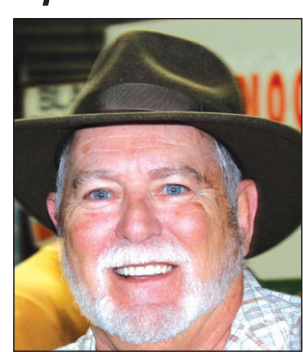


SEE MORE FFA PHOTOS ON BACK



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THAT'S LIFE



PAGE 3

CA DTFA REPORTS CANNABIS TAX REVENUES FOR FOURTH QUARTER OF LAST YEAR



PAGE 3



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Growing Our Future

By Loran Hoffmann

DIXON, CA (DIV) - National FFA Week is celebrated in all 50 states along with Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands from February 17 to 24, 2019. The mission of FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Nearly 700,000 student members are part of 8,568 FFA chapters across the nation.

FFA is one leg of the stool that supports the agricultural education programs in high schools across the nation. Initiated over a century ago the program is classroom based, with supervised agricultural experiences, and FFA activities that develop essential skills in leadership, communication, teamwork, and personal development. The program offers real lessons for real life.

The academic program is structured to meet graduation and college admission requirements, while including direct experience with the learning environment and content. The knowledge retention of students using traditional learning methods is only about five percent, whereas the retention rate from experiential learning can be as much as 90 percent. For more information about



Students from the Dixon Floriculture classes participated in a cross generational learning opportunity with the Dixon Women's Improvement Club in the fall. Students taught members how to create a cornucopia floral arrangement for fall. Photos provided by Dixon FFA

the National FFA Program visit FFA.org.

Dixon FFA Alumni Association Keep Hands On

FFA members may outgrow their blue and gold jackets, but they never outgrow the skills they learned in FFA and the memories and friendships formed during their years in the organization. Several years ago, an FFA Alumni Association was started at Dixon High School for the purpose of raising money for travel expenses to out-of-town meetings and conferences so that all students that want to participate, can afford to do so.

The association meets

regularly and has successfully raised funds through the sale of hot dogs and soft drinks at community events, marking and managing the parking lot at the Lambtown Festival, and offering Cow Patty Bingo.

A Fall dinner dance is being discussed as an upcoming event. New members are welcome! Contact Sarah Hoffmann for more information at (707) 693-0277.

Tractor Supply Hosting National FFA Fundraiser

Coinciding with National FFA Week Tractor Supply Customers can donate \$1 or more at checkout from Feb 13-24 while shopping in the

store or online at www.tractorsupply.com. Donations will fund the national Grants for Growing program, supporting hundreds of unique and sustainable agricultural projects nationwide.

Since the program's start in 2016, Grants for Growing has raised more than \$2.2 million for the National FFA Organization and has funded 994 grants supporting agricultural projects.

Grants ranging from \$500 to \$5000 will be funded in the spring based on the amount of funds raised. Donations will fund grants in the same state they were donated. For more details, visit <http://www.FFA.org/grantsforgrowing>. ★

How a Tutor Changed a Life

By Pam Griffey, Dixon ALP

DIXON, CA (DIV) - The Dixon Adult Literacy Program focuses on increasing Literacy in the Dixon Community. Of the many communities in Solano County, Dixon has one of the highest rates of illiteracy. There are many reasons for this. Even some with a high school diploma, may be barely literate, as this true story illustrates.

There are two primary types of students in most literacy programs: Native English Language learners and English as a Second Language learners. The following true story is about a Native English Language Learner that graduated from a nearby community high school, (not Dixon). This young man was quiet, polite and very cooperative in the classroom during his school years. Although he had graduated from high school, he was only able to read at about a third-grade level. Because he was quiet, he had been passed along throughout the years, without being noticed as nearly illiterate!

Fortunately, for this young man, a caring uncle had offered him a job. A lucky break in more ways than one. As he worked alongside his uncle, it became apparent that he was unable to read, write and do sums. Thankfully, the family found a nearby literacy program organized by the public library, that could help him. Without charge, he was able to have three years of one to one tutoring, which brought up his English abilities so that he was able to continue to work with his uncle.

A few years later, this same uncle attended one of the orientation meetings for the newly established Dixon Adult Literacy Program and shared this story. This uncle wanted to repay the kindness shown his nephew and become a tutor in our program! I can tell you that the room was completely silent as he shared his story.

You too, can "pay it forward" by volunteering to share your English skills and become a tutor to someone less fortunate than you. Each student has his or her personal story and no two are alike. If you have the compassion to help another Dixon citizen, join us for the orientation meeting of your choice. Either, Wednesday, February 27th from 6-8pm, OR Saturday, March 2nd from 10:00 am to 12:00pm. Both orientations will be held at the Annex, 200 North First st. on the corner of "B" street, next door to the Friendly Bookworm Bookstore.

For more information check our Facebook site: Dixon Adult Literacy Program, the website of the Dixon Public Library, or contact our coordinator at: DixonALP@gmail.com. ★

Help Improve Wildlife Habitat in the Putah-Cache Bioregion

By Amy Williams, Putah Creek Council Stewardship Program Manager

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (DIV) - Putah Creek Council is celebrating February, the month of love, by showing love to the wildlife and waterways of the Putah-Cache bioregion. In partnership with the Cache Creek Conservancy, Yolo County Resource Conservation District, UC Davis, and the City of Winters, the Council is hosting special volunteer opportunities this month along Putah Creek and its neighboring creek, Cache Creek. The Putah and Cache Creek watersheds form a single bioregion, or area sharing similar geology, hydrology, flora, and fauna. The forests that grow along these streams support a high diversity of birds, mammals, and insects. Community members are invited to help harvest wild rose crowns at either the UC Davis Riparian Reserve, and/or join us to plant the harvested rose crowns at Putah Creek Nature Park in Winters.

"The Valentine's wild rose harvest/planting are some of our favorite



"Community volunteer Kim Clark helps plug plant hundreds of Santa Barbara sedge plugs at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve."

annual volunteer events. This native plant is easy to collect and replant, where it quickly re-grows to provide cover and food for songbirds and other wildlife," says Brian Keeley, Putah Creek Council Stewardship Assistant. "It's also a fun way to extend the Valentine's Day celebration - bring your sweetheart!"

We will also be traveling to Cache Creek Nature Preserve to help "plug plant" native grasses, sedges, and herbaceous flowering plants to improve wildlife habitat along Cache Creek

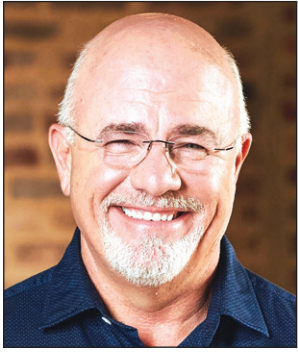
in Woodland. Plugs are tiny seedlings that are easy to plant and grow quickly into full-sized plants. These native plants will replace invasive non-native species like Himalayan blackberry and smilo grass, provide food and shelter for wildlife, help protect stream banks against erosion, and improve water quality.

Remaining volunteer opportunities in February are scheduled for the following days:

- Wild Rose Planting @ Winters Putah Creek Nature Park, Saturday, February 23 from

9:30am - noon
• Putah Creek Nursery Event, Saturday, February 23rd from 9:30am - noon.

Putah Creek Council will provide all the plants, tools, gloves, and other supplies. Please dress appropriately for the weather in clothes that can get dirty and wear closed-toe shoes. These are "rain or shine" events, and we will provide mud boots and ponchos if needed. For more details and to register in advance, please visit www.putah-creekcouncil.org, or call 530-795-3006. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

for the money, too. I don't think you want to subject your mom to the stress and hassle of collector calls or bad marks on her credit, do you?

Believe me, I understand what happened. Your mom loves you, and she wants the best for you. She's willing to do whatever it takes to help her daughter succeed. What I want you both to understand going forward is that the idea you have to borrow money to attend college - or do anything else, really - is a myth. There are many ways to get a great education, and find excellent career opportunities, without borrowing a dime. Scholarships and grants are everywhere these days.

There's absolutely nothing wrong with working before and during college to help cash-flow an education, or you can begin your studies at a community college where the costs are much less.

In addition to four-year schools and community colleges, anyone looking to further their education shouldn't ignore the

possibility of trade or technical schools. At these institutions, you can get valuable training that's highly marketable. Not to mention completing a trade or technical school program usually takes less time and is cheaper than a bachelor's degree.

My goal here isn't to fuss at you or beat you up, Terri. It's just very important you understand what's at stake - now and in the future. My hope is to give you and your mom some good information that will help each of you make smarter, more informed financial decisions down the road!

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 14 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey. ★

INDEPENDENT FORUM

We Can Pay

We CAN pay for the Capital Water Project Improvements with own money without selling bonds and pay Interest.

Dear Editor,

We are a community of neighbors, family and friends. At a recent Dixon Council meeting, January 22, 2019, there were several residents of various age demographics that were able to step up to the podium express their dismay, disgust, adamantly against the water rate increase. We each had our 3-minute period. Many were passionate. As with all the other commenters this water rate increase, as they stated, was very personal to all of us.

I was trying to convey that there is another viable and verifiable income stream to pay for the needed Water system's Capital Project Improvements. It is a win-win for the community.

Questions have been presented at multiple meetings regarding transparency and consent by multiple individuals. The previous 6 months we saw and heard at their water meetings about our impending \$10-17 million expenditures that would be paid for by a Bond or Loan (someone else's money) that encumbers the ratepayers with an additional \$34-50 million because of the interest.

We CAN pay for the Capital Water Project Improvements with just

our own money and not to sell bonds and pay interest.

There probably needs to be a water rate increase that we all can sustain and therefore survive, not the onerous and oppressive scenario that is being enacted. The proposed water rate charge is composed of the meter/hookup charge plus the water usage or consumption charge = Water rate per parcel. The meter rate is constant for each meter size and the consumption charge is variable depending on individual usage. The meter charge IS NOT affected by conservation, the consumption/usage charge is affected by Conservation (revenue goes down). The City's consultant assumes and states that after 1 year there is an expected rebound return to previous consumption level by the ratepayers. What a bogus 'conclusion.' For the City now, this revenue must happen to pay the interest on the bond. When this revenue doesn't occur within a few years' time, the ratepayers will be faced with an additional rate increase JUST TO BE ABLE TO PAY FOR THE INTEREST ON THE BOND.

Or, we, the ratepayers, create a dedicated Capital Infrastructure Fund (CIF) from the monies generated by the increases of the meters' rates. Currently, all customers pay a bi-monthly "Base Service

Charge" by meter size. This base service charge will be able to pay for the Capital improvements as it will be increasing annually for the next four years.

Paying for the Capital Improvements with the continual allocation of dollars from the increasing meter rates alone, we will be able to pay for all the needed Capital Improvements in the likely projected buildout time of approximately 10 years.

I did my own research and calculations, found that we the ratepayers could pay for the Infrastructure Improvements and without paying for a BOND WITH INTEREST by a designated and dedicated Capital Infrastructure Fund.

The ratepayers have questions, and questioning the data or analysis, and questioning the enacted rate structure. Then saying, "NO NO NO", and their expressed likely solution for their individual family's health, stability, sustainability is leaving Dixon, essentially forced out of town.

I will repeat what I said at the meeting "If the tally of protest votes is insufficient to override tonight" the Council members will take the defense, or offense, that simply because the parcels that did not vote in "Protest" must be in agreement with the Council.

*Michael A. Jones
Dixon, CA* ★

DWIC Announces Grant Opportunity

By Arlene Jones

DIXON, CA (DIV) - The Dixon Women's Improvement Club is delighted to offer Dixon schools, clubs and non-profit organizations the opportunity to apply for grant funds up to \$1,000.

Qualified applicants

will need to complete the DWIC 2019 grant application form and submit a letter explaining how the grant money would be used and how many students/people would benefit from the grant.

The completed grant application and letter must be sent to: Dixon Women's

Improvement Club, Grant Applications Committee, P.O. Box 25, Dixon, CA. 95620 and must be post-marked by Tuesday March 5th, 2019.

To obtain a copy of the DWIC 2019 Grant Application Form, please contact Sally Adams at 707-678-3336. ★



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That's Life[®]

By Ted Hickman

Feel Free to Email: Tedhick@gmail.com
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For the 769 Past consecutive columns
"That's Life" Columns go to
www.tedhickman.com

Chance of getting water rate increase to the ballot? Zero.

Remember the results of petitioning city hall? Many are now saying: "Let the people vote on the water rate increases (plural). Elected officials say: "We can't let the people vote on every little thing that comes up that's why they elected us. I said, "Yep, If we did then we'd have we'd have what? (A Democracy?) Perish the thought of the people actually having a say on how their tax dollars are spent on actions by their "elected officials". I'll refresh your memory; the results of the petitions, protests and march on City Hall were zero. The end results of the current "protests" will be the same, and I can't fault your five chosen leaders all that much.

Are they gonna let you vote on the huge water rate increases or the \$3,000,000 (that's 3 million) parking lot downtown? No!

The majority of voters got duped into the "no new taxes" bull by a small number of people in the last election and turned down a measure which would have saved all Dixon homeowner/taxpayers a fortune.

Let me refresh your memory. About five cities had local tax initiatives on the 2018 ballot to raise money from sales tax and reduce the money local homeowner will have to pay to run local government and make infrastructure repairs. In Dixon the matter was a simple one-quarter cent tax to offset the 10 to

15 million plus that will be needed for road and infrastructure repairs in the near future. Dixon is the only city in Solano County that doesn't have a local sales tax. Does that tell you something?

So you are looking at Big water rate increases over the next few years of which the majority of the council will not suffer, neither will the city manager, city attorney nor public works director. As a bonus you will also pay \$3,000,000 (that's right \$3 Million) for a new Park-ing lot in the middle of downtown just a block south of a beautiful, shaded, nice little park. But the "new park" will eliminate some of those nasty parking spots downtown businesses need so badly. It will also maybe have a "clock, tower," and a gazebo" so we can "compete with Vacaville and Winters." I'm not kidding you, that's what a brainy councilman fed people to get support for this white elephant. He'd probably like to have it called the Pederson Memorial for a lasting memento for the voters. I told the city manager, "You can put lip stick on a pig but it's still a pig." He replied. "Yeah, but it will be a nice looking pig!"

So will your protests, hollering, petitions, showing up at city council meetings, letters to the editor, complaints to your city councilmen make any difference to the millions of dollars that are going to

cost the water rate payers and taxpayer? The answer is "no"! The voters of Dixon haven't done the necessary homework to understand a complicated ballot measure. Were you swayed by the "no new taxes" folks and their attempts so save us all from ourselves? And who ends up paying for past sins? We all do now, and there's nothing you can do about it.

So, start conserving water, get rid of your lawns, shower together, drink bottled water and plan to walk a block or two if you want to eat downtown.

I told you the truth while I served on the council when I was elected by ALL of the citizens of this community and I will continue to tell you the truth as one of the community's few "Independent Voices". FYI: I would probably vote with the council on not allowing a vote on the water rates. We (and I) spent four years trying to figure a way out of the catastrophic mess caused by a former city council and dumped on the current one; the actual options are few. The problem is 10 to 20 million dollars for repairs and upgrades and the longer the city waits the more it will cost, and guess who pays? There are only really two options; both of which will cost the water users of the district (not Cal Water users) a lot of money in the future. ★



The world famous "Glory Hole" at Lake Berryessa is about 5 feet from over flowing. Its worth a ride to the lake to see but watch for landslides, a couple of bad ones lately closed the road for a while. Photo by Trey Hickman

FBI Teen Academy Provides High School Juniors Unique Opportunity

FBI Sacramento Office of Public Affairs

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Are you a high school junior who wonders if TV shows featuring the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) are realistic, what the FBI really does day-to-day, and what it really takes to work for the FBI? If you are a teen currently attending school within the area the FBI's Sacramento field office serves, you can apply to attend the Spring 2019 FBI Teen Academy to find out. The application is available for download online on the FBI Sacramento Field Office's Community Outreach page.

The FBI Sacramento Field Office will host its Spring 2019 FBI Teen Academy at its headquarters in Roseville on Friday, April 12, 2019. All high school juniors—whether enrolled in public, private,

charter, or home school—may apply by downloading the application located on the FBI Sacramento Field Office's Community Outreach web page. When complete, the application package includes three mandatory elements: application, essay, and release forms. All applications must arrive at the FBI Sacramento Field Office by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 11, 2019. Email and electronic submissions are not accepted.

Students chosen for the class spend an informative, interactive day at FBI Sacramento Field office headquarters in Roseville. The class learns about the FBI's investigative priorities, participates in unique, interactive experiences, and engages directly with FBI personnel. After completing the class, students are familiar with the FBI's mission and what personal and academic choices

one may make to be eligible to become a member of the FBI workforce. Students are also more aware of the threats their communities face, they fully understand the challenges of the online environment, and they are better prepared to mentor their peers.

The FBI Sacramento Field Office serves 34 California Counties: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Trinity, Yolo, and Yuba.

The FBI Teen Academy is a no-cost experience for students; however, families may incur personal expenses for any travel necessary to attend the class. ★

CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

**Winters Friends of the Library
Fruit Tree Sale
Saturday, March 2
9:00 a.m. or until all trees are sold**

Winters Friends of the Library is having its annual fruit tree sale at the parking lot on Railroad Avenue at Edwards Street. All trees will be \$10.00. Some of the trees that will be available are almond, nectarine, prune, three varieties of cherry, four varieties of peach, and two varieties of pear.

The group will have help from local farmers, pruning purchased trees. Local Master Gardeners will also provide advice and encouragement.

**Winters Museum
13 Russell St • Winters**

Winters again is one maybe two steps ahead of Dixon. The Winters Historical Society has opened a delightful museum downtown, one block south of the Buckhorn Restaurant. I encourage everyone to stop by and see what they have done with the space. They also have a variety of books by local authors on the history of Winters and its culture. Call before going to make sure it will be open at the time you will be there.

**CALIFORNIA DUCK DAYS
Saturday, February 23, 9 am - 4 pm
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
45211 County Road 32B Davis**

Spend a day outdoors and in nature at this family-oriented community-based festival featuring fun for people of all ages. Field trips led by the region's most experienced birders and naturalists are offered to all. Choose from a selection of on-site activities for families including interactive exhibits, wetland-themed arts and crafts, trout fishing and more! Admission is FREE.

**CAPAY VALLEY ALMOND
FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, February 24th
8:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Celebrate the blossoming almonds at the beautiful and unique Capay Valley Almond Festival! In its 105th year, the festival features six cities and a 20-plus mile stretch of family-friendly activities, arts and crafts, live music and local artisanal products for your shopping pleasure. Sample wines and olive oils, take a leisure hay ride or check out the vintage cars at the car show, as each town along the valley corridor will have something exciting to explore all day long! Admission is FREE!

**DIXON WOMEN'S
IMPROVEMENT CLUB
Community Grant Program
DUE DATE March 6, 2019 Postmark**

Dixon Women's Improvement Club is offering an opportunity for schools, non-profit organizations, clubs, classrooms and community programs including 4-H, Grange, and FFA to apply for grants up to \$1,000. To apply, complete the application and attach a statement describing your organization and providing the details for the project for which you are requesting funds. Completed grant applications must be post marked by Wednesday, March 6, 2019. If you have any questions or would like an application contact Loran Hoffmann at 707-372-7094.

**Dixon Historical Society
Museum Fundraising Dinner
Monday, March 11, 2019
4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

Tickets are available for the annual Fundraising Dinner at Bud's Pub & Grill from any member of the board, ACE Hardware, Cynde's Place, B's Gallery, Dixon Florist & Gifts, and Country Chic. The tickets are \$25 each and include a dinner entrée of Tri-Tip or Prime Rib, Grilled Salmon, Chicken, or Pasta, along with a garden salad, grilled red potatoes, bread, vegetables and a non-alcoholic beverage of your choice. You only need to remember to tip your servers!

The Dixon Historical Society holds this dinner annually to raise money for a building that can serve as a museum and a location to preserve and protect Dixon's historical artifacts. The museum will offer a location for residents and visitors to find out information about Dixon and a site to showcase various aspects of Dixon and its early heritage.

If you want to enjoy dinner in your own home, you can call Bud's after 4:00 pm on Monday, March 11th and ask for your meal to be "Picked Up" or it can be "Delivered" to a location within Dixon. If you have questions or need tickets, contact Loran Hoffmann at 707-372-7094.

**THE BEATLES
Concert Experience
Saturday, March 2 7:30 pm
Vacaville Performing Arts Center**

A few tickets are still available for this one of a kind concert live musical performance featuring the songs of the Beatles. Music from their humble beginnings playing small nightclubs to becoming the timeless pop icons. Money may not buy you love, but it can grab you a seat for this unforgettable show!! Call 707-469-4013. Web site: VPAT.net. Tickets \$39-\$49. ★

California DTFA Reports Cannabis Tax Revenues for Fourth Quarter of Last Year

**By Casey Wells,
Office of Public Affairs**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) reported revenue numbers on February 19, 2019 for cannabis sales for the 4th quarter of 2018. Tax revenue reported by the cannabis industry totaled \$103.3 million for 4th quarter returns due by January 31, 2019, which includes state cultivation, excise, and sales taxes. It does not include tax revenue collected by each jurisdiction.

As of February 14, 2019, California's cannabis excise tax generated \$50.8 million in revenue reported on 4thquarter returns due by January 31, 2019. The cultivation tax generated \$16.4 million and the sales tax generated \$36.1 million in reported revenue. Retail sales of medicinal cannabis and medicinal cannabis products are exempt from sales and use taxes if the purchaser provides a valid Medical Marijuana

Identification card and valid government-issued identification card.

Previously reported revenue for 3rd quarter returns was revised to \$100.8 million, which included \$53.3 million in excise tax, \$12.6 million in cultivation tax, and \$34.9 million in sales tax.

Revisions to quarterly data are the result of amended and late returns, and other tax return adjustments.

In November 2016, California voters approved Proposition 64, the Control, Regulate, and Tax Adult Use of Marijuana Act. Beginning on January 1, 2018, two new cannabis taxes went into effect: a cultivation tax on all harvested cannabis that enters the commercial market and a 15 percent excise tax upon purchasers of cannabis and cannabis products. In addition, retail sales of cannabis and cannabis products are subject to state and local sales tax.

To learn more, visit the Tax Guide for Cannabis Businesses on the CDTFA website. ★

ANTIQUES & VINTAGE SALE

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For the Love of Books



By Amy Shane

Book Review & Special Events Editor

Email: amy-shane@att.net
Instagram: amy_fortheloveofbook

More Children's Books to Love

Round out the month of February with these top children's books for young children and middle grade readers from Disney, Page Street Kids, and Simon and Schuster Children's publishing.

This Book Is Spineless by Lindsay Leslie and Alive Brereton

The very book you have in your hands is terrified of the adventure that awaits. Could the story beyond its spine be a spooky tale, a mystery, or an ocean adventure? This book needs a brave reader to open the cover and hold it tight, as they guide him through the many adventures that await.

From page-to-page, readers will encourage the book to continue to tell its story that explores all five senses. Adorable, fun and truly unique this captivating story will instantly engage its readers, making them the star of the story and a brave adventurer.

Love, Z by Jessica Sima

When little robot Z finds a message in a bottle, he sets out on a quest to discover what the word love means.

In this endearing story of discovery, readers will follow a little robot in his search for love, only to

realize he has truly known all along.

Baby Love by Angela DiTerlizzi & Brooke Boynton Hughes

From sweet kisses to tiny toes, there are so many things to love about baby. In this adorable board book celebrating baby, readers will be able to snuggle tight and quickly read this short story to their little one. With its strong, study design this also makes this a perfect book for little ones to hold on their own.

The Fairest Kind of Love Crystal Cestari

The matchmaking adventure continues in the final book of the Windy City trilogy. Fairy feuds, sirens, magical creatures, and matchmaking all mash up to be a summer adventure that no one will forget. Will Amber be able to mend her magic and finally discover if Charlie is her one true love? This time around it's up to Amber to fix her powers and finally discover that trusting herself is truly the best kind of magic.

Love, magic, and adventure all collide to make the perfect recipe for a charming series. Fun, refreshing and whimsical, Crystal Cestari blends the perfect magical

formula, with strong positive messages, kitschy references, laughter and a strong sassy lead.

The End Of The World And Beyond, AVI

The historical storytelling world told by, AVI returns and this time he takes readers on a harrowing journey across the Atlantic. Set in 18th century England, Oliver's story continues when he is convicted of being a thief and sent aboard a ship to the Americas. Through his treacherous trek across the seas and his life as a prisoner on land, it's up to Oliver to try and escape the swamp plantation, while also helping those with him find freedom. AVI's historical inspired stories bring life, emotional and heart to real-life circumstances and events from history. Start your adventure anywhere in history, or with this story in America, 1794, no matter where you want to go in history, AVI will take you there.

Giveaway

Simon and Schuster would like to share the gift of love with a copy of Love, Z and Baby Love. Please email amy-shane@att.net, by Sunday February 24 with "giveaway" to be entered. ★



Riley Reviews

"COLD PURSUIT" QUIRKY COMIC ACTION; "PROVEN INNOCENT" ON TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

"COLD PURSUIT" Rated R

Prolific for his vengeance-seeking action roles late in his career, Liam Neeson's image as the righteous pursuer of justice in films like the "Taken" franchise took a big hit with a self-destructive interview tinged with disturbing racist sentiment.

In the terminology of tennis, Neeson's talk was an unforced error that undermines "Cold Pursuit," which is unfortunate in that this Norwegian-inspired thriller taps into dark comedy as if it were an homage to the Coen Brothers.

A humble snowplow driver in a Colorado ski resort town, Neeson's Nels Coxman is honored as the Citizen of the Year for his upright dedication to his community and as a faithful public servant.

Yet, his life is soon completely upended when his only son Kyle (Micheal Richardson), an airport baggage handler, is killed by drug cartel thugs over a missing cocaine shipment. Kyle's death is ruled an overdose, but Coxman suspects otherwise.

Without the benefit of his usual "particular set of skills" in other action films, Neeson's character faces a learning curve in the killing business, but he seems to catch on fairly quickly.

His first clue to the identity of his son's killers leads to a bleached-blond scumbag named Speedo (Michael Eklund) who mockingly dismisses Coxman as an "old man" before getting pummeled to death.

As the others responsible for his son's murder soon meet their fate, the crime boss Trevor "Viking" Calcote (Tom Bateman) takes notice and mistakenly thinks a rival Native American gang has started a turf war.

An arrogant psychopath, Viking wages a custody battle

with his ex-wife over his young son that he treats with disdain, telling him to read "Lord of the Flies" as a manual for coping with life.

A good chunk of the middle portion of the film is devoted to Viking's brewing conflict with the Native American drug gang under the control of the inscrutable White Bull (Tom Jackson), who seeks his own brand of justice when his son is killed.

Meanwhile, a patrol team of the ski town's police officers, veteran (John Doman) and an eager rookie (Emmy Rossum), have little to do, outside of writing parking tickets, other than engage in a lot of amusing banter that adds to the film's comic tone.

"Cold Pursuit" revels in its quirky pitch. One of the best comical scenes takes place at an upscale resort hotel when the clerk asks the Native American gang attempting to get a room if they have a "reservation," an innocent question perceived as a cultural affront.

Filled with gallows humor and black comedy (thugs have ludicrous nicknames like "The Eskimo," "Santa," and "Limbo"), "Cold Pursuit," which allows Liam Neeson to engage in another killing spree, is delightful pulp fiction.

"Cold Pursuit," though at times somewhat disjointed, excites with its morbid wit and offbeat characters, tapping into the spirit of Quentin Tarantino films and Leonard Elmore novels.

"PROVEN INNOCENT" On Fox Network

As the title implies, "Proven Innocent," the new legal drama on the FOX network, focuses on a team of lawyers taking the cases of persons in jeopardy of being wrongfully convicted for serious criminal offenses.

The Chicago-based Injustice Defense League, consisting of defense attorney Easy Boudreau (Russell Hornsby), investigator Bodie Quick (Vincent Kartheiser) and

podcaster and communications director Violet Price (Nikki M. James), are up against prosecutor Gore Bellows (Kelsey Grammer).

The firm's rising star defense attorney Madeline Scott (Rachelle Lefevre) has a personal stake in exonerating the falsely convicted because as teenager, along with her brother Levi (Riley Smith), she was sent to prison for the killing of her high school best friend.

After being absolved of the murder and getting a college degree while spending 10 years in prison, Madeline went on to graduate from Yale Law School at the top of her class and then partnered with Easy Boudreau, the lawyer who helped overturn her conviction.

Surprise (not really), the prosecutor who put Madeline in the slammer is none other than Gore Bellows, a slick political opportunist now planning a run for Illinois Attorney General based on his track record of criminal convictions.

While the arrogant Bellows doesn't have a mustache to twirl, Kelsey Grammer brings to this role the right measure of somber conviction and slippery smugness to fulfill the necessary plot device of a villain ending up in the League's crosshairs.

Meanwhile, there are many ongoing flashbacks to the murder of the high school girl that, at least in the early stages, leave unanswered questions, such as whether Madeline or her brother might really be innocent after all.

These questions are certainly not doubted by the prosecutor who put the sibling behind bars. Gore Bellows still holds the opinion that Madeline is guilty, telling her the very same when they meet in court.

"Proven Innocent" doesn't seem to be on a path to be as compelling as a modern-day "Perry Mason" or other appealing courtroom dramas that don't immediately come to mind. Friday nights could be better spent on something else. ★

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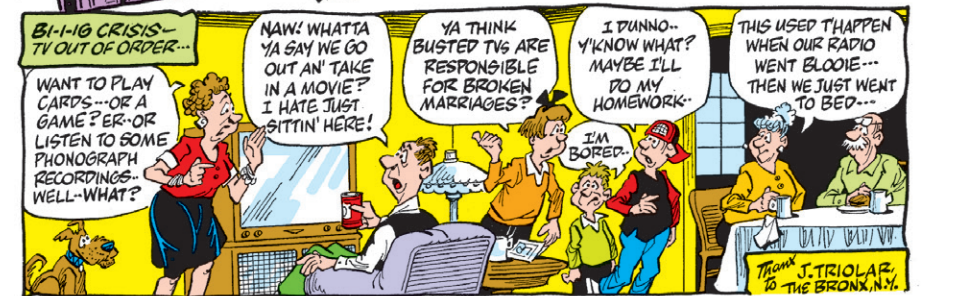
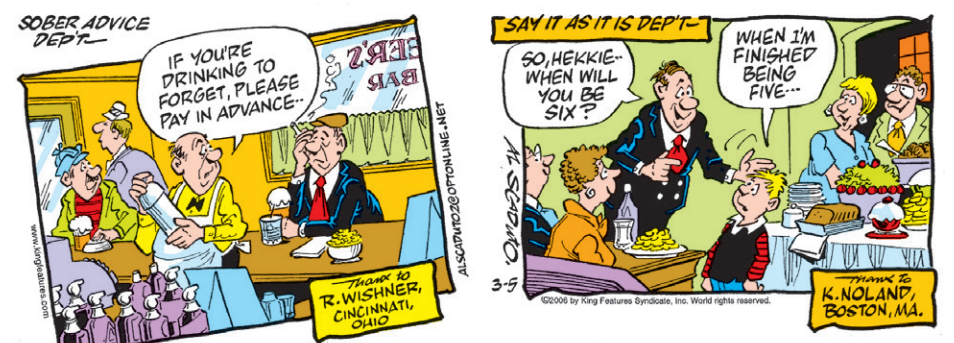
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MUSINGS

By Mike Ceremello



The Road To Oblivion

Last Tuesday's council meeting is another case in point of where public sector jobs are going. It used to be that you had to be productive and in the private sector to make the big bucks, but not anymore.

Dixon is a town of 18,300 people. According to the logic espoused by all involved with increasing their own salaries, we have to compete with towns ten times our size and we have to pay Bay Area wages too. Before we all get in a dither about paying the chief of police \$205,000 in the last year of his three year contract, let's look at inflation and what is a fair wage.

Unfortunately, I do not know the current wages for General Motors workers but found a 2015 article about wages under a new contract with Chrysler/Fiat. The wages are around \$29 per hour and ranging up to \$38. Let's just say the wages are now \$40 per hour. That is approximately \$1600 per week and \$80,000 a year. When I began work for GM, I was making around \$2.50 per hour or \$100 per week.

The point I want to make is that you can't expect to hire people at the wages of the past but you also don't need to pay inordinate amounts for people to retain their purchasing power and their quality of living. When I arrived in Dixon in 1991, people at GM were making around \$60 to \$80K with overtime. The city manager of Dixon, Dave Harris, was

making about \$80K in 1996 when Warren Salmons replaced him as city manager. Salmons doubled his salary.

Jim Lindley, our current city manager, came in while I was on the council attempting to hold costs down during the Bush/Obama economic meltdown. The mayor pushed Lindley's upper range to \$140,000 which was still \$20,000 less than his predecessor. As soon as he could, he gave Lindley a \$40,000 increase over four years topping him out at \$180,000.

Lindley didn't ask for an increase in his salary during its last negotiation, instead settling for a publicly ridiculed low interest loan so he could buy a house in Dixon. Although there is no longer a mandate that the city manager will get 15% more than anyone he supervises, believe me when I tell you we will be paying him more in the very near future, probably along the line of \$250,000 per year in base salary.

Those you have elected to provide oversight have no problem spending your tax dollars willy-nilly on wages and benefits. Looking to other communities and seeing them do the same, all for the same reason that we might lose these great employees, will eventually bankrupt many cities.

So you want to know the other big issue on the last council meeting's agenda? It was all about the city clerk's position. Seems we can't keep one here.

It is time we had a city clerk whose loyalty isn't to the city manager or city attorney but to the people who elect someone to that position.

I didn't get much of a response when I asked why we just didn't get another temporary city clerk from the "pool" which provided the last one. The excuse from the city attorney is that people just think it is a clerk position rather than a supervisory one.

Given candidates we keep selecting, it is incumbent on the citizen's to make this an elected position. Signatures can be gathered at the same time you are collecting signatures to repeal the tripled water rates but, in the case of the city clerk, signatures can be gathered from the entire community and not just the city's water district. It would be refreshing to have a city clerk who knows that initiative petitions can't be released to the city attorney without a court order.

Yes, those on the dais approved a job description for the city clerk position saying that person "will" consult with the city attorney. Again the city attorney countered my arguments with his bull about potential lawsuits if the material wasn't actually public. The city clerk always has had the ability to ask for legal advice if and when necessary, but our past clerks actually knew enough that they didn't have to.

The corruption, collusion, and confusion goes on. ★

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Take a look at FFA at Dixon High School!

By Loran Hoffmann

These photos provide a glimpse of FFA activities held this year at Dixon High School. More than 280 students are enrolled in courses offered by the three faculty members of the Agriculture Education Department. Marcus Tanaka, a Dixon High School graduate himself, has been

a member of the faculty for almost ten years; Natalie Oelsner, a graduate of California State University, Chico, has been on the faculty three years; and Miranda Will, a graduate of University of California, Davis, has also been on the faculty for three years. The teachers are involved with the students learning in the classroom as well as outside the classroom walls.

Activities held at Dixon High School to celebrate FFA Week.

Tuesday- Crazy Sock Day
 Wednesday - FFA Gear with Ag Olympics at Lunch
 Thursday - Animal Day with a Petting Zoo at Lunch
 Friday - Ram Pride! Bonfire at the Ag Department at 6 pm
 For more information about the National FFA Program visit FFA.org ★



First FFA Field Day of the year was held in Arbuckle. Dixon FFA received awards for the Best Informed Greenhand team, comprised of all freshmen; first place in Horse Judging with many students placing in the top 10 individuals; and Job Interview had students placing fifth and ninth. Dixon FFA students also participated in Veterinary Science, Creed Speaking, and Floriculture.



FFA Chapter Degree presented by the Sentinel at the Degree Ceremony held earlier this year at Dixon High School.



(Above and below) Floriculture students prepare fresh floral arrangements for the Floral Subscription Service through FFA as well as for banquets and special events at Dixon High School.



Miguel Partida, a recent State Degree recipient and the North Coast Region Beef Placement Proficiency Winner, is pictured showing a market lamb at the 2018 Dixon May Fair. This is one of Miguel's multiple Supervised Agriculture Experience Projects.



Two floriculture team members displaying a bouquet that they prepared for the student-run Floral Subscription service through FFA. Subscriptions can be purchased by the semester or for the year through dixonffa.org.



The Dixon FFA Public Speaking Team won the sectional competition in Creed, Impromptu, Extemporaneous, Job Interview, and Prepared Public Speaking.

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