

# Learning to Overcome is a Big Advantage PAGE 3

Happy Father's Day!





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# SEE INSIDE

# DFS THANKS YOU FOR MAKING DRIVE AND DINE A HUGE SUCCESS!



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# HABITAT FOR HUMANITY'S RESTORE VICTIM OF SEVERAL BURGLARIES



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# A Celebration for the Learned



Principal Stephanie Marquez congratulates Khayree Cobb Wilson on his graduation. Photo by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - It was an outdoor graduation ceremony that a lot of students feared might not come, but last Saturday couldn't have been more perfect from the spring-like weather to the high school band's rendition of Sir Edward Elgar's 'Pomp and Circumstance.'

Principal Stephanie Marquez greeted Dixon High School graduates on Finney Field along with their parents, families, and friends who filled the bleachers on both sides while students marched in wearing their green robes for all to see. She began with an appreciation for those that helped get the students to this point.

"You are in your seats today because of 13 years of education, but you didn't get here without help," she said, adding recognition of staff, faculty, administration, and volunteers. "I also thank the community that has consistently invested in you," she emphasized.

This class was particularly special to her, she said, as they were freshmen when she first became Principal.

"I will never, ever, ever forget your faces!" she said, choking back the rush of emotions. "And, I'll never forget the look on your faces on March 13, 2020 when school closed." She reminisced about learning Zoom and ChromeBooks and struggling to provide some of the kind of traditions they deserved.

"It was like you were stuck in some kind of huge medusa ride dangling upside down," she said. "But now, you're on solid ground. You are graduating with your whole life in front of you and you are better and stronger than we were at your age." After giving advice to not look back, engage, take risks, learn, love, give, be brave, and speak up, she introduced the Distinguished Scholars.

Dixon High School replaced the Valedictorian tradition several years back with honoring all students who receive 4.0 or above grade point averages. This year, Marquez said, there were 43 of those.

Liliana Ascencio, the Associated Student Body President gave a speech titled, 'Rewriting History' and spoke of this past year that Netflix and their beds were the only things that held them together. "What we learned is that we needed each other," she said. Students began intermittent processions to pick up their diplomas and families could be heard shouting praise and amidst bull horns and confetti cannons.

Continued on page 4

# Speaking Up for Children

JUNE 18, **2021** 

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The young couple both had a history of homelessness and drug abuse but had got married and started attending a church in an effort to straighten out their lives. But, when the man lost his job, it didn't take long for his 'friends' to influence him back into an addictive lifestyle, chaos and crime and ultimately their two children were taken under guardianship while they both entered programs for parenting. One can imagine the impact on the young children to be taken away from their home by an order of the court.

In 1977 there was a judge who had to decide the fate of some children and was troubled by the decisions he needed to make. He said, "I don't know these children." That was the beginning of a nation-wide movement among judges and attorneys who started working on a plan within the court system to do a better job taking care of children whose parents have not.

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates and is a program that trains volunteers to spend 12 hours a month with a child--that is three hours a week talking to them and getting to know them so that they can file a report with the court so the judge can be told more about the children and their situation before making any ruling.

There are people who have a heart for children and some especially gracious people who open their homes to foster children who aren't theirs, but CASA is not about foster care or even adoption. The Court Appointed Special Advocates are about building a relationship with a child who has suffered from abuse or neglect in their home while the child's parents receive help.

"This isn't about being a Disneyland Dad; it's about quality one-onone time," said Candy Pierce, Executive Director for CASA. "Every year about 500 children come into foster care in Solano County and of those, at least half need a CASA volunteer. Currently, we have 125 volunteers. There is a great need for more. We serve a lot of children, but we haven't served enough children." There are children from all seven cities in the county in the program who are suffering from abuse or neglect. While the goal is to get the child back to the parents,

Continued on page 10

# DCC's Helping Hands Moves to New Location

By Debra Dingman

policy one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be." Deuteronomy 15:7-8

Several years ago, the church choir room at Dixon Community Church was changed into a clothing closet and has opened and closed a few times since. But when Miranda Barber offered to re-start it recently under the name of "Helping Hands," it has gained a couple other steady volunteers including her best friend, Rebecca Klinkovsky. and remains a steadfast service in the community to help the less

fortunate.

"For years, no one was running the program but we were still



Donations of food are also distributed at the Helping Hands Closet that just moved to a more central location in town: 700 North Adams Street. Photo by Debra Dingman

getting donations," Barber explained. "It took us three months just to sort through it all." They also discovered they needed more space.

Barber has accolades for the new Pastoral team of Kevin and Kim Johnson at Dixon Community Church who authorized and supported the move for the clothing closet's new place at 700 North Adams Street – putting them closer to the people who need their service, she said. It's also easier for volunteers to come by and help out – which has already happened with Melanie Wright and her two children. Although, don't look for a sign. It isn't there yet but they are working on that.

The long kitchen at the facility has numerous tables holding boxes or Continued on page 10

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# Life's too SHORT

# Make it Memorable for Fathers

By Debra Dingman

Happy Father's Day to Dixon dads and to men who have played the role - including stepfathers, granddads, uncles, et al. In all my adult life, the role of father has been emphasized in studies, writings, and examples as the single most significant factor in a child's success.

Becoming a father often makes men be more creative and fun. Our children often inspire us to do silly and crazy things to make them laugh and experience delight. Fathers will coach their child's sports teams or take their child fishing, hiking, or on trains, etc. to create skills, knowledge, or positive family experiences.

I remember reading in one of my books years ago the need to "make memories" by planning out very special surprises or trips - which we have done. A few years ago, hubby David took stepson Devon and I on a rafting trip down the Sacramento River.

We'll never forget it because it was a very hot sunny day and we misjudged how far we could make it by nightfall. We had to climb out into nowhere-land complete with dark shrubbery and get a taxi. Devon thought it was an adventure.

**Nearby Dad's Day Fun** 

Just in case you were looking for a unique experience to share with Dad. I know of very few men who wouldn't enjoy a trip to the California State Railroad Museum. It is close by in Sacramento, doesn't need reservations, and can provide at least two hours of entertainment if one takes the time to see all the exhibits iust not until AFTER this weekend, though, since there is a huge "Strong Man" competition taking up the area now, I've learned.

Other times, though, there is close by parking for \$6 to \$10.

We are planning to take the train ride offered as part of our annual membership. I went seeking such memberships when my older children made clear to me that "experiences" made better gifts for birthdays or Christmas.

I chose the "Conductor's Member-ship" at \$110 annual because it allowed two adults admission and the member's children or grandchildren under the age of 18. BUT, here was the clincher: It also allowed two additional guests. Since our group usually involves a stroller, I knew I could take a girlfriend and her grandchildren.

Or, if the parents wanted to make a day of

it and go with us, they could at no additional charge. For a whole year with winter rainy days as well as super hot ones, this close by attraction is a great place for us to go.

This level also includes discounted excursion train rides on the Sacramento Southern Railroad. Train rides include closed coach cars, open-air gondolas and a first-class observation car pulled by either Granite Rock No. 10 steam locomotive or one of the vintage diesel locomotives from the Museum's collection. Wouldn't it be fun to reserve the entire First Class car? For a regularly scheduled train ride April through September, you can contact info@ csrmf.org.

While we were in Dallas, we regularly hopped on train-looking trolleys to go across town and it was a delight every time and we did go on the train from Woodland into Sacramento years ago and the best experience was our train ride to Denver, Colorado with a sleeper. I am certain having the railroad fun available to us for an entire year will be wonderful.

With all the many places in Old Sacramento to enjoy great lunches or dinners, this is a Father's Day

# Habitat for Humanity's ReStore is Victim of Several Burglaries



By Kathy Hoffman, Habitat for Humanity

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) - Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity's popular home improvement business in Fairfield, ReStore, has been burglarized several times in the last few months. Thefts include four catalytic converters and a battery removed from the store's donation trucks, as well as a store safe and retail merchandise. In addition, the store was vandalized twice with broken windows and additional merchandise stolen. The damages and financial losses from these incidents total over \$14,000.

"ReStore exists to raise funds to support our efforts to build local affordable housing," said ReStore Manager Mike Glancy. "Our staff and volunteers work very hard to make our store a success, so it is especially hard on them when thefts like these occur."

Habitat's Fairfield ReStore celebrates its 10th anniversary this year and is emerging from the pandemic stronger than ever. Volunteers are now welcome to return and help operate the store, which will help minimize these unfortunate losses so more net proceeds can help build homes for hardworking low-income families.

Earlier this year, Solano-Napa Habitat for Humanity finished its second Veterans' Residence, this one in Rio Vista, which permanently houses six formerly homeless Veterans. The organization also just secured land from the Fairfield Housing Authority and the three single-family home development proposed for the property will be made possible by funding from the County of Solano.

"Although these recent thefts at our ReStore can feel discouraging for our staff and volunteers, we also understand these are difficult times for many people," said Executive Director Andrew Killeen. "We are grateful for the incredible support of our Habitat community who will no doubt step up and help us continue to build homes for local, deserving families. These incidents help underscore the importance of our mission and how critical it is that people have access to safe, affordable places to live and thrive as contributing members of our communities."

To learn more about Habitat's mission and volunteer opportunities, or to make a donation to help cover the recent losses, visit SolanoNapaHabitat.org/contribute or call 707-422-1948.

# **Dixon News Briefs**

#### **Parks Meeting**

On Tuesday, June 22, at 7 pm via Zoom, the Parks and Recreation Commission will be

All members of the public may participate in the meeting via video conferencing by going to the city website and clicking on the zoom link and "raising your hand" for questions or comments. Or, by calling (669) 900-9128, meeting ID: 988 621 1137, passcode 604754 and you will be given the opportunity to provide public comment.

To speak during the public comment via video conferencing, press \*9 or you can email questions and comments to publiccomment@cityofdixon.us. Good luck.

### **Library Visits**

The Dixon Public Library no longer requires appointments, and you are welcome to come browse books for your favorite reading. You still need to wear a mask at this time and practice social distancing. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 6 pm and Fridays are 9 am to 5 pm. They are not open on Saturdays yet. The library is located at 230 North First Street.

### No Fireworks Display

Rotary Club has announced that they will again forgo the Fireworks Show normally held in Hall Park due to Coronavirus concerns. They reported that after consulting with City staff and carefully considering logistical and safety mandates, that the event be postponed but are hopeful for a future date as state restrictions continue to lift.

### Lap Swim

Through the summer, Lap Swim is being

offered Monday through Friday from 5:30 am or 6:30 am for 55 minutes each. There is also a Lap Swim on Friday afternoons from 3 to 4 pm. These are co-ed and for ages 14

Cost is \$4.75 per person and there is a senior discount for 55 years and up for \$1 off. Register online at the city website: www. cityofdixon.us. Drop-ins are not allowed. A Covid-19 self check is required prior to arriving at the pool. Restrooms are for emergency only and all participants must enter through the front gate and exit at the rear gate.

You are asked to review all requirements efore coming to enjoy your swim. Lap Swim is held at the Pat Granucci Aquatic Center at 450 E. Mayes St. in Hall Park. Call (707) 678-7441 or email ageorge@cityofdixon.us for more information.

### Tennis Camp

The Tennis Camp from June 18 to July 2 at Hall Park is open to all players, ages 5 to 17 years and all levels are welcome. Goals include sharpening specific skills, drilling and point play, increasing fitness level, strengthening mental toughness, improving athletic ability and working hard and having fun!

The daily schedule looks like this: 9 - 9:30 am Check-in & Dynamic Warm-up; 9:30 -10:45 am Tennis Activities; Drills, Games & Skill Development 10:45 - 11:15 am; Chalk Talk & Snack Break 11:15 - 11:45 am; Point Play & Team Tennis 11:45 to 12 noon; then End of Day Games

For more details about camp contact Lukas Burger at (530) 219-6259 or email at lburgertennis@gmail.com. Burger is certified by the USPTA, PTR, and ICI, and is the 2018 NorCal Junior Coach of the Year.





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# Learning to Overcome is a Big Advantage



Maine Prairie High School graduates Alexis Golecki, Isaac Chewning, Tre Brown, and Jewel Dunning proudly pose with family members after their ceremony last week. Photo by Debra Dingman



Maine Prairie graduates ready for the flag salute at the beginning of their graduation ceremony. Photo by Debra Dingman

#### By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Maine Prairie High School students filed into their graduation ceremony to the traditional tune of "Pomp and Circumstance" last week amid the usual cheers of support from family and friends, but got unusually special recognition from their teachers.

"What a year it has been and we are truly excited to be here in person with you," enthused Principal Yvette Ramos who leads the public, alternative high school on East C Street. "Overcoming is one of your biggest advantages. You've experienced political and racial turmoil, and you are graduating during a pandemic," she said in her welcome to event guests.

"Your drive, perseverance, and willpower to endure is greater than any barriers. Your willpower is irrevocable and you are an unstoppable force," she added.

From a stage decorated with large floral displays

and a pillar of maroon, white, and black balloons on the black top of the simple school campus, she told the large audience that this was the one and only graduation to take place there as in the past it was held at Dixon High School and next year they would be at their new facility after the renovation of the former CA Jacobs Middle School.

Brian Dolan, Superintendent of Dixon Unified Schools, congratulated students and gave pats on the backs after they were handed diplomas from School Board Representatives Jewel Fink, Caitlin O'Halloran, and Melissa Maseda.

Student Isaac Chewning recognized Susana Perez, Instructional Assistant and Parent Liaison along with Instructional Assistant Julie Skaug for their support and guidance to help him get to graduate.

"I will be forever grateful for them," he said. Then, each teacher introduced a few students telling the audience something about their personality that made them successful, shared the student's goals, or their favorite saying.

Teacher Isabel Brice, read the quote chosen by Isaiah Tripp who came into the program late this school year, "I am ready to face any challenge that might be foolish enough to face me." She commended him for being willing to ask for help and to receive it, she said.

Jesus Cabrera was described as a quiet student who plans on studying Marine Biology. Yuridia Espinosa has worked hard after setbacks and is planning to attend Woodland Community College to study accounting. Steven Anderson was extolled for making online learning fun.

"In a sea of black squares, yours sparkled and I wondered how is it that this one person did the heavy lifting? You brightened every morning," one of his teachers said. Stacie Anderson's teacher knew that whatever this student wanted, she would get it – and that aerospace

engineering won't see her

"The students before you are today's superheroes," said Science teacher Dina Flamik. "Congratulations students! You did it!"

Maine Prairie is an alternative high school diploma program. Many students in continuing education are behind in high school credits. Others may need a flexible school schedule because they have jobs outside of school. Some students choose this school because of family needs or other circumstances.

Students who attend continuation high schools must spend at least 15 hours per week or three hours per day at school. They take courses that are required for graduation. They also receive guidance and career counseling. The class ratio is significantly lower than Dixon High with about 15 students per teacher and that provides more personal and condensed instruction.

Class of 2021 Maine Prairie graduates are:



Jewel Dunning, along with other graduates, moves the tassel on her graduation cap to the other side as instructed by MPHS Principal Yvette Ramos. Photo by Debra Dingman

Anderson, Leonardo Cerna, Joel Chambers, Isaac Chewning, Jewel Dunning, Dante Frutos. Jesus Galvez, Diana Garcia, Michael Gastelum, David Godwin, Alexis Golecki-Chavarria,

Emma Gordon, Kaliana Hernandez, Kasondra Stacie Andersen, Steven Hernandez, Oscar

Hernandez, Susana Leon, Priscilla Marroquin, Gabriel Martinez, David Mayer, Chantel Ramirez Rodriguez, Cecilia Rangel, Alondra Rodriguez, Scarlett Sanchez, Isabella Sequeria, Antonia Spiegel, Bryan Torres Valdez, Isaiah Tripp, Eden Urias Chavez, and Julie West. ★



With teens spending more time at home, the temptation to have a few sips of liquor or sneak a beer is ever present.

The best way to stop youth alcohol abuse, drunk driving and other risky behavior is prevention.

Secure your alcohol in a locked cabinet, keep track of what's in your fridge and talk to your kids about the consequences.

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Learn more tips on how to keep your family safe at:

vibesolano.com/alcohol

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# A Celebration for the Learned

Continued from page 1

Mariela Ruvalcaba talked about 'The Process,' reminding students that "they are closer than they can imagine to their goals" but to understand that failing is part of the process to succeed. She then repeated her talk in Spanish which earned a huge roar of foot stomping and applause from the stands.

"This year was absolutely terrible," said speaker Jessica Sutherland. "Nothing is guaranteed and tomorrow is never promised." She advised fellow grads to pursue life to the fullest.

The last speaker was Mia Crain who said the class was a "new breed."

"We were all made stronger and more

resilient than ever," she said. "We've learned to view everything as a learning experience."

"Take a deep breath. We finally made it," she concluded. Principal Marquez gave the closing remarks saying that they had "celebrated, grieved, and groaned.

"I can't wait to see who you will become,"

she said and with great anticipation, instructed the students to pass their tassels to the opposite side of their mortar boards and declared them officially graduated.

An estimated one thousand ecstatic family and friends funneled out of the stadium for photo ops and many hugs of congratulations.



Aubree Higgins carried an American flag in honor of her grandfather and got a special congratulation from Superintendent Brian Dolan. Photo by Nicolas Brown



DHS grad Manuel Alvarez relaxes in the sun while waiting to be called to receive his diploma.



Many of the 190 Dixon High School seniors sported brightly decorated graduation caps at Finney Field, the school's sports stadium, last Saturday. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Superintendent Brian Dolan congratulates Marcus Ochoa at last week's graduation ceremony.

# **Rotary Supports Kids Auction**



check from Marc Monachello, Dixon Rotary President. Dixon Rotary donated \$1,000 to Bids for Kids to help in their efforts with the Junior Livestock Auctions in Solano County. The Solano County Fair Junior Livestock Auction opens this Friday, June 18 and starts closing on Saturday, June 19, 1:30 pm. For more information regarding B4K visit www. bidsforkidssolano.org. Photo by Janice Beaman

# James Fuller, President of Bids for Kids with his sons, Ross and Matthew receive a big

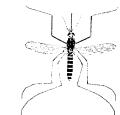


# **Worship Services at** 10:30 am Sundays

Small Groups meet throughout the week. Tuesday Children's Adventure Bay - 6:30 pm

Frank Salamone - Pastor/Teacher Sheila Dybdahl - Children's Minister

185 W. Cherry St. • Dixon • 707-678-5234 www.cornerstoneindixon.com



### of Becoming Infected with the West Nile Virus

A number of types of sources found within residential neighborhoods are capable of producing enough adult mosquitoes to bother not only the residents of one home but a number of homes in the area. These mosquitoes are also capable of transmitting West Nile virus! Water left standing for seven to ten days can produce mosquitoes during warmer weather. There are a number of simple precautions that can be taken to prevent this from happening...

WHAT TO DO...

Repair or replace defective parts immediately.

Seal and cover all openings and screen vents.

Fill if possible or provide adequate drainage.

Drain-off excess water or invert if not in use.

Install sump pump and provide drainage if possible.

Maintain roof gutters and down spouts clear of debris.

### **TYPE OF SOURCE**

Leaking faucets and broken pipes:

Water under buildings:

Roof gutters:

Septic tanks:

Impounded water:

Flower pots:

Swimming pools & Hot tubs:

Wading pools:

Bird baths:

Tree holes:

Water troughs:

Boats:

Containers:

Lawns:

Swimming pool covers:

Ornamental ponds:

Change water weekly. When not in use turn upside

Use filter and skimmer daily to remove egg rafts and larvae. Chlorine will not kill mosquito larvae. Provide drainage for filter and sump pumps. When not in use,

Tighten cover to prevent sagging.

Stock with mosquito fish and remove excess vegetation such as leaves, and thin pond lilies occasionally. Maintain even water level. Screen inlet on recirculation pump. When cleaning pond, transfer to glass bowl chlorine kills fish. If pond is no longer desired, make

Change water frequently, preferably every 2-3 days

possible - when in doubt, call a tree surgeon.

holes in bottom and fill with dirt or sand.

Avoid over watering.

cover tightly.

Fill with a polymer such as Soil Moist or Broadleaf P4 granules which absorb water - can last for years, available at garden supply stores, sand or dirt, drain if

Change water weekly or stock with mosquito fish.

Use a water tight cover or store upside down.

Dispose of all unused containers that can collect rain or irrigation water such as tin cans, jars, barrels, buckets, old tires and tubs. Gardening containers such as vases and buckets should be stored upside down.

Solano County Mosquito Abatement District 707.437.1116

solanomosquito.com

**Dixon Independent Voice** JUNE 18, **2021 · 5** 



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

# **Sunny Song Will Never Be Famous**

by Suzanne Park

After an embarrassing moment goes viral on Sunny Song aka #gogglegirl's YouTube channel, her summer plans quickly go awry. At first, it was just the headmaster at her perfectly groomed Westminster Prep that seemed to have an issue with her social media presence during school hours. Then, after he threatened expulsion, Sunny's parents decide it was time to take drastic measures. Sunny knew being a social media influencer took a lot of her time. Still, she was paving her future with company's paying her to be brand ambassadors, and even colleges were paying attention. Sunny Song needed her social media accounts!

Before she knew it, Sunny was sent to detox camp. No phones, no WIFI, and no social media presence of any type. Now, instead of filming videos for her YouTube channel and entering one of the largest social media contests, Sunny was stuck on a farm in the middle of Iowa. Even worse, Sunny was trapped within a camp full of pretentious megainfluencers. Then, the cute, charming farm boy



- ♦ Publisher: Sourcebooks Fire
- ♦ Hardcover, 352 pages ♦ Intended Audience:
  - Young Adult
- ♦ Rating: ♥♥♥♥

Theo walks in. Maybe everything isn't a complete loss, especially if she can find a way to log onto wifi with her secret phone. Although Sunny quickly realizes that finding a signal isn't her biggest problem, the girl nicknamed "side-braid" has ulterior motives, and they are all focused on getting Sunny Song kicked out. Yet, even with everything stack against her, Sunny starts to see that there might be more to the cute farm boy, and maybe she can handle unplugging, disconnecting, and rediscovering the world around her, especially if it involves the boy standing right in front of her.

Sunny Song Will Never Be Famous

light-hearted read of the summer. Taking an inside look at the way social media can encompass our lives, as well as the power of taking it back. Suzanne Park delivers a cast of characters that readers will love, as well as love to hate. Providing honest and realistic teens that aren't perfect, even if they want others to believe they are. Sunny Song is a character that readers can relate to; passionate and driven, Sunny knows she can't disappoint her family, but also has the desire to follow her passion. Theo is charming in every way, down to earth, and without any social media presence. But this story isn't as easy as girl-meets-boy and they fall in love. There are quite a few mistakes, backstabbing, and competition, along with a few surprise friendships and a whole cast of characters that will make readers laugh. If you are looking for a fun read that will whisk you away to a sweet midwestern farm, this is the one for you.

is the delightfully,

\*This book is also available on audio through the Solano County Library's hoopla

# **Newsom Owes Apology** for EDD's Failings?



By Dan Walters **CALMatters** 

Were Gov. Gavin Newsom as humble as he often proclaims to be, he would interrupt his take home \$600 twice a "California Comeback" campaign long enough to issue a personal apology to hundreds of thousands of Californians who remain mired in the managerial meltdown at the **Employment Development** Department.

Yes, as Newsom constantly reminds us, the threat from COVID-19 has diminished and the state's battered economy is slowly recovering. Nevertheless, California has the nation's second highest unemployment rate and well over a million California workers are still jobless, many of whom qualify for unemployment insurresolved.

about economic issues, including yours truly, receive steady streams of emails from frustrated claimants who can't get their calls answered and/or have their benefits frozen for reasons that are never explained.

"Lindsay" typifies the sad syndrome. She worked for a travel agency before claims, a number that has

has been dealing with the EDD bureaucracy, or trying to deal, ever since, even after returning to parttime work. One passage:

"It wasn't until April 22nd that I got my back pay for the previous 6 1/2 weeks I went without a dime. Mind you during this time I had lost my car insurance 2x, missed being able to celebrate Christmas or buy gifts, couldn't pay rent or really eat. I barely month from work too.

"After the last back pay I received it wasn't even a full week before realizing I had not received any money from EDD. I guess because I had this \$1,500 in back pay that was deposited. I hadn't really calculated the fact that I was missing 2 of my weeks that I just certified for and logged in to my (unemployment insurance) account to see that EDD had randomly disqualified me for 2 weeks of pay without any reasoning, no information sent to me or emailed, and this occurred without notifying my employer.

The problems with EDD ance benefits — if they can first surfaced 14 months ever get their applications ago, when the economy was shutting down due Journalists who write to Newsom's emergency orders, and Newsom promised to fix them. "We have to meet the moment," he told reporters then. "We have to provide more support."

In fact, however, the glitches continued and became steadily worse. The A lengthy message from most recent EDD bulletin says it has a backlog of nearly 230,000 unresolved

being laid off last year and been growing lately, not shrinking.

When Newsom launched his California Comeback campaign with a lavishly choreographed State of the State speech in March, he obviously meant it to blunt a recall campaign aimed at short-circuiting his political career.

He touted progress on dampening the pandemic and rebuilding the economy and closed with "Our hopeful vision of our brighter future is the basis for the decisions we make today. We place faith over fear optimism over pessimism. The power is in our hands."

Newsom did not, however, even mention the never-resolved crisis at EDD that he had promised to repair nearly a year earlier. The revised state budget he unveiled in May does mention it, saying blandly, "The pandemic has exposed many of EDD's antiquated processes and outdated infrastructure, resulting in a delay or inability for many Californians to access (unemployment) benefits."

Duh. Everybody, including Newsom, knew that more than a year ago. Subsequently, EDD managed to hand out billions of dollars to fraudsters while jobless workers like Lindsay have suffered economic stress because he didn't make good on his promise, which is why he owes them a humble apology.

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

# Senate Approves Sen. Dodd's **Bottle Recycling Bill**

By Paul Payne, Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -

The California Senate has approved legislation from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, that would divert more solid waste from landfills by expanding the types of beverage containers that can be recycled and by improving bottle collection services.

"Bottle recycling rates have dropped sharply in California over the past decade," Sen. Dodd said. "With my bill, we can turn that around and become a conservation leader once again. I thank my Senate colleagues for supporting this effort."

Senate Bill 451 would bring much-needed improvements to the state's

more than 30-year-old Bottle Bill Program. In recent years, it has suffered by declining recycling rates and the closure of recycling centers. Recycling rates have dropped from 85% in 2013 to 76% in 2018. Glass container recycling has declined to 66%. The problem has worsened with the coronavirus pandemic.

SB 451 would expand the eligibility of recycling to wine and spirits bottles. It also would launch a pilot collection program aimed at increasing the bottle recycling rate to 80%. Additionally, it would enhance industry stewardship of recycling efforts.

The bill, which passed the Senate late Tuesday on a unanimous vote, is supported by Elders Climate Action, the California

Association of Local Conservation Corps, the National Stewardship Action Council, the Wine Institute, the American Beverage Association.

"The California wine industry prides itself on the being a world leader in sustainability and is consistently working to find appropriate ways to more effectively recycle wine containers and further integrate those containers into the Circular Economy," said Tim Schmelzer, Wine Institute vice president of California state relations. "We have found that the principles embodied in the pilot program created by SB 451 have merit and will inform California policy makers as to effective ways to improve recycling in this state."

# G NEWS UPD

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

US assessing reported leak at Chinese nuclear power facility - Warning of **'imminent radiological threat'** | 14 June 2021 | The US government has spent the past week assessing a report of a leak at a Chinese nuclear power plant, after a French company that part owns and helps operate it warned of an "imminent radiological threat," according to US officials and documents reviewed by CNN. The warning included an accusation that the Chinese safety authority was raising the acceptable limits for radiation detection outside the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant in Guangdong province in order to avoid having to shut it down, according to a letter from the French company to the US Department of Energy obtained by CNN. While US officials have deemed the situation does not currently pose a severe safety threat to workers at the plant or Chinese public, it is unusual that a foreign company would unilaterally reach out to the American government for help when its Chinese state-owned partner is yet to acknowledge a problem

The Same Suspicious SQL Software Discovered in Michigan Dominion Voting Machines Was Found in Pennsylvania Dominion Voting Machines 13 June 2021 | A recent election assessment conducted in Pennsylvania's Fulton County and published in February 2021, found the existence of the Microsoft SQL database on the Dominion Voting Machines in the county. According to the Fulton County report, the analysts found "no valid reason" for the software to be installed on the system. They also reported that Dominion failed to fill out the appropriate forms regarding the software. This is the same software Michigan Attorney Matthew Deperno's expert found on the Dominion machines as was demonstrated in Michigan. The software allows anyone with privileges to simply change values in the database directly in order to change the outcome of the election leaving no trace whatsoever.

Reporter who broke story on Clinton-Lynch tarmac meeting found dead | 13 June 2021 | The journalist who broke the story about the controversial 2016 tarmac meeting between former President Bill Clinton and then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch was found dead Saturday morning, according to police. The body of 45-year-old Christopher Sign, a news anchor for ABC 33/40 in Birmingham, was discovered by Hoover police and fire personnel at around 8 a.m. following a 911 call about a person down in a residence in Alabama, according to AL.com. Hoover police Lt. Keith Czeskleba said Sign's death is being investigated as a suicide, the report added.

Study shows hydroxychloroquine treatments increased coronavirus survival rate by almost three times | 9 June 2021 | A new study shows that the controversial drug hydroxychloroquine touted by former President Donald Trump increased the survival rate of severely ill coronavirus patients. The observational study, published by medRxiv, found that antimalarial drug hydroxychloroquine, along with azithromycin, could increase the coronavirus survival rate by as much as nearly 200% if distributed at higher doses to ventilated patients with a severe version of the illness. "We found that when the cumulative doses of two drugs, HCQ and AZM, were above a certain level, patients had a survival rate 2.9 times the other patients," the study's conclusion states.

CDC knew the coronavirus hospitalization rate had fallen among teens but chose to 'cynically exploit the fears of parents in cover-up to boost vaccination rate' - | 14 June 2021 | The CDC has been accused of deliberately misleading the public about COVID-19, after claiming that teenagers were being hospitalized in increasing numbers - when preliminary data was already showing the number was actually declining. The June 4 report showed that, in April, hospitalizations of people aged 12-17 rose to 1.3 per 100,000 people. Yet Fox News host Steve Hilton pointed out that when the report was published, the data actually showed figures had been falling. The May and June data showed that hospitalizations among the teens were starting to fall but those figures had been kept out of the report.

# **Solano County Genealogical Society Special Event June 25**

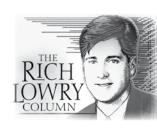
By Michelle Waltz, Solano County Genealogical Society

VALLEJO, CA (MPG) - Jim Kern, Executive Director of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, will give a virtual presentation on the history of Mare Island Naval Shipyard, starting at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 25. This special event is free and open to the public as part of the Solano County Genealogical Society's celebration of its 40th anniversary.

Mare Island Naval Shipyard was the first United States naval base on the west coast. Established in 1854, the shipyard played an enormous part in Vallejo history and was once one of the busiest shipyards in the world. It closed in 1996 and has been open to the public since

Jim Kern has been the Executive Director of the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum since 1989. The museum, located in Vallejo's historic Old City Hall, has five galleries devoted to the history of Vallejo and Mare Island, including a working submarine periscope.

If interested in attending this presentation, please email the society at scgs@scgsca.org no later than 4 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, and request an invitation. More information on the event can be found on the society's webpage at www.scgsca.org.



#### The Smear Campaign **Against Joe Manchin**

Joe Manchin is being pilloried for the offense of being consistent on the filibuster.

Back in 2017, when Senate Democrats were desperate to stop Donald Trump's agenda, 33 of them, including Manchin, signed a bipartisan letter backing the filibuster in ringing terms.

"We are mindful of the unique role the Senate plays in the legislative process," they wrote, "and we are steadfastly committed to ensuring that this great American institution continues to serve as the world's greatest deliberative body."

Well, the commitment of almost all the Democrats was not quite as steadfast as advertised.

Now that the filibuster is an obstacle to passing Joe Biden's agenda, the longstanding Senate procedure has been deemed a threat to our system of government and to racial justice that only a naif or cynic can support.

And that means you, Joe Manchin.

The West Virginia senator has been badgered for months by reporters eager to get him to change his mind on the filibuster, or at least show some flexibility. Now, the pressure campaign from within his own party has ratcheted up to include over-the-top insults that have Democrats getting on board

an air of desperation about

After Manchin reiterated his support for the filibuster and made clear his opposition to HR1, a sweeping Democratic voting bill, in an op-ed that weekend, progressive House Democratic Mondaire Jones from New York unloaded on Twitter. Per Jones, the headline of Manchin's piece might as well have been, "Why I'll vote to preserve Jim Crow."

This is a preposterous smear, and a transparent attempt to bludgeon Manchin into submission by defining his sincere attachment to Senate tradition and belief in bipartisanship as tantamount to racism.

Another New York member of the House, Jamaal Bowman, said on CNN, "Joe Manchin has become the new Mitch McConnell."

The comparison might make sense if Mitch McConnell had voted with Joe Biden 100% of the time so far, and had supported the Affordable Care Act and voted twice to impeach President Donald Trump.

Despite the abuse, Manchin is onto something. The current situation illustrates the purpose of the filibuster nicely - it is a guardrail keeping a very slender Senate majority that could easily be wiped out by January 2023 from enacting a far-reaching radical agenda in a fit of partisan passion.

Democrats aren't mad because they know that support for their agenda will build over time – they are mad because they know that it won't, and absent Manchin and other recalcitrant Senate

right away, they will miss their tiny window to get their way through brute legislative force prior to losing one or both chambers of Congress.

They have convinced themselves that GOP state legislatures are destroying democracy with new voting laws rolling back pandemic-driven innovations and tightening up security, a fevered myth that also won't stand the test of time.

As for HR1, it is a constitutionally dubious monstrosity that would trample on state voting laws in an enormous step toward the federalization of American elections. Machin was right to say in his op-ed that it is telling that not one Republican, whether Susan Collins or Mitt Romney, is supporting this partisan power grab.

Manchin isn't always as stalwart in standing up to his own party as he sounds, but he's been remarkably firm so far. His role as a senatorial brake on Biden's left-wing ambitions has certainly made him more popular back home, and the progressive slanders against him will only boost his political standing. The left will get nowhere if it tries to primary him in 2024 (assuming he decides to run again), and if he did lose to a more progressive Democrat, Republicans would easily win his seat.

Surely, the attacks on Manchin will only get more venomous. Such is the price of refusing to reverse himself on the filibuster and get on board a sprawling travesty of a voting bill.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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# Riley Reviews

## "HITMAN'S WIFE'S" VIOLENT CAPER: **FALL OF "THE HUSTLER"**

ATV Review by Tim Riley

#### "THE HITMAN'S WIFE'S **BODYGUARD" (RATED R)**

Prior to "The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard" there was "The Hitman's Bodyguard," and what one needs to know about the original to fathom the sequel is that Ryan Reynolds and Samuel L. Jackson make for a lethal bickering odd couple and Salma Hayek is now thrown into the mix in a big way.

As a bodyguard, Reynolds' Michael Bryce once took a bullet for Jackson's Darius Kincaid, an unhinged, profane loudmouth and murdering hitman who fails to express any gratitude for his life being saved.

Meanwhile, as the film opens, Bryce dreams of winning the Bodyguard of the Year award, but in truth he lost his Triple-A rating during a botched job. Now he's seeing a therapist who can't stand him and insists he take a sabbatical in Italy if only to get him off her couch.

Poolside tranquility is quickly disrupted for Bryce when Kincaid's wife Sonia (Hayek), an insane con artist quick to anger and quick on the trigger, shows up with guns blazing and insists that Bryce is urgently needed to rescue her husband from Mafia kidnappers.

While leaving phone messages for his future rehabilitated self, the present day for Bryce becomes very much consumed with a host of problems that his quick wit and selfdeprecating humor will fail to make any less troublesome.

The drawbacks of being engaged by the volatile Sonia include dealing with Italian mobsters and Russian gangsters, detonating briefcases, car chases, shootouts, bar brawls, explosions and even a little light torture.

For all of Bryce's dubious past and Darius' murderous history and prison stints, Interpol for reasons only convenient to the semblance of a plot need their services to foil a megalomaniac Greek billionaire's plot to cripple the European Union.

Interpol agent Bobby O'Neill (Frank Grillo), a rule-breaker anxious to be reassigned back to Boston, figures his ticket out of Europe will be punched when Bryce and the Kincaids thwart tycoon Aristotle Papadopoulos (Antonio Banderas), a lowrent Bond villain.

Granted, there's plenty of absurdity when the trio stir up endless pandemonium wherever they go, and then Morgan Freeman, of all people, shows up in a situation best left as a surprise.

The surfeit of elaborate stunts and violent action and chase sequences veers perilously close to a point of tedium, or maybe it's just too much of a good thing. But it is still mindlessly entertaining and the gorgeous European scenery adds a nice touch.

"The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard" works best with the turbulent chemistry of the trio

Smallest to Largest

I'm on Baby Step 2, and

of debt. My last two debts

are \$6,000 on a credit card,

and \$10,000 on a car loan.

I'll be receiving a \$6,000

bonus at work in a couple of

weeks, and I was wondering

what to do with the money.

I'm single, and I make about

\$45,000 a year, so should

I sell the car and get rid of

some debt that way, or use

the extra money to com-

pletely pay off the credit card

debt?

Aaron

Dear Dave,

as the result of their comic banter and bickering mixed with senseless and wanton mayhem.

#### "THE HOUSEWIFE AND THE HUSTLER" ON HULU

Real-life legal drama that involves celebrity figures can be even more interesting than fiction cooked up by masters of the genre like Steven Bochco ("L.A. Law") or David E. Kelley ("Boston Legal).

That looks to be case with the non-fiction melodrama streaming on Hulu, "The Housewife and the Hustler," the former being Erika Jayne, a star of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills," and her estranged husband and legal titan Tom

Once considered a crusader for justice, Girardi now stands accused of embezzling from the victims he swore to protect by engaging in what is being called a Ponzi scheme of taking money from clients for his own extravagant lifestyle and paying off other clients.

The obvious problem with a Ponzi scheme is that it is a house of cards destined to eventually collapse when the flow of money from courtroom victories of settlements slow to trickle or completely evaporate.

Featuring interviews with former "Housewives" cast members Danielle Staub and Dana Wilkey, actress/comedian Heather McDonald, victims and legal experts, "The Housewife and the Hustler" follows the stream of documents and money.

The documentary probes the trail to find out who was involved, how much they knew and who will pay for the alleged crimes, just as the latest season of "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills" gets underway with Erika Jayne under the spotlight.

A never-before-aired deposition tape of Tom Girardi, whose law license has been suspended, shows when the legal legend who said he once had tens of millions now admitted to a judge that his money was all

Voices from the Los Angeles legal world bring to life a charismatic mastermind – the "wizard behind the curtain," as one subject said – whose lavish lifestyle was flaunted to viewers of Erika's television show.

Erika, more than three decades Girardi's junior, is apparently in the process of divorcing her husband, probably trying to hang on to any assets she may have that would otherwise be subject to restitution for aggrieved parties.

Aside from the bounty of his mansion, fancy cars and private plane, the one interesting fact about Girardi is his big win against utility giant Pacific Gas & Electric, a case that was the inspiration for the film "Erin Brockovich."

Let's just say that there is no more winning for this once legal superstar.

#### **Drought puts More Pressure** on Hay Supplies

Because parched pastures won't have enough grass to support their animals, dairy farmers and livestock ranchers need to buy more hay - and that means restricted supplies and higher prices. Organic hay has been in particularly tight supply, principally because of rising demand from organic dairy farmers whose grazing season has been cut short. One hay broker says the shortages will put farmers in "uncharted territory" as the summer progresses.

### Pallet Shortages Worry Produce Shippers

Along with shortages of water and of qualified employees, farmers have also been coping with a shortage of wooden pallets. The pallets serve important functions in moving crops from field to packinghouse to customers, but they've grown scarce. Soaring lumber demand and decreased sawmill capacity have reduced availability of new pallets. So far, there's been no significant harvest disruption, though the pallet shortages may linger into next year.

#### Wine Business Seeks Mo-re Supply-**Demand Balance**

After a year that featured wildfires in growing areas and pandemic-related shifts in demand, analysts say the wine business could see more-balanced markets this year. With pandemic restrictions easing, wineries should see a rise in sales at tasting rooms, and online purchases may remain above pre-pandemic levels. Wildfires, and the smoke they cause, remain a threat to grape production, and drought may reduce yields this year.

### Uc Reviews Vineyard Mechanization

Machinery now exists to do everything in a vineyard, and University of California specialists say that could help grape growers overcome chronic problems in hiring enough people. A UC review says about 90% of California winegrapes are mechanically harvested, and that other activities such as vine pruning can also be delegated to machines. But the review says the ability to mechanize depends on factors particular to each vineyard.

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### Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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# Dave Ramsey Says

Dear Aaron

Just remember the debt snowball - pay off your smallest to largest. In your case, that means knocking out the credit card debt completely, and then attack the car loan with a vengeance. It will be a lot easier once you're rid of that credit card debt. A \$10,000 car with a \$45,000 I'm working hard to get out income isn't unreasonable, but don't mess around and let that note hang around longer than absolutely necessary.

My rule of thumb when it comes to things with motors, wheels - I'm talking about big toys, here – is when they're all added together, they shouldn't equal more than half your annual income. You don't want that much money wrapped up in things that are going down in value. their lives.

You're in no danger of that here, but at this point you're so close to being debt-free you can practically taste it.

Follow the plan, Aaron. And stay focused and intense about becoming debt-free. You're almost there!

-Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance



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#### **Crossword Puzzle on Page 7** HI0 R Μ DIP P Δ В D 0 Ε R Ε O С Α 0 G U S M Α Ν R Α S Ε Т ١ Μ Ε R S M Ε Ε Η Н Ε Ε О D D S U Ρ D R M С Κ 0 С 0 Ν Υ Κ Ε S P U N Ε Ρ P Ε R S W 0 U D Ν В P Т U 0 O S Ρ Ε R Α U M Α Ν G R S R Ν ı D S G Ε Ν D U Ν Ε S Ε W

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### Sudoku Puzzle on Page 7

7	9	3	4	5	1	6	8	2
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3 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 8 |

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23. \*Thor's weapon

34. \*Like The Joker

37. Black gold

40. Canvas ceiling fan

X-Men

47. "Rub A Dub Dub" vessel

60. Eyeglasses glass

61. Buggy terrain 62. Gingerbread creation

63. \*Superhero creator, Stan

64. Eurasian duck

3. Letter before kappa 4. For the time being, Latin (2 words) 5. Basic drumming pattern, pl.

6. Saints' crowns

8. Through, for short

9. Hie, third person singular

14. \*Wakanda's Black 19. Make havoc

22. Coach's locker room speech

26. \*Known to say: "You wouldn't

27. Steer clear

29. More cunning 32. Make pretty, two words

33. Break a commandment 36. \*America's title

40. Public house, for short 41. Devoid of reverence

# **Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 7**

**CLUES** 

**ACROSS** . Golf club handle

8. Although, for short 11. "Give me your tired, your 12. Homecoming guest

15. Legendary NFL guarter back Ğraham 16 Like Old Mother

18. \*Batman's romantic interest

21. Use the other end of a

22. Cherry middle

26. Brays like a donkey

30. Another word for Tokyo 31. Makes a sum (2 words)

35. Without self-control

38. Buddy 39. Site of Leaning Tower

\_\_\_man, one of original 43. Comes to the fore

45. \*\_\_\_\_ Woman, first female in the Justice Society of America

48. Paralysis-causing disease, for short 50. Smoothie berry 52. \*a.k.a. the Caped

Crusader 55. "Encore!" 56. Pupil's place 57. Like Arizona in summer

59. \*Ben Grimm of "It's clobberin' time!" fame, with The

DOWN 1. Government Printing Office 2. Campus military acronym

7. End of grace

10. Not new or borrowed or blue 12. "All 13. Motherless calf

23. Oodles one, on a pass 25. \*Mighty

like me when I'm angry' 28. Grimace in pain

38. Vienna Boys' group

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> 48. Put through a blender 49. Offer two cents 50. Turkish honorific 51. Jealous biblical brother 52. Perfect houseplant spot

44. Seeking damages

46. Wondering ones

53. Bob \_, famous boxino promoter 54. Cat o'how many tails? 55. Cash dispenser

58. Morning condensation

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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

8 • JUNE 18, 2021 Dixon Independent Voice

# CONVERSATIONS

By Shirley Humphrey

# Fees for Landscape and Lighting: Who Should Pay?

One of the features of a cared for community is the wide avenues throughout a town with landscaped mediums which divide traffic lanes. For example, the trees and shrubs all along Pitt School Road between A and H Street, the medium on North First Street running in front of the Ace Hardware Store down to the Shell Station, and the large swath of grass where the word "Dixon" is spelled out facing I-80 on the tree-lined North Lincoln Street to name a few.

The City must give public notice annually to add the cost to take care of these on your property taxes via "assessments."

At the June 1 meeting of the Dixon City Council meeting, the city council voted 5-0 to adopt a resolution providing preliminary approval of the Engineer's Report for the Dixon Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance District (LLMD) for Fiscal Year 2021/22. The resolution provided the intention to levy and collect assessments and provide for notice of public hearing at the City Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.

The intention is now published in the Legal Notices in the Dixon Tribune. Former councilman Mike Ceremello was the only one at the June 1 council meeting that spoke at all from the public and his strong assertion was that we should ALL be paying for this cost because we ALL drive on these main roads. In the current system residents are charged by the individual neighborhood that the area is in.

During the meeting under Item 12.3, there was a detailed breakdown of which areas of Dixon would be assessed on their property taxes and the different amounts that would be assessed. The presentation was done by Kotow and you can see it online if you are interested in checking this out. Go to:

dixon-ca.granicus.com/MetaViewer. php?view\_id=6&clip\_id=1404&meta\_id=124422

For those of you not familiar with

Dixon's Landscaping and Lighting Maintenance District, the town is broken into 10 sections. LLMD fees are paid by the residents of these areas. For background: In 2012, Dixon had 18 zones of the Landscaping and Lighting District managed by one full time working arborist and one ¼ quarter maintenance worker, but these employees also managed and directed Dixon's CDF fire crews who significantly helped maintain the city's landscape areas.

Duties included but were not absolutely limited to irrigation, mowing, tree and shrub maintenance, tree and shrub removal, planting, trimming/pruning, as well as disaster removal/repair, tool maintenance/repair and much, much more. The areas were well taken care of thanks to the fire crews but since those workers have been called to fight the numerous wildfires in California, the free landscape help is no longer available to us and there are no plans that show it coming back. That is why we are seeing large weeds, overgrown shrubs and unpruned trees looking terribly unsightly throughout town. This newspaper reported that some of the cleanup has been performed by frustrated citizens over this past year.

At one time there was a proposal to involve citizens in maintaining these districts, but due to liability when working in the streets and using power equipment, this may not be feasible. Some residents say the city should be footing the bill entirely as it is done in other cities to maintain the attractiveness. The proposed City General Fund contribution is \$197,515 for the annual maintenance and is considered a very small amount out of the general fund. Dixonites already pay property and sales taxes. The problem is that if you look around, none are being taken care of – even with the amount we are being assessed.

What are your ideas about this?

# DFS Thanks You for Making Drive and Dine a Huge Success!

We have heard only good feedback about the tasty food and the drive-thru customer service from people who participated in our first-ever effort to do a Covid-19 acceptable Fundraising Event.

Over the last 14 months Dixon Family Services (DFS) coordinated several drive-thru distributions of food, diapers, school supplies, household items, cleaning/sanitizing products, masks and other basic needs.

But it was a small meeting of DFS Board President, Sarah Villec, Executive Director, Cookie Powell, and Lion's Club Member Scott Smith that advanced a "can-do" attitude to organize, advertise and implement Drive and Dine for DFS on May 21. We were a little nervous but everything turned out better than we had hoped.

Thanks to the generosity and support of this community, over \$14,000 was raised to help keep the Dixon Family Services Non-Profit Organization open and operational and to continue providing our much-needed assistance to people struggling to meet their basic needs.

While approximately 18% of profits were made from ticket sales, over 80% came from sponsorships and donations. Clearly those who believe in our good work wanted to see our fundraising efforts succeed. We are so very thankful to everyone who helped us pull off the successful DFS event in any way. There are many to thank and you will be able

to see a full list of people, organizations, church groups and businesses on our website www.dixonfamilyservices.org and on the DFS Facebook page soon.

For the second year in a row, because of the pandemic, DFS was not able to have a Comedy Night, which is the traditional annual fund event. Last year we were blessed with a Travis Credit Union Foundation donor matching campaign. This year the Drive and Dine, strongly supported by this community, helped tremendously. The substitute fund raising events both brought in more than our old standard, Comedy Night ever has

In addition to being grateful for the revenue generated, we cherish the support and camaraderie felt in the planning, organizing and implementation of the new venue. It was a true pleasure to work alongside such good and energetic people. Eric Arnold and his team of Lions did a fantastic job on the barbecue tri-tip. Rotarians Janice and Steve Beaman, Marlene Vega and her grand-daughter, Councilman Don Hendershot and wife Wendi, our Board President Sarah Villec and our Board Member/ Citizen of the year, Donny Everhart were all critical volunteers.

On behalf of Dixon Family Services' Staff, Board, Volunteers and ESPECIALLY the People We Serve, THANK YOU SO MUCH!!

Sincerely, Cookie Powell

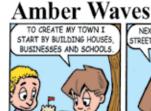


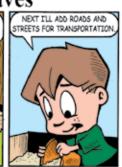




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# WEEKLY COMICS









by Mike Marland



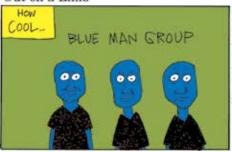




Out on a Limb

R.F.D.

WHY



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SIM NEVER OUTGREW THAT THING ABOUT NOT LIKIN'

HIS FOOD TO TOUCH.



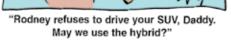


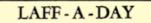










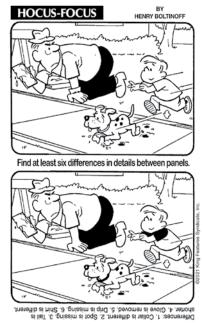




"He used to come and talk to us every day, but we haven't seen or heard from since we elected him to congress!'







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# to New Location



Miranda Barber inspects an article of clothing for the clothing closet on Adams Street that she voluntarily runs as part of Dixon Community Church outreach ministry. Photo by Debra Dingma

Continued from page 1

tubs with neat signs stating the size and kind of clothing. The idea is that when people come in and are looking for boy's clothing, size 7, for example, volunteers can point them directly to where those items are and one does not have to rummage through a lot of other clothes.

The volunteers go through the donations and sort what can be used and what will be trashed. Some items are brand new and still have tags while others need to be thrown out. There are drawers marked for items that other sources don't carry such as feminine products and bedding. There's even a sleeping bag, infant clothing, diapers, and towels. They've also added a table full of canned goods and boxed foods such as cereal and macaroni.

Dressed in casual clothes while sorting through bags and boxes of clothing and food, one would not suspect that Barber is an attorney who wears Macy's clothes and drives a fancy car. The mother of two, one in college and one in high school, says that she does this because God has put the calling on her heart.

"I've been there," Barber readily admits, adding that she knows what it feels like to be needy for all kinds of reasons and shared a story of a family burned out of their home last summer. There were all kinds of things they were able to provide except for shoes for the little boy. Using some of the cash donations they receive. she went to Walmart and bought some.

"They were so appreciative. When I pack a car to go help, I get a rush of adrenalin," she said. "I think: I'm providing for somebody!"

"Our different ministries work together," Barber explained, referencing the food pantry at Cornerstone Church and services provided at Dixon Family Services. "There's enough need for all of us to help in Dixon." They also have a direct connection with FosterLove, a local group for foster care children who will call and let them know what sizes they need for new foster children.

The shop is located at the back of the church formerly known as Family Christian Center but now is Dixon Community Church Youth & Young Adults Center. Helping Hands is open on the third Saturday morning per month, 9 to 11 am but by appointment the rest of the time.

"It is an appointment-based system and we are truly flexible," said Barber. "If people need to meet us before work or 6 pm after work, we can do that." People can call and leave a message at the main DCC office at (707) 678-1981 and that gets forwarded to Barber who calls back. Someone can also use Messenger on their Facebook site, or email helpinghands@ DixonCommunityChurch.org.

# DCC's Helping Hands Moves Speaking Up for Children

Continued from page 1 it is also to protect the child. Parents may need services to have their children returned to their care, but the children also have a need for services to help deal with their trauma and other challenges. Often what is truly needed for the child is learned by a CASA volunteer.

CASA volunteers are exceptionally welltrained, Pierce said, as they go through 40 hours of training and some of that is done by the judges themselves.

"Volunteers are actually sworn in front of a judge and become officers of the court so they can review the children's files and the court cases involved. They can talk to everyone in a child's life," Pierce added.

The statistics are that when a foster child "ages out of the foster care system without a support system within three years, they are more likely to become homeless,



CASA volunteers meet with children for three hours a week simply to get to know them so they can help advise judges on decisions involving those children when parents are not able

incarcerated, or on welfare," she said but noted a law passed in 2012 helped with some of the outcomes for foster children as it extended foster care to 21 years of age.

CASA is central to fulfilling society's most fundamental obligation by making sure a qualified, compassionate adult will fight to protect a child's right to be safe, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to learn and grow in the security of a loving family, she said.

There is an orientation on the first Wednesday of every month. The organization has a volunteer Board that helps put on fundraising and awareness events. They are also looking for volunteers to serve on the Board. For more information, call (707) 421-CASA (2272).

# Tax Credit To Cover Cost Of Paid Leave

From Office of Mike Thompson

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - Today (June 14, 2021) Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-05) announced that a tax credit to help local small businesses cover the cost of providing sick and family leave has been extended through September. This tax credit, created by the American Rescue Plan, allows workers to care for sick family members, take time off if they are sick and use paid leave to get a COVID-19 vaccination. It also supports small businesses that have been hit hard economically by the pandemic.

This tax credit will boost small businesses that are trying to help their employees and allow workers to take care of their health. By helping small companies give employees time

off to get their COVID-19 shot, the tax credit will also boost vaccinated rates. It's a win-win and I encourage all our local small businesses to tax advantage of this important tax credit."

The American Rescue Plan established an advanceable, refundable tax credit that allows businesses with fewer than 500 employees to receive up to \$17,110 per employee to give them up to 10 days of paid sick leave and up to 12 weeks of paid family leave through September 30, 2021. This credit is eligible to about 6 million businesses and more than 40 million workers.

Congressman Mike Thompson is proud to represent California's 5th Congressional District, which includes all or part of Contra Costa, Lake, Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties.





