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# Dixon Independent Voice

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## Dixon Women Blanketing Seniors for Christmas



More than 60 lap blankets, mostly sewed, quilted, crocheted or tied, were made by Dixon Women's Improvement Club and Dixon United Methodist Church members for the Dixon Community Christmas Seniors Program. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It was a dark December night, and the rain was still falling lightly when three of us got in the car to deliver gift baskets to senior shut-ins. We had been given a run-down on length of visits and some talk on the importance of not rushing but taking our time to visit – that for some of these elderlies, this may be their only human contact in weeks, maybe even months.

I sat in the back seat of the small sedan and listened to the two, a man and a woman, in the front as they were experienced, and this was my

first volunteering in this part of a large program for serving the needy – for children to seniors – in Dixon at Christmas. I don't recall the first couple stops but I'll never forget the one with the trailer.

We had travelled to Dixon's rural area and off a half-paved road to a trailer. We got out and took the box of gifts – soap, towels, cookies, a couple books, Chapstick, a thick neck scarf, and some fresh fruit – and all three of us went to the door. The man rapped on it and the whole trailer seemed to lurch a bit as a deep voice hollered to 'Come in.'

The man was heavy and had a bad

leg. He was in worn out pajamas and the smell of the trailer was a mix of medicine and old food. It was hard on me and I quietly observed the other two engaging him with chatter about the weather and the holidays while I stood by the door. He insisted I move some newspapers and take a seat but really, there was not an inch of room.

We visited no more than 20 minutes, but it seemed like a long time. I felt sad when we left. As we drove away, the headlights scanned the small trailer. It must have been very difficult for him to get around in there – but, that was his home.

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## Small Business Owners Offered Help

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - "Business owners are feeling overwhelmed, exasperated, frustrated, and heartbroken," said Brianna Boyd Marketing Specialist for the Solano Small Business Development Center. "We hear from business owners who are at their wit's end because they may see another stay-at-home order and are facing another significant decrease in revenue."

The organization has been providing assistance with the Solano County Grant Fund, a program of thousands of dollars offered for relief to small business owners throughout Solano County.

"Every business sector in Solano has been affected in some way – with some having no income or next to none for months, then they may have spent thousands of dollars to improve safety and sanitation to keep their businesses open and their communities safe," she said.

Many businesses consider the holidays the busiest and most profitable time of year that would make up for earlier losses but that is not happening, she explained. Boyd worked in Dixon as the Editor of the Dixon Tribune for many years and always had a healthy respect for small business owners but admits that after listening and talking with so many of them about their struggles through this pandemic, she "really had no idea" of the huge responsibilities to run a business.

More people need to know what is out there and that there is help – even dozens of online sources that give directions for finding financial help and emotional support as well.

"I'm in a new position for the organization created with CARES Act funding to help businesses as they navigate and recover from COVID-19 and its impact on various industries," she said. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress with overwhelming, bipartisan support and signed into law by President Donald Trump in March 2020. It is a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill created in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

In addition to accessing information on CARES, business owners can access the best of SBDC's recorded trainings and the

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## New Pastor Equates Church to Community



Mike Tadlock brings a wealth of church growth experience to his new post as Pastor at Dixon Community Church which he will share with Pastor Mike Farias. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Since the new Pastor Mike Tadlock believes church is another word for community, he should fit in just fine in our small one.

"I'm passionate about community and people. We should be pastoring whole cities. We want people to meet Jesus, not programs, because that's what

changes people's lives." he said from the Pastor's study at Dixon Community Church. "I have a vision that we will see people get saved in our doors but will share the gospel outside of them. We so desire for God to show up," he said. "Instead of programs, we want a presence-driven church."

Mike has accepted the offer to help lead the

congregation at 955 East A Street alongside Senior Pastor Mike Farias. Like Farias, Mike is ordained through the Assembly of God and has been Lead Pastor of Real Life Church in Fairfield since 2007 with his wife Renee serving beside him. They have also been a part of establishing a successful Christian School, other churches, and many ministries

including trips to Mexico to build homes for the poor.

The Spirit line goes back for generations for both. Her Dad was a Youth Pastor in Northern California. His grandfather was a Colorado Pastor and his parents were active in a Bay Area Church when his father, a Machinist who worked in Benicia,

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# Saturday Saw Snow in Dixon



Snow flurries were blown onto the path of vehicles at Grace Fellowship Church last Saturday as they headed to the drop off point for their food donations for the Cornerstone Church Food Pantry. Three churches collaborated on the event to successfully restock groceries for needy Dixon families. Photo by Debra Dingman

## Children Are Natural Mood Elevators

By Debra Dingman

The ping of the phone sounded over my sink full of dinner dishes and there was notice that my oldest son had shared a picture with his wife's title, "On Mondays, we wear capes."

When I opened it, I saw a 3-year-old boy perched on the edge of his parent's couch with his hands spread wide and a bright red cape flowing behind him, obviously powered by a fan. His short-cropped hair was blowing back from his little head. Then I heard the music from the Superman screenplay and the adorable boy smiled so big as he checked to make sure both sides of the cape were outstretched. They were, so he let go and made two tight little fists and locked his elbows, thrusting his arms in front of him and for just a moment, I knew I was watching Superman.

The next click showed a boy just a bit older also perched on the couch corner and also wearing a cape only this one was black and had scalloped edges like a bat's wings. His hair was also blowing and his smile was just as bright as the Batman score could be heard in the background.

"Who thinks of these things!?! Such ingenious fun!" I giggled to my hubby. People who love children think of these things and I am the luckiest Mother/Nana around that my children love their children.

If anyone is feeling low, or sad about the current world condition, time to tune in to some children's movies or channels. We used to have the Art Linkletter Show called, "Kids say the Darndest Things" and now we have popular comedian Tiffany Haddish hosting a new version of it on ABC.

Of course it would be best to just hang out with some children if you can as they are always sure-fire mood elevators especially if you don't mind your kitchen looking like a flour explosion happened while you let them help you bake

Christmas cookies.

### Kaiser and New Norm

Did I say "cookies?" This past week, Kaiser offered an online course, "Survival Kit for the New Norm; Fighting the Quarantine 15." I knew immediately it was talking about pounds because lots of us are looking a little thicker these days. I had a shocking revelation this morning as I was reviewing the class in my mind this morning. Yes, I have gained 15 pounds. I thought for sure it was only ten but when I first moved back from El Segundo, I weighed a full 15 pounds less. Yikes!

So I put on my thinking cap in the middle of the night (because that's what women my age do in the middle of the night,) and thought of where in my new, downsized home can I scrunch a treadmill. You probably remember that I already have an exercise bike that I got from my neighbor five weeks ago and yes, I got on it for the first time this morning. Well, I mean really got on it. I have sat briefly a few times on it to show my grandchildren how it works ...

After ONE minute on the bike this morning, every joint from my ankles to my hips ached. "No, no, no," I said to myself. "This will never do!" But, then while I was still pondering where I could put a treadmill (because I do like treadmills...) the time slipped by and it was 2 1/2 minutes. I decided I could try to make it to five minutes. While I was trying to figure out what all the readings meant and checked my heart rate, another minute went by. By the time I shed my robe and slippers because now I was getting pretty warm, I realized my legs were no longer aching.

Well, you'll be surprised, but I did actually stay on that thing peddling steadily for six and a half minutes. I think maybe I can keep this up and increase daily. And, it doesn't look too bad scrunched next to our Christmas Tree. Maybe then I won't have to find a place for a treadmill. ★

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - With headlights peering through the snow flurries, one might have thought they were on their way to Lake Tahoe but no, these cars were just on their way to drop off groceries at Grace Fellowship Church. A long line of brake lights trailed on H Street as vehicles waited to turn into the expansive parking lot lined with inflatable Santa, reindeer, snowmen, and other assorted holiday friends to drop off food for the Cornerstone Church Food Pantry.

The Charlie Brown Christmas Movie played on a big screen so no one could get bored and you

could enjoy the smell of popcorn and cotton candy before Santa hollered "Merry Christmas" and waved at you. Volunteers were plentiful and jovial and Christmas music played in the background of the giant inflatables.

"We didn't know what to expect but this is a great turn out," said one man ushering cars into line with his flashlight and fluorescent safety vest. It could have been because of great press coverage or it could be that three churches - Grace Fellowship, Living Hope, and Cornerstone Baptist - collaborated on the effort - that's a lot of church people. In any case, it was a grand success.

At the end of a

garage-sized tunnel strung with a massive amount of Christmas tree lights, volunteers took your bags of groceries and loaded them on a large truck to take over to the Cornerstone Food Pantry just in time for the cold winter months.

The purpose of the food pantry is to give a helping hand to Dixon community members that are in need of food assistance but also to show those people the pure love of Christ, they say.

The church is located at 185 West Cherry Street and is easily recognizable by the sign on the front of its building that says, "The Little Church With A Big Heart." Phone is (707) 678-5234. ★

## Scouts Will Recycle Christmas Trees

By MPG Staff

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Dixon Scouts are letting residents know that they will be happy to recycle your Christmas tree when you are finished enjoying it.

There will be two opportunities for Christmas tree pick ups this year. One will be Saturday, January 2 and the other is Saturday, January 9.

If you would like your tree picked up, there are several options to

schedule it.

You can fill out the Google Doc request form, found here online at <https://goo.gl/PsEg1Z> or you can visit [ww.troop152dixon.com](http://ww.troop152dixon.com). You can also email to [fundraising@troop152dixon.com](mailto:fundraising@troop152dixon.com) or call (707) 676-6152 and leave a message.

Scouts BSA is for boys who are 11, or are at least 10 years old and have completed the fifth grade or have earned the Cub Scout Arrow of Light Award, through 17 years old.

Boys experience a vigorous outdoor program and peer group leadership with the counsel of an adult Scoutmaster to achieve the BSA's objectives of developing character, citizenship, and personal fitness. Camping, fun with friends and more.

The Group normally meets weekly at the Dixon United Methodist Church but during the pandemic, more information is available for the current schedule by calling or contacting via the above numbers/sites. ★

## Blanketing Seniors for Christmas

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Similar stories could be repeated many times over the years as the 'Senior' part of the Toys for Tots program that is now called the Dixon Community Christmas Program has been going on for more than a couple decades. DCCP, Inc. is a volunteer-run, nonprofit organization that brings the magic of Christmas to children and seniors alike in our community.

This year, the Dixon Women's Improvement Club teamed up with the women of the Dixon United Methodist Church to provide lap blankets for the Seniors Program.

Some 60-plus soft and warm lap blankets have been sewn, crocheted, quilted, or tied for the seniors by the adept and kind hands of the members of these groups. When hands or time did not allow such work, blankets were purchased and donated.

There are many styles and themes - some with patchwork or plaid, some delicate floral, one with Mickey and Minnie, some sweetly knitted or crocheted, and more. All will keep someone warmer this winter.

With COVID cases rapidly rising in our community, these will be handled most cautiously and given to seniors who are known to be spending Christmas alone

- or with very little.

Volunteers will place their gift bags at the door and won't be able to go inside but hope to wish the recipients at the door holiday greetings, ask how they are doing, and ask if there is anything they can do for them.

"The volunteers will be wearing masks and gloves and we have sanitized everything," said Monica Sepulveda, Cornerstone Church Office Manager and DCCP volunteer for the past five years. The Board had to turn away volunteers because of the pandemic threatening safety, she said.

With new protocols, most of the services will still be provided including a visit to Santa's Workshop for children, she said. Cornerstone Church, under the leadership of Pastor Frank Salamone, has been offering online services which freed up the church facility to be used for the DCCP efforts, she said. They have filled the facility with food and gifts which have come pouring in from gracious Dixonites.

"It's been really good that we've got to use the church for the whole month," Sepulveda said. For more information on the Senior visits, call (707) 678-5234 or email [DixonChristmasProgram@gmail.com](mailto:DixonChristmasProgram@gmail.com). ★

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# Local Churches Celebrating Christmas: Online or Otherwise

By Debra Dingman

If you're looking for faith, Dixon is the place to find it thanks to the many local churches offering meaning to Christmas while experiencing an unimaginable year of hardship due to the pandemic.

Friday evening, December 18, will be an opportunity for all Dixonites of various congregations to join in a 'revised' 4th annual Carols in the Tunnel by meeting at the Dixon Women's Improvement Club Park instead, next to the library, where there will be a Community Christmas Carol Sing-along outdoors at 7 pm sharp. Social distancing and safety protocols are encouraged.

The **Dixon United Methodist Church** has presented various members of the congregation giving encouraging talks and Bible lessons on Advent leading to Christmas via their Facebook page. Pastor Cathy Morris spoke on God keeping the world steady, Paul Abrams shared about Ebenezer, and Erin Brothers on Advent and rejoicing. The church is not meeting in person due to the pandemic but continues to offer services online including Christmas. For more information, one can call (707) 678-2191.

### Living Hope Church

This Sunday, the church will remain open for the spiritual health of the Dixon community. They are located at 410 Gateway Drive in Dixon. In a heartfelt message recorded live from pastor Jeff Myers, it was explained that the Elders anguished over the decision but in light of the pandemic causing families and residents to suffer from lack of support, depression or anxiety on a community-wide scale, the doors will remain open, he said.

Safety measures will be in place and people are asked to please wear masks. If one feels ill, they are asked to refrain from attending in person but instead are encouraged to watch their online service from the safety of one's home. For more information, see their Facebook page or call (707) 693-1512.

Pastor Joe Mejia of **Freedom Church** is also planning an in-person celebration honoring the birth of Christ this Sunday, December 20, at 10 am. The church is located at 470 East H Street and he encouraged all to invite friends and family.

"It won't be a party without you," he said

in a Facebook video. "Because together we can make this a true celebration, a true party, in memory of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

**Calvary Baptist Church** in downtown Dixon, is planning to continue their weekly Sunday Teaching online and our Wednesday night Bible Study also online. They will have a Christmas Eve Zoom Fellowship for Worship and Communion.

Communion supplies will be dropped off to each family in the fellowship for a time to focus on the Lord's Birth, according to Donna Brock. They are an interdenominational church located at 150 North First Street. Greg Brock is the Pastor.

**Greater Faith Baptist Church** is also located downtown at 320 West A Street and Reverend Virgil Robinson will be speaking on Matthew Chapter 5, verses 17-20 in relation to the birth of Jesus at 10:30 am on Sunday. They will be meeting in person with hand sanitizer and face masks available in case they forget.

"We offer a casual service and invite people to come as they are," said Lady Krista Robinson and are looking forward to celebrating Christmas with others.

**Dixon Community Church** is putting on a virtual Christmas Program for Sunday, December 20, at 10 am on Facebook or on their YouTube channel: DCChurchDixon. It is called 'God's Gift Exchange' and is designed for all ages.

Experience songs, spoken word, imagery, and special music from their children that will draw your heart to a place of reflection and celebration this Christmas season. They encourage people to invite others. For more information, call (707) 678-1981.

**Cornerstone Church** will keep their services online due to Covid but Pastor Frank Salamone will offer music and worship in celebration of Jesus's birth. You can access them through their website or via their Facebook site. For more information, call (707) 678-5234.

**St. Peter's Catholic Church** encouraged folks to check their webpage or their Facebook page as plans were still in the making at press time.

Attempts to contact the Church of Latter Day Saints were unsuccessful. ★

# Senior Center News

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - The Dixon Senior Center is currently not open and won't reopen until the City gives the approval. The Senior Club has announced that there are no dues right now and won't be until further notice. The Senior Club will notify members. For more information or questions, contact Phyllis Nixon at (707) 678-2782.

**Caregivers Needed** - Solano Life House has immediate openings for Senior Caregivers. They have kept COVID-19 out of their building because they have strict safety protocols and do not allow staff in the building at any sign of illness until they are tested. Everyone is tested routinely each week, with daily temperature checks. These strict protocols require them to carry a larger staff.

All three shifts are available. Experience is preferred but we are willing to train. We always support Dixon by hiring locally first. Call Mary Felix directly at 707-640-9700 to discuss the opportunities that are available.

**NAMI Support** - The National Alliance on Mental Health reminds that

"You are not alone..." For family, friends, and advocates, of people living with a mental illness, one can find hope, help, and sharing in a safe and confidential environment.

There is an on-going drop in group focusing on skill building and support through sharing experiences, resources, and comfort on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month via Zoom. Time is 7 to 8 pm. For more information, contact Sunny Bradford at namisunny2020@gmail.com or call the Resource Line at (707) 422-7792.

**Kiwanis Ham Drawing** - Dixon Kiwanis Club is still selling tickets for their Honey-Bakes Ham Drawing with tickets at \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and sold at the Independent Voice Newspaper, 100 North Adams or through Devon Minnema at Allied Propane, 1700 North First Street.

The first ticket will be for the whole ham valued at \$105 with three additional winners for a half ham each valued at \$65. Winners will be drawn on Sunday, December 20 at 5 pm and will be notified. Call (707) 676-5413 to purchase. All proceeds will benefit Dixon's children and youth programs and services. ★

# New Pastor Equates Church to Community

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was murdered. They lived in Vallejo and Mike was just a baby. His mother eventually remarried an evangelist and had two more sons "but I'm the only ordained minister in my generation," Mike said with a bit of brotherly competition.

His calling became clear in his 20s while feeling despondent over the tragedy of losing his Dad.

"It was Father's Day. I was having a pity party over my Dad's death and asking God why me and I felt the Lord say to me 'Because I need you to know the pain of a fatherless generation,'" he said. "I was healed and it was galvanized in my heart for what I was supposed to do."

His wife and their two sons, Mason, 24, and Jeremiah, 21, both musicians, are all equally committed to serving Christ and all help lead worship. Piano is where Mike most connects with his faith, he said, but the spiritual DNA is what he wants to transfer to his children and his grandchildren.

Both Mike and Renee support the Leaven with Renee now the Operations Director who oversees 20-plus Leaven Centers. These are centers typically situated in apartment complexes where families with youth reside. Leaven workers provide year-round tutoring and mentoring. They work with local agencies and services as well to help eliminate crime in the neighborhoods. Mike's ten years experience as a Bakersfield Youth Group Director have been invaluable.

These experiences have honed his view that a church is just like a community; that there will be people you like and people you don't and there will be some history.

"It doesn't matter if you've been coming (to church) 50 years or 50 seconds, it's an atmosphere of acceptance," he said. "We are all in need of righteousness but we're not coming to church to be saved but to be useful to Christ. The Holy Spirit loves us enough not to allow us to stay the same. You have to cast the vision beyond what we have. We have to tear down the personal barrier of fear," he said.

Mike has goals for Dixon and is familiar with small towns being that his first post was three years at Pinegrove, a community of 2,000 people.

"The average age was 59 so I was pastoring an older congregation who were skeptical and didn't use Facebook," he said with a laugh. "Jesus adapted so did we. We designed two services: a rural and an urban."

How is Mike going to fit Dixon in his already-busy schedule?

"When you read through the Bible, the men who did great things for God didn't check their schedule. They just said yes," he said. You can hear and see more at DixonCC.org or check their church Facebook page or you can watch their entire service on the YouTube channel DCCHURCH DIXON. Phone is (707) 678-1981. ★

# Best Light Shows Brings Musical Uplift



For nearly ten years now, this house at 380 Anchor Court in Dixon has brought holiday happiness thanks to its amazing light show set to music. Recently, several cars were parked in front of it with people enjoying the show. The sign in front has viewers tune their radios to 104.7 and the magic begins. With each score, the lights twinkle, rotate, and change colors to the beat. Regrettably, we were unable to contact the owners to thank them. Photo by Debra Dingman

# Small Business Owners Offered Help

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entire library is available to anyone free of charge. Learn as much as one wants, as often as one wants, on any topic.

Registering is easy. There is a one-time, free registration process is simple by creating a login using your name, email, password, phone number and zip code. Then you will have access and can take advantage of how to grow a better business or survive with the one you have.

Even if the office is closed over the holidays, people can use 'Ask SBDC.' It is

part of the continued effort to do everything in the organization's creative power to help one's business overcome the challenges of the current economic crisis and prepare a business to reopen. Ask SBDC offers up-to-date news on loans, opportunities including grants, and other resources and information for small businesses affected by COVID-19.

For more information from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), email Brianna Boyd at bboyd@solanowdb.org or call 707-863-3500. ★



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## Major Crimes Task Force to Investigate Officer-Involved Fatal Incidents

By Krishna Abrams,  
Solano County

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) - District Attorney Krishna Abrams announced the establishment of the Solano County Major Crimes Task Force (SCMCTF). The task force will be responsible for conducting independent investigations into use of deadly force by law enforcement officers in the county. The investigation will be performed in a manner that provides a thorough, transparent, and professional investigation, free of any perceived conflicts of interest. This task force will provide the framework for a consistent response to any officer's use of deadly force, which aims to treat the officer fairly and promote public confidence in our criminal justice system.

"This initiative has been a vision of mine for many years now," said DA Krishna Abrams. "Incidents involving the use of deadly force can be traumatic for everyone involved, and especially for the families of those who have lost a loved one and to the involved officers. With this task force in place, every community member of Solano County can have confidence that these serious investigations will be conducted in a full, fair, independent and impartial

manner," added Abrams. "I am fully aware that the Vallejo Police Department and law enforcement in general have a lot of work to do when it comes to building trust and relationships with our communities. However, I believe that this task force is a major milestone for the communities and my department," said Vallejo Police Chief Shawny Williams.

"Our communities expect the very best of us. I hope and many of my colleagues hope that this task force does go a long way to further public trust. That said, the reason we are doing this, isn't for some reason that is somehow trust was ever eroded, but it's ever increasing that what we need to do is to focus on what it is that is going to produce the best outcome in any investigation," said Vacaville Chief John Carli.

The SCMCTF will conduct investigations to determine presence or absence of criminal liability on the part of all those involved in the incident. The criminal investigation will take precedence over the administrative investigation, which will be done by the department where the incident occurred. Along with a Supervising Investigator from the DA's Office, the SCMCTF will be

comprised of members from the following Solano County law enforcement agencies: One detective from the Vallejo Police Department; One detective from the Vacaville Police Department; One detective from the Solano County Sheriff's Office; One detective from the Fairfield Police Department; Three half time investigators from the ranks of the Benicia Police Department, Dixon Police Department, and the Suisun City Police Department.

Once an officer-involved fatal incident occurs, the SCMCTF is automatically in effect and the agency will immediately notify the Supervising Investigator of the SCMCTF and/or the Chief District Attorney Investigator.

The District Attorney's Office will participate in a supervisory role within the SCMCTF and the District Attorney will have final oversight over the findings. Upon completion of the investigation, the District Attorney will analyze the facts of the incident and determine criminal culpability, if any.

This task force is one of the first in the State and we hope this will strengthen the trust and legitimacy between law enforcement and the communities they serve. ★

## River Cats, Susan Savage, Inspire ABC Comedy

By Chip Maxson,  
Sacramento River Cats

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Felicity Huffman looks to return to TV in a new baseball comedy based on the story of Susan Savage and the Sacramento River Cats. ABC has committed to producing a pilot written by Becky Hartman Edwards and stars, alongside Huffman, *The Peanut Butter Falcon's* Zack Gottsagen. Aaron Kaplan of Kapital Entertainment saw the potential and brought together the group that attracted many offers before deciding to partner with ABC.

Based in Sacramento, the project will focus on the life of Susan Savage, CEO and majority owner of the River Cats, a Triple-A minor league baseball team. Savage took over as CEO of the River Cats when her late husband, Art Savage, passed away and asked her not to sell the team.

Susan runs the team with her two sons, Jeff and Brent. The story will highlight overcoming loss and grief, family dynamics at work, and the humor, fun, and surprises that go along with minor league baseball.

"There is still a long way to go," reminds Savage, "but it is truly exciting to be at this point. Over the years, whether in an executive meeting or simply talking with one of our longtime fans, something uniquely funny would happen and we would always say that someone should put it in a TV show. Well, I decided to start writing it down and here we are."

"When Art passed away, there were a lot of questions and I didn't have the answers," Susan continued. "However, this team was his dream so I jumped right in alongside my boys (Jeff and Brent) and we were going to figure this out one way or another. I am so proud of what we have been able to accomplish as a family, but along the way there are plenty of goofs and gaffs that we can laugh at now. Add



Susan Savage, CEO of the Sacramento River Cats. Photo: Sacramento River Cats

that to our favorite fans, cheeky players, and quirky promotions, and I'm sure there is something everyone can laugh at and relate to."

Savage also added that although the script was inspired by her story, Hartman Edwards writes with her own flare and creativity using new characters and loose interpretations.

The pilot filming is set to begin in the spring.

*Sutter Health Park is the West Sacramento home of the 2019 Triple-A Champion Sacramento River Cats, and proud affiliate of the three-time World Champion San Francisco Giants. Sutter Health Park is consistently voted one of the top ballparks in America. Gift certificates, 2021 Memberships as well as private event bookings are available by calling the River Cats Ticket Hotline at (916) 371-HITS (4487). The only place to guarantee official River Cats tickets is at [www.rivercats.com](http://www.rivercats.com) or by visiting the Tri Counties Bank Ticket Office. For information on other events at Sutter Health Park, visit [www.sutterhealthpark.com](http://www.sutterhealthpark.com).* ★

## Jahn to Retire from Coaching After 2020-21 Season



Barbara Jahn, UC Davis head women's swimming and diving coach

By Mark Honbo,  
UC Davis

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - The longest-tenured head coach in UC Davis history, head women's swimming and diving coach Barbara Jahn announced to her team that she will step down after the 2020-21 season, ending what will be a decorated 46-year run at the helm.

Jahn has mentored the Aggie program from its days as an AIAW Division III member in the 1970s through its NCAA Division

II success to the current Division I era. UC Davis finished as the national runner up in 1981, the last of the AIAW era, then enjoyed eight top-10 finishes at the NCAA Division II meet. After the university completed its transition to Division I, the Aggies won the Big West Conference team title in 2010, then captured four Mountain Pacific Sports Federation crowns during the subsequent six seasons.

"Barb has been a pillar of UC Davis Athletics for decades and is a pioneering leader in women's coaching," said Kevin Blue, director of athletics. "When Barb approached me about her retirement in the spring, I reflected on the extraordinary influence she's had on thousands of students she's coached, taught, and mentored at UC Davis. We're eager to celebrate her career throughout the remainder of her final season."

In 2019, the College

Swimming and Diving Coaches Association named Jahn as the recipient of the Richard E Steadman Award, which recognizes those who have "done the most to spread happiness in Coach Steadman's beloved sport of swimming and diving."

"Every year, we face new challenges, and every year is different," Jahn said in a statement to her current Aggies. "That's what makes this job so rewarding and never the same. The ebb and flow of outgoing seniors and incoming freshmen create unique team dynamics. Watching you grow and develop as teammates and as individuals is what's all about. The years go by in a nanosecond and within that timeframe, I have watched you develop into mature, capable, independent, responsible and hardworking young women ready to 'launch.'"

Individually, Jahn guided her student-athletes to more than 120 individual and

relay All-America finishes at the NCAA Championships, including 15 national titles. Two of her swimmers - Anna Pettis and Kristi Wheeler - were chosen to the NCAA Division II "team of the decade" for the 1980s. Six of her protégés have gone on to win the campus' Hubert Heitman Award as the outstanding female athlete of the year, with another three claiming the W.P. Lindley Award as the university's top scholar-athlete of the year. Six of her athletes are enshrined in the Cal Aggie Athletics Hall of Fame.

The Lindley Award represents just a portion of the academic achievements won by Jahn's student-athletes. The Aggies won their 12th CSCAA Scholar All-America team award last June, and have landed at least 10 honorees on the MPSF All-Academic team every year since joining the conference in 2011.

Jahn also owns the

unusual distinction of earning Coach of the Year honors in four different leagues: as part of the Northern California Athletic Conference, then again in the team's final year with the multi-division Pacific Collegiate Swimming Conference. She won the Big West Conference's final award in 2010, and has since won such honors in the MPSF in 2011 and 2013.

A 1973 graduate of UC Santa Barbara who completed her master's degree from UCLA in 1975, Jahn has effectively been the only full-time head coach in the program's varsity history. After the passage of Title IX, former Olympian Debbie Meyer was originally tabbed to helm the team while she was still a UC Davis student, but left the university before she could assume the post. Assistant coach Scott Gawran the program for one year prior to Jahn's arrival, while Rick Henderson served as an interim coach during

Jahn's sabbatical year of 1982-83. Her 46-year run at the Aggie helm - which includes two seasons as the head UC Davis softball coach - makes her the longest-tenured head coach in department history.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity UC Davis gave me all those years ago," Jahn said to her team. "I have grown with the program and the campus and every day I thank my lucky stars to have been associated with such a phenomenal institution. As they say: do what you love, and you'll never work a day in your life."

A national search for Jahn's successor will commence in the spring of 2021.

**ABOUT UC DAVIS:**  
*With the addition of equestrian and women's beach volleyball in 2018, more than 700 student-athletes represent the fifth-ranked public school in the nation on one of 25 intercollegiate athletics teams.* ★

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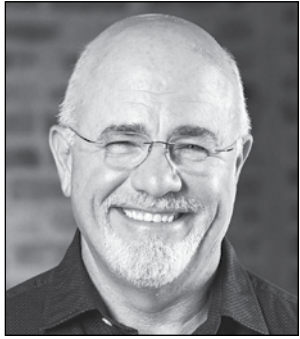
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# Dave Ramsey Says Social Security Matters

## Will My U.K. Pension Affect My Social Security?

### Hope Can't Be Taken From You

Dear Dave,  
I lost my job a few days ago. We had an idea cuts were coming, but I thought it wouldn't happen until well into the new year. My wife works, so that's a good thing, and we're both in our thirties. Do you have any advice for how we should handle things during the Christmas season and until I'm working again?

—Brandon  
Dear Brandon,

I'm really sorry to hear this. Losing your job around the holidays can feel like a nightmare.

But before you despair, remember this is also the season of hope. And hope can't be taken from you. It can only be surrendered. Keep your head held high, and focus on what's still in your control.

First, cut back on your

spending. When your income changes for the worse, eliminating all unnecessary spending is key. This is not the time to put Christmas on a credit card, or dip into retirement to cover holiday expenses. The last thing you should do right now is steal from your future to buy more stuff. Find some kind of seasonal work. Even if you're packing boxes or stocking shelves, you're contributing to your household and easing the stress. This side income will be a real blessing as you continue your career search.

Be open with your family, and what this change means. If there are kids in the picture, you and your wife should be in agreement on how you handle things where they're concerned. Explain to them in an honest, loving way what has happened, and that Christmas will look a little different this year. A couple of inexpensive gifts may not be out of the question, but as harsh as it sounds, presents are not a priority right now. It may be uncomfortable or disappointing for everyone, but it can also

offer a bonding opportunity and a valuable life lesson.

Keep a positive outlook, and stick to your normal routine as much as possible in the days ahead. Wake up early every morning, and make a list of things you will accomplish that day. Update your résumé, start networking, and begin submitting applications like that's your new job. Work hard, stay hopeful, and focus on the goals ahead of you.

Refuse to give up, Brandon, and you will succeed. May God bless you and your family!

— 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.* ★



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I lived and worked in the United Kingdom prior to coming to the US at age 45, which qualified me for a UK State Pension worth the equivalent of about \$740 US dollars per month. Since moving to the US I have contributed to the US Social Security system for 14 years and my estimated US Social Security benefit is \$1,643 per month. I have heard about something called "WEP" and must be honest and say I don't fully understand. Can you provide some advice or references so I can understand what happens to these sums when I retire? I don't have any other pension income, so understanding these numbers is important. FYI, I hold both US and UK passports and will retire in the USA. **Signed: Blessed from the UK**

**Dear Blessed:** The "WEP" provision you refer to is known as the "Windfall Elimination Provision." It affects anyone who is eligible to collect Social Security benefits, but who also has a pension from another entity (corporation, public agency, or foreign country) which did not participate in the U.S. Social Security program



(meaning that SS FICA payroll taxes weren't paid during that employment). WEP will reduce your US Social Security benefit by using a special formula to compute your benefit amount. Generally, the WEP reduction is determined either by the number of years of substantial SS-covered earnings that you have, or the WEP maximums (one of which is that your U.S. Social Security can't be reduced by more than half of your non-covered pension). With less than 20 years paying into the US system, you will incur one of the maximum WEP reductions.

Something else important to understand is that the current estimate you have from Social Security doesn't include the WEP reduction. That estimate assumes that you will continue to earn at your current level until you reach your full retirement age. You haven't shared your birthdate, but from your email I assume you are now about 60 years old. If you were born in 1959, your full retirement age (FRA) for U.S. Social Security purposes is 66 years and 10 months (if you were born after that your FRA is 67, and if you were born before that subtract 2 months for each year prior to 1959). Your FRA is when you will get your "full" SS benefit. If you claim before that (age 62 is the earliest

you can claim) your benefit will be reduced (even before WEP), and if you wait beyond your FRA you'll earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) which will increase your benefit amount. DRCs stop at age 70.

Based upon what you've told me, I believe that your WEP reduction will probably be limited to one of the maximums, either half of your monthly U.K. pension, or the maximum for your "eligibility year" (2022?). We don't yet know what the standard maximum WEP reduction for 2022 will be, but for 2020 it is \$480. That is the most that your Social Security benefit could normally be reduced. But if your U.K. pension is about \$740 USD then your maximum reduction should be about \$370, because the WEP reduction can't be more than half of your non-covered (U.K.) pension. So, your US Social Security benefit of \$1643 will most likely be reduced by about \$370 to about \$1303. You will need to contact the UK pension system to see if any of your UK pension will be offset by your US Social Security benefits.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.* ★



### The Economic Cruelty of the Pandemic

Just when it seemed some of the most disheartening trends in the U.S. economy were finally beginning to reverse, COVID-19 arrived to entrench them.

The pandemic has been a neutron bomb targeted at the prospects of lower income working people. They had finally begun to benefit from the recovery from the Great Recession when the virus ravaged sectors of the economy that disproportionately employ them.

The Washington Post has called the resulting economic damage "the most unequal recession in modern U.S. history." As the paper puts it, starkly, "the less workers earned at their job, the more likely they were to lose it."

The pandemic has hammered restaurants, hotels and places of entertainment, all of which don't pay high wages and tend to employ women and minorities. It has cut a swath through small business. It has slammed workers who can't retreat to home offices for Zoom calls.

In short, it has taken all of the tendencies of our knowledge economy that

benefit the better-educated and disadvantage non-college-educated workers and has made them more pronounced, amidst a public health crisis that has also hit the most vulnerable the hardest.

According to a Gallup Poll earlier this year, 71% of people in the top income quintile said they were working from home, whereas 45% of people in the bottom quintile stayed at home and were unable to work.

A National Bureau of Economic Research working paper published in May found that workers in high-proximity jobs impossible to perform from home tend to be "less educated, of lower income, have fewer liquid assets relative to income, and are more likely renters." Workers in such jobs were more likely to become unemployed.

Jobs at the top have bounced back since the spring and affluent people might have more wealth than ever, given the increase in home values and a frothy stock market.

The story is different further down the income scale. According to The Washington Post analysis, Hispanic Americans experienced the sharpest loss in employment with the onset of the pandemic. The young were particularly hard-hit; 20% of those ages 20-24 lost their jobs. Mothers with children ages 6-12, called upon to fill the gaps created

by school closings, have been another hard-hit group.

Similarly, mom-and-pop businesses have fared poorly. A survey by Alignable, a small business social network, found nearly 50% of small businesses say they are generating less revenue than they need to stay in business, with travel businesses, gyms and beauty salons at particular risk.

Mass vaccination next year should take the edge off of this economic dislocation, but it's harder to create than destroy. The Federal Reserve estimates that employment won't fully bounce back until 2023.

What is to be done? Policymakers need to realize that when they promulgate COVID-19 restrictions, they are asking the people with the least economic margin for error to sacrifice the most. Congress needs to pass a new stimulus bill to cushion the blow of a natural disaster that has immiserated many millions of people through no fault of their own. And the incoming Biden administration ideally would realize that fashionable causes like climate change need to take a back seat to the pursuit of full economic recovery.

The economic pain is not the worst that the pandemic has wrought, but it cannot be ignored.

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

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## California is No 1 in Rough Highways



By Dan Walters  
CALMatters

Much has been said and written about the nation's stark political divisions and a state-by-state map of November's presidential election confirms them.

The 50 states were evenly divided between President Donald Trump and his successful challenger, Joe Biden, but the latter triumphed by winning the more populous states.

This week, another map was published that bore an uncanny resemblance to the ones portraying the presidential outcome. Generated by Money Geek, a website devoted to personal finance issues, it displays the differences among states in the conditions of their highways and in how much they are spending on roadway maintenance.

Overlaying the political and roadway maps reveals that in general, the bluer states – those that favored Biden – also tend to have the roughest roads while motorists in pro-Trump red states generally have smoother pavement beneath their tires.

Coincidence? Perhaps, but the data may also say something about political priorities.

California, not surprisingly, fares the worst in Money Geek calculations

of roadway roughness, based on federal data. Anyone who has driven extensively in other states can attest that highways elsewhere are much more user-friendly and that crossing the state line back into California is literally a jarring experience.

The only place American drivers can find rougher roads is in the deep blue District of Columbia.

California is followed in the rankings by blue states Rhode Island, Hawaii, Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey.

Among red states, the worst roads are found in No. 11 Louisiana. At the other end of the scale, very red Oklahoma has the nation's smoothest roads, followed by Idaho, Indiana and Alabama, all of whom went for Trump.

Why California has such crappy roads is one of those nagging questions that defy easy answers.

Californians drive a lot, well over 300 billion miles a year, so one of the factors is that our highways get a lot of wear and tear.

However, lots of driving also consumes lots of fuel, more than a billion gallons a month, and generates lots of gas tax money. A few years ago, former Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature boosted fuel taxes sharply to the second-highest level of any state. At nearly 75 cents a gallon, including federal taxes, they are just behind those in Pennsylvania, which also has relatively bad roads.

Despite the tax increase,

however, Money Geek says California is no better than mediocre in spending on highway maintenance and improvements at \$13.95 per lane mile a year. That's twice what Oklahoma, which has the best highways, spends, so California clearly hasn't been getting much bang for its gas tax bucks.

The big tax increase, which also included a stiff hike in auto registration fees, raises an estimated \$5 billion a year and was billed as a way to catch up on decades of maintenance neglect.

The money is going out the door. Earlier this year, the California Transportation Commission approved \$17.4 billion in state and federal funds for nearly 900 projects that will, the commission's chairman, Paul Van Konynenburg said, "make roads and bridges safer for California drivers (and) will save drivers money by fixing the potholes that can damage vehicles."

The tax increase legislation requires the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to meet certain goals by 2027, including that 98% of the pavement on the state highway system be in good or fair condition and that at least an additional 500 highway bridges get fixed.

Will Californians actually see better roads, or will deterioration outpace even this big boost in spending? We may know by 2027.

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



### Agricultural Pilots Seek Bigger Firefighting Role

Agricultural aviators say they stand ready to help fight wildfires, but that Cal Fire rarely calls on them. The chairman of the California Agricultural Aviation Association says 37 single-engine air tankers could have been available during severe fires this fall. A Cal Fire spokesman says the agency allows front-line commanders to decide what planes to deploy. Incident commanders typically order twin-engine air tankers, rather than single-engine planes.

### Canned-Fruit Business Prepares for Rising Demand

Canned fruits and vegetables continue to see increased retail sales. Farmers and marketers say they expect that trend to continue as winter sets in and COVID-19 cases rise. One canner says it's preparing for a greater-than-usual spike in sales during the holidays. Supplies of canned fruit became short at times early in the pandemic, but processors and retailers say they have taken steps to avoid that in coming weeks.

### Christmas Tree Sales Increase

Choose-and-cut Christmas tree farms report surges in early attendance – a trend they attribute in part to people wanting to decorate their homes early during the pandemic. The president of the California Christmas Tree Association says the opening day of sales at her farm was one of the biggest she's ever experienced.

Christmas tree farms that have opened this season have modified operations or eliminated some activities to accommodate distancing and other health protocols.

### Farm Bureau Presents Annual Awards

A longtime agricultural and water leader from Sonoma County received the California Farm Bureau's highest honor during its Annual Meeting Tuesday. Tito Sasaki, a Sonoma Valley grape grower, received the Distinguished Service Award. Farm Bureau also presented Fresno County farmers Nick and Kimberly Rocca and San Diego County winemaker Alysha Stehly with awards for young farmers and ranchers, and honored the Monterey, Napa, Sonoma and Sacramento County Farm Bureaus. ★

## Farm Bureau President Outlines Priorities

By Dave Kranz,  
Farm Bureau Federation

### SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

Calling for "farmer-led solutions" to issues confronting agriculture, California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson pledged the organization would respond to state government actions on the pandemic, climate change and other policies.

Speaking to members via webcast from the Farm Bureau building in Sacramento during the 102nd California Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, Johansson said farmers and ranchers acted quickly and responsibly during the COVID-19 pandemic, to adjust working conditions and provide personal protective equipment to employees, and to assure a worried public about the continued availability and safety of food and farm products.

"Make no mistake about it, when it comes to worker safety and when it came to our families' wellbeing, farmers and agriculture led the way," Johansson said.

"We'll continue to work as we move forward through this pandemic, looking into the future of what we need to do to take care of our employees," he added, noting in particular the need to remove roadblocks to creation of more and better housing.

Describing agriculture as "the original green industry," Johansson said state and federal climate policies must recognize the positive contributions farms and ranches make to the environment. He also urged the state to act quickly and decisively to address chronic water shortages and the increasing wildfire threat.

The annual scourge of wildfires "shouldn't become normal," Johansson said. "We should be outraged." Noting that the state has directed significant resources toward wildfire prevention and forest management, he said Farm Bureau will review how effectively those resources have been used and will advocate for timely action.

Johansson celebrated the defeat of a November ballot initiative to create a split-roll property tax, saying farmers and ranchers "changed the debate" on Proposition 15 by describing its likely impacts on food production and prices. With the state government facing budget deficits, he warned of potential new efforts to raise taxes and fees, saying the state can't continue to balance the budget "on the backs of the California taxpayers."

With a new administration about to take office in Washington, D.C., Johansson said Farm Bureau will advocate for balanced environmental, immigration and trade policies.

"We have challenges ahead of us, but we will continue to speak out and make a difference," Johansson said.

The California Farm Bureau works to protect family farms and ranches on behalf of nearly 34,000 members statewide and as part of a nationwide network of nearly 5.6 million Farm Bureau members. ★

## Attorney's Office Recognized for Work with Project Safe Neighborhoods

By Lauren Horwood,  
Department of Justice

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** -The Department of Justice recognized the Solano County District Attorney's Office, located in the Eastern District of California, for being an Outstanding Local Prosecutor's Office in support of the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Initiative and its work with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

"Throughout 2018 and 2019, the Solano County District Attorney's Office demonstrated outstanding professionalism, support for U.S. Attorney's Office initiatives, and ongoing cooperation with federal and state law enforcement partners to promote greater public safety," U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott said. "The Solano County District Attorney's Office has demonstrated the exemplary initiative and collaboration needed to make PSN successful in keeping our communities safe, meeting bi-weekly with our office to discuss potential cases for federal prosecution.

"This award exemplifies the true partnership between our office and the Office of the United States Attorney, Eastern District of California," said District Attorney Abrams. "Project Safe Page 2 of 3 Neighborhoods has truly been a success under U.S. Attorney McGregor Scott's leadership. We jointly share an unwavering commitment to getting illegal guns off the street and keeping our community safe, and I am honored to be working in collaboration with the U.S. Attorney's Office regarding this effort."

The Solano County District Attorney's Office was recognized for the outstanding work in support of the PSN program. Since the start of the PSN program in Solano County in July 2018, the Solano County District Attorney's Office has presented more than 400 cases for potential federal adoption, with 46 cases selected for federal prosecution targeting some of the most violent and recidivist criminals in Solano County. They facilitated a meeting to connect AUSAs with over 30 local gang investigators, improving collaboration and coordination between federal, state, and local investigating agencies, and overall

intelligence sharing.

In October and November 2018 a multi-agency effort spearheaded by the Solano County District Attorney's Office to identify the highest-risk offenders on probation, parole, and Post-Release Community Supervision located dozens of fugitives in Solano County in advance of Operation Triple Beam, a December 2018 exercise by the U.S. Marshals Service.

The Solano County District Attorney's Office worked with the U.S. Attorney's Office to facilitate federal adoption of cases that originated with state charges. These cases included: (1) a March 2018 attempted homicide, in which two co-conspirators pipe bombed a residential home with a family of five inside [United States v. Capenhurst, et al., 2:18-cr-055-KJM]; (2) a series of five convenience store robberies, during which the lead defendant brandished a firearm and threatened the counter clerks at gunpoint [United States v. Young, et al., 2:18-cr-142-JAM]; and (3) five additional felon-in-possession of a firearm cases, including one defendant who was sentenced as an armed career criminal.

Given its position at the southwest boundary of the Eastern District of California, numerous cases originating in, or with ties to, Solano County, overlap with criminal conduct that could also be charged in surrounding counties (Napa, Contra Costa, Alameda, and/or Sacramento) or in the Northern District of California. In at least two significant cases, the Solano County District Attorney's Office agreed to dismiss local charges in lieu of federal prosecution in cases with multijurisdictional criminality. These included: (1) the five Hobbs Act robberies charged in United States v. Young, et al., 2:18-cr-142-JAM, which spanned from Alameda County, to Solano County, to Sacramento County; and (2) a high-volume drug-trafficking case stretching from Alameda County to Solano County, in which detectives seized over 4 pounds of powder cocaine and over 3.5 pounds of cocaine base (crack cocaine) from the defendant's home in Vallejo [United States v. McCutcheon, 2:18-cr-218-TLN]. The defendant in that case will be sentenced as a career offender. ★

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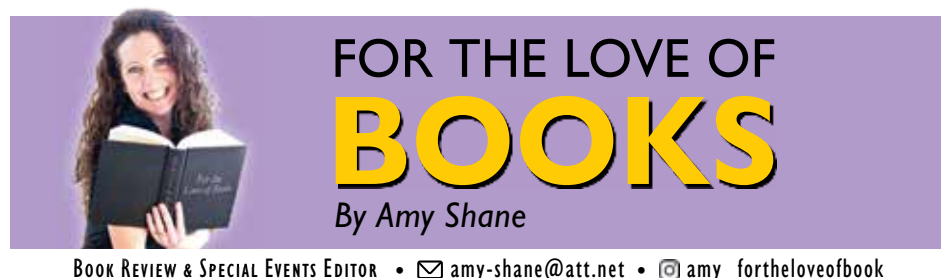
**Flynn Speaks at Rally: 'We Cannot Accept What We Are Going Through as Right'** | 12 Dec 2020 | Lt. General Michael Flynn spoke in front of a large crowd that rallied on Washington on Dec. 12 to protest election fraud, and began with the story of Jericho. "We are in a crucible moment in the history of the United States of America," he said at the "Let the Church Roar" rally at the National Mall. "And remember, the courts do not decide who the next president of the United States will be ... We the people decide." Thousands gathered to join marches and rallies in Washington on Dec. 12, petitioning the government for fair elections and transparent counting. Similar grassroots protests took place every Saturday since the general election in capitals across the 50 states.

**Ex-Facebook exec suggests everyone who gets vaccinated to wear certain color mask, reminiscent of Nazi Germany's use of the Star of David** | 11 Dec 2020 | Former Facebook executive Chamath Palihapitiya suggested in a tweet on Friday that everyone who gets vaccinated should "all wear a mask of a special design or color" in order to let other people around them know that they have been vaccinated. The idea did not sit well with many on social media, who quickly blasted the idea, comparing it to Nazi Germany's use of the Star of David. "How about we just put a gold star on ones that aren't,?" one user tweeted sarcastically. Other users didn't see the point of having to continue to wear a mask when the vaccine is supposed to provide protection on its own.

**Facebook sued by FTC, 48 attorneys general alleging it operates an illegal monopoly –Attorneys general included those for Guam and Washington, D.C., and every state except for Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and South Dakota** | 09 Dec 2020 | A group of 48 U.S. attorneys general led by New York filed an antitrust lawsuit against Facebook on Wednesday, alleging the social media giant is violating antitrust law by buying up competitors and depriving consumers of alternatives that would better protect their privacy. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) filed a separate suit alleging similar antitrust violations. At the heart of both lawsuits are claims that Facebook's acquisitions of Instagram in 2012 for \$1 billion and WhatsApp in 2014 for \$19 billion, as well as other smaller technology companies, were carried out in order to quash competition. As part of its lawsuit, the FTC wants to force Facebook to break off both Instagram and WhatsApp.

**Chinese Spy Was in 'Relationships' With at Least Two Midwestern Mayors - Report** | 08 Dec 2020 | A suspected Chinese spy was linked to at least two anonymous Midwestern mayors, according to a bombshell report from Axios. The political journal said Fang Fang, who also goes by Christine Fang, developed political contacts primarily in California, including Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA). It went on to report: "Fang attended regional conferences for U.S. mayors, which allowed her to grow her network of politicians across the country. She also engaged in sexual or romantic relationships with at least two mayors of Midwestern cities over a period of about three years, according to one U.S. intelligence official and one former elected official. At least two separate sexual interactions with elected officials, including one of these Midwestern mayors, were caught on FBI electronic surveillance of Fang, according to two intelligence officials," Axios said. ★





## Riley Reviews

HOLIDAY CHEER MOST WELCOME IN FUN  
"CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES"

A TV Review by Tim Riley

### "THE CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES 2" ON NETFLIX

Considering the frustration felt by many during these challenging times, you may have noticed some leaders keep insisting that we cancel holiday celebrations with family because, after all, let's end this awful year on a down note for everyone.

With apologies to Dr. Seuss, we could have a contest for the officeholder most qualified to be crowned the Grinch. But in the holiday spirit, why not skip the doom and gloom if only briefly. Since this column is about seeking enjoyment, let's relish the Christmas spirit.

A good start would be a family evening for a viewing of the Netflix movie "The Christmas Chronicles 2" starring a most appropriate and delightful Kurt Russell as the hip jolly resident of the North Pole.

While the original 2018 "The Christmas Chronicles" included Chris Columbus as one of the producers, the notable writer and director brings his family-themed creative talent this time to directing and being part of the writing team.

With Columbus at the head, a family amusement to cheer as welcome relief from our current malaise is to be expected from the talent behind the holiday film "Home Alone" and comedies that featured adolescents.

In the original film siblings Kate (Darby Camp) and Teddy Pierce (Judah Lewis) had a Christmas Eve plan to catch Santa Claus on camera which nearly derailed Christmas on a wild night before they joined with Santa and the Elves to save Christmas before it was too late.

Two years later, the siblings are spending Christmas in Cancun with their widowed mother Claire (Kimberly Williams-Paisley) and her boyfriend and maybe future husband Bob (Tyrese Gibson), who has a young son Jack (Jahzir Bruno).

Now a cynical teenager, Kate broods over the fact that Christmas is just not same in a tropical environment at a glorious beach, and she's not quite enthused about her mom's new relationship since she fears the memory of her deceased father is fading away.

Meanwhile, older sibling Teddy has settled down from his more rambunctious ways and enjoys sipping tropical fruit drinks while relaxing near the ocean's edge. Unlike Kate, Teddy doesn't miss the winter environment back home in Massachusetts.

The youngest child is possible future half-brother Jack, a nice kid apparently suffering anxiety over just about anything unfamiliar, but who will soon be tested on adapting to big surprises in store.

A former elf named Belsnickel (Julian Dennison), bitter that he felt ignored by Santa and Mrs. Claus (Goldie Hawn) and then unwillingly turned into human form, is ensconced at the South Pole plotting revenge.

Feeling alienated from her family, Kate decides to run away back to Boston at the earliest chance, which comes when Claire and Bob take advantage of an overnight trip to the Mayan ruins.

During the parental absence, Kate and Jack are signed up for Kids Club activities, but they both get duped into a golf cart ride supposedly to the airport by Belsnickel and end up instead thrust into a portal with a fast trip to the North Pole.

The kids are Belsnickel's ticket back into Santa's Village where his dastardly plans include theft of the Christmas star that powers the North Pole and launch of a chemical attack that turns the cheerful elves into destructive gremlin-like maniacs.

A magical troublemaker, Belsnickel is hell-bent on destroying the North Pole and bringing Christmas to a permanent end, even if it means unleashing bedlam with a fierce Yule Cat that brings harm to Dasher, one of Santa's beloved reindeer.

Aside from the amusingly bad behavior of the Santa's wayward elves, Santa and Belsnickel compete in an aerial sleigh ride race with nice digital effects that also would please the youngsters.

Time travel takes Santa and the kids back several decades to Boston's snow-bound Logan Airport on Christmas Eve as holiday travelers wait for delayed flights and Kate ends up in a jam for what a sales clerk believes is her attempt to pass counterfeit money.

Keep an eye out for throwaway bits of humor like the village's cinema featuring "Bad Santa" while the elves run rampant and Santa and Mrs. Claus dozing off while the elf language version of "It's a Wonderful Life" plays on the television.

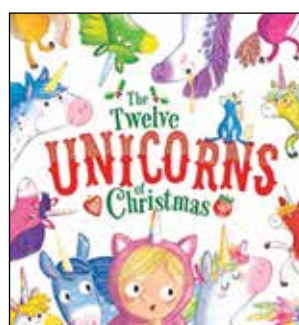
Cynics might think of "The Christmas Chronicles 2" as little more than Yuletide pabulum, and while it may not be the most inspired holiday fare of all time, it does have heart and enough cuteness and humor to offer seasonal enjoyment.

Moreover, Kurt Russell brings playful gruffness to his St. Nick when confronting Belsnickel, charming banter with his real-life partner Goldie Hawn, and joyful rocking of a Christmas song in the Boston airport, all of which reflect being right for the part.

Will Christmas be saved once again? Here's guessing that you may already know the answer, but that would likely be the case for any other similar holiday film. ★

## Top Holiday Children's Books from Simon and Schuster

The Holidays are nearly upon us, and Simon and Schuster have a bounty of children's books that will bring cheer all season long. These titles will have you covered, whether you are looking for a classic Christmas story, something completely new, or even stories that can be read all winter long.



### The Twelve Unicorns of Christmas by Timothy Knapman and Ada Grey

The twelve days of Christmas are counted down with a little girl and her... unicorn! While there is so much to do before the big day, the little girl realizes that a unicorn can be quite a handful.

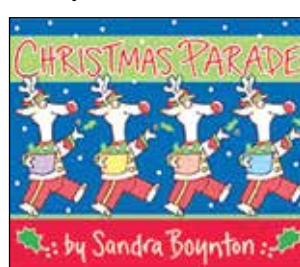
Will she ever get anything done in time? Readers will delight in this adorable unicorn story filled with mischief and glitter, just in time for the holidays.



### All the Little Snowflakes by Cindy Jin and illustrated by Dawn M. Cardona

Celebrate the beauty and uniqueness of each little snowflake as it floats, twirls, and dances on by. This sturdy board book, with snowflake

cut-outs is the perfect book to celebrate the beauty of winter snow.



### Christmas Parade by Sandra Boynton

"Boom-Biddy, Boom Biddy, Boom, Boom, Boom" it is time for the Christmas parade. From drumming hippos and piggy's with balloons, all the animals are here to bring Christmas to you. Reread the familiar Christmas story re-released in a sturdy board book design



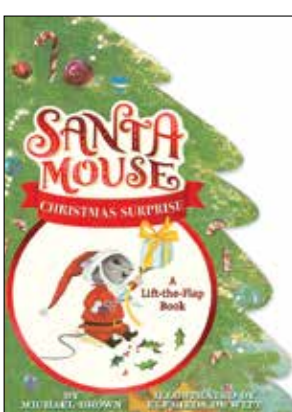
for young readers.

### Crow and Snow by Robert Broder and Olivier Tallec

On a spring day, a farmer puts up a scarecrow named crow. Being a scarecrow was a lonely job; every day he says hello to the farmer, but the farmer never responds. Then one day, it started to snow, and a snowman was built right next to Crow. Together, Crow and Snow stood side by side as friends until the day it became warmer, and Snow was gone.

Crow missed Snow. Each year Crow got excited for Snow to return, and each year he was sad when they departed. Will Crow ever be able to tell Snow how he really feels?

Readers will fall in love with the heartwarming story of a friendship that lasts throughout the years. Beautiful and endearing illustrations add to this story's beauty and timeless feel that is sure to become a favorite for years to come.



### Santa Mouse by Michael Brown, illustrated by Elfrieda De Witt

The classic story of Santa Mouse returns in an all-new lift-the-flap interactive book.

A little mouse with a big mouse heart packages up the ideal gift to leave on Christmas Eve. When he awakens to see Santa, he quickly meets a friend and receives the name Santa Mouse. Now, little Santa Mouse will never be lonely again. Sharing the joy of Christmas giving, Santa Mouse take will inspire readers to leave out a special gift this Christmas Eve. ★

# Conservation District Keeps Student's Local Resource Connected to Nature Through Virtual Programming

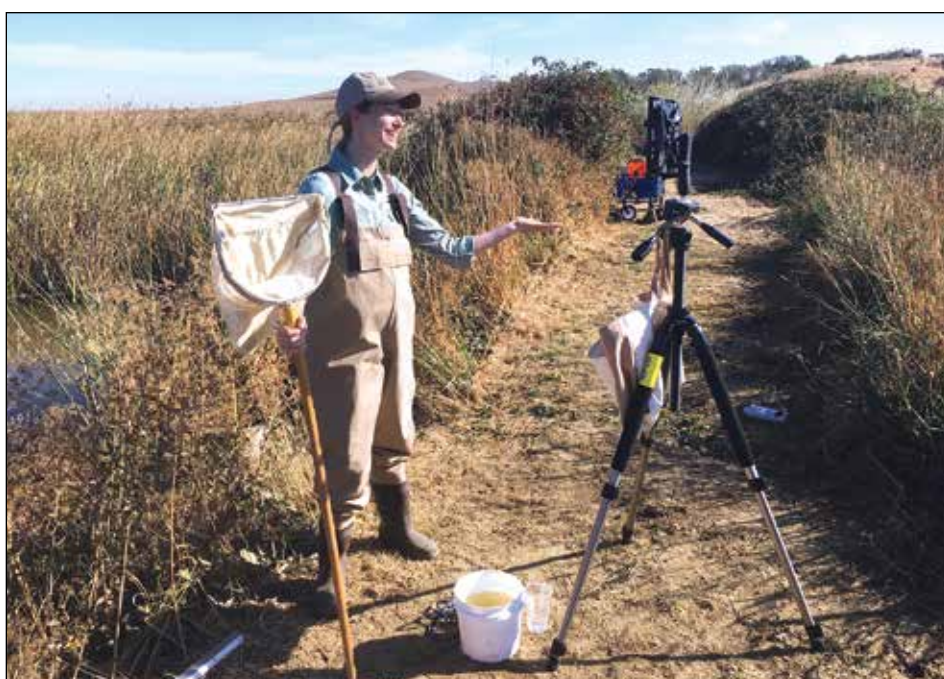
By Marianne Butler,  
Solano Resource Conservation District

**SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - Solano Resource Conservation District (SRCD) returns to Suisun Marsh to continue live streaming virtual field trips for Solano County sixth graders participating in the District's 12th year of the Suisun Marsh Watershed Education Program. SRCD has had over 1,300 participants since September and is expecting to engage another 900 students by early March 2021.

"We have been participating in Solano RCD's Suisun Marsh Program for many years, and we were very glad that they adapted it for distance learning so that this year's students could still participate," shared Robin Shishido-Bailey, a sixth grade science teacher at Benicia Middle School. "While no virtual experience can ever replace students actually exploring the marsh in person, the RCD's educators helped make it feel as if we were right there exploring alongside them."

Shishido-Bailey added that the program was definitely a highlight for her students during an otherwise difficult time in their lives: "Their weekly engagement and reflections about what they learned showed me that they really valued this experience, and that they really needed it, too."

Earlier this year, the Solano County Water Agency, the cities and county of Solano, and local wastewater agencies came together in full support of funding Solano RCD's virtual water education programs. The next step was adapting program curriculum and training



A behind-the-scenes look of the Suisun Marsh Watershed Education Program's water quality station being facilitated by Lidia Tropeano, Education Program Coordinator for Solano Resource Conservation District. Photo courtesy of Solano Resource Conservation District

environmental educators to successfully deliver digital content.

"Our team of educators strive to do their best to engage with students through virtual adventures to our parks and open spaces," adds Butler. "They teach with their full heart and work to connect with students on a level they have never had to before."

To help keep the virtual experience engaging, program educators implement chat boxes, games, polls, mindfulness activities, and movement to help students process what they are learning and interact

at levels in which they are most comfortable. On the field trip, students also get to step away from the computer and explore their own surroundings, nature journal, and write poetry. Back on screen, they may find themselves getting excited over a glimpse of a curious river otter poking its head out of the water or a great egret taking flight as a train passes by.

For more than a decade, Solano RCD has provided thousands of Solano County K-12 students a variety of in-person water education programs featuring hands on lessons, field trips, and preparatory

activities. Things changed in March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent shelter-at-home orders went into effect. The agency began looking for ways to adapt its education programs for the 2020-2021 school year by surveying teachers, collaborating with school district administrators, and participating in virtual teaching workshops.

"Our programs have adapted drastically in response to COVID-19 and this year has been in flux with program changes occurring each week," stated Marianne Butler, Environmental Education Program Director for the RCD. "However, our core messages have not changed. We continue to teach students about our local water resources in an interactive way and rouse curiosity about our outdoor spaces. We want students to be life-long observers of our natural world as well as stewards of local natural treasures like Suisun Marsh."

Solano RCD is a non-regulatory special district to the state of California that works to protect, restore, and enhance Solano County watersheds through its diverse education, restoration, and partnership efforts. Its environmental education programs serve over 10,000 students annually with funding support from Solano County Water Agency, the cities and county of Solano, Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District, Vallejo Flood and Wastewater District, Vallejo Water Conservation Program, the Greater Vallejo Recreation District, California State Parks Habitat Conservation Fund, and Potrero Hills Landfill. Learn more at solanored.org or call (707) 678-1655. ★



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The following persons are doing business as: : Cooper's Full-Service Cleaning 354 Primrose Drive Vacaville, CA 95687 Cooper Established Enterprises, LLC, 354 Primrose Drive Vacaville, CA 95687 Date Filed in Solano County: December 08, 2020 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/1/2020 This Business is Conducted by: A Limited Liability Company NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 22, 2025. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.) Publish: December 18, 25, 2020 January 1, and 8, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2020-002093

The following persons are doing business as: : Brigdette's Nails & Spa 173 Leisure Way Vacaville, CA 95687 Brigdette Wilson, 5684 Lewis Road Vacaville, CA 95687 Date Filed in Solano County: November 20, 2020 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A This Business is Conducted by: Individual NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 22, 2025. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.) Publish: December 18, 25, 2020 January 1, and 8, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

## FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2020-002005

The following persons are doing business as: : KALEY'S 2830 Thornbury Court, Vallejo, CA 94591 Solano Equity Investments, LLC, 2830 Thornbury Court, Vallejo, CA 94591 Date Filed in Solano County: November 6, 2020 The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 11/6/2020 This Business is Conducted by: A Limited Liability Company NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration June 22, 2025. The filing of this statement does not itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code.) Publish: December 4, 11, 18 and 25, 2020 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

## Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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

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## Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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

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### CLUES

- ACROSS
- "Lord of the Flies" shell
  - "New Year's Eve choice: Brut or Demi-"
  - Get-out-of-jail money
  - Convex molding
  - "... I Want for Christmas..."
  - Sign of life
  - Redo, to a carpenter
  - Flying saucer acronym
  - Often-missed humor
  - "Hanukkah toy"
  - "... Santa, gift-giving tradition"
  - Ideas mo.
  - Part of a hammer
  - Cook's leaf
  - "Hey!"
  - Brain's... system
  - Revered one
  - "... Your Enthusiasm"
  - Capital of Egypt
  - Went by horse
  - "I do" spot
  - "... Sandler's "Eight Crazy Nights"
  - Scary movie consequence
  - Dexterity
  - Boundary line
  - Modern self-portrait
  - Superman's last name
  - Actor's domain
  - Wild plum
  - Mama sheep
  - "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my..."
  - "African-American celebration"
  - Town news announcer
  - Charged particle
  - Elephant poacher's ware
  - Give new guns
  - "The night before Christmas"
  - Present
  - "Like a Christmas sweater, often"
  - Uncooked
  - Adherents of Sikhism
- DOWN
- Umbralial connection
  - "Grandma got run... by a reindeer..."
  - "Santa's "cheeks were like roses, his... like a cherry"
  - Request to Geico
  - Carriage on top of elephant
  - Pulitzer winner Bellow
  - "Santa helper"
  - Bring to an end
  - Jefferson's Vice President
  - Medicinal succulent
  - Negative contraction
  - Bovine hangout
  - Alfredo meal
  - Novelist Jong
  - Sushi restaurant choice
  - "Have a piece of Christmas Goose, e.g."
  - "Five golden rings, four calling..."
  - Dig intently
  - Cry of the Alps
  - "Time for log"
  - Address with apostrophe
  - Stays somewhere
  - About to explode
  - "Vixen follower"
  - Table extension
  - Diamond's corner
  - Sign up again
  - Divest one of a gun
  - "Slippery" tree
  - Mark and Shania
  - Twig of a willow tree
  - End of a poem
  - Fortune-teller's residue
  - Iranian coin
  - Suggestive of the supernatural
  - Was aware of
  - Fall asleep, with 'out'
  - Foot part
  - Pirates' affirmatives
  - French vineyard
  - Female gametes

### 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						
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25	26	27		28			29		30	31	32	33	34	
35			36			37			38		39			
40						41			42		43			
44					45			46			47			
48					49			50			51		52	
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			57	58	59				60			61	62	63
64								65	66			67		
68								69						70
71								72						73



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

Solutions on Page 8



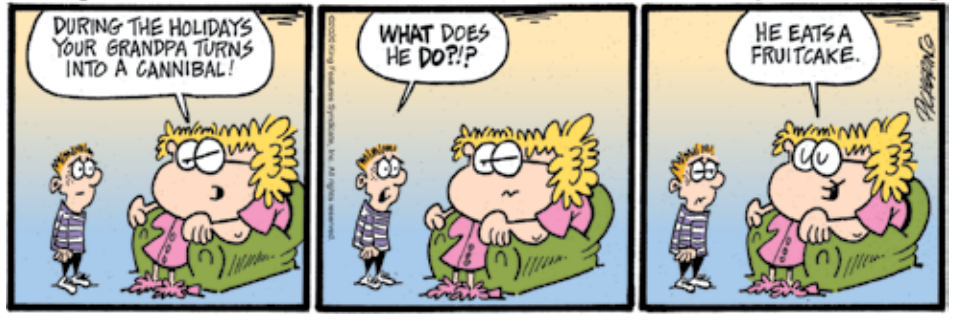
# WEEKLY COMICS

## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

## The Spats



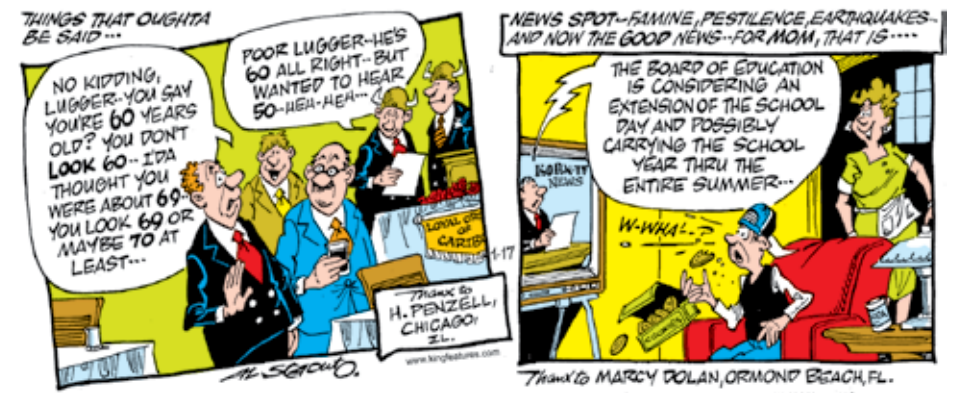
by Jeff Pickering

## Out on a Limb



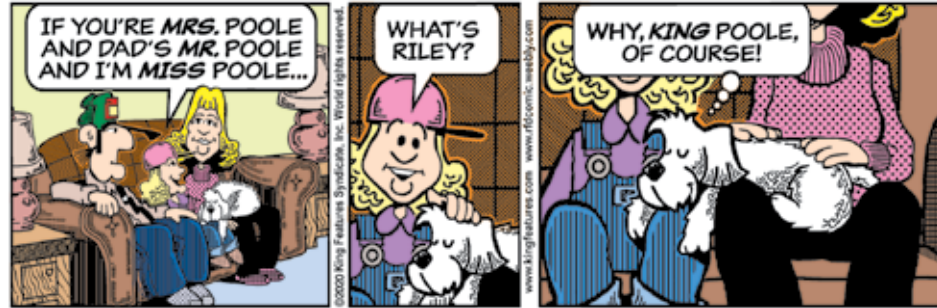
by Gary Kopervas

## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO

## R.F.D.



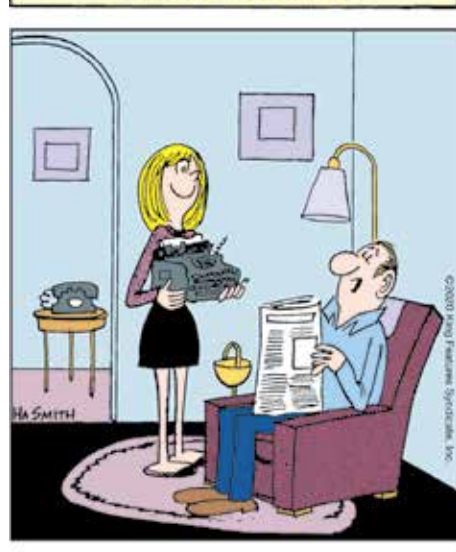
by Mike Marland



## CRIM and BEAR IT



## LAFF-A-DAY



## Just Like Cats & Dogs



by Dave T. Phipps

## HOCUS-FOCUS



BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

"Okay, what other valuable antiques did you pick up besides William Shakespeare's typewriter?"

Differences: 1. Mom's hair is different. 2. Doll on left has been moved. 3. 'Safe' sign is added. 4. Girl's skirt has ruffle. 5. Doll is different. 6. Girl has hair bow.

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