



**New Owner  
Adds to Rental  
Business**

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**He is  
Risen!**  
*Celebrate Easter*



# Dixon **Independent Voice**

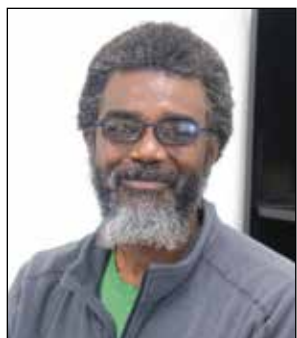
VOLUME 29 • ISSUE 14

APRIL 2, 2021

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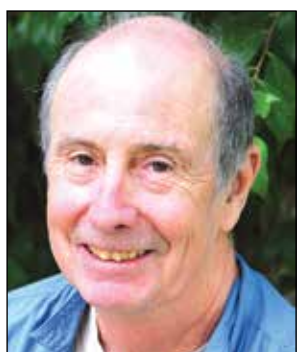
**SEE  
INSIDE**

**SCOE ANNOUNCES  
TEACHER AND  
CLASSIFIED  
EMPLOYEE  
OF THE YEAR**



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**'MISSING LINK'  
DETECTED  
IN COVID-19  
PATIENTS?**



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## Churches Host Easter Celebrations

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Spring is a colorful season and resonates all things new so if you've never attended an Easter church service that celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, this would be a perfect time to start. There are plenty of services to choose from.

First, on Friday, April 2, a Good Friday service put on by the Dixon Ministerial Association will begin at 7 pm and the entire community is welcome to attend. No worries about being stuffed in a crowded sanctuary, though, as this service will be presented in front of the Dixon United Methodist Church, 209 North Jefferson, aimed outward toward the large parking lot across the street in the open, fresh air.

Folks are invited to bring a lawn chair or blanket, or they can choose to stay in their vehicles and hear the message via their FM radio transmitter.

"They can also live stream it on Facebook on the 'Churches of Dixon' Facebook page, according to Pastor Jeff Myers of Living Hope Church.

Then, on Easter Sunday morning, Christians across the world will join in commemorating the Resurrection of Jesus because it means death was defeated and there is hope of salvation.

Christians believe that the sins of humanity were paid for by the death of Jesus and that his Resurrection represents the anticipation believers can have in their own resurrection, according to online sources. Most believe it is the most important Holy Day and why attendance in local churches is high.



Dixon United Methodist Church services and baptisms like this one of John and Tacy Curry's children have been conducted outside during the pandemic so was an easy choice to provide the community-wide Good Friday Service, April 2, where worship can be either outside on chairs or blankets or from people's cars across the street from the church. It is hosted by the Dixon Ministerial Association. Photo by Korry Lindgren

While most local churches are meeting in person now, and due to COVID, most churches will also offer their messages online via Facebook or YouTube.

'The Joy that Resurrection Brings' will be given by Pastor Paul Sheldon of Grace Fellowship Church for

their Easter Service on April 4 at 10:15 am. The church address is 535 West H Street, phone is (707) 678-5700, and website is [www.gracefellow.com](http://www.gracefellow.com) for more information.

Cornerstone Baptist Church led by Pastor Frank Salamone will have an in-person Easter service at 10:30 am. The church is

located at 185 West Cherry Street.

A special children's musical presentation will be part of the Easter services at Pastor Joe Mejia's Freedom Church, 470 East H Street. Also, at the end of the service, Dixon's Largest Easter Basket will be awarded. Entries were

*Continued on page 2*

## Dixon Chamber Seeks Nominations for Business and Citizen of the Year

**Dixon District  
Chamber of Commerce**

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Dixon District Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for its 2020 Business of the Year and 2020 Citizen of the Year awards.

All nominations must be submitted in writing via either postal mail to Dixon Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 159, Dixon, CA 95620, or hand delivered to the Chamber office at 220 N. Jefferson St. in Dixon. They may also be submitted via email to [info@dixonchamber.org](mailto:info@dixonchamber.org)

All nominations must be received at the Chamber no later than 3 pm on Thursday, April 15, 2021. The nominator's name and phone number must be included.

**Criteria for the Business  
of the Year are -**

Nominee must be a Member of the Chamber of Commerce; Nominee business must be located in Dixon; Monetary giving or volunteerism in the community; Outstanding Customer Service; Involvement in Community Events; Nominees cannot be a prior Business of the Year winner; Businesses cannot nominate themselves.

Please note that nonprofit clubs and organizations are ineligible for this award.

**Criteria for Citizen of  
the Year are -**

Nominee must live in Dixon; Participation in all-around community activities and civic enterprise; Evidence of lasting contribution to community welfare; Evidence of leadership ability; Cooperation with individuals and civic organizations; Unselfish devotion and contribution without thought to personal gain; Nominees cannot be prior Citizen of the Year winners; Contributions and community activities must have taken place in the City of Dixon.

Nominations for the Business of the Year will be evaluated by a panel comprised of prior winners of the Business of the Year awards.

Nominations for Citizen of the Year will be evaluated by a panel of representatives from the nonprofit groups that are part of the community of Dixon.

Due to COVID restrictions, the awards dinner will be held sometime later this year, where the winners will be acknowledged.

For further information on either Business of the Year or Citizen of the Year, please contact Shauna Manina at the Chamber office at 707-678-2650 or [info@dixonchamber.org](mailto:info@dixonchamber.org). ★

## Neighborhood School Gets New Leadership and Location

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - From leadership to location, Neighborhood Christian School that was established 40 years ago and that has been located for 30 years at the Dixon Mayfair, is making some major changes including moving the school to a new campus by fall.

The private Christian school was started in 1979 to meet the educational and spiritual needs of children in Solano and Yolo Counties by Deryl Radder, an educator and man of faith, who had a heart for missions. It offers preschool through middle school classes with enrollment around 400 students.



Eden Callison, new Principal at Neighborhood Christian School, got some help from her husband, David, moving the NCS preschool over to its new location at Dixon Community Church, 955 East A Street. The rest of the school at the May Fair will move over this summer. Photo by Debra Dingman

"The changes have resulted from the scope

and sequence of a lot of things," said new Principal

Eden Callison who took

*Continued on page 2*

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# Part One of Vaccine Adventure Completed



Fernando Morquecho, an EMT and part of the Medical Assistance Team from Los Angeles, administered at least 125 vaccines--one to David Dingman - last Saturday in Vallejo. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

I became frustrated looking for vaccination sites to no avail so put my head down and prayed. I decided to look one more place before getting off the computer and there it was. It jumped off my screen for an 8:15 am Woodland Clinic the very next morning.

Lovely that I recognized the big man getting in line before us as a Dixonite so had a nice visit with Mike Kett and beautiful Alyssa Manprin. The whole thing was super organized just as we have heard about other vaccination clinics, barely taking an hour from driving to back home. I got the Moderna one and didn't feel a thing, not even a prick. I only got a sore arm that evening that lasted a couple days. No other discomforts, not even a headache.

That kind of makes me nervous for the second one... I just kept telling myself about all the people who have gotten vaccines for the better and I remember lining up in kindergarten for my polio sugar cube. We are an amazing country.

A couple days later was hubby's turn at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo.

He did something I wouldn't do: signed up for a Saturday. He hasn't had the privilege of

driving in I-80 traffic over the last few years so has to learn the hard way. This is not a good choice anymore if you can at all avoid it and we did crawl through stretches of I-80 but I just read my book – you know because he says I gasp too loud when I watch.

When we got there, we began following a precise plan carried out by an army of fluorescent vests and people waving us here or there until we parked up close, believe it or not. Then I spotted a line and thought I should have brought more newspapers to read but it was actually a line of people who had just come on-the-spot to see if they could get in.

We were ushered in right away with his appointment confirmation. We entered into a humongous gymnasium-style hall and men with red flashing wands just like the ones in airport parking would hold them up when they had an opening. We waited 10 seconds.

David took the injection like the military gave him many times over his USAF career except he wasn't sure he'd gotten it as he didn't feel "even a pin-prick". Fernando Morquecho, an Emergency Medical Technician from Los Angeles who gave David his shot, had administered about 125 injections just that day and it was 3:30 pm.

He was part of the "Medical Assistance Team", a bunch of people that came up from Los Angeles to help. They are put up in a hotel in Sacramento and they find out where they're going each day as sometimes places run out of the vaccines he said. He had been to Yuba City, Amador, Tuolumne, and now Vallejo. They work six days a week and only have Sundays off.

I asked him why he decided to do this and he said, "They needed help." Then I asked, how long will he work and he said, "Until they don't need us anymore." Wow. I thanked him for being there for us – and for all of us. ★

# Churches Host Easter Celebrations

*Continued from page 1*

taken last week and one has to be present to win.

At Living Hope Church, there will be three Easter services: 9 and 10:30 am in-person and at 10:30 am streaming.

"I'm starting a new series that day: A Tale of a Whale: How NOT to Follow God," said Pastor Myers. The church is located at 410 Gateway Plaza.

Calvary Chapel is meeting in person but also offers it online via their Facebook page. Pastor Greg Brock's Resurrection message will begin at 10 am. The church is in downtown Dixon at 140 North First Street and offers child-care during services.

Dixon Community Church will have Easter 'Service in the Sanctuary' in-person at 10 am at 955 East A Street at the edge of town but will also live stream via YouTube. Their children's sermon follows. The leaders invite the public to come and meet the new Senior Pastor, Reverend Kevin R. Johnson from Missouri.

Dixon United Methodist Church will also have an Easter morning service at 10 am outdoors, in-person, and live stream as they do each week now. It will be led by Pastor Cathy Morris.

Worshippers are able to sit in chairs in front of the church on North Jefferson Street, or sit in their cars and tune-in to an FM transmission on their car radio. In the event of rain, the service will be live streamed from the sanctuary, but worshippers can still listen from their cars.

Greater Faith Baptist Church will hear the Reverend Virgil Robinson at 320 West A Street at 10:30 am.

St. Peter's Catholic Church is located at 105 South Second Street. They will have mass at 11 am and a Spanish mass at 1 pm.

The Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints is located at 305 North Lincoln. Mormons celebrate Easter Sunday by worshipping Jesus Christ through attending church where they partake of the sacrament, sing hymns of praise, and pray together. ★

# Neighborhood School Gets New Leadership and Location

*Continued from page 1*

the post at the first of the year after Rick Vidmar, long-time school principal retired.

Vidmar served at the school for 39 years, first as an educator, then as Principal and "felt the Lord's direction to retire" but not after spending "countless hours" training Callison. "Though he will no longer hold any official title or capacity at Neighborhood, students will still see him visiting, encouraging, and praying for our NCS family," reads their website.

"Mr. Vidmar leaving was both amicable and heart-wrenching," said Callison, whose husband attended NCS while growing up and where their three children currently attend. "We believe we are in a revival and we are building on a legacy in Jesus--both academically and emotionally."

"I was honored to be asked and we are called for 'such a time as this,'" she said referring to the Bible story of Ester. "I am a mom of three children in this school and all six of my

husband's siblings have gone through NCS. This is not a mistake and there is a purpose. I can only hope to be one-tenth of the leader Rick was."

Callison has previously served on Neighborhood's staff in various capacities in teaching 6th grade, being a substitute teacher, working as a para educator, and carrying out administrative duties in the school office. She graduated from UC Davis in Science and Engineering and has been working as a Business Analyst and application engineer.

"She's quite the leader," said Kaelene Reyna, an expectant mother who has three boys at NCS and who volunteers at the preschool. "She really welcomes and encourages new ideas. She is the kind of person who can roll with things and supports the idea through," she said.

Reyna may be referring to a new component of the Early Education Program that offers extended care for NCS families and also a "Come and Play" afternoon program for non NCS children. The preschool classes

which have been held at Grace Fellowship Church on H Street for many years relocated a couple months ago into the buildings and playground that were previously not fully utilized at Dixon Community Church, 955 West A Street.

Plans to move the rest of the school over should be accomplished by the start of the new school year in fall 2021. Callison was excited to learn that the church building plans of years ago included two portable buildings which they will most likely add in future years.

"We saw an opportunity to come together in one space and become a single, unified campus," explained Callison, "We will maintain autonomy and are a ministry of Dixon Community Church." DCC itself is under new leadership after Pastor Mike Farias retired and handed over the reins to Pastor Kevin Johnson who just came from pastoring seven years in Missouri.

"Our ministries are both community driven and I believe this will be great for both entities," he said. ★

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# SCOE Announces Teacher and Classified Employee of the Year

By Jennifer Leonard,  
SCOE Press Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) has selected a teacher and a classified staff team member to represent SCOE in this year's countywide Educators of the Year awards program. SCOE's nominee selection committee chose two employees who work passionately to contribute to student achievement, educational innovation, and advance community involvement in schools. SCOE's teacher of the year is Ron Major, and SCOE's classified employee of the year is Shelia Vogel.

SCOE hosts the annual Solano County Educators of the Year (EOY) awards each year. In 1978, SCOE began recognizing exemplary teachers, and now the program has expanded to recognize outstanding teachers and classified school employees for Solano school districts and charter schools. Each Solano district or independent charter school can select two employees to represent their organizations in the countywide Educator of the Year program. One educator from each category will then be selected to represent Solano County at the state level.

The Educators of the Year program is designed to reflect the rich diversity of Solano County's school employees, while paying tribute to Solano's teaching force, the growing complexity of challenges that confront our schools and the need to promote collaboration and teamwork among educators to meet those challenges.

"SCOE is extremely fortunate to have so many



Ronald Major



Sheila Vogel

incredible certificated and classified employees who exemplify leadership and deliver essential support to our students, their families, and schools. Congratulations and appreciation to Ron and Shelia for their dedication to educating our youth!" said Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson.

Major is a teacher at the Golden Hills Education Center in Vacaville. He serves on the school site council and leadership team, providing his unique insight and expertise toward improving student experiences. Ron is known for going above and beyond for his students, and on occasion has provided groceries and clothing for students in need. Ron is a problem solver and a dynamic, friendly, equity-focused teacher who carefully designs his lessons to meet the needs and challenges of all his students.

Vogel is a college and career development specialist for SCOE. She provides support, encouragement, employment preparation, and job placement for students attending SCOE's Adult Program and the Fairfield-Suisun Adult School. Shelia respects the goals and desires of the youth and adults she serves and champions their successes with enthusiasm and heart. Amid the COVID restrictions, she was adamant about virtual small group/

individual meetings to stay connected with her students.

Major and Vogel will represent SCOE in the annual Solano County Educators of the Year (EOY) celebration, along with other EOY representatives from across Solano County. The Solano County teacher and classified employee of the year will move forward to participate in the California teacher and classified employee of the year programs. The Solano County awardees will be announced during the virtual EOY celebration on April 27, 2021, at 3:30PM.

For more information about the Educators of the Year Program please contact Ken Scarberry, director of youth development, at kscarberry@solanocoe.net

Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 63,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state. ★

# New Owner Adds to Rental Business



Staff from Amos Metz Rental & Sales, Patrick Koch, Bill Ford, and Devon Coyne along with electrician Steve Nicklow are busy sprucing up the building and grounds on North First Street in preparation for the grand opening on Monday. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Rental Station at the corner of Adams and North First Streets in front of Viva Market has sold and is getting a facelift. Look for the new sign "Amos Metz Rentals & Sales" before their grand opening on Monday, April 5.

This company has been around for 76 years in Woodland and they are "excited to offer a wide variety of equipment rentals to both homeowners and contractors," said General Manager Kristin Jaconetti who has worked for the company 31 years.

The company was ready to expand and one of their staff discovered Dixon. The Grand Rental Station was originally opened by the late Ken Mistler and his wife, Keri, who became

an event decorator and balloon artist.

The business thrived because of Keri's artistic flair with event decorations and Kenny's work motto: "If someone asked me if we had it, and we didn't, I still said 'yes,' and bought it or found it [at another rental company.]" After Ken's sudden death, the business eventually sold to Polina Farias and family.

They have run the business for the past eight years and Polina will still continue to run the party rental end of the business under "Dixon Party Rentals". She will handle items like tables, chairs, linens and decorations and that part will be operated in the back portion of the building behind the Buckhorn Bar. Polina is also an amazing decorator for events as seen at Dixon Community

Church holiday events.

The new owners of Amos Metz Rental & Sales will be the equipment rental side and consists of a team-led LLC of three men and a woman. They will offer excavators to floor polishers and everything in between, they say.

"Things are happening fast. It's going to be awesome in Dixon," said Jaconetti. We got new fencing. We got the building cleaned up and painted inside and out, and cleaned up the yard. There is all brand new equipment. Dixon is growing and people are going to be so excited. We hope they come and see us."

They will host a grand opening this coming Monday. The address is still 851 North First Street and also unchanged is the phone: (707) 678-3100. ★



## Grand Opening April 5<sup>th</sup>

**AMOS METZ** has been doing business in Woodland for 76 years. We are excited to be opening in **Dixon**.

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# Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

## City Council

The Dixon City Council will be meeting the first Tuesday of the month which is April 6, at 7 pm via 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 Thursday before the meetings.

## Date Night

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.

It was a nice surprise to find them at 5:30 and everyone seemed to really enjoy it. According to John Kowalski, weather permitting, they'll be there every Thursday.

## Lap Swim

Are you ready for lap swimming? The Pat Granucci Aquatic Center at 450 East Mayes Street will be opening March 29 - April 2 for lap swimmers ages 14-years-old and up. The program is through the City of Dixon Parks and Recreation Department.

Swim times in the mornings are: 5:30 to 6:25 am or 6:30 to 7:25 am. Afternoons are 3 to 3:55 pm or 4 to 4:55 pm.

Cost per session is \$4.75 and one can pay online for a \$2 per transaction fee but can save money by registering for multiple sessions at one time.

There is a maximum of eight lanes per session and only one person per lane will be allowed. A COVID-19 self-check is required prior to arriving at the pool and face coverings are required at all times except when in the water.

Restrooms are for emergency use only so staff is asking that people please arrive prepared to swim. Participants will enter through the front gate and exit at the gate near lane 8. For additional information, call (707) 678-7441.

## NAMI Walks

People's collective mental health needs are at their greatest now. One in three U.S. adults reported experiencing depression or anxiety since the pandemic began. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) programs and advocacy are needed more than ever, and with help, they are pleased to present NAMI Walks Your Way fundraiser on Saturday, May 22, 2021, from 9 am to noon.

Learn more information by emailing Executive Director Cerrene Cervantes at namisc@namisolanoounty.org.

## Help Wanted

While at Ruhstaller last week, there was a poster for help wanted. Servers, drivers, farmers, office assistant, beer lovers, and opportunity seekers.

"If you're looking to join a team where you work hard and move the needle, tell us!" it read. Send to captainfrank@ruhstallerbeer.com. It also said must love dogs and sheep.

## Dixon Library

When Solano County is released into the Orange Tier, appointments to come into the Dixon Public Library will no longer be required but until then, appointments are required: hours are 9 am to 6 pm Monday through Thursday and Friday 9 am to 5pm. They are not open Saturdays.

Story Times and the Book Club will continue meeting via Zoom even when Orange happens. They do offer curbside pick-up. Call the library for more information (707) 678-5447. You can also check the status of their opening on SolanoLibrary.com. ★

# CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

## Springtime in Dixon

Without even looking at the calendar, we know spring has arrived in Dixon. Trees, shrubs, and plants are bursting with new life and color. The red bud trees around town are beautiful with their blazing red buds. They are a native species of our area and blend in with the landscape most of the year, but in the spring time they gain everyone's attention.

The weather along with the beautiful blooming trees and plants inspires many of us to get outside to experience nature by getting our hands dirty tilling the soil in the garden or flower beds. This means a trip to the local nursery or big box store is necessary to purchase the necessary "elements" for the success of the project. The first step is selecting the correct growing medium for the area to be planted. Scientists have convinced us that dirt, even the very best agriculture dirt found here in the Sacramento Valley, needs to be replaced or supplemented with commercially produced material.

For those of us without a doctorate degree in plant or environmental science, choosing the appropriate 20-30 pound bag of soil is a challenge. There are red bags, green bags, yellow bags, black bags, and white bags all showing beautiful plants and all labeled "soil." Soil is not dirt. Soil is a mixture of minerals, air, animals, and other living things. Dirt is dirt-a lifeless mixture of minerals, air, and water.

Solano County Master Gardener, Dottie Deems', article in the Spring 2021, *Seeds for Thought*, newsletter available on the UCCE Solano County Master Gardener website provides an excellent description of the various soils and their ingredients that will help any gardener select the proper soil for their project.

Your choices for soil include:

**Topsoil** is a combination of sand, clay, and silt. It may contain inorganic materials and is coarse, dense, compacts easily, and gets waterlogged. Good for lawns and filling holes, but has no use in the garden.

**Garden Soil** is meant to be mixed into the existing soil and used in vegetable and flower beds. If not mixed well it tends to compact and stop the water from reaching the soil beneath it. It is a combination of top soil, peat moss, and other biological materials like manure, fertilizers, and wood. Garden soil is not the same as potting soil. They are not interchangeable.

**Potting Soil** contains NO SOIL. It can include peat moss, pine bark, perlite, vermiculite, shredded Styrofoam, mycorrhizae, coconut coir, worm castings, and the list goes on! The combination of ingredients is meant to provide a good medium for healthy root growth water retention, good drainage, and proper aeration. If you are wondering what mycorrhizae might be, Webster's dictionary defines it as a symbiotic relationship between a plant and a beneficial fungi that helps stimulate growth and accelerates plant development.

**Raised Bed Soil** is a combination of garden and potting soil. It is lighter than garden soil and doesn't compact easily. It contains peat moss, wood products such as chips, bark, and shavings, and possibly

fertilizer, worm castings, biosolids, nutrients, and sometimes mycorrhizae.

We wish you and your family a Blessed Easter and look forward to seeing your flower and vegetable gardens thriving this summer!

## Healthy Recipes

It is really hard to believe that it has only been a year since shutdowns around the country and the world started changing our daily lives. So many things we did without a second thought... taken right out from under us in one pull of the rug. That's why it may seem like it's been so much longer than a year.

Many of us miss the simple things in life the most - And as simple and even inconsequential as returning to your local restaurant might sound, don't underestimate its significance.

We are thinking about going to relatives for Easter. Since most of us have had two Covid-19 shots and the required two weeks have passed, recipes for Easter which is early this year on April 4 are on many of our lists.

Recently we ran across "recipes" on the UC Davis web site. Shirley worked for Nutrition Cooperative Extension for a few years. At that time, not many recipes were on campus web sites, but now, there are many under various categories. For example, under <https://health.ucdavis.edu/good-food/recipes/index.html>, recipes are listed under, "Good Food is Good Medicine". Here you will find, Moroccan Spiced Chickpeas Flow, Simple and Healthy Snack Ideas While at Home, Stuffed French Toast, and Minestrone Soup plus many others.

On the web site, readers are told, "We have some very talented people here at UC Davis Health, and we're so excited to share some of their delicious recipes with you. It's a great way to incorporate healthy foods into your everyday meals."

These recipes are under the blog, "Good Food is Good Medicine." Folks can subscribe to the blog on site. This blog offers you ideas of how to maintain good health while also supporting Northern California farmers and ranchers through sustainable ingredients as part of the farm-to-fork initiative. We are supporters of small farmers and farmer's markets.

The blog will explore topics ranging from food recommendations based on health conditions to seasonal cooking ideas to the latest health fads (and whether they're actually good for you).

The recipe that caught one's idea for Easter is: "Chipotle Sweet Potatoes." This looks like an interesting side dish. If this does not appeal to you, you might look at "Sweet Potatoes and Brussel Sprouts."

Shirley's granddaughter, Rachael, is going to Chapman College in Orange County this fall. She has been studying her junior year online. While in one online class, she met another young woman from Windsor, her hometown. They have decided to room together for next year. So at least she will know someone from her hometown.

Have fun and enjoy reading and cooking these healthy recipes. ★

# Parole Board Denies Request for Inmate Sean Moore

By Monica Martinez, Solano County District Attorney

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - On March 25, 2021, a Board of Parole Hearing was held for Inmate Sean Moore, who is serving a 29-year-to life sentence for Murder at California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR). The Parole Board denied his request for parole.

On July 19, 1994, Inmate Moore, a drug dealer, and two other males who were armed with firearms, entered a Vallejo residence searching for the victim, Paul Cousins, who allegedly stole drugs from Moore. They found Mr. Cousins hiding in one of the bedrooms. Mr. Cousins tried to flee, but was knocked to the floor by Moore and the other two assailants. Mr. Cousins pled for his life and stated, "Don't kill me...I will pay you back." Two shots were fired, one to the back of the head and the other to his buttocks. Other witnesses were in the home. During the course of the investigation, several of the witnesses identified Inmate Moore as one of

the three perpetrators. One of the witnesses identified Inmate Moore as the one who shot Mr. Cousins in the head.

The Solano County District Attorney's Office charged Moore with Murder in violation of Penal Code Section 187(a), Residential Burglary, in violation of Penal Code Section 459 and use of a firearm during the commission of both offenses, in violation of Penal Code Section 12022.5. On February 10, 1995, a jury found Moore Guilty of First Degree Murder and Residential Burglary and also found true the gun enhancements. On May 19, 1995, Inmate Moore was sentenced to 29 years to life in state prison.

Chief Deputy DA Sharon Henry vehemently opposed the release of Inmate Moore, arguing that he currently poses an unreasonable risk for future violence if released on parole. Inmate Moore testified at his parole hearing in support of his request for release. The Parole Board denied his request for release for a five-year period finding that he currently pose an unreasonable risk to the community should he be released. ★

# Fatal Hit and Run Collision

Solano CHP

**SOLANO REGION, CA (MPG)** - On March 12, 2021, at approximately 6:42 pm, Solano CHP was notified of a possible DUI driver on Abernathy Road and Mankas Corner Road. The vehicle was described as having front end damage. CHP units were able to locate a Lexus with front end damage consistent with that of a vehicle that was involved in a crash, no other damaged vehicles or property were located in the immediate vicinity. The driver, Marcos

Manuel Guzman, was initially booked at the Solano County Jail for suspicion of DUI and driving with a suspended driver license.

The next day, on March 13, 2021, at approximately 9:49 am, Solano CHP was notified of a hit and run with major injuries on Abernathy Road, north of Andrews Lane. Upon arrival, emergency personnel located a male party had been driving a Honda ATV when it was struck by a passing vehicle. After a thorough investigation, it was determined this was a hit and run crash


that had occurred the evening prior and involved Mr. Guzman's vehicle. Since Mr. Guzman had already been released from jail on the original charges, Solano CHP immediately obtained an arrest warrant for Mr. Guzman for new criminal charges of 20001(a) V.C. - Felony Hit and Run and 191.5(a) P.C. - Gross Vehicular Manslaughter While Intoxicated. Mr. Guzman was arrested on March 19, 2021 and booked into the Napa County Jail pending extradition to Solano County. ★






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Facts Ignored in Attacks on Asian Americans

At least it’s permissible to question the conclusions of federal law enforcement again.

During the Russia investigation and afterward, officials like FBI Director Christopher Wray were put on a pedestal by Democrats and the media.

Now, Wray has occasioned sharp Democratic dissent by stating that the horrifying murder spree at Atlanta-area spas that killed six Asian American women wasn’t racially motivated.

Tammy Duckworth, the Democratic senator from Illinois, said in response to Wray that she wanted to see a deeper investigation, “It looks racially motivated to me.” The new Democratic senator from Georgia, Raphael Warnock, agreed, “We all know hate when we see it.”

These are evidence-free objections to an FBI evaluation that we have every reason to believe is based on the best-available facts.

All indications so far, including the perpetrator’s statement as related by the police and reporting about his background in the press, suggest that he was struggling with a sex addiction, visited massage parlors for sex, and carried out his attacks as, by his perverse reasoning, vengeance against the parlors as the occasion for his temptation.

What he did is

unforgivably awful, heart-breakingly destructive, and, of course, profoundly hateful.

It’s just not the right kind of hate to fit a woke narrative of white supremacists targeting Asian Americans in a frenzy of racism fueled by former President Donald Trump’s use of terms like “the China virus” and “Kung Flu” during the pandemic.

There has been an ongoing effort to link the spa shootings to a trend of increasing hate crimes against Asian Americans. There is much still to learn about this phenomenon. It may have peaked last spring with the onset of the coronavirus and certainly appears to be driven by several big cities, especially New York City, Los Angeles and the Bay Area. But this broader trend doesn’t appear to fit a neat woke narrative, either.

For one thing, many attacks against Asian Americans clearly aren’t acts of white supremacy, or even incidents of racial hatred.

It is an unfortunate feature of big American cities at the moment that not much explanation is needed for attacks against anyone other than a rising tide of lawlessness. That surely accounts for some significant percentage – if by no means all – of the attacks.

A high-profile stabbing of a Chinese man in Manhattan in February was carried out by a troubled 23-year-old man from Yemen. Despite pressure from Asian American activists, prosecutors declined to charge the assault as a hate crime after they found no evidence that it was.

The suspect in the killing

of Vicha Ratanapakdee, an elderly Thai American who died after being brutally pushed to the ground in broad daylight in San Francisco in January, is a 19-year-old Black man.

Last March, an Asian American woman was assailed on a bus in the Bronx by a group of Black teenage girls who accused her of spreading the coronavirus. There can be no doubt about the racial element of this assault, but the perpetrators belonged to one of the demographic groups in America least likely to be influenced by Trump or to favor white nationalism.

A New York Times story on attacks in New York referred to the awkwardness when the attackers are other minorities. It noted that some Asian American community leaders “say tougher enforcement could end up pitting Asian Americans against Black and Latino communities, inflaming racial tensions.” The head of a Chinese social services agency told the paper that “many of his Asian colleagues were verbally harassed during the pandemic but chose not to alert law enforcement because they worried the perpetrators, who were often people of color, could be mistreated by the police.”

None of these complications are allowed to interfere with a simplistic narrative of Asian Americans as victims of white supremacy, no matter what the facts are, no matter what the hitherto unassailable FBI director says.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.  
(c) 2021 by King Features Synd., Inc.* ★

# Retired Teacher from Woodland Writes Faith Based Children’s Book

By Jessica Stillwell, Dorrance Publishing

Fruititude: Growing Spiritual Virtues Through Adversity, a new book by Shyreece D. Pompey, has been released by Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc.

This new book is a faith-based primer for troubled youth or teens, young adults, or even mentors who wish to walk alongside them when experiencing adversity. Young married couples starting their own families can use this primer to begin healing from past broken relationships. It is great for youth group Bible studies or small group talks. This book is not to define the fruits of the spirit for an exhaustive content study of each one, but instead it's designed to depict what each desired character trait listed could look like as it's applied or lived out in the circumstance of the fictional fruit-named characters.

This book uses personified fruit characters who go through relatable circumstances that broken individuals or families can identify. Author Shyreece D. Pompey uses the wisdom of the Scriptures, reflective drawing/journaling, and cooking, so that individual families can begin to heal from traumatic experiences.

Shyreece D. Pompey, retired Public School Teacher in 2015, is now a faith-based Author. HOPE: It Will Not End with My Death is another book that challenges the heart to endure times of suffering with grace. Shyreece received her master's degree in Educational Leadership shortly after being diagnosed with a rare Stage IV lung cancer. Despite the illness, Shyreece

diligently served on nonprofit boards and held offices that positively impact local communities. Being trained as a Stephen Minister equipped her to face her ongoing medical challenges while helping others with traumatic situations. Overcoming insurmountable odds to become a professional teacher for 17 years was Shyreece's childhood dream.

Shyreece is married to Minister Douglas W. Pompey of 30 years and is actively involved with her three grandchildren. She loves container gardening, singing, and making lap quilts. Nothing brings Shyreece greater joy than watching God work in the lives of Believers living in a fruitful relationship with Christ Jesus. Growing in the image of Christ is the reward now, and dwelling with Jesus forever is the ultimate gain. Originally from the “Michiana” area, Shyreece taught there for 28 years alone. Currently, residing in Woodland, California, she loves the community she has found there, but Michiana will always be her home.

You can keep up with Shyreece and her inspiring journey on her official website [www.queenofovercome.com](http://www.queenofovercome.com)

Fruititude: Growing Spiritual Virtues Through Adversity is a 104-page paperback with a retail price of \$37.00. The ISBN is 978-1-6491-3851-4. It was published by Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For more information, or to request a review copy, please go to our virtual pressroom at [www.dorrancepressroom.com](http://www.dorrancepressroom.com) or our online bookstore <http://bookstore.dorrancepublishing.com/> ★



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# California and The Political Food Chain



By Dan Walters CALMatters

While the relationships among the various levels of American government are often cooperative, always lurking in the background is what one might characterize as a political food chain.

Officials plot constantly to impose their will on counterparts occupying lower links of the chain while avoiding similar efforts by those above them – all in the name of better governance, of course.

We’re seeing one example of the syndrome now in the efforts of California’s legislators and Gov. Gavin Newsom to confront California’s housing crisis. They want to compel local governments, particularly cities, to make more land available for high-density housing to serve low- and moderate-income families, and override local zoning laws that favor single-family homes on large lots.

Local officials tend to view the state’s efforts as heavy-handed, one-size-fits-all violations of their traditional rights to control land use and thus shape the atmosphere of their communities. But advocates of state intervention say it’s needed to overcome not-in-my-backyard resistance that discriminates against the poor and the non-white.

As state officials strive to impose their will on local governments, they often resist the federal government’s efforts to do the same on states. California’s former attorney general, Xavier Becerra, filed more than 100 lawsuits against the federal government during Donald Trump’s presidency, many of which asserted the principle of states’ rights to resist decrees from Washington.

Becerra now heads the federal health and welfare agency and can be expected to crack the whip on any states that resist federal policies in the programs he manages. That’s how the food chain works; it’s not personal animosity, just institutional jousting for control.

The recently enacted \$1.9 trillion “stimulus” that Becerra’s new boss, President Joe Biden, pushed through Congress provides another example. It gives state and local governments \$350 billion in aid, supposedly to make up for revenue losses during the COVID-19 pandemic. But one provision prohibits recipients from using the windfall to reduce taxes, and that has generated criticism from state officials of all ideological stripes that it interferes with their ability to manage their finances.

In California, politicians and interest groups on the left say it could prevent them from reducing tax burdens on the poor, such as expansion of the earned income tax credit, and small businesses.

State Finance Direrctor Keely Bosler told

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in a letter that strictly applying the tax cut prohibition would “limit a state’s ability to adopt policies that support federal goals and could thus constrain the economic benefits that were intended by the authorization of these funds.”

“We’re trying to provide additional relief to businesses that took it in the teeth during the recession,” H.D. Palmer, a spokesperson for Bosler’s Department of Finance, said. “We don’t want to go down that road until we’ve got further clarification from Washington.”

California business groups, meanwhile, say that the tax cut ban would undermine efforts to restore two business tax breaks that the state suspended last year when it appeared that COVID-19 would devastate state finances. With state revenues now running more than \$14 billion over-estimates, business leaders say that the tax breaks, which amount to more than \$4 billion a year, should be reinstated.

The business-backed California Taxpayers Association and 16 other state taxpayer organizations also sent a letter to Yellen seeking clarity on what states can and cannot do under the tax cut language. The stimulus law gives her the authority to make those decisions in a classic example of how the inter-governmental food chain works.

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

## 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 4 and Under;
  - Grade 5 through 8;
  - 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.



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Mom’s Name and Age

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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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# Tax Day for Individuals Extended to May 17

By David A. Tucker II,  
Internal Revenue Service

**WASHINGTON D.C. (MPG)** - The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service announced that the federal income tax filing due date for individuals for the 2020 tax year will be automatically extended from April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021. The IRS will be providing formal guidance in the coming days.

“This continues to be a tough time for many people, and the IRS wants to continue to do everything possible to help taxpayers navigate the unusual circumstances related to the pandemic, while also working on important tax administration responsibilities,” said IRS Commissioner Chuck Rettig. “Even with the new deadline, we urge taxpayers to consider filing as soon as possible, especially those who are owed refunds. Filing electronically with direct deposit is the quickest way to get refunds, and it can help some taxpayers more quickly receive any remaining stimulus payments they may be entitled to.”

Individual taxpayers can also postpone federal income tax payments for the 2020 tax year due on April 15, 2021, to May 17, 2021, without penalties and interest, regardless of the amount owed. This postponement applies to individual taxpayers, including individuals who pay self-employment tax. Penalties, interest and additions to tax will begin to accrue on any remaining unpaid balances as of May 17, 2021. Individual taxpayers will automatically avoid interest and penalties on the taxes paid by May 17.

Individual taxpayers do not need to file any forms or call the IRS to qualify for this automatic federal tax filing and payment relief. Individual taxpayers who need additional time to file beyond the May 17 deadline can request a filing extension until Oct. 15 by filing Form 4868 through their tax professional, tax software or using the Free File link on IRS.gov. Filing Form 4868 gives taxpayers until Oct. 15 to file their 2020 tax return but does not grant an extension of time to pay taxes due. Taxpayers

should pay their federal income tax due by May 17, 2021, to avoid interest and penalties.

The IRS urges taxpayers who are due a refund to file as soon as possible. Most tax refunds associated with e-filed returns are issued within 21 days.

This relief does not apply to estimated tax payments that are due on April 15, 2021. These payments are still due on April 15. Taxes must be paid as taxpayers earn or receive income during the year, either through withholding or estimated tax payments. In general, estimated tax payments are made quarterly to the IRS by people whose income isn't subject to income tax withholding, including self-employment income, interest, dividends, alimony or rental income. Most taxpayers automatically have their taxes withheld from their paychecks and submitted to the IRS by their employer.

State tax returns - The federal tax filing deadline postponement to May 17, 2021, only applies to individual federal income returns and tax (including tax on self-employment income) payments otherwise due April 15, 2021, not state tax payments or deposits or payments of any other type of federal tax. Taxpayers also will need to file income tax returns in 42 states plus the District of Columbia. State filing and payment deadlines vary and are not always the same as the federal filing deadline. The IRS urges taxpayers to check with their state tax agencies for those details.

Winter storm disaster relief for Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas - Earlier this year, following the disaster declarations issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the IRS announced relief for victims of the February winter storms in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. These states have until June 15, 2021, to file various individual and business tax returns and make tax payments. This extension to May 17 does not affect the June deadline.

For more information about this disaster relief, visit the disaster relief page on IRS.gov.

# CLG NEWS UPDATES

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

**Redfield tells CNN he believes origin of the coronavirus pandemic is a lab in China** | 26 March 2021 | Former Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Robert Redfield told CNN in an interview that aired Friday he thinks coronavirus originated in a lab in China. “It’s not unusual for respiratory pathogens that are being worked on in a laboratory to infect a laboratory worker,” Redfield said... Redfield said he did not think it makes “biological sense” that the virus would be able to spread so well between humans if it had just made the jump from animals to humans. The Wuhan Institute of Virology has been a focus of the theory that the virus escaped from a lab. “I do not believe this somehow came from a bat to a human,” Redfield said.

**Silicon Valley oligarchs oppose ‘politically motivated’ Newsom recall in letter** | 28 March 2021 | Members of the Silicon Valley ultra-rich led by venture capitalist Ron Conway are opposing the recall effort against California Gov. Gavin Newsom and signaled they may be willing to drop major dough for their cause in a letter. Seventy-five Silicon Valley luminaries signed the letter opposing the “politically motivated” recall effort, saying it would “roll back growing progress,” Politico first reported. Signatories include Steve Jobs’s widow, Laurene Powell Jobs, former Google CEO Eric Schmidt and LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman.

**‘I consider it human trafficking.’ California foster parents are being asked to take in ‘26 or more’ migrant children as social services scramble to place a ‘record number’ of unaccompanied minors crossing the border** | 27 March 2021 | California foster parents are being asked to care for a staggering 26 or more unaccompanied migrant children per household, DailyMail.com can reveal. On March 12, foster parents Travis, 45, and Sharla Kall received a voicemail amid the crisis at the Mexico border. “This is an emergency message, please respond to this urgent message from the Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD),” the voicemail obtained by DailyMail.com said. ‘CCLD would like to know how many available beds you have to serve additional youth.’ ...The couple received an email with the same urgent message, containing links for them to communicate how many available beds they have - ranging from zero to ‘26 +.’ Travis, who along with his wife runs a non-profit fighting against human trafficking, believes this is just the tip of a sinister iceberg. ‘I consider it human trafficking,’ he said. ‘It’s not the burden of taking kids in because we have the heart for it, but these are kids that were taken from the border for a money scheme and now they’re going to use us resource parents to take care of them.’

**Hunter Biden texts contradict claims Secret Service wasn’t involved in gun case** | 26 March 2021 | Hunter Biden sent a text message that said the Secret Service responded after his handgun disappeared in 2018 -- contradicting the agency’s assertion that it wasn’t involved, The Post has learned. In a lengthy message sent the following year, President Biden’s son described the situation in detail, saying his former sister-in-law-turned-lover, Hallie Biden, tossed the firearm into a trash bin outside Janssen’s Market, a gourmet grocery store in Wilmington, Del...On Thursday, Politico reported that the incident involving Hunter’s .38-caliber revolver took place on Oct. 23, 2018, and that the firearm was fished out of the trash and surrendered several days later by an older man who found it while searching for recyclable items.

**Border Patrol in Rio Grande Valley releasing illegal crossers into US without court date** | 22 March 2021 | Fox News confirmed Sunday that Border Patrol agents in the Rio Grande Valley Sector (RGV) have begun to process and release illegal border crossers who claim asylum without issuing a Notice to Appear (NTA) - allowing them to depart custody without scheduling a court date for a hearing. The unprecedented move places the responsibility of seeking an asylum hearing on the migrants through Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or legal assistance. Multiple Border Patrol agents confirmed the new process to Fox News, revealing that they have been directed to use prosecutorial discretion (PD) to forgo the hours-long process of paperwork required to issue an NTA amid the surge of migrants at the border.

# Top Student Spellers to Compete in Solano's Spelling Bee Final

By Jennifer Leonard,  
SCOE

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The 45th Annual Solano County Spelling Bee was held virtually, with the preliminary round beginning on Saturday, March 27, 2021, and the final round will be on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. The Spelling Bee is open to all public and private schools serving 4th – 6th grade students. This year, 25 schools participated in the preliminary round, each eligible to register two top spellers.

“Spelling Bees serve as a way to improve a student’s comprehension skills; strengthen listening, spelling, and writing proficiencies while expanding on a student’s extensive vocabulary,” says Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson. “Students participating in the Spelling Bee competition

also have the opportunity to gain confidence in public speaking and learn to be gracious winners, while having fun with their peers.”

This year’s event will take place virtually. Instead of students being eliminated for misspelling one word in the preliminary round, they will each be given 20 words that gradually increase in difficulty. Then, there will be four rounds that include four words. Each round will increase in difficulty and have a higher point value. Students will be encouraged to spell as many words correctly as they can and will earn more points for harder words in later rounds. Students with the highest point total will advance to the final round which will follow the traditional Spelling Bee model of single word elimination.

Top spellers from the Saturday, March 27th event

will be competing in the final round of the Solano County Spelling Bee on Tuesday, April 13th.

For more information, please contact Director of Youth Development Ken Scarberry at 707-646-7601 or email kscarberry@solanocoe.net.

*Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) provides leadership, support, and fiscal oversight for charter schools and Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield-Suisun, Travis, Vacaville, and Vallejo school districts which serve approximately 63,000 students. Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson is elected by voters of Solano County. The Superintendent is a state constitutional officer who serves as the chief executive officer of SCOE and as a liaison between local school districts and the state.*

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**Paula Rivers, 1841 Holsteiner Drive Fairfield, CA 94534**  
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The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A  
This Business is Conducted by: an Individual


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Publish: March 12, 19, 26, and April 2, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

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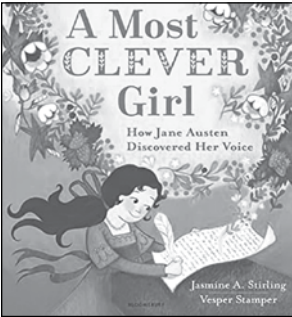
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BOOKS

By Amy Shane

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

## The Newest Line Up of Children’s Books



**A Most Clever Girl: How Jane Austen Discovered Her Voice**  
by *Jasmine A. Stirling and Vesper Stamper*

Jane Austen grew up in a house filled with words, dazzling her family with stories and even staged plays in the barn. Jane, however longed for more; she wanted stories that we’re honest and genuine and not overly romanticized. As life got hard, Jane tucked her writing away. Then, years after her father’s death, Jane persisted, allowing her grief to form into words, into stories, and finally, her voice was heard.

In a beautiful and detailed book about Jane Austen’s life,

*A Most Clever Girl* delicately outlines a loving, supportive family and a girl who flourished. This story traces the beloved author’s life who didn’t give up, a woman who believed in herself and her stories. A story of persistence, nurturing talents, and sometimes the time it

takes to get there. A perfect book for any fan of history, authors, and of course, Jane Austen.

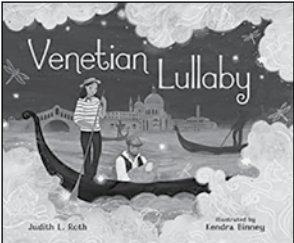
**Send A Girl the True Story of How Women Joined the FDNY**  
by *Jessica M Rinker and Meg Hunt*

Brenda Berkman always wanted to do the things that girls weren’t supposed to, but she knew she could do anything. Then, Brenda heard about the FDNY allowing women to take the exam, and she knew she needed to apply. Even though Brenda didn’t pass her first time, she was determined she fought for equal rights, equal testing, and won. In a story that shows one woman’s determination and spirit, *Send A Girl* exemplifies a story of rising against the odds, against discrimination, and against hate. This is a story of triumph and celebration perfect for any library or classroom.

**The Owl Who Asks Why**  
by *Michelle Garcia Anderson and Ayesha L. Rubio*

Little Owl and Little Wolf both want to know why and when, but are quickly told Owls don’t ask why, and Wolves don’t ask when. As they set out on their adventure for answers and understanding, they suddenly get lost and need to come together to find their way home.

Young readers will love his story that is all about WHY , WHERE, AND WHEN and the importance behind asking questions.



**Venetian Lullaby**  
by *Judith L. Roth and Kendra Binny*

With the gentle lap, lap of the water, and the soothing sounds of a lullaby, a female gondolier steers, and a father sings. Venetian Lullaby will take readers on a scenic tour through Venice’s canals, past cobble streets, shop windows, and straight into dreamland. Dreamy illustrations matched with this beautiful story’s gentle lulling words will gently ease little ones as they drift off the sleep.

**Click, Clack, Good Night**  
by *Doreen Cronin and Betsy Lewin*

It’s nighttime on the farm, and all the animals are in bed, but one. In this hilarious story of Duck trying to find a place to sleep that is not too soft, too loud, too crowded, or too bright. This is a perfect bedtime story for a child who is still wide awake. ★



## Riley Reviews

### “BAD TRIP” RAUNCHY PRANK ANTICS RUN WILD; CABLE TV PREVIEW

A TV Review by Tim Riley

#### “BAD TRIP” TV MOVIE ON NETFLIX

Johnny Knoxville has been on hiatus for several years from the idiocy of the wild pranks of the “Jackass” franchise, but until the next installment arrives the vacuum can be filled by others making a hidden camera movie.

We are long past the days of Allen Funt’s “Candid Camera,” and for the uninitiated, clips of classic episodes of this landmark television series from the Fifties and Sixties may be glimpsed on YouTube.

To fill the void until Knoxville returns, Netflix steps into the breach with “Bad Trip,” a raunchy prank-filled adventure thankfully devoid of a political agenda or social commentary.

Be warned that two best buddies in dead-end jobs in Florida, namely Bud Malone (Lil Rel Howery) and Chris Carey (Eric Andre), are thrust into a road trip to New York City that is fraught with, well, an abundance of gross humor.

The goofball of the pair is Chris, first seen working at a car wash when the girl of his dreams, high school crush Maria (Michaela Conlin), arrives to have her car detailed.

Sharing his excitement at spotting the dream girl with a customer, Chris mishandles a vacuum so powerful that it sucks off his clothes, leaving him completely naked and afraid to the consternation of the customer.

A chance encounter later with Maria plants the seed for Chris and Bud to steal the pink Crown Vic belonging to Bud’s sister Trina (Tiffany Haddish), who breaks out of prison and loses her mind about her missing car.

What ensues is a wild journey to New York for Chris to find Maria at her art gallery, with an enraged Trina not far behind. That Bud and Chris take time to push some boundaries at a southern cowboy bar is just one of many pranks.

Inarguably, bad taste runs ramp in “Bad Trip” with its degrading pranks from fake vomit spewing on bar patrons, penises stuck in Chinese finger traps, and not least with Chris getting sexually molested by a gorilla at a zoo.

“Bad Trip” may be an uneven comedy but there are plenty of laughs for those willing to take the ride.

#### CABLE TV PREVIEW

May we ponder the question of whether certain actors are destined to play particular characters? Can you imagine someone other than Charlton Heston becoming the personification of Moses in “The Ten Commandments?”

Though not yet iconic actor in her own right, Danielle Brooks, by way of a role

in the 2015 Broadway revival of “The Color Purple,” came to the realization from castmates that she should play the part of gospel artist Mahalia Jackson.

The Lifetime Channel’s TV movie “Robin Roberts Presents: Mahalia” fulfills a destiny for Brooks, who let it be known during the winter press tour that Broadway co-star Jennifer Hudson would come to her dressing room to say she should play Mahalia Jackson.

When Jennifer Holliday stepped into a role in “The Color Purple,” she suggested the same thing to Brooks, who told the press that “maybe this is a sign. Maybe God is telling me maybe I should really think about this character.”

And so, Brooks will play the part in “Mahalia” of the New Orleans native who began singing at an early age and went on to become one of the most revered gospel figures in U.S. history, melding her music with the civil right movement.

Mahalia’s recording of the song “Move on Up a Little Higher” sold millions of copies, skyrocketing her to international fame and gave her the opportunity to perform at the prestigious Carnegie Hall and John F. Kennedy’s inaugural ball.

Acorn TV, one of several cable brands within the umbrella of AMC Networks, is a good source of entertainment from Great Britain and neighboring European countries. The four-part Irish crime thriller “Bloodlands” has made its debut but there is time to catch up with it.

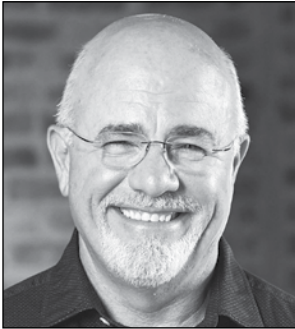
In “Bloodlands,” James Nesbitt stars as Tom Brannick, a veteran Northern Ireland police detective going into his own dark past to try to solve an infamous cold case that holds enormous personal significance for him.

When an expensive car containing a suicide note – but no body – is pulled from the sea, Brannick immediately sees a connection with the cold case that may link to a long-buried series of mysterious disappearances.

Not to be outdone, AMC will bring the British drama series “The Beast Must Die,” starring Jared Harris and Cush Jumbo, to the United States this spring. The six-part thriller is based on the novel by Nicholas Blake (the pen name of Poet Laureate Cecil Day-Lewis).

Unlike the 1974 horror film of the same title, “The Beast Must Die” tells the revenge story of a grieving mother who infiltrates the life of the man she believes killed her son.

At the winter press tour, AMC executive Dan McDermott observed that this engaging revenge thriller “explores the human condition and how the depths of suffering sometimes give rise to unexpected consequences.” We’ll soon judge for ourselves how this plays out.★



## Dave Ramsey Says

and working toward making decisions together, but you’ll never get control of your finances until you rid yourself of the mindset that debt is okay. Once you lose that idea, you’ll begin to understand missing a year of funding your Roth IRAs isn’t going to kill you. It’s also not going to prevent you from becoming wealthy and living like no one else when it’s time to start thinking about retirement.

If you stay in the mindset that having debt is okay, or that you’re going to let it hang around, eventually it will really mess you up financially. Winning with money is more about behavior than math. Don’t get me wrong, you need to crunch the numbers and be mindful of them, but all the mathematical components are nothing but theory if the behavior doesn’t kick in.

So yeah, I’m siding with your wife on this

one. Just follow the Baby Steps plan. Have all your debt paid off, except for your home, and an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses saved and set aside before you start any long-term investing. A lot of folks will tell you my way isn’t mathematically correct, but it will work better in the long run – for your money, your marriage, and in other areas of your life!

–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. ★*



#### Water Projects Reduce and Delay Deliveries

Water worries intensified for California farmers Tuesday. The State Water Project announced it would cut its water allocation by half, to 5%, and the federal Central Valley Project said it would delay delivery of its 5% allocation to agricultural customers south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. In addition, the state water board has warned water-rights holders to plan for potential shortages.

#### Farm Bureau Conference Focuses On State Issues

Drought concerns surfaced frequently during the California Farm Bureau Capitol AG Day event, held via video conference Tuesday. Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson expressed disappointment with the slow progress of projects funded through a 2014 water bond, and urged movement on voluntary river-flow agreements intended to head off further water cuts. The conference featured discussions with legislative and administration leaders on a variety of topics.

#### Farm Exports Face Delays at Ports

Agricultural exporters say they’ve having a “nightmare” of a time moving farm products through California ports. A surge in cargo volumes, a reduced port workforce and other problems have contributed to a shortage in shipping containers. Shippers trying to export California crops and commodities say they’ve experienced canceled bookings, increased costs and concerns about lost business. They fear the problems may not ease for weeks or even months.

#### Union-access Rule Undergoes Supreme Court Review

A decision could come by the end of June, after the U.S. Supreme Court took up a California regulation that allows union organizers to recruit farm employees on a farmer’s property. Two agricultural employers challenged the regulation, describing it as an unconstitutional taking of private property by the government. Farm groups say the regulation goes against Supreme Court precedent, especially when unions have other ways to communicate with farm employees.★

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WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



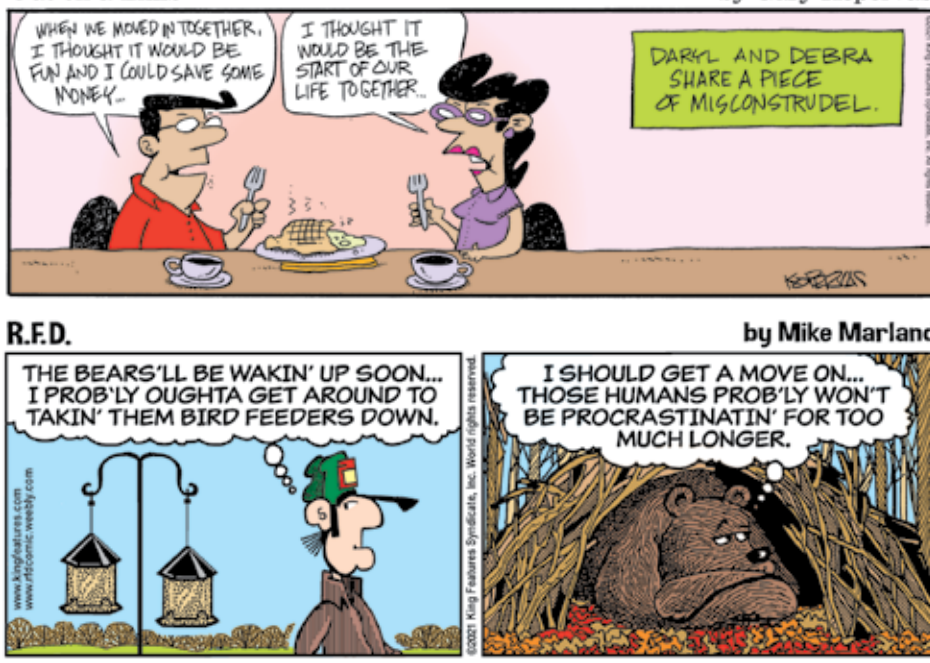
by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb




by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME




BY AL SCADUTO

R.F.D.




by Mike Marland

CRIM and BEAR IT




"One of your personalities has stolen the identity of one of your other personalities."

LAFF-A-DAY



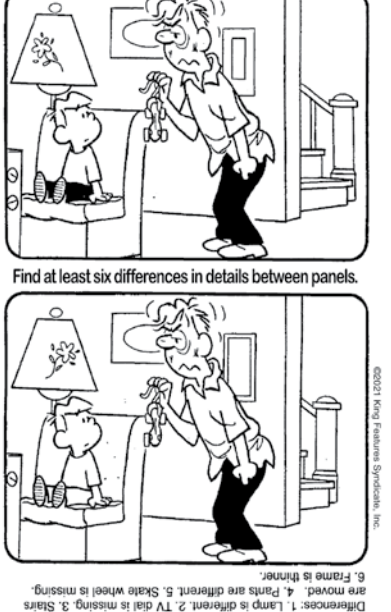
"That's yours over there—the troublemaker!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs



by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS



BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

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