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Elected and Outgoing Officials Recognized

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In a planned 'hybrid' City Council Meeting with newly elected officials being inside City Hall and the community able to Zoom via computers or phones to watch and participate, Dixon's new leaders will be sworn in on Tuesday, December 15, and past leaders bid farewell.

Although not everyone has been properly notified that they even won their seat, none of the winners have received phone calls from City Manager Jim Lindley or the City Clerk Lupe Ruiz and have been left in the dark as to what the city is expecting. Ruiz, who is new to the post since this past year, was hoping to have all the details confirmed before she/the City notified winners but the COVID restrictions have had a lot to do with what can happen and what cannot, she said.

Councilman Devon Minnema did bring the subject up at the last council meeting on December 1 and Lindley indicated he knew he had to get that done. Ruiz said she was researching how things were handled in the past and would make contact even if all the plans were not complete.

The City Council Meeting scheduled for December 15 is heavily loaded and there is a possibility that the meeting may have to start earlier at 6 pm to have time for the reception that would be for the immediate family only. The City agenda will be posted on the City of Dixon website on Thursday before the meeting.

Taking their oath of office, swearing to uphold the State of California and Federal Constitutions, will be Mayor Steve Bird, District 4 Council Representative Don Hendershot, District 3 Council Representative Kevin Johnson and City Treasurer Jim Ward.

The ceremony will also include a farewell to Mayor Thom Bogue, District 4 Council Representative Devon Minnema and City Treasurer Wesley Atkinson.

The City Council meeting will begin promptly at 6 pm (tentatively) by the existing council and the swearing in ceremony will be conducted. Then, the meeting will be closed, and a simple farewell/appreciation reception may take place depending on possible new COVID restrictions. Afterwards, the new council will convene its first official meeting.

City Hall is located at 600 East A Street. The link to the Zoom meeting is posted at the top of the City Council Agenda found on the city website and is usually posted on Facebook. ★



Santa poses with the old Fire Truck #472 that will be rolling through the streets of Dixon between now and December 16 to wish everyone happy holidays courtesy of Dixon Professional Firefighters Association Local 4665. Courtesy Photo

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Dixon Fire Department and Santa will be driving through the community to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Due to Covid, there will be no stopping but they hope to see everyone as they drive by and celebrate the season from a safe and healthy distance.

Your Dixon Fire Fighters are once again teaming up with the "Big Guy" Santa Claus to brighten

up your holiday. Unfortunately we will not be able to make any house calls this year, but we will be visiting the good boys and girls over three nights. Listen for our "Sleigh Fire Bells" and watch for our Red Christmas lights as we wind our way through town.

Their scheduled rolls will be between 6 and 7 pm starting on Tuesday, December 15 through the area of North Lincoln and West H Street, Gretchen Higgins School

and Cornejo Park areas.

On Wednesday, December 16, they will travel through the area of West H Street, Porter Road, Northwest Park, Patwin Park and Tremont Elementary School. Thursday, December 17, they will drive through the area of West A Street, Valley Glen homes, and Veterans Park.

This is organized by the Dixon Professional Firefighters Association Local 4665. ★

No One Goes Hungry



Local residents receive fresh fruits and vegetables twice a month thanks to the Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank. The distribution takes place at Dixon Family Services. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - "There is a whole population of families in Dixon that can't make ends meet," said Dixon Family Services Executive Director Cookie Powell. "Even before COVID the City of Dixon demographics showed 14 percent lived below the poverty line. This year, it has tripled."

There were already a half dozen people forming a line for the twice a month food distribution in the facility's empty parking lot. They were obviously familiar with when and where a huge grocery truck would deliver food.

There was a short man getting out of his car in front of me with a used grocery bag who quietly acknowledged the other two brown-skinned old men who were huddling in their jackets. There were middle-aged women and a couple of younger ones in coats tightly hugging their grocery bags who seemed relieved when the truck arrived. In a moment, the line grew a dozen more with every one standing a self-imposed 6-feet apart.

A crew of nine or ten people from the Contra Costa/Solano Food Bank set out a check-in table and swung open three truck doors on each side exposing 4-foot-deep bins filled with colorful fruit and vegetables. The

woman with the clipboard would ask only one simple question: "How many in your household?" That is the only question they can legally ask. It is called "self-verifying," Powell explained.

The clerk checked a box on her sheet and the man moved to one of the stations now attended by a worker who would hand one or two of the bags of food to that person. That person would then proceed to each station and then off to another very large truck to receive a box of food. The box is full of 'staples' such as cereal, rice, pasta, canned goods, orange juice, beans, etc. It seems like

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COVID Strikes My Colorado Family

By Debra Dingman

It is very interesting that people do not want to share about their COVID experiences. That leaves the rest of us wondering what to really expect. Sure, the news will tell us about hospitals and ventilators but they don't tell the story of how it got started and what it felt like. We always wonder if we take Airborne or Emergen-C drinks the second we feel amiss, will it help? So when my brother and sister-in-law (SIL) – and some of their family members got COVID, I asked a lot of questions. They live in Colorado where, like California, there is a spike in COVID cases. Here is their story.

On November 3, my brother and sister-in-law invited their daughter and her family to join them for pizza dinner while they watched the elections roll out. They are a very close family and hang out together all the time so this was not unusual...except that my niece now works in a medical clinic and later that evening shared with her mom that a boy had come into ER "really sick" and was tested positive with the virus. My SIL was alarmed but it was too late; she knew they had been potentially exposed.

Two days later, my brother began feeling ill. By Friday, he had a sore throat, had a fever of 101, and knew he had the flu. He tested positive on Saturday. Through the weekend my SIL was fine on Day 6 which was the Monday after Election night, she got "a simple sore throat."

Covid can be contracted an estimated 14 days after exposure. This situation was classic for the new understanding of how the virus is spread: Close family/friends spending time together.

Tuesday she woke up with a headache, a neck pain and had sweat like she had the flu but she felt okay and slept a lot. One Wednesday her sore throat got worse and she coughed all night. By Thursday, her throat felt horrible.

"It was three times worse than strep throat and I was in constant pain. I could not eat or drink and I knew I was dehydrating," she said. "I couldn't swallow and it hurt so bad. I couldn't take pills and I felt like I couldn't breathe." She tried gargling, throat sprays, and more.

"My kitchen looks like a pharmacy," she said. "I took pain relievers and some kind

of steroids that are medicines to cure strep but it didn't even phase the pain. If I got any relief, it would only last two hours." She could not get water or food and she said she was so tired, she was afraid to go to sleep because "people die when they go to sleep," she said. "By Monday, I said I wanted to die and I told your brother I would die if I didn't get any fluids."

She tried drinking Gatorade and she spit it out the second it hit her throat because it "felt like acid." She said she cried but then could feel her heart gave her the funny feeling that she had with her "broken heart syndrome" that sent her to the hospital last year so she'd tell herself to be calm.

Meanwhile, my brother was vomiting and having diarrhea and was also too tired to do much of anything but sleep in between trips to the bathroom. They also went through the trouble of virtual doctor calls through all of this.

On Friday, she said she'd drive herself to the Emergency Room.

"I knew I was dehydrating and just couldn't take the pain anymore. I couldn't deal with it anymore and the RN gave me 'Magic Mouthwash.' Within 20 minutes, I could swallow and talk," she said. Magic Mouthwash is a combination of painkillers and steroids. She was hooked up to an IV to get hydrated and her oxygen level was checked.

"Okay, prescribe me that mouthwash and I'll go home I told them but they said I had to stay. I was only getting 30% of my oxygen." After an hour they checked again but when they took her off the oxygen for ten minutes, the oxygen level did not come back up at all and was still 70% low. She was worried about my brother who had a nurse from the Veterans Hospital coming over to administer oxygen at their home.

"He was the worst," she said. "He had a sore throat as well, had a constant fever, and was really, really tired." It took him more days to recover, too. Both had to sleep with oxygen for two weeks.

Their daughter and their granddaughter also got sick but didn't have it for more than a few days. On Thanksgiving, my SIL still had a slight hoarse voice but other than still a bit tired, she said she felt good. I got a text from my brother just this last Saturday – a full three weeks after his first symptoms appeared, with these wonderful words, "feeling better." ★

No One Goes Hungry

Continued from page 1

a well-oiled machine until a woman sheepishly asks about what to do. It is her first visit after learning from others who told her "there was help".

The attendant is kind and patient and explains the simple path. Even the woman seemed surprised as she unfurled a reusable shopping bag. She is a Medical Assistant who has lived in Dixon just over 20 years.

"This is because of COVID," she tells me. "I have a disabled child who is not in school and I have to be home. I have exhausted all my medical leave and vacation time at work. I'm hoping this is a temporary hold until I go back to work. It hasn't been easy but our community has been such a blessing."

Powell knows how hard it is to ask for help. She came from a poor family and was raised on a farm. Because it was a farm, they did not go hungry but she clearly remembers plucking chickens so they'd have dinner.

"As long as I see thankful people, I know we're making a difference," she said, then added that she was past retirement but was "married to Dixon Family Services." Powell supervises a staff of three or four people and reports to an all-volunteer Board of Directors while running the 40-year-old "one-stop community service organization" where she started as a part-time employee running the food pantry 30 years ago.

She's not the only one who feels the warmth of helping others. John Sandoval, a 5-year-long volunteer for the CCSFB also got this kind of help before in his life and now comes to help others.

"I kind of feel like Jesus who fed the crowds with fish and bread," he said. "I feel like I'm one of his



Dixon Family Services Director Cookie Powell lines up bags of groceries that will be given to low income families with children as part of their Holiday Food Program through December 12. The organization maintains a food pantry for anyone hungry in Dixon. Photo by Debra Dingman

disciples. I was brought up that way. I have my grandkids come and volunteer, too. There aren't high-fives or even laughter but there are warm smiles and thank-yous," he added.

"This is an organization that passes no judgement, no requirements, and no verification; we simply assess so we know how many children," Powell said. "Most of us have been needy and know how it feels to be here. We encourage people to take advantage of all programs because we know if they are here, they need all the help they can get."

Jeanette Orta, the check-in woman, has been volunteering for just over a year and shifts easily between her Spanish and English to assist people. They get the fresh produce from local farmers and the staples are purchased at grocery stores with money from supporters.

"Some of our best donors are those who have experienced this. You want to help them because you

know how it feels. We have a lot of those give-backers," Powell said.

DFS maintains a food pantry inside DFS so one doesn't have to wait for the big trucks if there is a need, she said. Showing off racks of canned foods clearly organized by 'Best used by' dates and organized dried goods like rice and beans, she talks about no one in Dixon – or anywhere – needs to go hungry because there are programs like this in every community, she explained. The Contra Costa Food Bank partners with DFS although DFS is unique to Dixon, she explained.

"We only serve Dixon residents and no longer get government funding. We're operating with just grants and donations," she said a bit excited to discover several donation envelopes in the mailbox. "The DFS motto is not about a hand out. We'll help you but you need to be helping yourself."

For more information, call (707) 678-0442. ★

Solano Groundwater Agencies, Partners to Hold Virtual Drinking Water Forum

By Emily Finnegan, SRCD

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - In coordination with the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency Collaborative (Solano Collaborative), the Local Government Commission (LGC) and The Freshwater Trust are excited to host a free Drinking Water Virtual Forum for residents of the Solano Subbasin on December 17, 2020 from 5:30-7:00pm. This community event will be held on Zoom and available in English and Spanish. All participants must register in advance at bit.ly/3mZVbWv.

The Solano Subbasin is a geographic area consisting of eastern Vacaville,

Dixon, Rio Vista, parts of Davis and Winters, Walnut Grove, and Isleton. The groundwater in the Solano Subbasin is the primary source of tap and irrigation water for a majority of residents, growers, and ranchers in the region; therefore, its preservation and stewardship for long-term use is essential for those who depend on it.

Groundwater is a critical resource for California's ecosystems, communities, and economies. Over the last century, California has experienced groundwater overdraft resulting in groundwater decline. In response to decades of overuse and a prolonged drought, the California legislature adopted the Sustainable Groundwater

Management Act of 2014 (SGMA).

The Drinking Water Virtual Forum will cover SGMA and its connection to eastern Solano County's drinking water quality, how this local groundwater is managed, as well as the resources and tools available to residents regarding their drinking and tap water. Staff from Solano and Sacramento counties and the State Water Resources Control Board will present at the Forum and be available for participant question and answer.

The Solano Collaborative is the working group of the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in Solano County, including the Solano Irrigation District GSA, Solano Subbasin GSA,

Sacramento GSA, Vacaville GSA and the Northern Delta GSA. LGC is a non-profit organization in Sacramento, California, supporting local policymakers through nationally recognized events, affordable technical assistance, and policy guidance on climate change, energy, water, and healthy community design. The Freshwater Trust is a conservation non-profit based in Portland, Oregon, with the mission to preserve and restore freshwater ecosystems.

To learn more about this event and other details pertaining to the Solano Subbasin, including taking a Community Input Survey by December 31, please visit groundwaterguide.com. ★

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Former Mayor Don Erickson Passes



Don Erickson waved to the crowd at the Dixon May Fair in 2014. Photo by Debbie Conley

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Former Dixon Mayor Don Erickson, perhaps one of Dixon's friendliest and funniest residents, has passed from a heart attack over Thanksgiving weekend at his daughter's home in Paso Robles. He was 84.

His beloved wife, Marcia, of nearly 60 years passed away just this past February after they resided in Dixon and raised their family here for 55 of those years.

Don was born in 1936, the son of farmers in Great Falls, Montana where he grew up and later told those stories with great fervor and great sense of humor. He graduated from the University of Montana where he met his wife, Marcia and they married in 1960.

He attended Northwestern School of Dentistry before entering the United States Air Force as a commissioned officer and was stationed at Travis Air Force Base where they lived for a couple years before settling in Dixon in 1964.

Don practiced dentistry here and was always active in the community first as a member of the Dixon Unified School District Board where he served 12 years after being appointed in 1966. He only resigned because of a conflict of interest: Marcia wanted to go back to work after raising their girls and was hired to be a 5th grade teacher for Anderson elementary School.

He felt passion for a town that seemed to be dividing between new residents and older ones and where they thought growth should go – east or west. He hoped to serve as a peacemaker, drawing on his

'facilitation skills' and threw in his hat for mayor. He was elected Mayor in 1994 by only 15 votes after the local newspapers endorsed the incumbent Richard Brians. This newspaper ran Erickson's victory story on the front page in our April 14 edition.

Don served on the Solano County Civil Service Commission for 14 years and other commissions as well in the late 60s and early 70s. He was a member of Rotary for many years serving as President the year he was elected. He was known for his great sense of humor and was a jokester even into these latest years via his Facebook.

"He was already the Mayor when I moved here and was such a caring person," said long-time friend Angela Meisenheimer who served as the Executive Director of the Dixon Chamber of Commerce while Don served as Mayor. "He was well-loved and was really funny. The first day I met him, I thought, 'This guy is awesome!'"

After his Mayor's duty, he worked for Cooley enterprises here in town farming tomatoes and driving tractors. In 2000, he was chosen Citizen of the Year by the Dixon Chamber of Commerce.

He is survived by his two daughters, Kathleen O'Connor (Mike) of San Miguel, CA and Stacey Gehlken (Steve) of Boise, ID. Also surviving are three granddaughters and one grandson: Kristina Gehlken, 29, (Nic Baughman), Emily Gehlken Ostby, 24, (Ben), Sean O'Connor, 22 and Sara O'Connor, 19. There are also nieces, nephews and cousins that survive and will remember him always. ★

Churches Working Together to Heighten Christmas Spirit

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - In typical years, this season would bring children dressed as angels, beautiful bell choir performances, and Christmas Cantatas in our local churches but forced by a pandemic and government efforts to minimize exposure to the Coronavirus, faith is showing up differently in 2020.

Churches in Dixon are coming together to serve the community in a variety of ways. Grace Fellowship Church of Dixon, for example, was sad to miss out on setting up their free photo booth at the annual Downtown Dixon Tree Lighting, so they are collaborating with Living Hope church to restock the free food pantry at Cornerstone Church. And, they're going to create some family fun in the process.

The churches have collected together more than two dozen Christmas inflatables and will be lining the route through the church parking lot at 535 West H Street to get to where citizens can add to the stacks of donated groceries.

This will take place on Saturday, December 12 from 6 to 8 pm. Children can wave to jolly St. Nick as they're driven through the blow-up



This Santa blow up will be one of many giant blow ups at Grace Fellowship Church on H Street lining the driveway to drop off donations for restocking Cornerstone Church's free food pantry. There will also be popcorn and goodies and is one of several activities going on with local churches during the COVID Christmas season. Courtesy Photo from Grace Fellowship

wonderland amid falling snow and stop at stations throughout to receive a child's goodie bag, warm popcorn, and fresh cotton candy.

All items will be individually wrapped, and volunteers will be wearing gloves and face masks. Plus, a few lucky bags will contain a gift card to Dutch Brothers.

In another event, the community is invited to join the congregations for a 'revised' 4th annual Carols in the Tunnel by meeting at the Dixon Women's Improvement Club Park, next to the library, where they are hosting a Community Christmas Carol Sing-along outdoors on Friday, December 18 at 7 pm sharp.

For more information contact Katie Rector from Grace Fellowship Church at (530) 574-7682, or Jessi Besseghini at Living Hope Church at (707) 693-1512.

Dixon Community Church is putting on a virtual Christmas Program beginning Sunday, December 13, at 10 am on Facebook or on their YouTube channel: DCCChurchDixon. 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 DCC at (707) 678-1981. ★

Dixon High Student Killed by Train

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Solano County Sheriff-Coroner's Office has identified that the teenager who was killed by an Amtrak train near 7133 Batavia Road on Saturday, November 28, was a 16-year-old Dixon High School student, Luke Abilez.

An Amtrak spokeswoman said Abilez was on the tracks when he was struck by Amtrak 742 as it was en route to Auburn from San Jose about 7:40 p.m.

Union Pacific police is the lead investigative agency because the train was on Union Pacific tracks but the Solano County Coroner's office is also investigating. The young man would have turned 17 on December 27, a birthday he shared with his twin brother.

Dixon Unified School District Superintendent Brian Dolan addressed the tragedy on the DUSD Facebook site imploring students suffering in any way to seek help.

"This is not a time to try to tough it out on your own or let others be alone.



Luke Abilez. Photo from Dixon High School FFA Facebook page

This is a time to pursue help and ensure that others who need it are also getting help," officials wrote on the school's Facebook page. "Whether doing it for yourself, a friend, or someone you are worried about – reach out. No problem or feeling is too small or too big to seek help, whether for yourself or someone else... Even if we cannot be with you in person, we are

here for you." The school is offering counseling to students, parents and other staff. For more information, call (707) 693-6330.

A memorial was held on Sunday at Dixon High School with members of the Future Farmers of America chapter where Abilez was an active member and this year's Treasurer. ★

Santa Cruises through Dixon



Santa enjoys seeing the children and the families that came out this past Thursday for the Covid Christmas Cruise that ended with these kinds of pictures outside Almond Tree Mortgage where Coordinators Karstin Hickerson and Hayley Pruett worked to pull it all together. There were two dozen businesses and clubs that participated in the drive by event that was led by Kar Kulture doing a decorated car parade throughout town. Photo by Nicolas Brown

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A Second Chance for Eel River Salmon and Steelhead



The Scott Dam on the main stem of the Eel river holds water for the Lake Pillsbury reservoir.

By Victorian Brandon, Tuleyome

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) -For many years Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) has operated the “Potter Valley Project,” a hydroelectric facility on the main stem of the Eel River consisting of Scott and Cape Horn dams and a tunnel diverting water into the Russian River watershed, where it is used to generate a small amount of electricity and for irrigation by farmers in Potter Valley and farther south in Sonoma County. The construction of Scott Dam in 1922 completely blocked passage of critically imperiled anadromous fish including salmon, steelhead, and lamprey while simultaneously forming Lake Pillsbury, a 2000-acre reservoir in remote northwestern Lake County used for boating, fishing and camping. Consisting of several hundred dwellings, primarily on Mendocino National Forest leaseholds but also including a scattering in private ownership, this community has very few permanent residents.

As with all other substantial hydroelectric generating systems, the Potter Valley Project requires periodic relicensing from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). PG&E initiated the relicensing process in 2017, but withdrew its application early in 2019, stating that this operation has been a consistent money-loser for years and its fiscal prospects could only get worse given declining energy markets. Current law requiring relicensing to include provisions for fish passage costing nearly \$100 million dollars made the financial picture even less tenable. PG&E’s current license will expire on April 14, 2022, presenting significant risks, liabilities, and uncertainty to local communities and the environment.

In response, Congressman Jared Huffman called together a diverse group of environmental organizations, water agencies, local governments and tribes and formed an “Ad Hoc Committee” to explore options for the future operation of the project.

From the Ad Hoc Committee, a working group composed of California Trout, Humboldt County,

the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, the Sonoma County Water Agency and the Round Valley Indian Tribes developed a plan they called the Two-Basin Solution Partnership. This proposal would re-open the main stem of the Eel River to spawning runs of salmon and steelhead by removing Scott Dam, while maintaining electric generation and water deliveries to Mendocino and Sonoma counties. Lake Pillsbury would disappear.

In 2019 the Two-Basin Solution Partnership filed a Notice of Intent to apply for relicensing and ownership of the project, followed in the spring of 2020 by a feasibility study and project plan that includes removal of Scott Dam, and a commitment to provide water to Potter Valley and the Russian River. Water exports would take place during high winter flows rather than in the summer as they do presently and would be stored in Lake Mendocino. Project objectives include improved conditions for native fish, maintenance of reliable water supply, respect for tribal rights, and minimization of impacts to Lake County, which is the location of Scott Dam, Lake Pillsbury, and many miles of prime spawning habitat on the upper reaches of the Eel River.

Many questions remain, starting with impacts on local recreational users and cabin owners. What would replace the lake’s function as a fire-fighting resource? What would be the effects on surrounding wildlife such as the resident herd of Tule Elk? Are mitigations to Lake County sufficient and reasonable? Can alternative recreational uses such as fishing and mountain biking be developed? Are downstream

flows sufficient to support spawning migrations this far upstream? Will disposal of mercury-laden sediments in the reservoir be a problem? All these and many more questions will be addressed in detailed studies required to support a final relicensing application. Besides addressing complex environmental issues, these studies would include an economic analysis designed to narrow down cost estimates, which vary wildly from little more than \$100 million to more than \$500 million.

Beneficiaries of the Two-Basin Solution obviously include the fish: according to esteemed ichthyologist Peter Moyle more than 99 percent of available spawning habitat upstream of Soda Creek in the upper mainstem Eel River is blocked by Scott Dam, including Gravelly Valley, “some of the best historical spawning habitat in the drainage.” Beneficiaries also include the water users. Without relicensing, FERC would have to initiate a “decommissioning” process that probably would result in the removal of both Scott and Cape Horn dams, restoration of historic flows to the Eel, and cessation of water exports to the Russian River watershed.

Seeing themselves on the losing end in either scenario are the Lake Pillsbury cabin owners and lessees, who would lose the reservoir-oriented recreation that presumably drew them to the area in the first place. Dam removal would likely entail a number of years of disruptive construction and restoration work in the reservoir footprint and the probable (though perhaps temporary) diminution of their property values. In response, they have formed a “Lake Pillsbury Alliance” which advocates for retention of the reservoir and development of alternative ways to provide fish passage.

Apparently at the request of the Alliance, Congressman John Garamendi, whose district includes northern Lake County, has submitted formal comments to FERC announcing his

categorical opposition to the removal of Scott Dam and demanding that Lake County be given a “full and equal seat at the table” by inclusion in the Two Basin Working Group, not just the Ad Hoc Committee which has had representation from the Lake County Board of Supervisors all along.

Although Congressman Garamendi is to be commended for defending the interests of Lake Pillsbury property owners even though very few are Lake County residents or his constituents, it is most unlikely that anything – including his involvement – will ultimately lead to the retention of the reservoir given the high costs of maintaining the Project in its current form. Since the deadline for any relicensing application has passed, the only options FERC has are relicensing to the Two-Basin Solution Partnership or decommissioning the facility altogether. FERC can’t compel the Partnership to pivot to a dam-retention-plus-fish-ladders outcome, or consider that outcome at all without a willing and well-funded entity to assume responsibility for massive construction costs and liabilities including ongoing dam maintenance. Since no such willing entity exists, for the Congressman to use his influence to help the county negotiate meaningful mitigations would probably be a more fruitful approach than categorical opposition.

In the meantime, the clock is ticking for the salmon and steelhead. Every year that a solution is postponed increases the likelihood of extinction.

That said, despite everything I remain cautiously optimistic that benefits to the watershed and its endangered fish species can be realized, benefits similar to those already seen on the Elwa River in Washington state and anticipated on the Klamath in far northern California. ★

Cat Burned in Wildfire Discharged



Ned at the UC Davis veterinary hospital, resting after a bandage change.

Rob Warren

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING OFFICER - UC DAVIS VETERINARY HOSPITAL

The UC Davis veterinary hospital has treated hundreds of animals over the years that were burned in wildfires. Every year, there is at least one that everyone at the hospital remembers. This year, one of the most memorable was Ned, a semi-feral cat who was rescued from the property he calls home a few days after the LNU Lightning Complex Fire swept through and destroyed everything. This week, Ned was finally discharged after being hospitalized for three months.

Ned was one of 15 cats and several livestock on the property owned by Linda Kearney. Before evacuating, Kearney was able to gather 11 of the cats and leave before the fire came. Ned was one of two others she found a few days later. Only one cat perished, and one remains missing, but Kearney continues to search and works with neighbors who have trail cameras in the area in hopes of still finding her.



Ned on day of discharge three months later. Photo UC Davis

Meanwhile, Kearney worked hard to secure housing for the other animals and a home for Ned when he was discharged. Lucky Ones Ranch – which was also destroyed in the LNU Fire but has since moved to a new location in Vacaville – took them in and provided permanent shelter for as long as needed. Plans are for Kearney and her husband to build sheds and other structures for the animals back on their property and to live there in a newly purchased RV. She was thrilled to finally have Ned back with the rest of the animals.

“Ned became such an integral part of our lives over the past few months,” said Dr. Vernau. “We’re thrilled that he has recovered well enough to go home. I’m so proud of everyone on the team for their dedication to Ned.”

It is rare for an animal to be hospitalized for three months and takes a dedicated team to see a severely injured animal through to a successful and happy discharge.

“Being semi-feral, Ned was not always a cooperative patient,” said Dr. Kate Hopper, director of the hospital’s Small Animal Clinic. “His care team did a stellar job powering through that daily adversity to make sure he fully recovered.”

Congratulations to Ned’s entire team! ★



Ned (left) when he first arrived at UC Davis. Photo UC Davis

Ned was immediately brought to UC Davis and was hospitalized for three months, recovering from burns to his feet, face, ears, hind limb, and tail. Throughout that time, Drs. Elizabeth Montgomery and Karen Vernau – and many staff members of their services – volunteered their time to care for Ned. Donations to the school’s Veterinary Catastrophic Need Fund, which supports animals that are injured in natural disasters or other accidents, helped pay for Ned’s care.

“When I first found Ned after the fire, I wasn’t sure where to take him for care,” said Kearney. “So, I called a friend at Lucky Ones Ranch, and without hesitation, she told me to take him to UC Davis. I’m so happy I did because Ned has received the best care I could have imagined for him.”



Ned being discharged from the UC Davis veterinary hospital with (left to right) Dr. Karen Vernau, Linda Kearney, and Dr. Elizabeth Montgomery. Photo UC Davis



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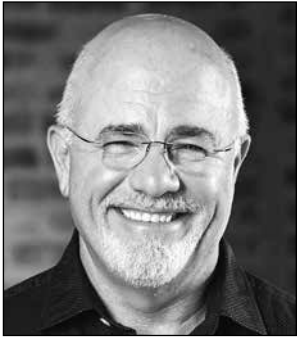
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Dave Ramsey Says Social Security Matters Should I Claim Social Security at 62?

Don't Let Money Fights Steal Your Joy

Dear Dave,

My husband and I usually have a few disagreements around the holidays when it comes to Christmas spending. Do you have any advice for eliminating this kind of thing, and making the financial side of Christmas a little less stressful?

-Kellie

Dear Kellie,

I imagine every couple has a few disagreements over Christmas spending. The trick is in how you handle them, and come to a compromise you each feel is fair, smart, and affordable.

One of the keys is to start talking before you start shopping. Being on the same page - and creating a plan and sticking to it - are great ways to bring peace and togetherness into the picture. Honestly, Christmas spending can be part of your monthly

cash flow plan the whole year. Get the picture? I'm talking about living on a written, monthly budget. You know Christmas is December 25th every, single, year, so why not set aside a little each month leading up to the holidays?

If you haven't planned ahead, now is a great time to become a unified team. Huddle up, not only to talk about Christmas priorities, but devise a game plan moving forward so that this doesn't happen again next year. Together, figure all your regular monthly income and expenses into a budget. If you've saved anything at all for Christmas, include that, as well. We've all got necessities, so take of those first. Then, make a general list of everything you'd like to spend money on for Christmas - I'm talking about the things we often overlook like food, cards, party expenses, and decorations. Now, make a gift list. Write a dollar amount beside each name or expense on your lists, and if the grand total is the same as - or less than - your Christmas budget total, you're ready to roll!

If you can't agree, or the numbers don't work,

run through things again. This doesn't mean to repeat your positions until you get what you want. It means both of you acting like mature, responsible adults, finding some middle ground, and making sacrifices. If you really want to show your commitment, you and your spouse can sign your new budget. Signing your name is a simple, psychological signal that means you're committed to your agreement. Then, post it somewhere you'll both see it regularly.

Give it a try, Kellie. It just might help reinforce your commitment to the budget - and each other - when the shopping frenzy sets in!

- 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'm looking for information about retiring and starting my Social Security very soon at age 62. I'm not sure if I want to do it because I'm not sure if I can. Can you help me figure this out? **Signed: Hesitant**

Dear Hesitant: I know it can be daunting trying to figure out whether and when to claim your Social Security benefits. I'll give you some of the basics:

First, you should know that if you claim your benefits at age 62, your benefit amount will be considerably reduced from what it would be if you waited longer to claim. At 62, your benefit will be about 28% less than it would be at your full retirement age (FRA) which, for you is 66 years and 8 months. Your benefit will continue to grow by a fraction of a percentage point each month you wait, until it reaches 100% at your FRA. You can choose to delay even longer than your FRA, and your benefit will continue to grow up to age 70 when you reach your maximum benefit amount. For you, that maximum at age 70 would be about 28% more than you would get at your FRA and about 75% more than you would get at age 62. There is a considerable financial advantage to waiting to claim.

If you continue working, and you claim at age 62



(or at any age before your FRA), you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn before they take back some of your benefits. Starting at age 62 and continuing until the year you attain FRA, there will be an annual limit to your earnings (the 2021 limit is \$18,960) and, if you exceed that, SS will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. That could mean you will go some number of months without receiving benefits until Social Security recovers what you owe because you exceeded the earnings limit. Of course, if you fully retire from work now that is not a concern, but it may influence a future decision to return to work. Social Security's earnings limit no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

Your marital status also comes into play. If you are married, and your benefit as a spouse will be more than your own benefit (from your lifetime work record), then there are some special considerations which might affect your claiming decision. Generally, if your spousal benefit will be more than your own benefit (from your lifetime work record), and your husband isn't yet collecting benefits, it's often wise to claim your own earlier and take the larger spouse benefit later. Of course, if you're not married you need only be concerned about your personal benefit from your own lifetime earnings record and

waiting for a larger life-long benefit, if possible, is often the most prudent choice.

Those are the basic things you should consider when trying to decide when to claim your benefits. But your need for the money now, plus your health and life expectancy are also key to your decision. If you need the money earlier to make ends meet, and you won't be severely affected by the earnings limit, then claiming early can be your most prudent choice. Or, if you are not enjoying good health and have reason to believe that you won't live at least until today's average age for a woman (about 87), then that also suggests claiming early. But, if you are working and don't really need the money, and you are in good health and expect to live to a ripe old age, then waiting longer to claim a higher benefit is usually a better strategy.

The reality is that everyone's personal situation is different and there is no single answer to the question of when to claim Social Security. I hope the above gives you at least a starting point for your decision.

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. ★

Districts, Library to Modernize Reading

By Andi Barnett, Overdrive, Inc.

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) - In this mobile age, technology has become increasingly valuable in supporting new generations of lifelong learners and readers. Now, Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District (FSUSD), Travis Unified School District (TUSD) and Solano County Library have formed an innovative new partnership to increase access to more ebooks and e-audiobooks for students. This unique collaboration strives to promote literacy and digital learning by combining the schools' and the library's digital reading resources in one app. As a result, students can learn anytime, anywhere because of the convenience, ease of reading on-the-go and the inherent popularity of technology.

"We are grateful for our ongoing partnership with Solano County Library," said Jenn Roush, Assistant Director of Curriculum and Instruction for Fairfield Suisun Unified School District. "We share the common goals of promoting literacy; creating a community of readers; empowering individuals with free access to information; and preparing every child to lead a rich and productive life. Our students will continue to benefit from this access."

The school-library partnership provides safe access to thousands of age-appropriate titles for students' use inside the classroom, at home and anywhere 24/7. Through Sora, the new student reading app for FSUSD and TUSD, students can borrow their school's collection of classroom and pleasure reading. By partnering with Solano County Library, students can now use their school credentials to access and borrow content filtered for their grade level from the library. Sora supports teachers by offering education-specific tools like achievements, exportable notes, and reading progress

that encourage individualized learning.

"We are excited to share Sora with our students and families," said Aimee M. Korynta, District Library Lead at Travis Unified School District. "This is an excellent opportunity to provide new and enriching reading experiences for students across Travis Unified School District. 24/7 access to books improves educational outcomes and creates lifelong readers."

Bonnie Katz, Director of Library Services at Solano County Library, added, "Supporting the students in our community is of great importance to Solano County Library. Partnering with these two school districts to expand access to ebooks and audio ebooks is one way for us to do so. And we look forward to expanding our partnerships to include the other school districts in the County."

The Sora app was named one of TIME's Best Inventions 2019 and is available for FSUSD and Travis USD students to download through the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, and on Chromebooks that support the Google Play Store. It is also available for use in web browsers at <https://soraapp.com> on any computer.

The entire Solano County community can also borrow and read Solano County Library's complete ebook and e-audiobook collection with a valid library card through the award-winning Libby app. The library's tailored collection offers ebooks and e-audiobooks including bestsellers and new releases. Readers of all ages can select from virtually every subject ranging from mystery, romance, children's, business and more. Libby can be used on any major device or computer, including Apple (R), Android™, Chromebook™ and Kindle(R) (US only).

To learn more, visit <https://meet.soraapp.com/> and <https://meet.libbyapp.com/>. ★

CHP Focused on Eliminating Distracted Driving

By Fran Clader, CHP

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Distracted driving can be a life-changing choice resulting in crashes and the deaths of thousands of people every year in the United States. Driven to make a difference, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) has implemented a yearlong *Adult Distracted Drivers* grant designed to keep California roads safe through education and enforcement.

CHP officers throughout the state will host in-person presentations and use Web-based or virtual platforms to conduct distracted driving traffic safety presentations. In addition, the CHP will conduct several distracted driving enforcement

operations through September 30, 2021.

"Distracted driving continues to be a serious issue on our roadway, and it is entirely avoidable," CHP Commissioner Warren Stanley said. "With the support of this grant, we can implement lifesaving efforts throughout California that will raise awareness and hopefully change dangerous behavior behind the wheel."

Multitasking behind the wheel places extra demands on the driver, which can have tragic consequences.

On average, there are more than 20,000 drivers in California involved in a crash every year where inattention is a factor. "These statistics are likely much higher and are often under-reported to law enforcement

since motorists do not always admit to driving distracted," Commissioner Stanley added.

While there are many forms of inattention, cell phones continue to be the main source of diversion. Using a handheld cell phone while driving is not only a violation of the vehicle code, it is also an unsafe activity behind the wheel. Drivers should only use a phone when necessary and in a hands-free mode.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security. ★



Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

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Who will have Priority for COVID Vaccine?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

There's nothing new about political jousting over shares of a limited but valuable resource.

For instance, Californians have been squabbling for decades over divvying up water supplies among agricultural interests, municipal consumers and the natural environment. The conflict never goes away but increases in intensity every time the state experiences one of its periodic droughts – and this so-far dry autumn may be a harbinger of another such dry spell.

The annual business of writing a new state budget is always an exercise in political rationing. Even in times of prosperity, when the state treasury is awash in tax money, there's never quite enough to satisfy all of the demands and expressions of urgent need. More for schools, more for health care, more for colleges, more for childcare or more for prisons?

Those who hire the most and best lobbyists, shower legislators with campaign contributions and wage lavish media campaigns tend over time to fare the best when Capitol politicians decide who gets how much cash.

The allocations of water

and money obvious have serious impacts on the contending parties, but usually they are not all-or-nothing situations. Even the losers generally wind up with something, even if they see it as not enough.

A new political free-for-all is just beginning and this time it is all-or-nothing, potentially with life-or-death consequences – who gets the very limited initial supply of vaccine against the potentially deadly coronavirus.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said last week that he expects California to receive an initial allocation of 327,000 doses of vaccine in mid-December. His administration wants to prioritize vaccinations of health care workers who are most in danger of being infected with the virus.

Few would argue with that intent, but the initial vaccine supply doesn't come close to covering everyone who falls into that general category. California has more than two million health care workers, and even within that group, there's a certain level of competition.

Organizations representing local-term care facilities, otherwise known as nursing homes, are pressing for first-tier priority, contending that their elderly clients are being disproportionately infected, often with fatal consequences.

However, another argument is being made for nurses, doctors and others who are directly caring for COVID-19 victims in hospitals.

Expanding vaccinations beyond health care workers will be even more

daunting because no one knows when and how many additional doses of vaccine will be coming, other than sometime next year. After the implicit demand from health care workers is met, who's next?

Two state legislators are pressing for teachers to be placed near the top of the prioritization list, citing the sharp decline in educational achievement while students are confined at home and the urgent need for resuming classroom instruction.

Assemblymembers Jordan Cunningham, a San Luis Obispo Republican, and Patrick O'Donnell, a Long Beach Democrat, said in a letter to state health officials, "Interim reports from across the state show increasing rates of failure among students, especially those in lower-income neighborhoods. ... Our state's children cannot afford to wait."

A recent national study estimated that lower levels of education among students forced to attend classes via the Internet could result in shorter life spans. Several recent articles, including one in CalMatters.org, have detailed how absenteeism has increased and learning has decreased, especially among poor students.

This is heavy-duty stuff. Deciding who gets – and who doesn't get – the vaccine in the earliest stages of the vaccination effort could be deciding who lives and who dies.

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



Nurseries Report Strong Sales of Holiday Plants

Poinsettias and other holiday greenery have been selling well at California nurseries. One Sacramento-area nursery chain says its poinsettia sales have doubled from a year ago. Marketers say people appear to be decorating their homes early during the pandemic, but add that poinsettia sales to churches could decline due to restrictions on indoor services. Nurseries say pre-cut Christmas trees have also been selling briskly.

Wineries Adjust Marketing Strategies During Pandemic

Virtual events and e-commerce have become more important to wineries during the pandemic, and agricultural business experts say wineries have been working to transition their marketing plans. One analyst says smaller wineries have been especially hurt, but even larger operations have struggled to maintain profits. Another expert says wineries have made much greater use of social media offerings such as live online events, chat tools and instant messaging.

Wheat Farmers Look to Fill Demand For Local Grain

Growing demand for local wheat, whole grains and heirloom varieties has encouraged some California farmers to try to serve those specialty markets. The California Wheat Commission has been attempting to develop the state's local grain markets, and created an online database to connect farmers with small millers, bakers and other end users. Although California has large wheat milling capacity, relatively little of it is dedicated to specialty milling.

Advisors Say Heating Soil with Steam Kills Weeds

Steam treatments of soil appear successful in reducing weeds in vegetable fields, and University of California farm advisors say they're studying ways to make the process more practical. Heating soil to about 150 degrees with steam can kill weed seeds before they germinate, but can be too expensive and time-consuming. By treating a narrow band of soil in the field, farm advisors say the process becomes more affordable. ★

Business Community Demands New Strategies to Deal with COVID Surges

By Brooke Armour,
California Business Roundtable

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -As the state today announced more counties are moving back in its colored tier structure and as Los Angeles County public health officials announced that all restaurants must stop in-person dining, a coalition of state and regional business organizations today issued the following statement:

"Surges like the one we are in right now will continue for the foreseeable future, even as hope of a vaccine is on the horizon. The restrictions imposed by the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, while well-intentioned, are not sustainable for the duration of this pandemic. It is time to meet with industry leaders, review the data and new knowledge gained since March and create a more strategic and surgical approach to stop the spread of

the virus without destroying jobs, the economy and the California Dream for millions of families. California can choose to advance both good health and a strong economy.

"Our government leaders should pay attention to actions taken by the National Retail Federation and California Restaurant Association, which are demanding critically important contact tracing data that will help lead a science-based discussion on ways to keep our economy open and providing jobs and paychecks for millions of working men and women, especially during the upcoming holiday season."

The coalition includes the California Business Roundtable, California Retailers Association, California Business Properties Association, Los Angeles Business Federation (BizFed) and the Orange County Business Council. ★

California State Parks Experience Goes Virtual for K-12 Students

California State Parks Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The school field trip to California State Parks is being reimagined thanks to a new partnership between California State Parks, Parks California, and Computer-Using Educators (CUE). California is home to some of the country's most unique and precious cultural, natural, and historic resources, and a new passPORTS online adventure will help make it possible for students from across the state to experience them.

The new pilot program, passPORTS, will use a blended access approach that combines quality teaching practices with the latest technology to reduce barriers to park access. Using videoconference technology and web resources, the Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) program introduces K-12 students to live State Park Interpreters, allowing them to connect their classroom studies within the context of California's state park system. "We are excited to embark on a new partnership with Parks California and CUE to provide deep and meaningful digital learning experiences for K12 students and invite them for an in-person class visit to our parks, recreation areas, natural reserves, and culturally important places when the time is right for schools," Brad Krey, PORTS Program Manager said. Geoff Kish, Vice President of Programs at Parks California said, "passPORTS is an exceptional opportunity for kids to connect with and learn about California's State Parks from the comfort of their home. Programs like this play an important role in making state parks accessible for all people, regardless of where they live."

This enhanced initiative builds on 15 years of successful PORTS programs with a new combination of digital instructional materials for use in the classroom, as well as in-park use, and provides funding to school districts to cover bus and transportation costs, giving students their passPORTS to the Parks. "We believe parks provide deep and meaningful interdisciplinary learning experiences for students regardless of physical, social, cultural, economic circumstance, or ability," said Scott Shepherd, Parks Access Coordinator, California State Parks. "Our work will not only increase equitable access to parks for

all California citizens, but in turn mobilize a new generation to play, learn, serve, and share in California State Parks."

The goal of the passPORTS program is to provide more students with access to California State Parks through a blended access approach, using both online learning adventures now and in-person field trips once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. "The Parks offer interdisciplinary learning opportunities which afford schools a wide variety of curriculum engagement. California State Parks encourages students to learn more about nature, science, and history," said Scott Shepherd. "These experiences not only support learning but also build respect for the natural environment and our diverse history and helps students to develop their understanding of California's unique resources."

Shepherd says, "Naturally, we want students, as well as their teachers and parents, to discover that our parks are learning laboratories, as well as places for environmental awareness, advocacy, and stewardship. But, we also want them to discover that these are places to enjoy the wonder of our state. Through collaboration with California State Parks and the K12 community, we aim to develop both sustainable and equitable access for the next generation of park visitors and champions."

For more information about passPORTS please visit our website at www.ports-ca.us.

The partner organizations involved are CUE, California State Parks, and Parks California.

The Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) Program is a long-standing and award-winning K-12 distance learning program that has provided over 650,000 students with real-time digital access to California State Parks content experts. Please visit ports-ca.us to learn more.

As statutory partner to California State Parks, Parks California has a simple mission – to help strengthen parks and inspire all to experience these extraordinary places. From redwood groves and desert springs to urban parks and lighthouses, the organization works with partners to steward these natural wonders and make California's parks more welcoming, accessible, and relevant to all visitors. For more information, please visit parksca.org. ★

CLG NEWS UPDATES


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

Agents Raid Home in Maricopa County in Voter-Data Theft Investigation –Confiscate 8 Hard Drives, 3 Computers and a Bag of USB sticks | 06 Dec 2020 | On the morning of November 5, Arizona federal officials raided a home in the Fountain Hills area in Maricopa County. The agents confiscated eight hard drives, three computers, and a bag of USB sticks. The house belongs to 56-year-old Elliot Kerwin. The agents were looking for evidence of a cyberattack on an unnamed organization and stolen voter data.

Michigan GOP: Secretary of State Trying to Delete Election Data Amid Audit Calls | 04 Dec 2020 | The Michigan GOP on Friday raised concerns about a memo sent by Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson that "is pushing for the mass deletion of election data," although a spokesperson for the secretary's office later said the process is routine. The GOP said Benson's office told clerks in Michigan counties to "delete Electronic Poll Book software and associated files" amid calls to audit the election while flagging it was concerning. They were likely referring to a Dec. 1 memo from the Michigan Bureau of Elections, which is overseen by Benson's office, that states "[Electronic Poll Book] software and associated files must be deleted from all devices by the seventh calendar day following the final canvass and certification of the election (November 30, 2020) unless a petition for recount has been filed and the recount has not been completed, a post-election audit is planned but has not yet been completed, or the deletion of the data has been stayed by an order of the court or the Secretary of State."

Arizona Legislature Calls for Immediate 'Forensic Audit' of Dominion Voting Machines | 04 Dec 2020 | The Arizona House and Senate have called for an audit of the Maricopa County election software and equipment following allegations of fraud and other irregularities presented by President Donald Trump's team earlier this week. In a news release Friday, GOP leaders of the Republican-controlled legislature sought an independent audit of Dominion Voting Systems software – used in Maricopa County –called for the audit. State Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita, a Republican said that Maricopa County's Board of Supervisors "is supportive of conducting an independent audit of their voting software and equipment," adding: "It is important we maintain all of the voting public's confidence in our elections, and this is a positive step." House Majority Leader Warren Petersen, a Republican, said that "a significant number of voters believe that fraud occurred," citing "the number of irregularities" that allegedly occurred in Maricopa County and elsewhere in the state.

Voting Machine USB Drives Had Totals Altered Overnight, Witness in Nevada Election Contest Alleges | 03 Dec 2020 | A witness brought forward by the Trump campaign in its election contest in Nevada alleged that the memory disks used to store vote totals from election machines during the early vote period had the vote tallies unexplainably changed overnight, according to a presentation at an evidentiary hearing in Carson City on Dec. 3. According to Jesse Binnall, who presented the evidence on behalf of the Trump campaign, the witness, whose name is shielded by a protective order, said that the vote tallies were collected from the machine at the end of every voting day and stored on Universal Serial Bus (USB) drives overnight. "What they would do is they would log these disks in and out. Good practice. And the disks had a serial number on them. And numerous times that disk would be logged out with one vote total on it and logged back in the next morning during the early vote period with a different number on it. Sometimes more, sometimes less," Binnall said. "What that means is that literally in the dead of night, votes were appearing, and books are disappearing on these machines." ★



FOR THE LOVE OF BOOKS
By Amy Shane
BOOK REVIEW & SPECIAL EVENTS EDITOR • ✉ amy-shane@att.net • 📱 amy_fortheloveofbook



Riley Reviews

REBOOT OF CRIMEFIGHTING "HARDY BOYS" COMES WITH A NEW TWIST

A TV Review by Tim Riley

"THE HARDY BOYS" ON HULU
This is not intended to be a history lesson, but it has to be noted that "The Hardy Boys" books have been around for almost a century, going back to prolific ghost-writers, under the pseudonym Franklin W. Dixon, churning out teen pulp fiction.

The series of mystery stories about two teenagers who are amateur sleuths solving cases that adults couldn't handle were certainly popular in my youth. Following the adventures of Frank and Joe Hardy in print was always enjoyable.

In today's culture of the Internet, Facebook, Instagram and all forms of social media that don't tax anyone's attention span, I have no idea if the books are still popular with the target audience.

Up until now, the most identifiable fulfillment of "The Hardy Boys" in the television medium was the 1970s series on ABC that starred Parker Stevenson and Shaun Cassidy as the sleuthing teens who were often joined by Pamela Sue Martin as Nancy Drew.

Hulu has rebooted "The Hardy Boys" for a 13-episode run that is now streaming, with the Hardy siblings at a younger age than the stars of the ABC series but no less resourceful in the business of investigation.

Frank Hardy (Rohan Campbell), a 16-year-old athletic star on the high school baseball team, and his brother Joe (Alexander Elliot), a 12-year-old prodigy with an uncanny ability to pick locks like a professional thief, enjoy a wonderful family life until tragedy strikes.

This may be a spoiler to inform you that their mother, Laura Hardy (Janet Porter), who had been an investigative reporter, suffers a fatal automobile accident only minutes into the first episode.

However, the mystery surrounding the demise of the Hardy siblings' mother is the catalyst for the sleuthing adventures of the boys taking it upon themselves to launch their own investigation into her death.

After this family tragedy, Frank and Joe are forced to move from the big city located in a seemingly unspecified New England location to their parents' hometown of Bridgeport for the summer.

Without much explanation to the boys, the patriarch Fenton Hardy (James Tupper), a veteran detective with the Dixon City police department, embarks on a secret overseas mission to search for answers that might be found with one of the last people to have seen his wife.

Meanwhile, the boys stay with their Aunt Trudy (Bea Santos) in the sleepy seaside small town where it seems time is

frozen in the Fifties rather than the actual era of the 1980s, in part because the town kids hang out at an old-fashioned soda fountain joint.

In reality, Bridgeport is not a conventional small town.

The Hardy boys' grandmother, Gloria Estabrook (Linda Thorson), a woman of considerable wealth and power, is an enigma to her own family and a mysterious figure with considerable sway in the community.

For instance, what is Gloria's connection to a fishing boat that is destroyed at sea and on which several crew members are killed by the nefarious Tall Man (Stephen R. Hart) anxious to get his hands on a mystical ancient relic?

What about J.B. Cox (Atticus Mitchell), a shady character who pulls a D.B. Cooper stunt by jumping out of an airplane with a mysterious package and is later found by Joe and his pal Biff (Riley O'Donnell) camping on the beach in a tent made from a parachute?

Intrigue lurks everywhere, even when Frank is encouraged by Gloria to take the entrance test to the elite Rosegrave Preparatory School and later finds out that the Dean (Frank Licari) had a close connection to his mother that he's afraid to talk about on the school grounds.

After completing the Rosegrave exam, Frank partners with his friend Callie Shaw (Keana Lyn) to work together to solve the exam's last puzzle to escape from Gloria's study, only to discover another secret room with a connection to the relic being sought by the scary Tall Man.

Intrigue also comes to the Bridgeport Public School when Frank befriends the new girl in town, Stacy (Rachel Drance), who is deemed by Callie to be suspicious either due to jealousy or a reason more sinister.

Binge-watching "The Hardy Boys" over a series of nights is an option, and the early going may seem a bit sluggish at times, but I am more than half-way through and there are enough mysteries beyond the mother's death to warrant attention.

While "The Hardy Boys" is an American creation, most of the actors in this Hulu Original series are Canadian as the filming occurred north of the border, and yet the setting

is unmistakably as American as apple pie.

Potential viewers may assume that this production of "The Hardy Boys" is targeted to the demographic most likely to read the books. Au contraire, the mysteries and intrigues that abound cast a wider net of interest. ★

Holiday Young - Adult Gift Guide

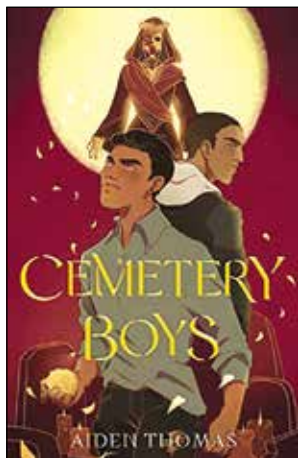
Are you looking for that perfect book for the young adult reader on your list? This year Macmillan publishers have you covered with this year's top favorites.



The Lunar Chronicles by Marissa Meyer Marissa Meyer has been captivating her reading audiences since 2012, where "Even in the future, The Story Begins with Once Upon a time..." The Lunar Chronicle series delivers a sci-fi twist on the reimagined fairytales of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel, and Snow White. Readers were enchanted when Marissa Meyer's first book, Cinder, hit the scene with its description of a futuristic retelling of Cinderella, quickly learning that cyborg Cinderella has way more at stake than losing a glass slipper.

While the retelling of classic fairytales has come to life in futuristic ways, Marissa Meyer captures the essence of their magic, heartache, and adventures with all the key elements of a classic story reimagined and elevated to new heights, new experiences, and even new romances. Now, this beloved series is available with all new covers illustrated with the brilliant artistic stylings of Tomer Hanuka. These stunning covers breathe a whole new desire for fans and collectors of the series with its Japanese/manga style, complete with

exclusive art on the inside flap. This series will encapsulate any fairytale, science fiction, or dystopian lover's heart and is available as individual paperbacks or as complete boxed sets.



Cemetery Boys by Aiden Thomas

is another novel that took the reading world by storm. When Yadiel's Latinx family struggles to accept who Yadiel truly is, he sets out to prove himself as a true brujo. But when he accidentally releases the ghost of the school's "resident bad-boy," instead of his cousin's, he is left scrambling to make things right.

Aiden Thomas invites readers to enter into a world of genuine authenticity, longing, fear, desires, and determination; delivering a story that celebrates Latinx heritage alongside the empowering gift of being true to yourself. Thomas's authentic, raw writing style breathes life into each character, giving them their own right to stand upon and characters worth listening to.



A Peculiar Peril by Jonathan VanderMeer

Fall into the magical tale where worlds collide through a single portal, evil is afoot, magic is power, and vegetables talk in, A Peculiar Peril by Jeff VanderMeer. When Jonathan Lamshead inherits his grandfather's mansion, he never expected it to house a portal to another world called Aurora. Aurora isn't a world of fairytales and dreams; it is an alternate world complete with talking animals and vegetables run by the English occultist Aleister Crowley. As Jonathan quickly discovers that Aleister Crowley has evil plans that threaten both worlds, he finds himself in the middle of a deadly battle where allegiances change and friendship is everything. Now, in order to save both Aurora and Earth from a dark evil magic, he must discover and embrace his destiny and where he fits as a member of the secret society. ★



Biden's Radicalism on Immigration

One of Joe Biden's first priorities as president will be to risk stoking a new migrant crisis.

After much trial and error, President Donald Trump came up with cooperative arrangements with Mexico and Central American countries that drastically diminished the pressure from asylum-seekers on our southern border.

Biden is pledged to overturn these policies, as well as undermine enforcement and boost immigration numbers across the board. The lie about Biden is that he's "a moderate," when the truth is that he's always been smack in the middle of his party, which is increasingly radical on immigration policy.

The new Democratic Party bristles with contempt for borders and the agents who police them, and its attitude will color everything Biden does.

The migrant crisis that had Trump adopt, then quickly abandon, a zero-tolerance policy that separated children from their parents wasn't of his making. President Barack Obama struggled with the same surge at the border,

and many of the photos of children in cages used to condemn Trump date from the Obama years.

Trump only got a handle on the border when he secured deals for help. Mexico agreed to allow migrants seeking asylum in this country to remain in Mexico while their claims were adjudicated. Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, meanwhile, signed safe-third-country agreements, meaning migrants seeking asylum could be sent to those countries to pursue their claims rather than doing so in the U.S.

All of this was necessary to try to close effectively an open-border for migrants from Central America. Once they showed up and claimed asylum here, they were waived into the country and rarely, if ever, removed, even if their asylum claims ultimately failed (as the vast majority did).

Biden has promised a 100-day moratorium on deportations, a measure that will keep us from removing illegal immigrants even when they are released from jails after committing crimes. This is presumably a step toward re-instituting the Obama administration's policy of gutting interior enforcement.

He will restore DACA, the amnesty for illegal immigrants who came here as minors that Obama lawlessly imposed by diktat.

He will propose to Congress a broader amnesty for more than

10 million illegal immigrants. If the Senate balks, as is likely, Biden will be tempted to follow Obama's (and Trump's) example and implement as much as possible through his own authority.

He will boost the number of refugees to more than 100,000 a year, the highest level in 30 years.

Trump's signature failure on immigration was missing the opportunity to pass significant legislation reflecting his priorities through Congress when Republicans controlled both chambers. But, as Steven Camarota of the restrictionist Center for Immigration Studies notes, the net growth of the immigration population still declined markedly.

Despite all of Trump's incendiary rhetoric, the upshot of his approach was entirely reasonable – levels of immigration shouldn't inexorably increase, and immigration policy should be subject to a rigorous test of national interest.

Biden represents a return to the old status-quo assumption that more immigration is, ipso facto, a good thing, at the same time he leads a party that is more zealous on the issue than ever before.

Democrats aren't much interested in immigration controls, and it's entirely possible that, soon enough at the border, it will again be uncontrolled.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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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

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

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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

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CLUES

ACROSS

- *Bambi and others like him
- Nail a criminal
- Use a paring knife
- Cornucopia's shape
- Lawyers' org.
- Interior designer's focus
- *Gibson Girl Ice Cream Parlor's draw
- 1/100 of afghani
- Tapestry
- *Minnie Mouse's full first name
- **"Be Our Guest" performer
- Kukui nut necklace
- #22 Down competitor
- Dojo pad
- Pillow filler
- Detected
- Burden of proof
- Ness' domain
- Vernacular
- Poker amount
- Divvy up
- U.S. freshwater invader
- Relating to nose
- Golfer's warning
- "The Three Musketeers" dueling sword
- Isaac of science fiction fame
- 50.**"The Princess Diaries" leading actress
- Pippen
- Candle burner
- Greek letters on campus
- *Remy's idol Auguste

61. *Pongo's mate

65. Radio sign

66. J. Edgar Hoover's org.

68. Was dishonest with, two words

69. *Iago and Kevin

70. *Scar to Simba, e.g.

71. At the point of death, archaic

72. Command to Fido

73. Seed alternative, to a landscaper

74. Loss color

49. Itinerary word

51. Cap attachment

54. Part of a sleeve, pl.

56. Organ swelling

57. Loads

58. Military group

59. Sarah, alt. sp.

60. Not a slob

61. ___ Piper

62. Object of worship

63. Tear, past tense

64. **"A Bug's Life" characters

67. *Human child in Monstropolis

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					
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44				45		46				47		
48					49			50		51		52
					53			54		55		56
57	58	59	60					61		62	63	64
65								66	67			68
69								70				71
72								73				74

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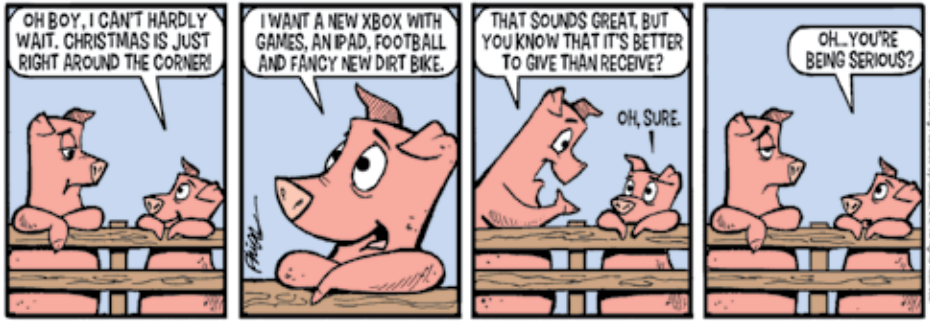
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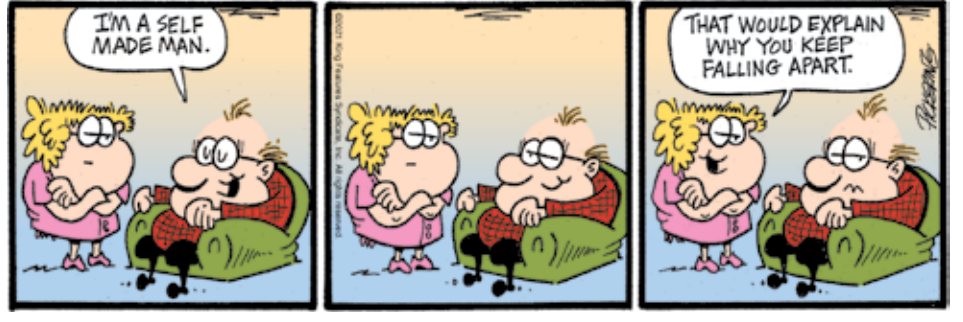
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The Spats



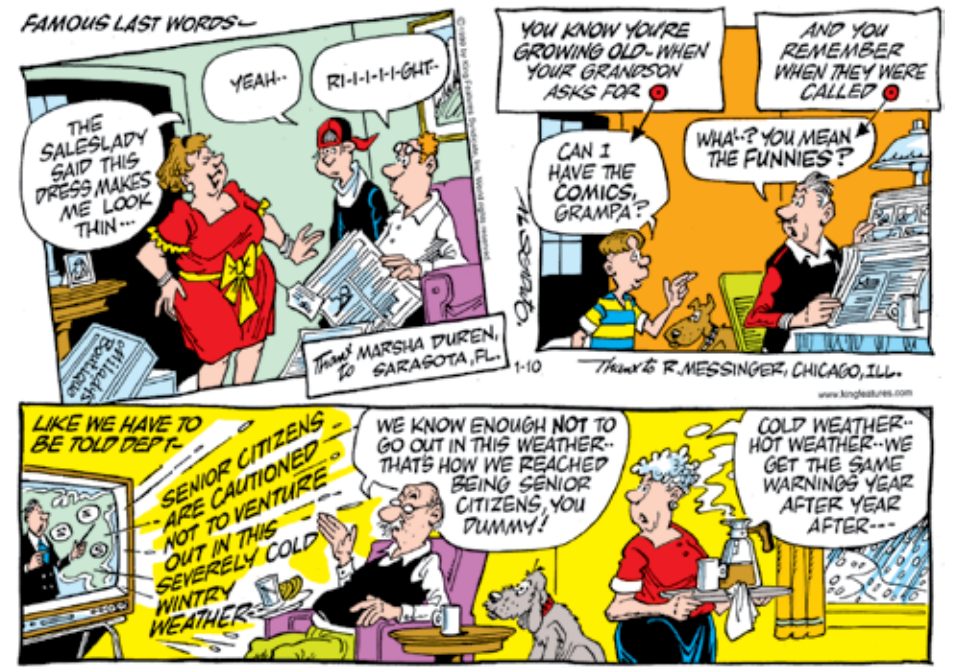
by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

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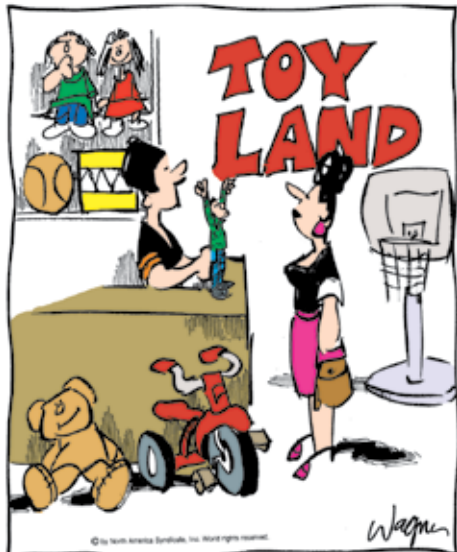
BY AL SCADUTO

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland

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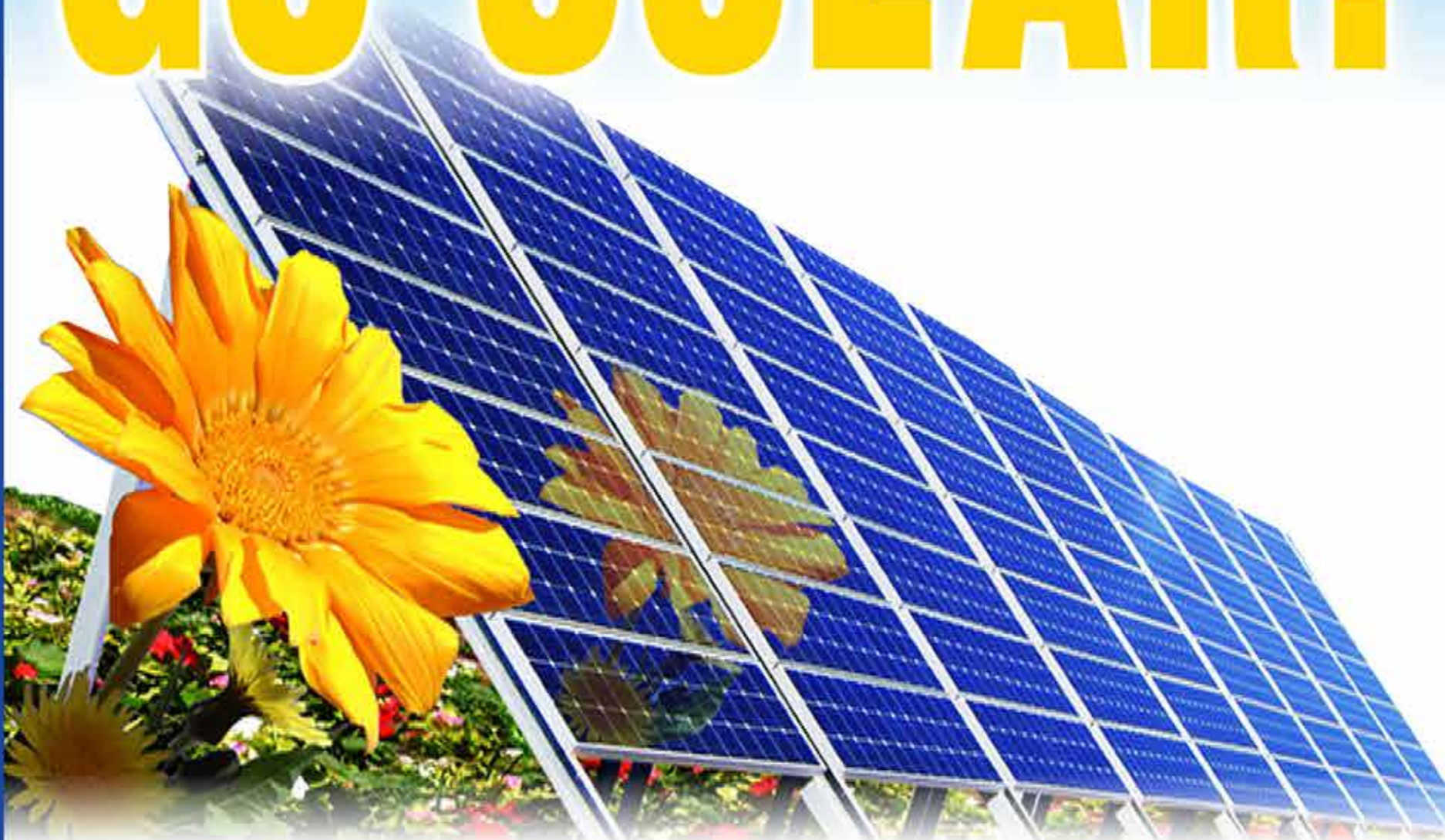
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