



**"No One Follows  
the Rules"**

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*Happy  
Mother's Day*



# Dixon Independent Voice

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## Diane Schroeder Honored as Mother of the Year



The Syd & Diane Schroeder Family. Missing are four new great grandsons, all under the age of two. Photo provided by Kim Evans

*Editor's Note: Since 1993, this newspaper has recognized women in Dixon who exemplify the loving and persevering qualities of motherhood. Each entry is submitted from their child – either grown or still in school. We present our winners selected by the Kiwanis Club of Dixon – a civic organization dedicated to serving the children of the world. This year's winner is Diane Schroeder with two finalists: Karstin Hickerson-Fienhandler and Michelle Salow.*

**By Kelly and Kim Evans and  
Herman and Lori Schroeder**

A mother's love is like no other, especially when her name is Diane Lewis Schroeder. She is the inspiration that guides and nourishes four generations. She is a quiet and gentle spirit with great inner strength. She is our pillar, our confidant, our calm in the storm. She is the cohesion of our entire family.

A third-generation Dixonite, she

grew up on a sheep ranch where she learnt hard work, honesty, and above all love that she has exemplified and passed down to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Over decades she was seen driving us to our sporting events, taking carloads of kids to summer camp, sewing matching outfits, creating dolls, playing piano, driving tractor, canning fruit, helping bring animals into this world and nursing them back to health, milking goats, planting gardens, climbing the causeway to write "Go Dixon", training a Seeing-Guide-Dog-for-the-Blind, and opening our home to two exchange students through AFS.

Our mom loves Dixon. Over the years, she helped to start a Co-op Nursery School, was a teacher's aide, 4-H project leader and Sunday School teacher. She spent multiple Mother's Days cleaning stalls at the May Fair and drove other kids to their club meetings. She is currently a

scholarship committee chair for DHS Seniors, and an anticipated historian for the Dixon Historical Society Museum.

Our mom has always taught us to find the silver-lining of every cloud. Over the years, and even now, you can find positive, motivational sayings posted throughout the house to remind us to stay optimistic; not to look back with regret but to look forward to possibilities; that every mistake is a learning opportunity from which to grow.

Our home was where all the extended family gathered. She was the daughter that always helped her parents. She is the wife who never misses a medical appointment for our dad; the mom that we call for advice; the grandmother who gives her grandchildren life-changing moments through international travel; the great-grandmother who hangs pictures, keeps a toy box, and

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## Residents Polled on City Issues; Sales Tax Increase

**By Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Many residents were surprised to get a phone call or a text message over the weekend referring them to a poll about city issues conducted by Lew Edwards Group. It appears whomever the poll is for is trying to figure out the best "carrot" to use to pass a half-cent or one-cent sales tax hike, but who that might be has not yet been determined as calls to the City Manager, a city councilman, and to a media company contracted by the city have not yet been returned.

One local attorney has concerns that if this was a city endeavor, the city could be in trouble as public funds are not to be spent promoting initiatives or tax increases.

"Polls are okay only if not intended to influence. Clearly, this one in Dixon was," said Attorney Jaimee Jones of Dixon who provided information from the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Political polling has become a necessary component of campaign strategy, but polls conducted by professional polling companies are not intended to influence or persuade voters. Instead, they are a tool to gather information to guide the campaign's future activities, including subsequent communications that actually may be intended to influence the electorate, according to the information.

The main issues seemed to focus on whether or not a half cent or a one-cent sales tax hike would pass one's favor. Part of justifying either hike focused on police and fire response, wildfire preparedness, street maintenance, the Parkway Boulevard Overpass, and others.

It asked participants to check three in highest priority order. Options were: Increasing affordable housing; repairing city streets; limiting growth and development; supporting youth programs; reducing traffic congestion; maintaining fast emergency response; reducing crime, gangs, drugs, and graffiti; addressing the homeless issues; supporting local schools; supporting youth programs; supporting senior citizen programs; improving parks; protecting the environment; completing the Parkway Overpass; and improving transit. There were other "sub-issues" emphasizing numerous statements and questions in regards to water rates, facilities, and pipe upgrade

*Continued on page 3*

## Bids for Kids Auction Starts Now!

**By Debra Dingman**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Beloved auctioneer Joe Gates may have left Earth too soon after being hospitalized for COVID-19 last year but his 30-year legacy as May Fair auctioneer will continue through the hearts of his friends who just pulled together an impromptu dinner and raised \$5,000 to give to Dixon's Bids for Kids.

The organization that helps inspire students into farming was close to Gate's heart, who was always making livestock auctions more like an entertainment show than an animal sale that helps students throughout Solano County with their costs of raising animals. He surely bolstered bids most of those years by his larger-than-life personality, a love for the Ag community, and an uncanny ability to remember students in



Dixon High School senior and Future Farmer of America member Elizabeth Granillo will be selling her last market swine project this year. It is her 4th year in FFA and 9th year showing. Photo by Elizabeth Granillo

detail from year to year.

"He was the kind of guy that knew the kids from talking to them and he would stop the mic and add his personal touch, sharing the stories behind the kids," explained Bids President James Fuller. "You felt you were not buying the animal; you were supporting the student. He was such an

incredible guy." Fuller was thrilled with the donation news from Gates' friends and knows that may soften the disappointment of not having a live auction at the Dixon May Fair.

The group was forced to galvanize their online auction skills last year when the state prevented any auction on fair grounds due to the pandemic,

but that only made their commitment to help students even more heartfelt and last year's auction was highly successful.

"The reality is we don't have the tradition of the fair and the fun and excitement of the live auction this year but the kids are working no less hard," said Fuller. "They are still putting in the work for their animals." Fortunately, some restrictions have lifted enough allowing the May Fair and BidCal, an auction company, to have the animals on premise and graded for showmanship. Students will be bringing their animals on Thursday and Friday mornings.

The online auction will be one day only this year beginning Friday, May 7 at noon and will close on Saturday at 1:30 pm the next day. The organization either bids to boost the price up per pound, or they

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# Legacy Box Gives ‘Live’ View of Mommy

By Debra Dingman

You might have heard about Legacy Box – the ads were on television a lot last fall when we were all stuck inside. The company takes old movies, pictures, slides, or videos and puts them on a small zip drive that you can play on your computer. The idea is to save them before the tools to play them ever again goes away. You can’t even find an old slide projector at garage sales anymore or at an Estate Sale.

For Christmas, my youngest son got me a gift certificate that would allow me to send in 10 items and I was thrilled as my mother left me my grandmother’s Hope Chest...and everything in it.

It took me at least a few months to go through the old pictures of my great grandparents, old movie containers from my grandparent’s, a box of slides from my parents, and videos of my own children growing up to gather and fill my ‘Legacy Box.’ I finally packed it and shipped it off in the double box they provided.

It was great how they

kept us informed of receiving it, processing it, and shipping it back to me. What arrived last week was my box returned with all the originals and a tiny, 1-inch thumb drive loaded with all of it. It was the size of a baby girl’s hair-clip. It is shocking to me but now I can share these historical images from nearly 100 years ago.

The first movie was of my grandmother’s side of the family; the other was my grandfather’s side. One was black and white and one was color. There was no sound but there they all were: Relatives I grew up seeing at family reunions and great grandparents I never knew. There was my mother, as a little girl, pulling wagons through the yard, and trying to balance on large barrels just as we did with my aunt when we were growing up. Now I know where my aunt got the idea; her older sister by ten years was my mom. There was my mom and her siblings as giddy children at Christmas time. I was glued to my computer screen and needed a box of tissue for the gratefulness I felt that I could be

transported back to such a time.

There were husbands and grandfathers swinging tots on their arms and apparently teasing with other grown men while they posed for the camera. And, mothers and grandmothers laughing while they pulled their brood tighter together so they’d all fit in the eye of the camera.

The images are clear and each was 18 minutes. I could see my great grandfather and great grandmother giving Christmas gifts to my aunts and uncle just as if I was watching our Christmas gathering last year. The slides captured myself and my siblings all so young and slim and the videos of my children showed their personalities that followed them into adults.

One VHS started with a brand new tiny baby but not my latest grandson; it was my sweet last child who is now 25. Others featured birthdays of my older children when they turned 8 and 11 with silly antics from many of their friends that brought me full belly laughs. What a wonderful gift! ★

# Stadium Graduation, Events Resume for Seniors



Dixon High School stadium will be the setting for the Class of 2021 graduation. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Caps, gowns, gold ropes, and commencement speakers are back on the calendar as Dixon High School readies for the 2021 graduation at the high school stadium on Saturday, June 12. The ceremony begins at 9 am, weather permitting, and will also be livestreamed. That is great news for about 225 students and the normal crowd of cheering families.

“We are super excited to be back on campus,” said DHS Principal Stephanie Marquez. “We are looking forward to celebrating our seniors this year.” Several other traditional senior activities have been scheduled as well with minor location or time changes.

Sober Grad Night is one of them. It will be held on campus on the same night as graduation but will be from 8 pm to 1 am. Last year, grads did not get this special treat due to the pandemic.

Some special activities have been added to “Decision Day”, though, and most likely due to the huge success of the Graduation Parade last year, will include an on-campus drive-thru. It will be on Thursday, May 13, and seniors are invited to decorate their cars. They will receive cap and gowns, senior signs, and gift

bags. “Decision Day” is when the seniors commit to their future plans which may include a 4-year college, junior college, vocational school, branch of the military, academies such as fire or CHP, internships, job, “gap year” or other.

On Monday, May 17, the school will hold their Scholarship Ceremony outside in the campus Quad. Traditionally, this has been held inside the school theater with many representatives and scholarship award presenters from community civic organizations, businesses, and families. This year and due to keeping with lingering COVID-19 restrictions, one person from the presenting organization or company may attend and scholarships will be handed out by the Principal to the honorees.

Then, on Monday, May 24, there will be the Distinguished Scholar Night which honors all the students who have earned a 4.0 GPA or higher and that student’s choice of one “Esteemed Educator”.

“If people could see these students, the students would set the adults on their ear!” Marquez said. “They are struggling in terms of a pandemic and it’s hard to watch teens that have put up with what they have put up with. They are wearing their masks and doing what they have to do. They bring this school to life!” ★



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# Mother of the Year Finalist: Karstin Hickerson



Karstin Hickerson-Feinhandler and family. Photo provided by Cameron Hickerson

**Nominated  
by Cameron Hickerson, 20**

I would like to proudly nominate my mom, Karstin Hickerson, for the Mother of the Year award for 2021.

My mom was one of those unwavering mom’s who was always there when we needed her. She has always worked a ton of hours, but despite that, my mom never missed a soccer game, lacrosse game or any of our football or rugby games.

She made sure that we had every opportunity that we could ever want. Even raising us, as a working and single parent, she would help us with large school projects and always volunteered at our schools to make it a more enjoyable experience for everyone. One example is at the Dixon Montessori School, my mom wanted to help the school raise money and for the kids to have fun. So she brought in our horses and set up an entire mini fair for the kids.

The event was a great success and I remember how happy the kids at my grade school were!

During these pandemic times and in spite of her own serious health issues with breast cancer, she still wanted to help brighten the mood and spirit in the community, and more importantly in the local businesses. One of her extraordinary efforts in this area was being heavily involved in the “Booze Fairy Event” to help raise local spirits and support restaurant business. She was also in charge of the local “Dixon Christmas Car Parade” event that wove it’s way from the Safeway/Stratford area all the way through Downtown Dixon to provide ‘Good Cheer’ along with one of the car clubs and help raise the spirits of the community. The event was an amazing success as we were able to collect multiple trailer loads of toys to donate to the local families in need.

As a part of this, she also saw to it that they honored a local high school student, Luke Abilez, who had recently passed away.

Currently she is working hard today, to sponsor an ‘Unofficial’ High School Prom event for Dixon High School students, at no cost to the students, so that fond memories can still be made. My mother is the person that I aspire to be. Everywhere we go in town someone will come up to my mom and she can just talk to them--as if they were family--for hours. My goal in life is for people to look at me the way that everyone in our community looks at my mom; as a friend and honest person that they know will help anyone in need without a second thought. Along with many other members of the community that believe my mom, Karstin Hickerson should be recognized as ‘Mother of the Year, I deeply believe, she is very much deserving of this recognition. ★

# Diane Schroeder Honored

*Continued from page 1*

reads stories to the little ones; and the ever-loyal mother-in-law, aunt, cousin and friend. She is the mom who will show up at your door to say, “I thought you might need a hug today.”

Our mom is a survivor. When she was 16, she died from a penicillin shot and was brought back to life by her doctor. In the 1980’s, when farming faced challenges, my mom rolled up her sleeves to get to work.

This time however, it was not to work with our dad in the orchards and fields, but to get a job at UC Davis via the Temporary Pool, where she worked her way up to office manager. After 23 years and multiple awards and honors, she was hired back 10% for her expertise.

Recently our mom has had to make some very difficult decisions on all levels, care for a struggling brother with dementia and hold the hand of her baby

sister as she took her last breaths; handling everything with grace and strength (and during a pandemic) as she faces her own health challenges.

We want our mom (and Oma) to know how much we love her and appreciate all of the unconditional sacrifices she has made for our family. We want to honor her this Mother’s Day for the incredible, caring, and loving person that she is to so many. ★



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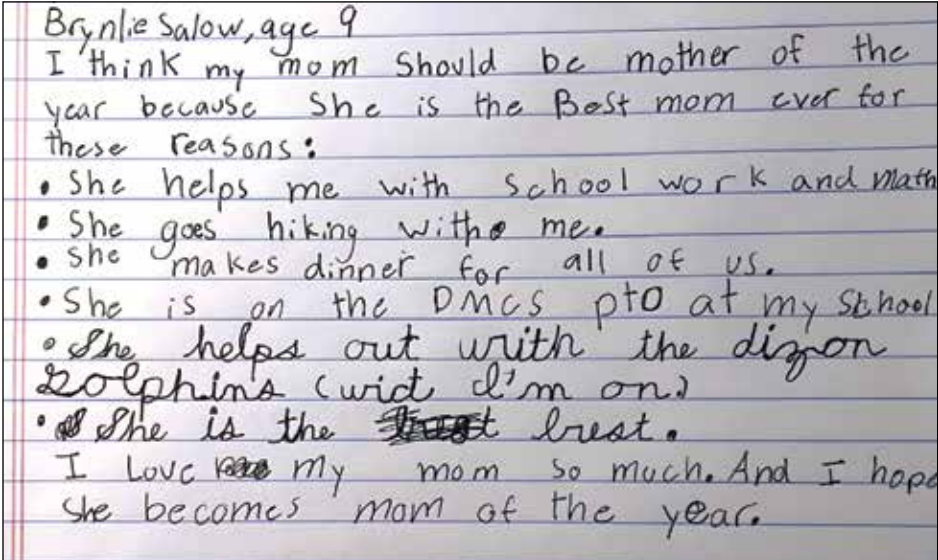
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# Mother of the Year Finalist: Michelle Salow



Jason and Michelle Salow with daughter Brynlie. Photo provided by Jason Salow



Letter from Brynlie Salow. Courtesy image

# Residents Polled on City Issues; Sales Tax Increase

*Continued from page 1*

issues; the responsibilities of a City Clerk; questions about what newspaper do we read; and specifics about which social media site we use for local news.

One question, like most, begins with a statement. For example, “The City needs to ensure that there is safe, clean, and abundant water supply now and for future generations.” Then asks, “Do you agree or strongly disagree with that statement?”

It polled citizens about the City Clerk position, while describing in detail expectations of a city

clerk’s duties and further asked if the citizen would support undoing Measure T that would make the City Clerk’s position appointed. This, of course, would undo Measure T that voters passed in the November 2020 election for an elected City Clerk.

The poll reveals our first inclinations of the new majority’s agenda and the Bird administration as the Mayor and City Manager have been mostly quiet as to what their agenda goals are. A goal setting special session with the Mayor and City Council was recently scheduled.

The fact that they are polling on these three issues telegraph that they will be priorities in this administration by voters despite that all three issues were spoken on in the last two elections.

Measure N in 2018 was a proposed half-cent sales tax; Measure T was in 2020 where citizens voted 55 percent to have an elected City Clerk; and Measure S was just for citizens in the city water district and that was voted overwhelmingly against any water rate increase without further options considered. ★



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Joe Biden’s Radical Gambit

There’s believing your own press releases. And then, there’s believing your own delusions of grandeur.

Joe Biden should look at the mirror every day and see a president elected on the basis of the unpopularity of his predecessor at a time when the country was slammed by a once-in-100-years pandemic.

Instead, by every account, he sees a transformative leader with a mandate to change America as rapidly and irreversibly as possible.

As the news site Axios noted, Biden wants his next 100 days to be “more audacious” than his first 100, as he seeks “to re-engineer the very fundamentals of America – inequality, voting rights and government’s role in directing economic growth.”

Oh, is that all?

Biden’s drive to make himself the next FDR and erect a massive progressive edifice on the slightest of political foundations is monumentally arrogant and almost certainly bound to fail.

Biden is contemplating the sort of the bait-and-switch that rarely goes over well. Yes, the policy plans he ran on last year were further to the left of Barack Obama’s and of Biden’s own lengthy record as a U.S. senator. But

Biden described himself as a moderate who wanted to work with Republicans and restore a sense of normality to Washington.

He said, as he put it when urging Republicans not to fill the Ruth Bader Ginsberg seat on the Supreme Court, “We need to de-escalate, not escalate.”

No one listening to that or a thousand other things Biden said during the campaign would have had him pegged as the guy who’d immediately set about making wrenching changes in the American way of life.

For a would-be FDR, Biden doesn’t seem to understand that a fundamental source of the New Dealer’s power was enormous congressional majorities.

FDR came into office in 1932 with almost a 200-seat majority in the House, 313-117, after Republicans lost more than 100 seats.

Biden came into office in 2020 with a bare 9-seat majority in the House after Democrats surprisingly lost ground all over the country. It’s the narrowest Democratic House majority since the last two years of the administration of Rutherford B. Hayes.

In the Senate, FDR had 58 Democrats, as Republicans lost 12 seats in 1932 in one of the worst senatorial drubbings in history.

Biden has a 50-50 tie after Democrats eked out two special election victories in Georgia earlier this year, with Vice President Kamala Harris on standby to break ties.

The fate of Biden’s legislative agenda hangs by a thread, depending on whether Sens. Joe Manchin and Kyrsten

Sinema, relatively moderate Democrats, support his proposals. If FDR had been equally dependent on a couple of ideologically unsympathetic Democrats from the outset of his administration, he wouldn’t be FDR.

If Biden feels emboldened by his first 100 days, he’s defining achievement downward. FDR signed into law more than a dozen major measures addressing the Great Depression during his first 100 days, while Biden got a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief bill – a huge amount of spending, yes, but much of it is temporary.

Pro-Biden pundits are currently exulting that he has about a 53% approval rating, a respectable showing, if hardly a position of overwhelming strength from which to try to revolutionize the country. Importantly, FDR initially got even more powerful after 1932. Republicans dropped down to only 17 senators and 89 congressmen in 1936, whereas Biden will be lucky to hold on to his slender congressional majorities next year.

With his legislative margin of error so thin, it’s unlikely that Biden will get his way on much besides spending and taxes. Almost all of his sweeping proposals, from federalizing elections to making D.C. a state, will fall by the wayside.

More to the point, it’s wrong for Biden to attempt to force through such radical measures when his mandate for them exists only in his ridiculously inflated self-image.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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# A Showdown Over Crime and Punishment Looms



By Dan Walters  
CALMatters

Should California continue to reduce punishment for crimes large and small, or has it gone too far and implicitly allowed criminals to prey upon Californians without fear of imprisonment?

The question has reverberated throughout the state over the last half-decade, ever since former Gov. Jerry Brown lunched a personal crusade to scale back the lock-‘em-up laws that California enacted – including some that he signed – in the 1980s and 1990s.

California voters will answer it next year by either giving newly appointed Attorney General Rob Bonta, a fervent believer in the softer approach to crime, a full term or replacing him with someone with a tougher attitude toward lawbreakers.

The conflict jelled on Monday when Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert declared her candidacy, saying, “The California criminal justice system is in chaos” due to laws and policies that value rehabilitation over punishment.

Schubert devoted much of her announcement to denouncing Los Angeles District Attorney George Gascón and San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin as “rogue prosecutors,” criticizing state legislators for ignoring crime

victims in their rush to soften punishments, and tying Bonta to them.

“Rob Bonta has no regard for crime victims,” Schubert told the Sacramento Bee in a pre-announcement interview. “I think Rob Bonta is similar, if not identical, to the district attorney in San Francisco and Los Angeles.”

In Schubert, the state’s criminal justice traditionalists probably have their strongest challenger to Bonta, a state legislator who was selected by Gov. Gavin Newsom as a successor to Xavier Becerra after the latter joined the Biden administration in Washington.

While moderate Republican Nathan Hochman, former assistant U.S. attorney in the Bush administration, also is running, he is little known while Schubert, a former Republican who is not registered with a political party, achieved statewide and even national attention for recently prosecuting serial rapist and murderer Joseph James DeAngelo Jr. Dubbed the Golden State Killer, DeAngelo, a former policeman, was tied to the decades-old crime spree by a novel use of DNA evidence.

Schubert can expect support from all but a handful of the state’s other local prosecutors and police organizations which have opposed efforts by Brown and like-minded legislators to soften punishment. She surrounded herself with families of crime victims as she announced her candidacy.

Bonta, on the other hand, will be backed by the national criminal justice reform movement that has been working state-by-state and county-by-county

to replace traditionalist prosecutors with those favoring rehabilitation over incarceration. Billionaire investor George Soros has been one of the major drivers behind the movement.

Schubert, in fact, had overcome such a challenge in winning re-election three years ago. When Gascón, who had been San Francisco’s district attorney, moved to Los Angeles and unseated District Attorney Jackie Lacey in 2020, it marked a new intensity in the philosophical clash.

He, Boudin and two other like-minded district attorneys have battled with the California District Attorneys Association over policy issues and formed their own group, the Prosecutors Alliance of California, to push for criminal justice reforms.

The next big California battle for the contending factions was to have been in Orange County, where District Attorney Todd Spitzer, a former Republican legislator, will be facing Peter Hardin, a Democrat and former prosecutor, next year.

However, Becerra’s resignation, Bonta’s appointment and Schubert’s declaration of candidacy create an even more intense showdown over crime and punishment in the nation’s most populous state.

Should Schubert prevail next year, it would not only be a big win for criminal justice traditionalists, but also make her a potential candidate for governor or U.S. Senate thereafter.

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

# 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-ccines. 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-ccines. 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-ccines 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. ★

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NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration April 11, 2026. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.)  
Publish: April 23, 30, and May 7, 14, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

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# Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

## Construction Spreads



What a sight it is to watch the big excavators, bulldozers and other huge pieces of construction equipment race around the land along North First Street and also along Pitt School Road. They are preparing for more development to be built in the Southwest Development.

## City Meeting

The City of Dixon Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 11, at 7 pm. This advisory body to the City Council is always on the first Tuesday of the month. At press time, this meeting is still being planned for Zoom. There is a link on the city website (cityofdixon.com) or you can call (707) 678-7000 for information. You can also call in via your phone if you do not have computer access. The agenda is posted on the City’s website on the Thursday before the meetings.

## More Jobs

Dixon Family Services is hiring.

There are two part-time positions open. Bilingual Receptionist and Bilingual Case Manager. For more information, contact Director Cookie Powell, 155 North Second Street. Phone is (707) 678-0442

## Soroptimist Golf

Friday, June 18, 2021 is the date for the Soroptimist International of Dixon 28th annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser 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.

## Cars at Frosty’s

The car turn out is growing so remember if you’re looking for something to do on Thursday evenings, there is a random bunch of car enthusiasts that meet up at Frosty’s. The cars are impressive. There are older models, souped-up models and created-from-scratch models.

Not only can you enjoy looking at these really cool vehicles, you can also enjoy a delicious meal from either Frosty’s or the Barn & Pantry and eat outside. According to John Kowalski, the cars are there every Thursday. ★

# Report Blames Government Regulations for Healthcare Shortages, Unnecessary Lockdowns During Pandemic



Gavin Newsom

Commentary by Lawrence J. McQuillan

California agencies failed to plan effectively, failed to prepare, and failed to respond quickly or at all to the pandemic, a new report from the Independent Institute shows.

When government agencies did respond, they found themselves playing a high-stakes game of catch-up, as many regulations imposed for years, even decades, prevented quick, efficient, and flexible responses.

Eliminating burdensome regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic sped up the delivery of critical supplies and personnel to California’s citizens, according to authors of the report. The authors say if it works during this crisis, it will work when the crisis is over.

“If removing harmful regulations during a crisis is the moral action to help patients and save lives, it would be immoral to reimpose the same regulations when the crisis ends,” said Lawrence McQuillan, Ph.D., Independent Institute Sr. Fellow and co-author of the report.

For enacting or enforcing regulations that created crucial healthcare shortages and prevented a fast and efficient response by public and private entities to COVID-19, the Independent

Institute awards its eleventh California Golden Fleece® Award to several federal and state officials and regulatory agencies.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom relaxed many regulations, which helped to alleviate healthcare shortages. But he usually was reactive, rather than proactive, waiting for bottlenecks to emerge. He also loaned 550 ventilators to other states at a time when Santa Clara County officials were asking for donations. And he signed multi-billion-dollar contracts with PCR-testing companies, yet PCR tests were worthless at containing the spread of the virus because test results took too long. Newsom used the resulting outbreaks to justify endless lockdowns.

The pandemic exposed the ways that regulations are used in California to benefit narrow interest groups at the expense of consumers at large. COVID-19 taught a crash course to Californians on the downside of excessive regulation and the benefits of liberalization.

New Report Blames Government Regulations for Healthcare Shortages - California’s shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), medical supplies, and healthcare workers were all largely avoidable, if not for past missteps by governments. Lockdowns could have been prevented, if not for the government’s failed approach to testing. Lifesaving vaccine and therapeutic drug development could be fast-tracked if lessons learned during this pandemic are applied in the future.

Specific patient-centered

recommendations are offered, which should be adopted permanently - Allow private companies around the world to supply equipment urgently needed by healthcare workers. Eliminate staffing regulations and barriers that prevent optimal access to healthcare professionals when and where they are needed. Permanently allow telemedicine across state lines. Ease testing restrictions to allow private companies to quickly provide at-home nonprescription testing for all diseases. Streamline clinical trials and FDA reviews of trial data. Use a “prize model” to incentivize innovation.

The COVID-19 surges in California would have been easier to manage had markets, not regulations, determined healthcare staffing and supply chains over past decades, the report argues. And lockdowns and rationing of routine care could have been largely avoided. Through their various liberalization decrees issued during the COVID-19 outbreak, government officials essentially admitted that current healthcare regulations harm patients. Those liberalizations, and others, should be adopted permanently after the pandemic.

Lawrence J. McQuillan, Ph.D., is founder and director of the California Golden Fleece® Awards. He is also a senior fellow with the Independent Institute and director of the Independent Institute’s Center on Entrepreneurial Innovation. He is the author of California Dreaming: Lessons on How to Resolve America’s Public Pension Crisis. ★

# ‘Drive & Dine’ to Benefit Dixon Family Services

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - A first attempt at doing a “drive-thru” event to raise much-needed funds for Dixon Family Services is being supported by many from the community but they hope to find more.

“We could not do all we do to help people in need without generous community members who support our good work,” said Executive Director Cookie Powell. “We welcome all who would like to help.”

Due to Covid-19 DFS has had to cancel plans for our signature event, Comedy Night for the second year in a row. But also due to Covid-19, the need for services provided at DFS over the last 14 months has more than doubled, according to Powell who reports DFS has remained open during the pandemic due to being an essential service and that is also why a need for fundraising.

Tickets to “Drive and Dine” for DFS are a \$35 donation and include a delicious Barbeque Tri-tip Dinner, a chance to win a cash door prize, and 10 complimentary raffle tickets. Dinner tickets can be



Vintage image of Dixon Family Services Drive and Dine event. Photo provided by DFS

purchased at Dixon Florist and Gifts, Dixon Tribune, or Dixon Family Services. They can also be put in the mail.

The event happens at Dixon Family Services parking lot on Friday, May 21, from 4 to 6:30 pm. They are located at 155 North Second Street in downtown Dixon.

Extra raffle tickets may be purchased as well to increase chances of winning prizes. Call (707) 678-0442 or email cookie@dixonfamilyservices.org by the day before the event. Raffle tickets are \$3 each, \$10 for 4 or \$20 for 10. This is another great way to support the fundraising effort if you’re not interested in the full meal ticket deal.

There is a large assortment of raffle prizes thanks to local donors like Pam

Griffey, Superior Farms, Nugget Market, Sally and Bob Adams, Scandia Family Center, Fairytale Town, In-N-Out Burger, KUIU, Wooden Valley Winery and many more. Contact DFS if you want to donate a prize and they are happy to pick it up.

“If you know of someone struggling with their basic needs of rent, utilities, food and other essentials due to Covid-19 or other unexpected financial hardships, ask them to call or email us to see if we can help,” Powell said.

To learn more about Dixon Family Services “Drive and Dine” or how to help, call the above phone number or visit the website www.dixonfamilyservices.org or click on the events tab and photos tab on their Facebook page. ★

# Newsom Administration Increases Efforts to Release More Violent Criminals



Jim Nielsen

By Nghia Nguyen, Office of Senator Nielsen

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On a late Friday afternoon news dump, the Newsom Administration announced they are automatically giving “good time credit” to violent offenders and second and third strikers in

an effort to release them early. These policies will go into effect within hours of the announcement – Saturday, May 1. Senator Jim Nielsen (R-Red Bluff), former Chairman of the Board of Prison Terms, issued the following statement: “As the former Chairman of the Board of Prison terms, I am intimately aware of these criminal justice regulations. This is ill-founded, ill-cited criminal justice policies. Violent felons are receiving good time credit for simply breathing, in lieu of demonstrated good behavior and rehabilitation.

“This is another

ill-conceived policy of the Newsom Administration in its attempts to release convicted violent criminals back into our communities.

“We, the people, will pay the price for his continued follies.”

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

# Bids for Kids Auction Starts Today!

Continued from page 1

actually purchase the animal.

“That’s when the excitement continues because if your animal is bid up, they put an additional five minutes on the clock for more time (for someone to respond,)” said Fuller who bids each year. “I buy for us and the family and we have it cut and wrapped.”

If someone buys an animal, he will get

an email that will outline the steps to sell back to a butcher or be custom wrapped with numerous options so that information will be communicated, Fuller explained.

“Bids for Kids has seen the generosity of the community come through but we are always looking for donations via memberships or sponsorships,” he said. For more information, see their website BidsforKidsSolano.org. ★

# Kiley and Gallagher Issue Joint Statement in Case against Newsom

By Joe Zanze, California Legislature

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Assemblymembers Kevin Kiley (R-Rocklin) and James Gallagher (R-Yuba City) released the following statement after oral arguments in Gallagher and Kiley v. Newsom that took place in front of the Third District Court of Appeal:

“We appreciated the opportunity to appear before the Appeals Court and are hopeful that the Superior Court’s ruling will be affirmed. The notion that one person can centralize all state power in his hands is utterly incompatible

with our Constitution and form of government. This case can assure the extraordinary abuses of the past year are never repeated.”

Gallagher and Kiley won their case in the Superior Court where the judge restrained the Governor from “exercising any further legislative powers in violation of the California Constitution and applicable statute” and barred him “specifically from unilaterally amending, altering, or changing existing statutory law or making new statutory law.”

This will be the first precedent-setting decision in California history on the limits of a governor’s emergency powers. ★

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# Tobacco Companies Target Young and Communities of Color in Solano County

By Jonathan T. Bash,  
Brown-Miller Communications, Inc.

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - State and county researchers released a report featuring findings from a survey conducted at Solano County’s tobacco retailers. The study reveals the tobacco industry has ratcheted up their marketing, pushing more flavored and menthol products that pose a threat to young people and vulnerable communities.

Solano County topped the list for menthol cigarette sales among California counties, with over 96 percent of retailers stocking mentholated products, compared to 88 percent statewide and only 17 percent in San Francisco, where menthol is highly regulated.

“Solano County – one of the most diverse counties in the country – has become a leading target of the Tobacco Industry,” says Kirbee Brooks, MPH, CHES, Solano County’s Tobacco Prevention Project Coordinator. “Big Tobacco aggressively promotes menthol cigarettes, particularly among communities of color and the young. Mentholated tobacco products are typically aimed at people of color and our youth because menthol temporarily masks the harshness of tobacco smoke, making it easier for new users to get hooked.”

This is particularly clear when one examines the study’s marketing data. Nearly 40 percent of retailers market tobacco in kid-friendly locations, and even more – nearly 80 percent – display unhealthy storefront ads. All told, every Solano County tobacco indicator was higher than the statewide average.

This data comes from the third Healthy Stores for a Healthy Community survey, which is conducted every three years as part of ten-year initiative by the California Department of Public Health, California Tobacco Control Program and Solano County Public Health. Researchers examined 8,000 retailers statewide, including 191 in Solano County.

In addition to menthol, surveyors also investigated six additional indicators of tobacco sales and marketing. They found that more than 90 percent of Solano-based retailers sell flavored, non-cigarette tobacco products, including newly released products like chewable pouches, recreational nicotine gum, e-cigarettes and vape liquid. A

similar number of stores offer cigarillos (little cigars) by the pack – half even sell loose cigars and cigarillos. All these products are popular with younger individuals and are predominantly targeted toward African American communities.

“The tobacco industry continues to reinvent itself and its products to appeal to new customers,” says Robin Cox, MPH, CPH, Solano County’s Health Promotion & Community Wellness (VibeSolano) Bureau Chief. “They strategically target specific communities of color and lower economic areas with products that, when used as directed, kill. Despite decades of progress, the industry continues to imagine new ways to remain profitable, with the true cost being our community’s health. Solano County is working closely with the community and local retailers to address this disturbing practice.”

In fact, to assist retailers in moving in a healthier direction, County Public Health staff have offered up a broad menu of policy options that local jurisdictions, advocates and/or business owners can choose from to address menthol and flavors, including implementing a tobacco retail license, restricting the location of tobacco retailers away from schools, limiting the number of retailers, removing coupons, sales and promotions, and eliminating flavored tobacco, mentholated cigarettes and e-cigarettes—all while helping retailers find profit-making healthier alternatives.

“I can’t imagine a better time to have the store survey data in hand,” said Nafiza Khan, Co-Chair of Tobacco Free Solano, a coalition of community leaders and volunteers. “Within days of Governor Newsom’s signature making SB 793 (the statewide menthol and flavors ban) law, Big Tobacco filed a referendum delaying implementation until voters weigh in in 2022.”

“It’s our job to stay one step ahead,” she continued. “That means we must fight locally to reduce menthol and other flavors in our community now. Each day of delay means another young person addicted to tobacco. It means more lives lost due to COVID-19 because tobacco causes or exacerbates many of the underlying health conditions that lead to complications.”

Solano County residents can learn more about the risks of menthol cigarettes and review all the study’s findings, at [www.wearenotprofitsolano.org](http://www.wearenotprofitsolano.org).

# 5 Things Retirees Will Wish They Had Known Sooner

Commentary  
by Patti and Milledge Hart

Many people planning for retirement anticipate those post-working years eagerly, ready to veg out after a life of toil. Others plan with greater anxiety, unsure whether they even have an identity without their jobs.

But it may be that retirement these days is far different from what either point of view envisions.

“We all have made decisions based on the information we had at the time, but later realized we would have planned differently if we knew then what we know now,” says Patti Hart, co-author with her husband, Milledge, of *The Resolutionist: Welcome to the Anti-Retirement Movement*.

“That’s definitely true when it comes to planning for retirement.”

The Harts don’t even think of themselves as retirees, but as “resolutionists,” constantly challenging themselves to improve.

“I’m busier now than I’ve ever been,” Milledge Hart says. “I’m using this time to be a better me than I could when my days were structured and my time was spoken for.”

With that said, the Harts share five things future retirees may wish they had known sooner: **Retirement isn’t what it used to be.** Most people’s vision of retirement is built on what the people around them did, but that vision is outdated. “Many of us watched our parents or grandparents settle into a quiet, nondescript life,” Milledge Hart says. “We’ve seen the stereotypical portrayal of aging and irrelevant ‘retirees’ on TV shows and in the movies.” But many retirees today are much more vibrant than those stereotypes and have no intention of sitting quietly on a front porch while the world passes them by. **People have more time in this phase of life than previous generations.** Anyone who expects retirement to be a few short years tacked on to the end of their working life could be in for an awakening. In actuality, this period could last 20 to 30 years or more. The average 65-year-old man can expect to live another 18 years and the average 65-year-old woman nearly 21 more years, according to the Social Security Administration. And those, remember, are averages. “Some people could spend more years in their postcareer life than they did building their career,” Patti

Hart says. “Knowing and understanding what that means will help you plan better.” **It’s important to constantly prepare for the next phase.** The Harts acknowledge they should have been planning earlier than they did. Instead, time slipped by. “The horizon is closer than it looks,” Milledge Hart says. So, when should you get serious about planning for those post-career years? “Right now would be a good time,” he says. “But definitely, the sooner the better.” **Retirees need to redefine their metrics.** The Harts say it’s important for people to redefine how they measure success in this phase of life because it’s different from how they likely measured success in their career days. “The goals are likely to be more qualitative than quantitative,” Patti Hart says. “For example, one of our metrics one year was to enhance our celebrations. We found that many holidays and special events were filled with unnecessary stress and were too materially focused. We decided to eliminate event-driven gift giving.” That simple change, she says, improved their lives substantially. **Being a resolutionist is fun.** If someone had told the Harts when they were in their 30s that their “retirement” years would be filled with so much fun, laughter, and fulfillment, they would have been skeptical. “We laugh more now than we’ve laughed at any other stage in our life,” Milledge Hart says. “This phase is instilled with so much adventure, and it’s a feeling that comes from within rather than the happiness of achieving a certain stock price.”

“I wish I had known sooner that I could say goodbye to the corporate world and still be interesting and relevant,” Patti Hart says. “I wish I had known that retirement is yours to define. I successfully defined my role in the business world, but it didn’t dawn on me that I could also reinvent retirement. I don’t know why. It seems perfectly obvious now.”

Patti and Milledge Hart, co-authors of *The Resolutionist: Welcome to the Anti-Retirement Movement*, spent more than 30 years as executive leaders in numerous technology and investment banking businesses. In what they refer to as the “Resolutionist” – rather than retirement – phase of their lives, they are applying their resources and skills in new ways to advance philanthropic and corporate activities around the globe. ★

# How Do You Know You’re Ready for Retirement?

Commentary  
by Patti and Milledge Hart,  
News and Experts

An intriguing find once emerged from a RAND Corp. survey on Americans and their working conditions. It turned out that 40 percent of employees 65 and older had previously retired, but something lured them back to the working world.

In some cases, financial troubles might have been the cause. But often the reason is that people neglect an important component in their retirement planning. They don’t think about what they will do with their extra time, or how they will give their life the meaning and purpose work provided, says Patti Hart, co-author with her husband, Milledge, of *The Resolutionist: Welcome to the Anti-Retirement Movement* ([www.antiretirement.com](http://www.antiretirement.com)).

“Money is certainly important, but it’s not the only thing that determines whether your retirement is a success,” she says. “It may be that you are financially ready to retire, but are a long way from being emotionally ready.”

The Harts offer tips for figuring out when to retire and for making sure you’re successful when you do:

**Know your catalysts.** Identify milestones or signs that will let you know you are ready to embark on a new post-work life, Milledge Hart says. Yes, that could be when you’ve accumulated a certain amount of savings. But it might also be related to when your spouse quits their job, or when your

children graduate college and head out on their own. Maybe your plan is to work until your health gives out. “Knowing your catalysts can mean the difference between successfully transitioning to a fulfilled life after your career is over, or boomeranging back to the full-time workforce simply because you didn’t know why you quit to begin with,” he says.

**Plan ahead to avoid separation anxiety from work.** For many people, moving from the excitement and fulfillment of a career to the quietness of retirement is too much, Patti Hart says. They develop a form of “separation anxiety,” longing for their old way of life rather than venturing boldly into the new one. “You need to make a plan for what you want to do in your new post-career By Kristalife so you aren’t floundering when you get there,” she says.

**Get comfortable with the uncomfortable.** At work, people are thrown into uncomfortable situations and have no choice but to face them head on. In retirement, it’s easier to avoid discomfort, but doing so diminishes your confidence, and you miss out on opportunities for personal growth and fun, Milledge Hart says. “It would seem counterintuitive to think that being uncomfortable brings happiness, but it does,” he says. “Go at life as if it’s an adventure – because it is. When you accomplish something you didn’t think you could, you get a jolt of endorphins that drives you to your next challenge.”

**Learn to be your own best friend.** Even when

people want to try a new hobby or activity, they sometimes are afraid to do it alone. “In retirement, you might not have the social network you once did,” Patti Hart says. “You may long for a good friend you can rely on.” But if you think about it, she says, you already have that friend – yourself. So as you prepare for retirement, be ready to go solo on occasion. “When you get to this stage, you will often find that some things on your list are on your list alone,” she says. “No one in your universe shares your interest or has the time to join you. That’s all right. If you are going to continue to grow, you need to sometimes feel like you did something completely on your own.”

“Don’t convince yourself that in retirement you are going to be destined to a life of watching evening game shows and baking pies, unless of course that is what you love to do,” Milledge Hart says. “My advice is nothing is off limits, so reach for the stars. Look forward rather than backward, and embrace the new you.”

Patti and Milledge Hart, co-authors of *The Resolutionist: Welcome to the Anti-Retirement Movement* ([www.antiretirement.com](http://www.antiretirement.com)), spent more than 30 years as executive leaders in numerous technology and investment banking businesses. Today, in what they refer to as the “Resolutionist” – rather than retirement – phase of their lives, they are applying their resources and skills in new ways to advance philanthropic and corporate activities around the globe. ★

# Remote and Hybrid Working is Here to Stay

By Becky Warren,  
Elevate Public Relations

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG)** - A new survey and economic analysis by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and commissioned by Zoom focused on what industries were able to pivot their business processes using video conferencing, resulting in business continuity and even growth during a time of significant economic turmoil. The resulting report, prepared by Zoom based on the survey data and findings made by BCG, spans key industries and six countries around the globe, specifically looking at five U.S. states as well.

“A hybrid approach will also be necessary when it comes to fostering and retaining talent. The pandemic spawned a more geographically diverse workforce – people moved out of certain regions, they applied to and accepted jobs under a remote context. With a widespread, global workforce, creating a hybrid workforce is not a luxury, it’s a necessity.” – Zoom blog post.

Key findings from the BCG survey found that businesses are more open than before the pandemic for a flexible work schedule.

Specifically, in the U.S. businesses surveyed expect over a third of employees to work remotely after the pandemic and 65% of businesses surveyed agree or strongly agree that they are considering a flexible remote working model because of successful collaboration through video conferencing solutions.

Furthermore, BCG’s COVID-19 employee sentiment survey from 2020 showed that 72% of U.S. managers surveyed are more open to flexible remote working models than they were before the pandemic.

In California, the survey and analysis found - 4% average increase in revenue of SMBs surveyed, 2019-2020;

88% of SMBs surveyed agree “Employees at my company rapidly adopted video conferencing solutions with limited training;” 87% of SMBs surveyed agree “Employees at my company found video conferencing solutions easy to use, leading to a smoother transition to remote work;” 82% of SMBs surveyed agree “Video conferencing solutions helped boost morale and mental well-being of employees at my company during the pandemic.” ★

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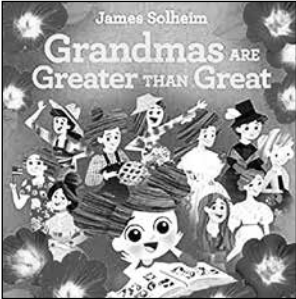
# Celebrate Mother’s Day with these Endearing Children’s Books

**The Meanest of Meanies**  
by *Kristin Hensley and Jen Smedley*,  
illustrated by *Paul Briggs*



Moms come in all types. Some moms are loud, some that like hiking, and even moms that love caffeine, but this little girl is here to complain because she is the one who has a mom that is mean. Her mom likes to dance and sing; she is silly and bossy and has way too much energy. After all, her mother wakes her up in the morning with the lights on too bright, cooks three different breakfasts, and tells her to have a great day. Her mother is embarrassing enough to cheer her on with big signs at the spelling bee and even packs notes in her lunch. She tells her daughter to pick up the toys off the floor, wash her hands, and take a bath. But the worst thing her mother does is read stories before bed and tucks her in tight. After all, we all know that

M.O.M really stands for Meanest of Meanies, which really means... I love you. The Meanest of Meanies is the perfect Mother’s Day read and takes a heartfelt look that takes an inside look at all the “mean” things moms do. Readers will fall over in fits of giggles as a little monster highlights all the ways her mom is truly the meanest of mean. Capturing the heart of its readers, this little monster girl vividly shows how moms can be silly, embarrassing, confusing, and cringy, but in the end, all these things show how much her mom loves her. Bright, vivid illustrations carry this story, making it even more relatable and fun.



**Grandmas are Greater than Great**  
by *James Solheim*  
illustrated by *Derek Desierto*  
“Many grandmas ago...” In a story that highlights all the grandmas that came before, Grandma’s are

Greater than Great takes readers back over ten generations all to one mother and her baby. Following the story of how one baby grew up and became another great-grandma, and then another, and another, and another until the new baby. A beautiful book to highlight the joy in knowing your ancestry while also sparking conversation about the woman who came before you.

**Take Heart, My Child A Mother’s Dream**  
by *Ainsley Earhardt*, illustrated by *Jaime Kim*.

Take a journey straight into the heart with Take Heart My Child. Follow a mother’s dream through butterfly seas and polka dot trees. Walkthrough the changing seasons and dance with the deer in the meadow, explore a sky full of stars and a heart full of dreams. A lullaby paired with breath-taking illustrations, bringing a mother’s dream to life. Take a journey into a mother’s love for her unborn child within her dreams, hopes, and desires. A beautiful book destined to be read out loud for years to come, it is perfect for an expecting mom, but would also be a lovely gift for a child graduating or stepping out into the world alone for the first time. ★



**Driver Shortages Worry Agricultural Truckers**

As the California harvest season gains momentum, transportation companies worry there may not be enough truck drivers to move crops to market. People in the trucking and food businesses report they’re already short of drivers to haul carrots and onions from Southern California fields. They say the shortages could worsen as harvests move north. Driver shortages have been a chronic problem that firms say has been amplified by the pandemic.

**Drought Could Prompt More Demand for Queen Bees**


This is the busiest time of year for beekeepers who breed and sell queen bees to help replenish honeybee colonies – and the breeders say the drought may lead to additional demand. Dry weather reduces the amount of forage available to bees, meaning beekeepers could need to buy more queens to restock hives. Bee breeders say demand for new queens has been so intense that they have had to turn away prospective customers.

**Thieves Employ Drones to Scout Rural Property**

Potential thieves in rural California have been using drones to locate equipment and tools they want to steal. The drones can scout property not visible from a public road. Authorities in Solano County report arresting two suspects in drone-related thefts, and other rural-crime deputies describe similar situations. Deputies have warned farmers to keep valuable equipment out of sight from the air if possible, as well as locking it after use.

**Study Looks at Reusing Winegrape Residue**


The leftovers from winemaking could eventually be repurposed as a food supplement or other product. Researchers at the University of California, Davis, studied the grape skins, seeds and other residue left after grapes have been crushed for wine. Analysis of the residue shows it contains health-enhancing compounds and particular sugar molecules that researchers said could be developed into products to benefit human health. ★



**Publisher,**  
**Paul V. Scholl**

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Riley Reviews

"WITHOUT REMORSE" AND "LOUDERMILK" BOTH LAND ON AMAZON

A TV Review by *Tim Riley*

## “TOM CLANCY’S WITHOUT REMORSE” Rated R

Tom Clancy fans probably don’t need the on-screen general trivia note to tell them that the film “Tom Clancy’s Without Remorse” bears no resemblance to the plot of the novel except that the lead character named John Clark was a Navy SEAL. In fact, the book was the explosive origin story of action hero John Clark. In the film, the character is John Kelly (Michael B. Jordan) until the middle of the end credits reveal his new identity as the ghost he’s expected to become. Performing heroic acts in war-torn Syria, Senior Chief John Kelly and a small crew rescue a CIA operative taken hostage by ex-Russian military forces. After an ugly firefight, the Americans barely escape only to return home to more danger.

Three months later, in apparent retaliation for the mission, members of Kelly’s unit end up dead mob-style or by a hit-and-run. Kelly’s pregnant wife Pam (Lauren London) is murdered during a home invasion. Despite being shot multiple times, Kelly manages to kill all but one of the Russian assassins before being rushed to the hospital, and you know revenge is on his mind. Meanwhile, Kelly’s commanding officer Karen Greer (Jodie Turner-Smith) meets with CIA agent Robert Ritter (Jamie Bell) and Defense Secretary Thomas Clay (Guy Pearce) to plot response options. Not waiting for direction, Kelly goes rogue and takes matters into his own hands to track down the Russian diplomat who gave cover to the murderers. An explosive scene takes place at Dulles Airport that strains plausibility, but so do other actions. Sent to prison for assaulting the Russian official, Kelly bargains his way out by knowing that the surviving assassin is hiding out in Russia. He then joins Greer and Ritter on a top-secret mission. Their plane trip to Russia gets shot down and plummets into the Bering Sea, in what is perhaps the film’s thrilling action sequence that tests the survival skills of the SEALs.

Before long, the plot veers off into a vast international conspiracy theory orchestrated by powerful political figures. Don’t know that we can or should sort it out, but that’s where we stand. The mid-credits offer the almost certain prospect of a sequel in the works, and if not, the audience has been left hanging. Whatever the case may be, one may hope the next installment would have more depth for its characters and a more coherent plot and storyline.

## Don’t Most People Already Know?

Dear Dave,  
You talk a lot about budgeting, and how important it is in getting control of your money. But don’t most people already have a good idea of what they’re spending, and how much they have in the bank, without going through all the time and trouble of developing an actual budget?  
– Carter  
Dear Carter  
Well, if that were true, why are people paying billions in overdraft fees every year? Why are so many people deep in debt and living paycheck to paycheck, even without taking the effects of a pandemic into account? It’s because most people don’t really know where their money’s going each month.  
Let’s start with a simple definition of

## “LOUDERMILK” ON AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

The Audience Network was a pay television channel that was owned by AT&T and delivered a mix of original and acquired series, specials and feature films and existed for the approximate length of one presidential election cycle. The comedy series “Loudermilk,” that premiered on Audience Network back in October 2017 with a run of two seasons before the third season had to find a new home, was watched by as many viewers who could fit into a phone booth. All three seasons are now streaming on Amazon Prime Video, and the half-hour episodes are worth watching if you enjoyed Ron Livingston’s nonchalance in striking back at the soul-crushing absurdity of the corporate structure in “Office Space.” As the titular character, Livingston’s Sam Loudermilk takes indifference and emotional detachment to a new level as a former music journalist and author who is a recovering alcoholic and now spends his time in Seattle as a substance abuse counselor. Warm and fuzzy is not how anyone would describe Loudermilk (almost everyone calls him by his last name). He’s often a grumpy misanthrope whose words are so unfiltered you’d think he has Tourette’s Syndrome. Loudermilk brings tough love to his therapy sessions with a collection of colorful characters, including the dimwitted Mugsy (Brian Regan) and a bookie (Jackie Flynn) who manages to get most of the group in debt to a mob boss. The group meets at a local church, where Father Michael (Eric Keenleyside), often at odds with Loudermilk’s cavalier ways, threatens to boot him out of the meeting hall unless he starts counseling messed up stripper Claire (Anja Savic). What’s more, Claire becomes a roommate at Loudermilk’s apartment that he already shares with his best friend and sponsor Ben (Will Sasso), who happens to harbor secrets and is perhaps the only person able to abide Loudermilk for more than ten minutes.

A new neighbor next door is Allison (Laura Mennell) for whom Loudermilk is smitten and yet incapable of carrying more than a brief conversation before undermining whatever charm he may have displayed momentarily. True to his sardonic nature and anti-social behavior, Loudermilk sporadically launches into rants, whether berating a barista for her affectation of a haughty accent or randomly chastising a smoker waiting for a bus. The titular character has his own demons and finds his situations often descending into absurdity. “Loudermilk” is a smart, clever comedy with crude humor and sometimes on the dark side, but it would be good to check out while it remains on the Amazon Prime Video platform. ★

## Dave Ramsey Says

*budgeting.* A budget is just a plan. It’s not a restriction on spending, it’s a strategy for what you’ll do with all your money. It’s tracking what’s coming in and what’s going out. When you budget every month, you’re giving your money purpose. You’re controlling your money, and telling it where to go, instead of scratching your head and wondering where it all went. The word *budget* gets a bum rap, because some people think it’ll be like putting a strait-jacket on their spending and their lives. But that really isn’t true at all. Budgeting actually gives you the power to spend wisely and with purpose. Budgeting even causes feelings of fear, intimidation, and anger in some folks. Sure, it takes a little time and effort at first to create a budget that really works. But once you get the hang of it, and it doesn’t take long, the hard part is over. Still, to make your cash flow plan work, you have to do it *consistently*. That means sitting down every month, and making a budget for the upcoming month. Don’t let the fear of what you might find stop you, and don’t over-complicate things. It’s easy as writing down your income and everything that requires money for the month, then doing a little basic math. And once you have a plan in place, stick to it! Too many people get lazy, or “forget” to do a monthly budget. Give it a shot, Carter. You’ll experience a sense of freedom, security, and accomplishment like you’ve never felt before once you’ve taken that first step toward gaining control of your money! *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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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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



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CLUES

ACROSS  
1. Scarecrow stuffing  
6. Observe  
9. Kind of ski lift  
13. "Fear of Flying" author  
14. Madame Tussauds' medium  
15. Fervent  
16. Never say this?  
17. You to are is as thou to  
  
18. Skyliit lobbies  
19. "It isn't easy "bein' green" for him  
21. \*First bilingual Sesame Street puppet  
23. Flower precursor  
24. Rental on the links  
25. Rowing prop  
28. Banana remnant  
30. Besmar  
35. Poker variety  
37. Away from wind  
39. Like helium gas  
40. Coconut fiber  
41. Like an iPhone  
43. Singular of #33 Down  
44. Per \_\_\_\_, or yearly  
46. Guesstimate phrase, 2 words  
47. Raise, as in child  
48. Bob Marley's music  
50. TV classic " \_\_\_\_ Make a Deal"  
52. Hi- \_\_\_\_ monitor  
53. Oscar Wilde's Dorian  
  
55. \*Sesame Street's Meryl Sheep  
57. \*Every starred clue in this puzzle  
60. \*Self-described as lovable, cute and furry  
63. One born to Japanese immigrants  
64. Be in the red  
66. He had no cause?  
68. Thin mountain ridge  
69. Local area network  
70. Unmanned flyer  
71. Hospital statistics unit, pl.  
72. NaOH  
73. Church assembly  
  
Down  
1. D.C. V.I.P.  
2. "Star \_\_\_\_"  
3. Either Gauche or Droite in Paris  
4. Like a lemon  
5. Beginning of a workout  
6. Special law enforcement unit, acr.  
7. Elephant's distinguished feature  
8. Uncredited actor  
9. Lake \_\_\_\_ caca, South America  
10. \*Ernie's roommate  
11. Diva's delivery  
12. Swedish shag rug  
15. " \_\_\_\_ your seatbelts"  
20. Think tank output  
22. Eyeball shape  
24. "I can see \_\_\_\_ now the rain has gone..."  
25. \*Trash can dweller  
26. Be sorry for one's wickedness  
27. Repenting  
29. \*He avoids pronouns and speaks in falsetto  
31. Gloomy  
32. More competent  
33. Arm bones  
34. \*Mama, Papa, Baby and Curly  
36. Chemical cure  
  
38. Gaelic tongue  
42. Load carrier  
45. Crow's cousin  
49. Old English for before  
51. Arya Stark's Needle and Jed's Lightsaber, e.g.  
54. Lagoon wall  
56. Each and all  
57. Bog down  
58. From a second-hand store  
59. Four-legged friends  
60. Autry or Wilder  
61. Jet black  
62. Nevada city  
63. Pick up, as in suspect  
65. Modus operandi  
67. Light-emitting diode

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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Solutions on Page 8



WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

MOM SAYS I NEED TO COME OUT HERE AND "EARN MY KEEP."

SHE THINKS SOME MANUAL LABOR WOULD DO ME GOOD.

SHE ALSO TELLS ME THAT "NOTHING IN LIFE IS FREE."

WITH THAT, I SUPPOSE WE SHOULD FIRST BEGIN WITH SALARY NEGOTIATION?

by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats

MY PANTS KEEP FALLING DOWN.

MAYBE YOU NEED A BELT?

GOOD IDEA, I'LL HAVE A GIN AND TONIC

by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

WRONG TIME-WRONG QUESTION-AFTER YOU'VE DEVoured EVERYTHING BUT THE KITCHEN DRAPES-- THEN WIFEY ASKS--

WHAT WOULD YOU WANT FOR DINNER TONIGHT, BARFO?

B-BURRRP

Thank You NATALE and TOM, GREENWICH, CT.

BY AL SCADUTO

WHYZZIT? BANK PENS HAVE CHAINS ON THEM--WHY? THEY NEVER WORK ANYHOW--

OH, DADDY-- WHAT YOU SAID!

THANK EDDA PLESA, BRADENON, FL.

R.F.D.

COME ON DOWN TO WOODFIELD FARM EQUIPMENT!

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WHAT TH' HECK IS A "SUMMER TRACTOR"?

by Mike Marland

EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?  
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The KILLER AXE

GHASTLY! LURID! REVOLTING! SIN-SIN-SATIONAL! MURDERERS GALORE!

EEEEEEK! GASP! ANK!

U-uh!

Yipe!

WELL, I'LL BE--

GRIN and BEAR IT

"We're on the babysitters' ten most unwanted list!"

LAFF-A-DAY

"Oh, dear! Did I miss a stop sign while admiring you in my rearview mirror?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE US ANOTHER MINUTE. HE'S A LITTLE EXCITED. HE'S GOT IT NARROWED DOWN TO THE LEFT SIDE.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Bow is missing. 2. Shirt is different. 3. Arm is different. 4. Steering wheel is different. 5. Window is open. 6. Seat is different.

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