



Embracing His Past To Drive His Future

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Remember the Reason for the Season



Dixon Independent Voice

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Merry Christmas



Deep Purple is Not a Pretty Color

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - If you did not see the alert sent via cell phone or haven't been keeping up with the news but you notice the streets are once again void of a lot of traffic, it is because this past Thursday, Solano County fell below the regional 15 percent ICU bed capacity in Solano County's COVID crisis moving Dixon into the Purple Tier.

Dixonites now join 39 million other Californians who will have a very quiet Christmas.

"It is a deep purple. It is more restrictive and people are not to leave their homes unless essential; there is no outdoor dining at all but pick up or take out, gyms can only be outside, retailers can only have 20 percent of their typical customers in at one time and there is no personal care services such as hair and nails," said Jayleen Richards, Public Health Administrator for Solano County Health and Social Services, Public Health division. Churches can only meet outdoors.

They prohibit private gatherings of any size, close sector operations except for critical infrastructure and retail, and require 100% masking (with certain exceptions as indicated within guidance for use of face coverings) and physical distancing in all others.

"Solano County is experiencing high levels of transmission of COVID-19 at an alarming rate, and our hospitalizations are rising, both of which are indicators that ICU impacts are a given now, not just locally but regionally," said Dr. Bela T. Matyas, Solano County health officer in a news release. "This time of year poses a special challenge in preventing transmission of COVID-19. While we may want to gather and celebrate with family and friends, such gatherings can cause the spread of this devastating virus to our family and friends, affecting our loved ones and the community."

These orders will remain in effect for at least three weeks. After that period, they will be lifted when a region's projected ICU capacity meets or exceeds 15%. This will be assessed on a weekly basis after the initial three week period.

The purpose of the state's order is to address the increasing transmission among non-household members and further prevent our healthcare system from being overwhelmed. The requirements of the state's order supersede

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Historical Society Seeks Support and Memberships

Become a Member; Help Build the Museum Memberships

By MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Historical Society is working diligently behind the scenes with plans to open the downtown museum soon. That effort includes launching their new website and inviting people into placing memberships to help support the effort.

Although the COVID19 Virus temporarily halted the quarterly membership meetings that many enjoyed, the Society is working to protect and preserve artifacts, documents, photos, and irreplaceable items that are unique to Dixon's history.

The group announced this past October that they had successfully negotiated a lease at 125 West A Street behind Bud's



Kayla Nelson, Intern Extraordinaire for the Dixon Historical Society is majoring in Public History and has lent her expertise to the Dixongroup preparing to open a museum downtown. Being careful not to trip over the construction inside the West A Street location, she is modeling the new black polo shirt that comes with a couple of the levels of membership. Photo by Debra Dingman

Pub & Grill in the Pacific building. The large space will be

used for an interpretive
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Special Council Meeting on Measure S Was A Rerun

By Debra Dingman

What did we just watch? I thought it was a special meeting for the public to address Measure S issues with City Council. Obviously, our citizens speak mostly with votes.

I will be the first to admit, I had issues before I turned on the Zoom Meeting. Here is what they were: 1. I found out about this meeting on the same day of the last City Council Meeting, which was Tuesday, December 15 because it was announced. I never saw anything in the newspapers about this meeting. And, funny, I read almost everything in newspapers having to deal with Dixon. I also check for press releases because it is my job. But, somehow, this meeting appeared suddenly on my radar and it is the job of our City Government to give adequate notice to its citizens about meetings.

Secondly, it was scheduled nine days before Christmas. Think about that. If you are a man, you probably (and excuse me if I'm a little sexist at this older age) but you are not buying the presents. A man is probably not doing the Christmas cards or arranging the special get-togethers factoring in the new COVID requirements. But a woman, no matter how organized, is typically running through her list and running out of time. So, I wanted to admonish the City Manager and the all-men City Council for scheduling such a date.

Thirdly, this is a huge issue that the voters have sent a clear message about. Measure S repealed the water rate hike by more than 70 percent of the vote. The voters are owed the decency of plenty of notice and opportunity to voice their concerns or opinions. Neither was done.

Lastly, I know that the City contracted a media expert to get the citizens to oppose the Measure by "educating the citizens to the need for the changes and rate hike." I am not sure, but I think that may have equated to two direct mailings of some sort. I couldn't believe that out of \$40,000 we could not have done a better job informing the citizens of this little get together.

Then Hubby and I watched the meeting. It has been years now that the City has maintained an over-priced, overzealous, sue-happy million-dollar attorney. What I'll never understand is why I see him running a public meeting. He is a contracted attorney and not an elected official, like our Mayor. Nor is he the City Manager. Either of those positions would make sense to me but listening to Doug White use juvenile scare tactics such as "we will only have water on Tuesday and Fridays" for example if we don't do the city's plan and pay up. He just wouldn't stop.

When new Councilman Kevin Johnson asked for opening to public input, New Mayor Bird said the public would have their turn later. I know when someone is trying to pressure me or bully me. I certainly get when someone is feeling like he might lose a battle and becomes desperate in their ideology and presentation. Such as the case tonight. And that was without any public input.

The council input portion would wind up being a long time later. During the Council comments, we heard Councilman Pederson and Ernest attempt to publicly shame the citizens for costing the City more because we didn't listen and do the right thing earlier. Which, of course, would have been to not question the council's and the City Manager's decision-making to raise the water rates without regard to the many hours other citizens and citizen committees spent looking at other solutions and offering alternatives. So, in essence, the meeting was really about the City will tell you (the citizen) and you (the citizen) will listen...and you (the citizen) will then be educated and agree.

We did hear from "Expert" Joe Leach, City Engineer and we heard from the "Expert" Finance person Kate Zawadski who reiterated what has been promoted by the City this entire controversy. No other avenues were brought up or analyzed, not even the ones that the consultants brought up years ago.

Since the election where the Dixon citizens voted to repeal the water rate hike and send the Council the message to come up with something better, White has contended that the city didn't do a good enough job educating the public. He is condescending and apologizes for not doing a better job educating the "stupid" citizens. He thinks the City needs to spend more money on getting us better educated. Yes, the problem seems to lie in our "stupidity".

It could not possibly be that there are a group of people who have come together, studied the issue because they did not trust the leadership of the City, or like the rate hike that would be imposed on them, and actually found some better solutions.

Dorothy Kroll was the only one who spoke from the public, and she did a great job saying some of the things that I am saying here. I want you to know why I did not speak. By the time Mayor Bird would allow public questions, my blood pressure began to rise because I thought this meeting was bad timing to begin with, but I had carved out my night for it anyway and it was a huge disappointment.

I had questions, but by the end--and listening to Doug's whiney threats and disrespect for anyone with any intelligence--I was so incensed I knew I would not have been polite and really, would have shredded someone with my anger unfairly. ★

Presentation from Measure S Proponents

Editor's Note: This letter was read aloud by Dixon City Attorney Doug White at the Measure S Special Meeting on Thursday, December 17, 2020.

To: Mayor Steve Bird and Council Members: Jim Ernest, Don Hendershot, Kevin Johnson, Scott Pederson

We, the undersigned, received, in our home address, an undated letter from the City Manager stating "on behalf of the City Council" he is "giving the opportunity to the Proponents of Measure S to prepare a presentation for the City Council and the members of the public..." The letter continued its direction that "The presentation should focus on your recommendations and suggestions for addressing the deficiencies in the City's water system, including a viable plan for funding the necessary improvements."

Given the recent election, and resulting changes to the Dixon City Council that will not be sworn in until December 15, 2020, we are confused about exactly whose authority the City Manager has acted under with his letter. The Brown Act states that "Special meetings may be called at any time by the presiding officer...or by a majority of the members..." (Gov.Code §54954.2). As such, it appears to us that the City Manager has no authority himself under the law to call for a special council meeting.

We are unaware of any direction given by the outgoing Council that a special meeting be held, or that the City Manager acted on the Council's behalf in this regard, as he noted in his letter. If there was such a direction, we then question the appropriateness of an outgoing council directing the actions of an incoming council. We would appreciate information or clarifications from you related to this issue.

While we are looking forward to working with you on every issue that affects the City, we are not prepared, at this time, to do the City's job and clean up the mess created by the City Council and City Administration. After the City hired consultants and forced unreasonable rates onto the ratepayers for the past two years, the City Manager now demands ratepayers do the work of paid consultants and city staff to come up with viable options for funding the water system? And to give the proponents less than 1 week to prepare is totally unreasonable, especially during the holidays. You work for us not the other way around.

We hope this is not an example as to how the new council will perform the public's business. God help Dixon if this is the plan.

One of the common underlying concerns expressed by persons signing the Initiative petition was a major lack of trust in the City Council and City Administration related to the management and operation of the City water system.

ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020, THE VOTERS SPOKE LOUD AND CLEAR. Measure S did not pass "with a majority vote." An overwhelming majority of the voters (72%) voiced their displeasure with the City's water rates.

Our position on the Water issue was clearly stated in the text of the initiative and in our Argument in Support of Measure S.

As stated in the initiative petition "The People of the City of Dixon call on the City to undertake a new, sincere and comprehensive look at adopting water rates that reflect the Water District's legitimate costs of providing water service without creating huge new debt obligations by selling bonds or subsidizing future development.

Any future rate setting process should respect the participation of all ratepayers by (a) providing impartial, accurate information regarding the impact of the proposed new rates; (b) providing all ratepayers a reasonable opportunity to participate and does not effect of suppressing ratepayer/voter involvement; (c) be cognizant of the impact of any rate increase on businesses and families, particularly to the large number of fixed and low income households in this community; and (d) adopting rates that are rational and justified by the City of Dixon Water District's operational costs related to delivery of water services, and infrastructure maintenance and improvement needs."

As stated in our Argument in Support of Measure S "Measure S will restore the PEOPLE'S VOICE at City Hall. City leaders refused to listen to your concerns or responded to inquiries and they raised your water rates - without your consent using questionable practices during the Prop 218 protest process.

Passage of Measure S will hold them accountable.

City leaders did not justify why the three wells need to be replaced, including providing the results of any downhole video inspections and engineering assessments. They did not even explain why well rehabilitation measures, such as swaging, lining, hydraulic and chemical treatment, pump modification, or the use of in-well sand separators cannot be used to extend the service life of the wells in a cost-effective manner."

The voters overwhelmingly endorsed our position and over seventy two percent

(72%) voted YES on Measure S. We did our job, now do yours.

Our response to the City Manager's letter to us is that it is HIS job, and thus that of the City's, to work with ratepayers, address their questions and concerns, and then identify adequately justified and properly documented measures for Dixon's water system. This is something that the City Manager and the Council have neglected to do over the past two years at the significant detriment to the city.

In the interest of moving ahead we believe the City must, at a minimum, take the following long overdue measures to provide transparency and accountability, build ratepayer trust, identify properly investigated and technically justified measures for the City's water system, and THEN work to build consensus on what fiscal measures are appropriate to support them.

All ratepayer questions and concerns expressed at the two council member neighborhood meetings should be documented and responded to in a public document posted on the City's website. A draft version of the document for ratepayer comment should be posted first. A final version of it should be developed and posted after the 30-day ratepayer comment period has been completed.

The questions and concerns presented in the Solano County Taxpayer Association's letter of December 10, 2018 to the City should be answered in a public document and posted on the City's website together with the Association's original letter to the City.

Comments expressed by ratepayers at a November 19, 2019 meeting with Dixon's Director of Public Works, Joe Leach in relation to the need for detailed physical and engineering assessments of major components of Dixon's water system, including each of the City's older production wells, should be documented and responded to on the City's website. Such assessments, beyond just the City's limited consideration of age and outward appearance in many cases, are essential for ascertaining the actual condition of these components, determining whether or not rehabilitation or replacement measures are appropriate, and evaluating the necessary timing for any necessary rehabilitation or replacement actions.

Fiscal questions and inconsistencies noted by ratepayers at that same meeting, and at Council meetings that followed, should also be documented and properly responded to on the City's website.

The City should account for all revenues generated by the rate increases enacted by the Council on April 1, 2019. The City should also detail any water system impact fees collected for development over the past two years. This accounting should include any expenditures of these funds and the fiscal reserve accumulated to date. The City also needs to inform ratepayers about any plans it has to use monies from the fiscal reserve in 2021. All of this information should be posted on the City's website and kept up to date.

Once an adequate engineering condition assessment of the City's water system infrastructure has been completed, and any system component rehabilitation or replacement measures have been properly justified, the City should determine the appropriateness of staggering the timing of any such measures. If technically appropriate, a staggered approach could be used to reduce or eliminate the need for financing and reduce short- and long-term impacts on ratepayers.

In addition to addressing the above points, the new Council must conduct itself in a professional, respectful, and dignified manner as an essential part of regaining ratepayer trust. It is our understanding that an individual council member whose term extends into the new Council reportedly, in a statement on a public website, referred to the proponents of Measure S as political extremists. If this is true, such a statement is unfair, prejudicial, bigoted, and constitutes bullying. It is also very unbecoming of someone holding public office.

The new Council and City Administration now have the opportunity to right the many wrongs of the recent past and establish trust. Water system ratepayers need their questions answered and must be convinced that the City actually knows what it's doing, that the nature and timing of any system rehabilitation measures are fully justified, any rate increase is appropriate and fair, and that the City will strive to act professionally and legally in the future.

The Council must begin today, by answering all the questions asked in the last two years, and work earnestly with ratepayers, and attain consensus on what needs to be done. We are looking forward to working with you. If you are not willing to work with the citizens you represent, we know what to do and will do it again.

Yours in Community Service,

Harry Savage
Michael Jones
Shari Borkin
Dorothy Kroll



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Dixon City Council: Outgoing and Incoming



Newly elected City Council Dist. 4 Representative Don Hendershot, Treasurer James Ward, Mayor Steve Bird, and City Council District 3 Representative Kevin Johnson took their Oath of Office at the December 15 City Council Meeting. Photo by Debra Dingman

Pink Firetruck, Police Car Pay Dixon Surprise Visit



The Pink Heals Fire Truck and the police car named after Dixon United Methodist Church Member Johanna Hoagland, one of the chapter's original members, a Vacaville police volunteer and a two-time cancer survivor, paid a surprise visit to the Dixon Police Department this past week. The Pink Heals program partners with public safety organizations, local businesses, and families to bring a community together in support of individuals who have cancer. Numerous pictures were taken at the local department with Chief Robert Thompson. Photo by James P. Ward

Deep Purple is Not a Pretty Color

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local Health Officer orders within any region when there is less than 15 percent ICU capacity.

“Getting out of this situation will depend on everybody to take serious actions to reduce the spread in our community – stay home as much as possible, leave only for essential activities, don’t gather outside of your household, use a face covering in public settings always, and maintain six feet physical distancing from others everywhere outside of your household. Help keep yourself and others safe,” Dr. Matyas said.

Tracking of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the Bay Area Region by Solano County Public Health shows that COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are surging with several hundred new COVID-19 cases confirmed daily and ICU capacity declining across the state.

Pursuant to the Regional Stay at Home Order the following sectors are required to close or remain closed for all operations, including: Indoor playgrounds; Indoor recreational facilities; hair salons and barbershops; Personal

care services such as nails; museums, zoos and aquariums; movie theaters; and wineries.

Also included are: Bars, breweries, and distilleries; family entertainment centers; card rooms and satellite wagering; limited services as defined by the State; live audience sports; and amusement parks. But, you can still take your children to the park.

For more information about the virus in Solano County, contact their ‘Warmline’ at (707) 784-8988 or go to www.SolanoCounty.com/COVID19. ★

New Advocates for Dixon’s Women and Girls

Solano Commission for Women & Girls

SOLANO COUNTY (MPG) - Pat Nicodemus is taking on a new role as Dixon’s representative on the Solano Commission for Women and Girls (SCWG). Nicodemus is not new to this kind of public service. She is a youth advocate with the Solano County Sheriff’s Office Women’s Reentry Achievement Program where she worked with incarcerated women helping them adjust to living outside of jail or prison. Her special interests include social justice/equity, poverty, and homelessness as well as the safety and wellness of Solano County women and girls.

Dr. Andrea Lemos will also be joining SCWG as a new member. She was selected to represent the Solano County Office of Education

(SCOE) to SCWG. She is Deputy Superintendent of Educational Services and Student Programs at SCOE. Dr. Lemos has worked in preschool through 12th grade schools and programs, as a special education teacher, school administrator and district leader in school districts and county offices of education. In 2019, Dr. Lemos was the statewide chair of Special Education Administrators of County Offices. Her focus is partnering to create high quality, equitable and inclusive learning environments with an emphasis on student voice and culturally responsive practices.

The Solano Commission for Women and Girls (SCWG) was established in 2018 to improve the economic status, health, social welfare, and overall quality of life for women and girls by providing community education and recommendations to the Solano County Board of Supervisors. The Commission is composed of representatives from

each of the Solano County Supervisors, the seven cities in Solano County, and a representative from the Solano County Board of Education. For the last two years, the Commission has been creating a “report card” on the status of Women and Girls which was presented to the Solano County Board of Supervisors in June, 2020. The Solano Commission for Women and Girls is proud to welcome both women to the diverse and dynamic advisory group according.

The Solano Commission for Women and Girls meets on the third Thursday of every month (except July) from 6-8 pm in the multipurpose room of the County Administration Building located at 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, or virtually on zoom. The public is welcome to attend. For more information go to the Solano Commission for Women and Girls Facebook page or the website at <https://www.solanocommissionwomen-girls.com>. ★

Historical Society Seeks Support and Memberships

Continued from page 1
museum with historical exhibitions and displays which include historical sites and houses, Dixon’s diverse cultural heritage, and agricultural roots.

“We aren’t just going to do history but we’ll also do artists or meetings and have other sources of income,” Public History Intern Kayla Nelson said. “The history aspect of it is just the cherry on top.” Nelson, a mother of two and wife of an Air Force pilot, is a full-time public history student and has extensive skills with social media so created the website that is now up and easily accessible. There are drop-down menus that allow someone to become a member or make donations.

In order to establish the museum, there is a need for site preparation, construction, printing of interpretive signage and they ask for support of the dedicated volunteers with donations of \$100 or more which includes an annual membership in the society. With a \$250 contribution, DHS will also include a high

quality black short sleeve collared polo with the DHS emblem on it. With a \$500 amount, there will also be two free tickets to their Bud’s Pub & Grill Fundraiser Dinner set for March included as well. Their immediate goal is to raise \$20,000.

She reported that they will use a multi-prong approach to keep enough funds flowing--albeit grants, memberships, donations, and events but stressed someone who doesn’t have money can still donate their time which is equally important and why she created a tab for volunteering on the website.

Support is critical to accomplish the two phases of work. Phase One will be finished in January 2021 and Phase Two in April.

“Once the pandemic restrictions for museums lift, the doors will open,” said First Vice President Loran Hoffman.

“Getting the community behind the idea of a museum and getting them involved either by contribution or by time will be incredibly helpful,” Nelson said, “for both the older

who appreciates the history but also the younger generation.”

One can donate by mailing a check to Dixon Historical Society, P.O. Box 814, Dixon, CA 95620 or one can pay using PayPal or credit card. The Society has been a non-profit public benefit corporation with 501(c)(3) tax filing status since 1987.

They offered a donation caveat by reminding people that even if you’re one of the 90 percent who do not itemize charitable deductions, The CARES Act states that all donors can claim up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 per married filing jointly) for charitable gifts made in 2020, whether they itemize or take the standard deduction.

Individual annual membership is \$20 or \$25 couple/per family of 2 payable by January 31, 2021.

For more information, see DixonHistoricalSociety.org, call President Bill Schroeder at (707) 761-9574 or Treasurer Diane Schroeder at (707) 685-0802. ★

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UC DAVIS BASEBALL: Embracing His Past To Drive His Future

By Jason Spencer,
UC Davis Baseball

DAVIS, CA - Fight to win. Don't quit. The golden rules that UC Davis baseball fifth-year senior Colton Evans' grandparents taught him growing up.

Evans' grandparents, Glenna Joslin and J.S. Whinery, are members of the Choctaw Nation, a strong Native American influence that embodies who Evans has become, and drives his passion for academics, sports, and life.

"For me, growing up, from the beginning, the Native American lifestyle was always around me," Evans said. "A big part of who I am is being a cowboy and being a Native American. Both those things represent a huge part of my identity and I'm really proud of both sides. Rather than letting them divide me, I embrace both."

"Both are bound in respect, integrity, and fighting spirit, while, at the same time, treating everyone with love. For me, they have given me a respect for humanity and Mother Nature and, as an individual and student-athlete. On the field, I want to win. That's where that fighting spirit comes into play. I want to beat you, don't get me wrong, but I will also respect you."

Following a standout prep career at Pitman HS in Modesto, Calif., about a 90-minute drive south of Davis, Colton came to UC Davis as an English major, and immediately found his place in the community.

"I loved the team, everyone in this community is so kind," Evans said. "They're the kind of people I love to surround myself with. They're just so positive."

However, it was during his sophomore year when Evans stumbled upon a new calling thanks to a random conversation during a solo study session on campus at the Native American Academic Student Success Center.

"I had no idea this was even a thing," Evans recalled. "I had to check it out. I took my first class and fell in love. That's when I decided I was going to double major. It was one of my greatest decisions. Homework doesn't feel like homework, school doesn't feel like school. I just enjoy it. Finding the NAS major was never part of the plan, but I'm very grateful that it became part of it."

Through his studies, the need to respect and



Fight to Win! Don't Quit! The golden rules that UC Davis-fifth year senior Colton Evans' grandparents taught him growing up.
Photo by Mark Honbo, UC Davis Athletics

give back to the Native American community has driven his academic goals. Evans' passions today include the Buffalo Project, native American Women's Wilderness project, and striving to right wrongs and seek out injustices to correct. Colton cited the epidemic of indigenous women and the number who go missing or are murdered each year, as he strives to be an advocate for Native voices.

"Those are my people, their blood runs through my veins, so I feel a responsibility to become an individual that does something positive within this community," Evans said. "All my life, all I ever wanted to do was say, when I'm taking my last breath, when I'm done with my time on Earth, if people can say I was a good person and I made this world a better place, then I did my job. That's the bottom line."

"I can help these people, I can learn about the struggles, the trials and tribulations that they are going through, and I can make them my own. I can use my voice to help promote them, let others know what's going on, and work towards making a difference."

His connection with his Choctaw ancestors came at a young age at the feet of his grandfather, who had the name "Iceman" bestowed upon him by the tribe when he was born, and his grandmother, who have passed along traditions, not only through stories, but from hands-on experiences that have made an even greater impact.

"I think there is something amazingly intimate about face-to-face experience and learning," Evans said. "That's the one thing I appreciate about those moments I have had with

my grandparents. When they give that knowledge to me, it gives me an opportunity to connect with the younger generations and pass those lessons on to younger family members."

"It's almost like a rite of passage, if you will. For me, when I get the opportunity to introduce my children to these rites, it will be my moment to connect with them and an opportunity for them to build a connection with our culture and our heritage."

A lot of those rites have come via the family's work with animals, embracing both his Native American and cowboy heritages. Evans' most vivid memories of his time with his grandparents include working with horses and cattle on the family farm.

"Being with my grandfather in the pens and just working with the horses, you're just at peace," Evans said. "Your mind, your soul, is just quiet. It's just you and the animal. I'm working with the horse, working on techniques, then my grandfather will say something, and I'll work on that. I feel like I'm dancing with Mother Nature. It brings me so much peace, I just love the lifestyle."

Remember that "golden rule" of "don't quit?" Look no further than Evans' grandmother.

"My grandmother is 100-percent Native American," Evans said. "She is 96 years old and there she is outside, at seven in the morning, gardening, picking up pots, working with the land, watering and it's amazing. I'm 23 and I'm not doing that."

"She's in her mid-90s and she acts like she's 25. Goes to work. Drives. She drives! It's amazing. It makes me proud.

She embodies everything that is a strong Native woman."

Evans has brought that passion and work-ethic with him to UC Davis, where he made a pact with his freshmen class to help change the culture of Aggie baseball. "Win every pitch, don't stop, win the moment," is an anthem the team lives by as they continue to better the program each and every day.

"From when we arrived until now, our goal was to better this program, not just in wins and losses,

but the demeanor of the team... who we are, what we represent, how we go about our business," Evans said. "Last year, we were great. It was heart-breaking when we didn't get our season. We wanted it bad and we worked so hard for it. We changed the culture, we had guys who were motivated to do what was right, to practice, to compete. We had everything clicking."

"That's why I'm excited going into this season. We have that culture going in, we're ready to go about our business. No matter

what happens, our team is positive and the feeling is contagious. When you get someone motivated, it spreads like wildfire and this is a motivated team and I'm proud to call them my brothers."

And right there watching will be his grandmother and grandfather, who have never missed a game.

"They both mean so much to me because they've taught me that there's nothing in your life you cannot do and I see that in my grandparents every day," Evans said.

ABOUT UC DAVIS

Ranked annually in the top 10 in diversity and students' social mobility, UC Davis is uncommonly committed to preparing student-athletes for life after graduation with Aggie EVO – an innovative student-athlete outcomes program that helps young women and men develop passions, gain real-world experience, and enjoy a successful launch to full-time employment or graduate school. Through Aggie EVO, Intercollegiate Athletics provides unmatched resources and a vast network of working professionals to ensure post-graduation success for its student-athletes. ★

\$10.7 Million for Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program Projects

By Matt Wells,
California Dept of Fish & Wildlife

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced the selection of 27 projects that will receive funding for the restoration, enhancement and protection of anadromous salmonid habitat in California watersheds.

The grants, which total \$10.7 million, were awarded through CDFW's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program (FRGP). Established in 1981, FRGP has included funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund since 2000. The federal fund was established by Congress in 2000 to reverse the declines of Pacific salmon and steelhead throughout California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska.

"The ongoing momentum to restore California's habitat for these historic species hasn't stopped as we face a global pandemic and devastating wildfires," CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham said. "Awarding these projects highlights the resilience, passion and vision for salmon recovery by our state's restoration community, for which we are grateful."

In response to the 2020 Fisheries Habitat Restoration Grant Solicitation, CDFW received 80 proposals requesting more than \$40.6 million in funding. As part of the competitive grant program, proposals underwent a rigorous technical review by CDFW and NOAA scientists.

The 27 approved projects will further the objectives of state and federal fisheries recovery plans, including removing barriers to fish migration, restoring riparian habitat, monitoring of listed populations, and creating a more resilient and sustainably managed water resources system (e.g., water supply, water quality and habitat) that can better withstand drought conditions. These projects further the goals of California's Water Action Plan and CDFW's State Wildlife Action Plan, as well as addressing limiting factors specified in state and federal recovery plans.

The list of approved projects is available on the FRGP website.

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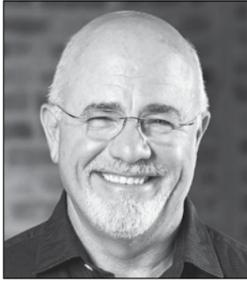
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Dave Ramsey Says

fix things in your life. If you're waiting for someone or something else to make things better, you're going to be disappointed.

When it comes to setting and achieving goals, be specific about what you want to achieve. Vague, unspecified ideas will only cause you to feel overwhelmed, and this will likely lead to you giving up. Also, make your goals measurable. If you want to lose weight, don't simply write down "lose weight" as a goal. How much weight do you want to lose? How many pounds would you have to lose per week in order to see the desired result in a specified amount of time?

This one may sound silly, but are the goals you have in mind your goals? If a spouse or friend sets goals for you, you're probably not going to succeed. Creating a goal, and taking ownership of it, will give you more incentive to meet your goal. Setting a time frame will help you develop more realistic

goals, too. And last, always put your goals in writing. Write them down, and review them often. This will provide you with added motivation to make your goals a reality. Successful people examine and reassess their lives on a regular basis. When they realize changes need to be made, they start living intentionally, in writing, on paper, and on purpose!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Dave 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. ★

Only You Can Make It Happen

Dear Dave,

I've got so many things I want to address and change about my life, both personally and professionally, in the coming year. Do you have any advice or practices for helping people be successful and achieve their goals?

–Tim

Dear Tim,

Goals are dreams, but you can't stop with just dreaming. Examining your goals inside and out, and by thoughtfully constructing small, achievable steps toward them is the key to creating change in your life. Remember, too, that it's your responsibility – not someone else's – to



Trump Hoisted With His Own Petard

One of President Donald Trump's foremost achievements has been to erect a formidable obstacle to his own post-election legal challenges.

The federal judiciary, now seeded throughout with Trump-nominated judges, has given the back of its hand to pro-Trump election litigation, with Trump judges issuing notably harsh opinions.

It's always been strange that Trump, who will never be mistaken for a rigorous constitutionalist and who personalizes everything, has elevated a couple of hundred judges who, by and large, are deeply committed to the Constitution and feel no particular personal loyalty to him.

Hardly an institutionalist, Trump has buttressed the institution of the judiciary. Not one to honor norms, he's generally nominated sticklers for them to the bench.

The paradox reached its height in the weeks after the election. Trump and his allies launched a battery of litigation asking for millions of votes to be thrown out or elections to be decertified, hoping to catch a break from a judge

somewhere or from the U.S. Supreme Court. Trump himself put out a call for "courage" from a justice or justices.

Instead, the Trump team got nowhere, even with Trump-nominated jurists.

At a fraught time when most Republican elected officials in Washington were keeping their heads down, Trump judges involved in post-election litigation issued their rulings without fear or favor. They have shown a commitment to facts, reason and the law, and great institutional self-confidence.

Progressives portrayed Trump judges as right-wing hacks. Elizabeth Warren called Trump's picks "aggressively unqualified," while the editor of the left-wing website Talking Points Memo, Josh Marshall, tweeted: "The federal judiciary is corrupt. The Supreme Court is the most deeply corrupted."

With the president of the United States raging at our electoral system and desperately seeking assistance from the courts, the alleged partisanship and corruption of the Trump-influenced judiciary has been nowhere in evidence.

Trump nominated University of Pennsylvania law professor Stephanos Bibas to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2017. The signature Trump litigation in Pennsylvania landed in his lap, and Bibas wrote an unsparing opinion for a unanimous panel of the 3rd Circuit dismissing

it. In Georgia, U.S. District Judge Steven D. Grimberg, nominated by Trump last year, denied a request by Trump super fan Lin Wood to stop the certification of the results.

And the Supreme Court denied a request to block certification of the Pennsylvania results in a curt, one-sentence order with no public dissents.

One of the main Democratic lines of attack on Justice Amy Coney Barrett during her confirmation was that, as Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin said, she was "being sent on assignment to the Supreme Court by President Trump" in order to "be there if the president needs her on an election contest."

Where does Barrett go to get her apology?

Surely, the overtly transactional Trump would have been happy for her to have actually been his political tool on the court, along with his other two picks. But Barrett and her colleagues, trained and soaked in the law and profoundly cognizant of their institutional role, are not susceptible to such influence. Neil Gorsuch is not Corey Lewandowski; Stephanos Bibas is not Rudy Giuliani.

Nothing underlines the merits of Trump judicial selections quite like their willingness to deny him and his allies, as warranted.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

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California May be Losing its Business Mojo



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

The timing could not have been more ironic.

As veteran Democratic operative Dee Dee Myers – she was Bill Clinton’s press secretary at one point in her lengthy career – became Gov. Gavin Newsom’s new ambassador to business this month, three of California’s biggest and best-known corporate entities announced moves to arch-rival Texas.

The splashiest émigré is Elon Musk, founder of the Tesla electric car company and other high-technology firms, who had already chosen Texas for expansions of his automobile and space businesses.

Musk revealed his personal move at a business conference and compared California to a sports team with a long winning streak, saying, “they do tend to get a little complacent, a little entitled, and then they don’t win the championship anymore.” California, he said, “has been winning for a long time. And I think they’re taking them for granted a little bit.”

Very quickly, two other stalwarts of the San Francisco Bay Area’s high-tech community also announced departures to Texas, Hewlett-Packard Enterprise Co. and software giant Oracle.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise is building a “state-of-the-art” campus near Houston for 2,600 workers and said, “HPE’s largest U.S. employment hub, Houston, is an attractive market to recruit and retain future diverse talent.”

Oracle, which is moving its headquarters to Austin, said, “We believe these moves best position Oracle for growth and provide our personnel with more flexibility about where and how they work.”

The three announcements – and Musk’s comments especially – renew a question that has hovered over California for several years: Do the state’s high taxes, high operating and living costs and a political drift to the left make it hostile to business? And, parenthetically, does Texas, which has no personal income tax and is a reliably conservative, pro-business state, benefit from that perceived hostility?

“Anyone who doesn’t believe that this latest departure isn’t a threat to California’s economy is a business climate denier,” Jim Wunderman, president and CEO of the Bay Area Council, said in a statement. “We are watching the unraveling on one of the world’s mightiest economies and the consequences will be devastating. California for too long has willfully ignored our awful business climate, even as we’ve enjoyed incredible success and prosperity.”

Wunderman added, “We can’t afford to dither any longer or California will permanently lose hundreds of thousands if not millions of jobs to states like Texas that place value on business

and investment.”

Clearly the COVID-19 pandemic has had an effect on corporate attitudes. Many employers are now embracing work-at-home arrangements that make physical location less important and the Bay Area has been seeing an outward migration to communities, such as Sacramento, with less congestion and lower housing costs as a result. In that sense, moving headquarters staff to low-cost Texas buys more bang for the buck and makes perfect sense.

But there are other recent developments that may have a cumulative effect. They include state legislators’ calls for higher personal and corporate taxes, political efforts to help unions organize workers in the high-tech sector, legislation to dictate corporate board memberships, and direct slaps such as San Francisco’s new tax on corporations whose chief executives are paid over 100 times more than their rank-and-file workers.

We may have reached a tipping point in which the disadvantages of doing business in California outweigh the advantages. We should remember what happened to Detroit, which was the Silicon Valley of its day a century ago, but took its prosperity for granted and paid a heavy financial and social price for its complacency.

Good luck, Dee Dee. You’ll need it.

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



By Noah Howard

In the nightmare of isolation that has defined 2020, video games have become a source of comfort and escape for many trapped at home with little in the way of hobbies or pastimes. As such, the launch of the Playstation 5 game console, Sony’s follow up to the massively successful Playstation 4 (released in 2013), was one of the most hotly anticipated pop-culture events of the year. And unfortunately, its launch became another derailed car in the train wreck of 2020.

The problems started with pre-orders. Serious miscommunications resulted in retailers opening their orders before the official date and time. These problems continued through launch day, with every batch of Playstation 5 consoles vanishing within a minute, largely due to automated programs (called “bots”) buying them faster than humans could ever click. Playstation 5’s are now so rare that videos taken at the Arden Fair Mall on Black Friday show shoppers sprinting towards GameStop for a chance to buy one of only two in-stock consoles...at full price.

When looking back, the bot problem is sure to define the Playstation 5’s launch. With Sony

Game Plots Playstation 5’s Messy Launch

struggling to provide sufficient supply in the midst of the pandemic, they have been unable to meet the massive demand for what has become the hottest tech product of the 2020 holiday season. Also due to the pandemic, sales have been mostly online. While only real human beings can line up outside a Target or a Best Buy to secure their console of choice, the online-only sales model has made real human beings the miniature poodles in a race dominated by automated greyhounds. The owners of the bots (some of which have stockpiles of dozens of consoles) now resell them at hundreds if not thousands of dollars above their original price.

It goes without saying that this practice of “scalping” (buying a limited-supply product only to resell it for profit) is morally repulsive. Millions of people were looking forward to the Playstation 5 as one fun thing to brighten their year, or as a special treat for their kids on what might otherwise be a lonely Christmas. Scalpers take advantage of their desperation for one thing that brings them joy to cheat them out of their money during a major economic downturn.

But, bafflingly, the scalping problem could have been easily avoided. Playstation started their

pre-order process by offering the opportunity to buy a single console to longtime Playstation fans, but the criteria for who was selected to buy a console were unclear. After a few initial days of site crashes, the official Playstation website became bot-proofed through Captcha checks and a queue to access the site. Questions remain about why this wasn’t done on day one. Other retailers, however, have still failed to put up any precautions, and sites like Walmart and GameStop were happy to simply crash over and over again while thousands of users frustratingly tried to buy a console at the same time.

The end result is a player base that is disenchanting with Sony, a company that has always billed itself as caring deeply about the consumers of its Playstation brand. Some have given up consoles entirely, fed up with Sony’s seeming ambivalence towards the problem. Others have been baffled by Sony’s lack of transparency: a simple “we’re doing our best to meet demand, but it’s a pandemic and we’re struggling” would have restored a lot of good will. But the bottom line is that Sony mangled its new console launch, a frustrating legacy that will likely stick to the Playstation 5, and to the Playstation brand, for years to come. ★



Food System Responds to Pandemic-Related Tests

As the food system continues adjusting to changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, marketers say the system has proven resilient so far. Supply chains have had to adapt as restaurants and other food-service facilities have been restricted or closed. The changes have tested food supplies and forced farmers and marketers to reconfigure some operations. But people involved in the food system say they’ve remained flexible to try to match demand and supplies.

Mandarin Farmers See Rising Demand, Supply

The vitamin C content of citrus fruit has helped boost its popularity during the pandemic, and farmers who grow mandarins say they’ve seen more demand for their fruit. California Citrus Mutual says it expects increased volumes for this year’s mandarin harvest, which began last month and will continue for several more weeks. Recent cool, wet weather has helped the fruit gain color, and farmers say they’re expecting a good mandarin season.

Farmers Pledge to Continue Butterfly Conservation

Farm organizations say they’ll continue efforts to conserve monarch butterfly habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said Tuesday it will defer for a year adding the monarch to a list of federally protected species. The agency designated the butterfly as a candidate for protection. The American Farm Bureau said the action gives farmers and other land managers more time to continue conservation and research work to benefit the butterflies.

Agricultural Graduates Should See Good Job Outlook

College graduates with degrees in agriculture can expect strong job demand, according to a new report. The study estimates steady growth in job opportunities for agricultural graduates, and that employer demand for the available graduates will exceed supply. Although the study began before the pandemic, the report’s authors say they’re confident demand for agricultural graduates will remain “strong and steady.” ★

CLG NEWS UPDATES

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

Forensic audit finds that security log files were deleted from all Dominion machines to hide vote-switching | 15 Dec 2020 | After election officials identified “glitches” that switched 6,000 Trump votes to Biden, the courts in Antrim County Michigan ordered an audit of Dominion voting machines. The forensic audit was carried out by the Allied Security Operations Group (ASOG). This group conducted a forensic duplication on the county’s election management server. They investigated compact flash cards used by local precincts in their Dominion ImageCast system, and they audited the memory sticks used by Dominion Voter Assist Terminals and the memory sticks used for the poll book. This forensic audit found blatant evidence of a coordinated attack on the 2020 Presidential election. The Federal Election Commission allows an error rate of .0008 percent for all voting machines used in US elections. The Dominion machines in Antrim county had an error rate of 68.05 percent! Even more shocking: The ballot-adjudication logs and the security logs for the November 3 general election were removed. All log files for previous elections were still contained on the machines, but someone on the inside was able to erase the all-important log files for the 2020 election.

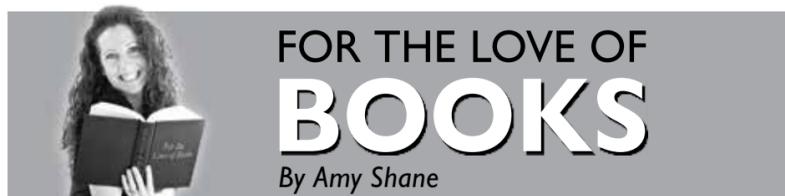
Mitch McConnell received donations from Dominion Voting Systems and shut down two election integrity bills in 2020 | 18 Dec 2020 | The Senate Majority Leader, Mitch McConnell (R-KY) (who Trump should have jettisoned day one along w. Paul Ryan), is urging Senate Republicans to accept the Biden electors without objection when they are presented to Congress on January 6... A closer examination of Mitch McConnell finds he took donations from lobbyists who work for Dominion Voting Systems. Dominion lobbyists, David Cohen and Brian Wild both donated to the McConnell campaign funds in March of 2020. McConnell also received thousands of dollars from Emily Kirlin and Jen Olson, lobbyists for ES&S, another voting system company. Both Dominion and ES&S represent about 80 percent of all voting machines in the country. Both systems rely on a software developed by Microsoft called “Election Guard.” McConnell also helped suppress election integrity efforts earlier in 2020. In July, McConnell blocked two bills that would “bolster election security.” One of the bills would have required a physical paper trail of every single ballot cast in the country.

Money From Facebook’s Zuckerberg Used to Undermine Election, Violate Law - Report | 16 Dec 2020 | Hundreds of millions of dollars from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg was used to violate election laws, according to a new report. The Amistad Project of the Thomas More Society, a national constitutional litigation organization, released the 39-page report, alleging that Zuckerberg’s \$500 million given to election officials was used to treat voters unequally and improperly influence the election for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden. The bulk of the funds went to the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL), a nonprofit started by former managers and staff at the New Organizing Institute, a progressive nonprofit. According to the report, the nonprofit earlier this year “began sending agents into states to recruit certain Democrat strongholds to prepare grants requesting monies from” it.

YouTube Announces Restrictive Ban on Videos Questioning the 2020 Election | 09 Dec 2020 | YouTube announced Wednesday it will ban content questioning the outcome of this year’s presidential election. The video platform said in a blog post that it will now start removing content “alleging that widespread fraud or errors changed the outcome of the 2020 U.S. Presidential election.” YouTube linked its decision to the fact that Tuesday was “safe harbor” day in the election calendar. Current law requires that Congress recognize electors chosen by this day in states where all election disputes are resolved, according to USA Today.

After Election Marked By Big Tech Censorship, Biden Team Quietly Brings on Facebook, Google Employees | 13 Dec 2020 | As censorship by Big Tech emerges as a critical issue for many Americans, Google and Facebook staffers are beginning their way into the transition team of presumptive President-elect Joe Biden. On Friday, Politico reported that new names have been added to a list that already included several prominent Facebook alumni. Big Tech has tried to use its influence on the election. For example, YouTube last week declared it would ban videos that suggested the results of the Nov. 3 election were in doubt. ★

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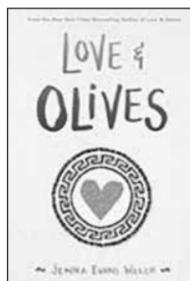


Love & Olives
(Book 3 of Love and Gelato)
by Jenna Evans Welch;
Simon & Schuster

Jenna Evans Welch whisks her readers into three sweeping tales of love, loss, and discovery while taking them on a breathtaking journey, exploring new worlds, new hopes, and the beauty of simple objects in her best-selling series Love Gelato. Lina's life changed in every way when she was sent to

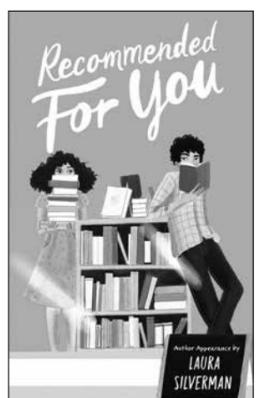


spend the summer in Italy to get to know her absentee father. Even though it was her mother's dying wish, Lina wanted to be anywhere but there. Then she is given her mother's journal, the one she had when she lived in Italy, and everything changes. Lina's world suddenly opens up to a time that was left behind, a time that was filled with love, and bakeries, and of course, gelato. Compelled to follow in her mother's footsteps opens the door to a secret that will change everything and change how she sees the world.



Addie's travel plans suddenly change when she discovers the guidebook, "Ireland for the Heartbroken," in her hotel drawer. Now her trip to Ireland becomes one of confronting broken hearts while also healing them.

Liv Is filled with so many emotions as she reluctantly flies to Greece to help her father with his documentary about Atlantis. After all, she hasn't seen him since she was 8, but she also doesn't want the past to inhibit the connection that they both have with Atlantis, with each other, or the beautiful landscapes of Santorini.

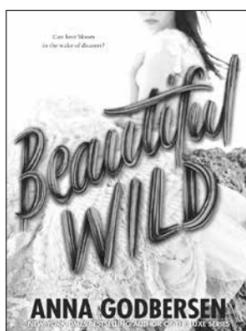


Recommended For you
by Laura Silverman;
Simon Pulse

A light-hearted look on competitions and crushes, this rom-com story is a fast and fun read.

Enter the doors of Once Upon a Bookstore. ★

Bibliophile Shoshanna loves working at the Bookstore, it's her welcome escape from life, but also, she knows everything about books. So, when her boss announces there will be a Christmas bonus to whoever sells the most, she knows she will clearly be the winner, that is until he also announces he has a new hire, Jake. Jake, the boy who doesn't read. But then Jake starts selling books, lots of them. Maybe it's because he is cute, but Shoshanna has to win, at any cost. Who will win, and will there be more at stake than just a Christmas bonus?



Beautiful Wild by Anna Godbersen; Harper Teen

Be swept into a romance that is sure to capture your heart, and keep you wondering which destiny she will choose. When Vida Hazzard boards the SS Princess of the Pacific, she never expected a hurricane to destroy their ship and leave her shipwrecked on an island. Now, she is marooned on an island with the boy she always dreamed of a life with, and the boy who has suddenly, and very unexpectedly, caught her heart. Now, as they plot for a course home, Vida must plot her course for love and choose which man will steal her heart. ★



A TV Review by Tim Riley

Riley Reviews

**CREEPY THRILLER OF PARENTAL ABUSE
MAKES ONE WANT TO "RUN"**

"RUN" ON HULU

What could not have been a coincidence, "Run" was produced to be a theatrical release for Mother's Day weekend. That's a bit of cruel irony once the dysfunctional dynamic of a mother-daughter relationship is fully revealed.

A few films come to mind that involve an abusive and manipulative mother, but none probably more prominent in the zeitgeist than Faye Dunaway's Joan Crawford in "Mommie Dearest," a disturbing look at the mistreatment of her adopted daughter in a movie almost four decades ago old.

Fresh in the public's mind from her role in "Ratched," Sarah Paulson's Diane Sherman has entered into the sweepstakes for an equally cruel and controlling mother caring for her homebound teen daughter Chloe (Kiera Allen).

If the Nurse Ratched role in the Netflix series didn't solidify Paulson's adept performance of an unhinged caregiver, then "Run" should seal the deal for one depraved enough to win the Munchausen by proxy lottery.

In the opening scene, Diane is giving birth to a premature baby clinging to life in the hospital. The screen goes black to list definitions of asthma, diabetes, paralysis and even the rare disorder of hemochromatosis.

Jumping to the present day, Chloe is a high school senior being homeschooled by her mother, who has apparently spent the last seventeen years in full-time care of a child who can only move about in a wheelchair.

Chloe's daily routine never varies. Pulling herself out of bed in the morning into the wheelchair, Chloe gobbles more pills than a seriously ill senior citizen, tosses up phlegm in the toilet and rubs ointment on body rashes. Other treatments follow throughout the day.

School work may involve 90 minutes of physics, followed by less time with literature since Chloe has already read many chapters. She's obviously smart and eagerly waiting to hear about college applications.

Living in rural Washington brings little interaction with the outside world. In fact, the sprawling two-story home, with a vegetable garden that Diane tends to every day, is so isolated that there are no neighbors within shouting distance.

The daily arrival of the mailman has Chloe rushing to the door to see if any acceptance letter has come from the University of Washington or another college. Somehow, Mom always reaches the mail first, assuring Chloe she'd be the one to open any letters from a school. ★

Odd happenings start to creep into the picture, such as Chloe finding a new prescription in her mother's name but the mystery green and white pills turn out to be a new medication that she's taking.

Growing suspicion that festers in Chloe's mind leads to a cat-and-mouse game where her investigation into the pills is thwarted by the only computer in the house having no internet connection.

As a matter of fact, Chloe may be the only teenager in the entire Pacific Northwest without a cell phone and access to social media, which obviously thwarts an inquiring mind to break free of a mental and physical prison.

When Chloe convinces her mom that they should go see a movie, she slips out of the theater on the pretext of a bathroom visit in order to go across the street to the pharmacy, hoping to determine what ailment is addressed by the mysterious new medication.

Meanwhile, later at night, Mom usually spends time in the basement with a bottle of wine watching old home movies of her child while secrets are stored in boxes and desk drawers that are inaccessible to Chloe.

As tension starts to build between a suspicious daughter and an overprotective, scheming mother, the madness of Diane turns ugly with incidents that would warrant attention of the authorities.

There is no intention here to spoil any of the twists and turns of extreme behaviors that are threatening and dangerous or the secrets unearthed that cast a whole new perspective on the psychosis at hand.

Kiera Allen, a wheelchair user in real life, brings authenticity to the role as a disabled person. But more than that, Allen is genuine as a bright teenager ably coping with her own challenges.

On the occasion of being trapped in her bedroom, Chloe seeks escape by dragging her body across the roof of her house in a thrilling moment that demonstrates her resourcefulness and resolve.

Sarah Paulson's Diane is a terrific character study of someone with a tenuous grasp on reality in spite of a seemingly caring façade that slowly boils into a frightful meltdown.

In the serviceable running time of approximately 90 minutes, "Run" is long enough to wholly establish the enormously villainous nature of an abusive parent and short enough not to wear out its welcome as a thriller.

Viewing "Run" on a theatrical big screen as originally intended would have been added bonus, but since the dreadful pandemic has limited our options, thankfully Hulu stepped into the breach to offer a rousing original film. ★

PG&E Offering More Than 120 College Scholarships Totaling Nearly \$300,000

By Paul Moreno, PG&E

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (MPG) - Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) announced today that scholarship applications are now being accepted for college-bound high schoolers as well as current college and continuing education students with a primary residence that's a PG&E customer in Northern and Central California.

More than 120 awards totaling nearly \$300,000 are being made available through PG&E's employee resource group (ERG) and engineering network group (ENG) scholarships.

These scholarships are awarded annually to help offset the cost of higher education. ERG and ENG scholarship winners will receive awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000 for exemplary scholastic achievement and community leadership.

PG&E ERG and ENG scholarship information, including criteria and applications, is available on PG&E's website. To be considered for a scholarship, all applications must be submitted by Feb. 12, 2021.

"Many of our ERG

scholarship recipients are the first in their families to attend college. They will be tomorrow's leaders and innovators. Our ERG scholarships take on even more importance this year because some of our applicants could've experienced financial challenges due to COVID-19. We're proud to invest in these promising young people," said Mary King, PG&E vice president of human resources and chief diversity officer.

"It's more than just funds for tuition. Many of our applicants are looking to ensure their families wouldn't have to make significant financial sacrifices so they could pursue college. These students are more than just straight A's and perfect test scores. They're inspiring members of our community destined to accomplish great things," said Alyssa Piring, a PG&E gas program manager who previously received an ERG scholarship.

Since 1989, PG&E's ERGs and ENG's have awarded more than \$5 million in scholarships to thousands of recipients. The funds are raised totally through employee donations, employee

fundraising events and Campaign for the Community, the company's employee giving program.

Nearly 6,000 PG&E employees belong to the ERGs and ENG's. Each group helps further the company's commitment to serving its communities and growing employee engagement.

PG&E's ERG and ENG scholarships are available through these 13 groups: Access Network (individuals with disabilities); Asian; Black; Latino; Legacy (tenured employees); MEENA (Middle East, Europe and North Africa); National Society of Black Engineers (STEM career employees); NuEnergy (newer employees); PrideNetwork (LGBT employees); Samahan (Filipino); Society for Hispanic Professional Engineers (STEM career employees); Veterans; Women's Network.

In addition to the PG&E scholarships, the Pacific Service Employees Association (PSEA), a non-profit mutual benefit organization serving PG&E employees and retirees, also provides scholarships for dependents of company employees. ★

Walmart Issues \$45.5 Million in Quarterly and Special Cash Bonuses

By Kimberly Erickson, Elevate Public Affairs

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -Walmart announced an additional \$700 million in cash bonuses to its U.S.-based associates bringing its total 2020 quarterly and special cash bonuses for its U.S.-based associates to more than \$2.8 billion.

The company's latest bonus announcement includes \$22,500,000 in quarterly bonuses paid to California associates in their Nov. 25 paychecks following strong third-quarter business performance and an estimated \$23,000,000 in special cash bonuses to be paid to California associates on Dec. 24 in recognition of associates' sustained commitment to customers during the pandemic. Full and part-time associates are eligible for both bonuses.

"As we come to a close on this historic year, I'm filled with gratitude for how our associates have led through one of the most trying periods for our company and country," said John Furner, President and CEO - Walmart U.S. "Our associates have stepped up to serve our customers,

communities and each other when it was truly needed most, and we're pleased to recognize their efforts with a quarterly bonus for strong store performance and a fourth special cash bonus."

Approximately 1.5 million full- and part-time Walmart and Sam's Club associates working in the company's stores, clubs, distribution centers and fulfillment centers will receive the special cash bonus on Dec. 24. It will be Walmart's fourth special cash bonus paid to U.S. associates since the start of the pandemic.

"This has been an extraordinary year and we're so proud of how our associates have continued to make a meaningful difference in our communities," said Kath McLay, President and CEO - Sam's Club. "Today's bonus reflects our appreciation for our associates, who show up to work each day to serve and provide relief for millions of members across the country."

All U.S.-based hourly associates are eligible for the latest special cash bonus. The bonus amounts will be similar

to the previous three special cash bonuses Walmart has provided its associates during the pandemic; part-time and temporary hourly associates will receive \$150 and full-time hourly associates will receive \$300. More than 60% of Walmart's hourly associates are full-time. Drivers, Managers and Assistant Managers will also receive a special cash bonus.

Extension of Walmart's COVID-19 Leave Policy

Earlier this year, Walmart announced a first-of-its-kind COVID-19 Emergency Leave policy for part-time and full-time associates, which provides associates with up to two weeks of pay should they need to stay home for COVID-related reasons, including mandated quarantines, symptoms or illness. If they're not able to return to work after that time, additional pay replacement may be provided for up to 26 weeks. Absences associated with an approved COVID-19 leave will not be counted against associates. Given the ongoing pandemic, the company is extending the leave policy through July 5, 2021. ★

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • YEAR IN REVIEW

CLUES

ACROSS

- *New wardrobe accessory
- *RIP
- Flock's echo
- Reply from a tunnel?
- Feline noise
- Edward Teller's "baby"
- Beat
- Competently
- Savory jelly
- *Blue vs. red competition
- One third of a three-piece suit
- Mailed greetings
- Long time
- *biloba
- Anointing oil
- Nurses' org.
- Leafy vegetable
- *Cogito, ___ sum
- Mooring spots
- Bring into play
- Old Brazilian coins
- Prefix with 'graph'
- *Joe's running mate
- PGA peg
- What bees did
- Fixes firmly
- Summer mo.
- R in NPR
- Widespread
- *WHO's March announcement
- Cliffside dwelling
- Drop-off spot
- Sonic sound
- Sports figures, e.g.
- Persian backgammon
- Water carrier
- *Late basketball legend
- * ___ lightning, cause of California wildfires
- X-ray units

DOWN

- Copy cats
- Flu symptom
- Synagogue
- 1/100th of a ruble
- Bid again
- Western neckwear, pl.
- Gwyneth, to friends
- *Like a vote during lockdown
- What Joy Mangano does on TV
- Do like exhaust pipe
- *"Transplant" network
- ___ of honor
- It's often wreaked
- Zoo enclosures
- Compass dir.
- Labored breaths
- *Jared Kushner to Donald Trump
- Nigerian money
- Part of an eye
- About to explode
- Looked at, amorously
- Smelling organs
- Two of the same
- Philosopher's study
- *Best Picture Oscar-winner
- China grass
- Party barrel
- Having a cover
- *What Zoom host does to guests, sometimes
- Type of jacket
- *"M*A*S*H" character
- Ticked off
- *President Trump used this power in 2020
- United ___ Emirates
- Be undecided

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		

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

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

Solutions on Page 8

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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

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