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# **Dixon Independent Voice**

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HE'S GOT  
AN AXE!**



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## Maine Prairie Plans Graduation



Science teacher Dina Flamik and art teacher Regina Peterson give their thumbs up to the graduating seniors at MPHS who will receive diplomas this week at an on-campus ceremony. Photo by Kathy Lewetzw

**By Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - There's probably no one more proud of the 31 Maine Prairie High School graduating students than long-time Principal Yvette Ramos.

"The resiliency these students have exhibited during the Coronavirus Pandemic has been astonishing to me," she said. "They've moved forward to earn their credits when, with the struggles of long-distance learning, it would have been easy to walk away. They didn't give up. Dixon has great students."

She - along with teachers - believes students have learned more valuable skills than if they had a regular school year, Ramos said.

"The skills they are walking away with are more than one realizes. They've learned the little things that grownups take for granted. Because

of the pandemic, they've grown in technology and learned to communicate more professionally because of writing to their teachers, for example," she explained.

The students will participate in graduation ceremonies this coming Wednesday, June 9th, outside at the MPHS campus at 7 pm. Parents and family of students have been invited to the outdoor ceremony at the small campus, 305 East C Street, next to Anderson Elementary School. Traditionally, the ceremony has been held inside the Dixon High School Theater but respecting the Governor's mandate for social distancing, the venue changed for the second year in a row. There will be folding chairs and the organizers chose the evening to cooperate with the warm temperatures expected.

Maine Prairie High School is a public, alternative school that usually

has about 80 students in grades 10-12 with an impressive student-teacher ratio of 15 to 1 that helps provide more personal attention to help students learn.

The Mission of Maine Prairie High School is to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. They provide students with a supportive, caring and alternative learning environment, according to staff. Their standards-based educational program prepares students to successfully achieve academic, personal and post-secondary goals.

"MPHS got a bad rap for a few years but that's behind us and we know we are a good place for students," Principal Ramos said. "They may struggle in school but they are really great youth. These students are everybody's students. They belong to our community and we all should be proud of them!" ★

## Police Chief Thompson Returns to Dixon



Robert Thompson is Dixon's Chief of Police. Photo by Debra Dingman

**By Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - On Friday before Memorial Day Weekend, City Manager Jim Lindley announced the reinstatement of Robert Thompson as Chief of Police for the City of Dixon effective on Memorial Day.

"I am extremely pleased to announce the return of Chief Thompson," said Lindley. "He is a true leader, deeply respected by our police officers and truly appreciated by our community. His modern approach to law enforcement has made Dixon a better, safer and more welcoming place to live. We are very happy he is back."

Thompson began as Chief of Police for the City of Dixon in March of 2017 before departing in January of 2021. He is credited with overhauling and modernizing city police operations. He also managed substantial technological upgrades, improved training and recruitment, and stemmed a steady stream of officers leaving for other departments.

"I am deeply invested in the City of Dixon, its residents and the members of this police department," Thompson said. "I'm honored to continue to lead the forward-looking evolution of the Dixon Police Department at a time of unprecedented growth for the City. There are many residents and officers who I have missed and can't wait to see again. It feels like I am returning home."

Thompson served as an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigations for fifteen years, prior to serving as Chief of Police for the City of Dixon for four years. Chief Thompson will be reinstated pursuant to the terms of his prior employment agreement and the City's employee reinstatement policy. ★

**WE SUPPORT  
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## Running Out of Water and Time

**By Julie Cart and  
Rachel Becker,  
CALMatters.org**

When James Brumder and his wife Louise Gonzalez moved into their home tucked up against the mountains northeast of Los Angeles, he applied all his know-how to the task of undoing the thirsty garden they inherited.

Brumder, who worked for a commercial landscaping company, pulled up their weedy, unkempt lawn in Altadena and replaced it with native grasses, filled in garden beds with species that could make a living off the region's fickle rainfall, installed drip irrigation, set up rain barrels and banked soil to collect any errant drops of water. Whenever the backyard duck pond - a blue plastic kiddie pool - was cleaned, the water was fed to drought-adapted fruit trees.

It was 2013, a year before a statewide drought emergency was declared, but even then the water



"I always felt like I might be the last one in the family to run cattle. I've just had a bad feeling. And this (drought) kind of makes it real, like my bad feeling was justified," said rancher Megan Brown of Oroville - Photo by Anne Wernikoff, CalMatters

crisis was apparent to Brumder and most everyone in California: A great dry cycle had come again. Four years later, it receded when a torrent of winter rains came. The drought, finally, was declared over.

Generals know that you always fight the last war.

So California - already in the clutches of another drought emergency - is looking over its shoulder at what happened last time, anticipating the worst and evaluating the strategies that worked and those that failed.

So is California in a

better position to weather this drought? Some things are worse, some better: Groundwater is still being pumped with no statewide limits, siphoning up drinking water that rural communities rely on. In northern counties, residents

*Continued on page 4*

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# Jury Duty by Zoom

By Debra Dingman

Well, if there wasn't a reason to learn Zoom after a year of pandemic restrictions, there is one now: Jury Duty. I got the usual looking notice in the mail for duty in Fairfield a few weeks ago. I presumed since it had a "Juror Badge" and parking voucher attached, that I would be driving to the Fairfield Court House.

But, when I checked in online per the instructions, it told me I first had to complete an online survey and then our jury summons would be done via Zoom.

First, the survey was no short task. It took me an hour or more and wanted to know everything you could imagine even getting so personal as to ask me about my living arrangements and about my spouse's job duties, my children's names, occupations, employers, and more. It also asked me about my friends and family and who had ever been injured in an accident. I found it very invasive, and I was certain it was violating the privacy rights of my family.

I soon deduced what the case was about. Someone got injured on a job

and he/she was suing. I noticed a recurring question from the last couple times I was summoned: "Do you agree or disagree with this statement: There are too many frivolous lawsuits." I figure this must be a trick question because it is too obvious that an attorney has that as a dividing line between whether or not you're acceptable to his jury selection. You know, if you think there's too many frivolous lawsuits, you're out, because this is a frivolous lawsuit...

I reported at my Zoom time and there were 78 others who joined in, and we had to rename ourselves with our badge number and it was helpful to know how to raise your hand. There were a few who had difficulty and a couple of people who called in and said they didn't know how to use Zoom. I was impressed with the polite and patient responses from both Jury Selection Service women running the meeting. Although it took an hour and a half to wade through getting people on and answering their questions, it was successful, and I never had to leave town.

There were some

requirements for us that are worth mentioning as we might apply this to anyone going into any meeting. Like, don't wear hats or sunglasses. Dress appropriately. No tank tops or shirts with offensive language. You know, those common decency things...

Did you know that we are all expected to serve on jury duty once a year? I thought I got badgered by the justice system until it was finally revealed—it was because I had two last names. If you get two in one year, there is most likely a mix up and you should call to straighten out whatever records they have.

After the orientation and information given about the trial, everyone who had NO "hardships" could leave but had to call back later for further instructions.

Interestingly, 49 out of the 78 felt they had hardships. This was where one's Zoom skills were really helpful because they either chatted with you privately or called you into a "chat room."

They never like journalists because, I was told, we read newspapers and online news. I've never gotten chosen. Not this time either. ★

# Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

## Citizens Need Apply

Deadline for citizens to apply for five open positions on two different commissions that serve the City of Dixon has been extended to Friday, June 4, by 5 pm.

The Parks and Recreation Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to recreation and park facilities. They are looking for citizens to fill two spots. Commissioners serve two-year terms, with a maximum of three consecutive terms. Both vacancies are two-year terms expiring on June 30, 2023. The Parks and Recreations Commission meets at 7 pm on the fourth Tuesday of every month. City residency is required. A stipend of \$75 per meeting attended is paid to each Commissioner.

The Transportation Advisory Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to traffic, transportation, and parking issues. Commissioners serve 4-year terms, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. All three vacancies are four-year terms expiring on June 30, 2025. The TAC meets at 7 pm on the third Wednesday of even-numbered months. City residency is required. A stipend of \$75.00 per meeting attended is paid to each Commissioner.

Interested Dixon residents may obtain an application at City Hall, 600 East A Street, by calling 678-7000, or by visiting the City's website at [www.cityofdixon.com](http://www.cityofdixon.com). The deadline for filing applications is 5 pm Friday, June 4. For

more information or questions, contact: Lupe Ruiz, Administrative City Clerk at (707) 678-7000, Ext. 1116.

## City Planners Meet

This coming Tuesday, June 8, at 7 pm is the next City Planning Commissioners will meet and run by Chair Joe Quinn. It will be held via Zoom.

The meeting is not in-person, but 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.

When participating via teleconference, press \*9 or you can email questions and comments to [publiccomment@cityofdixon.us](mailto:publiccomment@cityofdixon.us).

## Safeway Saves

Ray Pallari, 61, thought he won a car and if it weren't for the concerns of the Safeway Manager and Assistant Manager, he would have been bilked out of thousands. Pallari received a call saying he won a car and \$5,000 every month but he had to send money to cover shipping costs. The Assistant Manager became suspicious when Pallari came back in to send a second payment. They spoke with the Manager and then both managers assisted in identifying the fact that it was a scam and the police were called to help. Pallari was truly grateful for their help. ★

# Spacecraft Landing at Southwest Community Park?



Although they may look like a missile or a space orb, they are just pieces of playground equipment that were recently installed at the new community park in the Homestead Development on Pitt School Road. They do look like they will bring plenty of fun to neighborhood children soon. Photos by Jean Jorgensen



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# Stand Back! He’s got an Axe!



The large white and yellow tents went up and building was finished to be ready for last weekend’s opening weekend at Victory or Valhalla, a place to have fun learning about culture of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you’ve noticed the two large yellow and white striped tents at the West A Street freeway exit, you’ve found a way to step into history. “Victory or Valhalla” Entertainment Center opened Memorial Day weekend and featured axe throwing and live-action table-top role-playing games from ancient times.

The business created by Jens Demaray and younger brother took off with a little help from their parents, Keith and Carla Demaray. Long time gamers, the brothers grew up with the fun of coming up with stories and writing about a world of good and bad guys and have spent the past several months developing a large swath of an event center on West A Street next to George’s Orange.

“Our team has been working very hard to put together the most epic and entertaining experience for the whole family so head to our website and book your reservations!,” said Jens. “Sharpen your axe throwing skills because it’s time to show them off.”

For a fee per half hour or hour, participants learned about the arts, skills, and the culture of the Middle Ages and Renaissance in an atmosphere of fun through tournaments, royal courts,

armored combat, dancing classes and hands-on workshops. The guys are excited about offering target archery, fencing, leather crafting, leather book binding, mazes, and for children, corn hole competition, horseshoes, and other games in the near future.

“Where our real joy comes from is community,” said Adam who leads a “hird”--an old Swedish term for a group of Vikings. He will teach heavy armor fighting. “Seeing people around a campfire and sharing stories is great. We’ve built friendships over the years and see them almost every week. The other parts like activities and food are important but we want people to stay for the culture and community. Who wouldn’t love axe throwing?” he said.

You are welcome to just come and watch at no charge, too, just in case axe throwing is more of a spectator sport for you.

“We’re a space for the whole community to congregate so everyone is welcome,” said Jens. They are open throughout the weekends 10 am to 11 pm and weekdays 4 to 11 pm except Tuesdays when they’re closed. They are at 2635 West A Street. For more information, go to DixonAxe.com or call (707) 761-6259. ★

# Violent Criminals Get Less Consequences under New Proposal

By Nghia Nguyen, Office of Senator Jim Nielsen

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Democrat majority of the Senate passed a measure requiring the courts to dismiss sentence enhancements, thereby, resulting in shorter jail or prison time for convicted criminals. Senate Bill 81 (Skinner) further removes the discretion of judges and provides them no guidance when evaluating whether an enhancement should be dismissed.

Some of these enhancements like the Three Strikes law have been placed into law by the votes of the people.

“By eliminating the enhancements, the Legislature is sending the message that it is ok to do multiple crimes without consequences,” said Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Red Bluff). “The criminals understand this message well.”

“This legislation emboldens the criminals and ignores the rights of victims and the rest of society.”

According to the San Diego District Attorney, “Senate Bill 81 serves to mandate dismissal of sentencing enhancements imposed by the original sentencing judge for many offenders by creating a new

opaque legal concept – a presumption of dismissal unless the prosecution shows by clear and convincing evidence that the dismissal of the enhancement would endanger public safety.”

This bill would likely eliminate all property crime enhancements, as such crimes are deemed “non-violent.”

For example, embezzling or defrauding a person of \$5,000 or embezzling and defrauding their entire \$500,000 life savings would essentially have the same penalty.

“This is completely unfair and unjust for both the victim and the community at large,” said Senator Nielsen.

Senate Bill 81 received 27 yes votes. No Republican voted for this measure. It now moves to the Assembly for additional hearings.

Elected to the State Senate in January 2013, Senator Nielsen represents the Fourth Senate District, which includes the counties of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama and Yuba. To contact Senator Jim Nielsen, please call him at 916-651-4004, or via email at senator.nielsen@senate.ca.gov. Follow him @ CASenatorJim. ★

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# Maghoney, Scott Awarded Kiwanis Scholarships



Kyla Maghoney and Hayley Scott stand with Kiwanis Club President Debra Dingman with their Certificates of \$500 Scholarships at the recent Dixon High School Community Scholarship Ceremony. Photo by Audrey Madden

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Two Dixon High School seniors who both had Key Club in their high school activities were awarded top honors by the Kiwanis Club of Dixon and awarded \$500 scholarships each toward their educational goals. They are Kyla Maghoney and Hayley Scott.

“My goals are to be the most successful pediatrics or Newborn Intensive Care Unit nurse I can be, have a family, and live life to the fullest without regret,” wrote Maghoney. “Even though working with sick children or babies all the time can be difficult...I am passionate about helping children... and ensuring that all children have access to healthcare.” Maghoney wrote that she made her career decisions after experiencing hospitalization herself.

She has played basketball all four years of high school, ran track, and played water polo. She also served in various capacities on the Associated Student Body.

“My aspirations still remain to become a Forensic Psychologist and work within law enforcement with a backup plan to utilize what I have learned from TEAM Dixon for the past eight years and follow my other passion of working as a Behavioral Analyst with special needs individuals,” said Scott.

She plans to finish Solano College and hopes to transfer to a college in Canada. She had been active in numerous clubs including Future Farmers of America, Choir, 4-H, and Kiwanis. She also was on the wrestling team.

Past recipients of the Kiwanis awards are: 2020 Alondra Mondragon,

Emily Aguirre, Stephanie Garcia, and Annabel Rubio; 2019 Beau Carabajal, Meilin Hanna, Crystal Chin and Vadisha Patel; 2018 Bethany Bodine and Grace Lightfoot; 2017 Alyssa Ponce and Emily Ziegler; 2016 Madelyn Larson and Cheyenne Shipley; 2015 Stefany Pineda and Miranda Sanchez; 2014 Camarina Augusto and Rebecca Immel; 2013 John Loarca; and 2012 Devon Minnema.

The Kiwanis Club of Dixon, the parent organization of DHS Key Club, honored these young people with a \$500 scholarship each or more with funds raised from their premier event, the Festival of Trees. For more information on the Dixon Kiwanis Club, email dixonkiwanis@hotmail.com or contact Membership Committee Chair Patti-Sousa-Liu at (707) 635-3303. ★

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# Running Out of Water and Time



Trucks are parked along the waters edge in the dry lakebed at Lake Folsom, a state reservoir. The water level is currently at about 48% of historical average. Photo by Anne Wernikoff, CalMatters

*Continued from page 1*  
are reliving the last disaster as water restrictions kick in again, but in the south, enough water is stored to avoid them for now.

The good news is that in urban areas, most Californians haven't lapsed back into their old water-wasting patterns. But, while some farmers have adopted water-saving technology, others are drilling deeper wells to suck out more water to plant new orchards.

The upshot is California isn't ready – again.

"We are in worse shape than we were before the last drought, and we are going to be in even worse shape after this one," said Jay Lund, co-director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at University of California at Davis.

The most acute problem, experts say, is the lack of controls on groundwater pumping.

"Despite increasingly occurring droughts, we could be doing much better than we are doing," added Peter Gleick, co-founder of the Pacific Institute, a global water think tank. "We manage finally to get some statewide rules about groundwater, but they are not going to be implemented for years." As a result, he said, aquifers are still being over-pumped and land is sinking.

Three-fourths of California is already experiencing extreme drought, a designation that only hints at the trickle down of impacts on people, the environment and the economy. Nature's orderly seasons are upended: As the winter so-called "wet season" ended, Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a drought emergency in 41 counties.

This year's drought is steadily approaching the peak severity of the last one, climate experts say. It's a dangerous benchmark: 2012 through 2015 was the state's driest consecutive four-year stretch since record-keeping began in 1896.

Much of the state has received less than half of average rain and snow-fall since October, with some areas seeing as little as a quarter. For most of Northern California, the past two years have been the second driest on record.

The Sierra Nevada snowpack, which provides about a third of California's water, dwindled to 5% of average this month, equaling April 2015's record-low percentage. That signals trouble for California's reservoirs – even before the long, dry summer begins.

Already, the water stored in major reservoirs is far below normal as some rivers' runoff has dipped below the last drought's levels. Lake Oroville, which stores water delivered as far away as San Diego, has dropped to just under half

of its historic average for this time of year.

Megan Brown, a sixth-generation cattle rancher in Oroville, worries that climate change might finally make her the last of her family to run cattle in California. Dry pastures can force ranchers to sell livestock or buy expensive feed.

Usually, she said, the hills on her ranch are as green as Ireland in the spring. But by the end of April, dry golden grass had already started to claim the slopes. The blackberry-lined creek on Brown's ranch is so parched that her dogs kick up clouds of dust as they nose through the rocks.

All Californians were ordered to conserve, and state officials in 2015 mandated a 25% statewide cut in the water used by urban residents. Homeowners used smartphone apps to turn in neighbors for over-sprinkling their lawns, and cities hired water cops to enforce the rules. Hotels notified guests of reduced laundry service. In restaurants, glasses of water that used to automatically appear were served only after patrons requested them.

Agriculture took a \$3.8 billion hit from 2014 through 2016. More than a half-million acres of farmland was taken out of production for lack of irrigation water, and an estimated 21,000 jobs were lost in 2015 alone.

The astonishing aridity also killed more than 100 million trees and weakened millions more, setting off a catastrophic cascade: The carpet of dead trees added fuel to California's wildfire epidemic. Fire season stretched year-round and into normally damp parts of the state.

As rivers heated up, their flows dwindled and about 95% of endangered winter-run Chinook salmon were lost below Shasta Dam in two consecutive years. A record number of commercial and recreational fisheries were shut down, and countless ducks and other waterbirds died as wetlands vanished.

Droughts are expensive for taxpayers. The legislature appropriated \$3.3 billion toward drought response from 2013 to 2017, including \$2.3 billion in voter-approved bonds. About \$68 million was spent on emergency drinking water for communities where wells went dry, but the biggest chunk funded projects to begin augmenting supply, such as more water recycling and groundwater management.

Now, to address the current drought, the Newsom administration has proposed spending another \$5.1 billion, for a start. But the "start" may be already too late.

Between 2013 and 2016, Californians on average reduced their

residential use by 30%. Since then, per capita water use has ticked up, but Californians used 16% less water in recent months than they did in 2013.

The state's cobbled-together policies of carrots and sticks managed to reduce water consumption in cities statewide. California officials toughened standards for toilets, faucets and shower heads and ramped up efficiency requirements for new landscaping. Millions of dollars in rebates were offered by state and local water agencies to coax Californians into replacing thirsty lawns.

Katie Roberti of the California Cattlemen's Association told CalMatters that ranchers are facing the most severe conditions in decades. "Without precipitation many California cattle producers are going to be forced to make the difficult decision to reduce the size of their herds, some more drastically than others," she said.

Megan Brown, the Oroville rancher, already sold a third of her cattle – including all of her replacement breeders that replenish her herd – after the dry 2020 winter, when the grasslands they forage on dried up.

"We were ahead of the game because we saw the writing on the wall," she said. "If you don't have the grass, you're not going to make the money."

She sold "anything that looked at me funny, or had an attitude, or I thought would fail or wouldn't make me money," she said. "It was hard, some of these cows I've had for ten years."

The US Department of Agriculture declared a drought disaster that allows growers and ranchers to seek low-interest loans.

But Brown refuses to accept a loan. "Our family history has a saying that if you can't buy it in cash, you can't really afford it."

Brown has seen back-to-back calamities hit her land: drought, torrential rains and then fires that destroyed wooden flumes that ferry water from the west branch of the Feather River to Oroville and landowners like her along the way.

"It's all these things, bam, bam, bam, bam, bam – every year. It's not supposed to be like that. We're supposed to have these once in a generation," Brown said. "It's more. It's worse."

She's already weighing how to adapt her ranch to a changing California, such as raising heritage hogs and turkeys instead of cattle, and wondering whether there's a future in emus.

"It hurts, man, it hurts your soul," Brown said. "I always felt like I might be the last one in the family to run cattle. I've just had a bad feeling. And this kind of makes it real, like my bad feeling was justified." ★

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Dear City of Dixon Manager, Council & Dixon Independent Voice**

This is an open letter to inform you of conditions on the pathways near our homes.

The first four pictures are of the area between Pembroke Way & Regency Pkwy. We'll call this Area 1 the next five pictures are of the area between N. Lincoln St. & Austin Dr. we'll call this Area 2. As you can see Area 1 is over grown with tall weeds, dead grass, dead underbrush and dead tree limbs. Area 2 has no dead grass, tall weeds or dead under brush.

After the fire crews stop cleaning the pathway I started cleaning the area behind & alongside my house this would take a weekend & one to two pickup loads to the dump but because of back surgery I will be unable to do this again this year. Last year was so bad a former City manager spent time cleaning the area as well. But at the same time area 2 was well maintained by the city.

Now to be fair the city did last year have a crew work Area 1. They used a weed eater and cleaned up some brush but because they did not remove what was cut down, this year the weeds and grass are worse.

I know that the fire dept. has a weed abatement program & give notice to land owners to clean up areas because of the fire hazard well I think tall dead grass growing up against wood fences would be a fire hazard.

The point of the letter is for years when I've called the parks dept. I'll get the "Gee, the sum of money we get from the taxes for maintaining the path will not pay for all the work. Well that "dog don't hunt". It seems that Area 2 can be maintained but



Area is over grown with tall weeds, dead grass, dead underbrush and dead tree limbs. Photo courtesy Gregory Metzger



Area has no dead grass, tall weeds or dead under brush. . Photo courtesy Gregory Metzger

Area 1 can't? For years I've just let this go but a lot of my neighbors feel the same way, everyone pays the same taxes so both areas need to be maintained to the same standard.

I'm sure this will fall on deaf ears put I've used my right to free speech. I've made you aware of the problem so you can't say that this was not brought to your attention.

Signed,  
Gregory Metzger

## PG&E Providing More Community Resources for Public Safety Power Shut Offs

**By Paul Moreno, PG&E Communications**

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG)** - As part of its ongoing efforts to keep customers and communities safe, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has added numerous resources to further support customers and communities before, during and after Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS). During severe weather, PG&E may need to turn off power for public safety as high winds can cause tree branches or debris to contact energized electric lines, which could damage electrical equipment and cause a major wildfire.

"We understand that being without power is a hardship on our customers," said Marlene Santos, EVP of Customer Care and Chief Customer Officer. "That is why we are continuing to listen to our customers and respond to their feedback by providing the information and tools they need to help lessen the impact of PSPS events."

### More PSPS Resources for 2021

To continue to support customers before, during and after PSPS events, PG&E is:

**Refining customer notifications** to provide better information in 16 languages about when power will be turned off and back on; **Providing Address Alerts**, which allow customers and non-account holders to receive notifications about PSPS events for any address they care about; **Continuing to expand the network** of event-ready, ADA-accessible indoor Community Resource Center sites, which include basic medical equipment charging, device charging, Wi-Fi and other amenities; **Expanding meal replacement** resources from local food banks to cover every county likely to be impacted by a PSPS event. A combination of perishable and nonperishable food will be available up until three days after restoration from a PSPS event; **Providing customers who depend on well water pumps** and live in high fire-threat areas with rebates for purchasing a qualified portable power generator through the Generator Rebate Program; **Helping communities** plan and implement their own electric microgrid through the Community Microgrid Enablement Program.

Additional Support for Customers with Medical and Independent Living Needs - To further support customers in the access and functional needs (AFN) population, PG&E is providing additional resources including:

**Growing PG&E's network** of community-based organization partnerships focused on serving customers in the AFN community with accessible transportation resources, hotel accommodations and food stipends, emergency preparedness outreach

and education and Medical Baseline Program enrollment; **Providing a total of 11,500 portable batteries** to customers with medical or independent living needs through both the portable battery program and community-based organization partnerships, cumulative over two years (9,000 portable batteries to low-income Medical Baseline customers in high fire-threat areas impacted by two or more PSPS events and an additional 2,500 portable batteries to customers with medical or independent living needs); **Expanding notifications** for those with medical needs by allowing customers to self-certify as being medically vulnerable; **Providing additional meals** to seniors impacted by a PSPS event through a Meals on Wheels partnership.

### Continuing to Build a Safer System

We are continuing to make our system safer and more resilient to reduce PSPS events for our customers and communities. There is no single solution to wildfire safety, which is why we are continuing to evolve and improve all our wildfire safety programs including:

**Meeting and exceeding state vegetation standards** across 1,800 miles to manage trees and other vegetation located near power lines that could cause a wildfire or power outage; **Continuing to upgrade the electric grid** by hardening at least 180 miles of power lines to reduce wildfire risks. **Installing 250 sectionalizing devices** to narrow the scope of PSPS events so fewer customers are without power. **Piloting new technologies** that detect threats to the electric grid and rapidly reduce or shut off power thus reducing the need for larger PSPS events. **Employing new risk models** to better pinpoint our wildfire safety prevention efforts.

### Online Customer Resources

[pge.com/wildfiresafety](http://pge.com/wildfiresafety): For information about PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program.

[pge.com/weather](http://pge.com/weather): Live weather information, a 7-day PSPS potential lookahead and images from PG&E's high-definition cameras deployed in high fire-threat areas.

[safetyactioncenter.pge.com](http://safetyactioncenter.pge.com)

Information on keeping your family, home and business safe during a PSPS

[pge.com/backupper](http://pge.com/backupper): Information on backup power options, safety tips, financing options, a marketplace to search major backup power retailers and more

[pge.com/medicalbaseline](http://pge.com/medicalbaseline): Learn more about PG&E's Medical Baseline Program for those who rely on power for medical devices

[pge.com/addressalerts](http://pge.com/addressalerts): Sign up for Address Alerts to receive PSPS notifications for any address important to you outside of your billing address. ★



# Newsom Paints Rosy, but Flawed, Economic Picture



By Dan Walters  
CALMatters

There is a seamless connection between what Gavin Newsom is saying and doing as governor and his campaign to survive a recall, encapsulated in the slogan “California Comeback.”

Newsom’s much-revised state budget, unveiled this month, is centered on a “\$100 Billion California Comeback Plan” that would, he says, put the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout in the rearview mirror.

Last week, when new employment data were released by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, Newsom immediately hailed them as proof that under his leadership, the state is booming again.

“California is continuing to lead the nation’s economic recovery, adding 101,800 jobs in April — 38% of all the jobs created throughout the entire country,” Newsom crowed. “Over the past three months, California has created 390,300 jobs. But we’re not letting up; the California Comeback Plan is the biggest economic recovery package in the state’s history and will provide historic investments in small businesses and workers to bring California roaring back.”

A closer examination of the latest employment numbers, however, indicates that — as politicians are wont to do — Newsom is cherrypicking the most favorable economic indicator while ignoring others that are less positive.

One of the latter is the state’s unemployment rate of 8.3% in April, unchanged from the March level despite the supposed surge in new jobs. It’s still markedly higher than the national jobless rate of 6.1% and is the nation’s second highest behind Hawaii’s 8.5%.

California’s unemployment rate had been the nation’s third highest in March, but New York improved enough to displace California in April. Four states were tied for having the nation’s lowest jobless rates of 2.8% in April. Arch-rival Texas was slightly higher than the national rate at 6.7%.

The data point cited by Newsom, that California added 101,800 jobs in April, 38% of the nation’s job gains, is also somewhat iffy.

The California Center for Jobs & the Economy, a business-supported research organization, points out that the jobs number is a “seasonally adjusted” estimate, rather than a hard count, noting that the federal agency “so far has revised their adjustment formula three times in an effort to overlay seasonal factors to data that is overwhelmingly driven instead by the pandemic.”

“The underlying unadjusted numbers instead show California gaining a stronger 151,500 nonfarm jobs, and the U.S. doing far better with a gain of

1,089,000,” the center’s analysis continued. “Using the adjusted data, California had 38% of the national jobs gain. Using the more relevant unadjusted, California had 14%. As of the April numbers, California has regained 48% of the non-farm jobs lost to the state shutdowns. The U.S. in total has regained 63%.”

Newsom’s Employment Development Department (EDD) simultaneously released its version of the federal jobs report, which demonstrated just how much ground California must regain to return to pre-pandemic levels.

EDD said that just 38,600 more Californians were employed in April than in March while 1.6 million remained unemployed — and that doesn’t count those who have dropped out of the state’s workforce.

The employment situation is especially daunting in Southern California. The Los Angeles region had the highest unemployment rate of any major U.S. metropolitan area in April at 11.7%, dragging down the state as a whole.

So, it would seem, California is recovering, bit by bit, the more than three million jobs lost when Newsom, under emergency decrees, closed large segments of the state’s economy a year ago to battle the pandemic. However, we still have a very long way to go before he can legitimately claim a California Comeback.

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

# CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann

## Dixon History Museum is Open to the Public

Explore the unique and interesting history of the city of Dixon and its rich cultural heritage now that the Dixon History Museum is open after having a special ceremony this past week. It is located at 125 West A Street in downtown Dixon.

You will be able to see an authentic covered wagon, purportedly from the 1860’s to 1870’s, that made the trip across the Sierras.

Featured in the many displays at the museum are:

**The collection of Sanborn Fire Maps** for the city of Dixon from 1884 through 1953 that details the growth and changes of the city over 70 years; **The switchboard from Lois Fanning’s** home used for many decades to connect callers and transfer messages. Lois knew everything that was happening in Dixon!

A **beautiful spinning wheel** donated by Sadye Peterson Reddick, that was brought to California in the 1860’s; From the **old Dixon Post Office** on the corner of First and B Streets, the desk used by the Postmaster to sort mail circa 1920-1950; An original oil **painting by James Edward Stuart**, a well-known landscape artist that lived in Silveyville and had an Art Studio/carriage and sign lettering shop in Dixon in 1876; And amazing **photographs showing 150 years** of Dixon’s history - People, Businesses, Schools, Landscapes, Farms and Homes.

The Museum will be open to the public from 10 am to 3 pm Tuesday through Saturday each week. For more information call Gary Erwin at 415-608-3056 or Loran Hoffman at 707-372-7094, or visit [www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.dixonhistoricalsociety.org) or [www.facebook.com/HistoricalSocietyofDixon](http://www.facebook.com/HistoricalSocietyofDixon). ★

## \$25 Million Grant Program Included for Veterans

By Thora Chaves,  
California Department  
of Veterans Affairs

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Along with historic investments in small businesses, housing, education, infrastructure and climate change, Governor Newsom’s California Comeback Plan includes the establishment of the *Veterans Support for Self Reliance* grant program. Administered by CalVet, this funding will support California’s most vulnerable veteran population, including aging veterans and veterans with disabilities who have experienced chronic homelessness.

The Governor’s plan, if approved, will provide a higher level of on-site supportive services, such as in-home support to

help with habitability; peer specialists to encourage veterans to engage in mental health care; and geriatric social workers to identify behavioral issues related to early onset dementia or similar cognitive issues.

“We are grateful for Governor Newsom’s leadership regarding support for our most vulnerable veterans. This program closes a crucial gap in care for veterans who are in need of supportive services for daily living, yet do not meet the level of skilled nursing or assisted living,” said CalVet Secretary, Dr. Vito Imbasciani.

Steve Peck, President of the California Association of Veterans Service Agencies said that supportive services have always played a vital

role in effectively serving veterans and ensuring housing stability. “The California Association of Veterans Service Agencies applauds Governor Newsom for his investment in supportive services for veterans’ housing,” added Peck. “This is an unprecedented opportunity to provide much-needed additional support.”

The program is proposed as a three-year competitive grant that CalVet will administer to qualified grantees who serve veterans through permanent supportive housing. The program will primarily target those projects supported by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing, also known as HUD-VASH. ★

The Dixon Historical Society is researching ALL existing Dixon Tribunes from the very first in 1874, and extracting interesting articles illustrating the history of Dixon and its citizens.

As these extractions are issued, the Society will make them ***FREELY*** available to the Dixon Historical Community via a private subscription list.

If you, or anyone you might know, might like to receive these ***FREE*** extracted Tribune issues as they are produced, please send your e-mail address to: Hayward S. Melville at [hagavard@gmail.com](mailto:hagavard@gmail.com) and you will be placed on our electronic mailing list.

This is a **STRICTLY A PRIVATE** (no sharing of names), **MAILING LIST** with **NO CHARGE**, **NO ADVERTISEMENTS**; **NO SOLICITATIONS**; only history!

If the subscribers have any questions on extracted historical articles, or Dixon history in general, these questions will be answered as research time permits." [hagavard@gmail.com](mailto:hagavard@gmail.com).

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# Sen. Dodd: Senate Approves To-Go Cocktails Sales Bill

By Paul Payne,  
Office of Senator Bill Dodd

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Senate unanimously approved legislation from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, to assist restaurants struggling to recover from the pandemic by allowing them to sell to-go cocktails. “If allowing restaurants to sell carry-out cocktails helps keep their doors open, we must do it,” Sen. Dodd said. “This is about preserving jobs and getting our economy back on track. I appreciate my Senate colleagues for their support.” The legislation comes

as restaurants nationwide experience an estimated \$165 billion in losses since March because of lockdowns and social distancing requirements to stop the spread of coronavirus. A survey by the National Restaurant Association found 78% of restaurant owners who began selling take-out alcohol rehired laid off employees compared to 62% overall. At least 33 states including California are temporarily allowing the sale of to-go cocktails during the pandemic. Senate Bill 389 would build on a practice overseen by the California

Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Under the current legislation, both bars and restaurants would be permitted to sell to-go alcoholic beverages, with or without ordering food. SB 389 calls for appropriate safeguards enforced by ABC to ensure alcohol is not sold to minors. Sen. Dodd, who is chair of the Senate Governmental Organization committee overseeing such areas as alcohol regulation, introduced the bill with the support of the California Restaurant Association. SB 389 heads next to the Assembly. ★



### The GOP Future Is Bright

Republicans have had a brutal news cycle over the past month, between the ouster of Liz Cheney from leadership and the intraparty jousting over a January 6 commission. The overwhelming sense of the coverage is that the party is descending into madness and civil war and is a husk of its former self. There's no denying that much of the party has been too willing to indulge or look away from wild theories about the 2020 election and the Capitol riot, but this shouldn't obscure the fact that the Republicans are well-positioned to take the House next year. All indications are that GOP voters are united and energized and the party is doing what's necessary to make Kevin McCarthy the next speaker, which would instantly squash the never-very-plausible talk of Joe Biden being the next FDR. The foundation of the GOP's unity, of course, is that Donald Trump effortlessly maintained his control of the GOP. The anticipated civil war came and went with barely a shot fired. Cheney is certainly a casualty, although she is now less a leader of a significant faction of the party and more a voice crying in the wilderness. That is an

honorable role, and she may well be vindicated in the fullness of time. But the party will pay no electoral price for the drama over her leadership role or, likely, for its continued loyalty to Trump. Despite Trump's grip, he's not front and center for average voters. He isn't president and he isn't on the ballot. The focus inevitably will be on Biden and his agenda, which will loom larger than anything the former president can do from Mar-a-Lago. The Democratic polling outfit Democracy Corps just did a battleground survey that confirmed this picture. As Stanley Greenberg writes in a memo about the poll, among Republicans: "the percent scoring 10, the highest level of interest in the election, has fallen from 84-68%. But Democrats' engagement fell from 85- 57%." Greenberg calls the GOP base "uniquely unified and engaged." More evidence is the boffo fundraising by the National Republican Campaign Committee so far. Meanwhile, GOP candidate recruitment is ahead of the pace of prior midterm cycles, whereas Democrats are seeing worrisome retirements. It's not as though there's a high bar for the GOP. Republicans will need to flip about half-a-dozen seats in the House, when in the post-World War II era the president's party has lost on average 27 seats in midterms. On top of this, the playing field is tilting the GOP's

way. Reapportionment gave more seats to Republican states and based on its strength in state legislatures, the GOP also has the upper hand in redistricting. The Biden theory is that \$6 trillion in spending will deliver a roaring economy that diminishes any midterm losses. But the latest jobs and inflation numbers show that it might not be so simple, and there is considerable doubt whether Biden can get his spending. Greenberg derives some comfort from his belief that, in contrast to 2020, "this time, Democrats cannot fail to see how early Trump's party is fully engaged with its ongoing culture war, focused on crime, open borders, and defunding the police." Yet, there is no indication of any effort to seriously defuse these issues. Biden's policies have needlessly created a crisis at the border, and murder rates continue to climb in major cities, even as much of the left still talks of the police as if it's a racist occupying force. There are miles to go before November 2022. Biden might find a way to thread the needle of cooperating with Republicans on infrastructure and police reform without alienating his own base, and unforeseen events always take a hand. But the story of 2021 is not a Republican meltdown. Despite what you read, the party stands a good chance to end its bout in the wilderness after two short years. Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

# Fatal Overdoses are Up 35.5% in California, 14th Highest Nationwide

By Emily Lamb, QuoteWizard News

**SEATTLE, WA (MPG)** - QuoteWizard®, a LendingTree company, and one of the nation's leading online insurance marketplaces, released a new report on a growing number of drug overdose deaths in America. We found that the number of fatal overdoses has increased by more than 27% since the start of the pandemic. Nationwide, more than 87,000 died of an overdose in 2020, compared to 69,000 in 2019. A complete breakdown of overdose deaths by state and drug category is available at the link below. The graphics and images included in the report are free to use with a courtesy and study link <https://quotewizard.com/news/posts/drug-overdose-deaths-in-america> Key findings: Nationwide, 87,203 people died of an overdose in 2020, compared

to 68,757 in 2019. Louisiana, Kentucky and West Virginia have had the highest increases in overdose-related deaths. Pennsylvania, Florida and California had the highest numbers of overdose deaths overall. Combined, opioids account for nearly 70% of overdose deaths. QuoteWizard (quotewizard.com) is an insurance comparison marketplace for consumers looking to save on insurance. QuoteWizard provides consumers with direct access to thousands of qualified agents in all 50 states, as well as major carriers, who offer personalized quotes and the opportunity to save up to 40% on auto, home, health, and life insurance. Agents and carriers, in turn, benefit from millions of highly qualified leads, calls, and traffic to their site. Based in Seattle, QuoteWizard was founded in 2006. For more information, go to quotewizard.com, like our Facebook page and/or follow us on Twitter @quotewizard. ★

# Republicans Prioritize Results-Driven Water Package

By Jacqui Nguyen,  
California Senate  
Republicans

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Where water flows, food grows - or it should – but in California hundreds of thousands of acre feet of water go straight to the ocean in a wet year because Democrats have refused to prioritize the needed infrastructure for dry years. Initially, Governor Newsom only catered to his chardonnay and brie buddies this year by declaring a regional water emergency for only two wine counties in Northern California, leaving the state’s \$30 billion agriculture industry high and dry. Due to increased pressure from Senate Republicans to prioritize and include more

drought-stricken counties, today the governor finally relented and added 39 more counties to that list. Fresno Republican Senator Andreas Borgeas has been leading the effort to include more counties within the drought declaration to relax regulatory restraints and allow for the transfer of water to food producers. For decades, Democrat legislative leadership has failed to build the infrastructure needed to capture water in a wet year, so California has little water to spare. The situation is so dire, Senate Republicans want to ensure that any drought measures passed by the legislature either save water or increase the water supply. “Californians should not be in a drought, but due to

Democrats’ lack of investment in water storage and critical water infrastructure, we are. Senate Republicans appreciate the governor heeding our call for emergency drought relief, but this declaration does nothing to remove regulatory roadblocks that hold up shovel-ready water projects," said Senate Republican Leader Scott Wilk (R-Santa Clarita). “Our farmers and residential users deserve a clean, reliable source of water.” In a letter to Democratic leadership, Senate Republicans outlined several key solutions that will help California in the next 12 to 24 months, including investment in water infrastructure and lifting red tape that are holding up shovel-ready water projects. ★

# CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See [legitgov.org](http://legitgov.org)

**COVID origin dissent ‘suppressed’ by intelligence community, House GOP report finds** | 24 May 2021 | U.S. intelligence failures related to the COVID-19 global pandemic include suppression of dissenting views on the origin of the virus, a recent report by House Republicans on the intelligence oversight panel concluded. “We believe the [intelligence community] failed to properly support policymakers with timely products and analysis. Moreover, evidence shows that [its] failures continued in the pandemic’s aftermath,” the minority’s report stated in the annex to a study that linked China’s Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) to the pandemic’s outbreak. “Specifically, Republican members are aware of allegations that [U.S. intelligence agencies] suppressed dissenting views related to the origins of the pandemic and that the community relied upon ‘outside’ experts with concerning yet undisclosed entanglements,” the report said.

**Leaked Documents Show Mystery Disease Outbreak at Wuhan Lab in 2019 - Report** | 24 May 2021 | The Wall Street Journal (WSJ), citing an alleged previously undisclosed U.S. intelligence report Sunday, claimed three researchers working for the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) were hospitalized with coronavirus-like symptoms in November 2019. Other anonymous sources in the WSJ report alleged the U.S. has quietly amassed even more evidence that supports the theory of the Chinese coronavirus originating at the Chinese virology lab. The virus began infecting people in Wuhan city in late 2019, multiple studies have concluded; no evidence exists of prior infections by the virus anywhere else before those identified in Wuhan.

**9/11 Cover-up Director Appointed to Chair COVID Cover-up Group – Zelikow was the author of the Bush administration's 2002 National Security Strategy, which laid out the case for pre-emptive war, which was used to invade Iraq.** | 25 May 2021 | Deep-state fixer and cover-upper Philip Zelikow, former Executive Director of the 9/11 Commission, will be chairing the COVID Commission Planning Group, according to the University of Virginia, whose Miller Center for Public Affairs will serve as the group’s base to “help America and the world learn from this pandemic and safeguard against future threats.” Zelikow’s “non-partisan” group includes Event 201 participants, the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security at the Bloomberg School of Public Health and it’s being funded by Schmidt Futures, which is Eric Schmidt-Goolag-Alphabet-Bilderberg, the Skoll Foundation, which is the eBay FAANGster insider philanthropy group, the Rockefeller Foundation and Stand Together, which is Charles Koch’s philanthropic organization. Zelikow’s hope is that their work will feed into a future National COVID Commission.

**Chinese Propaganda Outlet Paid Millions to American Newspapers and Magazines, Records Show – China Daily pays to place interviews with pro-China Quincy Institute scholar** | 25 May 2021 | A news agency controlled by the Chinese Communist Party paid millions of dollars to American newspapers and magazines over the past six months, even as U.S. officials have sounded the alarm on Beijing’s propaganda activities. China Daily paid more than 1.6 million for advertising campaigns in Time magazine, the Los Angeles Times, Financial Times, and Foreign Policy magazine, according to disclosures filed with the Justice Department. The Beijing-controlled news agency paid another 1 million to American newspapers, including the L.A. Times, Chicago Tribune, and Houston Chronicle, to print copies of its own publications.

**San Jose shooter was on feds’ radar in 2016, questioned about hatred of his job** | 27 May 2021 | The suspected gunman who [allegedly] killed eight people and himself Wednesday at a transit rail yard in San Jose, California, was found to have harbored a hatred for his workplace when he was detained by federal officials several years ago. Upon returning from an August 2016 trip to the Philippines, Samuel Cassidy, 57, was found with books about terrorism and notes about how much he hated the Valley Transportation Authority, according to a Department of Homeland Security memo obtained by the Wall Street Journal. Customs and Border Protection officials reportedly found a black memo book “filled with lots of notes about how he hates the VTA.” His baggage and electronic media were also inspected, the DHS memo said. ★

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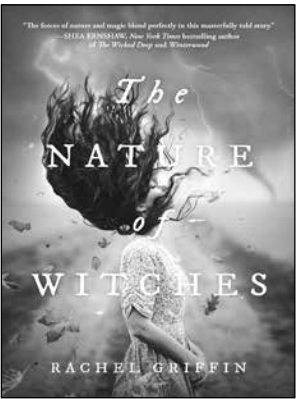
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The Nature of Witches

by Rachel Griffin

For as long as anyone can remember, witches have helped control the weather, from simple climate changes to creating or diffusing intense weather patterns. While each witch's power and strengths are magnified in their own birth season, it fades the rest of the year – all except for one, Clara. As a rare Everwitch, Clara's magic pulls from all four seasons, making her the most powerful witch of her time; the only problem is she has no idea how to control it, leaving disasters in her wake that take those she loves the most.

With climate change on the rise and the atmosphere constantly changing, unprecedented disasters start to surface, threatening the world around them. While the witches of each season come together, they aren't strong enough alone, and their only hope lies with Clara. However, learning to control her magic opens the door to more than just a vulnerability of magic, but vulnerability of heart, and it's a sacrifice she is unwilling to take. Clara's life has been heartbreaking agony. Her magic only leads to a path of



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

total destruction, ripping away everyone she has ever truly loved.

Clara has made her choice; she will save those around her and succumb all her magic on the upcoming equinox. But just as her choice is made, fate steps in, and the patient, kind, and endearing Sang enters her life. For the first time, her feelings for another person carry through each season, and Sang awakens a power within Clara she never knew existed. Now Clara must make the ultimate decision, embrace the power she was born with, or lose it all.

In a story that explores the power of climate change, one girl must

weather the cost of embracing the person you were born to be against the fear of losing it all. Enchanting as the changing of each season, *The Nature of Witches* captures the beauty of learning how to love yourself first and embrace fear in order to make the best change in the world, you.

Blending the forces of nature with matters of the heart Rachel Griffin delivers a powerful story of love, acceptance, and heartbreaking sacrifices. With strong, honest, and believable characters, readers will fall for the gentle botanist Sang, root for Clara, feel for Paige, and despise those who are out for their own gain. This is not a story about a witch coming in and saving the day; it's about loss, grief, fear, and having the weight of the world depending on you. This story is about the tangible relationship we have with our environment, the impact we make on this world, and the power we have to make a change. With an additional side-note, the beautiful and powerful quotes highlighting each chapter should be a published book all of their own. ★



Drought Hits Hard on North Coast Farms, Ranches

Along the North Coast, farmers face what one calls a “bleak” situation, with low water levels in the Russian River watershed. With supplies from the river likely to be curtailed, some farmers have tried to diversify by acquiring recycled water from the city of Ukiah. Others will have to fallow land or grow crops without irrigation. Livestock owners must haul water to cattle and sheep after springs and reservoirs dried.

Larger Cherry Crop Reaches Height of Harvest


They expect a larger crop, but cherry growers say heat and wind early in their season will likely prevent a near-record harvest. With the harvest now peaking, farmers say the dry, sunny spring allowed cherry trees to set plenty of fruit. Bing cherries remain the top variety grown in California, but farmers have been planting more of a type called Coral Champagne, which matures earlier. Peak cherry harvest will continue through the first week of June.

Research Aims to Grow Tomatoes in Unusual Environments

Small-stature tomato plants being developed by the University of California could benefit indoor urban agriculture, and could perhaps be grown on long-duration space flights. Researchers at UC Riverside have been studying different types of small tomatoes. One type has been engineered for use in urban “vertical farms.” Other, similar tomatoes will ultimately be grown in micro-gravity on the International Space Station.

Survey Traces Food Trends During Pandemic


Some pandemic-related changes in eating habits have begun to ease, and others appear to have endured, according to a new survey. The International Food Information Council says its annual survey shows a decrease from last year in the proportion of Americans cooking at home more than usual. But a trend toward increased online food shopping appears to have continued, especially among younger shoppers, African Americans and parents



Publisher,  
Paul V. Scholl

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A TV Review by Tim Riley

“CRUELLA” RATED PG-13

The setting of “Cruella” begins in the mid-Sixties and finds its footing in 1970s London amidst the punk rock era, which is befitting for its titular character, a young grifter named Estella (Emma Stone) determined to make her mark in the fashion world with a subculture flair.

As opposed to our familiarity with “101 Dalmatians,” a divergent origin story is at the heart of “Cruella,” where we learn that a very young Estella (Tipper Seifert-Cleveland) endured a tough childhood and became an orphan who made her way to London.

Her two-tone black and white hair sets Estella apart from everyone else, but she finds dodgy soulmates in a pair of London pickpockets, Jasper (Joel Fry) and goofy Horace (Paul Walker Hauser), who become her accomplices in petty crimes and then on a grander scale.

Taking a low-wage janitorial job at a posh department store, Estella seeks to work her way into an apprentice position with the haughty fashion designer Baroness von Hellman (Emma Thompson).

After landing a dream design job, Estella becomes increasingly resentful of the abusive Baroness, morphing into her alter ego of Cruella to engage in an ingenious bit of fashion terrorism that seeks to disrupt her boss’ hold on a lofty perch as the sartorial trendsetter.

More disturbing is a revelation of the real source of Cruella’s discontent and resentment of the Baroness. While Cruella moves to a dark side which makes her naughty if not an incipient anti-hero, it’s the Baroness who is a hands-down evil tyrant.

There is a rooting interest in Cruella’s fashion escapades that are designed like a commando operation to upstage the Baroness, whether during a gala costume ball or the unveiling of a new line of haute couture.

Abetted by the media circus that chronicles her impromptu fashion shows, in part due to the interest of journalist Anita Darling (Kirby Howell-Baptiste), Cruella revels in flamboyant antics that unsettle the cold exterior of the Baroness.

Motivated by revenge for reasons ultimately disclosed, Cruella’s ambition is not just to take the fashion world by storm, but to emerge on top in a contest of energetic verbal jousts and one-upmanship with the icy Baroness.

“Cruella” has plenty to offer most audiences, from a great soundtrack of the period, ranging from the funk band Ohio Players to punk rock The Clash to the broad range of Nina Simone, to the visual appeal of elaborate costumes and sets.

Being on the Same Page is Vital to your Family's Future

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are in our 20s, and together we make about \$80,000 a year. Our first baby is due in early 2022, so being debt-free has become a top priority in my mind. Right now, we have two cars. The one I drive is paid off and has a lot of miles on it, but it's in really good shape. We still owe \$30,000 on the other one, and the rest of our debt is about \$90,000 in student loans. My wife puts 40,000 miles a year on the other car traveling for work. I talked to her the other day about us moving down a little in car, but she's

particular about what she drives. I even found out she has her eye on a newer vehicle that costs about \$48,000. I don't know what to do. Can you help?

– Zach

Dear Zach

Okay, let's start slow. I'm glad you've seen the wisdom in getting control of your money and getting out of debt. That's the first step toward financial peace.

Now, where the car thing is concerned, there's not a chance in the world I'd do this. And honestly, I don't give a crap what your wife is particular about. You guys are broke! You're up to your eyeballs in debt, and now she's talking about buying a \$48,000 car – when you still owe \$30,000 on one – then putting 40,000 miles a year on it and destroying its value quicker than you can say “fast.”

This whole idea and attitude is dumber than a rock.

Riley Reviews

“CRUELLA” STYLISH, CAMPY ADVENTURE; ABC TV PREVIEW

On the whole, “Cruella” is a campy adventure that savors the naughtiness of its titular character and those in her orbit. It's pure fun and thankfully lacks animal cruelty, though Cruella has good reason to dislike Dalmatians.

Cruella claims late in the story that she's “brilliant, born bad, and a little bit mad.” Add to that the mid-credits scene and Cruella saying she's got a few ideas about the future, and this may not be the last we've seen of Emma Stone vamping it up as a Disney villain.

ABC TV PREVIEW

During its recent Upfront presentation, FOX claimed to be the number one network for the second year in a row. ABC has released their 2021-2022 season prime-time schedule, asserting it holds the top spot of the entertainment networks among Adults 18-49 for the second year in a row.

There is likely minimal, if any, interest among viewers as to where a network stands in the ratings. All we care about is investing time in new or ongoing series that hold our attention.

For the fall season, ABC has announced two new series. “Queens” is about four estranged and out-of-touch women in their 40s who reunite for a chance to recapture their fame and regain the swagger they had as the Nasty Bitches, a ‘90s group that made them legends in the hip-hop world.


“Queens” stars Eve as Brianna aka Professor Sex, Naturi Naughton as Jill aka Da Thrill, Nadine Velazquez as Valeria aka Butter Pecan, Brandy as Naomi aka Xplicit Lyrics, as well as Taylor Sele as Eric Jones and Pepi Sonuga as Lil Muffin.

Inspired by the beloved award-winning series of the same name, “The Wonder Years” is a coming-of-age story set in the late 1960s that takes a nostalgic look at a Black middle-class family in Montgomery, Alabama, through the point of view of 12-year-old Dean (Elisha “EJ” Williams).

With the wisdom of his adult years, Dean's hopeful and humorous recollections show how his family found their “wonder years” in a turbulent time. “The Wonder Years” stars Don Cheadle, narrating the series as adult Dean Williams.


While two mid-season series, “Abbott Elementary” and “Maggie,” are in the works, the most consequential limited series to come most likely early in 2022 is “Women of the Movement,” shining a light on Emmett Till's mother and her search for justice for the vicious killing of her son.

The tragedy of 14-year-old Emmett's brutal torture and murder during the Jim Crow era in 1955 Mississippi galvanized the Civil Rights movement. Adrienne Warren stars as Mamie Till-Mobley and Cedric Joe as Emmett Till. ★



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**Crossword Puzzle on Page 8**

S	O	F	A	R		W	E	D		S	P	A	R		
A	D	O	B	E		A	R	E		B	L	A	R	E	
G	I	G	O	T		G	E	L		E	E	R	I	E	
A	N	Y	M	O	R	E		T	H	E	W	A	L	L	
			B	O	A			B	A	I	T				
T	A	B		L	I	M	A		C	L	O	U	D	S	
O	M	E	N		T	I	R	E		E	L	B	O	W	
R	I	G	A		A	N	G	L	E		D	O	G	E	
U	N	A	P	T		D	E	A	L		S	A	G	E	
N	O	T	E	R	S		I	N	F	O		T	O	T	
				Y	U	A	N			I	L	O			
S	H	A	R	O	N	A			A	N	D	S	I	N	G
M	A	C	A	U			R	Y	E		H	A	R	E	M
E	V	E	N	T			G	O	O		A	G	O	R	A
W	E	S	T				H	U	N		T	E	N	O	N

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**Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8**

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

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ACROSS

1. "Carole King: "But you're \_\_\_\_\_ away"

6. "I Thee \_\_\_\_\_"

9. Ring practice

13. Hacienda brick

14. "Billy Joel: "I love you just the way you \_\_\_\_\_"

15. What speakers do

16. Leg of lamb

17. Styling goo

18. Spooky

19. "Rod Stewart: "Oh, Maggie, I couldn't have tried \_\_\_\_\_"

21. "Stevie Wonder: "Very superstitious, writing's on \_\_\_\_\_"

23. Type of constrictor

24. Can of worms

25. "\_\_\_\_ Cola, what a beautiful drink"

28. Capital of Peru

30. "Carly Simon: "I had some dreams, they were \_\_\_\_\_ in my coffee"

35. Bad luck precursor

37. Swing seat, possibly

39. Macaroni shape

40. Capital on the Baltic Sea

41. Figure with vertex and rays

43. Venetian magistrate

44. Not fitting

46. Sealed with a handshake

47. Wise man

48. Annotator and commentator

50. Facts and figures

52. Bambino

53. Chinese monetary unit

55. International Labor Organization

57. "The Knack: "M M M My \_\_\_\_\_"

61. "Sister Sledge: "We are family, get up everybody \_\_\_\_\_"

65. Last European colony in China

66. Pastrami's partner

68. Sheik's bevy

69. Movie premiere, e.g.

70. Gunk

71. Ancient assembly area

72. Used to be wild?

73. Attila, e.g.

74. Part of mortise joint

DOWN

1. Long story

2. War god in Norse mythology

3. Same as fogey

4. J. Robert Oppenheimer's project

5. Reorganize or modify

6. \$7.25/hour, e.g.

7. Old fashioned 'before'

8. Nile's mouth

9. Boatload

10. What paralegal and parachute have in common

11. Seed covering

12. Angler's spool

15. Punch buggy car

20. Indian cuisine yogurt staple

22. Drunkard's sound?

24. Enter uninvited (2 words)

25. "Bruce Springsteen: "Tramps like us, baby we were born \_\_\_\_\_"

26. \_\_\_\_\_ acid

27. "And Seth..... \_\_\_\_\_ Enos"

29. "Eric Clapton: "Darling, won't you ease my worried \_\_\_\_\_"

31. Oldsmobile founder

32. Lusitania's destroyer

33. Grown-up pupper, in social media

34. "ABBA: "Dancing queen, young and \_\_\_\_\_, only seventeen"

36. Back of the neck

38. Dashing style

42. Spritlike

45. Test (2 words)

49. "Terry Jacks: "We had seasons in the \_\_\_\_\_"

51. One tritely familiar

54. Frustration, in print

56. Missouri River tributary

57. Old World duck

58. "Creedence Clearwater Revival: "\_\_\_\_ you ever seen the rain?"

59. They're hidden up a sleeve?

60. Goes with rave

61. Eon, alt. sp.

62. "Black Sabbath: "I am \_\_\_\_\_ man"

63. Infamous Roman emperor

64. J. Edgar Hoover's man

67. "Queen: "Scaramouch, Scaramouch, will \_\_\_\_\_ do the Fandango"

**Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 8**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13					14			15					
16					17			18					
19				20			21	22					
			23				24						
25	26	27		28		29		30		31	32	33	34
35			36		37		38		39				
40					41			42		43			
44				45		46				47			
48				49		50			51		52		
			53		54			55		56			
57	58	59	60				61			62	63	64	
65					66	67		68					
69					70				71				
72					73				74				

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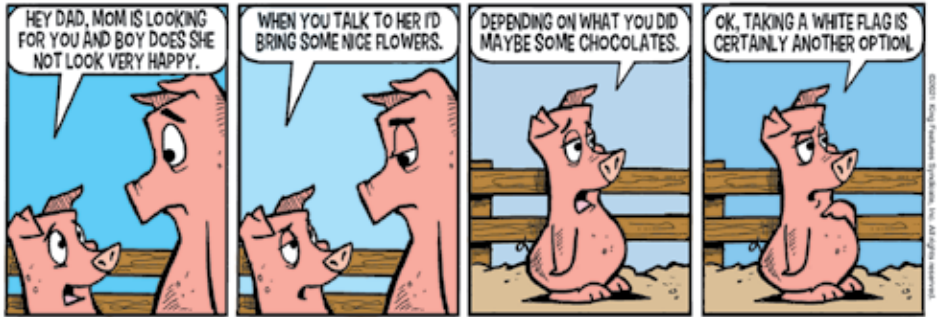
				3		6	1
	6	1		4			
		8			5	7	3
							4
5		7		1			2
1							
2	9	4			5		
			9		3	7	
5	3		7				

**Solutions on Page 8**

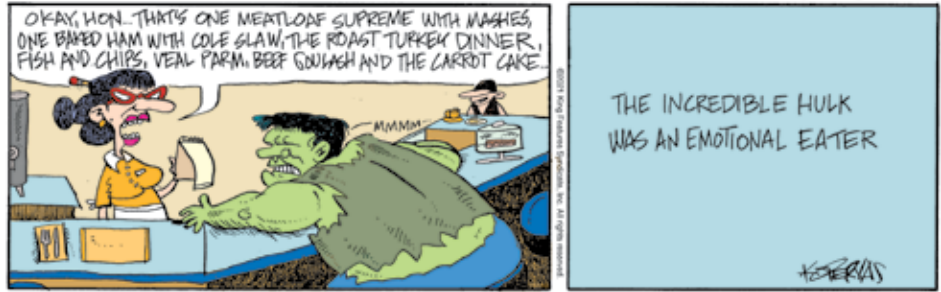


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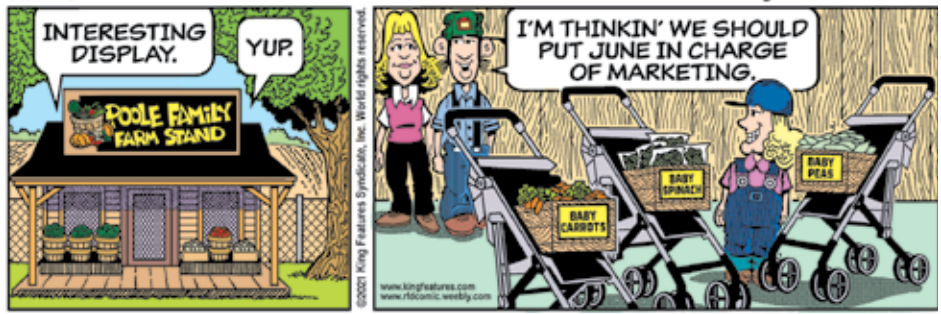
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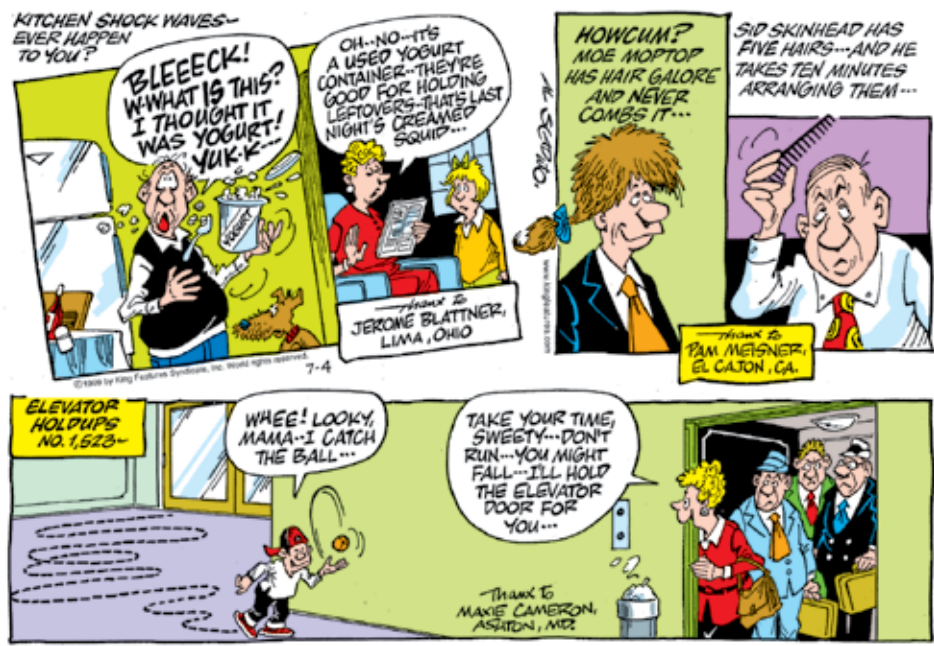
R.F.D.



The Spats



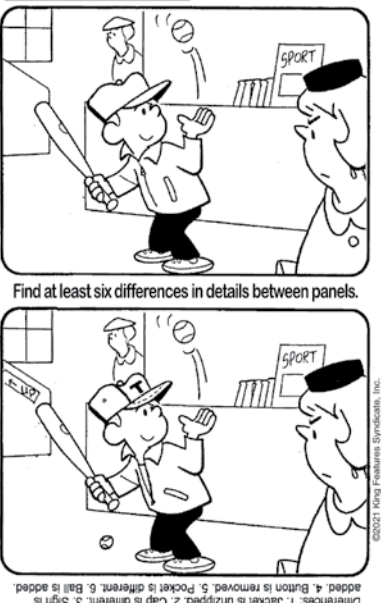
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# Parental Stress During the Pandemic: You Are Not Alone

By Hania Arshad

Staying isolated from friends and family, committing to indoor activities, and the switch to a virtual lifestyle are only a few of the many adjustments individuals have made during the COVID-19 pandemic. Isolation is essential in preventing the spread of COVID-19 but has resulted in heightened feelings of worry and frustration, especially among parents.

Families, understand that you are not alone. Those stressful, negative emotions are natural and reactionary behaviors – the result of an abnormal period in our lives. According to a survey conducted by the American Psychological Association, almost 50% of parents reported high stress levels because of the pandemic<sup>1</sup>. Feeling trapped at home, facing overwhelming financial worries, and the constant need to supervise your child’s educational day can understandably feel debilitating.

Parental stress can cause harmful and lasting consequences for both children and parents without healthy outlets and protective factors. Multiple research studies<sup>2</sup> determined that stress is a large contributing factor in child abuse. An accumulation of parental stress, generated from emotional and physical demands of parenting, contributes to abusive parenting methods: controlling behavior, neglect, and even harsh forms of discipline. A case study from The National Center for Biotechnology Information revealed that economic, emotional, and physical stressors from the



Feeling trapped at home, facing overwhelming financial worries, and the constant need to supervise your child’s educational day can understandably feel debilitating. Photo by Gustavo Fring from Pexels

coronavirus have significantly elevated feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression in households<sup>3</sup>. Parents who continuously find themselves in stressful situations are more prone to developing aggressive behaviors or increased frustration; as a result, potential for child maltreatment has risen during this time. However, parents who are in supportive environments and have outlets and skills to manage their emotions are far more likely to have reduced levels of stress, and therefore, a lessened risk of compromised parenting. Greater parental support and perceived control during the pandemic are associated with lower perceived stress and child abuse potential.

NP<sup>3</sup> school psychologist Dr. Jeremy Greene

emphasizes the importance of combating parental stress during this difficult time. He states that “parents are the foundation of their child’s life and often are the individuals who the child looks towards in assessing how to react in regards to a stressful situation. Thus, considering the pandemic and the shifts that have occurred for most of our children, it is important that parents continue to be mindful of how their stress impacts their child’s stress levels, as well.”

Fortunately, there is an abundance of resources available which offer support to parents and children who feel overwhelmed with their role of parenting as a result of the current pandemic.

Families Under Pressure. Helping Relieve Today’s

Parents & Kids” by Laura Dockett (Psychotherapy Networker): Laura Dockett iterates her own feelings of parental stress during the pandemic, opening up with the initially strained relationship with her own children. Dockett admits to feelings of anger and frustration due to the pandemic but is working to address attitudes/emotions from her children with compassion and understanding. Her willingness to be vulnerable about these struggles eased feelings of shame and anxiety from many parents.

Mental Health Resources for Natomas Families: This website provides multiple support resources for both parents and students in Natomas. The website’s header introduces a counseling service called Care

Solace. Care Solace provides easy access to mental health support services for families and refers them to the best and most affordable therapy or mental health programs.

They also work with families who do not have insurance. Further down, you will find the Virtual Tutoring and Wellness Center (VTWC). VTWC offers parenting classes and counseling headed by Natomas school psychologists and social workers. At the bottom of the website, there are online resources specifically catered towards tips for coping with stress during the pandemic.

Parenting Tips During the Pandemic and Supporting Families During COVID-19: For parents who feel overwhelmed juggling work,

household responsibilities and childcare at the same time during this pandemic. This article provides tips for family guidelines, online school, and managing behavioral problems in a safe and proactive manner.

Self-Care for Parents: “For parents, prioritizing your own well-being benefits your whole family.”

California Parent & Youth Helpline and National Parent Helpline: If you are a parent or youth feeling overwhelmed, these helplines offer support in the morning until evening via phone call, live chat, or text. Don’t be afraid to reach out if you are feeling stressed!

WarmLine Family Resource Center aims to assist parents of children with special needs. They offer free consultations, help connect parents who feel isolated with other families to formulate meaningful connections, create community events catered towards children, and offer workshops and online resources for additional support.

Recognizing the importance of self-care and garnering support from others is a huge step forward, and looking into these resources can help you work towards a healthier environment for yourself and those around you.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR READERS: Please take a few minutes to complete this survey related to the article. You will only need to answer a few short questions and your responses will remain anonymous. Thank you! <https://forms.gle/BGneXP4yDqQ3P7ot9> ★



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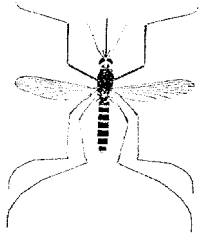
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# REDUCE THE RISK



## 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...

TYPE OF SOURCE	WHAT TO DO...
Leaking faucets and broken pipes:	Repair or replace defective parts immediately.
Water under buildings:	Install sump pump and provide drainage if possible.
Roof gutters:	Maintain roof gutters and down spouts clear of debris.
Septic tanks:	Seal and cover all openings and screen vents.
Impounded water:	Fill if possible or provide adequate drainage.
Flower pots:	Drain-off excess water or invert if not in use.
Swimming pools & Hot tubs:	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, cover tightly.
Wading pools:	Change water weekly. When not in use turn upside down.
Swimming pool covers:	Tighten cover to prevent sagging.
Ornamental ponds:	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 holes in bottom and fill with dirt or sand.
Bird baths:	Change water frequently, preferably every 2-3 days
Lawns:	Avoid over watering.
Tree holes:	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 possible - when in doubt, call a tree surgeon.
Water troughs:	Change water weekly or stock with mosquito fish.
Boats:	Use a water tight cover or store upside down.
Containers:	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**

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