourages them to get that hit or make that catch and know that you played a part in giving that child some self-confidence and

pride. Most sports fans are officials from the stands or from their living rooms. Why not do it for real? It's a great way to stay active and have fun.

If baseball and softball is not your game, then consider officials training in whatever sport you like! In the last few years, there has been a real shortage and need for game officials in youth sports. It's really up to you where you take it. You may start out refereeing basketball for

parks and rec, or umpiring for softball minors, but you may take it to officiating for schools, or for semi-pro or pro teams.

Regardless of the sport(s) you choose, working two days a week doesn't sound bad either. Officiating youth sports is a great way to give back to your favorite sport, your city and your kids! Put the knowledge you already have to use, and maybe learn some more about the game(s) you love. ★

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Youngkin Is Right on Masks

Glenn Youngkin promised to be on the side of parents as Virginia governor, and on his first day in office, he delivered. The Republican issued an executive order allowing parents to decide whether their kids will wear masks in school, and met an instant wall of resistance from Democratic-controlled counties and criticism from the White House press secretary Jen Psaki. A Washington Post headline said that Youngkin is “terrifying” people. The flak notwithstanding, his order is a sign of a growing backlash against COVID-19 restrictions that will likely only gain force as the pandemic drags on and former articles of faith, including on masking, get called into increasing doubt. Youngkin has ventured into a legally murky area. Critics believe he doesn’t have the authority to issue his order because Virginia passed a statue in early 2021 that says schools should “to the maximum extent practicable” adhere to CDC-blessed strategies for controlling spread. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is still recommending masks. The statue is vague, though, and doesn’t mention masks. Youngkin’s predecessor, Democrat Ralph Northam, felt compelled to issue an executive order specifically mandating them in K-12 schools.

There’s also the question of whether decisions on masking and other mitigation measures are best left to school districts. Here, it is worth noting that Youngkin’s order is different from that of his fellow Republican governors in Texas and Florida, who prohibited school districts from adopting mask mandates. Instead, Youngkin is establishing a carveout for parents from mandates, should they choose to take advantage of it. All that said, it is clearly time for mask mandates to end. The conventional wisdom on masks has gone from “don’t wear them they are useless” at the beginning of the pandemic, to “you are a terrible person if you don’t wear them” for about a year and a half, to now, “cloth masks don’t really protect anyone.” Despite Jen Psaki saying that Arlington County, which is vowing to defy Youngkin, is standing up for kids and their safety, the case for masking kids in schools is weak or nonexistent. We are an outlier on this question. The CDC recommends masking all kids age 2 and older, whereas other health authorities are considerably more nuanced. The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control doesn’t recommend masking for schoolchildren younger than age 12, noting – correctly – that they “may have a lower tolerance to wearing masks for extended periods of time, and may fail to wear them properly.” In areas with community spread, it recommends masks for students in secondary schools, although it

stipulates that they should “be seen as a complimentary measure, rather than a standalone measure to prevent transmission within schools.” The World Health Organization makes distinctions based on age. It says that kids age 5 and younger shouldn’t be required to wear masks based on the “overall interest of the child and the capacity to appropriately use a mask with minimal assistance.” It is open to the masking of 6- to 11-year-olds, so long as a wide variety of conditions are met. And it says that kids age 12 and over should mask like adults. Many European countries have avoided sweeping American-style mask mandates on school kids, and for good reason. A large-scale CDC study found no benefits from the masking of kids. Many students wear cloth masks that don’t provide much protection (even if worn and maintained properly) and no sane person should want to subject a child to an N95 all day long. Parents in Virginia who believe that masking is important can still act accordingly, and vaccines and boosters are available to provide another layer of protection. But masks remain something more than a public-health measure for many proponents – they are a signal of virtue and a pillar of pandemic orthodoxy. Youngkin’s offense, at bottom, is dissenting from this worldview, and providing options for parents who don’t share it, either. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2022 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

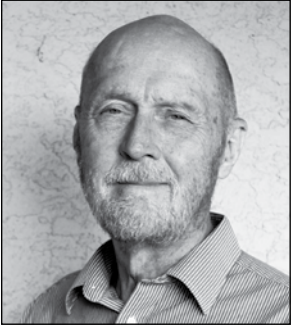
# Heeney’s History DC3 and Me

Commentary by Ed Heeney

When I was a young lad, barefoot and in bib overalls, I would look to the east each late afternoon to get a glimpse of the shiny new airplane headed south to Oklahoma City with a load of mail picked up at Wichita, Kansas. The plane, a DC3, was relatively new and the setting sun in the west accentuated the bright aluminum exterior almost like a star in the sky. I never entertained any idea that I might fly one of those around the skies any time soon or even ever. The machine of my choice was a Farmall tractor and that is where my dreams resided. One Thanksgiving our family traveled to Wichita for dinner with Uncle Bert’s family. Our three girl cousins were old enough to drive a car so off we went sight-seeing. The tall buildings, the zoo, the cafeteria where we got to choose all kinds of goodies, and the airport out east of town were all exciting. And, especially the airport where we got to see the DC3 airplane that flew by our farm everyday. It was a real treat to see it up close and “in person” and a special treat for this farm boy who still considered Farmall tractors the latest wonder. Fast forward to high school physics class where our teacher, George Fink, introduced us to the science of air flight. At the end of the course, George invited all the physics students to meet him at Strother Field and he would take us for a ride in a Piper Cub. I was okay with the ride, but not too impressed with the shuddering and fluttering of the old airplane. Still, not in my wildest dreams did I ever consider that I might end up a Command Pilot, Instructor Pilot, and Ground Training Instructor. When I got caught in the draft, an old college buddy suggested I join the Air Force instead of the Army. So now I am in the Air Force and in Officer Candidate School learning to become a 2nd Lt. OCS. It was interesting but about half way

through the course, the Air Force decided they had too many 2nd Lts that were not in the flying business. We were given several options, but I decided that the only way to get ahead in the Air Force was to fly airplanes. T-6, B25, L-19, T-20 later, I arrived in Frankfurt, Germany. Checked with Base Ops and guess what? I would be flying the Grand Old Lady, the DC3. It’s the C-47 in Air Force language, more favorably: the “Gooney Bird.” On my first flight in the “new” bird, I met my instructor pilot who was to check me out at Base Ops. I thought he looked familiar and on contemplating awhile, I remembered he was a pilot that had questionable records at a couple more bases where I had been, but I figured I could handle him in a pinch. We cranked up and headed toward Berlin. About 10 miles from base, one engine started to act up and was running rough. While I was checking gauges, the dummy reached up and feathered the engine. [On most variable-pitch propellers, the blades can be rotated parallel to the airflow to stop rotation of the propeller and reduce drag when the engine fails or is deliberately shut down. It’s called “feathering.”] Things got pretty quiet for an instant until I hollered at him, “You feathered the wrong engine, you bleep-bleep. Now crank it up and let’s go home!” Now that we had the good engine running again, all was well. We called Frankfurt Tower and returned to the runway smoothly. I never flew with that guy again. Most of our routine flights were up the Berlin Corridors [three regulated airways for civil and military air traffic of the Western Allies] to Tempelhof Airport. Because we loaded lots of Grandfather clocks out of Berlin, we called it the “Tik Tok Express.” Each major city had its specialty of souvenirs, and clocks were Berlin’s. Editor’s Note: Ed Heeney is a long-time Dixonite ★

# Being an MD Doesn’t Make a COVID Truth Teller



Commentary by bil paul

It looks like the latest COVID surge is leveling off, even though it’s still spreading fast. In Dixon, the new number of reported COVID cases went down 50 percent last week compared to the week before. The only number that increased substantially last week was the number of people hospitalized with the virus in the county, which went from 118 to 163. As before, the number of deaths per week in the county has held steady at about six. Just because one person is a medical doctor doesn’t make them a leading expert on COVID. We’ve had some MDs make some really off-the-wall comments about treating COVID, about vaccines, and about masking. I’d look for recommendations that reflect the opinions of a wide group of doctors and those who study contagious diseases (epidemiologists). I read that receiving a booster shot raises the effectiveness of vaccines against being hospitalized with the Omicron virus from 57 percent to about 90 percent. That’s dramatic.

Also, unvaccinated seniors over age 65 are 50 times more likely to be hospitalized for COVID than vaccinated and “boosted” seniors. Ninety-nine percent of new COVID cases in the U.S. now are due to the new Omicron variant. Factoid: Dixon no longer has the highest incidence of COVID cases of any city in the county. That honor now belongs to Vallejo. I try to balance my radio listening between liberal-oriented National Public Radio (KXJC) and the right-leaning KFBK, both in Sacramento. I like to hear all sides of the issues. I was listening to one commentator on KFBK today who seemed to be pooh-poohing all government-sponsored efforts to get people vaccinated and masked (when masks are called for.) Like, vaccines and masks are now worthless! Let the disease run its course! It has to be younger people making comments like that – people more likely to survive COVID. If you have medical problems or are old, you use every tool you can find to protect yourself against the virus. A Sacramento TV station showed high school students at a large valley high school attending an indoor sporting event where the bleachers were crowded. Probably five percent of the students were wearing masks. The winner of that event would be the omicron virus. I saw some recent stats

about area hospitals. Due to COVID patients, Woodland Memorial Hospital and Kaiser Vacaville both had only one ICU bed available. UC Davis Medical Center and Kaiser South Sacramento had only two ICU beds available each. I’ve written about this before, but the U.S. could’ve prevented a lot of deaths if it had better testing for COVID, better contact tracing, and more citizens were completely vaccinated. Due to political interference, ignorance and misinformation, decisions left to the states, and a haphazard medical system, the U.S. has had 2,583 COVID deaths per million residents. People died unnecessarily. Here are the figures for some other countries: Canada, 843; Germany, 1,388; and New Zealand, 10! Communist countries whose figures are not as reliable are Cuba, 737 COVID deaths per one million citizens; and China, an incredible three. Try to wear more effective N95 or KN95 masks. One-layer cloth masks are nearly worthless against COVID. bil paul did PR for the Postal Service and medical companies, and worked as a reporter and photographer. He’s the author of the book about Dixon’s failed movie studio project (“The Train Never Stops in Dixon” – available at Amazon or the library) and has a non-fiction book coming out next year about GLs in the Aleutian Islands during WWII. ★

# Visit the Past; Learn from History


By Denise McBride, Dixon Historical Museum

DIXON, CA (MPG) - I am a docent at our new Dixon Historical Museum which I have found to be the best place in Dixon to experience visual exhibits from the late 1800s, view portraits of farming families from the past, and learn about historical Dixon landmarks! The Museum is open to the public and groups are welcome Thursday through Saturday, 10 am to 2 pm. A docent will be happy to answer questions and share historical facts with guests. An individual membership is only a \$20 donation. Individual and corporate donations are tax deductible. The Dixon Historical Society is a registered Non-Profit California Corporation. You can visit dixonhistoricalsociety.org for more details.


I joined the museum to help create accurate exhibits that represent all cultures, maintain existing exhibits, and enhance exhibits for everyone who walks through the doors of the museum. I am personally overjoyed to listen to visitors share their own personal experiences of living or working in Dixon, California, while visiting the museum. The DHS would like folks to become members and there are a variety of ways both individuals and corporations can contribute. Members receive personal invitations to exclusive member-only events hosted at the museum. Plus, donations fiscally contribute to the future of preserving the museum and preserving artifacts in the museum. If you have any questions, please drop by or send us an email at info@dixonhistoricalsociety.org. ★



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

In accordance with the Government Code section 54953(d) and City of Dixon City Council Resolution No. 22-018, the Dixon Planning Commission will hold a **remote PUBLIC HEARING** to consider the following project:

**PROJECT:** Vacant lot South of West A St, at new Gateway Dr extension within the Homestead Subdivision (Homestead Apartments) - Request for a Design Review (21-09) approval for multi-family housing in phase 2B of Homestead. There would be a total of 180 apartment units serving families and seniors. The family units are three stories tall and includes 108 units and a clubhouse. The senior apartments are single story and includes 72 units and also its own clubhouse. Including the two clubhouses, there will be a total of 17 buildings on these two lots that total 10.7 acres; APN's: Formerly Assessor's Parcel Numbers 0114-011-040 and 0114-011-010 Zoning District: Multi-Family Residential (RM-4); Jen 6/Taylor Builders, owner/Greg Gossard/Hampstead Companies, applicant; File No: PA 21-29, DR 21-09.

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and no environmental review will be completed. The City Council certified the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Southwest Dixon Specific Plan. In accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21166, as implemented by CEQA Guidelines 15162, the Planning Commission has found that the project is consistent with the EIR and determined that no circumstances giving rise to a requirement for a subsequent or supplemental EIR are present requiring such subsequent or supplemental document. If the Planning Commission determines that this project is in an environmentally-sensitive area, further study may be required.

**HEARING DATE & LOCATION:** **Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm.** This meeting will not be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting via video conferencing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9886211137?pwd=r2dxz3rkbu9sqxdluvlrkc0qlgwzz09> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128, meeting ID: 988 621 1137, passcode: 604754 and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

**MORE INFORMATION** Contact **Scott Greeley, Associate Planner** at (707) 678-7000 ext. 1115 or [sgreeley@cityofdixon.us](mailto:sgreeley@cityofdixon.us). You can also come to City Hall, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 to look at the file for the proposed project. The office is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can also view the staff report after 12:00 p.m. on the Friday before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN:** All interested parties are invited to **remotely** attend the public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the Planning Commission prior to making any decision on the application.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to [PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us](mailto:PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us) or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, Planning Commission, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the Planning Commission and will become part of the official record, but will not be read aloud at the meeting.

You may **remotely** attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above, and provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments during public comment period at the meeting, you may 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand" 2) via teleconference press \*9, or 3) email comments/questions to [publiccomment@cityofdixon.us](mailto:publiccomment@cityofdixon.us)

At the above time and place, all letters received will be noted and all interested parties will be heard. If you challenge in court the matter described above, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the above referenced public hearing (Government Code Section 65009 (b)(2)).

Appeals of decisions by the Planning Commission to the City Council shall be made in person at Dixon City Hall by completing the appeal application and submitting the required fee, within 10 calendar days of a decision (Dixon Municipal Code Sections 17.01.050 or 18.40). Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Dixon Independent Voice 1-28-2022

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. 2021-002411

The following persons are doing business as: : **PURPLE ROSE BOUDOIR**  
**840 Alexander Drive Dixon, CA 95620**  
**Laura Robertson, 840 Alexander Drive Dixon, CA 95620**  
Date Filed in Solano County: December 14, 2021  
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is Conducted by: Individual

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration December 13, 2026. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)

Publish: January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. 2021-002480

The following persons are doing business as: : **WESTEC BUILDER**  
**3431 CANTELOW ROAD VACAVILLE, CA 95688**  
**Robert Edward Stefanowicz, 3431 Cantelow Road Vacaville, CA 95688**  
Date Filed in Solano County: December 30, 2021  
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 6/27/2013  
This Business is Conducted by: Individual

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration December 29, 2026. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)

Publish: January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. 2021-002475

The following persons are doing business as: : **BIRCH LANE THERAPEUTICS INC**  
**7373 Timm Road Vacaville, CA 95688**  
**Birch Lane Therapeutics Inc, 7373 Timm Road Vacaville, CA 95688**  
Date Filed in Solano County: December 29, 2021  
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 12/06/2016  
This Business is Conducted by: Corporation

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration December 28, 2026. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)

Publish: January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT  
FILE NO. 2021-002485

The following persons are doing business as: : **GNI INTEGRATIONS**  
**2134 Cole Court Fairfiled, CA 94533**  
**George A Martinez/Foreign Trust and Jorge Alberto Martinez/U.S. National, 2134 Cole Court Fairfiled, CA 94533**  
Date Filed in Solano County: January 03, 2021  
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is Conducted by: A Trust

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration January 2, 2027. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)

Publish: January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

In accordance with the Government Code section 54953(d) and City of Dixon City Council Resolution No. 22-018, the Dixon Planning Commission will hold a **remote PUBLIC HEARING** to consider the following project:

**PROJECT:** **SB 743 Implementation & VMT Policy Update:** In 2013, CA Senate Bill (SB) 743 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 Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) as the metric for quantifying transportation impacts under CEQA. The Commission will review and provide their recommendation to the City Council.

The California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") requires that this project be reviewed to determine if a study of potential environmental effects is required. It has been determined that this project will not have a significant effect on the environment and no environmental review will be completed. This project qualifies for a Categorical Exemption from the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines under 14 CRR Section 15308, [Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment] given that the revised CEQA thresholds will be compliant with a State mandate (SB 743) and will be used in a regulatory process. If the Planning Commission determines that this project is in an environmentally-sensitive area, further study may be required.

**HEARING DATE & LOCATION:** **Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm.** This meeting **will not** be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting via video conferencing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9886211137?pwd=r2dxz3rkbu9sqxdluvlrkc0qlgwzz09> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128, meeting ID: 988 621 1137, passcode: 604754 and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

**MORE INFORMATION** Contact **Deborah Barr, City Engineer/Director of Utilities** at (707) 678-7030 or [dbarr@cityofdixon.us](mailto:dbarr@cityofdixon.us). You can view the staff report after 12:00 p.m. on the Friday before the meeting at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos>.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN:** All interested parties are invited to **remotely** attend the public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposed application. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the Planning Commission prior to making any decision on the application.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Prior to 4:30pm on the day of the meeting, written comments can be: 1) emailed to [PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us](mailto:PlanningCommission@cityofdixon.us) or 2) mailed/dropped off to: City of Dixon, Planning Commission, 600 East A St, Dixon, CA 95620 and must be received by 4:30pm on the day of the hearing. Copies of written comments received will be provided to the Planning Commission and will become part of the official record, but will not be read aloud at the meeting

You may remotely attend the public hearing at the time and location listed above, and provide comments during the meeting. To speak or provide comments during public comment period at the meeting, you may 1) via video conferencing click on "raise hand" 2) via teleconference press \*9, or 3) email comments/questions to [publiccomment@cityofdixon.us](mailto:publiccomment@cityofdixon.us)

At the above time and place, all letters received will be noted and all interested parties will be heard. If you challenge in court the matter described above, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered at, or prior to, the above referenced public hearing (Government Code Section 65009 (b)(2)).

Appeals of decisions by the Planning Commission to the City Council shall be made in person at Dixon City Hall by completing the appeal application and submitting the required fee, within 10 calendar days of a decision (Dixon Municipal Code Sections 17.01.050 or 18.40).

Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Dixon Independent Voice 1-28-2022

**\*\*REVISED\*\***  
**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE AND**  
**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**\*\*Concurrent with State law, this application was originally noticed in a timely manner on January 7, 2022. This application was originally set to be held as an in-person meeting at the City Hall Council Chambers at 600 East A Street in Dixon. This meeting is now set to be remote only. Remote access to this meeting is provided below in the public hearing notice.**

**Date:** January 28, 2022

**Project Name:** Lincoln Square Project

**Project Description:** The Lincoln Square Project (proposed project) consists of a 10.99-acre subdivided residential community, which would be developed into 102 detached, single-family lots. Additionally, the proposed project includes a 2.27-acre commercial lot, which would be developed with a 4,500-square-foot (sf) Rotten Robbie convenience store, a 5,789-sf fueling canopy with eight fuel dispensers, and a 2,613-sf car wash. The commercial lot would be located immediately southwest of the North Lincoln Street/State Route (SR) 113 intersection. The proposed residences would be constructed to the west, southwest, and south of the commercial lot. The residential community would provide an open space area by way of a pocket park, which would be located immediately to the west of SR 113 and would serve to capture stormwater runoff. North Lincoln Street and SR 113 would provide access to the project site, with each roadway featuring a single point of entry/exit to both the commercial lot and subdivision. The required entitlements for the project include a Rezone, Tentative Subdivision Map, Planned Development, and Design Review.

**Project Location:** The proposed project is located to the southwest of the North Lincoln Street/SR 113 intersection in the City of Dixon, California.  
APN No's: 0108-110-450 and -460

**Project Applicant:** Lewis Land Developers, Inc.

**Property Owner:** Duffel Financial & Construction Company

**Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts:** As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this project is subject to a review of potential environmental impacts. An assessment of potential impacts (Initial Study) was completed. Potentially significant impacts related to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, transportation, and tribal cultural resources were identified in the Initial Study and all the potentially-significant impacts can be reduced or eliminated by requiring and implementing recommended measures. The Initial Study recommends the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration, which includes the recommended mitigation measures. This notice provides the City's intention to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

**Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste Sites:** The project site is not on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code as related to hazardous materials.

**Public Review Period:** In compliance with CEQA, the City of Dixon Community Development Department has established a 30-day public review period from **January 7, 2022 to February 7, 2022** to solicit comments and input on the IS/MND. To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, written comments are invited from all interested parties. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the IS/MND should be submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 7, 2022** to: City of Dixon, Community Development Department, 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or [planningdepartmentlist@cityofdixon.us](mailto:planningdepartmentlist@cityofdixon.us).

Correspondence and comments regarding the scope and content of information in the Draft IS/MND may also be submitted to: **Scott Greeley**, Community Development Department, (707) 678-7000 x 1115 or via email: [sgreeley@cityofdixon.us](mailto:sgreeley@cityofdixon.us).

**Document Availability:** The IS/MND and supporting documents are available for public review during the 30 day public review period at City Hall, located at 600 East A Street in Dixon, CA and online at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/EnvironmentalReviewDocuments>

**Public Hearing Notice:** In accordance with the Government Code section 54953(d) and City of Dixon City Council Resolution No. 22-018, the Dixon Planning Commission will hold a remote **PUBLIC HEARING** to consider adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration along with the following planning entitlements: Rezone, Tentative Subdivision Map, Planned Development, and Design Review for the abovementioned project on **Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM.** at the City Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street in Dixon, CA. This meeting will not be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting via video conferencing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9886211137?pwd=r2dxz3rkbu9sqxdluvlrkc0qlgwzz09> or via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128, meeting ID: 988 621 1137, passcode: 604754 and will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

Following Planning Commission review, the Planning Commission recommendation will be forwarded to the City Council for a public hearing and final action on the Mitigated Negative Declaration and planning entitlements. In accordance with noticing requirements, a separate public notice of the City Council hearing will mailed and published in local newspaper prior to that hearing date.

The staff report for the project will be available online by the **Friday** before the hearing, or **Febraury 4, 2022**, at <https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos> and then clicking on the upcoming agenda for the aforementioned hearing.


Dixon Independent Voice 1-28-2022

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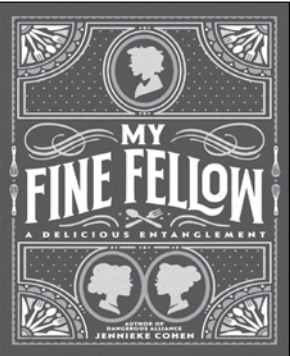




FOR THE LOVE OF  
**BOOKS**  
By Amy Shane

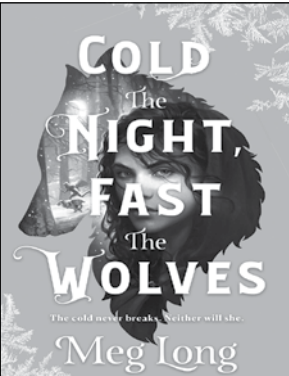
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📷 amy\_fortheloveofbook

January’s Newest Titles



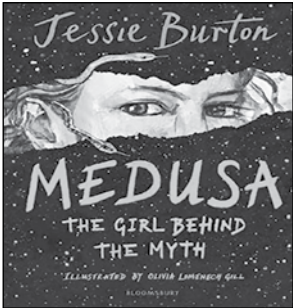
**My Fine Fellow**  
by Jennie Cohen;  
Harperteen

For Helena Higgins, star-dom is within her grasp. As the top in her class of the Royal Academy, she will stop at nothing to get there. Penelope Pickering is determined to prove the value and worth behind her non-European contemporaries., While also holding fast to her Filipina heritage. Elijah Little dreams of selling his pastries to high-society, but local merchants won’t allow a Jewish boy to own a shop. But change is in the air. Fall in love with this gender-bent retelling of My Fair Lady set in 1800’s London. Jennie Cohen is known for her unique ability to flip well-known classics on their head, giving readers alternate settings and gender switches to address current issues, and social themes. Cohen is a breath of fresh air and a strong voice that makes the classics fun and relevant for a contemporary reading audience. *My Fine Fellow* is a beautiful blend of beautiful and delicious cuisine and romance in the most unlikely of scenarios.



**Cold, The Night, Fast the Wolves**  
by Meg Long,  
Wednesday Books

Sena Korhosen knows her only hope to get off her frozen planet is to get a team of scientists across the finish line of the infamous sled race that claimed her mothers’ lives. However, she also knows it is her only hope for survival. Now, Sena must battle the worst situations imaginable, where her life is threatened at every turn. With an unexpected bond with a feral wolf and her unyielding personal strength, Sena might just have a chance for survival. Atmospheric, unique, and vivid *Cold the Night, Fast the Wolves* takes readers on a race of survival. Meg Long delivers a wonderful story of survival and heart while blending in the heart-pounding unexpected. A beautiful blending of frontier myths and the special bond between a girl and a wolf. Debut author, Meg Long, is worth watching out for and is also the perfect winter read for a snowy day.



**Medusa**  
by Jessie Burton,  
illustrated by  
Olivia Lomenech Gill,  
Bloomsbury

Almost everyone has heard of Medusa, the woman with snakes for hair who can turn anyone to stone with a single glance. Now, there is a feminist retelling of Greek mythology for everyone to enjoy the story again. After being exiled to an island far from anyone she can harm, Medusa’s only company are the snakes that adorn her hair. But then everything gets turned on his head when the handsome, charmed Perseus arrives on her island. Will this man have the power to unleash Medusa, or will he succumb to her power? Jessie Burton beautifully captures and expands this infamous story, shining a light on the girl behind the tragic legend while also expanding the story with the inclusion of Medusa’s sisters. Opening the door to tragedy, ill-destined fate, and the fear of allowing yourself to be seen, *Medusa* explores the more profound side behind the legend, the curse, and hidden secrets. Readers will fall headfirst into this story, complete with stunning full-page illustrations by Olivia Lomenech Gill. ★

Newsom Backs Away from Single-Payer Health Care Pledge



By Dan Walters  
CALMatters

When he unveiled a new state budget last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom crowed about California becoming the nation’s first state to embrace universal health care coverage. His budget would accomplish that goal by extending state Medi-Cal coverage to undocumented immigrants of all ages, beginning in 2024. “I campaigned on universal health care,” Newsom said a day later. “We’re delivering that.” Not quite. While running for governor in 2018, Newsom pledged to create a single-payer system for California, making the state the sole supplier of coverage. “I’m tired of politicians saying they support single-payer but that it’s too soon, too expensive or someone else’s problem,” Newsom said during the campaign. That pledge won Newsom the support of single-payer advocates. The California Nurses Association decked out a bus that toured the state with a picture of Newsom’s face and the words: “Nurses Trust Newsom. He shares our values and fights for our patients.” However, once elected, Newsom did virtually nothing to implement the

promise. Instead, as the state’s finances allowed, he extended Medi-Cal coverage incrementally to undocumented immigrants and others lacking private or public coverage. Along with mandates and subsidies from Obamacare, state actions eventually raised health coverage to 94% of Californians and Newsom’s latest extension to undocumented adults would make it, at least on paper, 100%. Newsom gets a bit testy when reporters ask him about his 2018 pledge. As he was introducing his budget this month, the state Assembly was beginning to move a single-payer bill for what’s called CalCare, and asked about it, Newsom replied, “I have not had the opportunity to review that plan, and no one has presented it to me.” “I think that the ideal system is a single-payer system,” Newsom said. “I’ve been consistent with that for well over a decade. ... The difference here is when you are in a position of responsibility, you’ve gotta apply, you’ve gotta manifest, the ideal. This is hard work. It’s one thing to say, it’s another to do. And with respect, there are many different pathways to achieve the goal.” The nurses’ union and other single-payer advocates aren’t satisfied. The San Francisco Chronicle reported union organizer Alyssa Kang told single-payer advocates on a conference call, “So we want to be absolutely clear: This is a flip-flop from a governor who said ... ‘I’m tired of politicians saying they support single payer but that it’s too soon, too expensive or

someone else’s problem.’ This is absolutely unacceptable, and he cannot be allowed to have it both ways.” The differences between universal coverage and single-payer are more than semantic. The former includes a wide variety of public and private health insurance plans, many of which have coverage limits and patient co-pays, while the latter would provide unlimited benefits free of out-of-pocket costs, much like Great Britain’s National Health Service. Providing universal coverage, as Newsom defines it, is doable by spending a few additional billion dollars in the state budget. Single-payer, on the other hand, would require the federal government to give the state the \$200-plus billion is now spends on Californians’ health care and the state to raise taxes more than \$150 billion a year. The legislation now pending in the Assembly would create a framework but the taxes are contained in a companion constitutional amendment that would require two-thirds votes in the Legislature and voter approval. With massive opposition from employers and much of the medical industry, chances for complete approval of the package are iffy at best and it doesn’t appear that Newsom will lift a finger to help it. He’s clearly content to settle for universal coverage. Dan Walters has been a journalist for nearly 60 years, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. ★



Riley Reviews

“MUNICH” WHAT-IF SPY THRILLER WITH THE WORLD ON EDGE

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley  
“MUNICH: THE EDGE OF WAR”  
Rated PG-13

The historical significance of the Munich Pact, an agreement that briefly averted the outbreak of World War II by acquiescing to the German conquest of Czechoslovakia, results in September 30, 1938 as a day of infamy. Based on the international best-seller “Munich” by British thriller author Robert Harris, the Netflix original movie “Munich: The Edge of War,” while focused on two young, idealistic diplomats attempting to change history, paints a more nuanced portrait of Neville Chamberlain. History has mostly judged the British Prime Minister Chamberlain harshly for appeasement of Hitler’s designs on the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia, an area heavily populated with Germans that the Fuhrer wanted to absorb into the Reich. Here, the drama of international diplomacy offers a revisionist perspective on Chamberlain (Jeremy Irons) as desperately trying to avoid another ruinous world war that the Allies were either unwilling or ill-prepared to engage. Most telling, perhaps, is how Chamberlain is received as a hero on his return to Britain as the memories of the slaughter of the Great War were not-so-distant to his countrymen. The British public’s desire to avoid war was almost universal.

Was the British Prime Minister truly naïve about Hitler’s intentions? He lectures an aide about “political reality,” but to what end? Did Chamberlain negotiate a tenuous peace with Hitler to buy more time before the inevitable? Putting aside all notions of a nonfiction recap of the peace conference involving Britain and France joining with Hitler and his fascist counterpart in Italy, “Munich: The Edge of War” is foremost a drama of two fictional diplomats on opposite sides in a geopolitical tragedy. The story begins in 1932 at Oxford University where Hugh Legat (George MacKay) and his German friend and fellow student Paul von Hartman (Jannis Niewohner) have a falling-out at graduation time over the latter’s infatuation with the “new Germany.” Fast forward six years, and Hugh works in the British foreign office and as an aide to the Prime Minister, while Paul is a press secretary to the Fuhrer (Ulrich Matthes) and romantically involved with Helen Winter (Sandra Huller), the ex-wife of a German general. The significance of Paul’s relationship with an older paramour is that they both belong to a secret anti-Hitler resistance group that realizes the leader of the Third Reich is a dangerous madman who must be stopped. No longer enamored with Hitler’s vision

of restoring Germany’s glory, Paul is eager to provide purloined documentation of the Fuhrer’s plan to conquer all of Europe to acquire “living space” to his British counterpart. As Hugh is part of the British delegation that arrives in Munich for the peace conference, Paul reconnects with his former university chum to enlist his help to attempt to dissuade Chamberlain from agreeing to Hitler’s designs on the Sudetenland. With Paul on shaky ground under the suspicious, prying eyes of Nazi officer Franz Sauer (August Diehl), the head of Hitler’s security detail, it’s obvious the German diplomat has more at stake and a lot to lose with his clandestine activities. While Paul comes off as more reckless than his British colleague, raising his voice in places where German officials could easily overhear his rants, Hugh is more tight-lipped with typical British reserve. Separately, Hugh and Paul deal with their respective leaders with a measure of guarded caution. Chamberlain cares little to consider dissenting views. Hitler is sufficiently mercurial and unstable that Paul or anyone for that matter is nervous in his presence. While “Munich: The Edge of War” fascinates with the “what-if” scenario of a plot to thwart Hitler’s crazed ambitions, the bigger picture is to know that even to this day historians may quibble and debate about the motivations of political leaders of the time. The French Prime Minister Edouard Daladier (Stephane Boucher) was part of the Munich conference but his thought process is not revealed and that’s partly due to how his presence is like an afterthought. Was he in fact concerned and aware of the folly of capitulation to Hitler? On the matter of appeasement, Neville Chamberlain is unlikely to ever escape being the poster boy of appeasement for his diplomatic concession of territory to an aggressive power in order to avoid conflict. After the Munich conference, Chamberlain announced with misguided confidence that he had secured “peace in our time.” We know only too well how that turned out as hardly a year had passed after the Munich agreement before Germany invaded Poland. The trajectory of World War II is sure to remain debated for years to come. As for the Munich Pact, was it possible that Germany was so strong that Britain needed to buy more time to prepare for its defense against the Luftwaffe’s intense bombing campaign two years later? There is much for history buffs to consider about actual events, but as for entertainment value “Munich: The Edge of War” creates plenty of riveting tense and poignant moments for the two imagined diplomats navigating the treacherous domain of political intrigue.. ★



**Truckloads Of Honeybees Head to California for Pollination Season**  
Bees are arriving at California farms, by the truckloads. It is pollination time for California almond growers, and beekeepers are moving some 2.5 million honeybee colonies into California orchards to pollinate 1.3 million acres of almond trees. About 2 million of the honeybee colonies are trucked in from out of state, and 500,000 come from California beekeepers. The California Department of Food and Agriculture has a pre-inspection program for out-of-state bees.

**Feed Costs, Pandemic, Drought Impact Dairy Farmers**  
California dairy farmers may be earning a higher market price for their milk these days, but they’re paying more to produce it. Water restrictions have caused the price of local feed to spike, as more growers reduce plantings of crops such as alfalfa hay and silage. Dairies around the nation also face challenges with rising production costs and market uncertainties due to the pandemic, which have led to a slowing of milk production in the U.S.

**Winter Vegetable Season Looks Promising in Imperial Valley**  
The winter growing season is looking promising in California’s Imperial Valley, which produces two-thirds of vegetables consumed in the U.S. during the winter months. Growers in the region say demand for winter vegetables tends to rise when winters are mild in cold-weather states. That seems to be the case this year, with consumers in the warmer-than-normal East Coast in the mood for California winter lettuce, spinach, cauliflower and broccoli, growers say.

**Rice Farmers Strategically Time Flooding to Help Bird Populations**  
California rice farmers are strategically flooding fields in applications that are timed to enhance habitat for migratory birds. The farmers are joining with the California Rice Commission, the Nature Conservancy and others in nourishing nesting grounds for more than 100 million birds representing 400 bird species that descend on the Central Valley every year. The initiative is organized by the Central Valley Joint Venture, a coalition of 19 public and private entities. ★





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



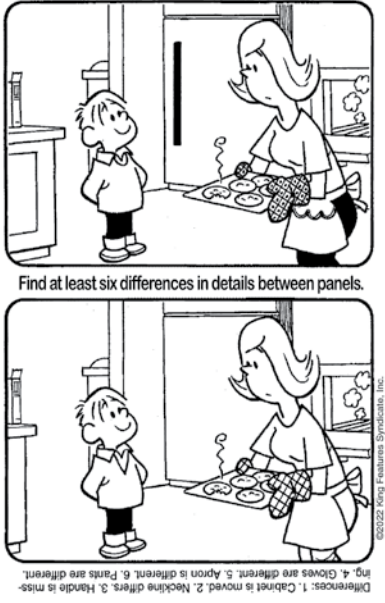
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF



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# Homeschooling Will Boom Long After COVID-19

Commentary  
by Lance Izumi

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - Student enrollment in public schools has nosedived as parent disgust with school COVID-19 policies, student learning losses, and controversial education policies has gone through the roof. In the wake of this enrollment implosion, homeschooling has boomed across the country.

At the beginning of the current school year, the U.S. Department of Education estimated that 1.5 million students had left the public schools since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

If students are not enrolling in public schools, where are they going? The numbers show that many former public school students are now being homeschooled.

The U.S. Census Bureau found that the percentage of homeschooling households more than doubled in 2020 from 5 percent in spring to 11 percent in the fall.

According to a recent University of Michigan study, from 2020 to 2021, the enrollment at public schools in Michigan fell by nearly 46,000 students, which represented a more than a 3-percent drop. Among kindergartners, there was a decrease of more than 11 percent.

The increase in homeschoolers does not come from just a narrow segment of the American population. A University of Washington Bothell analysis found, “The diversity of homeschoolers in the U.S. mirrors the diversity of all students nationally,” including all racial, religious, political, and income groups.

For instance, the Census



At the beginning of the current school year, the U.S. Department of Education estimated that 1.5 million students had left the public schools since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Photo courtesy Pixabay

Bureau found that among African American households the increase in homeschooling was much steeper than in the country as a whole, rising from 3 percent to 16 percent, a five-fold jump.

This increase in African American homeschooling is not surprising given recent research by McKinsey & Company that found “Students in majority Black schools ended the [2020-21 school] year with six months of unfinished learning.”

Demetria Zinga, one of the country’s top African American homeschool YouTubers, says, “I believe homeschooling is growing and exploding amongst African Americans and there will be more and more homeschoolers.”

Homeschool mom Magda Gomez, an immigrant from Mexico, has become an activist for homeschooling in the Hispanic community.

She observes: “We Hispanics as a culture are usually very protective and loving towards our children. However, I explain that love is not enough to raise our children. We have to educate ourselves in different areas of education, especially since we are not in our [native] country but are immigrants.”

“It is my dream,” she says,

“to see more Hispanic families doing homeschool.” Her dream is coming true with homeschooling doubling among Hispanic households, from 6 percent to 12 percent.

In addition to the racial diversity of homeschoolers, in 2021 the school-choice organization EdChoice found: “Many parents of children with autism, ADHD, and other neuro-developmental disorders report that public schools cannot effectively address their child’s specialized learning needs.”

Pediatric nurse and homeschool mom Jackie Nunes unenrolled her special-needs daughter from public school saying, “There just wasn’t enough of the things that matter - time, attention, patience, persistence, passion, support.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed all the flaws in the one-size-fits-all public schools, which is why the homeschool boom is shaking up American education.

Lance Izumi is senior director of the Center for Education at the Pacific Research Institute. He is the author of the new book *The Homeschool Boom: Pandemic, Policies, and Possibilities*. This piece originally ran in the *Washington Times*. ★

# Violence is Broadly Felt by Millions

UC Davis Health News

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Research led by UC Davis Professor Garen Wintemute shows that violence indirectly impacts most Californians.

Though relatively few may experience or witness a violent act, a large majority of surveyed Californians reported having an “experience of violence” (EV). These included hearing gunshots in their neighborhood, encountering a sidewalk memorial to a violent death or learning about a violent event through their social network.

The research was published in the journal *Injury Epidemiology*.

“If we ask broadly about the experience of violence, rather than focusing on acute events, we find that two-thirds of Californians have a direct personal stake,” said Wintemute, who directs the UC Davis Health Violence Prevention Research Program and is an emergency department physician. “Our main conclusion is that almost everybody is touched by this, and we’re a state with relatively low rates of firearm violence. I would expect the situation would be worse in many other states.”

While most violence research focuses on personal victimization, the UC Davis Health team took a broader view to better understand how these acts become embedded in communities. The survey indicates experiences of violence are perilously widespread:

An estimated 3.4 million Californians may have three or more EVs; 5 million personally know multiple people who have been intentionally shot; 3 million know people who may be at risk of committing violence against themselves or others.

“We had people who responded that they passed sidewalk memorials 25 times or more a week,” said Wintemute. “And I thought, at what point does living in your neighborhood resemble living in a cemetery? What does that do to your sense of a future for your community and yourself?”

In addition to hearing gunshots or seeing memorials, survey EVs included being aware

of someone who had been intentionally shot by someone else, intentionally shot themselves or might commit a violent act (against another person or themselves).

Of the 2,870 respondents, 64.6% reported one or more EVs; 11% reported three or more. Women and men had similar experiences. Perhaps most surprising, people who did not own a firearm, but lived with someone who did, had more EVs through their social networks, compared to those who owned firearms and those who did not. Secondhand gun ownership may be a public health risk, much like secondhand smoke.

The UC Davis team believes this survey will provide more information on how violence can permeate communities and hopes these findings might inform public policy and education.

“If people who live in homes with guns, but don’t own guns themselves, have these many experiences of people at risk of violence, they could be a whole new resource for intervention,” Wintemute said. “Maybe we can work with them to help at-risk people and reduce suicides and possibly other firearm violence.”

In California, a legal mechanism known as a Gun Violence Restraining Order can temporarily remove firearms and ammunition from people at risk of harming themselves or others.

The group is now working on a follow-up study to measure how these experiences may impact mental and physical health.

“If we show they are associated with ill effects, we may be able to intervene,” said Wintemute. “There are few people in California who can say this does not affect them, and since we’re all involved, let’s work together on solutions.”

Other authors included: Amanda J. Aubel, Rocco Pallin, Julia P. Schleimer and Nicole Kravitz-Wirtz of the Violence Prevention Research Program.

This work was funded by the California Firearm Violence Research Center, the California Wellness Foundation and the Heising-Simons Foundation. ★

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