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Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 29 • ISSUE 20

MAY 14, 2021

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May Fair Gets Worthy Turnout



Above: Giant grilled sausages and curly fries were a popular feed at last week's Grab 'n Go Taste of May Fair. Vendors were especially grateful to the May Fair staff for offering this May Fair eating option. Right: Kids were grateful for getting some amusement after a year of health-related shutdowns. Photos by Nicolas Brown

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - There may have been a minimal May Fair this year, but Dixonites showed up anyway--albeit to munch the tastes of the May Fair food concessions, bid out their animals in the junior livestock auction, or enter their crafts, artwork or pictures to support our local May Fair.

"The turn out seemed a steady flow and I'm feeling great about it," said May Fair CEO Pat Conklin last Friday. "People are feeling happy to be able to come out and get fair food and they're understanding about masks. This is the first step to the real thing."

The 'real thing' normally draws thousands from all over Solano County and beyond over a 4-day weekend that started as a simple May Day celebration in 1876. There are traditional carnival rides, buildings filled with exhibits from tractors to quilts, farm animals from chickens to llamas, and usually a

major source of entertainment such as a live band or demolition derby. The May Fair makes its money from entry fees, admission, sponsorships and although most of that did not happen this year, Conklin says, "This is a first step," she knows how much still needs to happen for financial stability after a way-too-long pandemic-induced shut down.

"We won't know how much this will help until the end," she reminded. "We put in a lot of money for security, medics, the health department permit, extra supplies, and janitorial." She was quick to jump to the positive note, though, saying that all the entries for students are available to see online.

There were numerous entries in this year's virtual May Fair competition and are individually pictured on the

website: dixonmayfair.com. There will be three tabs of the three categories: 4-H entries, adult entries, and youth entries.

If one visited the fairgrounds on any of these past evenings it was open with food concessions, you would have deemed it success. A lot of the May Fair fun is just simply being on the fairgrounds itself with expansive lawns and large shade trees enjoying a delicious corn dog, rolled taco, or piece of pie. ★

More photos on page 3

John Knight to Speak at DWIC Meeting



John Knight, Dixon Educator

By Loran Hoffmann, DWIC

DIXON, CA (MPG) - John Knight will be speaking to the members of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club at their May 19 meeting via Zoom.us. This is the club's last official meeting for the year and they are looking forward to September when the club hopes to return to in-person monthly membership meetings held at the United Methodist Church.

John Knight was born in 1948 in Sacramento, California, just one week to the day before Dan Rott, a childhood classmate, long-time friend, and fellow educator!

His father and mother married in 1946. His father, Virgil Knight, was the local dentist and his mother was a stay-at-home mom. John was their first born, followed by brother Jim in 1951, and sister Anne three years later. John attended Dixon schools, graduating from Dixon High School and lettering all four years in the sport of baseball.

Following graduation, he went to Stanford, where he met his wonderful wife, Sharon Sisk, at Stanford's exchange program in England during their sophomore year. John joined the USAF Reserves at Hamilton AFB in Marin in 1971. He married Sharon that same year, and they have two beautiful daughters, Heather, a columnist for the S.F. Chronicle and Beth, a teacher in San Rafael.

When John accepted his first teaching position in Dixon, he told his father it would be for one year...37 years later he retired from Dixon Unified School District. He spent his first five years teaching English at the Dixon High School; was Vice-Principal for three years; then principal for 12 years. After DHS he was the Maine Prairie High School principal for 13 years; then district personnel director before he retired in 2006.

John has had a wonderful career in education and has touched the lives of countless individuals. The renovation of the old Dixon

Continued on page 3

PTO Serves School, Teachers, and Students

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The mother and daughter stand out in their bright blue collared shirts sporting a dragonfly emblem outside a coffee shop recently as they chat about Dixon Montessori Charter School activities. Michelle Salow is approaching the end of a 2-year stint as Parent Teacher Organization President over the 450-student school that took over the former Silveyville School facilities.

"It's been a weird year," sighs the long-haired brunette when 9-year-old daughter, Brynlie, overrides with: "I want to be in a normal year." Parent organizations had extra tasks this year as never before have they had to bolster teachers past the usual "Teacher Appreciation Days." These kinds of groups have always given parents and teachers opportunities to work together



Students at Dixon Charter Montessori School helped their parents beautify their school for the school's re-opening. Photo by Michelle Salow

to supplement and enrich the educational experience for children but this year provided challenges to that end.

"We know how hard the teachers have been working," Michelle said. "They had long hours planning lessons, preparing 'near-pods' which is like a YouTube for the students to watch on their

Chromebooks, and creating content for those. We asked how we can support them. We didn't want them to burn out." She speaks with pride over the accomplishments of the group over the past pandemic year which included a well-attended work day geared to get their school ready for students after a year

of pandemic-induced absence.

In the beginning of online teaching last year, teachers did come to the group of about 25 parents and asked them to pay for online subscriptions for educational sources that would help them with teaching over computers.

"That's what we're here

Continued on page 3

Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

Chamber Ambassador



Patti Sousa-Liu was honored with Chamber of Commerce Ambassador of the Month. Photo by Debra Dingman

Patti Sousa-Liu served as a Chamber Ambassador for many years while she operated her pet grooming company but recently fully retired. Apparently, that means she has more time to volunteer and was recently honored as Ambassador of the Month. She likes being an Ambassador “because it’s a way of connecting with the community and still giving back,” she said.

The mission of the Ambassadors is to promote business, increase visibility and membership, and to enhance the overall image of the Chamber of Commerce. They are members who go “above and beyond” normal Chamber participation and they are volunteers who give of their time to welcome new members, assist at mixers, special events, and ribbon cutting ceremonies. For more information, call the Chamber at (707) 678-2650.

Rummage Sale Fundraiser

A rummage sale fundraiser is this coming Saturday, May 15, at Grace Fellowship Church, 535 West H Street in Dixon from 7 am to 1 pm. This fundraiser is to help raise money for church camp for the youth in the Dixon churches. Donations can be dropped off during church business hours (but call ahead) and note donations cannot be

dropped off the day of the sale or at the sale. Call 678-5700 or call Living Hope Church at (707) 693-1512.

Paint the Town

Put on your hometown spirit! Staff and students at Dixon High School and Maine Prairie High School are inviting everyone to “PAINT THE TOWN GREEN AND MAROON.” Paint your business windows, decorate your yard, etc. to show support for DHS grads and MPHS Grads. They love to see community support and we think our graduates are this town’s greatest accomplishment.

Car Parade Kudos

Shout out to Joe Ruiz, Jeremy Knapp, Ryan Sinclair, Mike Loftin, and Ruben Avina, Jr., for the organization of the car parade that took place in lieu of the Dixon May Fair Parade all throughout town last Saturday morning.

The men created a route that wound through almost every street in Dixon, giving a chance for almost every resident to enjoy. Thanks for all this work guys--you are appreciated for showing Dixon’s perseverance over a pandemic!

Our Dixon Mother of the Year, Diane Schroeder, got to ride in it!

City Meetings

You can now view the last Planning Commission Meeting online by going to cityofdixon.com and watching the recording of the meeting.

This coming Tuesday, May 18 at 7 pm is the next City Council Meeting. 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.

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



Windshield Shade Melts Mirror; Living More Fully

By Debra Dingman

Okay I’m older and really like my 50-mile to the gallon Prius even though it is now ten years old and doesn’t have all the bells and whistles of a newer car like tinted windows and a back-up camera. I figured that I still had enough flexibility to turn my head like an owl so I have not been interested in starting car payments all over again.

So when the bright sunny and hot weather began, I decided I could splurge and get a better sun-blocking shade to keep the car from getting so hot while I’m at work. I bought the largest and the best that touted blocking some large degree of heat with it’s reflective aluminum-kind of material. I thought of my big brother who worked for NASA and brought us a piece of reflective fabric they wrapped the satellites or space craft in. I was sure it was going to work out superbly. My hubby noted they were the extra large size and I flippantly responded it “would cover everything.” Well, that was true. In fact, they wouldn’t fit vertically like I was supposed to use them so I propped them horizontally using the sun visors to keep them in place which meant I covered the mirror.

The next couple days were good but the sun really got warm Wednesday and when I came out to go home, the mirror had melted off the



Horton Farm & Iris Garden is less than an hour’s drive and provided a free morning of cool pleasure. There are flowers to buy if you want. See more at www.hortonirisdgarden.com. Photo by Debra Dingman

glass. I was surprised and alarmed. I carefully touched the mirror’s rim and it was searing hot. Next, I felt the windshield and it was the hottest I have ever imagined. I was a little nervous driving home because I thought it might explode at any minute.

What is the lesson learned, if it looks like aluminum... no, really, it’s listen to your man.

Attempting to Live More Fully

Since experiencing a particular stressful event with someone I love, I spent several weeks not sleeping, having horrible nightmares, and basically skimming through work and being exhausted on the weekends. I made an appointment with a counselor who told me to do meditations, try Yoga before bed, don’t nap, don’t experience blue light from electronics and don’t drink water after 8 pm (self explanatory.)

It is working and I’m learning to live more fully in the moment focusing on what I have instead of what I don’t. To that end, I jumped onto the big bed with the little grandchildren and snuggled them like crazy the morning after their sleepover. I slowed down and conditioned and combed every little snarl out of my granddaughter’s hair while she visited with me. We went to an iris flower farm and spent two hours examining beautiful flowers and catching bugs. Then we played hangman all together on the trip home. We also played tennis and basketball after dinner. It was wonderful and wore me out. This is truly the better remedy to sleepless nights.

I’m especially happy that I decided to bend down and study the grandson’s favorite bug in the plastic bug box. It was identified by his visiting uncle as a tick. ★



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May Fair Gets Worthy Turnout



Lynn's Hawaiian Shaved Ice gave cool refreshment for May Fair visitors and The Teriyaki Rice Bowl provided tasty dinners. Photo by Nicolas Brown



Folks lined up for the Good 'Ol Boys Rolled Tacos all weekend. More than 8,000 people visited the May Fair despite the strong winds and the red barrel team members were happy they could bring a "little bit of fair" to everyone. Photo by Nicolas Brown

School District Selects Mental Health Care Resource Tool

By Adriane Laughter, DUSD

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Dixon Unified School District is pleased to announce that it has selected Care Solace, an organization determined to streamline mental health care to support behavioral and mental health referrals for our nearly 3,000 students, families and staff members. Care Solace equips school districts with a web-based tool making it easier for students, families and staff to connect with resources and providers in their communities.

"School is more than a place to learn, it's a place where students come to feel safe and supported. Even with the resources and support provided by our district mental health staff, we see that there's an unmet need," said Brian Dolan, Superintendent of Dixon Unified School District. "We chose Care Solace for their unique ability to further our commitment to finding solutions that strengthen the health and safety of our learning community."

Care Solace's care navigation system uses proprietary technology and the largest database of behavioral and mental health care resources in California to find carefully vetted local therapists and programs in minutes. Families of DUSD will also have access to an around-the-clock Care Concierge team, where experts guide families through processes related to insurance, provider availability, wait times and scheduling.

"This is a great opportunity to offer an easy-to-use resource to our students, their families and District staff," commented Caitlin O'Halloran Dixon Unified School

District Board President. "We understand the importance of mental health care, and hope that our community will take advantage of this free service."

The Care Solace Service is now available at no cost to Dixon students, staff and their families. For more information about Care Solace, please visit <https://www.caresolace.com/>

Care Solace is not a replacement for Dixon's current school based services, but a tool to enhance access to Mental Health resources for students, families, and staff. This collaboration paves a new path to connect students to verified community-based resources in times of need. There are many barriers that make it difficult for schools and families to get mental health care. Care Solace aims to lift that burden so they can focus on what's most important – getting well.

Care Solace provides the network necessary to help faculty, students and families determine when support is needed, and assists in coordinating community-based mental health care options. In areas with limited access to behavioral and mental health care resources and providers, professional counseling is available through online therapy sessions. Last year alone, more than 80,000 school staff and parents used the pre-screening tool, and at least 30,000 students received mental health-care services as a result. Care Solace has facilitated an estimated 4,000 crisis interventions.

Visit the Dixon Unified School District website for more information or call (707) 678-5582 or go by 180 South First Street, Unit 11 in downtown Dixon. ★

PTO Serves School, Teachers, and Students

Continued from page 1

for," Michelle said so they obliged and they also gave a donation to the school to buy more student laptops.

There were so many activities that were cancelled because of COVID-19 that the group actually saved money from not renting equipment such as snow-cone machines or jump houses for events like their Field Day and that freed up funds from the prior year's fundraisers.

"The cookie dough fundraiser was out because of too much contact plus with some parents not working, we didn't want them to feel obligated to make a purchase--but we still used AmazonSmile, collected box tops, did a Baskin Robbins Drive-Thru Fundraiser, the Kona Ice Fundraiser, and even the 'Love Bug Cupcake Craft' Fundraiser through Every Baking Moment," she said. Even with their donations to the teachers and the laptops, they were able to leave a "safe budget" for incoming leaders who are being solicited now for next year.

Michelle talked about an unexpected benefit

of using Zoom for their online meetings saying they picked up parents interested in helping who had not ever volunteered before.

"We've had more volunteers than any other year," she said. It also helped that the group teamed up with Patricia Guizar of the English Learner Advisory Committee for activities since they have the same goals, Michele explained. "Both of us gained new members," she said.

Dads were also more prone to get more involved this year most likely because of working at home arrangements. The Site Beautification Chair, Charlie Baumbach coordinates campus clean-up days and built a hand washing station for the students.

"A lot of behind-the-scenes work is making sure everything gets done. Closing down never came up at a PTO meeting," Michelle said. She attributes that good fortune to the weekly 'Coffee with [School] Director,' Ben Ernest, where people voiced their concerns throughout the school

year and got answers directly from him.

"Some people and students struggled and some thrived," she said. "People were honest and it was a huge benefit."

One other surprise benefit of leading the school PTO for Michelle is how much her daughter automatically volunteers to help. She noticed other PTO volunteer's children also do the same.

"You can see at our PTO functions that the children of PTO volunteers are the ones out there pitching in and taking pride in what they're doing," she said. They are learning to serve their community by example. "But, I want the parents and grandparents to know how appreciated they are. We've done amazing events and activities to keep in school despite the pandemic."

For more information on the free public school or their PTO, call Dixon Montessori Charter School at (707) 678-8953. The school is located at 355 N Almond Street in Dixon and offers pre-Kinderergarten classes through 8th grade. ★

John Knight to Speak at DWIC Meeting

Continued from page 1

High School has been completed and the new school has been named the John Knight Middle School. We invite you to join us on Zoom to listen to John Knight share his journey on May 19t at 1 p.m.

Contact Membership Chair, Mary Kay Callaway at (916) 541-0417 to be included in the Zoom presentation or if you are interested in joining the organization. Following the presentation, President Jewel Fink will call the May business

meeting to order.

Reminder: Membership dues for 2021-2022 can be mailed to Treasurer, Cindy Heeny at PO Box 25, Dixon, California, 95620. The dues are \$35 annually; payment is due by the May 19 meeting. ★

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CLG NEWS UPDATES

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

California Officials, Biden-Linked Firm Coordinated With Big Tech to Censor Election Posts - Judicial Watch | 28 April 2021 | California officials colluded with Big Tech to censor social media posts in the United States during the 2020 presidential election, government watchdog group Judicial Watch announced Tuesday. The findings come after Judicial Watch received 540 pages and a further four pages of documents from the office of the Secretary of State of California in response to an open records request, the group said. It had filed the request after a December 2020 report surfaced revealing that California's Office of Election Cybersecurity had surveilled and asked the social media giants to remove or flag as "misleading" at least two dozen messages. Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton said that SKDKnickerbocker, a communications company linked to Joe Biden's election campaign, was involved in the censoring of speech during last year's election period.

FTC takes censorship to a whole new level, charges and fines St. Louis man for questioning vaccines, promoting zinc and vitamin D | 22 April 2021 | The FTC recently charged a St. Louis man for making fraudulent claims about covid-19. The FTC is charging Eric Nepute and Quickwork LLC in a federal court for the heinous crime of advertising zinc and vitamin D to combat covid-19. Nepute is charged with ten counts of violating the Covid-19 Consumer Protection Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act. The FTC alleges that Nepute falsely advertised his products, which contain vitamin D and zinc - two important supplements that are scientifically proven to block viral replication and prevent hospitalization. In 2020, the U.S. Congress quietly installed a new censorship clause in a coronavirus emergency response and relief package. In HR 133, Congress gave the FTC supreme authority to target, arrest and fine anyone who doesn't follow the government's narrative on lock downs, masks, quarantines and v-cines. Anyone who promotes a healthy immune system can now be charged and fined for the "criminal" act of helping people treat and overcome respiratory infection.

Pharmaceutical Industry Dispatches Army of Lobbyists to Block Generic COVID-19 Vaccines - New lobbying disclosures show over 100 drug lobbyists working to defeat the IP waiver request at the WTO. | 23 April 2021 | The pharmaceutical industry is pouring resources into the growing political fight over generic coronavirus v-cines. Newly filed disclosure forms from the first quarter of 2021 show that over 100 lobbyists have been mobilized to contact lawmakers and members of the Biden administration, urging them to oppose a proposed temporary waiver on intellectual property rights by the World Trade Organization that would allow generic v-cines to be produced globally. Pharmaceutical lobbyists working against the proposal include Mike McKay, a key fundraiser for House Democrats, now working on retainer for Pfizer, as well as several former staff members to the U.S. Office of Trade Representative, which oversees negotiations with the WTO. Several trade groups funded by pharmaceutical firms have also focused closely on defeating the generic proposal, new disclosures show.

US troop withdrawal from Afghanistan has begun | 29 April 2021 | The US military withdrawal from Afghanistan is now formally underway, according to the White House and several US defense officials. "A drawdown is underway," White House deputy press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters aboard Air Force One Thursday. "While these actions will initially result in increased forces levels, we remain committed to having all of US military personnel out of Afghanistan by September 11, 2020 [sic]." Fewer than 100 troops, along with military equipment, have been moved largely by aircraft to execute Joe Biden's order to begin the withdrawal process no later than May 1, according to several US defense officials. In addition, contractors and US government workers are also departing the country, the officials said.

Arizona's Maricopa County Delivers Ballots, Equipment for 2020 Election Audit | 22 April 2021 | Voting equipment and more than 2 million ballots are being delivered to a facility in Arizona's Maricopa County this week in preparation for a 2020 election audit set to start on April 23. Equipment, including 385 tabulators, was delivered and unloaded at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix on April 21, while boxes of the ballots began arriving early on April 22. Maricopa County officials arranged for the deliveries, which took several trips and were supported. ★

Pandemic Eases, but California Housing Crisis Worsens



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

California's COVID-19 crisis appears to be diminishing, with declining infection rates and rising vaccination rates.

If those trends continue, Gov. Gavin Newsom has pledged, the state's economy will be fully opened next month. However, some effects of the pandemic will linger indefinitely and one is a worsening of California's already severe shortage of housing, particularly for low- and moderate-income families.

Many of those families lost their incomes during the public health crisis and fell behind on their rent and mortgage payments. Whether to extend a state moratorium on evictions beyond its current June 30 expiration date is one of the knottiest issues facing Newsom and legislators.

"It remains to be seen if there's appetite in Sacramento to extend the protections past June 30," David Chiu, a San Francisco Democrat who wrote the original eviction moratorium legislation, told CalMatters. "But I don't think any of my colleagues have an interest in seeing a wave of mass evictions."

Get a veteran journalist's take on what's going on in California with a weekly round-up of Dan's column every Friday.

The moratorium may be extended for another brief period, but it can't go on forever because landlords large and small have their own financial obligations and can't survive indefinitely without rental revenue.

Underlying that thorny issue is another: even if their jobs had not been erased during the pandemic, many working families would be struggling to keep roofs over their heads because an overall shortage of housing had driven housing prices and rents to atmospheric levels.

Chiu and other legislators have proposed a variety of measures aimed, they say, at relieving the underlying shortage that drives Californians' housing costs ever-upward and is the primary reason why the state has the nation's highest poverty rate.

Housing bills generally fall into two categories: providing money to increase supply or lubricating the regulatory processes for housing developments. Both approaches, however, are severely limited.

Doubling California's anemic rate of housing production, now well under 100,000 units a year net, would require spending tens of billions of dollars more each year and state and local governments are capable of generating only a tiny fraction of those funds. Obviously, therefore, the key element in meeting the state's goal of 180,000 units a year is attracting private capital.

That's the declared aim of measures to ease restrictions on new developments and/or push local officials to resist anti-development pressures from their constituents.

Chiu offers one of the latter

approaches in Assembly Bill 215, which would put some teeth in the housing quotas that the state periodically issues for regions and their local governments. It would have the state closely monitor whether those governments are zoning enough land for housing and revising other local regulations that inhibit construction. The state could intervene when locals drag their feet and reward communities that are meeting their quotas.

"At the end of the day, the only way to solve the housing crisis is to put more roofs over people's heads," Chiu argues, and that's absolutely true. However, even if every city and county in California diligently met the state's quotas, which have been increased sharply for the next eight-year planning cycle ending in 2030, that alone would not solve the problem.

Attracting enough private capital to meet California's housing needs involves many other factors, such as the availability and cost of building materials, supplies of construction labor and the California Environmental Quality Act's (CEQA) burdensome processes.

Some factors are obviously beyond political control, but Newsom and legislators have been reluctant to deal with those they can affect, such as CEQA reform. We'll know that politicians are serious about housing when they tackle CEQA, which Newsom's predecessor, Jerry Brown, once called "the Lord's work."

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

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.

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Publish: April 23, 30, and May 7, 14, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

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Two Officer Safety Bills Stall in the Senate

By Will Hixson, California Association of Code Enforcement Officers

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As acts of violence and threats towards code enforcement officers rise, two California Senate bills aimed at increasing safety measures have stalled after being placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee's suspense file. At a time when violent acts against code enforcement officers are on the rise, stalling these two bills on the suspense file is particularly alarming.

Code enforcement officers risk their lives to uphold the public health, safety and general welfare standards that protect people, property values, and the environment. In many jurisdictions, code enforcement officers are now tasked with enforcement of various violations traditionally addressed by sworn police/sheriff personnel. These violations include, but are not limited to, illegal cannabis operations, illicit massage operations and homeless encampment abatement. Code enforcement officers are also the first-line enforcers of COVID-19 regulations, and do considerable enforcement against slumlords who operate in underserved communities.

Since 2015, the California Association of Code Enforcement Officers (CACEO) has received 86 reports of safety incidents including, but not limited to: nine death threats, 11 physical assaults, 10 occurrences of weapon

brandishing, 17 physical threats, and six stalking incidents. Tragically, 20 code enforcement officers have given their lives over the years. Because there is no requirement to report safety incidents to CACEO, the true numbers are likely higher than the aforementioned figures indicate.

Code enforcement officers are now, more than ever, living with the fear of threats to their lives. In January, a Sacramento County inspector was stabbed outside of a strip mall. The week prior, a Tracy resident was accused of attempted homicide after he intentionally hit a code enforcement officer with his vehicle. Sadly, these are just two recent examples of the many incidents of homicide or attempted homicide on a code enforcement officer in recent years.

Earlier this year, CACEO introduced Senate Bills 101 and 296 which are aimed at increasing code enforcement officer safety. Senate Bill 101, sponsored by Senator Jim Nielsen, would close the loophole in existing law by prohibiting the disclosure of the home addresses of code enforcement officers by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). This bill will add an important layer of safety that will help ensure that all code enforcement officers will have their DMV information protected.

Senate Bill 296, sponsored by Senator Monique Limón, would require cities and counties to

establish safety protocols specific to the duties and risks faced by code enforcement officers in their particular jurisdictions. Currently, many jurisdictions do not have programs to properly train and help protect code enforcement officers from threats, assaults, batteries, or worse.

Both senate bills have been placed on the Senate Appropriations Committee's suspense file. The suspense file is where the committee pigeon holes all bills that are purported to have cost issues. This despite the fact that SB 101 includes language which provides that all costs associated with its adoption will be covered through a fee paid by the applicant for the service provided by the DMV. SB 296 also does not require new spending or costs. As written, jurisdictions will retain the control to design and implement training and safety protocols within their existing budgets based on the dynamics of their community.

CACEO is urging the Senate Appropriations Committee to remove both bills from the suspense file to allow them to proceed with the legislative process. With the rise in violence and threats towards code enforcement officers, the stakes have never been higher. It's time for state representatives to demonstrate that code enforcement officer safety matters and that a dollar value cannot be placed on the life of a public servant. ★

CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

Update on Development in Dixon



One of the developments being completed now is the temporary building for Highway 80 Dispensary on Dorset Road next to Cattleman's Restaurant. A permanent structure will be built later and this building will be removed for a parking lot. Photo by Debra Dingman

Recently, Dixon's new Community Development Director, Raffi Bolyan, provided the city council with an overview of the building activity that is currently ongoing in Dixon. We thought you might be interested in a summary of his comments. For specific information on his presentation, go to the City of Dixon, March 2 City Council meeting agenda which will provide all of the details <https://dixon-ca.granicus.com/player/clip/1368>.

Construction activity is going full speed. Most of the construction is in the southwest area. All of this activity is in accordance with Measure B. The city will be providing an update on Measure B in May.

Looking back for the last seven years, there has been a steady increase in building with a boom this year as the city has already issued 277 permits.

SOUTHWEST DIXON

Homestead - Southwest Dixon Specific Plan Area

Taylor Builders is the master builder for the Southwest area project; they perform all the subdivision and infrastructure work and then each phase/village is sold to a home builder or commercial builder to build that phase. When built out there will be:

904 single family homes; 131 Affordable Housing units (rental); 302 Active adult units; 33 acres of commercial building
Neighborhood park, club house, etc.

Gateway Plaza Expansion

Approximately 2.3-acre site on Plaza Ct.; 3 retail buildings proposed, totaling 21,000 sq. ft.

To be reviewed by Planning Commission in spring.

Gateway Plaza Senior Care Facility

2.1-acre site on Gateway Dr.; 68,000 sq. ft, 2 stories; 86 suites, with a maximum capacity of 100 residents; Approved by Planning Commission, but no building permits submitted yet.

SOUTHERN DIXON

Parklane Subdivision (Formerly called Brookfield)

Units 4 and 5 (Sutton) composed of 121 single family residential lots; These phases would complete the Parklane subdivision; Model home designs approved by Planning Commission, and building permit under review.

Heritage Commons

Affordable senior housing component houses required to be built by the Parklane Development Agreement; 114 units built between in 2014-2016; 44 units currently under construction now.

This is the last phase of the affordable housing.

Valley Glenn Subdivision

Started in early 2000's by Pulte

Homes and construction stopped in 2006--Richmond American homes took over remaining homes in 2016 and is building out remaining lots.

Phase 3-1 (110 single family homes) - Completed; Phase 3-2 (122 single family homes) - Under construction and nearly complete; Phase 4-1 (84 single family homes) - Approved by Planning Commission and building permits under review.

Vacant lot on Community Commercial piece on the northwest corner of South First St is zoned community commercial.

Owned by a different entity than Valley Glen residential subdivision.

Very little interest in recent years for development of this site.

NORTHERN DIXON

New Popeyes Restaurant - New 4,000 square foot building for Popeyes (relocated from current location) and small retail space.

76 Fueling Station Addition - Expansion to existing gas station for truck fueling.

Denied by Planning Commission in April 2021.

Highway I-80 Dispensary - Just below Cattleman's Restaurant—2nd phase, parking lot and a temporary building. Nearly complete.

Second phase calls for a two-story vertically integrated cannabis just to the east of the current building. When that is built, current temporary building will be removed and made into parking lot.

Dual Brand Hotel/Drive Thru

Proposal for a new 4 story hotel just west of the Cattleman's Restaurant. Application under review.

Lewis Development

13.3-acre vacant lot located at Southeast corner of Lincoln and North First Street. Proposal calls for 101, small lot, single family homes and a Rotten Robbie's gas station, convenience store, and car wash on the corner. Application recently approved by Planning Commission as a study session.

Milk Farm

There is a potential new owner who is looking to see what might be built. No application filed at this time.

Potential Senior Care Facility

Located on vacant lot on north side of Lincoln Avenue, near North First Street. 25,000 sq. ft building, with 41 bedrooms and amenities, to accommodate up to 49 residents.

Approved by Planning Commission.

NORTH EAST DIXON

Scannell Property

Located on vacant lot on East Dorset Rd., just below Walmart

500,000 square foot warehouse building for GE Parts. Project has been approved and construction has commenced.

Northeast Quadrant Vacant Lots

Various interest in a variety of uses.

Working to address infrastructure issues.

No application for any specific proposals but a lot of interest.

There is a lot of building going on in Dixon We hope this brings you up to date on what is happening in Dixon and that this information is helpful to you during the upcoming General Plan discussions.★

Assembly Education Vice Chair Responds to Passage of Anti-Charter School Legislation

By Joshua Hoover, Office of Assemblyman Kevin Kiley

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Assembly Education Committee Vice Chair Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin) released the following statement in response to the passage of Assembly Bill 1316 (O'Donnell) on a 5-2 vote: "Our political leaders and the Special Interests they serve have taken another step towards their goal of abolishing charter schools in California. "This attack on hundreds of thousands of families is orchestrated by the same Special Interest responsible for our state being last in the nation in returning students to school. It's also the same Special Interest responsible for California ranking 49th out of 50 for education outcomes in poor communities prior to COVID."

Tellingly, in responding to a question from Assemblywoman Megan Dahle,

the Chair of the Committee was unaware of one of the most damaging provisions of his own bill.

The following anti-charter school bills have been passed and signed into law under Governor Gavin Newsom's watch: **AB 1505** (O'Donnell, 2019) - Made it easier for a local governing board to deny a charter petition, limited review of charter denial appeals, and placed a moratorium on nonclassroom-based charters. **AB 1507** (O'Donnell, 2019) - Limited or removed access to resource centers for charter school families across the state. **SB 126** (Leyva, 2019) - Added burdensome and costly new requirements to charter schools, which Governor Jerry Brown had previously vetoed. **SB 98** (Budget, 2020) - Penalized growing charter schools by capping their funding while many traditional public schools remained closed. ★

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Solano Students Advocate for Teen Wellness

By Jennifer Leonard,
Solano County Office of Education

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Friday Night Live (FNL) student chapters across Solano County are actively engaging their communities in an effort to improve health and wellness for teens. Currently, over 100 youth throughout Solano County participate in a local FNL chapters, working on a variety of projects surrounding substance use (alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs) prevention and its connection to mental health and wellness, violence prevention, social justice and equity.

The Benicia FNL chapter has focused on tobacco and vaping prevention, youth mental health and wellness, and underage drinking and drunk driving prevention through the support of various mini grants. The chapter presented twice before the Benicia City Council in collaboration with the Kyle Hyland Foundation to outline two proclamations advocating for Substance Abuse Prevention and Awareness Week and Friday Night Live Month.

Benicia FNL member Miah Chao said, "Benicia Friday Night Live's work is important because it allows Benicia's youth to have an active voice in their community and stand up for change. Through these areas of focus, we strive to create the safest environment possible for the youth of Benicia."

Vanden High School's FNL Chapter has also received several mini grants to develop awareness campaigns around distracted driving, underaged drinking and drunk driving, and tobacco and vape prevention. They have developed public service announcements as well as printed media and are developing trainings to educate merchants on the importance of not selling to minors.

Vanden FNL was also featured on KUIIC's morning radio show. Chapter leader Diana Eagon shared statistics about underage drinking, dangerous driving

practices and tips to keep youth safe from alcohol. The chapter is developing a podcast with the help of their advisor and school staff, to focus on mental health and wellness and other topics affecting youth.

The Solano Youth Coalition (SYC) is facilitated by the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), and serves as the umbrella chapter of the Solano FNL programs. SYC meets with local leaders, councils and boards to discuss local policies that effect health and safety for students and to share the work local FNL charters have accomplished throughout the year. Members of SYC met with Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson, to highlight their work, discussed topics affecting Solano County students.

Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisette Estrella-Henderson remarked, "Opportunities for students to meet with local leaders to discuss their work on the important issues like substance abuse prevention is important to the well-being of our youth and our community. Solano County's FNL programs help empower youth to become active leaders in their communities."

The Friday Night Live program was established in 1984 to specifically address underage impaired driving by promoting lifestyles free of alcohol and drugs for youth. Since its formation, the program has evolved and now includes focuses on additional community and youth issues using proven youth development principles and practices. FNL fosters a young person's capacity to contribute to their community and builds partnerships that support youth initiatives.

For more information about Solano Friday Night Live, please contact Johanna Nowak-Palmer, Program Manager of Youth Development, at jnowak@solanocoe.net or visit our websites: <https://solanocoe.net/sfnlp> and <https://solanocoe.net/solanoyouthcoalition>. ★

Applications for GIRL Camp Now Being Accepted

By Jennifer Leonard,
Solano County Office of Education

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) - Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) in partnership with UC Davis C-STEM (computing-science, technology, engineering, and math) Center will offer free 5-day virtual Girls in Robotics Leadership (GIRL) camps to middle and high school girls in Solano County during the month of June. SCOE will provide all technology needed for the virtual GIRL camps. Space is limited and applications are now being accepted through May 15, 2021.

"SCOE supports opportunities for girls to learn STEM concepts and build leadership skills by participating in the fun and exciting robotics-based camp curriculum," says Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette

Estrella-Henderson.

"GIRL camps help bridge the gender gap in technology and pave career paths to C-STEM related fields as girls explore coding and robotics."

During the virtual five-day camps, girls will learn teamwork, communication, and leadership skills via Zoom. The virtual GIRL Camp will introduce students to robotics, principles in engineering, computer programming and Ch/C/C++ (programming code). They will interact with women from engineering and other technology-related companies. Girls will also study film production and the creative process involved in making short videos using Linkbots (educational robots) that they program to perform certain movements. The week will end with students showcasing their video projects and coding skills to their parents, educational leaders,

and community members.

Below are registration links, dates, and schedules: GIRL Camps for Middle School: <https://c-stem.ucdavis.edu/girl/girl-camp/2021-2/>

June 7-11, 8:30-11:30 AM, Zoom instruction; 1:00-3:00 PM coaching hours (optional but recommended) **June 14-18, 8:30-11:30 AM**, Zoom instruction; 1:00-3:00 PM coaching hours (optional but recommended)

GIRL+ Camp for High School: <https://c-stem.ucdavis.edu/girl/girl-plus/2021-2/> **June 21-25, 8:30-11:30 AM**, Zoom instruction; 1:00-3:00 PM coaching hours (optional but recommended)

For more information about the GIRL Camps, visit SCOE's website or contact SCOE's Director of Innovative Programs and Student Success Lilibeth Pinpin at lpinpin@solanocoe.net or 707-399-4439. ★

Solano County Students Virtually Explore Their Watershed

By Marianne Butler,
Solano Resource Conservation District

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Last month, Vallejo third graders from Highland Elementary got to meet some animals many of them never thought they would get to see up close: three crabs, a pregnant goby fish, a fuzzy bumblebee, and wiggly water bugs. Their experience, which also included nature journaling, movement, and making observations about the local waterways, all took place virtually as part of a live streamed field trip hosted by Solano Resource Conservation District (SRCD) at Glen Cove Waterfront Park.

The field trip program, now in its 16th year, is called Watershed Explorers. Centered on the impacts drought and stormwater pollution have on the local watershed, the program aims to connect students to what's happening with nature in their own communities. In a typical year, more than 2,000 Solano County third graders join SRCD at a local park to experience the program in person. This year, just over 2,100 students joined the program virtually.

"When our primary goal as an environmental education program is to bring students together in the outdoors to explore their local watershed, it's needless to say that this year certainly provided us with an interesting challenge," shared Allison Martin, Education Manager for SRCD. "The pandemic prompted us to reimagine every program we offer into something that could be done virtually. Personally, I never thought I would be asking students to type their

nature observations into a chat box, but it's still better than them not connecting to nature at all. We have found that this live, virtual field trip inspires students to go out and explore nature on their own."

SRCD will wrap up Watershed Explorers and its other K-12 programs by the first week of June. SRCD Education Director Marianne Butler anticipates that around 10,000 students will have participated in the District's virtual programs this school year, and that the District will work with 12,000 students next school year thanks to funding from Solano County Water Agency.

"We hope to be back in Solano County's parks and classrooms with students next year," explained Butler. "But just in case, we're now prepared to do in person or virtual programs - whatever's needed to best support local schools, students, and our county's health and natural resources."

SRCD is a non-regulatory special district to the state of California that works to protect, restore, and enhance Solano County watersheds through its diverse education, restoration, and partnership efforts. Its environmental education programs are funded by the Cities and County of Solano, Solano County Water Agency, Fairfield-Suisun District, Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District, the Greater Vallejo Recreation District with a grant from the California State Parks Habitat Conservation Fund, Vallejo Water Conservation Program, Solano Irrigation District, and Potrero Hills Landfill. Learn more at solanorcd.org or call (707) 678-1655. ★



Republicans No Longer Fazed by Big Spending

Once upon a time, Joe Biden's spending proposals would have launched mass demonstrations in opposition.

Little else would have been talked about in conservative media, and ambitious Republican politicians would have competed with one another to demonstrate the most intense resistance, up to and perhaps including chaining themselves to the U.S. Treasury building in protest.

In 2009, President Barack Obama created a spontaneous, hugely influential conservative grassroots movement on the basis of an \$800 billion stimulus bill and a health care plan estimated to cost less than a trillion. In 2021, Biden is proposing to spend about \$6 trillion in his first three big bills, and he can barely create more interest than the debate on wearing masks outdoors.

The conventional wisdom was that after the free-spending Trump years, Republicans would snap back to being deficit hawks when out of power. There's been some of that, but the relatively muted reaction to Biden's almost incomprehensible spending ambitions is testament to the fact that, no, Republicans simply aren't as interested in fiscal issues anymore.

The party has changed and would much rather talk about the border than the budget, and cancellations than Congressional Budget Office scores. Of course, no Republicans will vote for Biden's proposals and all will strenuously object, but that his plans won't engender the fierce reaction they would have 10 years ago is yet another way in which the Overton window has shifted on deficit spending.

What happened? The short answer is Donald Trump.

He demonstrated in vivid fashion that as the GOP coalition had become older and more working class, it didn't care as much about spending restraint or entitlement reform as the party's leaders had presumed.

Trump taught Republicans how to relax and love expansionary fiscal policy. By 2019, he was running a nearly \$1 trillion deficit at a time of peace and prosperity, and of course the pandemic blew the lid off in 2020.

After that, it's difficult for the party to come back and sound the klaxons again about the dangers of red ink.

Besides, the klaxons have issued false alarms before. Republicans realized that past dire warnings of imminent economic harm from deficit spending - rising interest rates, spiking inflation, a debt crisis - haven't panned out.

Indeed, this is one reason the center-left now believes all such admonitions should be ignored, and there's almost no upper bound on deficit spending.

Meanwhile, Republican politics has become focused on culture war issues, another change symbolized by Trump. These issues hit

close to the bone in a way that fiscal matters don't. Conservatives worry about their free-speech rights getting trampled, about schools distorting the minds of their children, and about the country's history getting redefined - and it's hard to get them to care more about a balance sheet than these other, more definitional questions.

None of this means that Biden has a free hand. He will presumably be less successful in getting all that he wants with his latest two roughly \$2 trillion spending bills. Even in a permissive environment, natural political exhaustion with the high levels of spending will kick in, and it's always more complicated when tax increases are proposed to pay for at least part of the bill.

Republicans aren't going back to their debt-obsession circa 2010, but they should aspire to be, if not the party of green eyeshades, the party of fiscal sanity.

Deficit spending hasn't led to damaging outcomes to this point, although that doesn't mean it never will. If interest rates do ever markedly increase again, the level of debt will strain the economy and force unpalatable choices on policymakers of steep tax increases or spending cuts or both. The status of the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency could be threatened.

Why increase these risks if it's not strictly necessary?

That question won't bring people into the streets, yet it's one that President Biden and his supporters can't persuasively answer.

Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.
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Sen. Dodd: Power Shutoff Bill Approved by Senate



Bill Dodd

By Paul Payne,
Office of Senator Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With what threatens to be another destructive wildfire season on the horizon, the California Senate unanimously approved legislation from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, to improve conditions during wildfire-related utility power shutoffs and ensure local governments receive critical resources.

"Shutting off the power to prevent wildfires has become an unfortunate

reality here in California," Sen. Dodd said. "But doing so carries significant costs. My bill ensures these de-energizations are classified as local emergencies, allowing local agencies to recover expenses from available funding."


Senate Bill 52 follows a series of de-energizations from PG&E over the past two years that were intended to prevent fallen power lines and damaged equipment from sparking fires. It makes clear that such public safety power shutoffs are eligible for official emergency declarations, freeing financial assistance under the Emergency Services Act.

SB 52 is supported by Napa County, California Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Districts Association of California, Regional

Council of Rural Counties, Disability Rights California and the California Association of Public Authorities. It was approved Thursday by the full Senate on a 36 to 0 vote.

"Public safety power shutoffs, when implemented with accuracy and precision, can be an effective tool to reduce the chance of wildfires," said Napa County Supervisor Diane Dillon. "But these events result in disruptions across communities and the need for increased coordination between local agencies to respond even when no wildfires result. Making it clear that a PSPS constitutes an emergency will provide much-needed relief to local governments like Napa County, which can incur significant costs when power shutoffs are announced." ★

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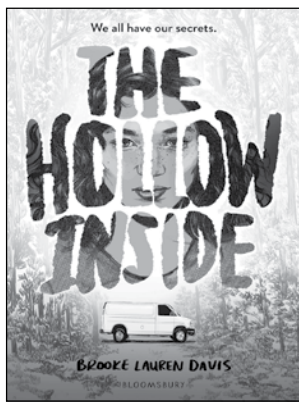
Riley Reviews
"WRATH OF MAN" UNLEASHES BRUTAL FURY;
"REBEL" DRAMA ON TV

The Hollow Inside

by Brooke Lauren Davis

Phoenix has spent her life living between the back of a van and tents in the open outdoors. She steals for food and survival, while her mother uses and her quick wit and charm to swindle. Everything Phoenix has learned to get by in the world she learned from her mother, and everything has led up to this very moment.

Jasper Hollow is a quiet little town. The kind of town that you would see on tv, where everyone goes to church on Sundays and even has annual festivals. Jasper Hollow, however, is where it all started, and Phoenix's mother, Nina, is back for revenge on the men who ruined her life. This will be the biggest game of deceit, and if Phoenix pulls it off, her mother will finally have the justice she's been searching for. But when Phoenix gets caught spying on her target, a strange change of events occurs; she gets invited into his home and his life. Now, emerged into the family;



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

Phoenix can have full access to the house, the family and hopefully uncover the secrets that will bring him down. The one thing Phoenix never expected was to fall for the family or uncover more secrets, secrets that have been buried so deep not even a seedling can sprout from the seed of truth.

At first glance, this book looks like a story about an abduction, where a girl wandering in the woods gets grabbed by a man in a white van. This story is everything but

that. *The Hollow Inside* takes readers on a deep spiraling tale where truth and perceptions are turned on their head, and the truth is buried so deep no one is sure what is fact and which is a fabricated reality. A simple story of lost innocence covered up with so many lies that readers will not be able to help falling for the perceived reality, while being shocked with the truth in the end.

Brooke Lauren Davis weaves a story that is so intently laid out that it takes readers the entirety of the book to follow the tangling roots to any seed of truth. Weaving between the present and the past, Davis delivers twists and turns at each bend, ensnaring her readers with an entanglement of lies and altered perceptions. This fast-paced read will leave readers questioning their feelings for each character while also questioning who truly is the villain and who is the hero. *The Hollow Inside* is the perfect book for any book club discussion. ★

action scenes combined ahead of this culmination.

"Wrath of Man" is the kind of diverting action film one would expect when reuniting Guy Ritchie and his stellar protégé Jason Statham for a formula that has worked before. Yes, it's a notable crime thriller, but it may not remain as memorable as the earlier collaborations.

Nevertheless, Ritchie and Statham are already at work on their next project, a spy thriller that will include some of the actors from "Wrath of Man." Sign me up to be one of the first in the audience.

"REBEL" ON ABC NETWORK

Inspired by the life of Erin Brockovich, ABC's new series "Rebel" stars Katey Sagal as Annie Flynn Ray Bello, otherwise called "Rebel" if only because the last names of multiple marriages may prove confusing.

As a blue-collar legal advocate without a law degree, Rebel is relentless and undeterred in a fight for justice, and as such was described at the winter press tour as one, like Erin, who "inspires everyone she meets to become their own heroes."

That Rebel is unafraid to challenge adversaries in a manner that might prove embarrassing for others is made clear in the first episode when she crashes a corporate party to confront the CEO (Adam Arkin) of a medical company producing defective heart valves.

Even an unflattering picture of Rebel's stunt is not enough to cause discomfort for the activist. Current husband Grady Bello (John Corbett) at one point complains that Rebel "cares more about getting on the news than getting home to cook me dinner."

Audible groans may come from female viewers, especially considering that Rebel seems to be the breadwinner and Grady's job is somewhat nebulous. Apparently, he spends time restoring vintage cars.

Meanwhile, aside from helping an abused woman or a male professor harassed by a university for a possible bogus assault charge, Rebel is motivated by Helen (Mary McDonnell) to pursue a class action suit against Stonemore Medical, makers of the heart valve.

With dogged determination, Rebel pushes hotshot lawyer Julian Cruz (Andy Garcia), still grieving over the loss of his wife, to take the case of penurious plaintiffs to fight the deep-pockets corporation in a protracted court battle.

Add to the mix that one of Rebel ex-husbands, Benji Ray (James Lesure), lures away their daughter Cassidy (Lex Scott Davis) to represent Stonemore in the lawsuit.

On the strength of Sagal's tenacious advocate, "Rebel" merits a look to see if it delivers on a cause worth the effort. ★

Food & Farm NEWS

Study Shows Predators Take Large Toll on Protected Salmon

Amid discussions about how much river flow needs to be dedicated to fish, an ongoing study indicates predators eat half or more of protected salmon – regardless of flow levels. A fishery consulting firm working on the lower Stanislaus River says bass and other fish eat many juvenile salmon, and that the losses don't appear connected to flows in the river. A state plan would require more water to remain in rivers and therefore unavailable for human use.

Clinics, Information Encourage Vaccination

Efforts continue to provide COVID-19 vaccines to California farm employees. Farmers and ranchers have been scheduling clinics at their individual farms, to supplement those organized by farm groups. With vaccines now more widely available, the groups say they are working to encourage vaccine use. For example, the Farm Employers Labor Service will host a webinar next week to inform farm employees about vaccine effectiveness and safety.

California Cherry Harvest Gets Underway

With cherry harvest beginning in the San Joaquin Valley, marketers say they expect a large crop of high quality – and that people who pick and pack cherries will be protected against the pandemic. The California Cherry Board says farmers and packers have worked to vaccinate their employees, and that safeguards inaugurated last season remain in place. The California cherry harvest will continue through mid-June.

Marketers Expect Flower Demand to Remain Strong

Flower farmers report "historically high" demand for their blooms heading into Mother's Day. Growers and marketers say during the COVID-19 pandemic, many people have sent flowers to friends and loved ones, to express feelings they haven't been able to express in person. As restrictions ease, people in the flower business say they expect demand to remain strong, because people will reschedule weddings and other events postponed due to the pandemic. ★

A TV Review by Tim Riley

"WRATH OF MAN" RATED R

Action fans should be cognizant of the history of groundbreaking filmmaker Guy Ritchie and action superstar Jason Statham, going back to their fast-paced, anarchic Nineties hits "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels" and "Snatch."

Both of them return to their roots with "Wrath of Man," an explosive revenge thriller based on the 2004 French film "Le Convoyeur," which few on this side of the Atlantic have ever seen or even heard about.

While there is no ambiguity about the type of character Jason Statham inhabits with ruthless abandon, his character of Patrick Hill harbors a secret agenda with a set of deadly skills not readily apparent when he takes a job with a Los Angeles armored vehicle company.

Coming onboard as a security guard at Fortico Security and riding shotgun, Hill learns the ropes from partner Bullet (Colt McCallany). Becoming known as simply "H," the newbie proves his worth during an attempted robbery of the truck.

Appearing to be a quiet, keep-to-yourself person just trying to do a job, foiling the robbery reveals H's formidable skills as an expert marksman who's also adept at hand-to-hand combat.

While hailed as a hero at the armored car depot, H raises suspicion with office manager Terry (Eddie Marsan). After all, H scored only a passing grade in the fitness and shooting skill test required to be hired.

Obviously, H has a backstory which only deepens the mystery of his connections to other enigmatic players. Why is he keen on taking a dangerous job for entry-level pay? Revenge is the motivating factor for H, and the reason for that is best left for the viewer to discover.

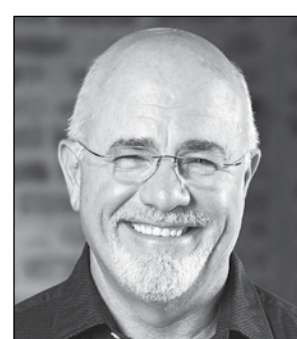
In his single-minded quest for justice, H has interesting links to the underworld and to FBI agent King (Andy Garcia) that stir curiosity about whether these connections are red herrings or just reasons for flashbacks that muddle the plot.

In the end, the storyline takes a back seat to the heavy action scenes that come into sharp focus when a group of Afghanistan war ex-soldiers led by former sergeant Jackson (Jeffrey Donovan) overcome civilian ennui by robbing armored trucks.

Jackson's band of brothers, including the hotheaded psycho Jan (Scott Eastwood), scheme for a criminal career-ending payday of a brazen robbery of Fortico's depot on Black Friday, the day of their largest collection of cash.

The climactic day of the big heist is not without intrigue (is it an inside job?) as well as a showdown with more firepower unleashed than all the

Dave Ramsey Says



Good News and Bad News

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are in our late twenties, we have no debt, and our household income is about \$180,000 year. We're thinking about building a home, but we're not sure whether to build just for us, or maybe building a multi-family place so we could live upstairs, rent the rest, and make some money. Your advice would be appreciated.

–Joel

Dear Joel

If you're looking strictly at quality of life considerations, like privacy and having a little room to yourselves, a single family home is the way to go. But, if making extra money is important to you at this point, a multi-family structure might work. The good news is your tenants

would be right there. The bad news is your tenants would be right there!

From a landlord's perspective, living next to or above your tenants means you can keep an eye on things a little better. Your tenants might also take better care of the place with you around. But those kinds of situations aren't always beautiful things. When you're living a floor or wall away from someone, you're all up in their business, and they're all up in your business. It's not for everyone.

If you're planning to have kids soon, I'd recommend going the single family route – specifically because of the quality of life. Looking at the other side, you'll make money with a multi-family construction, but it'll probably be a pain in the butt. You'll be giving up some things if you go that route.


Let me put it this way, Joel. I've owned a ton of investment real estate in my life, and my wife didn't want to live in any of those properties. Still, there's nothing inherently

wrong with either decision. Just make sure your mortgage is a 15-year, fixed rate loan, and the monthly payments are no more than 25 percent of your combined take home pay. Save up for a down payment of at least 20 percent to avoid PMI, too.

Take a hard look at the numbers, and make sure you and your wife have a long, long talk about everything. You two should be in complete agreement about every aspect of this situation before moving forward!


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

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Subscription rate is \$32 per year within Dixon and Solano County.

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Like Annapolis Academy
- Pine juice
- One in a manger
- Like a good athlete
- Modern address
- Printer cartridge contents
- Cate Blanchett's movie "___ on a Scandal"
- 2nd largest living bird in world
- U in UV
- "Honoré de Balzac's "Le Père ___"
- "Nemo's dad, named after a sport fish
- "___ of the morning!"
- Seaside bird
- Tax accounting specialist, acr
- Back of the neck
- Chew the fat
- Country dance formation
- Greek goddess of fertility
- Waterwheel
- "Drunk and, incidentally, Huck Finn's Pap
- Metallic sounding
- Quite a stretch
- Place to dry out
- Like the White Rabbit
- Dr. Robert Bruce Banner's green alter ego
- Sun-___
- Toothy wheel
- Bad-mouth
- Made a rug
- Low-___ image
- "Simba's father in "The Lion King"
- "Luke's and Leia's father
- Golfer's sun protection
- Romanian monetary unit
- Inverted one
- Follow as a consequence
- Pool's wise friend
- Territory in China known as Las Vegas of Asia
- Young woman
- "That '70s Show" dad
- One-room school house "notebook"

DOWN

- A Bobsey twin
- Awestruck
- "The Godfather's given name
- Heads-up
- Wound
- Cooking grease
- Hammer holder?
- D'Artagnan's hat decoration
- Weevil's target
- Not in favor of
- Capital of Switzerland
- Chapter in history
- As opposed to turn-off
- 1960s abstractionism
- Rainbow shape
- Like ones between 13 and 19 years old
- Griswold family patriarch
- Mushroom caps
- Egyptian symbol of life, pl.
- "Jay is to Claire as ___ is to Haley
- Flood survivor
- Father of psychoanalysis Sigmund
- Garlicky mayonnaise
- "Both father in "Mary Poppins" and father in "Father of the Bride"
- Unfledged hawk
- Casino chip
- Pine
- ___ of dog!
- "I ___" at the altar
- Middle Earth and Kingdom of the North, e.g.
- Courage in the face of danger
- Smokeless tobacco brand
- Short skirt
- It was Brezhnev's domain
- Unplayable baseball
- Old in Scottish
- Cuzco valley empire
- Straight pour from the bottle
- Chill in front of TV, with 'out'
- Divine mom
- Beluga yield

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				

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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

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

Solutions on Page 8

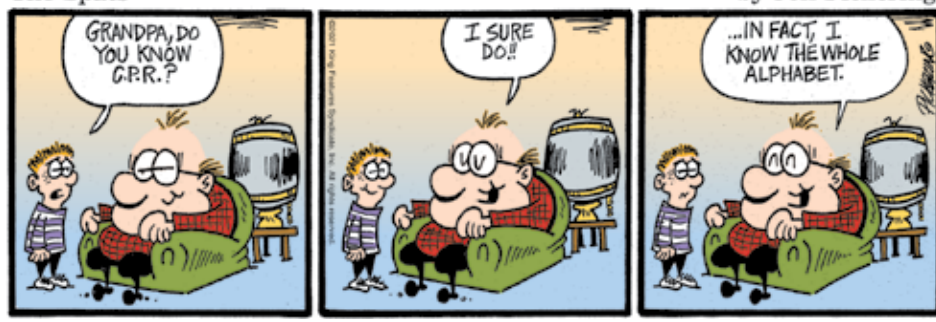
WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



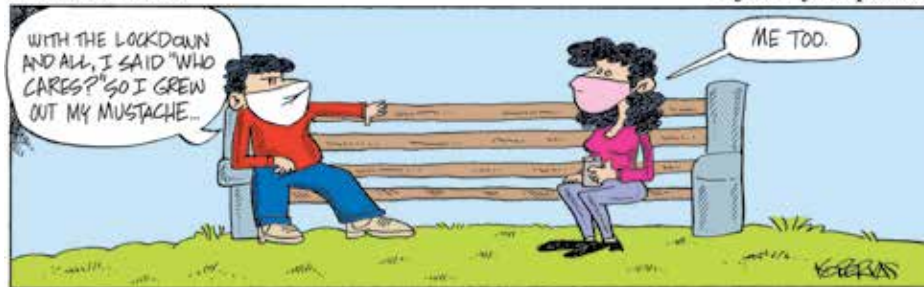
by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



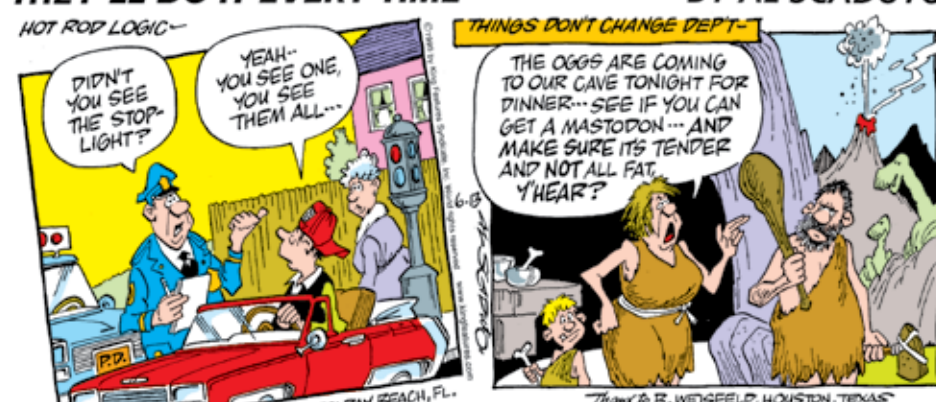
by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb



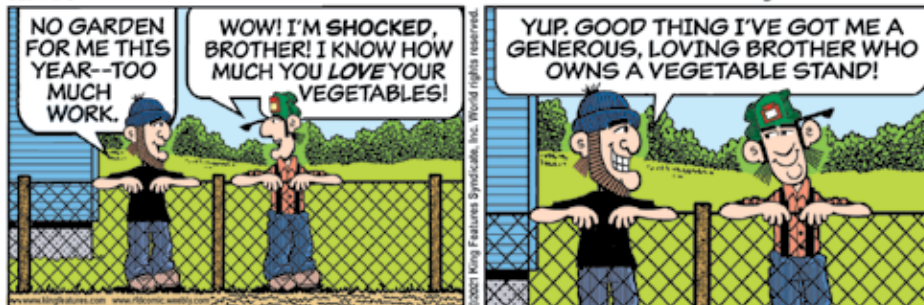
by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

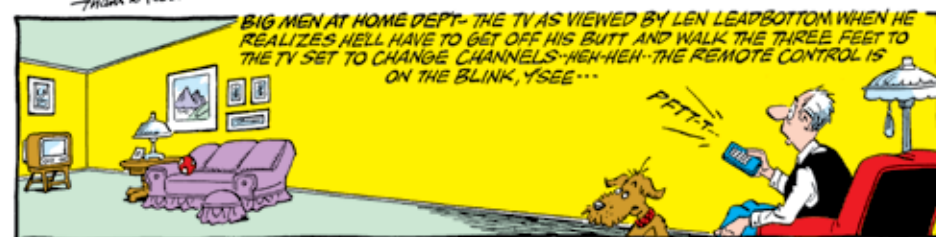


BY AL SCADUTO

R.F.D.



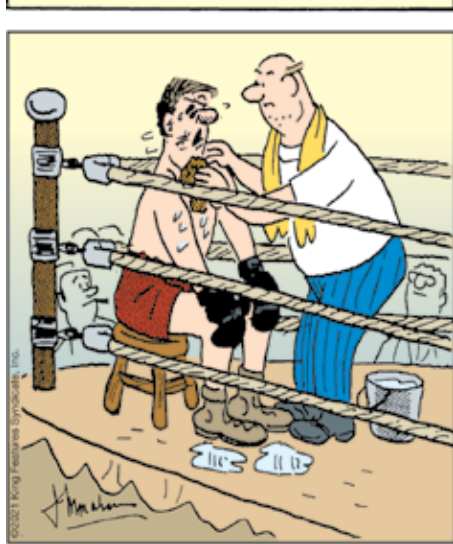
by Mike Marland



GRIN and BEAR IT



LAFF-A-DAY

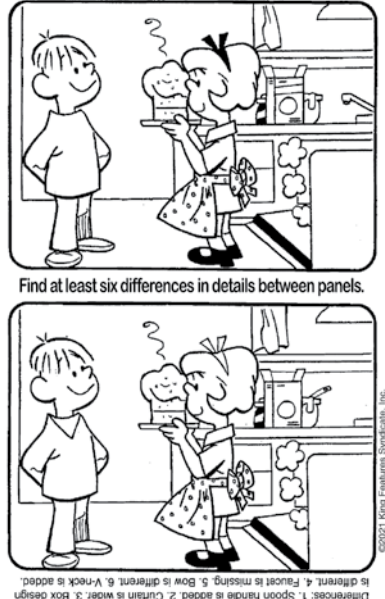


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Attitude of Gratitude Helps Seniors

Editor's Note: This is part 3 of an investigative report on Heritage Commons, the 120-unit senior housing complex on Highway 113. The next two buildings, Heritage Commons 3, are under construction and will bring an additional 45 more units to the senior community. However, not all of the units are for seniors.

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The elderly gentleman is watering several red geranium plants next to an ornate statue of the Virgin Mary on his small patio. A woman with silver-streaked hair is setting out bird feed in hers. The sky is blue without a cloud and the sun is bright on this summer morning at Heritage Commons.

"I've lived here three and a half years and I feel blessed," said a resident requesting anonymity. "I don't make any problems and I have a beautiful little apartment. All I want to do is live in peace and that's why I moved into a senior home." She uses her appreciation for her \$750 a month rent even though it is at the highest end, well-landscaped surroundings, and even pest control to override some of the frustrating parts of living in a HUD community managed by The John Stewart Professional Management Company.

Undercover Boss?

According to news reports, the buildings were built by Neighborhood Partners, an LLC with Principals Luke Watkins and David Thompson but had several players involved with funding and their website reports it was a "collaborative effort."

"We are skilled at leveraging local resources, bringing in external capital and obtaining supportive subsidies," reports the website. That would be funding from HCD Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, the HCD HOME Program, Affordable Housing Program of the Federal Home



The view of Heritage Commons from the 3rd floor balcony showing a well-cared for landscape with winding paths, a therapy pool on one side and a community garden on the other. Photo by Debra Dingman

Loan Bank, 4 percent tax credits and tax-exempt bond financing.

The company develops only cooperative, mutual and non-profit housing since 1998. They have created 18 communities in Truckee, Davis, Dixon, Woodland and Placer County.

But, it's now owned by Delta Senior Housing (Affordable Housing) non-profit organization with a Board of Directors chaired by Bill Powell and that organization is who hired the John Stewart Company, according to one credible source. With the weave of builders, backers, and government funding, one can easily see why the generation that thought going to the top would solve problems, is confused when they can't go over the heads of management when they feel management isn't responding appropriately.

"What makes a home is your front door, your window coverings, and your pretty patios. The issue here is instead of allowing us a home, they keep taking more rights way. We can't meet

in a group to discuss issues and the management says it's not their responsibility," said a tenant.

Residents or Patients?

Older people often have health issues and become more needy. Out of the 250 calls to 911 in one year, 60 percent were for medical. Is there enough oversight from management to see to the tenants - both healthy or not? And, is that their job?

"One little lady is lost all the time. She has dementia. She wanders around. What if she wanders out in the street? I tried to find out where she lives but there was no one to ask. When I finally found out, I wrote it down on a paper in my house. I've taken her home twice," said a woman. "The intellectually disabled need a controlled environment. I wonder about people who bought homes around here. I wonder if they were made aware." she added. The management company has not responded to numerous requests for information.

Another resident takes medication for cancer and forgot to feed her dog so it was dying. Another woman thinks she is "rescuing homeless people" which have brought transients and ultimately drug users and crime. Now enter the issue that new residents are being placed at this "senior housing" that aren't seniors and bring a host of uncertainties to their neighbors.

That would be CAMINAR, a behavioral health agency in Fairfield responsible for ensuring the delivery of community based mental health, mental retardation, substance abuse and/or behavioral health services to individuals with those disabilities. Many residents have reported wandering residents, undressed residents, residents with dementia, and residents who are Bi-polar, schizophrenic, or severely autistic. They have been placed there due to a special clause that says a small number of units can be filled with non-seniors.

Analysis of the past year's

police calls showed battery; fraud; burglary; rape; drug possession, usage, and sale; violation of court order; neighbor disturbance; and threats.

Longtime residents say they have noticed a marked decline in the "quality of people" in the past couple years but interestingly, the longtimers are the ones who also seem to have thrived.

Some Residents Thrive

Those who enjoy Heritage Commons, say it is about recognizing everyone can have a bad neighbor.

"There are always going to be people we don't understand or we don't relate to. It's all in your attitude," said one woman.

"I lived in Florida and there were drug dealers everywhere, but I've called and talked to the [apartment] manager and she followed up with an email. There are way too many people here that have way too much time and there are people looking for the negative," said her nearby neighbor.

Another woman said she "loved living at Heritage Commons" adding that she is a social person and through church, broke social isolation.

"You have to be adaptable," she said.

"You should be thankful for low rent, social care, free food every other Tuesday, and they came to us and gave vaccinations. There is a lot of good here. Even gardeners take care of the place," said another. "The people who complain should move."

A couple long-timers gave kudos for the staff being business-like and professional and offered that "with being kind," they have gotten their concerns addressed. They also said not having social activities or access to amenities like the library, therapy pool, patio, community room, movie night, Bingo, and morning coffee due to the pandemic has caused new stress. ★

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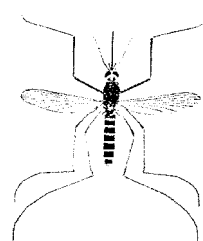
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A number of types of sources found within residential neighborhoods are capable of producing enough adult mosquitoes to bother not only the residents of one home but a number of homes in the area. These mosquitoes are also capable of transmitting West 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.

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