



## Re-Seller's Nab New Location

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# Dixon's Independent Voice

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## VIRTUAL TOWN HALL FOCUSES ON 2021 AND BEYOND



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# And Still Counting



Dixon residents were already lined up at 7 am in the brisk fall morning at the Dixon Moose Lodge Voting Precinct this past Tuesday, Election Day. There were a variety of voting options offered this election including drop off and curbside drop-off which may have contributed to a record turnout of voters according to the Solano County Registrar of Voters. Photo by Debra Dingman

By Debra Dingman

*Editor's Note: Solano County office of Registrar of Voters reports that there are still between 35 and 45 thousand ballots not counted yet in Solano County as well as additional ballots arriving daily via mail so final outcomes could change especially in the Mayor's race considering how close Bird and Bogue votes are at this press time.*

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Election night might have been a nail-biter for those watching results regularly on the Solano County website but when it concluded Wednesday morning that

100 percent of the 18 Dixon precincts had been counted, Councilman Steve Bird nudged out Mayor Thom Bogue by only 174 votes.

Bird had 2,180 votes and Bogue had 2,006. Councilman Devon Minnema followed with 1,700 votes and Ted Hickman came in last with 703. Despite numerous ways for 11,390 residents to vote on different days, times, and paths, only 6,944 chose to do so.

Mayor Thom Bogue who was running for re-election is going to "take some time to process" but offers ideas to a new council.

"The first thing that I would do

is suggest to the council - whoever the new council may be - that for the next 30 days to start thinking of things of how they would like to improve our community and then, establish a goal setting session to that end - one that the public would be involved and be prepared for."

It's important to get down to the "brass tacks" of how to better the community, he said. "That would probably take more than one meeting and that would be set up as a special meeting and we may set it up as a troubleshooting circle where we get all the ideas at one time and narrow

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## No Turkey for You!



By Mat Staver, Founder and Chairman Liberty Council

It wasn't enough for CA Gov. Gavin Newsom to ban ALL WORSHIP in churches and private homes for much of California. Now he's dictating how people will be allowed to celebrate Thanksgiving - the one day each year we set aside to give special thanks to God for our freedom, family and nation.

Now Gov. Newsom wants Californians to keep a "list" of all Thanksgiving celebration attendees' names, addresses and contact information, to be surrendered to the government upon demand.

It is becoming increasingly clear that Gov. Newsom wants to eradicate both faith and freedom. Newsom's unconstitutional lock downs have nothing to do with COVID and everything to do with CONTROL.

### CA's Outrageous Thanksgiving Restrictions

In addition to Gov. Newsom's unconstitutional orders that discriminate against churches and places of worship, he has now released onerous government restrictions on Thanksgiving gatherings.

The mandatory restrictions for Thanksgiving gatherings include:

- No more than three households, including hosts and guests.
- The names and contact information of guests must be recorded so they can be "contact traced."
- Must be held outside.
- No more than two hours.
- Guests may use restrooms only if they are sanitized between use.
- Six-foot distancing in all directions.
- Everyone should frequently wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer which must, of course, be done outside.
- Food and drink must be in single-serve disposable containers.
- No food or drink on the table other than your plate and cup.
- Masks must be worn and removed only briefly to eat or drink.
- Masks can also be removed for urgent medical needs (an asthma inhaler, medication or

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# Murillo's Moving to Dixon; to Open by End of Year

By Debra Dingman

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - Some might say Frances Murillo has made her Mexican Food Restaurant a success because of her perseverance as it is now in its 50th year and there are plans to open a new location in Dixon. But really, it's because Frances loves people - and her work.

That encompasses taking care of her employees as if they were family, teaching high school students how to be good employees, and pleasing customers with traditional Mexican food.

### Early Years

"I love customers and I enjoy my work," said the attractive, slim, 75-year-old woman who seemed to perfectly and passionately talk about the early years of actually crossing over with her family into the land of opportunity from Jalisco, Mexico. Her father and their family of six children had to produce 50 boxes of fruit a day and were paid only 25 cents a box so when harvest season began, everyone pitched in. Frances talked



Frances Murillo, owner of two Vacaville restaurants will be relocating the Merchant Street business to Ary Lane in Dixon, formerly occupied by IHOP but will keep the Monte Vista Restaurant intact. The goal is to open Dixon by the end of this year. Photo by Debra Dingman

about how she could only work so many months a year in the restaurants but then had to quit "year after year" to help work in the farms.

"I hated it with a passion," she said, leaning in with eyes still brimming with a loathing of the work.

Fortunately, that meant

Frances got a lot of training and many experiences with top-rated restaurants at the time like the Milk Farm, Black Oak, Nut Tree, and the Coffee Tree.

While working in the fields at age 16, she met her husband, Blas Murillo, and over time, he worked his jobs and she worked as a server until a

restaurant came up for sale at 633 Merchant Street in Vacaville and they decided to snatch the opportunity.

It was a good decision. Over the next many years, and while raising three children Danny, Linda, and Debbie, who all graduated from Dixon High School, they wound up purchasing

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# ELECTION RESULTS 2020 VOTE

Not all results are final. Numbers reflect available data at press time.

Source: Solano County Election website, State of California Election website

**VOTES PERCENT**

**President of the United States**  
 Donald J Trump (REP) ..... 67,438,495 ..... 214  
 Joe Biden (DEM) ..... 70,244,872 ..... 238  
 Too close to call.  
 Declared winners are all the lawyers.

**U S Representative District 3**  
 John Garamendi (DEM) .123,527 .. 58.1  
 Tamika Hamilton (REP) . . .89,220 .. 41.9

**State Senator District 3**  
 Bill Dodd (DEM) ..... 233,911 ..... 70.4  
 Carlos Santamaria (REP) .98,145. . . 29.6

**City of Dixon Mayor (1)**  
 Steve Bird ..... 2,180 .. 32.63  
 Thom Bogue ..... 2,006 .. 30.03  
 Devon Minnema ..... 1,770 .. 26.50  
 Ted Hickman ..... 703 .. 10.52

**City of Dixon Council, Dist 3**  
 Kevin Johnson ..... 1,439 .. 97.30

**VOTES PERCENT**

**City of Dixon Council, Dist 4**  
 Don Hendershott ..... 822 .. 46.84  
 Jerry Castanon ..... 547 .. 31.17  
 Logan Legg ..... 381 .. 21.71

**City of Dixon Treasurer**  
 James Ward ..... 5,420 .. 98.30

**Dixon Unified Dist Gov Board**  
 Melissa Maseda ..... 4,057 .. 39.77  
 David Bowen III ..... 3,376 .. 33.09  
 Luke Foster ..... 2,720 .. 26.66

**City of Dixon Measure T**  
 Yes ..... 3,731 .. 56.78  
 No ..... 2,840 .. 43.22

**Dixon Water Dist Measure S**  
 Yes ..... 2,817 .. 72.79  
 No ..... 1,053 .. 27.21

**VOTES PERCENT**

**State Prop 14 - Bonds for Stem Cell Research**  
 Yes ..... 5,819,217 ... 51.1  
 No ..... 5,577,459 ... 48.9

**State Prop 15 - Taxes on Commercial Property**  
 Yes ..... 5,592,154 ... 48.3  
 No ..... 5,991,994 ... 51.7

**State Prop 16 - Allow Affirmative Action in Govt Decisions**  
 Yes ..... 5,020,657 ... 43.9  
 No ..... 6,409,405 ... 56.1

**State Prop 17 - Voting Rights for People on Parole**  
 Yes ..... 6,815,887 ... 59.0  
 No ..... 4,732,949 ... 41.0

**State Prop 18 - Voting Rights for 17-year Olds**  
 Yes ..... 5,192,183 ... 41.9  
 No ..... 6,380,915 ... 55.1

**State Prop 19 - Changes Property Tax Rules**  
 Yes ..... 5,848,922 ... 51.5  
 No ..... 5,499,454 ... 48.5

**VOTES PERCENT**

**State Prop 20 - Restricts Parole, Authorizes Felony Sentences**  
 Yes ..... 4,259,578 ... 37.7  
 No ..... 7,045,167 ... 62.3

**State Prop 21 - More Govt on Rent Control**  
 Yes ..... 4,592,383 .. 40.2  
 No ..... 6,840,341 .. 59.8

**State Prop 22 - Exempts Rideshare and Delivery Drivers**  
 Yes ..... 6,718,739 ... 56.4  
 No ..... 4,770,073 ... 41.6

**State Prop 23 - Kidney Dialysis State Requirements**  
 Yes ..... 4,110,191 ... 36.0  
 No ..... 7,314,447 ... 64.0

**State Prop 24 - Amends Consumer Privacy**  
 Yes ..... 6,346,607 ... 56.1  
 No ..... 4,968,969 ... 43.9

**State Prop 25 - Overturns 2018 Law on Bail System**  
 Yes ..... 5,020,810 ... 44.6  
 No ..... 6,241,048 ... 55.4

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# Murillo's Moving to Dixon

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the entire block of buildings. Several years later, they opened a second restaurant at 1591 East Monte Vista with their daughter, Linda, manning it. The menu has not changed. Predictability seems to be a true asset to business success.

"When I first started, I had to introduce Mexican food to Vacaville. It's really simple and not a lot of spices. It is the same now," Frances said. The restaurant was voted Best Mexican Restaurant every year since 2005 and rarely can you find a slow day even during the week at either location.

### Beloved Employer

She is talked about by customers as being wonderfully friendly and several family members work in both the restaurants.

"She always cares what they think and is always paying attention to them," said server Anna Montes. It is apparent that her employees feel the same.

While Frances never got more than ten years of education with five of those in Mexico and five in Vacaville, she is wise and with the exception of the new teens, her workers have all been with her for years. Montes has worked for her since 2003.

"I had never been a server and couldn't even speak English but she gave me one week and told me I needed to smile a lot. I didn't smile because I took my work very seriously but with her help, I became more open," said Montes. "I felt safe because she cared."

Montes even left for a bit for a supposed more prestigious job but then came back, and she was re-hired. Frances doesn't believe in making things tough for others if they choose to leave and encourages them to find their better path – whatever that would be.

She tells her teen workers that this isn't the perfect job, but it's the job that will help them get to the place they want to be.

"There are ladders," Frances said. "You have



Sheila McCord is Frances Murillo's assistant and has worked for Murillo's Restaurants since 2016. She is one of many faithful employees helping in the plans for the Dixon Restaurant which is due to open by the end of this year. Our Lady of Guadalupe is a framed picture in the background at the first restaurant. Photo by Debra Dingman



This small statue of the patron saint San Miguel helps Frances Murillo feel protected and grateful. She has narrowly escaped a fire in her home and experienced only a concussion recently after a 12-foot fall. She is 75-years-young. Photo by Debra Dingman

to climb them."

Why Dixon?

Dixon still feels like a small community to Frances and feels that Vacaville has become "overpopulated." She wants to be able to help the schools, the children, and the special programs like she used to do. She used to donate belt buckles for Vacaville and Dixon children who participated in the Circle D Horseman Ranch and regularly donated to food banks but they don't even ask anymore, she said.

Her favorite decade was the 1960s.

"People were unique and respectful," she said. "I was very involved with the Fiesta Days and we all had a good time."

She believes her volunteerism and donations will have a stronger impact in a smaller community. And besides, her nephews live here. Now that she has 11 grandchildren and even a great grandchild, she has renewed optimism. Business has hardly slowed during COVID and she survived a 12-foot fall just weeks ago.

Clearly, Frances is a woman of faith and prayer as witnessed by her wall hangings of Our Lady of Guadalupe and other saints in the Merchant Street location. While she was balanced on a wide beam cleaning a window at the family cabin recently, she got startled by someone at the door and fell. She was airlifted to a Chico hospital and after many prayers, she was soon released with only a concussion. She keeps a statue of San Miguel, an angel known as a great protector, nearby as a reminder of his help – and her gratitude.

People are living to be 95 and she feels strong and healthy, she said. She could have another 20 years and aren't we the lucky ones?!

"I never forget where I came from but I just want to see how far I can go," she said. The new Murillo's will be at 1435 Ary Lane in the space formerly occupied by the IHOP. They hope to open by the end of this year. ★

# Re-Seller's Nab New Location

By Debra Dingman

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Charity Shop Wholesale will be hosting a Grand Opening this coming Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at their new location, 1025 North First Street, between Viva Market and CVS. Mike and Samantha Scott transformed the former fitness center into a spacious shopping center for their business of re-selling company returns.

The suppliers for the Scotts' company are no small names in retail: Lowe's, Amazon, and Home Depot. The fast growth of their company is the result of people being forced to shop online where they can't see, touch,



Charity Shop Wholesale hosting a grand opening Friday, Saturday & Sunday at new location-1025 North First Street. Photo by Debra Dingman

or try on merchandise due to the pandemic, they say. Recently, the Scotts opened on Adams Street and also offered an online auction but having a retail space where people can

actually see items to purchase has been most beneficial, Mike said. Read more on their Facebook page: Charity Shop Wholesale LLC or call (916) 844-9108. ★

# And Still Counting

Continued from page 1

them down to our top ten and top three and top (priority.) That's where I would begin," he said.

City Councilman Devon Minnema who also ran for Mayor celebrated his volunteers and appreciated his supporters with a socially-distanced barbecue at his campaign office in downtown Dixon Election Day evening after campaigning up to the close of polls.

"We're not sure we can expect results but we're ready if we do," said Minnema. "I'm ready to start the transition process. It's been a long, fun road and our supporters have made this entire effort possible so we're celebrating them. I cannot thank them enough."

"Regardless of the outcome, we've made history in Dixon with new campaign techniques and having the most organized youth campaign in Dixon!" he said. He also has advice for a new council. He said the council should first get meetings on track.

"It's been at least four years since meetings have been run properly according to the City Handbook," he said. "That will encourage efficiency and civic engagement at council meetings."

Bird did not return calls or emails and candidate Ted Hickman could not be reached for comment. However, Bird was quoted in the Vacaville Reporter as "feeling really good."

District 4 Council Rep Don Hendershot didn't want to take any chances to "jinx" the outcome so said he'd talk after all the votes were in and that must have worked as he was declared winner over Jerry Castañon and Logan Legg also District 4 candidates.

Winner Kevin Johnson, the only candidate

for District 3 said earlier in the day that although his family would count for at least seven votes, his friends have been ribbing him about write-in votes and he had been anxious for support.

Not because of him being the sole candidate for the District, but because of several years serving on the City Planning Commission, he's ready to get into office.

"I've already started my list of things for November so I'll be ready to go once sworn in," he said. He wants to address the council-and hopefully change – the order they hear from the public.

"I consider one thing to be very important right now and that is the city council usually has a full discussion about how they feel about a certain agenda item before they hear from the public," he said. He wants to change that to the way they work on the planning commission where the public talks first.

"The biggest thing is to make a specific effort to listen to the public, hear what they have to say, and allow that to be factored into their decisions," he said. "I think the public will be really appreciative of that. That factors into my biggest goal of city council being much more of a welcoming face and I want the public to participate. Even if you disagree, you can thank them for coming in and tailor your comments...they should be able to tell by what you say that you heard them," he said.

Also not a surprise is James P. Ward, elected to be the new City Treasurer.

The swearing in of the elected officials will be at the second City Council Meeting of December which is Tuesday, December 15 at 7 pm. ★

# The Travis Credit Union Foundation Distributes \$2M Through COVID-19 Relief Initiative

By Damian Alarcon, Travis Credit Union Foundation

VACAVILLE, CA (MPG) - The Travis Credit Union Foundation announced that it raised over \$1M for the COVID-19 Relief Initiative, which was matched by Travis Credit Union, for a total of \$2M which will be distributed to 83 local community organizations, many who are providing resources and services to individuals and families impacted by the pandemic. Travis Credit Union matched every dollar raised by the Travis Credit Union Foundation up to \$20,000, for a maximum of \$40,000 total per agency. The campaign culminated on September 30.

"We focused where we know funds would immediately recirculate and strengthen communities, creating authentic community impact and financial wellness," said Damian Alarcon, president of the Travis Credit Union Foundation. "We will continue seeking more resources to help non-profits survive and innovate as we all prepare for the 'new normal' in the aftermath of COVID-19."

The Leaven was the first of many organizations participating in this initiative to raise the full \$20,000 and receive a \$20,000 matching gift from Travis Credit Union.

"We greatly appreciate this grant as these important funds are crucial," stated Mark Lillis, executive director of the Leaven. "We lost two of our fundraisers from not being able to meet with COVID-19. Without these emergency funds, we would not be able to have the financial resources to remotely assist the hundreds of students who were left with very little educational assistance while the school season was terminated."

The Travis Credit Union Foundation is dedicated to lifting communities through financial wellness. While business shut-downs, self-quarantines and "shelter in home" orders have kept people safe from the

virus, they have also limited the capacity of families to access income, food and much needed resources. Community organizations are continuing to provide more services with less resources. The Travis Credit Union Foundation launched the COVID-19 Relief Initiative to help meet this demand for support in our communities.

"Empower Yolo is truly appreciative to be a grant recipient of the Travis Credit Union Foundation's COVID-19 Relief Initiative," says Lynnette Irlmeier, executive director of Empower Yolo. "We are using the funding for eviction prevention for families hit hardest by the pandemic. Even though there are moratoriums on evictions we know that if families get behind now, they won't be able to catch up."

To learn more about the Travis Credit Union Foundation's mission and how to participate in all it's doing to build financial wellness in our communities, visit [tcufund.org](http://tcufund.org).

The Travis Credit Union Foundation supports financial education, literacy and wellness initiatives and is the philanthropic arm of Travis Credit Union ([traviscu.org](http://traviscu.org)). The Foundation's mission is to build financially empowered communities and its vision is to create philanthropic solutions for building sustainable financial wellness in communities for generations to come. 100 percent of funds raised go back to the community.

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## Finding Relevancy (and Treasures) in Volunteering for the New Museum

By Debra Dingman

Was it coincidence that we ran a story on the Dixon Historical Society creating a museum downtown and I got a personal call from staff of American Pickers, the popular antique roadshow? Did I find it happenstance that Sunday night when I plop on my couch to vegetate after a busy weekend that American Pickers – which I have never watched before – is on my television? After writing a story about angels possibly intervening in the potential death of an older woman who gives back to her community, I don't think so. I returned their call.

"Well, they're in the business of buying and we're in the business of collecting," said Dixon Historical Society President Bill Schroeder. "But, if it makes people look into their treasures, their garages, and their attics or old sheds, they might find Dixon things for us, too."

'Pickers' scour the

country for hidden gems in junkyards, basements, garages and barns, (no stores) meeting quirky characters and hearing their amazing stories. They also help teach a thing or two about American history along the way.

"We are coming to California in December and are looking for different, unusual, and unique items – something we've never seen before and with an interesting story," said Maggie Kissinger, Casting Associate for the show. Their phone number is 1-855-OLD-RUST (653-7878.)

Over the years, I have seen a lot of collections in Dixon from a huge wall of old farm tools that belonged to Arnold and Elsie Collier, to the zillion trains of Harold and Joan Axelson. And, I'll never forget walking into Bob Atwood's insurance office years ago and seeing surely every Fortyniner item made. But, this isn't about neat collections necessarily, this could be about finding a treasure

amidst the rubble of dust and forgotten...

Maybe if someone gets a lot of money for his or her Dixon item, they'll donate some of it to the museum, I offered Bill. Or, maybe Dixon will have a spotlight on their show and someone in their latter years will want to contribute part of an estate. This is just an added incentive for all of us to take a look of what bit of American history we may have hiding away somewhere that can have a new life in the new Dixon Museum.

"We are looking to open in January," said DHS First Vice-President Loran Hoffmann about the Dixon Museum, 125 West A Street in downtown Dixon. Leaders have been working on a schedule of permanent and rotating displays. Their website is DixonHistoricalSociety.org.

If you can volunteer or would like to donate to the cause, email DHS. DixonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com or mail your check to P. O. Box 814, Dixon, CA 95620. ★

## Tanya Powell Rejoins First Northern Bank Mortgage Loan Team



By Rashelle Snead, First Northern Bank

DIXON, CA (MPG) - Tom McLaughlin, Senior Vice President/ Mortgage Loan Department Manager, is pleased to announce that Tanya Powell has returned to the Mortgage Loan Team of First Northern Bank as Assistant Vice President/ Mortgage Loan Officer serving the South Placer County region.

Tanya brings more

than 20 years of mortgage lending, strategy development, and social media marketing experience to First Northern Bank. Tanya worked for First Northern Bank from 2000-2013 as a Mortgage Loan Officer serving the Woodland community. During that time, she was awarded the Yolo County Association of Realtors Affiliate of the Year Award in 2003 and 2005.

In her new role, Tanya will provide tailored loan guidance by assisting her clients in choosing the best home or construction loan for their personal situation. She is looking forward to working with First Northern Bank's customers in the South Placer County region, to bring them a friendly and consultative mortgage loan experience.

Tanya received her Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from University of California, Santa Barbara. She currently resides in Rocklin, and in her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her three grown children, traveling, reading, and enjoying laughs with good friends. She is passionate about building relationships and inspiring people to find their purpose and live their best lives.

She is a founding member of the Woodland Recreation Foundation and a past member of the Woodland Parks & Recreation Department Commission, as well as a past member of the Woodland Sunrise Rotary. Currently, Tanya is a member of the South Placer Rotary Club. ★

## Solano County Accepting Entries for Virtual Science & Engineering Fair



We hope this year's science fair inspires more students to explore careers in science, engineering, or related fields commented Solano County Superintendent of Schools, Lisa Estrella-Henderson.

By Lilibeth Pinpin, Solano County Office of Education

FAIRFIELD, CA (MPG) - The 2021 Solano County Science and Engineering Fair competition, hosted by Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), is going virtual in 2021. The event aspires to develop inquiry and problem-solving skills among students, ignite a passion for science and engineering and better prepare youth for STEM and related careers.

All Solano County students, grades 3-12, are encouraged to enter this STEM competition and

apply online no later than 3:00 PM on March 1, 2021. For more information about the competition, view the online information packet.

"Now more than ever, it is vital that our elementary, middle, and high school students have an opportunity to apply science and engineering skills, investigate theories, gather and evaluate evidence, and develop their own intelligent conclusions," commented Solano County Superintendent of Schools Lisette Estrella-Henderson. "We hope this year's science fair inspires more students to explore careers in science, engineering, or related fields."

Careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) grew 18.7% between 2010-2020, compared to 14.3% for all other occupations, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This rapid growth has created a STEM worker shortage in the U.S. To address this deficiency, the Solano County Office of Education (SCOE) is joining widespread efforts to boost interest in STEM

among students.

The competition has three divisions: elementary school (grades 3-5), middle school (grades 6-8), and high school (grades 9-12). Each division has three categories: earth science, physical science, and life science. Participants' investigative science and engineering projects will be reviewed and judged by representatives from various universities. Top middle and high school winners in this competition will be eligible to enter the California State Science and Engineering Fair, held at the California Science Center in Los Angeles, April 12-13, 2021.

Parents and community members will be invited to celebrate students' achievements and view their projects online in March of 2021. Medals, plaques, trophies and prizes will be awarded to winners.

For more information about the Science and Engineering Fair, contact Lilibeth Pinpin, Director of Innovative Programs and Student Success, at lpinpin@solanocoe.net or 707-399-4439. ★

## Senator Dodd: Nov 10 Virtual Town Hall Focuses on 2021 and Beyond



By Bill Dodd, Senator, 3rd District

SOLANO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Please join Sen. Dodd for a virtual town hall Nov. 10 on what California and the nation can expect over the next four years in the areas of policy,

law, the economy, public health and other crucial areas. The senator will convene a panel of experts for what promises to be a lively discussion. After, he'll take questions from you via email and phone.

The town hall will be streamed live over multiple channels and broadcast on KSVY.

The Virtual Town Hall "The Road Ahead: 2021 and Beyond" will focus on policy, law, the economy, public health and other topics. The participants are Sen. Dodd; David McCuan, professor of political science at Sonoma State University; Robert Eyler, professor

of economics at Sonoma State University; Dr. Karen Relucio, Napa County public health officer; Kevin R. Johnson, dean, UC Davis School of Law.

The date is November 10, 2020 at 6 p.m. Streaming live audio on KSVY.org and video https://sd03.senate.ca.gov; https://www.youtube.com/user/SonomaTV/; SonomaTV.org. And the event will also be broadcast locally on KSVY 91.3 FM.

Email questions to: townhall@ksvy.org or call-in questions: 707-933-9133 (studio line)

We look forward to a productive conversation! ★

## No Turkey for You!

Continued from page 1  
light-headedness).

- Singing, chanting and shouting are strongly discouraged, but if they occur, a face covering must be worn. And the singing should be quiet.
- Instrumental music is allowed but no wind instruments.

For some families, Thanksgiving will not include grandma and the children or siblings due to the three-family limitation. Imagine family members traveling for hours only to be restricted to a two-hour outdoor gathering without physical contact! What if it's hot or rains? Under these rules, the host must bear the weight of the entire meal because family cannot be inside to help.

For Gov. Newsom to think he has authority to micromanage a private family Thanksgiving dinner is the height of hubris. These restrictions are ludicrous.

Liberty Counsel is suing Gov. Newsom, who has banned ALL WORSHIP in much of California, on behalf of over 165 client churches. Our case is pending at the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. We have asked for the entire panel of judges to

hear the case. The court has now ordered Newsom to respond.

Pastor Ché Ahn, Harvest Rock Church, the staff and parishioners face daily criminal threats and huge fines every time they enter the church. Each criminal charge carries up to one year in prison. It is shocking to read the letter from the Pasadena Criminal Prosecutor to Pastor Ahn.

That pastors and Christians would face prison and fines for attending church sounds like something from North Korea. Yet, discrimination has now crossed over to persecution right here in America!

I frequently pray for our brothers and sisters who face criminal threats and fines for attending church, and even conducting Bible studies and worship in their private homes. California is not the only state in which this outrageous assault on the church and freedom to worship is occurring.

The fight for religious liberty is reaching new extremes. California's absurd worship and Thanksgiving restrictions are an example of how extreme the illegal, unconstitutional edicts from power-mad governors have become.

For more information see LC.org ★

## Fairfield Native Participates in a Damage Control Drill aboard USS Germantown



By Ethan Carter, Navy Office of Community Outreach  
PHILIPPINE SEA (MPG) - Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Ramon Garcia, from Fairfield, Calif., simulates electrically isolating a space during a damage control drill aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42). Germantown, part of Expeditionary Strike Group 7, along with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, is operating in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility to enhance interoperability with allies and partners, and serve as a ready response force to defend peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Taylor DiMartino





# How PG&E is improving Public Safety Power Shutoffs in 2020.



## Smaller, shorter, smarter.

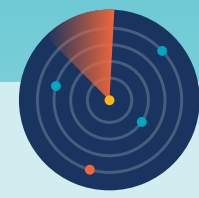
**PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF (PSPS)** is a statewide effort to prevent wildfires by proactively turning off power to communities when severe weather is forecast. As California battles historic wildfires, a Public Safety Power Shutoff is just one of many tools that PG&E uses to help keep customers and communities safe.

**PG&E is working to make PSPS events smaller, shorter and smarter, by:**



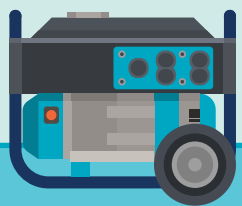
Installing over 600 devices that redirect power to limit the size of outages

1



Using more than 765 advanced weather stations to pinpoint where severe weather is most likely to occur

2



Adding backup generation in some high fire-threat communities to keep the lights on

3



Nearly doubling our helicopter fleet from 35 to 65 and adding more field crews to cut restoration time in half compared to 2019

4



Upgrading our Community Resource Centers (while following COVID-19 health guidelines such as the use of masks and social distancing) by providing water, snacks, and other resources

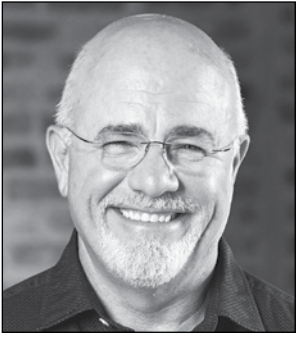
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To learn more ways to prepare for a Public Safety Power Shutoff, visit [safetyactioncenter.pge.com](https://safetyactioncenter.pge.com)





## Dave Ramsey Says

### Taking the Dread Out of Budgeting

Dear Dave,

I've been trying to get my sister and her husband on your plan, but they're hesitant to try living on a budget. They make good money, and both of them think doing a budget every month would be too difficult and take too much time. Do you have any suggestions I could pass along that might make them realize that making a budget isn't so hard or time consuming?

—Kelsey

Dear Kelsey,

Believe me, I hear those excuses all the time. In most cases, the people who say these kinds of things don't really understand what a budget is, or how to efficiently put one together. If you've followed my advice, you learned first-hand that budgeting isn't scary once you get the hang of it. Household budgets don't need to be about hours of tedious math and complicated formulas. Like most things in life, simple is usually best.

A good way to simplify budgeting, especially for couples, is by making it a team effort. It's important to make sure your spouse is on board, and knows what's up with the budget, because you're just asking for problems when one spouse is doing all the planning and the other is doing all the spending.

Sit down together for a few minutes, once a month, and have a budget meeting where you look at your income, your outgo, and you both give every dollar a name and a job to do. It's really that simple. Share your ideas, your hopes, and your dreams for the future, as well as the fears you have. The important thing is that you're both in agreement and working together. That alone will make your lives, your budget, and your money easier to handle.

Also, make sure you have cut up all your credit cards and closed the accounts. No more credit cards means fewer bills to add to the budget, fewer complications, and zero worries about fees and interest rates. Stick to using a debit card and cash. After all, they're both part of the plan!

Making a schedule for budget meetings and bill payments is a good idea,

too. You can even make your budget meetings a fun time by including your favorite snacks. Set up auto drafts out of your checking account to pay bills, and buy your groceries on a set day every week or twice a month. When you know what to expect and when, it takes a lot of stress and potential pitfalls out of the budgeting picture.

There's always some work and discipline that goes along with gaining control of your money. But a budget doesn't need to be torture. A little planning, communication, and some basic math will go a long way — and it won't be nearly as time consuming, or as difficult, as you think!

—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.* ★



### Joe Biden Is Targeting a Great U.S. Industry

Joe Biden wants to take one of the great American success stories of the past several decades and drive it into the ground.

He would turn his back on the stupendous wealth represented by proven reserves of oil and gas in this country.

Rather than focusing on producing cheap, abundant energy — a key ingredient to human progress through all of human history — he'd embark on the fool's errand of trying to adjust the world's thermostat 80 years from now.

After a 50-year effort to diminish our reliance on Middle Eastern oil, which has miraculously happened at last, Biden would force the U.S. to transition to solar and wind, industries currently dependent on Chinese supply chains.

Whereas California has embraced the radical goal of a carbon-free electric grid by 2045 (and has drastically increased the price of energy in the state already), Biden has seen and raised the Golden State by embracing a

goal of 2035. All this was underlined by Biden's statement at the end of the last debate that he wants to transition from oil.

It's a funny time to want to kneecap oil and gas. Proven reserves of natural gas in the U.S. are higher than ever before, thanks to American-made technological innovations. A couple of years ago the U.S. surpassed Russia and Saudi Arabia in crude oil production. In recent years, petroleum and natural gas exports have been increasing. And, of course, the rise of natural gas has cut U.S. carbon emissions.

This should be considered a national strength to be built on, not a national shame to be put on a glide path to extinction. Fossil fuels are a tremendously useful source of energy, and no hype about renewables can obscure that reality.

In 2019, petroleum, natural gas and coal accounted for 80% of overall energy consumption in the United States, according to U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Renewables made up only 11%, and the bulk of that came from biomass (wood and biofuels) and hydroelectric. Despite being heavily subsidized, wind and solar, combined, were responsible for only about a third of our renewable energy.

The oil and gas industry should also be prized as a source of good American jobs. Earnings range from about \$137,000 a year for petroleum engineers to roustabouts at \$44,000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The idea that we are going to transition to wind and solar painlessly is a fantasy. Germany has been spending tens of billions of dollars a year trying to make this happen. Its renewable energy program has doubled the cost of energy, while fossil fuels still account for about 80% of its energy supply.

If we think eschewing fossil fuels is going to convince other countries to do the same, we are fooling ourselves. Like in the United States, the industrial takeoff in China coincided with a jump in the use of coal. China is still building coal plants at a furious clip, and its already prodigious use of coal accounts for more than half of the world's total, according to The Institute for Energy Research.

The Biden plan is an assault on American ingenuity and wealth, not to mention common sense. Now no one can say he wasn't warned.

*Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.*

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## St. Peter's Catholic Church News

### Pier Giorgio Frassati

On April 6, 1901, Pier Giorgio was born in Turin, Italy, to a wealthy family. From a young age, his parents began to grow apart and argue constantly, which left Pier with heartache and sadness. Because of this, he was drawn towards Christ and began to learn and receive religious training. His parents gave little effort in teaching religion, so almost all of his schooling came from priests and nuns. His parents noticed his attraction towards God and attempted to limit it, for they wished for him to become successful with a secular job. However, his constant pleading and begging led to him being permitted to engage in religion. Specifically, daily mass and what would soon become the main joy of his life; he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society when he was seventeen, and began to visit the poor and sick.

After joining, Pier started to give as much as he could to those who were in need. He reduced himself as much as he could in order to help, even going so far as giving away his last bit of money that he would have used for transport home. Even when he received money from his parents as a gift for graduation, he used it all in order to help those who were in need.

Even though he was very religious and active in helping those in need, he did not lack fun or friendship. He enjoyed doing activities with his very close group of friends. Many times, they would go to climb hills and mountains, and Pier would invite them to pray with him. After, they would celebrate with food and wine, to relax and

enjoy themselves. When he was 25, Pier Frassati contracted Polio and died on July 4, 1925.

When looking at the way that Pier oriented his life, we can see a clear devotion and effort to putting God first in everything. Even though his family was not brought up in the faith, he found himself looking to God to help him with his sorrows. His manner of life is something that we look at and aspire to. The willingness to lower himself in order to raise others is something that is needed today, but hard to do. Pier also shows that being religious and devoted does not mean that one should be dull. During his life, Pier enjoyed parties and jokes with his friends, and remained true to his faith. This is especially important to remember, as many times religion and fun can be seen as polar opposites. But this is not the case. In fact, it is arguably easier to be a Christian while enjoying friends and fun. It is valuable to remember, then, that being a Christian, being a child of God, should not be a punishment. Being able to walk with Him and allow His works to come through you is something all people should strive towards. Being Catholic and living the faith is such a blessing and should not be taken for granted. Pier Frassati knew this, and said "Each day I understand a little better the incomparable grace of being a Catholic."

So do not be afraid to go forth and serve, nor to go the extra mile, for God is with you, and will help you every step of the way. ★

## Social Security Matters

### Will My Social Security Benefits Ever Stop?



**By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor**

**Dear Rusty:** Has someone who paid into Social Security for most of their life ever lost their benefits later in life? For example, if they start collecting benefits at age 62 and live to be 85 or longer, could they suddenly lose their benefits? Can Social Security ever come along later and say "Sorry, you've used up all your benefits?" I know there are many people, including me, who have no other income or savings, so if their SS suddenly stopped they would need assistance to survive. I started my benefits at age 62 because I had to. I've always been in reasonably good health, so I wonder - what if I live to be 85, 90 or 95 - will I still have enough in the system to get my Social Security check? Signed: **Living on SS**

**Dear Living:** Please put your fears about losing your Social Security aside — you will never stop receiving your benefits even if you live to be 110 years old. The system isn't designed to compare what you've collected to how much you've contributed. If you meet the basic eligibility requirements, there is no danger of your payments ever stopping because you've "used up all your benefits."

Here's how the Social Security system works: Everyone who works pays a Social Security payroll tax (currently 6.2%; matched by their employer) up to the



annual payroll tax cap. All those payroll taxes collected are used to pay benefits to all those who are already collecting Social Security — the payroll taxes you paid weren't put into a separate account for you. Essentially, the system is "pay as you go," where everyone who works and earns pays for those already receiving benefits. So, the benefits you are now receiving are not being deducted from a personal account in your name. Everyone currently working and contributing to Social Security helps pay for your benefits, as well as benefits for everyone else already collecting. Any money left over after all benefits are paid are invested in special issue government bonds, which are held in the Social Security Trust Funds, earning interest which accrues into the Trust Funds. Money from income taxes on Social Security also contributes to SS revenue to pay for benefits. As of the end of 2019, the Social Security Trust Funds held about \$2.9 trillion in assets, reserved to cover any shortage of SS income received vs. benefits paid out.

You may have read about Social Security facing future financial difficulties. That is primarily a result of the declining ratio of workers to beneficiaries and increasing life expectancy (average longevity for SS recipients today is mid-80s). Starting this year, the reserves in the Trust Funds will be used to cover any income shortfall. The last official report from the Trustees of Social Security predicted that the

SS Trust Funds assets are sufficient to pay full benefits until about 2035 (the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic will surely worsen that prediction). But even if Congress fails to act to resolve the issue and the Trust Funds run dry in the future, your benefits will still continue. If the Trust Funds run dry, however, your benefit would be reduced (not eliminated).

If the Trust Funds are fully depleted, Social Security can only pay out as much as the income received, which would mean a benefit reduction of about 21%, according to current predictions. Sadly, Congress already knows how to fix Social Security's financial issues - what's lacking is the bipartisan cooperation needed to accomplish it. Personally, I do not believe that Congress will ever allow the Trust Funds to run dry, requiring a cut in benefits (it would be political suicide to do so). Given the vitriol permeating Congress today we'll probably need to wait a while for a solution, but one will eventually come. In any case, please rest assured that your Social Security benefits will never stop, no matter how old you get. You can't "use up all your benefits."

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



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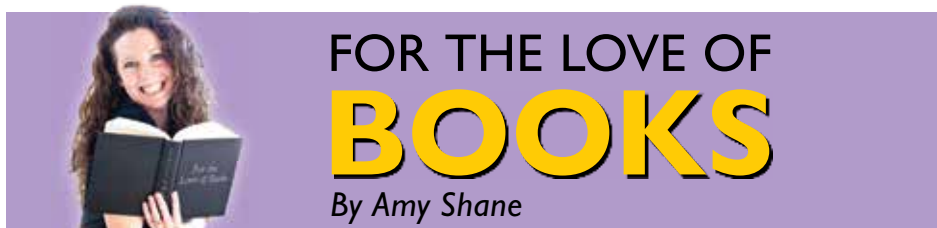
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## Riley Reviews

### "THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT" TURNS ON CHARACTER AND COMPETITION

A Film and TV  
Review by Tim Riley

#### "THE QUEEN'S GAMBIT" ON NETFLIX

A seven-episode Netflix series centered on the story of a gifted young female challenging the mid-20th Century male-dominated world of competitive chess may not initially sound like great entertainment but it would be a grave mistake to harbor that misconception.

"The Queen's Gambit," the name for an opening chess move, is a story not only focused on the cerebral world of chess as a sport but also about obsession, addiction, and self-destructive behavior that threatens to undermine the brilliance of a child prodigy.

The opening setting is Paris 1967, with American chess whiz Beth Harmon (Anya Taylor-Joy) roused from her hotel room from what may have been a drunken night of debauchery for a bout with one of the best chess players in the world.

The outcome of that match will have to play out at a later time, because the scene shifts back to Kentucky in the Fifties, when nine-year-old Beth (Isa Johnston) survives an automobile crash that kills her troubled, genius mother.

Born into a family that had once been financially secure and with an absentee father nowhere to be found, Beth was living in a decrepit trailer with her mother Alice (Chloe Pirrie) and now she's an orphan.

Ending up at the Methuen Home for young girls that observes strict rules, the introverted Beth makes few friends, but does find common cause with an older, more cynical girl Jolene (Moses Ingram) who becomes an ally and lifelong friend.

Given that whip-smart Beth completes her classroom assignments faster than the others, she is tasked with cleaning chalkboard erasers in the basement, where she encounters the janitor playing solitary games of chess.

Intrigued by the custodian's studious affection for the game, Beth watches the reclusive Mr. Shaibel (Bill Camp) moving the chess pieces on the 64-square board and eventually convinces him to become a mentor.

With an inquisitive mind that she may have inherited from her mother who had a doctorate from Cornell University, Beth quickly demonstrates a grasp for the game that would be unusual in a person so young.

In a fairly short amount of time, Beth manages to best the experienced player. Impressed by the youngster's skill, Mr. Shaibel arranges for his student to enter a chess tournament at the local high school, where she thumps the practiced opponents.

Meanwhile, the orphanage doles out so-called vitamins on a daily basis to the kids, but the green ones are actually a tranquilizer that is intended to keep the girls docile but results in a mind-altering impact on

Beth.

On the advice of Jolene, Beth saves the green pills for nighttime gazing at the dormitory ceiling to visually imagine huge chess pieces moving about in moves that emulate noted stratagems of chess grandmasters.

As a teenager, Beth is adopted by the Wheatleys who reside in Lexington, Kentucky. The notion of an idyllic new life is soon shattered by the fact that the aloof father Allston (Patrick Kennedy) is a traveling salesman who makes excuses to stay on the road.

The mother Alma (Marielle Heller), realizing her marriage is slipping away, is a functioning alcoholic and a gifted piano player who could have carved her own path if not for stage fright.

However tenuous the connection between Alma and Beth, the two of them forge a symbiotic relationship imbued with vulnerability and addiction. Both pop pills and Beth develops an unhealthy attraction to alcohol as an emotional crutch.

After winning the Kentucky regional chess championship by beating local whiz Harry Beltik (Harry Melling), Beth is primed for more contests, which garners the interest of Alma upon realizing prize money is at hand in chess matches.

Beth and her mother embark on a whirlwind of travel, while the media start to bring attention to the young chess prodigy. A tournament win in Cincinnati opens the door to more opportunities.

At the US Open in Las Vegas, Beth meets her equal in US champion Benny Watts (Thomas Brodie-Sangster), but with the good fortune of him on the sidelines the ability to become the American winner is within reach.

A trip to Mexico City allows Beth to meet Russian grandmaster Vasily Borgov (Marcin Dorocinski), the chess equivalent of the Great White Whale that Beth will eventually have to chase on her trajectory to greater fame.

Graced with terrific period settings that include glitzy Las Vegas, glamorous Paris and Cold War-era Soviet Union, "The Queen's Gambit" is a visual treat of production values that one has to marvel at the precision of the details.

But more than gorgeous visuals, this limited series is a compelling character study of a chess player who remains an enigma to friends and competitors, seemingly reluctant to have serious emotional connections with anyone.

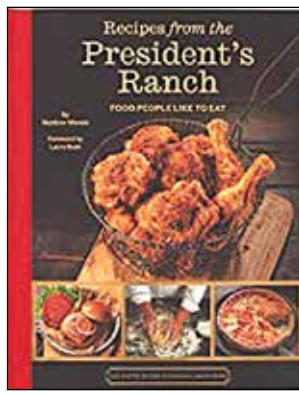
If anything, the performance of Anya Taylor-Joy as the chess master who battles her inner demons with varying degrees of success and failure is something to behold. The leading character's impressively skilled and glamorous outcast, often driven by anger or self-doubt, makes "The Queen's Gambit" a worthy binge-watch. ★

## Recipes from the President's Ranch: Food People Like to Eat by Matthew Wendel

While this Thanksgiving holiday may be different for many of us around the country, one fact still remains the same. On November 26, people will gather around a dining table to give thanks, which lends the perfect opportunity to try something new or create new traditions.

*Recipe's from the President's Ranch*, published by The White House Historical Association, celebrates the journey of author Matthew Wendel as he follows his culinary dreams and becomes a personal chef for the Presidential Family. After years at a job that was no longer right for him, Wendel decided to follow his true passion and started cooking for friends and working as a caterer, staffing events at the Governor's mansion for Governor Bush and his family. With his strong work ethic, talent, and dedication, he quickly gained the attention and respect of the Governor. However, Wendel's life drastically changed when Governor George W. Bush won the forty-third Presidential election, resulting in the extreme honor of accompanying them to Washington as Personal Chef to the President.

Following Wendel's culinary experience from Inauguration Day through the President's last day of the Presidency, this



◆ Publisher: The White House Historical Association  
◆ Hardcover, 174 pages  
◆ Rating: ★★★★★

cookbook is not just a cookbook but an inside glimpse into a private family album of one of our nation's First Families. Matthew Wendel perfectly encapsulates former First Lady Laura Bush's sentiment and philosophy of "Offering guests wholesome, delicious, and comforting food is a key ingredient of our Texas hospitality, and it's our way of saying, 'Welcome. We're glad you're here.'" By sharing the very recipes that graced the private formal dining rooms, outdoor patios, and intimate dining tables, readers will be able to feel part of American history while cooking or grilling in their own private homes.

*Recipe's from the President's Ranch* includes 54 delicious recipes, each accompanied by personal stories, hints, techniques,

and color photos. Every recipe feels like home, with ingredients that are comforting and savory. A table set with Matty's Fried Chicken, Green Chili Mac and Cheese, Cast Iron Cornbread, and Laura Bush's Peach Cream Pie would make anyone feel like the epitome of Southern Hospitality surrounds them.

Recipe Sections include Dips and Appetizers, Soups and Salads, Main Dishes, Vegetables and Side Dishes, Breads and Rolls, and rounds out the last chapter with Sweets. Sweet and Smoky Cheeseburgers with Easy Black Beans, paired with a simple guacamole would round out that perfect day spent on the back porch with family, while the Pecan Smoked Beef Tenderloin will have the family running to the dinner table. Readers will almost be able to smell the sweet scent of chocolate or blueberry pie wafting in the air or the warm, comforting feeling of fresh biscuits cooling on a hot plate. Whether you are a fan of Presidential History, President Bush, or a cookbook collector, The White House Historical Association and Matthew Wendel deliver a cookbook of tried and true recipes that is perfect for gathering around the table with your family no matter where that might be. ★

## Does More Money Mean Better Schools?



By Dan Walters  
CALMatters

It's by no means certain that California voters will pass Proposition 15, but if they do, it would be the largest tax increase in the state's history.

That said, it would provide a relatively small down payment on the long-standing desire of the state's educational establishment for a massive increase in spending that's needed, advocates say, to improve California's rather dismal K-12 educational outcomes.

Proposition 15, largely sponsored by the California Teachers Association and other public employee unions, would increase property taxes on some commercial real estate, such as office buildings and hotels, by requiring their taxable values to be upgraded more often. Estimates of its effects vary somewhat, but generally are in the \$10 billion to \$12 billion per year range, with schools getting about 40% of the proceeds.

Those are big numbers, but the few billion extra dollars that would flow to schools are a fraction of the \$25 billion to \$30 billion more per year that unions and other educational groups have been touting. The increase is needed, they say, to make

a real difference in academic test scores, high school graduation rates and other measures of academic attainment.

The number derives from a 2018 report from a multi-university team of academic researchers saying that California should spend 38% more, or about \$4,000 per pupil per year, to raise overall achievement and close the "achievement gap" that separates poor and/or English-learner students from their more advantaged peers.

The 2018 report and much other academic drumbeating for higher education spending comes from Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE), a consortium of the state's major university schools of education.

As the campaign over Proposition 15 – basically a duel between public worker unions and business interests – entered its final stages, PACE issued another report to reinforce its advocacy for a big increase in school financing.

Its core is a series of charts comparing education spending in California to that of other major states and tracing what it says is a relative decline in California's commitment to schools.

Citing the global size of California's economy, the report laments that "California school funding – even before COVID-19 – was insufficient to meet educational goals and address the needs of students, particularly given the state's high cost of living. How can that be true? Why is education funding so low in California, despite its wealth and comparatively

high tax revenues?"

The report's charts appear to be accurate as far as they go. But they don't go far enough because they are confined to financial comparisons on the questionable assumption, also reflected in the 2018 study, that money automatically equates to educational achievement.

If PACE and other advocates of big increases in school spending were intellectually honest, they would not only compare spending levels to other states, but also compare how well they are faring vis-à-vis California in national academic testing results and other measures of attainment.

New York, for instance, is spending at least 50% more per pupil than California but its scores on the last batch of National Assessment of Educational Progress tests were virtually identical to California's – both being subpar. Meanwhile, many states that spend much less than California routinely score higher.

Regardless of Proposition 15's outcome, the never-ending debate on California education will continue, but it should be a debate about more than money. Some of the academic resources being devoted to persuading Californians to raise taxes for schools should be spent on exploring why outcomes elsewhere bear little or no relationship to how much money other states are spending.

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



#### Wildfires Reduce Feed Supplies for Livestock

Hundreds of thousands of acres of scorched rangeland leave livestock ranchers with limited options for finding more feed for their animals. California wildfires have damaged both private and public rangelands, killed animals and ruined fences, corrals, water systems and other equipment. The president of the California Cattlemen's Association says the loss of rangeland may force some ranchers to sell off their animals early due to lack of feed.

#### Trespassers, Thieves Trouble Walnut Farmers

Walnut farmers say they're confronting two problems this harvest season: low prices for the crop and thieves who trespass into orchards to steal nuts. A number of counties have enacted ordinances to slow thefts by people who may then sell nuts on roadsides, but farmers report ongoing problems. Because of low prices, farmers say they need to sell as many nuts as they can to recoup their costs, and don't want to lose more of their harvest to thieves.

#### Pandemic Leads to Tough Year for Lemon Farmers

Closure of restaurants and bars due to the pandemic brought "major hurt" to the lemon business, marketers say, and improved sales at grocery stores have only partially compensated for the losses. Farmers and marketers say lemon sales to food-service customers have improved somewhat since dropping sharply in the spring, and shoppers have bought more lemons at retail. But people in the lemon business say farmers have seen their incomes drop significantly.

#### China Receives First Shipment of California Rice

California-grown rice unloaded at a Chinese port Tuesday completed the first shipment of U.S.-grown rice to China. The USA Rice Federation says the premium, medium-grain rice from California will be sold by a Chinese retail chain known as Sungiven. Chinese importers visited California and two other rice-growing states last year as part of a longstanding effort to open the market to U.S. rice. ★



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## Ask Toni

### Left Employer Benefits Now I Have a Medicare Part D Penalty ... Why??



Toni King

Hello Toni,

I made a terrible mistake last April when I was no longer being covered by my employer group health plan due to retiring. I had a telemarketing agent help me find a Medicare Supplement which began April 1, 2020. No one told me that I had a specific amount of time to enroll in my Medicare Part D plan. I have a serious health issue with Crones disease and have had a liver transplant in the past and should have enrolled at that time for my Medicare Part D. When I enrolled in July for a new Medicare Part D plan, I was denied because did I not apply on time. I take Stelara which is over \$2,000 a month that I now must pay on my own.

I now am 70 years old and have been told that my Part D penalty for not enrolling in Medicare Part D will be \$.3274 X 60 months since my Part A began 5 years ago. I cannot believe that I must pay an extra \$19.64 per month as a Part D penalty.

Please explain this ridiculous Medicare Part D penalty. I have not purchased my Stelara in the last few months. Thank You,

~ Sydney from Atlanta, GA

Sydney:

You are aware you waited too long to apply for a Medicare Part D plan. Once you are past 65 and/or leaving creditable coverage, Medicare gives you 63 not 70 or 90 days to apply for a Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage plan with prescription drug coverage. Not needing to order your prescriptions does not refrain from receiving Part D penalties.

Your late enrollment period (LEP) does not begin from the day you lose or leave your company health plan, **BUT** from the month you turned 65 or began your Medicare and is based on when Medicare Part A begins not Part B.

This LEP (late enrollment period)

penalty can be because:

1. You waited past **63 days** without creditable prescription drug coverage when you are leaving company benefits and you are older than 65 years old and 90 days. Don't wait past **63 days** to get Part D when leaving company health plans.
2. Your company prescription drug benefits (not health benefits) are not creditable as Medicare declares.
3. You simply never enrolled in Medicare Part D when you were first eligible and want to enroll.

Your company prescription drug benefits met Medicare's "creditable coverage" rule, but you waited past the 63-day window to apply. Sydney, you have been denied Part D prescription coverage because you did not follow Medicare's LEP (late enrollment penalty) rule and are receiving a Part D penalty.

You must wait until the next Medicare Annual Enrollment period from October 15 - December 7 to enroll in a Medicare Part D prescription drug plan with your effective date to be January 1, 2021.

Americans retiring after 65, that are leaving company health plans and applying for Medicare Parts A and B must also prove they have "creditable coverage" when applying for Medicare Part D prescription drug plan.

The Medicare & You handbook states: "Creditable prescription drug coverage could include drug coverage from a current or former employer or union, TRICARE, Indian Health Service, the VA or health insurance coverage.

Is the maze of Medicare confusing you? Call the Toni Says® Medicare hotline at 832-519-8664 or visit the Medicare Annual Enrollment Toni Says® webinars which explain what Medicare is and how to properly find your Medicare Part D plan at [www.toni-says.com](http://www.toni-says.com).

*Toni King, author of the Medicare Survival Guide® is giving a \$5 discount on the Medicare Survival Guide® Advanced book.* ★

## Remind Veterans They are not Alone or Forgotten this Veterans Day



Veterans Day Op-Ed from the Director of the VA Northern California Health Care System

By Jason Dominguez

**NORTHERN CA (MPG)** - At the VA Northern California Health Care System (VA NorCal) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities across the country, one of the most important holidays is Veterans Day. Every Nov. 11, our nation remembers military Veterans and expresses gratitude to the men and women who answered the call to serve our country. This past year, however, has been difficult for many of us. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how we interact with one another and even celebrate important holidays. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, health organizations including VA, and many state and local governments are encouraging the public to practice physical distancing and help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities. Many of this year's Veterans Day events have either been canceled or moved to virtual platforms. But

we can all still play a part in reaching out to the Veterans in our lives and remind them that they are not alone or forgotten.

Veterans are our mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, neighbors, friends and colleagues. At VA NorCal, we work with Veterans who come from many different backgrounds, states and countries, belief systems, ethnicities, and walks of life. We understand that every Veteran's transition back into civilian life is unique. Some Veterans require little support when they leave the military, while others can struggle to reintegrate back into civilian life, which can seem chaotic at times in comparison to the structured military life. While every person who has served in our nation's military is different, one thing is true about all Veterans - They served us and deserve our thanks. Veterans sacrificed for you and me. Now it's our turn to be there for them.

A few simple ways to safely reach out to the Veterans in your lives this Nov. 11 and year-round include: making a phone or video call, sending a text or social media message, sending an email, visiting, while practicing physical distancing.

If you want to do more for the Veterans in your life, encourage them to look into the VA benefits they earned. Veterans can apply for VA health care benefits by visiting their

local VA medical center or outpatient clinic, calling 1-877-222-8387, or visiting [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). Veterans who are in crisis or loved ones who may be concerned about a Veteran can connect with the Veterans Crisis Line to reach caring, qualified responders—many who are also Veterans themselves. To reach the Veterans Crisis Line, call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, send a text message to 838255 or chat online at [www.veteran-crisisline.net](http://www.veteran-crisisline.net).

This Veterans Day, I'm encouraging each of us to do what we can to help, connect with and express our thanks to the Veterans in our lives. It's our honor and privilege at VA NorCal to care for those who have served. Every day is Veterans Day at all our sites of care. On behalf of VA NorCal and our many dedicated employees, thank you to our nation's Veterans for your selfless service to this country we all love. Have a safe, happy Veterans Day!

David Stockwell is the Director of the VA Northern California Health Care System, which is the 12th largest VA health care system in the country. The health care system provides health services for approximately 100,000 Veterans every year through the Mather and Martinez VA Medical Centers and outpatient clinics in Chico, Fairfield, Mare Island, McClellan, Oakland, Redding, Sierra Foothills, Yreka, and Yuba City. ★

## DIXON POLICE LOG

Persons listed in this log from the Dixon Police Department are considered innocent unless proven guilty in a court of law. Only activities deemed significant by the Police Dept. are included.



### Thursday, October 29, 2020

1616 -- Missing person reported in the 200 block of East C Street.

### Friday, October 30, 2020

0105 -- Vandalism report was taken in the 600 block of W. F. St.

0744 -- Suspicious circumstance in the 700 block of West B Street. A 2002 Chevy was towed for registration expired 6+ months.

0827 -- Parking violation in the area of North Almond Street and West B Street. A 2006 Chevy was towed for registration expired 6+ months. A license plate found on the vehicle belonged to a different vehicle.

0900 -- Threats in the 1400 block of Ary Lane. Jason Bounds (33), of Dixon, was arrested for Trespassing, Threats, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Probation Violation. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

1804 -- Collision reported in the area of West A Street and South Jackson Street.

### Saturday, October 31, 2020

0804 -- Follow-up in the 700 block of West B Street. Dario Pirozzi (47), of Dixon, was arrested for Fraudulent Display of License Plates.

1141 -- Verbal disturbance in the 100 block of Dorset Court. Natalie Rocha (41), of Fairfield, was arrested for Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Probation Violation, and three out of county warrants for theft. She was transported to the Solano County Jail.

1530 -- Stolen motorcycle recovered in the 100 block of Dorset Drive. Christopher Nielsen (36), of Vallejo, was arrested for Possession of Stolen Property, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Heroin, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was transported to the Solano County Jail.

1704 -- Suspicious circumstance in the 200 block of West E Street. A 35-year-old was taken to the Solano County Jail for being drunk in public.

1853 -- Shopping lifting report was taken in the 1200 block of Stratford Av.

### Sunday, November 1, 2020

0103 -- Assist outside agency report was taken on E-80 at Pitt School Rd. Exit.

1330 -- Traffic stop in the 1100 block of Valley Glen Drive resulted in the arrest of Garrett Parker (39) of Vacaville for an outstanding misdemeanor theft warrant. He was cited and released.

1730 -- Stolen vehicle reported from the 1300 block of Commercial Way.

2131 -- Report of battery in the 600 block of Amesbury Drive.

2332 -- A welfare check in the area of I-80 and Pitt School resulted in the arrest of Michael Carbahal (2/5/86) of Esparto for an outstanding warrant, and for possession of a weapon. He was booked at the Solano County Jail without incident.

### Monday, November 2, 2020

1014 -- Pedestrian stop in the 1100 block of Pitt School Road resulted in the arrest of Moses Garibay (34) of Dixon for a felony battery committed the night prior. He was taken to county jail.

1045 -- Pedestrian stop in the 1300 block of Commercial Way resulted in the arrest of Matthew Alvarado (29) of Vacaville for four outstanding misdemeanor and felony identity theft warrants. Matthew decided to run when approached by officers but was later found by a Solano Sheriff's Office K-9, hiding in an apartment stairwell. He was taken to county jail.

1500 -- Confidential report taken in the 900 block of West A Street.

### Tuesday, November 3, 2020

0035 -- A proactive enforcement stop for a vehicle code violation at North First Street at Stratford Avenue resulted in the arrest of Timell Brown (6/24/1987) of Sacramento for possession of methamphetamine. He was transported to DPD, where he was cited and released.

## CLG NEWS UPDATES

Provided by Citizens for Legitimate Government (CLG) See [legitgov.org](http://legitgov.org)

**U.S. Loses \$19 Billion in Afghanistan Reconstruction Funds to Fraud, Waste, Abuse** | 29 Oct 2020 | A staggering \$19 billion spent by the U.S. government to reconstruct Afghanistan has been lost to fraud, waste, and abuse in the last decade and that only includes a portion of the money allocated by Congress for the cause. In 90% of the cases examined in a new federal audit, the money was blown "carelessly, extravagantly, or to no purpose." This month the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) published a troubling report that analyzes less than half of the U.S. budget for the initiative, \$63 billion in projects. As of December 2019, Congress has appropriated \$134 billion for Afghanistan reconstruction, which began roughly a year after the U.S. invaded the Islamic nation to destroy Al-Qaeda [al-CIA-duh] and eradicate the Taliban. **Afghanistan reconstruction has been a huge and well-chronicled debacle that continues fleeing American taxpayers nearly two decades after its inception.**

**FBI conducting criminal investigation into Hunter Biden and associates days ahead of 2020 election - report** | 29 Oct 2020 | The FBI reportedly has an active criminal investigation into Hunter Biden, the son of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, and his associates. James Rosen, a reporter with the Sinclair Broadcast Group, tweeted on Thursday, less than a week until Election Day, that the bureau opened the inquiry into allegations of money laundering in 2019. "EXCLUSIVE: A @TheJusticeDept official confirms that in 2019, the @FBI opened up a criminal investigation into 'Hunter Biden and his associates,' focused on allegations of money-laundering, and that it remains open and active today," he said. Rosen followed up by posting a short TV report to his Twitter account.

**'They literally stole my vote': Investigation underway after voters claim they received ballots that were filled out in Fayette County** | 30 Oct 2020 | (Fayette County, PA) Fayette County prosecutors are investigating reports of at least four incidents of voter fraud, according to Fayette County District Attorney Rich Bower. Bower said two voters received mail-in ballots that were already filled out and two ballots were found at the election bureau already opened. "The secrecy envelope was missing and the ballot was missing out of those envelopes," said Bower. Bower said the ballots that were already filled out and arrived at homes 40 miles apart, which he says means they are not isolated incidents. "They literally stole my vote," said Delmas Fike. **Fike said when his mail-in ballot arrived, each Democrat was already selected.**

**Judicial Watch finds 1.8 million 'ghost voters' in 29 states, warns of 'dirty elections'** | 20 Oct 2020 | Judicial Watch has released a comparison study of Census Bureau population statistics and state voter registration data to reveal a notable disparity. The watch dog group is now warning of potential voter fraud and "dirty" voter rolls. The study found that 352 U.S. counties in 29 states managed to have 1.8 million more registered voters than eligible voting-age citizens. "In other words, the registration rates of those counties exceeded 100% of eligible voters. The study found eight states showing state-wide registration rates exceeding 100%: Alaska, Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont," reported Tom Fitton, president of the watchdog group. Some of that excess ran as high as 187% in Texas, 177% in New Mexico and 171% in South Dakota.

**Wisconsin GOP says hackers stole \$2.3M from Trump reelection fund** -The party noticed the suspicious activity on Oct. 22. | 29 Oct 2020 | Hackers stole \$2.3 million from the Wisconsin Republican Party's account that was being used to help reelect President Donald Trump in the key battleground state, the party's chairman told The Associated Press on Thursday. The party noticed the suspicious activity on Oct. 22 and contacted the FBI on Friday, said Republican Party Chairman Andrew Hitt. Hitt said the FBI is investigating. Hitt said the hackers were able to manipulate invoices from four vendors who were being paid to send out direct mail for Trump's reelection efforts and to provide pro-Trump material such as hats that could be handed out to supporters. ★



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### Crossword Puzzle on Page 10

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

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • PROVERBIALY SPEAKING

**CLUES**

ACROSS

- Bornean ape
- Casino's pull
- Elbow-wrist connection
- Paralyzing disease
- Pigeon sound
- Teething drops
- Mary's subjects (1542-1567)
- Ostrich-like bird
- September stone
- \*One responsible for someone else's welfare
- \*Both rodents and humans like to come up with these
- Name fit for a king
- Wedding cover
- Like a dim star
- Head vermin
- \*Like the schemes of a fool, biblically speaking
- Thor's father
- Cleopatra's necklace
- Blood carrier
- Ice on a window
- Famous Teatro alla \_\_\_\_\_
- Took to court
- Prevent
- Burden of proof
- Leprechaun's land
- Fit
- Cabinet div.
- Steadfast Soldier's material
- Letter before kappa
- European Economic Community
- \*It increases love and friendship
- \*It will cause additional harm
- Raccoon relative
- Short for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC
- Huey, Duey and Louie, e.g.
- #41 Across location
- Prior to, pref.
- Organ swelling
- Benevolent fellows
- African tam-\_\_\_\_\_
- English county

DOWN

- Roman goddess of plenty
- \*It's just as unpleasant as a hard sun
- Sunburn soother
- Fertilizer ingredient
- Luke's teaching, e.g.
- Laptop manufacturer
- Data storage acronym
- \*Towards are sometimes compared to this
- Encourage
- Good earth
- Sound on a scale
- Saloon selections
- Perennial garden flower
- Signs for escape
- Post-Soviet Union alliance, acr.
- Covered porch
- \*Can't use these to break a skeleton
- Farewell, to ami
- Nimbus, pl.
- Gabrielle Chanel's nickname
- \*Keep it clean to stay out of trouble
- \*It's tastier if one is not allowed to have it
- First cradles
- Filled with cargo
- Like whiskey right out of bottle
- Classic board game
- Colorado ski resort
- Curb, two words
- Disney dwarf
- ACT taker, e.g.
- Dangle a carrot
- Miss Muffet's meal
- \*"The Road Runner" corporation
- Skin infection
- #13 Across conqueror
- J.F.K. postings
- Bookkeeping entry
- \*Don't make inquiries if you don't want to hear this
- Hefty volume
- Chapter in history
- Coltrane's woodwind

**Crossword Puzzle Solutions on Page 10**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13					14			15				
16					17			18				
19					20			21	22			
		23					24					
25	26	27		28	29			30	31	32	33	34
35			36			37		38		39		
40					41			42		43		
44			45			46				47		
48				49		50			51		52	
				53	54			55	56			
57	58	59	60					61			62	63
64						65	66			67		68
69						70				71		
72						73				74		

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### Sudoku Puzzle on Page 10

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

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

Solutions on Page 10

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## Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

## The Spats



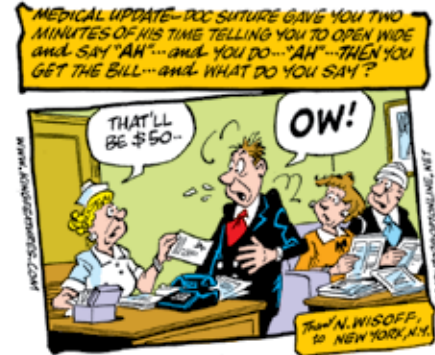
by Jeff Pickering

## Out on a Limb

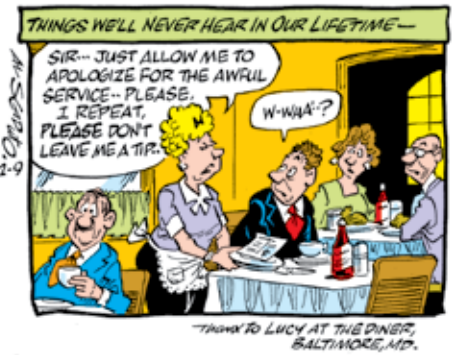


by Gary Kopervas

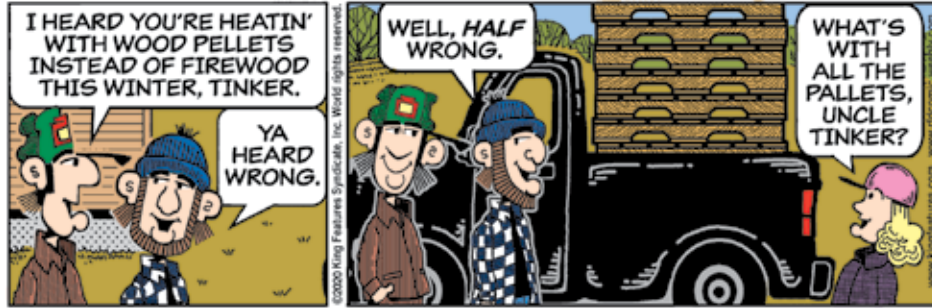
## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



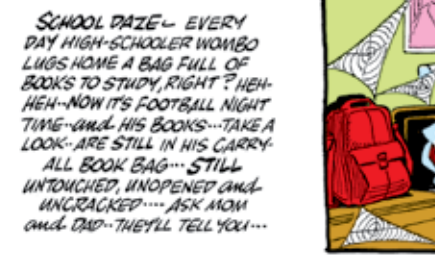
BY AL SCADUTO



## R.F.D.



by Mike Marland



## GRIN & BEAR IT



## LAFF-A-DAY

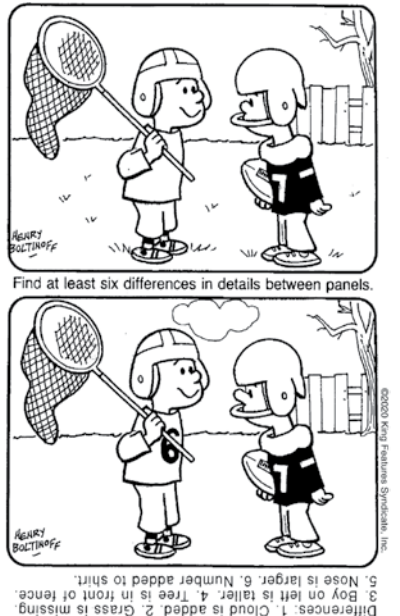


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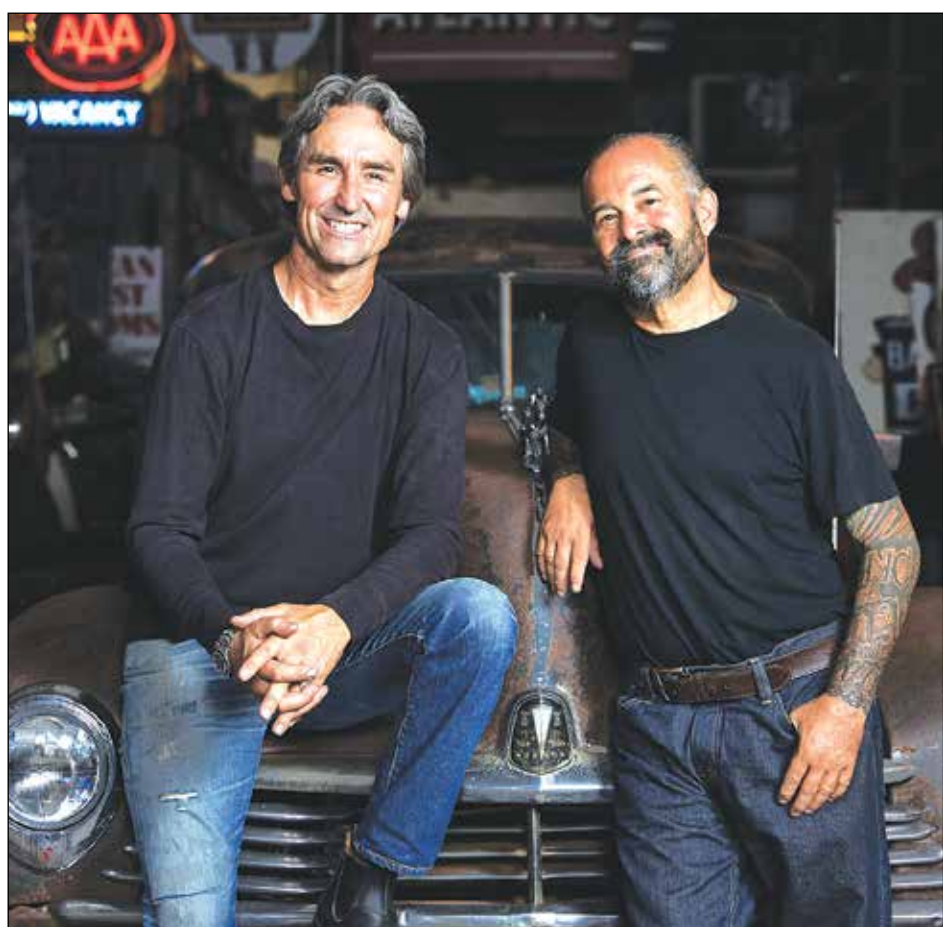
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# AMERICAN PICKERS to Film in California



Mike & Frank of American Pickers to film in California! Photos: By Cineflix

By Kourtney Myers, Cineflix

Mike Wolfe, Frank Fritz, and their team are excited to return to Texas! They plan to film episodes of the hit series American Pickers throughout your area in December.

We understand that with the proliferation of COVID-19, we are all facing very uncertain times. We at American Pickers are taking the pandemic very seriously and will be following all guidelines and protocols for safe filming as outlined by the state and CDC. While we plan to be in California this December, we will continue to re-schedule if conditions change for the worse. Regardless, we are excited to continue to reach the many collectors in the

area to discuss their years of picking!

AMERICAN PICKERS is a documentary series that explores the fascinating world of antique "picking" on History. The hit show follows Mike and Frank, two of the most skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America's most valuable antiques. They are always excited to find sizeable, unique collections and learn the interesting stories behind them.

As they hit the back roads from coast to coast, Mike and Frank are on a mission to recycle and rescue forgotten relics. Along the way, the Pickers want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items. The pair hopes to give historically significant objects a new lease on life, while learning a thing or

two about America's past along the way.

Mike and Frank have seen a lot of rusty gold over the years and are always looking to discover something they've never seen before. They are ready to find extraordinary items and hear fascinating tales about them. AMERICAN PICKERS is looking for leads and would love to explore your hidden treasure. If you or someone you know has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers can spend the better part of the day looking through, send us your name, phone number, location and description of the collection with photos to: americanpickers@cineflix.com or call 855-OLD-RUST. facebook: @GotAPick ★

# What is Measure B?

By Mike Ceremello, Loran Hoffmann, and Shirley Humphrey

**DIXON, CA (MPG)** - If you moved to Dixon in the past 15 years, you may or may not be familiar with Dixon's growth ordinance, Measure B, which was approved by Dixon voters in April 1986 and then reaffirmed by vote in the general election in November 1996.

The idea behind Measure B was to make sure that: (1) residential growth did not exceed the town's ability to provide the required infrastructure (drainage, flooding, wastewater, water, electricity, traffic, schools, etc.) and, (2) limit multi-family development, calling for an 80/20 split between single family residential and apartments. Each new residential development was required to provide multi-family housing limited to the 20% amount.

Measure B authorized, but did not require, the City Council to limit annual residential growth in the town to a number of new dwelling units equal to 3% or less of the total number of housing units existing on December 31 of each prior calendar year. The 3% growth was not a target or a goal, but a limit. Further, if the allotments were not used, they were lost.

In 1996, under the direction of City Manager Warren Salmons, the new City Attorney David McMurtry, and the new mayor, Don Erickson, changed all that. The allocation system was changed to a rolling five year average of 3% per year and any allocations not used were put into an affordable housing pool.

This pro-growth stance was designed to maximize the potential of 3% growth each year and substantially more in years subsequent to economic downturns.

In April 1988, voters considered Measure D, which was advisory on the implementation of Measure B. The electorate was asked whether a policy limiting the carryover of unused residential housing allocations by developers from the year in which they were first allocated was not restrictive enough, fair, or too restrictive.

The policy permitted a developer to carry over into the next calendar year only so many unused allotments as, when totaled with the residential housing allotments issued in that next calendar year, would total 125% of the allotments actually used in the prior year. Almost 44% of the elected considered the policy to be fair. Approximately 37% of the voters wanted a more restrictive view of carryovers and the remainder considered it to be not restrictive enough.

Then in April 2002, Ordinance No. 02-003 Measure B Residential Growth Implementation Plan was signed by the city council. It covered:

The allotments issued by the City will be usable by the developer to whom they are issued only during the calendar year in which they are issued. Only a limited basis for extending the life of the allotment is provided for. However, the allotments which are not used are not completely extinguished. Instead they remain available for re-allocation during the next four calendar years. If not allocated and used after five years, the allotments are usable only for Affordable Housing. The City Council considers this procedure to be consistent both with Measure B and Measure D.

Then in March 2003, Ordinance No. 03-002 amended section 1.03 of Chapter 1 of Article 2 of the Dixon City Code, relating to exemptions from the applicability of the Measure B Growth Control Ordinance with four yes votes and one abstaining.

This ordinance provided for the exception of "rest homes, convalescent hospitals or facilities, assisted living facilities, congregate care facilities. Dwelling units reserved for senior citizens, not less than 55 when household income is either very low, low, or moderate income." This exception is limited to the first 150 dwelling units so approved by the City Council.

The larger concern for all of us should be what will happen if the city decides to allow a developer, say in the Southwest, to receive allocations for five years' worth of homes, 15% instead of 3%, and that developer builds them out all in one year? This is the problem with allowing carryover of allocations or having a permitting process which isn't restricted by Measure B constraints.

That could be a thousand units or more in a year, given almost 7,000 homes now in Dixon. That is almost the entire amount of residential development planned for the Homestead Project. (Between 1,100 and 1,400 depending on who is speaking.)

Dixon's General Plan is in the final review stage. Residents need to attend the upcoming City-sponsored community meetings to ensure that Measure B will not be overlooked or altered to the point that residential growth will surpass the city's infrastructure and current residents will be required to foot the bill with higher taxes.

We have given you a lot of information. Hopefully it helps you understand how Dixon has gotten to where it is. You get to decide if it is right or changes need to be made. We share the responsibility of selecting and guiding our local elected officials to make choices that are beneficial to all members of our community.

You may not be interested in politics, but it is interested in you. Especially your wallet or purse. ★

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