



**Women's Improvement Club Schedules Spring Activities**  
PAGE 3

**Dixon Private Schools Offered More On-Campus Learning**  
PAGE 10



# Dixon Independent Voice

VOLUME 29 • ISSUE 16

APRIL 16, 2021

PO Box 1106 • Dixon, CA 95620 • (707) 678-8917 • email: staff@independentvoice.com • Independentvoice.com

**SEE INSIDE**

**DODD'S WATER ACCESS AND EQUITY BILLS ADVANCE**



PAGE 5

**FATAL TRAFFIC COLLISION**



PAGE 6

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## Dixon's Housing is Booming



Stephen and Jennifer Roman and their children have just purchased their first home in Dixon after spending the pandemic buckling down and saving. The couple were both born and raised in Dixon and wanted to raise their family here despite the housing boom that nearly made homeownership impossible. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Stephen and Jennifer Roman knew that someday they would want to buy a house but with a blended family with six children, the cost of the size they would need would be high, but they watched for one anyway while they rented. They watched home prices climb and climb but with equally rising rents, they were motivated. They also were both born and raised here and had every intention of staying.

"We love our little town," Jennifer said. In March, Redfin, a popular real estate site online reported that Dixon home prices were up 27.6 percent compared to last year, and the median price was \$543K. They also reported that homes in Dixon sold after being on the market for nine days compared with 20 days last year but that might be yesterday's news. Local

Realtors® and loan agents report homes are being sold before they even hit the market – and some sight unseen.

"It's all very strategic and stressful for everyone with a roller coaster of emotions," said Remark International Real Estate Agent Angela Meisenheimer who added she hasn't had a day off in months. "There is just so much more driving around, digital appointments to confirm, talking, texting, figuring, trying to stay one step ahead, and negotiating terms like never before. Nothing is standard now, most creative terms seem to win for my clients. It's all very crucial, and just so exhausting." One of her clients actually bought a home sight unseen.

To avoid some of that stress, the Romans decided to meet with a loan agent who advised them to improve their credit score and offered an "instruction list" for the

couple. The couple went home and decided to "buckle down."

"Instead of getting us down, we followed their instructions," said Jennifer. "Then, COVID hit and we just stayed home and saved money. For a family of our size to go out to dinner or go somewhere special, we could drop a couple hundred dollars but the pandemic actually helped us. Our children range from 4 to 14-years-old. Stimulus money was just the icing," she added.

ARCK loan officer Kiffany Hoffman is sure the low interest rate catapulted the loan industry into high drive, but the pandemic forced people to look at the way their current home works for them, she said.

"A lot of my clients are being told working from home is their future. Those clients made the decision to find a home that would better fit their future work

*Continued on page 3*

## Youth Go to Work with Mom or Dad

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It is the 28th anniversary of a special day to take your child to work with you next week. The program was designed to be more than a career day as the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work® goes beyond the average practice of "shadowing" an adult. It can show girls and boys that what a parent or mentor in their lives does during the work day is important.

On Thursday, April 22, parents can show their child the value of their education, helping them discover the power and possibilities associated with a balanced work and family life, providing them an opportunity to share how they envision the future, and allowing them to begin steps toward their end goals in a hands-on and interactive environment key to their achieving success.

"Boldly Moving Forward" is the 2021 theme. Participants are encouraged to post video, photos, and other online posts about how they have been influenced in their professional roles, as well as post conversation with children on topics such as Education Planning, Self-Discovery and Bullying Prevention. Please tag all online posts with #boldymovingforward.

By bringing girls and boys together, we all contribute to creating a more equitable world-at home, at school, and in the workplace. This year, we are celebrating the opportunities that girls and boys will discover and the opportunities for parents, mentors, and the community to continue involvement in this unique educational experience.

On that day, parents are encouraged to show the future generation of workers how your company affects everyday life. Coordinate interactive programs such as a roundtable discussion, provide a guided tour of the office, or have several departments conduct hands-on workshops based on their expertise. For example, girls and boys can create marketing materials with the Advertising/Marketing department, or learn interview techniques with Human Resources.

Due to pandemic restrictions, parents are encouraged to check with their boss, supervisor or company's human resource department to ensure safety requirements are met. For more information, go to daughtersandsonstowork.org. ★

## Principals Overjoyed to See Children at Schools

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - There are always times a school Principal might not want to report to school duty but this past month, while students have made their way back to campuses across town, the Principals seem overjoyed.

"The campus was so lonely without our awesome kids and we missed them very much," said Dixon High School Principal Stephanie Marquez who reported about half the 1,100 students have returned for in-person learning. "Our entire DHS community is learning, growing, and healing together," she added.

Students started back a couple weeks ago but most students were following a hybrid model of returning with only two days a week rotating with the other half of the school population in an effort to keep students safe from contracting the Coronavirus. Teachers were in their classroom



Gretchen Higgins Elementary School Principal Shawntel McCammon, who missed the "little feet" over the pandemic requiring distance learning, welcomes student Caiden Pace back to school campus. Photo by Debra Dingman

teaching four days a week using Zoom. The cameras were aimed at the teacher or the white boards so that both students in-person as well as distance learning from home could hear and see the teacher and her instruction.

Administratively

speaking, the stress could have daunted both teachers and Principals but happiness of seeing children in-person made a huge lift in spirits.

"In the beginning, it was a matter of ensuring we had enough adult supervision given the new

entry points to campus and becoming creative with a schedule allotted for time to give support staff an opportunity to maintain cleaning and safety," said Gretchen Higgins Principal Shawntel McCammon.

"But honestly, the hardest

*Continued on page 5*





# Re-Creating a Wheel is Time Wasting

By Debra Dingman

It was 1982 and I was in a pharmacy in the Netherlands to buy a bottle of “Gripe Water”. We were on a trip of a lifetime with our little boy and his 4-month old sister when she became inconsolable for a couple days so no one was happy. My aunts-in-laws, who were Dutch midwives, had recommended the water that was infused with some kind of peppermint.

Following the simple directions of putting some in a bottle, she was immediately happier and I was shocked we did not have the magical potion in what I had believed was the greatest nation in the world. I gathered lots of these handy types of things (even “nappies” that would not overload the landfills) to bring back to the U.S. and shared them with my childbirth students and sisters. I knew if I could make these things here, I’d be a millionaire but I was too busy being a mom.

Then I learned a similar lesson in my first business venture that saved me tons of time over the years. I learned I did not have to create a wheel with every idea I had or problem I needed to solve. Since then, I look for something

similar that is up and running and tweak or expand on that idea to create my personal best vision. It saves so much energy.

So why is it that my grandchildren have been going to school in-person in a nearby city for months? Are the teachers there any less susceptible to the virus? Why are some school districts doing just fine and Dixon went through hours and hours of meetings and did surveys to figure out how to do a hybrid model?

Right here in Dixon at the Catholic Church, students are attending school. What do they know? How does that work?

The Centers for Disease Control provided a roadmap for reopening schools on February 12, months ago, emphasizing mask wearing and social distancing and saying vaccination of teachers is important but not a prerequisite for reopening. They said there is strong evidence now that in-person schooling can be done safely, especially at lower grade levels, and the guidance is targeted at schools that teach kindergarten up to 12th grade.

If you see the results of the survey taken of Dixon parents and students as to whether or not they wanted or planned

to return to school, you might be surprised to discover there are a whole lot of families who are happy with keeping their children home. The results were about 30 percent of Anderson and Gretchen Higgins students want to stay at home; Tremont has about 25 percent; 40 percent of middle school students don’t want to come back and half of high schoolers want to stay at home. For Maine Prairie students, 25 percent do not want to return on campus.

It feels like it is time to totally revamp our local education system when there are many students/parents who DON’T want to return to campus learning.

I remember having children on two different time schedules. My stress was to be in two different places four times a day for drop off and pick up was terrible and I’ve personally spoken to parents who say now, “I’m done. We’re staying home.”

There are private schools, public schools, and homeschooling. Is it time to put that school voucher system back on the ballot? Let’s look at what is working already in other districts and get it in place here please! ★

# Dixon News Briefs

## Grad Events

While Dixon High School parent volunteers are not 100-percent sure there will be a Sober Grad Night--the all-night party that keeps Dixon High School Seniors off the roads after their graduation, they are keeping their fingers crossed that COVID restrictions ease more and they are moving ahead



Sober Grad Night volunteers are looking for help from business leaders for “Spirit Bags” gifts/content. Photo by Theresa Zamecnik

with a “Grad Night 2021 Drive-thru Barbecue Fundraiser” and are getting some help from the gracious Dixon Lions Club grill experts.

Since the tickets for that completely sold out fast, though, the Sober Grad Night Committee is seeking help from businesses or the community to help with “Spirit Bags.”

“We are putting together Spirit Bags for each Senior to pass out at the end of the Senior Celebration Parade through Downtown on May 13th,” said Theresa Zamecnik. “We would love to get local businesses to help us sponsor the bags. Maybe with a monetary donation or anything to put in the bags.” Instead of the grad night party, the group will plan an outdoor day event for the high school seniors. For more information, call (707)-693-5366.

## Baby Yoda

Every Baking Moment has slated the next “Kids-To-Go” activity featuring a cupcake “Baby Yoda”, from the Star Wars stories. Deadline to reserve your kits is 5 pm Tuesday, April 20.

Just in case you were wondering – and according to Wikipedia – Grogu,



Baby Yoda. By Janis Luzzo, Every Baking Moment.

known to many simply as “the Child”, was a male Force-sensitive Mandalorian foundling that belonged to the same species as Jedi Grand Master Yoda and Jedi Master Yaddle. Grogu was born in the year 41 BBY, and was raised at the Jedi Temple on Coruscant. He is cute – and green.

The supplies to make his cupcake look-alike will need to be picked up Wednesday, April 21 between 11 am and 5 pm to pick up the kit(s) which will have everything you need to complete this project including directions. You can order and take home as many as you would like, fun for big kids like mom, dad, & grandparents too. Cost is \$12 each.

You can simply drive up to the back door and someone will bring your kit(s) safely out to your car but you must call or text (707) 693-0112 to sign up.

## Soroptimist Golf

Soroptimist International of Dixon announces its 28th annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser on Friday, June 28, 2021 at the Paradise Valley Golf Course in Fairfield. Registration and putting contest will begin at 7 am and a Shotgun Start will be at 8:30 am.

Format is 4-person scramble with men, women and mixed flights.

If registration is received by May 15, entry is \$140. After that, entry forms and \$150 fees are due by June 4, to P.O. Box 472, Dixon. For more information, contact Nicki Monk at (530) 219-6940 or Denise Raycraft at (916) 825-8214. Soroptimist of Dixon is a non-profit organization. ★

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# Am I Reading the Wrong Book on Good Government?

**Commentary**  
by Debra Dingman

Maybe I just have it all wrong. I looked for a book on how 'City Government Is Supposed to Run' or 'What does good City Government Look Like' because I'm tired of having my blood pressure go up at every city council meeting. I'm not looking for trouble - I'm actually watching not only as a citizen but also as a reporter, wanting to ask the questions and get answers on what our readers would want to know. But after all the campaign promises about transparency and public input, Mayor Steve Bird appears to push agenda items through for a speedier meeting while passing opportunities for public input.

At the last council meeting in a matter of seconds, a motion was made to accept the consent calendar and no one spoke up to say anything different so it passed. What that means is that even if you were quickly fumbling with your computer buttons to find the "hands up" icon on your Zoom screen, the council gave a blank check approval to items that sneakily made their way to the "Consent Calendar."

It's tough enough to be an alert citizen when the City is only required to give 72-hour notice of the agenda so if you want to investigate any item, there's little time, but it's important to understand that where the City Manager lists items on an agenda makes a big difference.

The Monday after Easter weekend, I was scrambling to do research on Public Information Officers and the populations of the cities that the Dixon Human Resource Director had polled at the request of City Manager Jim Lindley due to his creation of a brand new PIO position.

Our HR Director, Rachel

Ancheta, used five nearby cities to note salaries. I looked up their population: Davis, population approx. 70,000; Fairfield 118,000; Vacaville 102,000; Vallejo 121,000 and the smallest city included in the study was West Sacramento with 53,000.

Interestingly, I could only find a "Graphics Technician" in West Sac making \$48,600 annually. Ancheta's salary survey ranged from \$80,000 to \$147,000.

The resolution, that please note was already prepared, listed a STARTING salary for Dixon (population 21,000) at \$97,000 annually. So if anyone can do any kind of intelligent analysis, you can see why I had questions but the fact that it was put into a consent calendar and not one councilman blinked an eye, should raise yours.

If you gave anyone a poll of five cities and the range of 80 to 147, most logical professionals would never end at 97 grand. If you are respectful of your citizens as taxpayers footing the bill for this position, you would not have started the position at \$8,083.33 monthly with full benefits but that is what the City of Dixon did. In fact, the approval meant a fiscal impact increase of another \$35,319 for said benefits so the total compensation package is \$136,029 - if I have understood the supporting documents correctly.

This is on top of the approval (resolution 21-037) made on February 2, with Cole Pro Media relating transparency engagement services extending the term through June 30, 2022 which gave them a \$4,000 monthly RAISE. And, this is on top of the \$40,000 media promoting job for the water rate issue. How many people do we need to push city-biased news?

But the bigger issue here is the sneaky way it was brought through. All the talk about transparency and all the campaign promises about public engagement and input seems to go out the window as more than just "regular bills" seem to get approvals in this one consent.

I did not agree with this proposal and called my District 3 Rep Kevin Johnson who could not talk to me until later. I called later and left a message. Even if my representative was all for this item to pass, I would expect him to bring forth my concerns so I hope all of you will learn from my experience. That is: If you are interested in this city and the decisions being made on your behalf by elected officials you better respect that 72-hour notice, log onto the city website to retrieve your agenda, understand their numbering system and that any number in "9.0" range is in the consent calendar, and do not depend on anyone but yourself to bring the item forward in the very beginning of the council meeting called "Public Comments" ON the CONSENT calendar.

Apparently I was not the only one who missed this opportunity. At the close of the meeting, both speaker Tiffany Fabiani and Councilman Johnson made comments but Mayor Bird was quick to remind one is not supposed to comment on any item that is on the agenda--even ones that were never even mentioned because they were swept through in a bulk action. Who would have thought setting such a prestigious salary on the backs of our tax dollars and creating a brand new city position would be none of our business? It is these kinds of actions that cause suspicion and distrust with the public. ★

# Women's Improvement Club Schedules Spring Activities

By Lorán Hoffmann

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - You may want to stop and smell the roses when walking by the Dixon Women's Improvement Club Park. The rose garden located on the north west corner of the park is filled with beautiful blooms ranging from orange, to pink, to red. The garden was established three years ago and the rose plants selected are "old" varieties that existed in the early 1900's. The location of the rose garden had previously been the site of Thomas Berry's brewery started in 1874 and purchased by Schomer and Oberholzer Brewery in 1880 that closed their doors in 1895. The building was torn down ten years later when the Dixon Women's Improvement Club park was built. The rose garden is a collaborative effort between the City of Dixon that provides the irrigation and the DWIC members that tend the roses on a monthly basis.

The Dixon Women's Improvement Club will announce the recipients of the 2021 Community Grant Awards at their April ZOOM Membership meeting. Clearly, the needs of Dixon's schools and non-profit organizations are many as reflected by the number of letters and applications that were received. The DWIC is pleased to be able to offer support to community groups and school programs, especially this year with the complications and increased needs due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Diane Schroeder along with members of the DWIC Scholarship Committee are reviewing scholarship applications submitted by members of the graduating Class of 2021 from Dixon and Maine Prairie High Schools. Top candidates will be selected to participate in a personal interview that will be conducted via ZOOM. In May, \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to two Class of 2021 graduates for expenses at an accredited 2 or 4 year college or university or a specialized training/trade school of the awardee's choice.

The Dixon Women's Improvement Club will meet on Wednesday, April 21 at 1:00 pm via ZOOM. We are pleased to welcome Bonnie Katz, Director of the Solano County Library, who will speak on the expanded services being offered by the Dixon Carnegie Library. A little more than a year ago the Dixon School Board recommended the Dixon Library be administered by the Solano County Library system, resulting in Dixon residents having expanded services offered to them.

Solano County Libraries are supported in part from property taxes. In



Kristina Fink from Lemuria Nursery helped plant the 'vintage' roses alongside the Dixon Women's Improvement Club members in the park at the corner of First and C Streets. Photo by Lorán Hoffmann

1997, voters understood libraries were essential for a community's success and agreed to tax themselves 1/8 of a penny sales tax. (Measure B). In 2012, voters chose to extend the support of the libraries through the increased sales tax (Measure L). Since the passage of the 1/8 of a penny sales tax, the budget for books, digital resources, and other materials increased 341% and programs for youth increase 119%.

Pandemic imposed restrictions closed all California libraries in March 2020. Modified services are offered by the Dixon Carnegie Library at this time allowing for entrance by appointment only. Most residents are not aware of the variety of new services and programs that are now available. The Dixon Library is scheduled to reopen to the public on June 29.

Director Katz will speak about the new services, programs, and electronic opportunities available to residents possessing a Dixon Library card. Members of the public are welcome to join us for the presentation if they are interested in learning about the new programs and services including the 24/7 Digital Library that is always open to borrow free e-books and e-Audiobooks or search databases for up-to-date popular and scholarly articles on a wide range of subjects.

The Zoom meeting starts at 1:00 pm on April 21st. If you are interested in learning more about the Dixon Women's Improvement Club or would like to participate in the Zoom presentation featuring Dixon's New Library Services contact Membership Chair, Mary Kay Callaway 916-541-0417. ★

# Dixon's Housing is Booming

Continued from page 1 situation," she said. Some agents say that there is a Bay Area exodus also.

Once the Romans became debt free, the couple began to look seriously at homes for sale.

"It was challenging," Jennifer said but with the help of Susan Motley of Motley Realty, who also had rented a house to the couple, they negotiated the purchase of a spacious 2-story with large

front and back yards on Amesbury.

"We love our neighborhood and we're close to the park," said Jennifer as several children seemed to bounce around her and Stephen in their front yard. "We're super excited."

Hoffman expects to see many more people like the Romans.

"We are still experiencing a high volume of refinances and home purchases due to low interest

rates that are still low 3-percent, which is phenomenal," said Hoffman. "If someone would have said during the housing downfall of mid 2000's that home values would have reached this level in 2021 during a 'pandemic,' no one would have believed it. She does not expect the market to slow down anytime soon and said there are many, more buyers than homes. ★



Stephen and Jennifer Roman knew that someday they would want to buy a house. Photo by Debra Dingman



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### The Dollar Sign President

So far, the defining word of the Biden era is “trillion.”

The Joe Biden who portrayed himself as a moderate, old school, bipartisan dealmaker during the presidential campaign is now a distant memory.

He’s been replaced by the Joe Biden who is dazzling progressives with his willingness to “go big” – in other words, spend jaw-dropping amounts that would have been unimaginable prior to the pandemic and are still shocking even now.

Why has Biden embarked on a historic spending splurge with nary a whisper of bipartisan support?

Well, Democrats talked themselves into the proposition that there basically isn’t any such thing as spending too much money.

Relatedly, the party consensus is that Barack Obama went “too small,” with a stimulus package under a trillion dollars insufficient to the scale of post-financial-crisis recession.

Besides, spending is what Biden can actually do – he can pass his stimulus and relief bills under the so-called reconciliation rules in the Senate, requiring only 50 votes rather than the 60 it takes to break a filibuster.

Finally, any Democratic president is drawn to the heroic allure of FDR and wants to measure himself

against the New Deal.

Biden had a recent meeting with historians in the White House at which FDR was much discussed. One of the participants, historian Michael Beschloss, told Axios that FDR or LBJ may be the most apt analogue to how Biden is “transforming the country in important ways in a short time.”

There’s no doubt that any Democratic president would envy the sheer amount of dollars that Biden is shoveling out the door.

In fiscal year 2019, the federal government, which wasn’t exactly tightening its belt, spent \$4.4 trillion.

Biden is on pace to roughly match that with his first two major legislative initiatives – the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill, and his new \$2.3 trillion infrastructure proposal.

The Biden team almost gives the sense that it is working backward – starting with a big, eye-popping price tag and then figuring out what initiatives can be thrown in to reach the top-line number.

The schools have tens of millions of dollars sitting unspent from prior relief bills, and here comes another \$100 billion to upgrade school buildings in the infrastructure bill.

The states were lavished with \$350 billion in the COVID-19 relief bill, even though many of them didn’t lose revenue during the pandemic. Why can’t those dollars be spent on infrastructure?

The new proposal is an infrastructure, drinking-water, broadband, home-retrofitting, manufacturing, long-term-care, electric-car, unionization bill – and a few other things besides.

The question is whether,

when all the money is spent, anyone will point to any transformative change in the country attributable to the legislation. Or whether, like the Obama stimulus, it will be completely forgettable, money strewn over the landscape without leaving much of a trace.

Certainly, the need for infrastructure spending over and beyond what the federal government, states and localities already spend is oversold.

A recent paper for the National Bureau of Economic Research noted: “Over the past generation, the condition of the interstate highway network improved consistently, its extent increased modestly, and traffic about doubled. Over about the same time period, the condition of bridges remained about the same, the number of bridges increased slowly, and bridge traffic increased modestly.”

Shooting money out of a bazooka is not self-evidently what the state of America’s infrastructure calls for. But when the only tool you have is huge reconciliation spending bills, everything looks like a crisis urgently requiring more profligacy.

The bills are also a substitute for passing significant nonspending policy changes. Unlike FDR, Biden has narrow and tenuous congressional majorities. He’s not getting HRI, gun control, a higher minimum wage or immigration reform, and perhaps couldn’t even if Senate Democrats eliminated the filibuster.

What he can do, which FDR and LBJ never could, is reach for the word “trillion” as much as possible.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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## Pandemic has Damaged California’s School Children



By Dan Walters  
CALMatters.org

reared its ugly head, schools were quickly shuttered and educators scrambled to replace classroom instruction with at-home instruction via the Internet. But once again, many of the children already at risk of failure were left behind, lacking the resources and/or familial support to participate.

The damage has been huge, widening the already yawning gap between the at-risk students and their more privileged peers. A new report on impacts in Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation’s second largest school system, reveals the extent of the damage.

LA Unified’s classrooms have been closed for more than a year and will only begin to reopen later this month, largely due to conflicts between the district’s managers and its unions – a syndrome that’s delayed reopening in many large urban districts.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted the livelihoods, health, education, childcare, and financial stability of millions,” says the report issued by Great Public Schools, a local advocacy group. “Students in Los Angeles Unified School District...are experiencing the painful loss of connection with their peers, teachers and school staff, and serious loss of learning that will have life-long consequences if not addressed.”

“We may not know the full impact of this last year on our students for another year or more, but the preliminary data we have paints an alarming picture,” the report adds.

Among the specific findings, based on LA Unified’s own data:

40% of LAUSD middle and high schoolers were disengaged or absent from classes in spring 2020; Disengagement was likely even higher for elementary students; More than 13,000 middle and high school students were consistently disengaged in fall 2020. An additional 56,000 did not actively participate on a daily basis; Two-thirds of LA Unified students are falling behind in literacy and math. Fewer young students of color are on target in reading skills compared to a year earlier; Across all academic progress indicators, students of color, low-income students, English learners, foster children, students with disabilities and homeless students have been set back further than their more advantaged peers; Many high school students are at risk of not graduating. Currently, 20% of the class of 2021, 43% of the class of 2022, 37% of the class of 2023, and 30% of the class of 2024 will not graduate.

These numbers are – or should be – shocking and embarrassing to every adult involved in the operation of California schools, from Gov. Gavin Newsom downward. Not only are the futures of the affected children dimmer but their educational lapses will affect the entire state for decades to come.

*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 and Shirley Humphrey

## Winters vs Dixon - Back to the Future Experience

In June of 1875, a resident living between Winters and Dixon wrote a letter to the Editor of the local newspaper, The Dixon Tribune, comparing the social and economic attributes between the towns of Dixon and Winters. Last week while I was enjoying dinner at one of the local restaurants, I heard a conversation among local residents citing their personal comparisons of the towns of Dixon and Winters.

While doing research for the Dixon History Museum, I stumbled across this “Letter to the Editor.” I felt like I had stepped “back to the future” from my dinner conversation earlier in the week! Wow! It certainly makes one wonder -Does anything really change?

Mr. Editor: It is not common for me to write for newspapers, but some plain facts that we all see, make it a duty. You know there is excitement great and wonderful about the large city of Winters on Putah Creek. Farmers and merchants have stood in wonder to see Winters, like magic, spring up, while Dixon scarcely moves- What is the matter? Cannot Dixon outmatch Winters? There are causes for this prosperity of one, and this unmove (sic) ability of the other.

Winters has struck the key-note of success. The men who have the real-estate there are alive and enterprising; they are liberal and kind to every movement, which promises success to their town. It would seem they are united to make Winters the City of California. Such endeavors will succeed, to a great extent; they will gain their just reward. Land-holders are standing firmly by the interests of the New town--time, money and labor are laid upon the altar; schools and churches find warm encouragement and liberal aid – these things will help to make any town great. The people about Winters are putting their wagon roads in good order, and inviting trade from every direction.

How about Dixon? It is a city of five years of age, with near a thousand people; Dixon has a schoolhouse, not completed nor comfortable; two church buildings, neither of which are in good repair. It has around it the best body of wheat growing land in the County, and the railroad for moving it. Yet Dixon shows but little signs of growth.

Is it the fault of the climate? Not that! The want of concerted enterprise is the trouble. Some men who have large real-estates in and around Dixon, will not encourage any public enterprise. Schools, churches, colleges, public roads nor mutual protection finds favor with them. Selfish gain seems to predominate – the

everyman’s hand against his fellow citizen’s prosperity.

Even men who receive large incomes from their houses, refused to ensure, and also positively refuse to pay \$0.50 per week to a night guard who watches their property and the property of others. How can a town prosper when there is such penury and absolute stinginess (sic).

Take a church in this community where members could soon erect a house for God and posterity. Nearly 2 years has been talked about building but nothing seems done. No attempts have been made, difficulties to forestall would come up. A movement several weeks ago was inaugurated to raise a school building, but what is the promise of success? Merchants, real estate men and others are deploring the decline as a town, and are not nerved yet to act – Shall Winters eclipse the glory of Dixon? You say no, for Winters is of mushroom growth, and like Jonah’s board will wither at night. The people in your town must make the town. Land-owners must be reasonable, merchants must sell on short margin, and the citizens of Dixon must make up and build up their town on a large, liberal basis-Erect your \$12,000 school edifice, raise the walls and spire of your church. Let the sacrifice be made by the people so Dixon may yet try and wipe out the epitaph some are writing, “your city is left unto you desolate.”

Let Winters spread itself like a green bay-tree, besides Putah Creek; but make Dixon the pride of Solano County in its enterprising benevolent people. Erect monuments for the eyes of unknown generations to behold and call you blessed.

Excuse me Mr. Editor, I meant to be short and plain.

### Ardeth’s Brevities

Thank you Ardeth Riedel for your work preserving Dixon’s history and the many hours you spent extracting data using pencil and paper from microfilmed copies of the Dixon Tribune. Ardeth’s Brevities include 1,365 entries covering the period of 1874 to 1979.

In the same June 1875 newspaper the following article appeared.


All the carpenters, hereabouts, have contracts for building in Winters. The lumber trade is brisk. Everything tends Winter-ward. For a wonder, there was no fighting in Dixon on Sunday last. During the harvest season, hundreds of men come in from the adjacent country on Sundays, and some of them generally become pugilistic before leaving, but last Sunday was an exception to the rule. We gladly make a note of the fact. ★




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Subscriptions should be mailed to:  
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Subscription rate is \$32 per year within Dixon and Solano County.

Main Office Address: 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The *Dixon Independent Voice* is published weekly on Friday.

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## Dodd's Water Access and Equity Bills Advance

By Paul Payne,  
Office of Sen. Bill Dodd

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Legislation from Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, to help hundreds of thousands of Californians who have fallen behind on their water bills – a problem worsened by the coronavirus pandemic – has cleared a key committee hurdle.

“All Californians must have access to water, regardless of their income level or economic status,” Sen. Dodd said. “Many people are at risk of being denied this essential service, in part because of rising water rates but also because the pandemic has left so many people unemployed. My legislation will ensure low-income customers

aren't cut off and get the financial help they need to keep the water turned for their families.”

Sen. Dodd has proposed two bills to ensure access and affordability. Senate Bill 222 establishes a water assistance fund for low-income rate payers experiencing economic hardship. And SB 223 expands protections and protocols for customers who are faced with having their water shut off because of an inability to pay their bills.

They were approved with overwhelming support late Monday in the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications committee. The bills head next to the Senate Environmental Quality committee.

Together they build on

Sen. Dodd's earlier legislation. His Low-Income Water Rate Assistance Act, or Assembly Bill 401, commissioned a study for how to address affordability. It resulted in recommendations including this new fund. He also wrote The Water Shutoff Protection Act, or SB 998, which provided significant safeguards against water shutoffs.

The new bills come as the State Water Resources Control Board has received results of a survey finding water debt in California climbed to about \$1 billion. The survey estimated 12% of California households are behind on their water bills with an average debt of \$500 per household. Many of those people are at risk of losing service. ★

## Search is on for Dixon's 2021 Mother of the Year

- Enter your Mother or ANY OTHER MOTHER who you believe exemplifies the finest qualities of Motherhood.
- Three age groups for those submitting entries:  
Grade 6 and Under;  
Grade 7 through 9;  
and High School and Adults
- Essays should be no more than 500 words
- Please include recent photo for publication with the winning entries.
- Decisions of the judges are final.
- Essays must be submitted by 5:00 pm on Saturday, May 1st.



### Mother of the Year Award

Official Entry Form  
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## Principals Overjoyed to See Children at Schools

Continued from page 1

part has been that I can't just hug, high five, and fist bump everyone of my students as I normally would.”

Even with so little time left in the school year, McCammon was filled with gratitude about the “GH Team of teachers and staff who have learned so much together.”

“I was also happy to see that my teachers took a lot of instructional risks in order to teach students Common Core State Standards. It takes courage to do so and they did it while doing their own learning with technology,” she said.

“Even through the frustrations that came, we made it by giving each other grace and patience,” McCammon said. “And, I'm most excited to have little feet on campus while still having an opportunity to connect with our students that are learning from home!”

The new Principal of John Knight Middle School Kamilah O'Connor reported there had been few difficulties so far.

As an administrator, the most difficult thing has been responding to students when they want to attend in-person school all four days instead of the two. Right now, they are getting two virtual school days.

“Most of the students have suffered quite a bit of learning loss and have struggled to thrive in a distance learning environment. These students have reengaged now that our doors are open and they want to be here every day but due to the tier we're in, we cannot offer this option,” said O'Connor. She is, however, collaborating with her staff to devise a plan to offer after-school tutorials four days a week which might help mitigate learning loss for students.

When the doors opened, and in the first few days of in-person learning, there were roughly only 50 students but in those first days, that enabled them to learn names, look into each other's eyes, and build relationships, she explained.

“We got acquainted with one another in person,” she said. “Equally rewarding has been reflecting and appreciating the uniqueness of the school year.” Students had two “first days” of school: One as a Cougar at CA Jacobs and the second as a John Knight Middle School Maverick.

Principals were expecting to see an increase in their in-person learning numbers after the spring break. The last day of school is still set for June 3, 2021. ★

Mom's Name and Age

Address DIXON, CA 95620

Mom's Phone

Nominator's Name, Grade and Age (You)

Nominator's Phone

Attach this form to an essay telling us why YOUR mom should be *Mother of the Year*. Essays should be less than 500 words. Please include a recent photo which may be published. Email, or Mail this form and the essay to:

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# COVID-19 One Year Later: Americans Step Up to Address Families' Urgent Needs

By Stephen Walsh, American Red Cross

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - One year since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a pandemic, people have stepped up to address the emotional needs of families reeling from the coronavirus and 2020's record-breaking disasters.

Throughout our region and across the country, trained American Red Cross disaster mental health and spiritual care volunteers have had more than 53,000 conversations to provide emotional support to people in 2020 – which had the greatest number of billion-dollar disasters in a single year. In addition, trained volunteers have provided free crisis counseling through the Red Cross Virtual Family Assistance Center for grieving families during COVID-19.

“The past year has been overwhelming for many in our community, and yet through it all, people are caring for one another,” said Regional Chief Executive Gary Strong. “When help can't wait, they provide families with the support they need during emergencies. During Red Cross Month in March, we honor this humanitarian spirit and ask you to join us by donating, giving blood, volunteering or taking a class to learn lifesaving skills.”

**What Is Red Cross Month:** For nearly 80 years, U.S. presidents have proclaimed March as Red Cross Month to recognize people giving back through its lifesaving mission –which is powered by more than 90% volunteers.

**A Growing Desire to Give Back:** A 2020 study on a rise in volunteer experiences

added to LinkedIn profiles shows that more people want to help others during this unprecedented time. Last year, more than 70,000 people across the country became new Red Cross volunteers largely to support urgent disaster and essential blood donation needs. In addition, thousands of COVID-19 survivors – many new to blood donation – rolled up a sleeve to give convalescent plasma and help patients battling COVID-19.

**How to Help:** You can help ensure that families don't face emergencies alone – especially during a pandemic:

**Donate:** Support our Disaster Relief efforts at [redcross.org/GivingDay](http://redcross.org/GivingDay). A gift of any size makes a difference to provide shelter, food, relief items, emotional support and other assistance. Your donation will be part of our annual Giving Day on March 24 to aid families in need across the country.

**Volunteer:** Visit [redcross.org/VolunteerToday](http://redcross.org/VolunteerToday) for most-needed positions and local opportunities.

**Give Blood:** If you're healthy and feeling well, make an appointment at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org). Your donation can make a lifesaving difference for a patient in need. As a thank you, those who come to give blood, platelets or plasma on March 15-26 will receive a Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last.

**Learn Lifesaving Skills:** Take a class in skills like CPR and first aid to help in an emergency at [redcross.org/TakeAClass](http://redcross.org/TakeAClass). Online options include our Psychological First Aid for COVID-19 course, which covers how to manage stress and support yourself and others. ★

# Fatal Traffic Collision

By David Harvey, California Highway Patrol

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - On April 11, 2021, at 2:38 AM, a black Mazda CX5 was traveling at a high rate of speed and rear ended a silver Hyundai Elantra on Interstate 80 westbound, west of Dixon Avenue. The Mazda came to rest blocking lanes. Several witnesses and parties stopped at the scene to assist the involved parties.

At 2:41 AM, a red Toyota Tacoma drove into the collision scene and collided with a silver Toyota Prius. The Toyota Tacoma continued forward and collided with the Mazda and its driver, who was standing outside of the vehicle.

The Toyota Tacoma continued forward and collided with a pedestrian: one of the parties on scene who had stopped to help. As a result, the pedestrian providing assistance sustained fatal injuries on scene. The driver of the Mazda sustained major injuries and was transported to Kaiser in Vacaville. The driver of the Toyota Prius sustained minor injuries and was transported to Kaiser in Vacaville.

Alcohol is suspected to be a factor in this collision. The driver of the Toyota Tacoma was arrested for felony DUI.

If you witnessed this collision, or have any information, please contact Officer Padilla at the CHP Solano office at 707-428-2100. ★

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# Water Users Urged to Reduce and Conserve During Dry Conditions

State Water Resources Board

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - As dry conditions persist throughout California, the State Water Resources Control Board mailed early warning notices to approximately 40,000 water right holders, urging them to plan for potential shortages by reducing water use and adopting practical conservation measures.

Reservoir and groundwater levels are significantly below average, and despite recent storms, snowpack is only 58% of average as of March 10. After two years of below average precipitation, officials don't expect the April 1 snow survey to reveal significant improvement in the water supply outlook this year. April 1 is typically the peak of California's snowpack, which in an average year provides 30% of the state's water supply.

“Planting crops and other decisions that are dictated by water supply are made early in the year, so early warnings are vital,” said Erik Ekdahl, deputy director for the Water Board's Division of Water Rights. “These letters give water users time to prepare and help minimize the impacts of reduced supplies on businesses, farms and homes.”

Agricultural water users can implement practical actions now to improve their drought resilience, including reducing irrigated acreage, managing

herd size, using innovative irrigation and diversifying water supply portfolios. Urban water users can conserve by putting in drought-resistant landscape, reducing outdoor irrigation and replacing older house fixtures and appliances with more efficient ones.

Additionally, all diverters are legally required to report their annual water use to the State Water Board. Accurate and timely reporting of information is crucial to managing the state's water resources.

In preparing for potential droughts, the State Water Board partners with multiple state, local and federal agencies, including California Department of Water Resources, Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Tribal governments and water management organizations. Staff will continue to coordinate as it monitors the situation and engage more frequently with water users if conditions continue or worsen.

Current drought conditions can be found on the National Integrated Drought Information System website.

The State Water Board's mission is to preserve, enhance and restore the quality of California's water resources and ensure proper allocation and efficient use for the benefit of present and future generations. ★

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# Riley Reviews

## "GODZILLA" BATTLE OF THE TITANS; AMC CABLE PREVIEW

A TV Review by Tim Riley

### "GODZILLA VS. KONG" RATED PG-13

For an epic and long-awaited showdown between two icons of mythic adversaries, "Clash of the Titans" might have been a great title for legends Godzilla and Kong but it has already been used for films about Greek mythology of warring gods.

"Godzilla vs. Kong" promises a war between gods of a different sort, if one is inclined to view these rivals as forces of nature from the East and the West, one who has stormed Tokyo and the other a captive brought by man to New York to be a side-show attraction.

The story begins with the scientists at the Monarch organization continuing to study and oversee the welfare of Kong in a vast biodome on Skull Island that secures his safety from the increasingly unstable climate affecting the surrounding ecosystem.

In a role that portrays him as a mix of pseudo-action hero and science nerd, Alexander Skarsgard's Dr. Nathan Lind proposes a bold mission to deliver Kong to the storied Hollow Earth in search of an energy source to put an end to Godzilla's destruction.

Most touching of all is that Kong demonstrates emotions that are completely lacking with Godzilla. This has to do in large part with the beast's friendship with young deaf orphaned girl Jia (Kaylee Hottle) who communicates with the big age through sign language.

Meanwhile, there has to be a villain in this type of film, and we're not necessarily speaking of the fearsome Godzilla, who after becoming a good guy of sorts is apparently angrily aroused by the actions of a tech mogul (Demian Bichir).

As an apex predator, Godzilla goes full terrorist mode by attacking the Apex Cybernetics research center in Pensacola, Florida and killing a lot of people because something strange is happening inside the secretive facility.

A wannabe whistleblower inside Apex, Bernie (Brian Tyree Henry) runs a conspiracy theory-oriented podcast, and he teams up with teenager Madison Russell (Millie Bobby Brown), whose father (Kyle Chandler) is with Monarch, and computer whiz Josh (Julian Dennison).

This intrepid trio is going with Team Godzilla, knowing the fire-breathing monster's good side just might be dormant, but all that really matters is that a showdown is inevitable, though with a surprise twist.

In the end, aside from Jia the deaf mute, the human characters, if not expendable, are certainly not the reason to take interest in the epic monster battle that results in Hong Kong's skyscraper buildings being leveled to the ground. ★

"Godzilla vs. Kong" may be seen on HBO Max, but the best bet is catching this battle of the titans on the big screen, for the obvious reason of capturing the full splendor of the beasts drubbing each other.

Escapist fare is what we are looking for during these dreadfully boring pandemic times, and "Godzilla vs. Kong" has amazing special effects that are greatly entertaining.

### AMC CABLE PREVIEW

A recent cable preview segment in this column looked at some of the coming attractions on the AMC Networks and omitted perhaps the one looming series with a title that could not be printed in a mainstream outlet (namely, not some X-rated publisher).

We are referring to "Kevin Can F\*\*K Himself," and you can understand why the series is being promoted with a semi-censored appellation, as if you might give a moment's thought to the missing letters.

During the winter press tour, the panel discussion began with an overview from AMC executive Dan McDermott who described "Kevin Can F\*\*K Himself" as a unique, "high-concept series which is, it's really a genre-busting look at television like nothing we've seen before."

Further elaborating on the series, McDermott claims that "it deconstructs the trope of the passive, agreeable sitcom wife we've come to know and love" and it "takes a darkly comedic look at life through her eyes" and apparently skips "outdated gender models."

Not a lot is known just yet about this series other than the official trailer and what has been gleaned from the press tour. However, it is easy to figure that the classic sitcom is being turned on its head for dark comedy.

"Schitt's Creek" star Annie Murphy's Allison is a traditional wife, catering it seems to her self-absorbed husband Kevin (Eric Peterson), before entertaining thoughts of either killing him or at least escaping the routine of domestic drudgery.

The show's trailer, easily accessed online, sets the tone with Allison saying that it's about "a woman who keeps playing perfect housewife," until "she realizes what she wants" while contemplating stabbing Kevin in the neck with a sharp object.

It is safe to say that Allison is not going to be anything like Barbara Billingsley's model housewife June Cleaver who wore heels while doing housework in "Leave It to Beaver" or Harriet Nelson's fictional self on "The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet."

Show creator Valerie Armstrong told the TV critics that "the only people this show is not for are humorless people," and we will have the chance to judge for ourselves sometime this summer if this premise is valid. ★

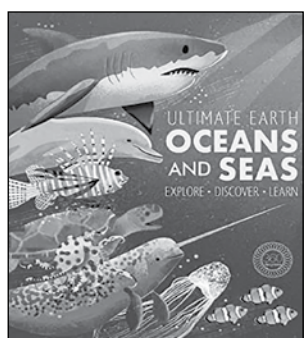
## Celebrate Earth Day With These Great Animal Reads

With Earth Day quickly approaching on Thursday, April 22 this is the perfect time to celebrate the beauty of nature and the animals around us.



Travel the world and learn all the sights and sounds of some of the most fascinating animals with *Sounds of the Sky and Sounds of the Wild* by Moira Butterfield and illustrated by Stephanie Fizer Coleman. Discover the amazing wonders of animals, birds, reptiles, and insects, complete with fascinating facts, colorful illustrations, maps, and best of all, nine authentic sounds. Hear the macaw call from the sky or a tiger roar from behind the brush. Sea turtles scooch across the sand to bury their eggs while a grapsus crab scurries, and sooty terns noisy chatter can be heard from up above. Little readers will delight in hearing lemurs call from the trees while being amazed by the call of a humpback whale that can echo through the ocean. Delightful illustrations jump off the pages in a lively display as each animal, reptile, bird, and

insect get their own highlight and fact, and in some cases, their own recorded sound. Children will be enthralled with this truly interactive set of books while also learning which animals are endangered and struggling to survive and what we can all do to help. A perfect set to have at home or on any classroom shelf.



Dive into the deep blue sea with *Ultimate Earth Oceans and Seas: Explore, Discover, Learn.*

A lift the flap adventure will take readers from the sea's largest predators to the smallest, then on to the majestic giants of the deep. Be amazed by the many ways' ocean creatures can disguise themselves to hide from danger or even hypnotize their next meal. Speedy swimmers will dash across the page, while the weird and wonderful creatures will make you stop and admire their bizarre displays. But what can readers do to help our

amazing creatures? Open the last page's flap to learn about reusable items, the harmful chemicals in plastics, and what scientists are doing to help save our oceans. This is a truly educational and interactive guide that highlights some of the most fascinating, alluring, and interesting creatures of the sea.

Sometimes it's all about the pictures. In this visual exploration, *Hello Hello* will take younger readers on a delightful journey exploring our animal world through one simple trait and expanding the journey. Celebrate the animal world's unique differences and similarities that, in the end, all connect us. Brendan Wenzel takes his readers on a delightful and colorful exploration celebrating the animal kingdom one beautiful difference at a time.

Then, send the little ones off to bed with a delicate and heartwarming relationship of a grandfather and his grandchild, *Grandfather Bowhead Tell Me A Story* by Aviaq Johnston and Tamara Campeau. With the deep blue hues and lulling lyrics, any reader will be soothed to sleep with grandfather's fantastic stories and the wondrous love he feels for his grandchild. ★

## Food & Farm NEWS

### Water Shortages Leave Farmers in a Bind

Farmers in water-short parts of the Central Valley say they will leave land idle and take other steps to try to keep their operations going this year. With federal and state water projects expected to deliver little or no water, farmers are finalizing decisions on what crops to plant, and how much. The lack of water from surface reservoirs means farmers may depend more on groundwater, while recognizing the limits on that resource.

### Farmland Values Remain Largely Stable

Availability of water remains a key factor in the value of California farmland. Speakers at an annual conference said farmland with access to surface water generally commands higher prices than land served entirely by wells. Experts say California farmland values remained relatively stable during the past year, despite the impacts of dry weather, the COVID-19 pandemic and frequently lower crop prices.

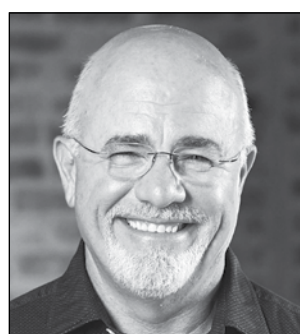
### Study Details Economic Benefits of Pistachios

Pistachio production and processing pumps more than \$5 billion into the California economy, according to a new study. The group American Pistachio Growers commissioned the report. It says the pistachio business generates more than 47,000 full-time-equivalent jobs, with almost \$2.5 billion in labor income. The report says farmer investment in new pistachio acreage has helped boost the economic impact.

### Gene Research Aims to Help Plants Endure Heat

In search of plants that can withstand expected warmer temperatures, University of California scientists say they have identified a gene that helps plants sense heat. UC Riverside researchers report locating the gene, calling it an early step in being able to influence plants' temperature responses. The university said warmer temperatures can encourage plants to flower early and produce fewer seeds, reducing crop yields. ★

## Dave Ramsey Says



### Obstacles and Answers

Dear Dave,

In your mind, what are some of the biggest mental and emotional obstacles preventing people from addressing their financial problems?

—Roger

Dear Roger

This is a great question! There are always circumstances beyond our control that can put us in a bad place, financially or otherwise, for a season. But to change your situation when it comes to money, you have to be willing to step back and honestly look at the overall picture of what has and hasn't been working — and why.

You need to be willing to admit you might have been wrong about a few things, and be open to learning and trying new ways. Myths about money and debt are definitely near the top of the list of things

messing people up when it comes to their finances. I've heard it said if you tell a lie often enough and loudly enough, that lie will become accepted as a fact. Repetition, volume, and longevity will twist and turn a myth, or a lie, into a commonly accepted way of doing things. Debt is so ingrained into our culture, and has been marketed to us so aggressively, that most Americans can't envision a car without a payment, a house without a mortgage, or a college student without a loan. We've also bought into the myth that we can get rich quick. We're living in a microwave society, but living right financially is a crock pot concept. I takes time.

Some people are afraid of change. Change can be painful, and many simply won't change until the pain of where they are exceeds the pain of change. When it comes to money, where you are right now is a sum total of decisions you've made to this point. If you don't like where you are, you have to admit changes need to be made in order for you to achieve your dreams. Finally, a lot of folks simply haven't been taught the proper way to manage money. Ignorance is not lack of intelligence, it's a lack of know how. There's a big difference between the two. Admit, even if it's just to yourself, that you are not a financial expert. Read about money, talk to people who have been successful with their finances, and begin a life-long quest to learn as much as you can about money and how to manage it wisely. What you don't know about money will make you broke, and keep you broke!

—Dave

*Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 16 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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All tour information can be found on our website:  
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## Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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

## Classified Advertising

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**MPG**

**916-773-1111**

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## Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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

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All Legal Ads Published by Messenger Publishing **MPG**

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE OSCARS

- ### CLUES
- ACROSS**
- Hedgehog of video games
  - And so forth, acronym
  - \*Oscar-nominated black and white movie
  - Treeless plain
  - Grazing field
  - Moses' mountain
  - Sty sounds
  - Nelson Mandela's org.
  - Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
  - \*Posthumous nominee
  - \*Anthony of "The Father"
  - "What's up, \_\_\_?"
  - Huge pile
  - Protestant denom.
  - Feed storage cylinder
  - Load again
  - Relating to ear
  - Flighty one
  - Proclaimed true without proof
  - Musician David Lee
  - Ascetic holy Hindu
  - Eastern European
  - Plural of #10 Down
  - 500 sheets
  - Looking for aliens org.
  - Kitchen whistler
  - Wails
  - Bad-mouth
  - Medieval torture device
  - Pied Piper follower
  - Politburo hat fur
  - \*Daniel of "Judah and the Black Messiah"
  - Raspberry drupelets
  - Fuss, to Shakespeare
  - Void, as in marriage
  - Defective car
  - Given name of Jack Kerouac's Paradise
  - \_\_\_ of Honor
  - Adam and Eve's first residence
  - Money in Myanmar
  - Shoemaker without shoes, e.g.
- DOWN**
- Undesirable roommate
  - Medley
  - Grannies, in UK
  - Tattooed
  - Universe
  - Panache
  - \*Most 2021 Oscar nominations for one film, #9 Across
  - Secret storage
  - Stole fur
  - One opposed
  - Indian restaurant staple
  - U.S. customary unit of force, pl.
  - Soaked
  - DNA and RNA
  - Argonaut's propeller
  - Shared work surface at an office
  - \*Sasha Baron Cohen's "Subsequent Moviefilm" role
  - Be sorry for one's wickedness
  - Pita, in UK
  - \*Like Roberto Benigni's fictional son
  - Husband to a widow, e.g.
  - Checked out
  - Stradivari competitor
  - \*"Fences" winner and "Ma Rainey" nominee
  - Poker ante
  - \*"Nomadland" director
  - Shadow
  - \*"The Trial of the Chicago 7"

### 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
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57	58	59	60							61		62	63	64
65										66	67		68	
69										70			71	
72										73				74

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Blazing Fast Internet! **\$19.99** per month

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

Solutions on Page 8



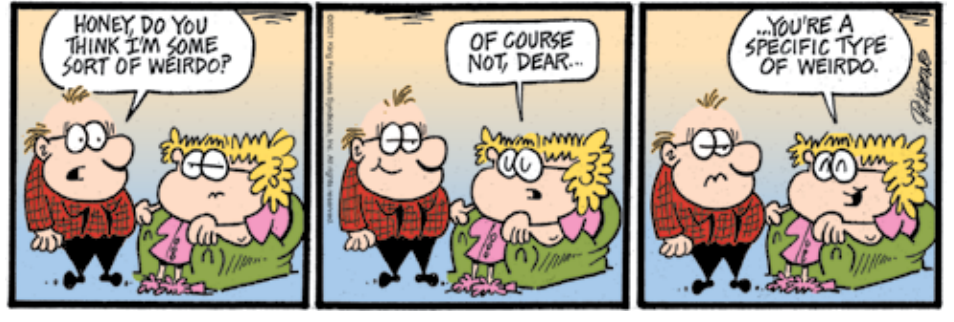
# WEEKLY COMICS

## Amber Waves



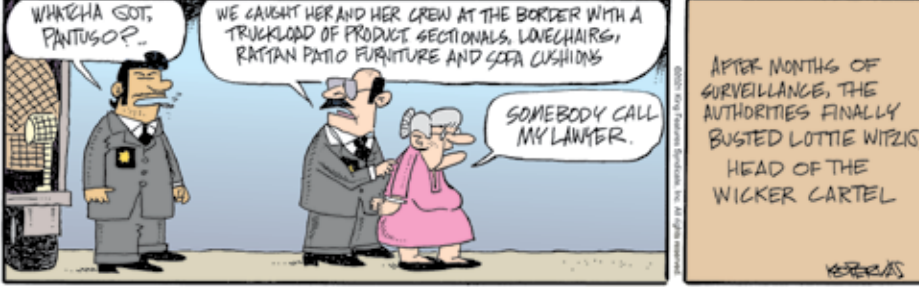
by Dave T. Phipps

## The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

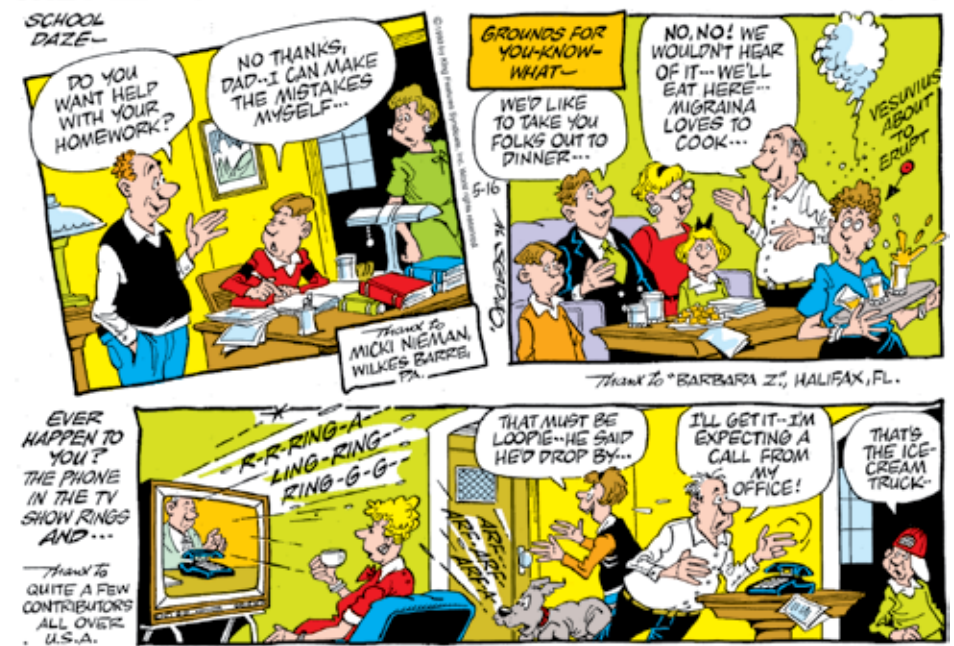
## Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

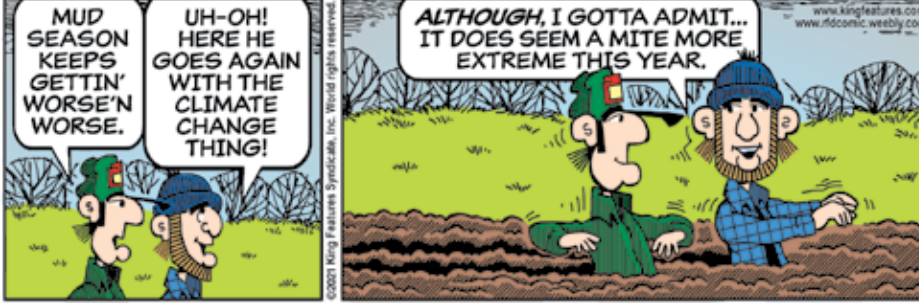
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO



## R.F.D.

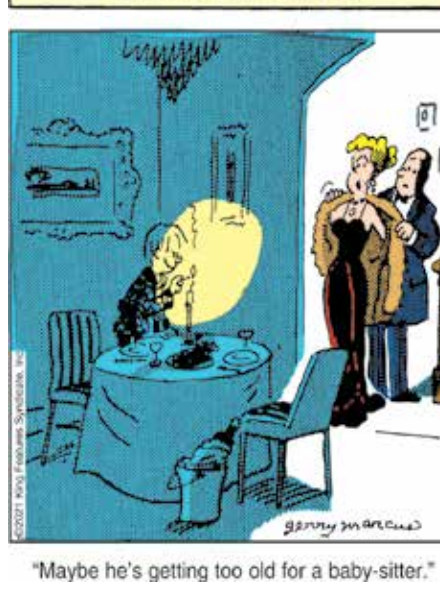
by Mike Marland



## GRIN and BEAR IT



## LAFF-A-DAY



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## HOCUS-FOCUS

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# Dixon Private Schools Offered More On-Campus Learning

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - As schools faced reopening across the state, Dixon public schools finally opted for a hybrid model yet right here in the same town, private schools are keeping their doors open just as they have since last fall. Two private schools and one tuition-free public school that is governed by its own board, offered students more on-campus learning during the COVID pandemic with two keeping near “normal,” on-campus learning.

Valley of the Sacred Heart Catholic School held at 105 South Second St at St. Peter's Church in Dixon has been in session since September. The school uses a Montessori, classical, and Catholic style of educating from transitional Kindergarten through 12th grade. They have 48 full-time students Monday through Friday in addition to hosting their co-operative Home School Program with 35 students on Fridays.

“Because we were low in numbers, we had permission from the diocese and from the state as it was more like a tutoring situation,” said Director Chris Simpson. “We’ve been wearing masks, doing a lot of temperature taking, and doing a lot of cleaning according to COVID protocol and got through Christmas. We saw that we could do this safely.”

She reported that no one at the school got COVID although there was one teacher who got it from an outside source and with “excellent contact tracing,” never brought it in.

“We have done a really good job and what we were doing was working,” Simpson said about working with Solano



Children at Neighborhood Christian School sang and danced at a recent “Friday Chapel” outdoors. Private schools in Dixon had children return to campus months before public schools. Photo by Debra Dingman

County and the Diocese of Sacramento. “Parents and teachers agree.”

Neighborhood Christian School at 655 South First Street and sharing the Dixon Mayfair grounds, started September 1, on Zoom with distance learning but was back in person on October 6, where they had “concentrated learning” five days a week and students were out at 12:30 pm. In February, students returned to their regular, in-person classes, 8:30 am to 2:45 pm.

Neighborhood Christian School was founded in 1979 under the leadership of Deryl Radder, an educator and man of faith, who planted Neighborhood Christian in the community of Dixon with a heart for missions. There are currently about 60 students in Kindergarten through 8th grade and 24 in the preschool program.

“We’ve been doing double duty with hand sanitizer and cleaning everything,” reported long-time school secretary Janet McNeil. “There have been no cases of Covid.”

Dixon Montessori Charter School has 400 students and started recently with a hybrid learning program which includes distance learning and on-campus instruction but they plan to be back to full session learning on campus. There are 15 to 20 percent who chose to continue distance learning.

“The effects of COVID-19 have caused all of us to be innovative in our approach to educating our students. As we prepare to reopen our campus we want our students and staff to be as safe as possible,” wrote Executive Director Ben Ernest in a

message to parents.

He presented a 30-page Reopening Plan that broke up location of students--whether on campus or on their computers--in conjunction with the various colored tiers determined by the State’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

According to the booklet, on March 31, all students and teachers were to be back on campus Monday through Thursday with Fridays being “Remote Days” which include a morning meeting and “asynchronous” work which means on your own or without the teacher.

“All students were divided into two different groups with students going either in the morning or afternoon for 2.5 to 3 hours depending on their age group with teachers focusing on math and English Language Arts while in person. Students are continuing to do music, science, physical education and enrichment activities from home,” explained teacher Jamie Myers.

This school has its own governing board and they created the back to school plan in July of last year using the tier system, Blueprint for a Safer Economy, to determine who would return and how they would return depending on which tier the County was in. The school does have to comply with the Solano County Office of Education.

It is located at the former Silveyville Elementary school location, 355 North Almond Street. DMCS phone is (707) 678-8953. For more information on the Catholic school, call (530) 574-0804 and for more information on Neighborhood Christian School, call (707) 678-9336. ★

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TYPE OF SOURCE	WHAT TO DO...
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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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