

## Open Your Wallets

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## Who is Using All the Water!

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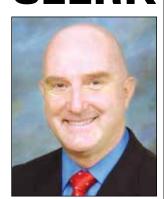
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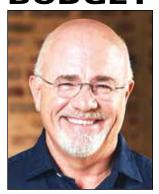
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## THE ZERO-BASED BUDGET



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## It's Tomato Harvest

Farmers Expect Drought and Heat to Affect Next Year



A tomato harvester on Batavia Road in Dixon works alongside a tractor pulling two Valley Farm Transport containers that get filled with processing tomatoes. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A long time ago, there was a jokester who said people moved to Dixon only for the free tomatoes at I-80 on-ramps. If you noticed the red orbs scattered on the edges of Highway 113, Pedrick Road, or Kidwell Road, you'll know why it's humorous. But, there is good reason for the tumbling overboard when you realize there are as many as 100 trucks a day of ripe tomatoes heading to the Campbell's Plant on Pedrick Road just off Interstate 80 in

Campbell Soup Supply took over

in 1975 at 8380 Pedrick Road. They are part of Campbell's in Camden, New Jersey. Each truck typically takes 50,000 pounds of tomatoes which is about 300,000 tomatoes. These are not fresh market (grocery store) tomatoes that are harvested green and have thinner skins. Processing tomatoes are ripe and have thicker skins which is how they can hold up and not get squashed when being transported. They are only machine harvested now, too.

From the moment of harvest to the time they are in a can is approximately six hours according to the California Tomato Growers Association.

"The tomato crops are doing pretty good here, but we'll see harvest go a little later into October with the weather holding," said Mike Locatelli, Pest Control Manager at Wilbur-Ellis in Dixon. "Canners want the fruit and Campbell's and Morning Star are getting what they need. Farmers are seeing a yield of up to 80 ton [per acre] with drip fields doing best but 60 ton is probably the average. Next year the drought will have more effect," he added.

The CTGA agreed to \$84.50 per ton with all processors for 2021 including Campbell's Soup Continued on page 5

# Festival of Trees Offers Orientation

MPG Staff

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - If the cooler weather made you think about upcoming holidays, the Kiwanis Club of Dixon would be really happy about that since their Festival of Trees planning is kicking off. An orientation for sponsors, decorators and volunteers is set for Monday, October 4, at 7 pm via Zoom.

"We will be following the State mandates for protecting everyone as much as possible from the Coronavirus," said Club President Mike Liu. "We just finished doing a polling place for Solano County so we are fresh on the procedures and requirements. Vacaville is moving ahead with theirs and we are moving ahead with Dixon's."

Several changes to the event plans will allow social distancing including reducing the event to one day, Saturday, December 5, and reducing the number of trees to allow more space. They will also have simpler musical performers instead of large groups that typically bring large crowds

Trees are sponsored by a variety of local businesses or individuals. This year, all trees will be decorated at home and brought into the hall fully decorated.

"We could not have this wonderful event without our sponsors or without our gracious and creative tree decorators!" enthused Chair Debra Dingman. "While pre-lit artificial trees in white or green are supplied, tree decorators donate ornaments, time and their creativity to finish them and trees range from fun to stunning in design."

Non-profit organizations, church groups, youth teams, and individuals are invited to participate, and guidelines will be provided.

Hundreds of visitors to the event get one vote for each size tree, and winners receive the coveted 'People's Choice' award with their names engraved on a beautiful plaque which is shown off around town at Kiwanis events.

The Festival of Trees is a major fundraiser for the Dixon Kiwanis Club with monies benefitting local children's services and programs along with the Kiwanis Family House, an emergency shelter for families of hospitalized children at UC Davis Medical Center.

The Dixon Kiwanis Club meets on the fourth Thursdays, for a no-host dinner at Bud's Pub and Grill. They are an international organization of volunteers dedicated to

Continued on page 2

## DFD: Open House for 150th Anniversary

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The trucks have been polished, the long hoses have been rolled neatly, and the fire hats have been hung with care. Now, the City of Dixon Fire Department is ready for the public to join them in celebrating its 150th anniversary with an open house on Saturday, October 9, at Fire Station 81 on Ford Way. The event will be held in coordination with Fire Prevention Week.

Established in 1871, the Department has a long tradition of serving and protecting the Dixon community. That tradition continues today with a full range of emergency services offered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

"I am proud of the Department and of all the members past and present for reaching this milestone. We hope the community will help us celebrate and come out to our interactive open house to learn more about fire safety and prevention as drought and fire dangers continue to grow more severe," said Dixon Fire Chief Todd McNeal.

The Department serves



The public – and especially children – will have an opportunity to see one of Dixon's fire trucks up close at Saturday's 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Dixon Fire Department. Photo by Debra Dingman

a combined population of nearly 25,000, covering an area of 320 square miles. Seven square miles of service area are within the city limits and 313 are in the Dixon Fire Protection District through a protection contract. The Department provides fire protection, paramedic level emergency medical response, fire prevention services, public fire safety education, fire investigations, and emergency management.

The open house will be

held from 10 am to 2 pm at the Dixon Fire Department, 205 Ford Way, behind Ron DuPratt Ford in Dixon. The celebration will begin with a brief history presentation and comments from local officials.

Historical artifacts and fire apparatus will be displayed, and former Fire Chiefs and Dixon Fire members will be speaking about Dixon's history. The event will include safety demonstrations, children's activities and will feature historical artifacts and stories.

There will be opportu-

nities for children to touch firefighting gear, handle hoses and even spray water. Medical helicopters will be on display as well as ambulances and law enforcement vehicles.

Public safety and preparedness planning information and tools will be made available, too.

There will be cupcakes and refreshments for the attendees. You won't want to miss meeting Dixon's firefighters, either! ★

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## Still Adjusting to His Retirement

By Debra Dingman

Correspondents wanted. I just can't write as much as I'd like now that hubby is retired.

Now that I finally get paid for doing what I love - my writing for a great local newspaper – I could probably write and/or do newspaper work nonstop and surely every day of the week. But then, there is this new experience with a husband at home who likes to go places, cook, and travel.

At first I loved coming home to a dinner completely prepared. He even cleans up the kitchen before I get home. But then I started putting weight back on. So, I've taken up walking morning AND night.

And, I find myself feeling guilty if I have to run out on the weekend to get a Saturday or Sunday event covered. I'm wondering why I previously never felt guilty going to garage sales or used book stores. Was it because he was busy doing things that he liked to do-you know like 17-mile bike rides or trying out new stretch bands that build muscle strength or spending hours on the computer to help us purchase the very best carpet shampooer or the most effective bug killer?

I found myself snapping a few times and I feel terrible for flying off the handle at trivial things like how many times his closet door is left open. Why have doors if they aren't for closing? I know we are in another one of those "adjustment periods" where we have to figure out this new life of me working and him retired. I just think it's ironic that our

household has completely flipped upside down. I don't think he ever felt guilty about anything.

Saturday morning, I opened the sliding glass door to let in the fresh fall air. Then I saw the 2.5-inch weird bug that looks like a skinny cockroach with lots of feelers. I stared only a second to see if it was on the inside or the outside. That's when I slowly and smoothly pulled the door back close so I would not disturb it. It was on the inside.

"Hoooonnnneeyyy," I hollered loudly and near desperation - only because I needed the man who rarely hears me at all to hear me clearly now. "I need you to kill a very big bug." At his usual leisure, he comes around the corner to inspect, which totally irritated me that he could not hear the anxiety in my request and come prepared.

"He's going to get away and come into the house," I nearly shrieked. "Quick get something!" He strolled back in with the grandchildren's little broom but the bug had slithered a couple feet down toward the bottom of the door. "David Dingman just go out and smash it against the glass; I'll clean it up when he's dead!" To my horror, the bug moved to the side. "If he gets in this house, I'll not forgive you!"

He strolled back to the scene with a can of Raid and wearing gloves. I left the room. When he assured me he got it and he smashed it so there was no way it was going to crawl into the house, I felt my body relax and smiled sweetly at him.

"You're my hero," I said and honestly and I couldn't believe myself, I felt my eyelashes flutter at him.

## **Ulta Beauty Settles Hazardous Waste Case with Prosecutors**

Solano County District Attorney

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) -Beauty Solano County District Attorney Krishna A. Abrams announced that the Solano County District Attorney's Office, together with 33 other California District Attorneys and City Attorneys, have reached a settlement in *People v*. *Ulta* for violations of hazardous waste regulations with Ulta Beauty, Inc., Ulta Salon, Cosmetics & Fragrance, Inc., Ulta, Inc., and Possibilities AB, Inc., (collectively referred to as "Ulta"). The settlement includes \$752,000 in civil penalties, supplemental environmental projects, and costs. Ulta has 161 facilities in California, of which, 3 stores are in Solano County.

The settlement follows an investigation by

prosecutors of Ulta stores located within California for improper storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous and other regulated waste, as well as inadequate employee training. Additionally, Ulta failed to take sufficient steps to preserve the confidentiality of their customers' information by unlawfully disposing of customer records without having rendered personal information unreadable.

The settlement includes a Final Judgment and Permanent Injunction, wherein Ulta must pay \$439,500 in civil penalties, \$250,000 in plaintiffs' costs and \$62,500 in supplemental environmental projects. Defendants must also implement certain compliance assurance programs. The settlement was filed on September 15, 2021 in Solano County Superior Court Case No. FCS057080, and signed by the Honorable Alesia Jones.

In full cooperation with the People's investigation, California Ulta stores have adopted and implemented new policies and procedures and enhanced existing training programs designed to properly manage and dispose of hazardous waste products, other regulated waste, and confidential customer consumer information.

"Protecting the environment is a top priority of our office, but equally important is the protection of consumer privacy rights. We believe this settlement achieves both of these goals by mandating safer practices and preserving customers' confidential information." said District Attorney Krishna Abrams.

## Solano County Receives AA+ and **AAA Rating from Standard and Poor**

Solano County News Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - County officials are pleased to announce that Solano County has recently received a credit rating upgrade from Standard & Poor's (S&P) in connection with its upcoming issuance of the 2021 Certificates of Participation (2021 COPs). S&P assigned a rating of AA+ to the 2021 COPs and simultaneously upgrade the County's other outstanding COPs from AA to AA+. The 2021 COPs will fund energy conservation and generation projects for County campuses located in Fairfield, Vallejo and Vacaville. Additionally, S&P raised its long-term rating on the County's outstanding pension obligation bonds from AA+ to AAA, the highest possible rating.

"The rating upgrades are a direct result of sound fiscal policies implemented over the last several years by the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator – and the strength to follow those policies when it was not always easy to do so," says Chuck Lomeli, Solano County Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk.

S&P's credit report summarized the key factors justifying the upgrade, including the strong economy, sound financial policies and practices, robust budget development process, improving property tax revenues for the County General Fund and a stable outlook, despite the impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic health emergency. This higher rating for the future debt will give the opportunity to the County

to price the bonds at lower interest rates.

This is great news for the County," says Phyllis Taynton, Solano County Auditor-Controller. "This achievement has been a team effort and I am proud to be part of the County's management team and receiving this upgraded rating. We work hard every day to ensure the County's financial stability and accountability to its citizens and these ratings are a recognition of our commitment to them."

John M. Vasquez, District 4 Supervisor and Chair of the Board of Supervisors, joined the County's senior financial executive management team, including Phyllis Taynton, Auditor-Controller, Chuck Lomeli, Treasurer-Tax Collector-County Clerk, Nancy Huston, Assistant County Administrator, Ian Goldberg, Budget Officer and Megan Greve, Director of General Services in making a presentation on the County's budget, finances and local economy to the rating agency in connection with the upcoming 2021 COPS.

"The County of Solano has been a strong steward of its finances over my tenure as a Supervisor," says John M. Vasquez, District 4 Supervisor and Chair of the Board of Supervisors. "This higher upgraded rating for the 2021 COPS is truly a reflection of strong management and budgetary practices within the County organization."

The Board will officially consider adoption of a resolution to approve the issuance of the 2021 COPS at their September 14, 2021 Board of Supervisors Meeting.

## Continued from page 1

**Festival of Trees Offers Orientation** 

improving the world, one child and one community at a time. "Kiwanis" was coined from the American Indian language meaning "we share our talents."

For more information or to reserve your spot on the Zoom meeting, call Dingman at (707) 676-5413 or Membership Chair Patti Sousa, (707) 635-3303. ★

Right: "The Star of Christmas" was decorated by Neighborhood Christian School's Parent Resource Group and was one of many stunning trees at the last Festival of Trees. Photo by





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## Small Business Employers Qualify Dixon News Briefs for Paid Leave Grant and Credit

City of Dixon

DIXON, CA (MPG) - These two programs offer support to Dixon businesses who are employers that have had to provide paid sick and family leave to their employees due to COVID-19:

#### The Paid Family Leave Small Business (PFLSB) Grant

The Paid Family Leave (PFL) Program allows California workers to take paid leave to bond with a new child or to care for a seriously ill family member.

As of July 2020, Paid Family Leave has been expanded for eligible employees from 6 to 8 weeks; Employees are now eligible for 12 weeks of non-paid, protected leave who work for all businesses, regardless of business size; The Paid Family Leave Small Business (PFLSB) Grant will provide to CA small businesses \$500 for each employee who is utilizing the PFL Program to help offset the costs involved with training other employees to cover the duties of this individual on leave.

Must have less than 10 employees; Up to a total of \$4,500 per small business; Available through December 2022.

apply, please CaliforniaPaidFamilyLeaveAlliance.com

#### The COVID-19 Paid Leave Tax Credit

Federal law allows small employers to claim refundable tax credits that reimburse them for the cost of providing paid sick and family leave to their employees due to COVID-19.

Including leave taken by employees to receive or recover from COVID-19 vaccinations; The tax credits are available to eligible employers that pay sick and family leave from April 1, 2021, through September 30, 2021.

Employers report total paid sick and family leave wages for each quarter on their federal employment tax return, usually Form 941.

Additional information is available at irs.gov/newsroom/employer-taxcredits-for-employee-paid-leave-due-tocovid-19



Boy Scouts Pack 253 in Dixon is led by Cub Master John Decker. Photo by Den Leader Marisa Decker

MPG Staff

#### **Scout Adventures**

In case you see this newspaper on Thursday and you have an elementary-age child in your family who might be interested in Scouting, a sign-up night for Cub Scout Pack 253 is being held Thursday, Sept. 30, at 6:30 pm at the Dixon United Methodist Church Social Hall at 209 North Jefferson. If you receive the paper on Friday, you can still contact Tyler Bonino at (530) 908-1879 or email him at tyler.bonino@scouting.org for more information. Registration is \$49 through the end of December.

Adventure, Success, Leadership, and Responsibility will be learned through participation in Scouting. The program encourages youth to "do your best" and is the premier character development program for youth in Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Scouts offers a year-round program flexible enough to work with busy schedules. It is family oriented, designed to provide activities and adventure for parents and their child. Along the way, you will create the memories of a lifetime.

#### City Council

City Mayor Steve Bird has reported that the next City Council Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 5, will be inside the Council Chambers at 655 West A Street beginning at 7 pm. The Council is projecting the completion of the City Hall Air Conditioning unit.

Agendas for city meetings are usually posted on the city website, cityofdixon. com, on Thursdays before the meetings. You can also view minutes of previous meetings on that site.

#### **Historical Markers**

The Dixon Chamber of Commerce is looking for more contributors to help with the Dixon Historical Plaques marking historical buildings around town. These are classy plagues that mark historical homes and buildings that will also appear on the

Historical Walking Tour Guide. To make a donation, contact Shauna Manina at info@ dixonchamber.org.

#### DHS Football

The Dixon High Football Team will play at Mira Loma high School but mark the calendars for easy attendance next week (Oct. 8) as it will be a home game with the Rams against the Wolves of Woodland High School. JV starts at 5 pm with Varsity at 7 pm. Admission prices are: Adults \$8; Seniors (55+) \$5; Student \$5; Barnyard Shirt \$2; and, children under age 5 are free.

#### 99 Beers

A drawing for a Yeti Cooler full of 99 bottles of beer is happening and tickets are now being sold. They are \$20 each and the funds go toward. You could win a Yeti Cooler, valued at over \$400, plus 99 micro brews and a variety of other beers.

Tickets are only \$20 each, and available at the Dixon Chamber office or by contacting any Board member or Ambassador. Drawing to be held on November 6, 2021. Only a limited number of tickets are available so get your tickets today! You must be 21 years of age or older to participate. The Chamber is at 220 North Jefferson or call (707) 678-2650.

#### **Columbus Holiday**

Students will be out of school on Monday, Oct. 11, to mark Columbus Day. It is a federal holiday in the United States but also a national holiday in many countries of the Americas. History has it that Oct. 12, 1492 is when Christopher Columbus arrived in the Americas. The holiday was instituted in Berkeley in 1992 to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Columbus'arrival.

#### Walk/Bike to School

As long as we are talking about schools, Wednesday, Oct. 6, is Bike/Walk to School Day and there's no better time to encourage avoiding a vehicle if at all possible and learn the safe routes to get a student to school.

## **Governor Signs SB 639 Prohibiting Work** for Less than State Minimum Wage

Office of California State Senator María Elena Durazo

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Governor Newsom has signed State Senator María Elena Durazo's (D-Los Angeles) SB 639 into law, which will phase out the use of the federal 14(c) certificate in California, and ultimately prohibit paying workers with disabilities less than the California minimum wage and transition workers with disabilities to competitive, integrated employment. California joins Alaska, Maryland, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oregon, and Texas, in outlawing paying workers with disabilities a subminimum wage. The bill is sponsored by Disability Rights California, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and Legal Aid at Work.

"California is ending the subminimum wage for people with disabilities," said Senator Durazo. "All work should be treated with dignity, and that means that nobody is paid less than the minimum wage. SB 639 develops a phaseout plan to ensure a path to competitive, integrated employment for these workers. I applaud Governor Newsom for recognizing the injustice that workers with disabilities are facing and remedying this clear violation of their civil rights."

Since 1938, Section 214 (c)(1)(A) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) has given California employers the ability to apply for a certificate that allows them to pay employees with disabilities less than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. This FLSA 14(c) certificate was intended to provide opportunities for employment for World War I veterans with disabilities, but instead created segregated workplaces, and the unemployment rate of persons with disabilities is twice as high as other workers.

What has actually materialized under FSLA is a pool of highly exploited labor.

Over 5,000 Californians with disabilities are currently working in sheltered workshops and are being paid as little as 2 dollars per hour.

Sheltered workshops were originally developed to provide employment opportunities for disabled World War I veterans returning from service. Since then, sheltered workshops have morphed into full-scale operations to primarily employ persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities in segregated settings. Beyond the FSLA, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 made it illegal for employers to discriminate against workers who had disabilities. Yet, sheltered workshops remain in operation and the economic opportunities for people with disabilities continue to erode. SB 639 phases out sheltered workshops, develops a path to integrated employment, and ensures workers with disabilities earn no less than the California minimum wage.

"Today was a great day for Californians with disabilities who want to work in the competitive labor market," said Andy Imparato, executive director of Disability Rights California. "By ending the discriminatory practice of paying people with disabilities less than the federally-protected minimum wage, Governor Newsom has helped California reassert its role as a national leader in disability rights and worker rights."

"About 100 years ago, it was seen as compassionate to pay less to people with disabilities," said Aaron Carruthers, executive director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. "But times changed, views of what is possible for people with disabilities changed, and options changed. With the Governor's signature, people who were once trapped in sheltered workshops will now be able to design a truly meaningful day. This is the dignity the Governor spoke about when signing the bill."

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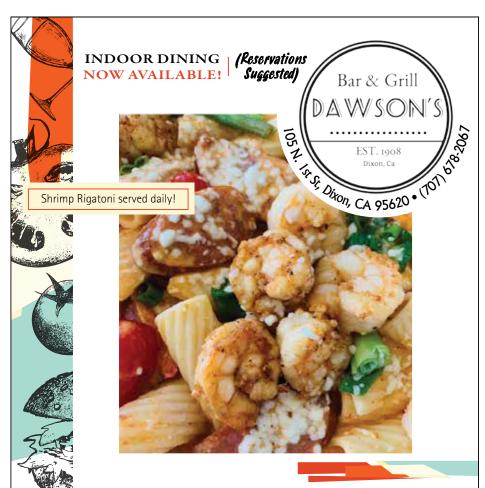
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## Halloween Laughs and Thrills for Young Readers

#### If You Ever Meet A Skeleton by Rebecca Evans Katrin Dreiling

It's almost Halloween, and do you know what you would do if you met a Skeleton? If you Ever Meet A Skeleton, will have everyone all prepared if the moment should arise. Even though skeletons might look spooky ,if you knew the truth about them, you wouldn't be scared at all. Skeletons don't have brains to help them think or muscles to help them run, they can't play hide and seek, and they believe it's rude to bite their friends. So, when you see a skeleton, and you think you want to run, remember this story of how they really just want to have fun.

This darling story will have readers giggling in excitement and ready to make to make a new friend. Katrin Dreiling's illustrations are enjoyable and hilarious, making this a new Halloween favorite.

#### **Hardly Haunted** by Jessie Sima

What would you do if you thought you were haunted? That's exactly what this one little house thinks. She is dusty, full of cobwebs, creaks, squeaks, and rattles, and no one lives there. The more she worried, the more she believed she was haunted. Even though she tried with all her might to be very calm and very quiet, nothing would work. Will this house ever find someone to move in, or will she always be lonely and haunted?

Fall in love with a darling little house that just doesn't want to be lonely. In this adorable story of selfdiscovery and truly loving who you are, Hardly Haunted will leave readers excited to accept themselves just as they are. With charming illustrations and one cute kitty, readers will love to see how everything comes together in the end.



#### Vampenguin by Lucy Ruth Cummins

The Dracula's are out for a fun day at the zoo. They check out all their favorite exhibits and visit every animal, but the Dracula family is so busy trying to beat the crowds that they don't notice what happens in the penguin exhibit.

In a delightful story of switching places, one family is about to get a shock, or will they? Vampenguin is the perfect home or classroom read. Younger audiences will have a blast trying to guess what happens next and if anyone will even notice. This story is one to add to the shelves and will be an adventure to read over and over again.

#### I Love My Fur by Kelly Leigh Miller

Bigfoot loves his hair. It's shiny, soft, and pretty, and everyone loves to talk about it, or do they?

When Bigfoot gets a little carried away with hair love, his mother decides it's time for a haircut. Will Bigfoot learn what's really important, or will he still only talk about his hair?

Fall in love with this adorable monster adventure. With all your favorite classic monsters young readers will learn the important lesson of listening and valuing your friends.

## It's Tomato Harvest



Not all tomatoes are round or boxed-shape. This crop of tomatoes have thicker skins that will hold up in transport better. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1

Company, ConAgra Brands, Inc., Del Monte Foods, Inc., The Morning Star Packing Company, and a few others, according to their news bulletin online published in the spring of this year.

Hundreds of trucks filled with ripe tomatoes come into the Campbell's plant. Then the fruit is washed with water before hauled into the plant for processing in various forms including diced and pastes. The whole tomato is used at the plant which processes approximately 500 thousand tons of tomatoes per season. Finally, they are poured into 300-pound bags and shipped off across North America to other factories via railroad.

Some of the products that come from Campbell's tomatoes are, of course, tomato soup, and V8, SpaghettiOs, Prego, and Pace.

During tomato harvest season, the plant operates approximately 100 days at 24-hours a day.

There's approximately 50 family farms that they buy tomatoes from and they work with those farmers for sustainability practices. California produces approximately 35 percent of

all processed tomatoes in the world according to one news report.

There are approximately 200 plant workers altogether but only 15 employees run the factory after the 100-day harvest season.

Bits of trivia: First ready-to-eat soup, Beefsteak Tomato, was created in 1895. More trivia: Campbell Soup Company started out as a canning company in New Jersey in 1869. It was founded by a commercial canner and packer, Abram Anderson, and a fruit and vegetable vendor Joseph Campbell. Later, Arthur Dorrance replaced Anderson, and it was a nephew of Dorrance, chemist John, who invented condensed soup in 1897.

Impressed with the new Cornell University Football uniforms that were red and white, a Campbell's executive produced the first red and white label for the company.

Lastly, and we know you wanted to know the facts, there is this nugget: Technically a tomato is a fruit, since it is the ripened ovary of a plant. But in 1893 the supreme court ruled in the case of Nix V. Hedden (1893) tomatoes were to be considered vegetables.

## **Covid and Beyond**



#### **A Western Society Goes Insane**

The 18th-century English philosopher Jeremy Bentham came up with the idea of the panopticon, a prison designed to allow all the prisoners to be observed by one guard.

What even Bentham couldn't conceive of, despite his creative musings about schemes of perpetual surveillance, was a society like contemporary Australia.

Heretofore an honorable member of the Free World, Australia has lurched into a bizarre and disturbing netherworld of bureaucratic oppression in the name of public health.

Australia's COVID-19 lockdown mania has been so all-consuming that one assumes much of it would make Dr. Anthony Fauci blanch.

At the start of the pandemic, Australia determined to squeeze out COVID with lockdowns and travel restrictions, and as an island nation, had considerable success. It was the last of the G-20 countries to hit 1,000 total coronavirus deaths.

But this created an unrealistic expectation that Australia could have COVID-zero as a goal for the duration and use targeted restrictions and surveillance ("circuit-breakers") to maintain it.

As the pandemic has dragged on, this has become completely untenable and done violence to liberty and

common sense in a great English-speaking nation.

Lockdowns have cut a swath through the norms and conventions of an advanced Western democracy, from the suspension of a state-level parliament to the banning of protests, to military enforcement of the COVID-19 protocols.

With the Delta surge, more than half of Australians are locked down, often in response to a tiny number of cases.

Australian authorities don't fool around. State premiers have vast powers and use them. In Melbourne, located in the state of Victoria, a curfew is in place and limits apply to people leaving their homes. There are hefty fines for noncompliance.

The spirit of the lockdowns was perfectly captured a few months ago by the chief health officer of New South Wales who warned, "Whilst it is in human nature to engage in conversation with others, to be friendly, unfortunately this is not the time to do that."

Ah, yes, the public health threat of over-chattiness.

The Australian news media might as well be an arm of the public health bureaucracy and produces stilted and hysterical reports about lockdown violators worthy of some dystopian future.

South Australia has developed an app to enforce home quarantines. As a news report explains, "The app will contact people at random asking them to provide proof of their location within 15 minutes." If they fail to do so, the health department will notify the police, who will send

officers to check on the possible malefactor.

Unrestricted travel is a hallmark of a free society, but Australians can barely leave the country. Travel has been cut off between states, creating an arbitrary patchwork of states trying to isolate themselves from coronavirus cases elsewhere.

Tens of thousands of Australians have been trapped overseas, unable to come back home because of monthly limits on returning Australians.

All of this economic and social disruption and coercion hasn't been enough to stamp out the Delta variant, which is outrunning the government controls.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison finally admitted the obvious, "This is not a sustainable way to live in this country.'

Australia initially fumbled its vaccination effort, which should have been a focus all along. But now the country hopes jabbing 80% of the population can get it out of the lockdown box of its own making.

The coronavirus is a serious illness, and no country has gotten everything right. Australia has proven, though, that dispensing with key elements of advanced liberal society in the hopes of total victory over the virus is foolhardy and wrong.

Australia isn't going to become a dictatorship, but this period in its national life stands as a warning for how easily core freedoms can erode away in even a well-established democracy.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2021 by King Features

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Commentary by bil paul

Well, here it is October already. Remember when government and medical officials predicted we'd be exiting the pandemic during the summer? Then the

delta mutation came along. Dixon continues on its steady path of covid spread: There were 33 new reported cases last week. The saddest news is that the county reported nine covid deaths, where there was only one the previous week. Most of those dying are over 65.

The best countywide news is that active reported cases fell last week from 816 to 646. The number of county residents covid-hospitalized continues to fall.

Some say that those who've had covid 19 don't need vaccinations. There are some caveats. however. Whether or not one actually has covid needs to be determined by testing. One might have had a severe cold or regular flu instead (by the way, I just had my flu shot from Kaiser) – so just assuming you already had the disease won't cut it. Whether you had an asymptomatic, mild or severe case of covid may determine

acquired from having the disease is superior to having a vaccination. Still, why not get vaccinated anyway, and get even more protection? And please don't get the disease to avoid vaccination!

There's also talk about Israel, which made an early push back in March to get as many vaccinated as possible (50 percent of those eligible got the shots). Currently, 78 percent of Israelis over the age of 12 are vaccinated. And yet, Israel has a very high rate of covid cases. However, it's not as simple as it seems. When Israelis from ages 1 through 12 are also counted, only 58 percent are currently vaccinated. Also, early on, Israel made the mistake of easing restrictions greatly and didn't mandate or encourage masking or social distancing. So, it takes more than just shots in arms.

One more thing needs to be mentioned. Sometimes it's assumed that one gets covid, stays home or in a hospital, then returns to full health. But some of those who fought the disease will have serious, lingering aftereffects that may last a couple months, or result in a permanent condition. I read about a female hospital staffer who caught covid and developed nerve damage in her spine that makes it difficult to walk very far. She'll have to live with the condition.

Now I want to branch off into the "beyond" part

how much immunity you of this column. Call me a acquired. Some say that pessimist or whatever, but the natural immunity the writing's on the wall. What's coming will make this pandemic look like a walk in the park. And that's climate change. It seems like we expect our politicians to carry the ball for us in dealing with it. Can we trust them to do the right thing and put climate change on the top of their agendas?

For years, while environmentalists predicted climate change, there were vehement doubters, including the former president. Now, with melting glaciers and sea ice, more drought and extreme storms and flooding, rising sea levels and temperatures, and migrants fleeing weather extremes, there aren't many doubters left. If our area here has two more rainy seasons with low rainfall, we and local farmers could be in trouble. Dixon gets its water from wells, and underground water levels may recede. Lake Berryessa could get really low. We will have to end our love affair with gasoline and diesel engines and depend more on solar and wind energy. Strict water conservation may be in the cards.

bil paul did PR for the Postal Service, worked in the medical field and as a reporter and photographer. He is the author of the book about Dixon's failed movie studio project ("The Train Never Stops in Dixon") and has a book coming out next year titled "Awaiting the Sun: World War Two Veterans Remember the Aleutians."



**Dixon Independent Voice 6** • OCTOBER 1, **2021** 

# Who is Using All the Water!

By Rachel Beckers, **CALMATTERS.ORG** 

Californians reduced their water use at home by a meager 1.8% statewide in July compared to last year, even after Gov. Gavin Newsom urged residents to conserve 15% and drought continues to spread across the state.

Officials warned water providers south of the Delta who rely on state water allocations - already slashed to 5% this year - to brace for the possibility of zero supply next year.

The Department of Water Resources also cautioned that next year's cuts in supply could expand to growers and others known as settlement contractors, whose claims to the water predate California's massive systems of reservoirs, aqueducts and canals.

"Californians always have hope, and that's healthy. But we need to be prudent," Karla Nemeth, director of the state Department of Water Resources, said in an interview. "We're doing more conservative planning than we've ever done."

Drought conditions deemed extreme or worse now cover nearly 90% of the state. Hundreds of domestic wells are running dry, and levels in major reservoirs have dropped drastically below historic averages - which bodes ill for supplies next year.

"The challenge is there is no water," Nemeth said.

"We're planning for the worst, but we are hoping for something better," Nemeth added at today's meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board.

In early July, Newsom urged Californians to voluntarily cut domestic water use by 15%, but in the absence of a statewide mandate, a patchwork of restrictions has emerged. The result: Californians used about 191.5 billion acre feet of water in their homes, businesses and other industrial or institutional spaces in July, only 1.8% less than a year earlier.

"I'm not here to say 1.8 is a good number," said Joaquin Esquivel, chair of the State Water Resources Control Board, at a Monday press briefing. "We're going to have to continue to dig in deeper and look forward to seeing what the numbers show then in August."

When asked when to expect statewide conservation orders, Esquivel said that for now, the board is reflecting on the data. "We need to continue to see that response



As California's drought deepens, water use drops only 1.8%. MPG file photo

and decision-making, and the state's here to make sure that if we need to go mandatory, that's where we're going."

The biggest drops in household water use were along the hard-hit North Coast, with a nearly 17% reduction in July 2021 compared with July 2020. The Sonoma County city of Healdsburg led the state by cutting its water use by more than half, and Cloverdale, which reduced its use by 37%. Both cities enacted mandatory water use restrictions.

Water use in the South Coast region, which includes Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego and Ventura counties, was roughly even with last summer, down 0.1%. However, about 40% of water suppliers in the area actually used more thousands of acre feet

residents cut their water use by 8.4%. Northern and southern San Joaquin Valley residents reduced use by 0.8% and 1.6%, respectively.

major cuts could come for irrigation districts, cities and other water users south of the Delta relying on supplies from the State Water Project, which provides water to 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland.

At this point, Nemeth said there's "a slim likelihood" of supplies for these water systems, which includes the giant Metropolitan Water District, which provides imported water to 19 million people in Southern California. Worst-case ing temperatures are

scenario, she said, "we've asked them to plan for no allocation from the State Water Project."

Those suppliers, including in the Bay Area, Southern California, the Central Coast and the San Joaquin Valley, have seen steep cuts before, during the last drought in 2014. But this time is worse: Even a wet year is unlikely to bring relief.

"We're starting with record low (reservoir) storage," Nemeth said. "We would have to have north of 140% of (average) precipitation to generate average runoff into the reservoirs that would begin filling that hole."

State and federal project operators have come under fire from environmental advocates for supplying hundreds of to these senior contrac-San Francisco Bay Area tors, while failing to meet water quality standards and cutting allocations to more-junior agricultural contractors and cities.

Feather River Contractors, for instance, Officials warned that were allocated the lowest levels allowed in their contracts, but still were expected to receive nearly 600,000 acre feet of water, according to the Department of Water Resources - enough water to supply 1.8 million Southern California households for a year. That's about three times more water than longterm State Water Project contractors, including the giant Metropolitan Water District, were provided.

> California's drought conditions and warm

threatening salmon and other rare fish.

For endangered Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, "we've modeled the temperature dependent mortality at about 80% this year, meaning only 20% even survive to make it out of the gravel," Barry Thom, West Coast regional administrator for NOAA Fisheries, told the water

attorney with the Natural have a lot more dead fish. Resources Defense It's grim."

Council, urged the board on Tuesday to require state and federal water project operators to cut supplies to settlement contractors to protect

reduced, "you're going to have even worse temperature mortality of salmon next year," Obegi told CalMatters. "You start with less water, and you have less at the end of Doug Obegi, a senior the year, you're going to

Nemeth said she issued the early warning to prepare growers dependent on senior contracts well in advance of making planting decisions.

Last year, early plant-If supplies aren't ing by growers "really limited the amount of decisions we thought we could make without causing real economic damage," Nemeth said. This year, "We want to alert them sooner that it could be worse than they've experienced before."

### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

## **Heeney's History**

Dear Editor,

"News, all that's fit to print." This was the advertising cry of many newspapers in the early days of the union. "EXTRA. EXTRA!" was another familiar cry in the early morning hours when some newsworthy event required an extra edition to be printed. The "extra" cry also made good advertising, especially if your paper was first with the news.

Newspapering was an interesting, sometimes cut throat, yet vital endeavor in any town. The local editor could be a hero, a villain, or both, yet never incognito. This was all before radio, TV, computer, and cell phones. Some might say in the "golden days of communication."

There is something about the written word on paper that has a certain magic to it and that actually says something. Newspapers have a certain appeal in starting the day off right. A cup of coffee, the smell of newsprint, and the solitude of early morning seems to make the day.

I have been a newspaper "junkie" for most of my ninety some years and remember the Wichita Eagle, Kansas City Star, and the South Haven New Era when I was a wee one.

During the depression, we subscribed to the K.C. Star and my grandparents, the Eagle, then switch. The Eagle had better comics. The local New Era had who was where for Sunday dinner and who cut the first truck load of wheat.

Nearly everyone complained about the spelling-especially names, but most would wait for the paper to come out before anything else got done. And, if your picture got in the paper, and especially the front page, just shut down the chores and make sure all the neighbors saw your picture.

If you were featured, then you need to have the neighbors save their copy so you could have enough to send off to relatives in far off lands like the town down

Newspaper publishing day was nearly like a holiday with celebration and excitement. And, of course, the paper was where the merchants advertised their wares. It was not uncommon to see a new automobile on the front page, or a men's overcoat at the bottom. Your local news was a bit of "down home" life blood and it made the wheels go round.

From Ed Heeney, Dixon

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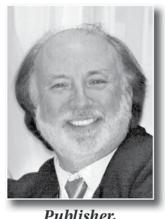
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- 6. Bad wishes
- 10. Type of shark
- 11. Damien's prediction 12. To put a girdle on
- 24. Like a Zoom session 25. Port of old Rome 26. of dreams?
- Classic
- 38. Prickle on a wire 42. "Super" Christopher
- 45. Definitely
- 49. p in mpg 51. Glittery decoration

### **Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7**

- **ACROSS** Locker room infection Vow at #41 Across
- 14. Salmon on a bagel 15. Hindu religious teacher 16. To the left, on a boat
- 17. Hula dancer's necklace 18. Cheryl Strayed on the Pacific Crest Trail, e.g.
- Series team 21. \*Infield shape 23. Acronym, abbr. 24. Make or break, e.g.
- 35. Make children
- 41. Location of #6 Across
- movement
- 53. Like time with Bill Maher champions 61. \*Won in NLCS or ALCS
- 68. Styluses
- 72. Let it stand, to
- 1. Kill
- 4. Winter cover 5. Of advanced technology
- v. Nitrous \_\_\_\_\_, a.k.a. laughing gas 9. Sink or this?
- 15. Showing signs of wear and tear \_ Jong 22. Retirement plan acronym
- 27. Let out of jail 31. \*Runner's destination 32. Frankincense and myrrh, but
- not gold 33. Adjust, as laces 34. Between rain and snow 36 Outback birds

- 16
  - 40
  - 70

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C StatePoint Media 54. Digression 56. Bone hollows 57. Young female socialites, for short 58. Fail to mention 59. Earnhardt of racing fame

60. Coating of aurum 61. Attention-getting sound 62. Pirates' affirmatives 63. \*ALCS counterpart 64. \*Nickname of Red Sox manager who won two World Series 67. "\_\_\_\_ the season ..."

dish 🕰

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9

**Solutions on Page 7** 

**Dixon Independent Voice** 8 · OCTOBER 1, 2021

## Mike Ceremello Bids for City Clerk



Mike Ceremello

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Mike Ceremello, who has made watching Dixon government his civic duty for three decades after moving here in 1991 while doing an MBA at UC Davis, is hoping to win your vote for Dixon City Clerk.

He wants the job so he can ensure the job is done right. And, you can't do that if you don't know what the state says the job entails, he said, or if the City Council-directed by the City Manager-strips those duties from the local resolution.

"I am a civic activist and it is my full time job," he said. "I attend almost all City Council meetings and most Planning Commission meetings. I was elected to City Council and served as Councilman 2008-2012." Ceremello has also served on numerous committees including the wastewater committee and the general plan advisory committee. He holds three bachelor degrees: Finance, Geology, and Plants Science.

He feels strongly that an "injustice" was caused by an improperly trained

City Clerk as witnessed when a former City Clerk released private information from a petition signed by numerous local citizens and submitted to the City a few years ago against a sewer rate hike.

"The City Clerk is not appropriately trained," he said. "She is doing what she is ordered to do because she is under the city manager's and city attornev's thumbs. That's one of the main reasons we the people wanted to make this an elected position. We need to get that out from under the city manager's thumb because that person has to rely on him to keep his or her job. So, they are not going to be on the side of the public-but the City Clerk is supposed to be the intermediary of the people and the City," he explained.

When the public was made aware of the impropriety and a push for an elected City Clerk was made by the Solano Taxpayers Association and hundreds of voters passed Measure T, the City Council directed staff to modify the job description which basically "stripped" the position of any significant duties and created a new "Administrative City Clerk" position for current City Clerk Lupe Ruiz.

"They illegally took away those duties," said Ceremello, "Just like they took away the duties of the City Treasurer when I ran for City Treasurer in 2016. I want to know what they are hiding? There is a lack of trust," he said with exasperation.

"I want to create trust and provide the services to the citizens that they deserve; provide transparency; and I want to do the job efficiently and effectively according to professional organizations," he said. "I will try to get the duties back and I'm planning to get a City

Clerk Certification." On Nov. 2, a special election for City Clerk will be held in Dixon with only the City Clerk vote between current appointed Elected City Clerk Kristin Janisch and Ceremello on the ballot. It is only for a one-year position the first year, then it gets on a regular election cycle and will then be elected every four years after that.

"Another reason I'm running is that I'm trying to make sure that the Brown Act and Election Laws are followed, which has been a problem," he said. "I had to file a complaint for illegally putting the City Police Chief and Fire Chief's presentation at a council meeting (about July 4) when they were not on the agenda. It didn't meet the qualifications for being urgent. The investigator sent correspondence to [City Attorney] Doug White but the City Council didn't know anything about it. I've had to turn into an investigator. I can't take their word for anything." He hopes he can

change that. Ceremello's other work includes handling a widerange of tasks including real estate investments. He and his wife live in Dixon and are homeowners.

## Riley Reviews

#### "CRY MACHO" A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY FOR AN OLD COWBOY

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

#### "CRY MACHO" RATED PG-13

At the age of 91, Clint Eastwood is not just an institution but an actor and director, performing double duty in his latest film "Cry Macho," with an apparent desire to outlast all of his contemporaries.

We should not begrudge Eastwood's wish to keep working; instead, his work ethic is something to be admired. While he will never play Dirty Harry again, nor appear in a spaghetti western, his characters will likely be more like the ones in "Gran Torino" and "The Mule."

The artwork for the film's poster features an iconic pose of Eastwood that suggests a throwback to his early Westerns, but "Cry Macho" is not the story of a righteous gunslinger roaming the range.

"Cry Macho" is the right fit for him at this point in his career. Eastwood's Texas cowboy Mike Milo is a former rodeo star and has-been horse breeder who, in 1979, reluctantly takes an assignment from his old boss to venture south of the border.

Wealthy rancher Howard Polk (Dwight Yoakum), a year after firing Mike as his horse trainer, comes to him for the dubious task of retrieving his estranged teenage son Rafo (Eduardo Minett) from the care of his crazy Mexican ex-wife Leta (Fernanda Urrejola) in Mexico City.

While Mike has no particular fondness for his old boss, he feels obligated to return a favor to the person who gave him a job after a severe injury ended his riding career, which was followed by the loss of his wife and son.

One senses that the long drive on the dusty roads all the way to Mexico City presages a rockier trip back home after arriving at the destination of Leta's mansion where the boy's decadent and alcoholic mother is protected by menacing bodyguards.

Leta warns that Rafo is a delinquent who has a passion for entering his prize fighter rooster named "Macho" in illegal cockfights. Rafo could be involved in other illicit affairs, but mama seems not to care.

When Mike resists a drunken advance in her bedroom, Leta is no longer hospitable, and at this point it's also fairly evident that she will become vengeful and task one of her henchmen in pursuit back to the border.

As the kid survives on the streets of the big city, Rafo is quickly found at a cockfight and proves reluctant at first to go with Mike to Texas until a tentative bond is formed with the promise of having his own horse on a ranch.

What happens next is a journey through the backroads where delays occur because turn out more films.

of transportation difficulties and pursuit by the federales and Leta's thug, the latter discovering that the aging Mike still has a nice right hook.

That the nonagenarian still has a few moves, as unlikely that may be in the romance department, becomes part of the story when Mike and Rafo stumble upon a desert small town where the cantina is run by the widowed Marta (Natalia Traven).

Enjoying the hospitality afforded by Marta, a woman about half the age of Mike who is also raising her orphaned granddaughters, the two travelers decide to hang around the village for a while, even camping out on the benches of a small church.

Perchance, Mike enjoys the flirtation that blossoms with the cantina owner. Other things bind him to the village. Mike finds purpose with helping a local to tame some wild horses, and pretty soon he becomes a Dr. Dolittle by helping others with their sick pets and farm animals.

The chemistry between the veteran cowboy and the kid may seem perfunctory but it revolves around the trust that comes from overcoming shared adversities on the road, and with Mike imparting occasional wisdom such as saying "the macho thing is overrated."

With Mike and Rafo spending so much time together, conversation turns to forming a bond where the two learn something from each other. When the kid claims Mexicans ride horses better than gringos, Mike quickly reminds him that he's half-gringo.

The heart of the film is most moving and satisfying during the sojourn in the small dusty town, where Mike connects easily with people who don't even speak English or when he communicates with one of Marta's deaf grandchildren through sign language.

Other than a thug trying to tangle with Mike or suspicious federales poking around, "Cry Macho" is devoid of gunfights, brawls, exciting car chases and other staples of an action film.

Clint Eastwood has directed a slowpaced trip through the picturesque desert terrain that would be fitting for a Western, but it's a sentimental journey of redemption and second chances for both the cowboy and the kid.

The wisdom of "Cry Macho" comes when Mike says to Rafo, "You think you have all the answers, but then you get older and realize you don't have any. By the time you figure it out, it's too late." Let's hope it's not too late for Eastwood to

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF THE DIXON PLANNING COMMISSION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Dixon Planning Commission ("Planning Commission") will conduct a public hearing at a regular meeting on October 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54950 et seq.), and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, to consider Planning Application (21-24) requesting Design Review (21-08) approval for six model homes for Homestead Phase 2A and Phase 2B Villages 6, 7, 9, and 10, with four available styles for each model (Spanish, Farmhouse, Modern Farmhouse, and Craftsman). The homes will have additional development options and represent a total of 302 lots. These villages of the subdivision have general zoning designations of Singlefamily Residential (R1) and Planned Multiple Residential (PMR). The General Plan and Specific Plan land use designations are Low Density Residential (LDR) and Medium Density Residential (PMR). Pursuant to Sections 18.05.120 and 18.14.150 and Chapter 18.23 of the Dixon Municipal Code (DMC), Design Review is required to assist in the development of new residences in these zoning districts. While the subdivision map for this phase has been recorded, the new Assessor's Parcel Numbers are not presently available. The prior APNs however were 0114-011-010, -030, -040, and -150.

This notice has been sent to property owners within 500 feet of the project's location.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend the October 12, 2021 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 recommendation on the application. This meeting will be physically open to the public. All members of the public may participate in the meeting by attending the hearing or submitting written or emailed comments prior to the meeting. The Staff reports(s) and supporting document(s) will be provided in the agenda packet for the October 12, 2021 Planning Commission meeting, which will be posted at least three (3) days before the meeting on the city's meetings page at https://www.cityofdixon.us/MeetingAgendasMinutesVideos.

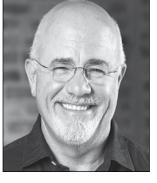
Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the public meeting process. Any person requiring special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

Interested individuals will be given an opportunity to speak in favor or in opposition to the above-proposed action. Written comments are also accepted prior to the meeting by mail at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620 or by email at the email address below. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be provided to interested individuals upon request. If a challenge to the above proposed action is made in court, persons may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City before the meeting.

Copies of the proposed application will be available, upon request. If you have any questions, please call Scott Greeley, at (707) 678-7000 x1115 or sgreeley@cityofdixon.us.

Dixon Independent Voice 10-1-2021

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#### The Zero-Based Budget

I have a good job and make pretty good money, but I'm tired of always worrying about my finances and being strapped for cash at the end of the month. I've heard you talk about getting out of debt and living on a zero-based budget, but what exactly is a zero-based budget?

Edward

Dear Edward,

The concept of a zerobased budget is simple: income minus outgo equals zero. If you bring home \$4,000 a month, you want everything you spend, save, give and invest to equal \$4,000. That way, you know where every one of your dollars is going. Not knowing where the money's going is what kills lots of people's financial dreams. They think they know how much they're If you're spending more spending and where it's than you make, you need going, but they really don't. to make some cuts in your

#### **Dave Ramsey Says**

Here's how you do spending. If you need to it. List all your income sources for the month. Your income should include paychecks, small-business income, side jobs, residual income, child support and so on. If it's money that comes into your household's bank account, write it down and add it up.

Next, list every single expense you have each month. Rent, food, cable, phones and everything in between. Your expenses vary from one month to the next, and this is why you make a new budget each month. Your giving budget might be high in December when Christmas rolls around. The car budget will spike during months when you pay insurance or renew your tags. Focus on one month at a time.

Now, subtract your expenses from your income. Ideally, this number will be zero. It might take a few months of practice, so don't worry if it doesn't balance out immediately. If it doesn't, it something to bring one of the numbers up, the other one down -or both.

generate more money, get a part-time job or sell a bunch of stuff.

The deal with a zerobased budget is this: every dollar must have a name. That means every dollar has a designated job to do. If you fill out every item in your budget and come out \$100 ahead – meaning you have nothing for that \$100 to do – you haven't finished your budget. You have to find a job for that \$100. It's your decision what it does, but if you don't give it a name and purpose, you'll end up blowing it and wondering where it went.

Good luck, Edward!

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 just means you need to do 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.



## WEEKLY COMICS











The Spats I WORKED MY





Out on a Limb

R.F.D.

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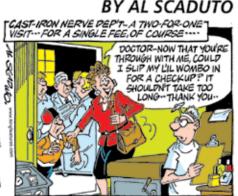
SIM?



LUCKILY THEY

by Mike Marland





EVER HAPPEN TO YOU? THEY DON'T SIT TOGETHER, BUT THEY TALK ACROSS YOU LIKE YOU

.. AN' HOW'S YOUR GOLF YEAH! JUST GREAT! HOW ABOUT A LITTLE POKER GAME GAME? HEY! YOU GOIN TONIGHT? IS YOUR OUTFI MOVING? Y'KNOW TO THE LODGE DANC HOW'S YOUR ULCER DIRTA HEAR ABOUT WHO TOLD ME ARROS WIFE? WELL CHICAGO, ILI



YUP. GONNA BE THERE

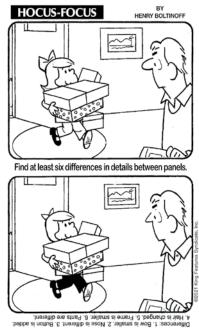
FOR AWHILE

"We always discussed things sensibly, until he started talking!



"Anyone turned in a snapping turtle lately?"





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**Dixon Independent Voice 10 · OCTOBER 1, 2021** 

# Open Your Wallets

## California Legislature passes 21 bills

ByLaurel Rosenhall, CalMatters.org

The second year of the coronavirus pandemic in California was shaped by two political undercurrents at the state Capitol: a budget awash with cash, thanks to a booming stock market and federal aid, and a looming recall election asking voters to throw Gov. Gavin Newsom out of office.

The massive budget surplus allowed Newsom and legislative Democrats to go big on a progressive agenda they believe will help the state recover from COVID hardships. They passed a \$262.6 billion budget that includes preschool for all 4-yearolds, health insurance for low-income undocumented immigrants age 50 and older, and \$600 stimulus payments for most Californians - landing in bank accounts just weeks before the Sept. 14 recall election.

Newsom found himself with so many dollars to spend that he gave away \$115 million to encourage Californians to get the COVID-19 vaccine with a series of game-show style lotteries.

But gobs of money and Democrats' supermajority didn't make everyliberal Democrats stymied many proposals. The recall threat also may have doomed some



The massive budget surplus allowed Newsom and legislative Democrats to go big on a progressive agenda they believe will help the state recover from COVID

legislation that might Progressive legislation have reflected unfavorably upon California and its governor. Bills that stalled included proposals to create single-payer health care, ban corporate donations to political candidates, legalize psychedelic drugs, sanction thing possible. Tensions clinics where addicts between moderate and can use illegal drugs under medical supervision, and allow people to turn their bodies into gar-

hardships. Photo credit Anne Lowe

to allow more offenders to have their records expunged and overhaul the bail system also stalled amid concerns over California's rising murder rate and an especially brutal killing in Sacramento.

With epic wildfires burning in a state stricken by drought, lawmakers approved \$1 billion for wildfire prevention

called for reducing greenhouse gas emissions beyond current mandates, which officials have said California is already tors were forced to vote not on pace to meet. remotely because of a Democratic Senate leader Toni Atkins told reporters Assemblymembers were after the last night of the required to vote in person, session wrapped up that such ambitious legislation may take more time to negotiate, and she expects that to continue next year.

The final night was den compost after death. but rejected a bill that unusually subdued a hazmat crew called in Newsom's hands.

compared with the chaos of the last two years. At the end of 2020, Republican sena-COVID infection while prompting one to make a late-night floor speech cradling her newborn baby. Not to mention the previous year, when the Senate was evacuated and

after an anti-vaccine protester tossed a menstrual cup of blood from the overhead gallery, splattering senators.

Amid the relative calm of 2021, lawmakers managed to send the governor hundreds of bills, which he has until Oct. 10 to sign or veto. Even if voters oust him on Sept. 14, the transition period of as long as 38 days means the fate of these bills is in







