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JANUARY 21, 2022

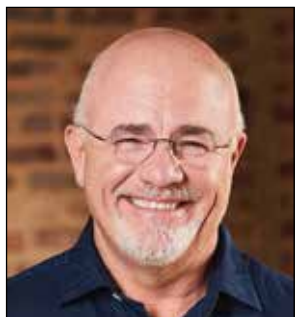
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Newest Hall of Famer

Dixon's Pat Conklin Builds Better Fairs



Pat Conklin, CEO of the Dixon May Fair, was just inducted into the prestigious Western Fairs Association's Hall of Fame. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Growing up in Dixon, Pat Conklin was one of those youths who wore the 4-H green and white uniforms that infiltrated the Dixon fairgrounds every May to show animals, and who had fun as a 'Sheep Leader' in the 90s for younger Dixon 4-H at the Solano County Fair. Those experiences built a lasting passion in her to keep the wholesome, hometown events going forever. It is that drive that has brought her the highest honor of the Western Fairs Association, a membership organization of 800 fair leaders across the western states, to induct her in their prestigious Hall of Fame.

"This year we are thrilled to

announce Pat Conklin, CEO of the Dixon May Fair, the 36th District Agriculture Association. She has been an integral part of the fair industry for nearly 40 years," the Board wrote in their official announcement. "She has served on numerous fair industry boards and committees and held a plethora of leadership roles within the Western Fairs Association, including chairing both the California Fairs Alliance and Western Fairs Association Board of Directors." The WFA Hall of Fame award honors distinguished achievement or outstanding contribution by an individual to the fair industry since 1993 with a total of 84 leaders and only 8 of them women recognized since that time.

"Pat is a true asset and friend of

the Fair Industry, lending her to be a perfect recipient of this prestigious honor. She has built better fairs by supporting professional leadership, and by providing education, communication and advocacy," they wrote.

"I'm honored and humbled and taken back by it. My passion is for the fair industry and now I have the historical perspective because I've been around so long, I know all the codes and what to follow," she said with a slight laugh. "I am a major advocate for fairs in general," she admitted.

Founded in 1922 and incorporated in 1945, Western Fairs Association (WFA) is a nonprofit trade association serving the fair industry

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The Show Will Go On

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - It's not too late to get tickets to a fun evening in Dixon Saturday night with 'Viva Las Dixon!' The Dixon Teen Center has announced it will sell tickets at the door for their fundraiser which will be an Elvis Presley tribute performance by nationally recognized impersonator Rob Ely at Dixon High School's Community Theater on Jan. 22.

Since 2011, the Dixon Teen Center has been serving teens on Friday and Saturday evenings and on weekends but was forced to close when the pandemic struck and the organization closed, missing out on major fundraisers such as the Pin-a-Go-Go. But reopening looks near, according to Chair Jerry Castañon.

"I'm really excited about the Elvis show. We are trying to replenish the funds in anticipation of the center opening again," he said. "We still have the current location at the high school but haven't been able to meet because of COVID restrictions. This fundraiser will be part of an integral push to re-open."

In the meantime, the Board is working with the school district on putting together a youth basketball league at the CA Jacobs gym and are recruiting volunteers. The goal is to open the gym on Friday nights for the games.

"Our plans are to open as soon as possible and definitely before summer but it depends on what goes on with the COVID situation," he said.

The Board and a host of volunteers ran the Teen Center at the old Dixon High School until just a couple years ago when the restoration began to change that site into the new John Knight Middle School. The center then relocated to a new location at the new Dixon High School location, 555 College Way until the pandemic hit. Leaders and organizers' goals are to provide teens with positive experiences and opportunities, assets, that promote healthy development and success in teens' lives.

Tickets are \$30 and are available at Dixon Florist, the Chamber of Commerce, and Grocery Outlet. Online tickets are available at eventbrite.com (search for "Elvis Dixon"). The show begins at 7 pm and masks will be required. ★

Wanting to Work

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Nicolas Brown takes really good photos. Thanks to a mentor who taught him special photography skills, he knows how to use the equipment and is probably more adept with editing software to make them crystal clear than the average photographer. There is no doubt that his mind's eye is unique.

Nic is talkative and friendly creating a jovial demeanor. He has opinions, love of sports, and Star Wars like most young men but has a sense of innocence about him. He is a robust, 37-year-old man who, like many adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder, has missed learning many of the subtleties of life through work and relationships.

According to a 2015 National Autism Indicators



Nicolas Brown is an adult with Autism Spectrum Disorder who has found a job using his photography skills. Nic and his dog, Clifford, play in the family's back yard. Photo by Debra Dingman

Report, only 32 percent of adults with autism had a job for pay outside of the home within the first two years after leaving high school.

But now, the State is hoping to increase those opportunities for people like Nic, no matter their disability or how

it impacts them, who are clients of a Regional Center through a Paid Internship Program (PIP).

Continued on page 3





There’s Always Going to be Donkeys

By Debra Dingman

This morning was my first notable experience in regard to masking, and I suppose I should be happy that it took two years before it happened.

I was quietly reading my little paperback on an after-death experience while waiting for hubby to have a medical appointment in a back area of David Grant Medical Center. There had been two people in the long waiting room when we first got there, but no one was left except me, so I curled up and went deep into the story while the nearby television blared about the Today Show turning 70.

Because I loathe the mask fogging up my glasses, I unhooked one side and left it dangle from my ear while I read for at least 15 minutes or more when suddenly a woman walked in front of me and startled me saying in a pointed, stern voice, “I believe this hospital requires you wear a mask.” I slipped the other side of the mask onto my other ear.

Lots of things started churning through my mind, and I fought hard to stay focused on my book that was all about God’s love and how we all need to be nice and loving to each other...

But I wanted to tell her I was a law-abiding citizen, and I was vaccinated; that I was certain I already had COVID *before* the shutdown; and I wanted to tell her of all of the articles that I had read with Dr. Fauci and Dr. Gottlieb saying masks don’t do anything to abate the Omicron Variant.

I also wanted to tell her that I noted there had to be at least 30 chairs (15 on each side of me) in this very spacious, elongated room but she chose to walk in front of me and sit at one end even though there was a large hallway behind me where she could have walked instead.

“Before you think I’m stupid or uncaring,” I started calmly, “I have

asthma...” But she cut me off saying with all the mean-spirited tone a person can have that she was a nurse and didn’t want to hear anything I had to say. I quieted a moment then I said the fibers in the mask get in my lungs and had triggered an attack before, but she cut me off again, snapping: “Wear a different mask!” I felt my spirit sag. I said softly that I have a different one but forgot it in the car. I must be the stupid one for even trying because that never got halfway out when she said all kinds of things again. Thankfully, I’m getting older and when someone talks loud and fast, I can’t understand them but I got the hint.

I curled up into my book and started praying for her. I just knew she had to have come from a terrible ER experience or lost a loved one to COVID or maybe she was constipated... I prayed she’d never be my nurse. Thankfully, after she had a loud conversation on her phone with never a hint of courtesy, she was called into the doctor’s office. I did hear her name, though.

Eventually, hubby came out and we walked down the hall with him telling me about his appointment, when the woman went striding by, turned and said, “Because of you, the whole reception area had to be disinfected and wiped down!” She did not realize that we had just left that room and there would have been no possibility of that happening in that short of time. So instantly, I knew she was a liar and was hell-bent on ruining someone else’s day.

My husband and I were both shocked so I told him about what had happened and I asked my always calm and positive husband, “When I’m reading all about God’s love and how he wants us to enjoy our lives here and be kind to each other, what do you do with *that*?”

“There’s always going to be donkeys,” he said. ★

Dixon News Briefs



Supplies to create a Vision Board-one’s own positive vision or ideas of his or her future-are at the Dixon Public Library. Photo by Debra Dingman

MPG Staff

Library Visions

Pick up your FREE Vision Board Kit at the Dixon Library, while supplies last. Create YOUR Vision for 2022. A vision board is a collage that inspires you and helps you visualize your goals and dreams. Each kit contains: one piece of 11x14 poster board, two used magazines, several pages of inspirational words, and an instruction sheet. Before one starts his or her Vision Board, visit the YouTube page to view a 7-minute guided meditation video! youtube.com/solanolibrary.

But, if supplies run out, all you need is a poster board, used magazines that you can cut up, and pages of inspirational words. The last two items are easily found at the Friends of the Library’s Friendly Bookworm Bookstore next to the library.

Parks & Rec

The next Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting is this coming Tuesday, Jan. 25, at 7 pm in the Council Chambers, 600 East A Street. Just in case you decide to take a more active interest in city government, the agendas are posted the Thursday before the meetings and available to the public at cityofdixon.com.

Citizens who currently serve on this commission are Chair Angelic Villalpando, Rudy Baltazar, KC Baltz, Charles King, Katherine Manwarren, and Jocie Bair. They are still seeking a Dixon High School student representative and a student rep alternate.

Business Classes

The Solano Small Business Development Center is hosting two free classes this next week via Zoom. The first one is Owning and Investing in Real Estate for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs which will be on Tuesday, Jan. 25 10:30 am to noon.

This is critical information for anyone interested in buying real estate, especially

for small business owners looking to secure their long term future by owning their property, plant and equipment.

The other one is an intensive 3-part bootcamp on small business financials. This bootcamp is hosted by financial expert and SBDC Regional Advisor Paul Bozzo. The goal is to do a deep dive into understanding essential small business financial concepts, key financial statements such as the income statement and development of cash flow projections.

NorCal SBDC assists in many industries, including food and retail and micro-enterprises – and each was purpose-built to help business owners realize their dreams, at no cost. Call (833) ASK-SBDC for more information.

Mexican Cuisine

Now featuring Mexican Cuisine on Monday is Dawson’s Bar & Grill in the heart of downtown Dixon at First and A Streets. “Victor’s Monday Night Specials” is inspired by his Mother’s cooking and offers authentic, simple, clean, and fresh quesadillas, tacos, and more cooked from scratch with no micro-waves used.

Garrity Tax

“We are very excited about launching a new website this year and we look forward to seeing many clients sign up with the monthly newsletter,” said Lea Garrity, Enrolled Agent, Garrity Bookkeeping at 500 North Adams Street, Suite A.

Garrity is a member of the California Society of Enrolled Agents as well as the National Association of Enrolled Agents. An enrolled agent is a person who has earned the privilege of representing taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service by either passing a three-part comprehensive IRS test, or through experience as a former IRS employee. Her new website is at <https://taxmermaid.com/> or you can call her at the office: (707) 693-1040. ★

Youth Resiliency Summit Igniting Art, Advocacy and Action

Solano County Office of Education Press Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Solano County Office of Education in partnership with Fighting Back Partnership, Fairfield Police Activities League, LGBTQ Minus Tobacco, Nature of Sound, Solano Youth Coalition, Vacaville Police Activities League and VIBE Solano hosted the third annual Solano Youth Resiliency

Summit in December 2021. This virtual summit was free and open to all middle and high school students living or attending school in Solano County. Adult youth advocates also attended.

“Solano County Office of Education is grateful for the opportunity to cohost and collaborate with our amazing community partners to bring another successful summit to our youth,”

said Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson. “Events like the Solano Youth Resiliency Summit provide a forum for our students to engage with each other and their community, promoting positive outcomes and perspectives about topics that affect them.”

More than 15 different workshops were offered at the summit. Some topics included: working with government officials, healthy

relationships, financial planning, financial aid for post-secondary pathways, mental health and wellness, suicide prevention, human trafficking, volunteerism, and voter engagement. The interactive platform provided summit attendees creative ways to engage with one another.

Participants developed skills to strengthen their resiliency and promote creative positive chance. This year’s summit featured keynote speakers Tina Davis and Marcus Williams, both Vallejo natives. Ms. Davis is a successful record label executive, artist manager and entrepreneur, with nearly 30 years of experience and Mr. Williams is an activist and founder of LYDO (Living Your Day Overcoming), a non-profit focused on peer advocacy to help physically and emotionally empower survivors to battle their unique life crises. ★

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Wanting to Work

Continued from page 1
It's a program that allows people to see an individual's real capacities, experts say, and offers wage reimbursement that helps job seekers with disabilities get into the workforce. It is funded by the State of California through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS.)

And, no better time than during a workers shortage. Individuals gain experience and skills for future paid employment at the same organization or elsewhere while employers benefit from PIP by having wages paid by the State. It will pay for up to 1,040 work hours per year, which amounts to up to a 20 hour a week job depending on the employer's needs.

Really bright people in the community would be a real asset to employers but due to bias, there are barriers that must be overcome, according to experts. People like Nic may initially need more training and support but with the compensation of those hours or up to one year—whichever comes first—it gives everybody some breathing room to learn on both sides.

They learn not just concrete skills but all the unspoken things like time management, getting along with coworkers, how to talk with people, and handling responsibilities. It allows someone like Nic to learn new skills while assisting the business with training and support so it doesn't cost the employer anything; the employer just has to be willing.

Most of these people who got jobs in Dixon, got them through family support or a connection with a business owner so a regional center representative works to build those connections.



Nic Brown at work for the newspaper captured with fun (and pride) by his mom. Photo by Andrea Brown

Nic held a job for a while a few years ago.

"I met new people and I miss the routine of getting up, going to work, and taking a lunch...but I learned I'm not cut out for everything," he said, a bit dejected. "I still have trouble with direct eye contact. I'm always a black sheep and was always the odd man out. People were always poking fun at me and I wondered what did I ever do to them?"

Nic is fortunate that his mother has helped him get services that have helped him be able to identify feelings and thoughts that help him communicate smoothly.

And, he has a small job now taking photos for the newspaper. It's been a year and he's building a portfolio of front page photos. He says it is his best job because of the one-on-one instruction.

"I want to have the skills to maintain my own life," he said. "I think I've turned out all right. I've made a few mistakes, but I've learned from them."

The North Bay Regional Center assists individuals with, or at risk for, a developmental disability obtain services they need to live independent and productive lives. There are 21 centers in California and were established in 1965 with The Lanterman Act. Under this act, the DDS is responsible for overseeing the coordination and delivery of services and supports to more than 360,000 Californians with developmental disabilities including cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, autism, epilepsy and related conditions.

The state's service system is designed to meet the needs and choices of individuals at each stage of their lives, and, to the extent possible, serve them in their home communities, providing choices that are reflective of lifestyle, cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

For more information, contact the Napa-Solano County Office at 610 Airport Road in Napa or call (707) 256-1100. ★

Newest Hall of Famer

Continued from page 1
throughout the western United States and Canada serving more than 800 members, representing fair-related businesses, fair management, fair board directors, festivals and industry associations.

4-H History

"Pat and I go back a long ways," said Donny Huffman, President of the Dixon May Fair. "I was surprised and feel so honored to have seen her grow up here in Dixon. I had her in 4-H activities when she was just a youngster in Dixon. She's the same age as my son and they showed animals together," he said. After graduating from Chico State with a Political Science degree, she didn't find work in her field but in the ag industry. Conklin served at other fairgrounds and in October 2013 left her post as Sonoma-Marin Fair Chief Executive Officer to come to her hometown of Dixon where she lives and raised a family.

"She went to different fairs then became the manager of the Dixon May Fair, which was the highest honor we could bestow on her besides this one," said Huffman. "She was the top manager of Dixon of all the

years, and she deserves this 100 percent," he enthused. He talked with pride about her early years and how she "respected her competition," and how he was proud that over the years she has held respect for other fair managers.

Taking Care of May Fair

"She is one of the finest human beings and is a great person. She fights for everything we get," Huffman said. "She is always looking for ways to make it better because she wants to make it better. She works hard to keep it a large community affair. Pat is always behind us because she knows the good that we do."

The woman whose FitBit hits 35,000 steps and who goes through a pair of tennis shoes during the week of Dixon's May Fair says that she gets insight from attending lots of other fairs as the association includes states as far west as Mississippi and includes Canada. She also gets her best ideas at 3 am.

Her office workers, Sandy Bonesteel and Laurie Langley say they all get along well with each other, and if they ever hear her feet coming briskly down the hall, they move aside.

"We know she's on a mission," said Bonesteel who also worked with Conklin at the Solano County Fair and whose daughter had Conklin as a Sheep Leader in the 1990s.

"I wish I could slow down," said Conklin. "At one time I was on four boards at the same time, and I finally got off the one that was an elected one thinking I'd slow down but it's not my nature to slow down," she said, mentioning that her mother is long-time Dixonite Ardash Wood. "I get my high energy from my mom," she added. Conklin has been married 33 years and has two grown daughters.

"One of the best things about working in the fair industry is that I have never, ever heard anyone in my life say: 'That's not my job.' Everyone pitches in," she said, noting that the 'Taste of the May Fair' food event last year as well as the Capitol Christmas Tree events sent everyone scrambling—since there were only four people to do every job and still pulled off both events successfully.

The Western Fairs Association was set to award Conklin's dedication at a dinner this past week. ★



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Local Youth Are Showcased by The Solano Symphony Orchestra

Solano Symphony Orchestra Press Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Solano Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Semyon Lohss, is proud to showcase the brilliant musicianship of local young performers in its annual Salute to Youth concert, 3 p.m., Sunday, February 13, 2022, at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre (1010 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville).

Highlights of the program will include solo performances by winners of the 2021 Young Artists Competition, who will be accompanied by the full orchestra. Pianist Isaiah Burton, a 16-year-old junior in the Visions in Education homeschool program, performs the joyful first movement of Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 23 in A major. Soprano Shanley Gunida, a 17-year-old senior at Vanden High School, sings the reflective aria, "Ain't it a Pretty Night," from the American opera Susannah by Carlisle Floyd, as well as the German art song "Allerseelen," by Richard Strauss. And cellist Ethan Chen, a junior at Davis Senior High School plays the gracious Variations on a Rococo Theme by Tchaikovsky.

Players of the Vacaville High School Premiere Orchestra – with Melinda Ellis, Music Director – and members of The Wind



Melinda Ellis, Music Director. Photo credit by Solano Symphony Orchestra

Ensemble of Vanden High School – with Troy Symington, Music Director – will also join the members of the Solano Symphony Orchestra on stage to present celebrated selections from the symphonic repertoire.

Tickets for the performance can be purchased at the Vacaville Performing Arts Theatre by phone, (707) 469-4013, or via the website, www.vpat.net. The theatre box office opens one hour before the performance. Solano Symphony Orchestra's Salute to Youth concert is underwritten in part by the generous support of the Margaret Beelard Community Foundation. It is a highlight of the season and a tremendous opportunity to champion local talent and inspire young musicians to continue developing in their technique and dedication

to artistic excellence.

COVID SAFETY PROTOCOLS: For the safety of our patrons and orchestra members, as well as to stay compliant with California Department of Public Health requirements, there will be a maximum of 225 tickets available for this event. Additional information is available at <https://vpat.net/faqs/health-safety/> Ticket Pricing: Adults \$30; Senior (62) \$25; Active Military \$15 (with ID); Student (with High School or College ID) and Youth under 18 \$15. A \$1 theatre fee is added to the price of each ticket.

Ticket Pricing: Adults \$30; Senior (62) \$25; Active Military \$15 (with ID); Student (with High School or College ID) and Youth under 18 \$15. A \$1 theatre fee is added to the price of each ticket. ★

Take Action for Mental Health Campaign Launched

New Campaign Encourages Californians to Check In, Learn More, and Get Support for Themselves and Others

By Padma Nagappan

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Take Action for Mental Health, a new campaign focused on improving the mental health and wellness of all Californians was launched December 15, 2021. Created to build off progress made by previous campaigns and developed with extensive community feedback, the campaign encourages Californians to take steps to check in, learn more, and get support for themselves and people they care about.

Take Action for Mental Health builds on established approaches and provides resources to equip all Californians to support their own mental health and the mental health of people they care about.

Take Action for Mental Health is the result of considerable in-depth research, focus groups, and stakeholder input. It incorporates input from diverse populations and subject matter experts.

The campaign focuses on three key actions – check in, learn more, and get support; Check in: Helps people recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges and identify when to seek help or start a conversation with someone they care about; Learn more: Supports understanding of the issues or challenges associated with mental health concerns and identifies self-care and support options available; Get support: Connects people with tools and resources to help at any point along the mental health spectrum, from needing a mental health day off to securing professional help and everything in between.

The new campaign website, resources, and updated social media channels are going live today with plans to continue adding additional resources, partnerships, events, and programs throughout 2022 and beyond. New or updated resources available at launch include a Take

Action Pledge, and overview of signs and symptoms, mental health self-care tips, and mental health guides.

The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), in collaboration with its county members, is a leading voice for mental health services for California. Created to deliver on the promise of the California Mental Health Services Act, CalMHSA is an independent government agency created by California counties and cities, focused on the efficient delivery of mental health services and resources.

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) component was designed to increase awareness of and access to mental health services, reduce the negative impacts that mental illness can have on a person’s wellbeing, reduce the stigma associated with mental illness and help-seeking, and prevent suicide. ★

The “Most Radical Medical Experiment in Human History,” Targets Children



Commentary by Harold Pease, Ph.D.

We live in a day unlike any other outside the book burning of the Middle Ages, where truth is determined by who is the loudest and who is censored the least. Where everyone carries in a pocket a device loaded with the history, truth, and the wisdom of the ages, but instead, most prefer the shallow depth of social media to determine opinion. Where science may have been captured by the “dark side” for profit and control of the masses. Where children with a 99.99X percent of surviving COVID, should they even get it which is rare, are the new target for inoculation and the Great Reset.

A day where the inventor of the Messenger RNA technology, used in the Covid injections, feels compelled “to issue a dire video, warning parents still considering getting their children injected, to instead protect them from what he calls “the most radical medical experiment in human history.” But in that warning even he is largely censored.

Libertyunderfire.org considers censorship a threat to learning and liberty and thus has elected to share his warning. Dr. Robert Malone is the world’s leading

authority on the subject. His warning entitled, “URGENT ALERT TO ALL PARENTS,” follows in full without comment:

“My name is Robert Malone, and I am speaking to you as a parent, grandparent, physician and scientist. I don’t usually read from a prepared speech, but this is so important that I wanted to make sure that I get every single word and scientific fact correct.

I stand by this statement with a career dedicated to vaccine research and development. I’m vaccinated for COVID and I’m generally pro-vaccination. I have devoted my entire career to developing safe and effective ways to prevent and treat infectious diseases. After this, I will be posting the text of this statement so you can share it with your friends and family.

Before you inject your child, a decision that is irreversible, I wanted to let you know the scientific facts about this genetic vaccine, which is based on the mRNA vaccine technology I created.

There are three issues parents need to understand before they make this irrevocable decision:

The first is that a viral gene will be injected into your children’s cells. This gene forces your child’s body to make toxic spike proteins. These proteins often cause permanent damage in children’s critical organs, including: their brain and nervous system, their heart and blood vessels, including blood clots, their reproductive system, And, most important, this vaccine can trigger fundamental changes to their immune system.

The most alarming point about this is that once these damages have occurred, they are irreparable. They cannot be reversed. You can’t fix the lesions within their brain, you can’t repair heart tissue scarring, you can’t repair a genetically reset immune system, and this vaccine can cause reproductive damage that could affect future generations of your family.

The second thing you need to know about is the fact that this novel technology has not been adequately tested. We need at least 5 years of testing/research before we can really understand the risks associated with this new technology. The harms and risks from new medicines often become revealed many years later.

Ask yourself if you want your own child to be part of the most radical medical experiment in human history. One final point: the reason they’re giving you to vaccinate your child is a lie. Your children represent no danger to their parents or grandparents. It’s actually the opposite. Their immunity, after getting COVID, is critical to save your family if not the world from this disease.

Finally, and in summary: there is no benefit for your children or your family to be vaccinating your children against the small risks of the virus, given the known health risks of the vaccine that as a parent, you and your children may have to live with for the rest of your lives. The risk/benefit analysis isn’t even close with this vaccine for children. As a parent and grandparent, my strong recommendation to you is to resist and fight to protect your children.” ★

California Named Worst ‘Judicial Hellhole’

CALA Press Release

CORONA DEL MAR, CA (MPG) - California is the worst “Judicial Hellhole®” in the country, according to a new report.

The American Tort Reform Foundation (ATRF), in its 20th anniversary edition of the annual report, says the state’s atrocious litigation environment and government officials’ determination to expand liability across the board are to blame for its return to the top.

California has been in the Top 3 worst Judicial Hellholes® for a decade and was named an “Everlasting Judicial Hellhole” this summer.

“We have received this unfortunate honor, not once, but 16 times over the past 20 years,” said Victor Gomez, executive director, California Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuses. “The result? Californians pay for lawsuit abuse and excessive tort costs in the form of an annual “tort tax” of nearly \$575 per person. The costs of this litigation also result in nearly 200,000 jobs lost each year.

“I was a franchise owner on the central coast for 17 years. My community was always supporting me, my business, and other locally owned businesses. That’s what makes a community strong. Yet, we are often the targets of these type of shakedown lawsuits. I feared the threat of a lawsuit. There was nothing to protect me.”

According to Tiger Joyce, President, American Tort Reform Association, “Although still referred to as the “Golden State, California is just about the worst place in the country to be a small business owner. Between frivolous lawsuits abusing state and federal laws and onerous

business regulations that create nearly endless opportunities for unscrupulous trial lawyers, it’s easy to see why business owners are making a mass exodus out of the state.”

California’s Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) authorizes “aggrieved employees” to file lawsuits regarding labor code violations and to seek civil penalties. However, 75% of the penalties paid by non-compliant employers go to the state’s Labor and Workforce Development Agency. Less than 25% goes to the “aggrieved employees” after their lawyers take one-third or more of the remaining 25%.

“The intent behind PAGA was to protect workers, but it has done little to help them. Employees have actually lost flexibility in their work lives as a result,” Joyce said. “Most of these lawsuits revolve around technical nitpicks and don’t claim any real injury. Trial lawyers have turned PAGA into a loophole around arbitration clauses in employment contracts which typically limit expensive class actions that only benefit the lawyers.”

ATRF says frivolous lawsuits filed under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are another issue plaguing California’s civil justice system. 2020 brought a 22% increase in ADA filings while nationally, such filings decreased. 2021 is on pace to be a record-breaking year in California for ADA filings. California has more expensive penalties for ADA violations due to the state’s Unruh Civil Rights Act. The Act includes a \$4,000 fine per violation, which other states don’t have, plus attorneys’ fees.

“Often, these alleged ‘violations’ are as minor as a mirror that is an inch too

high or a sidewalk angled one degree off,” Joyce said. “Unfortunately, businesses are rarely given a warning or even a customer complaint about noncompliance until sue-happy trial lawyers take them straight to court. As small businesses struggle to stay afloat, litigation costs alone could very well put them out of business for good.”

ATRF reports that businesses of all sizes are under attack in California, though. This year, Amazon was held liable for injuries caused by a product sold by a third-party seller. The California Court of Appeals used a 2020 case, which the state Supreme Court refused to review, as precedent.

“The unfortunate reality is that where California goes, the country tends to follow,” Joyce said. “The unintended consequences of this precedent could very well have a chilling effect on ingenuity and entrepreneurship across the nation. This is especially dangerous given California courts’ willingness to allow questionable science as expert evidence in trials.”

To view the full report at JudicialHellholes.org.

Founded in 1986, ATRA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization and is the nation’s first organization dedicated exclusively to reforming the civil justice system through education and legislative enactment. ATRA acts as a nationwide network of state-based liability reform coalitions backed by 142,000 grassroots supporters. ATRA works to bring greater fairness, predictability and efficiency to America’s civil justice system. Those efforts have resulted in the enactment of state and federal laws that make the system fairer for everyone. ★

Green Heroin vs. the Call to Work

Commentary by Dr. James Thrasher

Addiction to government handouts continues to be a significant economic and societal issue. Recently, some authors have sounded the alarm by tagging the current CARES Act freebies as a form of “green heroin.” This addiction to green dollars has caused free-lunch addicts to lose their desire to work.

The reality is that 150 million people received \$1,200 stimulus checks, and 25 million people received a weekly \$600 addition to their unemployment checks, and the handouts keep coming. Unfortunately, this new cash has created some new users and cemented a dependency outlook with many established addicts. Why would the unemployed look for work, take a job, or return to work when they can make more money collecting stimulus and unemployment checks?

This unprecedented large-scale government handout of money has produced this freshly normalized perspective for some in our country. Freebies incentivize Americans not to work, which has dire consequences across the economy. The effect of this is being experienced by businesses, many of which are unable to open their doors or are having to curtail their hours because they cannot find a sufficient labor source.

Matthew Nicaud, in his article “Government Handouts Continue to Stagnate Economic Output,” states that “there is perhaps no more destructive force to destroy the motivation and work ethic of a workforce than the sedative of government handouts.” He adds: “when government doles out the entitlement dollars to the citizens, it sends a message that the nanny state will provide some or all of their income.” Consuming and relying upon this nanny-state sedative has chilling implications for America.

The tangible implications of the government CARES program have prompted a vital and foundational question: Why work?

Work matters. And to those of us of religious persuasion, work matters to God, now and eternally. Work is inherently good. God was, is, and will continue to

be a worker. We are His image-bearers. A component of this image-bearing is being created in His likeness as workers. God designed us to work, and it is an essential part of our humanity.

By God’s command, Adam and Eve were to tend and care for the Garden of Eden and to fill the earth and subdue it. Work is not a responsibility placed on man because of the fall, but rather a high calling and privilege given to us by God from the beginning. The call to work charges us to pursue excellence and to be faithful stewards of employment opportunities, abilities, and time to serve our Creator and our fellowman. God compels us to work and earn our keep. Work is a divine duty, and all vocational callings have dignity. Legitimate work is good and important to God as He works out His purposes in our lives.

Work has great significance in God’s providential plan for man. From the beginning, God has intended to use man’s call to work for His glory because every aspect of life is worship. Colossians 3:23 says “whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for man.”

The workplace is part of God’s divine strategy to use workers as transforming and restorative agents by pointing others to Christ. It was God’s intention that true soul satisfaction would come from an honest day’s work. Proverbs 13:4 contrasts the worker and the sluggard by stating “the soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, while the soul of the diligent is supplied.” Through work we can love and serve our neighbor. Work provides income for tithes and offerings that should be shared with the church and people in need.

“Green heroin” is advancing an opioid-like dependency on entitlement dollars. This dependency contradicts God’s call to work. The only way to break the chains of this addiction is to see God’s purposes in the calling of work as an indispensable way in which He is caring for human beings and renewing His world.

Dr. Jim Thrasher is the Senior Advisor to the Vice President for Student Recruitment and the coordinator of the Institute for Faith & Freedom’s working group on calling. ★



The Idiocy of Vaccine Mandates for Kids

The old legal maxim is that everything which is not forbidden is permitted. Many public-health experts apparently have their own version of this rule -- whatever is not forbidden must be mandated.

It was less than three months ago that the Food and Drug Administration approved the COVID-19 vaccine for children on an emergency basis, and already there are debates whether schools should mandate it and jurisdictions prohibit unvaccinated kids from engaging in activities.

California, Louisiana and Washington, D.C., have scheduled mandates to take effect when the FDA fully approves the vaccine for kids. Los Angeles and Oakland have mandates, although they've been delayed. New York City mayor Eric Adams says he's weighing a mandate, and bills in the New York State legislature would implement one statewide.

When the FDA advisory panel met last October, several experts said they hoped the move wouldn't lead to mandates. FDA official Peter Marks pooh-poohed the possibility, evidently underestimating the irresistible urge of officialdom in blue areas toward pandemic coercion.

The decision whether kids get vaccinated or not properly belongs to parents. Yes, other vaccinations are a condition of attending school, but

COVID vaccinations aren't going to eliminate COVID, the way, say, Jonas Salk's miraculous innovation eliminated polio. With the advent of omicron, it's not even clear childhood vaccinations will do much to dent the spread. On top of this, COVID is relatively mild in children, whereas polio was a dread childhood disease.

If the case for adults getting vaccinated is extraordinarily strong, it is much less so for minors, especially for healthy younger kids who tend to be at the least risk.

Why, parents might think, take any chances with a new vaccine if it is protecting from a minimal threat (or their kids already had the virus)? Even if you believe this is the wrong call, it's not obviously unreasonable.

The medical news outlet Stat reported on an FDA model that looked at the risk to boys ages 5-11 from myocarditis, a heart condition that can affect boys in particular after getting vaccinated. According to Stat, the FDA analysts concluded that although "the vaccine might trigger slightly more myocarditis-related hospitalizations in boys than Covid-19 hospitalizations it would prevent in the same population, the benefits still might outweigh the risks, given that Covid cases that require hospitalization are generally more severe than myocarditis cases."

Rather than trust parents to weigh such considerations on their own, places like Los Angeles want to bring down the hammer. The school board there wanted students 12 and older to be vaccinated by Jan. 10. Then, unvaccinated kids would be relegated to remote

learning. When the school board realized that 30,000 students weren't vaccinated, a number that would overwhelm whatever dubious capacity the district has for remote learning, it backed off.

The calculus here makes no sense. To avoid an unlikely harm -- unvaccinated kids getting a serious case of COVID -- the schools wanted to impose an almost-guaranteed harm by excluding thousands of students from the classroom, kneecapping their education. At best, this is playing chicken with the well-being of children; at worst, it is thoughtless and cruel policy in stubborn pursuit of the goal of substituting the judgment of public-school mandarins for parents.

Already, roughly 40,000 students have dropped out or disengaged from L.A. schools this year, and the school board wanted effectively to match that via ham-handed enforcement of its mandate.

The same impulse to punish kids whose parents don't want to go along is seen in vaccine passport policies, like that in New York City, that exclude unvaccinated children from a swath of activities in public places and from after-school programs. It's as if public officials got together and decided children hadn't experienced enough social isolation already during the pandemic.

One can only hope there's enough push-back from parents who value their judgment and authority over that of the politicians and administrators whose default is mandates over persuasion.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Thompson Announces \$1 Million to Reduce Gun Violence in Vallejo

Office of Rep. Mike Thompson

VALLEJO, CA (MPG) - Rep. Mike Thompson (CA-05) announced that the Vallejo Police Department (VPD) is receiving \$1 million in grants for Project HOPE. This grant, from the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance's highly competitive Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation program, will be used to implement Project HOPE (Harm-focused Outreach, Prevention, and Engagement), a comprehensive framework that through strategic coordination and partnerships will deploy evidence- and community-based strategies to reduce, prevent, and suppress violent crime and gun violence in Vallejo's hotspot neighborhoods.

"Gun violence is a scourge that affects the lives of too many Americans across our great country," said Thompson. "As the chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, I'm proud to have secured this funding for the Vallejo Police Department to reduce violence in our communities. I look forward to working with the VPD to implement Project HOPE and provide a safer and more secure future for our children."

"We are thrilled Vallejo was selected as a Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation site," Vallejo Chief of Police Shawny K. Williams stated. "This \$1 million award will help VPD's Project HOPE change the lives of our residents through proven community violence intervention and prevention strategies, accessible wraparound social services, and will help take guns and violent offenders off our streets. We look forward to continuing to work together with our partners and supporters, including Congressman Thompson, to end this epidemic of violent crime in our City."

This funding comes after Congressman Thompson's efforts to secure funding for the Byrne Criminal Justice program through the appropriations process.

VPD, with its partners, will offer a voluntary Youth Court Diversion Program that provides an alternative to incarceration to adolescent first-time offenders of misdemeanor or lesser crimes. This method focuses on restorative justice, peer interaction, and opportunities for youth to change their paths and discover strengths. Youth would receive alternative sentencing that provides connections to mentors and enrollment in classes to help navigate healthy life choices. VPD will also elevate services in apartment complexes located in high crime hotspot neighborhoods and create a new location at the Norman C. King Community Center. Project HOPE through its partnerships will provide referrals to services

and supports to youth and families served and provide outlets for those who are victims of violence who may not otherwise seek these supports. Further, Project HOPE proposes to utilize an evidence-based hotspot policing strategy to increase VPD presence in identified hotspot areas and by sporadically patrolling and making contact with suspects, deter criminal activity and build stronger relationships with the community.

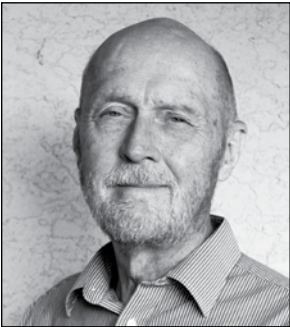
Finally, Project HOPE will implement two violence interrupting strategies: 1) street outreach; and 2) a hospital-based violence interruption program (HVIP), both to help Vallejo residents break free from the cycle of violence and receive supports that promote peaceful conflict resolution. VPD will establish a HVIP, providing gunshot victims with wraparound and follow-up services that help them break free from a life of violence and reduce their risk of re-victimization or retaliation. Services will include educational support, job training, and culturally responsive mental health services to interrupt retaliatory cycles of violence and reduce risk of re-injury.

Project HOPE street outreach workers will be trained to identify conflicts within their community and help resolve disputes before they spiral into deadly gun violence. VPD will use credible members of the community with lived experiences who are trusted by individuals at a high risk of violence. These individuals will use their credibility to interrupt cycles of retaliatory violence, help connect high risk individuals to social services, and provide alternatives to solving conflicts outside of gun violence.

Project HOPE will build a bridge between community members, law enforcement, and those that view crime and violence as their only option in life. These programs are expected to generate measurable data which will be collected and analyzed in coordination with VPD research partners. Project HOPE will advance trauma-informed strategies to reduce gun and violent crime city-wide while promoting civil rights, supporting victims, protecting the public, and building trust.

Congressman Mike Thompson is proud to represent California's 5th Congressional District, which includes all or part of Contra Costa, Lake, Napa, Solano and Sonoma Counties. He is a senior member of the House Committee on Ways and Means where he chairs the Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures. Rep. Thompson is Chairman of the House Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. He is also Co-Chair of the bipartisan, bicameral Congressional Wine Caucus and a member of the fiscally-conservative Blue Dog Coalition. ★

Dixon COVID Cases Triple with Omicron Variant



Commentary by bil paul

COVID-19 is hitting our family and relatives hard. My wife and I are still COVID-free, but our granddaughter in the Bay Area, age 3 and of course unvaccinated, is getting over it. At one point, she had a 106.5-degree temperature and she had just gotten over pneumonia several weeks prior. Her mother (our daughter) has just come down with it.

Our nephew, a firefighter, went to the ER last Friday at his doctor's recommendation and we're waiting for word on his condition. His son also has it. My wife's brother-in-law, who is medically compromised and in his early 70s, has it.

At our daughter-in-law's school in the Bay Area, 30 percent of the students are out. She's pregnant, and we worry about her catching the disease.

My wife and I had lunch at a restaurant in Rio Vista last week, and a bunch of people there weren't wearing masks when not eating. I took some comfort in the fact that that city has a relatively low incidence of COVID.

Some folks in our family group are vaccinated but neglected to get the booster shot. Remember

that over time, the Pfizer and Moderna shots lose much of their effectiveness, but the booster restores it. Get your booster shot.

Now for the incredible local COVID figures. And I mean incredible. The number of Dixon COVID cases last week tripled when compared to the previous week. There were nearly 400 new cases. One out of every three people tested in the county tested positive. There were 50 more people hospitalized with COVID. The number of available ICU beds in the county fell to 20 percent. The only bright note was that the number of deaths per week is still holding steady.

No one seemed to realize early on that the Omicron COVID variant would spread so fast.

Is our country going to pot?

There are at least 800,000 new COVID cases per day in the U.S. Eighteen percent of those ill people will become hospitalized, and of those, about one percent will die.

As if this wasn't enough to discourage you about the state of the country, think about inflation, rising rents and home prices, extreme partisanship in Congress, trouble with China and Russia, last year's attack on the capital, shortages, climate change, mass shootings, and expensive drugs and medical services (with some Americans going without).

It seems that whichever political party is in the minority in Congress, they try to gain ground by attacking the way the current administration is

handling the COVID crisis. When Trump was president, the Democrats attacked him for pooh-poohing the threat of the developing pandemic, not taking enough responsibility for dealing with it, and for promoting dubious "cures" for the disease. After Biden took over, the Republicans have attacked him for his proposed vaccine mandates for employees, lack of enough testing facilities, and lack of enough home test kits. Certainly, in recent weeks, getting tested has become very frustrating for many.

I read the account of a COVID patient. He was 40, a heavily-muscled endurance athlete and weightlifter. At first, he thought he had the flu, but several days later, breathing became difficult, and he was unable to drive himself to a hospital. There, he tested positive for covid and the flu. It wasn't long before he was put on a ventilator and was sedated -- for 25 days. His fever rose and fell. He lost 60 pounds. He survived, but not without damage to his heart and lungs. Now he's eating well again and walking. He's one of the lucky ones.

bil paul did PR for the Postal Service and medical companies, and worked as a reporter and photographer. He's the author of the book about Dixon's failed movie studio project ("The Train Never Stops in Dixon" -- available at Amazon or the library) and has a non-fiction book coming out next year about GLs in the Aleutian Islands during WWII. ★

Fatal Collision on Interstate 80


California Highway Patrol Press Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On Saturday, January 15, 2022, at approximately 9:35 pm, a Chevrolet Camaro was traveling eastbound on Interstate 80, just east of W. Texas Street, and for unknown reasons, a male pedestrian attempted to cross the eastbound lanes and was struck by the Chevrolet Camaro. The pedestrian was transported from the scene by Medic Ambulance to North Bay Medical Center and was pronounced deceased after

arrival. At this time, it is unknown if drugs and/or alcohol intoxication is a factor in this traffic collision.

Any person with information pertinent to this investigation is asked to contact the CHP at our non-emergency line at 1-800-TELL-CHP (1-800-835-5247) or the CHP Solano Area Office at (707) 639-5600. Relate that you have information for CHP-Solano and Officer Ussery who is handling this investigation. Any information obtained in regard to the collision will be greatly appreciated.


 ★



**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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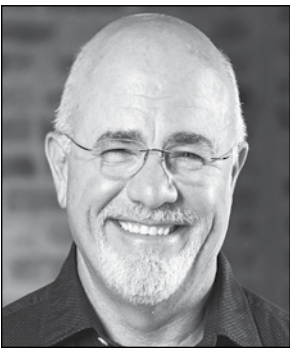
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Main Office Address: 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The *Dixon Independent Voice* is published weekly on Friday.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.





Make a Budget Line for Fun Money

Dear Dave,

I finally paid off all my debt except for my house, and I have an emergency fund of six months of expenses saved. It feels great to be in control of my money, but I am afraid I might lose control again and end up back where I started before I began following your plan. How can you make sure your leisure spending doesn't get out of hand?

– Lavell

Dear Lavell,

I get what you're saying. You don't want to go back to those days of being scared and out of control where your finances are concerned. You spent a lot of time, made tons of sacrifices, and put in lots of disciplined hard work getting out of debt, changing your behavior, and finally

Dave Ramsey Says

reached a point where you're winning with money. Most people don't forget the hardship and sacrifices that go into something like that, and I don't think you will, either.

There's a season to be strict, hard-nosed, and deny yourself things. There's also a time to act like an adult, and forego instant gratification, like during those early Baby Steps. But some self-care and a little fun is important once in a while, too. One way to enjoy life without going financially overboard is to make a budget line for fun money.

Putting fun money in your budget isn't a green light to forget your money goals, or go on a spending free-for-all. It's actually part of sticking to your budget. Remember, you want a zero-based budget. That means giving every dollar a job, and having a fun money category helps you focus on all your spending, so you don't accidentally waste money on little things here and there.

When you give yourself a budget line for fun, you can spend that amount on whatever you want. We talk a lot about goals and how they need to be a balance of empowering and realistic. Budgeting fun money helps with the realistic side, because it lets you stick to your goals and have a treat every now and then.

When you think of your budget as permission to spend, you get a new perspective on budgeting. You're giving your money permission to go where you want it to go. Plus, when you treat yourself once in a while, you're less likely to fall back in your old, financially-out-of-control ways!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 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. ★

Dodd Introduces Bill Expanding To-Go Cocktail Sales



From the Office of Senator Dodd Press Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Amid the Omicron surge, Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, introduced legislation today to boost his previous relief for struggling restaurants and bars, expanding provisions of his 2021 law allowing the sale and delivery of to-go cocktails.

“After testing the waters last year, we find there is strong consumer demand for greater flexibility in the sale of take-out cocktails,” Sen. Dodd said. “Not only is it good for the consumer but it’s a lifeline for small, local businesses struggling to maintain payrolls and keep the doors open. In light of surging

new variants, it’s clear both customers and restaurants need more choices to stay safe and get what they want.”

Last year, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Sen. Dodd’s Senate Bill 389, which allowed the sale of to-go alcoholic beverages as part of take-out restaurant food orders. It came as restaurants nationwide recovered from hundreds of billions of dollars in losses sustained because of lockdowns and social distancing requirements to stop the spread of coronavirus.

The new bill, SB 846, expands the previous legislation in important ways, removing the meal requirement to increase options for consumers and business owners. It also extends the carry-out cocktail provision to bars, which also have been hard-hit by the pandemic. In addition, it allows for the delivery of to-go cocktails from both types of businesses. Finally, the bill increases oversight of alcohol delivery by Alcohol Beverage Control to prevent underage drinking.

Co-authors are Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, D-Orinda; Sen. Scott Wiener, D-San Francisco; Assemblymember Laura Friedman, D-Glendale and Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, D-Coachella.

“Sen. Dodd’s leadership last year on legislation to allow neighborhood restaurants more channels to serve their guests off-site was a game-changer as the pandemic continued to rock restaurants,” said Matt Sutton, senior vice president of the California Restaurant Association. “As Omicron now limits restaurant operations once again -- all over the state -- this new proposal will assist restaurants in all communities and restore a set of choices consumers enjoyed in 2020 and 2021.”

Senator Bill Dodd represents the 3rd Senate District, which includes all or portions of Napa, Solano, Yolo, Sonoma, Contra Costa, and Sacramento counties. You can learn more about the district and Senator Dodd at www.sen.ca.gov/dodd. ★

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE CITY OF DIXON CITY COUNCIL**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DIXON AMENDING SECTION 2.09.080, ELECTED CITY CLERK, OF CHAPTER TITLE 2.09, CITY OFFICIALS, OF TITLE 2, ADMINISTRATION, OF THE DIXON MUNICIPAL CODE TO CLARIFY THE DUTIES OF THE ELECTED CITY CLERK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Dixon (“City”) City Council will conduct a public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., at Council Chambers located at 600 East A Street, Dixon, California 95620, in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54950 et seq.), and the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act, to consider the adoption of an ordinance amending Section 2.09.080, Elected City Clerk, of Chapter 2.09, City Officials, of Title 2, Administration, of the Dixon Municipal Code to clarify the duties of the Elected City Clerk (the “Ordinance”).

At the November 3, 2020 general election, City voters approved Measure T, a measure to change the position of the City Clerk from an appointed position to an elected position (“Measure T”). To implement Measure T and ensure that City Clerk duties are efficiently performed, the City Council adopted an ordinance to create the offices of the Elected City Clerk and the Administrative City Clerk and denote the duties of the offices. The Ordinance will clarify the duties of the Elected City Clerk, including removing a provision providing that the duties of the Elected City Clerk are enumerated in the Elected City Clerk job description, among other technical changes.

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend the Tuesday, February 1, 2022 public hearing to express opinions or submit evidence for or against the approval of the Ordinance. Testimony from interested persons will be heard and considered by the City Council prior to taking action or making any recommendation on the Ordinance. Upon request, the agenda and the documents in the meeting agenda packet can be made available to persons with a disability. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City encourages those with disabilities to participate fully in the regular meeting process. Any person requiring special assistance to participate in the meeting should call (707) 678-7000 (voice) or (707) 678-1489 (TTY) at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting.

Interested individuals will be given an opportunity to speak in favor or opposition to the above proposed action. Written comments are also accepted prior to the meeting by mail at 600 East A Street, Dixon, CA 95620. Information regarding the meeting is on file and may be provided to interested individuals upon request. If a challenge to the above proposed action is made in court, persons may be limited to raising only those issues they or someone else raised at the meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City before the meeting.

Copies of the proposed Ordinance will be available, upon request. If you have any questions, please call the City at (707) 678-7000.

Dixon Independent Voice 1-21-2022

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Dixon City Council will conduct a Public Hearing at its regular meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 in the City Council Chambers, 600 East A Street, Dixon, California. All Members of the Public may also participate in the meeting via video conferencing at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9886211137?pwd=R2dxZ3RkbU9SQXdlUVlIRkc0QlQwZz09> and via teleconference by calling (669) 900-9128, Meeting ID: 988 621 1137, Passcode: 604754. The Public Hearing will discuss the following project:

Matters relating to the **Amendments to the City of Dixon City Engineering Design Standards and Specifications**, including the proposed Negative Declaration.

All interested persons are invited to appear at this meeting to present their comments. Written communications should be received no later than the hearing date. Materials related to this item will be available for review at Dixon City Hall, located at 600 East A Street from January 21, 2022 through February 14, 2022. City Hall is open weekdays from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m excluding holidays. If you have any questions regarding this project, please call (707) 678-7030.

Kristin M. Janisch
Elected City Clerk Publishing Date: January 21, 2022

Dixon Independent Voice 1-21-2022

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2021-002449**

The following persons are doing business as: : CROCESSORIES
602 Humbolt Drive Suisun City, CA 94585
Shawntel Ridgle, 602 Humbolt Drive Suisun City, CA 94585
Date Filed in Solano County: December 22, 2021
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 8/26/2021
This Business is Conducted by: Individual

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration December 21, 2026. 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 31, 2021 January 7, 14, and 21, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2021-002485**

The following persons are doing business as: : GNI INTEGRATIONS
2134 Cole Court Fairfiled, CA 94533
George A Martinez/Foreign Trust and Jorge Alberto Martinez/U.S. National, 2134 Cole Court Fairfiled, CA 94533
Date Filed in Solano County: January 03, 2021
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is Conducted by: A Trust

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 January 2, 2027. 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: January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2021-002475**

The following persons are doing business as: : BIRCH LANE THERAPEUTICS INC
7373 Timm Road Vacaville, CA 95688
Birch Lane Therapeutics Inc, 7373 Timm Road Vacaville, CA 95688
Date Filed in Solano County: December 29, 2021
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 12/06/2016
This Business is Conducted by: Corporation

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Publish: January 14, 21, 28, and February 4, 2022 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 2021-002411**

The following persons are doing business as: : PURPLE ROSE BOUDOIR
840 Alexander Drive Dixon, CA 95620
Laura Robertson, 840 Alexander Drive Dixon, CA 95620
Date Filed in Solano County: December 14, 2021
The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A
This Business is Conducted by: Individual

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • THE GRAMMY AWARDS

CLUES

ACROSS
1. Chunk of land
6. Sail alternative
9. Female sheep, pl.
13. Oak, in Spanish
14. Nucleic acid acronym
15. "____ under fire"
16. Permeate
17. Internet meme move
18. *Number of 2022 Grammy nominations for Doja Cat or H.E.R.
19. *Justin Bieber's stuff from Georgia
21. *Gaga's partner
23. Mauna ___, Hawaii
24. Cartoon Coyote's first name
25. Lawyers' grp.
28. Marine eagle
30. Like Roger Rabbit
35. Boisterous play
37. Ore deposit
39. Davy Crockett's last stand
40. U.S. city and lake
41. Tossed starter
43. F.B.I. operative
44. Group of nine singers, e.g.
46. Gardner's gear
47. In the middle of
48. Arctic-wear
50. Porcini mushrooms
52. In the manner of, in French
53. *Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak, a.k.a. ____ Sonic
55. Decimal system base
57. *2022 Grammy nominations leader
61. **"Bad Habits" performer
65. Lacking sense
66. Unit of electrical resistance
68. Low landform
69. Grassy mound
70. Recent or new, prefix
71. Los ___, CA
72. Peasy precursor
73. 0000001 joule
74. Earp of the Wild West

DOWN
1. LSD consequence?
2. City on the Tiber
3. *Swedish band with one 2022 Grammy nomination
4. Exclamation from a coop
5. Tittering laugh sound
6. Bookie's quote
7. Registered nurses' org.
8. Torah expert
9. Female name or a name for Ireland
10. Worker's reward
11. Not counterfeited
12. Cobblestone
15. Genus, pl.
20. British peers
22. Will Ferrell holiday movie
24. Matrimony
25. *2022 Grammy event venue, Crypto.com ____
26. B on Mendeleev's table
27. Type of acid
29. *Grammy host's last name
31. Aquarium dweller
32. #3 Down's 1975 hit "____ Mia"
33. Means of communication
34. *Kanye's album
36. Source of pressure?
38. Facilitate
42. Profoundness
45. Tip of lion's tail
49. First aid one
51. Up and down playground attraction
54. Sergio of westerns
56. Very recently
57. Triathlon ride
58. Tolstoy's Karenina
59. New Mexico art colony
60. Inwardly
61. Dirty air
62. Common "pro" follower
63. Loads
64. Egg storage
67. **"Fight for You" performer

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FOR THE LOVE OF
BOOKS
By Amy Shane

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

Ring in the New Year with These Children’s Books

Unicorn Night Sleep Tight
by Diana Murray
and Luke Flowers

After a long day of unicorn play, it’s time for the unicorns to get ready for bed. They sweep, clean, and brush their manes, then settle in beneath the stars. But something is wrong; they forgot the unicorn song.

Little ones will snuggle in tight and be excited about this adorable unicorn bedtime story. Bright, fun, and colorful pictures will keep readers happily engaged as they celebrate getting ready for bed.

Fluffy McWhiskers Cuteness Explosion
by Stephen W. Martin
and Dan Tavis

Fluffy McWhiskers was the cutest ever, but there was one problem. Anytime anyone sees her, they can’t help but explode. What is a cute kitten to do?

Cuteness abounds in this adorable story of a little kitten who just wants to find a friend. Will Fluffy McWhiskers ever meet anyone who won’t explode? Little readers will fall in love with the most adorable fluffy kitten and instantly want to join her journey of friendship.

Angelina Ballerina Loves the Library

Head off to the library with Angelina Ballerina. In this ready-to-read level one book, beginning readers will follow Angelina Ballerina as



she heads to the library for her very first library card.

PJ Masks Save Lunar New Year

The PJ Masks are excited for the New Year’s parade until they encounter the mischievous monkey Munki-gu. Will the parade be ruined, or will they be able to save the parade just in time?

Cocomelon Let’s Meet the Doctor

Readers will sing and laugh all the way to their Doctor. JJ and his friends will get young readers ready to visit the Doctor. Learn what happens in a healthy checkup and finish by singing the “Doctor Checkup” song from the hit television show.

If I Gave the World My Blanket

If Linus gave his blanket to the world, the world would feel more secure. Follow along as Linus shares how he would feel if he shared his blanket with all his friends.

Meena’s Mindful Moment
by Tina Athaide
and Asa Gilland

When Meena and her hurly-burly hullabaloo energy gets out of control, she needs to learn how to calm it. Meena’s excitement spins like a hurricane leaving disaster in her wake. Will she ever learn how to create inner calmness?

Follow Meena and her hurly-burly hullabaloo as they learn to calm and still their bodies with Dada’s mindfulness. Littler readers will learn to breathe slow, calm their minds, and stretch wide in warrior pose.

The Little Forest Keepers
by Mary Lundquist

Follow this charming story of kindness as two forest keepers, Ash and Pudd, take care of everyone in the forest. But what happens when they meet a new forest friend that is just a little bit scary? Follow this adorable story that teaches compassion and caring for those around you. ★

Newsom Bases Budget on Rosy Economic Scenario



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

The early passages in a 400-page “summary” of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s new budget describe the presumably wonderful ways he intends to spend nearly \$300 billion in the 2022-23 fiscal year.

They include what he clearly hopes will make a re-election year splash and become one of his legacies – extending state medical coverage to 100% of California’s nearly 40 million residents by folding in undocumented immigrants ineligible for federally financed care.

During a nearly three-hour news conference in which he showed off his prodigious memory of data, Newsom also touted new spending on five “existential threats” to California, including climate change, COVID-19, homelessness, the cost of living and crime.

New commitments are doable, he said, because of tens of billions of unanticipated tax dollars, largely from the state’s highest-income taxpayers, who are seeing huge profits on stocks and other investments.

The back pages of the budget summary explain why Newsom believes that the overall economy, and particularly the personal finances of the wealthy, will continue to pump billions into the state treasury for at

least a few more years.

The rosy scenario begins with an assumption that the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the sharp surge by its omicron strain, will diminish.

“The public health situation is the linchpin of the economic forecast,” the budget declares. “The forecast does not assume the emergence of a disruptive variant, which could lead to a delayed return to pre-pandemic labor force participation, persistent high inflation, and continued supply chain bottlenecks.”

The budget “projects continued real GDP growth throughout the forecast period and recovery to pre-pandemic levels of nonfarm employment by the end of 2022,” but adds, “Structural (non-pandemic) downside risks to the forecast remain, including the challenges of an aging population, declining migration flows, lower fertility rates, higher housing and living costs, increasing inequality, and stock market volatility.”

That last caveat, “stock market volatility,” is the real potential kicker. The top 1% of California taxpayers are providing at least 50% of the state’s income tax revenues and their taxable incomes are largely tied to the stock market, which has surged recently, thanks largely to the Federal Reserve System’s very low interest rates.

Were interest rates to be raised significantly to battle inflation, it would have an adverse effect on the stock market and, in turn, on California’s income tax revenues.

With California having such a narrow revenue

base in a relative handful of high-income taxpayers and their taxable incomes being rooted in stocks and other investments subject to wide swings of value, any long-term revenue estimates are educated guesses at best.

It’s called “volatility,” a syndrome that has backfired on California’s budget more than once.

“No one is naïve about the volatility of the tax system,” Newsom said Monday, contending that careful spending and building reserves guard against the boom-and-bust conditions that have afflicted the state in past years.

His budget declares that “the state’s budget resilience is stronger than ever: the result of building reserves, eliminating budgetary debt, reducing retirement liabilities, and focusing on one-time spending over ongoing investments to maintain structurally balanced budgets over the long term.”

The budget’s \$34.6 billion in projected reserves sound impressive, but a truly serious and prolonged recession, such as the one that struck 15 years ago, could quickly deplete them.

There’s been an ongoing debate over whether revenue volatility should be tamed by reducing the state’s dependence on taxing the rich or by building big reserves. Under Newsom’s predecessor, Jerry Brown, the state opted for the “rainy day fund” approach but it has yet to face a serious challenge.

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



Riley Reviews

“THE 355” SPY THRILLER OF TOUGH WOMEN; FOX WINTER TV

A Film and TV Review by Tim Riley

“THE 355” RATED PG-13

What’s up with the title of “The 355”? It’s a nod to the historical significance of espionage in the foundation of our country that most of us never heard about during school.

During the Revolutionary War, a real-life female spy, known only by the code name 355, played a pivotal role in George Washington’s Culper Spy Ring, helping to convey vital information about British troop movements.

A fair assumption is that our first president’s spy was likely not as glamorous as the spies in “The 355,” but then Washington’s agent was not infiltrating an opulent auction house of fine art in Shanghai in search of a top-secret weapon on the black market.

In “The 355,” it takes a quintet of attractive, diverse women from all corners of the globe to work in concert against nefarious forces led by cutthroat mercenary Elijah Clarke (Jason Flemyng).

Wild card CIA agent Mace (Jessica Chastain) and her colleague Nick (Sebastian Stan) go undercover as a couple honeymooning in Paris on a mission to rendezvous with a contact, Luis (Edgar Ramirez), at a local café to obtain a backpack containing a data key to unlock any closed system.

This operation goes sideways when skilled German agent Marie (Diane Kruger) makes off with the asset and a panicked Luis flees the scene. As Nick pursues him, Mace chases after Marie.

As Mace leaps across restaurant tables and hurtles past onlookers to retrieve the item, Marie speeds through a crowded pedestrian arcade on a stolen motorbike. The chase ends up in the Metro tunnels where they must dodge speeding subway trains.

Ultimately, the data key eludes both Mace and Marie, forcing Mace to go off the grid, while realizing she’ll need a team with diverse skills to succeed. Enter Mace’s old MI6 ally Khadijah (Lupita Nyong’o) and Columbian intelligence therapist Graciela (Penelope Cruz).

The eventual fifth member to join forces with the United Nations of spies is the enigmatic Lin Mi Sheng (Bingbing Fan), who had been secretly monitoring their moves.

“The 355” boils down to badass women on a lethal, breakneck mission around the globe engaged in plenty of action to satisfy most fans of the spy genre. But Charlize Theron was the toughest of them all in “Atomic Blonde.”

FOX WINTER TV

In the world of television, things seem to be getting closer to normal when a network is able to launch several new

midseason series that are not all reality programming.

Such is the case with the FOX network’s new scripted series, one of which is “The Cleaning Lady,” an emotionally driven character drama about a smart Cambodian doctor who comes to America for a medical treatment to save her son.

Failed by the system and pushed into hiding, the doctor (Elodie Yung), refusing to be marginalized, becomes a cleaning lady for organized crime, using her cunning and intelligence to forge her own path in the criminal underworld.

On a premise that sounds more serious, the new comedy “Pivoting,” airing in a time slot after the second season of “Call Me Kat,” follows three women as they cope with the death of the fourth member of their close-knit group of childhood friends.

Eliza Coupe, Maggie Q and Ginnifer Goodwin, faced with the reality that life is short, pivot and alter their current paths, by way of a series of impulsive, ill-advised and self-indulgent decisions.

For Amy (Eliza Coupe), the fearless producer of a cooking show managing a hundred employees, is absolutely flummoxed when it comes to caring for her own children. Her pivot is to be a more active, present mother.

Ginnifer Goodwin’s Jodie is a stay-at-home mom of three in a loveless marriage, and her turn means getting in shape and maybe more with her hot 27-year old trainer Matt (JT Neal), who gives her attention and excitement she didn’t realize that she craved.

For Maggie Q’s successful doctor Sarah, the loss of their friend is compounded by the recent divorce from her wife. After a life filled with stress, Sarah is sent into a tailspin and pivots to a simpler, happier life working as a grocery store employee.

Debuting with a special two-night event immediately following the NFC Championship game on Sunday, January 30, “Monarch” is an epic, multi-generational musical drama about America’s first family of country music.

Starring Susan Sarandon, Trace Adkins and Anna Friel, the Romans are passionate and fiercely talented, but while their name is synonymous with honesty, the very foundation of the family’s success is a lie.

When dangerous truths bubble to the surface, the Romans’ reign as country royalty is put in jeopardy. Nicky Roman (Friel), the heir to the crown, already battling an industry and world stacked against her, will stop at nothing to protect her family’s legacy.

The idea of conflict in the world of country music has been played for a soap opera before, probably most notably with last decade’s series “Nashville” that ran on ABC before finishing its run on CMT. ★



Agriculture Secretary says Port Congestion is Easing, but Challenges Persist

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack says American ports are making progress in clearing logjams that have delayed exports of billions of dollars of farm commodities. However, in a speech to the American Farm Bureau Federation, Vilsack said too many empty shipping containers are still being rushed back to the Far East “without having agricultural products in them.” The port crunch has sharply impacted exports of California tree nuts and wine.

Intensity of Early-Season Rains Impacts Pomegranate Growers

Those heavy early-season rains, welcomed by many California farmers, are challenging for pomegranate growers. If the fruit takes in too much water too quickly, it can split. And pomegranate growers say they are seeing some negative impacts from too much rain too soon. Most of the crop was harvested before heavy rains in October. But some growers estimated that the 2021 harvest was off by 15% or more from the previous year. Overall, California is expected to produce 300 million pounds of pomegranates.

Mild Winter Cold plus Fog is a Healthy Recipe for Fruit and Nut Trees

Fruit and nut trees in the Central Valley are chilling out, and that is exactly what farmers want to see. Chill hours, when temperatures are between 32 and 45 degrees, help keep trees dormant. Sufficient winter chill hours promote healthy spring growth and summer and fall yields. Warming can result in late or uneven blooms and lower yields. Hard freezes can cause damage. So far, University of California agriculture officials say mildly cold and foggy conditions have been the perfect recipe.

UC Davis Study Identifies Bird Species that may Threaten Crops

Some species of birds that forage on feed grounds near cattle are more likely to spread unwanted bacteria to crops such as lettuce, spinach or broccoli, according to a University of California, Davis study. But researchers, writing in the journal Ecological Applications, concluded that numerous birds found near farms are less likely to carry pathogens with food safety risks. Birds considered safer include many useful, insect-eating species. One bird that risks spreading contaminants is the invasive European starling. ★



WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

SON, LEARNING TO SKATE WITH A STICK IS TOUGH. YOU WILL GET BUMPS AND BRUISES. THE GOAL IS TO GET GOOD ENOUGH ONE DAY TO THROW THAT STICK DOWN AND GIVE THE OPPONENT BUMPS AND BRUISES.



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

OUR CAN OPENER DOESN'T WORK!!

RUB RUB RUB

WELL, I GUESS NOW IT'S A "CANT" OPENER?



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

WHAT CAN I GET YOU?

I'LL HAVE THE AVOCADO SALAD WITH BALSAMIC DRESSING, CLAM CHOWDER, DELMONICO STEAK WITH EGGPLANT AND FUSILLI, GRATED CHEESE AND HUMMUS TO START...

ALPHABETICAL ORDER



THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

BY AL SCADUTO

NEVER IN OUR LIFETIME DEPT--

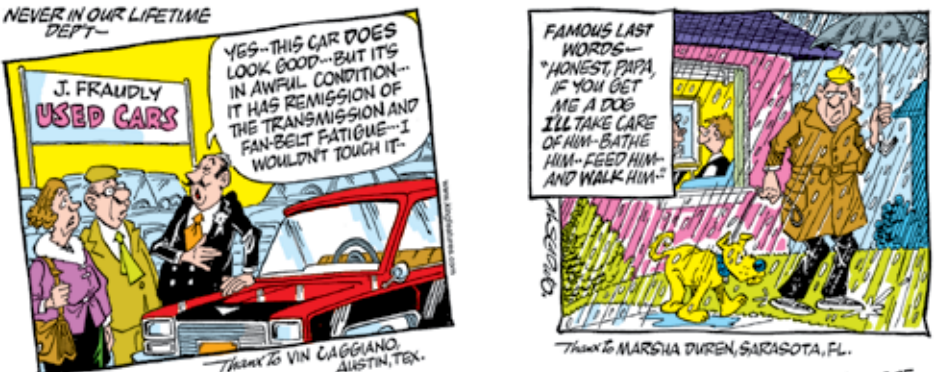
J. FRAUDLY USED CARS

YES--THIS CAR DOES LOOK GOOD--BUT IT'S IN AWFUL CONDITION--IT HAS REMISSION OF THE TRANSMISSION AND A FAN-BELT FATIGUE--I WOULDN'T TOUCH IT--

THANKS TO VIN CAGGIANO, AUSTIN, TEX.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS-- "HONEST PAPA, IF YOU GET A DOG I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM--BATH HIM--FEED HIM--AND WALK HIM--"

THANKS TO MARSHA DUREN, SARASOTA, FL.



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

I'M SURE YOU'LL GET THE HANG OF SKIIN' IN NO TIME, JUNE. JUST WATCH WHAT I DO AND TRY TO COPY IT.

WHOA!

YIKES!!

UM...I THINK I'LL STICK TO SKATIN', DAD!



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LAFF-A-DAY

"I'm glad YOU like it--the dog wouldn't even touch it!"



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

HANK, YOU'RE ENGAGED NOW SO KNOW THIS...YOU BEGIN A WEDDING WITH "I DO" FOLLOWED BY 50 YEARS OF "I'M SORRY."



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTHOFF

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Supply Disruptions Hitting Home-Based Medical Care

Commentary
by Thomas Ryan

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - The days of scrambling to secure toilet paper are over. But the pandemic is continuing to wreak havoc on supply chains. Pet food is in short supply. Restaurants are warning customers that their favorite meals may not be on the menu. Then there's the shortage of semiconductor chips, which has raised the price and curbed the availability of medical devices.

Waiting for a piece of medical equipment can be life-threatening. Our leaders must therefore make bolstering the medical supply chain a bigger priority. They can start by ensuring the companies that provide and service medical equipment are paid enough to compete for the scarce chips and raw materials that they and their patients need. Many of these companies care for home-bound patients who rely on things like motorized wheelchairs, ventilators, and home oxygen. More than 63 million of these patients are covered by Medicare.

Pre-pandemic, Medicare's payment rates to home medical equipment providers were barely sufficient to keep them in business. In the last decade, some 35% of providers closed or stopped serving Medicare beneficiaries. The pandemic has exacerbated the challenges they face. Providers are waiting months to receive parts to repair things like power wheelchairs. Prices for some parts have shot up 30% since early 2020 due to limited supply.

Over the same time frame, the cost of steel for wheelchairs and hospital beds has jumped over 60%, while the cost of polycarbonate plastics, used for oxygen



Waiting for a piece of medical equipment can be life-threatening. MPG File photo

tubing, nebulizers, canisters, oxygen, and PAP masks, has increased by 100%. Shipping container costs are partly to blame for these dramatic spikes. Since the pandemic began, the cost of these containers has risen over 1,200%. Then there's the chip shortage, which has disrupted production of everything from blood pressure monitors to remote-control hospital beds.

When the price of inputs rises in other industries, companies typically pass the increase on to consumers. But home medical equipment providers are constrained by pre-determined

Medicare pricing that doesn't account for today's costs. That leaves them to either stop taking on new patients or absorb the cost increases they're facing -- perhaps by curbing their workforces, shrinking their geographic service area, limiting the selection of products to meet individual's needs, reducing complimentary but essential services, and more. All those options diminish patient outcomes and access.

Congress and the administration must take action to ensure homecare remains viable and accessible for those who need

it, now and into the future. That will require addressing the chip shortage. To his credit, President Biden is taking action to shore up America's supply lines. He's created task forces to identify bottlenecks and bring semiconductor chip manufacturing back to the United States.

In the meantime, Congress and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services must make sure home medical equipment providers have the resources to compete for scarce technological inputs. That means raising payment rates. Medical device manufacturers should

not be losing bidding wars over scarce electronic components to non-healthcare providers, just because the latter have the ability to raise prices.

These devices save the health care system billions of dollars a year. It doesn't make financial sense to starve home medical equipment providers of funds. To survive, they must be paid an amount commensurate with their rising expenses.

Thomas Ryan is president and CEO of the American Association for Homecare aahomecare.org. This piece originally appeared on InsideSources.com. ★

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