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Learn to Prune
Roses**
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**Happy
Valentine's day**



Dixon Independent Voice

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**SPREADING THE
LOVE FOR LOCAL
BUSINESSES**



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The Reluctant Entrepreneur



Eddie Shaw proudly displays one of his many certificates for diesel training showing he easily 'speaks' diesel truck language. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Ambivalent might have been the word to describe Eddie Shaw when he graduated from Vacaville High School many years ago. He just wasn't sure what he wanted to do with his life, but his Dad pushed him out of the nest, and he decided to take a college automotive class since he liked Ford Mustangs. He certainly never thought he'd someday open his own shop or get voted the Best Auto Mechanic Shop if he did. But he did.

He would not call his career 'passion-inspired.' In fact, he considered becoming a Correctional Officer and passed all the tests and the interview before deciding he'd prefer to stay in the mechanic shop.

Getting a job at a Firestone, he went from being lowest in seniority to highest.

"I really admired all those guys," Eddie said. "I wanted to be like them." So, for years, he stuck with the company and grew close with the other mechanics eventually working out of a Pittsburg shop for ten years then followed them to San Jose, then Sunnyvale. He commuted 120 miles one way over a period of another eight years, while juggling the role of husband and father.

He also took numerous classes and training that were offered to him. When it got too expensive to commute, he took a job at Ford of Fairfield. The seed of entrepreneurship came from his beloved.

"I pushed him for years because I knew he could do it," said Trina Shaw pushing her long blonde hair from her shoulder. "He was just scared."

He readily admits he liked having a steady job and a steady paycheck.

Every time he went in to tell his boss that he was leaving, he'd get a raise or a promotion, explained Trina.

"I call him a 'diesel doctor' and told him that every day he was practicing his profession," Trina said, but he'd been practicing it for 23 years and she wanted him to go out on his own. He 'finally' opened the Dixon shop in 2018.

The two sat comfortably in the office of Fast Eddies Diesel Engine Performance and Auto Repair on North Jackson Street surrounded by certificates for Ford Triple Senior Master Tech and others showing he is fluent in 5.9, 6.7, 7.3, 6.0, and 6.4 diesel. These are among a host of other plaques, awards and recognitions.

"I may have done it for 23 years but I'm still learning," he said modestly. "She's a huge supporter but
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City Council Decisions, Media Consult Gets Raise

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - With issues of releasing body cams, video protests, and growing defiance of pandemic restrictions facing cities up and down the state, Police and Sheriff's Departments as well as Public Information Officers tout the wisdom of having a professional media organization. Now Dixon has one.

The resolution to retain Cole Pro Media out of Vacaville passed 5-0 at the last City Council Meeting.

City Engineer Joe Leach gave a brief presentation on the various achievements of the company for the City of Dixon before turning it over to Cole Pro's Sandra Soriano who said there is a "strict emphasis on transparency."

"The staff of Cole Pro Media are world-class transparency engagement advisors and social media experts. We are the only company in the nation that specializes in social media for law enforcement and municipalities (including cities, counties, and unincorporated regions). We understand the challenges facing public agencies and take great pride in our ability to communicate transparent, easily understood, messages about our clients - without spin," according to their website.

The company has been working for the City since June 1 of last year bolstering the city's presence on social media and Facebook at a rate of \$3,000 a month but was boosted to \$4,500 for the rest of their contract this year and all of the 2021-2022 budget cycle. This was because of the additional duties added to their existing contract. Those are: the creation of a monthly content calendar to structure and plan social media posts, coordinate schedules of those posts to avoid posting too close together, a creation of a quarterly city-wide newsletter, and assistance to translate into Spanish when needed.

"More communication, better communication is the direction to go and we should continue this process," said Dist. 1 Council Representative Scott Pederson. Due to a caller's question, it was clarified that there is a different media consultant used for the water issue facing the city.

In another council task under unfinished business,
Continued on page 5

COVID Causes Good Changes for Cake, Cupcake Business

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - While most of the impacts of the pandemic shutdown and restrictions have cost small business owners tremendously, there are a few who have worked through it and actually are getting better. Every Baking Moment, the cake-making supply capital of northern California is one of them.

When Janis Luzzo moved her packed little cake supply shop to the expansive space next door on North First Street in the heart of downtown Dixon, she quickly became popular to all cake-decorating wannabes not only in Dixon but within a 60-mile radius.

Her classes were fun and produced a need for customers to purchase more products. More teachers were hired. Ultimately, classes for children were introduced and also



Dixon resident Emily Berger proudly shows off her Polar Bear cupcake she created in January using a 'Kids to Go' kit from Every Baking Moment in downtown Dixon. Photo courtesy of Every Baking Moment

became wonderfully popular. The back space of the shop was regularly booked for classes, birthday parties

and even boys could have a birthday celebration with superheroes or monsters.

Enter the pandemic. "We don't do Zoom or adult classes. We quit doing all of that," said Luzzo who added that her business has always been about hands on. From demonstrating a particular technique and then supporting a customer in their creativity, Luzzo saw adult classes decline but the interest in children's classes increased.

"The impact has been fantastic because I can do more than I could do in a classroom," she said. "The volume makes up more with 'Kids-to-Go' than what we've done with adults." There is demand from older children who might have not readily signed up for a class, parents who want to buy for all three of their children instead of just one, and
Continued on page 2



Life's too SHORT

Loving Valentines Ideas; Ready for Wedding

By Debra Dingman

Those who know me know that I like to have fun celebrating holidays. With a wedding around the corner, I haven't had time to do some of the small tasks I normally do for Valentine's Day. So, I thought I'd put a challenge out there to 'share the love' and encourage people to make some simple valentines (or buy some as they are very inexpensive at the Dollar Tree or Walmart) and give them out for Valentine's Day.

A small bag of candy is inexpensive and you can tuck a piece inside. You can leave one in the mailbox for your carrier. Drop by the police or fire department with some sweethearts. Send one to the newspaper carrier. Bring one into the gas station attendant where you always fill up your car. Do you have neighbors that would enjoy the kindness? What about bringing a dozen over to the Solano Life House for their residents? Maybe send your special people heart stickers?

I try to think of this day as an opportunity for me to do something loving and I've worked on creating something very special for my son and his fiancé who will be married on that weekend. Some people think he was trying to accomplish two things at once but really, that was the only date that the venue they wanted was available.

It's been so many years since the last wedding in our family that I forgot what was expected of the Mother of the Groom and had to search. Did you know that the mother of the groom was supposed

to give a speech at the rehearsal dinner? I never heard of that and had to call my oldest son and apologize. I asked him if I said anything at all at their rehearsal and he said no, that I was rocking their friend's baby off in the corner. Oh right. Someone's baby was very fussy and I knew she just needed some tender distraction. Thankfully, his Dad gave the toast.

This time, I will be better prepared and poured over photo albums and journals of the past 25 years. Oh my goodness; what a very full life we have lived! One night, I went to bed as usual but then thought of standing up there and getting out four pages...I couldn't stop giggling at the joke. A friend once said that we had the most laughing family she'd ever known. Yes, that would be us because it's the only thing I can do to live with a man who speaks a different language.

So when I dragged David to mother of the groom dress shopping after I had been hungry for four full months, I tried on a beautiful, pink and black 3-piece chiffon pant suit. When I went out to the mirrors, the two clerks gasped at its beauty. I say to my husband, "Does it show my rolls?" He answered, "Only a couple." I didn't buy it.

We're walking away from the bridal store and he's walking in front of me. "David, you look so thin!" I said. "I swear if you lose one more pound while I'm on this diet, I'm going to smack you!" He responds in all honesty as if he really thought I'd smack him: "I can't help it! I didn't do ANYTHING!" You can imagine the exasperated growl I let out. ★

COVID Causes Good Changes for Cake, Cupcake Business

Continued from page 1

grandparents who want to have something to do with their grandchildren. It also makes sense that there is only so much children can do when it's cold or wet outside or when museums or playhouses are closed.

"It opened up a lot of different ages and groups I wouldn't normally attract," she said. She schedules two projects a month, posts online a finished product such as a ladybug cupcake for Valentine's Day, and prepares the kits that the customer/student will pick up from her shop. The kits have everything the student needs to complete the project including instructions. She says she always prepares a few extras, too.

One has to order in advance and they cost about \$12 each.

It takes a lot of math to figure out how much to purchase in bulk. She puts together all the items the person will need that doesn't go bad and refrigerates the rest of the supplies. The kit(s) are brought safely by staff to the customer's car via the store's backdoor.

In December, there were 200-plus kits sold for children decorating a Christmas Tree Cookie.

After the Valentine 'Love Bugs,' there will be 'Aliens Attack,' a funny looking monster with blue pointy hair and silly eyes. The deadline to register is February 23.

Luzzo tells of students who send over pictures of themselves with their creations and it is heartwarming. Another kit was "Santa Got Stuck"

and was a pair of Santa's pants and boots sticking out of a chimney and another January one was "Penguin Party" featuring funny-looking penguins atop an igloo shaped with an upside down white-frosted cupcake and a large marshmallow. Someone obviously has a sense of humor when creating the projects and that person is Luzzo.

"I am having fun," she said and admitted she wasn't planning to go back to teaching adults. There are other teachers for that, she explained. "In my case, this is more fun."

For more information, go to EveryBakingMoment.com, see on Facebook, or call Luzzo at (707) 693-0112. The shop is open for retail at 143 North First Street in downtown Dixon. ★

California Water Service Group Launches College Scholarship Program

By Emily Hernandez, California Water Service

SAN JOSE, CA (MPG) - California Water Service Group (Group) (NYSE: CWT) has opened its annual College Scholarship Program for students residing in areas served by its California, Hawaii, New Mexico, and Washington subsidiaries. Eligible students may apply for one of multiple scholarships; a total of \$80,000 will be distributed in the eighth annual cycle.

Among the awards, four \$10,000 scholarships will be given, with additional, smaller amounts of \$2,500 to \$5,000 provided. To be eligible for the 2021 College Scholarship Program, students must be pursuing a degree in higher education and plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate study program at an accredited college, university, or vocational-technical school for the upcoming academic year. Scholarships will be awarded based on academic achievement, community service, and financial need.

"As many of our neighbors and customers continue to face economic hardship due to the pandemic, providing financial assistance so students can afford a post-secondary education is more important than ever," said Martin A. Kropelnicki, President and Chief Executive Officer. "The scholarship

program is part of our commitment to improving the quality of life in the communities we serve, and we encourage any students who meet the eligibility requirements to apply."

The annual scholarships are part of Group's stockholder-funded philanthropic giving program and do not affect customers' rates. The program is administered by Scholarship America, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. To date, Group has provided \$440,000 in scholarships to students through the program.

To learn more about the scholarship program or to apply, students may visit learnmore.scholarsapply.org/calwaterscholarships. The application period will close on Friday, April 16, 2021. Winners will be announced in the summer.

California Water Service Group is the parent company of California Water Service, Washington Water Service, New Mexico Water Service, Hawaii Water Service, CWS Utility Services, and HWS Utility Services. Together, these companies provide regulated and non-regulated water service to more than 2 million people in California, Washington, New Mexico, and Hawaii. California Water Service Group's common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CWT." Additional information is available online at www.calwatergroup.com. ★



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MEMORIAL NOTICE

Teresa Luna
August 19, 1928 to November 13, 2020

Teresa (Ruiz) Luna passed away peacefully at home with her eldest daughter, who cared for and lived with her, by her side on Nov. 13th. She was 92.

Teresa was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend who will be remembered by all for her devotion to her family, emotional strength, wise and honest counsel, and witty sense of humor. As the matriarch of the family, she was fiercely protective of her loved ones and never hesitated to offer the advice they needed to hear.

Teresa was married to her late husband, Urbano Luna, for 54 years. Her legacy includes seven children, 19 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great grandchildren. She was also a surrogate mom to two of her husband's siblings, who had been orphaned at an early age.

Teresa's children remember her as a loving disciplinarian with a no-nonsense approach to parenting. She raised her children to have a strong work ethic, to take care of each other and without fail to always greet guests and respect elders. She also instilled in her young children the importance of helping others. She demonstrated this by feeding those in need and assisting neighbors with whatever was needed, most memorably even serving as an impromptu midwife birthing neighbors' babies and a sister's child.

She helped raise her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, 10 of whom are now college graduates. They fondly remember countless hours at their grandma "Nana's" house in Dixon, after school Happy Meals, her tight hugs, and her beloved dog Cha Cha. She also provided after-school care for several nieces, who remember shopping mall trips with Aunt Teresa treating them to a birthday gift or clothing for a special event.

Teresa helped support her family with employment at the Milk Farm, the Nut Tree, Dixon Unified School District, Dixon Canning, and later in life as a greeter at Walmart.

Teresa was famous for her excellent cooking, most notably her chicken tacos and salsa, and enjoyed passing on her recipes to family members. Each Christmas she meticulously supervised the annual tamale making at her house, never hesitating to critique, yet also encourage, her daughters' and daughter-in-laws' methods of making the traditional dish. Her family Christmas gatherings were full of love, laughter, and storytelling. Teresa's kitchen table always served as a place for her extended family to share a meal, to talk, and to seek her advice.

Born in Watts, Los Angeles County on Aug. 19, 1928, Teresa "Teddy" was the daughter of Benito and Felicitas (Rubalcava) Ruiz. She grew up with 14 siblings in a hardworking family. She often shared stories of her upbringing and the challenges faced as the third eldest working alongside her brothers, sisters and cousins to help support the family. Her family faced financial difficulties and discrimination as they frequently moved throughout California for seasonal field work and these hardships helped to develop her strength, perseverance, self-reliance, and family unity. Teresa took great pride in her early work ethic and the importance of a supportive family, traits inherited by her children who worked together over many years to ensure Teresa maintained a long comfortable life in her own home following physically disabling health issues, just as she cared for her own mother.

Teresa met her husband in a movie theater in Isleton, California and married in 1946 following a short courtship. They settled in the Sacramento River Delta, initially Bouldin Island, with a subsequent move to Dixon, California in 1954 where they remained lifelong residents. Following her husband's death in 2000, Teresa continued to nurture her family and maintained a keen interest in politics, worldwide affairs, and local city council by faithfully reading her daily newspapers over her morning coffee and sharing updates and opinions with any one of her children who stopped by. She was also known to have a freshly brewed cup of coffee while lending an ear to one in need.

Teresa is survived by her sons David Luna (Joanna), Urbano Luna, Jr. (Juanita), Richard Luna (Carol) and Robert Luna (Marilyn); daughters Irene Day and Sally Covey (Rick); Elvira Morey (Doug); and brothers Benito Ruiz, Daniel Ruiz, Alfred Ruiz, and Robert Ruiz. She was preceded in death by husband Urbano Luna, youngest daughter Elizabeth Holly, son-in-law Pat Day, 7 sisters and 3 brothers, and brother-in-law Gabriel Luna who she raised.

Her love and feisty spirit, the core of her family, will be greatly missed.

Teresa's family will have a private interment. A celebration of life for Teresa will be held at a later date. The family would like to express gratitude to Kaiser Home Health Services.

The Reluctant Entrepreneur: Fast Eddie



Diesel Mechanic Mark Fox and shop owner Eddie Shaw are buddies who work together daily on the many diesel trucks that come into the shop. Photo by Debra Dingman

Continued from page 1
when you start a business, you don't want to fail. I knew if you don't do it right, you won't last." Obviously, he's been doing it right.

Fast Eddies now has a team of seven mechanics including a college and a high school intern. They also just won the best auto mechanic shop for the Vacaville Reporter's 'Best Of' competition where customers vote for their favorite businesses – a rarity for a Dixon business to win.

Like a lot of small businesses like this, the wife sets the appointments, handles the bookkeeping and also does the marketing.

"I like that she's down here, so she sees it all and I like that she wants to be a part of it," he said. "She takes care of me; like asking did I eat?" They both laughed.

"We're still putting the puzzle together," she said about their blended

family of three children each between the ages of 8 and 24.

Eddie has a huge following and a huge heart per comments on social media. Almost all referred to him as "honest." He likes to give a few options for each truck repair, he explained. One is the adhesive bandage, then there's a job that will last a while, then there is the permanent solution.

"That gives the customer the choice of how much value he can get for the repair," he said.

He lives up to the name 'Fast Eddie' maybe not the original tag by family and friends, but to his customers because he is able to quickly figure out what the problem is that "six other shops" could not, a customer said. Most importantly, he takes the time to explain the options.

"I'll get business just over the phone because I took the time to answer their questions and talk to

them. I like doing what I'm doing and look at my hands as a gift. I like to be able to help people," he said. "I'm older and not driven by money to fix the truck. People appreciate that."

"The truck community in Dixon is huge," he said, adding that they are all friendly and they all know each other. His company repairs 10 to 15 trucks per week, has numerous fleets they handle, and has one of the highest ratings for Yelp reviews. There are 24 trucks lined up for service around the corner of his 439 North Jackson metal building.

"We definitely need more diesel mechanics," said employee Mark Fox. Eddie is looking to hire but good mechanics are a hot commodity right now, he explained. They also hope to expand their commercial space soon--not bad for being a reluctant entrepreneur. For more information, call (925) 984-8131. ★

Spreading the Love for Local Businesses

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - The Downtown Dixon Business Association is regrowing itself with new leadership thanks to an energetic new downtown business owner who is already kicking off a sign campaign to 'Spread the Local Love.'

"My daughter had driven through a small town and saw all these little signs and told me about it. We have already been selling burlap tote bags that said 'we support local business' so we kicked it off from there," said Rebecca Robinson, owner of the Uptown Collective in downtown Dixon. She contacted the Print Shop and they made the signs.

"We can do what we can to lift the spirits of small business owners," she said. "They're discouraged and they're feeling down. But, this is a way we can encourage everyone to support the local economy."

Robinson and other volunteers are delivering the signs and so far, you will see them at Mother's Plant Boutique, Barn & Pantry, Taqueria Adelina, Century 21, Phoenix & Kate, Motley Realty,



You may be seeing more of these signs pop up around Dixon. They are part of the DDBA 'Spread the Love' campaign supporting local merchants and was created by Rebecca Robinson of the Downtown Dixon Business Association. Courtesy photo

Rosemary's Farm to Fork, State Farm, Almond Tree Mortgage, Pip Wine Barn, Dixon's IV Newspaper, and Uptown Collective.

"The more you see them, the better it looks and we're hoping to inspire business owners," she said, hardly taking a breath. "The next thing we want to do is an outdoor

sidewalk sale. If we can do this for St. Patrick's Day, we hope to get the restaurants to also do specials for take-out and the customers can pick up after they've shopped. The goal is to be shop and dine in downtown Dixon," she said.

For more information on DDBA or a sign, text (707) 640-0394. ★

DWIC Members Learn to Prune Roses



Kristina Fink of Lemuria Nursery will guide DWIC members on how to prune roses at their next Zoom meeting. Courtesy photo

By Loran Hoffman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Kristina Fink from Lemuria Nursery in Dixon will be presenting a program on 'Pruning your Roses' at the February ZOOM Meeting of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club. Kristina is a true gardener that loves getting her hands dirty by digging in the dirt! She enjoys working with plants and rejoices in observing new growth, whether it be a leaf or flower starting to appear.

Kristina's roots are in the nursery business (pun intended). Her grandfather operated the Lemuria Nursery in Richmond on San Pablo Avenue for more than 30 years that had been started by his father, Kristina's great-grandfather, in 1939. Kristina's father, Peter Fink, and uncle, Erik Fink, moved the business to Dixon in 2000. Lemuria is a wholesale nursery, but also sells to the public.

Kristina's face may look familiar as she frequently provides FaceBook tours of the nursery to let people know what plants they currently have in stock and to introduce new and different varieties of

plants available. She is a frequent speaker at area garden clubs and county-wide horticultural events where she offers gardening tips to all levels of gardeners-from novice to Green Thumb award winners.

Kristina is the granddaughter of Jewel Fink, President of the Dixon Women's Improvement Club and elected representative of the Dixon School Board.

The Zoom meeting starts at 1 pm on February 17. If you are interested in learning more about the Dixon Women's Improvement Club or would like to participate in the Zoom presentation, contact membership Chair, Mary Kay Callaway at (916) 541-0417.

A few tickets are still available for the DWIC Scholarship and Community Grant Fundraising Dinner, a drive-thru, that will be held on Monday evening from 4:30-8 pm on Monday, February 15.

Tickets are \$25 each and ticket holders have a choice from four entrées and will also receive a house salad, vegetable, potatoes, and bread. Call Loran Hoffmann at (707) 372-7094 for tickets and instructions on how to pick up your dinner or have it delivered to your home. ★

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30 Years-Life for Assaulting a Custodial Officer

Solano County District Attorney

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- On January 27, 2021, before the Honorable Robert S. Bowers, Department 15 of the Solano County Superior Court, Defendant Dunlap's two-day preliminary hearing concluded. Defendant Dunlap was held to answer for the charges of Attempted Premeditated Murder of a Custodial Officer, Felony Assault upon a Custodial Officer, and Resisting, Obstructing and Delaying a Peace Officer.

While awaiting trial for Murder, Defendant Dunlap was housed at the Stanton County Correctional Facility. On February 8, 2020, Dunlap was out of his cell pretending to use the phones in the middle of the mod. He laid in wait for a petite female correctional officer to pass

under the stairs that separated the phones from the cells. Once the female custodial officer's back was turned, the defendant ran directly at her and grabbed her throat before she could see him coming. The defendant got the officer in a choke hold from behind and attempted to choke her out. Fortunately, another custodial officer heard the commotion from upstairs and came running to help her. Using a baton, he was able to get Dunlap to release her. The defendant then began to assault that officer. Additional correctional officers came running to render assistance and were able to subdue the defendant.

Further testimony elicited at the hearing showed Dunlap was wearing a pair of shoes that he usually did not wear. These were typically worn

when intended to fight. The defendant was also found to have a make shift "body armor and jock strap" covering his genitals. According to the correctional officers, these are used when an inmate seeks to protect himself from harm during a fight. The defendant was heard by a number of officers to say, "You were lucky you were there. You saved her life" and "You're lucky you saved her this time."

Dunlap is scheduled to return to Department 15 on February 9, 2021 for Arraignment. If convicted, Dunlap will face potential imprisonment for 30 years-Life, separate from his pending murder charges.

Detective Christopher Cavazos investigated the case. The case is being prosecuted by Senior Deputy District Attorney Julie Underwood. ★

CONVERSATIONS

By Loran Hoffmann and Shirley Humphrey

Information on Dixon City Web Site Inaccurate

Shirley recently was 'surfing' on the City of Dixon's website and came upon the announcement that "The Meals on Wheels Lunch Program at the Senior/Multi-Use Center is now serving lunch Monday through Friday."

Since Governor Newsom lifted the stay at home mandate for Californians, Shirley thought this would be wonderful for her and her husband, Jim, along with other Dixon seniors to visit the Senior Center for lunch. She called the number listed on the website 707- 678-7022, but no one answered. She called the phone number listed for three consecutive days to no avail. Shirley thought possibly the phone number was incorrect, so she called the City of Dixon's main phone number 707-678-7000.

The phone was answered by a pleasant woman who listened carefully as Shirley read her the paragraph from the city's website. She asked Shirley if she could place the call on hold for a few minutes so she could investigate what was printed on the website.

When she returned to the call she informed Shirley that the Meals on Wheels program was no longer available through the city of Dixon and provided the following number: 707-425-0638. Shirley called that number that referred her to an individual named Esmeralda Sanchez. Ms. Sanchez's recording asked that callers leave a message and that she would call back. Shirley left a message and it is now after 6 pm and she has not received a call.

Shirley was reviewing the Senior Calendar that was published on the city of Dixon website, Senior Multi-use Center calendar and discovered a third phone number listed for the Dixon Meals on Wheels Lunch Program. The statement appeared as follows: "Meals on Wheels of Solano County serves hot, nutritious lunches, Monday through Friday at the Dixon Senior/Multi-Use Center at 11:30. All seniors are welcome....Please bring correct change and call 707-426-3079 at day in advance (by 6 pm)." Shirley called Thursday a little after 1 pm to make a reservation for lunch on Friday. No one answered. After more than one week of daily attempts to make a luncheon reservation, Shirley and Jim are no closer to enjoying enchiladas prepared by the Meals on Wheels program than when Shirley was surfing the city of Dixon website the previous week.

Occasionally, prior to the pandemic, Shirley participated in the "Western Line Dancing" activity held on Tuesdays and

Thursdays at Dixon's Senior Center. Although the offerings of Dixon's Senior Center have been limited in the past, now more than ever seniors need opportunities to exercise to improve their mental and physical conditions.

Social distancing measures mean that people have far fewer opportunities to be physically active, especially if activities such as walking or cycling as transportation, or taking part in a leisurely activity (e.g. jogging, walking the dog, going to the gym) are being restricted. Furthermore, these drastic measures also make it so much easier to be sedentary at home for long periods of time. The impact of this physical inactivity may very likely be seen in many areas such as health and social care and the mental well-being of people all across the globe.

City staff funded by Senior programs do not seem to be in touch with the community and the needs of the seniors. The Dixon senior center is closed and currently has no senior programs being offered. Neighboring cities are experiencing the same pandemic restrictions but city staff have adapted some of their programs for their seniors. In Dixon, virtual exercise classes could be offered via ZOOM - line dancing, dyna band, meditation for stress are all activities that are doable on line if they were made available.

Can Dixon afford to fund staff positions for Senior programs and operate a senior/multi-purpose building where nothing is happening? Senior staff does not respond to telephone inquiries, answer the phone, or update the website information. This is a difficult time, but the senior program in Dixon will perish if it is not able to adapt to the needs of the seniors in 2021.

The City might want to consider conducting a survey to find out what Dixon seniors are interested in learning and doing. Also, talk to other cities to find out what types of programs they have found to be successful. We have many skilled and talented people in Dixon that can offer a helping hand with developing and implementing a survey as well as teaching and sharing new skills with the community.

Next week, we will examine the allocation of funds to senior programs by cities in the surrounding area and explore the range of programs and opportunities offered pre pandemic and adaptation for the pandemic period. If you have something to offer regarding the Senior program please contact Shirley Humphrey before February 12, 2021. Email at humphreysaf@gmail.com. ★

Update Regarding Officer Involved Fatality on Interstate 80

Solano County DA Press Release

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

The newly formed Solano County Major Crimes Task Force continues to conduct an independent investigation into the officer involved shooting that took place Saturday night off the shoulder of W/B Interstate 80 near Oday Road. Since Saturday, January 30, 2021, the Task Force, working under the supervision of the Solano County District Attorney's Office, continues to work diligently in obtaining all the information relevant to the shooting. Due to the significant public interest in this incident, the following update is being released to ensure the public receives accurate information.

On January 30, 2021, at approximately 10:30 p.m. several 911 calls were made from citizens travelling W/B on Interstate 80 describing a vehicle that appeared to have been in an accident off the shoulder of the highway. Some of those travelling on Interstate 80 stopped along the roadside to assist. The driver of the vehicle appeared to be intoxicated. California

Highway Patrol Officers were dispatched to the reported accident and while responding received updated information that it appeared the driver may have been driving under the influence. Upon arrival, the CHP officers observed a vehicle approximately 20 feet off the highway down the embankment facing the frontage road with damage to the back window. The back window was shattered with a significant amount of glass missing from it. The officers saw a man, later identified as 29-year-old Karl Walker out of Sacramento, getting out of the driver's seat, and attempted to talk to him and check on his welfare. Walker displayed symptoms of being under the influence of alcohol and appeared evasive with the officers keeping his hand in his sweatpants. Eventually the officers asked Walker to show his hands for his safety and theirs; Walker said, "I'm not going to do that." Walker pulled out a loaded 9 mm handgun. Officers repeatedly gave commands to drop the gun, but Walker refused. Walker, in close proximity to the officers,

pointed the gun towards one of them. The officers responded to the threat by discharging their firearms. The officers began life saving measures, but unfortunately Walker succumbed to his injuries. The coroner's and pathologist's reports are pending.

Pursuant to the updated Countywide Officer Involved Fatal Incident Protocol, the Solano County District Attorney has the final oversight of this criminal investigation. The Solano County Major Crimes Task Force will continue to investigate the incident and once completed, will forward the investigation to the District Attorney for an independent review to determine the presence or absence of criminal liability on the part of those involved in the incident.

As this investigation is still ongoing, no further details will be released until the final review is concluded. We anticipate the completion of the case file and decision within the next 90 days. Anyone with information regarding this incident should call the Solano County Major Crimes Task Force at (707) 784-1828. ★

Winters Theater Offers Valentine Scenes, Sonnets, and Songs

MPG Staff

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Here's a unique idea for you and your sweetheart to do on Valentine's Day: The members of the Winters Theatre Company are planning a special virtual program to mark Valentine's Day during the current pandemic restrictions.

Performers will enact love scenes, recite sonnets, and present songs, all having the Valentine's theme of love throughout the ages.

The selection encompasses a wide range of literary and musical material, including the works of Shakespeare, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and Irving Berlin. The program

features both WTC veterans, and introduces new personalities as well.

A video link of the Valentine's event featuring love "scenes, sonnets and songs" will be available on the Winters Theatre Company website at www.winterstheatre.org from Saturday, February 13 through Sunday, February 28. ★

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Dixon News Briefs

MPG Staff

Council, TAC Meetings

The next City Council Meeting will be Tuesday, February 16, at 7 pm via Zoom.us. There is a link on the city website (cityofdixon.com) or you can call (707) 678-7000 for information. You can also call in via your phone if you do not have computer access. The agenda is posted on the Thursday before the meetings.

On Wednesday, February 17, the City of Dixon Transportation Advisory Commission will meet at 7 pm via Zoom. Review and provide comments and recommendations on the City's General Plan traffic and circulation elements and specific plans. Review and provide recommendations for Council. This commission is composed of local citizens Jamie Bair, Steven Beaman, Ginger Emerson, Jeff Kinslow, William Paul, Sandra Newel and Stephanie Marquez representing Dixon Unified School District.

Middle School Debuts

Students got a chance to see the school they hope to be regularly attending before the end of their school year. A mini-celebration at the John Knight Middle School allowed them to come through the school and pick up their JKMS "swag bag," the spring reading requirement for language art classes, and supplies for art.

The event was decorated with Maverick logos. The CA Jacobs Cougars are officially a thing of the past. The John Knight Middle School for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders has a mascot that is a Maverick. Although the term Maverick is synonymous with unbranded cattle, it also became the lexicon to describe a stubborn

streak of independence. This might be a very good logo for adolescent students.

The old Dixon High School has been empty of classes since 2007 and Measure Q passed a massive and controversial bond to update the school and change it to Dixon's new middle school that now includes the sixth grade.

March 8 is the date that the Dixon Unified School District wants for students to return to in-person instruction for students but say this is dependent on negotiations with the Dixon Teachers Association and Service Employees International United (SEIU) 1021. It is also very much dependent on the return to the Red Tier in the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

Rotary Crab Feed

Are you missing the many crab feeds that normally fill the Dixon community this time of year? At least one is coming through thanks to the Dixon Rotary Club.

The 17th annual Dixon Rotary Crab Feed will be March 20 but will be a bit different this year. Due to the coronavirus, this year's event will be a drive-thru and pick-up situation. Although you'll miss the gathering of great friends and music, there will still be fresh, cleaned and cracked crab, pasta, salad, roll with butter and dessert.

Tickets are \$50 including fees and can be purchased online at <https://2021-dixon-rotary-crabfeed.eventbrite.com>. Preorder by March 12.

Pick up will be from 5-7 pm on March 20 at the Dixon High School parking lot, 555 College Way. Proceeds go back into the community. For more information, contact Janice Beaman at (707) 678-5191. ★

City Council Decisions: Media Consult Gets Raise

Continued from page 1

The Council heard a presentation by the City Attorney about how other Solano County City Clerks were compensated. The stipend of the elected Dixon City

Treasurer will be \$250 per month after one is elected in the next election cycle.

Finally, Mike Ceremello reminded the Council again that he'd like the City Treasurer's duties revisited. ★

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ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE #FCS055917

1. Petitioner Devon Hideo Minnema filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Present name | Proposed name |
| Devon Hideo Minnema | Devon Hideo Alan Nishimura |

2. THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing. **March 10, 2021 9:00 a.m. Department 12 Room 11 Superior Court of California, County of Solano, Old Solano Court House 580 Texas Street Fairfield, CA 94533** Judge of the Superior Court: Christina A. Carringer

DATED: January 22, 2021
 Publish: January 29 February 5, 12, and 19, 2021 (The Dixon Independent Voice)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-000252

The following persons are doing business as: : **SUSAN'S JEWELS OF THE SEA**

1305 Rehrmann Drive Dixon, CA 95620

Susan J. Rosten, 1305 Rehrmann Drive Dixon, CA 95620

Date Filed in Solano County: February 2, 2021

The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: N/A

This Business is Conducted by: An 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 February 1, 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: February 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-000219

The following persons are doing business as: : **MOTEL 6 VACAVILLE**

107 Lawrence Drive Vacaville, CA 95687

D Vaca Hotel, LLC, 8762 Preston Trace Blvd. Frisco, TX 75033

Date Filed in Solano County: January 28, 2021

The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/27/2021

This Business is Conducted by: A Limited Liability Company

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration January 27, 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: February 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 2021-000218

The following persons are doing business as: : **MOTEL 6 Vallejo**

1455 Enterprise Street Vallejo, CA 94589

D Vaca Hotel, LLC, 8762 Preston Trace Blvd. Frisco, TX 75033

Date Filed in Solano County: January 28, 2021

The Registrant commenced to transact business under the above business name on: 1/27/2021

This Business is Conducted by: A Limited Liability Company

NOTICE: In Accordance with subdivision (a) of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of registered owner. A new fictitious Business name statement must be filed before the expiration January 27, 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: February 12, 19, 26, and March 5, 2021 (The DIXON INDEPENDENT VOICE)



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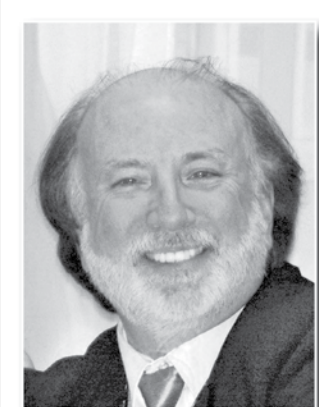
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Main Office Address: 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd., Suite #5, Carmichael, CA 95608. Call 916-773-1111 for more information. The *Dixon Independent Voice* is published weekly on Friday.

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How Long Will California Economy Languish?



By Dan Walters
CALMatters

As COVID-19 began surging through California a year ago, Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency and ordered widespread restrictions on personal and economic activity to curb infection rates.

His actions immediately triggered a severe economic recession. California had been enjoying record-low unemployment just before the shutdown, 3.9% of the labor force, but within weeks the jobless rate quickly shot up to a record-high 16.4% as employers laid off workers.

Initially, there was a fingers-crossed hope that the recession would be what economists call a “V” – a deep plunge followed by an equally rapid recovery. However, as the public health crisis and the recession continued, it became apparent that it would be a “U” – a steep decline that reaches bottom, eventually followed by a gradual recovery.

Employment actually rebounded somewhat during summer and autumn months as Newsom loosened economic controls, although certain sectors such as tourism and travel continued to lag.

However, when infection rates, hospitalizations and deaths shot upward again late in the year – thanks, probably, to too

many holiday gatherings – Newsom clamped down again, businesses closed and joblessness again increased.

The state’s official unemployment rate – the percentage of the labor force not working – edged upward in December to 9% but when those who dropped out of the labor force or were involuntarily working part-time are included, the real rate is more like 15%.

Even without that adjustment, 9% is still very high and, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the third highest of any state. Only tourism-dependent Nevada and Hawaii are higher, with South Dakota and Nebraska at other end of the scale at 3%.

Overall, California has lost 1.5 million jobs in the last year of pandemic and economic turmoil, leaving a salient question hanging in the air: How long will California’s pandemic-induced recession continue? The answer depends on two unpredictable factors – when and if vaccinations can tame COVID-19 and whether President Joe Biden and Congress pump additional billions, or even trillions, of borrowed dollars into the nation’s economy.

Newsom’s proposed 2021-22 budget projects, “Businesses are expected to continue to operate at limited capacity into 2021. Increased automation and a shift to online retailing will lead to permanent job declines in leisure and hospitality, retail, and other services.”

The budget also implies that the bottom of the “U” will continue for some time, saying, “Nonfarm

employment for California is projected to recover to pre-pandemic levels in 2025.”

The millions of Californians affected by the pandemic’s economic fallout are understandably worried about their futures and their angst is one of the drivers of a petition campaign aimed at recalling Newsom.

Whether from concern for his constituents or worries about a recall, Newsom is proposing “a broad-based recovery package to support businesses, individuals and job creation both during the pandemic and as the state recovers. It totals \$14 billion, including \$3.5 billion in immediate relief for individuals and small businesses disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.”

While Newsom wants fast action from the Legislature, its fiscal advisor, Gabe Petek, wants a more deliberate and skeptical approach, noting that “unlike the federal government – which can run a deficit to pay for fiscal stimulus – the state must balance fiscal stimulus with other one-time and on-going spending priorities.”

In other words, a dollar spent on Newsom’s economic recovery plan is a dollar that can’t be spent on something else – unless, of course, the governor and legislators are also willing to raise taxes. As the pandemic, the recession and the recall campaign evolve, big state stimulus expenditures will be one of the year’s more interesting issues.

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



Congress Bows to the Pen and the Phone

President Joe Biden has proved that, if nothing else, he has a pen and a phone.

According to The Economist, he signed more executive orders in his first two days than President Donald Trump signed in nearly his first two months. And he was just getting started.

Republicans have no standing to complain about Biden’s spate of unilateral measures, given they were fine with Trump using exactly the same means. But that presidents of both parties govern this way doesn’t make it better – it makes it worse.

Some executive actions starkly usurp congressional authority, while others are firmly within the executive’s ambit. Yet the sheer amount of activity that presidents undertake on their own isn’t in keeping with the spirit of our constitutional system.

The presidency has over-awed a legislative branch that is only too willing to sign over power and responsibility. Congress has been an eager participant in its own neutering.

James Madison thought the legislature would be insatiable, steadily accumulating power. Instead, it is the least self-respecting branch, led by people who identify with the interests of presidents and their own parties over and above the interests of their own institution.

This means that

Congress is essentially cut out of the action on important questions of national policy.

Obama blocked the Keystone XL pipeline, Trump blessed it, and Biden blocked it again.

Obama took us into the Paris climate accord, Trump took us out, and Biden is taking us back in.

Consider what Biden did on his own the other day. He directed the Interior Department to stop new oil and gas leases on federal land and to identify steps to double renewable energy production by 2030.

He created a special presidential envoy for climate, as well as a White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy, a National Climate Task Force, a Civilian Climate Corps Initiative, an Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization, a White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council, and a White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

On top of this, he established a Justice Initiative to steer 40% of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities.

And on the seventh day, Biden rested (after tucking his pen back in his pocket).

If Congress had passed a bill doing all this, it’d be considered a pretty active day. Instead, Congress stood on the sidelines ... and commented.

“I’m proud that President Biden is announcing a slew of executive actions on climate,” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer tweeted.

Schumer’s only complaint is that Biden isn’t doing more on his own authority.

This is the same Chuck Schumer who has been a legislator since 1975 when he took a seat in the New York State Assembly, who has been in Congress since 1981 and the Senate since 1999, and who ascended to majority leader about a week ago, representing the apex of a national legislative career.

And yet Schumer has urged Biden to declare a national climate emergency because it would allow him to do things “without legislation.”

This would be like Chief Justice John Roberts giving Biden advice on how to pack the Supreme Court – except it’s unimaginable that a Supreme Court justice would be so openly disdainful of the legitimacy and prerogatives of his or her own institution.

This is a particular congressional disease. As Yuval Levin of the American Enterprise Institute wrote in an essay for Commentary magazine, Congress has been delegating its authority to the executive branch for some time. What’s new is that partisanship has created a loyalty for members of Congress that transcends their attachment to Congress itself, while more and more members consider their office merely a platform to get attention.

“Congress is weak and dysfunctional because that suits its members,” Levin writes. “It could renew itself only if its members wanted such renewal.”

All indications are that, no, it is perfectly content to be supplanted by the pen and phone.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.
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Sen. Dodd Introduces Elderly and Disabled Assistance Bill



Bill Dodd

By Paul Payne,
Office of Senator
Bill Dodd

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - With high COVID-19 infection rates at California nursing homes, Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, introduced legislation to expand a successful program that allows low-income seniors and people with disabilities to receive care in the safety of their own homes.

“We must continue to allow our most vulnerable the choice of staying in their homes to avoid potential exposure to the coronavirus and also improve the quality of their lives,” Sen. Dodd said. “This program protects

people who would be most at risk while saving taxpayer dollars that would be spent on outside care. It builds on my commonsense proposal from last year that was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom.”

The California Community Transitions program has transitioned 4,300 people from institutional settings over the past 12 years for an average savings of \$60,000 per person per year. Last year, Sen. Dodd wrote Senate Bill 214, which helped the program assist people during the pandemic. Today, he introduced follow-up legislation, SB 281, to ensure California conforms with updates in federal law, expanding eligibility to even more people.

The bill is co-sponsored by Disability Rights California and East Bay Innovations.

“Older adults and people with disabilities are at high risk of contracting COVID-19 and becoming critically ill, especially those individuals residing in a nursing home or

institutional setting,” said Andy Imparato, DRC executive director. “Now more than ever it is vitally important that individuals who reside in institutional settings are allowed access to transition services to assist them to move back home and into the community.”

“It is imperative that we use every tool in the toolbox available during COVID to get vulnerable people out of nursing homes. Providing long term care in the home costs less and improves the quality of life. Sen. Dodd’s bill not only helps people live outside of institutions, it also saves the state money,” said Tom Heinz, executive director of East Bay Innovations.

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. ★

CLG NEWS UPDATES

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Democrats Seek to Force Big Tech to Police Content More Tightly in Section 230 Reform Bill | 06 Feb 2021 | Democratic lawmakers have introduced a bill to reform Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, seeking to make big tech companies more accountable and force them to **police their content more stringently**. Sens. Mark Warner (D-Va.), Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) on Friday introduced the Safeguarding Against Fraud, Exploitation, Threats, Extremism and Consumer Harms (SAFE TECH) Act to reform Section 230 and “allow social media companies to be held accountable for enabling cyber-stalking, targeted harassment, and discrimination on their platforms.” ...At a recent hearing on domestic terrorism, House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) warned tech companies to police content more tightly or face more stringent government intervention.

Supreme Court to Consider 2020 Election Challenge Lawsuits in February Conference | 06 Feb 2021 | The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday scheduled several high-profile contest-of-election lawsuits, including ones brought by attorneys Sidney Powell and Lin Wood, and the Trump campaign, for consideration at its Feb. 19 conference. According to a case listing, the lawsuits include Sidney Powell’s Michigan case (20-815), the Trump campaign’s Pennsylvania lawsuit (20-845) and Wisconsin lawsuit (20-882), the Pennsylvania lawsuit brought by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.) (20-810), and Lin Wood’s Georgia case (20-799). All cases allege some form of unlawful election-related conduct affecting the result of the election, including expansion of mail-in balloting by elections officials changing rules in contravention of state election laws, lack of adequate security measures around mail ballots, issues with machine vote tabulation, and denial of meaningful access to poll watchers.

Time report touts ‘cabal of powerful people’ behind ‘conspiracy,’ ‘shadow campaign’ to shape election | 06 Feb 2021 | A report published by Time magazine Friday has delved into a “secret shadow campaign” that, in the publication’s words, “saved the 2020 election.” “A weird thing happened right after the Nov. 3 election: nothing,” Time national political correspondent Molly Ball began her report... According to Ball, the “second odd thing” that happened after the election was that “corporate America turned on” Trump. It was all very, very strange... Within days after the election, we witnessed an orchestrated effort to anoint the winner, even while many key states were still being counted,” Ball quoted Trump as saying Dec. 2. Prominent social media users reacted to the report with alarm. “According to Time the election was ‘fortified’ but not rigged. Definitely not rigged,” Donald Trump Jr. reacted. “This is insanity, but everyone should read to learn exactly how bad it was.” “@Time comes right out and admits it,” wrote Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo. “Dear God, did they just validate what Trump was saying the whole time??” asked journalist Andray Domise.

Biden administration’s CBP revives ‘catch and release’ policy at border amid COVID concerns | 05 Feb 2021 | A perfect storm of events has the Biden administration’s Customs and Border Protection on its heels in parts of Texas, forcing the agency to begin releasing newly arrived illegal immigrants back into U.S. cities as part of a policy known as “catch and release.” This is the first time since the surge of 2019 that CBP has been compelled to revive the controversial policy. It raises concerns the Biden administration’s softer, more welcoming approach will trigger a wave of migrants from Central America that could overwhelm the agency’s limited detention capacity. This week, President Biden signed immigration-related executive orders, which included revoking then-President Trump’s order ending the so-called “catch and release” policy.

Democrat Introduces Gun Control Bill: Psych Evaluations, Ammo Bans, Federal Gun Registry | 05 Feb 2021 | Democrat Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee (TX) introduced a gun control bill near the start of the current Congress that, if passed, could make California’s strict gun control laws seem tame by comparison. H.R.127 states that its purpose is to “provide for the licensing of firearm and ammunition possession and the registration of firearms, and to prohibit the possession of certain ammunition.” The bill calls for the U.S. Attorney General to establish a licensing and registration system through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), which would increase the federal government’s ability to monitor gun owners’ purchases and the location of their firearms by requiring them to inform the government of the “make, model, and serial number” of the firearms that they own and adds that the firearm owner must tell the government “where the firearm is or will be stored.” ★



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Harlequin Shares the Romance this Valentine's Day

Each year the team at Harlequin Publishing pick their most anticipated releases as a special giveaway for all of our readers. This year Harlequin has made this giveaway even more exciting by offering the winner to receive three special edition titles a month before they hit bookshelves. I am so excited to share this year's exciting titles.

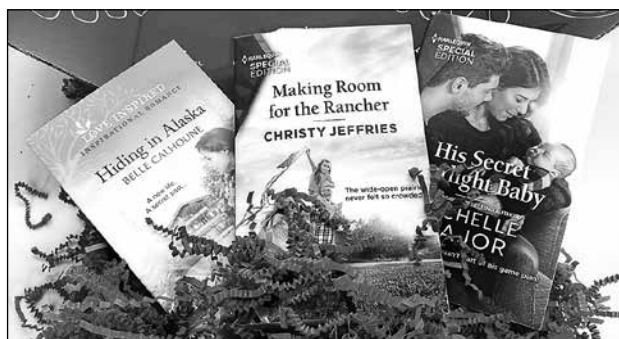
Hiding in Alaska by Belle Calhoun

Love, chocolate, and secrets combine in this "Love Inspired" romance, *Hiding in Alaska*. Isabelle Sanchez wasn't sure how she would be able to start a new life in Alaska; as part of witness protection, she now has a new name, a new job and a fresh start at life, the one thing Isabelle never thought she would find was someone who awakens her heart. Connor North, the heir of North Star Chocolate company is everything Isabelle has ever dreamed of, but how can you expect to fall in love when your life is masked by secrets you will never be able to tell?

This Love Inspired read will take readers deep into the refuge of a snow-covered Alaska, giving them a story of rekindled hope and love.

His Secret Starlight Baby by Michelle Major

Jordan Schaeffer had his life planned out like the perfect game day. After recently retiring from professional football, all he wanted was to set up a quiet life in Starlight. What Jordan didn't expect was all his plans falling apart the moment he saw his ex-girlfriend Corey Hall



This year Harlequin has made this giveaway even more exciting by offering the winner to receive three special edition titles a month before they hit bookshelves.

with their infant son. With his perfectly laid plans thrown out the window, it was time to devise a new strategy, and make Corey his fake fiancée. Yet, love has a playbook of its own and before he knows it Cory has captured his heart and he is seeing his life play out in a while new direction.

Michelle Major instantly throws her readers right into the heart of the story within the very first page. An engaging story that will capture the hearts of its readers, *His Secret Starlight Baby* shows that a second chance at love can be better than any perfectly laid plan.

Making Room for the Rancher by Christy Jeffries

The last thing Dahlia King wanted was for her

daughter to like Connor Remington. Connor is just a city slicker who is playing cowboy for the fall. But fate has a way of steeping in, and before she is even aware, her heart is his. Just as everything seems to align, Dahlia's ex returns, putting pressure on this newly awoken relationship. Will Connor be able to realize the love that is right in front of him and be the family man Dahlia has always dreamed of, or will her ex change love's course?

Love Awaits Harlequin Giveaway: One winner will win a brand-new paperback copy of each of these titles. To enter please email Amy at amy-shane@att.net and write- Love Awaits in subject line. Winner will be announced by email on Monday. ★

Farm Employees Begin to Receive Covid-19 Vaccine

The work is just beginning to bring COVID-19 vaccinations to California farm employees, but inoculation clinics have been held on a number of farms. County Farm Bureaus around the state have been coordinating with local public-health agencies to arrange for farm employees to receive vaccines. Local task forces are working to reach farm employees in their native languages with information, so more can receive vaccines as supplies improve.

Storms Add To Water Supply, Snowpack

The atmospheric-river storms that reached California last week brought mostly positive news for California farmers and ranchers. Farmers along the Central Coast, for example, say heavy rains slowed their work for a few days, but brought significant benefits to water supplies. The Sierra Nevada snowpack remains low, but the storms boosted the statewide average snowpack from 45% of average up to 68% in a week's time.

Number Of Organic Operations Grows

California retains its national lead in the number of organic farms and ranches, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In an annual report from its Organic Integrity Database, the USDA says the number of certified organic farms and ranches in the state exceeds 5,000. California has more than two-and-a-half times the number of organic operations as the No. 2 state, Wisconsin.

Food Waste Could be Reused as Plant Food

Fermented food waste could be used to deliver beneficial bacteria to food plants. Research from the University of California, Riverside, found that beneficial microbes on crops "increased dramatically" when the food waste was added to plant-growing systems in a greenhouse. The researchers say the fermented food waste appears to help plants resist pathogens and could reduce carbon emissions from farming. ★



Riley Reviews

"CLARICE" AND "THE EQUALIZER" REINVENT KNOWN CLASSICS

A TV Review by Tim Riley

"CLARICE" AND "THE EQUALIZER" ON CBS

"Clarice" is all about exactly what you think. The name can never be separated from the chilling horror of "The Silence of the Lambs" film that starred a young Jodie Foster as FBI trainee Clarice Starling.

What does not surface in this new CBS series is even a mention of Dr. Hannibal Lecter, a psychiatrist who was imprisoned in maximum security isolation for being a serial killer that dabbled in cannibalism with a side of fava beans and a nice chianti.

More than a film rights issue disallowing a reference to the fabled cannibal, the show producer Alex Kurtzman obliquely noted to critics at the winter press tour that the Lecter storyline "had been explored in great depth by so many brilliant people."

Moreover, if the Hannibal Lecter angle were to be raised in a new format, the series would be treading territory that has been slogged by so many others in films and even a television series that followed "The Silence of the Lambs."

Set in 1993, "Clarice" picks up one year after the trauma of the young female FBI trainee having to confront the serial killer Buffalo Bill to rescue a senator's daughter trapped in a dry well.

Suffering from PTSD as the result of too many flashbacks from the rescue mission, Clarice (Rebecca Breeds) has been relegated to the safe confines of the Behavioral Science Unit and subjected to sessions with a condescending therapist (Shawn Doyle).

Viewed as a media darling for her notoriety, Clarice's exclusion from field work has probably much to do with the suspicion of a male-dominated hierarchy in the FBI that questions her abilities, if partly for lack of a deep resume in the agency.

That's no concern for Ruth Martin (Jayne Atkinson), the senator in the film who is now the Attorney General and indebted to Clarice for saving her daughter Catherine (Marnee Carpenter) from the nightmare of Buffalo Bill's basement.

That the Attorney General insists Clarice must join the FBI's Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP) that is led by hostile supervisor Paul Krendler (Michael Cudlitz) sets the stage in first episode for the series premise of another hunt for a serial killer.

It's a bit of an odd note that the second episode veers off into a standoff with a militia group where the FBI honchos fret about an explosive situation so close in time to the fiasco of the deadly siege of the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas.

For Clarice, dealing with a cult leader may be little different than divining the motives of sociopathic killer, but whether

she succeeds as an agent despite her damaged psyche could be reason enough to tune into "Clarice."

"The Equalizer," first popularized as a crime drama television series starring Edward Woodward and later in two films with Denzel Washington in the role of righteous vigilante Robert McCall, has taken a gender twist with Queen Latifah as Robyn McCall.

As a crime procedural, this new version relies on the strength of character of a Black woman empowered to right wrongs and to seek justice that eludes a person in need with nowhere to turn for meaningful support.

Queen Latifah is a most appropriate choice for a role that calls for equal parts compassion and toughness. One has to wonder, however, if this series might have been even more fitting for Pam Grier in her prime almost fifty years ago.

In vigilante movies like "Coffy" and "Foxy Brown," Grier's avenging angel took no prisoners when exacting revenge on drug dealers and murderers. But Grier's heroics occurred in a different era when Blaxploitation was a popular urban genre.

Whether Queen Latifah would have been a proper fit in Grier's memorable roles may be an open question, but "The Equalizer" does offer opportunities for her to prove a toughness of spirit as well as physicality for vigilantism.

Robyn McCall is a former CIA intelligence officer who apparently seems to have been involved in a bungled operation in a third world country that hastened her departure from government service.

An old colleague, William Bishop (Chris Noth), surfaces with offers of lucrative work in private security, but Robyn has perhaps other ideas that don't quite gel until she finds a young woman needing saving from a bunch of thugs.

Contemplating her future and caring for her rebellious 15-year-old daughter Delilah (Laya DeLeon Hayes), with the help of her Aunt Vi (Lorraine Toussaint) to balance life as a working mother, Robyn seeks to keep her clandestine work a secret from family.

Not the lone wolf that Denzel Washington portrayed, Latifah's vigilante gets help from Melody (Liza Lipara), an edgy bar owner and sharpshooter, and her husband Harry (Adam Goldberg), a paranoid and brilliant hacker.

Robyn's handiwork also draws the attention of NYPD Detective Marcus Dante (Terry Kittles), who doggedly seeks to uncover the identity of the person known as The Equalizer.

When only the first episode was available to review, it's not easy to fathom whether "The Equalizer" will capture our attention, thus the viewers must choose. ★



Dave Ramsey Says

you're playing cards, that means you're about to bet everything on a single hand. But here's the deal, it's never smart to go all in when it comes to small business. That's a good way to turn a dream into a nightmare.

I'm urging you to really think about this before you take action. You didn't mention anything about your financial situation, other than you have a 401(k). That's a good thing, but if it's all you have – and you don't have any other savings set aside – you could be in real trouble. If you decided to leave your job, and your idea for your own business doesn't pan out, you've lost a chunk of your retirement savings. It's gone for good. Bankruptcy also becomes a real possibility. Opening a business just because you don't like your current job, or you're angry at "the man," is a bad idea. You need to find something you truly love doing, because to have any chance of success you'll have to live and breathe that business day and night, seven days a week.

Don't make any rash decisions about your current job right now. If you really want to start your

own business, begin by doing a lot of research, saving as much money as you can, and thinking about things you could do for a living that would make you smile every day. Once you figure that out, the next step is devising a plan that will allow you to open a business without putting your entire financial world in danger. In other words, how can you start small with the money you have, instead of damaging your retirement funds or taking out a loan?

It's not an either/or proposition, Kurt. You don't have to risk it all to get away from a job you hate and into one you love!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a seven-time #1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Dave Ramsey Show, heard by more than 16 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions. ★

Put a Little More Thought into It

Dear Dave,

I don't like admitting this, but I absolutely hate my job. Last year I almost cashed out part of my 401(k) to start my own business or open a franchise, and doing something like this is still on my mind. Considering how I feel, do you think this would be a good idea?

– Kurt

Dear Kurt,

In your current state of mind, this entire idea is a trap. Don't misunderstand, I love the idea of someone living their dream and owning their own business. But you just mentioned starting your own business in same breath with opening some sort of franchise. That tells me you don't really know what you want to do.

Have you ever heard someone say they're "going all in"? When

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Crossword Puzzle on Page 8

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Sudoku Puzzle on Page 8

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

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Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 8

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | | |
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| 71 | | | | | | 72 | | | | 73 | | | |

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CLUES

ACROSS

- Newton's first name
- Part of smog
- Hissy fit
- Human trunk
- Form of "to be"
- Illegal booze
- Editorial changes
- Crematorium jar
- #56 Down, alt. sp.
- *One of six Presidents named James
- *First President previously divorced
- Civil War's Johnny
- Manage without help
- Military procedures
- Cone-shaped quarters
- MLB bench
- Cowboy's necktie
- A whole lot
- *Whig, e.g.
- Resembling wings
- Nightly necessity
- Experience emotion
- Large ray
- Glacier's deposit
- *"Watch out!" on a golf course
- Traditional sock pattern
- Reduced Instruction Set Computer
- Knight's title
- Bypass
- Foot digit
- *President Chester
- *He signed legislation to create Medicare
- Fauna, Merryweather and ___ fairy godmothers
- Expert
- Convex molding
- Bumpkins
- Café alternative
- Car ways
- Trans-Siberian Railroad city
- Piercing part
- Slightly drunk

DOWN

- Any thing
- *Trump had button on desk to order his favorite one
- Desertlike
- Up and about
- Cuddle
- Half-man, half-goat
- Legendary NHLer
- Tragedy, or comedy, or satire
- Cheap form of payment?
- Before Scotia
- Clickable picture
- Olden day "your"
- Be in charge, two words
- Newspaper notices
- What all of #70 Across do
- Painting or poetry
- *He beat McCain and Romney
- Kind of cap
- Colloquialisms
- *First "dark horse"
- Gamecock's spur
- Dessert sandwiches
- Wombs
- *#29 Down predecessor
- Creative
- 18-wheeler
- Green pasta sauce
- Big Island greetings
- Australian flightless bird
- Group of people, often in research
- Extremely angry
- Concluding stanza in poetry
- *G. W. Bush to Yale, e.g.
- Schneider and Lowe, e.g.
- Major bike maker
- Audience's rejection
- Sold in bars
- Auto pioneer
- Like a busybody
- Back, to a pendulum
- Latin dance three-step move, once

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8 7 5 4

9 7

9 6 8 5

1 5

2 3 1 8

8 7

9 1 2 5

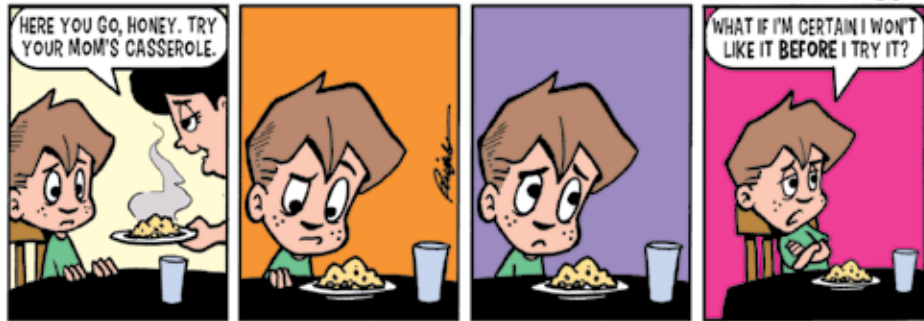
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Solutions on Page 8

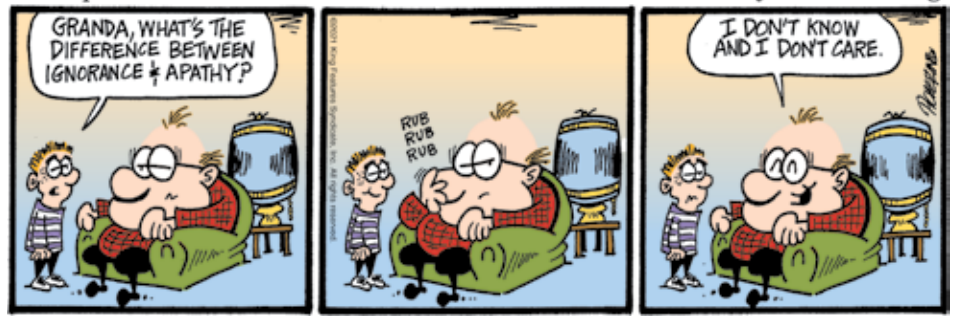
WEEKLY COMICS

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



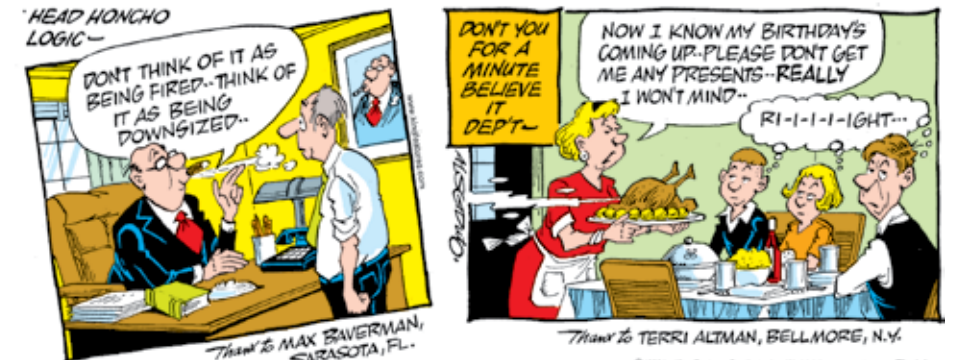
by Jeff Pickering

Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



BY AL SCADUTO

R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



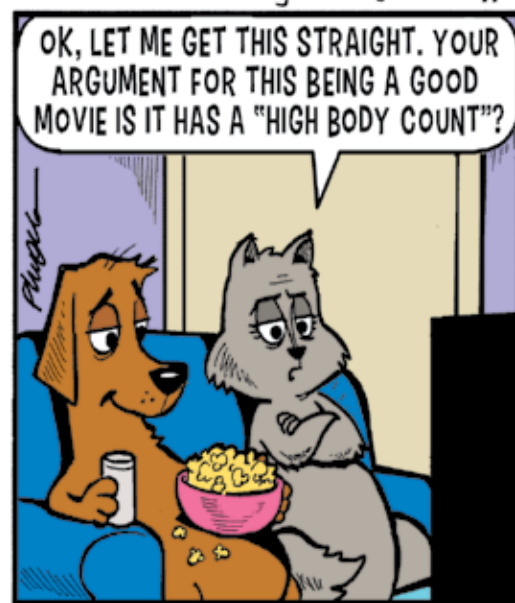
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Snowman's hat is different. 2. Boy has a scarf. 3. Snowballs have been added. 4. Tree is missing. 5. Teacher's nose is different. 6. Boy is holding an apple.

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You Can't Sing Yet

Supreme Court lifts State Ban on Indoor Church

By Ben Christopher,
CALMatters.org

Among the beach-goers denied, the indignant gun shop owners and frustrated parents who want schools reopened, one set of plaintiffs against Gov. Gavin Newsom's pandemic shutdown restrictions have scored a big win: churches.

A 6-3 U.S. Supreme Court ruling issued late Friday sided with housebound pastors and their congregants in their claim Newsom's bans on worship services in an effort to stop the spread of coronavirus unfairly singled out churches, in violation of the First Amendment.

"Since the arrival of COVID-19, California has openly imposed more stringent regulations on religious institutions than on many businesses," wrote Justice Neil M. Gorsuch in one of three concurring opinions. "California worries that worship brings people together for too much time. Yet, California does not limit its citizens to running in and out of other establishments; no one is barred from lingering in shopping malls, salons, or bus terminals," wrote Justice Neil M. Gorsuch in one of three concurring opinions.

The court said the state could limit worship service capacity to 25% and prohibit singing and chanting.

Several coronavirus outbreaks have been linked to indoor church gatherings.

"Today the court displaces the judgments of experts about how to respond to a raging pandemic," wrote Justice Elena Kagan in a dissent. "The court orders California to weaken its restrictions on public gatherings by making a special exception for worship services."

That still leaves plenty of plaintiffs who have filed other challenges to the state's restrictions, including irked gun store owners, frustrated gym trainers and irate parents who want schools reopened despite the pandemic.

And, not to be forgotten, an extremely disappointed bride-to-be. Among those filing to challenge the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic, Monica Six, an Orange County resident, is suing California's Democratic governor for civil rights violations after his executive order "caused her significant financial hardship as well as ruined



When can the singing start? As of mid-January 2021, the State of California, and Newsom in particular, have been the target of 64 lawsuits over their response to the coronavirus pandemic. Photo courtesy Pixabay

her idyllic wedding plans to get married in a special anniversary."

In suing the state, Six is in crowded company. As of mid-January 2021, the State of California, and Newsom in particular, have been the target of 64 lawsuits over their response to the coronavirus pandemic. About 50 remain active. (Find CalMatters' tracker below.)

The courtroom backlash is no surprise. The restrictions imposed on California civic and economic life are without precedent in state history. Partial reopenings in many counties led to coronavirus spikes, which in turn prompted some retreat back to restrictions. Many health experts say such drastic measures have been necessary to keep hospitals from being overwhelmed and more Californians from dying.

But drastic measures they are. Beyond shuttered school houses and cancelled weddings, it has spelled financial calamity for households, business owners, nonprofits and city governments across the state. They have also tested the limits of executive power and the negotiability of many constitutional rights.

Many of the lawsuits against Newsom challenge the broad restrictions imposed by the shelter-in-place orders. Others contest the governor's offer of state assistance to undocumented immigrants, his targeted closure of beaches in Orange County, the refusal

to list gunshops as essential services and the arrest of two protestors.

Though the state has taken flak from an array of aggrieved Californians – gondoliers, conservative politicians and a Butte County musician reduced to playing his saxophone over Zoom are among the plaintiffs – there is a common denominator for many of these lawsuits: Her name is Harmet Dhillon.

The San Francisco attorneys and Republican Party bigwig is representing plaintiffs in many of the suits.

The governor, Dhillon said, "went from 'let's flatten the curve for two weeks' to 'let's put everyone under house arrest until we find a cure.'"

Roughly 3 million Californians have tested positive for the virus thus far and more than 33,700 have died of COVID-19, the respiratory disease it causes. Dhillon has said she does not make light of that tragedy, but does not believe it justifies shuttering society.

"We do not shut down our highways because people die in car accidents," she said. "We do not ban commerce because people die of lung disease after buying cigarettes. There's a whole range of health issues that we manage with an acceptable level of risk."

Public health experts argue that because the coronavirus is so contagious, unlike car accidents and lung cancer, "managing" the risk of an overwhelmed

medical system requires tighter restrictions on social control.

A study published with the National Bureau of Economic Research estimated that the state's shelter-in-place order resulted in 1,661 fewer deaths, which, the authors reasoned, works out to "about 400 job losses per life saved."

Dhillon has long played the role of counter-puncher to the progressive ambitions of state Democrats, who now hold every state constitutional office and a big supermajority in the Legislature. When lawmakers passed a bill requiring President Trump to publish his taxes in order to appear on the ballot, it was Dhillon, the Republican Party's national committeewoman from California, who filed suit on behalf of the California GOP. Last year, she sued Secretary of State Alex Padilla for, she argued, failing to do enough to exclude non-citizens from county voter rolls.

Along the way, Dhillon has cobbled together a small phalanx of California Republicans to help her wage war against the liberal powers that be. Mark Meuser, who ran for Secretary of State in 2018 on an anti-voter-fraud plank, is on her team. In a handful of the pandemic-era cases, she's joined by Bill Essayli – a young former prosecutor who unsuccessfully ran for Assembly in 2018.

Even when she isn't suing the state, Dhillon's name has a way of popping up whenever a new culture war flashpoint breaks out in California.

Recall when software engineer James Damore sued Google after being fired for circulating a memo asserting that the underrepresentation of women in tech had a biological basis? Or the student groups who took UC Berkeley to court for cancelling a planned talk by conservative firebrand Ann Coulter, citing security concerns? Or the Trump supporters in San Jose who got roughed up by counter protestors then sued the police? Or the Orange County anti-abortion activist who sued a former Planned Parenthood doctor for bad mouthing him during a TEDx talk?

Dhillon is the plaintiffs' lawyer in each of these cases.

Dhillon is in fact a regular on the conservative media circuit. She's a

contributor to Fox News and a frequent guest on that network's "Tucker Carlson Tonight," and the "Ingraham Angle," whose host, Laura Ingraham, Dhillon has cited as a "long time mentor." At the Conservative Political Action Conference last year, Dhillon earned what might be the most coveted of all endorsements on the American right: "She's a great lawyer," President Donald Trump said to Hayden Williams, a conservative activist who was physically assaulted on UC Berkeley's campus. "Sue the college, the university, and maybe sue the state."

She hasn't. "Not yet," she said.

Born in India, Dhillon grew up in North Carolina before going to Dartmouth where, like many members of the American right's intelligentsia, she edited the Dartmouth Review.

After going to the University of Virginia law school and working at various firms in New York and London, she opened her own office in San Francisco in 2006. Though her views have skewed right all her life, with a practice in the Bay Area, she has not always seamlessly fit in with the rest of her party.

For one, there's the fact that she is a Sikh woman of color in a party dominated by white men.

During the height of the War on Terror, she sat on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union's northern California chapter, to the chagrin of some GOP stalwarts. When she ran for state Senate in San Francisco in 2012, she made an effort to steer clear of incendiary social issues like abortion.

You don't hear much aversion to controversy from her these days.

In fact, more shutdown lawsuits against Newsom may soon be on the way. Dhillon said her office has been inundated with requests from potential clients.

"We have some quality control. We don't just crank these out like sausages, even if it seems that way" she said. "People are getting fed up."

Many of the cases brought by Dhillon are paid for by a non-profit she founded, the Center for American Liberty. Dhillon said her law office is one of many hired by the Center and that her office in turn works with other clients.

Funding for the center, which pays for her office's

legal services, comes from individual donors whose contributions to the non-profit are tax exempt. Dhillon said that she is probably the top donor and that "more than 50 percent" of the center's money comes from her seed funding and three other major donors, whom she would not name.

Filings with the IRS show that the Center, under its prior name Publius Lex, received less than \$50,000 in contributions in 2018 and was therefore not required to itemize its contributors. The filing for 2019 has not yet been made available.

Since the pandemic began, Dhillon said that the nonprofit has received tens of thousands of dollars in donations, but that the legal bill incurred by repeatedly suing the state "significantly exceeds" that figure.

"I haven't been paid a penny for these cases yet," she insisted. "I'm not sure I will be."

Many of the lawsuits filed against California's shelter-in-place order are funded in part by conservative-leaning non-profits. One of the challenges to Gov. Newsom's allocation of state funds to undocumented immigrants is supported by Judicial Watch, Inc, a long-time legal antagonist of Bill and Hillary Clinton, which recently sued the U.S. Department of Justice for information regarding ties between former Vice President Joe Biden and Ukraine.

Other nonprofit backers of the cases filed against California include the National Center for Law & Policy, which made headlines in 2015 when it sued the Encinitas public school district for treating its students as "religious 'guinea pigs'" by subjecting them to yoga classes, and Freedom X, a Los Angeles-based organization that lists combating "intellectual McCarthyism" and "creeping Sharia" as its main campaigns.

As for the lawsuits challenging COVID restrictions, Erwin Chemerinsky, dean of the UC Berkeley law school, contends they face long odds.

"Simply put, these lawsuits are very likely to lose, as most of these challenges around the country have failed," he said in an email. "The government has broad powers to take emergency actions to stop the spread of communicable diseases. This includes the power to order quarantine or shelter in place, to order closure of businesses, and to limit assemblies, including for religious purposes. So long as the government's action is reasonably related to stopping the spread of COVID-19, the government is likely to prevail."

Dhillon said she is playing the long game. As judges have slapped down her petitions to put the statewide order on hold – she said their rationales were "fairly lacking in analysis" – she may appeal to a higher court.

In the meantime, she looks to court rulings in Kansas and Illinois, where judges have pushed back against public health decrees.

"One day I hope to find a judge in California who has a similarly broad view of the Constitution," she said. ★



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